



NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO NEWSLETTER

March and April 1992

Volume XVII Number 2

Conservation Report

Ted Hodoba

There are several conservation issues facing us at this time. Our North American deserts are second only to the rainforests in species diversity. Of all of our deserts, the Sonoran and Mojave deserts to our west are under immense pressure from urbanization with its demands on the limited water of the region. Habitat loss is already a problem to some species such as the desert tortoise and the saguaro cactus. We have a unique opportunity to do something about this situation right now, one that may virtually determine the future of the Mojave Desert. The California Desert Bill, H.R. 2929 (U.S. House of Representatives) and S. 21 (U.S. Senate) would create the Mojave National Park, expand Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Monuments and redesignate them as national parks and designate 4.4 million acres of Bureau of Land Management wilderness. Please write our congressional delegation on this matter. Senators Pete Domenici and Jeff Bingaman can be reached by writing them at the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. You can write Representatives Bill Richardson, Steve Schiff, and Joe Skeen at the U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. There is a lot of opposition to this bill from users of off-road vehicles, and we can expect an uphill fight to prevent the further destruction of the Mojave Desert.

In our own state, we are currently dealing with several cases of herbiciding our native flora by the Bureau of Land Management. It was brought to our attention at the state meeting in Carlsbad that the BLM in southeastern N.M. has herbicided over 95,000 acres of shinnery oak with plans to do even more. This not only threatens the rare prairie chickens that depend upon the oak as a food source, it threatens a native climax vegetation. The Board of Directors unanimously passed a resolution calling for a moratorium on this action until further study can

determine if this practice is warranted. In Taos, the BLM is also doing more herbiciding; this time it is sagebrush that is the target. We will be taking a closer look at this situation.

The Bush administration has proposed a revision of the 1989 Wetlands Manual which government agencies use in their decision making regarding these habitats. Under the new revision, New Mexico and many other arid western states would lose much of their wetlands. Playa lakes would not be considered wetlands under this manual even though they are vital to migratory waterfowl and have vegetation which is uniquely adapted to this environment. While it is too late at this point for public comments on this present revision, it is just the beginning of the need for us to make an effort to get federal legislation protecting wetlands. It is time to get the politics out of wetlands protection and let the biology of these areas determine their status.

I attended a meeting coordinated by the Trust For Public Lands in Albuquerque recently. They have secured an option to-buy from the landowners of a tract of land at the mouth of Three Gun (Tres Pistoles) Springs Canyon at the south end of the Sandia Mountains near Albuquerque. This area is vital habitat to a variety of birds and contains two rare cacti, Mammillaria wrightii var. wrightii and Toumeyia papyracantha. It is also close to the sight of the lookout for Hawkwatch International, which counts the spring migration of raptors here. The aim of those present is to get the U.S. Forest Service to purchase this parcel and save it from the proposed housing development the owners had originally intended to pursue. At this time, please write Senator Pete Domenici regarding this area. If we need to write our other representatives, I will be sure to let you know in future reports.

Hopefully the Mojave Desert and Three Gun Springs will be given the protection they need. We can only hope that this year will also see the passage of a Bureau of Land Management wilderness bill for New Mexico that we can be proud of. Once again I urge you to write Senator Jeff Bingaman asking him to introduce a wilderness bill based on the recommendations of the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition.

It's up to all of us to make this year one in which we not only fight for the protection of our disappearing natural heritage, but this is also an election year in which we can let our feelings be known on environmental issues. Please vote this year for the only home we have, our Earth.

Inside.....

Earth Summit.....2	Politickin'.....6
For Beginners Only.....3	Mesquite Twig Girdler.....6
International Succulent	Presidents Message.....6
Plant Congress.....3	Wolf News.....6
Historic Botanical	Big Bend Trip.....7
Exploration.....3	Environmental Scorekeeping.7
Calendar.....4	SW Rare Plant Conference....7
Germinating Cacti Seed.4	Views from the South.....8

GUIDELINES FOR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

EARTH SUMMIT

In early June of this year over 100,000 people from about 50 countries will meet in Rio de Janeiro for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. This will be the first such meeting of this scale and is important in showing the dedication of countries to environmental issues. Among topics to be dealt with are the atmosphere, deforestation, soil loss, desertification, hazardous wastes and biodiversity. There are problems to be worked out such as the relative commitment of developed versus underdeveloped countries but it is a beginning. Perhaps the most important results to come out of the Summit will be commitment to work together in the future and set real deadlines and goals for problem solving and research.

