

2018 Annual Conference Program—Native Plant Society of New Mexico

Gila Chapter, Silver City, New Mexico

Field Trips and Workshops: Directions and meet-up locations will be in your registration packet. Fee for Field Trips 7 and 13 will be paid on-site (cash or check only). Remember to wear appropriate shoes and a hat and bring plenty of water, sunscreen, snacks, and hiking poles where needed—and don't forget your hand lens. Driving distances given are one-way. Carpooling is encouraged; on longer drives you may be asked to contribute a couple of dollars to your driver for gas.

Thursday, September 6

1:30–3:30 pm NPSNM Board Meeting
3:00–6:00 pm Check-in/Registration

Friday, September 7

FRIDAY MORNING

8:00 am–noon Check-in/Registration

8:45–9:00 am Welcome & Opening Remarks—Elroy Limmer, President of the Gila Chapter, and Ken Ladner, Mayor of Silver City

Keynote Speakers:

9:00–9:45 am **Renaissance and Revolution: The New World of Citizen Science** Sharman Apt Russell
Break

10:00–10:45 am **Protecting Wilderness & Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Gila National Forest**
Nathan Newcomer

Break

11:00 am–11:45 pm **Edible Ethnobotany of Baja New Mexico** Richard Felger

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in WNMU cafeteria

Field Trips and Workshops, 1:30–3:30 pm, unless otherwise indicated

FT 1 Planting to Attract Pollinators and People Leader: Kristi Dunn

A stroll through the garden areas of the Western New Mexico University campus to highlight the plantings that have been created with an eye to attracting pollinators. (And Students!) WNMU has given Kristi a unique opportunity to create different plantings and pairings on this historic campus. The tour starts at the Global Resource Center. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** All walkways are paved with easy access. **Limit:** 15.

FT 2 One Million Bones Project Leader: Bear Mountain Lodge staff

One Million Bones is a large-scale social arts practice, combining education, hands-on art making, and public installations to raise awareness of ongoing genocides and mass atrocities in places around the world. A permanent installation of 300,000 of the bones is at the Bear Mountain Lodge north of Silver City. Hike through a pinyon--juniper forest with great views of surrounding mountains. If there are any bones left at the lodge, you can help move some to their permanent resting site in a meadow. Learn about the project at: <http://www.onemillionbones.net/silver-city-nm/> **Driving distance:** 4 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Relatively flat 2-mile loop, but we will climb 160 ft in some steep sections and cross two arroyos. **Limit:** 15.

FT 3 Saddle Rock Riparian Restoration Area Leader: Russ Kleinman

This area is where much of the runoff from the northern Burro Mountains channels in the summer monsoons, hence the nickname the “Throughs.” It is a riparian area in an otherwise arid locality, providing

for interesting flora and fauna. **Driving distance:** 30 miles, but the last few miles require carpooling in high-clearance 4WD vehicles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than a mile, some wet ground/streambed, one or two places where we scramble a few feet over rock, but generally flat. **Limit:** 15.

FT 4 Ethnobotany Tour Leaders: Richard Felger and Kelly Kindscher

A short, local ethnobotany tour provides a great opportunity to learn cultural significances of local native plants. Exact location to be determined, but the drive will be less than 10 miles and the hike less than 1 mile over moderate terrain. **Limit:** 15.

FT 5 History and Hydrology of the Big Ditch Leader: David Menzie

Walk along the Big Ditch on walkways and trails in the cool shade of riparian trees. **Driving distance:** ½ mile. **Hiking distance:** Under 2 miles total on relatively flat terrain. **Limit:** 15.

FT 6 The Gila's Bees Leader: Olivia Messinger Carril

Take a walk through pollinator habitat and learn about the requirements and ecological connectedness of native bees in New Mexico. Use a net to nab a bee and look at it up close, and learn how to identify a handful of the more than 1000 species that live here. Olivia will also give suggestions on the best ways to take photos of a bee for later identification. **Driving distance:** 6 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Easy walk of less than a mile on relatively flat trail. **Limit:** 15.

