

Santa Fe Chapter Annual Report 2025

Board Members and Volunteers as of 1/6/26

President and Treasurer: Sylvan Kaufman

Vice President: Arle Kruckeberg

Membership: Joy Ford

Conservation Committee Representative: Rebecca Koskela

Representative to the Board: Barbara Fix

Programs: Thomas Antonio, Sylvan Kaufman, Barbara Fix, Donna Eagles, Dawn Janney

Promotion: Pam Wolfe

Newsletter: Joanna Ruppel

50th Anniversary Committee: Sylvan, Arle, Dawn Janney, Monica O’Keefe, Susan Levick, Jennifer Pedneau

The board met in person on March 9, 2025, but other business was conducted via email in 2025. Arle Kruckeberg was elected Vice President in April. Rebecca Koskela was just appointed as Conservation Committee Representative in January, 2026, by the Santa Fe board. The board also amended the bylaws to include a description of the Conservation Representative, which was inadvertently left out. Joanna Ruppel has taken on the e-newsletter for the chapter, which gets sent out to our large email list via Vertical Response about twice a month.

1. Evening Programs

Programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from September – May at Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso, Santa Fe. An average of 40 people attend meetings.

Tuesday, January 14. Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. “Botany at the BLM: Current Work on Plant Conservation and Restoration”. Maria Mullins is the state botanist for the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management which coordinates the BLM's Plant Conservation and Restoration Program (PCRP) throughout the state. This talk will cover both the current focus on implementation of the national native seed strategy and the persistent efforts to conserve rare plants on BLM land. Prior to moving to Santa Fe in 2019, Maria developed her career in natural resources throughout the Northern Rockies and Pacific Northwest. She graduated with a BS in Resource Conservation and BA in Spanish in 2010 and a MSc. in Ecology from the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs in 2019.

Tuesday, February 11. Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. Renee Galeano-Popp will be speaking on plants and the Endangered Species Act.

Tuesday, March 11. Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. State Botanist Erika Rowe will provide a lecture on the Statewide Conservation of Rare Plants: An Overview of the

Endangered Plant Program and Rare Species Update. Erika will provide an overview of the state's Endangered Plant Program, including its key responsibilities, current conservation efforts, and ways you can contribute. She will also discuss current trends in rare plant populations across the state, highlight ongoing monitoring efforts, and share insights into the program's future direction and upcoming projects. Please see recent interview in the [Santa Fe Reporter](#).

Erika has been with the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department for just over two years. She brings more than 24 years of experience as a botanist and research plant ecologist, formerly working for the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources, where she documented rare plants, analyzed native plant communities, established monitoring, and played a key role in protecting special landscapes where she was instrumental to the establishment of three new Scientific Natural Areas and a state park. More recently, she developed and coordinated a statewide, long-term monitoring program in Minnesota to track changes over time in native plant communities across all ownerships. She holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Management with a focus on Vegetation Assessment and Monitoring, as well as an M.S. in Forest Ecology, where her research examined vascular and nonvascular (bryophyte) ground-layer recovery after wildfire in boreal forests. Erika moved to New Mexico nearly three years ago but has extensive familiarity with the Rocky Mountains, having lived in Colorado and Utah during the 1990s.

Tuesday April 8. Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. "Ethnobotany of *Rhus* (Sumac – Anacardiaceae)". Dr. David Young will discuss the many ways that species of *Rhus* (Sumacs – Anacardiaceae) have been used by humans for thousands of years as medicines, dyes, fibers, and other applications. Dr. Young received his BA and MA in biology from California State University, Fullerton and his Ph.D. in Botany from Claremont Graduate University. He retired from Arizona State University in 2017 after a professional career of over 40 years in higher education. He has served as Executive Director of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden since September 2022.

Tuesday, May 13, 6:30 p.m. NPSNM Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture and book sale. "Ecology Basics for Gardeners." Every garden is part of a larger ecosystem. Find out how understanding some basic ecological principles can help you make better design, planting and management decisions for your garden. From learning what ecosystem you live in to how food webs work Sylvan Kaufman will introduce you to concepts that explain how a designed landscape will interact with its surroundings and how it can be made to be more sustainable. Whether you are new to sustainable landscaping practices or a long-time practitioner, you'll learn the science background you need to understand how your landscape can support clean water, improve wildlife habitat, and lower maintenance costs while providing a healthy, beautiful environment for you to live in. Dr. Sylvan Kaufman is an ecologist who has taught ecology for landscape designers and gardeners in Santa Fe and in the Washington DC region.

Book Sale and Seed and Plant Exchange – At the May 13 meeting, we will have some new and used books for sale and cards. Bring any seeds or plants you'd like to give away too (preferably native, but most of us have pretty diverse gardens).

Tuesday, September 9. Teaching from the Ground Up: Native Plants and Two-Eyed Seeing in Youth Education. NPSNM Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture. Native plants offer more than ecological insight—they carry stories, histories, and teachings that can ground young people in the land. Institute for Applied Ecology's Education and Outreach Coordinator, Tanner Johnson will discuss how the concept of Two-Eyed Seeing can guide students in exploring their home landscapes, integrating Indigenous and Western ways of knowing to foster respect, curiosity, and connection.

