



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

July/August 1986

CALENDAR

Volume XI No. 4

- July 6 LAS CRUCES Pot Luck Picnic, Karr Canyon. Pan Am Center 7 a.m.
- July 9 LAS CRUCES Tour Hort Farm. Meet at Hort Farm, University & Main St.
- July 12-13 Arizona NPS Annual Meeting, Prescott, Arizona. Contact Stephanie Meyer in Tucson at 296-4385.
- July 13 SANTA FE field trip on Windsor Trail with Irene Mitchell. Call Iris for details. (988-1709)
- July 26 CDRI Home Landscaping: Microhabitats, Rock Work and Low-tech Greenhouses with Burr Williams, Director Midland Nature Center. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- July 27 OTERO chapter trip Sierra Blanca. Meet at Smokey Bear Ranger Station on the road to Alto at 10:30 a.m. with a lunch.
- July 27 SANTA FE field trip to Tierra Amarilla-Tres Piedras area. Call Iris for details. (988-1709)
- Aug 9 LAS CRUCES trip to Radium Springs. Pan Am Center 8:00 a.m.
- Aug 9 SANTA FE chapter field trip to Chicoma Mountain with Phyllis Huges. (All Santa Fe field trips meet at 9 a.m. at PERA lot across from the Capitol to form car pools. Bring a lunch.)
- Aug 13 LAS CRUCES Wild Roses of the West by Pat Cole, 7:30 p.m. Room 190 Ag Bldg. NMSU
- Aug 12-13 OPERATION WILDFLOWER WORKSHOP, Montezuma, NM
- Aug 17 OTERO chapter Marsh area-Sacramento. Meet at 10 a.m. at Cloudcroft Inn (first restaurant on the left as you enter town). Bring a lunch.
- Aug 20 SANTA FE chapter will meet at Mary and Jerry Buchholz's home, White Rock, and tour their garden followed by a pot luck supper. Field trip to Los Alamos Ski Basin will precede tour for those with the afternoon free. Car pool from PERA at 1:30 p.m. for field trip; at 5:30 p.m. for garden tour and supper. Please call Iris (988-1709) before August 14 if you plan to attend so she may coordinate food and carpools.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Native Plant Society members are always busy doing something. There's Ellen Wilde of Santa Fe, who's written a small booklet on Gardening with Natives in the Santa Fe area. Proceeds from the sale go to the Folk Art Museum for their native plant landscape. Tom Wootten of Las Cruces recently taught the Native Plants section for the Las Cruces Master Gardener program. Ted Hodoba is interested in creating a slide show about the Native Plant Society. Anyone with slides of our members in action should contact Ted.

Some of the Albuquerque Chapter may work on a species list for the Petroglyph Escarpment area. No one expects to find rare plants but you never know! Jean Dodd and the Otero Chapter are busy working on the Bill Mayfield Memorial Garden in Alamogordo.

Not all the activities are strictly plant related—we can always use people who don't know plants but do know how to type, or will be on a calling committee. We need YOU!!!

Lisa

NPS-NM is pleased to offer books for sale to our members at a discount.
New titles are:

	Retail	Member Price
Summer Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
The Wildflower Meadow Book (L. Martin)	12.95	10.40
Audubon Guide to Wildflowers, Western (Spellenberg)	13.50	10.80
New Mexico Grasses, A Vegetative Key	8.95	7.20
A Garden of Wildflowers	12.95	10.40

Other titles are:

Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants (Ortho)	5.95	4.80
Trees & Shrubs of the Uplands (Elmore)	7.95	6.40
Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mts. (Harrington)	9.95	7.95
Rocky Mountain Wildflowers	10.95	8.80
Field Guide to SW & Texas Plants (Niehaus, et al.)	12.95	10.40
Spring Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Rare & Endemic Plants of New Mexico	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 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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone No. _____

Other interested family members:

Please enclose your check payable to:

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
P.O. Box 5917
Santa Fe, NM 87502

Annual Dues:

___ Individual & Family \$8.00
___ Friend of the Society \$25.00

Please send a gift membership and card to:

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

Conservation:

___ Endangered species, Habitats
___ Restoring abused areas
___ Water conservation
___ Propagation ___ Seed Collection

Landscaping: ___ Residential
___ Civic ___ Commercial ___ Highway

Special Uses: ___ Food ___ Fiber
___ 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.)?

