



# Nature Notes

Pajarito  
Environmental  
Education  
Center

Your Nature Center in Los Alamos

Volume 8, Number 1

Winter 2009

PEEC, Mail: PO Box 547  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
505-662-0460  
www.PajaritoEEC.org  
Open Tu-F, 12-4, Sat., 10-1  
Location 3540 Orange St.

## Board of Directors

*President, Chick Keller*  
*Vice-pres., Becky Shankland*  
*Secretary, Felicia Orth*  
*Treasurer, Natali Steinberg*  
**Robert Dryja**  
**Hedy Dunn**  
**Terry Foxx**  
**John Hogan**  
**Jennifer Macke**  
**Peter O'Rourke**  
**Selvi Viswanathan**

## Youth Advisory Board

**Nuria Clodius**  
**Lindy Jacobs**

## Advisory Board

**Robert Gibson**  
**Debbie Gill**  
**Suzie Havemann**  
**John Hofmann**  
**John Hopkins**  
**Craig Martin**  
**Dick Opsahl**  
**Susan Mack**  
**Min Park**  
**Cheryl Pongratz**

*Newsletter Editors,*  
**Esta Lee Albright,**  
**Heather Burke**  
*Webmaster, Jennifer Macke*  
*Program Coordinator,*  
**Branden Willman-Kozimor**  
*Administrative Assistant,*  
**Diane Noveroske**

## President's Message

by Chick Keller

This is my first message to you all, and I wish you a good New Year full of rich experiences, hopefully some of them with our natural world. As I walk our trails and back roads, I am constantly struck by the beauty of our land and its inhabitants. My attention is usually divided between looking down for plants and up for birds. I notice the weather with our amazing clouds and deep blue sky, and the seasons as they pass, each subsiding into the next in accustomed succession.

Our nights also tell the passing of time as constellations continue to rise in the east and fade in the west. Over the years these have become familiar, and I greet each as you would an old friend come to stay for a while.

All of this is of course why you support PEEC, which is such a gift to our community, constantly calling attention to our rich wild world, first just for itself but also as a kind of antidote to the stresses of the rest of our lives. I know this because of your tremendous response to PEEC. So many of you give more than the requested dues and volunteer to help or tell us of opportunities for furthering our work. Due to this response PEEC has grown as they say by leaps and bounds in attempting to serve the community. Our primary work is in education of our

children, but our adult programs are very well attended as well.

To keep up with you and your wishes, every year PEEC's Board of Directors holds a one-day retreat where we stand back and take a look at what we are doing and ask where we want to go. Our Advisory Committee also keeps us grounded and helps us to understand the business community and County aspirations.

In succeeding issues of Nature Notes I will highlight some of PEEC's work, but this time I will instead ask for your help. Los Alamos Public Schools have graciously provided our building space, but we must constantly justify our value to the schools. Our current three-year lease is up this spring, and we will be asking for it to be renewed for five years. The outgoing School Board was very impressed with PEEC, but we will have new people to convince, from the Interim Superintendent and board president to two new board members. You can help by talking to any of these people you can. Hearing from the community is a powerful way to help PEEC continue its work for you all.

Meanwhile, take the time to walk out into our surrounding woods and enjoy them.



## For First Through Third Grade Children

"Critter Club," 4:30 - 5:30 pm, Mondays twice a month, beginning Feb. 2. Teacher Zoe Anna Duran writes: "I am an Invertebrate Biologist with the Valles Caldera Trust and will be introducing "bugs" at the first meeting. From then on I would like to focus on a new critter each week that the kids are interested in. Hopefully we will learn about their role in their ecosystem and do some fun crafts, games, etc., that involve that animal."



\$30/year. Register your 1<sup>st</sup> through 3<sup>rd</sup> graders now. ✨

## Help the Kinnikinnicks Save Polar Bears

by Michele Altherr

Despite being snowed out of their first attempt, the members of PEEC's Kinnikinnick Nature Club braved icy cold winter weather to hold a bake sale and raise money to donate to the World Wildlife Fund for the protection of polar bears.

