

Gila Chapter
New Mexico Native Plant Society
2016 Annual Report

Part I: Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Ron Groves – President – orangegroves42@gmail.com, Phone 575-313-9910
101 W. Daniel. St, Silver City, NM88061

Vice President - position was vacant throughout the years 2015 and 2016

Pam Bryant – Treasurer – pamandron4684@hotmail.com, Phone 575-313-99

Jeff Boyd – Secretary - boyd189@gmail.com

Keller Suberkropp – Past President - keller65@signalpeak.net

Board of Directors

Charles Holmes - iskander321@hotmail.com

Joan Limmer - elroy.limmer@gmail.com

Elroy Limmer - elroy.limmer@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Joan Limmer – Membership

Keller Suberkropp- Chapter Representative

Jeff Boyd – Education

Kevin Keith– Field Trips - kevlkeith@yahoo.com

Helen Shoup – Newsletter Editor - hshoup3@earthlink.net

Betty Spence – Publicity - betty.spence7@gmail.com

Monthly Board Meetings were held to conduct business and finances for Gila Chapter of the NPSNM

The new officers elected at the November 18, 2016 meeting to serve for the next two years are as follows:

Elroy Limmer– President -

Bill Norris - Vice President

Pam Bryant – Treasurer

Jeff Boyd – Secretary

Keller Suberkropp –Past President

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.

Programs:

Friday, Jan 15, meeting, featured a presentation by Dr. Keller Suberkropp, "Adaptations in Photosynthesis Occurring in Many of Our Native Plants". In warm, arid conditions many plants close their stomates if water loss is too high; however, this prevents diffusion of the CO₂ into the leaf for photosynthesis. Dr. Suberkropp describes the C-4 and CAM pathways of CO₂ fixation used by many plants in our region to solve that problem.

**Friday, Feb 19, meeting, featured a presentation by Van Clothier, owner of Stream Dynamics, "Water harvesting Projects as They Relate to Growing Native Plants in Our Area".
21 in attendance**

**Friday, March 18, meeting, featured a talk by Jim McGrath, "Adventures of a Rare Plant Botanist". Jim described his involvement with rare plants over the last 15 years: performing rare plant clearance surveys in the oil and gas fields of northwest New Mexico and developing rare plant workshops and field trips in the Sacramento and White Mountains. His years as NPSNM conservation chair gave him the opportunity to learn the rare plants of the Blue Hold Cienega Nature Preserve at Santa Rosa
29 in attendance**

Friday, April 15, meeting, featured a presentation by William (Bill) Norris, Richard Felger, Russ Kleinman and Kelly Kindscher of their findings to date on the project "A Floristic Study of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument: Revelations, Mysteries, and Challenges".

Friday, September 16, meeting; Matthew Schultz and Mitchel White of the U.S. Forest Service presented an update on the status of the Gila Forest Plan Revision.

Friday, October 21, meeting, featured a talk by Russ Kleinman, "Ancient Sea Ledges, Deep Rocky Canyons, Lava Flows, Ice Caves and Other Challenging Places Mosses Hide". Russ shared the difficulties and excitement experienced while looking for mosses and liverworts in some of the toughest landscapes in New Mexico.

Friday, November 18, meeting, featured a talk on, "Creative Coloring: Dye Plants That Grow in the Greater Gila Region", by Ann Hedlund, cultural anthropologist, and Hosana Eilert, weaver. Ann and Hosana discussed native plants that have been used historically or have potential to be used for natural dyeing.

89 in attendance

Field Trips: Organized and led by Kevin Keith.

Sunday, April 17, field trip to Granite Gap; this BLM-owned site – with easy walking among fantastic rock formations - hosts many plants we don't see in the Gila region.

Sunday, May 15, field trip to Eighty Mountain, a moderate walk, with an elevation gain of a couple hundred feet over two miles. The trail passes through Ponderosa forest, eventually

contouring the north slope of Eighty Mountain. Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*), alumroot (*Heuchera*) and lip ferns (*Cheilanthes*) occupy the shadiest sites on the slope.

Sunday, June 19, field trip to Meadow Creek. The Meadow Creek drainage in the Pinos Altos range supports some of the largest Gambel's oak in the Gila region as well as some interesting plants in the Rose Family: *Crataegus wootoniana* (Wooton's hawthorn), *Rosa woodsii* (Wood's rose) and the sublime *Potentilla thurberi* (red cinquefoil).

Sunday, July 17, field trip to Tadpole Ridge, Trail 232 from Sheep Corral Canyon, a moderate hike through large-diameter mixed conifer and Gambel's oak with a diverse understory of shrubs and herbaceous plants. The legume family is well represented with lotus, lupine and vetch in bloom.

