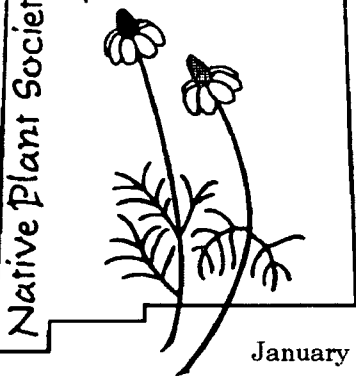


Native Plant Society of New Mexico



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

January and February 1992

Volume XVII Number 1

THE PERFECT GARDEN STYLE FOR THE "ROCKY" MOUNTAIN REGION

Ellen Wilde

How can I be so positive? It's a natural! A rock garden, of course! Don't be limited in your thinking to only one kind of rock garden that purists, influenced by the English alpine rock gardeners, claim is the only true rock garden. Rock gardens may be built around naturally existing rocks, or rocks may be brought in to form a rock garden on any shape terrain. Only lack of imagination can limit what can be done with rocks, and, with all the different types of rock formations to be seen in the Rocky Mountains, that should not be a factor.

Why should you go to all the trouble of building a rock garden? The advantages are many. Rocks are a natural foil for plants to separate them and break up the visual monotony of tiny leaf shapes. Rocks can terrace a difficult slope to make it easier to get plants established. Large rocks can create microclimate areas that the sun cannot reach in very sunny areas and allow you to grow plants that cannot take full sun. They can be used as steppingstones to move through the garden without stepping on plants in areas that are unreachable from borders or paths. Rocks moderate extremes of temperature, absorbing heat during the day and releasing it at night.

Rocks shade the soil, keeping it damp and cool for root runs. Rocks and evergreen plants make a garden interesting even in winter when there are no flowers. Rocks are beautiful in

themselves! Need I go on? You must be sold on the idea by now.

How do you create a rock garden? Study your property to find a good location. Are there any existing rocks? If not, choose an area that will be accessible to a truck to bring the rocks in. Is there a natural slope? An ideal situation would be a slope where the prevailing winds come from behind the highest point and the ground slopes down but the wind rises to lift over the house or trees at the foot of the slope. You should also consider the position of the sun. Many flowers open to face the sun, so you will want your viewing point to be between the sun and the garden at the time of the day when you most enjoy visiting your garden. Do you want to bring in soil to create a difference in elevations? Do you want to grow plants that like shade or sun or some of both? Visit dealers that handle rocks to see what is available. Find out from the dealer the source of the rocks so you can visit the site and see how the rocks are naturally arranged and what plants grow among them. Some of the national forests have rock collecting areas in which you can collect your own rocks for a \$10.00 permit. Do you want to have a dry rock garden or do you like only the flowers that grow in moist sites? Will you put in a drip irrigation system? Will you want a simulated stream or a dry stream bed among the rocks? Other things to think of are: will you want it to be a very private place or will you enjoy sharing it with your neighborhood; will you enjoy working in it if it is a very public location; will wild animals and roaming pets be a problem (bulbs are a desirable part of most rock gardens, but rabbits can decimate a fortune in small bulbs in one night); can you reach it with a hose if you don't put in irrigation?

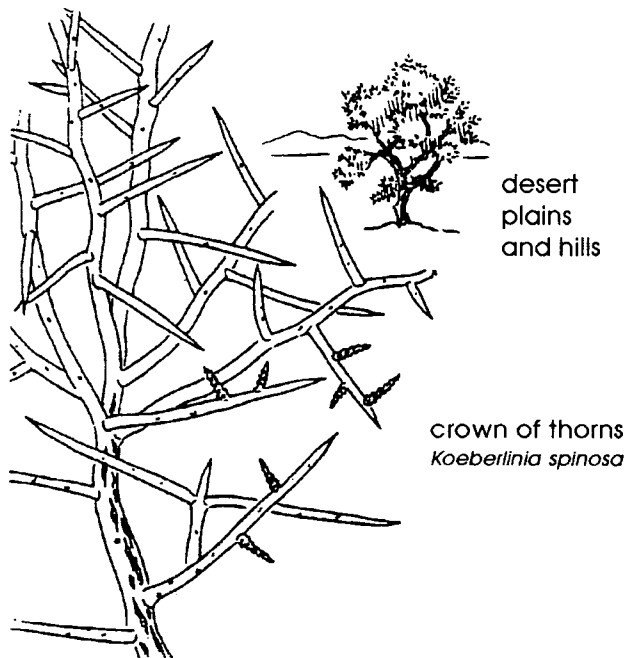
It is essential that the soil in your rock garden drain well. Only a very limited selection of plants will survive in a constantly wet location. If you are in an area of high precipitation you will want to have a high proportion of coarse sand

Inside.....

