



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

July / August 1989

VOL. XV No.4

CALENDAR

Santa Fe

Sunday, July 9, 8A.M. Meet at PERA lot, across from the Capitol Building. Trip leader: Diane McFarlane from the Forest Service, to the Cow Creek area of the Santa Fe Forest. We will help in a survey for the wood lily. Bring lunch, water. We will need a high clearance vehicle, please call if you can bring one. Call Mimi Hubby for further information..(983-1658).

Sunday, July 23, 8 A. M. Meet at PERA lot. Trip leader: Phyllis Hughes to Canjilon Lakes. Bring lunch, water. Call Mimi or Phyllis (983-4875) for further information.

Weekend, August 12 and 13 Overnight trip to Capulin Mountain and Raton area being planned. Call Mimi or Ellen Wilde 982-1406) for information after mid- July.

Weekend, September 9 and 10, joint outing with Otero Chapter in Cuba area. More information in next Newsletter.

Albuquerque

July 5, 7:30 P. M. Museum of Albuquerque. Speaker on Land Reclamation.

August 2 7:30 P. M. Museum of Albuquerque. Speaker to be announced.

Gila - Silver City

July 16 Sunday 9:00 A. M. Meet at Fine Arts Parking lot. Ralph Fisher, leader for trip to Red Rock Game Preserve. Call Jay Curtice if weather is doubtful (338-5460).

Wednesday, July 26 7:30 P. M. Harlan Hall of Science, WNMU. Ralph Fisher will show slides of summer wildflowers.

Saturday, August 12 Field trip all day to Mule Creek with Audubon.

Wednesday, August 23 Show and Tell / Seed Seminar.

August 27, Sunday Half-day field trip Separ Rd. Bob Abercrombie, leader

Otero

Saturday, July 29 Field trip to the Capitan Mountains. Paul Gordon, leader. Meet at Smoky Bear Park at 10:00. Bring lunch and water.

August 10, 11, and 12. Otero County Fair.

(The June 24 trip, which had to be cancelled, will be rescheduled!

Las Cruces

Sunday, July 9, 7 A.M. Meet at NMSU Pan Am Center N. Parking Lot
Field trip to Black Range with Potluck Picnic.

Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 P.M. Gerald Thomas Hall Ag Bldg. NMSU
Show and Tell

Sunday, August 6 7:00 A.M. Meet at Pan Am Center Parking Lot
Spring Canyon, Floritas and City of Rocks.(Entrance Fees!)

Wednesday, August 9, 7:30 Gerald Thomas Hall. Mike Howard will
speak on Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

PLAN AHEAD FOR OTERO TRIP TO DAVIS MOUNTAINS, OCTOBER 6, 7, 8

The group will meet at 9:00 A.M. at the entrance to Davis Mountains State Park on October 7. The park is 4 miles west of Fort Davis on Texas 118. For motel reservations call Limpia Hotel in Fort Davis (915) 426-3237, The Lodge (915) 426-3254. Cost at the Lodge: 2 people, 1 bed \$37. 2 people, 2 beds \$42.40.

Camping costs \$2 to get in, \$6. a night, water and electric \$9, and with a sewer is \$10 a night. Call (915) 426-3337 for reservations. Campsites dot Limpia Canyon beside Limpia Creek - probably the favored camping site for the group.

If you would like to go early or stay late, the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute is in nearby Alpine. They are P. O. Box 1334, Alpine, Texas 79830 and the phone is

(915)837-2475. The world renowned University of Texas McDonald Observatory is atop Mount Locke. Read more in Sept 1986 issue and others of Texas Highways Magazine.

The 1,869 acre park has a 74 mile scenic loop through a variety of Davis Mountain landscapes and circles the mile high town of Fort Davis. It passes by nine scenic roadside parks, beautiful Madera Canyon, the highest point on the state highway system and the Observatory.

Bob and Kay Jenness and Dora Lee will be scouting this territory before the trip to be sure we see the most interesting spots. We extend a special welcome to birders to join us. If you live outside the Otero area, please let Jean Dodd know if you plan to join us. 434- 3041.

WHAT'S "UP TOP" DOWN SOUTH

Roger Peterson

Of New Mexico's alpine tundra areas, that on Sierra Blanca Peak is one of the smallest, is farthest south, is most dubiously alpine, yet is the most interesting. Rimming the Rocky Mountains' southernmost glacial cirque, these 600 to 800 acres are dominated in part by lichen (Omphalodium) and in part by grass (mostly shortleaf fescue, Festuca brachyphylla) --whereas our other alpine vegetation is overwhelmingly sedge dominated. Alpine species such as dwarf willow and elk sedge are missing and even the Southern Rockies' alpine endemics snowlover (Chionophila) and (Castilleja heydenii) don't get this far south. But there are enough species closely associated with tundra, including alplily (Lloydia) and alpine avens (Geum or Acomastylis) that we must admit that the Mescalero-Apaches have a true timberline on their 12000-foot mountain.