FT 7 Chiricahua Apache Ride Leader: Joe Saenz—1:30–4:30

On a half-day horseback ride from a base in Arenas Valley, experience traditional Apache territory and hear stories of the land with Joe Saenz, Warm Springs Apache and Huichol Indian and wilderness guide and outfitter. **Driving distance:** 6 miles. **Limit:** 3. **Cost:** \$95 per person.

FT 8 Silva Creek Botanical Garden #1 Leader: Elroy Limmer—1:30–2:30 pm

FT 9 Silva Creek Botanical Garden #2 Leader: Elroy Limmer—2:30–3:30 pm

The Gila Chapter created this native plant garden on an empty lot that was once a railroad bed, later a storage yard for heavy equipment. Four years ago, the chapter began a major expansion of the garden, thanks to some generous grants and many hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. Still a work in progress, but in early September it should be looking its best. **Driving distance:** ½ mile. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A stroll on gravel paths. **Limit each tour:** 20.

WS A Plant Specimen Mounting and Tour of Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium

Facilitators: Angela Flanders and Jane Spinti

The workshop will begin with a demonstration and instruction on the basics of mounting plant specimens. Each participant will then mount 1–2 specimens. We will also tour the herbarium, which has four distinct areas and currently houses over 27,000 specimens. Finally, participants will check their specimens for any needed adjustments and complete the process. Materials provided. **Limit:** 10.

WS B Sedgucation 101 Facilitators: William Norris, Jim McGrath, and Scott Zager

Participants will learn the ins and outs of sedges in this hands-on classroom workshop. Topics to be addressed are how to distinguish sedges from rushes and grasses, how to recognize common sedge genera (*Bolboschoenus*, *Carex*, *Cyperus*, *Eleocharis*, *Schoenoplectus*, *Scirpus*) that occur in New Mexico, and strategies for learning how to identify sedge species. The instructors will bring fresh material of all the above plant groups for use by participants. Bring a hand lens, a cheap spiral bound notebook, and transparent tape for creation of a sedge reference collection. **Limit:** 20.

WS C Woodcarving Workshop Facilitator: Keller Suberkropp

Types of woodcarving and woods (particularly from native plants) will be discussed. Participants can start a carving in native cottonwood bark. Bring a knife or pocketknife if you can. **Limit:** 10.

WS D Herbal Allies for the Body from a Bioregional Perspective Facilitator: Sara Digby

This class will explore many of the common, and some not so common plants that are bioregionally available from the high mountains to low desert in New Mexico (both native and non-native). We will look at how they can be incorporated into our daily lives through food and medicine following the systems in the body, touching on some specific herbs that can generally be used to aid us in many of the common ailments we experience, and together will make some of our own herbal potions. **Limit:** 20.

5:30–7:00 pm Reception at Gomez Peak Picnic Area

7:00 pm Dinner on your own (we will provide a list of local restaurants)

Saturday, September 8

SATURDAY MORNING Field Trips and Workshops, 8:00 am–noon, unless otherwise indicated

FT 10 Birds and Botany on the Gila River Leaders: Roland Shook and William Norris

Participants will visit several ornithological and botanical hot spots along the Gila River and associated drainages. The first stop will be Mangas Springs, which is one of the very few accessible sedge meadows in southwestern New Mexico. The second stop will be Iron Bridge near Cliff, which provides a great vantage point from which to observe the meandering Gila River, a diverse avifauna, and proximity to a narrow riparian forest community. **Driving distance:** 30 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Easy stroll at both stops. **Limit:** 15.

FT 11 Apache Plant Use in Times of War and Peace Leader: Alex Mares

A short walk in City of Rocks State Park to look at plants that were and are used traditionally by Apache Peoples for medicine, food, and warfare. **Driving distance:** 33 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1.5–2 miles on level ground, easy to moderate. **Limit:** 20.