By following the guidelines below you will make it easier for your material to be placed in the Newsletter and more likely to be used.

1. Most of the material for the Newsletter is scanned. This requires a dark copy. Please use good ribbons or ink cartridges.
2. Because handwritten material cannot be scanned as text, please type if at all possible. An exception can be chapter calendars.
3. Please use separate pages for each piece, eg. chapter report, calendar, articles, etc.
4. Original or copies of articles from other newsletters or magazines are welcome.
5. If you send the editor a letter, let him know if you would like it printed.
6. The deadline for articles is generally the 15th of the month .

The **Newsletter** is published six times per year by the New Mexico Native Plant Society. The Society is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico. Articles from the Newsletter may be reprinted if fully cited to author and attributed to the Newsletter. Membership in the Native Plant Society of New Mexico is open to anyone supporting our goals. We are dedicated to promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment, and to the preservation of endangered species.

Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges and a wide selection of books available at discount.

We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve the state's unique character and as a water conservation measure.

We maintain a register of business and professional people who are members and can supply information and services related to native plants. To be added to this roster or to request information, contact the Membership Secretary.

Advertising Schedule

Approved advertisements will cost \$40 per year.

Schedule of Membership Fees

Dues are \$10.00 annually for individuals or families. "Friends of the Society" include organizations, businesses, and individuals, whose dues of \$25.00 or more provide support for long range goals. To join us, send your dues to Membership Secretary, 443 Live Oak Loop, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87122

Newsletter Contributions

Please direct all contributions for the newsletter to Tim McKimmie, editor.

Deadline for the next newsletter is APRIL 15.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President	Bob Reeves	523-1806
	475 La Colonia, Las Cruces	88005
Vice-President	Mimi Hubby	983-1658
	525 Camino Cabra, Santa Fe	87501
Recording Secretary	Michele Peters	294-7463
	10432 Casador del Oso NE, Alb.	87111
Membership Secretary	Jean Hefflin	291-0489
	443 Live Oak Loop NE, Alb.	87122
Treasurer	Jean Dodd	434-3041
	1302 Canyon Road, Alamogordo	88310

DIRECTORS

Melanie Florence	525-3529	Rt. 1, Box 711, La Mesa	88044
Becky Smith	538-5850	609 N. Arizona St., Silver City	88061
Lucille Wilson	434-1506	P.O. Box 124, La Luz	88337
Mark Rosacker	885-6117		

Editors

Tim McKimmie	524-0401	465 Salopek #8, Las Cruces,	88001
Rick Castetter	526-1914	764 Williams Ln, Las Cruces	88005

Conservation Chair: Ted Hodoba 864-0614

POB 600, Veguita 87062

Book Sales: Lisa Johnston 748-1046

1802 West Grand, Artesia 88210

Poster Chairman: Ellen Wilde 982-1406

110 Calle Pinonero, Santa Fe 87505

CHAPTER CONTACTS

Albuquerque	Ted Hodoba	864-0614
	Steve Katona	247-9005
Las Cruces	Melanie Florence	525-3529
	Tom Wootten	522-8068
Otero	Jean Dodd	434-3041
	Lucille Wilson	434-1506
Santa Fe	Iris David	986-1709
	Phyllis Hughes	983-4875
Gila	Polly Germain	538-5750
	Ron Flemke	538-3498
Carlsbad	Madrone	
	Mark Rosacker	885-6117

FOR BEGINNERS ONLY

With a new season for native plant enthusiasts upon us, here are some tips for getting more out of your field trips. Though some of you may be satisfied with looking at pretty flowers, I know that many of you want to really learn more about our plants of New Mexico. The problem is that there are so many plants out there. Martin and Hutchins describe 3728 species and subspecies in 941 genera and 132 families in New Mexico. Beginners should therefore have a narrow focus, develop some proficiency and expand from there.

