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PHOTO: CARL TROY

Winter at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve

NEW GARDEN UPDATE

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden at Museum Hill

When the restoration work in the Arroyo de los Pinos was complete, about 50 curious friends and members joined us for a Saturday morning walk in August to look at the newly installed stone structures and meanders. Steve Vrooman and Jan-Willem Jansens of Earthworks Institute led the way and provided descriptions of what was done and described how the arroyo channel will improve over time as sediment is dropped behind one rock dams, cross vanes and Zuni pools.

After a fairly damp September, a group of volunteers gathered to plant 50 seedlings of suitable shrubs and small trees donated by Craig Sponholtz, whose company Dryland Solutions was the contractor for this project. With a little luck, the cooler temperatures and well spaced rains will allow the plants to become established before winter.

Our landscape architect Gary Smith was back for a quick trip in November. His next

task is to complete the design details for the Entrance Gardens, beginning at the edge of the overflow parking lot and an entrance ramada, along a path to a heirloom fruit tree orchard and finally to a sitting room with seat walls from which our visitors enjoy beautiful plantings and lovely views.

Meanwhile, the City of Santa Fe is starting to plan the Museum Trail section of a public bike path beginning at the Old Pecos Trail and continuing to Camino Corrales. Because the trail will serve both bicyclists and botanical garden visitors, Gary Smith will be providing his design ideas for a welcoming and engaging entrance. When a preliminary layout is complete, the City of Santa Fe and the BTAK committee will share the plan with the public and ask for feedback before finalizing the design.

What's next? The design work for the Entrance Gardens will be completed in the spring; construction should begin in the

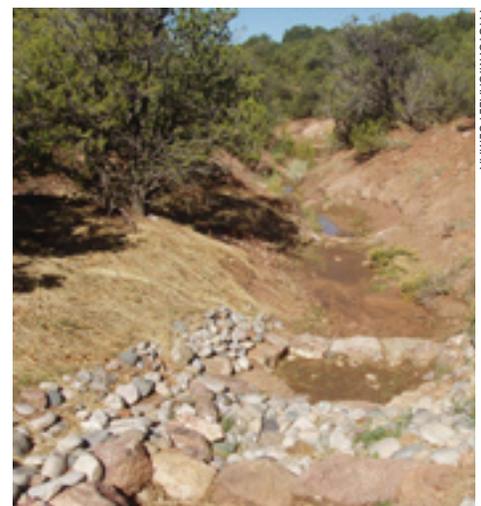


PHOTO: MICHAEL PULMAN

Water pools after a storm

summer. The City of Santa Fe hopes to build the Museum Trail by mid-year. 2010 should be a year when years of planning finally results in a garden.

If you are interested in an occasional planting project or otherwise helping with a needed task on the Museum Hill site, we'd love to add you to the list of volunteers. Please give us a call and let us know how you want to get involved. ■

AT THE PRESERVES

Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve



PHOTO: JANICE TUCKER

Another rich and colorful season at the Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve (LCWP) has come to a close. LCWP will reopen again next year in the spring. The Preserve, open weekends May through October, is staffed entirely by volunteer docents, to whom we are endlessly grateful. This year, SFBG trained ten new stellar docents. There are 35 docents on the team, each one bringing their unique talent to the job of educating the public. Special thanks this season goes to Janice Tucker, Helen Woody, Jeanne Gozigian, Kay Burdette, Alice Davis, Dave Brewer, Todd and Pat Brown and all of the members of the Education Committee, and all of the volunteer docents.



PHOTO: DENISE TROX

Some of the highlights of the 2009 season:

- SFBG created a marked and numbered interpretive trail with an accompanying map and narrative. Visitors to the Preserve can join a docent led tour on Saturday mornings and/or pick up a trail map and walk on their own.
- The Saturday morning guided tours were well attended. Join us next year every Saturday at 10am. No reservations are required.
- Naturalist and long time member, Nancy Daniel, led monthly nature walks throughout the summer. No stone goes unturned on a walk with Nancy.
- Steve Cary, chief naturalist for New Mexico State Parks, lead a most entertaining and whimsical walk through the wetland looking for butterflies. Net in hand, he was able to identify and catch butterflies who live at the Preserve.
- A family of Cooper's Hawks took up residence in the cottonwoods next to the kiosk and a family of Berwick's Wrens took up residence in the donation box. Dozens of visitors were treated to frequent glimpses of these gorgeous birds.
- Nearly 600 school children visited in May and in October to participate in SFBG's education programs. (See article "Tremendous Trees, page 3.")
- LCWP was the setting for a Botanical Watercolors Class taught by Jan Denton, artist and volunteer docent. Students learned how to study plant life and put paint to paper to create a work of beauty.
- Last but not least, ten new docents were trained and welcomed to our team who run the Preserve. Next year's training will begin in May and continue all summer. Call us for details. ■

**"The breeze, the trees,
the honey bees—
All volunteers!"**

—JULIET CARINREAP

**Sincere thanks to our
numerous volunteers!**

Exciting developments at the
Leonora Curtin Wetlands Preserve
on the horizon. Stay tuned...

