



# NEWSLETTER

of the

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
OF NEW MEXICO

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2016

VOL. XXXXI NO. 2

## Annual Conference in Las Cruces—September 22–25, 2016 “Celebrating Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument: Hidden Diversities/Secrets Revealed”

As we sat at a local restaurant to begin planning for the 2016 annual meeting in May of 2014, it was very easy to come up with a theme, since that was the day President Obama publicly announced the designation—and we sat watching him live on a laptop! He even mentioned *plants* in his announcement: “The area is home to a high diversity of animal life, including deer, pronghorn antelope, mountain lions, peregrine falcons and other raptors *as well as rare plants, some found nowhere else in the world, such as the Organ Mountains pincushion cactus.*” What an emotional beginning to annual meeting planning!



The Organ Mountains. Photo: Lisa Mandelkern

Southern New Mexico has greatly benefited from President Obama’s designation of the Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument, and the area is really on a much larger map now: with the recent article in *Lonely Planet*, titled “The Weird and Wild Outdoors of Southern New Mexico,” the international travel magazine lauds our area, naming it a “must-see destination.”

As noted in the Las Cruces *Sun-News* Feb. 22, 2016, business section article, “The choice of southern New Mexico” was “not solicited by any local group” but “research done by the magazine staff . . . prompted the

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## From the President

by **Barbara Fix**

The NPSNM Board meeting weekend at Sevilleta Wildlife Refuge in January got off to a great start. As people were bringing their potluck dishes into the meeting room, someone cried, "Look!" There on the horizon above the hills was one of those breathtaking sunsets—gold, pink, magenta. That plus the good food and company set us up for a productive meeting the next day.

All the chapters were well represented. A new El Paso representative, Karen Garcia, was welcomed. A new vice president, Tom Stewart, was elected. Linda Barker's well-honed minutes of the last meeting were approved. Gail Mesta from our new CPA firm in Las Cruces gave us helpful advice. The Finance Committee's report, produced by chair Pam McBride, and John White's Treasurer's report, with Deb Farson's input, were adopted. While our operations budget is running a smaller deficit, investments give us a cushion from worry. The Carter Fund is doing well enough



that the Board voted to increase the amount for grants and herbaria next year. Nine grants for 2016 were approved, all well serving NPSNM's mission for conserving and researching native plants and educating the public about them. Among other conservation issues considered, the chapters voted to pay for a printing of Bob Sivinski's excellent booklet on thistles (see p. 6). And temporary tattoos of endangered NM plants are coming!

John Bregar, president of the Colorado Native Plant Society's new Southwest chapter (formerly NPSNM's San Juan chapter), spoke about the difficulties of small chapters putting on annual meetings and made many useful suggestions. Carolyn Gressit, president of the Las Cruces chapter, wowed us with the extensive field trips, talks, activities that Las Cruces is planning for the September annual meeting.

We're in good shape. This is going to be a good year, thanks to all. ❖

## 2016 Donations, Grants, and Teacher Award Announced

by **Bettie Hines**

The NPSNM Board of Directors met at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge on January 30 to consider donations to the herbaria of New Mexico and El Paso and grant proposals that were submitted in December 2015. And, new this year, a Teacher Award.

**Herbaria:** \$600 donations (up from \$500 in the past) will be given to the following herbaria: University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, University of Texas at El Paso, and Western New Mexico University.

For the first time, the **Jack & Martha Carter Conservation Fund** has begun to support the grant awards. The Society expresses much gratitude and appreciation to the Carters, who generously established this fund, and to all who have contributed. *Please continue to support this fund so that it grows and can support grants in the future.*

**Grants:** The following grants were awarded:

- Desert Stories—Desert Plant Adaptations Lessons for 2nd and 3rd Graders; Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Asombro Institute for Science Education, Las Cruces, NM
- Native Plant Curriculum for New Mexico; Melanie Gisler, Institute for Applied Ecology, Santa Fe, NM
- Evolution and Systematics of *Oenothera* sect. *Calylophus* (Onagraceae); Benjamin Cooper, graduate student, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden

- Gene Dispersal Across Gypsum Outcrops: Does Seed or Pollen Dispersal Drive Genetic Differentiation? Study area: Yeso Hills in southeastern NM and adjacent TX; Emily Lewis, research technician, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden
- Physiology of Gypsophile Lineages of the Chihuahuan Desert of New Mexico; Clare Muller, graduate student, John Carroll University, Department of Biology
- The Genus *Carex* in New Mexico: Nomenclature, Distribution and Habitat II; William R. Norris, botanist, Silver City, NM
- Blue Hole Cienega Nature Preserve Environmental Education Program; Christian LeJeune, hydrologist, Albuquerque, NM
- Status of Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) Pollinators in Southwest NM; Catherine Cumberland, graduate student, University of New Mexico, Department of Biology
- Understanding Seed Dormancy and Germination Requirements in the Colorado Plateau; Alexandra Seglias, graduate student, Northwestern University/Chicago Botanic Garden

**Teacher Award:** Ben Gillock, United World College, Agroecology Research Center, Las Vegas, NM. Ben plans to use his award to purchase native seeds for restoration of the meadow area at the college. ❖

## Conservation Corner

by Rachel Jankowitz, NPSNM Conservation Committee Chair

### Flora Tropica Gardens, Savusavu, Fiji

What do palm trees in the tropical Pacific have to do with conservation of NM native plants? Not much, but the experience of visiting this delightful palm garden on Vanua Levu Island got me thinking about important ecological concepts like island biogeography and endemism, the meaning of “native,” and the role of botanic gardens in the conservation of species. Perhaps hearing about it will do the same for you.

FTG was founded by Australians Jim and Marijani Valentine. The local manager is Enoch “Enoki” Elijah Emosi from the island of Rotuma, which is 600 miles distant but administered by the Fiji government. Fiji islanders are predominantly of Melanesian descent. According to Wikipedia, due to its central location, Rotuma was historically a crossroads of the three major Pacific island ethnic groups, Polynesian and Micronesian being the other two. The Valentines started FTG in 1998 (opened to the public in 2010), but you would not realize from appearances that none of the plants are older than 15 years, except for a few raintrees (*Albizia saman*) retained in place to provide shade habitat for the shade-loving palm species. Savusavu is apparently

extremely well suited to growing palms—and just about everything else, except maybe cactus. FTG is open to visitors by appointment, and is an officially accredited botanical garden by Botanical Gardens Conservation International. It is also a working nursery and landscape business.