First, select a family or even a genus that you want to specialize in. Perhaps this choice will be made from a desire to learn about some common wildflowers (or "weeds") near your home. Some field guides describe families or genera and alert you for what to look for. Your local library will have more in depth information. Often habitat information (riparian, desert, montane) will tell you where you might look. As you become proficient in knowing your family, you will also learn about plants that look similar but are in different families, the next step in broadening your knowledge. At the same time you will often gain knowledge about soil types, blooming dates, pollination, insect visitors, etc.

For me, a hand lens in the field is a must. It definitely increases my enjoyment of plants when I can magnify their parts 10X. Often I find insects that were not apparent to the naked eye and it really helps in looking at flower parts which are essential in identification. Field guides are a personal matter and all have their shortcomings. Eventually the avid plant enthusiast will have several. Keys, which permit identification by a process of elimination, are sometimes the best way to decide between species. You might want to xerox a key (available at your library) and carry it with you. Depending on your needs, a family or genus key may help. A useful book is Baumgardt's, *How to Identify Flowering Plant Families*.

If you are fortunate and know someone with Martin and Hutchins you can do some serious keying. It is worth a trip to your library to at least see how extensively our New Mexico flora has been described in this book. Unfortunately it sells for about \$150. *Arizona Flora* is also useful for our state. I understand it is now out of print but there are used copies available at reasonable prices. Several books on *Texas Flora* are also useful in New Mexico. See our extensive booklist (Jan-Feb Newsletter) for other books. Or call Lisa or attend an annual meeting and see the books for yourselves.

Finally, I should mention herbariums. By now I have strayed from beginner stuff to serious plant hunting. Despite having field guides, *Flora*, and other keys it is sometimes not possible to identify a species without comparison with a known specimen. Herbariums consist of dried plant specimens which have been identified and cataloged. By comparing your specimen with one at the herbarium, positive identification can be made. If you can arrange a trip to an herbarium by all means do so. Be prepared to follow strict rules in handling of the dried plant specimens.

TM

BEAR MOUNTAIN GUEST RANCH

Guided Tours:

Wildflowers, Birds,

Ghost Towns



Myra McCormick (505) 538-2538

P.O. Box 1163

Silver City, N.M. 88062

INTERNATIONAL SUCCULENT PLANT CONGRESS

The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix will be the site of the 22nd annual International Succulent Plant Congress from February 5-14, 1992. Participants are expected from around the world. The theme for this year's Congress is "Succulent Plants and their Biotic Relationships". There will be sessions on cactus and succulent systematics, anatomy, biogeography, ethnobotany, horticulture, and conservation. On April 6 a special symposium titled "Threatened Succulents and their Endangered Pollinators: The Conservation of Mutualisms" will focus on the effects of extinctions. The conference is cosponsored by the Desert Botanical Garden, the Species Survival Commission Cacti and Succulent Group, the Pew Charitable Trusts, Bat Conservation International, and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Field trips in the Sonoran desert will be included. For more information call the Desert Botanical Garden (602) 941-1225.

HISTORIC BOTANICAL EXPLORATION

The classic *Botanical Exploration of the Trans-Mississippi West* by Susan Delano McKelvey has been reprinted by the Oregon State University Press. The book contains 1200 pages of the history of botanical collection, travel, exploration, natural and cultural history, field labor, maps, and references. Price \$85. ISBN 0-87071-513-5.

Many thanks to Robert Dewitt Ivey for permission to use his wonderful drawings from *Flowering Plants of New Mexico*, second edition, in our newsletter



CALENDAR

GILA

Mar. 15 Peloncillo Mtns, Clanton Draw. 9 am. Leader Bob Okeefe, 388-5101.

Mar. 26 Meeting at Carter House, 7 pm.

Apr. 26 East Canyon, Black Range. 9 am. Leader Bob Okeefe.

April 30 Meeting at Carter House, 7 pm. "Herbs" by Michael Cottingham.

