NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



NEWSLETTER

of the

# NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2016

VOL. XXXXI NO. 4



Above: Close-up of Anticlea mogollonensis flowers and inflorescence. From 2015 NPSNM grantee John Moeny's final report of his funded project, "Habitat Survey, Seed Collection, and Post-Fire Effects Monitoring of Mogollon Death Camas (Anticlea mogollonensis)." Photo: John Moeny Below: A native sedge, *Carex hystericina*, growing among cattails. See page 3 for 2015 NPSNM grantee William Norris's final report of his funded project on the sedges of New Mexico. Photo: Russ Kleinman



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# **From the President**

#### by Barbara Fix

Forward! Along with the seasons, and the climate and everything else, change is happening. The NM Native Plant Society is going strong. With Tom Stewart as our new president, there will be more fine-tuning of the solid structure that decades of volunteers have created.

NPSNM's role as the voice for native plants has been heard in recent actions such as NPSNM Board-approved letters asking the Santa Fe National Forest to do more to keep the endangered Holy Ghost Ipomopsis from extinction (see page 8), letters written by Conservation Chair Rachel Jankowitz commenting on the NM State Wildlife Action Plan and planning for national forests, and the letter written by Linda Barker to federal land managers endorsing their role in protecting public lands. These and other conservation items can be read on the website under "Conservation, NPSNM Actions."

Unlike other nonprofits that as they develop end up spending more and more efforts in fundraising for office rent, additional staff, etc., NPSNM continues to follow its mission in a streamlined fashion. Thanks to the farsighted actions of such as Jack and Martha Carter and the donations by our members, NPSNM has the resources to devote to providing grants and other activities fostering and protecting native plants over a vast region from West Texas to northern New Mexico.

The change for myself in taking on the role of Membership Secretary is a welcome one. One project already well on its way is promoting temporary tattoos of endangered plants. The hope is that young folks and others might be intrigued by the native plants—especially endangered ones that they are adorning their bodies with, while at the same time raising some funds for NPSNM. Another project is working with the chapters to collect and archive those records the IRS requires us to keep, while also preserving the history of this vital organization and the remarkable people who have created and strengthened it.

There's much to be done. And we can have a good time doing it. Forward!  $\diamondsuit$ 

### *Legacy: What we leave behind, we give to the future.* NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills. *For further information, call Barbara Fix at 505/989-8654.*

# Meet NPSNM Board Member Jan Martenson: Our Fireball of Energy

#### by Claudia Bianca, Past President, Taos Chapter

Jan Martenson has been president of NPSNM's Taos chapter since 2015 and the chapter's state representative since 2013. This endless-energy leader in the Taos chapter came to us in

2008 after spending 33 years as a research technician and lab manager in the National Cancer Institute of the NIH (National Institutes of Health) in Maryland.

Jan grew up in Oklahoma, went to college in North Carolina, and then studied microbiology at Wake Forest University, where she got her master's. Her husband, Russell, was also working in biomedical research at NIH and they both developed a love of geology. This love got them out-

side in the wide open spaces and they quickly developed a healthy curiosity about the wildflowers they were seeing on their local hikes and while traveling the globe.

Jan saw her first western wildflower in 1987 on a hike in

Colorado and was enamored enough to—scientist that she is—purchase a book to help her identify it. Thus began her love of native flowers and her passion for identifying them and learning the scientific names.

After retiring in 2005, she and Russell came west, settling in Taos in 2007.

Her board members describe her as a great leader, with unbelievable energy—a true necessity, if you are going to be as involved as she is. Jan is a member of Los Jardineros Garden Club and volunteers with Mesa Prieta Petroglyph Project, in addition to her roles in the NPSNM Taos chapter. She is a beloved leader in both the local and state organizations and

does tremendous outreach for the chapter. Reach out and introduce yourself to her at the 2017 annual meeting here in Taos—you will be glad you did. 🗇





## **NPSNM's Grants Program**

NPSNM awards grants and makes donations to individuals and organizations that further the mission of the Society. The Society will consider funding for any project within or adjacent to New Mexico that contributes to the goals of the Society (education, research, and conservation). Currently we would particularly like to assist in conservation projects.

