

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

NEWSLETTER

October, November, December 2007 Volume XXXII Number 4

State Meeting

Four Corners Flora Fascinates All



Ken Heil (right) regales field trip participants with tales of the rare plants of the sandstone country of the Four Corners.

Photo by Phil Melnick

When New Mexico plant lovers descended on Farmington in August prepared to be fascinated by the plants and scenery, they were not disappointed. The volunteers of the small San Juan Chapter put on a wonderful state meeting.

Ken Heil opened the meeting with the welcome news that the long-awaited “Flora of the Four Corners” will be published in 2008. Many of the meeting speakers have contributed to this flora, including Arnold Clifford, who gave a talk on Navajo ethnobotany. He used Latin, Greek, and Navajo names to discuss medicinal, ceremonial, and nutritional uses of plants.

Other expert talks were on the taxonomy of the mustard family in all its hilarity (really!), the phlox family, heaths, oaks, mosses, ferns, and fens.

Congratulations to everyone on a great meeting!

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From the President

Chick Keller

End of summer – a bit of sadness, since plant collecting was so good this year. Many new species and locations were found. Now comes the task of documenting and mounting during those bright, quiet Santa Fe days.

I hope you all have heard from those who attended that this summer's meeting, hosted by the San Juan Chapter in Farmington, was a tremendous success. It was impressive to see what a remarkable job such a small chapter could do. A few dedicated people seem always to be able to make a difference. Our thanks to chapter president Les Lundquist for making all this happen.

Of special interest to me was the preponderance of excellent talks by experts about native plants. This is probably due to the fact that the San Juan Chapter, through its association with Ken Heil and the San Juan Community College Herbarium, has attracted a remarkable number of top amateur and professional botanists. These people really know their plants, as evidenced by the soon-to-be-released "Flora of the Four Corners Area." I would hope this example might make all the chapters work harder to know their local flora.

The meeting saw the announcement of the hiring of our first administrative assistant to the president, Sandra Lynn. As we specified in our job ad (two newsletters ago), her duties will include establishing (with the help and advice of the chapters) a statewide speakers list which program chairs can make use of. She is also going to focus on setting up major multi-day workshops on a variety of subjects, from various plant identification and photography courses to perhaps more eclectic areas, such as learning how to improve roadside plantings of native plants, safeguarding special habitats, etc. In addition, Sandra may become a clearinghouse for good ideas, so don't hesitate to get in touch with her if you and/or your chapter have some neat things in mind that NPSNM could do or support (see introduction on Page 5).

Sandra has already contacted chapter presidents about these and several additional initiatives. Please give her your full cooperation.

Also at the meeting, in honor of their many years of dedicated service to the flora of the West, the board announced the naming of our grant program the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund. Tom Antonio, vice president, has agreed to be the contact for donations to this program (see Page 7).

Again this year, via a Joint House/Senate Memorial, the State has named September 23rd as State Native Plant Day. Thanks to Santa Fe board member Carol Johnson for bulldogging this proclamation through the legislature. Electronic copies have been sent to chapters. Anyone else wishing a copy should contact Carol. And please keep Sandra Lynn updated on any activities, publicity, etc., that your chapters plan. Sandra has written a news release on Native Plant Day that you may wish to use.

Finally, we are all greatly saddened by the untimely passing of NPSNM Finance Chair and long-time environmental supporter Tom Wooten. As our new finance chair, Tom had begun the planning process for diversifying NPSNM funds. He and his wife Eleanor were awarded a lifetime membership by the Gila Chapter (see article on Page 10) at the Farmington meeting.

Tom will be missed, but well remembered, as the board of NPSNM has established the Tom Wooten Environmental Fund, which will support both research and education, especially of young people. Already \$1,000 has been pledged to this fund. If you want to help, send your checks to treasurer Steve Robertson.

Fall and winter are good times for chapters to take stock and plan for studying and enjoying the splendid New Mexico plants of next spring and summer. Be aggressive and innovative, work together, and above all, enjoy.

