

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

September/October 1986

Volume XI No. 5

CALENDAR

- September 6 ALBUQUERQUE, Endangered Species Fair. The New Mexico Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, 10AM to 8PM
- September 6 LAS CRUCES trip to Pancho Villa State Park. 7AM at NMSU Pan Am Center parking lot. (Check with Tom at 522-8068 for date confirmation.)
- September 10 LAS CRUCES, Landscaping with Native Plants by Cheryl Garing, 7:30PM Room 190, Ag. Bldg., NMSU

***** NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO *****
***** ANNUAL MEETING *****
***** SEPTEMBER 12,13 &14 *****

- Sept. 13 &14 Dan Surlock's Tour of Chaco Canyon. See story inside.
- September 27 SANTA FE, Native plant sale, Museum of International Folk Art. 8:30AM to 11:30 AM
- October 5 LAS CRUCES, trip to Box Canyon. 8AM, Pan Am Center parking lot.
- October 8 LAS CRUCES, Flowers Used in Fragrances: History and Methods by Jan Meissner. Bring dried roses and marigolds you have been saving and Jan will show us how to make potpourris. 7:30PM, Room 190, Ag-Bldg, NMSU—
- OCTOBER 12 OTERO chapter, Native edible pot luck, Mescalero Tradition Council program on uses for native plants. 1PM at the home of Dave and Hazel Frankel, 113 Villa Lucia, La Luz.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Operation Wildflower Workshop was again a great success. I met many interesting people with much information to share. Anytime you bring people together with a common topic, good things happen.

Recently I learned of two people who have compiled lists of plant species and their blooming times for specific locations (Las Vegas and Sandia Mtns.).

If you have done a list for your area, please let me know. Many of us would be interested in it.

School's beginning—consider taking a course on plants, or better yet, teach one! Sometimes you learn more when you are the teacher!

See you in Grants.

Lisa

CHAPTER CONTACTS

ALBUQUERQUE

Walter Graff, 4735 Lea SW, Albuquerque, 87105 (877-6469)

CHAVEZ COUNTY

Nina Keeler, 807 West Third, Roswell, 88201 (623-4885)

LAS CRUCES

Tom Wootten, 3904 Hwy. East, Las Cruces, 88001 (522-4434)

OTERO COUNTY

Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Road, Alamogordo, 88310 (434-3041)

SANTA FE

Iris David, P.O. Box 4156, Santa Fe, 87502 (988-1709)

SEED EXCHANGE CHAIRMAN

Frances Szeman, 1858 Calle Las Vecinos, Albuquerque, 87107
(344-8201)

WILDFLOWER SLIDES CHAIRMAN

Helen Polley, P.O. Box 2452, Las Cruces, 88004 (526-3716)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Susan Wachter, 2500 Norment Rd. SW, Albuquerque, 87105
(873-2993)

NPS-NM T-SHIRTS AND SWEATSHIRTS

NPS-NM has two T-shirts and sweatshirts for sale to its members and friends. The NPS-NM T-shirt has the NPS logo on the front in green ink. Men's shirts are tan and women's shirts are ivory with a scoop neck. The other T-shirt is the 10th Anniversary T-shirt with the logo seen on the back page of this issue. This shirt comes only in turquoise with black ink. While the NPS logo shirt can be ordered as needed, the 10th Anniversary shirt is a limited issue.

Sweatshirts are also available with either the NPS logo or the anniversary logo. There is a wide color choice with the sweatshirts.

Price for the T-shirts are \$5.00 plus 50¢ postage for the men's anniversary and logo shirts and the women's anniversary shirt. The women's logo shirt with the scoop neck is \$6.50 plus 50¢ postage.

Sweatshirts are \$11.00 plus 50¢ postage. Contact Lisa at NPS-NM, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, 87031

CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero

On our July 27th trip up to the ski area on Sierra Blanca we enjoyed meeting new members, guests from Scotland and the Mescalero Tradition Council not to mention great quantities of wild flowers, thanks to previous heavy rains. We stopped part way up the mountain at Oak Grove. New to us were the single, tall-to 6', stalks of delphinium; the green-flowered Macromeria viridiflora DC. which is a coarse, large plant to 3' topped with hairy, drooping, trumpet-shaped yellow flowers. The Mexican campion, Indian Pink, Silene laciniata Cav. was a bright red spot of color. Two clumps of horsemint side by side showed us the flowers in bloom in one clump and the pink tinged bracts, which are as interesting as the flowers, in the other plant.