Meet Our People

This is going to be an article about the difference one person can make, especially if she has the help of a few friends. Keep in mind as you read this that you may be one of those friends.

Ellen Wilde (NPS-NM, Santa Fe) has put together a very useful little book, A Gardener's Guide to Growing Native Plants in the Santa Fe Area. Based on her own gardening experiences and observations, the book is 45 pages of specific recommendations: which plants to use, listed by water requirements and described from a gardener's perspective as to growth rate, ornamental characteristics, transplanting, maintenance and local quirks of each plant. The book also includes a brief discussion of how to approach the landscape design, special plant combinations and finally, a calendar outlining the best times for various gardening chores. As a low-elevation hot dunes gardener, this Santa Fean's perspective adds a dimension to my knowledge of the plants described. Like a visit to an unfamiliar garden, it starts the gray cells working, the sap flowing. Although there is much in the book for any gardener, Ellen's Gardener's Guide is a real boon to newly transplanted gardeners to the Pinon-Juniper zone. The book is available from Ellen Wilde (110 Calle Pinonero, Santa Fe 87505) for a modest \$4.50 and all profits after the cost of printing go to the landscape fund for the Native Display Garden at the Museum of International Folk Art in Santa Fe. (ed-why not enclose an extra dollar or two as a contribution)


The Display Garden, a long term project, is taking shape under Ellen's guidance. With a gardener's resourcefulness, the volunteer planting and maintenance help comes from the students of Ellen's seasonal native gardening classes taught at the Museum. The proceeds of book sales will give the classes and Museum more plants and seeds. Hats off to Ellen for undertaking and underwriting both the Display Garden and the Gardener's Guide!

Not one to rest on her laurels or repose on her Penstemons, Ellen, in the last issue of the Newsletter, proposed a new project, a New Mexico gardener's guide to Penstemon growing--both slide show and "how-to" booklet. This is where again "the help of friends" is essential. Any insight into soil or

exposure preferences, relative water requirements, germination peculiarities, etc. of species you are growing would be helpful. Any slides of plants, either in the garden or in the wild, would also be appreciated. We all stand to learn alot by this Penstemon pursuit, and getting to know Ellen is a bonus.

As membership secretary, I collect those applications filled out listing members' "particular interests and expertise". There are alot of you who have alot in common. You should get to know each other. This article has been about the difference Ellen Wilde and friends are making, and is the beginning of a series of articles, maybe even a regular Newsletter column, featuring you, the membership of NPS-NM, who you are and what you are doing. This is also an invitation to contribute to the series, either about your own or other member's projects that may be of interest to our group.

Judith Phillips



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LANDSCAPE ORNAMENTALS



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We have opened a new retail outlet in
Albuquerque at --
520 MONTAÑO N.W.
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THANKS to all of you who have already
stopped by! Good friends & good germination
are the keys to a happy life....

CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero

Las Cruces

In March we visited and admired the homes of the Hanawalts, Becketts and Huttos all near Tularosa. At the Hanawalts we had a seed and seedling exchange and were awed at the logistics of planting their windbreak. Numerous wildflowers were in bloom including blazing star, Mexican evening primrose, peppergrass, desert marigold and Phalecia integrifolia. The Beckett's home and landscaping including especially fragrant golden currant and a beautifully shaped desert willow. The Hutto's brand new, not even moved-into home had to be showed off as we tried to figure out a new floor plan on the same foundation of their former home.

