

**Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
2008 Annual Meeting**

**At The Crossroads**



**Thursday September 25 to Sunday September 28**

**Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum  
Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**Conference Location:** The meeting will be held at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum on Dripping Springs Rd. Take exit 1 on I-25, go east on University Ave, which turns into Dripping Springs Rd.

**Accommodations:** We have arranged for special conference rates at the following hotels. Be sure to tell them that you are with the Native Plant Society. Hotel reservations should be made prior to July 31 to ensure conference rates. **Comfort Inn**, \$69.95 per night, located at the University exit for I-10 (Exit 142), 575-527-2000 or 1-800-424-6423. **Sleep Inn**, \$70.00 per night, located on Triviz Drive at the University exit of I-25 (exit 1). 575-522-1700. **Siesta RV**, \$30.00 per night (full hook-up) or \$28.00 per night only water and electricity, located at the Avenida de Mesilla exit (Exit 140) of I-10, 1-800-414-6816. Make RV reservations early because the Canadian Snow Birds start migrating through in September. For more information about accommodations and dining, contact the Las Cruces Convention and Visitors Bureau at [www.lascrucescvb.org](http://www.lascrucescvb.org).

**2008 Annual Meeting Program**  
**Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
**Farm and Ranch Museum Las Cruces, New Mexico**

**Thursday, September 25**

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- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m.                    NPSNM Board Meeting
- 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.                    Registration

**Friday, September 26**

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- 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.                Registration
- 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.                Book Sale and Silent Auction
- 8:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.                Welcome and Opening Remarks
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.                Debra Peters, Lead Scientist of the Jornada Basin Long Term Ecological Research Program: "The Past as a Lens to the Future: Crossroads in Time and Space"
- 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.              Vince Gutschick, Biology Professor: "Creosote"
- 11:10 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.              Stephanie Bestelmeyer, Director of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park: "K-12 Science Education and Projects at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park"
- Noon - 1:30 p.m.                      Lunch (provided)
- 1:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.                Rex Pieper, Retired Range Scientist: "Piñon-Juniper Ecology"
- 2:40 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.                David Richman, Biology Associate Professor: "Biodiversity along the Border: Chihuahuan Desert Region Biotic Hot Spots"
- 3:40 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.                Patrick Alexander, Biology Graduate Teaching Assistant: "The saga of *Arabis fendleri*: one name, but how many species are there?"
- 6:30 p.m.                                Reception at Enchanted Gardens

**Saturday, September 27**

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- 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.                Field Trips (Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis)
- 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.                Book Sale and Silent Auction
- 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.                **Field Trips and Workshops**

**(Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis)**

Be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, hiking shoes, water, and if the trip has extended periods outside, a light weight long sleeved shirt will help protect your arms.

1. **Carolyn Gessitt and John Freyermuth: Hike in Peña Blanca area.** The Peña Blanca area is at the southern end of the Organ Mountains. The hike is short and easy, only about a mile round-trip, mostly level, with one large and a few smaller arroyos to cross. We will provide a fall plant list for the trip, along with a spring list for those interested. The number of participants is not limited, but carpooling is encouraged.
2. **Alex Mares: Hike at the Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park:** The Mesilla Valley Bosque is New Mexico's newest state park. It is situated between the Río Grande and a large desert mesa, so it encompasses 7 different plant communities, from marshlands to desert areas. This walk over established paths is easy. Limit: 25
3. **JLTER Staff: Visit the Jornada Experimental Range:** Normally the Jornada Experimental Range is off-limits because of the experimental work done there. However, Native Plant Society participants are invited on a tour of some of the important Long Term Ecological Research stops close to the main road. Most of the visit will be just off the well-graded main road, easily accessible by car. The number of participants is not limited, but carpooling is encouraged.
4. **Dave Anderson: Biological Communities on White Sands Missile Range:** San Agustin Peak, Black Prince Canyon, Lena Cox ranch, and Pat Garrett homestead site. Leave Farm and Ranch at 7:30. Meet at the pullout atop San Agustin Pass. Leave field trip around 11:00. Participants must register by August 15th, so names can be sent to WSMR for security purposes. If you are not a U.S. citizen, contact Ray Bowers.
5. **Justin Van Zee and Paul Harper: Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park:** Justin Van Zee will guide the group along an established trail in a bajada area right next to the Doña Ana Mountains. You may be on the new Arroyo Trail, or on the main trail. Level: easy to moderate. Easy driving conditions to the parking lot.
6. **Tom Packard and Patrick Alexander: Dripping Springs Natural Area:** Dripping Springs lies at the base of the Organ Mountains, so the vegetation is desert scrub, ascending to oak and pinyon trees. The easy trails take you through great scenery and flora and past the picturesque remains of a hotel and sanatorium. You can easily drive to the visitors' center and pay a \$3 fee per car. Limit: 20
7. **Ray Bowers: A workshop at the Farm and Ranch Museum** on using plant classification in the classroom. This is informational for local chapters or for classroom teachers. Starting time: 9:30 a.m. Limit: 25

