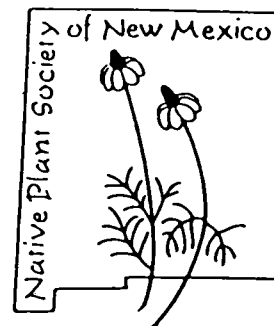


Newsletter

Native Plant Society of New Mexico



July/August, 1985

Volume X, No. 4

Calendar

- July 7 Las Cruces Chapter has tentative plans for a field trip to Kingston. Call your chapter contact person for confirmation.
- July 28 Otero Chapter plans an all-day trip to Arabella with Paul Gordon as leader. Bring lunch and meet at the turnoff to Arabella at 10:00 a.m. Take Highway 70 through Ruidoso and start looking for the turnoff after you have gone through Hondo.
- July/Aug Santa Fe Chapter: There will be no field trips or meetings during the summer months because of the unavailability of the two field trip coordinator/wildflower experts. Iris David has been hospitalized since May and is now recuperating at home. Dr. Don Lowrie has an out-of-state summer assignment in the Grand Tetons. Regular meetings will resume in September.
- Aug 10-11 Many of our members will be attending the annual state meeting to be held at Las Cruces this year. Carpooling arrangements for the Santa Fe Chapter will be coordinated by Iris David, phone 988-1709. Call Nina Keeler, 623-4885, for Chaves County Chapter carpooling plans.
- Aug 25 Otero Chapter members will meet for an edible native plant potluck at the home of John and Louise Morton at 2:00 p.m. Take Florida north across Highway 82. Turn left at the first road after the highway. The Morton house is the last one on the left.
- Aug 27-28 Operation Wildflower Workshop at Ghost Ranch Conference Center, Abiquiu, N.M. is sponsored by N.M. State Garden Clubs and co-sponsored by Keep N.M. Beautiful, N.M. Wildflower Society, UNM Botany Dept. and the Albuquerque Chapter of NPSNM. Registration deadline is August 12. More information, call Flo Gustavson, 293-2473.

President's Message

After one of the longest springs I've seen in New Mexico, summer seems to have finally arrived in full force in much of the state. With temperatures soaring into the 90's and 100's, the true test of our drought tolerant natives begins. Luckily for those of us who have planted our yards with buffalo grass and Apache plume, we can sit out in the cool evening air, sipping lemonade or margaritas and relax. If we feel so inclined, we can play gardener and water, or we can go off camping in the cool, high mountains and forget about it. Soon the summer monsoons will

begin, and the drying plants will burst forth in a "second spring" of floral beauty. Don't miss the chance to see and learn about many of these wildflowers at our annual meeting. Plans are in the works for an August gathering in Las Cruces. With field trips in the mornings and evening, we hope to avoid the midday heat. A time for socializing and whatever is being planned for Saturday afternoon. I'm looking forward to visiting with old friends and meeting and making new ones. See you in Las Cruces.

Ted

From The Editor(s)

Material received for publication in the Newsletter is often: (1) Promotions, often difficult to relate to the Society's interests and usually outdated before they could be included in the next issue. (2) Appeals for contributions, especially frequent and frantic since recent reduction or cutoff of direct, indirect and matching fund federal appropriations. Appeals from large organizations by professional (slick?) staff seem out of order to make to our small Society that has only volunteer workers who pay their own expenses.

But the Nature Conservancy seems an organization apart. After careful investigations and planning, it spends money for urgently needed habitats. Its achievements are real, can be clearly seen. It has demonstrated a concern for native plants as a fundamental not merely an accessory or support for birds, fish, wildlife, recreation, etc.

What the Conservancy achieves is possible only with a full-time staff with money to use. Their appeal is in this issue.

Lou Armijo, who wrote the excellent article on the Forest Service, is Public Affairs Specialist at the Regional Office in Albuquerque.

George

It's a pleasure to see so many names in our New Member column.

We thank our contributors for this issue's informative articles and items and we invite all members to submit material for the Newsletter. We can all learn from one another. If you have a favorite wildflower, write about it. Tell why you like it. Give its cultural requirements. If you have knowledge of something we other members don't have, share it. If you've read a book you enjoyed that relates to native plants, etc. and that hasn't been reviewed in the Newsletter, tell us about it.

