



NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2014

VOL. XXXIX No. 2

El Paso Plans a Memorable Annual Meeting in August

Down south, under the edge of New Mexico, the El Paso/Juárez/Las Cruces borderplex is a special blend of geographic isolation, multiple cultural heritages, and exciting growth and change. We sit at the juncture of Texas, New Mexico, and Chihuahua—three states in two countries, and we are a mixture of all three.

Geographically, we sit in a rich river valley known for pecans, cotton, and chile. A long drought has made us innovators in water conservation and recycling as we cope with changing water supplies. Some of those innovations will be featured during the 2014 Native Plant Society of New Mexico annual meeting July 31–August 2. We are especially excited to offer a visit to the country's largest inland water desalination plant, a cooperative project between the City of El Paso and Fort Bliss, a major US Army installation.

El Paso del Norte, the pass to the north, is a crossroads. Native peoples, European explorers, missionaries, colonists, and entrepreneurs traversed the region headed both north and east–west. The pass between our mountains was the only year-round land route east to west until mechanization changed transportation across the continent.

It is exciting to travel our mile-high Transmountain Road, one of three routes over the Franklin Mountains that run through the city. Views on either side of the mountain are breathtaking. Scenic Drive, a WPA project on the southern edge of the mountains, is a must-see at night. The lights of El Paso and Juárez stretch for miles and you suddenly realize you are seeing where nearly two million people live divided only by the Rio Grande.

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From the President

by *Renée West*

We're steadily moving into spring, the time when leaves and flowers begin to appear. Well, steadily, but with temperatures and wind speeds swinging from high to low and back again. Soon it will warm into my favorite season, summer.

This is the time of year when all the planning for the annual meeting coalesces into the grand meeting agenda of speakers, field trips, and workshops. This year, the El Paso chapter will be our host.

Be sure to vote for the board officers. This issue contains our mail-in election ballot. Votes for the five officers on the board must be compiled and counted before the annual meeting, and the results will be announced at the meeting.

You'll notice the ballot contains only three names for the five offices. Pam McBride and John White are willing to stay in their positions for another term, and we are grateful for all the time they spend working for the Society. They both are diligent and fun to work with.

And we'll be lucky to have Barbara Fix in the president's post. She is full of energy and great ideas—and has already been working on issues that came up while I was away last fall. We'll be in very good hands with Barbara's leadership.

We had a very busy and productive winter board meeting. One of our jobs at that meeting every year is to award funds in support of projects that uphold our mission of education, conservation, research, and wise use of native plants.



This year's recipients of grants and one donation are:

- **Asombro Institute for Science Education** (Stephanie Bestelmeyer) for Native Plant Day at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park.
- **Audubon New Mexico** (Steve Cary) for an Augustus Fendler Memorial.
- **Richard Felger** for studying Potential Grain Crops from New Mexico Native Grasses.
- **Joseph Franke** (Sapo Gordo Ecological Restoration Services) to study Pollinators of Gypsophilous Plants in New Mexico.
- **William R. Norris** for specimen curation of the Vascular Flora and Bryophytes of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, Catron County, NM.
- **Jeffrey P. Rose** (at University of Wisconsin Dept. of Botany) for Evolution and Biogeography of *Polemonium* (Polemoniaceae with Special Emphasis on the *Polemonium foliosissimum* Species Complex).
- **Brian Witte** (at Botanical Research Institute of Texas) for Curation and Digitization of the Bob Hutchins Legumes (Fabaceae) of New Mexico Collection.
- **NPSNM Taos Chapter** (Claudia Bianca, President): Donation recipient for greenhouse cover redesign to better adapt for native plant propagation.

Stay tuned for our grantees' project reports! ❖

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Election of Officers

The election of officers of the Society takes place May 1–June 30, 2014. Results will be announced July 31 in El Paso at the Board of Directors meeting held in conjunction with

the annual state meeting. The two-year terms begin then. The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors has nominated these candidates:

President: Barbara Fix

Currently Vice President of NPSNM. Santa Fe Chapter. Landscaper in Santa Fe, 1985–present; previously practiced law (JD, 1971, Stanford Law School). NPSNM member for over 20 years.

Vice President: no nominee

Recording Secretary: Pam McBride

Currently Recording Secretary. Albuquerque Chapter. Past president of the Albuquerque Chapter, NPSNM member for 12 years. Co-Director, Paleoethnobotany Lab, Museum of NM, Office of Archaeological Studies.

Membership Secretary: no nominee

Treasurer: John White

Currently Treasurer. El Paso Chapter. Former President of the NPSNM and former Chair of the Finance Committee.

Election ballot on back page

Meet NPSNM's New Administrative Coordinator

by Deb Farson

Greetings NPSNM! I am your new Administrative Coordinator—carefully tutored by Cindy Roper to try to make this transition as seamless as possible. It is a pleasure to be here. I got to meet the board members at the Sevilleta retreat and some of the Santa Fe members at a chapter meeting. I look forward to meeting the rest of you as the year rolls on.

When I'm not working for NPSNM, I do freelance work as a science writer and editor. Mostly that work (journal manuscripts and clinical trial documents) has come from biotech companies on either coast—NPSNM is my first in-state job. In setting up my little business, FarsonInk, I had to learn all the skills that are so useful to you: WordPress, Facebook, invoicing, banking, advertising.