On up the twisty mountain road (passengers with eyes closed part of the time) the predominant color was blue from lupine and nearly purple onions. At the landing for the ski area we saw the blues again in Jacob's Ladder, Monkshood and blue bells. A beautiful clump of white flowers (also seen on our trip to Siver Springs) was either a sandwort or a chickweed. Growth was rank along the stream. With so many flowers to see, we never did go higher up to look at the alpiners

The Desert Foothills Park is now officially open. A small crew spent a morning clearing tumbleweeds and trash in and near the proposed Bill Mayfield Memorial site. We need to eliminate the Bermuda grass and reshape a pile of dirt before planting in the Fall.

Las Cruces

The Las Cruces desert rats headed for the cool mountains on July 6 for a pot luck picnic and botanizing at Karr Canyon, below Cloudcroft. We were pleased to be joined by members of the Alamogordo Chapter. The flowers were beautiful. Special mention should be made of the Jacob's Ladder, the Wild Orchids, three species of Penstemon, evening primrose, monarda and on and on. Lunch break turned into a feast and this timid writer really enjoyed himself. We ate under a big tooth maple (Acer grandidentatum), and collected some seed. All but two however, had been on the receiving end of a previous feast. Afterwards, some of us teamed up with them to prolong the day on a drive on over to Ruidoso. NPS members are great.

Our July meeting was held at the NMSU Horticultural Experiment Farm. Arrangements were made by Rich Phillips, manager and member of NPS-NM. A nice sized area of the farm has now been devoted to display and research on ornamentals and it truly is a delight to visit. Plans are afoot to expand the area more and to increase the area devoted to native plants. Jeff and Roy Anderson were our leaders for the tour. We are indebted to them.

Some members have expressed a desire to return all of our field trips to the historically traditional Sunday preceeding the second Wednesday of the month (really not complicated, just sounds so). This will be discussed at the meeting Wed. August 9 and could affect the trip scheduled for Sat. Sept. 6. Majority will rule. If you did not make it to the meeting, check with Tom or Bob for changes.

DROUGHT TOLERANT & NATIVE
LANDSCAPE ORNAMENTALS

NOW OPEN IN ALBUQUERQUE
AT 520 MONTANO NW 9 to 5
Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday
BERNARDO BEACH NATIVE PLANT FARM

DESIGN & CONSULTATION

Star Route 7, Box 145, Veguita, NM, 87062 Ans. Svc. (505) 865-2164





1986 NPS-NM OFFICERS

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

REPORT FROM THE MUSEUM OF INTERNATIONAL
FOLK ART NATIVE PLANT DISPLAY GARDEN IN
SANTA FE

Classes in Gardening with Native Plants will be held on Mondays and Thursdays for 6 weeks beginning the last week of August at the Museum.

A plant sale will be held in front of the Museum Saturday, September 27, from 9:30 to 11:30. Donations of pots and plants are needed. Sizes from 4" to 2 gal. are most appreciated. Pots may be left inside the wall to the left of the Museum entrance anytime. They will be needed two weeks before the sale. Call Ellen Wilde, 982-1406 if you have plants to donate. This year we will have an assortment of books available for purchase, (perhaps even Judith Phillip's LONG awaited and needed landscaping guide!).

The first 24 plant identification signs have been ordered and will soon be in place.

A two volume set of Martin and Hutchins A Flora of New Mexico has been purchased and can be used at the Museum Library.

All of the plants purchased last year are doing well. A drip irrigation system was installed this Spring for the shrubs and trees and although we have only used it three times this year so far, it is a relief to have it in place after hand-carrying buckets and dragging hoses for a couple of years. This Fall we plan to add Limber pine, Utah juniper and Bristlecone pine to our collection as well as a number of shrubs and wildflowers. The main effort of the garden volunteers this summer has been to eradicate the clovers which have threatened to take over. We have worked every Tuesday morning beginning at 8:30AM and often taken field trips after it became too warm to work. Additional volunteers are always welcome!!



