

ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN NATIVE PLANT SOCIETIES

At its 23 May meeting, the ANPS Board voted to join the newly established Association of Western Native Plant Societies.

President Bill McGinnies represented ANPS at a meeting in Reno, 23 February 1980, at which representatives of native plant societies in the western U.S. reported on the status of their groups and discussed the desirability of establishing a formal association.

At a subsequent meeting in Salt Lake City, 19 April 1980, those present adopted the formal title Association of Western Native Plant Societies. A Statement of Purposes was also adopted:

1. To endorse the purposes and goals of individual societies regarding promotion of public knowledge and awareness of plants, and encouragement of the cultivation and landscape use of native plants.

2. To facilitate exchange of information and cooperative action among native plant societies of the western United States.

3. To formulate and publicize consensus views on acts affecting the native flora.

Another meeting of the association will be held in Phoenix early in the fall.

ANPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors has met twice: 17 March at Central Arizona College and 23 May at the Desert Botanical Gardens.

Goals and activities for a number of committees are being outlined. Committees named are:

- Educational Programs, chaired by Charles Sacamano
- Endangered Species and Plant Protection Programs, chaired by Howard Gentry
- Utilization of Native and Adapted Species for Landscaping and Environmental Improvement, chaired by Warren Jones
- Membership and Financial Support, chaired by Tim Clark
- Society Activity Program, chaired by Bill McGinnies
- Interstate Relationships, chaired by LeRoy Brady.

At its May meeting the Board also voted to join the Association of Western Native Plant Societies (see adjacent column) and voted to sponsor a fall meeting of that association in Phoenix. LeRoy Brady is chairman of the arrangements committee for that meeting.

CHIRICAHUA MOUNTAINS WORKSHOP

All members of ANPS are invited to participate in a 3-day workshop to study and enjoy the plant ecology of the spectacular Chiricahua Mts. from Friday evening, 29 August



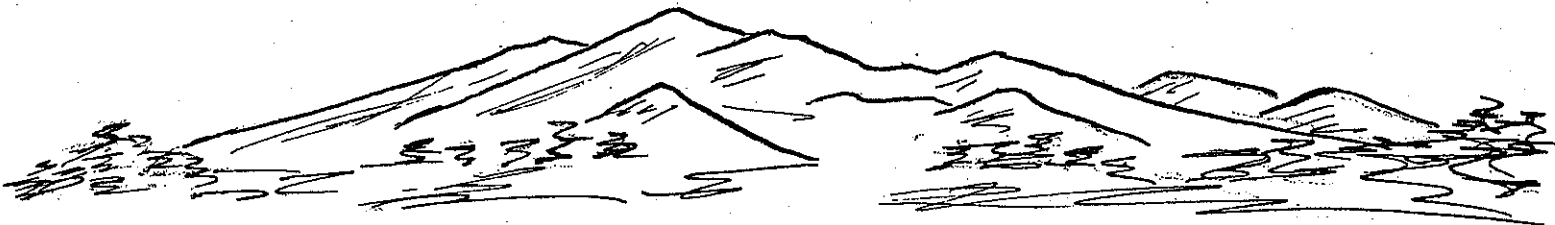
ALPINE TUNDRA IN ARIZONA

One feature of Arizona that has intrigued and delighted ecologists for more than a century is its remarkable diversity of habitats in a relatively small area. We have some of the lowest hottest deserts, the world's largest continuous stand of ponderosa pine, and even some alpine tundra.

High on top of the San Francisco Mts. from above timberline (11,200 feet) to the summit of Humphrey's Peak (12,633 feet) lie about a thousand acres of alpine tundra. Characteristic species include the abundant lichen (Rhizocarpon geographicum), avens (Geum turbinatum), sedge (Carex bella), San Francisco groundsel (Senecio franciscanus), cinquefoil (Potentilla sibbaldi), alpine fescue (Festuca ovina) and moss campion (Silene acaulis). All are perennial herbs or dwarfed shrubs. There are no trees since this is above timberline.

in excess of 16,000 feet. Subsequent erosion, aided by the glacier on the north and northeast slopes, has brought it down to its present levels.

The alpine tundra plants of the Rockies and neighboring mountains which have relatively large and much older alpine zones apparently colonized the new alpine zone in Arizona within the last million years. Very likely it was entirely a matter of chance as to which plants would make it across the intervening deserts and mesas of the Colorado Plateau. Ecologists call this "long distance dispersal." Birds or wind transport seeds and spores for long distances, with the result that a species is dispersed from one locality to another. The isolation of the San Francisco Mts. tundra from the most likely sources of colonizers, the San Juan Mts., for example, is partly responsible for the "impoverishment" (= few species) of the alpine tundra of the former. Of the 51 alpine tun-



The nearest mountains that are high enough to support tundra are the Tushar Plateau of the Wasatch Mts. in Utah, Colorado's San Juan Mts. and the Charleston Mts. of southern Nevada. All are at least 200 miles distant. The San Francisco Mts. were glacier capped during the latest wave of Pleistocene glaciations (from roughly 70,000 to 11,000 B.C.) when Arizona as a whole was cooler and moister.