Prior to moving to Santa Fe in late 2009, I lived in San Francisco and worked as a scientist (cell biologist) at a small biotech company. Over the years I was involved in a wide variety of research projects, from developing therapeutic cell lines for the treatment of prostate and pancreatic cancers to gene therapy for leukemia. I'm happy to say that all of those projects are still progressing through clinical trials.

Once I moved here I immediately enrolled in the Santa Fe Master Gardener program—something I had always wanted to do but lacked the time. In the San Francisco Bay Area, I had become a Master Composter (I taught residents how to backyard compost); now I had the opportunity to learn about the gardening challenges in Santa Fe. I have worked with SFMGA on a number of projects such as moving the website to WordPress, which gave us more control and the ability to update. We now maintain a gardening cal-



Deb Farson

endar of events for ourselves and the public. We also started a monthly electronic newsletter about gardening in Santa Fe (you can subscribe for free at www.sfmga.org).

I am also part of the Santa Fe Compost Action Team, affectionately known as SCAT. This is a subset of Master Gardeners who have formed an alliance with the Santa Fe Environmental Services Department to teach residents how to compost. We see this as a win-win situation. Environmental Services wants to reduce the flow of green waste to the landfill and Master Gardeners see it as a way to turn sand or clay into healthy soils. Last year we figure SCAT talked directly to more than 700 people at community events. This year we are training another dozen SCATters as compost educators and plan to expand our outreach.

I look forward to my work with NPSNM: meeting the people and learning all about New Mexico native plants. ❖

**If you received this newsletter via email,
and would prefer a hard-copy, please notify
the administrative coordinator at
nativeplantsnm@gmail.com.**

NPSNM Has a New Conservation Committee Chair

Rachel Jankowitz is a longtime biologist employed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. She has been in charge of assessing the impacts of mining operations and energy development on wildlife habitats across the state and determining appropriate mitigation measures for those activities. Rachel wants to engage in a collaborative team approach to NPSNM's fulfilling its conservation mission.

We thank Rachel for taking on this important role in conserving and protecting native plants. ❖

WINGS OF ENCHANTMENT BUTTERFLY FARM PRESENTS

Butterfly Education and Awareness Day (BEAD)

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The Newsletter of the NPSNM

April–June 2014. Vol. 39 No. 2. This newsletter is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176) and is free to members. The NPSNM, a nonprofit organization, is composed of professional and amateur botanists and others with an interest in the flora of New Mexico.

Original articles from the newsletter may be reprinted if attributed to the author and to this newsletter.

Views expressed are the opinions of the individual authors and not necessarily those of NPSNM.

Next deadline is June 1, 2014. Articles and high-resolution artwork supporting the NPSNM's mission are welcomed and can be sent to the editor, Sarah Johnson, at sarita@gilanet.com, or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Board of Directors

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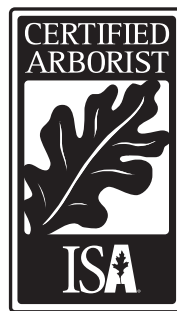
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Mission The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is a non-profit organization that strives to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; fostering plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; supporting botanical research; and encouraging the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

Attention: Biology and Botany Teachers

by Jack L. Carter, Gila Chapter

Over the past 100 years we have seen significant increases in the scientific knowledge of plants. Yet over the past half century it has become obvious that the United States is suffering from a severe case of plant blindness. Both children and adults have a much more limited understanding of the green plants that surround them than did their parents and grandparents.

We know that high school graduates have little knowledge of the flora that surrounds them and the plants that define the ecosystems in which they reside. They are simply not cognizant of the native trees and shrubs that occur in their immediate environment, providing the oxygen they breathe and removing the carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. It has also been suggested that there are few teachers with a background in the plant sciences adequate to teaching basic botany in today's schools and colleges. In some cases it might be that even if the teachers were qualified, the curriculum includes little or no information concerning the native flora. In terms of survival it just might be that this information is as important as understanding the role of the cell, desoxyribonucleic acid, ribonucleic acid, and various peptide chains.

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico, in collaboration with Mimbres Publishing, has been searching for ways in which we might assist high school biology teachers and college professors in strengthening the teaching of botany throughout New Mexico. In order to reach this objective we would like to provide some assistance to educational institutions that have a botanical education program, or wish to expand and develop their plant science program. For those

who are interested, Mimbres Publishing would provide a classroom set (about 20 books) of their *Trees & Shrubs of New Mexico* at no cost to the institution and the teacher responsible for the botany program.

At this time we would like to identify 20 teachers who would be interested in preparing a proposal (not more than three or four pages) describing their botany program or the program they would like to develop. There should also be a letter from the principal or science supervisor approving the program. We would need some assurance that the teacher is familiar with dichotomous keys to plants in their area and either would set aside a block of time to teach a unit on woody plants or would teach an intermittent program throughout the year. The program should be designed to fit the school schedule and curriculum. It might also be helpful if the teacher could identify several of the required academic standards the program might reach.

Please send your proposal to Jack L. Carter, PO Box 1244, Silver City, NM 88062, or by email: apacheplume29@gmail.com. ❖

Legacy:

*What we leave behind,
we give to the future.*

NPSNM encourages members
to consider including
NPSNM in their wills.

