

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

newsletter

VOLUME VII NO.2

MARCH-APRIL 1982

- March/April Southeastern Chapter has no set meeting date. For information on these months, call Nina Eppley at 622-1226.
- March 3 Albuquerque Chapter meets(1st Wednesdays): Dr. Jeffry Gottfried from the New Mexico Natural History Museum will speak. Museum of Albuquerque, 2000 Mountain Road, NW. 7:30 pm. NOTE NEW DATE AND PLACE.
- March 4 Glenn Niner Chapter meets(1st Thursdays):Program on Beekeeping and Honey Plants in New Mexico by one of our local beekeepers. Plant Materials Center, 1036 Miller St SW, Los Lunas. 7:00 pm.
- March 11 Las Cruces Chapter meets(2nd Thursdays):Program on how to use plant keys and practice in keying out plants. NMSU Ag Building, Room 156. 7:30 pm.
- March 14 Field Trip to Castetter Garden(at base of Sandia Tram, Alb.) Meet in the Tram parking lot. 1:00 pm.
- March 17 Santa Fe Chapter meets(3rd Wednesdays): Reggie Fletcher from the US Forest Service will show slides on the Threatened and Endangered Species in New Mexico. St. John's College, Lab Building, Room 118. 7:30 pm.
- March 20 Board of Directors meeting. Plant Materials Center, 1036 Miller ST SW, Los Lunas. Potluck starts at 12:00, meeting at 1:00 pm.
- March 28 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets(last Sundays):Paul Gordon(USFS) Director, will lead a tour up La Luz Canyon to High Rolls with appropriate stops and interesting side trips. Meet at La Luz plaza, 1:00 pm.(or bring a sack lunch at 12:00).
- April 1 Newsletter Deadline. Submit articles to the editors by this date.
- April 1 Glenn Niner Chapter meets:Plant Sale Preparation. LLPMC. 7:00 pm.
- April 7 Albuquerque Chapter meets:Plant Sale Discussion. For information on the meeting place, call Frances Szeman at 344-8201.
- April 8 Las Cruces Chapter meets:Program on the Soil and Water Conservation Division and their purposes and programs. NMSU. 7:30 pm.
- April 17 Albuquerque Garden Center Sale. 10120 Lomas Blvd.NE. Albuquerque & Glenn Niner Chapters will have native plants, seeds, etc. for sale. Also many other booths with a variety of plant materials. 9:00am to 5:00 pm.
- April 21 Santa Fe Chapter meets:Gail Tierney, speaker on Origins of Southwestern Cultivated Plants-Native Crops (Prehistoric to Pueblo).
- April 25 Otero-Lincoln Chapter meets: For information on this meeting, contact Jean Dodd in Alamogordo or Bill Mayfield in Bent(671-4617).

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were plants on earth before there was Man. Cars use gasoline derived from plants which grew in such abundance that we don't know how to imagine it--before there was Man. We have recently found these materials and have manipulated them with blind possessiveness stemming from distorted ego. "Mine!", we shout.

Cold truth is that plants can live without Man but Man cannot live without plants. We and all other animals belong to plants, and impudence is self-defeating.

Plants don't need to care if we live or die. But we had better care if they do.

Mary C. Wohles



LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The Newsletter is a vital link of communication in the Society. We want you to be a part of it.

There are many ways of contributing--questions and/or short discoveries, opinions and rebuttals, trades, etc. can be letters to the Editors. If you're feeling particularly creative, original artwork and articles (news, reviews, or technical information) are welcome at any time. We appreciate this issue's Chapter reporters and hope they will continue to contribute. If you like good clean fun, we can always use help in typing, pasting, stapling and other robotlike activities. How about a mailing party? BYOS(Bring your own stapler!)

Deadlines for this year's issues are the first of April, June, August, October and December.(Unless you're reporting on a meeting held the first week, then call in your report--865-4685, ask for Lisa.) We hope you enjoy our editorship as much as we intend to. Hope to be hearing from you!

