

NEW MEXICO'S VOICE FOR NATIVE PLANTS



NEWSLETTER

of the
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2024

VOL. XLIX NO. 2



This field of native *Penstemon strictus* isn't just breathtakingly beautiful; these flowers are grown for their seed by Dean Swift, owner of a Colorado-based conifer and wildflower restoration seed business. Dean will be a speaker at the upcoming annual conference in Taos from July 25-28 where he will address the potential impacts of a changing climate on restoration projects. Registration (online only) is open now with more information about the conference beginning on page 9 of this newsletter.

Image: Dean Swift

The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

April–June 2024, Vol. 45 No. 2. 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 native plant enthusiasts and advocates, from home gardeners to resource managers and botanists, who have 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. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Margaret Ménache, [newsletter \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:newsletter[at]npsnm.org).

The next submission deadline is May 25, 2024.

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.

Inside This Issue

- 3 From the Presidents
- 4 Who's on Board?
- 5 2024 Carter Conservation Awards
- 6 The Science Teacher of the Year Award
- 7 Conservation Corner
- 8 Martha Ann Shelton Carter
- 9 Annual Conference Information
- 10 Taos Mountains are Calling
- 13 In Memoriam: George Oxford Miller
- 14 NPSNM Members Remember George Miller
- 15 Our Friend George
- 16 NPSNM Lifetime Members
- 17 Thank you, Rachel!
- 17 Remembering Ken Heil
- 18 Chapter Activities and Events

Legacy: What we leave behind, we give to the future

NPSNM encourages members to consider including NPSNM in their wills.

For further information,
contact us at [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm[at]npsnm.org)

NPSNM is a 501(c3) tax-exempt organization

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, to conserve water, and as a part of the regional ecosystem in support of native pollinators and other fauna. Members benefit from chapter presentations, field trips, plant and seed exchanges/sales, discounts on publications, a statewide conference, and a network of knowledgeable plant enthusiasts.



Joining is easy! Scan this QR code to be directed to our website or go there the old-fashioned way from your browser: www.npsnm.org. You may also snail mail your contact information, local chapter preference (if any), and dues to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176). Yearly dues [\$30 regular individual, \$45 household, \$60 friend of the Society, and \$20 for youth (through 26 years) or PK-12 teacher] and donations are tax deductible. Higher supporting levels can be found on our website. ❖

Don't Miss a Newsletter Issue or an Important Society Email!

- ☞ Has your email address changed?
- ☞ Has your physical address changed?
- ☞ Would you prefer to receive *only* an online copy of the newsletter?

Keep us informed so we can keep you informed!

Send us your most current information at:
[npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership[at]gmail.com)

It Pays to Advertise!

Only \$100/yr for business card ad;
\$225/yr for quarter page; \$450/yr for half page.
4 issues plus NPSNM's website.
Contact [ask.npsnm \[at\] npsnm.org](mailto:ask.npsnm[at]npsnm.org)

From the Presidents

By Wendy and Don Graves



Greetings members of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico! We hope that you have had a rejuvenating winter quarter and are ready for the coming warmth and field season.

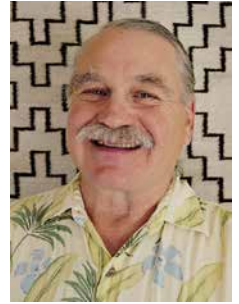
It is time

First things first: we need all of you to know that, although we have greatly enjoyed our time as NPSNM co-presidents, we will not be seeking a second term. Now is the time to start thinking about stepping forward to serve the organization for a two-year term starting in January 2025. In addition to president, we will also need a person to run as the recording secretary for this next term. If there is a person you work well with, we think

that we have shown that sharing a position is a good way to spread the work out.

We will have lived in New Mexico for only six years in May, 2024, having moved from far northern Minnesota. Five and a half of those years have been spent in leadership roles, first as president and treasurer for the Gila Chapter, starting in January of 2019, and then as co-presidents of the statewide organization since January 2023. It is now time for us to begin wider explorations of our new state and region. As life members of NPSNM, we are very committed to our Gila Chapter and to the state organization. Of course, we intend to be active participants at both the local and state level, contributing in ways that best suit our interests.

If you read our bylaws, you will see that the president's responsibilities are primarily to preside over board meetings. While a visit to each chapter is not a requirement for being president, we highly recommend it. We became co-presidents without ever having been board members for this organization and with little knowledge of the state, so we made a personal decision to visit the chapters for our own education. We feel the most important skills that we have brought to this position were acquired during our decades of service as educators, including the ability to communicate effectively, to follow through, and to seek advice from, and listen carefully to, those with expertise in a variety of areas. Our own experience tells us that any member who possesses some of these skills and, more importantly, who enjoys spending time with others who care about native plants can serve in a leadership or board position successfully.



Year One Visits Complete

We visited the Albuquerque Chapter at the end of November and into early December, 2023. Most of the outside portion of our visit coincided with a snow/sleet/rain/wind event, reminding us (fondly?) of our previous life in northern Minnesota. At least we have good winter gear to wear. We started off with a visit to the Albuquerque City Greenhouse with Albuquerque Chapter member John Rembetski: a man of many talents and interests. John showed us the facilities there and we toured the growing spaces around the outside of the facility. He introduced us to the greenhouse horticulturist, Dan Humbles. Dan is interested in native plants and seeds and welcomes others who want to grow native plants to use space in the greenhouse. After visiting at the greenhouse, John took us back to see his yard, which is a beautiful habitat of predominantly native plants.

Later that day, we met with Maria Thomas, Plant Curator, and Clay Meredith, Species Survival Officer for Plants, at the New Mexico BioPark. There we had a great discussion about native seeds and rare plant conservation currently underway, while learning what was happening at the BioPark. An important conservation effort currently underway involves rearing some of the last remaining Sacramento Mountains checkerspot butterfly larvae! River of Lights, the BioPark holiday event, funds a tremendous amount of conservation work in the state. As a simple act of supporting environmental restoration, purchasing tickets to this event has great impact! We are always looking for opportunities for our members to be involved in ongoing projects, and Clay will be seeking volunteers from across the NPSNM community for members to make phenological observations regarding specific species in their region, including status of seed setting, so that collecting groups can then visit at the best time for seed collection. Stay tuned for more information.

Later, we attended a Plant ID night at the UNM Herbarium. Because we had not been there before, we were treated to a tour of the facility by Harpo Faust, UNM Herbarium Collections Manager. What a marvelous facility and what an incredible job Harpo is doing to organize and make the facility function for all of its different constituents! There is a wonderful sense of comradery on these evenings, while a group of interested individuals sit at microscopes around the table using Kelly Allred's keys to identify plants collected in the field – this activity is highly recommended!

We visited with Nursery Manager Mike Halverson at the Santa Ana Pueblo Native Plant Nursery. What an impressive selection of native plant species! Although the retail garden center at the Pueblo remains closed, Mike does want to make his stock available for purchase. However, it is not practical to open the nursery to the public, except for a prearranged event. For example, if a chapter wanted to arrange an event for their members to purchase plants at the nursery, this could be possible. The nursery also has the potential for





It was a cold and blustery day in Albuquerque when Tom (left) and Boshha (center) took Don (photographer) and Wendy (right) out to see the chapter's work at El Oso Grande Park. Image: Don Graves

volunteer opportunities for members who enjoy transplanting seedlings, along with other plant nursery tasks.

The timing was right for us to attend the Albuquerque Chapter holiday potluck at Pam McBride's home. It was a festive event where we were able to meet and talk with several chapter members. After the potluck, Tom Stewart and Boshha Gordon took us for a visit to the chapter's native plant restoration garden at El Oso Grande Park in NE Albuquerque. The chapter has done an excellent job at El Oso Grande, with beautiful plantings of a diverse variety of native plants. We look forward to a return visit when the garden is in full bloom!

In Closing

Please consider stepping up for a turn at president or recording secretary. Our visits to each of the NPSNM chapters made us realize the tremendous leadership potential across the chapters. We were both brought up in the "school" of servant leadership, where the goal is to support the mission of the organization by supporting the chapters, as if you put leadership at the bottom of the organizational chart, with the primary action of support

from the bottom up. If we all take turns, both at the state and local level, the excellent work of the chapters can be spread out among many. In this way, as we have found, serving NPSNM can be both rewarding and stimulating! ❖

Who's on Board?

By Kathleen Hall, NPSNM Documentarian

This series will introduce the members of the state board, discuss what they do for NPSNM and why, and who they are when they're at home. If readers have questions or comments related to board structure and activities, please contact the newsletter editor [newsletter [at] npsnm.org] so we can address them in future issues.

I'm on board!

I am a member of NPSNM because I believe that its mission is worthy. I support its activities. I prefer socializing with a purpose. I want to share my interests with like-minded people. When I talk to folks about my xeriscaped native front yard I can offer them a resource for more inspiration. And I appreciate the discount the nursery in my neighborhood offers to card-carrying members of NPSNM.

I'm not a native, but I am an intentional New Mexican. I grew up in Oregon, where my family would hunt, hike, and camp in the Great Basin Desert. I explored dry washes, painted bluffs, secret springs and seeps, pine-juniper forests, and isolated mountain microclimates. Communities of plants in their habitats taught me how patient, subtle, and intricate nature in arid places can be. Before I came here I knew it would feel like home.

I'm not a botanist. My professional life didn't often include plants, but my interests always included growing things. When I lived in urban Boston I planted runner beans in an old boot on the balcony. Having my own yard in the middle Rio Grande Valley with its alkali soil, goatheads, and tumbleweed has been my chance to bloom as a dryland gardener. Being surrounded by the generous mountains and desertscapes of our state inspires my interest in native plants, and rubbing elbows with our state's deep wealth of botanical expertise, professionals and passionate amateurs alike, gives me a sense of community and access to knowledge and ideas.