For further information,
call Barbara Fix at 505/989-8654.

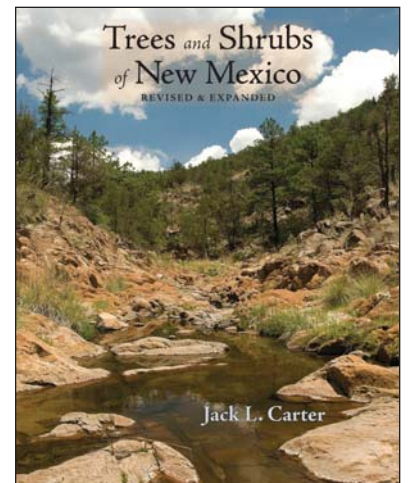
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In Memoriam: Dorothy Hoard

by Lolly Jones, Former NPSNM Membership Secretary

Our NPSNM community is saddened to learn that our beloved Dorothy Hoard has died. She passed away Monday, March 3, 2014, at her Los Alamos home, surrounded by family.

She and her husband, Donald, moved to Los Alamos in 1963 with their four children. She worked at Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in analytical chemistry, utilizing her degree in biochemistry from the University of California at Berkeley.

Dorothy spent her free time hiking up and down the canyons and mesas in Bandelier with friends from the Los Alamos Outdoor Association. She worked to secure additional parts of White Rock Canyon and several historic roads in Los Alamos for the National Register of Historic Places. She was a founder of the Friends of Bandelier and served as its president for 27 years. She also conceived of and planned a trail around the rim of the Valles Caldera. We can only hope the trail will be completed one day, perhaps named the Dorothy Hoard Rim Trail.

Dorothy's friend Bob Sivinski notes that she had considerable artistic talent. Several years ago he arranged for her to coteach (with Wynn Anderson) a NPSNM workshop on botanical illustration. She also taught a plant drawing workshop in 2001. She made excellent drawings from photos of plants and herbarium specimens.

Jim McGrath remembers Dorothy as "a community activist who went about her activities quietly, but oh so very effectively. She made a tremendous difference in the Los Alamos area—in Bandelier National Monument, White Rock Canyon, and the Valles Caldera. She had beliefs and convictions. But she did not waste time haggling with folks. She just went out and did things that were consistent with her convictions. She never called attention to herself."

Many NPSNM members enjoy her book *A Guide to Bandelier National Monument*, but her *Flowering Plants of the Southwestern Woodlands*, coauthored with Teralene Foxx, has a special place in numerous member libraries. She wrote more books over the years, including *Los Alamos Outdoors* and *Historic Roads of Los Alamos*, as well as booklets on specialized subjects.

She hiked White Rock Canyon and adjacent areas photographing and recording hundreds of petroglyphs, all of which are now on the Historic Register and many of which are in her coauthored book *Sentinels on Stone*. She most recently coauthored the wonderful—and award-winning—book *Homesteading on the Pajarito Plateau, 1887–1942*.

A public celebration of Dorothy's life is planned for

March 25 at 11 a.m., at the Amphitheater in Bandelier National Monument. Her and her surviving family's request is that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Dorothy Hoard Memorial Fund at Pajarito Environmental Education Center, or to the Friends of Bandelier, in her name. ❖



Dorothy Hoard in July 2012, leading a hike for Pajarito Environmental Education Center.

Photo: Sherry Hardage



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Native Plant Society of New Mexico
2014 Annual Meeting
Good to the Last Drop

Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment

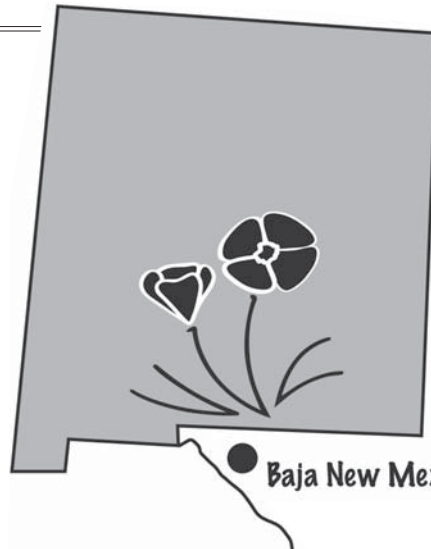
Thursday,

July 31

to

Saturday,

August 2



Baja New Mexico Chapter

Holiday Inn Express

7935 Artcraft Road

Canutillo High School

6675 South Desert Boulevard

El Paso

Bienvenidos! The El Paso Chapter welcomes you to Baja New Mexico for the 2014 Native Plant Society of New Mexico Annual Meeting. We've developed three tracks, Science, Cactus, and Special Interests; seven field trip options; and five workshops for your edification. We'll learn about preserving land and restoring wetlands. We'll see the potentials of prickly pear cactus on the moon and on your table. You'll get to enjoy our Tex-Mex cuisine and appreciate that it is a little different from New Mexican food farther north. Come see us at the corner of two nations/three states for a great meeting.

Meeting Location: The Thursday board meeting and early registration will be at the Holiday Inn Express, 7935 Artcraft Rd., El Paso. Friday and Saturday events will be at Canutillo High School, 6675 Desert Blvd.; this location is also a Thursday registration option. Saturday's banquet will be at Sunland Park Holiday Inn, 900 Sunland Park Dr.

