

**2009 Annual Meeting Program- Native Plant Society of New Mexico**  
Best Western Kachina Lodge, Taos, New Mexico

**Thursday, August 6**

- 1:30–5:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting
- 3:00–6:00 pm Registration
- 4:00–5:00 pm Wildflower Walk for early arrivals
- 5:00–6:00 pm Technical run-through for Speakers
- 5:00–Midnight Social gathering in the Kachina Bar



**Friday, August 7 Morning Session**

- 7:30 am–4:00 pm Registration
- 8:00 am–4:00 pm Book Sale and Silent Auction
- 8:45–9:00 am Welcome and Opening Remarks—Kathryn Peel, President, Taos Chapter NPSNM
- Invocation by a Taos Pueblo representative
- 9:00–9:30 am Photo Essay of the Landscapes and Plants of Taos—David L. Witt
- 9:30–10:15 am Alpine: Mountain Tops, Arctic Connections, and Global Change—Patrick Webber and David L. Witt
- 10:15–10:30 am Short Break
- 10:30–11:15 am Forest: Sudden Aspen Decline and Carson National Forest—Clark Kendall
- 11:15–12:00 pm Intermountain: Ute Mountain, an Island Ecosystem—Linus Meyer and colleagues from The Bureau of Land Management
- 12:00–1:30 pm Lunch (on your own—see Sally and Andy Wasowski's Taos Restaurant Guide)

**Friday, August 7 Afternoon Session**

- 1:30–2:15 pm Riparian: Salt Cedar Ecology in the Southwest—Edward Glenn
- 2:15–3:00 pm The Indo-hispano Agricultural Tradition in Northern New Mexico: Its Influence on the Flora and Landscape—Juan Estevan Arellano
- 3:00–3:15 pm Short Break
- 3:15–4:00 pm What Can an Amateur Botanist Contribute Toward the Understanding of Regional Botany?—Al Schneider and Chick Keller
- 4:00–5:00 pm Plant Vignettes—Short presentations by enthusiasts on interesting plants found in our Southern Rocky Mountains and the Upper Rio Grande Basin
- 5:30 pm Cocktail Reception and Book Signing at Couse Foundation—This is the home and studio of Eanger Irving Couse, the prominent early 20th century painter of American Indian subjects. Couse was one of the founders of the Taos Art Colony and first president of the Taos Society of Artists. This historic site includes not only his home and studio, but also the garden designed by his wife, Virginia, where the reception will be held.

**Saturday, August 8 Morning Session—Concurrent Field Trips and Workshops**

- 8:00 am–2:45 pm Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please sign up for workshops/field trips when you register for the Annual Meeting, indicating first, second, and third choice. Be advised that the scheduled plenary program resumes at 2:45 pm. You can have lunch "on your own" or order a box lunch to

take on your morning excursion. Box lunches will be available for purchase at the Kachina Lodge with advance reservation. (\$8.95 per lunch: a sandwich, chips, drink, cookie, and piece of fruit.)

### **1. Native Plant Identification, Seed Collection, Preparation, Propagation**

*Leaders:* Ty Minton, Frank Oatman, Diane Reichwein, Mike Howard, Patrick Webber

Native plant propagation provides educational, preservation, and fundraising opportunities for the Taos Chapter. Activities include: a demonstration and discussion of native seed collection, cleaning, growing techniques, and an introduction to the international "Seeds of Success" program; a guided tour of our greenhouse (with its solar-powered irrigation system); and an overview of the Taos Chapter Herbarium activities and goals. (*Limit:* 25)

### **2. The Digital Camera, the Afficionado, and the Native Plant**

*Leaders:* Amadeus Leitner, Bob Fitch, Mary Pickett, Ron Furedi

Professional photographers/artists will share their experience in digital photography to create art from the flora and landscape. Bring your camera! (*Limit:* 25)

### **3. Grass Identification**

*Leader:* Chick Keller

This is a beginner's workshop in identifying native grasses with NPSNM's former President. Basic leaf, stem, and grass structure will be demonstrated. There will be an easy stroll to gain recognition and identification skills. (*Limit:* 25)

### **4. Learn to Restore a Wetland to Its Native Environment**

*Leader:* Judy Lister

Take an easy walk through the Baca Park Wetlands Restoration Project to identify native plants and the invasive species that threaten this ecosystem. (*Limit:* 25)

### **5. From Mountain Peaks to River Valleys in Your Own Garden**

*Leaders:* Judith Phillips, Kathryn Peel

We will visit three local gardens and learn how to incorporate native plants utilizing typical microclimates of New Mexico gardens. (*Limit:* 25)

### **6. Fire Ecology and Range Restoration**

*Leaders:* Linus Meyer, Tony Benson, Steve Robertson

This is a trip into seldom-visited piñon-juniper forested areas north of Taos, with Pot Mountain as the final destination, to examine fire recovery progress. (Participants can compare this to a decade-old mountain forest fire area on the Sunday Lama trip.) We will take two or three high-clearance vehicles. Volunteer drivers with 4WD vehicles may be needed. (*Limit:* 12)

### **7. The Awesome Cactus**

*Leaders:* John Ubelaker, Marianne Furedi

We will visit the cactus collection at the Taos campus of SMU and hear fascinating tales of evolutionary, botanical, and ecological importance. (*Limit:* 25)

### **8. Aldo Leopold House**

*Leaders:* Ben Romero, Betsy Robertson

This is a rare opportunity to visit the house where Aldo Leopold lived when he worked as a ranger for the Carson National Forest. We will hear about the life and work of Leopold, especially his importance to conservation including the concept of the “land ethic” and the continuing influence of his ideas on the U.S. Forest Service. We will also have an opportunity to see wildflowers, possibly even the rare endemic aster *Haplopappus microcephalus*. (*Limit*: 30)

## **Saturday, August 8 Afternoon Session**

12:30–3:00 pm Book Sale and final bidding on Silent Auction

3:00–5:00 pm Panel Forum and Open Discussion— Our speakers and audience will be invited to comment on the ideas presented during the symposium and share their ideas on how Society members can improve knowledge and understanding of our local floras. A list of ideas will be compiled for Board consideration as potential state-wide initiatives. Chaired by Chick Keller, and recorded by Barbara Scott.

