

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO  
ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER**

NEWSLETTER  
AUTUMN 2022

## Thank You, Volunteers!

Our Annual State Conference was a success. The monsoons came early and wildflowers were plentiful. The field trips and workshops were wonderful, the speakers outstanding; the silent auction and bandanas excellent. Volunteers worked hard to prepare for the conference. Many others pitched in as needed helping with posters and set up, and disassembling the meeting room at the end. There were happy people at the reception and banquet. I can't remember a stronger state meeting.

**Thank you all!**

- Carol Conoboy and Pam McBride

## President's Message Fall 2022

9/21/2022

Cool weather is here, and it is time to start planning anew. I met wonderful people this year who work hard and are willing to fill some chapter offices. We have room for more people to fill in vacancies when officers vacate their board positions. Even if you have not been a member for years, wouldn't it be great to be talking with others in planning hikes and speakers and contributing to conservation and community outreach activities?

Laura Paskus left us with a powerful message at our banquet. Look around you and find people from diverse backgrounds to share your messages of education and purpose in environmental preservation. Make plants the center of your activities and share your knowledge of native plants, seeds and pollinators.

People pulled back during the pandemic, but those who are returning to ongoing activities find that they are more optimistic about the future. There is interest in having a variety of projects. This could involve monitoring or removing invasive species, visiting and weeding pollinator gardens, and adopting a trail to maintain.

You may have valuable ideas to develop. First listen to others and ask for input. Then consider coordinating community outreach or conservation activities; become an active volunteer. Use your creativity, imagination, energy and ideas, and you will develop new friends.

*Carol*



Dara Saville's Herbal Essentials Workshop at the Albuquerque Conference

Photo by Diane Shepart

## COVER PHOTO

Albuquerque Prairie-clover, *Dalea scariosa* at Mesa Prieta in the southern end of Petroglyph National Monument  
Photo © Lee Regan

Excerpts from **I Remember Carolyn**

In Memoriam: Carolyn Lyell Dodson 1936 - 2022

By Doris Eng

Photos by George Miller

*I Remember Carolyn.* In the early 2000s before I knew anything about native plants, she gave a specialized lecture about the coevolution of insects and orchids. . . I was mesmerized.

*I Remember Carolyn.* I saw her at the symphony performances we both attended. We promised to hike together someday.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She gave a memorable class to Master Naturalist students when botany was to be omitted from the program. Initially hesitant students were enthralled in the end.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She called to invite me on my first “informal hike” with her native plants “group.” I accepted immediately.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She invited me on so many more hikes to Rocky Point, Crest Spur Trail, Red Canyon, San Gregorio, the east fork of the Jemez, and others. I finally joined the Native Plant Society.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She invited me on a special trip to botanize in Colorado. It remains one of my most significant and memorable exposures to plants in the high mountains.

*I Remember Carolyn.* We had running jokes on plant walks:

Me: Carolyn, are we there yet?

C: It’s just around the corner.

Me: Carolyn, what is this plant?

C: It sure would help if it had a flower.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She welcomed everyone to attend the NPS board meetings, always held at her home back then. Her graciousness put everyone at ease, especially newcomers.

*I Remember Carolyn.* She had annual Turtle Parties. She had friends in addition to plant nerds! And, Carolyn convinced all the turtles to come out and greet her guests!

I will miss Carolyn.



*Dara Saville* - I am grateful to follow in Carolyn Dodson's footsteps as a keeper of plant knowledge. In a car ride to an NPS field trip in the Jemez, she shared stories of her life as a multi-tasking woman, who pushed against gendered expectations and studied plants with her whole heart and mind. As the next generation, I embody her efforts to make a place for women in environmental sciences and botanical studies, while also balancing the many standards of women in daily life. I am honored to keep this story moving forward.



Photo of Carolyn Dodson by George O. Miller

*Donald Heinze* - I was saddened to hear of Carolyn Dodson's passing. She was an excellent botanist and a wonderful person. She will be greatly missed. I will always remember her, strongly climbing up a steep incline on my field trip to see a beautiful display of lady's slippers (*Cypripedium parviflora*) in the Pecos River Canyon, complementing me on that field trip.

*Tom Stewart* - I never knew Carolyn until our first field trip we took to White Sands Missile Range. She pointed to a low-growing, white composite flower and asked if I knew what it was. I guessed that it was blackfoot daisy. In the kindest way she said I was mistaken, that it was baby aster, or *Chaetopappa ericoides*, and explained how they differed. I regarded her from then on as a friend and one of the important teachers in my life.

