

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

May/June 1986

Volume XI No. 3

CALENDAR

- May 3 SANTA FE plant sale at Museum of International Folk Art to raise funds for Native Plant Garden on grounds. 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- May 7 - - ALBUQUERQUE chapter meeting on Grasses by Will Moyer. Albuquerque Art Museum 7:30 p.m.
- May 10 LAS CRUCES field trip to Animas Canyon. Pan Am Center 8:00 a.m.
- May 10 ALAMOGORDO plant sale at Garden Center
- May 14 LAS CRUCES chapter meeting on Flowers of Connecticut by Larry Mitchell. Room 190 Ag. Bldg. NMSU 7:30 p.m.
- June 5 ALBUQUERQUE chapter meeting, program to be announced. Discussion of June fieldtrip. Albuquerque Art Museum 7:30 p.m.
- June 8 ALAMOGORDO field trip to Aguirre Springs. Meet there at 2:00 p.m.
- June 8 LAS CRUCES field trip to Aguirre Springs (ed-could get crowded). Pan Am Center, 8:00 a.m.
- June 11 LAS CRUCES chapter meeting on Plant Identification--group participation. Room 190 Ag. Bldg. NMSU 7:30 p.m.
- June 22 Board of Directors meeting. Open to all members, come see Lisa's wildflower plots. Plant Materials Research Center, Los Lunas.
- June 26-30 CDRI Texas Grasslands Tour
- June 28 CDRI Propagation of Native Plants. Alpine, Texas.
- June 29 ALAMOGORDO field trip to Silver Springs on the Mescalero Reservation. Meet at junction of highways 24 and 82 at 10:30 a.m. Bring lunch.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently spoke to a group of home owners with low-income loans.

They were interested in landscaping for low maintenance and low cost. I explained how native plants could be used to satisfy these requirements. While few of the home owners will design a totally native landscape, many will use natives in selected areas around their homes,

Just providing the information (talks, pamphlets, sources of plants) is the first major step. Contact the low-income housing authority in your community (such as Farmers Home Administration). Tell them about the publications available and let them know when your chapter meets, especially if the program is on landscaping. The response could be tremendous!!

Lisa

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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Books *Books* Books *Books* *Books* Books

A new publication "Verified Checklist of the Grasses of New Mexico" by Kelley Allred, Stephan Hatch and Robert Soreng, indexes the scientific names of all grasses growing in New Mexico. (Total 417 taxa). The report also describes the regions of the state where the grasses grow. The verified part means that they have actually seen the plant or had a reliable verification of its occurrence. To request a copy, contact your county extension office and ask for NMSU Ag. Experiment Station Research Report 579.

Like several other NPS-NM members, I am interested in learning more about Harry R. Phillips' book Growing and Propagating Wild Flowers before shelling out the \$25 price. Since the book is printed by University of North Carolina Press, I fear the material may be directed for the southeastern U.S. If you have the book, please send us a book report for the next NPS-NM newsletter. Does the book hold much interest for us in the Southwest and is the material on propagation worth the \$25 hardcover, \$15 softcover price?

CHAPTER REPORTS

SANTA FE CHAPTER

The January meeting conducted by Peter Green was a beautifully presented slide show on photographing wildflowers. Most of the species shown were around the Wheeler Peak area. Peter's slides taken in connection with his work in Natural Resources Department were exceptionally colorful. He gave us useful tips in photographing these brilliantly colored wildflowers such as Columbine, Harebell, Santa Fe Phlox, Richardson's geranium, Jacob's Ladder, Sky Pilot, Indian Paintbrush, Penstemon Bucklii, Dalea formosa and Lavenders. He emphasized concentration on depth of field when taking a picture, along with use of magnifying lens before using regular lens. Experimenting with focusing at different angles for close-ups of wildflowers will sometimes produce entirely different and surprising results rather than continually focusing at one angle. ASA 400 is better film for use on dark days and using a cable along with small tripod and Kodachrome film has been found to be helpful in taking better pictures. Remember the removal of distractions such as twigs when focusing for these close-ups of flowers in the wild. It was a splendid showing of close-ups of wildflowers and his pointers on use of your camera were very enlightening.

Our February program was a talk with slides on Xeriscape gardening with native plants in the Santa Fe area given by Ellen Wilde. She emphasized that you cannot expect just any plant that is native to do well in all areas. Plants must be chosen that grow in similar habitats and elevations. The best time for planting perennials, deciduous shrubs and trees is in October. The soil should be checked before irrigation as plants often suffer more from over watering than under watering. Mulches to

conserve water and keep down soil temperatures may be either natural pine needles or gravel or rock.