5:00 pm–5:15 pm Official Closing—NPSNM President Thomas M. Antonio

5:15 pm Pick up Silent Auction Items

6:30 pm Banquet at the Best Western Kachina Lodge

Keynote Speaker: William A. Weber, Professor and Curator Emeritus, University of Colorado Herbarium—  
“The Importance of Mentors for Young Botanists”

## **Sunday, August 9 Field Trips**

All field trips depart at 8:00 am from the Best Western Kachina Lodge. Participants will be required to sign a release of liability form. You must bring appropriate footwear, raingear, and water and be in adequate physical condition to meet the elevation gain and length of the hikes. You may want to bring a hat, sunglasses, camera, binoculars, field guides, a close-up plant-viewing lens, sunscreen, and lunch. Plant lists will be available for all field trips. Participants should consider described trail conditions that will be encountered, the time needed to complete each trip, and plan their departure schedule accordingly. We invite participants to consider remaining in the Taos area through Sunday night.

### **9. Subalpine to Treeline**

*Leader*: Patrick Webber

We will drive 45 minutes northeast through the Taos Ski Valley (Highway150), continuing up to the “Hikers Parking Lot.” From there we will walk the 2.5 miles through floristically rich areas to a sub-alpine lake set at the bottom of the majestic slope of Mt. Wheeler, the highest point in New Mexico. Our route includes a small marsh, deep forest, and below-treeline alpine ecosystems. Difficulty level: Moderate. Elevation range: 10,000–11,000'. Approx. hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit*: 25)

### **10. William’s Lake and Alpine Ecosystems**

*Leader*: David L. Witt

This trip is almost identical to the one above, but on it we will spend less time with lower elevation plants, continuing on to a large sub-alpine marsh above Williams Lake, and a steep slope upward to concentrate on the alpine ecosystems. Expect upwards of 8 miles round-trip. Difficulty level: Strenuous. Elevation range: 10,000–12,000'. Approximate hiking time: 7 hrs. (*Limit*: 10)

### **11. Santa Barbara Canyon**

*Leader*: Ty Minton

This trip should be considered for those of you who will be going south from Taos at the end of the Annual Meeting. A 45-minute drive south (Highways 518, 75, 73) will take us to the Rio Santa Barbara and a trail

south along its Middle Fork through meadows to a mixed conifer ecosystem that presents a wealth of flower species to examine. We will likely make our way along a wide trail for 2 miles or so before returning by the same route. Difficulty level: Easy–Moderate. Elevation range: 8,800–9,800'. Approximate hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit: 25*)

## **12. Lama Forest Fire Area Mixed Conifer Ecosystems**

*Leader:* George Long

A large fire, the “Hondo,” occurred north of Taos in 1997. This area, spreading from piñon-juniper through Ponderosa upwards to spruce-fir, has been slowly repairing itself with little help from land managers. We will view recovered and recovering areas. This will require car-pooling in high-clearance vehicles, with limited hiking in Lama Canyon. Difficulty level: Easy-Moderate. Elevation range: 7,600–8,600'. Approximate hiking time: 4–5 hrs. (*Limit: 20*)

## **13. Rio Grande Riparian Walk**

*Leaders:* Marianne and Ron Furedi

Take a gentle stroll along the river just beyond the Taos Junction Bridge north of Pilar. There is a small day-use fee for this trail. Difficulty level: Easy. Elevation range: 6,100–6,200'. Approximate hiking time: 2 hrs. (*Limit: 25*)

## **14. Agua Piedra Meadow and Spruce Forest**

*Leaders:* Karen Epperson, Steve Robertson, Steve Cary

We will drive 45 minutes south of Taos, ending up on NM 518 near Tres Ritos at a Forest Service campground. Meadows and spruce forest habitats present a wealth of wildflower species to examine and enjoy. With Steve Cary's expertise, we will also be identifying butterflies in this open meadow. This is an especially beautiful mountain valley. Difficulty level: Easy. Elevation: 8,500–9,000'. Approximate hiking time: 3–4 hrs. (*Limit: 25*)

**Questions or concerns about the meeting? Please contact:**

Betsy Robertson (575/751-9592, [bsrob4@msn.com](mailto:bsrob4@msn.com)) or Patrick Webber (575/751-9803, [webber@msu.edu](mailto:webber@msu.edu))

**2009 STATE MEETING REGISTRATION FORM**

Please send a separate form for each attendee. Checks should be made payable to NPSNM-Taos Chapter.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (Note: If you have an e-mail address we do not need your street address) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate NPSNM Chapter you are a member of: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**REGISTRATION**

NPSNM Member

Non-Member

Before 6/15/09 \$70

Before 6/15/09 \$80

After 6/15/09 \$80

After 6/15/09 \$90

I wish to become a NPSNM member at the discounted rate of \$15

**Send registration forms and checks to:**

NPSNM—Ann Smith, 4008 Sendero Penitente, Taos NM 87571

Questions or concerns? Please contact Ann Smith at 575/737-9611 or ahs@kitcarson.net