The palm family, the *Arecaceae*, is distributed circumtropically. It is a large family with many taxonomic subfamilies and tribes. The breadth of human uses of the various palm species is astounding—from timber, fiber, and thatch to landscaping to food (coconut, dates, hearts of palm, acai) and drugs (betel nut, folk medicines). *Aiphanes horrida*, native to South America, has stout sharp thorns on the underside of the petiole that were used as tribal tattoo needles.

Of the best known of the palms, Paddy Ryan, professor at the University of the South Pacific and author of *Fiji's Natural Heritage*, says, “The coconut palm, *Cocos nucifera*, is ubiquitous in the tropics. The coconut probably originated in South East Asia and has spread throughout the tropics, partly by man's activities and partly by the sea. The coconut palm needs little description although the many uses to which it is put probably do. The nuts are used for food and drink, with green coconuts providing the best milk. The dried kernels provide copra. The shell itself is used for cups, and making charcoal. The leaves make baskets, mats, brooms, hats, fans, almost anything, in fact, that human ingenuity can think of. The wood is very difficult to cut and, because of the many fibres in it, blunts saws rapidly. Nonetheless the wood is used to build houses and it makes attractive furniture. The oil, obtained from copra, is used for cooking, heating, lighting, as an additive to diesel fuel (experimental only, so far) or is mixed with perfume and used as a body lotion or hair tonic. As the coconut palm can turn an otherwise inhospitable atoll into a place fit for human habitation, it must have had a profound effect on man's movement through the Pacific.”

Many of the 300+ palm species at FTG are native to Fiji or other Pacific islands. Others are from places like Madagascar or the Americas. Fiji has 24 endemic palms, more than half of which are listed by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature as Threatened or Endangered. Most of those listings are due to very limited range, habitat loss, or overharvest. FTG is growing out some species labeled as “extinct in habitat.”

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California's native palm tree, *Washingtonia filifera*.

Photo: Rachel Jankowitz

### The Newsletter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

April–June 2016. Vol. 41 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, 2016.** 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](mailto:sarita@gilanet.com), or PO Box 53, Gila, NM 88038.

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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.

### Annual Meeting in Las Cruces *(continued from p. 1)*

selection.” Natalie Nicholson, of *Lonely Planet*, said, “This is our favorite campaign of the year...We chose southern New Mexico for...the newly established Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, Native American archeological sites, White Sands National monument, its volcanic fields, places where WWII bombers and Apollo astronauts trained and more.” We could not agree more!

When you come to the Las Cruces meeting, you will be able to experience the widely divergent habitats and substrates of the Chihuahuan Desert: from riparian, to low desert, to the bajadas, to high montane; from granitic, to basaltic, to limestone. Most field trips are within the National Monument boundaries. Those that are not are special places that we did not want to ignore. There is also a field trip to Paleozoic Trackways National Monument. We will attempt to have plant lists available for all field trips.

See you in September! ❖

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### Conservation Corner *(continued from p. 3)*

I hope you have enjoyed this brief excursion to the other side of the planet.

### Forest Service Planning

All five National Forests in New Mexico are in the process of revising their Land Management Plans. These documents are subject to National Environmental Policy Act review, and are intended to guide all program- and project-level decisions for the duration that they are in effect. The revisions are being carried out under the requirements of the 2012 Forest Planning Rule, an update of the previous 1982 Planning Rule.

Directives were issued in 2015 to guide Forests through implementation of the Planning Rule (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule/directives>). In particular, the final Planning Directives require that the Responsible Official develop a public engagement strategy before starting a land management plan revision process. An example of enhanced public engagement in the Planning Directives is the addition of a requirement that an Assessment report be available for public review for at least 30 days prior to its being finalized. The Planning Directives also emphasize monitoring to evaluate how effectively a land management plan is implemented and whether the plan was properly designed to accomplish its goals.

The Cibola NF is the furthest along on its Plan. A draft is scheduled to be released this winter. The Carson and Santa Fe have written Assessments of ecological and socioeconomic conditions, based on available existing data.

The Assessments will form the basis for Needs for Change (of the current management direction), and will be used to develop the Existing Conditions analysis for the Environmental Impact Statement. All three Forests have conducted very extensive public outreach. The Gila has initiated public information and comment sessions intended to gather information for their Assessment, while the Lincoln intends to start developing their Assessment over the summer of 2016.

NPSNM intends to take advantage of the myriad opportunities for public involvement in the Forest planning process. We have already sent letters commenting on the Carson and Santa Fe NF Assessment documents, and will comment further to all of the Forests at appropriate junctures.

In each letter, we have stressed how important it is to hire a Forest botanist. There is a Regional Forest Service botanist in Albuquerque, but not one of the individual Forests in NM has such a position. Whether you look at technical definitions or common understanding, the defining feature of a forest is the plant communities it comprises. It stands to reason that there should be at least one qualified botany professional on the staff of each National Forest, which may cover millions of acres of diverse elevation and plant communities. We realize that the individual Forests do not control all hiring decisions, but this recommendation is of overriding importance to future management and implementation of the current planning effort, so we encourage them to do all that is in their power to make it happen.

We have also urged the Forests to consult closely with the Rare Plants Program Coordinator at the state Forestry Division, regarding planning for the conservation of special status plant species.

### Correction

In the last newsletter, in the piece about Little Water Canyon, it was incorrectly stated that Jim McGrath hosted a site visit for agency personnel. In fact, the field trip was arranged by the Forest Service and Jim was there by invitation. ❖

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## A Few Words of Thanks

In deep gratitude to Kym Anderson for the many years of her volunteer work in providing CPA services, including preparing our 990 federal tax reports, the NPSNM Board voted to give her an honorarium. Kim returned the check to NPSNM, saying that she so appreciated the gift but was returning it to keep in the organization. Thank you, Kym. ❖

## Stop Killing Native Thistles!

by Bob Sivinski

Several years ago I was driving Highway 60 between Socorro and Magdalena and noticed all the native New Mexico thistles (*Cirsium neomexicanum*) in the right-of-way were dying from recent herbicide application. The other adjacent vegetation was still healthy, so someone (presumably NMDOT) had selectively and individually sprayed hundreds of beautiful New Mexico thistles along several miles of public highway. What a waste! Another time, I encountered a rancher digging up native thistles in a pasture. When I asked why, he said he wanted to eliminate the noxious bull thistles before they had a chance to spread. He just did not realize he had misidentified a beneficial native wildflower as a nonnative noxious weed and that many native thistle species are eaten by cattle and horses—despite the sharp spines. These are just two of the great many instances of what I call “irrational thistle hatred.”