We feel fortunate in having Ink Spot as the Newsletter printer. Besides doing a fine job, the staff is most accommodating and very nice to work with.

Myrtle

Chapter Reports

Albuquerque Chapter: We had a good meeting in May with a varied program:

- Ted Hodoba brought several flowers from his garden to show us, including golden columbine, Penstemon superbus, P. brandigii and P. confertus.

- Tracy Neal brought literature regarding natural fertilizers.

- Susan Wachter then presented a lively and informative talk on the basics of landscaping--emphasizing the design process, from defining your needs to site analysis and plant selection.

Our June meeting was an informal walking tour of the beautiful and unusual gardens of Ellen Reed. The front gardens consist of a terraced sweep of beautiful flowering natives; while the backyard gardens are a cool, moist, verdant retreat of grass, a lily pond, flowering trees and a border of native and exotic flowers.

Suzy Sultemeier

Chaves County Chapter: Our April field trip to Washington Ranch, just past the entrance to Carlsbad Caverns National Park proved most interesting.

En route and while at Rattlesnake Springs we saw many wild flowers including yellow flax, pepper grass, verbena, scorpionweed, blue flax, goat's beard, coreopsis, Engelmann daisy, green buttons, yellow primrose, zinnia, paper flower, gaillardia, globe mallow, guara, purple aster, fleabane daisy, groundsel, ragweed, dogweed and Christmas cholla.

After a picnic at Rattlesnake Springs and enjoying the cool breeze, we hiked along the water canal, past residences and into the desert terrain for about a mile. Here we found the familiar creosote bush, prickly poppy and the prickly pear cactus. Our greatest surprise was the

abundance of purple or mountain mallow that was in bloom. This species was just everywhere.

Rattlesnake Springs is hosting many birds. We saw the black phoebe, vermilion flycatcher, summer tanager, green back heron, snowy egret and mockingbird.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean LaBounty accompanied us on this pleasant trip and we hope that they will continue to support and add to our chapter.

Nina Keeler

Our May meeting covered a program on flower photography by Howard Roth. He opened with a very comprehensive discussion on cameras and lenses. He stated that for close work the minimum requirement would be a 35 mm. camera that could be manually adjusted. Fixed focus and instant type cameras are totally unsuited to flower photography, since the depth of field could not be controlled. He said that a macro-focusing tele-converter would give almost as satisfactory result for about \$90.00 as the approximately \$300.00 macro lens. Mr. Roth recommended that we use Kodacolor 64 for best color in the Southwest since the 400 speed overexposed in our high light. The lower the ASA the better the color and least grain. He said the biggest help he could recommend for close work was a hand grip with trigger shutter control.

Kay Ewart

Otero Chapter: Our day-long trip on the Missile Range took us through a variety of plant communities. Some plants new to us were small, woody shrubs with numerous pale green succulent leaves and yellow composite flowers--Pseudoclapia arenaria; an unusual mustard with very large white seed pods containing many orange disks with a green center--

(continued on last page)

The National Forests: Lands of Many Uses

by Lou Armijo

The Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture manages 154 National Forests, 17 National Grasslands and other tracts of public lands in 44 states and Puerto Rico. They total 137 million acres of generally high elevation lands with many renewable resources.

The system is divided into nine administrative regions. The Southwestern Region includes 12 National Forests and four National Grasslands in Arizona, New Mexico and the panhandle of both Oklahoma and Texas, about 20.7 million acres.

By law the Forests are managed for the sustained yield of timber, water, forage, wildlife and recreation--the multiple use concept of land management that began with the Forest Service in 1905. The Forest Service also established the nation's first wilderness in New Mexico in 1924. National Forests still contain most of the areas designated as wilderness.

More people--by far--visit the National Forests for recreation than any other public lands. Activities include skiing, camping, picnicking, hiking, hunting, fishing and simply viewing and photographing the scenery.

Forest Service activities cover three major areas that include managing the National Forests and Grasslands; cooperating with state and private forest owners to improve the yield of benefits from their lands; and research needed to enhance resources and to improve techniques of land management.

A major goal of the Forest Service, in addition to providing an endless supply of raw materials, is to improve the social and economic status of rural America. Forest Service programs are coordinated with other USDA programs, and are part

of the rural complex that contributes greatly to the economy and the social and cultural status of rural Americans.

