

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

September/October 1987

Volume XII No. 5

CALENDAR

- September 2 ALBUQUERQUE 7:30 p.m. Albuquerque Museum "Fall Planting" by Judith Phillips. Ms. Phillips, er, Judith will be selling and autographing her book, Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants.
- 6 LAS CRUCES 7:00 a.m. Pan Am Center parking lot. Fieldtrip to Animas Canyon and Caballo Lake
- 9 LAS CRUCES 7:30 p.m. Ag. Bldg. NMSU Rm. 190 "Flowers of the South Pacific" by Susan and Zeno Wicks.
- 16 SANTA FE 8:30 p.m. St. John's SEED EXCHANGE!! Bring seed!! Also projects, programs and penstemon meeting will be discussed.
- 19 SANTA FE 12:30 p.m. P.E.R.A. parking lot for fieldtrip to Sunrise Springs. Mike Clark, the director of the Botanical Garden there will lead us on a tour through the new gardens.
- 26 OTERO Fieldtrip 10:00 a.m. with Paul Gordon to Carrizzo area. Call Jean Dodd for directions.
- October 7 ALBUQUERQUE 7:30 p.m. Albuquerque Museum "Winter Hardy Cactus" with Dave Ferguson from the Cactus Society.
- 11 LAS CRUCES 7:00 a.m. Fieldtrip to Dog Canyon and Sacramento Mountains. Pan Am Center parking lot.
- 14 LAS CRUCES 7:30 p.m. NMSU Ag. Bldg. Rm 190 "Edible and Useful Plants" by Pat Penfield.
- 21 SANTA FE 7:30 p.m. St. John's. Elaine Culver, Los Alamos County Extension Agent, will present slide show on native shrubs in Northern New Mexico.
- 24 OTERO fieldtrip to Aguirre Springs 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch, meet just after the sign at the highway at 10:00 a.m.



CALENDAR

- November 11 LAS CRUCES 6:30 p.m. Pot Luck Dinner. Location to be announced at October meeting or call Melanie at 522-8246.
- 18 SANTA FE 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Philip Pennington of Agua Fria Nursery will talk on collecting wildflower seeds for use in the Santa Fe area.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is in the air and now is a great time for planting. Fall planting allow you to get the plants established in cooler weather and to put on new roots before next year's growing season.

Fall is also back to school time--consider taking or teaching a class about plants. Everyone learns that way.

Of course, Fall is the time of nominations for officers in the Native Plant Society. The positions are: President, Vice-President, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and 2 at-large board members. Please consider serving NPS-NM at the state or your local chapter level. We are only as good as our volunteers.

1987 NPS-NM OFFICERS

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



CHAPTER CONTACTS

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OTERO CHAPTER

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SANTA FE

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Wildlife Slides Chiarman

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Newsletter Editor

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

CHAPTER REPORTS

Las Cruces

We had about 15 people show up for the field trip to Aguirre Springs in August. Because of the sparse rainfall we've had, not many flowers were out. But since we had a recent rain, the ferns were out and green.

The first place we stopped was right off Highway 70 on the entrance road to Aguirre Springs. We walked across a small drainage and a flat area covered sparsely with Yuccas. Dayflowers (Commelina erecta), wire lettuces (Stephanomeria tenuifolia?), Threadleaves (Thelesperma filifolium), clammyweed (Polanisia dodacandra) and two different species of sennas (Cassia species) were a few of the many plants flowering there. It was really beautiful and we almost didn't want to leave this area to get to our destination!

Next we stopped further up the road to walk up an arroyo bordered by rocks. There were many shrubs although few were flowering. Mulberry shrubs (Morus species) and spice bushes (Aloisia wrightii) grew next to each other in one area; netleaf hackberry (Celtis reticulata) and buckeye (Ungnadia speciosa) grew in some other rocks bordering the arroyo. The arroyo itself wasn't well vegetated but some grasses, a wait-a-minute bush (Mimosa biuncifera) and a big flowering barrel cactus were seen.