April was the "big trip" on the White Sands Missile Range. We are only permitted one trip a year. Thirty people turned out including four from the Santa Fe Chapter for the trip to Rhodes Canyon. We saw hillsides covered with ocotillos in bloom, masses of Rhus microphylla, blooming Cliff Fendler Bush and Algerita, as well as Feather Pea Bush and Apache Plume. Smaller plants seen included Phlox nama, Phacelia integrifolia, Scarlet Mint, desert Chickory, yellow primrose and purple climbing snapdragon. Obviously mid-April is a fantastic time of year to see the desert in bloom.

The May Plant Sale in Alamogordo was once again just great thanks to Lucille Wilson and her year round plant potting and tending. Thanks to Tom Wootten for coming over from Las Cruces with plants from his nursery, Dry Country Plants.

The June fieldtrip to Aguirre Springs found our group meeting up with the Las Cruces Chapter and together we did some joint exploring. Dry weather resulted in few wildflowers. However the area is beautiful, wildflowers or no. Sotol stalks were in various stages of flowering, some an outstanding rusty red color. Turpentine bushes (Haplopappus laricifolius) were seen in various sizes. The Mountain Spray (Holodiscus dumosus) was in full bloom with the eye catching pinkish to white flower sprays at the branch ends.

Jean

A small contingent traveled to Hueco Tanks State Park (Texas), west of El Paso in April. This is an area that combines a natural water containment with supplementation by man to create a permanent source. Many people are unfamiliar with this park but it offers much, petrohylyphs, wildflowers, picnic area, birds and Mexican buckeye (Ungnadia speciosa) which is especially pretty when in bloom.

Our April program was a report including slides about palm trees by Dr. David Richman. Your reporter had no idea there are so many palm species.

The May field trip led by Helen Polley, was to Animas Canyon, just west of Caballo Dam. From the Interstate Highway you are unaware that just 3 to 5 miles to the west is a good sized colony of Arizona sycamore trees. The specimens are obviously old and large in stature. Complementing the sycamores are Arizona walnuts, Arizona western soapberry and cat claw acacia trees (more like shrubs in the latter case). This is quite a spectacle to we desert rats that sometimes are forced to consider Yuccas as trees due to the scarcity of tall plants.

The May program was on wildflowers of Connecticut by Larry Mitchell. Larry's slides and his commentary were a welcome change for those of us unfamiliar with hardwood forests' understories. What was that different looking sand on the ground, Larry? Looked like a lot of something we have all read about called "leaves".

Our June fieldtrip to Aguirre Springs managed to stretch out a 30 minute trip to over 3½ hours--too much to see. We were joined by the very enthusiastic Otero County Chapter.

Tom

1986 NPS-NM OFFICERS

President--Lisa Johnston
Vice President--Tom Wootten
Recording Secretary--Dovie Thomas
Treasurer--Jean Dodd
Membership Secretary--Judith Phillips

Albuquerque

At our May meeting, Will Moyer gave us a crash course on the anatomy of grasses and a fast-paced introduction to a few grass families. Now Will knows what he is talking about, but I believe he goes too far when he tell us that grasses are easy to identify. Still, we got all fired up and resolved to learn at least one new grass on each of our upcoming fieldtrips.

In June we had a change of subjects, something not directly involved with plants. Ike Eastvold, the chief energy source behind the "Save Our Petroglyphs" movement gave a great talk on his favorite subject. Attendance was dismal and all of you who didn't show up missed a real treat. Ike showed us dozens of slides of Rockart; of starcreatures, shieldmen, the humpbacked flutist, of serpents and birds; all pecked into lavastones by unknown men eons ago. It is indeed tragic that just as we are beginning to learn more about these bizarre images, their days are numbered; threatened by bulldozers and vandals. Let's hope they can be saved.

Walt



DAM

In 1968 Congress created the National Wild and Scenic River System. The first such river was on the Rio Grande from the Colorado stateline south to N.M. State Highway 96 bridge. This includes the spectacular Rio Grande gorge. Ironically now there is a proposal to construct a dam on this stretch of the river. Known as the Chiflo Dam, it was first proposed by the Corps of Engineers in the early 40's. Recently a group of various interests have approached Congressman Richardson about reviving the dam proposal. This dam would flood 18 miles of the Rio Grande Gorge, a truly wild and scenic river. Write Congressman Richardson and let your feelings be known about this project which would result in the loss of one more of our increasingly rare Southwestern riparian systems.