In the Southwest the diverse environments of the National Forests include nine broad ecosystems ranging from low deserts to alpine areas with a wide variety of vegetation. There are about 100,000 acres of riparian habitat in the Region and about 36,000 acres of lakes. Nearly one third of the riparian area is in New Mexico. The Region offers diverse habitat for more than 850 wildlife and fish species. About 111 species are classified as threatened or endangered by federal or state standards and require specific habitat recognition and management to aid in their recovery. Also about 117 plants are threatened, endangered or sensitive.

Among the highly scenic parts of the National Forests are such areas as Wheeler Peak, the highest point in New Mexico, the landmark San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff, the Salt River and its chain of lakes, the fabled Superstition Mountains near Phoenix, the Gila Wilderness and many cultural and historic sites.

The Forest Service is in the process of developing 10-15-year management plans for each National Forest. In the past, management plans were prepared for each resource. The new procedure is to base plans on detailed analyses of the interactions among all resources.

One of the great strengths of the planning process is the level of public participation. The public has helped shape the issues that are considered in the plans. Never before has the public had the chance to be so well informed on all sides of the issues concerning National Forest

management.

There is plenty of material to examine and comment on. The plans for the Cibola and the Carson have been distributed to the public. Comments have been incorporated into the Cibola plan and should be released in final form in June. The Carson plan was open to public comment until June 24. The Gila plan was scheduled to be ready for public review in June and the Santa Fe plan should be re-released in August or September. The Arizona National Forest plans were scheduled to be out by the end of September.

Persons interested in reviewing and commenting on these plans should ask for copies of the plans that interest them from the Regional Forester, Forest Service, 517 Gold Ave , SW, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

The Center for Plant Conservation was established in 1984 to begin a national program of conservation of endangered plants by developing collections, "living museums" so to speak, at botanic gardens and arboreta. A development plan describing the goals of the program is available from: Center for Plant Conservation, Donald Falk, c/o Arnold Arboretum, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.



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Next year the International Rock Garden Society will meet in Boulder, Colorado during July. "The Rockies--Backbone of a Continent" is the theme which will be carried out in tours, slide shows, plant shows and sale of western U.S. native plants. Over 600 participants are expected from around the globe. This would be an opportune time for native plant people everywhere to participate and enjoy.

Since I will be growing the vast majority of plants for this occasion, I would welcome native seed from anyone, anywhere, as soon as possible.

It is guaranteed that New Mexico native plants will find their way around the globe.

Jim Borland
Propagator
Denver Botanic Gardens
909 York Street
Denver, Co 80206

There are many wildflower books available and each has its own particular strong points. My favorite handbook, The Audubon Field Guide to North American Wildflowers--Western Edition by Dr. Richard Spellenberg, offers a unique and very usable key through colored pictures to so very many of our species. This is followed by written descriptions which do a beautiful job of bridging the gap between the novice and the professional botanist. I strongly urge anyone shopping for an effective and useful fieldguide to include this book as one for consideration.

Tom wootten

Letter From Nature Conservancy

Dear George and Myrtle:

John Egbert has given me a copy of your letter to him of 2/02/85. We are pleased to announce that we have completed the fund drive for the Corrales Bosque Preserve, and are now working on other projects around the state.

Right now, we are working very hard at raising the "operating" funds which keep our office open. On April 12th, we mailed letters to all Nature Conservancy members across the state, urging them to help us in any way, big or small, to raise our budget. Most members do not realize that in addition to raising the money for the special areas that we protect, we must also raise the money to make telephone calls, send letters, pay rent and utilities, and salaries. Although we only have a paid staff of two people, it costs us about \$89,000 per year to keep our doors open.

By supporting Chapter operations, our members enabled us to search the state to locate the two most endangered cacti in the world, and to protect them. Chapter operations money enabled us to catalogue over 113 threatened plant sites, and we are now working on protection plans for these plants, including the Organ Mountain Evening Primrose, Pecos Sunflower and Mescalero Thistle.

In the last twelve years, our members have helped us to save over 245,132 acres in 16 separate conservation projects. We feel this is a record to be proud of, a record to build on.

To gear up now for the very large job ahead, continuing our protection efforts in this state, we need to raise our operating budget. Members dues provide only about 18% of what it costs annually to keep the doors open. The rest comes from extra gifts from individuals, corporations and foundations.

The operating budget represents only part of our total fundraising program. But without that small percentage -- those vital operating funds -- our land protection efforts would fail.