OTERO

28 Mar.-White Sands Missile Range. Meet at Tulie Gate at 9 a.m. with lunch and water. No cameras. We will take military bus with capacity of 50 so need to know ahead who will go. From highway take Higuera west across the RR tracks. Turn right and follow paved road which will go around curve and then straight west to the gate.

24 & 25 April-UTEP 37,000 acre Research Ranch 20 miles south of Van Horn with Bristols and Andersons. It is a primitive place. For those who want to come down the 24th and camp overnight at the station, meet Wynn Anderson not later than 3:00 p.m. our time Friday in VanHorn at Chuy's Restaurant on the business street in VanHorn. For those who want to stay in a motel (there are lots) or drive in to meet us on the 25th, meet us at Chuy's to leave at 7:30 a.m. VanHorn time. Bristols will let us know the state of the roads closer to the time. Have a spare tire. Let Jean know if you are going in case we have to cancel for rain.

9 May Plant Sale 9-1 Garden Center at 10th & Oregon across from the Alamogordo Public Library. Lucille Wilson in charge.

ALBUQUERQUE

Mar. 5 "How to design a native garden" by Ted Hodoba. 7:30, Albuquerque Garden Center.

Apr. 2 "Protection of rare plants in New Mexico" by Karen Lightfoot, endangered species botanist. 7:30 Albuquerque Garden Center

LAS CRUCES

Mar. 11 "Grasses and their Habitats" by Kelly Allred. NMSU Ag building Room 190.

Mar. 15 Field trip to the Franklin Mountains. Meet at 9 am in the Pan Am parking lot.

Apr. 8 "The Nature Conservancy in New Mexico" by Katie Skaags. 7:30, Ag Building, Rm 190.

Apr. 12 Field trip to San Andres Canyon. Meet at 7:30 in the Pan Am parking lot.

GERMINATING NATIVE CACTI SEEDS

F.G. Breckenridge

(reprinted from NPS Texas NEWS, July 1989)

Germinating seeds of cacti requires warmth, moisture and the proper soil mixture. I have found that almost all cacti, both arid and moist-loving representatives, respond collectively to the following method:

Soil Mixture: 2 parts coarse sand, 2 parts Baccto potting soil (or its friable, peat-based equivalent), and 1 part sterile, composted sheep manure, although other sources are acceptable.

Sowing: Find or build a container which is 3 to 5 inches deep. Clay pots, deep saucers with holes or wooden frames—known as "flats"—are equally suitable. Use crock for drainage as usual—that is, put broken pieces of pots over the water outlet—and then add the soil mixture to within about one inch of the top. Smooth the soil surface. Then, sprinkle your seeds evenly over the soil. Next, cover the seeds lightly with a little more soil. Finally, lay down a fine, quarter inch layer of coarse sand. Tamp down gently, yet firmly.

Culture: Wet down the seed bed with a light spray from above or via osmosis from below. Place container in plastic bag or cover flat with glass to insure high humidity. Locate in a constantly warm, but not hot place. In winter, tops of refrigerators and such are a good bet. In summer, almost anywhere will do in an un-airconditioned place. Seek minimum temperatures of 70 and maximums of 90 degrees, F.

The next and final phase of culture is to establish an alternating cycle of moist, and then dry conditions. I generally loosen or remove the plastic or glass enclosure from the seed bed every 24 hours, especially during the cool, more humid time of night, and then reenclose during the warmer, drier daytime. This prevents the fungus of "dampening off" and drying out.

From the 5th to the 10th day after sowing, you can expect germination. The seedlings will resemble minute green globes. You may now reduce the hours of enclosure and place your seed bed in a bright, indirect light or in an eastern exposure. Add water from above or below to maintain a slightly damp soil.

Two to three weeks after germination, the seedlings will exhibit the dicot condition of the family *Cactaceae* by clefting into two parts at the apex. Now, dispense with the enclosure. Let the seedlings air-out between waterings. Monitor the dampness of the soil every day and supply water when needed to maintain a damp, but not wet, condition. Introduce your seedlings to more light, being careful to not shock them with too much, too soon.

At six to eight weeks, you are well on your way to success. Add more light, and dry days, and reduce watering. Use your own intuition—that is, your green thumb—as a guide. At this point in their development, the seedlings will begin to grow spines, which are modified leaves.

