THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

September, 1976 Newsletter — Melissa Savage, Editor

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico is resuming a full schedule now that autumn is here. We are looking forward to a field trip and lecture series and increasing participation in several very promising projects. The Society is a group of New Mexicans whose common bond is a interest in and love of the native flora of our State, who wish to learn more about natives, contribute more to a knowledge of their distribution and habits, encourage a greater use of them in landscaping, and help protect them in their habitats. We began organizing last spring inspired by similar societies in other states, and welcome contacts and suggestions. Please let us hear from you.

Our first field trip is just around the corner, to catch the fading season. Bill Issacs will lead a trip to the Madrid region and the area behind the Sandia Mountains, on Sunday the 19th of September. The Santa Fe contingent will meet directly in front of Furr's market in the Coronado Shopping Center promptly at 9 a.m. If you need a ride or have room in your car to spare, please call Bill at 983-4498. For those coming from out of Santa Fe, call for directions and a meeting place in Madrid. Please bring a lunch; the trip should last until the end of the afternoon. The weather should be excellent, and the plant hunting fine, particularly if we locate some late mushrooms.

In October, Larry Palmiter will lead us up into the Santa Fe Basin, and in November, Tom Ray Riddle of Albuquerque has consented to spend an evening discussing landscaping with natives. We regret the lack of summer field trips this past summer, and plan to remedy that this coming summer. We plan to trek to the southern part of the State frequently, and welcome specific requests about location. Please let us know your interests and desires. Perhaps a few trips to see endangered species would be helpful in lobbying for their protection.

Last season's program finaled in June with a superb outing to the Gila Forest area near Silver City. Lead by the inimitable Bill Issacs and resident naturalist Myra McCormick, we progressed through a number of life zones and habitats in the Cherry Creek Canyon area, in the Pinos Altos Mountinas, and in Red Rocks State Park. We were guests of Myra McCormick's excellent accomodations, whose food and library were both generous and savory. Several enterprising members brought back collections of seed which the clever have succeeded in germinating, and which the persistant might obtain some of if they inquire. The list of species identified (80) is enclosed to those who were on the trip; others may have it by request.

From Bill Issacs:

> Mel Lawrence of the Navajo Ceremonial Museum has asked our assistance in planning a new herbal garden emphasizing herbs utilized by the local Indians both as food and in their arts and crafts. Dye plants, herbs, usable tubers, fruits, berries, etc., are but some of the types of plants that could be included. An added bonus is the possible planting of the rock garden on the east side of the Museum. The garden is already there and just needs some of our fine native plants in it! Perhaps a few Penstemons and Castillejas would be nice. Any suggestions and direct assistance from members would be greatly appreciated. Can we hear from you?

Similarly, the Friends of Cerro Gordo Park, a small community (City) park on Cerro Gordo Road on the east side of Santa Fe, have requested the Society's help in designing an area which can serve as an educational resource about the native vegetation of the park. The botanical resources area, along with a bird resource area, plus other park features, will be utilized by the City in their development of the park next summer. Members who have an interest in helping to design the resource area or suggestions to make, please contact the editor.

Business

> At the last meeting of the Society, the following officers were elected: Melissa Savage and Noreen Poitras-Co-Chairmen; Bill Issacs-Vice-Chairman; and Claudia Hubbard-Secretary. The Society incorporated this summer as a non-profit organization and a bank account opened with the First National Bank of Santa Fe. Dues have been set at $5 individual membership, $8 family. We are welcoming nominations to the Board of Directors, particularly those from central and southern N.M., so that we will have a statewide balance.

Shared Info

Gussie Schooley sends along the following information about the Penstemon Society. The Society publishes yearly bulletins about Penstemons growing in gardens throughout the US, includes "trip reports" about those growing in the wild, offers a seed list and seed exchanges and sells packets of Penstemon seed. Membership chairman is Howard McCready, 1547 Monroe St., Red Bluffs, California 96080; regular membership is $3.

One of our members, Gail Haggard of Santa Fe, has proposed an informal discussion group to share thoughts on various apt books about plants. Among those suggested for this fall are

"Morphogenesis, An Essay on Development" by John Tyler Bonner, and D'Arcy Thompson's "Growth and Form." Those who had read or re-read the book or essay would simply sit around and share their thoughts about it with others. Any takers? Any book suggestions?

Solicitations

Toward a spring sale of native plant materials by the Society, a number of us are making good use of the winter to propagate native from seed and cuttings. If you wish to propagate yourself, to get or give advice about plant materials or about growing, or help plan and execute the spring sale, please get in touch with us.

The Society is planning to publish an annotated bibliography of relevant materials on Southwest native plants, and we are again soliciting materials and thoughts.

We are planning to begin including brief book reviews of relevant materials and would like to solicit brief and incisive reviews of books on native plants of New Mexico or the Southwest; drop us a line with your suggestions for review, and of course we welcome reviews. The following is our first such.

Woody Plants of the Southwest, A Field Guide with Descriptive Text, Drawings, Range Maps and Photographs. Samuel H. Lamb. Sunstone Press.1975. Santa Fe, N.M. $8.95. 177 pp.

This "guide" is the successor to Woody Plants of New Mexico and Their Value to Wildlife. Bulletin 14, New Mexico Department of Fish and Game. It has been expanded to include southern Colorado, southern Utah, southern Nevada, southeastern California, and all of Arizona. Some species are also found in Texas and northern Mexico. The book can hardly be described as a guide since it is 12 x 9". The binding is paper and the paper stock is of good quality and the print is large and clearly done. Arrangement of the species included is alphabetical by family with common names (i.e.Goosefoot Family,etc.) A short description of the species or group is given. English equivalents of both the generic and specific names from Latin are given. The habit, habitat, plant associates, and range in the various states are included. As indicated in the title, wildlife uses are given some discussion. Range maps for species in the SW (including the counties) are shown with species range indicated by half tone shading. Line drawings by Norma Ames may accompany the descriptive material and habitat photos are often included.

In general this is a very useful and informative book. The discussion of Limber Pine and Mexican White Pine is excellent with the author concluding, "...I prefer to consider all the pines of this type growing in New Mexicoand southern Arizona to be P. strobiformis or Mexican White Pine." Recent studies of our "Limber Pine" in the Sangre de Cristos indicate that the population in northern New Mexico is probably a hybrid swarm. The inevitable mistakes can be found such as on page 10, where the ranges of Wilcox and Fremont Mahonia are transposed. No mention is made of the new distinction between our Bristlecone Pine (P. aristata) and the newly created Pinus longaeva D.K. Bailey, this latter now being the oldest known living thing.

Three items are of more real substance, however, which detract from the value of this book. One is the inefficient use of page space which leaves great empty gaps in the text and illustrations. Another is the lack of any keys. In conjunction with the use of the alphabetical arrangement of families, one is often at a loss to find an unknown plant. Finally, a number of the habitat photos are so dark as to be unrecognizable. Perhaps with a new edition some of these problems will be eliminated, but the book is very useful as it is.

--Bill Issacs

A number of people now are the mailing list were suggested by friends. We are weeding out the mailing list so as not to be unwelcome mail to anyone, and to reach our real audience. If you wish to continue to receive the newsletter and notification of Native Plant Society activities, please drop a note to the editor, Melissa Savage, 1404 Cerro Gordo Rd., Santa Fe, NM 87501 or call 983-1113. Of course, your dues of $5 or $8 would be a welcome enclosure to help defray printing and mailing costs.

NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! NOTE! MUSHROOM SHOW ON THE 18th of SEPT. LA FONDA HOTEL LOBBY 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. See you Saturday!!!