

Wildflower Walk with Bill Dunmire Part I
Placitas
May 15, 2010

A Slide Show in Three Parts

Produced by Mike Raugh with consultation by Bill Dunmire
Photographs by George Ruptier and Mike Raugh

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Introduction

Bill Dunmire has been leading a spring wildflower walk through the East Placitas Open Space since 1996. Bill led his fifteenth walk on May 15, 2010; this Photo Gallery includes photographs of many of the flowers seen as well as the surroundings. (See the acknowledgments section.)

The walk began on the Palomino Road terrace and dropped into the Las Huertas Creek drainage area, all within the lower Piñon-Juniper Floristic Province where Single-seed Junipers are scattered and Piñon Pines are relatively scarce.

The day was ideal with an occasional cool breeze, blue skies and dramatic clouds. After introductions, the hike began at 9 AM and ended around Noon.

Rainfall from January had been an unusual 6.3 inches resulting in an abundance of wildflowers—the most Bill had seen on any of these annual walks. The water was flowing fresh and clear in Las Huertas Creek.

The flowers are presented in nearly the order they were encountered, but surrounding scenery is interspersed randomly for context.

The exhibition has been divided into three Slide Shows to minimize file lengths. This is Part I.

Bill



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Figure: Our guide for this and previous walks. Bill Dunmire is a retired National Park Service naturalist and resident of Placitas. Among his many publications, including books on wildflowers, he has written an extensive plant list of Placitas.

East Placitas Open Space



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Figure: View over rolling hills of scattered Junipers, from the west slope of the Palomino Road terrace toward the north end of the Sandias and the saddle to Rincon Ridge. Open Space includes slope above slump at edge of Las Huertas Creek. New Mexico Feathergrass at lower left.

Bluets



(Copyright © 2010 George Ruptier.)

Figure: Hedysotis rubra.

White Milkwort



(Copyright © 2010 Mike Raugh.)

Figure: Polygala alba.

Spurge



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Figure: Euphorbia sp.

White Ragweed



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Figure: Hymenopappus filifolius.

New Mexico Feathergrass



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Figure: Stipa neomexicana.

Slope of New Mexico Feathergrass



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Figure: Western end of Palomino Road terrace. New Mexico Feathergrass among One-seed Junipers (*Juniperus monosperma*). Our trail at lower left.

Stiffleaf Gilia



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Figure: Gilia rigidula.

Beardtongue



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Figure: Penstemon fendleri.

Mormon Tea or Joint Fir



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Figure: Ephedra sp.

Woolly Milk Vetch



(Copyright © 2010 George Ruptier.)

Figure: Astragalus mollissimus AKA Woolly Locoweed.

Unidentified Composite



(Copyright © 2010 George Ruptier.)

Figure: Uncertain from photograph.

New Mexico Whiptail



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Figure: *Cnemidophorus newomexicanus*? Flushed from hole. If correctly identified, an all-female parthenogenetically reproducing species.

Scorpion Weed



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Figure: Phacelia corrugata.

Three-awn Grass



(Copyright © 2010 George Ruptier.)

Figure: Aristida sp.

Plains Yellow Flax



(Copyright © 2010 George Ruptier.)

Figure: Linum aristatum

Acknowledgements

Bill Dunmire has led a Placitas Wildflower Walk every spring since 1996. Recently the Walks have been organized by Lolly Jones, an officer of the Las Placitas Association, with the cooperation of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

While busy preparing for a trip to China, Bill generously took time out to review an early version of these photographs and assisted with identifications. Thanks to Bill, a high percentage of the photos are correctly labeled. I am responsible for residual errors and heartily welcome corrections.

Many photographs in this collection are from George Ruptier. I noticed George lagging behind on the Wildflower Walk carefully taking photographs. I was near the back of the group, too, with notepad in one hand, walking stick in the other hand and a camera hanging from my neck, grabbing the camera frequently for the sake of keeping a record. I thought George would have more and better photos than mine, and I was right. Fortunately he volunteered his photos for this collection.

We hope you will enjoy these photos for what they are: a fleeting reminder of things seen on that day. They were taken around Noon in direct sunlight while the group moved along at a random pace, conditions not ideal for photography as art. For tips on artful wildflower photography, see the reference section.

– Mike

Selected References

List of Flowering Plants for Placitas Open Space, by William W. Dunmire, 1997,
http://npsnm.unm.edu/pdfs/plist_placitasopenspace.pdf.

Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province: Exploring Ancient and Enduring Uses, by William W. Dunmire and Gail D. Tierney, 1995.

Mountain Wildflowers of the Southern Rockies: Revealing Their Natural History, by Carolyn Dodson and William W. Dunmire, 2007.

Flowering Plants of New Mexico, 4th ed, by Robert DeWitt Ivey, 1983.

Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico, by Jack Carter, 1997.

New Mexico Vegetation: Past, Present and Future, by William A. Dick-Peddie, 1993.

Fine Art Photography, by Fred and Joan Hanselmann, especially articles on photographing wildflowers: www.hanselmannphotography.com/

Photographs and Contact

These slides are referenced by the Las Placitas Association

www.lasplacitas.org/plants.php

For information about these slides

Michael.Raugh@gmail.com

For information about the Native Plant Society of New Mexico

<http://npsnm.unm.edu/>