After a year of growth, the plants will be sufficiently developed to require transplanting to a deeper clay or plastic pot of their own. In two to five years, depending on the species, the seedlings will mature and flower for the first time.



CHAPTER REPORTS

Otero-Jean Dodd

Lil Bristol, member from El Paso, presented a slide program 2-8-92 featuring wildflowers, primarily of the Sacramento Mountains, from a slide collection which has grown over a period of time as the Bristols visited their place in the Cloudcroft area. Lil started the collection with several goals in mind, however to date she is having an adventure in wildflower photography. What is the best way to capture a meadow on film? What about focus of the whole plant? Can you show the size and structure of a plant and still see a close-up of the flower parts? Is the background distracting?

A wide variety of flowers were covered including a blooming N.M. locust, several varieties of columbines and geraniums, coneflowers of different colors, Jacob's ladder, green-flowered Macromeria, blue-eyed grass, oxalis, dayflower, salsify-plant, blossom, and seed head, Rocky Mtn. Iris, white Canadian violet, an assortment of thistles, fenderbush, spike verbena, Scouler's catch-fly (*Silene acouleri*), paint-brush, gayfeather, chocolate flower, wild rose, etc. What a nice way for us to start the '92 flowering season!

Lil came with husband Jack and friends Wynn & Kym Anderson. Jack and Wynn came up from El Paso last year to show us the plans for switching from the current landscaping at the UTEP Museum to a native plant teaching garden. At the time they invited us to the 37,000 acre UTEP Research Station which is an outdoor laboratory used by UTEP, UNM, and Sul Ross. We were filled in on the final arrangements for the April 24-25 trip. See Otero calendar. If you are planning to go, be sure to tell Jean Dodd 434-3041 or Jack Bristol's office at UTEP 915-747-5775.

Gila-Polly Germain

Sunday, January 19th, the Gila Native Plant Society took a field trip to the Steeple Rock area in extreme southwestern Grant County. Steeple Rock is reminiscent of the Shiprock formation of northwestern New Mexico but without the "wings". It is a dramatic peak with an elevation gain of over 1200 feet. We walked a couple of miles up the normally dry Steeple Rock canyon which is now flowing due to the very wet winter. From this canyon we entered a narrow, twisting side canyon that was very beautiful. It was in this side canyon that we discovered a stand of *Pinus monophylla*, the Singleleaf Pinyon. According to Lamb's *WOODY PLANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST*, the singleleaf pinyon is native only to California, Nevada and a small portion of northwest Arizona, but not New Mexico. An exciting find to say the least.

Las Cruces-Paul & Betty Sheford

On February 11th we completed the plantings for the native plant garden in front of the Cox Ranch Visitors Center at Dripping Springs. Five Las Cruces members worked with Oz Gomez of the BLM to plant about 50 plants, shrubs, and trees, many of which were donated by Tom Wootten. Identification signs will be added later.

Dr. Laura Huenneke, NMSU Associate Professor of Biology, spoke on "Rare Plant Research in New Mexico" at our Feb. meeting. Plants become rare most commonly due to human exploitation, animal overuse or evolutionary stunting. Other reasons for rarity are limited reproductive effort, lack of a seed bank, dependence on animal mutualists, obligate (outcrosser), and marked changes in historical patterns of distribution. Dr. Huenneke is conducting research on three plants which are threatened but are not yet listed as endangered. The Gypsum Scalebroom (*Lepidospartum burgessii*) is found only in a colony near Carlsbad, close to the New Mexico/Texas state line. This plant produces flowers without seed. Todson's Pennyroyal (*Hedeoma todsonii*) is found only in a "handful" of populations in southern New Mexico. It also has flowers without seed. A thistle of the Composite family (*Cirsium vinaceum*) is listed as threatened despite dense growth stands in the Lincoln Mountains, because of the encroachment of Teasel (*Dipsacus sylvestris*).