AGUA FRIA NURSERY, INC.
1409 Agua Fria
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

505-983-4831

Specializing in native plants
and perennials

NPS NM SLIDES

In an earlier NPS-NM Newsletter issue Ellen Wilde requested members gather Penstemon slides to establish a program for NPS-NM use. Least we forget, NPS-NM has its own slide collection. The collection includes all native plants, not just Penstemons.

Helen Polley, NPS-NM slide chairman has a list of slides available for loan to our chapters. Unfortunately the list is limited. Donations of your 35 mm slides along with information about the featured plant; name, growing conditions and location are most welcome.

Many of our members have had their slides out of the shoe boxes recently looking for suitable candidates for Mr. Mohlenbrock's book. Now is the time to look over those slides once again to donate a few to NPS-NM.

Send your donated slides to Helen Polley, NPS-NM Slides, P.O. Box 2452, Las Cruces, 88004.



Blackfoot Daisy

Dear NPS-NM....

I have prepared a short photo-story which I call "Sculptured Natives" explaining the use of our natural oak bushes, junipers, and sumacs in rather formal looking landscapes. I have been so thrilled with the way these oaks turn into hedges and accent plants, it would be a pleasure to share the idea with other natural gardeners.

If you have any publications that could use this type of article, please let me know and I will be glad to send you a copy to review.

Sincerely,

Nancy Patton
2025 Sycamore
Silver City, NM 88061

Mayfield Library

Last year, I believe, our newsletter published an article I wrote describing the Bill Mayfield library which was given to me for my use and specifically for the use of all members of NPS-NM. Conversations have lead me to realize that a reminder is due.

Bill Mayfield to whom we all owe much, was not only a fan of wildflowers but was also a collector of books about the same. Before Bill died, he asked me to take his books upon his death because he knew that I would use them personally, but also Bill knew that I would hold them available for the use of any NPS-NM member. I have used some of the books frequently, but few others have. Admittedly, distance is a problem, but likewise you should know some of the things that are available. In the library are a number of loose leaf notebooks containing newspaper, magazine articles and selections from a number of publications dealing mostly with native plants to be used in landscaping. There are a large number of issues of "Organic Gardening", "Forestry", "Horticulturist", "The Saguaro Digest" and others. There are a number of paperback books and a few general gardening and botany hardback books. The books I consider most valuable are:

Martin and Hutchins, A Flora of New Mexico

Kearney and Peebles, Arizona Flora
Rickett, Wildflowers of the United States, The Southwestern States

Wooten and Standley, New Mexico Flora
(a reprint)

I hope a copy of most of these is on file at your local library or otherwise available to each cahpter. If not and you would like to borrow one of the books, I will get it (them) to you someway. The Rickett book just went to Alamogordo when Jean Dodd and I met in Karr Canyon on the July fieldtrip . This set is really special and should be available in every public library. If it is not, then let this be a suggestion for a really worthwhile chapter project.

Certainly if anyone would like to look through the complete library you are welcome to come see for yourself. I would like a little notice, however, so that I can have everything available.

Tom Wootten



ENDANGERED SPECIES FAIR

September 6, 1986

Did you know New Mexico has 185 state-listed endangered species and 25 federally-listed endangered species? Come find out about them at the 2nd annual endangered species fair. The event is being held at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History on September 6, 1986. Speakers, films, exhibits, live animals, musicians, food and a wildlife art sale will all be a part of the fair. Special guest star will be Steve Martin with his free-flying bird show.

Admission to the event is FREE! The hours will be from 10AM to 6PM for indoor presentations and 6PM to 8PM for outdoor entertainment. The museum is located at 1801 Mountain Rd. NW, 1/2 mile east of Rio Grande Blvd.