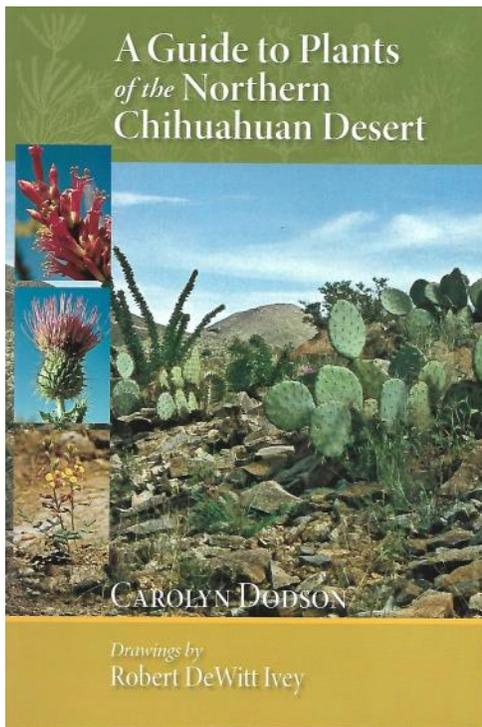
*Carol Conoboy* - Carolyn Dodson spoke at our May 2015 monthly meeting, gently relating the relationship of plants and their pollinators during her beautiful presentation. She quietly spoke and answered questions, as she did when selling books for our chapter for many years. She listened and made sure she completely answered peoples' questions. In July she and Pam led the Las Conchas Trail trip. It was a fine day and Carolyn took many photos; possibly the last field trip Carolyn led. Carolyn valued people and plants and hosted many Albuquerque chapter board meetings in her home.

## Remembering Carolyn Dodson

### Remembering a Wildflower Friend Diane Stevenson

I have fond memories of Carolyn Dodson, a friend and integral member of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's Albuquerque chapter before her passing this past July. Jim McGrath's lovely memorial is in the October 2022 state newsletter. She hosted the first board meeting I attended as Newsletter Co-Editor in the summer of 2016, when the board started to plan 2017 field trips, meetings and education outreach. Carolyn coordinated book sales at meetings and other events until she retired.

After the July 20 field trip led by Lenore Goodell to Las Huertas Canyon this year, I looked for landscape planting information for an *Asclepias speciosa*, Showy Milkweed, grown by Lenore Goodell from seed: height, width, habitat preferences, etc. I searched six wildflower books to find its preferences so it would thrive in my garden. I found what I was looking for in Carolyn Dodson's book, *A Guide to Plants of the Northern Chihuahuan Desert*.



I discovered much more from Carolyn's delightful book when I flipped to the first yellow wildflower. *Baileya multiradiata*, or Desert Marigold, one of my favorite New Mexico wildflowers because of its fuzzy gray foliage and showy golden-yellow ray and disk flowers. They really look like they belong in these arid lands. I will always remember Carolyn when I see Desert Marigolds.

A librarian by profession, Carolyn poetically described plants in her book. In the case of *Baileya multiradiata*, this included etymology, entomology, habitat, and the professor the Desert Marigold was named for.

We honor friends and family who have passed from this Earth by contemplating their contributions to our quality of life by just being there. Whether it is a book put together with great love or lessons on how to live an ethical life, my own troubles seem less daunting because I have known them, especially Carolyn Dodson.



*Baileya multiradiata* Desert Marigold  
Photo © George O. Miller  
<https://wildflowersnm.com>

## The Edible Prickly Pear

Penelope and Gary Hoe presented a factual and tasty workshop using the juice of prepared prickly pear pads and fruits from the best New Mexico prickly pears: *Opuntia engelmannii*, *O. lindheimeri*, and *O. linguiformis* collected when the pads and fruits were in season. Perhaps some of us will gather fruits this fall and new pads in the spring.

Penny's Power Point presentation and demonstration showed the equipment and steps in gathering and safe preparation of the juices and fruits, from removing the glochids (barbed spines), removing the skins, preparing and preserving the juice, fruits and pads. We tasted the juice, jellies, fruits and a pie (made with the fruits and apples). After the workshop Penny and Gary left prickly pear lemonade for those in the meeting room. We really enjoyed the presentation!

Thank you, Penny and Gary!

**Carol Conoboy**



*In Penny's opinion the best recipe book is The Prickly Pear Cookbook, Carolyn Niethammer, Rio Nuevo Publishers, Tucson, AZ. It includes nutrition information and ways to prepare the fruits and pads for cooking. (Available in the Bosque del Apache Visitor Center bookstore)*



Creeping Spiderling, *Boerhavia spicata* at Mesa Prieta  
Photo © Lee Regan

## Finding Wildflowers

### Photos and Story by Lee Regan

September 17, 2022

Timing may not be everything, all the time... but it can be of critical importance for the best wildflower walks: as the Bible describes, "...springs up like a flower and withers away"- we want to catch them before they wither. There was a dramatic example of this recently: at the end of August, the drainage of Otero Canyon in the Manzanita Mountains was a *flood* of Cowpen Daisies, *Verbesina encelioides*. Two weeks later, there was hardly a single plant still in blossom.

We had a similar experience during the Annual Conference. I had fretted through our super-arid spring whether there would be any flowers for field trips in early August. The prospects seemed dire until, thankfully, our "monsoon" rains came early, in mid-July, just in time for thirsty plants to soak it in and show forth their colors. I was again reminded of the transience of the beauty of some of the flowers we enjoy. For the Mesa Prieta field trip, I scouted a short route with George Miller on July 28. We saw several of the expected plants, but George identified two (with great names) that I had never seen before: Coulter's Wrinklefruit, *Clerodendrium (Tetradlea) coulteri* and Spreading Moonpod, *Acleisanthes (Selincarpa) diffusa*



Cowpen Daisies *Verbesina encelioides* in Otero Canyon, 9/19/22

Alas, by the time of the actual Conference field trip (August 6) – only a week later, the blossoms of these two had already passed. Nevertheless, we did see:

Albuquerque Prairie-clover, *Dalea scariosa*

Broom Dalea, *Psoralea scoparius* - an August favorite!

