

**Gila Chapter
New Mexico Native Plant Society
2013 Annual Report**

Part I: Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Dr. Keller Suberkropp – President
Ron Groves – Vice President
Pam Bryant – Treasurer
Betsy Kaido – Secretary
Dr. Russ Kleinman – Past President

Board of Directors

Dr. Charles Holmes
Joan Limmer
Jeff Boyd

Committee Chairs

Joan Limmer – Membership
Dr. Charles Holmes – Bulletin and Chapter Representative
Susan Brown – Publicity
Jeff Boyd – Education
Deming Gustafson – Field Trips
Betty Spence - Social

Quarterly Board Meetings were held to conduct business and finances for Gila Chapter of the NMNPS.

Part II: Programs, Field Trips, and Social Events

All programs were held in Harlan Hall on the campus of Western New Mexico University at 7:00 p.m. on the third Friday of each month. Programs were followed by a social gathering organized by the Social Chair and volunteers. Books of botanical and horticultural interest were on sale under the supervision of Ron Groves after each meeting.

Programs:

January 18: Seth Pilsk, botanist in the Forestry Department of the San Carlos Apache tribe gave the talk: "Western Apache Botany". Approximately 47 members attended. Social followed.

February 15: Jack Carter, Professor Emeritus of Colorado College and influential member of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico gave the talk: "Charles Darwin" in

celebration of Darwin's 204th birthday. Approximately 66 members attended. Social followed, with Birthday Cake.

March 15: Frank Keim, a longtime resident of Alaska, gave the talk: "Importance of Wild Rivers and Wilderness". Approximately 29 members attended. Social followed.

April 19: Bill Norris, Professor of Biology and Director of the Herbarium at Western New Mexico University, gave the talk: "The Role of Amateur Botanists in Sustaining the Floristic Tradition in Botany. Approximately 43 members attended. Social followed.

September 15: Richard Felger, Adjunct Senior Research Scientist, University of Arizona and Research Associate, San Diego Natural History Museum, gave the talk: "Fit the Crop to the Land, Not the Land to the Crop". Approximately 48 members attended. Social followed.

October 18: Patrick Alexander, Curator of the Herbarium in the Department of Biology at New Mexico State University, gave the talk: "Gypsophilia: An Introduction to Gypsum and the Plants that Call it Home". Approximately 36 members attended. Social followed.

November 15: Donna Stevens, Director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance and former President of GNPS, gave the talk: "Alien Plant Invasion in the Aldo Leopold Wilderness". Approximately 45 members attended. Social followed.

Field Trips: Organized and led by Deming Gustafson.

April 20: A field trip to Engineer Canyon in the Burro Mountains was attended by 14 members.

May 19: The field trip to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range was attended by 14 members. Interesting plants seen included *Quercus rugosa* (Netleaf Oak), *Symphoricarpos rotundifolius* (Roundleaf Snowberry), *Lupinus brevicaulis* (Short-stemmed Lupine), *Pinus strobiformis* (Southwestern White Pine) and *Fendlera rupicola* (Cliff Fendler Bush).

June 16: The field trip to Signal Peak in the Pinos Altos Mountains was attended by 11 members. Interesting plants seen included: *Acer glabrum* (Rocky Mountain Maple), *Rubus idaeus* (Red Raspberry), *Ligusticum porteri* (the famous Osha), *Sambucus coerulea* (New Mexico Elder), *Aquilegia desertorum* (Desert Columbine), *Ribes pinetorum* (Golden Gooseberry), and *Polygonatum biflorum* (Coppermine Solomon's Seal (

July 21: The field trip to Gold Gulch in the Burro Mountains was attended by 13 members. Interesting plants seen included *Koeberlinia spinosa* (Crown of Thorns), *Croton texensis* (Texas Croton), *Asclepias subverticillata* (Poison Milkweed), *Eleocharis macrostachya* (Pale Spikerush), *Mentha spicata* (Spearmint), *Rhynchosia senna* (Rosary Bean) and *Stachys coccinea* (Scarlet Hedge Nettle).

August 18: The field trip to Knight Peak south of Silver City was attended by 10 members

September 15: We had a field trip to Cherry Creek. Interesting plants seen included: *Xanthisma gracile* (Slender Sleep Daisy), *Amauriopsis dissecta* (Bahia), *Delphinium scopulorum* (Rock Mountain Larkspur), *Ipomopsis aggregata* (deep red Skyrocket), *Oenothera elata* (Hooker's Evening Primrose), and *Potentilla thurberi* (Thurber's Cinquefoil),

Social Events:

June 23: Our Annual Picnic at the Gomez Peak Picnic area attracted 38 members. Members brought a dish to share and the Chapter provided drinks and hot dogs.

December 15: Our Holiday Party held at American Legion Hall, 43 members attended. Members brought a dish to share and the Chapter provided drinks and pork roast.

Part III: Other Activities

Native Plant Sale: Native plants from Mountain States were again made available to members of the Silver City community by the Gila Chapter. Plants could be ordered from the GNPS website or during the Presale held on March 16 in the Annex of the Silver City Museum. The Presale was accomplished by a number of volunteers who took greeted customers and took orders. Charles Holmes and Trisha Hurley advised on plants for customer needs, Ron Groves provided books on native plants for sale, and Elroy Limmer presented a slide show of the plants that were available for sale. The sale resulted in a net profit of \$1724.

Earth Day Celebration: The Gila Chapter of the NM Native Plant Society had a booth for Earth Day in Penny Park as in past years. The day before Earth Day was the pickup day for native plant orders. Again a number of volunteers helped move and sort plants that had been ordered so that customers could pick up plants they had purchased. On Earth Day, Ron Groves offered books on native plants and southwest gardening for purchase.

Red Hot Children's Fiesta: The Gila Chapter was represented by Angela and Spike Flanders and Keller Suberkropp at the Red Hot Children's Fiesta on September 20 on the campus of Western New Mexico University. Activities designed by Angela promoting appreciation of native plants were provided for the children attending.

Grant Proposal for Silva Creek Botanical Garden: A proposal was prepared by Keller Suberkropp and submitted to the PNM Resource Foundation for their 30th Anniversary competition. Funds of \$10,000 were requested to add to and improve the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Unfortunately, the proposal was not funded.

This garden is currently being directed by Charles Holmes and Betsy Kaido. It is being maintained by volunteers from the Gila chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

An addition to the garden was made in memory of Gerry Niva, a former member of the Gila Chapter. Soil was brought in, a tree and flowers planted and a small plaque was added. Funds were provided from friends of Gerry Niva.

Grants funded by the Gila Chapter: We funded two grants during 2013, each for \$500. One grant went to the Silva Creek Garden for the purchase of plants and equipment needed by the garden. The other grant went to the Gila River Festival to fund the some of the activities of this important event in Silver City

Gila River Festival: Ron Groves and other volunteers manned an information booth at the Gila River Festival. Jack Carter presented a talk on the role of the Rare Plant Technical Council.

1st Annual Festival of the Written Word: Ron Groves sold books by local authors on native plants and other topics.

Greenways Brochure: The Gila Chapter contributed plant lists and \$250 to the Greenways Brochure produced by the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society that describes walking trails in Silver City.

Children's Water Festival: Jack and Martha Carter introduced children to native plants.