

El Paso Chapter – New Mexico Native Plant Society
2022 Annual Report

2022 CHAPTER OFFICERS:

- President: Ellen Saad
esaad@elp.rr.com
616 Westview Dr.
El Paso, TX 79912
915-549-8038

- Vice President: Dr. Kevin Floyd
(incoming president and chapter rep
2023)
kwfloyd@utep.edu
500 West University Ave.
El Paso, TX 79968
915-747-6665

- Secretary: Julia Bailey
julia.bailey@sbcglobal.net
5688 Costa Blanca
El Paso, TX 79932
915-472-2938

- Treasurer: Marianela Milner
MarianelaMMilner@gmail.com
9900 Chezelle Dr.
El Paso, TX 79925

915-346-2482

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Programs: Dr. Kevin Floyd, Vice-President (see above)

Publicity: Jim Hastings (jimhastings@elp.rr.com)

915-240-7414

Fieldtrips: vacant

State Representative: Marianela Milner (see above, Kevin starting in 2023)

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES FOR 2022:

Thursday, January 13, 2022 – *Native Plants for El Paso* presented by Dr. John White, Retired Botanical Curator at the Chihuahuan Desert Garden, UTEP

Thursday, February 10, 2022 – *Peeking into the Virtual and In-Person Herbarium of the UTEP Biodiversity Collections* presented by Dr. Vicky Zhuang , Biodiversity Collections Manager at UTEP. Dr. Vicky Zhuang coordinates the care and use of an estimated 600,000 preserved specimens of fossils, plants, and animals.

Thursday, March 10, 2022– *Landscaping with Chihuahuan Desert Plants* presented by Mr. Michael Eason, botanist, native landscape designer, and prolific photographer. Mr. Eason heads the Rare Plant and Conservation Department at San Antonio Botanical Garden based in Alpine, TX. He is currently working on a few book projects - "Wildflowers and other Plants of the Chihuahuan Desert - A field guide", "The Fabaceae of Texas", and "Naturalized and Invasive Plants of Texas".

Thursday, April 14, 2022 – *Preview of FloraFest at UTEP* presented by Dr. Kevin Floyd, Botanical Curator of the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP.

Thursday, May 12, 2022 – *Carbon Dynamics in Drylands: Ecosystem Productivity Now and in a Drier Future* presented by Dr. Marguerite Maurtiz-Tozer. Dr. Marguerite Maurtiz-Tozer is a Research Assistant Professor with the Systems Ecology Lab at UTEP. She is interested in ecosystem function and how ecosystems respond to climate change and other pressures. She also tries to understand how changes in temperature, rainfall, and plant species composition affect carbon dynamics and what that means for the future.

Thursday, June 9, 2022 – *National Pollinator Week 2022* presented by Dr. Paul Hyder. Dr. Hyder is an environmental educator currently teaching at Eastwood High School. He has an M.S. and Ph.D. from New Mexico State University where he studied rattlesnake ecology, and creosote bush phytochemistry. Dr. Hyder is the current president of the El Paso Cactus and Rock Club and teaches for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's Master Naturalist Program.

Thursday, July 14, 2022 – *Below the Surface: The Extraordinary Lives of Lichens, Fungi, and Other Microorganisms in the Chihuahuan Desert* presented by Ms. Cat Cort, desert ecologist and educator. Ms. Cat Cort is currently working on her PHD in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UTEP.

Saturday, July 23, 2022 – *Tom May's Franklin Mountains Nature Trail Hike* lead by Dr. Kevin Floyd, Botanical Curator at the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP.

Thursday, August 11, 2022 – no local meeting due to our attendance at the state Native Plant Conference in Albuquerque, NM.

Thursday, September 8, 2022 – *An Evening Exploring the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP* presented by Dr. Kevin Floyd, Botanical Curator at the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens at UTEP.

Thursday, October 13, 2022 – *Conservation of Open Space* presented by Ms. Wendy Diaz, from the Frontera Land Alliance. Ms. Wendy Diaz earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University. Wendy has participated in various wildlife organizations and has engaged with the local community and promoted stewardship through the El Paso Zoo, Texas Master Naturalists, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and served as a Texas State Park Ambassador for Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site.

Thursday, November 10, 2022 – *Not Your Mama's Nopalitos* cooking demonstration presented by Mr. Jim Hastings. Former chapter president and known to as “The Gringo Gourmet” for his use of non-traditional recipes showing the versatility of nopalitos.

Thursday, December 6, 2022- *Photo Sharing our Native Plants and Animals* presented by NPS members, moderated by Dr. Kevin Floyd, Botanical Curator at the Chihuahuan Desert Garden, UTEP

The El Paso Chapter – Native Plant Society resumed their monthly meetings at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 1810 Elm St. El Paso, TX 79930. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Special events for 2022, was to volunteer at the spring and fall ***FloraFest Native Plant Sales*** at the University of Texas at El Paso. These 2 one-day events are an opportunity for the El Paso Community to buy and learn about the Chihuahuan Desert Plants.