

# ***Native Plant Society of New Mexico***

## ***newsletter***

VOLUME VIII

NO. 1

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

1983

- Jan.-Feb. Southeast Chapter has no set meeting dates. For information, call Nina Eppley at 622-7180.
- Jan.-Feb. Glenn Niner Chapter will be meeting jointly with the Albuquerque Chapter.
- Jan. 5 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Judith Phillips from Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm will present a program on starting wildflowers and other native plants from seed. 7:30 pm, The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Road.
- Jan. 12 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Wednesdays): Come help us plan for '83! We need your input on ideas for programs, projects, etc. NMSU Ag Building, Room 156. 7:30 pm.
- Jan. 19 Santa Fe Chapter meets(3rd Wednesdays): For information on this meeting call Carol Dimeff at 984-0750.
- Feb. 2 Albuquerque Chapter meets: John Egbert of the Nature Conservancy will speak on the Conservancy's projects in New Mexico with a special emphasis on plant species and communities in those areas. 7:30 pm. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Road.
- Feb. 9 Las Cruces Chapter meets: A joint meeting with the Audubon Society. For details contact Jean Lozier. 7:30 pm. NMSU Ag Building, Room 156.
- Feb. 16 Santa Fe Chapter meets: For information on this meeting, contact Carol Dimeff at 984-0750.
- Feb. 27 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets(last Sundays): Starting a New Year at Bill Mayfield's in Bent. 2:00 pm. Call Jean Dodd (434-3041) or Bill(671-4617) for details and directions.

1

**RENEW YOUR DUES!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

It's that time again--time to renew your membership in NPS. Please send your 1983 dues and the form on page 8 (or a copy of it) to: NPS of NM, P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502, Attn: Iris. If dues are not received by February 25th, we will regretfully assume that you no longer wish to be a member of NPS-NM, and we will discontinue sending you the newsletter.(Some of you have already renewed, if you have a red dot by your name on the mailing label, you have already paid for 1983.)



Santa Fe National Forest includes over 1.5 million acres of forest in the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains. In January of 1982 the Proposed Santa Fe National Forest Plan and accompanying Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) were published by the U.S. Forest Service. The Plan contains management objectives for the next ten years and outlines management goals for over 100 years. These documents should be widely read and comprehended by the people of New Mexico, particularly by northern New Mexicans, because they talk about a very different future for the Santa Fe National Forest than what we know today.

The Plan calls for an increase in logging from 43 million board feet per year to 75 million board feet per year within the next 30 years. This increase of 74% will then be maintained for the following 150 years. This increase is being proposed to meet Regional Forest objectives which in turn are designed to meet national objectives.

Most of the proposed increase is planned for steep slopes which have previously been untouched. The cable technology necessary for logging steep slopes is still a largely unproven method of timber harvesting on the Santa Fe National Forest. Reforestation of these steep slopes may be extremely difficult. The Plan and the DEIS are filled with many contradictions. They admit that logging of steep slopes will increase soil erosion, decrease future forest productivity, damage aquatic ecosystems, destroy riparian vegetation and increase downstream flooding. In another place the Plan amazingly predicts an increase in water quality. It should also be noted that an actual decrease in money is planned for reforestation during a time when timber harvesting will almost double.

The Plan calls for an increase in future grazing by cattle and sheep. However it admits that 45% of the acreage available for grazing is presently in poor or very poor condition, and that there will be no future increase in money available for range improvements. The historic overgrazing of many Forest streambanks and floodplains has been extreme and conditions have not improved due to continued heavy cattle grazing. These riparian habitats are particularly important

and sensitive parts of Santa Fe National Forest and will experience further deterioration according to the Plan.

The Plan makes very little mention of the impacts of increased logging and grazing on wildlife. Research Natural Areas are a very important means by which the Forest Service can preserve small acreages of New Mexico ecosystems. The proposals for Research Natural Areas and for surveys and protection of Threatened and Endangered Species are very inadequate. The important recreation and aesthetic values of the Santa Fe National Forest will be seriously degraded if the proposed Plan is enacted. There are many other issues addressed by the Plan which should be of concern to New Mexicans: expansion of the Santa Fe ski basin, off-road vehicle regulations, use of pesticides of forest lands, declassification of Cienega Gregorio in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness, mining, oil and gas leasing, new road construction, opening of the Santa Fe watershed to other uses, destruction of pinyon-juniper woodlands, etc.

According to the DEIS, "65% of the public and 75% of the Forest Service respondents were emphatic in predicting general degradation of environments and resources in the future."