The March meeting presented by Sam Hitt, Pest Management Consultant, concerned with the Spruce Budworm. In 1984, a 5 year moratorium was called for a control on pesticides, spear-headed by Sam Hitt. Experiments are being conducted in the Jemez by various agencies to control this problem.

Don Lowrie presented wildflower slides of the Astoria, Oregon and Saddle Mountain area. Most of the species shown were seen by the Lewis & Clark Expedition and are naturally native to the damp forest areas in the Pacific Northwest; Deer Fern, Sword Fern and other ferns, Twisted Stalk, False Lily of the Valley and Wapatu. Dr. Lowrie had several plants mounted for closer examination. According to Dr. Lowrie Oregon crabapple bark was mixed with tobacco and Kinnikinnick during long journeys.

CDRI Video

The Albuquerque Chapter has recently acquired the half hour video cassette from CDRI titled The Spiral Dance: Reflections on Big Bend National Park. The cassette is available to all NPS-NM chapters for postage and insurance. Contact Ted Hodoba.

1986 NPS-NM OFFICERS

President--Lisa Johnston
Vice President--Tom Wooten
Recording Secretary--Dovie Thomas
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Membership Secretary--Judith Phillips

Chinese Or Siberian Elms by John Hubbard

An Asiatic species of elm (Ulmus pumila L.) has become a regular fixture of the New Mexico landscape, occurring in situations from planted shade trees to members of riparian communities in the wild. As with many people, I have long thought that the common name for this exotic is interchangeably Chinese or Siberian elm. However, my ignorance of this matter was recently shed, when I learned that these two entities are distinct species. Ulmus pumila is appropriately called the Siberian elm, while the Chinese elm is Ulmus parvifolia Jacq.

Howell (1966) provides a key to separate these two elms, both of which have been introduced into the United States. The Siberian elm is a hardy species, while the Chinese elm does best in mild climates--such as coastal California. The Siberian elm is a spring-fruiting species with rough bark, few lenticles, and broad, asymmetrical stipules that are lobed at the base. The Chinese elm is an autumn-fruiting, smooth-barked species, with numerous lenticles and stipules that are narrow and unlobed at the base. The Siberian elm is native to Siberia, Turkestan, and China, while the Chinese elm occurs natively in China, Korea, and Japan.

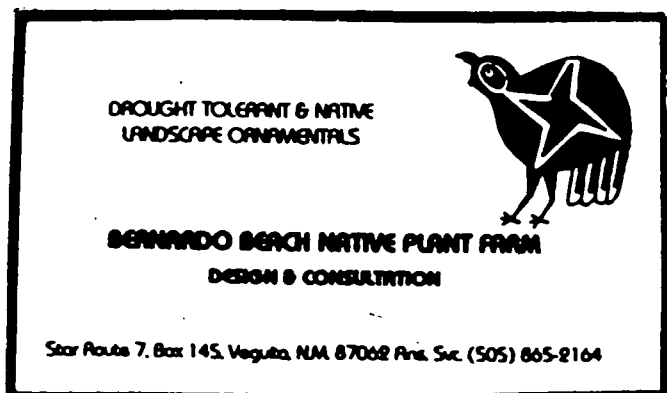
The Chinese elm is widespread in New Mexico, and it has become naturalized in various areas--including in canyons in foothill areas, along lowland streams, and in less natural sites. Reproduction

occurs both from seeds and via root-suckers. In some areas, the species provides important habitat for wildlife, mainly as cover and as a source of insects. The species can be a nuisance (e.g., in extending roots into sewerage lines), and it is subject to wind, insect, and fungal damage. From a wildlife point of view, the advantage of the Siberian elm outweighs the disadvantages--particularly in those areas of New Mexico where native trees are absent or infrequent.

Interestingly, the Siberian elm is not mentioned in such early works on New Mexico's flora as Wooten and Standley (1915). On the other hand, Lamb (1971:48-49) properly attributed a statewide range to the species, and he also correctly distinguished it from the Chinese elm. Martin and Hutchins (1980:525) mention Ulmus pumila as occurring in the state "occasionally as an escape from cultivation," without reference to its common name or with the provision of a map. If mapped, the species would occur in every county of New Mexico--with naturalized populations in most, if not all as well.