Finally we reached Aguirre Springs campground! The trail was often bordered with sumac (Rhus trilobata) and Apache plume (Fallugia paradoxa). Not many flowers were out but we did see Epilobium species, Geranium caespitosum and scarlet sage (Stachys coccinea) in one drainage and spiderling (Boerhaavia coccinea), western spiderwort (Tradescantia occidentalis) and plains beeblam (Monarda pecinata) next to the trail. Silk tassel bush (Garrya wrightii), Juniperus monosperma, J. deppeana and Cercocarpus betuloides were scattered throughout the area. One drainage appeared to have a colder microclimate because a lone Ponderosa pine and some Holodiscus dumosus were there. It was an enjoyable day and not too hot.

Our monthly meeting was August 12th. We had a good turnout with a very interesting speaker, Ruth DeNeve. Ruth makes pictures with dried flowers and brought many examples. They were very colorful

and artistic. She demonstrated her technique for drying the flowers very flat using corrugated cardboard and blotter paper. Thanks Ruth! MF.



Otero Chapter

Word got around that there was a field of red lillies in full bloom near Hwy. 24 and the reservation so, of course, some of us had to go look. They were indeed beautiful—possibly Rocky Mountain Lily, Lilium umbellatum. We also saw two vines, Arizona red honeysuckle (Lonicera arizonica—Ivey p. 79) and along one stretch of back road lots of white flowers of the Western Virgin's Bower, Clematis ligustifolia. A sturdy shrub-like Indian paintbrush all in gray with the red flowers at the top was possibly Castilleja lanata. All of these were new to us. Saw lots of rock spirea Holodiscus dumosus with the drooping clusters of cream colored flowers—pink along one stretch of road. This same shrub grows at the Perras. It is surprising how many wild flowers were blooming in the Sacramentos with less than usual rainfall.

What gracious hosts the Perras are! The Otero Chapter visited their home in Cox Canyon near Cloudcroft July 25th. A son, son-in-law, and grandson met us in Cloudcroft to show us the way with one staying behind to show latecomers the way. The hillsides were covered with the tall, branched white daisy Hymenopappus newberryi—Ivey p. 104. with a sprinkling of red gilia, purple vetch and stands of tall, purple penstemon. Velia had talked about her daisies and sure enough as we drew near to the turn off there were fields of white daisies. A German friend got some seeds from her mother in Germany and gave them to Velia who has spent some time over the years broadcasting the seed and more from the daisies that grew, with spectacular results. Thomas led us on a tour of the beautiful woodlands near the house. We picked and ate wild strawberries admired varieties of ferns, bluebells, penstemons, fleabane, N.M Vervain, purple and pink mint and our first red cinquefoil of the season, Potentilla thurberi. JD.

EEEEEEEEEE Y'ALL COME EEEEEEEEEEE



The Texas Native Plant Society is extending a wide open invitation to their western neighbors. The society will host their annual state meeting and symposium as Sul Ross University, Alpine, TX, on October 17th & 18th.

Trans-Pecos plants are the focus. Saturday's program includes lectures and discussions of hydrology, endangered species, local floristic succession, propagation and garden uses of natives, a catered lunch and evening field trip to the arboretum of Dr. Barton Warnock followed by a barbeque at his ranch. Sunday will be a day of field trips.

The meeting will convene Saturday, October 17th at 8:00 a.m. at the Main Auditorium of Sul Ross University. Admission is \$10 for non-members, \$5 for members (including members of NPS-NM!). The lunch and barbeque are \$7.50 each. Meal reservations must be prepaid by October 5th. To obtain more information or to register, contact John Carpenter, President TNPS, 509 North 8th. St., Alpine, TX 79831.

