



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

NEWSLETTER

November/December 1987

Volume XII No. 6

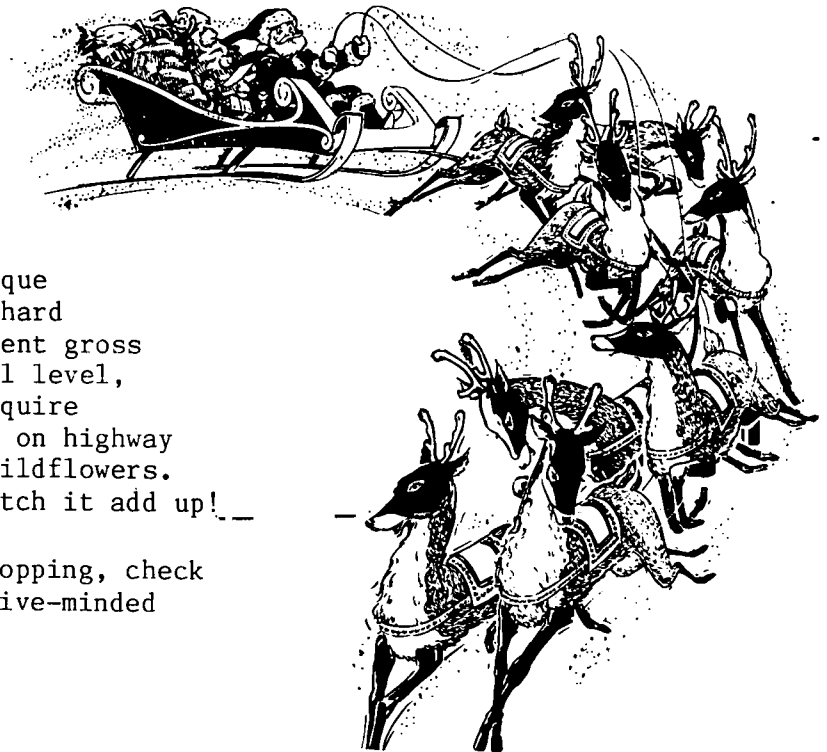
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Winter is almost upon us although it still feels like fall. Now is the time to finish your fall chores in the garden. There is still time to collect seed, things like purple aster which was so vivid in September. Please take a moment out of your busy fall/winter schedule to vote for NPS-NM officers. These dedicated people are the backbone of the society and need your vote and support.

It appears that the long awaited botanical garden is Albuquerque will become a reality thanks to the hard working volunteers and the quarter cent gross receipts tax increase. On a national level, federal highway projects will now require twenty-five cents of each \$100 spent on highway revegetation will be used to plant wildflowers. That doesn't sound like much, but watch it add up!_

Get a jump on your Christmas shopping, check out the gift suggestions for the native-minded persons on your list.

Have a happy holiday season!



GIVE THE GIFT OF NATIVE

For those native plant/wildflower lovers on your gift list, we suggest the following:

Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Meetings are held throughout the state and members receive the newsletter and can purchase books at a discount.

Membership in other native-related organizations such as the National Wildflower Research Center, Friends of the Rio Grande Botanical Garden, The Nature Conservancy, etc.

Books. Native plant enthusiasts never have too many books. There are many books in all price ranges, some of the recent titles include: South-western Landscaping with Native Plants (Phillips), The Tumbleweed Gourmet (Niethammer), Seeds of Wildland Plants (Young), A Practical Guide to Edible and Useful Plants (Tull), 100 Roadside Wildflowers (Bowers), and Mexican Roadside Flora (Mason). Buy them through NPS-NM Books and everyone benefits.

Make wreaths, dried flower arrangements, note-cards, etc. to give as gifts, using the native plants in our areas. A Flower press would make a thoughtful gift for someone interested in pressed flowers.

Field Notebooks to record plants found on trips and outings.

Seed Collecting Containers and an assortment of envelopes for storing seed.

T-Shirts promoting an interest in natives.

Gift Certificates for seed, plants or landscape consultation. Gardeners can choose new plants for their gardens or get advice on how to arrange their gardens to make a better landscape.



CALENDAR



Albuquerque: December 2 Pot Luck Dinner
Albuquerque Museum

Las Cruces: November 11 Pot Luck Dinner
Contact chapter representative for
time and location.

Santa Fe: November 18 7:30 p.m. St.
John's. Phillip Pennington will talk
on collecting wildflower seed for use
in the Santa Fe area.