The mountain is an extinct volcano which began erupting about five million years ago, and by the time it was over (about one million years ago) had attained elevations

dra species on the San Francisco Mts., one-third are common tundra plants distributed from Norway to Canada and Greenland and reach their southernmost limits on high mountains, such as the Himalayas, Sierra Nevada, Rockies, and the San Francisco Mts. Two species are found only in the Peaks and the rest are common tundra plants throughout the Rocky Mt. region. Typical lists from the alpine tundra of other southern Rocky Mt. alpine zones show from 60 (Sangre de Cristo Mts.) to 196 species (James Peak, Colorado).

Isolated, high mountain peaks are

among the most hostile environments imaginable. High velocity winds can blast anything not protected, snow drifts to 25 feet deep are not unheard of, soil is thin and in most places non-existent. The atmosphere is so rare that the sun's rays are extremely intense, even with air temperatures well below zero.

It is a remarkable mountain. In summer the dwarfed alpine tundra plants display exceptionally beautiful flowers. The view is enhanced by the symmetry of the volcanic cone and the pockets of snow clinging to sheltered slopes. The San Francisco Mts. rival any in the country and are rightfully the heart of northern Arizona.

F. W. Reichenbacher
Arizona Natural
Heritage Program

SPECIAL PLANTS OF ARIZONA

In this installment for the ANPS Newsletter, I will share more information about special plants being studied by the Arizona Natural Heritage Program.

Atamisquea emarginata Miers. (desert tree caper). This is a tall tree or shrub that enters the U.S. only near Quitobaquito Springs in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. It also occurs in Baja California, Sonora, Sinaloa and South America. I first encountered it in Mendoza Province of western Argentina in a mesquite-creosote bush-palo verde community. This area, which is called the Monte, is very similar to the Sonoran Desert.

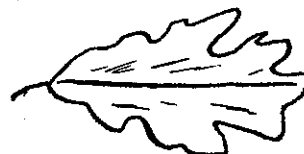
Berberis harrisoniana Kearney and Peebles (Harrison barberry). This is a handsome evergreen shrub that only occurs in the Ajo Mts. in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

and the Kofa Game Range. It was first described scientifically in 1939 by Thomas H. Kearney and Robert H. Peebles, the authors of Arizona Flora. Berberis harrisoniana has three leaflets per leaf, similar to B. trifoliata, a common Chihuahuan Desert barberry. It differs from B. trifoliata in that the leaflets are shorter, broader, and greener. The Harrison barberry would be an excellent shrub for landscape use in Arizona.

Senecio franciscanus Greene (San Francisco groundsel) is a perennial herb with creeping rhizomes that occurs only in talus slides up to 12,000 feet in the alpine zone at the top of the San Francisco Mts. It was first discovered and described scientifically by Greene in 1889. Interestingly, its nearest relative, S. multilobatus, is widespread at much lower elevations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will soon propose the San Francisco groundsel as a threatened species.

Eriogonum mortanum Reveal and E. thompsonae S. Wats. var. atwoodii Reveal (Morton and Atwood wild buckwheats). These are shrubs that occur only on the Kaibab Indian Reservation west of Fredonia in Mohave County, AZ. These plants were first collected in 1972 and 1973 and scientifically described in 1974 by James L. Reveal. Both will soon be proposed as endangered by the USFWS.

Tom Van Devender
Arizona Natural
Heritage Program



TUCSON CHAPTER SLIDE FILE

ANPS has authorized fifty dollars to set up a slide file for the use of members of the Tucson Chapter. This will purchase some plastic sleeves to store slides, the holding notebooks and a notebook to be used for the accession book recording the subject, donator, etc. for each slide. The chapter has also received two Eastman Kodak carousels.

Fifty dollars does not go too far in the purchase of materials beyond those outlined. So, it would seem best if members could donate slides. If each person in the Tucson Chapter could duplicate three to five of his/her own quality slides and donate same to our library, it would be great. We should include common wildflowers, close-ups of native plants, animals, native plants in an urban setting, as well as scenics to show the environmental panorama in which our native plants are found. The Boyce Thompson Arboretum has already contributed a nucleus of 55 slides of cactus, wildflowers, native plant close-ups, animals, reptiles, trees, and scenery.

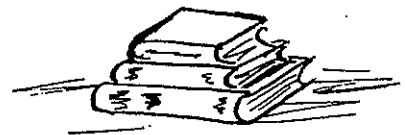
Mildred Pierce has promised to do the necessary cataloging. She has been using similar materials when giving slide talks for ANPS for local schools and garden clubs. One very popular talk is about planting the yard to attract birds. Another talk, much in demand for school presentations, includes an overview of our environment including the Arizona state flower, tree and bird. These talks have been made using slides provided by the U.S. Forest Service. Mrs. Pierce is a member of their volunteer program, and for this reason, SFS materials were courteously extended to us.

Now we can have our own materials

to back up a Speaker's Bureau. We already have two talks scheduled in the community for next fall. These talks are one of the many ways in which the Arizona Native Plant Society educates the general public. So, if you have slide donations or would like to be a lecturer in our Speaker's Bureau, contact Mildred Pierce at 298-7900 (Tucson).

