

GILA CHAPTER
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Part I: Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Dr. Russ Kleinman - President
Dr. Keller Suberkropp - Vice President
Debbie Bird - Treasurer (Jan-Feb)
Ron Groves-Treasurer (March forward, as
Debbie Bird moved to Tucson)
Betsy Kaido - Secretary
Elroy Limmer - Past President

Board of Directors

Dennis Beaver
Martha Carter
Charles Holmes

Committee Chairman

Membership - Martha Carter through
December 2011, then Jane Spinti as of
January 2012 and going forward
Bulletin and Chapter Representative -
Charles Holmes
Publications - Phoebe Lawrence
Field Trips - Deming Gustafson
Education - Jeff Boyd
Social - Liz Mikols

**Quarterly Board Meetings were held to conduct
business and finances for the GNPS. In addition:**

Part II: Programs & Field Trips

All programs are held in Harlan Hall on the
Campus of WNMU at 7:00 p.m. on the third Friday of
each month. Programs are followed by a social

gathering with refreshments organized by Liz Mikols and volunteers. Books of botanical and/or horticultural interest are on sale under the supervision of Ron Groves after each meeting.

January 21: Talk by Donovan Bailey, Assoc. Professor of Botany at NM State University, gave the talk "Impacts of Human Translocation in the Evolutionary History of the *Leucaena* genus". Approximately 41 members and guests attended. Refreshments followed.

February 18: George Farmer, Axle Canyon Preserve proprietor, presents a program on the soil/food web-- rehabilitating soil and habitat for native plants in Axle Canyon in the Burro Mountains. Turnout is good-- 37 members and guests. Refreshments follow.

March 18: John O'Loughlin, Noxious Weed Coordinator for the Southwestern NM Cooperative Weed Management Area of Grant and Hidalgo Counties, gave the talk "Noxious Weeds and Control Methods in Grant and Hidalgo Counties" 45 people attended the meeting. After the meeting, home baked Irish pastries were served by Angela Flanders.

April 15: Mark Donnell, Chief of Anesthesia at Gila Regional Medical Center and researcher in the chemistry division of the WNMU Natural Sciences Dept., gave the talk "Medicinal Plants of New Mexico". 67 people attended with a lively question and answer period afterwards.

April 17: Our Field Trip was arranged by Deming Gustafson to C-Bar Ranch Road. It has been too dry for many of the usual herbaceous plants, but we did see many interesting woody plants, cacti, and desert adapted ferns. Fourteen people attended.

May 15: Hoodoo Canyon Hike arranged by Deming Gustafson. Eight people attended.

June 19: 15 people attended field trip arranged by Deming Gustafson to Deadman Canyon.

July 17: 15 people attended field trip to Silva Creek Garden was arranged by Deming Gustafson. The Garden is in good shape in spite of poor rainfall totals to date in Silver City.

1st week of August: Several members attended the annual meeting of the NMNPS in Santa Fe. An excellent time was had by all!

August 21: 17 people attended field trip to Myers Canyon in the Pinos Altos Range arranged by Deming Gustafson. A very rare taxon for our area, *Ditaxis cyanophyllum* was identified.

September 9: Richard Felger, adjunct senior research scientist at the University of Arizona and research associate at the San Diego Natural History Museum, give talk on "Desert Islands and Sky Islands in the American Southwest." 67 people attended.

September 11: 21 people attended field trip arranged by Deming Gustafson to Spirit Canyon. Many unusual late bloomers were noted included *Plectocephalus rothrockii*.

September 18: Deming Gustafson leads a field trip to Spirit Canyon with a highlight of Pictographs.

October 31: Keller Suberkropp, retired Professor of Ecology at NMSU & University of Alabama give a talk on stream ecology, "Plant Litter Decomposition in Freshwater Streams". 35 people attended.

November 18: Van Clothier, owner of Stream Dynamics, gives a talk on "Water Harvesting for Native Plant Gardens". 40 people attended.