December 13 10:00 a.m. at PERA
Winter walk and pot luck lunch at
Aurora Sanchez-Baca's. Call Mimi to
Coordinate food plans. 983-1658

January 20 7:30 p.m. St. John's.
Larry Deeven of Los Alamos will talk
and show slides of Cacti for Northern
New Mexico.

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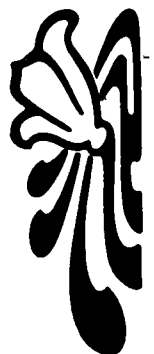
Gifts For The Gardener

	Retail	NPS-NM Member Price
Agaves of Continental North America (Gentry)	49.50	39.60
Amateur Botany in New Mexico (Schoenwetter)	.75*	.75*
Audubon Guide to Wildflowers, Western (Spellenberg)	13.50	10.80
Cacti of Arizona (Benson)	12.50	10.00
Cacti of Texas & Neighboring States (Weinger)	17.95	15.40
Classified Bibliography on Native Plants of Arizona (Schmutz)	6.50	5.25
Colorado Flora: Western Slope (Weber)	19.50	15.60
Edible Native Plants of the Rocky Mts. (Harrington)	9.95	7.95
Field Guide to Rocky Mountain Wildflowers (Craighead)	10.95	8.80
Field Guide to SW & Texas Plants (Niehaus, et al.)	12.95	10.40
Flora of New Mexico (Wootton & Standley)	44.00	37.00
A Flora of New Mexico (Martin & Hutchins)	write for current price	
Flowering Plants of New Mexico Second Ed. (Ivey)	19.95	16.00
Flowers of the Southwest Deserts	9.95	7.95
Flowers of the Southwest Mountains	7.95	6.40
Flowers of the Southwestern Forests and Woodlands (Foxy)	12.95	10.40
A Garden of Wildflowers (Art)	12.95	10.40
Gathering the Desert (Nabhan)	14.95	12.00
Grasses of Southwestern United States (Gould)	8.95	7.20
How to Grow Native Plants of TX & SW (Nokes)	26.95	21.60
How to Photograph Flowers, Plants and Landscapes (Fell)	9.95	7.95
An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds (Parker)	12.50	10.00
Jewels of the Plains (Barr)	19.95	16.00
Landscaping for Water Conservation (Johnson)	8.95	7.20
Landscaping with Texas Native Plants (Wasowski & Ryan)	23.95	19.40
Landscaping with Wildflowers & Native Plants (Ortho)	5.95	4.80
Management of SW Desert Soils (Fuller)	7.50	6.00
Medicinal Plants of the Mountain West (Moore)	8.95	7.20
Mexican Roadside Flora (Mason & Mason)	19.95	16.00
New Mexico Grasses, A Vegetative Key (Potter)	8.95	7.20
New Mexico Range Plants (NMSU Circular #374)	3.00	2.80
100 Desert Wildflowers in Color (Dodge)	3.50	2.80
100 Roadside Wildflowers of Southwest Woodlands (Bowers)	3.95	3.20
Peyote: The Divine Cactus (Anderson)	9.95	7.95
Plants for Dry Climates (Duffield)	12.95	10.40
A Practical Guide to Edible & Useful Plants (Tull)	23.95	19.20
Prairie Propagation (Rock)	3.50	3.25
Rare & Endemic Plants of New Mexico (NM NPPAC)	12.95	10.40
Roadside Plants of Northern New Mexico (Tierney)	9.95	7.95
Roadside Wildflowers of Texas (Wills)	12.95	10.40
Rocky Mountain Alpines (Williams, editor)	35.00	28.75
Rocky Mountain Flora (Weber)	14.50	11.70
Rocky Mountain Wildflowers (Dannen)	3.95	3.20
Seeds of Wildland Plants (Young)	24.95	21.50
Shrubs & Trees of the Uplands (Elmore)	9.95	7.95
Soils of the Desert Southwest (Fuller)	4.95	3.50
Southwestern Landscaping with Native Plants (Phillips)	27.95	22.40
	HB	
	SB	
Spring Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Summer Wildflowers of New Mexico (Martin)	12.95	10.40
Texas Wildflowers: A Field Guide (Lohmiller)	11.95	9.60
Trees & Shrubs of SW Deserts (Benson & Darrow)	49.50	39.60
Trees, Shrubs & Woody Vines of the SW (Vines)	52.50	42.00
The Tumbleweed Gourmet (Niethammer)	20.00	16.00
The Weaver's Garden (Buchanan)	16.95	13.60
Wildflower Folklore (L. Martin)	16.95	13.60
The Wildflower Meadow Book (L. Martin)	12.95	10.40
Woody Plants of the Southwest (Lamb)	12.95	10.40