According to the WWF, "As a result of global warming, sea ice is melting earlier and forming later each year, leaving polar bears less time to hunt. As their ice habitat shrinks, skinnier and hungrier bears face a grave challenge to their survival."

So spread out on a red draped table outside Smith's were homemade cookies, cupcakes, fudge and caramels ready for sale. A giant polar bear sat on the table holding a donation jar. And earth-friendly carols written and sung by members greeted shoppers. The club members enthusiastically went about their task of talking to people about the survival of the polar bear while selling sweets to appreciative customers. Mothers pitched in too. As a result the club was able to raise \$195 toward their \$250 goal.

If you weren't able to attend the bake sale and would like to donate, there is a white furry jar in PEEC's lobby to drop money into or you can mail PEEC a check with a memo as to what it is for.

The Kinnikinnick Club is an after-school environmental service learning club for kids in grades 4 - 7, sponsored by the Pajarito Environmental Education Center. The kids in the club started the

"Plastic Bag Free Los Alamos" campaign, go on outdoor excursions, and in the summer learn about sustainable agriculture while growing an organic vegetable garden. To find out more about the club, call PEEC 662-0460 or on the web at [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org). ✨

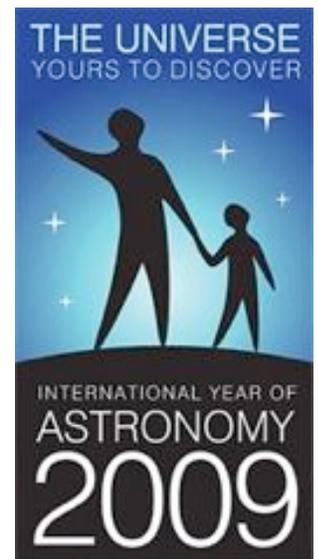
## Stories in the Sky

"Night Sky Talk and Stories," Jan. 28, 6-7 pm: a PEEC Winter Wednesday lecture, in the Bradbury Science Museum this time. FREE

2009 is the International Year of Astronomy. In conjunction with the Bradbury Science Museum, PEEC is pleased to kick off our Winter Wednesday series with an evening of planetarium star-gazing and stories about stars with Terry Foxx. Terry is on the Board of Directors for PEEC, teaches wildflower classes, and is a well-known botanist and artist. Her credentials as a storyteller also are famous. This program takes place at the Bradbury Science Museum. FREE

Please note the program will be at the museum and will begin at 6 p.m.

"The International Year of Astronomy 2009 (IYA2009) has been launched by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) under the theme "The Universe, yours to discover". IYA2009 marks the 400th anniversary of Galileo Galilei's first astronomical observation through a telescope in 1609, an event that changed astronomy forever. IYA2009 will be a global celebration of astronomy and its contribution to society and culture, with strong emphasis on education, public participation, and the involvement of young people, and with events at national, regional, and global levels. Many thousands of individuals in over 130 countries around the world are already involved, forming the world's largest ever astronomy network. IYA2009 will portray astronomy as a peaceful global scientific endeavor that unites astronomers in an international, multicultural family of scientists, working together to find answers to some of the most fundamental questions that humankind has ever asked." -- from the IYA2009 web site at [www.astronomy2009.org](http://www.astronomy2009.org). ✨



## A New Forest in Los Alamos

by Mountain School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade of 2007,  
John Hogan and Branden Willman-Kozimor

“Have you ever walked on the Mitchell Trail after the Cerro Grande fire of 2000? A lot of people think there are no more trees living there. We thought so too until Mountain Sixth Grade went on a field trip and collected data to find out how many trees are growing there.” So begins an article written by students who have first-hand experience with a forest recovering from fire. But the story begins a few years earlier.

After the fire, which began in May, 2000, there were various efforts to replant burned-over areas. The first trees planted in the Mitchell Trail area, the first planted anywhere in the burn, were planted by students from Mountain School in the fall of 2000, working with the Volunteer Task Force. Other public and student volunteer plantings were held over the next two to three years. PEEC members Chick Keller, Craig Martin, and John Hogan, along with many other community volunteers, and other botanists were involved. Even Tom Udall planted a tree or two near the Mitchell Trailhead! with the students.