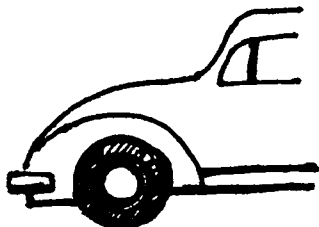
NPS-NM Annual Meeting.....

The Santa Fe and Otero chapters have put together an informal state meeting of the NPS-NM for the weekend of October 24 & 25th. The meeting will be comprised solely of fieldtrips in the Guadalupe Mountains--no board meeting, guest speakers, just plants.

No formal lodging plans will be made allowing participants their choice of rustic camping, R.V. or motel accomadations in White City or Carlsbad.

The Santa Fe and Otero chapters of NPS-NM have some of the most knowlegeable and enthusiastic members in NPS-NM. "Botanizing" with them ought to be great fun.

For more information send SASE to Jean Dodd, 1302 Canyon Rd., Alamogordo, NM 88310



A Fast Look at New Mexico Flora

NPS-NM is initiating a project identifying the roadside wildflowers in our state. Initially we plan to deal with roadside wildflowers along NM interstates (I-10, I-25 and I-40) from border to border. We need your help identifying and covering the state. The information we need to know is:

- Which interstate
- Mile marker where flowers are spotted
- Scientific and Common plant name

If you are unsure about a plant's name, try to take a sample and send it along. We'll try to have someone ID it.

Send all this information to:

Roadside Flowers
NPS-NM
P.O.Box 5917
Santa Fe, NM 87502

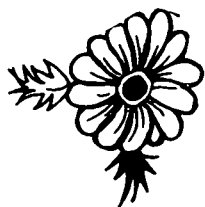
Dear NPS-NM....

Regarding your recent article on "National Wildlife Federation" Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program, your readers might be interested in knowing that currently there are over 5,000 backyard mini-wildlife refuges throughout the country. New Mexico has three members: one in Albuquerque, one in White Rock and the third, myself, in Roswell.

Information sent out by NWF leans heavily toward the northeast and/or wet temperate climate areas of the country. Those of us living in the Estacado Llano area do not get much information and it is necessary to "improvise".

If anyone in southeastern New Mexico would like some advice toward getting a Certificate of Achievement Award from NWF, I would be glad to help.

Jean McElroy
700 Hall Drive
Roswell, NM 88201



WHAT I DID ON MY SUMMER VACATION

BY LISA JOHNSTON



This year we decided to ride the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. My husband, Brion, loves trains, so we thought it would be fun. The Cumbres & Toltec goes from Chama, NM to Antonito, Colorado with a stop midway at Osier, Colorado. The train crosses back and forth between New Mexico and Colorado eleven times and climbs to 10,000 feet at Cumbres Pass. The scenery along the way is spectacular from alpine meadows and spruce and fir forests to sagebrush flats. The train speeds along at 12 miles per hour, so there's plenty of time to sit back and relax and

enjoy the scenery. Traveling from Chama to Antonito, there is an open observation car at the back of the train, so you can have an unobstructed view.

When we were there in July, there were lots of wildflowers blooming. Below is a list of some of the things we saw. There were many others that I couldn't positively identify; NYC's (darn yellow composites) are difficult to identify even at a slow speed.

Flowers seen along the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad July 22-23, 1987

Yarrow
Mountain Dandelion
Nodding Onion
Colorado Columbine
Locoweed
Mountain Harebell
Indian Paintbrush
New Mexico Thistle
Golden Aster
Fetid Marigold
Fireweed
Fleabane
Wallflower
Fremont Geranium
Richardson's Geranium
Sunflower
Cow Parsnip

Achillea lanulosa
Agoseris aurantiaca
Allium cernuum
Aquilegia caerulea
Astragalus sp.
Campanula rotundifolia
Castilleja confusa
Cirsium neomexicana
Chrysopsis villosa
Dyssodia pentachaeta
Epilobium angustifolium
Erigeron philadelphicus
Erysimum sp.
Geranium fremontii
Geranium richardsonii
Helianthus sp.
Heracleum lanatum