Creeping Spiderling, *Boerhavia spicata*

Dwarf / Golden Prairie-clover, *Dalea nana*



Coulter's Wrinklefruit, *Clerodendrium (Tetradlea) coulteri* near Mesa Prieta

If there's a lesson to take here, it's "keep your eyes open and walk often!" Expect to see new and wonderful things.



Spreading Moonpod, *Acleisanthes (Selincarpa) diffusa* near Mesa Prieta

## El Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat -- Past and Present

### Story and Photos by Tom Stewart

The eastern end of El Oso Grande Park, near the north campus of CNM, was never developed and remained an island of high desert vegetation in suburban Albuquerque. That is, until over an acre near the picnic area was denuded around 2010 by a fire apparently set in a misguided attempt to eliminate weeds. Predictably, the scorched area (a few prickly pears remained) became a trash magnet and a dilemma for the city.

In early 2014, Alicia Quinones of the Oso Grande Neighborhood Association, and Virginia Burris, former Albuquerque chapter president and long-time advocate for pollinators, envisioned rehabilitating the area to restore habitat and create a natural setting for people to enjoy. The Native Plant Society qualified for a \$10,000 grant from the PNM Resource Foundation, and Alicia worked with city parks planner, Carol Dumont, to procure roughly \$20,000 in materials, equipment and extension of the reclaimed water system already in use at Oso Grande. The designing and plant selecting assistance of NPS member Judith Phillips was indispensable, as were the deeply discounted plants obtained from Plants of the Southwest and the efforts of neighborhood and NPS volunteers.

Creation of a public garden or landscape always generates excitement. But ongoing development and maintenance? Not so much. The Habitat has had its ups and downs, and some initial plantings perished. Coyotes and rabbits caused a few problems, both for us and for each other!

Yet over the last eight years, the restored plot has become exactly what was intended originally, and then some! The soil seed bank has come to life and brought back an element of wildness with new species appearing with every monsoon season. Plains doze daisies, *Aphanostephus ramosissimus* are the signature resident wildflowers. As buckwheats, evening primroses, blazing stars, gaura, fleabanes, datura, milkweeds, devil's claw, and four o'clocks have recolonized, the hoped-for butterflies, bees, and birds have returned. Many of the original, foundation shrubs, trees, forbs and bunch grasses have prospered and added character. Lizards and roadrunners appear to be striking a balance among the fauna. We are watching ecological succession play out before us.

It is very gratifying to visit this charming landscape and hear praises coming from the dog walkers, families on a stroll, and even international tourists. Students, young and old, appreciate the plant identification signs. Tom Stewart and Carmen Alexander are the Native Plant Society members still actively involved and often enjoy the teamwork and the camaraderie of local homeowners Beth and Jan. We thank all those who have contributed and we welcome your comments and participation.



The Beginning: Alicia and Carol take a look



Oso Grande Pollinator Garden with bee on milkweed



Creosote flowers in Oso Grande Pollinator Garden

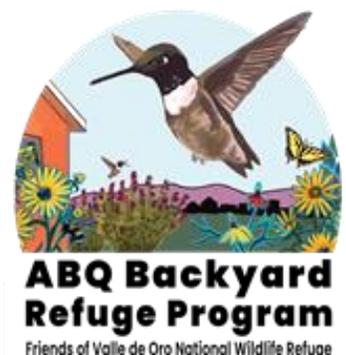
## My ABQ (Front) Backyard Refuge 2022 Photos & Story by Diane Stevenson

This is my second year as a certified core habitat in the ABQ Backyard Refuge program offered by Friends of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Gardening for wildlife has brought me great joy. The blue grama, *Bouteloua gracilis* seed I planted in late summer 2018 is lush with gorgeous tall seedheads. The buffalo-grass plugs spread enthusiastically with ample water now and have really funky seed heads. Wildlife regularly visit my waterers year-round. It's not much trouble to keep them clean.



Spring brought our resident Say's Phoebes pair to the front door nest for the third year. Veteran parents fledged four (yes, 4!) finally leaving our safe haven on May 20 after Doris Eng snapped this front door photo on May 19th.

Arid-adapted autumn sage, *Salvia greggii* in front and back gardens provided us with plenty of huge black solitary bee entertainment during daylight and sphinx moths in early mornings and at dusk. I planted Hopi dye annual sunflower seed in the front and back gardens, resulting in plenty of pollination as soon as the flowers barely opened. Greek oregano and thyme were also well pollinated in my back veggie gardens. We had regular visits by goldfinches taking V-shaped pieces out of the sunflower leaves before the flower buds opened. Here's a photo of at least 9 of our local cloud of Bushtits in late summer on a Hopi dye sunflower.



