

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 1989

VOLUME XIV NUMBER 6

CALENDAR

GILA

November 12, Sunday All -day field trip to the Pelloncillo Mountains of the Coronado National Forest in extreme SW New Mexico. Mainly driving, limited walking. 8:30 A. M. departure. Call Bob O'Keefe at 388-5101 for details.

November 30, Thursday 7:00 P. M. Terry Gunnulson will present a program on Bonsai at the Public Library. Note change of day, time, location!

December 9, Saturday Seed and plant exchange. Contact Anita Morton 538-3455.

OTERO

NOVEMBER 4 Potluck at noon followed by annual business meeting at the home of Charles and Shirley Pase, 300 Encino, Tularosa. House is on the east side of the highway right after the Catholic Church.

SANTA FE

November 15, Wednesday, 7:30 St. John's College Lab Bldg. Rm 122. Dr. John Hubbard of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, NPS member and Newsletter contributor, will give a program on the Lower Frisco Box - a de facto "Wild and Scenic River".

December 10, Sunday, 3:00 P. M. Meet at Audubon Center for winter walk, slide sharing and pot luck supper. It is located on Upper Canyon Rd. Call Mimi Hubby for details. 983-1658

LAS CRUCES

Saturday, November 11, 6:30 P. M. St. James Episcopal Church Parish Hall
Pot Luck supper. Bring your table service.

EVERYONE

NOVEMBER 18 and 19, 1989 Bosque Fall Festival. The Socorro Chamber of Commerce and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge are sponsoring this event to celebrate the fall return of the snow geese and cranes. It is also the 50th anniversary of the Bosque and it is hosting a reunion of the Civilian Conservation Corp, who built much of the refuge between 1939 and 1941. For a brochure of all the activities planned, call the Bosque 835-1828 or Socorro C of C 835-0424. NPS members will be there to talk about native plants and the landscaping, there will be guided tours, wildlife photography demos, bird banding demos, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation talks and much more.

EVERYONE

SEPTEMBER 14, 15, 16 1990 Our energetic and wonderful Otero Chapter has invited us to have next year's annual state meeting in their area and are already busy making plans. They will have a Friday night pot luck in the Tularosa area at a member's home, a trip to the mountains near Cloudcroft Saturday, Dr. Spellenberg will speak on Saturday night and Sunday we will visit members' gardens in a variety of habitats and communities! More to come, save the dates!

WELCOME!

NEW MEMBERS - June to October 1989

ALBUQUERQUE

Lynn Doxon
Goldie Buckner
Linda Miller
Anna and Hank Nusbaum
Robert and Barbara Rossnagle
Helen Williamson
Raymond Heath
Pamela Keeley
Holiday Baer
Theresa Garwood

GILA

Ron and Gail Gibbs
Luci and Jim Nolan
Jane Sooby
Lee Kandu
Eric Finklestein

LAS CRUCES

C. M. Liddell
Katie Skaggs
Laura Stacy
Marvlin Harkey
Willard Beattie

OTERO

Sam Barker
Dee McIntier
Annette Pearce
M/M Frank Wilson

SANTA FE

Elizabeth Altman
Mildred Miller
Jane Palanza
Wm. and Teresa Sheehan
Stephen Ruggles
Margaret Robbins
Mark Talley

AND

Milton Sanderson, Lincoln
Julia Koontz, Organ
Earl Kessel, Las Vegas
Marylou and Scott Shartle, Montezuma
Sally Wasowski, Tucson, Az.

PLEASE BE ACTIVE PARTICIPANTS! Let us know what interests you. Come on field trips anywhere in the state. You are always welcome at any meeting. You may come a stranger, but you will leave a friend!

BOTANIZING THE BOSQUE DEL APACHE

Roger Peterson

With 57,000 acres of marshes, ditches, ponds, river, bosques, bajadas, dunes and mountains (of limestone, volcanic and metamorphic rocks), Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge supports a plethora of plants. The Refuge biologist, John Taylor, wants to know what they are and Iris David, Barbara Bro and I, with a paid student assistant, are helping. We are creating a herbarium, mounted in post binders, for ready reference by Refuge workers. This month saw delivery of the first year's edition, some 340 species or varieties. Another 300 species have been reported on the Refuge so far, and are goals for next year's collecting. Not all of those reports are reliable, but even so, unreported species seem likely to bring the total to 700. Inquiries from persons interested in the project are invited: write Roger Peterson, St. John's College, Santa Fe 87501.



THE BOSQUE PLANTING MARATHON

Judith Phillips

What brings a group of people together on a sunny September Sunday to scrape, chisel and chip nearly a thousand holes in a former parking lot?

