

# ***Native Plant Society of New Mexico***

## ***newsletter***

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1983

VOLUME VIII NO.5

- SEPT/OCT Southeast Chapter has no set meeting time. For information, call Nina Eppley at 622-7180.
- SEPT/OCT Glenn Niner Chapter will meet with the Albuquerque Chapter.
- SEPT. 4 Lincoln Chapter meets: Ruidoso Downs, Madeline Murray & Shirley Newhouse will give a tour of natives in the area. 2:00 pm.
- SEPT. 11 Albuquerque Chapter Field Trip. This trip will be to gather dried flowers and other plant materials for next month's workshop on uses of native plants. For information on time and place, call Ted Hodoba at 242-3053 or Jackie Farr at 294-2178.
- SEPT. 14 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Wednesdays): Room 156, Agriculture Building, NMSU. 7:30 pm.
- SEPT. 21 Santa Fe Chapter meets(3rd Wednesdays): A slide show on Penstemons, provided by the American Penstemon Society. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- SEPT. 24-25 ANNUAL STATEWIDE MEETING -- CAPITAN. Here's your chance to spend a wonderful weekend with great people having a great time. For details, see the center insert.
- OCT. 5 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Frances Szeman will present a workshop on the uses of native plants. Such things as dried flower arranging, natural dyes, recipes, etc. will be presented. The Albuquerque Museum, 2000 Mountain Rd. NW. 7:30 pm.
- OCT. 12 Las Cruces Chapter meets: Room 156, Agricultural Building, NMSU. 7:30 pm.
- OCT. 19 Santa Fe Chapter meets: John Egbert will present a program on the Nature Conservancy and its programs in New Mexico. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- OCT. 30 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets(last Sundays): Call Jean Dodd at 434-3041 or Madeline Murray at 378-4117 for details.
- OCT. 30 Board of Directors meeting: Los Lunas Plant Materials Center, 1036 Miller St SW, Los Lunas. Bring a sack lunch. 10:00 am.

### Chapters

Albuquerque - Ted Hodoba, 217 Arno SE, Albuquerque NM 87102 (242-3053)  
Glenn Niner - Lisa Johnston, PO Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031 (865-5608)  
Las Cruces - Jean Lozier, 1934 Highland Ave. Las Cruces NM 88001 (526-3771)  
Otero-Lincoln - Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd, Alamogordo NM 88310 (434-3041)  
Madeline Murray, PO Drawer 368, Ruidoso Downs NM 88346 (378-4117)  
Santa Fe - Roger Peterson, c/o PO Box 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502  
Southeast - Nina Eppley, 807 W 3rd St, Roswell NM 88201 (622-8170)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As fall approaches and we prepare to put our gardens to rest for the winter, it is a perfect time to collect seeds of our natives. It is also a good time to plant perennials, trees and shrubs. In fact, it tends to be easier for plants to establish themselves in the fall than in the spring when the hot weather can arrive seemingly overnight.

Fall is also my favorite time for travel. Recently I visited the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix. While I wouldn't normally recommend a trip in August, I was lucky enough to visit on a cloudy day. If you've never been there and are passing through Phoenix, be sure to stop. They are very interesting and quite nicely maintained. One of their most interesting features is the extensive collection of agaves.

Another interesting botanical garden is the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum about sixty miles east of Phoenix in Superior, Arizona. In addition to their extensive cactus and succulent collections, they have a very fragrant eucalyptus grove, palm grove and a large pond area. They also do a mailorder seed business and have native plants, cactus and seeds for sale at the arboretum.

There's talk of a future arboretum in the Albuquerque area. As I understand it, the City of Albuquerque and the Department of Architecture of the University of New Mexico are studying this possibility. Hopefully native plants will be an integral part of such an exhibit. Perhaps one day soon New Mexicans will have the educational and recreational advantages of our own botanical gardens.

-T.H.

Contributors to this issue:

-J.H. John Hubbard  
-T.H. Ted Hodoba  
-J.D. Jean Dodd  
-J.P. Judith Phillips  
-L.J. Lisa Johnston



## ELECTIONS--CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We know that it seems like just yesterday, but due to some amendments to our by-laws, annual elections will be held in October, with the term of office running from January to December. Nominations for the following will be accepted: President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Board Member. Please send your nominations to: NPS-NM, P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502, Attn: Frances. We must receive them by September 20th. Here's your chance to serve NPS!!