The fair is sponsored by:

New Mexico Museum of Natural History


New Mexico State Game and Fish Department

Rio Grande Zoo

Sierra Club Wildlife Committee

Funding is provided through the "Share with Wildlife" program of the New Mexico State Game and Fish Department.

Specializing in Flowering Natives



Dry Country Plants

Tom Wootten
(505) 522-4434

3904 Hwy. 70 East
Las Cruces, N.M. 88001

This and That...

As a landscape designer I am always interested in new material to use in my designs. Native plants have interested me since I began my earliest gardens high in the Colorado mountains. I quickly learned, though, books can not replace actual growing of the plants to learn their idiosyncrasies.

Within weeks of moving to Albuquerque I began planting native plants to observe them in this desert environment. Imagine my concern when the plants quickly rolled over and died. Was I overwatering? Underwatering? I was at wits end when the previous owner mentioned he had used a "weed killer". My worst fears were realized when he specified the two worst soil sterilents on the market.

That was six years ago and I am still experiencing plant problems. Soil sterilents vary in their active soil life, but you can just about double or triple their time as stated on the label if you have clay soils--which I do. Never have I been so happy to see crabgrass and sandbur growing in an area as I was, four years after application.

Once the weeds began to appear, I began to replant the area. We have had the best success where we removed all the soil and replaced it with uncontaminated soil. Where we just removed the soil for the planting hole and not for future root expansion, we have had little success. The list of plants we have lost is impressive and includes some hard to find species--poor cliffroses. For plants native to a more acidic soil we have incorporated peat moss and have had good success. (I've since learned organic matter helps tie-up the soil sterilent.)

Three plants that have done very well for us in spite of the problems are Mahonia haematocarpa (Woot.) Fedde, Philadelphus microphyllus Gray var. microphyllus and Shepherdia argentea (Pursh) Nutt. All are ornamental and would work well in many different landscapes.

The Mahonia haematocarpa goes by many names, but the one I like the best is from George Kelly author of Rocky Mountain Horticulture, "We-ump". This is not a plant to cuddle as the leaflets are lanceolate and about twice as long as wide. Like other mahonias, the leaves are rigid. Combine the leaf shape with the rigid form and add the small spines on the tips, this plant is formidable. The leaves are a cooling blue-green color and the fruit is blood red. The

plant's native area is dry plains of 5,000 to 7,000 feet elevation. This plant is a nice alternative to Mahonia aquifolium and the barberries--all close relatives to "We-ump".

Another plant that has surprised me has been a plant that goes by the catch name of Mockorange. This light and airy shrub is Philadelphus microphyllus Gray var. microphyllus. In A Flora of New Mexico, Martin and Hutchins list another variety, P. m. var. ovatus Hu. I'm not certain exactly which variety I have. Whatever the variety, this quick growing shrub reminds me of spireas but has an extra bonus. In the early summer the plant blooms with a white, orange-like flower with a delightful scent. The plant is native to dry cliff and rocky areas, but mine doesn't mind heavy clay soils.

The last plant is good old Buffaloberry, Shepherdia argentea (Pursh) Nutt. This silver leafed plant looks like Russian Olive but without the long thorns. Beware, the plant is still armed with spines on the branch tip. The plant can be either a big shrub or a small tree and can be formed into a hedge if you desire. Buffaloberry has a delicious fruit for jellies or the birds (usually the birds first). Unfortunately, the close relative S. canadensis bears a fruit that is just terrible. You can recognize the latter by the absence of tip thorns. Buffaloberry is native to stream beds and is not as drought tolerant as you might think.

I'm happy these three plants have managed to survive my toxic waste dump. Slowly we are bringing the soil back to life. Now my problem is wayward animals, ducks in particular that take great delight in stomping poor little cliffroses!

Susan Wachter

See you in Grants !!



Chaco Canyon Tour

Dan Surlock, cultural historian, naturalist and former staff archeologist at Chaco Canyon will be leading a tour of Chaco Cultural National Historical Park, September 12-14th. The tour will originate in Albuquerque and travel by car caravan to the campground at Chaco Canyon. If you wish to join the tour at Chaco Canyon, a space can be saved for you. The two day excursion will include tours of Chetro Ketl and Pueblo Bonito ruins, hikes to Pueblo Alto, the Winter Solstice observation station near Wijiwi ruins or to a signal station near Penasco. Also included will be visits to Casa Riconada and Hosta Butte Phase village ruins. The tour will depart Chaco at 3:00 p.m. on the 14th.