I don't know exactly what motivated this distinguished group to gather from across the state, but I am certainly grateful that they did. A slow nursery season made almost all the plants needed to complete the plan available. Enthusiasm that blinds foresight had the 1024 specimens assembled at the Bosque that morning. I honestly didn't intend for us to transplant 352 one gallon, 182 four-inch pot, and 300+ two-inch pot and tube-pack wildflowers and shrubs on the same day, and the fact that we did still amazes me. This crew, members and non-members alike, worked diligently and with humor and song for hours and the planting is done! Thanks, great crew!



A WILDFLOWER PARK FOR LOS ALAMOS

Charles F. Keller

The mesa top that holds the central business district of Los Alamos has had a long history of development from the earliest homesteaders, who chopped down trees for their log houses, to the bulldozers that clear land for new foundations today. Gone is the rich mesa top flora that adapted to survive on the shallow soil above volcanic tuff. Only at the far eastern tip of the mesa, beyond the airstrip, does undisturbed soil support an endemic population. This is a characteristic dry pinon/juniper flora because of the curious rainfall pattern -- fairly heavy and frequent in the hills west of the mesa and falling off rapidly to the east. The endemic plants characteristic of the wetter western areas have disappeared, to be replaced by annuals and opportunistic members of the composite and evening primrose families where the soil has not been covered, or cultivated and planted with exotics.

The northern boundary of this mesa is Pueblo Canyon and its bottomland is nearly pristine. When I lived nearby, I used to wander it for hours in all seasons. To get to the mesa top, one climbed through breaks in the forty-foot cliffs and then over a narrow region broken by shallow ravines climbing up to the road. Here is a magical place -- totally untouched except for modest logging years ago. It was bypassed by the growing town. Views from the cliffs are spectacular. Because the land slopes down from the developed areas, it is a quiet place where birdsong and the wind in the trees are the sounds you hear. Some fifty native species of plants grow here. They include the relatively rare Early Blue Daisy, Erigeron vetensis, and another daisy under study as a possible subspecies not yet recognized. There are several penstemons, Nodding Onion, Allium cernuum, Scarlet Gilia, Ipomopsis aggregata, Little Blue Gilia, Ipomopsis pauciflora, Valerian, Clematis pseudoalpina, Golden Pea, Thermopsis pinetorum, two Hymenoxys, Yellow Puccoon and many other flowers, at least ten native grasses,