**The 2008 NPSNM annual state meeting
will be hosted by the Las Cruces Chapter.
Dates to be announced soon.**

This NEWSLETTER is published quarterly by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, a nonprofit organization, and is free to members. The NPSNM 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.

Manuscripts and artwork are welcome and should be submitted to the editor, Renée West at:

keywestern@hotmail.com OR:

1105 Ocotillo Canyon Dr., Carlsbad NM 88220

Next Deadline is Dec. 1, 2007

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. A wide selection of books dealing with plants, landscaping, and other 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 or Book Sales representative.

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P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004**

Hello from the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's New Administrative Assistant

Sandra Lynn

When President Chick Keller introduced me in August at the annual meeting in Farmington, he began by referring to me as “an historical figure.” I feared that he was calling attention to my advanced age, but it turned out he was just pointing out that I am the first paid staff member in the organization’s more than 30-year history. All the hard work has always been done by volunteers.

For almost 20 (since 1988) of NPSNM’s 31 years, I’ve been in on that hard work as a member, general volunteer, Albuquerque Chapter president, Carlsbad Chapter representative, and recording secretary to the board of directors. So the NPSNM’s history has become an important facet of my own personal history. The Native Plant Society has provided me with

- long-term friendships;
- an education in botany, ecology, and gardening with natives;
- many chances to traipse around behind botanists examining stamens or stem hairs with my hand lens;
- lots of laughs and some stress;
- and opportunities to make a small difference in the conservation of native plants and their habitats.

I am enormously grateful for all of that and have attempted to translate my gratitude into service. I hope this new job as a quarter-time administrative assistant will offer fresh opportunities for me to contribute to an organization I have cared very much about for nearly two decades.

Chick Keller has wisely provided me with a contractual list of tasks. Not only will this list help me organize my work time according to what Chick and other officers and board members view as the highest priorities, but it will also keep us all focused on expansion. In other words, I will not be taking on the jobs you are already doing quite admirably. Instead, I will be trying to accomplish tasks that are not currently being done statewide and so expand our outreach and services to

members.

My tasks will be as follows:

- Coordination of workshops (perhaps similar to those in recent years on grasses, the Cactaceae, the Asteraceae, and so on),
- Development of a list of speakers available to chapters,
- Publicizing our organization and the importance of native plants statewide,
- Seeking grant funding.

But before I can really get underway on those jobs, I need to set up my office, a writer’s lair, to serve also as a central office for the Native Plant Society. So please bear with me while I try to arrange for the tools, supplies, and information I will need to serve you. The first person in any job always has a lot of groundwork to lay.

My mailing address is 1814 Hermosa Dr. NE, Albuquerque 87110-4924. My cell phone is 505.366.4458 and my home phone is 505.256.2594. My current email address is sdlynn@zianet.com, though that is likely to change soon as I switch from my creaky old dial-up modem to something that can accommodate more high-speed traffic. Stay tuned for updates about how to get in touch with me. (And check Page 5 of this newsletter.)

We are a society of very capable, multi-talented plant enthusiasts. We can do many things well, from gardening to botanical drawing to photography to identifying just about everything that grows in New Mexico. But sometimes we don’t communicate as well as we need to. I would urge you to speak up when you have a question about how to get something done, to send Renee and Lolly your photos and schedules for programs and field trips, to give me suggestions for workshops and speakers, to ask state and chapter officers and committee chairpersons what’s going on and then offer to help.

After all, you and I are the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Let’s all stay in touch.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

NOTE: All New Mexico area codes are 505 until Oct. 7. The new area codes are listed below. There is no change for El Paso.

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Send Membership Dues & Changes of Address to:
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P.O. Box 2364, Las Cruces NM 88004

Calling All Plant Illustrators

The New Mexico Rare Plants website [http://nmrareplants.unm.edu] needs line drawings for 21 rare plants. Native Plant Society of New Mexico will pay plant illustrators \$150 each for copies of drawings and unlimited right of use by the Native Plant Society of NM and the NM Rare Plant Technical Council. The artists may keep their original drawings. The illustrations must show representative portions of the plant (must be technically accurate botanically; diagnostic details are a plus).