I provide some “lizard hides” in the back veggie garden so baby lizards can reach maturity. The native perennials in front provide good hiding spots but the back is pretty open where I’ve grown beans, tomatoes, herbs and such.



Stacked broken clay pots provide some lizard hide habitat, as does a dry creek with travertine pavers over concrete wall blocks on their side.



Our most frequent roadrunner this year affectionately named Cheeky, is very bold. Maybe a “teen”, I witnessed it getting a luxurious drink from the wildlife waterer, then mindlessly racing back and forth through my landscape, much like a cat would do to have fun. A few minutes later, Cheeky captured a field mouse in the blue grama with its eyelash seedheads, only to drop it in the street again, circling and watching, as did I. Once the field mouse moved, Cheeky caught and released it again and again.

Find out how you can join the ABQ Backyard Refuge program:

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/abq-backyard-refuge/>



## Owl Teaching Tree

By Karuna Fluhart-Negrete

We joined the Albuquerque Native Plant Society for an educational hike at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area in Belen, NM on June 18th, 2022.

Andrew Hautzinger, the District Director of Valencia Soil and Water Conservation District greets us with a welcoming smile. The local fires in Belen, NM were here just three weeks ago. They have already begun the re-seeding process and Andrew tells us stories of historical and current news as we walk around the pond and meander through the loop circling the Owl Tree and back through the other two fields on Whitfield's 80 acres.

Ted Hodoba, the retired manager of Whitfield, leads us through a garden path he designed and devoted to the Chihuahuan desert, a lovely path of stone edged walkways around raised beds of cacti. They flower the end of April through May. We are two weeks late for the display since no visitors were admitted during the 890 acre Big Hole fire.

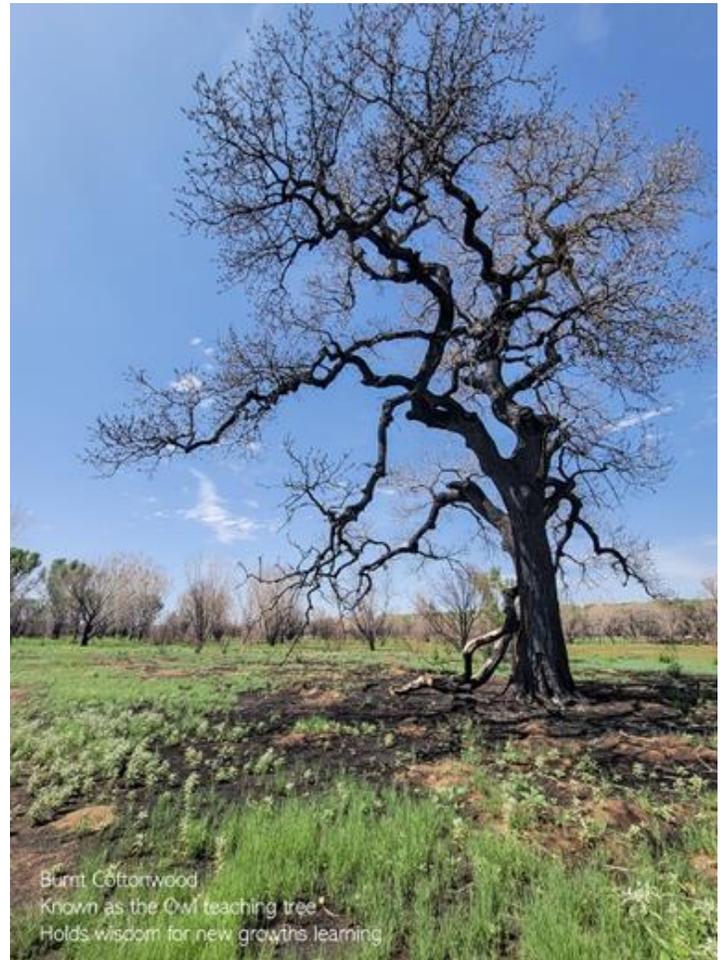
A huge black willow was burned to a char, striking against the blue-sky background and iridescent green grass that had sprung up around it. There were a few yellow chicory, beautiful flowers shining up into our faces and various types of milkweeds. Whitfield plantings include pollinator favorites like Darcy's sage (*Salvia darcyi*), chocolate flower (*Berlandiera lyrata*), and desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*).

One of the more interesting plants was tall thin Mexican devilweed or spiny aster (*Chloracantha spinosa*). On close inspection it had thorns, like little blades, the "devils" in addition to small yellow flowers. Nature is so amazing!

What struck me most from our visit was the Owl Teaching Tree. From the stories told about students and volunteers who have come to Whitfield, this tree was a central station, the heart of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area's learning and sharing.

This 100 year old cottonwood still holds wisdom. In the heart of its body the branches create an aorta like image. Upon deeper inspection, an owl wisdom being seems to be looking out, posing a quizzical smile. I get it, it is time for change. I question what changes can occur to honor the one who has held the heart of learning and community growth for so many?