The trees were four to eight inches tall when planted. Seedlings in protective sleeves were stored in the Hogans’ back yard and tended by students. The volunteer group was allowed into the then-closed forest to plant the trees with rock mulch and to water them by hand. During the lengthy fire closure, volunteering was a way to access and monitor the forest and trails.

Four or five years later, in the Mitchell and Perimeter Trails in North Community, over a three-day period in October, 2007, there was a project to study the new forest. One sixth grade group per day hiked from Mountain School to their study site. Circular plots of 1/20<sup>th</sup> acre were used and plot centers were permanently marked so they may be re-read by future classes. Data were analyzed in the classroom with each class. Los Alamos County Open Space, USGS, the Volunteer Task Force and the Pajarito Plateau Watershed Partnership were involved.



The 4-8-inch Ponderosa Pine seedlings had grown. The tallest measured on the study site was 59 inches. The average height was 32.4 inches. The average density of trees counted by classes taught by Mrs. Plotner, Mrs. LaDuke and Mr. Orr was 76 trees per acre.

“We counted the number of trees in 1/20 acre plots and measured their height,” reported the students. All were asked to write something to contribute to an article for the newspaper.

“With the data we put together graphs. These showed us that in the areas where the tree density was higher, the average height went down,” wrote the students. “When the tree density was lower, the average height went up. We think this is because when there are more trees in a certain area there are not as many nutrients and as much water to go around, so these trees haven’t grown quite as big.

“These data that the sixth grade collected tell us that the forest that was burned is coming back. We learned it is important to have trees in our forest, but not too many, or it will not be healthy. When there are more than 150 trees on an acre, the forest is considered unhealthy. Before the Cerro Grande Fire there were 2000 trees per acre in some areas! We also learned how to keep the trails and forest healthy and safe. We now understand that, just because we can’t see the new forest, doesn’t mean there is not one. In about a century, these trees will be very tall and we might have our green forest back.”

There is more to learn. Watch for a summer evening hike sponsored by the Volunteer Task Force and PEEC. We will learn about succession and collect real data just as these students did! ✨



Field science: sixth graders from Mountain School in 2007 measure growth and count trees in an area burned by the Cerro Grande fire.

Photos contributed by John Hogan.

## Townsend's Solitaire Adopts White Rock Family

by Marjorie Selden

Photo by the author

When this bird first started fluttering at my window, I believe it was late October. There were leaves on the locust trees, but they were turning yellow. The bird was not distinctive in color or size, just a greyish, medium-sized little guy with white in the tail and a little buff color on his wings.



For all his common looks, his behavior was most unusual. At first I thought he must have hit his head on the window and been knocked a little looney. His fluttering and scratching at the window was unrelenting, resting at the window sill or falling to the ground panting when he seemed exhausted. After a short rest, he was at it again until I fully expected him to die at any time. I even tried to scare him away from the window by making noises and waving my hands.

Thinking he was seeing through the window to the sky through another window, I blocked the window and at one time even stuck up one of those hawk silhouettes. Nothing seemed to prevent him from self-destruction.

In desperation I called my neighbor Becky and told her of the mystery. In minutes she was at my door and could see that my problem was not just my imagination. She quickly identified the bird as a Townsend's Solitaire, a local and not at all uncommon species and a somewhat secretive visitor to her yard also. His white eye rings were one of his distinguishing marks, as were his white outer tail feathers. My Stokes Field Guide to Birds also confirmed his species, although the photo in the book showed a rather fat, fluffy creature and this little guy was slim and trim, probably because mine was a mature bird. Becky informed me that they eat juniper berries and will winter around areas that can supply them. Our yard is full of mature juniper trees, so we concluded that he probably would not starve to death.

Becky e-mailed a request for ideas that might help keep this bird, who was by now becoming a PEEC problem, alive. Good suggestions came back, but only ones I had tried earlier. Other than taping paper to all my windows, the solutions that were tried only drove the bird to a different window and he continued the same behavior.

