

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

March/April 1987

Volume XII No. 2

CALENDAR

- March 4 ALBUQUERQUE 7:30 pm Albuquerque Museum
- 7 SANTA FE fieldtrip to Cochiti Tent Rocks to see Manzanita and other early bloomers. 9:00 am PERA lot.
- 8 LAS CRUCES fieldtrip to Aden Lava Flow. 8:00 am NMSU Pan Am Center parking lot.
- 11 LAS CRUCES film on the Chihuahuan Desert. 7:30 pm Ag. Bldg. NMSU Room 190
- 15 DEADLINE FOR PENSTEMON SOCIETY CONFERENCE
- 18 SANTA FE speaker Jim Sais, Urban Horticulturist NMSU Cooperative Extension Service. "Native Plants for New Mexico Landscapes". 7:30 pm St. John's College
- 28 OTERO potluck, seed exchange and Jim Sais' slides and tape on plants used for remedies. 1:00 pm at Nancy Hutto's new house. From the highway turn west at the TasteFreeze and follow the road to a dead end (about 2 mi.) turn right. It is the first house on the left.
- 28-29 ALBUQUERQUE New Mexico Cactus and Succulent Society's cactus and succulent sale. Albuquerque Garden Club Center, 10120 Lomas NE, 1:30-4 pm Admission 75¢ Information call 898-5856
- April 1 ALBUQUERQUE Judith Phillips on propagating native plants. 7:30 pm Albuquerque Museum
- 5 LAS CRUCES fieldtrip to Dona Ana Mts. 8:00 am
- 8 LAS CRUCES Show and Tell: Plant Identification

...calendar continued next page....

...calendar continued...

- 15 SANTA FE New Mexico Grasses and How to Identify Them by Roger Peterson and Iris Davis. 7:30 pm
- 25 ALBUQUERQUE native plant sale at Albuquerque Garden Club Center. Members encouraged to contribute plants for this sale and hopefully pick-up a few new ones.
- 25 OTERO White Sands Missile Range native plant fieldtrip. This is a once a year tour open to NPS-NM members (and friends) but **ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY!!** Those interested must register with Jean Dodd 434-3041 no later than April 9th. Tour begins at the Tularosa Gate.
- 26 SANTA FE fieldtrip to Valley of Fires 8:00 am
- May 2 SANTA FE plant sale at the International Folk Art Museum 11:30
- 6 ALBUQUERQUE LeRoy and Betty Stratford slides on 20 years photographing native plants. 7:30 pm
- 9 OTERO plant sale at the Garden Center. 9 am-2 pm

Endangered Species Act

Congress adjourned in October without resolving the conflicts to passage of the Endangered Species Act. The bill stalled in the Senate over continued sport hunting of threatened grizzly bears in Montana and endangered turtle species in Alabama impeding coal mining. The bill was never put on the agenda for vote in the Senate, though had passed the House.

The bill will be reintroduced in this new Congress. Your support for the bill will be needed as early as the first of March.

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

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Myra McCormick (505) 538-2538

Silver City, N.M. 88061

CHAPTER CONTACTS

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Walter Graf, 4735 W. Lea SW, Albuquerque, 87105 (877-6469)

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

LAS CRUCES

Tom Wootten, 5840 N. Main St., Las Cruces 88991 (522-4434)

OTERO CHAPTER

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SANTA FE

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

TOHONO CHUL PARK

Tucson has many interesting places to visit. While many people know about the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, a less well known, but just as interesting place to visit is the Tohono Chul Park, Papago Indian for "Desert Corner". This desert garden contains 400 arid plant species on more than 30 Sonoran Desert acres. Additionally is an exhibit building with changing displays, gift shop and the Haunted Bookshop, the original business at the site with a wide desert plant and wildlife book section. The Demonstration Garden, with patios and ramadas, features native plants appropriate for Tucson area landscaping.

Another garden at Tohono Chul Park is the very interesting Ethnobotanical Garden. Here a demonstration garden features plants used by the Papago Indians. During our visit in October, 1986, we saw many vegetables, cotton and other plants ripening in the autumn sun.