Though I see and felt this tree's heart, I researched a bit to see what science has to say about the heart of a tree. Heartwood is the central supporting pillar of the tree, consisting of hollow cellulose fibers bound by lignins (an alchemical glue), in many ways as strong as steel. Further research goes on to say, "while a tree definitely doesn't have a heart the idea that they have their own beat and sense of rhythm isn't far-fetched as many people think." <https://forestry.co.za>





A view of the Owl Tree's heart and ancient wisdom smile

Furthermore, scientists discovered that trees have a heart-beat. Through terrestrial laser scanning a study discovered through surveying the movement of 72 different types of trees at night that trees pump water and distribute it around its body, just as a heart pumps blood. Not only that, but they also have circadian leaf movements. Some trees drop their leaves at night when going to sleep. The study continues, some say trees even can cry, feel, and experience pain. Another story.

The Owl Teaching Tree still has heart. It spoke to me that day and inspired interest to embrace it as an elder, a wisdom holder. Whether it is a grandmother or grandfather, the Owl Teaching Tree has been a home. A place where not only owls would roost but even great horned owls were passers of this tree's sanctuary. Though it is seared, Andrew tells me the leaves have already turned and browned which signals it may be dying. Though this has my heart aching, I know death is change. In change transformation is possible.

For now, the tree stands. It is still loved and mourned by many. There was a ceremony at Whitfield's Earth Day celebration where bits of green paper were written on, then pinned to one of the burned branches providing a process to acknowledge the great loss.

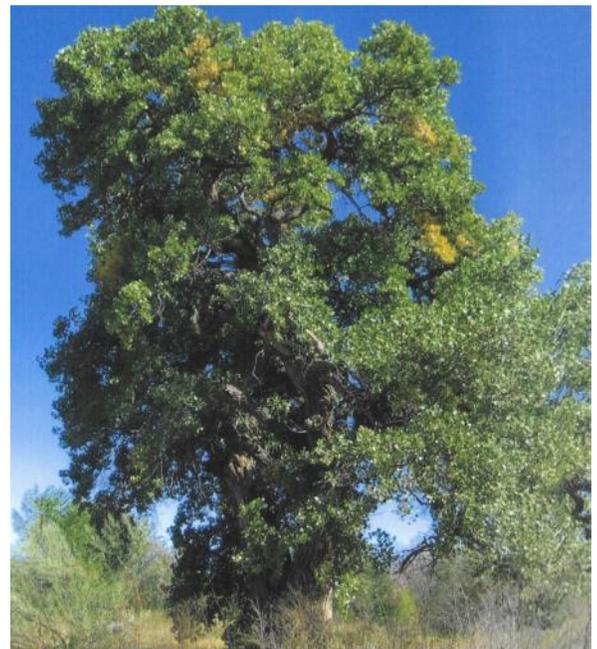
Andrew is thinking about planting some native trees that were once naturally part of this desert environment for future preservation. Nut trees like Black Walnut and Arizona Cypress may be planted. The propagation of new trees will enliven and restore the heart and soul of Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, while our dear Owl Teaching Tree takes a long-deserved respite.

Karuna Fluhart-Negrete

karunafn [at] gmail [dot] com

For more information about the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area:

<https://valenciaswcd.org/whitfield-wildlife-conservation-area/>



The Spring 2021 Albuquerque Chapter NPSNM newsletter article by Donald H. Heinze featured the Rio Grande Cottonwood and this iconic "Owl Tree" at Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, on Hwy 47 south of Belen. Photo by D. Heinze

## Field Trip Safety – Everyone’s Responsibility

### Diane Stevenson and Lee Regan

One of the best parts of membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is taking field trips during wildflower season. We strive to be a cohesive, friendly group, so with a little pre-planning and exchange of phone numbers, you can meet friends to enjoy wildflowers on our field trips and on your own.

**SAFETY** is the most important thing to remember. Be prepared when in nature. **ALWAYS** hike with a companion, let someone know where you’re going and when you’ll return. Be certain you know your trail, use guide maps and/or a GPS app or device.

**Field trip participants are asked to contact the leader prior to each field trip & sign up.** Wear appropriate clothing, sunscreen; bring water & food. You are ultimately responsible for your own safety. Field trip leaders visit potential site(s) about a week before to see if and where plants are blooming and often prepare a plant list for the field trip. Locations can change from the planned destination.

**Be a talented driver:** stay between the lines on paved roads, follow speed limits and rules of the road. **Be a courteous driver:** bicyclists, hikers and other outdoor lovers are around too. Our wild neighbors deserve respect in *their* space, so be on the lookout.

These suggested practices are meant to keep the entire group safe and reasonably comfortable:

- **A daypack** is good for carrying everything. A checklist will help keep it supplied.
- **Bring adequate water** –one liter per day in summer for half-day field trips, more in the heat (2+ liters). Pre-hydrate the day before and drink water frequently on the walk. If you are thirsty, you are already dehydrated.
- **Cover your skin** with comfortable light colored clothing, wear sunscreen (more every 2 hours), lip protector, sunglasses and a hat. Long sleeves and long pants are recommended.
- **Bring snacks & lunch** that doesn’t need refrigeration. Keep a gallon of water in an ice chest in your car. You’ll be glad you did after the trip.
- **Wear closed-toed shoes or boots** for more support on rocky or uneven terrain and protection from wildlife and thorns. No sandals or open-toe shoes.