After about a week of this obsessive behavior, I came to

believe that he was at least eating and probably would not die. He was fluttering less and sitting on the sill or in a nearby tree twig and gazing into the house with what seemed like a trusting look. Curiously, he seemed to follow me, sitting outside the window of whatever room I was in. He also called his loud, sharp "eek-eek" sound often. This is the "squeaky wheel" sound described in the bird books, which Becky was also hearing around her house just a few blocks away, so we knew his kin were around.

One day I noticed that he was sitting on the branch just outside the shop where I practice my flute and seemed to be listening to me play.

When I stopped he sang, and when I played he listened. That is when he acquired his name, "Solo." It may seem ridiculous, but this bird was to me a wild pet. I looked for him every day and learned to recognize his loud flute-like warble.

As Fall turned to Winter I saw less and less of him, but I have never quit looking for him and listening for his call. He lives in this area, and now I know he probably will be back. But if not, I enjoyed our short friendship.

✧

## Rare Sungrebe Spotted in New Mexico

by Diane Noveroske and Stephen Fettig

"What is a sungrebe?" you may ask. Since this bird had never been seen in the United States before this fall, you most likely have never heard of it unless you have traveled to southern Mexico, tropical Central or South America. The Sungrebe (*Heliornis fulica*) is the only member of the genus *Heliornis* and it belongs to a family with just two other species, the African Finfoot and the Masked Finfoot. The Sungrebe is a tropical bird that inhabits swamps and marshes and has webbed lobes on its feet like other grebes and coots. It is a shy bird that swims in slow-flowing streams and secluded waterways, sometimes partly submerged. It dives well but rarely flies unless alarmed. The Sungrebe feeds on a variety of aquatic life, fish, and water plants.

What makes this bird so unique is that the male has marsupial-like pouches under its wings, which are used to transport his young! (Cont. next page)



Sungrebe photo: Sally King, © Stephen Fettig

According to an article by B. C. R. Bertrand, “[An observer] discovered that the male has a shallow pocket under each wing into which the two young can fit. The pocket is formed by a pleat of skin, and made more secure by the feathers on the side of the body just below. The heads of the chicks could be seen from below as the bird flew.” (See the article about *Heliornithidae* at <http://montereybay.com/creagrus/sungrebes.html>)

A Sungrebe was photographed by Sally King on November 13, 2008, in a ditch on the west side of the Marsh Loop at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Sally did not recognize the bird and took her photos to the Visitor Center. The staff there believed it to be a young Red-necked Grebe. On Monday, November 17, Sally contacted Stephen Fettig (Bandelier National Monument wildlife biologist) and asked him to look at her photos, for she did not really think it was a young Red-necked Grebe. Steve suspected what it was. After checking his bird books about Mexico and Central America, he confirmed it as a Sungrebe. That evening Steve sent out the word to birding e-lists and friends. The birding world was all a-flutter and the rush was on to see and photograph the bird again!

The next morning, Steve, Bruce Panowski, Nancy Cox, Carol Davis, Raymond VanBuskirk, and Jerry Oldenettel met at the Bosque at the spot near the Marsh Deck where the bird had been photographed. They searched for two hours to no avail. The group decided to break up, and Jerry spotted the Sungrebe on the east side of the Marsh Loop. Within minutes, the whole group, driving only a little bit over the speed limit, was there. For over an hour they watched and photographed the bird as it swam along the ditch. It was feeding and looked very healthy.

The group was looking for bands on the legs. For it to be counted officially as wild bird, there needed to be good evidence that it was not an escaped zoo bird. The lack of leg bands was confirmed when the bird climbed over a water control structure, making the legs visible. The plumage appeared to be in good shape and not like a bird that had been transported by someone.

Over the next two weeks many other people tried to find the Sungrebe without luck. Diane Noveroske spent several hours over two days (November 28 and 29) but could not find the bird. There were unofficial, unconfirmed sightings on the 23rd and 25<sup>th</sup> of November. A few people mistakenly identified the Pied-billed Grebe in the same ditch as the Sungrebe.

For more photos of the Sungrebe, go to [www.narba.org](http://www.narba.org). At the bottom of the page on the right side, look for the Sungrebe link under the “Recent Field Reports” section.