NPSNM is attempting to combat irrational thistle hatred by creating and distributing an educational thistle identification booklet for government and public use to distinguish nonnative weedy thistles from beneficial native thistles. A free PDF of this handy thistle identification guide is available at [www.npsnm.org/education/thistle-identification-booklet/](http://www.npsnm.org/education/thistle-identification-booklet/). There are two PDF options. One is for a computer screen view or 8.5" × 11" printing, and the other is for folding the pages into a 5.5" × 8.5" booklet. Just follow the instructions. Download a copy today and send the link to your family, friends, and local land management agencies.

New Mexico is home to 12 native thistle species in the genus *Cirsium*. None of these showy, indigenous wildflowers should ever be classified or treated as weeds in the wild.

All are ecologically important for pollinators and herbivores and are innocuous in their natural habitats. Two of our native thistles are wetland plants that are federally and state listed as threatened or endangered species (Sacramento Mountains thistle and Wright's marsh thistle). New Mexico also has two introduced, nonnative species of *Cirsium* (bull thistle, creeping thistle) and an additional two species in the plumeless thistle genera *Carduus* (musk thistle) and *Onopordum* (Scotch thistle) that are noxious weeds. These four exotic thistles can occasionally become problematic for land managers or landowners and elicit a most extreme hatred of any plant with spiny leaves or the word “thistle” in its common name.

Eradication efforts with the spade, chemical herbicides, local ordinances, and releases of nonnative insects have received a great amount of publicity and support. Some communities have passed ordinances requiring landowners to kill noxious weedy thistles. For instance, the village of Ruidoso erects signs in the summer with bold and red print: **TIME TO KILL THE THISTLES—DON'T GET FINED**. Most residents do not know the differences between the native and nonnative species, so any native thistles in the area become collateral damage in this war on exotic weedy thistles. Damage has also been inflicted to native thistle populations by importing and introducing nonnative insects (so-called biological control agents) to control the spread of nonnative thistles. Not surprisingly, these can also attack our native thistles. The shameful lack of careful thinking that brought the exotic Seedhead Weevil (*Rhinocyllus conicus*) to New Mexico is unfortunate for the endangered Sacramento Mountains thistle, which is now being attacked by that nonnative insect.

New Mexico's native thistles are quite beautiful, but fairly spiny and painful to handle, so are unlikely to show up in native plant gardens. Yet they are exceptionally valuable plants for supporting pollinator populations and deserve to keep their places on roadsides and natural habitats. Let's learn to distinguish the good from the bad and stop killing native species just because they are spiny thistles. Hopefully, the new NPSNM thistle guide will help curtail irrational thistle hatred. ❖



**Left: Sacramento Mountains thistle and Rufous Hummingbird; Right: Wright's marsh thistle and American Bumblebee.** Photos: Bob Sivinski

## Native Plant Yard, a Decade and a Half Later

by Renee West

After a decade and a half of growing our native plant yard, I thought we just about had things figured out. How the seasons would manifest in the sequence of plant life, how the plants would react to weather. But the Great Blizzard of December 2015 taught us a couple more interesting lessons. (More on that later.)

Mainly I've learned—and enjoyed learning—that unless you do intensive management, the plants will do whatever they want to do. And so will the wildlife. You can learn to like (or love) it that way, or you can do all the work. Personally, I love to just watch and learn.

When I eradicated the Bermuda-grass lawn back in 1999, I envisioned a yard full of beautiful native plants in tidy flower beds and hedges. But in the interim I've found out a lot about Nature, and about myself. (And I married a guy who helps keep things sane in the pruning department. For some reason, he doesn't like catclaw branches in his face!)

I've found out that I am not a true gardener: I don't like telling the plants to do something they're not interested in doing, because they have subtle desires we can't always know. And I am a naturalist at heart. I cannot enjoy the plants without the wildlife, and vice versa. They're not designed to be showpieces, separated from all the messy process of life. I don't like to prune their branches or pull native plants whose seeds have germinated in an inconvenient place. This can become an issue with the lush wild growth that explodes during a good monsoon season. But, hey, it's a short and beautiful season!

Many plants have appeared without needing my gardener's hand at all. Seeds have blown in, notably desert willows and grasses. Thanks to birds, seeds of plants with red fruits have arrived (littleleaf sumac, algerita, Christmas cholla). Netleaf hackberries are among my favorite native plants, so I planted two from pots at the very start. But I needn't have worried: the birds have brought us many more, courtesy of those red fruits.

Some plants that I planted grew for a while and then disappeared without explanation (creosotebush). Some of those later returned (germinated) after "planting" themselves in a location more to their liking (evening-primrose). Some seeds that I planted didn't germinate for years, then finally grew downhill from my selected sites—after being washed there by rain and gravity (Mexican hat).

A large Torrey yucca was destroyed by a severe summer storm, but left itself well represented by offspring in the form of both root spouts and seedlings.

The wild animals have participated in the garden in many ways other than just planting seeds. The garden feeds thousands of species—either directly or up the chain. It supports a robust list of wildlife species who arrive to eat the plants or seeds or other animals. Acrobatic painted buntings eat the green sprangletop grass seeds right off the tall plants. Many lepidopterans lay their eggs here and their caterpillars feed on the leaves. Orioles come in summer to eat the caterpillars. Wilson's warblers show up during migration to eat the bugs who are eating the leaves.

The natural mulch from years of unraked leaf fall provides a home for insects or their eggs or larvae to overwinter. These insects feed birds such as towhees and curve-billed thrashers who are diligent diggers in the litter.

This memoir wouldn't be complete without a mention of the ubiquitous Bermuda grass. As Janice Bowers says in her book about gardening in Tucson (*A Full Life in a Small Place*): "Start with anything, end with Bermuda grass."

It really is true, in the hot southern deserts anyway. And the grass you can't kill has reappeared in this yard, even after it was "eradicated." It could take over the place again. It's a true challenge, especially in a pesticide-free yard. But we do what we can, and don't fret the rest. It will never be truly gone anyway.

All in all, it's been a glorious spectacle to watch—and much of it I've probably missed. But I know it's going on with or without me. I have seen:

- a tarantula wasp turning a tarantula into a nursery for her eggs,
- tiny ruby-crowned kinglets chasing tiny bugs in the shrubs along the porch, and
- extremely small ichneumon wasps laying eggs in a living hornworm caterpillar. (Some call this Nature's pest control, because it keeps the caterpillar from eating your plants. But what if you're growing the plant to feed the caterpillar, which feeds the bird? It's a happier thought.)

So, what did last winter's incredible blizzard teach us? First, that our native plants are susceptible to severe damage by heavy, wet snow, just like we see on the news with the snowstorms in northern states. Top-killed (hopefully), just as in a wildfire. Their roots will probably survive, but we have lost several above-ground portions of some well-established shrubs (especially mesquite and netleaf hackberry).