FT 12 Old Fort Bayard: From the Apache Wars to Premier Tuberculosis Treatment Center Leader: Doug Dinwiddie

The Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society has for the last 20 years sought to preserve and interpret the history of this former frontier fort and Army/Veterans hospital, which served the nation from 1866 to 2010. Dr. Dinwiddie, retired history professor, will give an orientation and lead a tour of the Parade Ground and the museum in the former Commanding Doctor's residence. **Driving distance:** 9 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A ¼-mile level walking tour on gravel paths. **Limit:** 25. **Cost:** No fee; donations are welcome.

FT 13 Chiricahua Apache Ride Leader: Joe Saenz

See FT 7 description.

FT 14 Butterfly Way Restoration Project at Gila River Farm Leader: Patrice Mutchnick

Join this field trip to The Nature Conservancy's Lichty Center in the verdant Gila River Valley. A chance to visit two habitat restoration projects, one focused on restoring native plant communities and pollinators and the other on wetland, riverine restoration. Expect blooming wildflowers and a chance to visit Gila River floodplain forest. The Butterfly Way Project honors the lives of three teens who died in 2014 surveying the Gila National Forest: Michael Mahl, Ella Myers, and Ella Kirk. **Driving distance:** 40 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1 mile or less on flat trails. **Limit:** 20.

FT 15 Signal Peak Aspen Grove Leaders: Russ Kleinman and Scott Zager

Aspen Grove is a mountain meadow alongside a seasonal creek among pines and aspens. The habitat supports a diverse flora with several rare species. **Driving distance:** 20 miles; we will need to carpool in high-clearance 4WD vehicles. **Hiking distance:** Wandering around the area, less than a mile total, easy, though at 8000 feet elevation. **Limit:** 15.

FT 16 Bear Mountain Ocean Sediment Deposits and Associated Fossils Leader: Sylveen Robinson Cook

We will walk along a creekside gravel road for the first leg to see large ammonite fossils along the road cut. We will then walk uphill along a trail to observe ocean sediments and associated coral and bivalve fossils. The elevation vantage will allow regional geology observations and discussions. **Driving distance:** 6 miles on paved and graded gravel/dirt roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1–2 miles, moderate. **Limit:** 15.

FT 17 Cheery Cherry Creek Leader: Donna Stevens

At 6800 feet in elevation, cool and shady Cherry Creek Campground is home to both riparian and uplands trees, shrubs, and vines, including Arizona Walnut, Narrowleaf Cottonwood, two or three species of oaks and pines, Arizona Honeysuckle, Velvet Ash, Smooth Sumac, and many more. An uncommon tree found in this area is Hawthorn. With any luck (read: rain), there will be numerous wildflowers along Cherry Creek. Plant list provided. **Driving distance:** 14 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than two miles

round-trip; moderate, some uneven terrain, some small stream crossings. **Limit:** 15.

WS E Eat Desert First! Native Edible Plants for Our Diets Facilitators: Kristen Lundgren and Adrienne Booth

This interactive workshop at the Volunteer Center will cover the basics of native edible plants in the high desert that we can begin to (re)incorporate into our diets. We will start with a lecture-style wild food overview and then we will be bringing participants down into Pinos Altos creek by the Volunteer Center to scavenge and potentially harvest. We'll finish back in our kitchen preparing native edible plants into some tasty dishes. Plan for some sitting and talking, a gentle walk through the creek (good shoes and water), and food preparation (hair ties, hats, scarves to pull hair back). **Limit:** 20. **Cost:** No fee; donations are welcome.

WS F Grasses Around Town: A Walking Delight Facilitator: Kelly Allred

A jubilant look at the grasses at our feet and all around us, for the fledgling novice and the skilled expert alike. We will tell captivating grass stories, gleefully dismember spikelet parts, and scrutinize the obscure and esoteric with aplomb. Bring a hand lens and pencil and paper. **Limit:** 10.