Eleven citizens groups representing over 50,000 people repeatedly requested and were denied a public hearing on the Forest Plan. The final Santa Fe National Forest Plan will probably be published early in 1983. It is expected that many of the inadequacies of this plan will be challenged in court. I submitted a six-page analysis of the Plan to the Forest Service in June and will be happy to send a copy to anyone requesting it (202 Dartmouth SE, Albuquerque NM 87106). Copies of the Plan and the DEIS are probably still available at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Santa Fe or at the Regional Office in Albuquerque. Let me know if you would be interested in any future developments regarding this issue. It is your Forest that is at stake.



-T.A.

## CHAPTER NOTES

### ALBUQUERQUE

The November meeting of the Albuquerque Chapter was a clean up of the Castetter Garden which we have taken on as a special project. Be sure to go and visit the garden whenever you're in Albuquerque. There are native shrubs, cactus, and succulents planted there. Hopefully there will be lots of wildflowers in the spring as we also planted seeds this time. The gardens are at the base of the Sandia Peak Tramway.

Our new officers were also chosen. They are: President-Ted Hodoba, Vice-President-Jackie Farr, and Secretary-Treasurer-Jim Lube. A special thanks to our last year's officers, President Frances Szeman and Secretary-Treasurer Candy Kroft for an excellent job.

In December the Albuquerque and Glenn Niner Chapters held a very successful pot luck dinner. Along with all the wonderful food, everyone received a doorprize of a plant or a plant related item such as drawings, dried flower arrangements, etc. Thanks to all who donated gifts.

-T.H.

### LAS CRUCES

The Las Cruces Chapter asked Mrs. Ochoa of El Vajillo Herbs to speak at the November meeting. She brought packets of several herbs, many labeled with the Spanish as well as the English names. Mrs. Ochoa told how she had learned about the herbs from her mother and through reading. She also shared her personal experiences in curing her family of many maladies, what specific illnesses her herbs would help and foods whose flavor would be enhanced by their use. We were also instructed on how to prepare the herbs to treat an illness or disease. Many of us decided to try her recommendations. The December meeting was an enjoyable pot luck social. There was plenty of good things for all. Dovie Thomas has left the Las Cruces Chapter for Santa Fe. We wish her well.

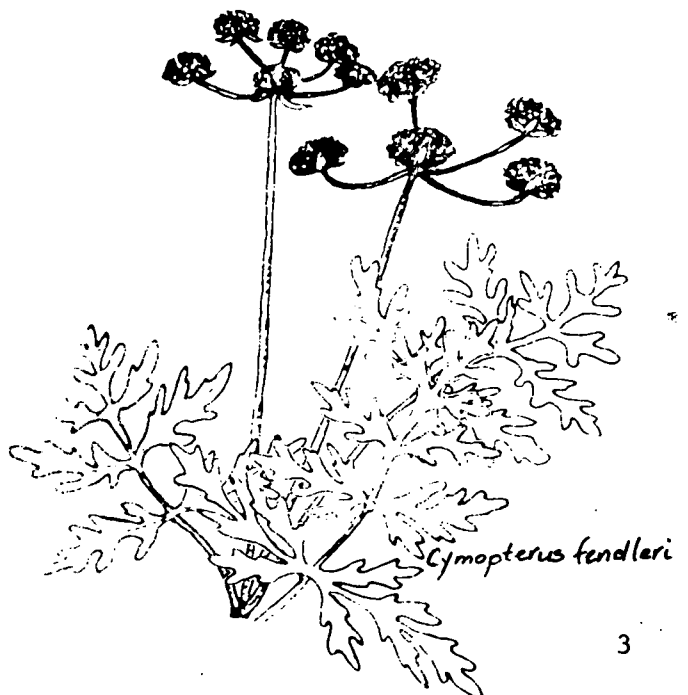
-J.L.

### CYMOPTERUS IN NEW MEXICO

There are a number of species of *Cymopterus* (Wafer Parsnip) in New Mexico. These species are members of the difficult family Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) and are determined on the basis of a number of technical characters in the fruit and flower. The species that are found in New Mexico are *C. fendleri*, *C. montanus*, *C. bulbosus*, *C. multinervatus*, and *C. purpurascens*. All of these species are early spring flowering and are relatively difficult to locate in the field.