Tohono Chul Park is privately owned, but is non-profit. How nice it would be to see a similar park here in New Mexico. Perhaps some far-sighted individual will use their land for such a purpose. Tohono Chul is open 7:00 a.m. to sunset daily. From September through May plant sales are held in their greenhouse from 11:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. wednesdays and saturdays. Many plants sold are hardy in southern New Mexico and as far north as Albuquerque. The park is located at 7366 Pasea de Norte in Tucson. For further information and directions, phone (602) 742-6455.

Ted Hodoba

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Vice President--Tom Wootten
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The farm near Veguita is open all year
by appointment

Southwestern Landscaping With Native Plants
will be hot off the presses in early April!
Really!

Penstemon Survey

In this newsletter is the form to collect information about all the penstemons in New Mexico. Additional copies can be obtained from your chapter contact person, newsletter editor or from Ellen Wilde. Please carry them with you and fill them out whenever you go hiking and when you are working in your garden. You don't need to fill every blank: whatever information you can supply will be helpful. The first side is for those found in the wild; use the second side also for those you have in your garden.

When you complete a sheet on a species please return it to Ellen Wilde, 110 Calle Pinonero, Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

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CHAPTER REPORTS

Albuquerque

The January meeting featured Lisa Johnston, current president of NPS-NM. Lisa presented a program on unusual or off-beat uses for native plants. This talk and slide presentation is being developed for NPS-NM use. Contributions are most welcome. Example of the unusual plant uses is the use of cliff-rose bark in baby boards as the bark is noted for it's absorbency. Following Lisa's presentation members shared new books and catalogs featuring native plants.

The February program was presented by Ted Hodoba. The slide discussion featured the Cactus Hill area outside Las Vegas. The area has many penstemon in addition to other flowers. After the meeting several members thought a fieldtrip would be in order to Cactus Hill. At this time June 27th is the proposed date. More information will be given both at the monthly meetings as well as in this newsletter.

Las Cruces

The chapter wound up 1986 with a deliciously aromatic program in October when Jan Meissner came armed with all sorts of flower extracts used in various fragrances. These were complemented with Jan's presentation of the historical values and uses of fragrances and some ideas about do-it-yourself projects.

A good crowd attended the field trip to Box Canyon. This area is very close to downtown Las Cruces but few have been there. The day and trip were quite happy ones for us all though it is very sobering that this area may be abandoned by the BLM in favor of dirt bikes and four wheelers.

Pot luck supper in November was so well attended additional tables were brought out twice. Much good conversation, too much food and an entertaining slide show by Bob Reeves regarding the NPS state meeting in Grants.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 11, 1987, Rm 190, Ag. Bldg., NMSU.

Santa Fe

The October meeting was on plant identification. Iris David lead the group in an interesting review of plant morophology and the characteristics of our favorite flower families.

For the November meeting Dr. Don Lowrie presented the program illustrating with color slides the various ways bees and birds pollinate flowers. The outstanding slides enabled us to view first hand exactly the intermingling of flower, birds and bees in the pollination process and the effects this has on our environment.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barker presented the last program of the 1986 season. Mrs. Barker narrated while Ray presented an exceptional slide program showing the many flowers and trees from the six life zones found in New Mexico. The discussion of these six zones was most enlightening, explaining to us why various native plants, shrubs and trees are found at the different elevation and different soils of New Mexico. This program was dedicated to Mr. Elliott S. Barker, former state game warden and conservationist who celebrated his 100th birthday on December 25, 1986.

The Christmas pot luck dinner was held at the Loring home. Twenty-four hardy souls attended. A brisk walk through deep snow helped whet our appetite for the most tasty food.

TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES TREES

Richard Atkinson of "Southwest Trees and Landscapes" spoke to the Santa Fe Chapter in January and had many valuable tips on tree care that we would like to share with the rest of the membership. He began by stressing that trees are an economic asset and good care is a wise investment. To maintain trees in the lanscape, the following do's and don'ts were stressed.

DO make regular inspections of your trees from all angles, with binoculars where necessary, at least three times a year. Look for any drastic changes in foliage and bark.