I'm the NPSNM Archivist/Documentarian. I came into the position last year because Tom Stewart, then president and long-time NPSNM activist, recruited me to run for this office. Boards of volunteer organizations always need new blood. New members bring new ideas and fresh perspectives; they can encourage less-active members who don't know how to get more involved. Our state organization is

fortunate to have many long-term volunteers who reach out to welcome new faces and cultivate recruits. Tom's invitation for me to serve on the board was my answer to, "What can I do to be more engaged?"

The archivist is responsible for collecting documents and storing them. When NPSNM was founded in the mid-70s it was all paper copies. Today we store data electronically: on chips, thumb-drives, whatever technology is current, and also on paper. Redundancy in documentation is not a bad idea. Paper may be subject to yellowing and fading, acid damage, water stains, and burning, but can be safely conserved in a controlled environment. We have climate-controlled storage space for our paper documents in the state archives at NMSU, Las Cruces.

Some documents are retained to satisfy legal requirements for non-profits. These include state financial reports, amendments to our charter, copies of meeting minutes, and other business documents that assure the transparency and legitimacy of our organization. We also store copies of our newsletters, field trip notes, reports from grant recipients, and other documentation that is generated by the organization's activities. These are the footprints of the Native Plant Society. They mark where we've been and where we're going, and are of potential interest to researchers and historians today and far into the future.

A documentation project that was recently proposed, funded, and organized is scanning our paper newsletters for online access. This includes converting hard copies of pre-2009 newsletters into searchable pdfs. When the project is completed, anyone will be able to access our entire collection of newsletters. The originator and patron of this open-data project is my archivist-predecessor and mentor, Barbara Fix, Santa Fe Chapter member and volunteer extraordinaire.

As a member of the NPSNM board I have a responsibility to help make decisions. Twice a year the officers and representatives from

each of the seven chapters meet to decide collectively what to do as a state organization. We support annual conferences, promote other chapter activities, make financial decisions, discuss and approve conservation positions, and review applications for Carter Conservation Fund grants. Between our two in-person-or-zoom meetings, board members occasionally use email to present motions and request votes on time-sensitive issues.

Another responsibility shared by board members is the winter potluck. The winter board meeting for the past several years has been held at the Sevilleta Refuge Conference Center. We gather the evening before our meeting in this sweeping wild landscape to socialize, moon-watch, and feast. ❖



The NPSNM board members gathered for a group photograph at a break during the January 2024 annual retreat meeting at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Not all could attend in person but a screen capture allowed us to include the zoom attendees here. Image: Margaret Menache

A jarful of crunch in a citrus bath

*I love a potluck. A communal meal is a primal bonding activity, and bringing an offering to the table puts us on equal footing. We all make and share the feast. My favorite winter recipe is carrot salad because I'm a fairly successful root gardener and the flavors and textures balance spicy and hearty hot dishes. **Kathleen Hall***

In a glass jar with tight-fitting lid pack the following in layers:

- 2-3 fresh raw beets, peeled and grated coarsely
- 7-8 raw carrots, peeled and grated coarsely
- One large, tart apple, cored and chopped
- Handful of parsley, coarsely chopped

Mix a dressing of:

- Juice of one orange
- Juice and zest of one lemon
- One Tbsp salad oil
- Agave nectar to taste
- Pinch of fresh nutmeg
- Dash of pepper

Drizzle dressing over apple to prevent browning. It will percolate through the carrot layer and settle in the beets. Refrigerate. Transport the jar upright. To serve, dump the jar into a salad bowl and toss to blend.

2024 Carter Conservation Awards

We are pleased to announce that we were able to fund seven grants for 2024. A brief summary of each grant follows.

Ecosystem Resilience and Native Plant Restoration: Understanding Above-Belowground Dynamics in the Chihuahuan Desert. This project builds on work funded by the NPSNM in 2022, by UTEP PhD candidate Parikrama Sapkota. In the Chihuahuan Desert, shrub encroachment and biodiversity loss are prevalent due to factors like climate change and overgrazing. Through greenhouse experiments, my study aims to explore the influence of soil microbial communities on the successful restoration of native grass species in this fragile ecosystem. The goal is to identify methods that can enhance plant resilience to drought.

An Annotated Checklist of Ferns and Fern Allies of New Mexico. This work will provide travel support for research to be conducted by Harpo Faust, UNM Herbarium, Senior Collections Manager. In 1954, the first published checklist of all the ferns and fern allies for the state of New Mexico was released. There is still much work to do when it comes to synthesizing updated nomenclature, updating distributions, as well as in uncovering undocumented populations. This project aims to produce a publicly accessible annotated checklist grounded in refreshed field work, a thorough and recent collections synthesis and modern taxonomy. ➤

➤ **New Mexico Highlands University Melody Dormitory Rain Garden.** NMHU's Sustainability and Conservation Committee and the Forestry and Conservation Clubs are proposing a rain garden near Melody Dormitory (Las Vegas, NM). This rain garden will offer several ecosystem services, including mitigating stormwater runoff, creating habitat for native plants and pollinators. It will also provide a living laboratory for teaching ecohydrology and demonstrate the use of native plants in green infrastructure projects.

Seedlings to Saplings. A project of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, this work will expand on earlier NPSNM funding for tamarisk removal. UGWA is seeking to amplify our existing Seedlings to Saplings program, a native tree and shrub nursery that provides robust native plants for restoration projects. Local youth will be hired to care for and plant the saplings. We will also provide a free workshop instructing people how to germinate local oak and pine trees. These trees will have the genetic ability to withstand local climate stressors better than ones grown in another region.

Kingston Ghost Town Museum Environmental Education Garden. The Kingston Ghost Town Museum proposes to create an educational garden that will demonstrate the unique environment and keystone species of the area. It will also show how the environment has changed over the past century. The vision is to create a native garden, a historical house garden, and a water harvesting system. An educational display will compare the plants and climate of the area from 100 years ago to our environment today.

A comprehensive floristic study of the vascular plants of the Brokeoff Mountains, Otero County, NM. This work will be conducted by Bryana Olmeda, a second year Master's student at UNM. The rugged Brokeoff Mountain Range represents several habitats within the Chihuahuan desert ecoregion. This comprehensive floristic study aims to collect voucher specimens, produce an annotated checklist, synthesize collections by defining vegetation types, and establish a conservation plan. This project unites botanical knowledge, collections-based research, and conservation practices to inform research and conservation that New Mexico greatly needs.

10th Natural History of the Gila Symposium: Natural History Photography Special Session. Since 2006, the biennial Natural History of the Gila Symposium, free to the public, has offered presentations related to the "Gila Region." Although most presentations have used Powerpoint, the planning committee for the 10th symposium (2024) wishes to offer a unique session and accompanying exhibit featuring photographs and posters by natural history photographers whose work can reveal insights that may not be apparent through traditional scientific studies. The special session will have up to four photographers make presentations on subjects of their choosing. The only requirement is that the presentation be in the form of a story. ❖

Agua Fria Nursery
Specializing in Native Plants



In Santa Fe
1409 Agua Fria
505-983-4831
fax 983-3593
aguafrianr@aol.com

The Science Teacher of the Year Award

This award recognizes grades 6-12 science teachers who incorporate teaching about plants, plant science, or native plants in effective and inspiring ways. The award is for teaching already performed in the previous one or two years and is not for a proposed project or curriculum. A one-time award of \$500 is granted to the teacher. In addition, teachers receive a free copy of a native plant guide book. Grades 8-12 teachers may also request a complimentary copy of *From Ponderosa to Prickly Pear*, the NM native plants curriculum developed by the Institute for Applied Ecology. Nominations for the 2025 award are now open at: <https://www.npsnm.org/science-teacher-award/>.

The NPSNM Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the 2024 award has been given to Chuck Buxbaum, a science teacher at Sandia Preparatory School in Albuquerque.



Dr. Chuck Buxbaum has been teaching science at Sandia Prep in Albuquerque since 1997. According to his directory page, what he enjoys most about teaching at Sandia Prep is "[t]he garden... growing its potential as a teaching tool. It provides learning opportunities in science, art, entrepreneurship, and leadership. Image and quote: <https://www.sandiaprep.org/why-prep/our-teachers/faculty-staff-directory?id=279610>

Chuck described his work and his enthusiasm for teaching students in the following words:

"In my 7th grade classes, botany is the focus of our fall semester. Topics include pollination and plant reproduction; field ecology studies; seed germination; plant identification using dichotomous keys; harvesting apples from our school garden and learning about food preservation by making apple-sauce in class, canning it, and selling it to parents and teachers; and celebrating our New Mexico agricultural heritage with a harvest festival that is a collaboration between 7th grade science and history. The goal is to understand and appreciate the diversity of life through in-depth study of plants; the ecosystem services that plants provide to us and to all living things; the design and execution of field ecological experiments, and to help our students make the connection between their food, water resources, soil, and culture.

In my economics and environmental science class for 11th and 12th graders, our focus in the fall is on resource economics and the ways in which human activity is altering the ecosystems upon which we depend, and the risks that we face as a result. We take a close look at boundaries in nature and the changes in resources that characterize those ecotones."

In summarizing his work during the previous academic year, he wrote:

"I teach 72 7th graders and 17 juniors and seniors. The 7th graders are learning about how science is done, and the power it has to provide answers to our questions about the natural world. My 11th and 12th graders are developing an understanding of how humans are impacting the global "commons" in a way that is unsustainable, and getting a sense of what it will take to fix the problems."

