

**Gila Native Plant Society
Annual Report 2019**

Part I. Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President: Donald (Don) Graves

Vice President: William (Bill) Norris

Treasurer: Wendy Graves

Secretary: Jane Spinti

Past President: Elroy Limmer

At Large Board Members: Joan Limmer, Betty Spence, Keller Suberkropp, Emily Pollom, Beth Leuck, Les Brandt

Membership: Joan Limmer

Member Communications: Helen Shoup

Newsletter: Helen Shoup

Publicity Coordinator: Betty Spence

Field Trips: Hanna Blood

Education Committee: Jeff Boyd

Conservation Committee: vacant

NPSNM State Board Representative: Keller Suberkropp

Newsletter: Helen Shoup

Plant Sale: Keller Suberkropp

Book Sales: Ron Groves

Meetings of the GNPS Board of Directors met most months during 2019 and carried out business through e-mail, when necessary.

Part II. Evening Programs

Fall, winter and spring programs are held in Harlan Hall on the Campus of WNMU at 7:00 p.m. on the third Friday of January through May, October through November, and are free and open to the public. Programs are followed by a social gathering with refreshments. Refreshments are provided by member volunteers.

Friday, January 18, 2019:

For our January program, presenters Richard Felger, preeminent botanist and William (Bill) Norris of the WNMU Biology Department led a hands-on session titled “Know the Trees II: Twigs, Cones, and Fruit.” This program helped participants identify our native trees in the winter. 45 participants

Friday, February 16, 2019:

The topic for the February program was titled “Seed Gathering and Propagation of Native Plants” led by Lone Mountain Native Nursery owner Tricia Hurley. Participants were led through the basics of seed propagation. 37 participants

Friday, March 16, 2019:

Dr. Ron Parry was the speaker for the March program. His talk summarized the major moth families, characteristics of moths in these various families and provided examples of local moths from each group. 46 participants

Friday, April 19, 2019:

In preparation for our annual Native Plant Sale, GNPS member and Field Trip Coordinator Hanna Blood answered this question during our April program: "I Bought Native Plants. Now What?" 45 participants

Friday, May 17, 2019:

May's topic, by GNPS botanist Richard Felger, was based on his research to better utilize native plants of the Southwest as important food stuffs. His presentation was titled "Mesquite: the Tree of life, the Tree of the future." 42 participants

Friday, October 18, 2019:

The speaker at our October meeting was Melanie Gisler, Director of the Southwest Office of the Institute of Applied Ecology (IAE) in Santa Fe, who spoke on "State-wide Conservation Initiatives for New Mexico's Native Plants." 26 participants

Friday, November 15, 2019:

Our November speaker was Patrice Mutchnick, founder of the Heart of the Gila organization, who spoke on "Gila Wilderness Canyon Flora: Natives and the Riparian Invasion." 32 participants

Part III. Field Trips

Field trips run April through September and are nearly always held on the third Sunday, unless otherwise specified. The leader is Hanna Blood. All field trip participants meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater on E Street at 8:00 am for carpooling. The trips are free and open to the public. The destination may change, depending on the weather and the state of the plants.

Sunday, April 21, 2019:

GNPS Field Trip Coordinator Supreme, Hanna Blood led the group on a "Low Desert Wildflower Wander," and the group found a great diversity of spring wildflowers! President Don Graves also led a small group of beginners in basic botany, identification and scientific terminology. 17 participants

Sunday, May 19, 2019:

May's field trip was to the Special Birding Area along the edge of the glorious Gila River. Participants followed the river and explored this wonderful riparian habitat. 20 participants

Sunday, June 16, 2019:

"The Black Range in Bloom" was the title for our June field trip. Hanna Blood took participants to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range. They wandered along the bubbling Gallinas Creek, running with this year's abundant winter precipitation. It was a moderate hike at 7100-foot elevation; the trail crossed the creek several times over rocks and wound through riparian and mixed conifer forest habitat. Donna Stevens also led a small group of beginners in basic botany, identification and scientific terminology.