Albuquerque - Jean Heflin

Robert Dewitt Ivey, author of "Flowering Plants of New Mexico", gave an excellent talk on his work at the Grey Ranch with slides of his plant finds. A bewildering number of plants were shown, many rare and surprising. His approach was to take the same route from the floor of the valley up to the top of the Animas Mountains during spring, summer, and fall. Although the pinon-juniper zone exists there, it has changed from the northern species to the Mexican pinon and the alligator juniper. Further up near the mountain tops are Apache pine, limber pine, douglas fir, and Chihuahua pine. Among the many unusual plants found were a rare lythracea, the pink *Cuphea wrightii*; a rare *Hedeoma* supposedly restricted to the San Luis mountains; *Sida leprosa* which he was unable to find in reference books; and a legume, *Heterophyllus phaseolus*, with peach colored instead of red flowers.

BERNARDO BEACH NATIVE PLANT FARM

DESIGN & CONSULTATION

DROUGHT TOLERANT & NATIVE
LANDSCAPE ORNAMENTALS

520 MONTAÑO NW, Albuquerque

Mon - Sat 9 - 6

505-345-6248



SCIENCE FARE



Science and Natural History
Educational Toys and Supplies



HELEN ZEYEN
(505) 299-3420

8246 Menaul Blvd. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

POLITICKIN'

The "battle to halt destruction of habitat and consequent loss of species will be won or lost by the turn of the century" according to a recent issue of Nature Conservancy. Organizations such as our Native Plant Society can play a role in providing forums for discussion of issues and dissemination of information.

Few Americans go beyond the talking stage to the "politickin'" stage. Most feel powerless because politicians won't listen to us. Or we feel that our lone voice is too small to make a difference. Politicians do listen however, and government agencies are often only too glad to hear from citizens demanding that they carry out their mandated missions. Because only a small percentage of citizens are vocal (my guess is about 1-2%), in reality your voice is magnified 50-100 times. The vocal few, after finding that they can make a difference, feel a new sense of power and mission.

We are all free to choose our own particular issues of importance. These may be local, regional, national, or planetary. My own feeling is that it is best to focus on only one or two issues at a time, such as local habitat destruction, recycling, the endangered species act, use of public lands, hazardous waste, take your pick. Then get involved in this one issue, learn as much about it as possible, write letters, make phone calls, and attend meetings. Before long you will become an expert in this area and can educate others. In this way we can avoid getting so tangled up in the hundreds of pressing environmental issues that we throw our hands up in despair. This is not to say ignore other issues. By all means help others in their struggles. But keep focused on your one or two.

Once we have identified an issue we can turn our frustrations into action. Join an existing organization or start one. Make plans for action. Make your public officials accountable for their actions. Force your important issues into the public eye. Ask for help, such as asking others to write letters. Writing letters is not easy but is necessary. You may want to have a letter writing session as part of a meeting. If so be sure to provide paper, envelopes, pens, clipboards, stamps, and also some sample letters. Make sure the letters are short, to the point, and non-threatening. It is my feeling that form letters do not have the kind of impact that personal letters have.

TM

MESQUITE TWIG GIRDLER

If you have not seen damage from the Mesquite Twig Girdler it is only a matter of time until you do. Apparently this insect is proliferating in New Mexico. Caused by a beetle in the family Cerambycidae, the damage appears as girdled stems with branch tips dying off. The girdling is a perfect circle a few mm in width. Eggs are laid and the larvae feed on the damaged stems. This activity occurs in the fall and control will involve attacking the larvae.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

It is now early February and spring seems to be here, at least in southern New Mexico. In fact, we have had very little winter thus far. Buds on trees are swelling and I have seen crocus and daffodils blooming. Of course this could be a false spring with more winter to come.