To avoid duplication of efforts, contact Bob Sivinski at robert.sivinski@state.nm.us or 505-476-3347 to reserve your drawing assignments. Bob can also help by giving directions to some of these plants in the field and arranging specimen loans from herbaria.

This list of 21 illustrations needed is also available on the NPSNM website.

Agastache pringlei var. *verticillata*, Organ Mountains giant hyssop: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; but no photos.

Astragalus cliffordii, Clifford's milkvetch: Specimens available at SJCC and UNM; photos on website.

Astragalus heilii, Heil's milkvetch: Specimen available at SJCC; photo on website.

Astragalus humistratus var. *crispulus*, Villous ground-cover milkvetch: Specimen available at NMSU; photos on website.

Astragalus missouriensis var. *humistratus*, Pagosa milkvetch: Specimen available at SJCC; photos on website.

Astragalus missouriensis var. *mimetes*, Little Missouri milkvetch: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; but no photos.

Cuscuta warneri, Warner's dodder: Specimens available at NMSU and Santa Fe Audubon Herbarium; but no photos.

Desmodium metcalfei, Metcalfe's ticktrefoil: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; but no photos.

Eriogonum lachnogynum var. *colobum*, Clipped wild buckwheat: Specimens available at SJCC and UNM; photos on website.

Eriogonum lachnogynum var. *sarahiae*, Sarah's wild buckwheat: Specimen available at SJCC; photos on website.

Escobaria guadalupensis, Guadalupe pincushion: Will have to search for photos and/or specimen. Artist may have to make field visit in remote location.

Helianthus arizonensis, Arizona sunflower: Will have to search for specimen; photos on website.

Hexalectris spicata var. *arizonica*, Arizona coralroot:

(Continued on page 11)

Albuquerque Chapter: Beth Herschman honored

The Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society awarded Beth Herschman a lifetime membership in appreciation for her energy, creativity, and leadership in the club, and for enlivening its social life. Beth is a New Mexico native, having grown up in Hobbs, Clovis, and Portales. Then she left as a new Air Force bride and eventually attended Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

It was hard for her to choose whether to major in biology or music, so she graduated with a biology degree and continued to sing and play piano. After graduation, Beth moved to Washington, D.C., and made a career as a sales rep for a firm specializing in computer typesetting and graphics. She ultimately became a specialist in winning government contracts. She also married a second time and raised her four sons and two stepsons.

Beth wanted to be near her parents after she retired, so she prepared to move back to New Mexico. She earned a certificate in landscape design from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Beth's husband died after a long illness, and then she moved to Albuquerque.

Here she discovered the Garden Center and was inspired by Judith Phillips' books. She aspired to practice regionally appropriate landscape design. Her plan was to learn by designing and planting her own landscape. Only then would she take on clients. After exactly one year of learning and practicing, she was sought out by her first client.

Beth joined the Native Plant Society of NM initially to develop her native plant knowledge. She stayed on the sidelines until someone asked her to serve as treasurer; that was the beginning of her active involvement in NPSNM. Being treasurer three times led to being president for several terms.

Beth says she continues to be active in the club because she believes in the goals of the NPSNM.

When the Garden Center decided to revamp its grounds, Beth took on this enormous job, acting as designer, contractor, and chief planter. She also took on the challenge of organizing the NPSNM state meeting in 1999. The way she mobilized inactive members to help with the meeting revitalized the chapter. Beth organized the 2005 state meeting as well, so now she is an old hand at

it. She also coordinates our plant sales, which are the club's chief money-making events.

In addition to the NPSNM, Beth also belongs to the Xeric Garden Club, National Wildlife Federation, and The Nature Conservancy. If that isn't enough, she is also interested in the changing climate and in the possibilities of developing real estate in an ecologically appropriate and sensitive way. She particularly enjoys square dancing with her partner, Jim Brown, and visits her far-flung children and grandchildren whenever possible.