PENSTEMON SURVEY

DATE _____

PENSTEMON species _____ variety _____

Your name _____ address _____

Location of plant _____

(Please give details so plant can be easily located again)

exposure? _____ soil type? _____

full sun? _____ part shade? _____

elevation? _____

DESCRIPTION

STEMS: height? _____ inches? _____ stem number? _____

thin? _____ thick? _____ stiff? _____ floppy? _____

woody? _____ hairy? _____ color? _____

glaucous?(having a whitish covering which is easily rubbed off)? _____

FLOWERS: color(s)? _____

lines in throat? _____ color? _____


draw in shape of face 

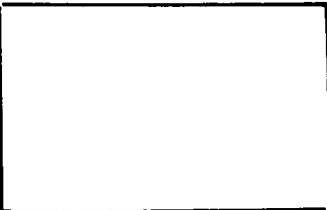
draw in shape of tube 


Are there hairs on the lip? _____ in the throat? _____

Describe them _____

Does the staminode have hairs? _____ does it extend out of the throat? _____

Anther color? _____ Draw shape if possible 

LEAVES:
Draw stem leaf 

Draw basal leaf 

Color of leaves? _____ glaucous? _____

Arrangement of flowers: do most flowers face one direction on stem? _____

Are flowers close to stem or on individual stalks out from the stem? _____

Approximately how many bloom and buds in a pair of leaf axils? _____

Is there noticeable space between flower clusters? _____

What proportion of the stem has flowers? _____

Is the plant in full bloom on this date? _____ Just beginning? _____ Nearly done? _____

Other comments? _____

GROWER'S INFORMATION

Date of bloom: first buds open _____
full bloom _____ until _____
last flowers _____

Did you cut stems off after blooms were gone? _____

Did it rebloom? _____

Did you raise plant(s) from seed? _____

Did you grow the plant from a cutting? _____ stem? _____ root? _____

Did you purchase plants? _____ Nursery? _____

Other? _____

Was this variety easy to grow? _____

Does it volunteer from its own seed: _____

How many years have you had it? _____

Have you had any problems with it? _____

Do you water it? _____ often? _____ infrequently? _____

Normal rain fall in the area is _____ inches per year

Do you like this plant? _____ Why? _____

Why not? _____

PLEASE ADD ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS THAT YOU FEEL MIGHT BE HELPFUL

PLEASE RETURN TO: Ellen Wilde
110 Calle Pinonero
Santa Fe, N.M. 87505

If anything is noticed, call a professional tree service or County Agent for a free diagnosis. Call as soon as a problem is noticed.

DO feed regularly once a year or every other year. Add acid-forming materials (e.g. organic mulches) as well as fertilizer.

DON'T paint pruning cuts. Recent research has shown it to be unnecessary and perhaps even damaging.

DON'T water lightly. Always irrigate the whole root area at least 18" deep into the soil.

DON'T wound trees either accidentally or in by injections. Tree bracing or cabling should be used when no other option remains.

DON'T plant sod, which competes too strongly, over the root area of a tree.

DON'T stake a tree unless absolutely necessary. Tree wraps may serve a purpose by inhibiting sunscald on the bark, but must be removed at the beginning of the growing season. Tree wraps should not be used as bumper against mistreatment of the tree.

DON'T store green firewood on your property unless it is covered and sealed with clear plastic tarp. Otherwise it attracts dangerous beetles.

DON'T use soil sterilents!!! Many herbicides (weed killers) are also soil sterilents and have no place in the landscape. Some materials remain active in the soil 5 years or more allowing tree roots an opportunity to grow into a treated area. Other materials while put on the soil in low amounts, will tend to build up over time threatening trees.

DON'T top or dehorn a tree. Period. If the tree is too large for an area, remove it and replace with a smaller growing tree. Topped trees are far weaker than properly cared for trees and are far more subject to limb breakage as well as quite susceptible to disease and insect invasion.

Don't fill cavities in trees with cement or other materials. A metal plate may be fit carefully just inside the cavity if desired. Never scrape out a cavity or anyway injure the bark around the wound. A tree defends itself by a series of chemical barrier walls. A wound may break a barrier wall allowing the infection to run free.