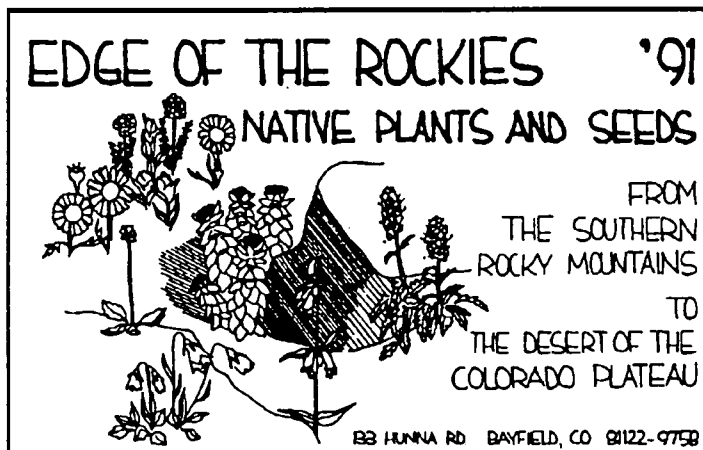
With the relatively mild winter and well above average rain, this should be an exceptional year for our natives, and field trips. Why not get some of your non-NPS friends and neighbors to join you on the field trips? Let them discover what we already know—natives are beautiful!

I want to thank all of those who helped "man" or "woman" the NPS-NM booth at the "Festival of the Cranes" which was held at the Bosque last fall. The festival was a success and many people showed an interest in our society. THANK YOU

Bob Reeves

MEXICAN GRAY WOLF NEWS

In an important reversal, both the Arizona Cattle Growers and the Arizona Wool Producers associations have dropped opposition to the reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf to the Southwest. The AP reported in the Dec. 30 Tucson Citizen that the Cattle growers resolution "recognizes the important role of predators in maintaining a healthy and productive environment..."



BIG BEND TRIP

Sept. 24-27 are the dates set for Otero's trip to Big Bend with Sharon Yarborough making the arrangements for us. The first and last days are considered mostly travel days. Group camping will be in the Chisos Basin. If you don't want to camp, make reservations today at 915-477-2291 for lodging in the Chisos Basin. For more information about Big Bend write the Natural History Association, POB 68, Big Bend, Texas 79834. See "Texas Highways" Nov. 85, Aug. & Oct. '87, Mar. & May '88, Sept. '90. Sharon needs to know what those going on the trip would like to see so let Jean Dodd know and she will pass on various requests. Possibilities: Sharon has taken classes from Warnock. She will try to get him at least for a little while. He is scheduled to teach Introduction to the Wildflowers Sept. 26 & 27 at Big Bend (\$80) so he might come early. The Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center in Lajitas has a botanical garden with self-guided tours and presents a vast collection of native plants. Sharon volunteers at the Herbarium in Alpine at Sul Ross. Perhaps on the way home we could stop and see the Herbarium whose curator is Dr. Powell of "Trees and Shrubs of TransPePeWe could also tour the greenhouses there. If you plan to go on the trip and are not from Otero, please let Jean Dodd know you are going so that we can contact you in case of any changes in plans. More later as plans solidify.

PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE

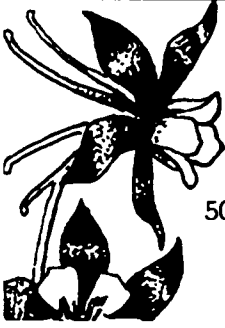
The Permaculture Drylands Education and Research Institute has scheduled a four-weekend course focusing on design for homes and neighborhoods in dryland communities. The course will be held at El Dorado, a solar community near Santa Fe. It will emphasize connections between plants, animals, and other natural elements of landscape. Information is available from Danny Buck at 982-5040.

THANKS

In 1991 the Native Plant Society had 35 "Friends" who gave \$25 or more to help support our goals. Our special thanks.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCOREKEEPING

The League of Conservation Voters is a non-profit organization which follows the voting habits and other legislative activity of the members of the U.S. House and Senate. The League monitors environmental issues and periodically reports its results to its members and the press. For New Mexico's delegation the latest tally showed that Rep. Bill Richardson most consistently supported the major issues monitored by the League. The worst environmental record, according to the League was that of Rep. Joe Skeen followed by Sen. Pete Domenici. Rep. Steve Schiff and Sen. Jeff Bingaman were somewhere in the middle of the pack.