WS G Plant Specimen Mounting and Tour of Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium—9:00–11:00 am
Facilitators: Angela Flanders and Jane Spinti

See WS A description.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Noon–1:30 pm Lunch in the WNMU cafeteria

1:30–2:15 pm Olivia J. Messinger Carril, co-author of *The Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees*

Break

Concurrent sessions:

2:30–3:00 pm 1. **A "Special Botanical Area" Proposal for the Gila National Forest** Patrice Mutchnick
2. **Native Plant Society Outreach Updates** Sara Digby

3:00–3:30 pm 1. **Oshá (*Ligusticum porteri*), the Most Sacred Medicinal Plant of the Gila** Kelly Kindscher
2. **The Effects of Reverse Osmosis Concentrate as a Water Source on *Atriplex canescens* and *Atriplex lentiformis*** Sarah Cerra

3:30–4:00 pm 1. **Adventure Education and Environmental Literacy of the 21st-Century College Student** Kathy Whiteman
2. **NPSNM-sponsored student projects** Coordinator Sara Digby

4:00–4:30 pm 1. **The Trouble with Tamarisk** Donna Stevens
2. **Local Flora Highlights** Russ Kleinman

4:30–5:00 pm 1. **The Yerba Mansa Project: Community-Driven Native Plant Restoration and Education in the Bosque** Dara Saville
2. **Mimbres Exploitation of Native Copper within the Gila National Forest** Christopher Adams

6:00–8:00 pm Banquet in WNMU cafeteria
Guest Speaker Jack L. Carter, **A Thank-You Note to So Many New Mexico Friends**
Presentation of Jack & Martha Carter Native Plant Conservation Award

Sunday, September 9

Field Trips start 8:00 am unless otherwise indicated. Many of the field trips on Sunday range farther afield and you may want to pack a lunch. Nos. 19, 20, and 21 might be on your route home if you are heading east on I-10 or route 26; No. 22 if you are heading northwest on route 180; or Nos. 23 to 26 if you are planning to head east over the mountains on route 152.

FT 18 Plant Diversity in the Pinos Alto Range Leader: Patrice Mutchnick

A field trip focused on the diversity of species found just north of Silver City, in the Pinos Altos Range. From

mosses to ferns and juniper to fir, this shaded walk along one of the Gila's perennial waterways offers a chance to see the beauty and range of vegetation in the Gila. **Driving distance:** 11 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2.5 miles, rocky road bed, established trail, some incline. **Limit:** 12.

FT 19 Birds and Botany at City of Rocks State Park Leaders: Tony Godfrey, William Norris, and Tim Geddes

Participants will visit a relatively new acquisition to City of Rocks State Park: a cienega. This low, wet basin contains open wetlands (one dominated by chairmaker's bulrush, the other by saltgrass, rush, and other graminoids) as well as a Goodding's willow grove. This wetland oasis, surrounded on all sides by dry desert vegetation, is the home of owls, red-tailed hawks, sora rails, blackbirds, and many other bird species.

Driving distance: 30 miles. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2 miles along a well-maintained but occasionally rough loop trail. **Limit:** 20.

FT 20 Chihuahuan Summer: Mahoney Park in the Florida Mountains Leader: Gene Jercinovic

A botanical foray into Mahoney Park in the foothills of the Florida Mountains. The leader is Gene Jercinovic, who lives in Deming and has spent the last 15 years studying, collecting, and photographing the plants of the Floridas and surrounding areas. **Driving distance:** 67 miles (15 miles south of Deming); the last 4 miles are on a dirt road with a few rough spots, but high-clearance vehicles are not required. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 3–4 miles round-trip, easy to moderate. **Limit:** 25.

