

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
TAOS CHAPTER
2022 Annual Report

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Chapter Rep to State NPS: Jan
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Greenhouse: Kathryn Mayer

Publicity: Board members

Membership: vacant

*** 2022 Meetings with Speakers ***

All meetings were in person in 2022. Video recordings were made but have yet to be edited and uploaded. Previous years' video recording of speakers can be seen on our YouTube channel: tinyurl.com/TaosNPSvideos

March 30 Ben Wright "Habitat Restoration and Long-Term Ecological Monitoring at Rio Fernando Park" (attendees ~ 24)

April 27 Richard Rubin "Wisdom Practices for Spring". (attendees ~18)

May 25 George Miller "Magic, Mystery and Deception in Backyard Pollinator Gardens" (attendees ~ 20)

June 29 Nik MacPhee, BLM "Rare Native Plants in Taos and Where to Find Them." (attendees 26)

Sept. 28 Dr. Olivia Carril, Santa Fe "Bee-plant relationships: A match made in heaven or a love on the rocks?" (attendees ~ 20)

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*** 2022 Wildflower Walks/Field Trips/ Workshops ***

April 9 Picuris Trail to (successfully) find Pasque flowers. (18 people)

April 23 Earth Day at Rio Fernando Park: We participated with the following

- Information table with handouts
- Tours of the greenhouse
- Sold some plants with the caution that they can't be planted for another month
- Winter sowing and seed cleaning demonstration
- Gave away (but received donations) seedlings of several species of shrubs and trees give to us by Owen Burney (Director of the Forestry Research Center of NMSU near Mora) as he was evacuating the greenhouses near Mora because of the threatening fire.

April 25 Roundtable discussion on the subject of gardening with native plants featuring Gail Haggard of Plants of the Southwest. This was held in a covered area outside our greenhouse. (20 people)

May 7 La Vista Verde Trail (22 people)

May 20 Field Trip to Santa Fe Botanical Garden and a private rock garden (18 people)

July 2 Tree Walk/Talk on SMU-Fort Burgwin campus, John Ubelaker (22 people)

July 23 Williams Lake: A Nature Hike - wildflowers, trees, and geology. (5 people)

Oct 1 Santa Barbara—fall color hike (8 people)

*** Projects and Public Outreach ***

1. **Greenhouse and native plant sales:** As described in previous reports, we collaborate with the Taos Land Trust (TLT), sharing our greenhouse in Rio Fernando Park (RFP) and the space surrounding it. Under the guidance of Kathryn Mayer, chapter vice-president and Greenhouse Supervisor, a greenhouse work group comprising 6-8 member/volunteers, meets weekly from about March through September at the greenhouse for various tasks according to the season (seed cleaning, seeding, potting-up, organizing plant sales). On Earth Day in April, and throughout the summer, we sold plants and books. Including donations received at various events our income totaled about \$1150. These proceeds have been put toward the construction of a storage shed on the TLT/RFP property adjacent to the greenhouse. It was built by member Bob Pokorney with the help of several other volunteers. Total materials expense is about \$2,135. Having this

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close to our greenhouse will eliminate our need for a rental storage unit off site and (hopefully) prevent further break-ins to the greenhouse for tools and supplies.

2. **Involvement with TCCWMA Working Group:** Chapter member Bob Pokorney, representing our chapter, has participated in monthly meetings of the working group for the Taos County Cooperative Weed Management Area [TCCWMA] and assumed the chairmanship position for Working Group in 2022. This group was established in 2018 to promote awareness of and develop actions to thwart the proliferation of noxious and invasive species in the county. [Other participants include Town of Taos, Carson National Forest, NMDOT, NM Dept of Agriculture, Taos Soil and Water Conservation District (TSWCD), Southern Methodist University/Taos, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Amigos Bravos, Taos Land Trust, BLM, USFS, and private citizen/educators.]

Bob is also overseeing a TCCWMA multi-year project to reclaim 30 acres of invasive Scotch Thistle property at the Southern Methodist University (SMU) Taos campus. He wrote the grant to fund this and will lead the efforts of remediation, as well as deeply involving chapter members as it moves into the native grass replanting stage. Our chapter also wrote and received a grant to study Canada Thistle at our greenhouse location at the Taos Land Trust property. Six test plots were set up to evaluate different methods of combatting Canada Thistle.

Fulfilling a NPSNM grant, the TCCWMA printed native plant coloring books and distributed them to 5th graders in 10 Taos County Schools during Soil Stewardship Week in May. The books were part of a larger program to educate kids on native plants and healthy soils.

3. **Demonstration Garden at the greenhouse at RFP:** The greenhouse committee started a Demonstration Garden near our greenhouse at the Taos Land Trust/Rio Fernando Park. Some plants were purchased with funds provided by the TLT; others were from our greenhouse or donated by members from their own gardens. Planting took place over the course of late summer/early fall and the beds were mulched with different mulches to show visitors how beautiful natives (and nearly natives) can be in their home gardens.
4. **Collaboration with the Master Naturalist Program in Santa Fe:** Under the guidance of Kathryn Mayer, greenhouse chair, three chapter members working on their Master Naturalists certification began implementing their plan on improving a pollinator garden in RFP, which is part of a greater 1.5 acres that has been seeded as a pollinator habitat. Plants grown in our greenhouse, along with some dug up and transplanted from members' garden, were planted in the early fall. Seeds were also broadcast. This parcel of land has great potential for ongoing improvement and enjoyment for the public. The Master Naturalists will continue monitoring the plot next year.
5. **An Herbarium**, established about 17 years ago by then-NPS members and colleagues (for the serious botanists and students), has been housed at the SMU-

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Fort Burgwin Campus, overseen by Dr. John Ubelaker, SMU professor emeritus and NPSNM/Taos member. As the future of the SMU-Taos campus is uncertain we made a decision to offer it to the UNM herbarium (as was the future option stated in the 2015 agreement with SMU-Taos), following a discussion Jan Martenson and Mary Adams had with Dr. Hannah Marx at the state conference in August 2022. It will be transferred there in 2023.

6. **Updating of Wasowski's *Northern New Mexico Gardens*:** No progress has been made since last year on preparing this booklet for a second publication.
7. **Annual Meeting in Albuquerque:** Six chapter members attended this year, fewer than last year's participation in the Alamogordo meeting. The ongoing Calf Canyon-Hermits Peak fires adjacent to Taos may have contributed to some members staying home in case of evacuation orders. Two chapter members had their homes burn to the ground during this fire, the largest in NM history.
8. **Publicity & Social Media:** The chapter has a Facebook page, [Native Plant Society New Mexico Taos Chapter](#), to which we post announcements of upcoming events, links to articles of interest, and photographs. We also post meetings on the Taos News Calendar, in addition to sending emails announcements to both members and non-members who requested to be placing on our 'courtesy' email list.

Submitted by Jan Martenson, Taos Chapter Representative