What became of the Sungrebe? Were there more sightings? Diane does not know. This certainly was a unique and incredible sighting of a very interesting bird, apparently so far from home. ✨

## The Great Backyard Bird Count

Steve Fettig, a leader in local activities involving birds, writes, “For Feb. 13-16, 2009, I want to get the word out about the GBBC within Los Alamos, with the goal of getting as much participation as possible. You can list me as the local contact, 662-6785.”

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Last year, 9,805,216 individual birds, 635 species, were counted. Anyone, beginners to experts, can participate. It’s free, fun and easy – and it helps the birds. See how to do it at [www.birdsource.org/gbbc](http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc), and call Steve. ✨

## Feb. 7 - 8 Birding Trip to Bernardo, Bosque del Apache and Rosy-finches

The Sungrebe may be hard to find by now, but thousands of waterfowl, cranes and geese winter along the Rio Grande between Belen and Socorro. Waterfowl reserves provide easy bird watching, and PEEC is planning a tour of the areas on Feb. 7. Cranes and geese will be feeding before beginning the migration north. A member of the Friends of Bosque del Apache told us, “You are likely to have 8000 or so cranes and maybe 20,000 light geese, which ought to offer some pretty rewarding viewing.” As a special treat, participants on the trip will be received at the Rosy-finch banding station atop Sandia Crest on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 8.

PEEC members free, \$10 non-members. Please register by Feb. 4. Participants are responsible for our own travel expenses. Info Sheet available at PEEC Nature Center. Contact: Becky Shankland, [shankland@cybermesa.com](mailto:shankland@cybermesa.com)

**Sat. a.m., Feb. 7:** Self-guided tour of Bernardo Waterfowl Area, approx. 27 miles south of Belen. Drive the loop road through the area and stop for viewing or photography on or within two feet of the road. **Sat., Feb. 7: Picnic, tour of Bosque del Apache**, approx. 10 miles south of Socorro. Meet at the picnic grounds near the Visitors Center for lunch. A guided van tour of the Bosque will be led by Friends of the Bosque at 1 pm. **Sun., noon, Feb. 8: Sandia Crest Rosy-finch birding station**, atop Sandia Crest, elev. 10,678 feet, east of Albuquerque. Inside Sandia Crest House/cafeteria. Only in Colorado and New Mexico, and only in the dead of winter, can all three species of rosy-finch be seen together. Learn more at [//rosyfinch.com/sandia.html](http://rosyfinch.com/sandia.html)

## Family Nature Connection:

### Rascals of the Trees

by Michele Altherr

I recently watched an entertaining on-line video called *Squirrel Obstacle Course* (<http://www.flixxy.com/squirrel-obstacle-course.htm>), and it made me think about my relationship with the squirrels in my backyard. Was there more to them than the pests that raid my bird feeder or the frisky creatures that cause my dog to bolt across the woods?

They are one of the few local mammals that can be watched daily. This makes squirrels a great subject for nature journaling. Just open a notebook to a fresh page, record the date and the weather, and begin scribbling down or sketching what you notice. Over time you'll begin to see that each squirrel has a distinctive appearance and unique personality. Also in your journal write down your wonderings. "Are they more active in the morning or in the afternoon?" "Do they use their tail to communicate?" "Where are their nests?" You may even discover answers as you continue your observations. Remember that squirrels are wild animals, so just use your eyes and ears to observe them.

Perhaps you are lucky enough to have the stunning Abert's squirrel, *Sciurus aberti*, in your backyard. They are gray with darker sides, red-tinged back, white belly, and bushy tail. Their ears have distinctive black tufts at the tips and are the reason that they are also called the Tassel-eared squirrel. Actually, they are named after John James Abert, an American naturalist and military officer who headed the Corps of Topographical Engineers during their mapping of the West in the mid 1800s.

Abert's squirrels live above 5,000 feet and are highly adapted to life in the ponderosa pine forest, which provides the squirrel with food, shelter, and places to raise young. You can spot the Tassel-eared squirrel's 1- to 3-foot diameter ball-like nest of twigs in a ponderosa tree crotch 20-40 feet off the ground. Within the ball is a small inner chamber lined with soft materials such as grass, leaves, and shredded bark. Abert's squirrels especially like to build their nests in

"witches'-brooms," growths of small pine twigs infected by dwarf mistletoe, which they also eat. They are diurnal, resting in their nests at night and moving about during the day.