### WE WANT A LOGO!!!

It's time -- NPS needs a logo to identify it, something unique, catchy and representing New Mexico. So that we tap our best resources, we are asking you, our members and fellow artists to come up with your best design. Send it to the Newsletter Editors, Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031 (we must receive it by Sept. 20th) or bring it with you to the Capitan meeting. The logos will be voted on by the people attending the Capitan gathering. To be selected, the design must have majority support. So, help us create our logo image, give us a design that says 'NPS' loud and clear.

### MEMBERSHIP DUES

The Board of Directors has adopted a 12-month anniversary membership year as opposed to the current 12-month calendar year. This means your dues will be due 12 months from the month you paid. For example, if you paid you dues on July 15, 1983 your membership will run through July 31, 1984. To see when your membership expires, check the mailing label on your newsletter. It will give you the month and year that your renewal is due.

## CHAPTER NOTES

### Albuquerque

The Albuquerque Chapter has had a very busy summer. In June we went on a field trip which started in the bosque at the Rio Grande Nature Center and ended at the crest of the Sandia Mountains. Along the way we made stops at each life zone to observe the flora. In July we went on a field trip into the Jemez Mts. north of Albuquerque to look at plants from a higher altitude. In August we met at the Albuquerque Museum once more. We were lucky to have Robert DeWitt Ivey bring copies of his new book, Flowering Plants of New Mexico, a sketchbook. It's for sale in Albuquerque bookstores and is a nice addition to the other field guides of our area. We also looked at a slide collection of wildflowers of the Sandias, which was provided by the Albuquerque Garden Center.

-T.H.

### Otero-Lincoln

Our June meeting started at the home of Lee and Shirley Huebert who planted their backyard in a meadow last year. They said that they could hardly believe the beauty of the flowers and grass in the spring: oohed and ahhed every day. Come the heat, the flowers for the most part disappeared and the predominant grass, Galleta, turned brown. This prompted a discussion of grasses for this area and we found an excellent bulletin at the extension office, "Landscaping with Native Grasses", put out with the encouragement and financial support of Bill Mayfield. From there we toured both the new passive solar home of Bob and Jean Ross and walked around a part of their property seeing some much older and consequently larger plants than we had been seeing on the other trips.

Our July meeting held at the home of Toad and Lucille Wilson, was a

## SUN PICKLES

Many kinds of wild plants can be successfully pickled. Some are better as a sweet pickle, while others are dill or bread-and-butter types; all are easy to make and an unusual addition to your table. For the following recipe, use young devil's claw, nopales, purslane, or any mixture of wild foods.

1/2 gallon water  
1/2 cup salt  
1/4 tsp. pepper  
1 garlic clove  
1/2 cup vinegar  
Grape leaves  
6 Dill heads (or use dried pickling material)

Line bottom of heated jars with grape leaves. Fill the jars with the wild plant to be pickled. Put the water and all other ingredients into a pan and bring to boil. Pour water over the pickles and seal the jars. Set them in the sun for two weeks.

-from the Alamogordo article  
on the Native Plant Buffet

preparation for our pot luck using native plants scheduled for August. In addition to Environmental Science we looked at American Indian Food and Lore by Carolyn Niehammer. David Kalin, local herbalist, talked to us about the uses of native plants in this area. Lucille's rock garden, a combination of nursery and native plants, is one of the most beautiful we have ever seen. We left loaded down with plants she had potted to give to us and seed collections from her garden. The Lincoln chapter people are beginning to have their own meetings more suitable to their own area. The July meeting was held at the home of Madeline Murray at Ruidoso Downs.

-J.D.