—Peggy Wells

Otero Chapter: Scholarships Awarded

New Mexico State University graduate students Patrick Alexander and Kathy Whiteman are the 2007 Otero Chapter scholarship recipients. Kathy is working on the ecology of woody plant encroachment in the Gila Wilderness and National Forest. Patrick is working on the flora of the Organ Mountains (see <http://organmountainsflora.com>). A beautiful and useful flora identification tool can be found on Patrick's website, <http://polyploid.net>.

President Helgi Osterreich presented each with a \$1,000 check at a luncheon August 21. Five hundred dollars of the money had been donated in memory of the NPSNM's former treasurer, Don Tribble.

—Chris Baker



Patrick Alexander and Kathy Whiteman

NPSNM

Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund Established

At the recent board meeting of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, it was decided that the society's grant program will be named in honor of Jack and Martha Carter. We are beginning a year-long effort to raise funds to support this worthwhile program.

In 1993 the NPSNM began providing funds to support conservation projects throughout New Mexico. Since that time we have supported a wide variety of conservation efforts ranging from the installation of native plant gardens at grade schools to graduate research on endangered plant species. The program has been entirely supported by membership fees. Each year the amount requested has exceeded our ability to provide funds for these important projects.

Naming the fund for Jack and Martha Carter is a fitting tribute to two people who have been tireless supporters of conserving native plants. Since retiring from a distinguished career in biology at Colorado College, Jack has served as NPSNM president, board member, and chair of the Finance Committee. It is primarily through his efforts that the society's endowment fund reached a level where we were able to provide support to the many requests received. Martha has been an integral member of this team, having served as both president and membership chair of the Gila Chapter, and she has been instrumental in the production of the Gila Chapter quarterly bulletin.

As Jack stated in a recent correspondence, "The larger society does not understand the connection between plants, people and all life on Earth, and they are not being reached."

Please help us reach these people through a generous contribution to the "Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Fund." Contributions are fully tax-deductible. Please make your check out to the NPSNM-Carter Fund and mail to:

Steve Robertson, NPSNM Treasurer
HC 74, Box 21862
El Prado, NM 87529



Martha and Jack Carter

—Tom Antonio,
NPSNM Vice President

Annual State Meeting

Fun in the



Arnold Clifford not only knows most of the plants in the Chuska Mountains, he also has a fine collection of Navajo rugs woven by his grandmother and other family members and friends. He unrolled them on the hood of a vehicle to show to field trip participants.

Photo by Sandra Lynn



Photo by Lisa Johnston

A young reader finds some solitude to peruse one of the books for sale at the state meeting.



Tiny and shrunken below ground in dry weather, the Mesa Verde cactus was a treat for field trip participants.

Photo by Renée West

Four Corners

Peter Kakos of the Navajo Nation's Historic Preservation Department illustrates a point during his thought-provoking keynote address on "Plants, Hormones, and Population Increase: How Plants Grow People."

Photo by Renée West



Photo by Yvonne Keller

Sandra Lynn, our society's new administrative assistant, relishes another NPSNM field trip.

Gene Jercinovic (left) and Tom Antonio compare notes on... hat styles, perhaps? In the background, botanist Arnold Clifford appears to offer a dissenting hat opinion.

Photo by Phil Melnick



Tom Wootten

March 20, 1939 - August 7, 2007



Tom Wootten will be deeply missed. He was a humble, committed, gentle, and generous man. Greatness is accrued by some through their quiet ignorance of their own importance, their dedication to service without song, and the simple honesty of their giving. Tom was special and so many of us counted him as a dear friend.

Tom died of a heart attack while walking near his home in Cliff. Just a few days earlier, he had received an honorary NPSNM lifetime membership for himself and his wife, Eleanor, at the state meeting in Farmington. In accepting the honors, Tom said he only wished Eleanor could have been there too, as she was as much a part of it as he. Tom and Eleanor always worked closely together. The Gila Chapter's nomination of the Woottens read, "Tom and Eleanor are people who question the common *modus operandi* and invariably challenge us all to listen to other drummers and ask questions."