DON'T assume the tree's roots extend only as far as the dripline of

the tree; roots extend much further. This is especially critical when irrigating the tree and when using herbicides.

DO not allow a tree trimmer to use climbing spikes on a living tree. Each wound made by the spike damages the tree. Trees are not animals, each wound does not heal, tissue is not replaced. Trees cover over their wounds, but the infection is always present.

DO remove chicken wire, nylon twine, nails, etc. from balled and burlapped trees. Once the tree is in the hole, carefully unwrap from around the top of the ball and cut away as much as possible.

DO straighten or cut entangled roots from container plants before planting.

DO cut the top several rungs on wire baskets once the root ball is in the ground. The wire baskets never decompose and will girdle tree roots.

DO keep trees such as Siberian Elm and Box Elder well away from houses, walls and walks as their roots will cause considerable damage to foundations and walks.

DON'T remove branches, twigs, etc. by making a "flush" cut. Find the "branch ridge line" and cut just beyond it when removing branches.

DON'T allow contractors or roofers to dump waste materials from their work on your soil or where it drains on to your neighbors property.

DON'T plant a tree too deeply. 'Tis better to error by planting a tree too high than to bury the trunk line.

Since there are so few native trees, Mr. Atkinson suggested others that seem to be suitable for this area including Austrian and Japanese Black Pine, Scotch and perhaps Afghan Pine, Amur Maple, Littleleaf Linden, Hawthorne, and Autumn Olive.

In conclusion he mentioned that New Mexico has no state license for tree workers. Anyone with a chain saw can call him/herself a tree care "professional". Select someone that is well insured, familiar with proper tree trimming principles and who practices those principles. Ask for references and inspect the work before allowing the worker to care for your trees. A good price for a tree trimming may later result in good-by tree.



Meet Our People

By Judith Phillips

Interest in native plant communities is a double-edged sword. It draws the focus inward with projects that demand a certain amount of day-to-day, close-to-home commitment. (Right now many of us with new seedbeds are prime examples of the homebound-by-choice.) At the same time, it pulls the focus outward—we want to roam distant arroyos to find new subjects for study. If you are gravitating inward at the moment, many of your NPS-NM compadres are undoubtedly on the opposite track, full of fresh enthusiasm for canyons or mesas or desert washes recently explored. We exist in happy symbiosis—the "goers" supply the excitement (with slide shows, verbal travelogs and seeds), while the "growers" supply the anchor (with test plots, propagation updates and seedlings).

Most of us are varying proportions of both "goer" and "grower". Some of us need coaxing to be "tellers" (as in letting us know what you are doing via this newsletter). Luckily, one of our members who doesn't require persuasion is Eric Johnson. This third in the "Meet Our People" series is more book review than personal profile. When you care, you share.....

Landscaping To Save Water in the Desert by Eric Johnson and David Harbison is written for Southern California and warm desert areas in its specific recommendations. Yet, many of the ideas and all of the spirit of the 44 page publication apply to dry climates everywhere. Richly illustrated with color photographs and line drawings, this is an idea book. This high intensity, double-distilled effort to present conser-

vation gardening information clearly and concisely is guaranteed to set creative juices flowing. I especially enjoyed the landscape photos. Again, many of the specific plants illustrated are not cold hardy in most of New Mexico, but they suggest uses and combine forms, textures and colors that can be easily translated here by similar but hardy natives.

In the introduction the authors note their aim, "to conserve water, rehabilitate and join the desert rather than destroying a beautiful land". Many of us share that commitment and this book provides directions to move in. Johnson's 35 years experience in landscape design, construction and maintenance in the arid southwest including 13 years as Garden Field Editor with Sunset magazine are obvious not only in the content, but also in the telegraphic style of the text and layout. Landscaping To Save Water is actually a series of essays with page headings such as "Desert Soils and Water Relationships", "Desert Air Conditioners with Color-Vigorous Growth" and "Drainage Swales to Move Excess Storm Water". Introductions to five Southwestern public gardens with color photos and commentary made me want to pack a bag and head for Superior and parts west, but it is almost Spring and there are seeds to sow and miles to go in the desert right here at home....