M. Pierce

BOOK REVIEWS



Landscape Plants of Southern Arizona, by Ronald K. Dinchak.

A new book describing landscape plants for the desert and semi-desert regions of southern Arizona will be most useful for the area. Of the 124 plants covered, 120 are considered suitable for Tucson. Of these, about 70 have the relatively low water requirement and low maintenance characteristics especially sought in the Tucson area.

The book has numerous valuable features for both the landscaper and the nonprofessional who want to become familiar with the plants growing in the Tucson and Phoenix areas. In addition to the description and identifying drawing, the landscape uses and maintenance requirements are given in some detail for each plant. A series of tables list the plants by growth habits and landscape use. The table on drought-tolerant plants will particularly appeal to members of the Arizona Native Plant Society. And discussion of the more common diseases of landscape plants adds to the value of the book. Those interested in botany will find the listing of plants by family an interesting feature.

The book has not yet been offered for sale in Tucson. Advanced copies may be obtained by members and others through L. P. Hamilton, 2640 E. 9th St., Tucson, AZ 85716. The price is \$12.95 per copy, plus tax and \$.81 postage if it is to be mailed locally.

Louis P. Hamilton



HOPBUSH (*Dodonaea viscosa*)
a landscape plant

Australian Native Plants. A Manual for their Propagation, Cultivation, and Use in Landscaping, by John W. Wrigley, with photographs and illustrations by Murray Fagg.

This handsome volume has just been published by the National Botanic Gardens (formerly Canberra Botanic Gardens) in Canberra, N.S.W., Australia.

Chapters, such as "Why Native Plants?" "Collection of Material," and "Propagation" are of interest to an audience far beyond the Australian gardener. The large number of excellent color photographs shows to full advantage the unusual and interesting native flora. Numerous line drawings add further detail, and additional basic information is included in the text.

Since a number of Australian species are in landscape use in Arizona, this book would be a most valuable addition to local libra-

ries. And such a beautiful publication makes one want to see the plants again in their native habitat.

Price is unavailable at press time.

EBF

PLANT TAXONOMY CLASSES

The Tucson Chapter, through the cooperation of the Continuing Education Division of the University of Arizona, initiated an 8-week Plant Taxonomy course for about 20 chapter members during the spring. The success of the class is attributed to the enthusiasm of the students and their teacher, Tony Burgess, a local botanist and ANPS member. The chapter wishes to express its deep appreciation to Tony for his outstanding and kind contribution to the Society in its study and appreciation of native flora.

It is the hope of the chapter to offer courses as a continuing program. The following Plant Taxonomy classes are under discussion for 1980-81:

- Compositae and Grasses--Fall, 8 weeks
- Trees and Shrubs (desert and mountain)--Late Fall, 4 weeks
- Flowers (for beginners and advanced)--Spring, 8 weeks

Fees will be approximately \$20 for a 4-week class and \$35 for an 8-week class. Supplies and books are extra.

Members interested in participating in any of these classes or who would like to make any suggestions or comments about the classes should telephone Tim Clark at 326-8527, evenings.

TUCSON CHAPTER

The Tucson Chapter will begin its 1980-81 year with a potluck dinner meeting sometime in September. In October regular monthly meetings will resume on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Porter House, 2150 N. Alvernon Way.

The newly elected officers are preparing another program of meetings, field trips, workshops, and special events for the next year. An announcement of all these activities will be mailed to members in late summer.

At its meeting, 14 May, the chapter elected the following officers for 1980-81:

- President: Tim Clark
- Vice-president: Don LoBiondo
- Secretary: Bernice Anderson
- Treasurer: Hortense Miller

Committee chairpersons and members are needed for 1980-81. It is a goal of the chapter to have every active member participate in some way in one or more of the following committee functions of the chapter: program, workshop, community projects, education, endangered species, seed collection, membership, fund-raising and publicity. Every active Tucson member is urged to telephone Tim Clark (326-8527, evenings) to indicate with which chapter committee he or she would like to work.

The Tucson Chapter wishes to thank the Tucson Botanical Gardens and its staff for their kind assistance throughout the past several months.

Tim Clark

NEW SCLEROCACTUS

Sclerocactus parviflora (D. Woodruff & Lyman Benson 1978) Var. Blessingiae W. Hubert Earle sp. nov. is the full name of a new species of cactus found near the community of Cane Beds in Mojave County.

The species is reported by W. Hubert Earle in the March, 1980 Saguaroland Bulletin, which is published by the Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix.

EARLY SUMMER HOURS

The Desert Botanical Garden was planning to open at 7 a.m. on weekends in June. If you intend to visit on a weekend later in the summer, phone to see if they are still opening early (602) 941-1217.

The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is opening at 7 a.m. every day during the summer months.

PHOENIX CHAPTER

This space and more would be available for news from the Phoenix Chapter. Please let us hear from you.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is 1 August.
Send material to:

ANPS Newsletter
6602 N. Cibola Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85718