Skyrocket
Rocky Mt. Iris
Blue Flax
Tahoka Daisy
Yellow Sweetclover
Horsemint
Evening Primrose
Sickletop Lousewort
Scarlet Bugler
Sky Pilot
Shrubby Cinquefoil
Wood's Rose
Cutleaf Coneflower
Groundsel
Clovers

Ipomopsis aggregata
Iris missouriensis
Linum lewisii
Macharanthera tanacetifolia
Melilotus officinalis
Monarda fistulosa
Oenothera pallida
Pedicularis racemosa
Penstemon barbatus
Polemonium viscosum
Potentilla fruticosa
Rosa woodsii
Rudbeckia lanceolata
Senecio sp.
Trifolium sp.



Arizona Native Plant Society Annual Meeting....

ANPS will hold its annual meeting October 24 & 25 in Sedona. Timed to coincide with the seasonal color show in Oak Creek Canyon and surrounding areas, the meeting should be both colorful and interesting.

PLANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

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COLLECTING WILDFLOWER SEEDS

There may still be time to collect wildflower seed this season. You can pick seeds before they are completely dry, cutting off seed heads with part of the stalk with sharp clippers. Place upside down in a paper bag; do not use plastic bags as they will draw moisture, cause mold and ruin the seeds for germination. Seeds will continue to ripen if kept in a dark, cool place.

Collect seeds from your own wildflowers or those in the neighborhood. When collecting outside your own yard, do not strip an area of seed-take as few as possible for your needs. Never collect rare or endangered species.

When seeds are dry, shake the bag, pick out the debris and sift the seed through a colander or sifter. Larger seed can be screened with wire mesh.

Sow seeds as soon as possible. The longer they remain exposed to the atmosphere, the greater viability loss. Seeds can be stored in tightly capped glass jar in a cool dark place.

Sow seed lightly over a prepared area. The ground should have been previously prepared by removing weeds and other competitive plants. A loose, but raked smooth soil will aid in good seed to soil contact. Since so many wildflower seed is so small, mix with a handful of moist sand to aid in even distribution. Rake soil lightly after sowing and tamp ~~the~~ soil after seeding.

from The Columbine, Operation Wildflower Newsletter, Vol 7, No. 5



Propagation of Texas Madrone (*Arbutus xalehsis*) by



B.J. Simpson and S.W. Hipp
Texas A&M University Research and Extension
Center, Dallas Texas.

reprinted in part from Native Plant
Society of Texas NEWS, Vol. V, No. 4


The Texas madrone is found from southeast New Mexico through the Edwards Plateau and Trans-Pecos regions of Texas and southward to Guatemala. Found mainly on mountainsides and canyons in soil ranging from slightly acid (pH 5.70) to alkaline (pH 8.06), the Texas madrone would seem to be an ideal landscape plant. Unfortunately the plant has developed a reputation of being difficult to propagate. While certain environmental factors affect growth, the plant has been successfully rooted as juvenile cutting in high humidity conditions. Additionally seed propagation is possible with the following guidelines;

1. Berries should be gathered when fully ripe in October or perhaps in September.
2. Plant seed immediately after cleaning from the berries. Plant in perlite, vermiculite or other well drained material. Germination should be complete in 3-4 weeks.

Madrone grown in containers should be kept moist because the root system is devoid of root hairs. The roots are fine feeder roots as well as juvenile primary and secondary roots.



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Record Torrey Yucca



A.N.V.I.L. FOR NATIVE PLANTS

A record Torrey Yucca has been found in New Mexico. The yucca, located south of Alamogordo in San Andreas Canyon in the western foothills of the Sacramento Mountains, has been accepted by the American Forestry Association as a national record and will be entered in the association's National Register of Big Trees.