Broom Dalea, *Psoralea scoparius*

Photo by Lee Regan

## Field Trip Safety – Everyone’s Responsibility, continued

- **Be aware of cacti and other prickly vegetation** around you and your companions. Poison ivy is found near streams and lakes.
- **Don’t touch plants until they are positively identified.** Plant names can be a clue to their properties. Many are skin irritants and/or poisonous.
- **Be aware and RESPECT wildlife:** sightings of rattlesnakes are rare, but possible around rocks (if you hear a rattle, STOP, then move elsewhere); bears (make noise, do not approach; back away slowly); mountain lions (STOP, raise your arms and pack to appear as large as possible). Be wise - resist the temptation to get a photograph.
- Walking sticks or hiking poles good for extra balance, especially with changes in terrain.
- **Check the weather forecast & prepare for weather changes.** We have mid-day thunderstorms in summer, cold & wind in fall, winter and spring. Pack a windbreaker/raincoat. Higher elevations will be colder so carry a fleece vest, gloves, and warm ear/head coverings in your daypack.
- **Carry a first aid kit,** especially trip leaders.
- **In the case of a serious injury or physical incident, call 911 and explain the problem and your location as best as possible.** If there is no cell service (common in New Mexico wild areas & near Sandia peak antennas) send your hiking buddy to another location for help.

With preparation and a few safety tips in mind, you're all set to

***ENJOY an ADVENTURE in NATURE!***



Dwarf or Golden Prairie Clover, *Dalea nana*

Photo by Lee Regan

## The Most Beautiful and Worst Smelling Shrub in New Mexico: Chamisa

By Donald Heinze



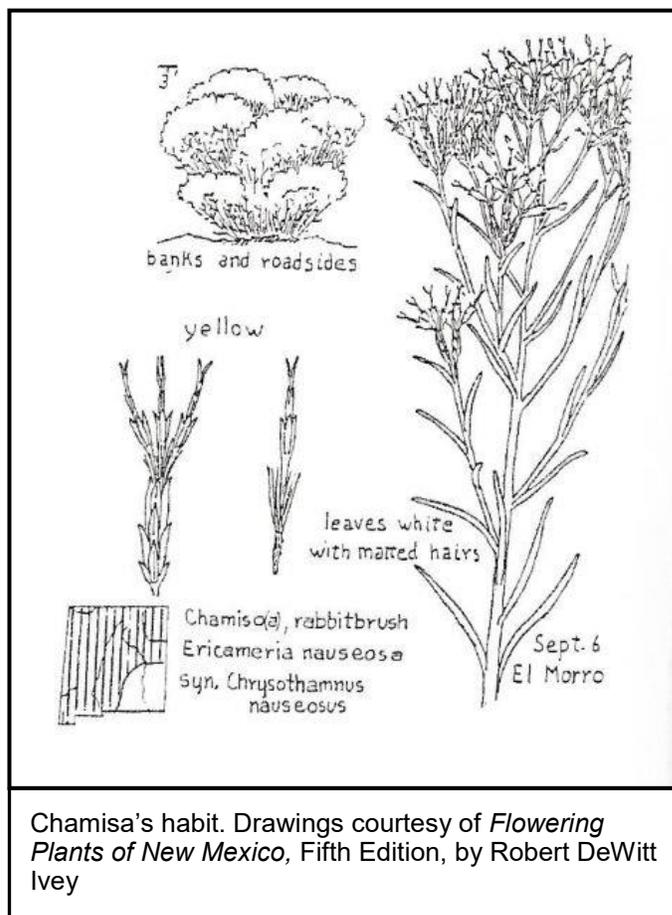
Chamisa in summer, Sandia Mountain pediment, NE Albuquerque.  
Photo by L. Heinze

I learned it as rubber rabbitbrush *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* in Nevada;. Known as chamisa in New Mexico, its botanical name has changed to *Ericameria nauseosa*. This points out a vexing problem with botanical nomenclature. Common names vary with geographic locations, and Latin names change when someone writes a better scientific description. This is usually with the advantage of advanced technology such as sophisticated optical instruments, computers, and better-preserved specimens.

The shrub is from one to seven feet high, depending on the subspecies and ecological conditions. It has a large, expansive root system which enables it to reach water deep in the ground. The stem branches are very flexible and leafy with felt-like white or gray-green hairs. The deciduous leaves are

broadly linear to thread-like, three quarters to two and a half inches long and are covered with similar hairs. Numerous stems emit from a single base. The bright yellow flowers are bisexual, with disk but no ray flowers. They are in large cymes, located as terminal clusters. The wood has a very disagreeable odor. If you ever had to make a cookfire from it (like I once did); you would agree the species epithet *nauseosa* is very appropriate!