Sunday, August 21, field trip to Lower Gallinas Canyon in the Black Range, an easy hike which follows a perennial stream. The canyon harbors some uncommon plants like the nodding onion, *Allium cernuum*; the crag lily, *Echeandia flavescens*; and pony's foot, *Dichondra argentea*.

Sunday, September 18, field trip to Tennessee Gulch in the Big Lue Mountains; a moderate trail winds through a mosaic of ponderosa forest, woodland and sculpted outcroppings of white rhyolite. The Madrean pines, *Pinus chihuahuensis* and *Pinus cembroides*, are known in the vicinity.

Social Events:

May 15: Annual Picnic after a morning field trip we invited the SW NM Audubon Society to join us for our Annual Picnic.

Sunday, December 11, Pot-Luck Holiday Party at the Commons/Volunteer Center at 1 pm. We had a nice gathering and enjoyed socializing with the members.

Part III: Other Activities

Native Plant Sale: Native plants from Mountain States along with plants from Lone Mountain Natives were made available to members of the Silver City community by the Gila Chapter. Plants could be ordered from the GNPS website thru April 19th or during the Presale held as a part of the Home & Garden Expo on April 9th. The Presale was staffed by a number of volunteers (supervised by Keller Suberkropp) who greeted customers and took orders. Angela Flanders, Charles Holmes advised on plants for customer needs, and Elroy Limmer presented a slide show of the plants that were available for sale. The sale resulted in a net profit of \$516.74 after a contribution of \$1,022.25 (at cost) of plants purchased for the Silva Creek Garden.

Earth Day Celebration: For the Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23, members and other community members picked up their native plants bought from GNPS and visited the table in Gough Park. It was a good opportunity to connect with other parts of the community.

The sales/profits for GNPS this year were a little less than last year, but it was still a success! We all look forward to the celebration - and plant sale - next year!

Give Grandly was a local event promoting community support of non-profit organizations. It happened on May 14th, and GNPS had a table at the Farmers Market. It was very successful, earning more than \$1000, thus exceeding the minimum to receive the \$250 matching donation. The chapter appreciates the support from the community, enabling the group to provide scholarships, to complete the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, and to continue providing education on native plants to local school children and to adults.

Continuing work at Silva Creek Botanical Garden: The garden is maintained by volunteers from the Gila chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico under the direction of Elroy Limmer, Keller Suberkropp, and Betsy Kaido. On Friday, April 29, 2016, members planted more natives for the spring. Good for our pollinators! The new decorative fence along Virginia street has been installed, and new plant signage as well. We also have a new Arch on the south side of the garden compliments of member Eric Ockerhausen and his WILL welding class. The Garden has been used by the community as well as GNPS for classes.

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment symposium from June 8-10, 2016, on the WNMU campus. This year's theme is **The Heart of the Gila: Wilderness and Water in the West**. GNPS had an informational table at the event to disseminate information regarding Native Plants in the region.

Adult Educational Programs: On Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, 2016, GNPS offered a course, presented by **Donna Stevens**, focusing on 30 of our common native trees and shrubs. The participants spent 2 hours on Friday learning about the plants and then had a field trip of about 4 hours on Saturday to actually learn to recognize/identify the plants. We had 16 folks attend.

Youth Educational Programs: GNPS continued our agreement with Tricia Hurley and sponsored her in giving a series of 10 presentations over the course of 2016 to school classes, girl scout troops, and children enrolled in the Silver City Recreation Center summer program. The classes have been held at either the Gila Native Plant Society's Silva Creek Botanical Garden or on the nature trails at the Silver City Recreation Center.

Grants funded by the Gila Chapter: We gave a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving Botany student at WNMU.

We also awarded a \$400 grant to The Volunteer Center to harvest and grind mesquite flour. Elroy Limmer, Ron Groves, and Richard Felger met with the Volunteer Center to provide guidance and the board approved the request, with the stipulation that Richard be closely involved to provide support.
ment

Gila River Festival: Once again GNPS was a major sponsor of the Gila River Festival and contributed \$500. In spite of conflicting with the NPSNM Annual Conference in Las Cruces we had enough volunteers to have an informational table present and many members attended as this is a most important annual conservation event in the region.

Gila Native Plant Society Comments on Gila NF Plan Assessment: In addition to members participating in community discussions regarding the Plan assessment, The chapter submitted comments on the Gila NF Draft Assessment Report of Sept 2016. This submission was the work of chapter Secretary Jeff Boyd with input from local Botanists and chapter members Kelly Kindscher, Richard Felger, Bill Norris, and Russ Kleinman.

Book Sales: Net sales were 1879.31. Most of these sales were through our Web site (via PayPal) The board voted to place a book sales ad in the state Newsletter in 2017, as had been done in 2016, for a cost of \$241.