Ted Hodoba

Santa Fe

On May 3rd, the plant sale at the Museum of International Folk Art to raise funds for the Native Plant Garden on the grounds had an excellent showing. By 10:30 a.m. all the plant were purchased. The total amount earned by the plant sale is still being increased due to sale of Ellen Wild's booklet.

Our April meeting presented by John Hubbard, Endangered Species Special Project Leader, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, was a unique program on "Native Plant Communities in New Mexico". Basically, the stands of flowers in the wild were at their peak at blossom-time and slides of these "Native Plant Communities" covered the entire state from north to south and east to west--mountains, grasslands and deserts. For those wanting to visit firsthand large areas of colorful and abundant wildflowers looking their best in stands native to their environment, this was the program to provide up-to-date information on where to see these.

At the May 21st meeting, David Henderson of the Randall Davey Center Audubon Society Center illustrated his unusual slide program entitled "Attracting Birds with Native Plants" with wildflower slides, but many birds also. Following brief lists will provide those not in attendance at this excellent meeting an idea of attracting birds to your yard:

Juniper	Excellent for fruit-eating birds
Mistletoe	Bluebird/Robin/ Fruit-eating birds
Squaw Bush \$	
Gooseberries	Oriole
Chamisa	Goldfinch
Sky Rocket or any orange/red tubular flower	Hummingbird
Thistle/Rice Grass/ Gamma Grass	Small seed-eating birds



This and That...

Perennial Salvias seem to germinate best given a cold-moist pretreatment of only 3 or 4 weeks and sown when nights are near freezing and days are in the 50-70° range according to Judith Phillips.

Tom Wootten reports a marked increase in growth on normally slow growing species using calcium nitrate as a fertilizer. Calcium is known to improve nitrogen utilization in many plants, so it makes sense that it would be especially true of plants preferring calcareous soils. In the March issue of HortIdeas, a monthly newsletter reporting on horticultural research and information networking (Rte. 1 Box 302, Gravel Switch, KY 40328) there was a report on Texas A&M's tests of calcium nitrate supplemented feeding of bermudagrass to enhance growth and coloration, the bottom line being best results with a combination of calcium nitrate and urea.

Ted Hodoba, pampering and puzzling over his Penstemons, had some interesting observations. Anyone who has grown any number of Penstemon species has had a few plants that just seemed to dry up and disappear almost overnight. Loring Jones, mainstay of Northplan Seed Producers, Moscow, Idaho, noted in the December, 1985 issue of the American Penstemon Society Bulletin, that verticillium wilt, all too common in Western soils, attacks Penstemon particularly *P. palmeri*. Lisa Johnston reports similar problems with the *P. palmeri* release "Cedar" at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. The good news is that similar symptoms don't always mean death by wilt. Plants growing in the partial shade of tall trees may brown out due to increased light intensity--sunburn--when the trees lose their leaves, and a temporary cover of shade cloth/cheese cloth is a seasonal solution. The best solution to the wilt problem is to remove affected plants and not plant susceptible varieties in infected soil.

Finally, a few notes on rooting cuttings also from HortIdeas; a surface "sterilization" of perishable softwood cuttings (like Apache Plume) with a 1 to 10 chlorine bleach solution may reduce disease problems during rooting. Rooting of alkaline preferring species may be promoted by dipping the base of the cuttings in a 2N sulfuric acid solution for

15 seconds. While that may seem extreme (!), the acid dip results in softer callous tissue which allows root initials to develop faster/stronger. On cliffrose cuttings, where the score is 0-0 at the bottom of the ninth, what have we got to lose?

Anniversary T-shirt



Many thanks to all of you who contributed logos to our 10th Anniversary T-shirt contest. Each entry was wonderful but only one could be selected. The above logo was selected by the Board of Directors at the June 22 meeting as the winning entry. The contributor of this delightful design was Ted Hodoba, past NPS-NM president. For his efforts he will receive a T-shirt with this logo.