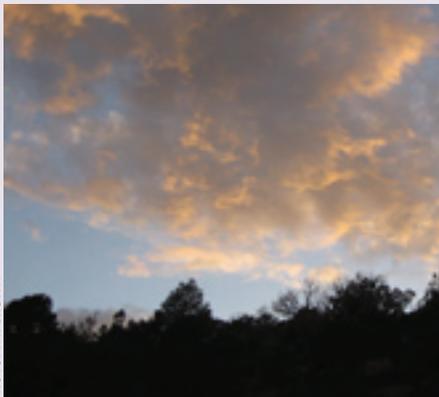


PHOTO: PAT BROWN

Cloud formations over Ortiz Mountains

Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve

The Ortiz Mountains Educational Preserve (OMEP) is open in the spring, summer and fall, weather permitting, for docent led activities only. Our schedule is always posted on our website. This year's varied adventures included a full moon Bat Watch, hikes up to Placer Peak, a hands-on photography workshop, History Tours, Bird Watching and more.

Honorable mention goes to:

- Barbara Briggs, who for many years has been coordinating and organizing the OMEP schedule of events. Barbara has passed the baton on to others on her team. Her love of the Preserve and her dedication to its care is greatly appreciated. SFBG thanks her for her years of service and looks forward to seeing her smiling face meeting and greeting visitors to the garden tours in June. Her SFBG volunteer work continues...
- Todd Brown, for keeping the Preserve and especially Gold Mine Road maintained.
- Lawry Sager, who eagerly gets up at the crack of dawn, twice a season to lead Bird Walks.
- Pat Brown, for her patience and oversight and for assisting the office with OMEP details.
- All the residents of the Ortiz environs, who also serve as docents, drivers and helpers. Our activities would be much more difficult without their help and their 4-wheel drive vehicles.
- Bill Baxter, for his wisdom and humor. ■

A Tremendous Time on a Tremendous Journey!

On 10 beautiful fall mornings from October 13-26, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden's Fall 2009 School Programs featured Terrific Trees. Approximately 225 third grade students from Turquoise Trail and Piñon Elementary and 36 third and fifth grade students from Alvord Elementary participated in the nature education program at Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve.

The children were given the title of "tree-searchers for the day". They followed the Instructor Conductors on the Tree Time Express and began their Tremendous Journey.

The Tree Walk activity made stops at the Russian Olive Outpost, Juniper Junction, and Cottonwood Crossing where the students learned how to identify trees from the shape, color and texture of a leaf, by their fruit and/or flowers, the branches and the color and texture of the bark. They were taught to observe the shape of a tree, whether it was deciduous or evergreen and how to determine if a tree is a male or female.

They were told how the different trees propagate, what habitats each preferred, a bit about root systems and the traditional and medicinal uses the trees provide. A big surprise was when Bob Pennington demonstrated how early Native Americans made diapers from juniper bark! And, they were fascinated by the Ghost beads made from juniper berries, which were worn by several of the volunteers.

A visit to the Rotten Log Hotel held some surprises. First the kids learned that even a dead tree is very important to the environment because it decomposes and returns soil back to the earth. Then they participated in exploring the area in, around and under the

log to look for clues of what took place in this "hotel." They discovered a raccoon skull, rabbit fur and a rabbit jawbone, small rodent bones and what is thought to be beaver bones. They found evidence of the fire that destroyed the tree about 30 years ago, determined about how old it was when it died by counting the rings on one end of the felled tree. They found pieces of wood with bark beetle carvings. And, they discovered a pack rat's cache of Buffalo gourds. With each discovery, came a bit of information about what the children

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had found. Then each child was given a magnifying lens to examine Juniper berries, seeds and tiny cones, Cottonwood seed hulls and the leaves of the One-seed Juniper and Rio Grande cottonwood as well as the leaves and berries from the Russian olive tree.