The Society also has an award for 6th–12th grade science teachers who incorporate teaching about plants/plant science/native plants in effective and inspiring ways. A onetime award of \$500 will be granted to the teacher, along with one free teacher copy and one free classroom copy of Jack Carter's book, *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*.

Requests are reviewed and voted on by the Board of Directors, who will notify applicants of the acceptance or denial of their proposal and provide reasons for a denial.

Grants are awarded to individual projects with a goal that can be completed within a stated time period and within a specified budget. Donations are given to non-profit organizations to support ongoing work that meets the objectives and goals of the Society, including annual donations to the four main herbaria in the region: University of Texas at El Paso; University of New Mexico (UNM); Western New Mexico University; and New Mexico State University. The UNM Herbarium applies that money toward its goals of georeferencing (mapping) the specimen label information, with the expertise of New Mexico Natural Heritage to make the information available to the scientific community and the general public.

Grants and donations are limited to a maximum of \$1,500. Grant payments may be given over time or in a lump sum. Donations are given as a lump sum.

The deadline for applying for 2017 will be December 31, 2016. Requests will only be accepted electronically. Proposals received after the deadline will not be considered. Please see www.npsnm.org/conservation/grants/ for more information. \*

# The Distribution, Habitat Preference, and Nomenclature of NM Sedges in the Genus *Carex*

#### by William (Bill) Norris, Gila Chapter

Which of the roughly 90 NM sedge taxa in the genus Carex is Jim McGrath holding? The plant enthusiasts gathered around Jim at Valles Caldera National Preserve in late July 2013 at a NPSNM-sponsored sedge-identification workshop all wanted to know, and he told them: Carex utriculata. Since then, four botanists with keen interest in sedges (Southwest Carex Working Group: Max Licher, Jim Mc-Grath, William [Bill] Norris, Glenn Rink) have endeavored to make it easier for NM botanists to confidently identify sedges. We aim to clarify knowledge of distribution, habitat preference, and nomenclature of all NM Carex species by our collaborative examination and annotation of herbarium specimens of these sedges deposited in herbaria throughout the Southwest. Ultimately, this work will allow us to update information about these NM Carex specimens on SEINet, and to prepare a dichotomous key to NM Carex taxa, which we will make available for publication in several upcoming treatments of the NM flora.

In 2014–2016 we have met for a week in early January at a NM herbarium to conduct the above work. So far, we have annotated the majority of NM *Carex* specimens deposited in university herbaria (NMSU, San Juan College, UNM, UTEP, WNMU) as well as in several significant private and government collections. We plan to meet again at the UNM Herbarium in January 2017 to examine and annotate a large and significant collection of NM *Carex* speci-



Photo: Conor Flynn

mens on loan to us from the Rocky Mountain Herbarium (University of Wyoming). Our preliminary findings, which include the addition and deletion of several *Carex* taxa to and from the NM flora, were published in *The New Mexico Botanist* (McGrath et al. 2015: "A Review of *Carex* in New Mexico: Initial Findings").

This project has been generously supported by two NPSNM grants, awarded in 2015 and 2016, that have covered most of our travel expenses to Farmington and Albuquerque to work in herbarium facilities. *The members of the Southwest Carex Working Group greatly appreciate this financial support and acknowledgment of our research*, and we look forward to providing NM botanists with the tools they need to successfully identify the roughly 90 sedge taxa that they might encounter in wetlands, grasslands, piñonjuniper woodlands, riparian and montane forests, and highelevation subalpine and alpine habitats in our state. \*

### The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

October–December 2016. Vol. 41 No. 4. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico. Original articles from the newsletter may be reprinted if attributed to the author and to this newsletter. Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM.

**Next deadline is December 1, 2016.** Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at *sarita@gilanet.com*, or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

# **Native Plant Society of New Mexico**

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**Mission** The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is a non-profit organization that strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

### If you received this newsletter via email, and would prefer a hard-copy, please notify Deb Farson at nativeplantsNM@gmail.com.