Landscaping To Save Water in the Desert is available for \$8.95 from

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Don't forget the Native Plant Symposium June 18th & 19th in Albuquerque. Reservation deadline will be in May, but why not get your space reserved now? If you have not received your reservation package by now, contact Lisa Johnston at 865-4684 (days) or write Southwest Native Plant Symposium, NPS-NM, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031.

This and That....

Are you coming to the Southwest Native Plant Symposium June 18th & 19th? Come along on one of the native plant tours as a minibus driver or bus host/hostess and enjoy the tour for free!! There will be five different tours offered Friday morning, June 19th. Tours range from Kiwanis Meadow on the east, Petroglyph Park on the west, the Agricultural Science Center at Los Lunas and points in between. You can help make these interesting and innovative tours a success (and save \$10 tour fee) by volunteering to drive or host a bus tour. Hosts will make certain people are on the right bus, handle first aid and liquid refreshments, answer questions and perhaps, orientate people to areas driven through. Hosts will NOT be responsible for giving the guided tours at the various destinations. Being a driver or host/hostess will be fun!! If you are interested or need more information, contact Peg Wells at 256-1920 or Lisa Johnston at 865-4684 (days).

Frank Hayes of the Carlsbad District for the Lincoln National Forest, is planning some Threatened and Endangered Species survey work this spring and summer in North McKittrick, Big Canyon, Black River and Devil's Den areas in the Guadalupe. He will be surveying for two species; Sabara grisea, an annual forb and the McKittrick Pennyroyal, Hedeoma apiculatum. The initial work will begin about mid-April to the first week or two in May and again in August. If any NPS-NM member is interested in supplying volunteer weekend help, Frank would surely welcome the assistance. The country is extremely rough and rugged and he will be spike-camping from Wilderness Ridge and going down into the canyon from there. Anyone interested call 885-4181 at Carlsbad and ask for Frank Hayes.

Dear NPS-NM....

Mr. Jim R. Quist is seeking a source for Koerberlinia spinosa seed. If you can help contact Mr. Quist at;
5531 Elm Street
Lisle, Ill 60532



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 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.)?

from The Columbine, Operation Wildflower's newsletter....

Books

Living Legacy

The Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution has developed a project entitled "Plant a Living Legacy", in which citizens all over the nation will be encouraged to plant a new garden, restore an existing garden or park, plant trees and flowers along public roadways or identify and preserve natural areas in an effort to commemorate the signing of the U.S. Constitution. After all, the only living witnesses to the historical event are our nation's plants.

In order to be recognized as official "Living Legacy Projects" by the Bicentennial Commission, local projects must have a long-term maintenance plan, and they must be on publicly-owned land or property that may be opened to the public.

Each local project developed in the next year will be dedicated on September 17, 1987, the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution in Philadelphia. For more information on the project, write to "Living Legacy Project", Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution (better use a long envelope), 734 Jackson Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20503

NPS-NM is pleased to announce it has copies of Dr. Ivey's second edition of Flowering Plants of New Mexico for sale to members at a discount. The second edition is nearly twice as large as the first edition, 371 pages with 982 flowering plants including some grasses. Retail price is \$19.95, but NPS-NM member price is \$16.00. Please add 75¢ postage for each book ordered. Make checks payable to NPS-NM Books, P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031

from the El Paso Native Plant Society newsletter....

A recent article in the Journal of Soil and Water Conservation gave some interesting statistics on the damage caused by wind erosion in New Mexico. The area extending from Albuquerque to Deming to Carlsbad averages 6.1 tons/acre of soil lost to wind erosion each year. The majority of soil loss is primarily from rangeland. The off-site cost of this erosion was \$258.27 million dollars. Off-site costs include landscape maintenance, street maintenance, auto air and oil filters, exterior house painting, etc. For the whole state, soil erosion accounted for an estimated \$465 million dollars expense.

(from: Huszar, P.C., and S.L. Piper. 1986. Estimating the Off-site Costs of Wind Erosion in New Mexico. Journal of Soil and Water Conservation. Vol. 41, No. 6, pp. 414-416.)



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