Unlike dues which are split equally between the national and state office, every dollar raised in response to this fund drive will stay in New Mexico to save our remaining natural areas. No other organization in New Mexico has done or can achieve what the Conservancy continues to accomplish.

Between now and the year's end, we need to raise \$25,000 for operational support from our members. By supporting state operations last year, over 225 members donated more than \$11,000 -- but we were still unable to end 1984 in the black.

With the help of our members and friends we can raise the necessary money for the state office in 1985. If the members of The Native Plant Society of New Mexico can help and send a gift of \$100, \$50 or \$25 or any gift at all, it will make a big difference. A gift of \$100 or more makes the donor a Conservator of New Mexico. Conservators of New Mexico receive

Welcome from NMNPS--Las Cruces
State Meeting August 10 and 11, 1985

Activity Schedule:

8/10

7:45 A.M. Meet at New Mexico State University Horticulture Farm.
Approx. 1 block west of intersection of Main St. and University Ave.
Depart for Aguirre Springs.

1:00-2:00- Return to Hort Farm.

2:00-5:00-Your choice

1) socialize or rest

2) Guided tour, Town of Mesilla

3) Guided tour, Dry Country Plants

5:00 P.M. Leave from Hort Farm for White Sands National Monument

Cost \$1 or 2 per car. Must leave Monument by 10:00 P.M.

8/11

7:45 Meet at Hort Farm for field trip to Box Canyon

11:00-12:00 Return and depart for home.

Facilities and services:

1) We have arranged box lunches for Sat. 8/10 for those interested:
Sat. noon- Submarine sandwich with trimmings and soft drink \$3 50 (Brown Bag Deli)

Sat. nite-Fried chicken and trimmings and soft drink \$3.50 (Church's Fried Chicken)

2) Dormitory rooms with wash basin in room but shared restroom and showers at New Mex. State \$6.00 per night per person for 8/9 and 8/10 for 2 persons per room and \$10.00 for one per room: \$10.00 per person for one night (8/10)

Reservations are needed for rooms and meals by July 25.

If you wish to make your own arrangements for food and room, please do so.

Motels located close by are:

Motel	Phone	Approx. cost for two (Ask for NPS discount)
Holiday Inn	526-4411	\$60.50 per night
Howard Johnson	526-4441	52.00
Mission Inn	524-8591	50.00
Super 8	523-8695	29.88
Motel 6	526-3276	22.00

Las Cruces will be hot and sunny. Bring sun screen, hat and light clothes. Nights are cool. Sweater or jacket may be desired at night. Questions?

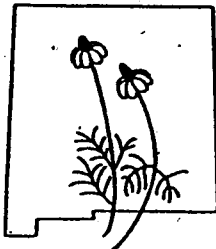
Please call Tom Wootten 522-4434 or Bob Reeves 646-1799 or 523-1806.

Send reservations to Tom Wootten

3904 Highway 70 E.

Las Cruces, NM 88001

We look forward to a great time.



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

NPS-NM is pleased to offer books for sale to our members at a discount. Currently we have the following titles.

	<u>Retail</u>	<u>Member Price</u>
Roadside Wildflowers of NM (Fox & Sublette)	5.95	4.80
Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants (Ortho)	5.95	4.80
Trees & Shrubs of the Uplands (Elmore)	7.95	6.40
Spring Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Rare & Endemic Plants of New Mexico	12.95	10.40
Flowers of the Southwestern Forests & Woodlands (Foxx & Hoard)	12.95	10.40
Landscaping with Texas Native Plants (Wasowski & Ryan)	23.95	19.40

Please add \$.75 postage for each book ordered. Allow 2-3 weeks for shipping.

Make checks payable to: NPS-NM Books
 P.O. Box 934
 Los Lunas NM 87031

Let us know if there is a particular book you would like us to order. We only need 2-3 people to request a book to order it. We will vary the titles from time to time as new books become available.

special recognition as a supporter of Conservancy programs in the state. We also send a print, suitable for framing, of the New Mexico Rainbow Cactus to new Conservator members.

At the time of this writing, we have prepared eight preserve designs for special places in the state. When the time comes to raise funds for these areas, "operating" fundraising will take a back seat to make room for the important projects. We do need the help of everyone who cares enough about our natural world to leave a bit of our heritage for those who come after us.