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# **Conservation Corner**

#### by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

### In Defense of Public Lands

The political ideology which favors transfer of federal lands and resources to the states or to private interests is hardly a new phenomenon in American history. The current-day "rebellion" stems in large part from objections to environmental requirements imposed by the federal land-management agencies. The issue came to national prominence last winter, when armed activists occupied the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon. Leaders of one of our fellow New Mexico conservation organizations were moved to act. NM Wildlife Federation Executive Director Garrett VeneKlasen and Deputy Director Todd Leahy set out for Oregon to challenge the trespassers. The lead article in the Spring 2016 NMWF newspaper The Outdoor Reporter, by Mr. Leahy, tells the story of their adventure, and eloquently lays out the importance to all Americans of why "Public lands belong in public hands." Unfortunately that article does not appear to be posted on the internet at this time, but you can watch a thought-provoking video about NM public lands from the hunting-and-fishing point of view at http://nmwildlife.org/ issues/land/.

In response to national attention generated by the Malheur NWR stunt, NPSNM has sent a letter to public land managers, expressing our support for the continued federal management of federal public lands, and for the resource professionals who do the managing (the letter, written by NMSNM Secretary Linda Barker, can be seen at www.npsnm. org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/2016-07-18-NPSNM-Federal-Land-Managers-Letter.pdf). If federal lands were transferred to the states, many expect that public access would be lost as vast acreages of these lands would have to be sold to private interests or developers to provide the funds needed to manage the remaining lands. The cost of fighting wildfires alone would strain state finances, let alone replacing the payments-in-lieu-of-taxes that the federal agencies make to local governments. In addition, the state does not have laws in place to protect ecologically sensitive resources that are currently subject to the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Clean Air and Water Acts, Endangered Species Act, Archeological Resources Protection Act, and National Environmental Policy Act.

#### White Mesa Gypsum Endemics

Daniela Roth of the State Forestry Division updates us on the current status of some of our rare plants:

The planned future expansion of the White Mesa Gypsum Mine and increasing disturbances associated with mountain biking in the White Mesa area have prompted the need for a more thorough knowledge of the abundance and distribution of four rare plant species endemic to gypsum soils in the White Mesa area northwest of Albuquerque. The New Mexico Forestry Division completed surveys for Townsend's gypsum aster (*Townsendia gypsophila*), Sivinski's scorpionweed (*Phacelia sivinskii*), tufted sand verbena (*Abronia bigelovii*), and Todilto stickleaf (*Mentzelia todiltoensis*) on BLM and Zia Pueblo lands in 2015. *Continued page 9* 



Townsendia gypsophila Photo: Danie

Photo: Daniela Roth



Left: Mentzelia todiltoensis; Right: Phacelia sivinskii Photos: Robert Sivinski



Abronia bigelovii Photo: Daniela Roth

## **Chapter Activities & Events**

**For further information** on the following events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page: First go to www.npsnm.org; click on Local Chapters; then

### Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at 505/286-8745 or sedges@ swcp.com.

**Oct 5** Meeting. Sunken in Synonymy: Things about New Mexico Plants You've Never Heard Of, Don't Need to Know, and Will Probably Never Use. Dr. Kelly Allred, retired NMSU professor and author of *Flora Neomexicana*, will discuss the often unknown back stories of our current understanding of the New Mexico flora, and our current efforts in revising the 2012 edition of *Flora Neomexicana*.

**Nov 2** Meeting. New Conservation Programs for New Mexico's Native Plants. Restoration ecologist Melanie Gisler. Overview of initiatives underway by the Institute for Applied Ecology's Southwest Program: a regional native plant materials project for large-scale restoration projects, a project to enhance populations of pollinator species, a "Native Plants of New Mexico" high school curriculum, and support for a new statewide conservation strategy for rare plants, with examples of similar projects from Oregon.

**Dec** Date TBD: either Dec. 2, 3, 10, or 11. Annual Holiday Potluck. 11 a.m.–2 p.m. Pam McBride's house, 5409 9th St. NW. Pam will provide vegetarian posole.

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select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground.

### El Paso

El Paso Chapter meetings are at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm Street (Elm at Wheeling, off Piedras). Programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Nonmembers always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414, jimhastings@elp.rr.com.