Tom always acted on his love for the natural world with countless efforts for plant and wildlife conservation, natural land protection, scientific research, and public education. And together the Woottens have made a major impact on the study of plants and animals and the ecology of New Mexico. They have given their support to many

groups, such as the Center for Biological Diversity, The Nature Conservancy, National Audubon Society, and NPSNM, where Tom was a very active member since it began in 1975. Just this year he had accepted the duties of Finance Committee Chair. Tom was given the Aldo Leopold Award by The Nature Conservancy, and both Tom and Eleanor received the Charles Callison Award from the National Audubon Society.

Tom said that of all the things he and Eleanor had been involved with, T&E, Inc. was the most rewarding. Established in 1995, T&E, Inc. is their foundation for funding research by students involved with threatened and endangered species, other areas of the sciences, or the ecology of plants and animals. T&E, Inc. funds roughly 20 student projects per year at area universities and other interested institutions. The success of T&E has been phenomenal, reaching more than 150 individual students in eight schools so far, and it continues. Its website proclaims, "His legend lives on."

Tom grew up on a ranch in Union County, New Mexico, near Clayton, with three brothers and a sister. He graduated from New Mexico State University in 1961. He was commissioned in the U.S. Army the following week, and the week after that, he married Eleanor. The Berlin crisis and the Cuban missile crisis both affected his stint in the army. In 1963 Tom began working at a bank in Kansas City, moving up to second-highest in the trust department by the mid-1970s. However, he realized that he did not want the stresses of his boss's job.

By 1976 he had entered NMSU to pursue a degree in horticulture. There he expanded his interest in environmental issues. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture in 1978.

Tom had begun growing native plants in his backyard for landscaping which he sold at the farmer's market. He decided to start a nursery business and help educate people about native plants. He ran Dry Country Plants from 1983 to 1990. The nursery focused on native plants, but was not limited to natives. Tom felt that drought-

(Continued on page 11)

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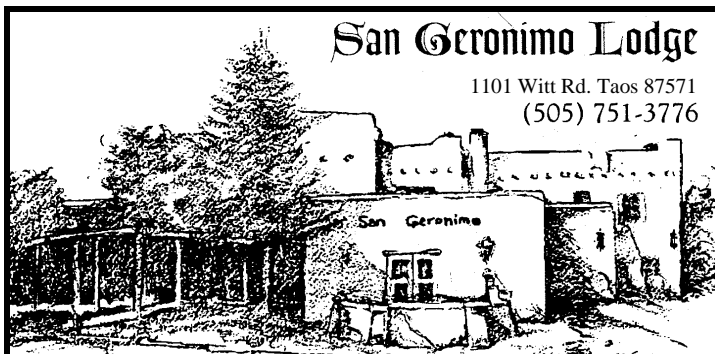
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Tom Wootten

(Continued from page 10)

tolerant plants from other areas that could do well in Las Cruces should be used for water conservation, as long as they were not invasive. After the nursery closed, he spent his time doing as much volunteer work as possible, especially on environmental issues. And with his seemingly boundless energy, quite a lot was possible.

In the late 1990s, not having enough to do, Tom decided to begin a musical career, taking up the bagpipes. Always ready to poke fun at himself, he began appending his correspondences with bagpipe jokes. The last one:

Q: What do you call a basement full of bagpipe practice chanters?

A: A whine cellar.

Tom and Eleanor have four children (Tommy, Marianne, David, and Margaret) and nine grandchildren.

—Excerpted from Gene Jercinovic's short biography, with contributions from Jack Carter.

—See the complete text on NPSNM website.

—For T&E, Inc. information: www.tandeinc.com

Q: What do you need when you have a piper up to his neck in quicksand?

A: More quicksand.

Plant illustrators

(Continued from page 5)

Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; flower photo on website.

Hieracium brevipilum, Mogollon hawkweed: Will have to search for herbarium specimen; but no photos.

Mentzelia humilis var. *guadalupensis*, Guadalupe stickleaf: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; but no photos.

Microthelys rubocallosa, an orchid: Specimen at ARIZ; photo will soon be available on website.

Penstemon metcalfei, Metcalfe penstemon: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; photos on website.

Sedum integrifolium ssp. *neomexicanum*, New Mexico stonecrop: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; photos on website.

Senecio cliffordii, Clifford's groundsel: Specimens available at UNM and SJCC; photo on website.