* = postage paid



Make checks payable to: NPS-NM Books
 prior to November 30 mail to: P.O. Box 934, Los Lunas, NM 87031
 after November 30 mail to: P.O. Box 1206, Portales, NM 88130
 Postage: Add \$.75 for each book Allow 4-6 weeks for shipping





TWO CHAPTERS GET TOGETHER IN CARLSBAD

Bright and early at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning we met at the gate to McKettrick Canyon parking lot. Frank Hayes and his family joined us. Obviously Mae was about to have a baby any minute but she had come prepared with a tool to cut the cord, etc. if the baby was born at the park. At that point we discovered Phil from Otero was an OB-GYN, plus the Park Service had an ambulance and medical crew waiting in case of any emergency on this one of their biggest and most crowded park weekends. So when the gates open at 8:00 a.m. we all took off up McKettrick Canyon with Frank Hayes II (5 years old) leading the tour. We walked up to the Pratt House and started up to the north rim to see if there was more color. At a rest stop we decided to turn back. We looked around for Mae but discovered her gone. Phil was the first to speed up until he finally caught up with her. Frank put Frank Jr. on his shoulders, picked up speed until he caught up with Mae as well. From there it was a straight shot to the hospital. Mae had a baby girl in the hospital in Carlsbad not much later.

Scarlet maples (Acer grandidentatum) were the star attractions in McKettrick Canyon in Guadalupe National Park on the recent NPS get-together, but only one of the many fascinating and beautiful plant species we saw. The canyon is quite wide and has steep sloping walls and many evergreen peaks above it. The maples were brilliant cascades in the crevices of the peaks and close at hand at stream-side in the bottom of the canyon. The chalk-white tumbled limestone rocks and boulders of colorful maples under sunny skies and balmy temperatures will not be forgotten by those who attended. We saw Alligator and Pinchott Junipers, evergreen and deciduous varieties of oaks—Grey, Emory, Gambel, Undulata, Turbinella and Chinquapin, several species of Rhus, Walnuts, Ptelea, Berberis and Limber, Mexican, Pinon and Ponderosa Pines. Of particular interest was the Texas Madrone tree which was in the process of shedding its bark, an annual process which reveals a layer of smooth creamy new bark under the curling and dropping old layer, It was also beginning to show its winter crop of red berries.

We visited the Living Desert State Park in the afternoon on Frank's recommendation and were impressed and enchanted. It had excellent labelled displays of the specialized plant communities of the gypsum and sandhill areas as well as more common vegetation. The animals were lively and healthy and well displayed in very natural looking habitats, inviting picture taking. Particularly inviting were two porcupines nibbling quietly on avocados and nearby some javelinatas snorting and growling as they devoured a pumpkin. There is a welcome center with displays and a gift shop, a walk-in aviary, a cactus and succulent house, a waterfowl pond, a prairie-dog village, tunnel of nocturnal animals, and much more. To me, it compares very favorably with Tucson's much better publicised Desert Museum.

Sunday morning found us at Sitting Bull Falls in Lincoln National Forest just west of Carlsbad. From an open picnic area, a short walk took us down to the base of a tufa cliff, over which tumbles and drips a small stream amid hanging gardens of ferns, moss, columbine and Penstemon cardinalis. These were not in bloom of course, but we did find a few flowers of Lobelia cardinalis and Salvia lycioides and white and purple asters about the pools at the base.

Out in the picnic area and along the roads the varied green of acacia, mesquite, Cercocarpus, Rhus, Daleas and Berberis trifoliolata were enhanced by the waving beige heads of grass seed, green-gold bouquets of Gutierrizia macrocephalum and mounds of silver-grey mariola, and accented by tall spikes of sotol and brown agave candelabra. There were still many Berlandiera lyrata, thistle, Dyssodia and other composities in bloom.

All who attended felt it was a very rewarding weekend.

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This and That....

Year's end is an introspective time when our 20-20 hindsight can help focus our slightly myopic foresight. 1987 was quite a year for native plant activities. As someone who lives and breathes natives, I found it difficult at times—too many choices of projects, conferences too good to miss, new plants to pursue and ecosystems to learn....