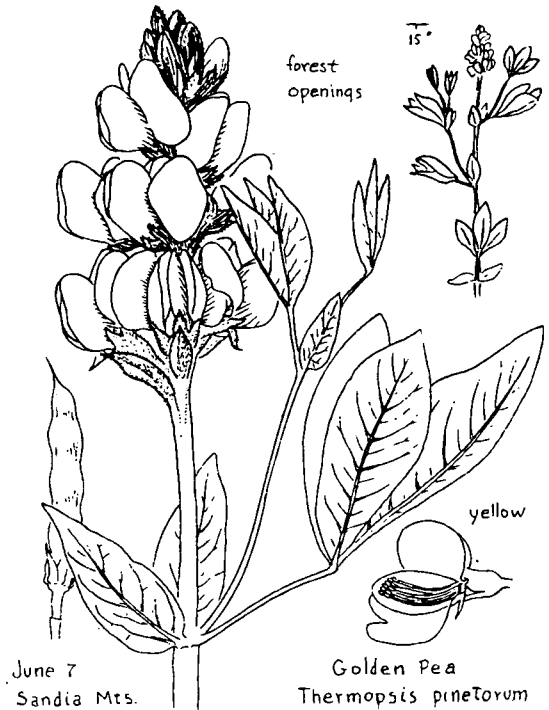
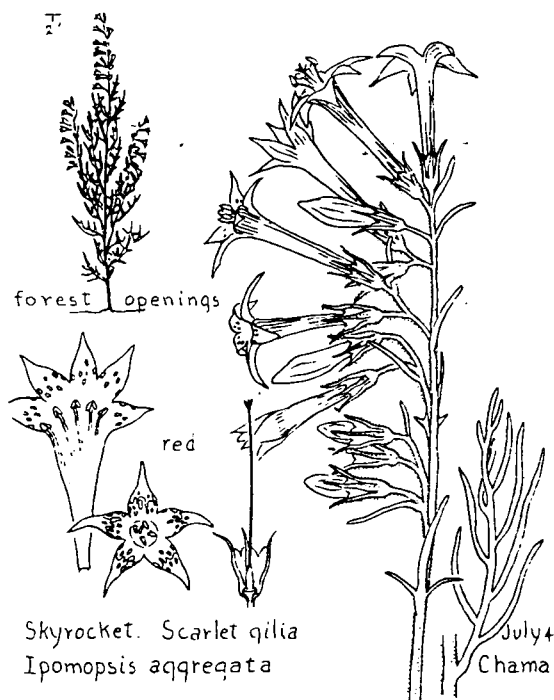
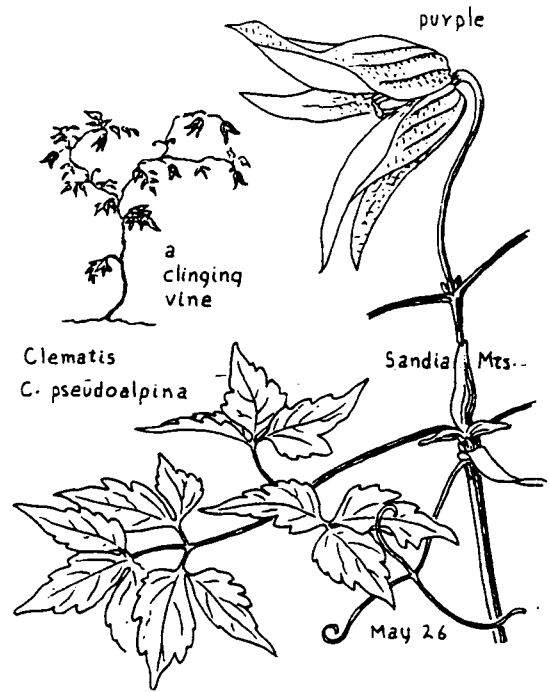
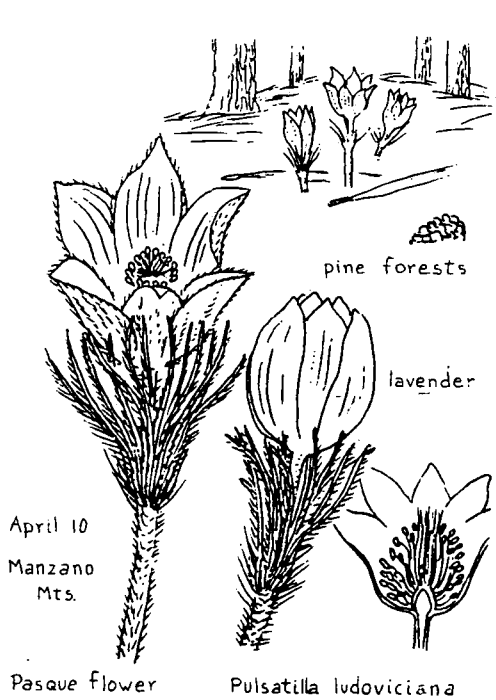
a fern and several lovely shrubs: Cliff-bush, Jamesia americana, Chokecherry, New Mexico Olive, Forestiera Neomexicana, Kinnikinnik, Currant, Wild Rose, Fendler Barberry and Mountain Mahogany. The trees are Ponderosa, Douglas Fir, White Fir, Limber Pine, Gambel Oak and Water Birch. Just across the road from this area is another smaller area with some of the same flora, but also masses of Pasque Flower, Pulsatilla ludoviciana. On Easter Sunday, 1986 I counted over 300 along this strip, some in bunches of 20 or more! By early May, an estimated fifteen hundred had bloomed.

In 1986 plans were drawn up to build a municipal swimming pool on an adjoining site. This construction and heavy use threatened these last two native regions on the townsite mesa. We proposed that they be considered for preservation as a county wildflower park.

Why such a park? Aren't we surrounded by wild areas? What about the floors of the canyons that divide the town? These are good questions. Of course the town is surrounded by wild areas; however, it takes just enough time and planning to visit them that such trips are usually put off. Secondly, habitats vary around town due to differences in altitude, exposure and moisture. The two areas described are uniquely different from canyon bottoms and areas back of the town and are only five minutes from the business district.

Our proposal was unanimously accepted by the county council, yet to date there has been no further action. The pool has been built and minor damage was done to the site by erosion, but the land remains today in excellent condition and awaits the county's attention. A growing number of citizens have seen it and are interested in its development. I have given several slide shows to local service organizations and there is universal wonder that such a beautiful place remains here in the middle of Los Alamos. We are optimistic that whatever is keeping the County from allowing modest development will change and we will at last have the Los Alamos Wildflower Park.

This page was reserved for a drawing of the Los Alamos Wildflower Garden, but unfortunately it did not arrive in time. I am using instead some flower drawings of Mr. Robert Dewitt Ivey from his Flowering Plants of New Mexico.



Calls to City Council members, expressing interest might help bring it about. Mr. Keller has plans for protective barriers, signs, paths and benches to enhance its value as a place to enjoy the natural environment and would welcome your help in this project.