Tuesday, October 14: NPSNM Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture and book sale. Victor Lucero, Forest Health Program Coordinator at Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), will present “Damaging Agents and Forest Health Conditions – A Broad Overview.” He will cover signs and symptoms of biotic and abiotic damaging agents of forests and woodlands including phloem feeders (bark beetles), defoliators (Douglas-fir tussock moth, pine sawfly, fall webworm), sap suckers (scale insects), dwarf mistletoe, drought, hail, and fire. One of his duties includes conducting aerial surveys in cooperation with the US Forest Service of about 14 million acres of forests and woodlands on federal, state, private and Tribal lands in New Mexico and he will show aerial views of different forest types and conditions. He will also have pinned and preserved insects and insect damaged tree stems to share with the audience.

Tuesday, November 11: NPSNM Santa Fe Chapter Meeting and Lecture and book sale. “Pesticides, Plants, and Pollinators”. Join Kaitlin Haase from the Xerces Society to learn about a recent study on pesticides found on urban butterfly plants in Albuquerque and Sacramento.

2. Field Trips and Other Events

Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - City Nature Challenge. NPSNM-Santa Fe and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden are co-hosting a learning session for iNaturalist followed by a bioblitz walk through the arroyo. Free and open to the public. Record your iNaturalist observations April 25 - 28 to be included in the City Nature Challenge! Join the project at, <https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/city-nature-challenge-2025-santa-fe-area>. There will be many events in our region over that weekend.

May 11, 9:30 a.m – 12 p.m. - Eldorado Gardens Tour. Join cactus expert Joe Newman for a tour of Eldorado's old and new cactus gardens as well as a new crevice garden and pollinator garden. All of the gardens are located near the Eldorado Community Center and are an easy walk. We will meet in the parking lot by the gardens, 1 Hacienda Loop. About 30 participants.

June 26. Gestures from the Land: A Celebration of Native Plants and Public Lands, 5:30 – 8pm. The NPSNM Santa Fe chapter will collaborate with Conservation Photographer Christina Selby (<https://www.christinamselby.com/>) on an exhibition at the CoFe Building gallery space in Santa Fe (314 S. Guadalupe St). The exhibition was on display through Nov. 6 with a closing reception.

June 28. Holy Ghost Pecos Hike, led by Bob Sivinski. We'll look for wood lilies among other early summer flowers. About 25 participants

August 15. Valles Caldera Hidden Valley Hike, led by Ben Stout. Ben is a plant ecologist and biological technician at Valles Caldera. About 15 participants

August 30. Mid-day Members Summer Social at Hyde Park. Potluck lunch and cornhole. About 15 attendees.

December 8. Member's Holiday Social at Tom Antonio's. About 30 attendees.

3. Projects

Cactus garden and Acequia Trail - In cooperation with the Cactus Rescue Project, weeding and other maintenance of the Cactus Garden on the Acequia Trail and other maintenance of the Acequia Trail 63 hours. (Barbara Fix)

Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve invasive plant removal - Barbara, Sylvan, and another volunteer removed houndstongue. A few volunteers also pulled kochia with Las Golondrinas staff. 20 hours.

NPSNM Plant Posters – Final design changes were finished by Orion Studios, and the posters were printed by the State Printing Office. 10 of each poster were distributed to chapters at the annual meeting in October. Information on purchasing posters is now available on the NPSNM web site.

New signs for the chapter – 3 signs were designed and printed on metal for use at Christina Selby's Exhibition. These signs will be reused for future events.

50th Anniversary Planning – A committee was formed in June to plan 50th Anniversary events. The committee met several times and has planned 2 special talks, new stickers, and has done advance planning for the 2027 annual conference. Barbara Fix has started an oral history project and we are looking for another volunteer and professional assistance with the oral history project. The first special event will be on March 8, a panel discussion on 50 years of landscaping in northern NM. The second event will probably be on Aug. 11, bringing Jack Dash to talk about A Southwest Native Plant Primer, in collaboration with Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

Native Plant of the Week for NPSNM social media – Arle Kruckeberg has been writing the posts for this for the Santa Fe chapter.

4. Outreach Events

March 19 – Presentation by Sylvan on NM Native Plants and NPSNM to Las Campanas HOA
May 10, 2025 Master Gardener Garden Fair, 3 volunteers, 15 hours volunteer time total
June 18 Pollinator Week native plant walk led by Sylvan at Bandelier National Monument, 8 hours volunteer time

5. Financial Report

Sylvan Kaufman has submitted the chapter's financial report for 2025.

Donations were received from Joan West (\$750) and from Barbara Fix for indexing newsletters (\$2,000). Christina Selby donated \$612.95 from proceeds from her photo exhibit.

Expenses over \$200 included meeting venue rental (\$400), poster design, printing, and supplies (\$8428 – covered by a donation in 2024); member's socials and meeting snacks (\$356). The chapter made donations totaling \$1550 (Arnold Clifford Herbarium, Amigos of Valles Caldera (field trip led by staff), Cactus Rescue (field trip at Eldorado), Institute of Applied Ecology, Rio Grande Sierra Club for Land, Water and Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse). Venue rental security deposit for March 8, 2026 event to Santa Fe Woman's Club, Venue rental for the Rare Plant Technical Council Meeting at IAIA.

Total Income \$7,598 Total Expenses \$12,472 Total Assets (12/31/25): \$22,019

This annual report is respectfully submitted by Sylvan Kaufman, President, Santa Fe chapter of the Native Plant Society of NM.