He concluded by pointing out that he enjoys this work and that every year he updates and improves his material. It almost makes you want to go back to high school again! ❖

Conservation Corner

By *Sylvan Kaufman*,
NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

Dark Skies and Plants

The Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument requested a letter of support from NPSNM for its application to become a Dark Sky Sanctuary. What do dark skies have to do with plant conservation? Plenty of plants, including yuccas, agaves, and many *Oenothera* species, rely on moth and bat pollinators, and those pollinators need dark skies!

Bat and moth pollinated plants commonly have pale or white flowers that open in the afternoon or evening. The flowers will often have a heavy nighttime fragrance and lots of dilute nectar. Bat-pollinated flowers or inflorescences tend to be rather large and may be bell-shaped to survive the impact of a bat flying into the flower. Some flowers are arranged in a pincushion pattern with many extended stamens to cover the bat liberally with pollen. In addition to their pollination services, bats also tend to eat large numbers of insects, some which cause harm to plants.

A US Fish and Wildlife article discusses the importance of dimming lights for pollinators (<http://tinyurl.com/2m542fy7>). Moths and bats can become disoriented when there is light pollution, harming plants' reproductive success. One study in the UK showed that 70% of moths fly towards a streetlight rather than towards flowering plants; a separate study showed that LED lighting near a meadow reduced pollinator visitation rates as much as 62%.

At home you can reduce outdoor light pollution by drawing curtains or blinds at night to keep light in, using warmer colored light bulbs to minimize blue-violet light, using motion-triggered lights or lights on timers outdoors, and shielding lights from shining up into the sky. For towns, streetlights can have warmer colored LED or other bulbs and be dimmed as much as is practical for safety. Lights should be directed and used only where necessary. Towns should not necessarily increase the amount of lighting just because it is less expensive or uses less energy than older streetlights.

Let's hope the Gila Cliff Dwellings becomes the next official Dark Sky Sanctuary!

Proposed National Monument for Mimbres Peaks

A coalition of groups has joined to request National Monument Status for Mimbres Peaks (<https://protectmimbrespeaks.org/>). The proposal would include parts of the Good Sight Mountains, Florida Mountains, Cookes Range, and Tres Hermanas in Luna County, NM. These

mountain ranges contain a wide plant diversity as well as animal diversity.

Biocrusts

I attended the Society for Ecological Restoration Southwest conference in Santa Fe in November and was very interested in the rapid developments in soil biocrust research. Biocrusts are assemblages of organisms that might include cyanobacteria, lichens, mosses, algae and microfungi. The composition of biocrusts differs in different climates. For example, mosses prefer cooler temperatures with less summer soil moisture. Cyanobacteria prefer warmer winters and more summer moisture. Lichens can predominate more where there are hotter temperatures and more winter precipitation. Biocrusts are extremely important in stabilizing dryland soils by binding soil particles, and they increase water absorption. Biocrusts are extremely vulnerable to disturbances, but they can be salvaged and set aside if you know there will be soil disturbance during a project and then replaced. Biocrusts can also be cultivated and then placed out on restoration sites. Restoring biocrusts is being studied on sites that have been damaged by construction, foot traffic, fire, and mining among other disturbances. You can download a useful manual on Biocrust Restoration at <https://anitaantoninka.wixsite.com/biocrustrestoration>. ❖



Soil biocrust with moss and lichen.
Image: Sylvan Kaufman

Plant Natives, Reduce Pesticides, and Transform Your Community!

BEE CITY USA[®]
AN INITIATIVE OF THE XERCES SOCIETY

The Carroll Petrie Foundation announces a new grant program for municipalities, counties, colleges, and universities located in New Mexico interested in becoming Bee City USA or Bee Campus USA affiliates.

For more information on the grant opportunity visit: carrollpetrie.org
To learn about Bee City and Bee Campus USA visit: beecityusa.org

The Carroll Petrie Foundation is a private family foundation based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Alongside its partners, the Foundation invests in the care and protection of animals and the natural world.

Martha Ann Shelton Carter: August 20, 1933 – March 22, 2024

By the Carter Family



Our mother, Martha Ann Carter died on Friday, March 22, 2024. On the occasion of her death, we would like to tell you all more about her life.

Born in Kansas City, Kansas, the eldest of four children. Mom and Dad loved to joke that she was the 1950 Homecoming Queen of Turner High School. When she saw our Dad running on a football field (he was a high school biology teacher and a college man to boot!), she turned to her friend Marlene and said “Who is that? I want to meet him!” Marlene arranged a blind date for Mom and Dad in the winter of 1950. Shortly after that Dad was sent to Virginia by the army. They got to know each other through letters, and then married in November 1951. Mom was only nineteen when she got on a train

to join Dad in Virginia. Just outside of Fort Lee, Virginia Dad said “What do you think we’ll have for dinner?” She later remembered thinking, “Oh shit, I don’t know how to cook.”

Mom lived in a time when she felt that being your husband’s best helpmate was her job. They struggled greatly in their early years, having three kids from 1952-1955, while my father finished his PhD at University of Iowa. Diane remembers when she was about seven, hearing Mom night after night in the kitchen typing plant identification cards late into the night to support Dad’s dissertation research.

College teachers didn’t make much money back then, so we moved every few years until Dad was awarded tenure. Mom always kept the family together and content even when Dad took off, deciding to go to India to teach teachers for a summer when we kids were quite small. She was supportive of Dad no matter what. She saw that as her role in life.

As we grew older, Mom started taking college classes, receiving her B.A. from Colorado College in 1971. She taught elementary school for the next twenty years. Many of her students remember her as a caring, encouraging teacher. One student related to Diane that she had a rough home life and did not want to be at home for spring break, so Mom sent her post cards every day to encourage her until school started again.

In the early 1990s our parents ‘retired’ to southern New Mexico, but they kept working hard to produce botany books all the same. Mom learned Photoshop and photography to help Dad. Has anybody heard of *Trees and Shrubs of Colorado* or *Common Southwestern Native Plants*? Those are a couple of the books our parents produced together, while in ‘retirement.’

One of Dad’s missions was to help Third World countries develop their science education curriculum. Mom accompanied him on many of those trips. Mom liked to say, “I knew I was in trouble if after my first sip of coffee in the morning, your dad said, “What do you think about going to India? or Thailand? or Argentina? or Sweden? or Russia?”

When Dad died in March 2020, Mom grieved: “What will I do without my leader?” His death was so hard on her, especially as the COVID epidemic had just taken off in the United States. Eventually Mom moved to Assisted Living, but she still pushed herself to go to many daily activities. She frequently noted, “These are silly kids’ games, but I’m not going to just sit in my room all day.”

In October 2023 Mom fell and broke her hip. She was never the same after that. With mild dementia, she was no longer able to read or write and could see no reason to go on.

After a long struggle, Mom died on March 22, 2024. We will all miss her quick responses, sharp wit and ability to make us laugh. A good example? When the surgeon who fixed Mom’s hip came to visit her the day after surgery, she said, “Where have you been?” Ignoring her, he said “Now, you will be going to a Rehabilitation Facility to have Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy daily for up to a month. You will need to work really hard.” Her quick response was, “Easy for you to say.” It took the doctor a minute, but eventually he laughed!

Our Mom’s dry midwestern sense of humor sustained her throughout her life. She had the most engaging and endearing way of being with others. We are so relieved her struggle has ended. She is finally at peace. We will always miss her. She was a wonderful wife, mother, photographer, travel companion, and writer. If there is an afterlife (our parents would say “no”), they are both out in the middle of “nowhere,” as she called, it happily collecting plants.

She is survived by Lizabeth Diane Carter, John E. Elmlblad, John David Carter, and Laura Lee Carter Rosencrans, and Mike Rosencrans. ❖



Native Plant Society of New Mexico 2024 Annual Conference Taos Mountains are Calling...



Thursday, July 25
to
Sunday, July 28



Sagebrush Inn
Conference Center
Taos, NM

We have made some changes to this year's conference. Instead of beginning with presentations followed by the fun of activities and field trips, we have flipped the order. Taos is a resort town, so we will be taking you on early morning hikes on Friday at 7:30 am to avoid the weekend crowds and also the early-afternoon storms and lightning. Field trips and workshops will begin at 9:00 am on Friday. More details to come online and in the July newsletter.

Another change for this year. The preliminary conference agenda in this newsletter will be followed by the final agenda in the July newsletter. The July newsletter will contain the full program with timing and a full listing of speakers and activity leaders. Bring your middle section of that newsletter to use during the conference, or download it on your phone for reference. The conference website may be reached by using the QR code below or going directly to the website conference page: <https://www.npsnm.org/2024-annual-conference-taos/>

Registration: Opens April 1, 2024. Early-bird pricing ends July 7. Registration is online only. You may go to the website or scan the QR code here. If you experience problems, please reach out to Lindsey Luna, ([npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership@gmail.com)). Included in the registration fee is:

- Welcome Meet & Greet on Thursday with appetizers (cash bar),
- one group activity on Friday with a packed lunch,
- reception on Friday at our chapter greenhouse with appetizers and beverages,
- full day of presentations on Saturday including snacks and beverages during meeting breaks and a buffet lunch.
- Saturday evening banquet (cash bar) with speaker is an additional price. Space is limited for banquet seating, so register early to get a spot and take advantage of early-bird pricing! Meals are available as omnivore or vegan/gluten.
- optional group field trips/hikes on Sunday.



SCAN ME

Conference Location: Sagebrush Inn & Suites, 1508 del Pueblo Sur, Taos, NM

Accommodations: Call the Sagebrush Inn & Suites directly, and be sure to ask for discounted room rates set aside under the name: Native Plant Society Taos Chapter. 575-758-2234. Sagebrush Inn & Suites gave us great discounts on five different room types, lower than any online booking service. In lieu of payment for the conference venue, we have guaranteed a minimum room booking for the three nights, so please reserve your accommodations at the Sagebrush Inn, for our bottom line and your convenience.