Perhaps the most widespread is *C. montanus*. This species is perhaps the earliest of flowering species in the state. In the Cochiti Pueblo region, we found it blooming in the first week in March in the snow. It seems accurate to say that a more accurate beginning flowering time would be in late February, and perhaps even earlier in the southern portions of the state. *C. fendleri* is also very early, but flowers about one to two weeks after *C. montanus*. Doubtless there is overlap at the higher limits of *C. montanus* distribution and lower limits of *C. fendleri*. This later species is found in the gravelly deposits of alluvium around Albuquerque and as far north as Santa Fe.

-R.P.



THE DIS-ASTER OF '82: CONSISTENCY, RESOLVE AND A MORAL FOR THE NEW YEAR

January is prime planning time in the garden and this month's featured gardening tool is the grower's diary. Such a diary has as text an accurate account of trial and error, success and mishap, a celebration of serendipity, and is illustrated by memories. Much of its value lies in its consistency: a record of results had under varied conditions, that over a few years time, becomes the source of concise data on the 'best method' for growing the described species.

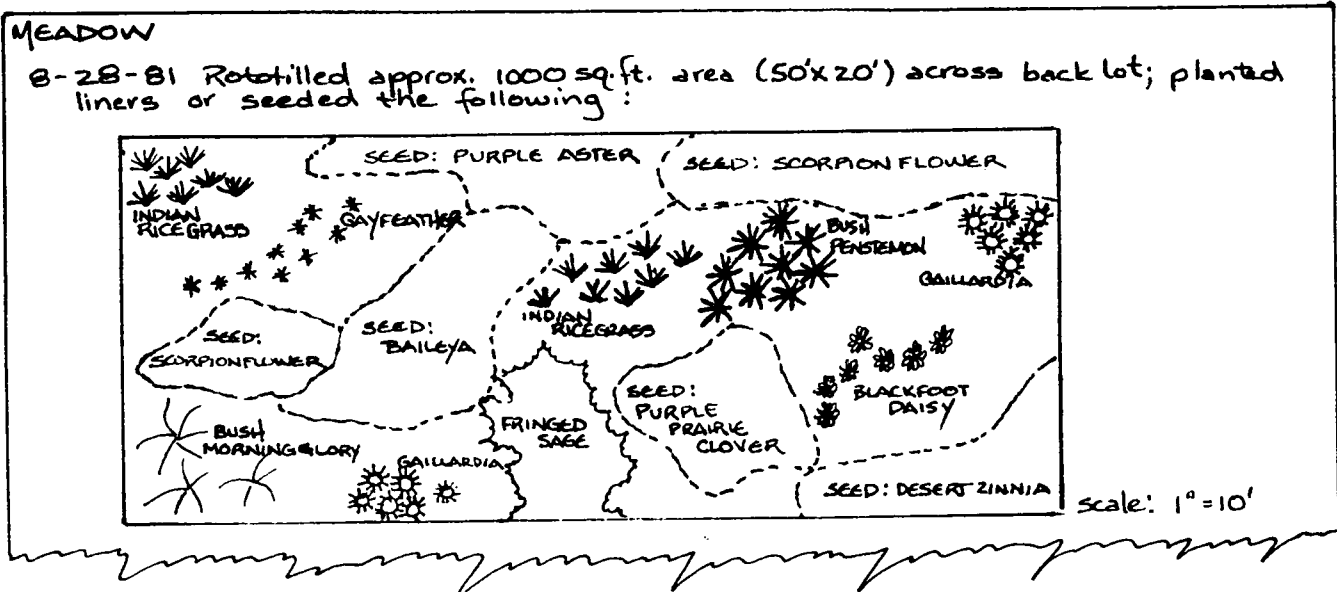
There are many ways to organize the diary, but a looseleaf binder or index card file, alphabetically by plant name with dated entries, are the easiest set ups for later reference use.

**ATRIPLEX CANESCENS/Fourwing Saltbush**  
 11-6-81 Collected approx. 5lbs of seed (uncleaned) from RR easement along Hwy 85 1 to 4 mi. north of Bosque. (seed lot ATCA 11-81)  
 12-10-81 Scarify 500 seeds (ATCA 11-81) with H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> mix with damp perlite in a poly bag. Store in refrigerator  
 2-15-82 Sow scarified/stratified seeds in an open flat of soil, 3 parts pumice to 1 part peat moss, drench with Bonrot.

While data on any crop is valuable to professional growers, who prosper by finding alternate production methods for the crops they require, the home gardener will find a diary kept of annual & perennial flowers and groundcover trials especially useful.

Types of entries include any variables key to reliable reproduction of the species.

