

THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
August 1979 Newsletter

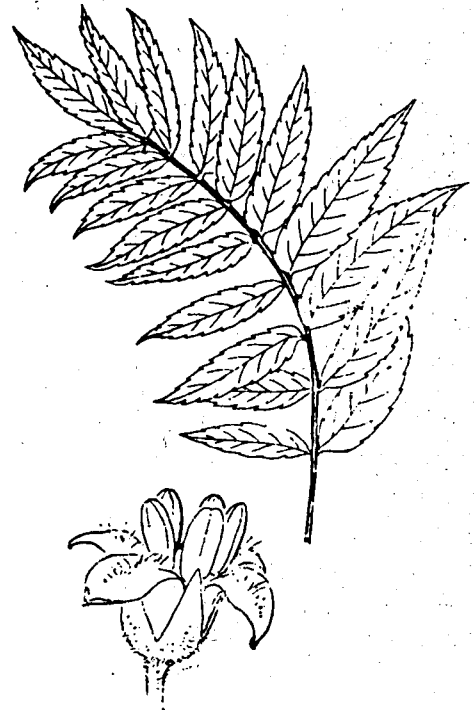
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August Meeting, Wednesday, August 15th

Brad C. Jones, a new member of the NPS will share some of his slides of wildflowers taken along the railroad from Cerrillos to Kennedy, New Mexico. Jones is an amateur photographer with an appreciation of native plants. Come to room 118 of the Laboratory Building at St. John's College in Santa Fe, 7:30 p.m.

Autumn Plant Sale, Saturday, September 15th

On Saturday, September 15, the Native Plant Society of New Mexico will hold another plant sale at the Institute of American Indian Arts on Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. Our vendors look forward to offering the many fall-flowering perennials in bloom. Mr. James Meem has taken care of early publicity to local magazines and has arranged for us to use the grounds at the IAIA. Thank you, Mr. Meem! Vendors should arrange to provide their own tables and chairs. We need volunteers to help distribute posters in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Los Alamos. The posters can be picked up at the August meeting.



Rhus glabra
Smooth Sumac

NEWS & NOTES

Letter from Ralph Fisher

Our June speaker from Silver City was kind enough to comment on the flora he observed as he traveled across the state in June. He says:

"A white penstemon and a strange blue one at the Bosque del Apache. Penstemon jamesii, Lethophragma parviflora, Geum triflorum, Wyethia scabra, Stanleya pinnata and a new Orobanche near Tres Piedras. A large, white Astragalus and a couple of others, the yellow mariposa lilly and 3 or 4 new desert ones plus a single plant of spiderwort with the biggest flowers ever seen on this species (Roosevelt Lake). Two species of prickly pear cactus in Farmington - one with yellow flowers and one with red."

Changes Anticipated in Your Native Plant Society

The Native Plant Society has limped along recently on a skeleton staff of volunteers who arrange monthly meetings in Santa Fe, write the newsletters and attend to correspondence and financial matters. Unless more people can become involved in these duties and contribute their time and energy, the present core of active

members will be cutting down on the Society's activities. One suggestion has been to replace our monthly chapter meetings with an annual meeting or convention. The fate of our Society will be determined in the coming weeks.

Seed Request from Surrey, England

We will pass on this call for seed as first observed in the newsletter of the Northern Nevada Native Plant Society:

Dr. A. J. Scott, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9, 3AB, England writes, "At present I am studying the family Chenopodiaceae throughout the world and am particularly interested in several native North American species of the family, especially Sarcobatus. I would be most grateful if any of the members of your Society could obtain fruits or seeds of any native Chenopods so that I can observe the species in cultivation.

Sarcobatus vermiculatus (greasewood) is found in alkaline soils in northern and central New Mexico between elevations of 5,000 and 6,500 feet. There is a large population along I-25 near Bernalillo. The following is an extremely brief summary of the family Chenopodiaceae in New Mexico. The major genera are listed with the recognized number of species in each one. (Figures based on Dr. Martin's Checklist of New Mexico.)