Accommodations: Special NPSNM room rates are available at these hotels: **Holiday Inn Express**, 7935 Artcraft Rd. \$75 per night or suites for \$85, plus tax. Call Holiday Inn Central Reservations at 800/465-4329 and ask for reservations at ELPAC, group code NPI; or call the hotel directly at 915/587-5885 and ask for reservations for the El Paso Native Plant Society group code NPI. Hotel offers shuttle to NPSNM meeting. ❖ **Holiday Inn Sunland Park**, 900 Sunland Park Dr. \$75 per night or suites for \$119, plus tax. Call Holiday Inn Central Reservations at 800/465-4329 and ask for reservations for the New Mexico Native Plant Society meeting code NPS; or call the hotel directly at 915/833-2900 and ask for reservations for the meeting code NPS. ❖ **La Quinta Inn**, 7550 Remcon Circle, 915/833-2522. \$65 per night, plus tax. Reserve room by July 18 to receive NPSNM rate. ❖ **Fairfield Inn**, 7514 Remcon Circle, 915/615-0024. \$75 per night or suites for \$85, plus tax. Reserve room by July 18 to receive NPSNM rate.

Pets: Pets not allowed at Holiday Inn Express or Fairfield Inn; pets are allowed at Holiday Inn Sunland Park (one-time \$50 fee) and La Quinta Inn (max. 50 pounds). **Julian's Doggie Daycare and Boarding**, 6330 N. Mesa, Suite A, 915/581-2850, www.juliansdoggiedaycare.com.

2014 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

El Paso, Texas

Thursday July 31 (Holiday Inn Express)

- 1:00–5:00 pm NPSNM board meeting—Boardroom, Holiday Inn Express, 7935 Artcraft Rd.
 1:00–5:00 pm Early registration—Holiday Inn Express
 1:00–5:00 pm Early registration—Canutillo High School Rotunda, 6675 South Desert Blvd.

Friday August 1 (Canutillo High School)

- 7:30 am–5:00 pm Registration
 9:00 am Opening and Keynote Address
Good to the Last Drop: Maximizing Water Resources for the Future—
 John Balliew, President and CEO, El Paso Water Utilities
Mr. Balliew discusses how a community examines sparse water resources and uses innovation to stretch them to the max for the future.
- 10:15–11:00 am **SCIENCE TRACK Rio Bosque Wetlands Park: Just Add Water—**John Sproul, Program Coordinator/Manager in the Center for Environmental Resource Management, University of Texas at El Paso, and Manager of the Rio Bosque Wetlands Park.
This presentation traces the history of a project to restore native wetlands and riparian habitat at a 372-acre site along the Rio Grande in El Paso.
- CACTUS TRACK Cactus on the Moon—**Gertrud Konings, PhD, Professor of Biology, El Paso Community College.
Dr. Konings will discuss difficulties plants will face on the moon in establishing a breathable atmosphere. Research conducted with her students has produced interesting information about prickly pear's potential in space.
- SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK Preservation of Desert Lands Through Public and Private Partnerships—**Janaé Reneaud Field, Executive Director, Frontera Land Alliance.
Learn about how the Frontera Land Alliance's current partnerships with federal, state, local, and other non-profits aid in the conservation of desert lands, wildlife, and water.
- 11:00–11:15 am Break
 11:15 am–Noon **SCIENCE TRACK Getting Kids Out to Learn About the Desert: The Asombro Institute—**Stephanie Bestlemeyer, PhD, Director, Asombro Institute.
Dr. Bestlemeyer will discuss the Institute's efforts in increasing science literacy, programs using new research on how children learn, and programs supported by NPSNM grants.
- CACTUS TRACK What Does It Take to Be a Cactus?—**Ad Konings, PhD, biologist and author, with Dr. Gertrud Konings of *Cacti of Texas in Their Natural Habit*.
Dr. Konings will explore the anatomy of cacti and how cacti are differentiated from other sticker plants.
- SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK Landscaping with Native Plants in the Chihuahuan Desert—**Michael Eason, Conservation Botanist and Program Director.
Mr. Eason will cover the use of native plants in landscaping from formal to wildscape applications, including proper seed collection, storage, and propagation of native plants for the homeowner.
- Noon–1:00 pm Lunch on-site
 1:00–1:45 pm **SCIENCE TRACK The Candelilla Wax Plant, *Euphorbia antisiphilitica*, and the Wax Industry—**Richard Worthington, PhD, Associate Professor Emeritus and Curator of Herbarium, the University of Texas at El Paso.
The biology and distribution of the plant and features of the wax will be presented. The many uses of the wax, extraction, purification, market, and history of the industry, especially in Texas, will be discussed.

CACTUS TRACK Cacti of Texas—Ad Konings, PhD, biologist and author, with Dr. Gertrud Konings of *Cacti of Texas in Their Natural Habitat*.

Texas has more cactus species than any other state. Dr. Konings will discuss their natural variability, their environmental adaptability, their distribution, and their sometimes narrow endemism.

SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK Ethics of Procuring Native Plants—John White, Curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens, University of Texas at El Paso.

Mr. White describes southwestern states' legal differences in acquisition of native plants and discusses the ethics of proper versus improper collection.