**Oct 13** Meeting. Native Plants of the White Sands Missile Range. Dr. David Anderson, retired range manager.

**Nov 10** Meeting. Update on the Texas Forestry Service and Its Programs. Mickey Merritt, the new Urban Forestry Agent for our region.

**Dec 8** Annual holiday potluck dinner (no formal program).

### Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, with refreshments following the program. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre for carpooling. For more hike info, call Kevin Keith, 575/535-4064. Destinations may be changed due to weather. Updates posted on GilaNPS.org.

**Oct 21** Meeting. Ancient Sea Ledges, Deep Rocky Canyons, Lava Flows, Ice Caves, and Other Challenging Places Mosses Hide. Russ Kleinman.

**Nov 18** Meeting. Creative Coloring: Dye Plants That Grow in the Greater Gila Region. Ann Lane Hedlund and Hosana Eilert.

**Dec 11** Holiday party, potluck. The Commons/Volunteer Center, 501 E. 13th St., Silver City. 1 p.m.

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### Las Cruces

Meetings and workshops are second Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good SamaritanVillage, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Field trips are Saturdays; most last into the afternoon. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; nonmembers always welcome. Contacts: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Tom Packard, 575/202-3708.

**Oct 12** Meeting. Planning meeting for 2017. Join us to elect new officers; plan talks and field trips for 2017.

Oct 22 Potluck at La Cueva. 1:00 p.m.

**Nov 9** Meeting. The Asombro Institute: What They Are All About. Stephanie Bestelmeyer.

**Nov 12** Field trip. Destination TBA. 9:00 a.m.

Dec No events. Happy holidays!

### Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact William Herndon, laluzlobo@gmail.com, 575/437-2555; or Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert@yahoo.com, 575/443-4408; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575/585-3315 or 443-3928. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

**Oct 8** Field trip. Indian Wells Trail. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the uppermost parking lot of the New Mexico Museum of Space History (trail starts there). Bring snacks, hiking shoes, water, and rain gear if necessary.

**Nov 5** Otero Chapter Annual Meeting at Beth Anne and John Gordon's house in Laborcita Canyon. Further information and a map will be sent out closer to the event. **Dec** No activities.

### Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso; across street from fire station). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings



and talks are free and open to all.

**Oct 19** Meeting. Cacti and Succulents for the Rock Garden. Panayoti Kelaidis, Director of Outreach, Denver Botanic Gardens. This meeting is in collaboration with the Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club.

### Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Check NPSNM website or Facebook for updates, or contact Jan at TaosNPS@gmail.com or 575/751-0511. Contact: TaosNPS@ gmail.com, or phone Jan Martenson at 575/751-0511.

**Oct 14** Field trip. Los Alamos Pajarito Environmental Education Center (PEEC). We will visit this new complex and get a private tour, picnic in their outside patio (bring your lunch), then take a hike on one of the nearby hiking trails. Meet 9 a.m., rear parking lot of San Francisco de Asis church in Ranchos to carpool. Tour cost of \$60 will be divided by number of people, maximum 20. Reservation required.

**Oct 19** Meeting. New Conservation Programs for New Mexico's Native Plants. Melanie Gisler, restoration ecologist and director for the new Southwest Program of the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), Santa Fe.