And it turns out that having a lawn could have made shoveling that snow off the driveway very much easier. Lifting each heavy shovelful up and over the shrubs to get it off the driveway can be *real* work! ❖

## New and Recent Books

### *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt.*

By Andrea Wulf.

473 pages. Alfred A. Knopf. 2015.

#### Review by Jack Carter

Some years ago, while fumbling my way through my PhD requirements at the University of Iowa, I decided I was ready to take the exam for PhD German. I happened to mention this to Robert Thorne, my major professor, and he turned to his bookshelf and brought out a tattered book that had obviously been well read, saying that if I could read this author I was ready for the test. I found the book very thought provoking but read only the introduction and first few chapters.

But Bob Thorne would not let me rest, and every now and then he would ask me a question concerning this book, which he considered important for graduate students of plant taxonomy, plant geography, and ecology. Since the book was in German, my rate of reading was slow, and as a graduate student I always felt I was too busy to study anything that was not vital to my survival in my graduate program. This book, titled *Views of Nature*, written by Alexander von Humboldt in about 1800, was complicated reading because it contained considerable science, and at the same time it was loaded with a great deal of lyricism. I just wasn't able to put together the science and the poetry with my level of understanding in ecology. Some years later I recognized I probably could have better put down everything else I was studying in my courses, and attended to comprehending the deeper meanings described in this publication. I have long since come to understand this is exactly what the very best professors do for their students, when they challenge them to go beyond the assignment, and reach the basic meanings of the nature of knowledge.

I later discovered that von Humboldt was the most knowledgeable scholar of nature on Planet Earth in the early 1800s, and what he was describing were his findings as he traveled throughout much of South America, North America, the Andes, and into Russia. It was some years later that I read Humboldt's description of his travels on the Orinoco River, and how he learned so much, and described so accurately his findings that allowed him to put together an extremely large and well-designed story of the Earth. He was not interested in just plants, or animals, rocks, or climate, but his interests centered on bringing the collective relationships together into that subject we now call ecology.

Also, I later discovered, he was in contact with practically every scholar I had ever studied in three college courses in German literature. He wrote long letters to the likes of

Goethe, Schiller, and Friedrich Wilhelm III, describing his thoughts on science as well as his poetry. He always had a traveling partner, for many years Aimé Bonpland, a distinguished botanist, who would have a better understanding of the flora. It was this continuous exchange of information and knowledge, plus the interaction with the local people, that strengthened von Humboldt's volumes of notes, allowing him to bring this information together into a much more complete picture of planet earth. Under the title *Voyage to the Equinoctial Regions of the Continent* he was able to produce a thirty-four-volume set of books describing his multitude of measurements, 2,000 new plant species, hundreds of animal species, and large collections of minerals, leading to his belief that the earth was one large living organism.

Andrea Wulf has produced a most extensive work describing Alexander von Humboldt, who, though almost lost from the history of science, impacted practically every major concept of the natural sciences as we know them today. He was a Prussian naturalist and prophet, who in spite of almost being lost from history by two World Wars in the West, was never forgotten. His written records, describing so many large natural areas of the earth, have made it possible for the scientists of the past 200 years to expand their panoramic view into the concept of ecology and the worldview we have today. In 473 pages, Wulf has not only reproduced the written words of von Humboldt describing his travels, his drawings, and his many letters, but she has also included his exchanges of letters with his many friends, who were the scientists and scholars of his day. And she has gone one important step further. She has included chapters describing the importance of von Humboldt's work on those who followed. People like Charles Darwin, Charles Lyell, Thomas Jefferson, Jules Verne, Emerson, Poe, Aldous Huxley, Ezra Pound, and, more recently, James Lovelock and Rachel Carson, all of whom were at some point in their lives students of von Humboldt. You cannot study the works of John Muir or Henry David Thoreau without recognizing the influence Alexander von Humboldt had on their lives and belief systems.

One chapter in this book brings to light a timeline of the early history of conservation in America. This chapter centers on George Perkins Marsh and Humboldt's impact on his life. In just fourteen pages I came to know Marsh, a name I hardly recognized, as a leader in the education of so many people in the battle to conserve some small part of the United States in the 1800s. Marsh was one of the best-educated and most knowledgeable scholars of this period. Born

*Continued page 14*



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## 2016 Annual Meeting

# Celebrating Organ Mountains– Desert Peaks National Monument

*Hidden Diversities/Secrets Revealed*

<p>Thursday, September 22 to Sunday, September 25</p>	<p>Native Plant Society of New Mexico</p>  <p>2016 Annual Conference Las Cruces</p>	<p>Farm &amp; Ranch Heritage Museum Las Cruces</p>
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**Conference Location:** The meeting will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum on Dripping Springs Road. Take exit 1 on I-25, go east on University Ave., which turns into Dripping Springs Road. A map will be available on [www.npsnm.org](http://www.npsnm.org).

**Accommodations:** We have arranged for special conference rates at the two following hotels. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Native Plant Society. Hotel reservations should be made prior to September 7 to ensure conference rates. **Comfort Suites**, \$84 (plus tax) per night, located at the University exit of I-25, 575/522-1300 or 800/424-6423; **Sleep Inn**, \$74 (plus tax) per night, at the same exit, 575/522-1700. In addition, the **Hilton Garden Inn**, east of the I-25 University exit, has internet rates beginning at \$104: [gardeninn.hilton.com/Las\\_Cruces](http://gardeninn.hilton.com/Las_Cruces) ❖ **For campers:** **Siesta RV** offers full hookup for \$34 per night, water and electric for \$32; 575/523-6816 or [siestarpark.com](http://siestarpark.com). It is located on Avenida de Mesilla, west from I-10 exit 140. Make reservations there early; snow birds start arriving in September.

# 2016 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

## Las Cruces, New Mexico

### Thursday, September 22

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- 2:00–5:00 pm NPSNM Board Meeting  
 3:00–5:30 pm Registration  
 6:30–8:00 pm Reception at Joan Woodward's home, for Board and steering committee