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM state conference. The Taos chapter invites you to donate items that might be of interest to other members.

To offer an item, please contact

Jan Martenson — [jsm449 \[at\] mac.com](mailto:jsm449@mac.com) (301) 318-9117



Taos Mountains are Calling

By Mary Adams, Taos Chapter

We welcome you to the 2024 NPSNM conference in Taos not only to gather, talk about, and see the outstanding native plants in this magnificent area, but also to experience the culture, music, art, monuments and mountains. Our town of 6,000+ people is home to many of the tallest mountains in New Mexico, the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument, UNESCO World Heritage site of the Taos Pueblo, a world-class, historical art colony, fifty-four working acequia systems, one of the few gorges caused by a rift in the earth's crust, and where half the people speak a dialect of Spanish only found in northern NM and the southern edge of Colorado. The list of highlights and superlatives goes on. Come early, stay late, be amazed by Taos!

Saturday will be a full day of lectures and our banquet, while Sunday will offer a choice of self-guided activities and a few group activities with no limits on the number of participants. Please indicate when you register online if you plan on participating in one of these optional group activities so that we can make logistical arrangements for everyone who wants to participate.

The silent auction is always a big fund-raiser for us to offset our conference costs. We are hoping to have several large-ticket items this year, such as a 5-night stay at a Taos member's house, restaurant and activity gift certificates, and a first edition of *Trees, Shrubs and Woody Vines of the Southwest*, by Richard Vines. Of course we'll have lots of smaller items for the auction as well. If you can contribute one of your nature or southwestern-related valuables looking for a good home, please contact Jan Martenson, (301) 318-9117 or jsm449 [at] mac.com

We take sustainability, recycling, reusing, and repurposing to heart. It is preaching to choir but here's a quick reminder. Please, bring your reusable water bottles and carpool as much as possible. We are using plastic bags with handles that were donated by a business that otherwise would have been discarded. The conference saves money and two hundred unused, plastic bags don't go into the Taos landfill

Since we have a large conference space, we are inviting students (free) and local people of all three cultures (suggested donation of \$25) to our Saturday lectures. We want to involve everyone in our native plant discussions in Taos. Several schools and youth groups have already accepted, so please engage with and encourage our young attendees. We look forward to this opportunity to prepare them to be the future stewards of our land and native plants.

On our speaker program, Dean Swift, owner of a local conifer and wildflower restoration seed business, told us that he'd be happy to do a talk, but in his words:

"I might also like to do a small talk about reclamation in general. There are interesting, almost philosophical, questions about how we go about it, especially as the climate changes and ecotypes get stressed. Climate change could outrun ecotypes, but how do we anticipate this with today's plantings? There is also the question of seed availability; seed of most native plants is still not available, for a variety of reasons. Seeds for "local ecotypes" are still a million miles away. So, do we plant something, anything, to get the ground stabilized, or do we leave the ground bare waiting for the "appropriate" seed? Practical considerations (seed in ground, cost, etc.) tend to win out in the real world, but this does not settle the philosophical questions. My basic point would be that simple answers tend to be incomplete."

Inspired by Dean and emulating the Otero Chapter with their lively panel discussion in 2021 on "What is a Native Plant?" we're going to devote an hour to a panel and audience philosophical discussion on what we should do as we face climate change, more natural disasters, and restoration projects.

As our keynote speaker, William deBuys stated, "Wish I had a magic incantation or two to provide big answers to the questions we face. But I sure don't. Maybe we just have to learn to live with the little answers that are actually available."

Bring your questions, opinions and concerns. Let's all share our "little answers" and enlighten each other. ❖



Above: Seed collecting at the commercial level can be complicated. Although this seed cleaner is old and venerable, it is still hard at work preparing native seeds for restoration projects. We're looking forward to Dean Swift's talk on restoration practices today. Image: Dean Swift

Middle top: We hope you'll enjoy an evening out at our annual banquet. To be held at the Taos Country Club, we're sure tickets will go fast, so reserve your space soon. We're also looking forward to banquet speaker Olivia Carril's update on bees. Image: Mary Adams

Middle bottom: We probably won't need a fire at the Sagebrush Inn in July, but the inn and conference area are filled with comfortable spaces where you'll enjoy talking with other attendees about all things native plants. Image: Mary Adams



Below: The cyanotype process dates back to the mid-1800s and has long been used for creating herbarium-like images of plants. The likeness below was made by renowned photographer and botanist Anna Atkins shortly after the process was available. We're pleased to offer Workshop C using this technique.

Image: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Anna_Atkins_-_New_Zealand_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg



Thursday, July 25

- Check-in/Registration at Sagebrush Inn & Suites, 1508 Paseo del Pueblo Sur, Taos
 3:00-5:00 pm NPSNM Board meeting at Sagebrush Inn & Suites
 4:00-7:00 pm Welcome Meet-and-Greet in Sagebrush Inn courtyard for all participants
 Appetizers and cash bar



Silent Auction begins in the Sagebrush Conference Center
 Dinner on your own—consider making reservations. A suggestion list will be available online

Friday, July 26

Breakfast on your own. Be advised that the Sagebrush doesn't start serving breakfast until 7:00 am. This is our workshop/field trip/hike day. Hikes will all leave from the Sagebrush Inn by 7:30 am. Most workshops and field trips will start at 9:00 am, some may be later. More details will be provided in the July newsletter. Please be checked-in prior to your activity and pick up your boxed lunches to be ready for carpools. All trips will involve carpooling—please consider taking others if you have a larger vehicle or contributing gas money to drivers.

Workshops

- A Design a native garden.** Are you overwhelmed trying to figure out how to create a native garden? Let Judith Phillips, author and professional garden designer, give you ideas on what to consider and how to proceed. You will bring a site plan of your space drawn to scale and photos of the area you want to design on an iPad, laptop, or phone. Even if you don't finish, you'll know how to plan your space and what kinds of plants will work in your garden. Detailed instructions will be sent to you prior to the conference. Limit 10
- B Identifying conifers.** Can you tell a pine from a spruce from a fir? Have you ever tried to use a simple key when pictures don't give you enough information? Renee Galeano-Popp, former forester called "The Pine-Cone Lady" for her vast collection of pine cones from around the world, will show you how to identify the most common northern NM cone-bearing species. She will also take a trip through the plant kingdom to learn what conifers are and where they fit in with other plants. Bring a pen or pencil to use with handouts. Indoors, 2 hours. Limit 15
- C Make a cyanotype with native plants.** Cyanotype is a sun-printing process first developed in 1842. We will be using jacquard fabric with non-toxic chemicals to make impressions, in shades of indigo blue, from any object that casts a shadow. Participants are encouraged to bring their own plant material, toys, feathers, lace, etc. to 'play with' on six different 8 ½ x 11" pieces of fabric. Catherine Langley will lead you through this workshop which is easy and fun with impressive results. Limit 18 Materials fee \$20, payable at registration

Field Trips

- D Three Unique Taos Gardens.** First stop is UNM Taos campus, a Bee Campus USA affiliate. The campus tour includes the native landscaping (Taos Chapter helping), sculpture, and future observatory. Second stop is Jan Martenson's almost-all-native 16-year-old gardens on a sage-scrub mesa. Third stop is Dan Jones' SpiriTaos Gardens with a creative blending of true NM natives and other climate-appropriate plants. Chairs will be available to sit and eat your packed lunches while soaking in the beauty. Difficulty: Easy. Distance: carpool. Limit: 24
- E Exploring Bee Diversity Along the Rio.** Wander along the edges of the Rio Grande River near the John Dunn Bridge and learn about the wild bees that live there. Olivia Carril, author and bee researcher, will explain bees' resource requirements, including floral preferences, nesting needs, and habitat associations. We will collect bees with nets and examine them with a magnifying glass and with printouts.
- F Native Seed Collection.** Learn how to collect seeds from native plants and which plants are valuable resources for restoration and rehabilitation projects. Your leaders will be members of the Institute for Applied Ecology seed-collector teams. Supplies will be provided. Distance: Less than 2 miles Difficulty: Easy Location: Public lands near Taos, NM, specific location based on seed maturation TBD closer to date. Limit: 15.

Hikes

Please be sure that you are comfortable hiking at these elevations and distances. Hikes will leave early to ensure parking at trailheads and avoid early-afternoon lightning. Assemble between 7:15-7:30 am in the Sagebrush parking lot to carpool for all hikes. Hiking distance and duration is up to the group leaders. Stop in a cool, forested area to eat your packed lunches.