All squirrels are rodents and have four special gnawing teeth that grow continuously throughout their lives. During the warmer months, Abert's squirrels feed on the flowers, tree buds, and developing pinecone seeds of the ponderosa pine, as well as underground fungi found near mature ponderosas. In the process they spread seeds and fungi spores that rejuvenate the forest. They are active during the cold winter months. When food is scarce, they feed on pine needles and the inner bark of twigs,

although these foods are less nutritious. Winters with long periods of snow cover make it very hard for the Tassel-eared squirrel to find food and survive.

In the spring when staminate flowers of the ponderosa appear you might witness a mating chase during which several males pursue a female from sunup to sundown. Three to four young are born about 40 days later. Abert's squirrels are well adapted to life in the trees with double-jointed hind legs, four fingers, and vestigial thumbs to better climb. They can jump eight feet from tree to tree.

Whether your backyard squirrels are Abert's squirrels or another species, they are bound to be interesting to watch.

**Fascinating Fact:** Fossil records suggest that squirrels originated in North America 36 million years ago. They diversified and found their way to every major landmass except Madagascar, Australia, New Zealand, and Antarctica.

**Book Suggestions:** 1) *Earl the Squirrel* by Don Freeman, author of the well-known Corduroy books for children. This is a fictional picture book about a young squirrel who goes out in search of acorns to bring home to his mother. 2) *Squirrels: The Animal Answer Guide* by Thorington and Ferrell. "A completely authoritative scholarly guide to the biology of a group of organisms and... a completely readable, fully illustrated, and fascinating introduction for the general public." -- National Museum of Natural History Weekly Update & Forecast. ✨

**References:** eNature, **Tree of Life Project**, **IUCN Red List of Threatened Species**, **Wikipedia**.



Jan. 2009, Sioux Street, by Esta Lee Albright.

## From Duck Weed to Blue Lettuce: The Long and Short of PEEC's Herbarium

By Chick Keller

Los Alamos County is home to an amazing variety of plants, mostly native but also some interesting (and sometimes troublesome) non-natives. This is due largely to the County's large elevation change and to its combination of dry mesas and moist canyons.

Many of our plants are incredibly beautiful. From Spring through Fall there is a progression of flowers of all colors and shapes that we all enjoy on our walks. In addition there are weeds, grasses (over 160 species!), sedges and rushes, shrubs and trees, cacti, and other less noticeable plants which enrich our environment. The smallest is **duckweed** (a single leaf 1-2 mm in diameter) which floats on still water. The tallest is **blue lettuce** reaching eleven feet in height.

Most beautiful are perhaps **yellow lady slipper** (known nowhere else in the Jemez Mountains) and **wood lily**, although you may have other favorites in mind.



Plants add color, shape and texture to our landscapes and are a large part of the beauty of our community, performing many tasks for us such as stopping erosion and providing food for birds, mammals, butterflies, and other creatures. County personnel and amateur plant lovers often

need to know more about plants for landscaping or simply managing local growth. Most plants need undisturbed soil to grow in, but some, like our native sunflowers and purple asters, seek out disturbed soil. Disturbed soil is also home to Nature's "shock troops," non-native plants, such as **russian thistle**, which grow densely (often unsightly) and die each year. This speeds the process of change back to undisturbed conditions. Many people wish to know more about our local plants: names, uses, histories. This is where PEEC comes in.

As part of its mission PEEC has taken on the task of collecting every species in the county and ultimately in the entire Jemez Mountain region. To date we have documented 822 species and varieties in Los Alamos County and some 1,200 in the Jemez. How do we do this and can the public see what we've done? To document these plants PEEC has established the

**Jemez Mountain Herbarium** with Chick Keller as the curator and Dorothy Hoard as writer, researcher, and data base expert (as well as several other amateurs and student helpers). What is a herbarium? It's a library of plants--a collection of pressed plants sorted by Family, Genus and Species.