CHAPTER REPORTS

ALBUQUERQUE

About 20 people attended our field trip to Red Canyon in the Manzanos on August 20. We could see the effects of the drought all around us: many plants either never bloomed at all or set no seeds. We found not a single edible berry. Still, we did identify a worthwhile number of species, including a mass of Flame Scalecap, a fungus which looked really appetizing, but no one was game enough to try them. Some of the group continued on, looking for the White Dodecatheon (without success) and a few hardy hikers went on to the top. It was a fun outing- let's do another real soon!

Our September meeting featured Robert Dewitt Ivey, whose subject was composites. He is the author of the very popular Flowering Plants of New Mexico and has done much to increase knowledge of our composites. Many amateur field guides elaborate on rare lilies and orchids, but give short shrift to common, eye-catching "DYC's". Not so, Mr. Ivey. He treats them with the care and respect they certainly deserve. Using his own key to the composites and backed up with many great slides, he took us on a whirlwind journey through this immense family; a tour-de-force that left some of us quite glassy-eyed and exhausted. He followed up his talk with a field trip the following Sunday. The goal was to find 35 different composites. Along south 14 we had little trouble coming up with that many and we had a great time doing so.

The evening of our October meeting it rained, so most of our group of intrepid outdoor people stayed home. Too bad, because Susan Wachter, former Newsletter Editor, was the speaker. She brought us up-to-date on the Rio Grande Botanic Garden, in a delightful program sparkling with wit and humor and backed up with numerous slides. The good news is that the project is continuing, at least on paper, and the San Gabriel Park Site is almost a certainty. Of bad news there is a lot: a crucial lack of funding, public and corporate apathy and a sinister coalition of populist forces which seems to be against all quality of life projects; a combination which may yet doom the garden. Lots of letters to City and County lawmakers could be the crucial difference! Please write!

Walter Graf

GILA

On August 27 Bob Abercrombie led us on a very informative field trip in the White Signal area on the eastern edge of the Burro mountains. Ralph Fisher compiled a list of 75 wildflowers seen on this trip (not all in bloom). Also seen was a specimen of Salix taxifolia, the yew-leaf willow. This particular willow species is normally found only in southern Hidalgo County.

Local author, Dutch Salmon, was the guest speaker at our September 27th meeting. The slide show he presented was "Life Zones of Southwestern New Mexico." Taking us through at least five different life zones, the slides were from a hiking/canoeing trip Dutch made a few years ago down the Gila River. The journey began at 10,000+ feet at Bead Spring in the Mogollon mountains and concluded at Safford, Arizona, elevation 3,000 feet.

On Saturday, September 30th, over three thousand people gathered at the confluence of Sapillo Creek and Terry Canyon in the Gila National Forest to commemorate the twenty-fifth anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act. The highlight of the celebration was a two hour concert given by Michael Martin Murphy. The Gila Native Plant Society shared an exhibit area with the local Audubon Society. Many people expressed an interest in both groups and much information was dispersed.

Ron Flenke

LAS CRUCES

Our field trip to the Salt Flats in southeastern New Mexico (Sept. 10) was very interesting. We started out bright and early (7:00 a.m.) because it was a three hour drive. We stopped once to rescue a box turtle on the highway and a second time to look at the showy Heliotropium greggii near the side road to Dell City where we also saw a western diamondback rattlesnake.

The salt flats consist of stabilized gypsum dunes with loamy soils in between. The purpose of the trip was to look at the Lepidos spartum population which is a relict population from the Pleistocene period. There are only about 5,000 plants left in the area with about 100 over the border in Texas. Lepidos is a medium to large shrub and over 80% of the population is decadent with very little reproduction. Since no one knows much about the ecology of this plant, we don't know if it is dying out.

Lepidos is a category 2 candidate on the Federal Threatened and Endangered species list. The salt flats, which are on Bureau of Land Management land, have been nominated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This would protect the area from degradation (there is some Off-Road Vehicle use there now).

Other plants in the area we saw were Grama grass cactus (!) in its southernmost limits, typical gypsum plants such as Gypsum dropseed, Gypsum grama, Gypsum-weed (Coldenia hispidissima), Gaillardia multiceps and Selinocarpus lanceolatus; Pickleweed and Seepweed along the dry lake margins and Alkali sacaton on the loamy soils. The grasses were dry because, according to a nearby rancher, the area has had only 1 1/2 inches of rain this year. Apparently, that is common for the area. Thanks, Mike Howard, of the Bureau of Land Management, for showing us the area.

At our September 13th meeting, Jan Meissner demonstrated how she makes still art out of native plant roots. She buys handmade pots and then goes out into the desert to find dry roots that fit the pots. She usually uses desert willow or salt bush roots. Then she designs still art around the roots and pots using commercially grown dried flowers, scrap iron, etc. She pointed out the balance and texture in her prize winning designs. Thanks, Jan, for showing us an interesting way to use native plants.