- Williams Lake.** From the hiker's parking lot in the Taos Ski Valley, at an elevation of 10,300', we will walk 2 miles through floristically rich areas to a sub-alpine lake (elevation 11,040') at the base of the majestic western slope of Wheeler Peak. Our route includes a small marsh, deep forest and sub-alpine and into the alpine ecosystems. Distance: 4 miles RT Difficulty: Moderately difficult Elevation gain: 840' Limit 12
- Gavilan Trail.** This moderately-difficult, steep trail, off the Taos Ski Valley Road begins at 8949' elevation and ascends 2.4 miles through the shady forest canopy to a large meadow filled with wildflowers at an elevation of 10,815'. A large variety of high-altitude, shade and sun-loving plants will be observed along the way. Distance: 4.8 miles RT Difficulty: Moderately-difficult Elevation gain: 1,866' Limit 12
- Rubezahl Trail.** From the Bavarian Restaurant in the Taos Ski Valley (elevation 10,247') we climb 50' to a lovely waterfall filled with marsh plants and flowers. We continue down the trail for about 1 mile through an area under rehabilitation to an elevation of 9093'. Due to increased sun exposure and disturbed soil as the trail descends, we may observe more variety of high elevation flowers than usual. Distance: 2 miles RT Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 1,154' Limit 12
- Agua Sarca Trail.** This fairly gentle uphill trail begins at 8,737' elevation and travels through meadows and forests along a small stream to an elevation of 9,522'. The trail revealed more than 70 species of flowers during a hike last July by members of the Taos Chapter. Distance: 5.7 miles RT—but we rarely go more than halfway. Too many flowers! Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 785' Limit 12
- Angostura.** Beginning at the upper trailhead (10,400') we'll hike downhill to a series of waterfalls at 9,700', passing through the burn scar from the Hermit's Peak fire of 2022. This hike is an excellent example of seed bank viability after a wildfire, revealing a plethora of wildflowers returning life to a fire-devastated area. Distance: 4 miles RT Difficulty: Moderate Elevation gain: 700' Limit 12



6 Staurolite Trail. The trailhead is at the bottom of the horseshoe curve on NM68, about 15 miles south of Taos at an elevation of 6966'. The shady path along a forest road crisscrosses a small creek through mixed forest for about 2 miles to a small meadow at an elevation of 7756'. Distance: 4 miles RT Difficulty: Easy Elevation gain: 790' Limit 12

3:00-5:00 pm Reception at Taos Chapter greenhouse, Rio Fernando Land Trust property. Park in the Fred Baca Park lot and follow signs. Map to the location will be in your in your check-in bag. Enjoy conversation, snacks, beverages, and plants in and around our greenhouse.

Dinner on your own—consider making reservations. A suggestion list will be available online

Saturday, July 27

Breakfast on your own. Sessions will start at 8:30 am in the Sagebrush Conference Center. Our speakers will focus on climate change, restoration and native plants in the Taos mountains.

Keynote speaker:

William deBuys, conservationist, writer, Pulitzer Prize finalist. Author of ten books including *A Great Aridness* and *The Trail to Kanjiroba*.

Speakers:

Dean Swift, owner of Dean Swift Seed Company, La Jara, CO supplying high-quality, local conifer and wild flower seeds for restoration

Jan-Willem Jansens, owner of Ecotone Landscape Planning, LLC, Santa Fe, doing complex restoration work in northern NM for private, public and non-profit entities

Sage Dunn, BLM Fisheries and Aquatic Habitat Management Biologist, doing riparian restoration on public land in northern New Mexico

Joseph Kleinkopf, master's student, UNM Herbarium, Albuquerque doing field collections in alpine ecosystems of NM, including high altitude plants in Taos

Erin Berkowitz, master's student, UNM Herbarium, Albuquerque used 150 years of herbarium specimens and two decades of iNaturalist data to study the effect of climate change on alpine plant phenology

Paul Cross, owner of Charybda Farms, a Taos wholesale horticultural greenhouse business, now making a transition to an experimental native plant nursery

Sylvia Rodriguez professor emerita of anthropology, expert witness on behalf of acequia associations, and commissioner of the Acequia de San Antonio in Valdez, NM

Panel discussion:

Dean Swift, Judith Phillips, Melanie Gisler, Jan-Willem Jansens, moderated by Rachel Jankowitz

Buffet lunch

Silent Auction ends. Pick up your items after the final talk and before attending the banquet this evening.

6:00-8:30 pm Banquet at Taos Country Club, 54 Golf Course Drive, Rancho de Taos, NM

Plenty of free parking and spectacular views of Taos Mountain, Rio Pueblo and the Rio Grande Gorge. Omnivore and vegan/gluten-free choices for entrees and desserts. Seating is limited, so register early.

Banquet speaker: Olivia Carril, "What's the Buzz? Assessing the status of bee populations in the United States and New Mexico"

Sunday July 28

Breakfast on your own. If you're in no rush to head home on Sunday, choose an activity from our online list of recommended self-guided field trips and area attractions. Or, choose from one of the group offerings listed below. Please choose only one optional activity on the registration form if you are interested in a group activity on Sunday.

Sun-1 Bird Walk in the Rio Fernando Wetlands. This popular birding hotspot of the wetlands in Rio Fernando/Baca Park has 2/3 of all bird species recorded in Taos County. This is the same area where our chapter greenhouse is located. Early morning start to catch the most early birds! No limit.

Sun-2 Roadside Botanizing in the Tusas Mountains. We'll caravan along US 64 NW from Taos for 65 miles, into the Tusas Mountains. Once past Tres Piedras, we'll make several stops along the way, from about 8500' to 10,000'. Our route will end at the Brazos Cliff Overlook which offers a spectacular view. Bring snacks and water to enjoy at the Overlook. The return drive to the Sagebrush Inn will take 1 hr 15 min. Distance on foot: less than a mile; Difficulty: Easy. No limit to number of participants, but carpooling is strongly advised.

Sun-3 Couse-Sharp historic garden and studio. Tour the Couse-Sharp Historic Site and take in Mrs. Virginia Couse's restored, historic (not necessarily native) garden. Eanger Irving Couse and Joseph Henry Sharp were two of the six founding members of the Taos Society of Artists and had neighboring properties in the heart of Old Spanish Taos. Join this private, two-hour tour to get an exclusive look at the gardens and the Couse/Sharp studios. No limit

Sun-4 Gold Hill Alpine Hike. If you remember the Hayden's Paintbrush photo on the cover of last quarter's newsletter, that is the view from the approach to the top of Gold Hill, which rises to its peak at 12,703'. Get your alpine flower fix on this long, difficult, and spectacular hike. Hiking up Bull of the Woods trail, along Rio Hondo and a boggy area filled with riparian, sub-alpine flowers, you will turn onto Long Canyon Trail then break out into tundra where the Gold Hill Trail is usually covered with alpine flowers. We will only go as far as the final approach to the peak to shorten the hike time and maximize wildflower viewing. Distance: 8.5 mi. RT Difficulty: Challenging Elevation gain: ~2,600' No limit.



George Miller at Cejita Blanca in 2010. Pam McBride remembered, "A few of us went with Mike Ritchie to see this outlier of the badlands he was encouraging the BLM to protect." Image: Philip Clark.

In Memoriam: George Oxford Miller (April 5, 1943–January 10, 2024)

By Judith Phillips, Albuquerque Chapter

We all knew and appreciated George as that amiable fellow, usually with a camera in hand, who'd identify plants and describe their assets as readily as he would photograph them, usually for the latest book or article he needed to illustrate. Past-president of the NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter, emcee of chapter meetings, field trip guide, and author of books about native plants, George's presentations on pollination were a revelation, not only because of the photos but also because of the descriptions of intricate relationships between plants and pollinators.

Archived NPSNM and Albuquerque Chapter newsletters are a source of some of George's thoughts, often with a spark of fun that belies the serious underlying message. In "How to Keep Elephants Out of Your Yard," informing us that elephants are afraid of bees, George described the use of bee hives attached to fences of

farms in Africa and Asia as an elephant deterrent. And we think cottontails are a garden menace... Following that article in the 2019 Autumn issue of the Albuquerque Chapter newsletter, for the Winter issue George offered a plant profile of Birdbill Dayflower (*Commelina dianthifolia*) subtitled "Con Artists in the Plant World" in which he detailed the Dayflower's deceptive means of assuring pollination with the least energy expended by the plant. The photos and description are comprehensive yet concise.

Having grown up in the family's nursery propagating Texas native plants, George went on to earn an MS in botany and zoology from the University of Texas. His curiosity about the natural world and desire to share his love of nature led him to multiple careers, sometimes consecutively but often overlapping and inextricably linked.

George worked at the Austin Nature Center, while also leading tours of national parks and writing. His fairly local tours in Texas and the Ozarks matured into journeys to Alaska, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. I assume those treks included more detours into local ecology than you'd expect with Rick Steves! He also wrote a weekly newspaper column and articles about the travels, with the places and inhabitants described in vivid detail and a twist of good humor. From there, he expanded to writing and illustrating book length works. Most of his twenty-plus books, beginning with Texas Photo Safaris in 1986 and culminating with Native Plant Gardening for Birds, Bees and Butterflies: Rocky Mountains to be posthumously released in 2024, are still available in print, some digitally. In his forty years as a book author George produced beautifully illustrated volumes, field guides, and gardening books on plants ranging from New Mexico and Arizona to the Texas Hill Country, California, and the southern Rockies. He emphasized using native plants for birds, bees, and butterflies.

In 2008 George and his wife Carole "retired" to New Mexico to be closer to his children and growing number of grandchildren. He developed a pollinator garden of native New Mexico plants at his home in the sand and basalt of Albuquerque's west mesa, and as one might expect, took a deep dive into learning the flora and fauna of New Mexico. By 2012 George was president of the NPSNM Albuquerque Chapter, a position he executed with enthusiasm and energy through 2019, leading field trips, helping organize workshops, and tabling at events where he could spread his love of nature in his low-key, good-humored way. Also in 2019, deep into his "retirement" (did the man ever sleep?), George launched www.wildflowersnm.com a treasure trove of images of 500+ native species with botanical descriptions, range maps, and key characteristics noted to aid in identification. The breadth of plants photographed and the detail and clarity of the images posted is amazing. Approaching the end of his life, George asked that NPSNM keep this body of work available. Plans are underway to ensure that the content of this site remains accessible.

Additionally, there is discussion of honoring George and his life's work with a George Oxford Miller Education Fund similar to the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund, an enduring way to support the education about and propagation of native plants in New Mexico. I can't think of a better way to thank this incredibly generous man for all he has contributed to NPSNM. ❖

This article and the two following articles about George Oxford Miller will also appear in the Spring Newsletter of the Albuquerque Chapter, along with additional information and more photographs. You may access that newsletter from the NPSNM website: <https://www.npsnm.org/about/chapters/albuquerque/>

HIKE!