This mountain has its own endemic species, as Sangre de Cristo tundra does not: the hairy dwarf Sierra Blanca cinquefoil (Potentilla sierrae-blancae), described by Wootton in 1898, occupies only a few rocky acres-- and provides an argument against over development of the Indians' resort facilities here. Furthermore this mountaintop boasts North America's only tundra salamander: the Sacramento salamander, mostly under spruce bark in subalpine habitats, lives well beyond timberline under rocks and in cushion plants. See Will Moir, 1970, Arctic and Alpine Research, 2:155, for salamander and plant surveys.

Access is easy: drive to the

ski resort north of Ruidoso, park outside its gate, and (if the gondola is not running) walk the fine three-mile trail, ascending 2300 feet. One craggy little section near the peak might intimidate acrophobes, but except for the threat of sudden storms, there are no real dangers on this pint-sized arctic island in the sky. A longer walk, with good campsites, extends northward into the Lincoln National Forest's White Mountains Wilderness. Views of White Sands and the black Malpais can't be beat.

Please don't pick the flowers!

From a talk by Roger to the Santa Fe Chapter in the spring. Refer to Roger's previous article, Vol. 10 No.3, May/June 1985 for more information on alpine areas and additional reference recommendations.



The chairlift from Santa Fe Ski Basin is scheduled to begin operation July 1st so it will be easier to reach alpine areas in the Sangre de Cristos this summer.



7"
ALP LILY
Lloydia serotina

BOSQUE UPDATE

Judith Philips

On a recent visit to the Refuge, arriving just before 8:00 A. M., we joined four cottontails and six quail for breakfast in the meadow. We were there to feast our eyes-- they had other plans. The meadow is quite green and while the most obvious vegetation is that despicable duo, kochia and tumbleweed, there is a developing understory of the intended cover. We were able to find good stands of blue flax, gayfeather, penstemons, gaillardia, verbesina, gilia and rudbeckia, as well as thready drifts of grass, probably blue grama. Since scanning two acres of seedlings is a lot like sorting spaghetti, there are colonies of many nameless but not noxious plants that in time will be identified and appreciated. All things considered, the meadow is developing well.

Since the new two acre salad bar has opened, the browsing pressure is off the rest of the plantings -- the greatest losses seem to be of young Chrysothamnus plants (it's not called Rabbitbrush for no reason), but given its propensity for reseeding I don't think we need to worry. The Cliffroses have almost doubled in size, as have the Apache Plume, Winterfat and Threadleaf Sage.

Given the dry windy weather, we have postponed the second phase transplanting until September, and have opted instead to plant only the heat-loving Desert Willow, Honey Mesquite, Ocotillo and Creosote bush in June so that they will be able to root out enough to survive the coming winter.

We would like to schedule another Bosque weekend, similar to

the Spring Meadow Party, for Sept. 16 and 17.. This time the Sunday morning work detail will involve transplanting 1 gallon size perennials into the planting islands. Call me for details 345-6248 TThSat. 8-5:00. or 1 Sanchez rd. Veguita, 87062.

Albuquerque Botanic Garden News

Susan Wachter

Imagine a garden open all year-round, where the mountain stream gurgles and splashes down the mountain, where roguish deer sneak in to nibble in the Spruce Demonstration Garden, and where Botany field trips are conducted on snow shoes. Such is the State Arboretum of Utah.

Dr. Richard Hildreth, director of the new State Arboretum of Utah recently spoke in Albuquerque at a fund-raising event sponsored by the Friends of the Rio Grande Botanic Garden. Utah Native Plant Society co-founder, Dr. Hildreth offered insight into the problems in creating and running a Botanic Garden.

While the arboretum was getting off the ground, public involvement was critical. Site selection and, of course, fundraising, were most important aspects of the job.

The University of Utah's campus in Salt Lake City has been a center for plant research and, in particular, oak research. While the campus itself offers an impressive array of trees, the area encompassing the oak research area and a grasslands preserve east of the campus was selected for the site of the arboretum. It was already endowed with a stream, so the design was built around it, with pools, cataracts and bridges enhancing it and creating focal points. Major

clean-up operations were necessary, but care was taken to preserve existing plant materials. Some new native plant material was brought in and some exotics and the Arboretum was able to open within a very short time.

