

GILA CHAPTER
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

Part I: Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Dr. Russ Kleinman - President
Dr. Keller Suberkropp - Vice President
Ron Groves - Treasurer
Betsy Kaido - Secretary
Elroy Limmer - Past President

Board of Directors

Dennis Beaver
Jeff Boyd
Charles Holmes

Committee Chairman

Membership - Jane Spinti/Joan Limmer
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. Programs were held January through April, with Field Trips occurring in May, June & July.

January 20: Patrice Mutchnick, Biology Lab Director at WNMU, "Plant Collecting in the Tropics, with an Introduction to Tropical Plant Families." Patrice has collected plants in South and Central America for the Smithsonian Institution. 51 guests were in attendance.

February 17: Dr. Mark Dimmitt presented "The Madrean Sky Island Archipelago: Summary of Recent Botanical Surveys, with Notes on the Aftermath of the Monument Fire in the Huachuca Mountains." 30 guests were in attendance.

March 16: Mike Natharius, Soil Scientist for the Gila National Forest, discussed the "Midscale Vegetation Mapping Project for Region 3 of the US Forest Service (New Mexico and Arizona.) This remote sensing project incorporated field-collected training data and vegetation macroplots to map the major dominance types on the Gila National Forest. There were 28 guests in attendance.

April 13: Dr. Russ Kleinman introduced the group to the Mosses of the Gila. Over 100 moss species are now known from the Gila in many different families. Methods of moss identification and classification were discussed and the most common mosses of the Gila were explored in more detail.

April 15: Field trip to the Florida Mtns with Gene Jercinovic as leader - 8 people made the trip to Deming for this.

May 20: Field trip to C-Bar Ranch Road on Hwy 90. 17 people participated. One new county record species was identified: *Malacothrix stebbinsii*. Several specimens were pressed for the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium.

June 17: Field trip to Signal Peak— 14 people attended. The weather was perfect for this upper elevation hike. Jack Carter led the trip along with Deming Gustafson. *Coronilla varia* was seen for the first time on Signal Peak. It is an invasive elsewhere in the country and was reported by Russ Kleinman later that week to John O'Laughlin, the area's Noxious Weed Coordinator.

July 15: Field trip— Walk at Lake Roberts. 14 people attended.

September 16: Field trip— Walk at Cherry Creek Campground. 9 attendees, trip led by Deming Gustafson. Unusual *Prunus* noted by Richard Felger.

September 21: Meeting: Richard Felger talked on Desert Trees of the World. 32 members and guests in attendance, followed by refreshments.

October 19: Meeting: Kelly Allred on "How to Get a Job at a Major Research University, Feed Your Family for Thirty-Two Years, While Producing Nothing of Any Economic Value." Actually, the talk centered about the grass genus "*Bothriochloa*" which Dr. Allred spent several years studying.

November 16: Meeting: Elroy Limmer (Past President of GNPS) presented a program on "Insects and Their Relationship with Native Plants" illustrated with photos of interesting insects not often seen. Elroy Limmer is an accomplished local photographer and native plant enthusiast. Election of Officers for 2013. 44 members and guests attended.

New officer slate:

President—Keller Suberkropp

Vice President—Ron Groves

Treasurer—Pam Groves

Secretary—Betsy Kaido

December 16: Holiday party at Elroy & Joan Limmer's house. 52 people attended.

Part III: Other Activities

Native Plant Sale: Online ordering and Paypal accepted. Pre-sale was held in March. Plant pickup was held in May. Pam Groves deserves the credit for organizing the event this year.

Workshop Classes: Each Wednesday in April, running for five weeks, Dr. Russ Kleinman, Dr. Bill Norris and Dr. Karen Blisard gave a workshop on Mosses. 8 members participated. The first week concentrated on the structure and diversity of mosses. The second week highlighted the Acrocarps. The Pottiaceae were investigated on the third Wednesday. On the fourth Tuesday, we looked at the pleurocarps with a costa. The fifth week we finished up with pleurocarps with a costa. In addition, Karen Blisard gave a presentation on Liverworts of the Gila.

For 5 weeks in October through November, Drs. Bill Norris, Russ Kleinman, and Richard Felger held a workshop using Dr. Kelly Allred's new Flora Neomexicana III to key out local native plants. The 15 attendants met once weekly and keyed out plants using microscopes and aided by the course leaders.

Educational Outreach: Jeff Boyd & Keller Suberkropp helped with the Children's River Festival this year in September.

Scholarships: The Board has approved a \$1000 scholarship to a deserving WNMU student in the Natural Sciences Department. Russ has spoken with Dr. Norris who is working on the scholarship application process.

Grants: Three grant proposals were received by the Board this spring. A grant by Dr. Norris for Herbarium funding was approved for \$2,500. A grant for the Children's Water Festival was approved for \$500 to help transport the children by bus to the Gila River. A grant request by a private business in Silver City to help develop a native plant garden in a vacant lot next to their location was not funded.

As a result of our grant from last year to the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium, a new computer has been ordered for the herbarium and more than 1,000 plant specimens were processed into the herbarium.

Gila River Festival: The Board approved a \$500 request for funding for the Gila River Festival to be held this September.

Gila Symposium: The Board approved a \$250 request for funding for the Gila Symposium held in October at WNMU. A poster was set up in the lobby with information about the Gila Native Plant Society.

Membership Drive: We actively recruited members with two projects in the summer and fall. Both were quite successful. First, we partnered with Lone Mountain Natives Nursery to provide garden natives to members and new members at a discount. This activity was advertised. Second, we advertised in the magazine "Desert Exposure" that new members that paid dues based on seeing that ad would receive a free walk through of their property with plant identifications at their convenience. We gained several new members, including Susie Brown who has agreed to take Phoebe Lawrence's place as publicity chairperson going forward for 2013.

Submitted January 5, 2013 by Russ Kleinman
President, Gila Native Plant Society 2011-2012