1:45–2:00 pm Break

2:00–2:45 pm

SCIENCE TRACK Dendrology 101—Oscar Mestas, Regional Urban Forester, Texas A&M Forest Service.

Mr. Mestas will cover basic dendrology (study of trees), how to use a dichotomous key, and some interesting internet resources. He will bring in samples of different leaf types and branching structures and point out the differences and similarities in common trees and other woody species for a hands-on experience. This presentation is not for the advanced botanist.

CACTUS TRACK Desert Spirits, the Distilled Kind—Virginia Morris, Past President of the NPSNM El Paso Chapter, Vice President of the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club.

*The production of tequila and mescal from agaves and sotol liquor from the sotol (*Dasyliirion wheeleri*) is a vibrant part of Mexico's economy. The history, production processes, and current threats to the industry will be discussed.*

SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK Medicinal Plants Native to the US Southwest—Mary O'Connell, PhD, Regents Professor and Distinguished Achievement Professor, New Mexico State University.

Dr. O'Connell will present information about plants native and naturalized to our region that are commonly used for medicinal purposes. A description of the methods used to determine the efficacy of these plants will also be presented.

2:45–3:15 pm Break

3:15–4:00 pm

SCIENCE TRACK Plant Adaptations to Extreme Desert Environments—Rafael C. Corral, PhD, Botanist and Installation Pest Management Coordinator, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Dr. Corral will explore how plants have adapted physically and in life cycle management to a harsh desert environment.

CACTUS TRACK Southern New Mexico Cacti—Lisa Mandelkern, Artist, Photographer, and Amateur Botanist.

Ms. Mandelkern will discuss characteristics of the cactus family and showcase cactus species in bloom.

SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK From Sandhill to Sublime—Sarah Wood, Gardener and Landscape Designer.

Sarah Wood shows us how she and her husband, Ron, converted a steep sandhill backyard into a showcase native garden at her home in nearby Santa Teresa, New Mexico.

4:00–4:15 pm Break

4:15–5:00 pm

SCIENCE TRACK Plants and Butterflies, Paso del Norte Region—Carl Lieb, PhD, Professor of Biological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso.

Dr. Lieb will discuss desert butterfly biodiversity, native plants as hosts for their larvae, and nuances of urban/suburban butterfly gardening in our desert area.

CACTUS TRACK Making Beautiful Places Beautiful Again: A Small Sample of Ecological Restoration Projects and Techniques—Michael Gaglio, Biologist and Managing Member, High Desert Native Plants.

Mr. Gaglio will describe and illustrate ecological restoration projects that improve sites' aesthetic appeal, vegetation community, wildlife habitat, and water retention.

SPECIAL INTERESTS TRACK Native Plant Landscaping to Benefit Humans and Wildlife, the Texas Wildscapes Program—Lois Balin, Urban Wildlife Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Ms. Balin will introduce creating a backyard habitat for wildlife using ecologically sensitive methods.

6:00 pm Reception—Sunset Gardens Nursery, 105 Lindberg Ave.

Dinner On Your Own

Continued next page

Saturday August 2 (Canutillo High School)

7:30 am–Noon Registration—Canutillo High School Rotunda, 6675 South Desert Blvd.

WORKSHOPS (All workshops take place at the high school.)

8:30–10:30 am **1. Not Your Mama's Nopalitos**

El Paso's self-taught native-plant chef teaches cooking techniques using native plants in non-traditional ways. **Limit:** 15 **Fee:** \$10 **Instructor:** Jim Hastings, Gringo Gourmet

2. Tips and Tricks for Photographing Flowers

Award-winning photographers and graphic artists will discuss and demonstrate flower photography fundamentals. Bring your cameras for hands-on experience. **Instructors:** Arturo and Valarie Enriquez, Artists/Owners of Vantage Point Visual Studios

3. Selection and Care of Cacti, Succulents and Companion Plants in the Landscape and Containers

Focus on creating an attractive, low-water-use landscape with native plants. Attendees will pot their own plants in special media suited for cactus and succulents. **Limit:** 20 **Fee:** \$10 **Instructor:** Virginia Morris, Cactus Enthusiast, Cactus and Rock Club Vice President

10:30 am–Noon **4. Creating Hypertufa Pots**

Participants will learn the art of making rustic containers for plants from cement and fiber.

Instructor: Cheryl Garing, Horticulturist, Landscape Contractor, El Paso Chapter President

5. Self-Watering Containers

Demonstration of building self-watering containers. **Instructor:** Rex Morris, Master Gardener, Native Plant Society and El Paso Cactus and Rock Club Member

11:00 am–2:00 pm Returns from field trips will be at different times. Lunch will be on your own. Gourmet-food trucks will be available at the high school to allow you to purchase lunch.

FIELD TRIPS

8:00 am Field trip participants meet at Canutillo High School to organize carpools.

8:30 am Field trips depart.

1. Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP

A showcase for native plants. **Leader:** John White, Curator

2. Franklin Mountains State Park

Easy hike and great mountain views. **Limit:** 25 **Leader:** Benny Pol, Master Naturalist

3. Kay Bailey Hutchinson Desalination Plant

Two communities converting saline water to potable water. **Leader:** Art Ruiz, Plant Superintendent

4. Keystone Heritage Park and Kevin von Finger Wetlands and Chihuahuan Desert Experience

Tour of a desert wetlands and site of an ancient pit house community. **Limit:** 25 **Fee:** \$2 **Leader:** Michael Gaglio, Biologist and Managing Member, High Desert Native Plants

5. Resler and Thunder Canyons

Botanizing in canyons saved from development. **Leader:** Scott Cutler, Franklin Mtns Wilderness Coalition

6. Rio Bosque Wetlands Park

Restoration of a wetlands community by the Rio Grande. **Leader:** John Sproul, Park Manager

7. Native Plant and Cactus Garden Tour

Four members' gardens will show different approaches to landscapes in Baja New Mexico.

1:00 pm Silent Auction bidding closes.

1:00–3:30 pm **NPSNM Member Presentations.** Members are invited to submit abstracts for short talks (20 minutes) on relevant topics. Authors selected will be notified in advance of the meeting. Abstract deadline is June 2, 2014. Mail abstracts to El Paso Native Plant Society, PO Box 221036, El Paso, TX 79913, or by e-mail: jimhastings@elp.rr.com or Kathy Barton at agustusmc@sbcglobal.net.

3:30–4:00 pm Pay for and pick up Silent Auction items.

6:00–10:00 pm Cash bar and banquet—Sunland Park Holiday Inn, 900 Sunland Park Dr.

Good to the Last Drop: Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Environment 2014 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Please send a *separate* form for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to El Paso Chapter NPSNM.

Name	NPSNM Chapter
Address	City State Zip
E-mail Address	Home Phone Mobile Phone

Field Trip/Workshop Preferences (please use the identification number of the Field Trips/Workshops)

1st Choice (#) _____ 2nd Choice (#) _____ 3rd Choice (#) _____

Workshop Fee* WS #1 (\$10) _____ WS #3 (\$10) _____

*Fee for Workshop #1 or #3 will be paid with the registration. Any unfilled workshop slots may be paid for at on-site registration. Certain field trip sites have admission fees. Participants will pay those fees at the site.

Banquet, Friday lunch, and snacks are included in the conference fee. Because field trip schedules are variable, Saturday lunch is on your own. (There will be mobile vendors in the parking lot with a variety of lunch items.)

Banquet Preference: Please check one Buffet Dinner Vegetarian Special Diet (explain below)

REGISTRATION

NPSNM Member

Non-Member

Paid by June 1 \$90

Paid by June 1 \$100

Paid after June 1 \$100

Paid after June 1 \$110

Guest banquet ticket \$25 (must be purchased by July 1)

On-site registration \$100 (banquet not available)

Workshop #1 \$10 Workshop #3 \$10

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Send this form with check made out to El Paso Chapter NPSNM to:

NPSNM–El Paso, PO Box 221036, El Paso, TX 79913

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM State Conference. The El Paso chapter, hosting the meeting July 31–August 2, invites your donation of items that might be of interest to other members. For more information or to offer one of your invaluable treasures, please contact Jim Hastings at jimhastings@elp.rr.com or Kathy Barton at agustusmc@sbcglobal.net.

For additional information, please visit
www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference/

Chapter Activities & Events

For further information on the following events, notify the contact person listed, or visit the chapter's web page: First go to www.npsnm.org; click on Local Chapters; then

Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the NM Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. For more info on programs contact Jim McGrath at 505/286-8745 or sedges@swcp.com. For more info on field trips and forums contact Dana Price, dana_price@gmx.com, 505/872-2646. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

Apr 2 Meeting. Kangaroo Rats, Harvester Ants and Plants at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge. Dr. Nancy Nicolai, adjunct assistant research professor at UNM. Details TBA.

Apr 26 Field Trip. Pine Flats, to see Pasque flowers. Gary Runyan, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [A]. Half-day field trip.

May 7 Meeting. Phytoactives: The Language of Plants. Dr. Ivette Guzman, plant biochemistry professor at Northern NM College, studies plants and their healing, medicinal, and chemical properties.

May 31 Field Trip (date may change, depending on weather). Sandia Crest: Orchids and Ivey's Bladderpod. George Miller (505/352-9019, cell 505/554-4950), leader. Easy-to-moderate hike on trails around Sandia Crest Visitor Center. In past years, more than 25 species have been in bloom. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [A]. Bring lunch.

Late May Field Trip. The grama grass cactus and San Ysidro Peak. Jim McGrath, leader. We will examine a grama grass population and hike the trail to San Ysidro Peak. All-day hike near San Ysidro, about 40 mi from Albuquerque. Details TBA.

Jun 4 Meeting. The New Mexico "Plants for Pollinators" Project. Dr. Tess Grasswitz, NMSU urban/small farm entomologist. This presentation will include an overview of some of the best "pollinator plants" for our area.

Jun 7 Field Trip. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) NM Plant Materials Center in Los Lunas. Dave Dreesen and Tess Grasswitz, leaders. A trolley will be used to tour the outlying fields, followed by a walking tour of the nursery, greenhouses and the pollinator garden. Tour begins on-site at 9:30 a.m. Carpoolers meet 8:30 a.m. at [G] to leave by 8:45. For other arrangements, contact Jim McGrath. Tour will end around noon in Los Lunas.