Lisa



Quich

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

". . . I recently purchased a place in Terro, New Mexico, twelve miles up the Pecos Canyon. I want to completely cover a cyclone fence with some type of fast growing vine and/or bush. I would appreciate any suggestions that you might have. I would be delighted to do it with something native to the area..."

C.L. Mike Schmidt

We can suggest several vines that will provide cover in this situation. *Parthenocissus inserta*, New Mexico Creeper, is a crisp, clean looking deciduous vine. As fence cover, the beautiful red fall color seems to glow when backlit by autumn sun. *Clematis ligusticifolia*, Western Virgin's Bower, blooms profusely from May through September, and the showy cream colored blooms are followed by feathery seed plumules on the female plants. The deciduous foliage is a fresh green and has outstanding fence covering potential. Our native grape, *Vitis sp.*, is another possibility. In addition to the lively green leaf cover, grapes provide forage for wildlife.

When little owner assistance is possible in establishing new plantings, location and time of planting assumes greater significance. Wherever possible, plants should be located in low spots and grading should encourage run-off and pooling to provide additional moisture. Plantings should coincide with periods of potential precipitation: in the Pecos, mid to late summer. During the rainy season container-grown material should be used, while bare-root starts can be set out as late in the fall as the ground is workable when temperatures are cool, plants are dormant and evaporation is minimal.

For plantings to cover a fence we prefer vines to shrubs. Shrubby material planted closely along small mesh fencing becomes distorted in shape and can interfere with the structure of the fence. Vines, on the other hand, can hide or enhance such fencing.

-The Editors.



SLIDES OF WILDFLOWERS OF PORTALES AREA

Members of the Roswell Chapter of the Native Plant Society traveled to Portales on January 17 to hear a talk by Mary Sublette on some of the wildflower species found in the Portales area. She illustrated her talk with a series of slides, some of which were made by the new Scanning Electron Microscope at ENMU. She also said that a lot of work needs to be done in the areas of identification and listing of the species found on the eastern side of New Mexico.

Mary, along with co-author, the late Eugene Fox, recently published a guide to the roadside wildflowers of New Mexico. It is designed for the use of anyone, regardless of background, in the identification of the varied species found alongside the highways. The guide has an excellent, simplified key for the identification of plants.

The program was followed by a tour of the Scanning Electron Microscope facilities by Dr. James Sublette and two of his graduate students. The Scanning Electron Microscope is a recently acquired instrument which has opened up new research avenues for the whole Science Division.

M.P.



SANTA FE SPRING PLANT SALE

The Santa Fe Chapter will again be sponsoring their Spring Plant Sale, May 22, from 9 am to 5 pm, at the Institute for American Indian Arts, on Cerrillos Road. As in the past, there will be many different kinds of plants and books for sale. Ben Haggard will be in charge of the publicity for this event. If you are interested in being a vendor or if you have any questions, contact chapter president Carol Dimeff at 827-5182 (days) or write to her c/o P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502. Mark the date on your calendar, this is a good opportunity to talk to the people who grow the plants!

C.D.



LAS CRUCES CHAPTER SCHEDULES PROGRAMS

The Las Cruces Chapter has had a very busy fall and winter. In November we reorganized from a President to a steering committee. The Steering Committee consists of Sandy Anderson, Dovie Thomas, Jean Lozier, Tom Wooten and Bob Reeves.

The December meeting was a pot-luck dinner at Jean Lozier's home, and a slide presentation on poisonous reptiles that we could encounter on field trips. There was also an exhibit of a live rattlesnake and a gila monster.

The January meeting was a tour of the Herbarium at NMSU. Some of the other programs for the future include: "When a Rose is not a Rose.", fungi, using plant keys, and plant photography. The Las Cruces Chapter meets on the second Thursday of the month, at 7:30 pm, Room 156, Ag Building, NMSU.