The day spent at Box Canyon on October 8th was very enjoyable. Not only did we have our plant experts with us (Bob, Tom and Sandy) but we had three visitors from the Silver City chapter. Surprisingly, many plants were still blooming such as an Oenothera species,

Mirabilis multiflora, Blackfoot daisy and Sanvitalia abertii. We also saw many species in various stages of forming seeds (bright red berries on the Ibervillea gourd vine, big seed pods of a milkweed vine and the chinese lanterns of Physalia, for example). What made the day even more interesting was the abundance of baby spade foot and red spotted toads everywhere. We found one large pool beneath the dam with two different types of tadpoles but we couldn't find where the other toads hatched from.

Tom Wootten talked to us about the Scrophulariaceae family and the plants he has had personal experience with. First he gave a brief overview of the family then he described five types of plants, in particular (Penstemon spp., Indian paintbrush, Monkey flowers, creeping snapdragons and Scrophularia macrantha). He showed slides of the plants, talked about where they can be seen in the wild, explained propagating techniques and gave us growing hints. Thank you, Tom, for a very interesting talk.

Melanie Florence

OTERO

From High Rolls, south of Cloudcroft in the Sacramento Mountains, Paul Gordon took the Otero Group on our West Side Road Trip. The road climbs steadily through a lush plant community that grows right up to the roadside. Pink wild roses were the predominant plants in bloom in August. We also found Southwestern Rabbitbrush, Chrysothamnus pulchellus, with its deep green leaves and bright yellow flowers. Roadside signs named the canyons as we drove along and we saw beautiful vistas of mountains to the west. Desert Mountain Lilac, Ceanothus greggii, was in full bloom on Hornbuckle Hill, which many of us would call a mountain. The altitude at the top according to Toad Wilson was 8,500 feet. On the way back to Cloudcroft we stopped at a marsh and a waterfall.

Charley Pase showed us beautiful rock formations and fascinating plants adapted to harsh and specialized conditions in the San Ysidro area where he had worked for the BLM some ten years ago. Mirabilis multiflora, Four O'clock, provided brilliant patches of color in otherwise subtly colored landscapes. Vegetation decreased as we arrived at the edge of a gypsum ridge, elevation 6,300 feet, and looked down into a small version of the Grand Canyon (minus pollution). Here we saw two rare plants, Abronia bigelovii and Selinocarpus lanceolatus, as well as Calylophus hartwegii and a tiny Townsendia. At lunchtime we stopped at a sandy place full of blooming Penstemon ambiguus, Dalea lanata, Palafoxia sphacelata and tiny white Heliotropium convolvulaceum among other flowers.. We visited a cold spring to become acquainted with Pickleweed, Allenrolfia occidentalis and a poisonous hollow reed, Triglochin maritima, Arrowgrass. Thanks, Charley! (And an additional thank you from Santa Fe members who were invited along.)

Members from El Paso, Las Cruces, Tularosa, the Sacramentos, and Alamogordo went on the Otero trip to the Davis Mountains 10-6, 7, 8, '89. Paul Whitefield, graduate student at Sul Ross U., accompanied by his wife, Annete, led our Saturday trip. We started from Davis Mtn. State Park along the north side of the Davis Mountains on Hwy. 118 and eventually wound up on the south side of the mountains to see the contrast in vegetation. Since one of Paul's interests is geology, he gave us an overview of the development of the land over time as we made various stops along the road. Not far from the Park we stopped at the parking area for the MacDonald Observatory and learned that we were on the highest paved road in Texas.

We went from communities of oak-juniper to oak, juniper and Mexican pinyon, to ponderosa pine and pinyon, to the lower desert. All this with very little sign of human habitation except for the fences. The oak were predominantly Emory and Gray. Mesquite was everywhere and desert willow plentiful. Spots of color came from the yellow leaves of the walnut trees - Texas Black Walnut, Juglans microcarpa. We spent quite a while in Madera Canyon, an ever-

green woodland.

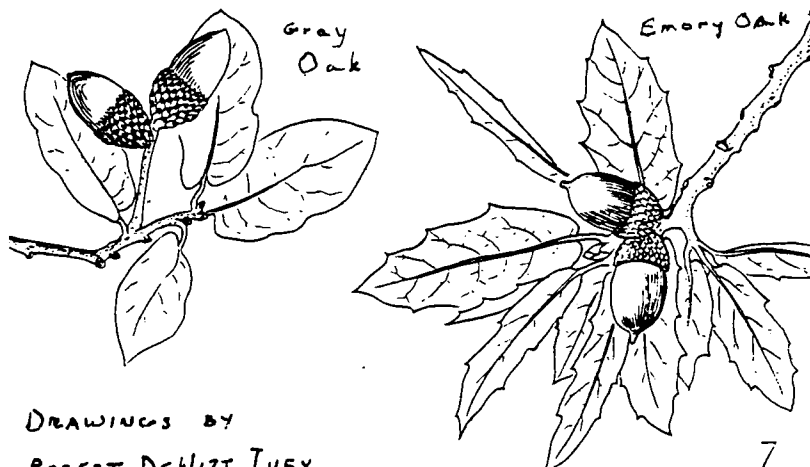
While we saw an amazing variety of plants, at this time of year the wildflowers were well past their peak. One interesting observation was that of all the different plant communities we saw, the lower desert plant life was the most diverse.