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Field Ethics.....	3
Calendar.....	4
News from the South.....	4
Chapter Reports.....	5
Books for Sale.....	6 & 7
Editors Message.....	8
Volunteers work for endangered plants.....	8

or scree (broken rock in assorted sizes) with a lesser amount of soil and humus. Most rock garden plants do not like very rich soil and you don't want exuberant growth. Even a dry area should have a porous soil so that oxygen and water can get to the roots of the plants.

The plants that you choose will depend on your climate, the site exposure, the amount of shade, your preferences, how much time you want to devote to them, the size of your rocks and your garden. Tall plants fit in with large boulders, but most people prefer low mounding and creeping types. Many rock garden plants need very little water and the rock garden of dryland plants will be very water conserving. Do plan to include many small succulent and evergreen plants for winter appearance. Welcome to the world of rock gardening! It is a fascinating hobby.



The **Newsletter** is published six times per year by the New Mexico Native Plant Society. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter.

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species. Members benefit

from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges and a wide selection of books available at discount.

We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

We maintain a register of business and professional people who are members and can supply information and services related to native plants. To be added to this roster or to request information, contact the Membership Secretary.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost \$40 per year.

Schedule of Membership Fees

Dues are \$10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of \$25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 443 Live Oak Loop, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor. **Deadline for the next newsletter is February 10.**

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The Native Plant Society of New Mexico Field Ethics

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico recognizes the importance of collecting plants for educational and scientific purposes. The primary justification is that it contributes to an increased knowledge of and appreciation for the native flora.

Collecting is also necessary for introducing new species into horticulture. Even for species already available from commercial sources, additional collections provide new genetic material which can be used to improve cultivated strains.

Incidental collecting for purposes of plant identification, teaching, nature demonstrations, and like purposes enhance individual knowledge, promote public education, and increase environmental awareness.

If done with proper care and consideration of the impact on plant populations, most plant collecting is not detrimental. Rarely is it necessary to take an entire plant. For most perennials, a small portion of a plant is sufficient to make an herbarium specimen, and the roots are usually left undisturbed. Annuals are almost always present in large numbers. Seeds and cuttings are the preferred propagules for bringing wild plants into cultivation, and their taking rarely causes any impact.

1. THE FIELD CODE OF CONDUCT : Two important questions should be considered before taking specimens: 1) Will the collection of this plant (or part thereof) contribute to educational or scientific advancement?; and 2) What will be the effect of this collection on the population of this species? The following guidelines should be used to answer these questions and to minimize impact on the environment:

- a. Collecting should be done inconspicuously. Chance observers may not understand the reasons for such activity and conclude that they may do likewise. Remember that simple picking of wildflowers has decimated a number of species. If someone appears while you are collecting, take the time to explain what you are doing, and that you are being careful not to deplete the populations.
- b. Collect only common species except for serious study. Instructors in particular are encouraged to use common species for demonstrating collecting techniques and plant structures.
- c. Collectors should obey all national, state, local, and tribal laws, and should obtain all necessary permits before collecting.

FIELD TRIPS: In order to minimize the impacts of our field trips and to make them as enjoyable as possible, all field trip participants are required to comply with the code of conduct. It is the responsibility of each chapter president or field trip coordinator to see that field trip leaders are aware of their responsibilities. It is the responsibility of field trip leader(s) to make sure that all participants are informed of the rules and expectations for their behavior before beginning the trip. Leaders must know the rules and regulations of land owners and land management agencies before beginning a field trip, and must obtain any necessary collecting permits if collecting is intended. In addition to the rules in the code of conduct, leaders shall determine which of the following rules will be in effect on a given trip:

- a. In many habitats trampling causes more damage than collecting. Drive only on established roads. Don't park on vegetated shoulders. Walk carefully, and keep to existing trails as much as possible. Do not take groups of people into fragile habitats or populations of rare species. Do not create new disturbances.
- b. Most field trips are to locations where plants are protected by law. Casual, indiscriminate collecting is prohibited on most trips. If a participant finds an interesting plant, the leader's attention should be called to it, and he/she will determine whether it may be picked without causing undue decline in the population. Field trip leaders may waive this rule in certain situations, such as in large fields of abundant or weedy plants, or for specific surveys.
- c. Many people go on field trips to enjoy fresh, unpolluted air. If you must smoke, be conscientious about staying downwind from the rest of the group. Be aware of fire hazards, and carry out the butts (they are deadly to wildlife).
- d. Take out all your trash. This includes biodegradables, which decompose slowly in arid environments. Deeply bury solid personal waste and toilet paper, and never defecate near bodies of water.
- e. No animal, wild or domestic, is to be disturbed unnecessarily. Educational demonstrations with captured reptiles, amphibians, and small mammals (except endangered species) are acceptable; handle them carefully and release them exactly where they were captured. Rocks, logs, etc. moved to look for wildlife should be replaced as precisely as possible. Don't knowingly approach birds on nests. Be as quiet as possible.

Leave gates as you find them.

- g. Gathering of firewood is usually not allowed. Most field trip sites are too heavily visited to sustain such harvest.
- h. In summary, use common sense. Endeavor to leave a natural site exactly as you found it.



CALENDAR

GILA

Jan. 30 - Regular Meeting will be a field trip to Western New Mexico University McCrae Building Room 105 at 7:00 P.M. Gloria Maya, Professor in the Art Department at the University will present a program on making paper from plants.

OTERO

Feb. 8 Lil Bristol - slides of the Sacramento Mt. Wildflowers. 2:00 pm, Tularosa Elementary School. from the highway turn east on Higuera, fo 3 blocks to the corneer of 1st and Higuera. Lill has been making this slide colleciton over the years during visits to the Bristol's place in the Cloudcroft area.

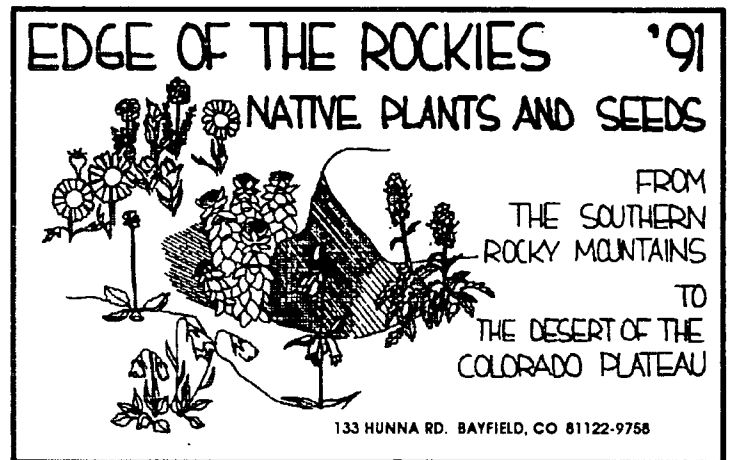
Feb. 29 Kilbourne Hole - Paul Gordon and hopefully Vern Thomas. 9:30 am on the right side of the road after the top of St. Augustin Pass. Bring lunch and water.

Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use his wonderful drawings from *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, second edition, in our newsletter

SANTA FE

Jan 15 St. Johns College
Steven Carey - Butterflies of New Mexico

Feb. 19 St. Johns College
Proposed Santa Fe Botanical Gardens



VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH

One Member's Opinion

What ??? Something positive from this column??? You bet!!!! Standard operating procedure (SOP) for me is to point out what I view as ills in our society, environmentally speaking. With the thought of some relief for your eyes, but especially with enthusiasm from my standpoint, I want to mention in the next couple of issues a couple of unsung heroes, environmentally speaking.

A few years back the Bureau of Land Management, an agency I frequently criticize, rightfully denied an increase in the preference number of livestock allowed on an allotment that included a Research Natural Area. The allottee appealed. A number of us in the environmental community, including many from our chapter agreed with the BLM decision. In effect we were forced to go to court to show our support. You can imagine how much financial support our group could actually come up with. Enter Doug Meiklejohn, a "pro bono" legal expert, representing the New Mexico Environmental Law Center acting as an intervenor in our cause. Not only did I rapidly gain respect for Doug's expertise, but also found a kindred spirit and a friendship I truly value.