J.L.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO

If you haven't been to the Rio Grande Zoo in Albuquerque for awhile, you're in for a big surprise. Many of the old exhibits and animal enclosures have been replaced by new, natural looking habitats for both our and the animals' enjoyment.

The Albuquerque Chapter was fortunate to have the zoo horticulturalist, Greg Smith, speak at our February meeting. Greg discussed the native plants (interpreted as both our own and the animals') he's using in the cages and around the zoo grounds. Of particular interest to local native plant enthusiasts are the cottonwood grove, the bird-of-prey exhibit, the reptile house and the Mexican wolves exhibit(future native landscaping).

After a slide presentation, Greg fielded questions and was able to tell us about those plants which have survived not only drought and the animals, but also the public. Next time you visit the zoo, keep your eyes open for the Gaillardias, Penstemons and Coneflowers as well as for the Lions and Tigers and Bears. . . .

T.H.

SHORT COURSE SEMINAR DISCUSSES NATIVES

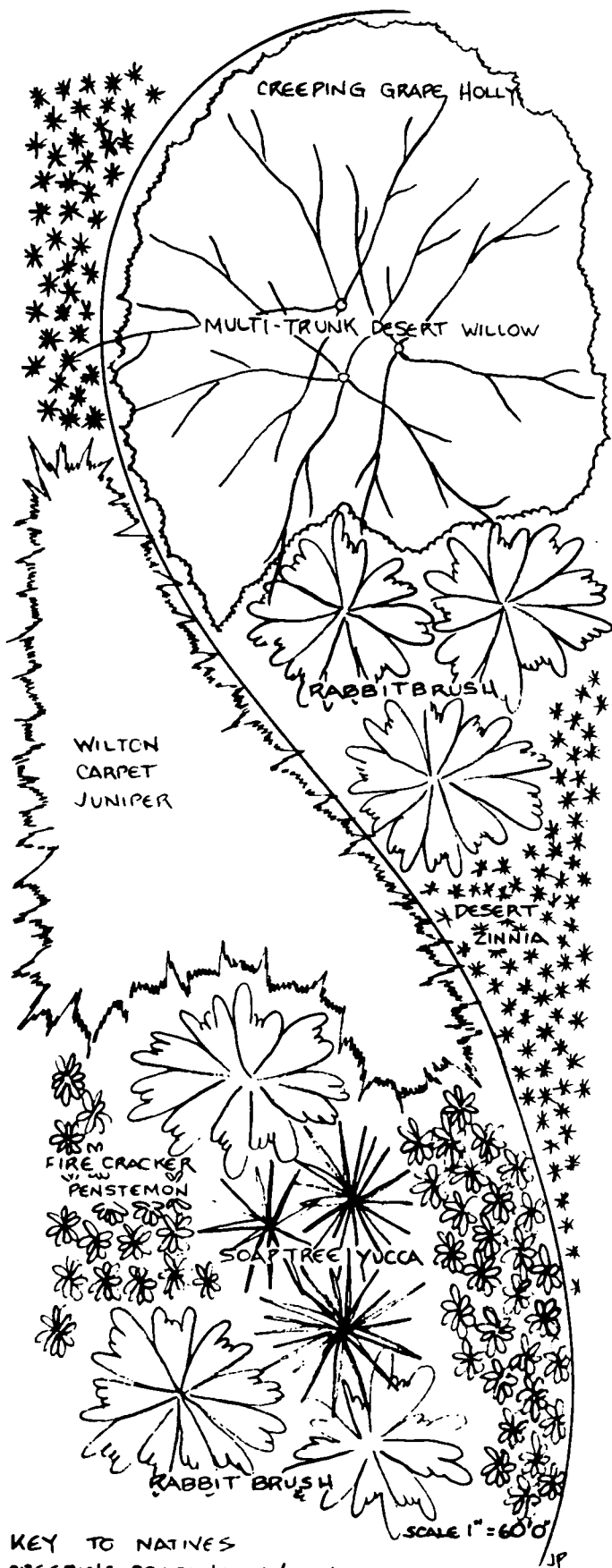
The first Sunbelt Short Course for nurserymen, landscapers and other students of horticulture was held in Las Cruces, January 20th to 22nd. Sponsored jointly by New Mexico State University and New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries, the Short Course offered seminars discussing topics from turf to financing, pest control to poinsettia production.