Jean Dodd

SANTA FE

We were fortunate that Gail Haggard could come as a substitute speaker for our September program. Her contagious enthusiasm and wonderful slides of native grasses and wildflowers are always inspiring. She advocated native grasses for their beauty and compatibility with wildflowers, as well as their practical advantages of saving water, preventing soil erosion, food for birds, and eliminating the need for chemicals. It was a pleasure to have you, Gail. We miss you and hope to see and hear from you more often. Gail has just moved her Santa Fe retail store of Plants of the Southwest to 930 Baca Street.

Donna House, botanist for the Nature Conservancy, gave us an insight into the number and variety of rare and endangered plants that exist on Indian lands in the Four Corners region. She spoke of how knowledgeable many of the people are about their vegetation, how careful they are to protect plants and how they are trying to pass their knowledge and concern on to the younger generation. Her superb slides of great vistas, tiny cacti, sedges, and flowers greatly enhanced a wonderful program. Thanks, Donna!



1989's ANNUAL MEETING

Mimi Hubby

Looking east from Socorro and north of the Bosque one sees a land of dry hills that looks quite desolate. Have you ever wondered what is over there? We were lucky to be taken through a portion of that area by two men from BLM on the Saturday hike of our annual meeting at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge. About 20 of us caravanned over a rough road that is being considered for official status as a "Scenic Byway". We would certainly agree that it is scenic. We saw creosote bush, Larrea tridentata, Mesquite, Prosopis glandulosa, Ocotillo, Fouquieria splendens, Winterfat, Eurotia lanata and Buckwheats among other things. Some of the group took a hike along an arroyo, while a few drove to the end of the hike to meet us later and ferry us back to the cars. Those who hiked saw Littleleaf Sumac, Rhus microphylla, Apache Plume, Fallugia paradoxa, some Desert Willow, Chilopsis linearis, and Cottonwoods. Some of the flowers seen were Sphaeralceas in lovely shades of pink, orchid and lavender, Chocolate flower, Berlandiera lyrata, Desert Marigold, Baileya multiradiata, a Calylophus, an Allionia, Felty Grounzel, a mustard, Nerisyrenia camporum, and Coldenia.

The hike ended in a narrow quarter-mile long, spectacular canyon with towering cliffs. At the end we came upon the special highlight of the trip, the Arroyo del Tajo Pictograph Site. This unique site has over 75 polychrome figures on a shallow rock shelter. They represent a series of events, with various Pueblo Indian religious figures and symbols, including some masks. They were most likely painted by the group the Spanish settlers named the "Piro Indians". Also in the area were some sink-holes known as "Tinajas". The Bureau of Land Management is planning to manage this area for its recreational and scenic values, and to preserve the pictograph site, which has not yet been fully studied. We are most grateful to Kevin Carter, who led us and to Ted Hodoba who arranged it for us.

After the hike we took a quick trip through the Refuge and saw many egrets,

herons, ducks and geese. We returned to a wonderful New Mexican feast with enchiladas, beans, rice, green chile stew, sopapillas and the best melons I have eaten all summer. Afterward, Roger Peterson shared the herbarium he and his co-workers are making for the Bosque with us. We were fascinated with the variety of plants that have been catalogued, what a wonderful job of mounting they have done and the superb photographs that accompany many of them. Everyone found more books to purchase from the NMNPS collection, and after a good visiting session, retired to our comfortable bunk houses or campers so we could rise early for another tour of the Bosque at dawn. The night was filled with the sounds of coyotes, owls and birds and a beautiful moon lit up the night so we could see deer coming to feed. Judith Phillips has written elsewhere about the morning work session so I will conclude with many thanks to Philip Norton and the staff of the Bosque and NPS members for a splendid and memorable weekend.



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FROM THE SOUTH

Tom Wootten

Here is a southerner with egg on his face! Last issue I encouraged every chapter to designate a conservation contact person to work with Ted Hodoba. First meeting was held during the State meeting and guess whose chapter was not represented! The meeting was called while I was in Arizona. My apologies have been expressed to Ted.

I was in Arizona for a week long meeting at an Ecology Camp of the Audubon Society in the Chiricahua Mountains, a birthday present from my lady love. Most attendees were from the East Coast and Midwest. I was very interested in their views about conservation, particularly in the Southwest. We have some really great brothers and sisters around the country! One lady from the Midwest asked the panelists from BLM and Forest Service (who had described at some length the highly developed recreational facilities they had recently completed), "That's nice to know what you have done for us, but what have you done for wildlife?"