Subsequent to the above, the New Mexico Environmental Law Center has represented our chapter when we intervened on the side of the US Forest Service in the Buzzard-Eagle Peak Timber Sale, and acted as an informal legal advisor on a couple of occasions.

Most recently, you have read about the Center representing the citizens of Sunland Park in their opposition to the operation of a medical waste incinerator in their community (next to an elementary school). Additionally the Center currently is representing Concerned Citizens for the Environment in Alamogordo in their opposition to the expansion of a landfill in Otero County.

I could go on and on about this organization and tell you about their work with the New Mexico State Legislature looking for standards for clean air, medical waste disposal etc. but space does limit. I sincerely recommend to anyone who really cares about New Mexico and who wants to contribute positively to our future where it will really count, that you give verbal and financial support to this outstanding organization. Inquiries and/or donations may be sent to :

The New Mexico Environmental Law Center
1520 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 989-9022

Tom Wootten

PS. Little known tidbit for the practical plant taxonomist/ environmental activist: The pages of High Country News, a newspaper to which I subscribe and recommend has pa that measure 11 1/4 X 17 3/8 inches. This is remarkably cl to the 12 X 18 inches recommended for botanical mountings. Recommendation: absorb the news, recycle the paper in your plant press, where it will absorb moisture, and then place in recycle bin if your collection is mounted.

CHAPTER REPORTS

Jero-Jean Dodd

To reach Grapevine Canyon 10-12-91 we took a dirt road off Hwy 54 going 9 miles across McGregor Range, crossing over into Forest Service land, and on up to the canyon on the west facing slopes of the Sacramento Mountains. 4wheel drives or pick ups were the order of the day as we drove sometimes in dry river beds, always with the hazard of deep erosion in the roads. The vast, empty spaces were filled with shrubs especially more tarbush than we have ever seen (*Flourensia cernua*) either blooming or in bud. Creosote bush and some mesquite filled out the over all picture with spots of the special green of the Allthorn (*Koeberlinia spinosa*-Allthorn Family) and the dry flower stalks of yucca, Sotol, and century plants. A very different picture from the groves of old trees in the Pecos Valley.

Blooming flowers included two different yellow flax, *Baccharis* sp., purple aster, orange mallow, lyreleaf parthenium, Golden eye-*Viguiera stenoloba*, *Mariola-Parthenium incanum*, Dagger bindweed-*Convolvulus incanus*, Blackfoot daisy, wire lettuce *Stephanomeria tenuifolia*, both *dysodia pentachaeta* (fetid marigold) and *D. acerosa*-prickly fetid marigold, and the trumpet *giliaIpomopsis longiflora*.

Farewell to the Mortons

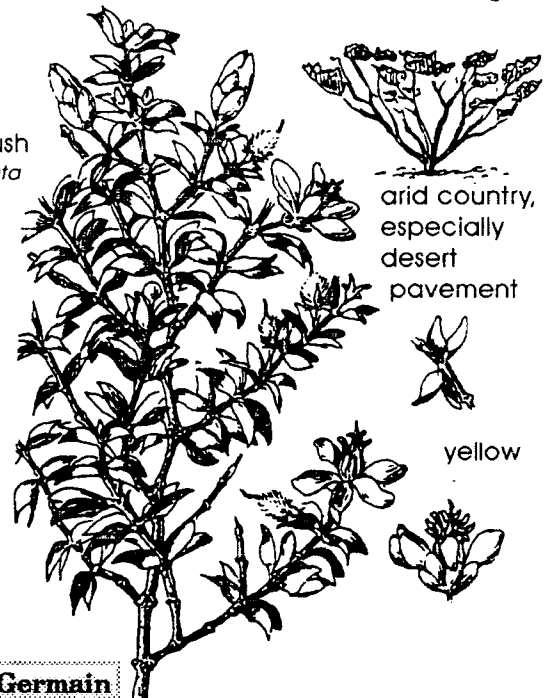
A farewell potluck was held on Dec. 14 for John and Louise Morton. They are moving to Oregon. The Mortons yard has been admired by our members from around the state so we hope the new owners will appreciate it.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another State meeting has come and gone. I was terribly sorry that I was unable to attend. Several people commented on how much they enjoyed it, saying that the Carlsbad Madrone Chapter should be complimented on a job well done. With winter upon us there is not a lot to do in the garden. Now is the time to catch up on the reading you couldn't do earlier. Don't forget that Lisa Johnson has a good selection of plant related books at special prices to NPS-NM members (See pages 6 & 7). I wish all of you a happy and prosperous 1992.