AGUA FRIA NURSERY, INC.
1409 Agua Fria
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87501

505-983-4831

Specializing in native plants
and perennials

SOUTHWESTERN RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANT CONFERENCE

Santa Fe will host this important conference from March 30 to April 2, 1992. The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is co-sponsoring this conference in conjunction with the NM Forestry and Resources Conservation Division, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, UNM, the BLM, the US Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. Manual Lujan, the Secretary of the Interior has been invited. This conference provides a rare opportunity for New Mexicans to attend this type of conference. Keynote addresses will focus on the Endangered Species Act, and Endangered Plant Conservation. For more information, call Bob Sivinski or Karen Lightfoot at 827-5830 or contact your local chapter of the Native Plant Society. Registration fees are \$30 and the conference is scheduled for Morgan Hall at the New Mexico State Land Office Building, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail..

VIEWS FROM THE SOUTH (One Member's Opinion)

Recently I sent to all members of the NPS Conservation Committee a copy of H.R. 4045 a bill designed to reauthorize and strengthen the Endangered Species Act. This likely will be one of the toughest battles that will take place on the environmental front this year. I urge each member to get involved in this issue, and write to each of our Congressmen asking them to co-sponsor or at least support this bill. I am sure that Rep. Skeen will not give us any support on this issue but at least we should let him know what we know to be right. If you have questions please contact your chapter conservation committee person.

I have just finished studying a new Government Accounting Office report entitled "Rangeland Management: BLM's Hot Desert Grazing Program Merits Reconsideration" I highly recommend this document to anyone interested (we all need to be) in public lands grazing issues. I will be distributing a copy to each NPS chapter's Conservation Chairman, and will have extras for sale for \$2.00, but encourage you to write or call GAO and get a copy free. (One copy is free to anyone, multiple copies cost \$2.00 therefore my charge) Write to: US General Accounting Office, Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877 or call (202) 275-6241 and request a copy of GAO/RCED 92-12.

Also, I have available a booklet entitled "How Not to be Cowed, Livestock Grazing on the Public Lands: An Owners Manual" also an excellent publication and important for anyone willing to participate in this issue. The issuers are seeking a \$3.00 donation per copy, but frankly are most interested in your use of the booklet.

Again this issue I would like to describe the activities of another "white hat" outfit. Most of us have been captivated by the intensely interesting and superbly presented talks by Dr. Richard Spellenberg, Professor of Biology at New Mexico State University. Rich is a plant taxonomist, curator of the N.M.S.U. Herbarium, and the driving force both physically and financially behind "Friends of the Herbarium". More about the latter, later.

The goal of the NMSU Herbarium is to develop and maintain a quality collection of the flora of New Mexico, with special emphasis on

southern New Mexico, and of northern Mexico. The Herbarium has been growing slowly, purposely, because of the expense of acquiring and preparing quality specimens. This is important because we expect these specimens to last hundreds of years, documenting taxonomic, evolutionary and ecological research. Las Cruces chapter of NPS is now using the herbarium to document recorded sightings of a number of plants. This information is being used by the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources to update the endangered species list for New Mexico.

Not known to most, is the "Friends of the Herbarium Fund". The purpose of this fund is to support activities of the herbarium and to assist students associated with it, when their work improves the herbariums representation of native flora. Some of the "Friends" funds have gone for physical needs such as a paper cutter, some computer equipment etc., but funds have also been made available for some travel expenses, especially for students involved in collecting plant material in Mexico. These trips are not only educational, botanically, but also from the standpoint of broadening students views and understanding our neighbor to the south sociologically. Funds from the "Friends" have also provided a small stipend to employ a student over the summer, helping both the student at a difficult time and the herbarium.

Rich gives very informative tours of the herbarium by appointment. Some members of Otero Chapter did this last year and I was delighted to tag along. Otero must have liked what they saw because I know they have responded with a donation to the "Friends" You can too by contacting:

Dr. Richard Spellenberg
Curator of the Herbarium
Department of Biology
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
(505) 646-3732

or Biology-Herbarium Fund
New Mexico State University
Foundation
Campus Department 3590
New Mexico State University
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003
(505) 646-1613

Of course donations are tax deductible, may be personalized in the name of a loved one or ear-marked for special purposes. I encourage you to join me in supporting our "Friends". TOM WOOTTEN

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Non-profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit #946 Las Cruces, New Mexico