The Show Me Station at the end of the line was full of tree facts, such as how to tell the height, age and root spread of a tree by using math. A walk out on the dock at the pond gave the kids an opportunity to observe the habitats of the Cottonwood, Russian olive trees. Mother Nature blessed us by providing sightings of little green frogs, Coots, Mallards, numerous migrating birds and best of all the Great Blue Heron who was quite content to strike a pose at the water's edge on the west



Helen Woody talks about trees

PHOTO: DENISE TROY

side of the pond. After returning from the dock, the kids gathered around the table near the dock, where they examined cross cuts of wood and found out that the tree rings were the xylem and sap was the phloem. They were then taught how a tree and all plants make their own food through photosynthesis. And finally, they learned why leaves change color as the days get shorter.

At the end of the morning, their vocabulary had expanded by learning several new words: photosynthesis, deciduous, evergreen, invasive, taproot, circumference, diameter and decomposition.

Then it was back to Kiosk Corner where the children discussed what they had learned about trees. After enjoying a snack. The volunteers waved good-bye to the kids as they boarded their bus to return to school.

The program was developed and organized by the SFBG Education Committee of Linda Batkin, Kay Burdette, Janice Tucker and Helen Woody. In addition to the committee, the following volunteers made this program come alive for the children by leading them through the activities: Carol Danielson, Dodie Dean, Julie Dean, Sue Fenimore, Lucy Gent, Jeanne Gozigian, Sue Heighberger, Sarah Henderson, Akasha Holmes, Sara Jordan, Betty Kuhn, Charlie Lehman Don Moorman, Gwynne Pardington, Bob Pennington, Kate Smith, Natali Steinberg, Denise Troy and Dana Warrior. ■

-BY JANICE TUCKER



Beneath the cottonwood tree

PHOTO: DENISE TROY



The 3rd Annual Plant Sale

A Blooming Success



The 3rd Annual Plant Sale on September 25th and 26th was the best yet, featuring over 2,000 plants perfect for fall transplanting, as well as a larger than ever Garden Artifacts store. Many thanks to our amazing volunteers, to our enthusiastic customers, to the individuals who dug and divided from their gardens and to all the new members who came on board during Sale weekend. With this year's profit surpassing last year's, the sale can only flower from here. All proceeds from this sale fund SFBG's general operating budget.

Most of the merchandise and plants for sale at this event are donated. An extraordinary effort goes into securing these contributions. Special thanks to our Plant Sale Business Partners who gave generously to make the sale happen. ■

“A flower touches almost everyone’s heart.”

- GEORGIA O'KEEFFE (1887-1996), AMERICAN PAINTER

ON LANGUAGE

Interesting facts about a highlighted word

Park: Originally, a park was a hunting ground owned by royalty, fenced in and closed off from the hoi polloi. From there, the meaning expanded to include any pleasure grounds, public or private, usually with lawns, trees, and amenities such as walkways and benches. By the seventeenth century there were plots in London known as parks set aside for all citizens to enjoy. By the nineteenth century, the term was applied in the United States to sporting grounds, as in ballpark. With the establishment of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the term was expanded again, making room for such natural wonders as geysers and grizzlies. In the Rocky Mountains, forest openings, especially flat, grassy valley bottoms, are also known as parks. It was the latter meaning Mary Austin had in mind when she wrote in *The Land of Little Rain*: “They have a better name in the Rockies for these hill-fenced open glades or pleasantness; they call them parks.”

-BY SCOTT RUSSELL SANDERS ■



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Newsletter :

- Julie Dunlap, *Editor*
- Andrea Multari, *Graphic Design*
- Kay Burdette, *Website*

MEMBERSHIP

Roll Call

Welcome new members of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden, from July 20 through December 5, 2009.

- Peter Brayton
- Tom & Mary Brewster
- Betsy Brown
- Susan Bruneni
- Mary Beth Burnside
- Brenda & Thomas Clay
- Joan Coke
- Barbara Conroy
- Ed & Shirley Crow
- Priscilla Dakin
- Sandy & Tad Dale
- Francesca Maria Davies
- Jacquelin Dawson
- Mark & Linda Delfs
- Paul Dirdak
- Claudia Dunitz & Anthony Brooke
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- L. Suzanne Poteet
- Patricia Reibel
- Clare Rhodes & Richard Hughes
- Jane Robb
- Mary Ruth
- Barbara Sinkula
- Maryann Slattery
- Rosemary Smithson & Paul A. Coker, Jr.
- Bonnie Stapleton
- Suzi Stone
- Scott Swearingen
- Patricia Vincent
- Louise Williams
- David & Joan Young