Two seminars were offered concerning native plants: Using Native Plants in Low-Maintenance Landscapes, and Container and Field Growing Natives. The speaker, Larry Watson, is currently general manager of Little Valley Wholesale Nursery near Denver. He is a CSU graduate, former county extension agent and landscape contractor. Little Valley Nursery produces well over a million plants a year, ranging from exotics to groundcovers to natives. His intention upon coming to Little Valley was "to put well-grown native plants in every garden center in Colorado."

Watson's seminar on landscaping began with the statement that "there's no difference between native and conventional landscaping, except selection of material." Concepts of good design can range from "refined to natural to unkempt" depending upon the desires of the homeowner and the plants used. Slides illustrated use of strong lines in beds separating textures and colors, and use of plants to produce a seasonal succession of color and interest.

Watson contends that "native landscape" is not synonymous with "low maintenance"; low maintenance is compatibility of plant, site and use, "the right plant in the right place in a working landscape." Citing grassed parkways (the soil bed between street and sidewalk) as prime examples of water waste, Watson confesses he "finds no joy in gravel" as a substitute. Hard surface areas, such as concrete, brick or decking can eliminate much unnecessary water use while adding living space.

Recommendations include planning more than one patio area, with plants on or in the patio to tie the outdoor living area to indoor space; providing shade for large paved areas, and using mulches to conserve moisture while moderating soil temperatures. The slide present-



KEY TO NATIVES

- CREEPING GRAPE HOLLY / MAHONIA REPENS
- DESERT WILLOW / CHILCIS LINEARIS
- RABBIT BRUSH / CHRYSOTHAMNUS NAUSEOSUS
- DESERT ZINNIA / ZINNIA GRANDIFLORA
- SOAP TREE YUCCA / YUCCA ELATA
- FIRE CRACKER PENSTEMON / PENSTEMON BARBATUS



tation included several examples of tempering maintenance demands by using those plants requiring high levels of moisture near the building, and progressively moving outward with unassisted (once established) native plantings.

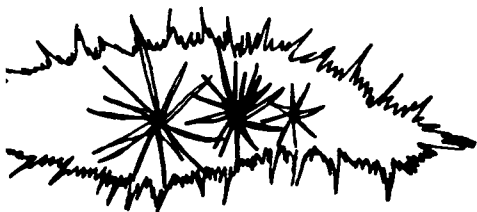
The Container and Field Growing seminar included discussion of propagation by seeds and cuttings. At Little Valley, Watson initially began by sowing native seed whenever it ripened in open beds outdoors, in soil improved as if planting conventional crops, covered with sand and a light mulch. The drawback to this method is that lack of germination can cost a year's production.

Seeding is now done for the most part in flats, the seedlings transplanted to 2" pots, using a conventional potting mix. When rootbound, the plants are shifted to 1 gallon containers in a potting mix of 48% Colorado peat, 48% sawdust and 4% scoria. The container-grown plants are watered with a nutrient solution weekly during the growing season. Cool, moist stratification was given as the most commonly required seed treatment, while a hot water soak will accelerate germination of legume seed. (Watson noted that *Robinian neomexicana* seed treated with hot water will show radicles emerging in 20 minutes.) Many seeds require no pretreatment.