New Mexico has no native species of elms, but the genus no doubt occurred here as recently as a few thousand years ago. Martin (1963) has found elm pollen in southeastern Arizona in alluvial deposits that are dated about 8,000 years ago. A native elm, Ulmus leueuri Standley, is known to occur in the Sierra Madre Occidental of northwestern Chihuahua (LeSueur 1945)--less than 150 air-miles south of Hidalgo County. Eastward, several species of native American elms occur as close to New Mexico as Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas (Sargent 1961). Of these, the cedar elm (U. crassifolia Nutt.) and the American elm (U. americana L.) occurs natively within 200 miles of eastern New Mexico. I believe the American elm has also been planted as an ornamental in our state, based on trees that I have seen growing in such places as Las

CONT LAST PAGE



Writes of Spring

On Germination and Growing

Early results on germination of pretreated seeds are more than encouraging this year. In fact, if I didn't fear 6 months in traction, I'd be doing cartwheels right now. This was the second year that I've stored seeds outdoors for a cold-moist pretreatment in a styrofoam picnic cooler. The winter of '84-'85, uniformly gray, cold and damp was ideal for that low-cost, low-energy alternative to refrigerator storage. Temperatures in the cooler were consistently cold, near or below freezing, for two months and gradually warmed as sowing time approached. I had qualms about the picnic cooler storage this past winter. Mild sunny days and relatively mild nights, interrupted briefly by drastic drops in night temperatures, raised doubts that the seeds would have the accumulated cold hours required to stimulate germination, or worse still, that embryos plump with moisture would freeze and rupture. I listened for tiny explosions—thousands of seeds popping their cell walls. Luckily that did not happen.

Seeding time outdoors is determined by prevailing air & soil temperatures rather than the numbers on the calendar, and if the winter '84-'85 left doubts as to whether spring would ever come, the past dormant season had me wondering if this was spring or if winter would arrive later and all the meaner for having to wait. We seemed to skip from November to February and it's been a very long March. By mid-February (on the calendar) the Sumacs, Chamisa, Mountain Mahogany, Manzanita, Flax, Wyethia, and several Penstemon were beginning to sprout in storage and the weather turned even milder. I moved the seeds into the refrigerator hoping to buy more time, (I have a tough time deciding on two flavors at Baskin Robbins. Deciding the fate of thousands of

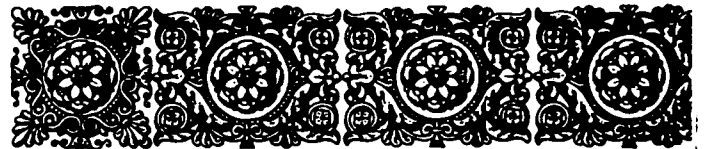
potential plants involves careful consideration and procrastination.) and sowed the seeds mid-March under fiberglass as usual. Germination has been excellent! Better than last year.

So what conclusions can be drawn from this comparison of seed storage under natural conditions during two very different winters? Perhaps storage temperatures are not nearly as restrictive as controlled laboratory tests would indicate, and consistent moisture is more important than consistent cold. While deep freezing once seeds have imbibed moisture can be deadly, moderate, fluctuating cold may enhance germination overall. Warm soil temperatures definitely improve gemination.

Judith Phillips

Books Books

NPS-NM is now offering the Audubon Field Guide to North American Wildflowers (Western Region) by Richard Spellenberg. Member price is \$10.80 plus .75 postage. For a complete listing of available books, contact NPS-NM Books, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, 87031.

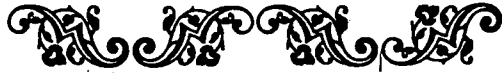


BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

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Penstemons, Please Help

From time to time I have seen articles in the NPS Newsletter about Penstemons and I know there are many of you out there growing them. I think anyone who gardens with wildflowers becomes a penstemon enthusiast. I would like your help in putting together for NPS a slide show with close-up and full-plant shots of penstemons growing in the wild and in the gardens. Don't you think it would be a popular program to have available whenever a chapter is at a loss for a program? In addition I would like to put together a pamphlet on growing them, with information on all the species and hybrids that have been grown successfully here. This could be a Newsletter insert and also something to use as a fundraiser at plant sales all around the state. Perhaps others would be interested in doing the same thing for salvias, potentillas, castilleja or aquilegias?