Each participant must furnish their own transportation, food and camping equipment. Restroom and drinking water are available at Chaco Canyon.

Fee for the excursion will be \$28 per participant payable by September 5th. Refunds of \$20 will be made on a cancellation.

This is a unique opportunity to learn a good deal about the Chaco Canyon area. During the hikes, Mr. Surlock will also discuss recent discoveries and theories of the Chaco phenomena including the geology, environmental history as well as identify plants and animals along the way.

If you have any questions about the tour or wish to participate, contact Dan Surlock in Albuquerque late afternoons or evenings at 242-1635.

Mr. Surlock is also tentatively planning two other trips; Casa Grandes Ruins and Cañon del Cobre in Chihuahua over Thanksgiving and Christmas respectively. Also tentatively planned are excursions to the Owl Bar and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge December 6th and January 17th.



BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH
Guided Wildflower Tours
Myra McCormick
Silver City, NM 88061

(505) 538-2538

Dear NPS-NM....

Stan Renfro from Ft. Wingate has noted the Zimmerman Library at UNM has elms invading the garden. He asks if NPS members might not like to volunteer to clean it up? Any hardy souls need to contact Larry Shaver, UNM Physical Plant at 277-2421.

Along the same line, we have had several calls about the landscaping at the Natural History Museum. NPS member Frances Szeman has worked on the garden, but she needs help. If you can volunteer a hour or two a week, please contact Frances Szeman, 344-8201 or Janette Sanchez at 831-8837.

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)

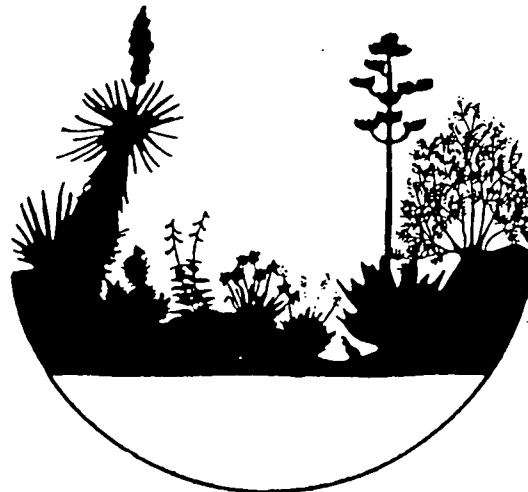
How would you describe your level of expertise? What areas would you be willing to help with?

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

**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
of NEW MEXICO**

ANNUAL MEETING

September 12-14, 1986



Location: The Inn at Grants (Best Western)
(505) 287-7901
\$37.00 per night (up to 4 people in a room)

Rooms can accommodate up to 4 people for the same price. Please mention the Native Plant Society when you are reserving your room (this is a discounted rate). Please reserve your room by September 1st. ^{if possible}

Activities:

Friday, September 12 Slide presentation and talk on Landscaping with Native plants, by some of our NPS members. The public is invited.
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Meeting Room, The Inn

Saturday, September 13 Field Trip to the Malpais area, lead by Les Booth of the Bureau of Land Management. We will get to see areas not usually accessible to the general public. This is an all day field trip!! Bring lunch, water, etc. We will carpool, but may need some vehicles with high clearance.
8:30 am - 4:00 pm
Meeting Room, The Inn

7:30 pm
Meeting Room, The Inn
Spiral Dance: Reflections on Big Bend National Park. This video cassette program was created by the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, in Alpine Texas.

Sunday, September 14 Field Trip to Mount Taylor area. NPS members will take us to several areas. The end of the field trip will conclude this year's annual meeting. Stay and explore further if you have the time
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Parking lot, The Inn

NPS-NM Editor
2500 Norment Rd. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87105

BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
Albuquerque, New Mexico
PERMIT NO 633