Vegetative propagation is an alternative when seed is unavailable or where selecting for specific characteristics. "Hardwood cuttings are the easiest to handle," says Watson, cut and store over winter and stick in the spring. Leave in the beds all summer to grow, then lift and store over winter and pot the following spring. Softwood cuttings generally require misting, and so best results are had with a more sophisticated propagation setup.

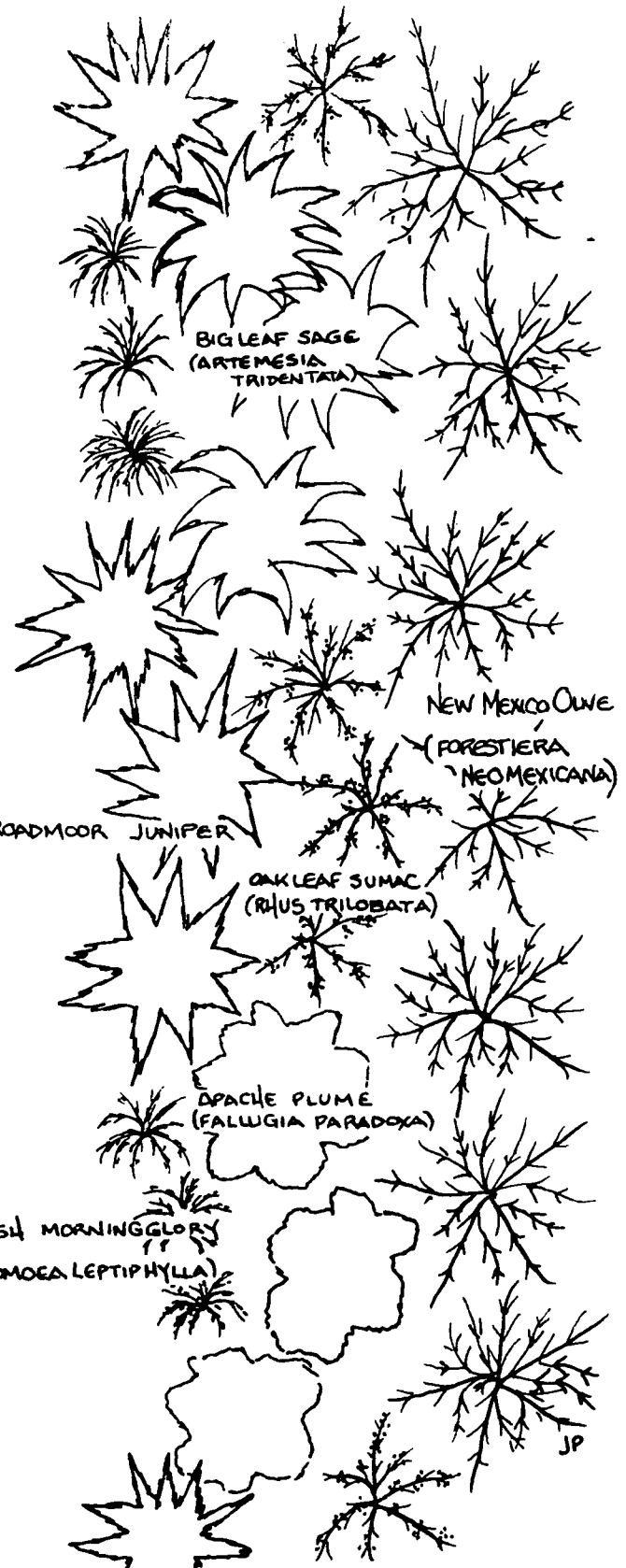
Natives are no more difficult to propagate than traditional landscape plants, what is lacking is a "cookbook" of methods most effective for specific species. "There's so much to be done. . . we need an information network, and we must get many more people growing natives to develop a healthy market," says Watson. The Short Course seemed to be a step in the right direction.

J.P.