Chamisa is quite variable. No fewer than 20 subspecies have been described, nine of them in New Mexico. They are so similar that experts have difficulty distinguishing them. The differing subspecies are found in sites near springs; in grasslands, sagebrush flats, streambeds, pinyon juniper woodlands, and coniferous forests; on mesas, limestone cliffs, playas, and roadsides. Precipitation ranges from six to 12 inches. Run-off makes unpaved roadsides three times more mesic and paved road edges up to 17 times wetter than the surrounding area. Therefore, plants growing at this location are understandably larger in size. Soils range from clay to sandy loam to sand and are usually alkaline.



Chamisa's habit. Drawings courtesy of *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, Fifth Edition, by Robert DeWitt Ivey

This shrub's taste is as bad as its odor, making it very unpalatable to large herbivores. Horses will not touch it. Cattle, sheep, deer, and antelope will eat it in the fall and winter only if all other vegetation has been removed by browsing. This gives the subject plant an advantage over other plants. Therefore, abundant chamisa is usually a sign of overgrazing.

Native peoples crushed the flowers to make a yellow dye to color buckskin shirts and leggings. Chamisa had great medicinal value for them. They steeped the leaves to make a cure for stomach disorders, a gargle for colds, and a bath for feverish tribal members. Leaves were mixed with cornmeal to treat wounds. The galls on the stems that were made by insects were used to lessen the pain of toothaches.

Meriwether Lewis made the initial collection of chamisa along the Missouri River south of the present site of Pierre, South Dakota in the fall of 1804. He and William Clark and their expedition camped

that winter at the site of Mandan, North Dakota and sent the plant material back to the Philadelphia Academy of Science. Thus, it was not lost like later collections when their boat tipped over. There it was given to Peter Pallas and his drunken colleague Fredrick Pursh for naming and scientific description.



A close up of chamisa flowers. Notice the pollinating bee.  
Photo by L. Heinze



Chamisa in winter. Without leaves or flower remnants, it is often mistaken for sagebrush.  
Photo by L. Heinze

### Literature Cited

Allred, Kelly W., and Robert DeWitt Ivey. 2012. FLORA NEOMEXICANA III, www.lulu.com.

Dunmire, William, W & Gail D. Tierney. 1995. *Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province*. Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, NM.

Ivey, Robert Dewitt. 2008. *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, Fifth Edition. R.D. Ivey, Albuquerque, NM.

Mozingo, Hugh N. 1987. *Shrubs of the Great Basin*. University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV.

Phillips, H. Wayne. 2003. *Plants of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*. 2003. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, MT.

Sampson, Arthur W. & Beryl S. Jespersen. 1963. *California Range Brushlands and Browse Plants*. University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences, Davis, CA.

## Preserving a Ponderosa Story and Photos by Diane Stevenson

Summer 2021 was another dry one and I was concerned about my 35' ponderosa pine. I've seen so many trees die due to lack of watering and care; I hoped my beloved tree was not going to be among them. River rock over thick black visqueen (plastic) was the ill-informed method of mulching in the early 1970's.

Generally, visqueen never excluded weeds completely and rock mulch condenses moisture at night, allowing seed germination. Compost with pine needle mulch would allow me to add supplemental water and grow native and arid-adapted plants around the pine.

Though hot and dry in mid-September, this work needed to be done for the health of the tree. The process involved shoveling river rock and carefully cutting the visqueen away from fine roots. The trick was to keep the roots moist during this process. Enter Jonathan Tanis, a native plant enthusiast who joined the Albuquerque Chapter of NPSNM before he even moved here!

Jonathan expertly teased the roots out of the visqueen after removing and sieving the river rock. The soil under the rock was pretty uneven, so he dumped what was separated from the river rock in any

low spots. I spread Soilutions premium compost in a 6" layer over the replaced soil and watered as Jonathan finished working in an area. The shade of my 35' ponderosa pine kept evaporation to a minimum even on the warm mornings we worked (OK Jonathan worked, I did what my back would allow.) I had watered the roots outside the tree's canopy in the days prior to reduce any water stress on the tree.



I quickly realized we needed more compost, so my husband Craig and I drove to Soilutions Premium Compost and Soils in Albuquerque's south valley near the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge



and loaded more premium compost into buckets and trash cans in the back of our covered truck. This year, I ordered one cubic yard (27 cubic feet) delivered (very easy!) I grow vegetables in my kitchen garden and our mineral soil is fine for most natives but healthy veggies need a lot of organic matter to grow well.

The tree looks healthier this year. The understory native forbs include *Iris missouriensis*, *Aquilegia chrysantha*, *Penstemon strictus*, *Linum lewisii* var. *lewisii*, and *Heuchera pulchella*. Other native shrubs and trees are part of the living "mulch" in my front garden. Come and see it! Call 918-207-5335 or e-mail distevenson [at] hotmail [dot] com to schedule a visit.



## ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

You are invited to become an officer of our chapter in 2023. Your support is essential to our organization. Volunteer candidate position descriptions are found on page 2 of our bylaws. Download bylaws at the bottom of our chapter page: <https://www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/albuquerque/> If you have questions, call Pam McBride at 505-780-1262 or Carol Conoboy at 505-897-3530.