**Nov 16** Meeting. Program TBA.

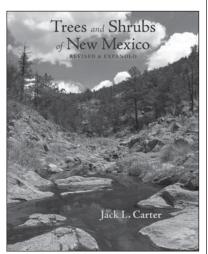
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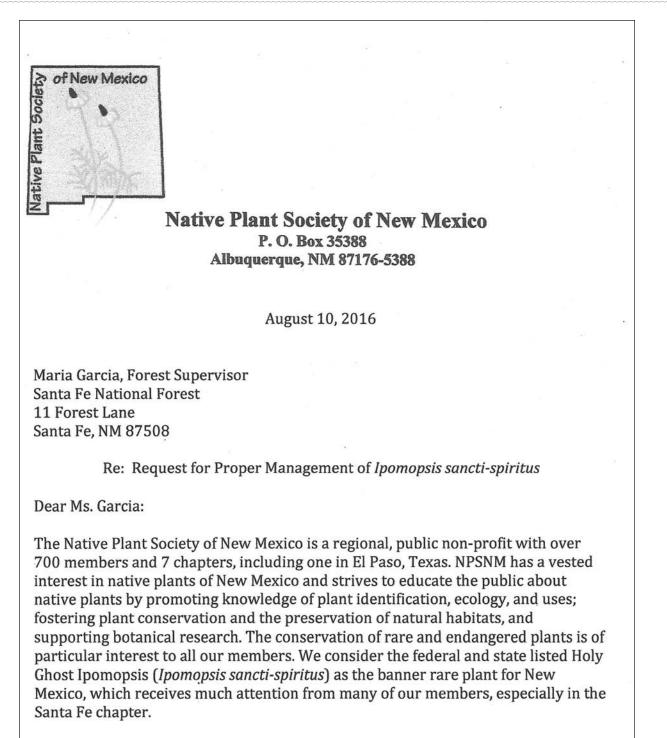
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7



Our members have a long history of volunteering to help the NM Forestry Division's Endangered Plant Program with the recovery of this extremely rare and endangered plant, including the planting of experimental populations, providing help with establishing treatment sites, annual monitoring, and extensive surveys throughout Holy Ghost Canyon and elsewhere.

We are very concerned about the disengagement of the Forest Service, particularly the Santa Fe National Forest and the Pecos Ranger district, with respect to the management of this species. It appears as though this endangered plant receives little attention from the Forest Service, which has led to several negative impacts to

8

the already small and dwindling populations of this highly endangered plant (see Roth 2015). The Native Plant Society of New Mexico would appreciate more management and involvement of the Forest Service to help recover this species from the endangered species list, including new introduction sites in burned areas, annual monitoring, protecting existing populations from traffic and road maintenance projects, additional surveys throughout the Pecos watershed, the collection of seeds for ex-situ conservation purposes, and the creation of a management plan. We hope the Forest Service will initiate the conversation about what can be done to further the recovery of this rare and endangered plant by establishing a recovery team that will come together and discuss various options leading to better management and the recovery of Holy Ghost Ipomopsis.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,

Julang ?

Barbara Fix, President Native Plant Society of New Mexico

### **Literature Cited:**

Roth, D. 2015. *Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus* (Holy Ghost Ipomopsis). Recovery summary Report (Section 6, Segment 29). 1996-2015. Unpublished report prepared byEMNRD-Forestry Division, Santa Fe, NM, for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Region 2, Albuquerque, NM.26 pp.

Cc: Cal Joyner, Regional Forester

#### **Conservation Corner** (continued from p. 5)

No previous data on distribution and abundance was available for three of the four species. Analysis of population numbers from a 1994 report for *Townsendia gypsophila* versus the 2015 survey results indicates a possible decline in population numbers. Declines are attributed to recreational activities (mountain biking and associated trails), gypsum mining, and prolonged drought. This species only occurs in the White Mesa area and nowhere else in the world. Therefore population trends should be closely monitored. Daniela Roth of the NM Forestry Division is leading a NPS field trip to see all four plant species in White Mesa area on September 10, 2016.

### **State Wildlife Action Plan Update**

The NM Department of Game & Fish released another public comment draft of the SWAP over the summer of 2016. NPSNM sent them our input (www.npsnm.org/wp-content/ uploads/2012/03/2016-08-22-SWAP.pdf). We praised the Plan for devoting a separate chapter to climate change and featuring climate change prominently throughout the document, giving the phenomenon its appropriate recognition as a pervasive, statewide challenge for conservation efforts. We requested a more thorough discussion of the habitat-related consequences of tamarisk invasion and removal.

A botanical counterpart to the SWAP is forthcoming from the NM Forestry Division, to be called the NM Rare *Continued page 10* 

# **Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund**

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico will make it possible for the Board to approve more funding for workshops throughout the state, additional basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and hopefully for the development and support of more early education programs from K-12 in New Mexico schools.