NATIVE SHRUB BORDER - SCREEN - HEDGE OR WINDBREAK

SCALE 1" = 10'



GRADUATED HEIGHT: TO 3' ↑ TO 6' ↑ TO 12' ↑

DENSE COVER AND SEASONAL INTEREST
EVERGREEN: JUNIPER, SAGE & APACHE PLUME

FALL COLOR: FORESTIERA/GOLD & SUMAC/RED

BLOOM: IPOMOEA/PURPLE & APACHE PLUME/WHITE

FRUIT: FORESTIERA/BLUE, SUMAC/ORANGE & APACHE PLUME/PINK

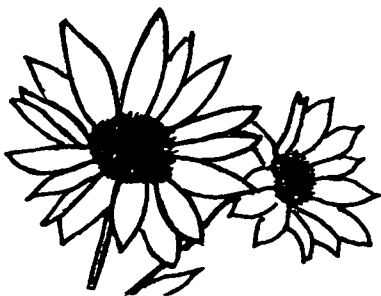
A NATIONAL FLOWER?

-from Organic Gardening, October 1981.

Marc Askew, a Sacramento, California, garden designer, is campaigning to make the sunflower, *Helianthus annuus*, the national flower. Congress will have to act on this. Over the years many flowers have been recommended. In the 1890's the sunflower was on a list of plants being considered. That particular symposium ended up proposing the corn tassel for our national flower.

Some of the sunflower's qualifications are: It is the only native plant valued as a food crop(worldwide), as an ornamental flower and as a wildflower; it is associated with the sun and symbolizes our conversion to solar energy; and it can be grown in every state.

Because national flower bills are of low priority, sunflower lovers should write their congressional representatives urging them to support the passage of this bill. People wishing more information on this campaign can write to: *The Sunflower*, Box 2051, Fargo , N.D. 58107.



SUN 'N SALT

Helianthus paradoxus is a rare, oft-sought sunflower known mainly near Ft. Stockton, Texas. One 1851 specimen from western New Mexico was once assigned to the species. In a recent issue of Southwestern Naturalist Seiler, Cuk, and Rogers of Texas report new localities including a site 2.5 miles north-east of Dexter in Chaves County, at present the only known New Mexican locality. The species grows only where saline water is at or near the surface. These plants are potentially valuable as a source of genes for salt-resistance which could be introduced into cultivated sunflowers.

R.P.

MEDICINAL PLANTS OF THE RIO ABAJO

Dan Scurlock, an environmental specialist with UNM was the January speaker for the Glenn Niner Chapter. Mr. Scurlock showed slides of 25 medicinal plants found in the Rio Abajo (the area of the Rio Grande from Bernalillo to Socorro). Several parts of the plants are often used, brewed as a tea to relieve many symptoms. The berries of one-seed juniper (*Juniperus monosperma*), brewed as a tea was used for kidney treatment, while the mashed leaves of Broom Snakeweed (*Xanthocephalum Sarothrae*) were used to stop blood flow. Prickly pear pads (*Opuntia sp.*) were used to reduce swellings, while the roots were used to treat sunburn.

Mr. Scurlock cautions against rushing out and collecting medicinal plants. First, be positive on the plant identification. Osha (*Ligusticum Porteri*) which is helpful in treating colds and flu looks very much like Water Hemlock (*Cicuta sp.*) which is deadly in small amounts. Collect plants only from a large population and never collect more than one-fourth of the total number of plants. This enables others to enjoy the plants and doesn't endanger the population.

For more detailed reading on edible or medicinal plants, see Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mountains by H. D. Harrington or Medicinal Plants of Mountain West by Michael Moore.

L.J.

PLANT SALE IN ALBUQUERQUE

The Albuquerque and Glenn Niner Chapters are participating in the April 17 Albuquerque Garden Center Sale. Native plants, seeds, and information will be available by the arm-full. The gates open at 9:00am and we hope to see you there!