The only unhappy note in my stay in was an article in the Arizona Game and Fish Department Magazine wherein the editor implied that the people of Arizona were being deceived by wilderness proponents who are urging wilderness status for some desert areas, whereas "everyone" knows wilderness is mountain lakes and fir covered forests. Wow! How to hurt this desert rat's feelings! I defer to Aldo Leopold in Sand Country Almanac, page 268: (The Wilderness System) "is lacking, however, in desert areas, probably because of that under-aged brand of esthetics which limits the definition of 'scenery' to lakes and pine trees."

I learned of Secretary Lujan's comments about the Gray Ranch and joined a large number of people in our area in calling our congressional delegates as well as the chairmen of the House and Senate conference committee to try and

secure their backing for Senator Bingaman's proposal to allocate a million dollars toward this purchase. What a blow that the selfish interests of a few may have lost a true national treasure for all of us! The funds are there in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, but remain unappropriated. I have not given up, nor should anyone!

Many thanks to members of the Gila Chapter for joining us on our field trip to our "Box Canyon". Truly hope you enjoyed yourselves. We appreciate your support.

THE SANTA FE BOTANIC GARDEN IS COMING!

An offer of 180+ acres of rolling pinyon and juniper covered hills with a year-round stream and riparian area has been made and final details of the gift are being worked out. The land is in the vicinity of La Cienega. The Garden has also been granted non-profit status by the IRS. This is a very exciting project and it would be wonderful to show your support to the sponsors by sending a check for \$10.00 for an individual or \$25.00 for a supporting membership in Friends of the Garden to P. O. Box 2774, Santa Fe, NM 87504. More information about it will be in future issues. They would also appreciate volunteer help.

DROUGHT TOLERANT & NATIVE
LANDSCAPE ORNAMENTALS

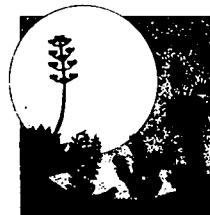


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George Finley, native plant enthusiast, photographer and valued friend, passed away in early September. He and his wife, Myrtle, were past co-editors of the NPS-NM newsletter. Those of us who knew him cherish memories of him.

George loved to laugh and make others laugh; loved to argue and make others think. He wrote poetry and captured the ephemeral on film. George with the sharp focus and soft center . . . For those of you who never met him, here he is in his own words:

"No matter how conservationists deplore and fight it, the habitats for natives become fewer and smaller each year. It is later than we want to realize and we are more ignorant than we should be about adaptability of native plants to a changing environment, and about how we can be of real help."

And his parting shots as newsletter editor:

"How do I say goodbye to a job?"

1. With a sense of achievement that one more obstacle to a comprehensive loafing program has been removed?
2. With thanks, if you could give it without sounding *awkish*, to the many who have helped the cause?
3. With dignity you ain't got?
4. With relief, knowing that Susan Wachter's ready to be the new editor?
5. With realization that it's been a great ego trip and you feel good about that?

Answer: All of the above."

Looking for ways to help, for ways to learn, for challenges to meet, he was an outstanding member of NPS. We're gonna miss him.

Judith Phillips



FOR YOUR READING PLEASURE

Phyllis Hughes and Deborah Flynn Post have collaborated on a delightful new booklet, Santa Fe Bouquet. Subtitled "A Guide to Some of our City Flowers", it is just that, with interesting notes on history, usage and origin and beautiful photographs and drawings. It is a perfect little "thank you" or remembrance for anyone who loves Santa Fe and is available now in bookstores all over the city for \$4.95.

Albuquerque member, Sandra Lynn is co-author of a book on the Big Bend Country, Where Rainbows Wait for Rain. It is not yet available in Santa Fe bookstores but will be before Christmas, so look for it for your favorite desert lover.

Judith Phillips has an article in an excellent, relatively new garden magazine, Fine Gardening. This is a magazine well worth looking into because it has many articles related to the Rocky Mountain region, which is not covered in other gardening magazines. Pick up the Nov./Dec. issue for Judith's article and consider a subscription.

Remember that the NPS has a large selection of books on native plants in general, local field guides, floras, landscape design, photographing plants, soils and other related topics. If you need a new list or want to order something, write NPS-NM, P. O. Box 1206, Portales NM 88130 now so you will have them in time for Christmas, or for the lull after.