Our Southwestern Native Plant Symposium back to back with the American Penstemon Society Annual Meeting required stamina to say the least. The ultimate benefit will lie in the contacts made. We hope you use the participant list in the Symposium proceedings to keep in touch with the people and ideas offered there. We've already had round one of the Penstemon round robin and I look forward to continuing that volley of ideas with a few seeds thrown in for good measure. I hear that the organizers of the Symposium and APS meeting are still substantially overwhelmed by those events and there won't be a "second annual....."

Not to worry symposium buffs, each year Texas Tech university/Lubbock hosts a native plant event in late September. This year's was outstanding. Titled "Planting for the Future with Native Plants and Wildflowers"; subjects ran the gamut from native ranges of useful species, solving site problems with appropriate plantings, the pros and cons of wildflowers an alternative crop, the ethics of plant collection, and a surprise surprise finale—floral design using fresh and dried native materials. Large scale use of natives along Texas roadsides was also featured. The Texas Department of Highways has cooperative projects with graduate students of landscape architecture participating in the design, construction and maintenance of public projects. Prospective landscape architects gain practical hands-on experience—what a novel idea!


There is so much to be gained by stretching across state lines to consider ecosystems. Those of us who found our way to West Texas for another meeting, the statewide meeting of the Native Plant Society of Texas, weren't disappointed: another varied program and the opportunity to scout local plant communities with a native guide. Our West Texas neighbors have issued an open invitation, "Y'all come."

Meanwhile, back at the ranch....a small but prime group of Otero and Santa Fe chapter members met for an autumn weekend in the Guadalupe. One offshoot of that meeting will be a midspring visit to the Santa Fe area by Otero folks. Such exchanges invariably precipitate more exchanges.

This year those of us involved in the business of native plants experienced the yawning chasm of plants wanted vs plants available for the Paseo del Norte highway right of way in Albuquerque, a problem of too much too soon. The people who need to be communicating seem to be tinselled in red tape, the blind lecturing the deaf, the deaf responding by memo. The good news is that the "Think Trees" conference in late January and the New Mexico Association of Nursery Industries (NMANI) shortcourse in late February will both offer programs on water conservative and native landscaping. If only the people who need educating the most would realize it....But that's something to work toward in the new year.

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Judith



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CHAPTER REPORTS



Otero

Las Cruces

On 29 August the Otero Chapter met at the ski area parking lot on Sierra Blanca near Ruidoso. The common comment was "When did we go last year? It's so different!" (end of July). Dr. Sandy Dick-Peddie went out with us. He is just back from China, going to the remote areas where the panda-bamboo problem is being studied. He will publish a book Vegetation of New Mexico—Past, Present, and Future after he completes a few more chapters. So watch for it!!

Bright red berries of the elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*) made the showiest patches of color wherever we walked. Sierra Blanca has its own lupine—*Lupinus sierra-blanc*. Gooseberries were ready to eat. The masses of purples and blues of last year were over. We did see some nodding onions past their peak, purple gentians, monkshood, monkeyflower, Fireweed, a white *Phacelia*, *Mertensia ciliata*, Jacob's Ladder and the rock spires again.

On the way down the mountain evidently there had been a hail storm part way down which didn't effect us around the ski area. Some took pictures of the red gillias blooming away with what appears to be snow at their "feet".

You have to be brave about road conditions when you go out on a field trip with Paul Gordon but the results are well worth it. We have seen vistas of hills and/or mountains in quiet beauty with no sign of habitation as far as the eye could see.

Our first stop was a rock slide that Paul had shown Vern Thomas, a geology buff. Vern discovered that the geologic maps were wrong. He sent samples of the rocks from the slide and found that the rock is monzonite. After some discussion of how the slide might have come to be, Vern later showed up maps color coded for time periods and kinds of rock.

The predominant colors on this trip north of Carrizozo were the yellows of snakeweed and other composites and the lavender topurple of *Tahoka* daisies and the taller fall asters. Saw three kinds of buckwheat—*Eriogonum jamesii*, *E. annum*, and 1 unknown. The mallows were in bloom—orange pink, lavender, and pale to nearly white all with many, large flowers. One 4 o'clock plant made it a record year for the number of different kinds we have seen this years.

Our September field trip was to animas Canyon to see the huge Arizona sycamore, ash and walnut trees. It was interesting how cacti came down the canyon all the way to the edge of the trees. Few flowers were seen on this trip. The most showy were the deep, rich yellow of Buffalo burr (*Solanum rostratum*) seen along side the road and the purple Silverleaf nightshade (*Solanum elaeagnifolium*) flowers which were very common. The highlight of the day was watching hummingbirds visiting feeders while we picniced near a farm.