Part III: Other Activities

Native Plant Sale: Gila chapter website improved such that online ordering and PayPal are accepted. Pre-sale on March 12 at the Silco Theatre. The Pre-sale was accomplished smoothly with slide shows about plants being run by two teams concurrently with ordering in the lobby. Many GNPS members were on hand to help with consultation for the public. 53 customer orders were received.

Earth Day Celebration at Penny Park: Gila Native Plant Society had a booth at Penny Park this year as in the past. The day before was pickup for Native Plant Sale orders. At Earth Day, remaining plants were on sale, as well as books on Native Plants and southwest gardening. Many volunteers helped out, about 20 members participated.

Workshop Classes: Each Tuesday in February, running for four weeks, Dr. Keller Suberkropp gave a workshop on Fungi. 18 members participated. The first week concentrated on the structure and diversity of fungi. The second week highlighted the four major groups of fungi. Keller discussed Rusts, Smuts & Mycorrhizae on the third Tuesday. On the fourth Tuesday, Keller discussed Lichens and his research on stream fungi. By popular demand, Keller gave a fifth presentation on Oomycetes and Slime Molds.

Educational Outreach: Gila Chapter Vice President Keller Suberkropp and Education Chairman Jeff Boyd participated as docents in the GCEC (Gila Conservation Education Center) program for 5th graders along the Gila River in the Cliff area called the 5th Grade Water Festival. They talked about native trees and invasive species. The program was held for hundreds (eight sessions) of 5th graders on April 29th, 2011.

On June 22, 2011, Elroy Limmer (Past President) spoke to the Silver Acres Homeowners Association about erosion control. This is especially important in light of the fire which devastated that area a month or two before the talk.

Scholarships: We looked into the matter of disbursement of invested funds on a yearly basis in the form of student scholarships. It appears the best way to do this is to leave the funds in our investment portfolio at Edward Jones and each year remove an appropriate amount of funds to be given with instructions to the Grant-In-Aid program of WNMU Foundation. In this way funds can be directed to students in the Natural Science department. A Grant-In-Aid of \$1000 was made to the Natural Sciences Department this year after arranging this with Vance Redfern and Suzanne Triviz. They will consult with Dr. William Norris to decide which student or students are appropriate for the financial assistance.

Grants: We received two Grant applications March 1st—one from Bill Norris to fund a new herbarium computer (\$1000) and for Denise Norris (\$300) to teach someone how to input data into the database. The other grant is from Angela Flanders for \$2000 to process plants in the herbarium and enter database information. These grants have been approved.

Gila River Festival: We acted at the May 11, 2011 Board Meeting to donate \$500 to the Gila River Festival. This money is used by the Gila Conservation Coalition to protect the Gila River against interests that would divert/dam the river.

Annual Picnic: Liz Mikols arranged our annual picnic. The group picnic area was reserved at Little Walnut Picnic Grounds for June 12th.

Christmas Party: 50 people attended the annual Christmas party at the former Elks Lodge on Market street. Sharing of holiday food and drink.

Letter from WNMU Foundation re: Grant-In-Aid

April 21, 2011

Native Plant Society

Attn: Mr. Ron Groves, Treasurer

P.O. Box 457

Silver City, NM 88062

Dear Mr. Groves,

Thank you for the donation of \$1,000.00 on behalf of the Native Plant Society, received by the Western New Mexico University Foundation for a Grants-In-Aid Scholarship for a Natural Science Botany major.

Your interest in the programs of WNMU and the WNMU Foundation is greatly appreciated.

The value of tangible benefits received in return for this gift is \$0.00; the portion of your gift that may be considered a charitable contribution is \$1,000.00.

Sincerely,

Vance Redfern

Executive Director

VR/sth

cc: Dr. William Norris

Dr. Russell Kleinman

Part IV: Financial Statement—please see report by Ron Groves.

This annual report is submitted respectfully by

Russ Kleinman, President Gila Chapter