Use the form provided below, or contribute through PayPal on the website, www.npsnm.org. Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future. ~Jack & Martha Carter

Jack & Martha Carter (	Conservation Fund	<b>D</b> ONATION FORM
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### **Conservation Corner** (continued from p. 9)

Plant Conservation Strategy. It is expected that the rare plant strategy and the SWAP, together, will provide guidance for many future projects aimed at conserving and restoring our state's incomparable biological resources.

### **Native Plants Conservation Campaign**

Did you know that NPSNM is an affiliate member of the Native Plant Conservation Campaign? NPCC is a network of state native plant societies and other groups, whose mission is to promote the conservation of native plants and their habitats through collaboration, education, and advocacy. Based in California, they also publish reports and fact sheets, and testify to Congress on native plant issues. They are currently promoting five initiatives:

- Strengthening the Native Plant Conservation Community
- Equal Protection for Plants
- Botany Staffing and Funding
- International Plant Conservation—The Global Strategy for Plant Conservation
- Ecosystem Services—Economic Benefits of Conservation

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**WHOLESALE** Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery 2 Dove Road = Santa Ana Pueblo = 505/867-1323 Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair (contact information listed on page 4).





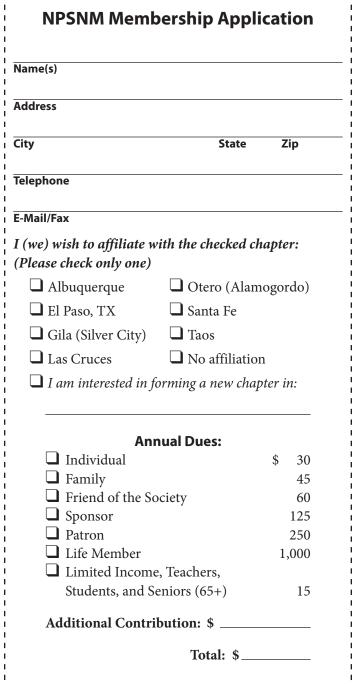


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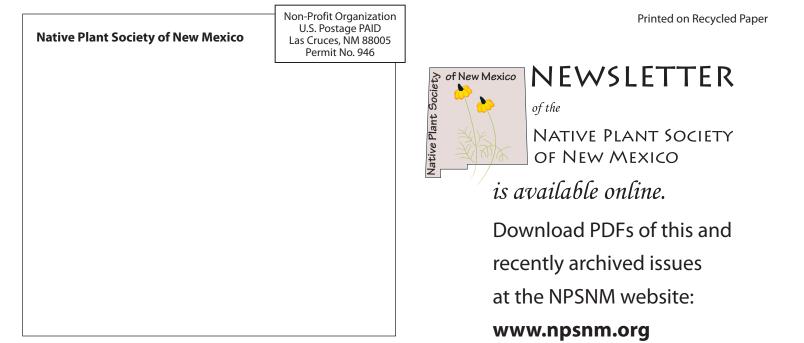
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# Ken Heil Recognized with Lifetime Achievement Award

In July, the committee for the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award 2016 presented a special Lifetime Achievement Award to Ken Heil of San Juan College and the Four Corners Flora Project. In reviewing Ken's lifetime of work, the committee found that he has greatly benefited San Jan College (SJC) and the State of New Mexico through his prolific contributions to the science of this region's plants and the education of its citizens. Ken's accomplishments include:

- Studying and enlightening New Mexico residents to the state's unique botanical environment for over 40 years. His teaching career includes: current Professor Emeritus of Biology/Geology and adjunct Professor of Biology at San Juan College, instructor of Biology at Navajo Community College (now Dine' College), 10 years at Farmington High School.
- Founding in 1983 and since curating the San Juan College Herbarium, now the third largest in NM, housing over 67,000 specimens and open to the public. (SJC Herbarium was given a public herbarium designation by the New York Botanic Garden.)
- Directing the Four Corners Flora Project, a multidecade project to document all native and naturalized vascular plants in the San Juan River Drainage. Published: *Flora of the Four Corners Region: Vascular Plants of the San Juan River Drainage, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.*

A review of *Flora of the Four Corners Region* appears in the January–March 2014 issue of the NPSNM newsletter. \*