The arboretum is used all year round, not only for botanical interests. Concerts in the outdoor amphitheater attract an audience that might otherwise never visit the arboretum.

The present stream planting and amphitheater are a small portion of the overall arboretum plan. Eventually it will demonstrate the multiple botanical regions in Utah. The Red Bluff area adjacent to the arboretum is an area that has not been grazed since the turn of the century and will provide unique opportunities for studying undisturbed tall grass prairie.

Dr. Hildreth supported the idea of making the Rio Grande Botanic Garden a major showcase for New Mexico Flora. Fortunately, Dr. Hildreth had time to meet with the RGBG Advisory Board as well as the design firm and city representatives. We hope his insights, experience and support will lead to a spectacular botanic garden for New Mexico.



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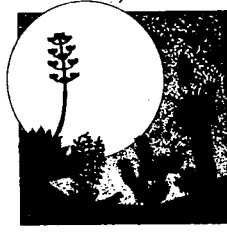
LAS CRUCES CHAPTER REPORT

Melanie Florence

Our field trip to Bishop's Cap, May 7th, took place on a very hot day but we had a good turnout and plenty of fun. The most common plants seen were cacti: in bloom, large mounds of strawberry cactus and lots of yellow prickly pear; not in bloom, claret cup, cylinder bells, Turk's cap, Christmas cactus, Pinecone cactus and other prickly pears. We looked for the rare Sneed's pincushion, but didn't find it.

Bill Dunmire of the Nature Conservancy was our guest speaker on May 10. He spoke about New Mexico's great diversity and our rare and endangered species.

We have many soil types (from volcanic to limestone), moisture regimes (from mountain meadows to dry deserts), types of topography (canyons, mountains, rolling hills, playas) and floristic provinces (Chihuahuan, Madrean, Great Basin, Plains and Rocky Mountain) in our state. It is the Nature Conservancy's goal to preserve diversity by establishing preserves in a representative community of each type. People are welcome to visit the preserves, although some of the preserves require prior arrangements. There is no hunting or camping, however.



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NATIVE PLANTS OF THE
SOUTHWEST AND MEXICO

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Jean Dodd

Our field trip to Kilbourne Hole was most interesting since none of the twelve of us were very familiar with the plants! We walked all around the crater and two of us went into the crater. We saw some interesting plants but what were they? Hopefully, someone who knows the plants will accompany us next time.

Melanie Florence discussed geomorphology (the shape of land forms) and its influence on plants at the June 14 meeting. The shape of the land affects the way water flows during a rainstorm. A diagram of a mountain in southern New Mexico was used to explain how flowing water shapes the soils which in turn form the habitat for vegetation. For example, creosote bush, which most people assume is natural to many areas, was in the past restricted to areas with shallow, coarse soil and a caliche layer from 6 inches to 3 feet below the soil surface.

After the brief discussion she showed slides of many of the areas around southwestern New Mexico which illustrated particular landforms and their distinctive vegetation, with thanks to Greg Magee, photographer.

Our plant sale was a great success again, thanks to Lucille Wilson and the terrific work she does with plants all year, getting ready for the sale. Tom Wootten (Dry Country Plants) and Ted Hodoba (Desert Moon Nursery) added more variety and expertise. Nancy Hutto and Carol Beckett sold books and gave out membership information. Lots of willing workers helped both with the work to be done and by bringing plants to sell.

The May edible native plant pot-luck, held at the handsome passive solar adobe home of George and Ad Hanawalt near Tularosa was another success story. In spite of the heat and drought, members came up with edible native dishes that were not only delicious but interesting as well. We had lots of salads using pinenuts, watercress, corn, sunflower seeds, juniperberries and cattails in various combinations. Anasazi beans were brought with cornbread made in a waffle iron! Handy! Wild black walnuts used in muffins were accompanied by wild raspberry and mesquite jellies. We had amaranth bread, oat bran muffins, wild rice with pinyon nuts and wild onions, watercress and cream cheese sandwiches, calabaza (pumpkin) cookies, prickly pear syrup and tamale pie. Black currant leaf tea mixed with regular tea was a lovely color. "The Tumbleweed Gourmet" was used for recipes for a watercress salad and chile rice. Ruby Buckner went all out as usual. She brought flowers for the table, a lot of wildflower pictures and pinyon brittle. She had written an article about Osha, made a tea for tasting, and brought a sample of the root for everyone to see.