Silene thurberi, Thurber's campion: Specimens available at UNM and NMSU; photo on website.

Talinum brachypodium: Specimen available at UNM; photo on website.



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Review

Cutting Edge Gardening in the Intermountain West

Book by Marcia Tatroe
 Photographs by Charles Mann
 Johnson Books, Boulder, CO
 Available from NPSNM Books

Brilliant colors will draw your attention to this guide to how, what, and when to plant for a pleasing and appropriate garden in our frustrating-but-enviable situation here among the glorious landscapes of the West. Almost half the book is photographs of gardens in New Mexico and Colorado that you will not be able to resist leafing through time after time.

Twenty years ago, the author, Marcia Tatroe, a garden designer and writer, came to her first owned home outside Denver, where she could create the garden of her dreams. It was a fairly new house with very ordinary and traditional lawn and landscaping in place. It was like that seen almost everywhere else in the United States, but not appropriate to the arid climate and larger landscapes all around – or to her dreams.

Many of the photographs are of her own garden as it evolved into the garden that it is today, a riot of ever-changing color and delight. Others are of the gardens of friends and public gardens in Colorado and New Mexico that illustrate her ideas and convey what can be accomplished in spite of the droughts, downpours, hail, late frosts, and other traumatic weather events we experience.

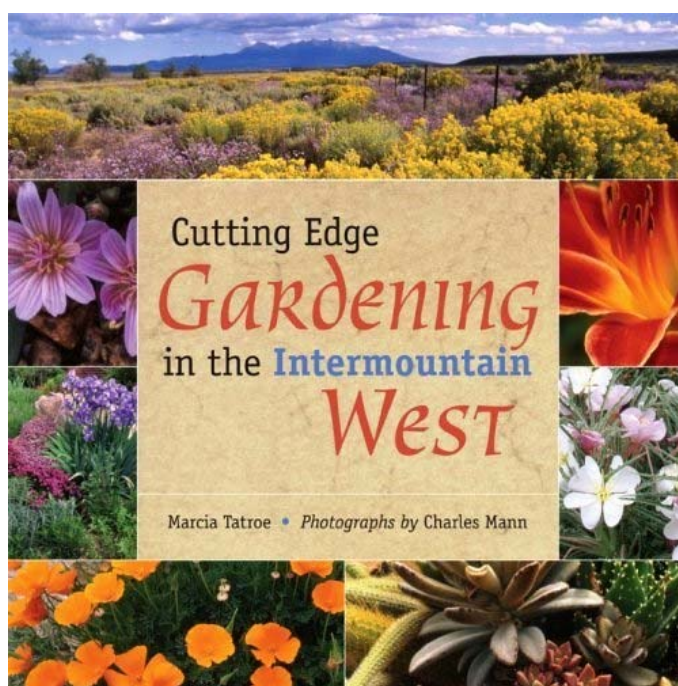
The author's shared feelings about Western gardening, and her friendship with Charles Mann, a noted garden photographer with an understanding of horticulture, made this publication possible. The pictures of plant combinations in gardens are stunning lessons in themselves.

The use of permaculture and xeriscape principles, and an understanding of her soil and how to work with it, underlie Tatroe's success in gardening in arid country. These are new ideas to many who have come from other parts of the country and they are explained here for newcomers. She advocates breaking down large expanses into small areas that have different microclimates and diversifying the plant communities used in them to

create greater interest for the gardener and the visitor. She uses many native plants and shrubs, but cautions that not all are good garden subjects. She goes on to list and talk about many different kinds of perennial, annual, and bulb plants, some new and others older but infrequently planted, that can be used here. She also urges leaving old ideas behind and being willing to express yourself by incorporating local varieties of natural stone and rock, found objects, abandoned materials, art that pleases you, and anything that makes your garden unique.

Rock gardens, rocks, and plants are all passions of Marcia Tatroe, and you can expect that they will be yours also when you have finished this book. Her enthusiasm and willingness to try new ways, as well as philosophical tolerance of the travails that come to all gardeners, cannot fail to inspire you. I wish this book had been available when I started gardening in the Southwest!