YUCCA NEOMEXICANA--A NEAR-ENDEMIC  
OF NORTHEASTERN NEW MEXICO

Since its description as a species some 70 years ago, published information on the distribution and the related status of Yucca neomexicana Wootton and Standley has remained sparse. For example, in their treatment of the flora of New Mexico, Martin and Hutchins (1980) state that the taxon is "apparently restricted to a relatively small area in Union County". In my experience in northeastern New Mexico, I find this notion of narrow endemism to be incorrect. On the contrary, I have found this yucca in Colfax, Union, Mora, Harding, and San Miguel counties in our state, and I have also seen it growing in adjacent Oklahoma (Figure 1). I would also expect it in Colorado and perhaps in Texas and in Quay County in New Mexico.

Yucca neomexicana is a member of the narrow-leaved group of yuccas, with seed capsules that split open (dehisce) when mature. It superficially resembles soapweed yucca (Y. glauca Nuttall), which grows throughout the range of neomexicana in northeastern New Mexico. Vegetatively, Y. neomexicana is easily distinguished from that species by its thinner, flatter leaves, which are typically wider, shorter and blue-green rather than yellow-green in color. Y. neomexicana also differs importantly from Y. glauca in its reproductive structures, but the vegetative aspects are enough to distinguish the two. The only other sympatric congener that I have seen with Y. neomexicana is banana yucca (Y. baccata Torrey), which has much broader and coarser leaves and differs in numerous other respects.

Yucca neomexicana has been considered by some authors to be a form of Y. harrimaniae Trelease--including by Webber (1953) and Kartesz and Kartesz (1980). I am not familiar with Y. harrimaniae, which is a species of the Colorado Plateau in Utah, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico (e.g. Martin and Hutchins, 1980). It does not appear that the

ranges of that species and neomexicana contact or overlap, and there are apparently several characters that separate the two (Martin and Hutchins, 1980). Under the circumstances, I follow these Martin and Hutchins (op. cit) and accept Y. neomexicana as a species.

During the course of my observations of Yucca neomexicana, I have come to associate the species with the rimrock country that borders the high plains of northeastern New Mexico. In fact, I would suggest calling this the "rim-rock" yucca, if no other common name exists. The rimrock areas where the species occurs are in the drainages of the Dry Cimarron and the Canadian rivers.

In the Dry Cimarron drainage, I have seen Yucca neomexicana along and above the valley of this river from Kenton, Oklahoma westward. My westernmost occurrence along route 325 is some 48-road miles from the Oklahoma line. In addition, the species is also present even farther west, along route 551--the road to Branson, Colorado--about one and a half miles northwest of route 325. The type locality is about 10 miles to the south of this station, i.e. "about a half a mile north of Des Moines, Union County, New Mexico" (Wootton and Standley, 1915). However, I have not seen Y. neomexicana at the latter place or on nearby Sierra Grande, Capulin Mountain, or Johnson Mesa.

In the Canadian drainage I have seen Yucca neomexicana on the canyon walls above the river proper west of Roy, in both Harding and Mora counties, and near Sabinoso in San Miguel County. In addition, I have found the species on the western flank of Eagle Tail Peak, northeast of Maxwell, in Colfax County. Finally, Y. neomexicana occurs along the northern rim of the Canadian basin along highway 65, from the Canadian River eastward to Burro Hill, in San Miguel and Harding counties.

I have not noted Yucca neomexicana in several other parts of the southern Canadian basin, including along route 39 east of Mosquero (Harding County) or along route 104 east of Trujillo (San Miguel County). However, these areas appear to be suitable for the species, and occurrences in them would not be surprising. Y. neomexicana might also occur eastward and/or southward in Quay County, and I would expect it in some of the upland areas of the high plains, e.g. between Bueyeros (Harding Co.) and Clapham and Pasamonte (Union Co.).

Most of my records of Yucca neomexicana are in habitats dominated by juniper (especially Juniperus monosperma), pinyon (Pinus edulis), waveleaf oak (Quercus undulata), squawbush (Rhus trilobata), mountain mahogany (Cercocarpus montanus), and similar plants. Y. glauca occurs in the same communities, but is more often associated with grasslands, although it does so notably along route 325 in Union County, some 41-42 road miles west of the Oklahoma line. Neomexicana typically grows in sandstone areas, but in northwestern Union County I did see it in several areas of igneous intrusion or dominance. Elevationally, my records of the species are in the range of 4400 to 6200 feet above sea level.

