

**Gila Native Plant Society  
Annual Report 2020**

**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:** Betty Spence, Wendy Graves

**Newsletter:** Betsy Kaido

**Publicity Coordinator:** Betty Spence

**Field Trips:** TBD

**Education Committee:** Jeff Boyd

**Conservation Committee:** Vacant

**NPSNM State Board Representative:** Keller Suberkropp

**Plant Sale:** Don Graves

**Book Sales:** Ron Groves

Meetings of the GNPS Board of Directors met in person in January and over Zoom (Aug, Sept, Oct, Dec) during 2020 but, in addition, carried out a great deal of chapter business through e-mail.

**Part II. Evening Programs**

**Fall, winter and spring programs are generally 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. Zoom replaced face-to-face after March.**

January 17, 2020- in person. “Medicinal Plants of the Silva Creek Garden,” Presenter Naava Koenigsburg

February 21, 2020- in person. “Madagascar: The Red Island ... A Naturalist’s Paradise,” Presenter Zachary Rogers.

March 20, 2020- Zoom. “Spring Blooms in the Southwest: Not Just Creosote Bush,” Presenter Donna Stevens. **Cancelled due to Covid-19.**

April 17, 2020 – Zoom. “Lichens for Beginners”, Presenter Dr. Russ Kleinman

May 15, 2020 – Zoom. “The Cactaceae. Diversity of Form, Function, and Habitat,” Presenter Dr. Ed Leuck.

June 19, 2020 – Zoom. “The Cacti of New Mexico,” Presenter Dr. Ed Leuck.

October 16, 2020- Zoom. “Reflections on a Plant Inventory of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument (2013-2020),” presenters Dr. William (Bill) Norris, Dr. Kelly Kindscher, Dr. Russ Kleinman, Dr. Richard Felger and Patrice Mutchnick.

November 20, 2020– Zoom. “Ferns of the Gila,” presenter Dr. Russ Kleinman

### **Part III. Field Trips**

**Field trips normally run April through September and are nearly always held on the third Sunday, unless otherwise specified. We did three virtual field trips this year and these can be found at [Gilanps.org/Events/Field trips](https://gilanps.org/Events/Field%20trips)**

June 4, 2020 Botany Around Town with Dr. Russ Kleinman

August, 8 Upper Meadow Creek with Don and Wendy Graves, Jackie Blurton

August 26 Lower Meadow Creek with Don and Wendy Graves

### **Part IV. Other GNPS Activities**

\* GNPS collaboration with the Art and Science teachers at G.W. Stout Elementary School in Silver City was put on hold due to Covid-19.

\* A GNPS/SW Audubon collaboration was strengthened in 2020 by the addition of a joint YouTube channel, meant to be used by classrooms and the general public. This is a collaborative project in development. Don Graves serves on the SW Audubon board as Gila Native Plant Society liaison. This YouTube channel can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbwzLgBuQ1e1Q4sjsn8ZXw/playlists>

\* Scheduled for August in 2020 the GNPS annual plant sale was canceled due to Covid.

\* April 22, 2020: GNPS participated in the annual Silver City Earth Day via a Zoom presentation, which can be found at [gilanps.org/Past Events](https://gilanps.org/Past%20Events).

\* May 16, 2020: GNPS participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Give Grandly event which was via Zoom this year. Our video can be found at [gilanps.org/Past Events](https://gilanps.org/Past%20Events). We raised over \$1700 at this year’s event.

\* July 15-September 15, 2020: GNPS offered a Landscaping with Native Plants online course utilizing Western New Mexico University’s online teaching portal, Canvas. The 36 participants worked through four modules (Landscape design, Common native landscaping plants, Care of native plants, Virtual tours of local landscaped environments). Zoom sessions were offered four times during the course for discussion and questions. GNPS members Betsy Kaido, Jeff Boyd, Elroy Limmer, Wendy Graves, Don Graves.

\* November 20, 2010: GNPS board elections re-elected Don Graves as President, Wendy Graves as Treasurer and Betty Spence as Secretary. There were no candidates for the Vice President position.

\* December, 2020: A holiday video for GNPS members was produced by Wendy and Don Graves. The video features music, art and poetry from members and tributes to Dr. Jack Carter and Dr. Richard Felger. The video can be seen at [gilanps.org/Events/Recent Events](http://gilanps.org/Events/Recent%20Events).

\* GNPS has updated and republished Dr. Jack Carter's Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico. GNPS is the sole distributor of this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

\* This spring we published our new Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region. The guide contains twenty-six common native plants of our region which are easily grown by beginning gardeners. In addition, the guide has general information about planting, soil needs, water needs and cultural uses.

## **Part V. Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG)**

- Volunteers continue to put in hundreds of hours at the botanical garden, however, this is significantly lessened during this time of COVID restrictions. The new Healing Garden plot has been planted and signage in English, Spanish and Apache is planned. This development work is partially supported by a Clean and Beautiful Grant from the state of New Mexico and crowd-sourced fund raising, both by Naava Koenigsberg. GNPS and community members are participating, including ethnobotanist Kelly Kindscher.
- Several Siberian Elms were removed from the garden this summer/fall in order to help ease the sprouting of thousands of seedlings which sprout in the garden each year.
- A new roof over the garden amphitheater is scheduled for completion during spring of 2021.
- A new cedar fence has been installed at the garden and surrounds the garden's maintenance shed, mulch and soil piles.
- The Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee was established in 2020 with five members and has been meeting via Zoom for several months. Wendy Graves, GNPS Treasurer serves as a non-voting facilitator. The purpose of the steering committee is to work together with the GNPS Board in a process recently agreed to, to make decisions regarding the SCBG.
- GNPS has entered into an agreement with the Town of Silver City to maintain the SCBG. GNPS will receive up to \$15,000/year under this agreement.

## **Part VI: Financial Statement**

Please see report by Wendy Graves.

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