Introducing 100+
Great Hikes
in New Mexico
Wilderness Areas

<http://hike.nmwild.org>



NPSNM Members Remember George Oxford Miller

Compiled by Judith Phillips, Albuquerque Chapter

I would like to thank all those who responded to the request for your memories of George. Some of the material has been edited for clarity. The newsletter editor, Margaret Menache, has assured me she will accept responsibility for any faults you might find with her changes.

Field botanist **Jim McGrath** was one of George's first Native Plant Society colleagues and shared these memories.

"Back in 2009 or so, George came on my rare plant field trip. Cloudcroft scorpion-weed (*Phacelia cloudcroftensis*) had been recently described, but Bob Sivinski had been unable to find any plants when he searched for it in the Cloudcroft area. I did research on the new species and knew that one of the places the plant had previously been collected was on a roadcut along the paved highway between Cloudcroft and Alamogordo. I made a rare plant field trip stop there with low expectations, thinking Bob had already been there and I had checked it out before the field trip without finding the plant. While the field trip participants were standing at the roadcut, George beckoned to me. I came to see what he was seeing and there it was – the Cloudcroft scorpion-weed! We took pictures and it was with incredible delight that I later was able to send the photos to Bob Sivinski and Tim Lowrey and tell them that our rare plant field trip had found what Bob could not.

My fondest memory of George is the trip he and I made to the Lagunitas Lakes area of northern NM in 2010 perhaps. It was a dry year and George just did not see the wildflowers he wanted to photograph in the areas I took him to. I remember that on the way back, we stopped at Stewart Meadows, where I had conducted a botanical inventory in 2006. We finally found some wildflowers along a fence line in the upland where George could take photos. The flowers were all yellow – sort of like miniature suns.

However, this trip was mostly memorable because it demonstrated to me George's character. I took George to a wetland at the base of the Brazos Ridge. We parked at an overlook with spectacular views of the Cruces Basin Wilderness. Another vehicle was parked there and I began to chat with the driver. He was a hunter. He told us about the time he spotted a mountain lion sprawled out in the sun soaking up the warmth of the sun. The hunter proudly announced how he pulled out his rifle, shot, and killed the mountain lion. George and I said nothing, but my instinctive reaction was to get away from this jerk, so we quietly excused ourselves as quickly as possible. I did not want to get into it with the thoughtless hunter. That night at our campsite, George got emotional as he brought up the incident with the hunter. He was passionate in describing his distaste for this hunter failing to appreciate the life and beauty of another creature. George was always pretty low key, so this was an unusual expression of emotion. However, this is my fondest memory of George because it demonstrated to me his character."

Deep empathy for the natural world seemed to fuel George's generosity in sharing that world. **Mary Adams**, NPSNM Taos Chapter president related that "Despite his cancer treatments, George was gracious enough to recently share his photos with our Chapter for the reprint of a 2003 booklet. We are so grateful for his generosity sharing his photography and plant knowledge. What an amazing man!"

Similar sentiments were voiced by Al Schneider, friend and colleague: "George always had that calm, cool, yet deeply knowledgeable and excited way about him."

And from **John Sawyers**: "I'll speak on behalf of fellow Texans and thank George for his writing. I've found his information about plants that are found and cultivated in Texas to be accurate and useful."

Closer to home, Albuquerque member **Janet Herbst** offered, "George shared his knowledge of the natural world, the amazing plants within it matched to their specific pollinators, with a youthful fascination that was irresistible and memorable. On field trips he'd stop, hop out of the car to capture the life of a flower in real time using his camera, and later share his images with all. I'm grateful for him, to have learned from him. He left an impressive footprint on this world."

Albuquerque member **Diane Stevenson** recalled an alpine hike with friends.

"June 11, 2019. A sunny day trip looking for blooming wildflowers on Sandia Crest. We were scouting the July field trip, excellent respite from my recent experience caring for my late father. A beautiful experience in nature with fellow native plant geeks was as perfect as it gets.

We identified flowers as we slowly drove up to the Crest. At the Capulin snow play area we enjoyed blooming Rocky Mountain penstemon (*Penstemon strictus*) and blue flax (*Linum lewisii*) among others. George reminded us that we had to get photos of flax in the morning since they would close their flowers by our afternoon descent. We drove to the top: I checked off bloomers we passed along the road on the list George had provided. The Sandia Crest plant list George provided had eighty-five species listed, flowering July through September. Wow! George's website (www.wildflowersnm.com) is a great learning tool for wildflower identification. When down below in the city, it's much better than iNaturalist.

The first section of the south crest trail adventure had moderate slopes where a tumble down the hill would probably be stopped eventually by trees. Doris climbed down the slope and found a stick I could use as a walking stick. I packed my camera early along the south-heading face since the narrowing trail required my undivided attention lest I wanted this hike to be my last. George had his monopod with camera atop balanced comfortably on his shoulder; Doris had her metal walking stick. George walked comfortably, as if on flat ground; Doris seemed equally comfortable, her humor distracting me from my fear of falling. On this unforgiving trail, George and Doris were mountain goats; I was a wobbly newborn fawn wishing I was a kid goat.

We hiked around to the east side of the mountain top, where we were treated to vultures riding the air currents at our elevation. Awesome! A sack lunch along the trail is the best. Once we got to the dense conifer woods on the east side of the mountain, where any wildflower seed lay dormant due to the lack of sunlight, I relaxed. The final ascent was on the human-slicked light gray rock back to the crest; bonsai conifers at the top sculpted by wind and weather. George's iPhone recorded 12,094 steps, 4.4 miles. A great day followed by the sleep of physical exhaustion and an adventure I will never forget!"

Field trips that George led were always occasions for learning. Among his favorite destinations with the Albuquerque Chapter included Timber Ridge in the Magdalena Mountains; Mount Taylor; Petroglyph National Monument; San Lorenzo Canyon; and further afield, in the Florida Mountains of Rockhound State Park. **Lee Regan** especially remembered scouting closer to home for the annual conference in 2022. As a typical experience with George, he pointed out two flowers that Lee had never seen before, both having marvelous names: Spreading Moonpod (*Acleisanthes diffusa*) and Coulter's Wrinklefruit (*Clerodendrum coulteri*).

During the pandemic, Albuquerque Chapter's **Doris Eng**, a frequent field trip aider-and-abetter, remembered directing George by phone to specimens of Nodding Beggarticks (*Bidens cernua*) at the Oxbow along the Rio Grande, George in hot pursuit of photos he needed for a book or article he was working on. Doesn't the image of George, camera and monopod in one hand, cell phone in the other, looking for the plantmarks (landmarks of plant nerds) described by Doris as he walked, give you a warm feeling of botanists in their element?

Albuquerque's **Pam McBride** recounted one of her many experiences hiking with George. "One time when George was leading a field trip on the Timber Peak trail, I tripped over a root while gazing out at the view along the trail. As I lay face down on the side of the trail, I heard George ask me if I had found an interesting plant to look at. I was never sure if he had missed my fall and was actually thinking I was looking VERY closely at a plant or if he was joking. But it certainly made me laugh. George was a kind and generous person who shared his knowledge of plants with anyone who asked and left us with a legacy of vigorous attention to detail and a wonderful plant identification website."

While he managed the Albuquerque location of Plant of the Southwest, **Wes Brittenham** would visit with George when he dropped off a book order and lingered to browse the plants. "George spoke of the mountains and deserts like they were old friends because they were. Polite and unassuming, he didn't tell me half of what he had done or seen, but we enjoyed each other's company through our love of the natural world. Goodbye George and thank you for your passion and commitment to the natural world and to education, and for being a force of curiosity and goodness that has inspired many with your words and your photographs. Thank you to his family for sharing him with us." ❖



Our Friend George

By Tom Stewart, Albuquerque Chapter

In May 2009, the Albuquerque chapter of NPSNM was treated to a campout and a White Sands Missile Range field experience as guests of Range Ecologist Dave Anderson. Of course, people from other New Mexico chapters joined us in this rare opportunity. So the unfamiliar but easygoing man with a gentle East Texas accent in the next tent could have been from anywhere. But over the fourteen years that followed, George Oxford Miller and I became good friends.



George Miller on one of his many Mt. Taylor forays.
Image: Carole Price.

George and his wife, Carole Price, had settled in Albuquerque three years before. A nature and plant enthusiast who grew up in a family of nursery operators near Beaumont, he joined NPSNM in 2007 but kept a low profile for some time. Little did we know, industrious George was writing books and articles and traveling the world, often with Carole, as a nature photojournalist. His involvement with our organization expanded gradually, writing articles for the newsletter by 2010 and in 2012 he took on the chapter presidency.

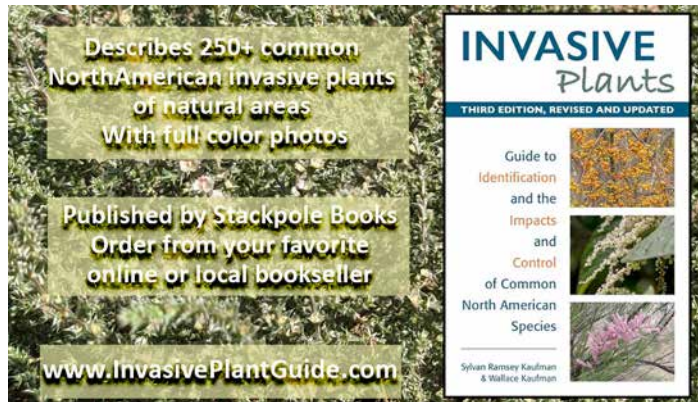
Serving as "perma-prez" for eight years did not impede his professional career or end his travels. A few times a year he would call me about two weeks before heading off to Africa, the Philippines, or who knows where to ask if I would fill in for him as his perma-veep at our monthly chapter meeting. Despite his outside endeavors, he lost no time in picking up the reins to organize a successful state meeting in 2013 and two habitat gardening workshops with a hundred attendees each in later years. He restarted the lapsed chapter newsletter by recruiting Diane Stevenson as editor, revived our conservation outreach, and supported the Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat project. George frequently gave presentations about native plants and gardening to outside groups: he lent our support to Albuquerque's joining Bee City USA and to the startup of the Friends of Valle de Oro's (NWR) Backyard Refuge program.