The yucca, reported by John McNally of the Otero chapter, measures 23 feet high and 7'2" circumference with a crown spread of 4'x8'. A real biggie!!

The record Torrey Yucca will be in good company when it joins other New Mexico trees in the AFA's National Register of Big Trees. The April, 1986 issue of American Forests, the publication of the AFA published a lists of the nation's big trees. Of the nearly 700 species listed, approximately 17 are found in New Mexico. Among these largest known living specimens are the Catclaw, Acacia greggii; Arizona Alder, Alnus oblongifolia; apple!!, Malus sylvestris, Southwestern Cherry, Prunus serotina var. rufula; Mexican Elder, Sambucus mexicana; Corkbark Fir, Abies lasiocarpa var. arizonica; Netleaf Hackberry, Celtis reticulata; Oneseed Juniper, Juniperus monosperma; and New Mexico Locust, Robinia neomexicana.

Other species listed include Canyon Maple, Gambel Oak, Colorado Bristlecone Pine, Pinyon Pine, Rocky Mountain Ponderosa, Southwestern White Pine, Russian Olive, Arizona Sycamore and Tamarisk.

The Association for the use of Native Vegetation in Landscape through education. The intent of ANVIL is to set up a program of education, to share and disseminate knowledge and experience, and to further public understanding of the advantages and procedures involved in this type of landscaping. Some of the means to accomplish these goals are publications, newsletters, 'how-to' brochures, specifications and others. For more information write ANVIL, 871 Shawnee Ave., LaFayette, IN 47905.



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Please enclose your check payable to:

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

Annual Dues:
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To better serve our membership, please check areas of particular interest.

Conservation:

- Endangered species, Habitats
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Landscaping: Residential
 Civic Commercial Highway

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.)?



!#%\$*#! TAMARISK!!#&*#!+#



Several national parks and monuments in California, Arizona and New Mexico have begun studies to control tamarisk. This introduced exotic is clogging stream valleys all across the West. Initial funding will be used to inventory tamarisk areas and establish a baseline for future study.

Parks with major infestations include Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon and Death Valley.

OTHER PLANTS GONE ASTRAY

In addition to tamarisk, other introduced exotics have found the "good life" in this country at the expense of our native plants. The following is a list of a few plants currently under attack in state parks and farm lands:

Rosa multiflora was promoted in the 40's for use as a living fence to replace the native Osage orange. The rose is now nearly uncontrollable.

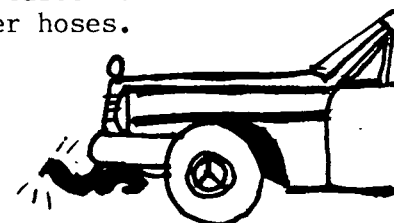
Some plants have been introduced to benefit wildlife: autumn olive, Elaeagnus umbellata; bush honeysuckle, Lonicera tatarica; Japanese honeysuckle, L. japonica. The latter was touted as an excellent vine for trellis as well as a ground cover to stop erosion. Unfortunately the vines have spread far and wide and now threaten to strangle whole forests in eastern states.

Another import threatening wetlands in the Northeast is Oriental Bittersweet, Celastrus orbiculatus.

Still studies continue on exotics for use in wildlife habitats, landscaping, wood and fiber production and soil conservation. Who knows what ecological time bomb awaits our native plants with each new introduction.

...based in part from The Columbine, Operation Wildflower newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 5

.... Speaking of national parks, a program to remove all marmots in Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks has been undertaken this summer. Seems the critters have developed a taste for automobile radiator and other hoses.



Texas T-shirt

"TEXAS PRAIRIES....outstanding in their field" T-shirts are available from the Texas Prairie Conference for \$10.00 plus \$1.00 postage. To order send checks payable to Texas Prairie Conference, Terri Siegenthaler, 2203 Quanah Parker Trail, Austin, TX 78734. Proceeds benefit the Native Prairies Association of Texas.

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