This 10th Anniversary T-shirt will come in just one color, turquoise with black lettering. Price for this special T-shirt has yet to be established, but should be comparable to our NPS logo T-shirts. There is a possibility sweat shirts could also be printed with this special anniversary logo. For more information on price or printing a sweat shirt, contact Lisa Johnston at NPS-NM Books, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031

Books

Books Books

Books Books Books

Hot Bloomers

SUMMER WILDFLOWERS OF NEW MEXICO--William C. Martin and Charles R. Hutchins, illustrations by Robert DeWitt Ivey. Published by University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, NM 87131. Paper \$12.95--Cloth \$24.95.

Summer Wildflowers of New Mexico is no surprise and no disappointment. If you know the first of this series this is enough said. You'll want to dash out and buy one or, better yet, order one from NPS/NM's Lisa Johnston, Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

Any system of grouping our wildflowers for the untrained is easy to criticize. This trio to be of spring, summer and fall wildflowers seems the way to go for field guides.

New Mexico has a diverse climate, wildly fluctuating weather (average precipitation amounts and dates are only statisticians' abstractions). Some wildflowers respond to available moisture rather than a calendar date. Some are persistent or cyclic bloomers. So a lot of duplication in the separate volumes is to be expected. You got it--even the introductions. But duplications in text are necessary if individual volumes are to be complete field guides.

Although too often not done, combining descriptions and illustrations on facing pages as done here is a thoughtful touch. Aim of text is to identify and characterize the authors' selection of summer blooming wildflowers. A plant is identified by common and scientific name, briefly described; general habitat, distribution and elevational range given. Key information is not limited to plants in bloom. The inevitable Indian lore is kept to a merciful minimum. Maybe the illustrations are not as complete nor detailed as the untrained would like. (We need all the help we can get). Where

Specializing in Flowering Natives



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applicable, reference to a color plate is made in the plant description. Overall quality of color photography and printing is excellent even though such things as paintbrush with black foliage sneaked in. It's only another proof of Murphy's Law.

University of New Mexico Press is to be thanked for making these Martin, Hutchins, Ivey books of limited sales potential available at such low prices.

To assure the publisher the reviewer has actually read and examined the book, an enthusiastic review often has some carping criticisms. Here are two: There are more durable paper covers available. The size is not ideal for field use as are, for example, the Audubon field guides.

George Finley

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

Guided Wildflower Tours

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Dear NPS-NM....

In the last Newsletter a request was made for a review of the book: Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers, by Harry Phillips, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1985.

My impressions are that plant propagators who handle plants from all over the world will find this book useful, not great, but useful. For instance, I now know how Blooms Nursery in Bressingham, England vegetatively propagates their famous double Trillium.

Understandably lacking is precise information regarding germination requirements for most of the described plants. However, even the serious amateur may only desire to know if a seed will germinate immediately or needs to be fall sown and wintered outdoors for spring germination.

A special feature includes described methods and times for cutting propagation, a subject seldom discussed in a popular book dealing with wildflowers. Other somewhat obvious propagation methods are discussed as well: divisions, runners, bulbs, etc.

Not counting the fern species, the book covers brief identifying descriptions, habitat, soils and other good cultural information for 79 species of mostly central eastern United States. For some unapparent reason, the species are treated chronologically by blooming time in North Carolina, a fact not readily apparent except through some searching of the text.

New Mexico gardeners growing eastern U.S. plants will find elements of this book very helpful. Growers of New Mexican

plants will have to ignore most of the information and be satisfied with being presented with additional methods of manipulating vegetative parts for propagation.

Jim Borland
Propagator, Denver
Botanical Garden

Ed--Mr. Borland has several copies of H.D. Harrington's Manual of the Plants of Colorado for sale or trade. This fine reference book is very well suited for our higher elevations and Four Corners area. Contact him at 320 Adams, Denver, CO 80206





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