FT 21 Pony Hills Petroglyphs Leaders: Edwin and Beth Leuck

A trip to a large array of readily accessible sandstone petroglyphs on BLM land off route 26 (it may be on your way home). The site is on the Butterfield Trail of the late 1850s and early 1860s and is about 8 miles west of old Fort Cummings. Really good photo opportunities. The petroglyphs are of varying degrees of complexity and date primarily from 600 to 1200 AD, with perhaps some as recent as 300 years ago. **Driving distance:** 50 miles of good pavement, 4 miles of decent gravel, and 3 miles of heavily eroded but topographically flat road requiring carpooling in high-clearance vehicles for that stretch. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Only a hundred yards up a moderate grade on a semblance of a trail; then scrambling around rocks to look at petroglyphs. **Limit:** 20.

FT 22 Mogollon Box Hike along the Gila Leader: Martha S. Cooper

We will hike in the shade of cottonwoods and willows along the river and adjacent floodplain terraces, stopping to look at plants and discussing how vegetation along the river corridor has changed over the past 30 years. **Driving distance:** 40 miles, the last 1.5 miles on gravel. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 2–3 miles; the trail is mostly flat, uneven in places, with one hill to climb that has loose rocks. **Limit:** 15.

FT 23 Plants of Historic Fort Bayard and Grounds Leader: Richard Felger

The historic Fort Bayard and grounds preserves a substantial sample of native Gila Forest region fauna and flora. Also of interest are a diversity of trees planted on the grounds, including Coulter and Arizona cypress that are even reproducing. We will also see a broad range of native flora, and explore ethnobotanical and future agronomic uses. **Driving distance:** 9 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Less than 2 miles along paved and unpaved roads and some trails, all nearly level. **Limit:** 20.

FT 24 Mimbres Culture Heritage Site (MCHS) Leader: Marilyn Markel

A presentation about Mimbres Archaeology, pottery, and the Mattocks Ruin Archaeological Site with an emphasis on plants used by the ancient Mimbres People; followed by a tour of the site. If there is time, she will also tell the story of the historic houses and the archaeologists that have used, and still use, MCHS as their base camp while working on sites in the Mimbres. **Driving distance:** 26 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** A little less than ½ mile, easy walking on an interpretive trail. **Limit:** 20.

FT 25 The Flora of Lake Roberts and Mimbres Ethnobotany Leader: Kelly Kindscher

We will walk along the trail on the south side of Lake Roberts, along and among rocky cliffs and small meadows and the edge of Lake Roberts, a 70-acre lake created in the Sapillo Creek valley of the Gila National Forest. The area is rich in plant species, with a list of almost 500 species in the immediate area, which will be provided to participants. With Mimbres ruins around the area (Vista Village and many others) we will also talk about the wild plants that the Mimbres used, or likely used, for food and medicine. **Driving distance:** 47 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** 1.5–2 miles round-trip; fairly level, with some rocky areas, no water crossings. **Limit:** 15.

FT 26 Railroad Canyon in the Black Range Leaders: Russ Kleinman and Bob Sivinski

Railroad Canyon is a recovering upper-elevation riparian area in the Black Range off route 152 that was scoured by floodwaters a couple of years ago after the Silver Fire burned the surrounding forest. Along the way there we will visit the Nun Lookout, with great views but also some very interesting plants to see.

Driving distance: 25 miles on paved roads. **Hiking distance & difficulty:** Several miles, depth of creek permitting; some stream crossings, some loose rock but generally not steep. **Limit:** 15.

WS H Backyard Yoga Facilitator: Susie Vanderbeek—9:00 am–noon

A slow peaceful practice for anyBODY on the grass (*Bouteloua* sp.) among other flowering plants and a soundtrack provided by the birds and bees in the home garden of Jane Kruse. Embrace elements of the Gila and energy of the sun to focus awareness on nature and stabilize our own roots. Botany conversation and refreshments included. Bring your own mat if possible. **Driving distance:** 3.5 miles. **Limit:** 15.