George claimed to have originated the term "rewilding" of despoiled areas, and he is the first person I remember to describe our landscapes as "iconic." One of his habits was to sprinkle his public

Left: George at Mt. Taylor in 2019. Image: Judith Phillips.

➤ speaking with a few harmless mispronunciations. We kind of looked forward to them as part of his unique charm. The early 2020 field trip to the Florida Mountains (near Deming) was the last of many excursions with George before Covid 19 broke our stride. He had scouted the area on his own the week before to ensure we would be treated to acres of Mexican gold poppies and other diverse species.

It hit us like a stone in the gut in December of 2022 when he disclosed his diagnosis of stage-3 cancer. Yet he persevered in finishing his last book, adding *The Rocky Mountain Plant Guide* to the roughly twenty-five already under his belt. So unassuming and accomplished, a friend and example for us all, George Miller is a leader and naturalist we will never forget. His niece wrote a beautiful obituary that quotes a reportedly Cherokee saying that applies perfectly. "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice." ❖



New 2020 Edition

Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico

by Jack L. Carter

Fully updated nomenclature

Order your copy through www.gilanps.org

While there, browse through our selection of Beginners Guides for native plant landscaping, butterfly identification and more!

The Gila Native Plant Society is committed to promoting the education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the southwest; encouraging the preservation of rare and endangered plant species; and supporting the use of suitable native plants in landscaping.

NPSNM Lifetime Members

Our organization depends on memberships, financial contributions, and service. Your support allows us to further our mission of educating the public about native plants through your passion and dedication to our programs, our outreach, and our grants. We would like to acknowledge and thank our Lifetime Members for their commitment to the NPSNM. ❖

Pre-2003

Martha Carter	Judith Phillips
Thomas Gibbons	Judy Tribble
Grace Gordon	Peggy Wells
Lisa Johnston	Mary and Stephen Whitmore
Dr. Eugene Majerowicz	Ellen Wilde

2003-2010

Kelly Allred	Roger Peterson
Christine Baker	Ms. Judith Reynolds
Carolyn Gressitt and John Freyemuth	Robert Sivinski
Loline Hathaway	John and Joanne Stockert
Beth Herschman	Pat Ward and Hildy Reiser
Lisa Mandelkern	Eleanor Wootten

2011-2015

Karl Anderson	Pamela McBride
Ray and Sylvia Bowers	Helgi Osterreich
Charles and Yvonne Keller	Betsy Shillinglaw
Alan Krueger	Barbara Weintraub

2016-2020

David Lee Anderson	Gail Haggard
Wes Brittenham	Katie McLane
Barbara Funk	Tom Stewart
Esther Fyock	Marisa Thompson

2021-2023

Danielle Allen	Don and Wendy Graves
Peg Crim & Ron Hannan	Rachel Jankowitz
Hobey Dixon	Debby Knotts
CN and AO Flanders	George Miller
Sheila Gershen	Jeff and Mary O. Parker
Janet Lydia Gilchrist	Miriam and Robert Vaughn
Katherine Gould-Martin	Paul Walmsley

Robledo Vista Nursery

See us at the Las Cruces Farmers and Crafts Market
February to December or by appointment

Native & adapted plants for Las Cruces & El Paso

Now available!

Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest by Marcy Scott

www.RobledoVista.com • 575-541-8083 • 915-203-4385

Thank you, Rachel!

By the NPSNM Board, with some additional words by Barbara Fix

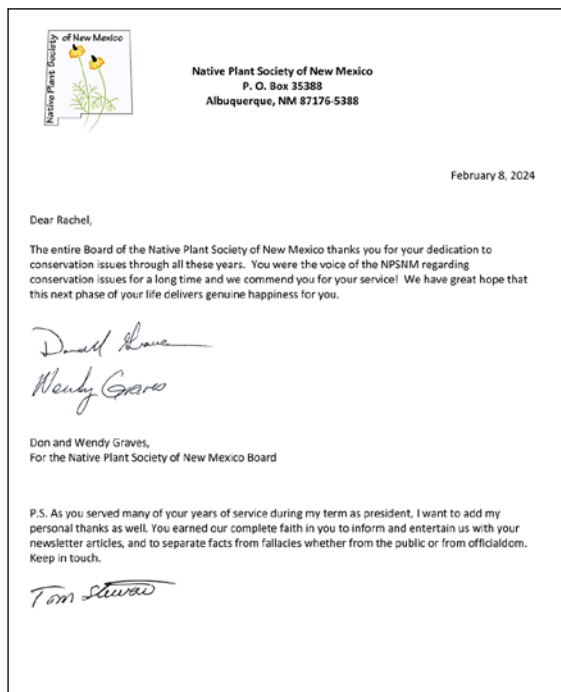


Image: Donna Eagles

you again, Rachel, for your many years of service as the Chair of the Conservation Committee. ❖

As on any project it is important to keep the goal in mind — ours is to express the deep appreciation that native plant folk have to Rachel Jankowitz for being our Voice for Native Plants: for so conscientiously, so meticulously, expressing what is scientifically known and unknown about native plants and habitats, as well as objective analyses of regulatory proposals for federal and other government, non-profit, and/or private entities.

After much deliberation, and in consultation with Rachel, we were pleased to bring her the bottle she is holding in the photograph. Thank

Remembering Ken Heil

By Bob Sivinski

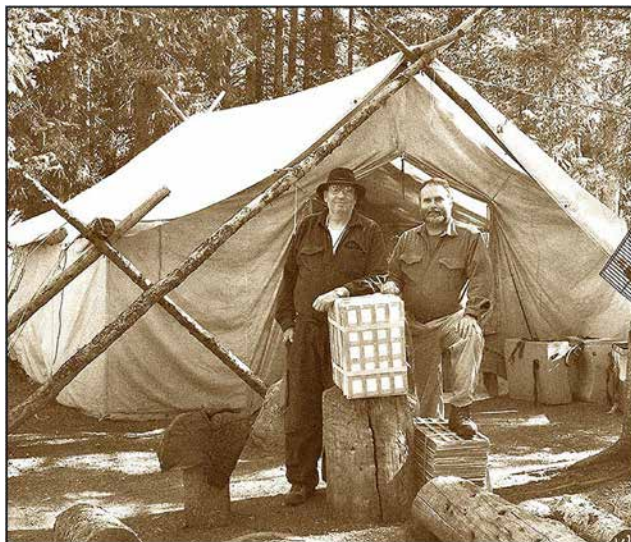
Ken Heil died in January 2024 at the hospital in Farmington from a heart blockage. He was Professor Emeritus at San Juan College, founder of the SJNM Herbarium and plant collector extraordinaire. He and his botanist friends took their plant presses into every canyon, mountain range, grassland, and desert of New Mexico and big parts of the other Four-Corners states.

He worked hard at publishing. Ken was senior author of the *Flora of the Four Corners Region*, a 1000+ page opus that was fifteen years in the making. One review of this important work began with "Let's cut to the chase: BUY THIS BOOK!" (<https://www.phytoneuron.net/2013Phytoneuron/94PhytoN-4CornersReview.pdf>). And, as if that weren't enough, he also authored articles on cacti and other plant taxa new to science. He is commemorated with three of his discoveries: *Astragalus heilii*, *Draba heilii* and *Opuntia basilaris* var. *heilii*.

According to a 2016 story in the Farmington Daily Times (<https://www.daily-times.com/story/news/education/2016/04/29/community-rallies-behind-college-professor/83656466/>), "Heil was presented with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Governor's Environmental Excellence Awards on April 22, 2016 in Albuquerque. The awards program was created in 2015 to recognize the hard work of New Mexicans dedicated to restoring and protecting the state's heritage and environment, said Jill Turner with the New Mexico Environment Department. The creation of the award was inspired by Heil's lifetime commitment to the betterment of the New Mexico environment and he was its first recipient, according to Turner."

The same article quoted him in describing the SJNM Herbarium: "Heil is responsible for founding the herbarium and growing it into the third-largest in the state behind the University of New Mexico and New Mexico State University. The herbarium contains the largest collection of plant species samples for the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain Ute and Navajo Nation tribal lands, Heil said."

Ken made a huge contribution to southwestern botany and his passion for the flora and field exploration will certainly be missed. ❖



I once asked Ken for a photo of himself and he sent a sepia image of a pose with his botanist friend Steve O'Kane in camp on a wilderness plant collecting trip. Ken was always in the field.

Image provided by Bob Sivinski

Chapter Activities & Events

For further information on upcoming events, email or call the contact person listed, or **visit the chapter's web page** at www.npsnm.org. Click on Chapters to select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides. Wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground. **Check with your chapter for any fees or restrictions they or the event venues might require. Please check with the hosting chapter to be sure you know the current status of any event listed here.** ❖

Albuquerque Monthly meetings are normally the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the UNM Continuing Education Building, 1634 University Blvd NE. For more information contact Sara Keeney at [abq\[at\]npsnm.org](mailto:abq[at]npsnm.org) or 505-379-3392. For questions, future field trip ideas or to volunteer as a leader or co-leader, contact our Field Trip Coordinator: Sharon Miles, [Sharon\[at\]seniorcareoptions.net](mailto:Sharon[at]seniorcareoptions.net), 505-604-6307. You must register at least 24 hours before the start with the field trip leader. Please let us know if you need to cancel.