Sunday, July 21, 2019:

Hanna Blood led the group to the Piños Altos Range, up a spur off Signal Peak Road. They headed out the dirt track, traveling up an incline through the Ponderosa and Gamble Oak forest and found a wet meadow. 19 participants

Sunday, August 18, 2019:

Hanna Blood took the group to Axle Canyon Preserve in the Big Burro Mountains to the confluence of Axle and Mulberry canyons located on an 83-acre in-holding in the Gila National Forest. Axle Canyon Preserve has been a special place well cared for by its owners. It was a moderate/easy hike in sandy, open washes. President Don Graves also led a small group of beginners in basic botany, identification and scientific terminology. 22 participants

Sunday, September 15, 2019:

Hanna Blood took the group to E. Stephens Creek in the Fort Bayard Preserve to see what plants the rains brought out. It was a relatively flat hike, with some uneven ground in the wash. WNMU botanist Russ Kleinman also led a small group of Plant Taxonomy students on a collecting expedition.

Part IV. Other GNPS Activities

Ongoing: GNPS is working with the Art and Science teachers at G.W. Stout Elementary School in Silver City to help students learn about native plants, add to their native plant school garden, and produce native plant art. With support from GNPS, the students plan to make note cards highlighting their original art work of local native plants.

April 17, 2019: GNPS annual plant sale sold hundreds of native plants to Silver City area residents. The plant sale format will be changed for 2020, with sales being conducted by local growers and planned to coincide with NM Native Plant Day in August during monsoon.

April 20, 2019: GNPS participated in the annual Silver City Earth Day event in Gough Park. We sold books and left-over native plants from the plant sale and led kids of all ages in painting native plants on cardstock for bookmarks. Over fifty book marks were painted.

May 11th, 2019: GNPS participated in the 6th annual Give Grandly event at the Silver City Farmers Market spring opening. Give Grandly brings the region together as one community, raising money and awareness for local nonprofits during a 24-hour online giving challenge. GNPS raised over \$1000 at this event.

May, 12, 2019: The SWNM Audubon Society joined GNPS members in our annual joint spring picnic at the Gomez Peak shelter in the Gila National Forest. 40 participants

September 21, 2019: Member Betsy Kaido led a field trip to the Silva Creek Botanical Garden titled "From Vacant Lot to Lush Garden with GNPS," as part of the 15th annual Gila River Festival in Silver City. 10 participants. In addition, GNPS members worked with over fifty kids of all ages in painting pollinators to be placed on the Gila River mural painted by our own Les Brandt.

October Tuesdays, 2019: Twelve GNPS members signed up for an Asteraceae workshop this October which was facilitated by three of our esteemed GNPS botanists: Bill Norris, Richard Felger and Russ Kleinman.

October 26, 2019: The Gila Native Plant Society, SWNM Audubon Society, Grant County Beekeepers and Grant County Archaeological Society helped dedicate a mural on the corner of Broadway and Texas streets in Silver City. Meant to celebrate native pollinators and the plants that they depend on, the mural was researched, organized and painted by the high school class from Aldo Leopold Charter School. As part of this public event, SWNM Audubon Society secured funding for a native plant give-away at the dedication. In addition, Gila Native Plant Society secured 100 plugs of Giant Sacaton (*Sporobolus wrightii*) for the native plant give-away. Over 400 native plants were given away to the public at the pollinator mural dedication.

November 3, 2019: The Annual Volunteer Appreciation potluck was held at member Ann Hedlund's home in Silver City. 30 participants

November 15, 2019: GNPS board was strengthened by the addition of three new at-large board members elected in November: Les Brandt, Beth Leuck and Emily Pollom.

December 15, 2019: GNPS held its annual Holiday Potluck at the Commons in Silver City. 38 participants.

Part V. Silva Creek Botanical Garden

- Volunteers continue to put in hundreds of hours at the botanical garden. This fall, a planning process began to add an herbal/medicinal plot at Silva Creek Botanical Garden. GNPS and community members are participating, including ethnobotanist Kelly Kindscher.

- A new bench was added to the Children's Butterfly garden which commemorates the three Aldo Leopold Charter School students who lost their lives in a plane crash while conducting research on a recent forest fire.
- Several Siberian Elms were removed from the garden this summer in order to help ease the sprouting of thousands of seedlings which sprout in the garden each year.
- Planning began this summer for a new roof over the garden amphitheater.

Part VI: Financial Statement

Please see report by Wendy Graves.

This annual report is submitted respectfully by Don Graves, President, Gila Native Plant Society.