1. Seed or cutting source, quantity collected or purchased, cost, end-of-season evaluation.
2. Significant change in growth cycle: time of first "greening up" in the spring, onset of flowering & seed ripening, pruning techniques and the growth response they elicit, insect activity & control if necessary.
3. Propagation methods & results: time of seeding or cutting, ambient air & soil temperatures, sowing method, growing medium (soil type or potting mix), nutrients and/or fungicide used. If you have preferred methods for certain plants, outline the methods in an appendix and refer to them in the diary as Method A, etc. If you do not have preferred methods, varying techniques and recording the results in the diary may lead to certain preferences.
4. Length of time and percentage of germination, record of transplanting.
5. Recurrent evaluations of self-sustaining areas like mixed meadows & groundcover plots, recording plant density and vigor, note competition and/or compatibility, establishment and increase or decline.



Seeded areas within dotted lines with: 1oz Scorpion flower (Blue Phacelia species) clean seed  
 broadcast & scratch raked into surface 1oz Zinnia grandiflora cleaned seed  
 2oz each Prairie clover (Petalostemon) & Baileya partly cleaned, about 1/2 chaff by weight.

Planted container grown transplants in clustered groups as per drawing:  
 15 Indian Ricegrass 10 Gayfeather (Liatris)  
 12 Gaillardia 7 Blackfoot daisy (Melampodium)  
 3 Bush Morning glory (Ipomoea) 5 Fringed sage (Artemisia)  
 9 Bush Penstemon

Seed origins & propagation info on transplants recorded in diary under individual plant names.

The entire area was kept relatively damp - natural rainfall supplemented by sprinkler irrigation to average about 1/2" rain every 5 days for 6 weeks, then as necessary through cooler weather.

9-15-81 All transplants look good, no germination on seed.

10-15-81 Some Baileya & Phacelia germ

3-10-82 Ricegrass, Penstemon, Gaillardia & Daisy greening up. Phacelia, Aster & Baileya rosettes beginning to expand.

3-15-82 Total of 42 Ricegrass in entire plot spreading into Aster & Penstemon areas. Phacelia crossed the Gaillardia into the Daisy patch. Will be nice early color show soon. Petalostemon germinating.

5-10-82 Zinnia germinating. Count 54 seedlings

This diary can be as simple or detailed as curiosity, practical application and the resolve to record data as it occurs (not six months and a half dozen 'should haves' later) warrants.

So resolve: next January you can sit by the fire with seed catalogues, daydreams and diary to plan the '84 growing season.

As a counter-complement to the grower's diary, is a hiker's diary. Observations in the wild should include date, location, elevation, exposure, topography, photographs or slides, predominant vegetation & soil types, development

of foliage, flower or fruit of the species under scrutiny and any other variables that are a key to plant performance.

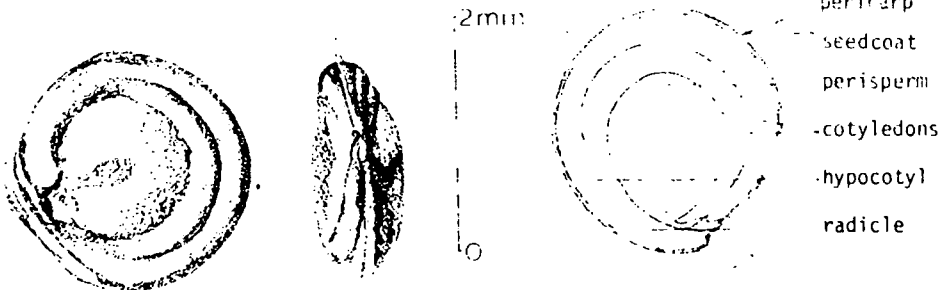
Here's to the lessons that nature and the new year hold!

**MACHAERANTHERA BIGELOVII / Purple Aster**

5-8-82 Sowed seed collected 10-81 in freshly prepared bed (last year's bush penstemon plot, no germ: see P. ambiguus notes) sprinkling every other day (wind!) to induce germination.  
 6-8-82 Air temp 100°+, no germ, probably too hot.  
 7-10-82 Not one seedling visible. Rain may help.  
 9-7-82 No Aster germ but last year's Penstemon is coming up everywhere. Note: Sow aster October - February!

**MORAL: DIS-ASTER IS AMBIGUOUS.**

-J.P.



-*Atriplex semibaccata*, Australian saltbush: exterior views in two planes of achenes removed from their utricles and a longitudinal section through an achene, 16 X.