Renew Your Membership Online

Click on the Membership link on the Homepage at www.santafebotanicalgarden.org

Business Partners

Santa Fe's business community has been an essential partner in ensuring the success and vitality of our work. Our Business Partners provide valuable sponsorships, in-kind donations, and membership contributions that directly support our day-to-day operations. We are grateful to their alliance. When shopping at these businesses please take the time to thank them for their support:

- Agua Fria Nursery
- Babylon Gardens
- Boxcar Farm
- Carlotta from Paradise
- Chamisa Landscaping
- Coates Tree Service
- Copy Shack
- Design with Nature
- Ecoscapes
- Green Forward, LLC
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- Outside Magazine
- Paper Tiger
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- PBA, INC.
- Plant Select
- Plants of the Southwest
- Rocky Mountain Pool and Agriculture
- San Isidro Permaculture
- Santa Fe Classic Rock
- Santa Fe Community Farm
- Santa Fe Dining
- Santa Fe Garden Club
- Santa Fe Greenhouses
- Santa Fe New Mexican
- Santa Fe Tree Farm
- Seeds of Change
- Sleeping Dog Tavern
- Tesuque Garden Club
- The Bug Lady
- Tooley's Trees
- Trader Joe's
- Tropic of Capricorn
- Walter Burke Catering
- Wells Fargo Bank
- Whole Foods



THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

A gift membership is a great way to support SFBG and introduce others to the Garden we all love. A membership to SFBG is the perfect gift for the garden lovers on your list.

Visit our website at www.santafebotanicalgarden.org to see all of the benefits of a Santa Fe Botanical Garden Membership.

Giving a gift membership is easy—call us at 505-471-9103 or email info@santafebotanicalgarden.org

PEEK AT 2010 CALENDAR

The annual Garden Tours are scheduled for June 6th, which includes the Picnic Lunch option and June 13th. Details to follow...

The Winter Garden Design Lecture Series will resume in February and run through April. Admission to the lectures will be free to SFBG members.

Check our website regularly for updates.

Article reprint from December issue of Horticulture Magazine.

SFBG member, Janice Tucker, shares her knowledge about yucca with *Horticulture* readers.



new mexico



new york



north carolina



north dakota

New Mexico | The first to come to my mind is the yucca, chosen by New Mexico schoolchildren to be the state's official flower in 1927. No particular species was named, but soapweed yucca (*Yucca glauca*) is a favorite of many residents. Early settlers who saw this succulent's beautiful spring flowers called it *Lamparas de Dios*, or lamps of the Lord. American Indians had countless uses for all its parts, including making soap. Because the yucca's pollen is heavy and sticky, it cannot be scattered by the wind or carried by brief contact with insects, so pollination depends on a symbiotic relationship with a small white moth of the *Pronuba* genus. The fragrant flowers attract the female moth, which forms a ball of pollen and carries it to another flower, in which she deposits an egg and the ball of pollen. The pollen fertilizes the yucca ovules, creating the small, black seeds. The emerging moths eat their way out of the seed-pod, and the cycle begins again.

Native range | dry hills and sandy plains from Iowa to Montana to the Southwest

Exposure | full sun

Hardiness | Zones 3 to 9

—JANICE TUCKER, SANTA FE BOTANICAL GARDEN
(SANTAFEBOTANICALGARDEN.ORG)

New York | One excellent choice is flowering raspberry (*Rubus odoratus*). This shrub is outstanding for its large showy flowers and bold coarse foliage. It thrives in shade—including dry shade—and poor soils. It's also a worker that grows quickly and knits the soil on unstable banks, roadcuts, berms and other sloped or disturbed areas.

Native range | moist shade and

woodland edges of the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, eastern Midwest and upper South

Exposure | full sun to shade

Hardiness | Zones 3 to 8

—DAN SEGAL, THE PLANTSMEN NURSERY
(PLANTSMEN.COM)

North Carolina | I would recommend false sunflower (*Heliopsis helianthoides*). It's native to the mountains and the piedmont of North Carolina, but I think it would probably survive on the coast. We have three (four if you count the sandhills area) distinct regions here, so naming "a" plant is tough. *Heliopsis* starts blooming in early June and continues well into September. It's tall, up to six feet, with a profusion of blooms. The bloom stems are fairly short, but it's still a great cut flower for small bouquets. It's really neat to see goldfinches eating the seeds while the plants bob and weave in the border.