—Reviewed by Ellen Wilde



Chapter Activities & Events

Albuquerque

Most meetings are first Thursdays at 7 pm at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Blvd (between Eubank & Wyoming Blvd. in Los Altos Park). Contact Pam McBride at ebotpam@msn.com, 505-343-9472, or Philip Melnick at philm@pmelnick.com, 505-345-9877.

October 10 meeting—Planning meeting to develop programs and field trips for 2008. Interested members are invited to join the chapter's board in setting up the schedule for the coming year. If you have ideas but cannot attend, forward them in advance to Pam McBride. Patio Room at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 4 pm.

October 11 talk—Joanna Redfern, UNM doctoral student in botany, will present a talk on the subject of her research, the ocotillo, and other species in the Fouquieria family.

November 1 talk—"The Importance of Being Vouchered: Collecting Plants for NM Herbaria" by Robert Sivinski, botanist for NM Forestry Division, where he coordinates various programs for rare plants and natural land conservation.

December 1 potluck—Annual Christmas potluck at Pam's house. Pam will cook a turkey, so bring a side dish or dessert to share. Call Pam to coordinate food and get directions.

El Paso

All programs are second Thursdays at 7 pm at Centennial Museum, UTEP campus. All society events are free unless otherwise noted. Non-members are always welcome.

October 11 talk—"Fall is the Time to Plant"—Plant/Seed Exchange. Panel of local experts will discuss growing native plants, and their successes and failures with native and low-water plants. Bring your questions, success stories, and horror stories. Followed by plant and seed exchange. Bring your volunteer or excess plants/seeds and exchange them with others to increase your garden diversity and share the beauty. For more info, call Betty Brown, 915-757-2803.

November 8 talk—"Drainage + Circulation: The Basis of a Good Design" by Jimmy Zabriskie,

premier landscape designer and nurseryman. Zabriskie will show us his technique for developing landscape designs for his clients using wildlife-friendly, resource-efficient plants. For more info, Kathy Kiseda, 915-533-4615.

December 7 celebration—TransPecos Chapter of Texas Master Naturalists has invited us to join the festivities at their Holiday Celebration at the Eastside Senior Center, 6:30-11 pm. Terrific way to meet and mingle with other conservation groups. Less than \$20 per person includes complete holiday buffet and entertainment.

January 10, 2008, walk—Franklin Mountains State Park with park ranger Danny Contreras. He will discuss Senate Bill 689, which seeks to curb the illegal harvesting of desert plants. The bill will direct the Texas Department of Agriculture to adopt rules for enforcing a system of regulation to ensure that certain desert plants sold in, or transported out of, Texas have been legally harvested. He will also discuss other recent developments and issues within the park itself. For more info, call Henry Drake, 915-855-6543.

Gila (Silver City)

All programs and hikes are free and open to the public. Meetings are second Fridays at 7 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall. Hikers meet at 8 am in south parking lot of WNMU Fine Arts Theatre to arrange carpooling. For more info, call Deming Gustafson, 575-388-5192. For hikes, bring water, food, hat, sunscreen, hiking shoes.

October 19 talk—"Energy, Earth, and Humankind" by Jack Carter, botanist extraordinaire. Dr. Carter will discuss what we think we know, what we don't know, and what we need to know in order to address this pressing problem. He is author of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* and *Trees and Shrubs of Colorado*, as well as co-author of *Common Southwestern Native Plants*, and is a leading expert on the natural life of the Southwest.

November 16 talk—Dutch Salmon will speak about concerns for keeping the Gila River free-flowing in New Mexico. Salmon has long been interested in the Gila and has actively challenged the move to divert 14,000 acre feet from it. He will talk about the latest diversion proposal, its pros,

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

cons, and alternatives. Specifically he will discuss how conservationists feel there is a better, less costly way for addressing the issue.

December 9 Holiday Celebration—At the home of Sharleen and Lynn Daugherty, 2-5 pm. Dinner will be provided; members are asked to bring appetizer or dessert to share. Our generous hosts will supply the main course. Invitations will be mailed out soon after Thanksgiving.