-*Atriplex canescens*, fourwing saltbush; seedling development at 1 and 2 days after germination

"Your policy of "not endorsing candidates for political office" (your last newsletter) has cost you your only member in Northeast New Mexico. After making the above statement you then proceed to endorse all the Democratic candidates. . . . I am and have always been, a great environmentalist and conservationist, but I don't think these things can be put above everything else. The movement has become so extreme that I no longer care to be identified with it."

-Mrs. W.N. Moore  
Wagonmound, NM

"It was very pleasing to members of our Native Plant Society Southeastern Chapter to read of Dr. Cochrane's interest in native and species plants from as far away as Australia.

Without even attempting to research his seed exchange offer, as to any possible illegalities connected with introducing new plant species into either country, this would seem to present an opportunity for a "Pandora Box" occurrence if any seeds were propagated and in some way managed to get out of control. It might be a more discretionary procedure to exchange photographic slides or snapshots."

-Jean McElroy, et al  
Southeastern Chapter

"Also, regarding the letter from Dr. Cochrane in Australia regarding the swapping of plant seed. I would recommend extreme caution in regards to this practice. We could very well get additional species that we would soon find that we do not want-like the starling, the walking catfish, the Japanese beetle, and Russian thistle."

-Ralph Fisher  
Silver City, NM

"...Bringing such seeds into this country could be dangerous by establishing thrifty weeds. I believe such private acquisition of seeds that are not inspected and licensed is probably illegal."

-Walton Hawk  
San Cristobal, NM

#### POLITICIANS & WEEDS:

The NPS-NM newsletter is the communication channel among our members. As editors, we have been guiding our selection of material by the comments, written and verbal, we receive.

The calendar of events & chapter notes are meant to inform members of the activities of local chapters, give program coordinators fresh ideas for speakers & projects, and provide guided access to botanical focal points throughout the state via field trips and slide shows.

Our centerfold features highlight people, plants or places of general interest, with a list of references for further reading when applicable.

The conservation notes by Tom Andrews, offers an informed opinion on current environmental issues. The recent reprinting of the NM Conservation Voters' Alliance report on pro-conservation political candidates resulted in a flurry of protest from our members.

The November-December newsletter prompted the greatest response we have received to date - much of it critical of not only the "endorsement of candidates" but also of the seed exchange letter from Australia. We are gratified. First, this indicates that you are reading the newsletter, and second, it's contents are inducing member participation. Hurrah! We're communicating!!

This seems the time to expand upon our editorial policies. Unless clearly defined as such, opinions expressed in the newsletter are not official NPS policy statements. This is your forum for the exchange of information and ideas. We appreciate member input: articles, book reviews, drawings, meeting reports and letters.

WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

Cautions raised by several members concerning an Australian seed exchange offer opens "a Pandora's box" of possibilities. What are the seed laws governing the import and export of non-agricultural seed? There have been many introductions of Australian arid land plants in the southwest, particularly species of Saltbush, *Atriplex semibaccata*, *numularia* and *rhagodioides*. How are these introduced species faring? (Our own *Atriplex canescens* has by its variability the capability to adapt to harsh sites, at times too well.)

On an even broader scale, how about a review of introduced species now naturalized, and an overview of their ecological impact-pro and con (for example Russian olive and *Shepherdia*)? Someone out there must have the time and curiosity to explore these questions and share their knowledge with our readers.

One final 'policy' note. We have been assuming that the letters we receive are addressed via the editors, to our readers. If you do not desire your correspondence, or any portion of it, to appear in the newsletter, please say so.

We regret any ill will caused by our selection of material, and we especially value the suggestions for what we could have done instead. Living is learning. Too often we find, post-election, that we have a new weed to pull, a sore point, especially if we helped introduce that weed. Luckily, we the editors, never make mistakes, especially in proofreading.

Editors: Lisa Johnston  
Judith Phillips

ERRATA

Our apologies to Frank Hawksworth (author) and Roger Peterson (submitter) for the spelling of "Loranthaceae" in the Mistletoes of New Mexico article. Our typewriter is becoming more at ease with scientific names, but it still misses a few.

-Ed.

Contributors for this issue are:

- T.A. Tom Andrews
- T.H. Ted Hodoba
- J.P. Judith Phillips
- J.L. Jean Lozier
- R.P. Roger Peterson

To place an ad in the newsletter, please send your black on white copy with payment to the Newsletter Editors, PO Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031. Rates are \$5.00 per issue for a 3 1/2 x 2" ad.

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