Native range | moist to dry open woodlands and fields of the eastern two-thirds of North America

Exposure | full sun

Hardiness | Zones 3 to 9

—TOM HARVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY (NCWILDFLOWER.ORG)

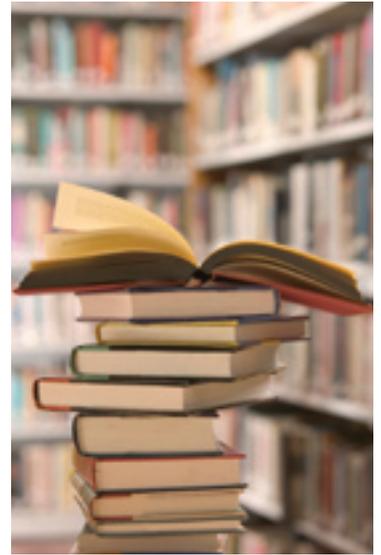
North Dakota | Hop-hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), also known as ironwood, is an attractive native tree with multiple seasons of interest. In the winter, when its limbs are bare, it continues to provide beauty through its shape and textural bark. Its trunk is often twisted and muscular looking, and its bark hangs loosely in strips. It has slender branches in contrast to its thick trunk. It offers yellow fall foliage and interesting hanging seed-pods that resemble hops.

SFBG LIBRARY

If You Have the Gardener's Itch for Knowledge

Visit the new SFBG library soon. The library is located in the administrative offices of the Botanical Garden. While the books are still in the process of being organized, the new horticultural library is open when the SFBG office is open, which is Monday through Friday, from 9am to 5pm. It's best to call ahead.

With over 1,000 books in our collection, we have a handsome selection of volumes on gardening, ecology, botany, science, horticulture, birds, insects and more...Book donations are always welcome, too. Help is still needed to continue the work of organizing the books. In the not too distant future, we hope to have all of our books in a database that will be available on our website and be accessible to anyone searching for a book. SFBG members are welcome to borrow books, while non-members can visit the library and not check out books. ■



BOOK REVIEW

The Weeping Goldsmith By W. JOHN KRESS

REVIEWED BY PETER LEWIS (BARNANDNOBLEREVIEW.COM)

"One of my jobs," writes Smithsonian Institution botanist Kress, "is to travel to remote areas to document the remaining unknown plant diversity." To wit, his typical day in the salt mines is spent surrounded by wildflowers—the "weeping goldsmith" being one such—in an exotic locale. Poor baby. Kress further activates your envy bone by returning with achingly spectacular photographs of landscape and flora, and an old-fashioned field journal of everyday marvels that he will polish into a book, carefully retaining the freshness of being there: sheltering under a giant fig tree from the monsoon rains, cresting a pine ridge to discover a rare ginger in bloom, pounding a local brew in the afternoon's 113-degree heat. In this instance, "there" is staggeringly beautiful Myanmar, where, nevertheless, not all is for the best in the best of all possible worlds. Myanmar's government—a corrupt, crackpot junta of homicidal golfers with a talent for social control and immiseration, and a pathological determination to keep the rest of the world at a cool remove—throws one obstacle after another in Kress's path. Yet despite the bureaucratic restrictions, he manages to cover significant ground. The country is indeed a biodiversity hotspot, as Kress's photo documentation attests; it is also a place of great otherness when approached from the West, a land where you can't throw a betel nut without hitting a gilded pagoda. In an agreeably formal, slightly antique voice, Kress draws the country out for the reader: its cloud forests, bamboo villages, and waterways; rice paddies, temples, and rattletrap river towns; Bengal tigers, mountain spirits, and true jade. Through all the strange weather and government flapdoodle, the ethnic complexities and swarms of mosquitoes—not to forget the day he inadvertently lunched on a hallucinogenic plant—shines Kress's passionate mission to catalog the country's plants, the most loving gift this taxonomist could give to the Myanma people. ■

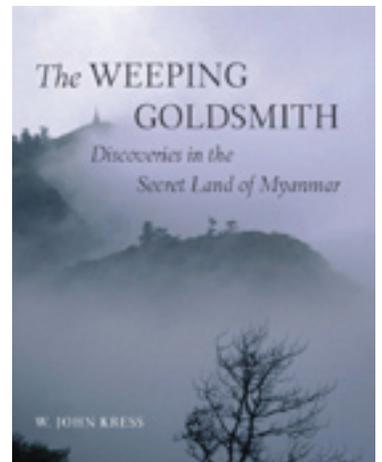


PHOTO: CARL TROY



FREE KIDS HOLIDAY WORKSHOP

Make & take crafts for kids ages 5-12.

**Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009
at 1-3 p.m.**

**Genoveva Chavez Community Center
3221 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe**

Adults please accompany your children to this FREE hands-on event.

Call 471-9103 for more information.