### Friday, September 23

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- 7:30 am–5:00 pm Registration  
 7:30 am–5:00 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction  
 9:00–9:15 am Welcome & Opening Remarks—Carolyn Gressitt, Las Cruces Chapter president  
 9:15–10:15 am Film and panel: "On the Long Road to the Creation of the National Monument": State Senator Jeff Steinborn; Bill Childress, District Head of BLM; Ben Gabriel, Executive Director of Friends of OM-DPNM; Patrick Alexander, Botanist for BLM; Greg Magee, author & environmentalist; Moderator Carrie Hamblen, Executive Director, Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce.  
 10:30–10:45 am Break  
 10:45–11:30 am Patrick Alexander: Ferns of the Organ Mountains.  
 11:30 am–12:30 pm Lunch (provided on site)  
 12:45–3:00 pm **Tortugas Mt. hike:** Although it is just outside the new National Monument, Tortugas Mountain is special in many ways—including the fact that it is so close to Farm & Ranch, so we can get there quickly. You may sign up for one of the following, depending on your botanical or other interests. (See registration form, page 15.)  
**A.** Ariana Fierro, Piro-Manso-Tiwa Tribe: Native plant uses & sacred aspects of Tortugas: (Low/mid-elevation, west slope; easy)  
**B.** Lisa Mandelkern: Cactus-lovers (Mid-mountain, west slope; easy-medium)  
**C.** Patrick Alexander: Stop at every plant (Mid mountain; medium-difficult)  
**D.** Jennifer Montoya: Views & overviews (east slope/easy; good views of Organ Mts.)  
**E.** Donovan Bailey: Plant patterns/diversity (walk around base from east side/easy-medium)  
**F.** John Freyermuth: The western bajada (west slope/easy)  
**G. *Alternative activity:*** Tour of Farm & Ranch Museum (\$2 per person)  
 3:15–4:00 pm Donovan Bailey: What did we see on Tortugas Mt.?  
 4:10–4:45 pm Marcy Scott: Hummingbirds as Pollinators  
 6:30 pm Reception, Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum

### Saturday, September 24

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- 7:30 am–3:15 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction  
 7:30 am–Noon **Field Trips and Workshops**  
 (Registration on a first-come, first-served basis)  
 Be sure to bring sunscreen, hat, hiking shoes, water, and a long-sleeved shirt to protect arms.  
*Please also bring your high-clearance vehicle, if possible—thank you!*  
*Plant lists will be available for most hikes.*

#### 1. Mesilla Bosque State Park

**Easy.** Situated between the Rio Grande and a large desert mesa, it encompasses 7 different plant communities, from marshlands to desert areas. The trails are established and easy to walk. A highlight is its native plant garden. **Limit:** 15

## 2. Leasburg Dam State Park & Riparian Projects along the Rio Grande

*Easy.* This state park has seen recent efforts to restore native plants. However, it has been impacted by the drought. A park ranger will talk on the restoration project, as will other local experts. **Limit:** 15

## 3. Peña Blanca

*Easy/medium.* This area is at the southern end of the Organ Mts. The hike is about a mile round trip and mostly level. **Limit:** 15

## 4. Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park

*Easy/Medium.* The walk is close to the Doña Ana Mts. and about a 3-mile roundtrip. **Limit:** 15

## 5. North Sierra Vista Trail

*Medium.* This is a newer section of this trail that goes from Dripping Springs Road over to Soledad Canyon Road. **Limit:** 15.

## 6. Dripping Springs Natural Area

*Medium.* The mini-Yosemite of New Mexico! It is a must-see. **Limit:** 15

## 7. Bar/Soledad Canyon

*Medium.* Another beautiful canyon in the Organs! **Limit:** 15

## 8. La Cueva

*Medium.* Close to the OM-DP Visitor's center. Trail is a little tricky in spots. **Limit:** 15

## 9. All-Day Hike: Aguirre Springs NRA (fee area), on Pine-Tree Trail

*Medium-somewhat difficult.* On the east side of the Organ Mts. Be sure you pick up a box lunch to take along. (*Just be aware that you will likely miss most of the afternoon talks/workshops below.*) **Limit:** 15

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch on your own

9:30 am–3:30 pm **Workshops and Talks;** Ellen Young, anchor

10. Lisa Mandelkern—**Wild for Wildflowers: 25 Tips to Get Your Wildflower Photos to the Next Level**

11. Jim Hastings—**Cactus Cuisine**

12. Joan Woodward—**Beyond Gravel: Landscape Design as if Plants and People Matter**

13. Rick Rao—**Growing Color.** Showcasing dyes made from native plants.

1:30–2:15 pm Russ Kleinman—**Mosses of the Organ Mountains**

2:15–3:00 pm Patrick Alexander—**Botany of this Area**

3:00–3:15 pm Break and Final bidding on silent auction

3:15–3:45 pm Lisa Mandelkern—**Ye Pretty Daughters of the Earth and Sun: A Brief Introduction to Mexican Gold Poppies**

3:45–4:30 pm Three Member Presentations

6:30 pm Banquet at the Farm and Ranch Museum

**Keynote Speaker:** Lisa Mandelkern: "Organisms—A Photographic Journey in Southern New Mexico"

## Sunday, September 25

7:30 am **Field Trips**

## 14. Valles Canyon

*Easy/Medium.* Valles is nestled in the Sierra de las Uvas, and connects with the upper end of Broad Canyon. It is well worth visiting, not just for the flora, but also for the scenic cliffs of the box and the huge, water-carved rocks in upper Broad Canyon. **Distance:** 5.5 miles **Limit:** 15

## 15. Aden Crater

*Medium.* This area of lava flows and volcanoes west of the Mesilla Valley is a fabulous place to view the whole Desert Peaks complex and the Mesilla Valley. This ancient volcano once housed the remains of a giant ground sloth in a fumerole. The sloth's resting place is now the Smithsonian. **Distance:** 2 miles **Limit:** 15

*Continued next page*

## 16. Prehistoric Trackways NM

**Medium/steep and rocky areas.** Our second-newest National Monument offers the chance to see the famous Permian trackways discovered close to Las Cruces. **Distance:** 3 miles **Limit:** 15

[We highly recommend a prior visit to the Las Cruces Museum of Nature and Science, open Tuesday–Friday from 10:00 am–4:30 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am–4:30 pm. There is *no* visitor's center at the park; the museum trackways exhibit doubles as a visitor's center.]

## 17. Picacho Peak

**Easy.** This is a BLM recreation area very close to Las Cruces. We will not climb the peak, but rather walk in the arroyo at the base, since the plant species are more varied there. **Distance:** 3 miles **Limit:** 15

## 18. Broad Canyon

**Medium/strenuous.** This is a challenging hike, but the striking cliffs and water-sculpted bedrock are well worth seeing. **Distance:** 6 miles **Limit:** 15

## 19. Red House Mountain

**Medium.** This beautiful canyon is very close to I-25, for those of you heading north. It can have a great variety of plants, some that we do not frequently see. **Limit:** 15



Clammyweed (*Polanisia dodecandra*).