Bob Reeves

Creosote Bush
Larrea tridentata



Gila-Polly Germain

Oct. 24 the Gila Native Plant Society met to elect new officers and hold an annual business and "where are we headed" meeting. Deborah Swetnam was elected President, Ron Flemke, Secretary~ Joyce Knauss, Treasurer; and Polly Germain, Reporter.

November 3- We left Silver City at a.m. to drive to the Cave Creek area in the Chiricahuas in Arizona. Jack Carter, who has worked in the area and at the Southwestern Research Station of the American Museum of Natural History, led the group on a walk identifying trees, shrubby plants and also visited the Research Station. On our lunch break there we studied the use of a key, many of our members had never used one. A very fine day was enjoyed by all.

November 14 - Our regular meeting held a week early at 7:00 p.m. at the Carter House welcomed Judith Phillips as our guest speaker. Judith is the owner of the Bernardo Beach Native Plant Farm in Veguita, New Mexico and author of "Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants". Her presentation of slides of gardens and landscaping with natives and her comments on the plants used was extremely informative and helpful to many of our members and guests who are using or planning to use native plants in their landscaping.

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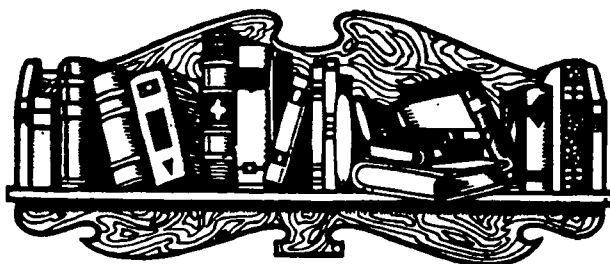
	Retail	NPS-NM Discount Price
Agaves of Continental North America (Gentry)	60.00	48.00
Alpine Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountains (Duft & Mosely)	9.95	8.00
Amateur Botany in New Mexico (Schoenwetter)	.75*	.75*
Audubon Guide to Wildflowers, Western (Spellenberg)	17.95	14.40
The Beautiful Beardtongues of New Mexico (Heflin & Pilz)	5.00	4.00
Botanical Latin (Stearns)	39.95	32.00
Cacti of Texas and Neighboring States (Weniger)	19.95	16.00
Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope (Weber) HB	32.50	26.00
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Desert Shrubs (Az. Native Plant Society)	2.00*	1.80*
Desert Trees - flat poster (Az. Native Plant Society)	3.00*	2.40*
A Dictionary of Landscape Architecture (Morrow)	19.95	16.00
Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mts. (Harrington)	11.95	9.60
Edible Wild Plants of the Prairie (Kindscher)	9.95	8.00
Fall Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	14.95	12.00
Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers (Craighead)	12.95	10.40
Field Guide to SW & Texas Plants (Niehaus, et al.)	12.95	10.40
Field Guide to Texas Trees (Simpson)	16.95	13.60
Flora of the Great Plains (Great Plains Flora Assoc.)	55.00	44.00
Flora of New Mexico - reprint (Wooton & Standley)	44.00	37.00
A Flora of New Mexico (Martin & Hutchins)	write for current price	
Flowering Plants of New Mexico Second Ed. (Ivey)	24.95	20.00
Flowers of the Southwest Deserts (Dodge & Janish)	9.95	8.00
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How to Grow Native Plants of Texas & the Southwest (Nokes)	26.95	21.60
How to Photograph Flowers, Plants and Landscapes (Fell)	9.95	8.00
Indian Uses of Native Plants (Murphey)	3.50	3.25
An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds (Parker)	16.95	13.60
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Landscaping for Water Conservation (Denver Water Dept)	5.75	4.60
Landscaping for Wildlife (MN Dept. Natural Resources)	7.95	6.40
Landscaping to Save Water in the Desert (Johnson & Harbison)	8.95	7.20
*Landscaping with Native Plants of Texas & Southwest (Miller)	19.95	16.00
Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants (Ortho)	5.95	4.80
Management of SW Desert Soils (Fuller)	8.95	7.20
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Medicinal Plants of the Mountain West (Moore)	9.95	8.00
Meet the Natives Eighth ed. (Pesman)	14.95	12.00
Mexican Roadside Flora (Mason & Mason)	19.95	16.00
Mosses: Utah and the West (Flowers)	7.95	8.00
Nature's Dyepot A Guide for Spinners, Weavers & Dyers (McRae)	8.95	7.20
*Mushrooms and Truffles of the Southwest (States)	9.95	8.00
New Mexico Range Plants (NMSU Circular #374)	3.00	2.80
100 Desert Wildflowers of the Southwest (Bowers)	4.95	4.00
100 Roadside Wildflowers of the Southwest Woodlands (Bowers)	4.95	4.00
Plants for Dry Climates (Duffield)	12.95	10.40
Photographing Wildflowers (Blacklock)	12.95	10.40
A Practical Guide to Edible & Useful Plants (Tull)	23.95	19.20
Prairie Propagation (Rock)	4.50	3.60
Rare & Endemic Plants of New Mexico (NM NPPAC)	12.95	10.00