George and Myrtle, if you feel this is too strong to print in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico we will understand. You had asked what we were doing, and in addition to our ongoing process of identifying areas in need of preservation, this is our greatest need at the moment. We value our members and are concerned with their feelings that they get "blitzed" with requests for contributions from every organization that has their name. This is an opportunity to earmark gifts solely for New Mexico, and we feel that keeping our doors open and keeping The Nature Conservancy operating in this state is just as important as doing quality projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to inform you on our activities in New Mexico.

Editor's note: This letter is from
Marlis A. Hadley
New Mexico Field Office, The Nature Conservancy
P.O. Box 1846, Albuquerque, NM 87103

The New England Wildflower Society has compiled a 53 page listing of nearly 200 nurseries nationwide that supply native plants and wildflowers. Sources are divided by Region and are the result of a 1984 survey. Nursery Sources, Native Plants and Wildflowers is available for \$3.50 postpaid from NEWS/Dept. NS, Garden in the Woods, Hemenway Rd., Framingham, MA 01701.

WELCOME TO NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

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Notes on Breeding Mirabilis multiflora

by Jim Borland

According to a recent request in the Newsletter, information was wanted regarding members of the Nyctaginaceae family. Having particularly enjoyed Mirabilis multiflora for many years, especially its landscape potential, I have attempted to incorporate other flower colors into this perennial.

Two years ago the decision was made to use Mirabilis jalapa as the candidate for providing this color since the good solid colors of red, pink and yellow are easily available. The intent was to use both M. jalapa and M. multiflora as pollen receptors and pollen donors, thus enabling the collection of hybrid seed from both species.

Seed of each species were sown and resulting plants were grown in the greenhouse until flower color could be ascertained on M. jalapa.

The pollination pattern of both Mirabilis species is such that upon flower opening, the stigma, or pollen receptor organ, extends beyond the not yet open anther sacs. Apparently, the species hope for pollination by late afternoon and night flying insects which will bring pollen from another plant thus ensuring the benefits to be derived from cross pollination. Since the flower's nectaries are located at the base of the long floral tube, it is safe to assume that the pollinators are insects able to enjoy this bounty. Moths of the Sphingidea family or Sphinx moths are excellent candidates for this job. (Don't kill all your tomato hornworms).

However, should nature's flying denizens fail in their appointed tasks, self-pollination is practically ensured as the night wears on and morning finds the style coiled backwards, positioning the stigma amongst the now open pollen covered anthers.

Since the pollen is heavy and not easily air transported, no special anti-selfing precautions need be taken when attempting a hybridization project in a greenhouse other than emasculating the blossoms prior to their opening. The same plant, then, can contain both emasculated flowers ready to receive pollen from the other species and non-emasculated flowers to provide pollen to the other species.

The controlled cross was easily accomplished later in the evening by detaching a complete stamen and using it as a brush to deposit pollen grains onto the ready and now sticky stigma of the opposite species.

Over a hundred crosses were made in this manner between M. multiflora and the three colors of M. jalapa. Success of these crosses was first measured by observing the one maturing seed per involucre. The importance of using both species as female plants or potential seed setters become quickly apparent as seed developed only on M. jalapa. This has been experienced at least once before as studies on crossing M. jalapa with M. longiflora also resulted in seeds setting only on M. jalapa.

The second year's intent was to grow out this hybrid seed to observe the results and use these plants either as the finished product for eventual vegetative propagation or for a continued hybridization program. It was anticipated that a backcross would be necessary between the hybrids and M. multiflora to include more of its perennial, sprawling habit into the final product.

Seedlings, plants and flower color of the hybrids appeared exactly like M. jalapa. If this was not disappointing enough, time was not found to make the backcrosses either. The last

remaining hope in determining whether the hybrids were indeed hybrids was to allow them to self-pollinate and grow out this seed. The progeny of self-pollination in this case should have exhibited reversion back to the original species. They did not. These seedlings appeared exactly like M. jalapa in every character.

Apparently, as additional literature research would explain, it is not unusual for seeds to develop without benefit of a mixing of genes from pollen and ovule. The terms "apomixis" and "parthenogenesis" are used to describe this phenomenon.

Although the idea of introducing additional flower colors into Mirabilis multiflora has not been abandoned, physically carrying out the crossing will have to wait until other more pressing projects are completed.