Photo: Carolyn Gressitt



Happy Las Cruces hikers, Sierra Vista Trail, Organ Mountains. Photo: Carolyn Gressitt

For additional information, please visit  
[www.npsnm.org/events/2016-annual-meeting](http://www.npsnm.org/events/2016-annual-meeting)

**Celebrating Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument  
2016 NPSNM STATE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

*Please send a separate form for each attendee.*

Name		NPSNM Chapter	
Address		City	State Zip
Phone (home)	(cell)	E-mail Address	

*Please register early. Field trips and workshops have limited enrollment.*

**Tortugas Mt. Preferences** (Indicate by letter)

**Friday:** 1<sup>st</sup> Choice (letter) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (letter) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice (letter) \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday: Field Trips/Workshop Preferences** (Indicate by number *plus FT or W*)

1<sup>st</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday: Field Trips** 1<sup>st</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice (#) \_\_\_\_\_

Friday lunch, Saturday banquet, and snacks are included in conference fee. Because field trips are variable, Saturday lunch is on your own.

Banquet preference: **Buffet Dinner**—Both meat & vegetarian options will be available.

**Dietary restriction(s)** Please explain your needs: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION**

NPSNM Member

Non-Member

Paid by 7/15/16 \$90

Paid by 7/15/16 \$105

Paid by 9/15/16 \$100

Paid by 9/15/16 \$115

To pay on site \$90 (banquet not included)  Guest banquet ticket \$30 (must be purchased by 9/15)

**TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Send form(s) with check to Frank Sholedice, 734 N Reymond Street, Las Cruces, NM 88005.  
Make checks payable to Native Plant Society of New Mexico, with "LC Chapter" on the memo line.**

A silent auction has become a traditional highlight of each year's NPSNM state meeting. The Las Cruces chapter, hosting the meeting September 22 through 25, 2016, invites your donation of items that might be of interest to other members. For more information or to offer one of your invaluables, please contact Donna Yargosz at [yargoszdonna@yahoo.com](mailto:yargoszdonna@yahoo.com).

### The Invention of Nature—Humboldt *(continued from p. 8)*

in 1801, and 58 years old when von Humboldt died, Marsh came to know von Humboldt through his publications. Reportedly, Marsh had a personal library of more than 5,000 books, with one entire section devoted to von Humboldt, and he knew 20 languages.

Through political assignments and personal contacts, Marsh and his wife Caroline traveled throughout Europe and the Middle East. He became familiar with the destruction of the soils and the waterways of each country he visited. Although not trained as a naturalist or in the sciences, he could not keep himself from learning the flora and fauna, and recognizing variation and speciation. A perpetual collector of information, by 1860 Marsh had notebooks loaded with information and he started writing his *Man and Nature*, in which he began to develop his story describing “the destruction and avarice, of extinction and exploitation, as well as of depleted soil and extreme floods.” Finally, in 1864,

*Continued page 18*

## Karen Garcia: NPSNM's Newest Board Member

*by Kathy Barton*

In 2009, Karen Garcia retired from the Human Resources Unit of the U.S. Postal Service. After becoming a Master Gardener in 2011, she joined the El Paso Native Plant Society and has never stopped! She is a high-profile member who is actively involved, enhancing events and activities with her knowledge, insights, and presence. She maintains Facebook pages for the EPNPS, Master Gardeners, and El Paso Cactus and Rock Club. She is also secretary for the Master Gardeners and secretary for the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club.

Karen's knowledge of native plants is not only theoretical. She maintains a garden with many species of native plants and cacti and enhances it with container gardening. Perhaps, when Karen says she is ready, her garden can be part of the annual native plant garden tour!

Apart from her volunteer activities, Karen enjoys life with her family. She and her husband, Clint “Buzz” Pater-son, lovingly care for their special needs daughter, Samantha. Karen also looks after her father and is able to pursue her business of selling “Sentsy” and her interests in photography (many of her photographs are featured in the EPNPS Facebook page), computers, reading, and travel. She has been on many cruises and will be going to Alaska in May.

Please welcome Karen Garcia as the new El Paso Chapter State Representative. ❖

## Tom Stewart: NPSNM's New Vice President

*by Tom Stewart*

Our new vice president, Tom Stewart of the Albuquerque chapter, started life in Long Island, New York, but at the age of 16 had the good fortune of moving with his family to New Mexico. In his own words: “On Long Island we had good schools, nice beaches, and suburban boredom. Sad for me was watching the wild places and marine life disappearing year by year, replaced by tract housing and pollution. So Las Cruces in 1966 was an exciting new start, culturally of course, but also with so many natural areas to explore.”

Tom attended both NMSU and UNM, receiving a BS in biology and chemistry. “I had exceptional professors who did not just add to my inventory of facts but helped to shape my understanding of our environment—people like Loren Potter, Cliff Crawford, and William Martin.” He went on to graduate studies at the University of Vermont, where his diverse interests ranged from ancient bogs in the Green Mountains to tapping sugar maples and building his rustic house by hand with a lot of help from his friends.

“Those woods were lovely, dark and deep, but my heart was still in New Mexico, and I have spent most of my time here since 1981.” He has worked largely in cell biology and pharmaceutical research, and most recently spent nine years at Sandia National Laboratories looking into new water-purification methods. He has volunteered at community health centers and once served for four months as a lab technician at a free clinic in rural India. His keenest current interests, though, are all nonprofessional: native plants, plant and animal survival strategies, and the outdoors in general.

Tom has one daughter attending college in New England, but lost his wife of 24 years to cancer in early 2015. He has been a member of NPSNM for over 20 years and an officer in the Albuquerque chapter for at least 10. He finds this to be an exciting time for NPSNM, as people with many different interests and diverse concerns are all beginning to understand the fundamental importance of native plants and are thirsty for more knowledge. Our challenge, he says, is to remain focused on our original goals while better informing the public and allying with kindred organizations. ❖

### It Pays to Advertise!

Only \$100/yr for business card ad; \$175 double business card ad; \$225 quarter page.

4 issues plus NPSNM's website.

Contact Deb, nativeplantsnm@gmail.com

## Gesina B. Threlkeld, 1920–2015

Niki grew up in Java, the Dutch East Indies. Java was a beautiful place for a child and Niki said she was delightedly spoiled, especially by the islanders. Her Dutch parents saw to her multilingual education, there, in Holland, also Switzerland. Her birth gift was a free spirit, a fun-loving, international free spirit.

During World War II Niki's father was imprisoned in a Japanese concentration camp. His Javanese chauffeur smuggled food to him when possible. Niki's sister was also in an Indonesian prison camp, 1,000 women in a prison intended for 200. Her mother, starving in Holland, carried messages for the Resistance. (After the War her parents went to South Africa.) Niki got to England with the help of her father and his acquaintances. She worked in a London war office drawing maps and "getting bombed good and plenty." She made life as light as possible—cutting a dress for a dance from curtains, and once, eating a chicken, one of two given her household for use of their eggs only.