Roadside Geology of New Mexico (Chronic)	11.95	9.60
Roadside Plants of Northern New Mexico (Tierney)	9.95	8.00
Roadside Wildflowers of Texas (Wills)	12.95	10.40
Rocky Mountain Alpines (Williams, editor)	35.00	28.75
Rocky Mountain Flora (Weber)	17.50	14.00
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Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide (Lohmiller)	11.95	9.60
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Trees of the Great Basin (Lanner) HB	29.95	24.00
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The Weaver's Garden (Buchanan)	16.95	13.60
Useful Plants of the Four Corners Area (Kelly)	5.00	4.00
Western Edible Wild Plants (Harrington)	8.95	7.20
Wildflower Folklore (L. Martin)	16.95	13.60
Wildflower Handbook (National Wildflower Research Center)	9.95	8.00
Wildflower Gardener's Guide: Calif., Desert SW & N. Mexico (Art)	12.95	10.40
Wildflower Gardener's Guide: N. Pacific, Rocky Mt., W. Canada (Art)	12.95	10.40
The Wildflower Meadow Book (L. Martin)	12.95	10.40
Wildflowers of the Guadalupe Mountains (Warnock)	10.95	8.80
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Woody Plants of the Southwest (Lamb)	12.95	10.40
Southwestern Wildflower Notecards by Lily Byrd	5.00	4.50
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Native Plant Postcards by Beth Dennis	0.25	0.20
	6/1.25	6/1.00
New Mexico Wildflowers Poster by Niki Threlkeld 22"x34"	10.00	8.00
31 watercolor portraits New Mexico wildflowers		

SHIPPING: Add \$2.00 for the first book, \$.75 for each additional book
 \$2.50 for the Wildflower poster
 \$.50 for items marked with *
 \$.75 for each notecard set or 6 postcards

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Prices subject to change due to publisher increase.
 This list supersedes all others.



EDITORS' MESSAGE

If you have not heard by now, the State Meeting in Carlsbad was an unforgettable experience. Thanks to those in Carlsbad who helped make it all happen. At the board meeting we adopted the "Field Ethics" (page 3) which should help clarify issues of plant collecting and field trip management. It was also determined at the board meeting that advertisers are responsible for proofing our ads for errors.

Our apology to Ellen Wilde whose book review in our last Newsletter was mistakenly attributed to Jean Heflin. Nevertheless, thanks to both Ellen and Jean for Newsletter contributions.

We look forward to receiving Newsletter contributions in 1992. Please submit typed (good ribbon please) articles or computer disks to editor Tim McKimmie. Best wishes in the new year for great plant outings.



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VOLUNTEERS FOR RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT SPECIES

Several efforts are underway by concerned members of our Native Plant Society to help survey for endangered plant species in New Mexico. The Las Cruces Chapter assisted Katie Skaags in her survey of the Organ Mountains for The Nature Conservancy and BLM. In addition Las Cruces members are helping Bob Sivinski of the division of Forest in his attempts to upgrade the endangered species lists for our state. Chapter members use the NMSU herbarium to determine locations for collection and other data on those species being studied.

Another effort, this time by the Santa Fe chapter, is also assisting Mr. Sivinski in searching for a rare Haplopappus. Thanks to those members who are helping. Helping in these types of projects is one of our reasons for existence.

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