Las Cruces

Meetings and programs are Wednesdays at 7 pm in the conference room of the Social Center at University Terrace Good Samaritan Village, 3011 Buena Vida Circle. (Social Center is on the right, coming east from Telshor.) Field trips are Saturdays. Most field trips extend into the afternoon. Bring lunch, water, sun protection, plant field guides, and wear good walking shoes. Children must be accompanied by their parents. Programs and field trips are free; non-members are always welcome. Contacts: Ray Bowers 575-541-1877; Carolyn Gressitt 575-523-8413.

October 10 talk—"Flora of South Africa" by Mark Robertson, NMSU Ph.D. candidate.

October 13 walk—David Anderson will lead a trip to the southern San Andres Mountains, a repeat of the April trip, to compare the flora. Meet at 8 am at K-Mart parking lot on US 70 to carpool.

October 24 meeting—Planning meeting for 2008. Meet at 5 pm in the usual meeting place.

November 14 talk—"Pecan Trees" by John White and Richard Herriman from County Extension.

November 17 walk—John White will lead a tour of a pecan orchard, 8 am.

December—No meeting.

January 9, 2008, meeting—Sharing images from the September 2007 photography workshop.

Otero (Alamogordo)

For field trip information, e-mail or call John Stockert, jwstockert@tularosa.net, 575-585-2546, or Helgi Osterreich, hkasak@netmdc.com, 575-585-3315, at least a few days in advance.

October 13 walk—Alamo Canyon/Roundup Ground Trail. Meet at 9:30 am at the parking lot for the water filtration plant, mouth of Alamo Canyon. Drive south on Scenic until you come to the end; take the left fork to the end.

November 3—Annual meeting of Otero Chapter, elections, and potluck. Meet at noon at John and Beth Anne Gordon's, on Lower Cottonwood Trail in Laborcita Canyon.

December—No activities.

San Juan (Farmington)

Meetings are third Thursdays at 7 pm at San Juan Community College. For more information call, Les Lundquist at 505-326-7194.

Events TBA.

Santa Fe

Meetings are third Wednesdays at 7 pm at College of Santa Fe, 1600 St. Michael's Dr., Luke Hall, Room 303. Contact Tom Antonio, tantonio@csf.edu, 505-473-6465; or Carol Johnson, gcjohnson@comcast.net, 505-466-1303.

October 17 talk—"Flora of Navajoland" by Arnold Clifford, Navajo botanist and associate editor for the Bolack San Juan Basin Flora Project. His interest in botany began at an early age with the influence of his maternal grandmother, Sarah Charley, an elder, weaver, and herbalist. Arnold has an incredible knowledge of the Four Corners flora.

November 14 talk—"The Archaeology of Color" by Dr. Glenna Dean, NM state archaeologist, Historic Preservation Division, Dept. of Cultural Affairs. Dr. Dean will discuss the discovery of pre-Columbian cotton farming in northern NM through archaeology and archaeobotany, and the search for native plant dyes used in the past to color cotton textiles. (Note: a week early due to Thanksgiving)

December—Chapter holiday potluck. TBA.

Taos

Meetings are second Wednesdays at 7 pm at San Geronimo Lodge. For more information on field trips and other activities, contact David Witt, davidlwitt@cybermesa.com, 575-758-0619.

October 10 talk—"Global Warming" by chapter member Dr. Patrick Webber. Webber will discuss the extensive research he did in Alaska while a professor of botany at Michigan State University.

November 14 talk—"Taos County National Conservation Area" by Jim O'Donnell, northern director of the NM Wilderness Alliance. O'Donnell will present an overview of Sen. Bingaman's proposal to create this protected wilderness area in Taos County.



Four Corners field trip

Photo by Renée West

Native plant lovers fan out across the land below the Hogback outside Farmington, taking care not to trample the tiny Mesa Verde cacti (closeup Page 8). Field trips highlighted the unique scenery and plants of the Four Corners area during the annual state meeting in August.

**The Native Plant Society of New Mexico
734 North Reymond St.
Las Cruces NM 88005**

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