After the War Niki married a Scotsman, Tom, a prominent veterinarian in the British Colonial Service. He worked on countless projects, among them malaria control in Africa and cattle breeding for improved livelihoods. Niki and Tom traveled broadly—Rome, Baghdad, many places in Africa. They were married in Zimbabwe (then a breadbasket of Africa), by an Admiral of the British Navy. On that rainy day the windows were thrown open so the waters could enter. It was a maritime ceremony. After the guests left, Niki bathed in a tub heated by fire beneath. Sitting down, she scorched her behind, and the marriage was not consummated that night.

Niki could not have children, but she gathered up many along the way. Her gardens in Zimbabwe (and all her gardens everywhere she lived) were beautiful. Keeping hippos out was difficult.

Niki and Tom lived in Washington, DC, while Tom worked at the World Bank. She worked as a botanical il-

lustrator at the Smithsonian Institute. She had trained at Kew Gardens and was always sought after. Over the years she worked on exacting subjects for exacting experts—with Thomas Soderstrom on the genera of bamboos in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), for Bill Isaacs at the New Mexico Endangered Species Program on endangered cacti, lichens for the University of Alaska . . . (Her small book on yet smaller Alaskan plants is charming.) She created four US postage stamps, one of *Franklinia alatamaha* (extinct in the wild), celebrating the eleventh International Botanical Congress. Niki had always drawn and painted—in watercolor, no mistakes permitted, sometimes 30 hours under a magnifying glass for one blossom.

In 1967 Tom diagnosed himself with a brain tumor. He lived only ten days longer. Niki was devastated. She was always spiritual and had as an adult become a Catholic; now she thought she would enter a convent, but Father Bakewell dissuaded her. She moved to Delta, Alaska (NW of Fairbanks), which can dip to minus 75°F in winter, and over eight years had adventures possible only there. Once, searching for a particular plant, she was dropped by plane with just her food and notebooks, to be picked up later. There's a photo of Niki in the backwoods with Josie, her dear friend and native guide, next to the bear she has just shot. And here is a photo of Niki sketching a little yellow-flowered scree-hugger with lakes and ranges of mountains beyond. Once, a miniature dachshund, way out alone on a lonely highway, saw Niki, jumped in her car, got named Heidi, and became the sidekick.

After frosting her lungs she moved to Vista, CA, then to Santa Fe (because it reminded her of Africa), Los Alamos, Las Cruces, back to Santa Fe, her last years once more in Las Cruces. The posters of wildflowers that she gave to the Native Plant Society of New Mexico give a glimpse of her love of our beautiful flora. ❖



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## 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](http://www.npsnm.org); click on Local Chapters; then

### Albuquerque

All scheduled monthly meetings are normally the 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](mailto:sedges@swcp.com). For field trips, contact Carol Conoboy, [carolconoboy@gmail.com](mailto:carolconoboy@gmail.com), 505/897-3530. For meeting places indicated [A] through [H] see website.

**Apr 9** Field Trip. Desert Oasis Teaching Gardens at Albuquerque Academy. 10:30–11:30 a.m. Karen Bentrup, leader. Meet at site (map: [www.aa.edu/ftpimages/109/download/Campus\\_Map.pdf](http://www.aa.edu/ftpimages/109/download/Campus_Map.pdf)).

**Apr 16** Overnight Field Trip. Florida Mtns. Gene Jercinovic, leader. April 15: overnight; April 16: 9 a.m. meet Gene at Rockhound State Park Visitor's Center.

**Apr 23** Volunteer Day: planting and spring cleanup. Oso Grande Pollinator Garden. 9 a.m.–noon. Meet at shade structure west of pollinator garden. Park on Osuna.

**Apr 30** Urban Desert Garden Tour. 9 a.m.–noon. Ann Harris Davidson, leader. Meet at site, 1006 Bernalillo Pl SE.

**May 4** Meeting. An Introduction to the Medicinal Plants of Central NM. Dara Saville, herbalist.

**May 7** Field Trip. Bosque at Tingley Beach. 10 a.m.–noon. Dara Saville, leader. Meet in the lot at site.

**May 14** Field Trip. White Sands Missile Range. David L. Anderson, leader. Preregister with Carol Conoboy by April 1 (required). Meet 7 a.m. at [G] or 9 a.m. WSMR Stallion Gate.

**May 21** Field Trip. Lower Sandia Wildflowers. 8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. George Miller, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [A].

**May 28** Field Trip. Cuba Badlands: Penistaja Mesa. 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Lenore Goodell, leader. Meet 8 a.m. NW corner Home Depot parking lot on Hwy 550 at Bernalillo.

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.

**Jun 1** Meeting. Sandia High School's Coati Pond. Jason Roback, Sandia HS biology teacher.

**June 4** Field Tour. Sandia HS Coati Pond Outdoor Environmental Classroom. 9–11 a.m. Jason Roback, leader. Meet 9 a.m. at Sandia HS staff parking lot, 7801 Candelaria NE.

**Jun 11** Field Trip. Oso Grande Pollinator Habitat. 9–11 a.m. Judith Phillips and Tom Stewart, leaders. Meet at the shade structure west of the pollinator garden.

**Jun 18** Field Trip. Carlito Springs Open Space. 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Linwood Standley and Carlito Springs Cohort, leaders. Meet 8:30 a.m. at [A].

### 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 14** Meeting. 2016 FloraFest Preview. John White, curator, Chihuahuan Desert Gardens.

**May 12** Meeting. Landscape for Life. Chuck Gilbert, Sarah Wood, and John White, certified instructors in the Lady Bird Johnson Wildlife Center Landscape for Life Program.

**Jun 9** Meeting. Insect Pests of Native Plants. Carol Sutherland, PhD, Extension Entomologist at NMSU.

### 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 for carpooling. Participants must sign a release-of-liability form and will receive a list of native plants in the hiking area. For more hike info, call Kevin Keith, 575/535-4064. Destinations may be changed due to weather. Updates posted on [GilaNPS.org](http://GilaNPS.org).

**Apr 15** Meeting. A Floristic Study of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. William (Bill) Norris, Richard Felger, Russ Kleinman, and Kelly Kindscher.

**Apr 17** Hike. Tennessee Gulch in the Big Lue Mountains, near Mule Creek. Easy to moderate.

**May 15** Annual Picnic. Little Walnut Picnic grounds.

**May 15** Hike. CD Trail to Eighty Mountain, PA Range.

**Jun 19** Hike. Little Dry Creek Trail 180 in the Mogollon Range. Moderate.



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## 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; Tom Packard, 575/202-3708.