Please send your slides to me so that I can have them duplicated or have the duplicates made yourself and I will reimburse you. I'd like each slide marked with the species, date taken, location and name of the photographer or grower. Even if you don't take pictures I would like to have information on what you grow and any growing tips you can provide. It would be a great to be able to get it all together this fall but I am afraid I may be too late for the southern species by the time the Newsletter is out so it might be next summer before it is together.

Martin and Hutchins A Flora of New Mexico lists the following as the New Mexico species and I would like to have all of them.....

P. alamosensis, albidus, ambiguus, angustifolius, auriberberis, barbatus, brandegii, breviculus, bridgesii, buckleyi,

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cardinalis, comarhenus, crandalli, dasyphyllus, eatonii, fendleri, gracilis, jamesii (now Chionophylla jamesii), lanceolatus, lentus, linarioides, neomexicanus, oliganthus, palmeri, pinifolius, pseudospectabilis, pulchellus, rydbergii, secundiflorus, strictus, superbus, thurberi, whippleanus.

The American Penstemon Society also lists *P. ophianthus* and *P. strictiformis* as separate species and adds *P. deaveri, P. griffinii, P. hallii* and *P. havardii* as New Mexico species and I would very much like to include them.

So put on your cameras and go out hiking (as it you needed an excuse!) if you would like to see this project completed. If you are interested in taking close-ups but don't have a macrolens or want to spend big bucks a friend recommended to me the \$17.00 Vivitar plus 10 diopter that comes in several lens sizes and have been very pleased with it.

Ellen Wilde
110 Calle Pinonero
Sante Fe, 87505



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WHO'S WHO IN NEW MEXICO BOTANIZING

Here's a list of some of the people who have botanized in New Mexico and the areas they visited. Adopt one and let us know what you discover about your special botanist!
(from Rocky Mountain Naturalists by J. Ewan)

Darwin Maxson Andrews Thomas Antisell Hermano Gerfroy Arsene (Arsene Gustave Joseph Brouard) Edward Houghton Ashmun Vernon Orlando Bailey Charles Fuller Baker Carleton Roy Ball Adolphe F. A. Bandelier John Milton Bigelow Edward Franklin Castetter Franklin Sumner Earle Charlotte Cortland Ellis Fred Wilbert Emerson William Helmsley Emory Augustus Fendler William Gambel Edward Lee Greene Josiah Gregg Fran Hall Knowlton John Gill Lemmon Mildred Ester Mathias Orrick Baylor Metcalfe Charles Christopher Parry Alfred Rehder Henry Hurd Rusby Charles Piper Smith Volney Morgan Spaldiing Paul Carpenter Standley William Codman Sturgis George Thurber Ivar Tidestrom George Vasey George Richard Vasey Carl Brandt Wolf Elmer Otis Wooton	Mt. Capulin area Burro Mtns area Las Vegas, Santa Fe area Albuquerque Cloudcroft, Pecos Baldy Chama area New Mexico Northern NM Albuquerque, Sandia Mtns. New Mexico El Capitan Mtns., Salado Canyon Sandia Mtns., Hot Springs area White Sands area Raton area Santa Fe area Santa Fe area New Mexico Santa Fe area Western NM Southwestern NM Central & Northern NM Black Range Northern NM Cloudcroft, Sacramento Mtns. Mogollon Mtns., Western NM N. Central & Northeast NM Sacramento Mtns. White Mtns, Pecos area Las Vegas area Silver City area New Mexico Santa Fe, Las Vegas areas Las Vegas, Rio Grande to Socorro Tularosa Creek, Otero Co. Southern NM
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address _____

Phone No. _____

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Please enclose your check payable to:

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

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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.)?

ELMs cont

10th Anniversary T-shirt

Vegas.

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Since 1986 is such an important year for NPS-NM (it's our 10th anniversary), our Board of Directors thought a commemorative T-shirt was in order. Try as they could, they could not come up with a design. So we now as YOU, the membership and other interested parties to design a logo for us. The winner will receive a free T-shirt (don't call us cheap). Rules are simple:

1. The design should commemorate the 10th anniversary and should be a plant or an abstract design. How about an R&E?
2. The design can have up to 4 colors.
3. All entries should be received by me, Susan Wachter, 2500 Norment Rd. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105 by JUNE 18, 1986.

The Board will vote at their meeting and the winner will be announced in the next issue. Purchasing details will also be available at that time. If you are not an artist, don't worry, just tell us your idea and we'll find someone to draw it.

NPS-NM Editor
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