From a horticultural standpoint, Yucca neomexicana seems quite desirable as a foliage plant. The blue-green leaves, compactness of the plants, and their generally small size all contribute to the species' attractiveness. I have had some success in transplanting small plants, although neomexicana shares other narrow-leaved yuccas' delicacy in this respect--contrasted to the tolerance of broad-leaved types. I have had no luck in starting plants from seed, as insect damage is frequent. However, my efforts have been limited, and this avenue of propagation is certainly worth further pursuit.

I want to acknowledge William Hess, who first mentioned Yucca neomexi-

cana to me and shared information on his knowledge of it.

#### References:

Kartesz, J.T. and R. Kartesz. 1980. A synonymized checklist of the vascular flora of the United States, Canada, and Greenland. University North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill.

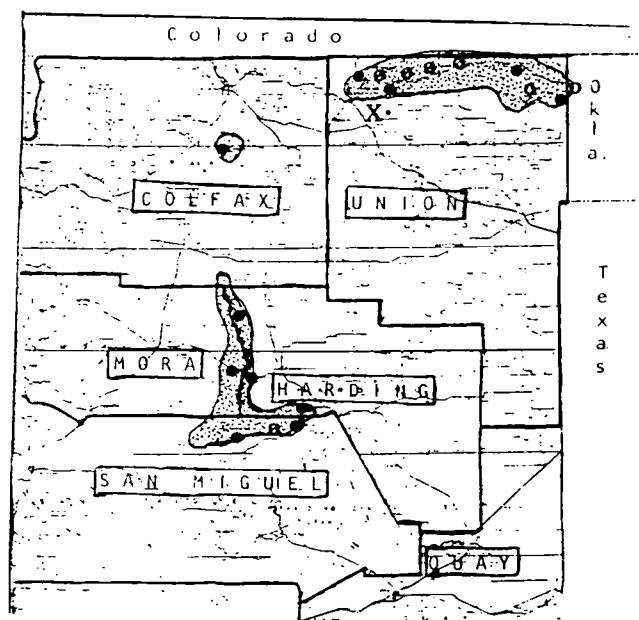
Martin, W.C. and C.R. Hutchins. 1980. A Flora of New Mexico. Vol. 1. Strauss and Cramer, Hirschberg, Germany.

Webber, J.M. 1953. Yuccas of the Southwest. US Dept. of Agriculture Monograph No. 17.

Wooton, E.O. and P.C. Standley. 1915. Flora of New Mexico. Contr. U.S. Nat. Herbarium, Vol. 19.

-J.H.

Figure 1. Distribution of Yucca neomexicana in the counties of northeastern New Mexico and in adjacent states. The stippled areas represent the postulated range, solid dots are specimen localities, open dots are sight records, and X is the type locality.



LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Finding your newsletter interesting and worthy. Since we here are keenly interested in native plants suited to our area, at least some information has been gained in their propagation. I would like to share this information with others anytime. How might I specifically assist?

Also, could you place us in contact with members who might have native seed to share?

Sincerely,  
James Borland , Propagator  
Denver Botanic Gardens

- A visit to the Denver Botanic Gardens (909 York St, Denver CO 80206, 303-575-3751) is a unique experience for visitors to Denver. During an early April vist, the brave beauty of Pasqueflowers and a mass display of spring bulbs diminished the sting of bitter 100 mph winds. In the conservatory & greenhouses, masses of lilies and the drama of orchids erased the stormy weather entirely. Our only regret was not being able to return month after month and experience the seasons at the Gardens. Members gardening with natives, especially at higher elevations with cold winter temperatures, may have seed of choice specimens to share with our northern neighbors.

FROM THE EDITORS

WANTED: Volunteer(s) to assume the editorship of the Native Plant Society Newsletter as of January 1984. The major requirement is enthusiasm for all aspects of native plants, although some experience with "cut-and-paste" helps. The editor(s) is responsible for soliciting news and feature articles from any likely source (both member and non-member) and putting it all together. The benefits are many-- you have access to people around the state, you get to meet many of the members through correspondance, and you are at the hub of NPS activity. If you're interested or know someone who might be, please write to us: NPS Newsletter Editors, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031.