The Dog Canyon field trip in October revealed the first colors of autumn. Clematis leaves were a beautiful green in the center outlined in red, wild grape leaves were red, yellow and brown, Sumac (*Rhus copallina* var. *lanceolata*) leaves were turning red and Poison ivy leaves were turning yellow. The trees along the creek were not turning color yet; the cottonwoods, ash, mulberry, willows and

After seeing five doe deer, we walked along the creek to a spring coming from a rock wall surrounded by Maidenhair ferns (*Adiantum capillus veneris*). The brightest flowers seen along the creek were Cardinal flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*). It was such a contrast to look from the lush spring and creek up to the dry, steep slopes surrounding the canyon. We could see Sotol, Yucca, Prickly pear cacti, Hedghog cacti, Saltbush, Beargrass and Mesquite. The outline of the cliffs, Yucca and Sotol against the sky looked like an Indian painting.

We decided to climb a trail behind the visitor center to look for the rare *Penstemon alamogensis*. We didn't find it but we enjoyed looking closer at vegetation in a drier area. Even there we could see the beginning of autumn with faded blooms and seeds forming or already dispersed on most plants. Ocotillo leaves were yellow and falling

Susan and Zeno Wicks gave us a South Pacific wildflower slide show on September 9th. They travelled through the Fiji Islands, New Zealand, Australia, Papal New Guinea, New Briton Islands and Solomon Islands, Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia January-March, 1986. We found interesting to see flax (*Phornium tenax*) which looked like a Yucca and Prickly pear cacti used as fencing. The slides were so varied and colorful


The New Mexico Museum of Natural History has received a \$298,866 grant from the National Science Foundation. This award will fund a special set of exhibits designed to bring "New Mexico's Seacoast" to as many people as possible throughout the state.

The exhibit currently under construction at the Museum depicts the State 80 million years ago at the end of the Cretaceous period when the dinosaurs died and the beginnings of our modern world emerged. The exhibit will be a total experience designed to use all of the participants' senses including sea smells and sounds of a swampy forest.

Special satellite and traveling exhibits will be used throughout the state to bring "New Mexico's Seacoast: Interactions, Past and Present" to the people of New Mexico.

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BALLOT

Vote for 2 Board of Directors and 1 for each other position.

Mail ballot no later than November 30 to NPS-NM, P.O. Box 1206, Portales, NM 88130

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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.)?



BOTANIC GARDEN

The Rio Grande Botanic Garden project in Albuquerque seems to be once again on track. On September 9, the Albuquerque City Council passed a resolution authorizing a ¼ cent increase in the gross receipts tax over 10 years to undertake a series of developmental projects including a botanic garden.

The earlier proposed High Lonesome Ranch (also know as the Hacienda site) was rejected by the city for a number of reasons. Instead the city preferred a nearby and already city maintained San Gabriel Park (actually a state park). This would place the botanic garden adjacent to the proposed Tingley Aquatic Park allowing for additional economics in such items as parking and maintenance buildings.

Six and one-half million dollars have been earmarked for the garden. Development would progress over three phases with Phase I being a design factor beginning in the third year of the tax period and construction of the first 15 acres beginning in year 5. Phase II would begin in year 9. No money has been allocated for Phase III; however, there is an expectation that a foundation or endowment will be established that can provide \$100,000. (One feature of this ordinance is that all the quality of life projects covered in this resolution requires matching funds from the private sector.)

A strong public effort is needed to keep the botanic garden train on the tracks and headed in the right direction. The FRIENDS OF THE RIO GRANDE BOTANIC GARDEN was formed to provide an organization through which its members can work with the city to establish a botanic garden to provide among other items, "a setting for botanic research related to the preservation, protection, and use of our state's 4,400 native plant species". Two NPS-NM members are currently on the Board of Directors of the Friends of the RGBG, Ellen Reed and Susan Wachter. Strong support from others in NPS-NM is needed. One way you can help is to become members either as individuals or as a chapter.

The following is more information about becoming a FRIEND of the botanic garden.

Please enroll me as a FRIEND OF THE RIO GRANDE BOTANIC GARDEN.

Enclosed are my dues for 1988.*

*Regular (individual)-\$5
Supporting -\$25
Corporate or Agency -\$50

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