The pressed plants are mounted on herbarium sheets (stiff paper) which are kept in specially designed air tight cabinets. PEEC's collection was started when it received from the U.S. Forest Service some 1100 sheets of plants from the Santa Fe National Forest collected by a graduate student. Over the past 5 years PEEC has added hundreds more. Also, when LANL found out about our herbarium they donated their entire collection, cabinets and supplies to PEEC.

Each plant has a label which tells both its scientific and common name, where and when it was found, altitude, habitat, collector (a number of collections have been made by interested amateurs). These plants are identified by our extensive collection of plant books called "Flora." Identification usually requires use of a binocular herbarium microscope with variable magnification. PEEC's is identical to those used at UNM's large herbarium and was purchased from donations by our Animal Clinic of Los Alamos and two pairs of local donors, Don and Judy Machen and Don and Dorothy Hoard.

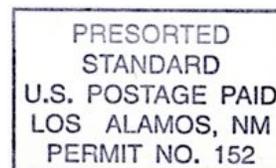
The herbarium provides the plants for our popular display, "**What's Blooming Now**" (both at the Center and on our Website).\* One innovation we have begun is to include a color photo of each plant, since the dried, pressed ones often don't show the plant as it is when growing. Also, PEEC has an excellent popular plant identification book and several smaller booklets for sale to help you get started in knowing our local flora.

The public is welcome to come in and see our herbarium. Several of you have helped with finding and collecting plants, or have used the herbarium to identify ones you need to know. PEEC makes its collection available to state-wide botanists and as such helps establish the areas where each species grows. Many of our finds represent the northern-most extent of some species. Most herbarium work is done during Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.\*\* Come by for a tour and see what we're up to. ✨

\*Web site: [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org) "Nature Guides."

\*\*Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 12 noon to 4:00.  
Wood Lily drawing: Dorothy Hoard, from *Flowering Plants of the Southwestern Woodlands*, p.102.

PEEC  
 Pajarito Environmental Education Center  
 3540 Orange St.  
 P.O. Box 547  
 Los Alamos, NM 87544



**PEEC This Week**  
 weekly e-mail alerts about classes, events, nature and the environment. Anyone who has an e-mail account can receive them. To start, send a message to [Webmaster@pajaritoeec.org](mailto:Webmaster@pajaritoeec.org). These weekly e-mail alerts always include PEEC activities and local information about nature. You also can contribute appropriate notices.

**Contact PEEC:**

**Attend classes, lectures, programs, events. Visit the Nature Center. Sign up for PEEC This Week. Become a member. Volunteer in many ways. Donate. Exchange light bulbs. Stop using plastic bags. Recycle printer cartridges. Shop in our store.**

**Use the web site to find out how, plus much more. [www.PajaritoEEC.org](http://www.PajaritoEEC.org)**

	<b>General Membership</b>	<b>\$35</b>
	<b>Living Lightly</b>	<b>\$20</b>
	<b>Non-Profit Sponsor</b>	<b>\$75</b>
	<i>1 Newsletter and PEEC This Week for up to 3 organizational members.</i>	
	<b>Penstemon</b>	<b>\$60</b>
	<i>Benefits of membership plus t-shirt or canvas shopping bag.</i>	
	<b>Sunflower</b>	<b>\$100</b>
	<i>Benefits above plus additional t-shirt or canvas shopping bag.</i>	
	<b>Wild Iris Donor</b>	<b>\$250</b>
	<i>Benefits above plus Muench coffee table book.</i>	
	<b>Skyrocket Gilia Donor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
	<i>We will contact you to determine how to recognize this generous level of donation.</i>	
	<b>Wood Lily Donor</b>	<b>\$1000</b>
	<i>We will contact you to determine how to recognize this generous level of donation.</i>	

**Joining Is Easy!**

*Tear off this form, fill it out, and mail it in with your check.*

*Do it today! Thank you.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in Household: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about volunteering.

*PEEC is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.*

*Donations are tax-deductible.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Mail checks to:  
 PEEC  
 PO Box 547  
 Los Alamos, NM 87544  
 Att: Membership

\*\*\*\*\*