Apr 6 Meeting. "All About the University of New Mexico Herbarium & More." Harpo Faust, Collections Manager of the University of New Mexico Herbarium, will speak about the importance of herbaria and work at the UNM Herbarium.

May 1 Meeting. "A Snapshot into the Vascular Flora of the Brokeoff Mountains, Otero County, NM." Bryana Olmeda will discuss the importance of collection-based research as it relates to conservation and documenting biodiversity. This remote and rugged mountain range represents several habitats within the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion, including desert playas and grasslands.

Jun 5 Meeting. "Pollinators and Plants — Building Mutual Relationships in your Garden." Kaitlin Haase of the Xerces Society will describe the complex relationships between native plants and pollinators.

Even as the chapter laments the loss of former president George Miller, we haven't lost any momentum. Quin Baine led a mid-February walk in the Sandia Mountain foothills to seek and identify galls, followed by a presentation in March. Lee Regan and Tom Stewart made a presentation to volunteers of Petroglyph National Monument about the plants in the environment they care for. Dana Loy has initiated greater collaboration between NPSNM, the New Mexico Bird Alliance, and the Xerces Society as our missions converge in educating the public about the interdependence of birds, bugs, and blossoms.

El Paso The El Paso Chapter has combined meetings with the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. The meetings will be the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 am and will take place at the Garden Center at Memorial Park (3105 Grant Ave, El Paso, TX 79930). All events are free unless a fee is specified. Nonmembers welcome. Info: Kevin Floyd, 915-747-6665; [kwfloyd\[at\]utep.edu](mailto:kwfloyd[at]utep.edu); <https://www.facebook.com/Native-Plant-Society-of-New-Mexico-El-Paso-Chapter-191913520833180>

Apr 6 Meeting. "*Ariocarpus* and *Turbinicarpus* in their natural habitat." Juan Miguel Artigas has extensively visited cactus habitats in the Chihuahuan Desert, especially in Mexico, and photographed most species in their natural settings.

May 4 Meeting. "The spirit of agaves." Gertrud Konings will show us the process of making tequila from agaves and also talk about agaves in general. These long-lived plants could be desirable plants for your yard.

Jun 1 Meeting. "Growing cacti and native plants from seed." Paul Hyder and Ad Konings explain how they grow their plants from seed and will bring out some soil and seeds to give a hands-on demonstration. Seeds will be available.

Members of the El Paso chapter joined with the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and the Trans-Pecos Master Naturalists to help rescue cacti from areas that will be developed soon. Dr. Gertrud Konings leads the efforts and has been very successful with gaining access to land before the bulldozers come through. The cacti get replanted at the El Paso Archeology Museum, Keystone Heritage Park, and the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens.



Rescued barrel cactus (*Ferocactus wislizenii*) and two claret cups (*Echinocereus coccineus*) in their new home in the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. Image: Kevin Floyd

Gila (Silver City) Monthly evening programs are on third Fridays at 7:00 pm. Programs will be hybrid – in-person and via Zoom. For the venue for live meetings check our website at www.gilanps.org/events/programs. Those who would rather join in online may request a Zoom link from GNPS at [gilanative\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:gilanative[at]gmail.com). (Gila Chapter members will automatically receive a Zoom link by email). All are welcome. Field trips will be planned as opportunities arise – check the website at <https://gilanps.org/events/field-trips/>

Apr 19 Meeting. "Insect Galls of the Southwest." Quin Blaine, Museum Research Fellow at the Museum of Southwestern Biology, will give a talk on galls. She will describe the main groups of insect gall formers, their specialized relationships to plants, and how to recognize common galls of native plants of the southwest.



Image: Elroy Limmer

May 19 Annual picnic. As is traditional, we will invite the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society to share with us.

Field Trips Early flowers are already out on the sunny slopes of Boston Hill, where our spring field trips will begin. Our field trip leader is checking out locations at lower elevations for a field trip while it's still cool and is contemplating an *Echinocereus* excursion in the Burros. In May or early June there should be a profusion of flowers up in the pine forest. Last year, we had two landscaping field trips that were very popular, and we hope to have more this year.

Las Cruces Our hybrid meetings are held on the NMSU campus in the Biology Annex, Herbarium Building, 3080 Williams Avenue, Room 101 on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. Zoom link available from [LC\[at\]npsnm.org](mailto:LC[at]npsnm.org). Check the NPSNM website, the LC Chapter's Facebook page, and recent email for updates, changes, additional news and other events and activities of interest.

Las Cruces chapter president, Gordon Berman reported on the January 13 field trip to Soledad Canyon, Organ Mountains with more trips planned.



Image: Gordon Berman

Otero Most events are free, and everyone, including non-members, is welcome to attend. For more event and/or chapter information, and to contact us, please visit our chapter section of the NPSNM website.

Our new chapter president is Russell Davis. Thanks to Jen Gruger for her service in that role for the last six years. We'd also like to thank everyone for supporting the NPSNM and our chapter.

We have donated \$1000 to the herbarium at NMSU and advertised botany student research grants for up to \$2000. Congratulations to Tiana Nez and Sarah Cerra for completing their PhD programs. Tiana's focus was on the impacts of seed source in seed dormancy and germination of restoration-relevant spike dropseed grass and tansyleaf aster species in the Chihuahuan Desert. Sarah's research, done at our Brackish Groundwater National Desalination Research Facility, was about the effects of brackish irrigation on soil ion accumulation and growth of atriplex species.

Eric Metzler, known as the moth man of White Sands, and longtime member and friend of the chapter, passed away last year. His life, his research, and his accomplishments, will speak volumes about him for years to come.

Santa Fe In-person meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May at 6:30 pm at Christ Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso. For more information, check the NPSNM website. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

Apr 9 Meeting. "What the Heck is a Herbarium?" Renee Galeano-Popp, botanist, will talk about the uses, values and history of herbaria. She will share her recent experiences working in two Santa Fe herbaria.

In January Bob Sivinski spoke on "Unique to New Mexico: Isolated Endemic Plants". In February, Tom Antonio gave a seasonally appropriate talk on the cacao tree and the making of chocolate. In March Izzy Barr from the Railyard Conservancy spoke on a project funded by the Carter Grant on native plants of the Railyard Park.

Taos Videos of past meetings are at <https://tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos>. For updates, check the Taos page on the NPSNM website, our Facebook page, the Taos News Calendar, email TaosNPS[at]gmail.com, or contact Mary Adams, president, at mary_adams_co[at]msn.com. Meetings will be held on the FIRST Wednesday of the month in the Kit Carson Electric Cooperative Boardroom, 118 Cruz Alta Road at 6:00 pm.

The Taos Chapter activities go on hiatus during the winter, other than the greenhouse, which operates year-round.

The Taos Chapter is hosting the state conference from July 25-28 at the Sagebrush Inn & Suites.

Conference information is posted on npsnm.org and a preliminary agenda is on pages 8-11 of this newsletter.

The final agenda and program will appear in the July newsletter. Please bring that with you to the conference. We do not plan to have copies available at the conference.

It's never too late to volunteer for the planning or running of the conference. Please contact: Mary Adams, mary_adams_co[at]msn.com 303-345-1491. Thank you!

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Board of Directors

OFFICERS

President	Don & Wendy Graves president[at]npsnm.org
Vice-President	Jonathan Tanis
Recording Secretary	Jane Kruse
Documentarian	Kathleen Hall
Treasurer	Tom Stewart

CHAPTER REPRESENTATIVES

Albuquerque	Dana Loy
El Paso	Marianela Milner
Gila	Betty Spence
Las Cruces	Joan Woodward
Otero	Laurel Berry
Santa Fe	Tom Antonio
Taos	Jan Martenson

Chapter Presidents

Albuquerque	Tom Stewart
El Paso	Kevin Floyd
Gila	Margie Ann Gibson
Las Cruces	Gordon Berman
Otero	Russell Davis
Santa Fe	Tom Antonio
Taos	Mary Adams

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Sylvan Kaufman conservation[at]npsnm.org
Finance & Investment	Tom Stewart
NMDOT	Steve Gisler
Discussion Group Moderator	Bob Sivinski

Staff

Membership Coordinator	Lindsey Kirchhevel
Newsletter Editor	Margaret Ménache newsletter[at]npsnm.org
Website	Matthew Meerbott designofthemind[at]gmail.com

Contribute to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

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

Contributing is easy! Scan this QR code to be directed to our website or go there the old-fashioned way from your browser: www.npsnm.org. You may also snail mail your contact information with a check payable to NPSNM—Carter Conservation Fund to our main address (NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque NM 87176).



Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.

~Jack & Martha Carter

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Las Cruces, NM 88005
Permit No. 2093



NEWSLETTER

of the

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO**

is available online.

Download PDFs of this and recently archived issues at the NPSNM website:

www.npsnm.org



Taos mountains are calling!

Check out the conference information beginning on page 9. Registration is online and open now. You won't want to miss the exciting annual conference the Taos Chapter has put together for us.

You can always come early and stay longer in Taos!



April is

**NATIONAL NATIVE
PLANT MONTH**

Things you can do in honor of native plants in April

- ✓ April is the perfect time to **register for the annual conference in July**. Taos is planning great talks and field trips, like this one to visit Dan Jones' SpiriTaos Gardens and two other beautiful Taos gardens that feature native plants.



Image: Dan Jones

- ✓ **Go out hiking** with a group of like-minded friends and see native plants in their habitat. Or **spend time in your local herbarium** to learn more.



Image: Don Graves



Image: Kevin Floyd

- ✓ **Rescue a plant**. The El Paso Chapter has been saving an assortment of cacti from the developers' bulldozers. Are there construction projects near you with plants that could be rehomed?