**Apr 13** Meeting. Loving Rain in the Desert—and the Blooms It Creates. Dave Anderson.

**Apr 16** Field trip. Prehistoric Trackways National Monument. Meet 8 a.m. at the US Post Office in Fairacres.

**May 11** Meeting. Restoring Wetlands and Riparian Areas near Las Cruces. Beth Bardwell.

**May 14** Field trip. Tortugas Mountain. Meet 8 a.m. at First National Rio Grande, corner Telshor/ University.

**Jun 8** Meeting. Annual Meeting tasks.

**Jun 11** Field trip. Dry-run trips for Annual Mtg. 8 a.m.

## Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, contact William Herndon, laluzlobo@gmail.com, 575/437-2555; or Elva Osterreich, echoofthedesert@yahoo.com, 575/443-4408; or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575/585-3315 or 443-3928. More info should be available by the beginning of each month.

**Apr 2** Field trip. Oliver Lee Memorial State Park. Meet 8 a.m. at the old Walmart, junction Hwys 54/70.

**Apr 23** Annual Plant Sale in Alamogordo at Oregon and 10th Street, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Please notify Jennifer Gruger at jengruger@gmail.com or 505/710-2924 if you can help.

**Apr 30** Earth Day at the Alamogordo Zoo. Help needed; please notify Jennifer Gruger (see above).

**May 7** Field trip. White Sands Missile Range. Meet 8 a.m. at Tula gate west of Tularosa. Contact Helgi with questions.

**Jun 4** Field trip. White Sands National Monument. Meet 8 a.m. at the old Walmart, junction Hwys 54/70.

## Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso (in the triangle of Old Pecos Trail, St Michael's Dr., and Arroyo Chamiso; across street from fire station). For more information, contact Tom Antonio, tom@thomasantonio.org, 505/690-5105. Meetings and talks are free and open to all.

**Apr 20** Meeting. Wildflowers of the Northern and Central Mountains of New Mexico. Larry Littlefield.

**May 7** 12th Annual Spring Garden Fair. 9 a.m.–3 p.m. County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Rd.

**May 18** Meeting. Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery. Mike Halverson, nursery manager.

## Taos

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in boardroom, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative, 118 Cruz Alta Rd. Check NPSNM website or Facebook for updates, or contact Jan at TaosNPS@gmail.com or 575/751-0511; for field trips, contact John Ubelaker, ubelaker@mail.smu.edu, 214/726-5014.

**Apr 20** Meeting. Gardening for Caterpillars. Steven J. Cary, Randall Davey Audubon Center & Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Apr 23** Field trip. Santa Fe nurseries. Meet 8:30 a.m. at San Francisco de Asis church in Ranchos, rear parking lot. Return to Taos mid-afternoon.

**May 18** Meeting. What Are Siberian Elms Doing in NM? Ben Wright, certified arborist and Taos Tree Board chair.

**May 21** Field trip. Common Trees of Taos. John Ubelaker, leader. Meet 8:30 a.m. at Ft. Burgwin-SMU campus on Hwy. 518, by library. Difficulty: easy. Half-day trip.

**Jun 18** Field trip. Taos Canyon Hike. Meet 9 a.m. at Divisadero/South boundary trailhead parking lot on Hwy 64 in Taos Canyon. Difficulty: easy–moderate. Full-day trip.

**June** Date TBD. Gardens in Progress Tour for members only. Potluck lunch at the last garden.

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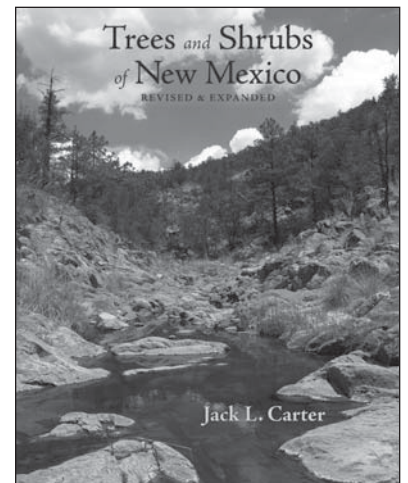
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**The Invention of Nature—Humboldt** (continued from p. 14) the book Marsh had wanted to call *Man the Disturber of Nature's Harmonies* was published. Under the influence of von Humboldt, Marsh had become a powerful force for conservation, and through *Man and Nature* sent the message to future generations that "all nature is linked together by invisible bonds." This book also first warned that "climatic excess" might lead to the extinction of the human species.

Charles Darwin was so drawn to von Humboldt's travel descriptions that he realized he must voyage over the natural world, and he volunteered to join the H.M.S. *Beagle* as the naturalist. Among the few books he took with him were his Bible, several of Milton's works, the first volume of Lyell's *Principles of Geology*, and von Humboldt's three-volume set, *Personal Narrative*. It was von Humboldt's discussion of the "gradual transformation of species" that attracted Darwin's attention and allowed him to conceptualize change over time within species. And when Darwin completed his first major publication, *Voyage of the Beagle*, in May of 1839, he sent one of the first copies to Humboldt in Berlin, where it was very well received. Wulf's book makes it clear that it was Humboldt's recognition and explanation of how plants and animals limit each other's numbers that challenged Darwin to continue his travels and studies and that resulted in *Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection*. ❖



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## 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](http://www.npsnm.org). Every contributed dollar is being used to protect the flora of New Mexico well into the future.

~Jack & Martha Carter

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**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. 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:**

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**Cactus poster:** 18"×24", \$5 (nonmembers, \$8)

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- Patron 250
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## **Invitation to NPSNM Members to Make Presentations at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 23, 2016**

The 2016 Annual Meeting in Las Cruces will feature fascinating speakers from an unusually wide variety of professional disciplines. But one hour on Saturday afternoon has been reserved *just for you*. The Program Subcommittee encourages you to submit a proposal for an illustrated talk *you* would like to present.

### **Proposal Guidelines**

- Talks should be planned to last no longer than 15 minutes.
- Your topic can be anything related to New Mexico native plants.
- Audiovisual equipment will be set up at the meeting for the use of all presenters. If you will require any special additional equipment, please specify in your proposal.
- Presenters are required to bring their presentation on a thumb-drive.
- Describe your proposed presentation in a paragraph.
- Provide a title for your proposed presentation.
- Include your
  - name
  - mailing address
  - telephone number
  - email address
- Send your proposal by email or snail mail to
  - canton49@hotmail.com
 or
  - Carolyn Gressitt, 734 N Reymond St, Las Cruces, NM 88005
- If you send it by snail mail, please include 6 copies of it for distribution to the program subcommittee. (If you send it by email, Carolyn will simply forward your proposal to the members of the subcommittee.)
- Your proposal should be received by July 15, 2016.

Only three presenters will be selected. You will be notified as soon as the committee has made its decision.