A book I picked up recently and am enjoying is Wild Plants of America: A Select Guide for the Naturalist and Traveler. I read about it in the Utah NPS Bulletin Sego Lily. Their review: This book is an exploration of the incredible diversity of America's flora welcomed by everyone with an interest in nature. Travelers will find it an invaluable aid in planning trips to new areas, and it will be equally enjoyed by those engaging in field activity or indulging in armchair nostalgia. In each locale readers receive a wealth of non-technical information concerning wildflowers, trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, and other plants they may expect to find in

their natural surroundings. Along with specific details, there are discussions of widely varied habitats, descriptions of unusual plants, and personal observations by the author. Precise directions are given for every trail, and all are accessible by car and easily negotiated on foot. Also contains a directory of Botanic Gardens and Arboretums featuring native flora. Author: Richard M. Smith. Published by John Wiley & Sons 288 pgs. Illustrations. \$12.95.

The Colorado Native Plant Society has just completed Rare Plants of Colorado. This was a three-year project and describes 92 rare and endangered species identified by the Colorado Natural Area program, presented by their natural habitats, i.e. the alpine tundra, barrens, cliffs and canyons, forests, grasslands, shrublands, wetlands and woodlands. Each species description is accompanied either by a color photograph or a line drawing, as well as a Colorado County location map. It may be ordered through the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Rocky Mountain National Pk, Estes Park, Colorado 80517. The paperback, 75 page booklet is \$7.95 and you should probably include about \$1.50 for postage.

New Mexico Magazine for November has some beautiful photographs of our Alpine lands and their flora and fauna in an article by Lee Matthew and Reggie Fletcher with the photographs by Rod Replogle and an article about the Bitter-Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

A NEW MEXICO WILDFLOWER POSTER

A year and a half ago the Utah Native Plant Society published a beautiful poster of their favorite wildflowers and have already sold 2500 of them. I suggested to our Board that we do the same and give one to each of the elementary schools in the state because books appropriate to young children about the native plants are difficult to find. We would like to do it on an outline of the state with flowers found along the roadsides in each area of the state

in color and life size shown in the proper location. The Board liked the idea and I am now collecting suggestions for the flowers that should represent each area and also would appreciate the names of artists that could do artistic botanical drawings and would also appreciate hearing from anyone who has had experience in lettering, working with printers. Please send your suggestions to Ellen Wilde 110 Calle Pinonero Santa Fe 87505.

Below is a list of the flowers suggested thus far. Your comments and additions please! Remember that they should be herbaceous flowers, not shrubs or trees! We will let the artist choose from the lists the ones that fit the design. We want the flowers to be either life size or proportionally reduced so very small or very large ones will not do.

Southeast

Desert Marigold
Tahoka Daisy
Peppergrass
Desert Zinnia
Blue Gilia
Wire lettuce
Gaillardia
Verbena
Bi colored mustard
Fetid marigold
Four O'clock

East

Fragrant verbena
Winecups
Calylophus
Basketflower
Cutleaf daisy
Wild buckwheat
Gaillardia
Bush morning glory
Gayfeather
Tahoka daisy
Sand palafox
Mexican hat
Globemallow
Hopi tea
Ironweed

Northeast

Penstemon alpinus
Verbena
Mentzelia
Winecups

Northwest

Penstemon ambiguus
Cowboy's delight
Penstemon angustifolius

South Central

Sphaeralcea
Penstemon ambiguus
Dalea scoparia

South

Desert Marigold
Paperflower
Clammyweed
Mexican Poppy
Datura
Tansy Aster
Gaillardia
Cholla cactus
O phaecantha

West

Yarrow
Cosmos
Hooker's E'ning Primrose
Wild zinnia
Desert Marigold
American Basketflower
Verbena
Southwestern penstemon
Devil's Claw
Mexican Hat

North

Fleabane daisy
Perky Sue
Maximillian sunflower
Penstemon Barbatus
Chocolate flower

Blackfoot daisy
Purple aster
Indian paintbrush
Wallflower
Four o'clock

Rocky Mountain Bee Plant
Penstemon strictus
Flax
Scarlet gilia
Santa Fe phlox

EDITOR'S NOTES

A correction first. Last issue I wrote about *Mentzelia decapetala* and said it is found in the three northwestern counties. It should have read northeastern!

Now, thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use his drawings in the Newsletter. They are much better than mine and come at just the right time.

Also thanks to Joan Abrams who proof-read the last issue and to Aurora Sanchez-Baca who did at least half of the typing of this issue. I got my cast off today, but it has been a long slow process getting this issue together in time so it could be printed and mailed before the end of the month, so please forgive any errors.

Let's all think Rain, Snow! so we'll have a beautiful display of wildflowers next year. It is always amazing how many do manage to bloom; even in as dry a year as this has been, but I'd feel better with more natural moisture so we don't have to do supplemental watering in our yards!

PLEASE HAVE ALL MATERIAL FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER IN BY DEC. 11.

Join the Native Plant Society of New Mexico if you are not already a member! 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. Welcome!

Lisa Johnston, Pres.

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