Late June Field Trip. Pecos Wilderness, to see Lady's slipper orchids. Don Heinze, leader. Trip depends on National Forest being open. Details TBA.

select the chapter. **Hikers** should always bring plenty of water, hat, sun protection, lunch and/or snacks, field guides, and wear sturdy shoes, suitable for rough, uneven ground.

El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 p.m. (coffee social at 6:30) at El Paso Garden Center, 3105 Grant Ave. unless otherwise noted. All events free unless a fee is specified. Non-members always welcome. Info: Jim Hastings, 915/240-7414.

Apr 10 Meeting. Preview of plants that will be featured at the annual Chihuahuan Desert Gardens FloraFest and plant sale. John White, curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens.

May 9 Meeting. Solar-Powered Irrigation in the Garden. Rick Villarreal, solar power developer.

Jun 12 Meeting. Shady Natives in the Landscape. Cheryl Garing, landscape contractor.

Gila (Silver City)

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are third Fridays at 7 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, with refreshments following the program. Hikers meet at 8 a.m. in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre the morning of the hike to arrange carpooling. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form at that time, and will receive a list of native plants in the hiking area. For more info, call Deming Gustafson, 575/388-5192. Destinations may be changed due to weather. Activity updates posted on www.gilanps.org.

Apr 18 Meeting. Human Population, Conservation, and Survival. Jack Carter. The population explosion as viewed through recent readings of Tim Flannery, William deBuys, and Alan Weisman.

Apr 20 Field Trip. McMillan Campground. Completion of last fall's study of the differences within a mile of the Cherry Creek Canyon flora.

May 18 Field Trip. Aquatic flora, starting at Royal John Mine Road at the Mimbres Bridge (providing there has not been a recent flood).

Jun 15 Field Trip. Signal Peak Road. Search for drought-resistant plants that may well do well in our gardens.

Las Cruces

Meetings and workshops are second Wednesdays (unless otherwise noted) at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the Social Center at the University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle, Las Cruces. Field trips are Saturdays; most last into the afternoon. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form. Children must be accompanied

by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; nonmembers always welcome. Contacts: Carolyn Gressitt, 575/523-8413; Al Krueger, 575/532-1036.

Apr 9 Meeting. A Chihuahuan Desert Place. David Cristiani, landscape architect. New takes on eco-region boundaries and subdivisions, and why that matters for having a more regenerative garden, no matter the scale. *Sign-up deadline for WSMR trip in May.*

Apr 12 Field Trip. Bishop's Cap area, to observe cacti and other natives. Lisa Mandelkern, native plant/photography maven, leader. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Bank of the Rio Grande parking lot at the corner of University/Telshor.

Apr 19 Field Trip. Tour of several NPSNM members' gardens. Meet 8 a.m. at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy 70.

May 14 Meeting. Costa Rica's Beautiful Flora. Ray Bowers.

May 24 Field Trip. Hembrillo Canyon, on White Sands Missile Range. Dave Anderson, leader. Meet 8 a.m. at east parking lot of K-Mart on Hwy 70. Sign-up by Apr 9 required.

Jun 11 Meeting. Engaging Middle-School Students in Science. Melly Locke, Sierra Middle School teacher.

Jun 14 Film. Showing of the documentary *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*. 10:00 a.m. Auditorium, University Terrace Good Samaritan Village.

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact Tim Mills, tim.mills1@gmail.com, 210/883-7170; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575/585-3315 or 575/443-3928. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

Apr 19 Plant Sale at Rose Garden (10th St. and Oregon in Alamogordo), 8 a.m.–1 p.m. To volunteer, contact Helgi or Hildy Reiser (hildyranger@msn.com, 575/522-2855 [evenings]). Help needed!

Apr 26 Earth Day at the Alamogordo Zoo, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Help needed; please contact Helgi.

May 16 Friday Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range. We will go to the hanging gardens (Bear Canyon), among other places, though route may change per Range military activities. Meeting place (TBD) and preregistration info will be e-mailed to chapter members and other chapter presidents when available. Bring plenty of water and lunch.

Jun 21 Field Trip. Sunspot. View plants around the area and at Visitor Center, possibly walk Rim Trail to Cathay Vista. Meet 8:00 a.m. at SW corner of Hwy 82/N. Florida intersection. For more information, contact Tim Mills.

San Juan (Farmington)

Meetings are third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at San Juan Community College. For more info, contact Donna Thatcher, dthatcher@fmtn.org or 505/325-5811.

San Juan (Southwest Colorado)

The San Juan/Four Corners Native Plant Society will have numerous spring and summer field trips this year. See the chapter's web page on the Four Corners Flora website, www.swcoloradowildflowers.com. Field trips are free and open to everyone. For further information, call Al at 970/882-4647.

Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Morgan Hall—New Mexico State Land Office, 310 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe. Free parking available adjacent to the building. For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

Apr 16 Meeting. The Art of Pest Control. Philip Clark, owner of Organic Landscaping, discusses a holistic approach to making your plants thrive.

May Meeting. Topic/Speaker TBA.

Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in Coronado Hall at the Taos Convention Center. Please check the NPSNM website for updates and additional information on activities, or contact Sallie at taos800@aol.com or 575/776-0860.

Apr 16 Talk. Identifying and Attracting Beneficial Insects for Your Garden. Linda Wiener, "The Bug Lady." Taoseno Room of Coronado Hall.

