

**Gila Chapter
New Mexico Native Plant Society
2014 Annual Report**

Part I: Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

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

Board of Directors

Charles Holmes
Joan Limmer
Jeff Boyd

Committee Chairs

Joan Limmer – Membership
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.

At the November 15 meeting, officers were elected for a two year term as follows:

Ron Groves – President
Vice President is currently vacant
Pam Bryant – Treasurer
Jeff Boyd – Secretary
Keller Suberkropp –Past President

Elroy Limmer was appointed as a new member of the Board of Directors at the December meeting of the Board.

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: George Farmer gave the talk: "Seed matters: we reap what we sow". Approximately 34 members attended. Social followed.

February 21: Renee West, current president of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico gave the talk: "Climate change in southern New Mexico". Approximately 64 members attended. Social followed.

March 21: Martha Ames Burgess gave the talk: "Incredible edibles of the Sonoran Desert and beyond". Approximately 52 members attended. Social followed.

April 18: Jack Carter, Professor Emeritus at Colorado College gave the talk: "Human population, conservation, and survival". Approximately 46 members attended. Social followed.

September: This meeting was cancelled due to conflicts with the Gila River Festival.

October 17: Lisa Mandelkorn, gave the talk: "The Botanical Garden at Tubingen". Approximately 43 members attended. Social followed.

November 15: A. T. Cole, gave the talk: "Human caused climate change and habitat shallowing as an adaptation tool". Approximately 25 members attended. Social followed.

Field Trips: Organized and led by Deming Gustafson.

April 20: A field trip to McMillan Campground was attended by 10 members. Interesting plants included: *Packera neomexicana* (New Mexico ragwort), *Maianthemum racemosum* (false Solomon's seal), *Crataegus wootoniana* (Wooton's hawthorne) as well as a number of other species.

May 18: The field trip to the Royal John Mine Road at the Mimbres bridge was attended by 12 members. Interesting plants seen included *Potamogeton foliosus* (leafy pondweed) *Juncus bufonius* (toad rush), *Polypogon viridis* (water polypogon).

June 15: The field trip to Little Cherry Creek was attended by 10 members. Interesting plants seen included: *Populus angustifolia* (narrow leaf cottonwood), *Penstemon barbatus* (scarlet penstemon), *Ceanothus fendleri* (buckbrush). We avoided the patches of *Toxicodendron rydbergii* (poison ivy).

July 20: The field trip to Railroad Canyon near Emory Pass was attended by 18 members. Interesting plants seen included *Alnus oblongifolia* (Arizona alder), *Clematis ligusticifolia* (Virgin Bower), *Rhamnus betulifolia* (Birchleaf buckthorn), as well as a number of mosses and oyster mushrooms.

August 17: The field trip to Sheep Corral was attended by 17 members. Interesting plants seen included: *Echeanda flavescens* (crag lily), *Commelina dianthifolia* (day flower), *Solanum jamesii* (wild potato), *Castilleja integra* (southwestern Indian paintbrush).

September 21: The field trip to Pancho Canyon was attended by 6 members. Interesting plants seen included *Lycium pallidum* (pale wolfberry), *Ptelea trifoliata* (hop tree).

Social Events:

June 23: Our Annual Picnic at the Gomez Peak Picnic area attracted 24 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, 32 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 Workshops of Cisnaros in downtown Silver City. The Presale was accomplished by a number of volunteers who greeted customers and took orders. Charles Holmes advised on plants for customer needs, Ron Groves provided books on native plants for sale, and Elroy Limmer and Jack Carter presented a slide show of the plants that were available for sale. The sale resulted in a net profit of \$1403.

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 Ron Groves, Pam Bryant, Andy and Gwen Payne, Jack and Martha Carter at the Red Hot Children's Fiesta on September 13 on the campus of Western New Mexico University. Activities designed by Angela Flanders promoting appreciation of native plants were provided for the children attending.

Grant Proposals for Silva Creek Botanical Garden: A proposal was prepared by Keller Suberkropp and submitted to the PNM Resource Foundation for their Power UP grant competition. Funds of \$15,000 were requested to add to and improve the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. The proposal was funded and an amphitheater, kiosk, and platform for artwork has been constructed. Metal artwork to place around the old railroad water tank in the garden is currently being finished.

A second grant of \$10,000 was obtained from the Wetterau Family Fund to provide soil, plants, and other accessories for the Garden.

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.

Grants funded by the Gila Chapter: We funded two grants during 2014, each for \$500. One grant went to Gila Conservation Education Center to transport school children to the Gila River for a day of educational activities. 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.

Scholarships to Western New Mexico University students: Two scholarships of \$1000 each were awarded by the Gila chapter to Christina Comacho and Garrett Hall.