WANTED: COMMITTEES

To continue the fine work of NPS, we need help--you. The four committees of NPS are Conservation, Publicity, Education, and Newsletter. The scope of these committees can be as varied and can cover as much as you are ambitious. Don't be shy, volunteer today. Simply drop a note to our President Ted Hodoba, 217 Arno SE, Albuquerque NM 87102 (242-3053) and let him know what committee you're interested in. Share your talents with NPS, we need you!

THANKS!

We extend a sincere 'Thank you' to Howard Morgan, KOAT-TV weatherman, for featuring native plants on his broadcasts through the end of July and into August. His com-

ments suggesting landscape uses of native plants and discouraging reckless transplanting from the wild are welcome publicity for NPS and native plants.

NPS-NM OFFICERS

President: Ted Hodoba, 217 Arno Se, Albuquerque NM 87102 (242-3053)  
Secretary: Frances Szeman, 1858 Calle Los Vecinos, Albuquerque NM 87107 (344-8201)  
Membership: Iris David, P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502 (988-1709)  
Treasurer: Judith Phillips, Star Route 7 Box 145, Veguita NM 87062  
Board Members: Phyllis Hughes, P.O. Box 340, Santa Fe NM 87501 (983-4875)  
Bill Mayfield, Star Route, Bent NM 88314 (671-4617)

Newsletter Editors: Lisa Johnston & Judith Phillips, PO Box 934, Los Lunas NM 87031



ROADSIDE PLANTS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO



Over many years the author/illustrator team of Gail Tierney and Phyllis Hughes has conducted intensive field studies through the spiny ridge of Northern New Mexico. The collaboration resulted in **ROADSIDE PLANTS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO**, a field guide published by The Lightning Tree Press in Santa Fe.

Arranged in four sections by elevation and typical trees, the reader is guided through the seasons for each general domain, beginning with the earliest flowering to the final burst of fall color. The roads and trails leading to and through Hyde State Park are used as example sites for observation.

The book includes a Map, Biotic/Vegetational Chart and introductory material to prepare even the amateur for close encounters with the

vegetable kingdom. There is a comprehensive index of Latin and common English and Spanish names and a short Bibliography for the more serious reader.

Over 150 plants are described with 134 fine line drawings and 28 color plates. The entries, each on a separate plate, provide technical descriptions and information as well as fascinating historical and folkloric material.

**ROADSIDE PLANTS OF NORTHERN NEW MEXICO** uses a unique concept of place and time to help the reader in identification. With knowledge of the season and approximate the Biotic/Vegetational Chart, one can quickly turn to the appropriate section of the book that describes and illustrates the local vegetation.

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO  
Membership Application

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting public interest in native plants and to the preservation of endangered species. The Society encourages the use of native plants in landscaping, especially as a water conservation measure. As a member you will have the opportunity to learn more about the native plants of New Mexico, participate in field trips, seminars, and programs, and share your knowledge and questions with others. The Society's work is voluntary and completely supported by membership dues and gifts. These, of course, are tax deductible.

Members receive the Native Plant Society Newsletter, which is published in alternate months. There are chapters throughout the state and if you are interested, you will be informed of the chapter nearest to you. All memberships are registered in Santa Fe, and chapter membership is an optional activity.

Membership Categories

Annual Membership . . . . \$8.00  
Friend of the Society . . . \$25.00 minimum

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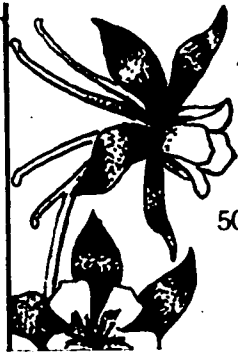
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 \_\_\_\_\_ Friend (\$25.00 min)

Please check the following list to indicate your area(s) of interest and/or anything that you would like to assist with. Address your check to the above address.

	Interested	Willing to help
Landscaping with Native plants		
Conservation/Ecology		
Rare or Endangered plants		
Photography, slide collection		
Field trip		
Program planning		
Newsletter: Writing		
Mailing		
Clerical		
Membership Committee		

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