May 17 Field Trip. Native plant buying trip at Santa Fe nurseries. All-day trip; members will carpool.

May 21 Talk. Out of the Ashes: The Story of Recovery of the Landscape after Wildfire. Taoseno Room of Coronado Hall. Teralene (Terry) Fox, storyteller and retired ecologist for Los Alamos National Labs.

Jun 14 Field Trip. Wheeler Peak hike, to learn about alpine plants. David Witt, leader. All-day trip.

June Mid- to late-June date TBA. Gardens in Progress Tour. Potluck lunch to follow. Chapter members only.



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A Memorable Annual Meeting *(continued from p. 1)*

We've had our share of saints and sinners, and a visit to the historic Concordia Cemetery in the center of town provides an introduction to colorful characters whose history shaped our present and our future.

People still ask, "Why is El Paso in a New Mexico organization?" If you look at Texas' geography, you see that it includes pine forests in the east, grassy plains in the north, rolling hills in the middle, the Gulf Coast in the south, and, way out west where we are, mountains and vast horizons with breathtaking views of the Chihuahuan Desert. We look more like New Mexico than we do the rest of Texas. Our plants are similar and our cultures are similar.

With tongue in cheek, we labeled ourselves the "Baja New Mexico Chapter" for this conference. While we are proud to be affiliated with New Mexico, we still are all Texan!

Browse through the program in this newsletter issue

and get a feel for an exciting educational program. After a day of learning, you'll be treated to a reception at a local nursery. We'll provide a roster of nearby restaurants. We have some interesting shopping venues to enjoy. If a choice of seven field trips only whets your appetite, we'll share a list of other sites you might like to visit before heading home.

We have arranged to use a new high school facility in Canutillo, Texas, a farming community that abuts the El Paso city limits. The school is a wonderful facility for our meeting and is adjacent to I-10 for easy access.

Hotels recommended for you vary in amenities and cost. They are an easy commute to the conference location. We even have arrangements for pet day care and boarding if your travelling companion is fuzzy and has four legs.

The Baja New Mexico Chapter is excited about your visit and is ready to give you a big Texas "Howdy" and share a great program with you. ❖

Contributions to the Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund

The generous financial support from so many NPSNM members and friends of the flora of New Mexico will make it possible for the Board to approve more funding for workshops throughout the state, additional basic research on a variety of critical plant taxa, continued support for the state's major herbaria, and hopefully for the development and sup-

port of more early education programs from K-12 in New Mexico schools.

Use the form provided below, or contribute through PayPal on the website, www.npsnm.org. Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.
~Jack & Martha Carter

JACK & MARTHA CARTER CONSERVATION FUND DONATION FORM

Yes! I would like to help New Mexico's flora!

During 2014, if you contribute \$100 or more, you will receive a gift copy of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*.

(Check here if you do not wish to receive the book.)

Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

All contributions are tax-deductible as provided under the law.

Make your check payable to: **NPSNM—Carter Endowment Fund**

and send to: Administrative Coordinator
PO Box 35388 Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

Membership in the NPSNM is open to anyone supporting our goals of promoting a greater appreciation of native plants and their environment and the preservation of endangered species. We encourage the use of suitable native plants in landscaping to preserve our state's unique character and as a water conservation measure. Members benefit from chapter meetings, field trips, publications, plant and seed exchanges, and educational forums. Members also qualify for membership in New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union. Books dealing with plants, landscaping, and environmental issues are available at discount prices. The Society has also produced two New Mexico wildflower posters by artist Niki Threlkeld and a cactus poster designed by Lisa Mandelkern. These can be ordered from our poster chair (contact information listed on page 4).



New Mexico wildflower posters: \$8 (nonmembers, \$10)
Cactus poster: \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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NPSNM Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail/Fax _____

*I (we) wish to affiliate with the checked chapter:
 (Please check only one)*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque | <input type="checkbox"/> Otero (Alamogordo) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso, TX | <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan (Farmington and Southwest Colorado) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gila (Silver City) | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Fe |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Las Cruces | <input type="checkbox"/> Taos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No affiliation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in forming a new chapter in _____ | |

Annual Dues:

Individual	\$	25
Family		30
Friend of the Society		50
Sponsor		100
Patron		250
Life Member		1,000
Limited Income, Seniors (65+)	Students, and	15

Total: \$ _____

Remember that 25% of contributions are returned annually to the individual chapters!



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recently archived issues
at the NPSNM website:

www.npsnm.org

NPSNM BALLOT—Election of Officers, 2014

(Candidate information on page 2.)

This ballot may be duplicated for use by any NPSNM member. Only one ballot per member. All ballots must be signed or enclosed in a signed envelope by the voting member. Only one vote for each position is allowed.

President: Committee Nominee, Barbara Fix

Write-in _____

Vice President: No Committee Nominee

Write-in _____

Recording Secretary: Committee Nominee, Pam McBride

Write-in _____

Membership Secretary: No Committee Nominee

Write-in _____

Treasurer: Committee Nominee, John White

Write-in _____

Voter eligibility certification: I am a current member of NPSNM. Signed _____

Print this ballot if from electronic newsletter. Ballots must be returned by June 30 to:

Deb Farson, NPSNM, PO Box 35388, Albuquerque, NM 87176