Atriplex (saltbush) 18 species
Chenopodium (goosefoot) 24
Corispermum (bugseed) 4
Erotia (winterfat) 1
Suaeda (seepweed) 5

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GROWING NATIVE GRASSES FROM SEED

You may be surprised to learn how easy and relatively inexpensive it is to revegetate an area with one of our native grasses. Once established these grasses will stabilize the soil with a minimum of care and attention. Here's how to do it:

Prepare the soil by merely scratching the surface with a stiff rake. It is not necessary to tiller or add amendments in most cases. Recommended planting rates are available from your seed supplier, although you may want to increase the rate for a thicker cover. Mix the seed thoroughly in enough straw or sawdust to provide a 1/4-inch mulch over the area. Keep the surface moist until the seed has germinated. Then water at regular intervals until the roots are well established - the first season anyway.

Blue grama grass, Bouteloua gracilis, is a dominant species throughout New Mexico and is attractive in combination with other gray-green plants such as Chamisa or one of our sages. It grows in clumps and is not adapted to heavy foot traffic. Buffalograss, Buchloe dactyloides, which is native to the eastern plains of New Mexico, spreads by runners to provide a turf-like appearance and it holds up well under foot traffic. Soil type may affect your decision: Buffalograss will grow in heavy, clay loams whereas the grammas prefer sandy soils. These short grasses need not be mowed, which also reduces maintenance.

Our native grasses have evolved under the local temperature and precipitation

patterns, so a mature stand should not require supplemental water or fertilizers. However, as with most our native plants, you may want an improved appearance or enhanced growth by adding water during droughty periods.

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PELONCILLO MOUNTAINS RECEIVE NATIONAL COVERAGE

In previous newsletters we have sung the praises of the Peloncillo Mountains tucked away in the bootheel of New Mexico. This unique natural area (there are actually three named regions within the Peloncillos) was featured as the RARE II Area of the Month in the August, Not Man Apart, newsletter of Friends of the Earth. You can read this informative article before you visit the Peloncillos for yourself and before you write the following letters:

- (1) Write to: Forest Supervisor, Coronado National Forest, 301 West Congress, Tucson, Arizona 85701, Attn: Land Use Plan. Urge him to a) Recognize the ecological, natural and wildlife values of the Peloncillos as preeminent; and b) Recommend the Bunk Robinson and Whitmire Canyon roadless areas for wilderness.
- (2) Write to: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, P. O. Box 1449, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Urge him to recommend all BLM wilderness study areas in the Peloncillo Mountains for wilderness, particularly those in Guadalupe Canyon and those adjacent to the Bunk Robinson RARE II area.
- (3) Write to: State Director, Bureau of Land Management, 2400 Valley Bank Center, Phoenix, Arizona 85073. Urge him to recommend Baker Canyon and other BLM lands adjacent to Bunk Robinson and Whitmire Canyon RARE II areas for wilderness.

For extra impact send copies of your letter to Senator Pete Domenici and our state representatives: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Bunk Robinson, Whitmire Canyon and Juniper Basin are the three roadless areas in the Peloncillos which were identified in the RARE II study, 1977. Your local Sierra Club office will have copies of Not Man Apart.

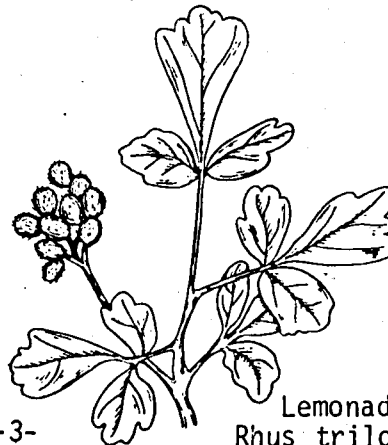
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Dues?

If you have not used the membership application form we sent you and your 1979 dues are still outstanding, don't delay. Our mailing list is to be updated again this month and delinquent memberships will be dropped. New members can join by sending \$6 to Carol Dimeff, Rt. 4, Puesta del Sol, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501 (\$8 for families and \$4 for students).



Poison Oak
Rhus diversiloba



-3- Lemonadebush
Rhus trilobata

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Rhus radicans
Poison Ivy