Contributors to this issue are:

A.D.- Anna Deardorff
C.D.- Carol Dimeff
T.H.- Ted Hodoba
L.J.- Lisa Johnston
J.L.- Jean Lozier
M.P.- Mary Peckipaugh
R.P.- Roger Peterson
J.P.- Judith Phillips

PLANTS AND POEMS NEED MONEY

A bilingual 'wildflower art' book called Plantas y Poemas by Dan Godfrey and E.A. Mares is in literary limbo, victim of dwindling budgets. Plantas y Poemas, designed as a teaching aid, illustrates many common wildflowers in coloring-book fashion accompanied by a text in Spanish and English that is sometimes humorous, often poetic and always informative. Originally funded as a wide spectrum project for use in the public schools, the work endeavors to promote student interest in language and graphic arts as well as plan plants. The work is printer ready, but the money is not forthcoming.

Dan Godfrey, the Albuquerque artist responsible for the beautiful illustrations and English text, is unwilling to abandon his efforts and has created a set of 5 wildflower drawings, sales of which will purchase the copyright and help privately fund publication of the book.

Each illustration is 10x14", double matted (overall size 16x20"). The original designs were offset printed on parchment, and are hand tinted with colored pencil. The five species illustrated are: *Calochortus gunnisonii*, Mariposa lily; *Datura metaloides*, Sacred Datura; *Nicotiana trigonophylla*, Wild Tobacco; *Oenothera hookeri*, Evening Primrose and *Ipomoea leptophylla*, Bush Morningglory. The price per print is \$50.00, or the set of five is \$235.00. Godfrey will also create custom designs upon request. He can be contacted for particulars at P.O. Box 4335, Albuquerque NM 87196, or call 242-1866.



**SHARE
WITH
WILDLIFE**



GIFTS OF COLOR SLIDES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

You can deduct \$0.55 plus the cost of film for each color slide of New Mexican plant and plant communities or native plant landscaping in the garden which you donate to the Society. Flower close-ups, habit shots, pollinators in action, expansive landscapes, before-and-after pictures of gardens which feature predominantly native plants, all of these are what we need. Technical quality-good exposure, clear focus- is a must, of course. These slides will be shown around the state by our chapters to their members as well as to other interested groups. Already, we have a nice set of Dog Canyon species.

Label each slide as best you can-place, scientific name and common name, date taken. If you are not a flower photographer, and you want to help by funding this effort or by helping solicit donations from photographers, your assistance is welcome. Send your contributions to: Anna Deardorff, c/o P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe, NM 87502.

A.D.

KESTREL KOTTAGES

This is Kestrel courtship season so now is the time to set up your Kestrel house. Among the many benefits of these birds is that they eat grasshoppers and can act as a biological control. Anna Deardorff has copies of the directions for making a Kestrel house and she will be happy to send a copy out if provided with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Write to her c/o P.O. Box 5917, Santa Fe NM 87502.

SHARE WITH THE WILDLIFE

In the past, plants and animals not falling into the categories of rare and endangered or game species have not been considered in conservation programs. Line 23 of the 1981 New Mexico Income Tax Return gives the taxpayer interested in supporting the preservation of non-game species the opportunity to contribute his state tax refund to the Dept. of Game and Fish for this purpose. This will provide funds for management of nongame animals and their habitat. Consider line 23 when you're filing your tax form this year.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico
 P.O. Box 5917
 Santa Fe NM 87502

_____ New
 _____ Renewal
 _____ Annual(\$8.00)
 _____ Friend(\$25.00 min)

SEEING RED

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.


If you have found a red dot by your name on your mailing label, we haven't received your 1982 dues. To keep receiving the newsletter, we need to have your dues as soon as possible. Help support NPS, mail your dues in today.

(Dues paid since Sept '81 are current for 1982.)

	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		

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip



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THIRD CLASS

Plant Sale Dates:

- March 27 Phoenix-Desert Botanical Garden
- April 3 Boyce Thompson Arboretum, Superior,
 AZ.