If the reader knows of any color breaks in this species that are even a bit different than the usual magenta color, I would like to know of its existence. Literature suggests the existence of the occasional white or red flowered plant.

On a volcanic outcrop along I-25 between Maxwell and Springer, northern New Mexico, several plants exhibited reddish involucre which nicely complemented the normal colored flower. Unfortunately, it was too early for seed and too late for cuttings.

Germination of M. multiflora

seed has frustrated several people as they have experienced limited initial or sporadic germination. A small study is underway here to determine if a hard seed coat is responsible for this germination pattern. Initial observations indicate that seed coat thickness is highly variable among seeds from a single plant. If this characteristic results in delayed imbibition with some seeds, it would explain sporadic germination. It might also explain why some people attain greater germination with a period of stratification. Although cotyledon emergence is delayed with cold temperatures, this same cold-moist period would allow the time necessary for the thicker coated seeds to imbibe. Upon removal from stratification conditions, both those seeds which would have germinated quickly anyway and those which required more time to imbibe would germinate together. In this case, the cold temperatures acted only to delay the immediately germinable seed.

It might also be noted that seed which appears mottled or speckled in coloration has been found to be hollow.

This superb adaptable plant, which goes by several common names (Mountain, Prairie, Colorado or New Mexico Four O'clock) has been practically ignored by commercial growers of any type of plants. Potentially, its destiny may be to be one of those native plants embraced by owners of mesic or xeric landscapes.

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Snakeweed, Watch Out!

Scientists at NMSU are studying longhorned beetles as a possible biological control of snakeweed (Gutierrezia Sarothrae or Xanthocephalum Sarothrae) on rangeland. Snakeweed is a major problem on many cattle ranges in New Mexico, causing sickness, abortion and death. Herbicide control is expensive and must be reapplied every few years.

For the past six years, Dr. David Richman and Dr. Ellis Huddlestron have focused on native insects which attack snakeweed. There are a number of insects that attack snakeweed, but few can control it. The longhorned beetle and the snakeweed grasshopper have the most potential, with the longhorned beetle being most effective.

The larval stage burrows into the plant's taproot. By the time it pupates and emerges, the

taproot is hollowed-out and the plant dies. Under certain conditions, these beetles have been known to destroy several acres or more of mature snakeweed. Longhorned beetles only attack plants large enough for the larva to mature on, so control of seedlings is still a concern.

The entomologists are studying the beetles, trying to understand their life cycle, breeding patterns and predators. Longhorned beetles are vulnerable to a checkered beetle and an ichneumonid wasp parasite. A breakthrough in the near future is unlikely, but the entomologists are confident that they can discover a biological control for snakeweed.

--Excerpts from NMSU Information Bulletin.

A seminar on "Cacti: Trademarks of the Desert" will be conducted by Alan Zimmerman at the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute Arboretum and Botanical Garden from 10.00 a.m.--2.00 p.m. on Saturday, July 6. The Arboretum is located on Route 118, 3.3 miles south of Fort Davis, Texas. The fee for the seminar is \$3.00 for Institute members and \$5.00 for nonmembers.

A seminar on "Natural Sources of Fabric Dyes and the Folk Art of Spinning" will be conducted by John Davis on Saturday, August 3 at CDRI, 10.00 a.m.--2:00 p.m.; \$3:00 for CDRI members and \$5.00 for nonmembers.

The Arboretum occupies 500 acres of scenic Davis Mountains foothills habitat. It was established in 1978 as a nature preserve and a showcase for Chihuahuan Desert plants and animals.

According to the New York Times, biologists in Arizona have revealed, as a result of a three-year study, that some flowering plants will change the color of their blooms to attract insects to pollinate them.

They found phlox plants shift the color of their blooms from dark to light to encourage pollination from birds and insects that favor certain colors. This depends on which birds or insects are around at different times of the year.

The researchers found that scarlet gilia produce muted shades of their deep red color in mid-August after the hummingbirds, that like that color have left. The gilia plants' secondary pollinators, that come later, are hawkmoths. They like lighter colors so the gilia oblige by producing blooms from pinks to white.