Noon. - 1:30 p.m.

Lunch (on your own)

1:30 p.m. - 2:20 p.m.

Brandon Bestelmeyer: "Changes in Rangelands, Past and Present"

2:40 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Nathan Small: New Mexico Wilderness Alliance: "The Next Generation: Binding Old Wisdom & Young Energy to Create Conservation Momentum"

3:30 - 3:40

Final bidding on silent auction

3:40 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Dave Anderson: Biologist at White Sands Missile Range: “Flora and Vegetation Communities of White Sands Missile Range”

6:30 p.m. Banquet at the Farm and Ranch Museum  
Keynote Speaker: Eric Metzler, Retired Entomologist:  
“eHarmony.com”

## **Sunday, September 28**

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7:30 a.m. - on. Field trips (Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis)  
Be sure to bring sunscreen, a hat, hiking shoes, water, and if the trip has extended periods outside, a light weight long sleeved shirt will help protect your arms.

8. **Greg Magee: Hike in Percha Box:** Percha Box is about an hour and a half north of Las Cruces near Hillsboro. The hiking route follows a jeep trail to the perennial stream of Percha Creek in a beautiful canyon with riparian vegetation surrounded by typical Chihuahuan Desert scrub and grasslands on the uplands. The hike is about 4 miles round trip with mostly moderate grades. The last portion of the hike into the “box” is steep and rocky. The return to Las Cruces will be by 4:00 at the latest. Some may wish to travel directly home from the hike area. Please carpool. The parking area is a gravel patch just off the road, so high clearance vehicles are not needed.

9. **Nathan Small: A hike in Broad Canyon:** The Broad Canyon area lies in the Sierra de las Uvas Mountains, some 25 miles north of Las Cruces. There are a large variety of habitats. The final approach to this area is over unpaved, rocky roads, so high clearance vehicles are advised. Parking is extremely limited, so please carpool. This will be a lengthy hike time-wise, so participants may want to leave from here to return home to areas other than Las Cruces. Limit: 20

10. **Jackye Meinecke: A walk-and-talk through her nursery, Enchanted Gardens.** Her knowledgeable explanations will help expand participants’ understanding of plants especially suited to New Mexico’s and West Texas’s climates. There is no limit on the number of participants, but parking is limited, so please carpool. Plants and accessories will be available for sale, but there is no pressure to buy. Note: Starts at 10:00 a.m.

11. **Donovan Bailey and Rolston St Hilaire: Visit NMSU Herbarium and Campus:** Dr. Donovan Bailey will conduct a tour through the NMSU herbarium. Then Dr. St. Hilaire will lead a walking tour of campus trees and shrubs. Limit: 25. Parking is easily available on campus on Sunday.

12. **Tom Packard and Patrick Alexander: Hiking the Sierra Vista Trail:** The Sierra Vista trail runs along the base of the Organ Mountains. The views are great! We will walk only about 2 to 3 hours. The trail was developed by the BLM for bikers and horseback riders, but hikers often use it, too. It is rated easy to moderate. Limit: 20.