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

Guided Tours :

Wildflowers, Birds,

Ghost Towns



Myra McCormick (505) 538-2538

Silver City, N.M. 88061

Editor's note - I had hoped to include her article, but ran out of space. Look for it next issue.

Mimi Hubby

We had a very successful plant sale April 29 indoors at the Samburg Market Center and would like to thank all the members and friends who contributed, purchased and worked as well as these nurseries who generously donated to help make it a success:

Plants of the Southwest, SF
 Agua Fria, SF
 Desert Moon, Veguita
 Payne's Nursery, SF
 Jackalope Pottery, Nursery Div.
 The Tree Committee, Santa Fe,
 which distributes trees for
 the celebration of Arbor Day.

NOTES

Dry Country Plants is closing its nursery operation after some six years. We really wish to say thank you to all of our many friends and supporters in the Native Plant Society and especially in Otero County Chapter. Their efforts in stimulating the use of native plants for landscaping in general, and the very strong assistance they have given us over the years has been just tremendous. Thank you.

Thomas H. Wootten

The above news makes us very sad, but we hope that after a little R and R Tom will have more time for the many other interests he has and the causes to which he has always been so generous with his tremendous expertise.

We seldom stop to think what a service nursery people do for us and few know how many hours and how much hard work goes into a good operation. Do say thank you the next time you go to purchase a plant that took years of knowledge and lots of skill and time and labor to grow for you. We are all grateful, particularly to those who grow the native plants, which are not as easy as the exotics. THANK YOU, TOM!

New Mexico's Second Xeriscape Conference will be held in Albuquerque on October 27 & 28. More information in Sept. or contact Patricia Sussmann, publicity chairman, 268-7738.

Sandra Lynn (Albuq. member) has written a very informative article on "Wild Sunflowers: Heritage and Resource" for the Spring issue of Wildflower, The Journal of the National Wildflower Research Center.

WANTED: SLIDE COLLECTION CURATOR
 NPS-NM has a growing collection of slides of native plants and landscapes and we need someone to take charge of the collection, solicit donations, catalogue entries and make the slides available to our membership. If you could do this, please contact Lisa Johnston, 831 W. 19th St., Portales, NM 88130 (356-3942).

WANTED: PUBLICITY CHAIRMAN
 NPS-NM needs someone to assist with publicity for the Society and for the larger events as they occur. Contact Lisa.

NEW BOOK AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SOCIETY. A Grower's Guide to Wildflowers is a combination book/catalogue produced by Wildseed Company of Eagle, Texas. It describes 70 wildflowers that are adapted throughout the U. S. and there are color pictures of each wildflower. Wildseed also includes their current catalogue. Retail \$7.95. Member price \$6.25 plus \$1.00 postage. NPS-NM Books P.O.Box 1206 Portales N.M. 88130. A complete list of books is also available. Remember, your purchases contribute to the Society.

Please write or call your Senators and Representative in support of the purchase of the Gray Ranch by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become the Animas National Wildlife Refuge!

Strong protests, including those of Santa Fe member, Gene Loring, forced the city of Santa Fe to "find" another area for landfill instead of clearing acres and acres of Pinyon-Juniper covered hills to use the soil. YOUR VOICE DOES COUNT!

A loud thank you to Susan Wachter for the years she has done this job and for turning all her files over to me in such beautiful condition. This issue has not had the time and attention it deserves from me because of other commitments, but I promise to do better in the future. Your comments, corrections and suggestions will be much appreciated. I have never done a job like this before and have much to learn. Please have all material for the next issue in by August 16.

Have a great summer and don't forget to write!

Your editor, E. M. Wilde

There are many benefits in belonging to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. If you are not a member and would like to join us, send dues of \$8.00 for an individual or couple, or \$25.00 for a sustaining membership to NPS-NM, PO Box 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

Lisa Johnston, President

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Albuquerque: Walter Graf, 4735 W. Lea SW, 87105.
(877-6469)

Las Cruces: Melanie Florence, R.T. 1 Box 711,
Las Mesa, 88044. (525-3529)

Otero County: Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd.,
Alamogordo, 88310. (434-3041)

Santa Fe: Mimi Hubby, 525 Camino Cabra, Santa Fe, 87501.
(983-1658)

Silver City: Beck Smith, (538-5350)

FLASH!!! THE BOSQUE WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 16 AND 17, WILL BE THE STATE MEETING FOR THIS YEAR. SAVE THE DATE AND PLAN TO ATTEND. A SEPARATE MAILING WILL BE SENT OUT IN AUGUST WITH DETAILS.

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