**OCTOBER:** Plant Identification (Keying) Party at UNM Herbarium: October 20th: RSVP Required! We are excited to continue hosting regular plant identification parties at the UNM herbarium this fall semester. We provide the plants, microscopes, dichotomous keys. Even the pizza.

- This will be an after-hours event for folks to come in & work through plant specimens collected in New Mexico.
- October's event will have a 20-person max capacity - best for those who have experience keying out plants.
- We are meeting at the UNM Herbarium, within Museum of Southwest Biology, CERIA 83. RSVP required by email to Collections Manager, Harpo Faust, harpofaust [at] unm [dot] edu

**GET INVOLVED** in Albuquerque Chapter planning: Help plan 2023 activities and speakers. The next Zoom board meeting date will be: Wednesday November 16 at 7 pm. Contact any current board member to be invited.

## Etcetera

- \* SAN ANTONIO OXBOW BLUFFS (Former Poole Property), CABQ Open Space—See the timeline here and get involved in the planning process:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fd8d0d40c4c14c61995f0b9138b8dfe2>

- \* Do you receive e-mails about new wildflower trails you have never heard of? Me too. I looked this one up so my hiking partner and I could check it out.

CABQ (City of Albuquerque) Golden Open Space, La Madera Road, Sandia Park

<https://www.cabq.gov/parksandrecreation/open-space/facilities-map>

Links to CABQ Open Space Trail Maps are on this page under the heading "East Mountain and Sandoval County Trail Maps"

Scroll down for the link to the map to the **Golden Open Space (updated August 2018)**

- \* The new Visitor Center at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is now open Tuesdays through Saturdays 9 am to 4 pm. <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/valle-de-oro>

The second Saturday of October marks Urban Wildlife Conservation Day — a time to celebrate our connections to the outdoors and inspire people from all walks of life to experience the benefits that nature provides.

Currently, the west side of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is closed to the public due to construction and habitat restoration. We hope to re-open the west side in fall, or winter of 2022.

NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter partners with the Friends of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in their ABQ Backyard Refuge Program:

<https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/>

- \* The Black Range Naturalist Website has a quarterly newsletter that may interest you: [www.blackrange.org](http://www.blackrange.org)
- \* The Albuquerque Water Utility Authority has a Zoom class called *Weather the Drought: Water Smart Class* you can sign up for and get \$20 credited to a future water bill. Here's the website for more information: <https://www.abcwua.org/conservation-rebates-workshops/>

## Albuquerque Chapter Meetings 2022

### Location for October and November meetings:

UNM Continuing Education Building, Room C., 1634 University Blvd. NE, 87131

**October 5 Meeting: Combined Effects of Global Warming/Climate Change, Drought, and Secondary Impacts from Forest Pests on Western Montane Forests.** Jim Nellessen, an Environmental Supervisor at the NM Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau will discuss conditions in New Mexico forests. His talk will draw upon our accumulated knowledge and observations on global warming, discuss the impacts that greenhouse gases are having on the ecological interactions between plant species, and additional secondary impacts montane forests are experiencing from pests, especially insect pests. He will reference some specific studies and include some of his own field observations.

**November 2 Meeting. Lichens: mysterious and beautiful.** Jason Roback, natural science teacher at Sandia High School will share his recent research on lichens in the Sabinoso Wilderness. The talk will include a broad introduction to what lichens are, their evolution and their role in the environment. He will share results of a study on lichen diversity and abundance related to varied habitats.

**December 3 (Saturday): Annual holiday potluck and officers election. Location TBD.** Watch mailings and Facebook for more information.

---

Articles, photos, and news submissions for the Albuquerque chapter NPSNM Winter 2023 Newsletter should be submitted via e-mail to Diane Stevenson (distevenson331 [at] hotmail [dot] com) by December 21, 2022.

Newsletter Comments are welcome any time!

*Thank you!*

---

### Become an NPSNM Member:

Join at <https://www.npsnm.org/about/join/>

NPSNM is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the conservation of native New Mexico flora. The Society, and its local chapters, work to educate its members and promote the conservation of our native flora so future generations may enjoy our valuable resource.

#### Membership Benefits

Members benefit from regional chapter meetings, field trips, an annual meeting, and four issues of the state newsletter each year. Some chapters also hold plant sales and annual seed exchanges and offer discounts on a variety of books providing information on native plant identification and gardening with New Mexico native plants.

#### Albuquerque Chapter Benefits

Members who show a valid NPSNM membership card

Qualify for Plant World membership

Receive a 10% discount at Plants of the Southwest

#### NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter

##### Current Board of Directors – 2022

President: Carol Conoboy

Vice President: Tom Stewart

Program: Sara Keeney

Secretary: Dara Saville

Treasurer: Pam McBride

Field Trip Coordinator: Lee Regan

State Board Rep.: Judith Phillips

Membership: Ann-Marie Yaroslaski

Newsletter Editor: Diane Stevenson

Conservation: Sue Small

##### Core Group (essential volunteers)

Books: Lee Regan

Communications: Carmen Alexander

Publicity: Janet Mura

Invasive Weeds Rep.: Don Heinze