The newest addition in the Ortho Books series is entitled Landscaping with Native Plants. A nationwide overview of the trend toward naturalized landscapes, this encouraging publication emphasizes the concept of plant communities, ecosystems. Appealing photographs, concise information and an underlying appreciation of natural beauty make this a good introduction to the idea of native landscaping. The author, Will Wilson, finished the manuscript literally on his death bed. He died last March, Landscaping with Wildflowers and Native Plants his last work. Our sympathies to his wife and family.

Judith Phillips



In May, my husband, Cody, and I made a trip to Big Bend National Park on our honeymoon. We were surprised to find that most of the native plants had finished blooming. However, the yucca, ocotillo, prickly pear cactus and the sotol were in brilliant fashion. The Scotch broom made the most heavenly aroma (like a bed of roses) whenever we stopped to view or read the nature markers along the entrance to Cottonwood Campsite. The yellow Mexican hats along the highway were the largest I have ever seen. Near the entrance to the park along the river, we spotted tree tobacco in which the humming birds were having a fantastic feast.

Returning by way of the Davis Mountains, we found the cool air invigorating after the heat of the Big Bend area. Here we saw Apache plume, Indian paint brush, aljaurita, wall walnut and oak trees.

We are looking forward to going again next year, perhaps earlier in the spring, to locate even more native plants and birds.

Nina Keeler



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Annual Dues:
 ___ Individual & Family 58.00
 ___ Friend of the Society 525.00

Please send a gift membership and card to:

To better serve our membership, please check areas of particular interest.

Conservation:

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___ Propagation ___ Seed Collection

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___ Civic ___ Commercial ___ Highway

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___ Medicinal ___ Dyes

___ Photography ___ Field Trips

___ Ethnobotany ___ Paleobotany

___ Growing for resale

___ Informal classes

___ Newsletter ___ Youth projects

___ Organize new chapter

___ Membership drive

___ Other (please specify)

How would you describe your level of expertise? What areas would you be willing to help with?

Are you a member of an organization with related purposes (Garden Club, NM Wildflower Association, etc.)?

Chapter Reports, continued

Selenia dissecta; and a gorgeous delicate looking dainty shrub that should be sold in nurseries-- believed to be Poliomentha incana--has narrow gray leaves; many snapdragons, white, speckled and lavender. We are hoping to go back to a different area in the fall.

On our weekend trip to the Guadalupe, we were delighted to have Randy Russel and his wife from Ruidoso; Frank Hayes, his wife and son from Carlsbad and Paul and Grace Gordon from La Luz. Our many thanks to these Forest Service people who spent so much of their holiday weekend showing us around Sitting Bull Falls and Last Chance Canyon. The scenery is spectacular--enormous slabs of

rock covered with water. The children promptly went wading. At Sitting Bull Falls the water appears to fall from flat ground to the rocks below with a curtain of yellow columbines--Chaplenii--hanging over the water at the top of the falls. Red pestemons grow out of the rocks partway down the falls area. On the trail near the falls we had a snack of wild mulberries and watercress. Patches of butterfly weeds--Asclepias tuberosa--with their beautiful orange flowers were in full bloom. Several members took pictures that we hope to add to the slide collection and also to send to Frank Hays for identification.

Jean Dodd

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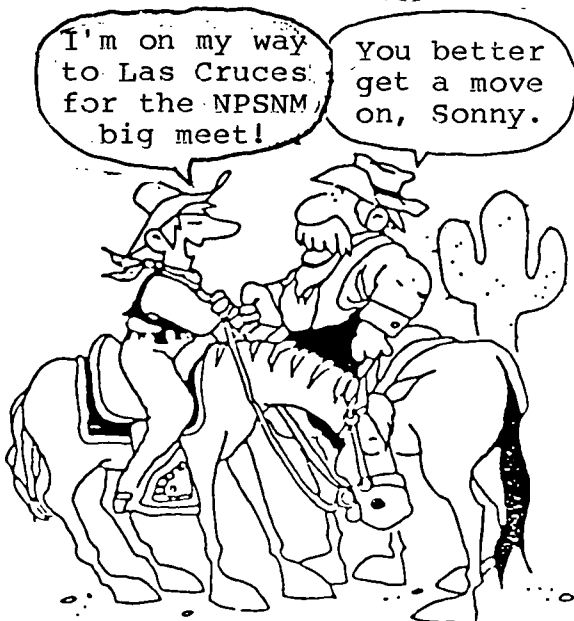
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I'm on my way to Las Cruces for the NPSNM big meet!

You better get a move on, Sonny.

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