

ANNOUNCING:

The Fifteenth Annual

**SPRING OUTING,
BOTANICAL EXCURSION,
FORAY, RETREAT, AND ESCAPE TO THE ENVIRONMENT!**

****** SO BE FREE 15 ******

**Tuesday-Friday, 23-26th March 2010
Sacramento Mountains, southern New Mexico**

impresario: Brent Mishler
treasurer: Kelly Allred

Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of Western Bryological Forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the Western U.S., associated with spring break at universities. The usual tradition is to have a four-day, three-night schedule with communal meals, in inexpensive and remote locations. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping western bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. For glimpses of the past outings, consult the SO BE FREE web site:
<http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/trips/sobefree.php>

LOCATION FOR 2010:

The 2010 SO BE FREE will be held in the Sacramento Mountains in south-central New Mexico, not far from White Sands National Monument and the Trinity Site of atomic bomb fame. The Sacramento Mountains range from 4500 ft in the foothills to nearly 12,000 ft at nearby Sierra Blanca. The mountains are surrounded by Chihuahuan Desert and short-grass plains. The area is rather dry southern Rocky Mountain vegetation, with woodlands and savannahs at the lower elevations, ranging through coniferous forests at mid-elevations, to subalpine forests at the highest elevations. We will visit sites mostly in the mountains, at springs, seeps, and shaded north-slopes, but hope to have a trip to the Chihuahuan Desert to examine biological soil crusts in the White Sands. Beginning bryologists are welcome. We will provide special learning activities for beginners, as well as general field trips for all, from novice to specialist.

SOBEFREE 15 will be based at the Sacramento Methodist Assembly Camp & Conference Center (see sacramentoassembly.org), about 30 road miles southeast of Cloudcroft, and 130 miles from the El Paso International Airport. The center is on the eastern flanks of the Sacramento Mts, at 7200 ft., so bring warm clothing. We will have all of our meals (beginning Tuesday dinner, ending Friday breakfast) at the Camp, except for one meal out-of-doors – a Dutch oven dinner at a nearby Boy Scout camp. There is Wi-Fi access in the buildings, and spotty (unreliable) cell access in some places on the grounds. We will try to put everyone in the same lodge (Forrest Lodge), but with varying levels of cost to accommodate your budget. The charges include room, board, linen, and all fees for the meals and rooms 23-25 March 2010. All rooms have a private bath.

1. The choice for most folks will be to share a room with a single roommate (two beds in the room): \$140 per person (after Jan 16: \$190)
2. Couples may share a room: \$280 per couple (after Jan 16: \$330)
3. If you wish a room to yourself, with no roommate: \$240 (after Jan 16: \$290)
4. For bona fide students and others living in genuine financial straits, we are providing a room with one roommate (same as choice #1): \$65 (after Jan 16: \$115). If Forrest Lodge fills up (desirable but not

expected), then we will move those paying the student rate to Aspen Lodge, which has several beds/bunks per room with private bath. [Please note: It should be obvious that this is a subsidized rate, so please register for this only if you fit the financial conditions. We cannot lodge everyone at this rate. Choice #1 is very reasonable, so please choose that if you have a real job and are able.]

We hope this will fit most needs, but there are other options, if you must:

1. Camp on the grounds, with a combination of one of the following.
2. Pay for facility use and meals; you take care of your own lodging: \$100 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$150).
3. Pay for facility use; you take care of your lodging and meals: \$35 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$85).
4. Pay for meals and facility use by the day: \$35/day.

For meals, we will provide a regular and a vegetarian option. If you have other special dietary needs (such as gluten or lactose intolerance), we will try to accommodate you as best we are able.

There is some money available for student travel awards. If you are a student who will have to fly, check the box on the registration form. Details and amounts will be forthcoming.

Airport Shuttle: We will have a few vans to help shuttle folks from the El Paso airport to the conference center. The vans (with New Mexico State University logo) will depart the airport at about 3 pm Tuesday (March 23), so you'll need to be there by 3 pm if you wish a ride. For the return, the vans will leave the conference center Friday morning (March 26) after breakfast (arriving El Paso by 10:30 am or so); please make your flight plans accordingly. We cannot provide unlimited shuttle service at all hours, so this will be first-come-first-served at the times specified. If you wish such a service, email us your flight information (kallred@nmsu.edu), and we will let you know if you've made the list and the arrangements. Note: the details above are tentative; we will try to be flexible and to accommodate as many as possible. Another option would be for several of you to share the cost of a rental. We will use the same vans for transportation on the field trips.

Library: We will have the following available at the conference center (and maybe some others):

An Illustrated Glossary, by the Malcolms
BFNA vol. 1
California Mosses
Colorado Bryophytes, by Weber &
Wittmann,
Common Mosses of British Columbia, by
Schofield
Genera of the Pottiaceae, by Zander
How to Know the Mosses, by Conard &
Redfearn

Líquenes, Musgos & Hepáticas, by Wirth et
al.
Moss Flora of Britain and Ireland, by Smith
Moss Flora of Fennoscandia, by Nyholm
Moss Flora of North America, by Grout
Moss Flora of the Pacific Northwest, by
Lawton
Mosses of Eastern U.S.
Mosses of Mexico
Mosses of Sweden, 2 vols

Microscopes: We will have about 10 or so compound microscopes and dissecting scopes (student grade) for use at the center, with needles, slides, & cover slips.

Deadline: All arrangements are being made by Kelly Allred. Do not contact the camp for reservations.

Registration form and full payment must be received by January 16, 2010. After that date, a late charge of \$50 will be assessed. There is no partial payment or deposit. Send the registrations form and check (payable to Range Science Herbarium) to:

Kelly Allred – SOBEFREE
New Mexico State University
MSC 3I, PO Box 30003
Las Cruces, NM 88003

SO BE FREE 15 23-26 March 2010 Sacramento Mts, New Mexico

at Sacramento Methodist Assembly Camp & Conference Center <sacramentoassembly.org>

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Room and Board (includes all fees, meals, beds, linen – everything for 3 nights, Mar 23, 24, 25). We will put everyone in Forrest Lodge (motel-style with two beds and private bath) if possible, first-come-first-served, but those paying the Student Rate will be housed in Aspen Lodge (beds & bunks, private bath) if necessary, as well as late-comers if space is limited. No one will be in dorms.

- One bed, sharing a room with one other person: \$140 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$190) Gender: _____
- Couple in a room: \$280 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$330)
- One person in a room: \$240 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$290)
- Student Rate, for bona fide students living in poverty and others in genuine financial straits: one bed, sharing a room with one or more persons: \$65 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$115) Gender: _____

We hope everyone will take advantage of the above, but there are other options:

- Camp on the grounds (if so, then also check one of the following).
- Pay for facility use and meals; you take care of your own lodging: \$100 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$150).
- Pay for facility use; you take care of your lodging and meals: \$35 (after Jan 16, 2010 = \$85).
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I am a student who will have to fly, and wish to be considered for a travel award.

Meal Preferences: no preference vegetarian

Special Dietary Needs: Please explain here any special dietary requirements you have, such as gluten or lactose intolerance; we will visit with the food service people and notify you of the arrangements.

DEADLINE for regular rates: Money received by January 16, 2010.

Mail this form, with check made out to Range Science Herbarium, to →

Receipts will be provided by email when money is received.

All arrangements are being made by Kelly Allred. Contact me with questions: kallred@nmsu.edu

Do NOT contact Sacramento Methodist Assembly for reservations.

Kelly Allred – SOBEFREE New Mexico State University MSC 3I, PO Box 30003 Las Cruces, NM 88003
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