

**Gila Native Plant Society
Annual Report 2022**

Part I. Officers, Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

President: Don Graves (Margie Gibson as of 1/1/2023)

Vice President: Vacant (Mary Barrett, as of 1/1/2023)

Treasurer: Wendy Graves (Dave Becker as of 1/1/2023)

Secretary: Betty Spence

Past President: Elroy Limmer

At Large Board Members: Mary Barrett, Margie Gibson, Susan Thompson (resigned in March, replaced by Wendy Graves in January, 2023), Betty Spence, Beth Leuck,

Membership: Joan Limmer (Betsy Kaido as of 1/1/2023)

Member Communications: Betty Spence, Wendy Graves

Newsletter: Betsy Kaido

Publicity Coordinator: Betty Spence

Field Trips: Vacant (Don Graves as of 12/2022)

Programs Committee: Vacant (Don Graves as of 6/2022)

Education Committee: Steve Blake

Conservation Committee: Vacant (Dave Becker, Phil Hastings as of 1/1/2023)

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee: Wendy Graves (Marty Eberhardt, 1/1/2023)

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Management Team: Naava Koenigsberg, Communications

NPSNM State Board Representative: Betty Spence

Plant Sale: Don Graves

Book Sales: Rick Lass

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.

Friday, January 21, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – “The Fabulous Flora of City of Rocks State Park” – presentation by William (Bill) Norris

Friday, February 18, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – “Spring Blooms in the Southwest: Not Just Creosote Bush” – presentation by Donna Stevens

Friday, March 18, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – “Moths of the Gila National Forest – Update” – presentation by Ronald Parry

Friday, April 15, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – “The Ecology of Herbal Medicine” – presentation by Dara Saville

Friday, May 20, 2022, 7:00 pm Hybrid – “Penstemons – Some of the Most Beautiful Flowers in the World” – presentation in person and online by Russ Kleinman

Friday, October 28, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom — “Wildflowers of Colorado” — presentation by Mary O. and Jeff Parker of Explore in Focus

Friday, November 18, 2022, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom — “*Cirsium grahamii*: A Rare Purple Jewel in the Gila Wilderness” — presentation by John Gorey

Part III. Field Trips

Field trips normally run April through September.

Saturday, January 22, 2022, 10:00 am to noon — “Winter Botany Hike at City of Rocks State Park” Bill Norris, Ed Leuck, Russ Kleinman (50 participants)

Saturday, April 30, 2022 – “Field Trip to Pitchfork Ranch” Russ Kleinman, Don Graves (22 participants)

Saturday, May 28 and Sunday, May 29, 2022, 9:00 am to 11:00 am — “Medicinal Plants of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG).” Naava Koenigsberg (15 participants)

Saturday, July 16th, 8 am to noon – “Learn Your Trees I” Don Graves (22 participants)

Saturday, October 8th, 8 a.m. to noon — “Learn Your Trees and Shrubs II (and more!)” Don Graves (8 participants)

Saturday, October 15, 2022, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. — “Field Trip to City of Rocks State Park” Bill Norris, Ed Leuck, Russ Kleinman (8 participants)

Part IV. Other GNPS Events and Activities

- Continued our collaboration with SWNM-ACT’s (Art, Culture and Tourism) Historic Waterworks Project, just across the Silva Creek Bridge from the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. GNPS advised project leaders on suitable native plants for the Waterworks grounds.
- Continued participation on the Gila Earth Day Planning Group with Gila Resources Information Project. Had booth in Gough Park at Gila Earth Day event with activities for kids (4/23/22).
- Participated in Give Grandly event supporting non-profit organizations with a booth in Maker’s Market (5/7/22)
- Annual GNPS/SWNM Audubon Picnic at Gomez Pavilion, Gila National Forest (5/15/22)
- Published our second installment of GNPS Beginners Guides with Beginners Guide to Landscaping with Native Grasses. (Fall, 22)

- Participated in the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival with booth and activities for kids. Don Graves and Elroy Limmer presented two programs on Larval Host Plants and their Pollinators. (7/30/22,23) (40 participants)
- Education Committee met with faculty at Jose Barrios Elementary to present opportunities for teachers and their classes to utilize the Silva Creek Botanical Garden (8/17/22)
- Don Graves presented a program on Landscaping with Native Grasses and Naava Koenigsberg presented on Native Plant Herbs and Medicinals at Whiskey Creek Zocalo, a local nursery that sells native plants. (8/2022) (40 participants total)
- Held annual Native Plant Sale at Gough Park Plaza with participating vendors including Honey Hawk Farm, Whiskey Creek Zocalo, Lone Mountain Natives, Gila Watershed Alliance, Robledo Vista Nursery. (9/10/22)
- Participated at the Mimbres Harvest Festival with a booth. (9/24/22)
- As part of the Gila River Festival, Don Graves offered a field trip, “Pollinators and Larval Host Plants of Signal Peak.” (9/24/22) (10 participants)
- GNPS Board held chapter elections and members elected Margie Gibson as President, Mary Barrett as Vice President, Dave Becker as Treasurer and Betty Spence as Secretary. (11/18/22)
- Annual Holiday Potluck at the Commons. (35 participants) (12/11/22)

Part V. Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG)

- Volunteers continue to put in hundreds of hours annually at the botanical garden.
- Siberian Elms continue to be trimmed, with some partial removal, partly as education for the community and partly to make space and sun for new plantings.
- The Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee was established in 2020 with five members and has been meeting mostly via Zoom for 2 ½ years. The group selected Ms. Ashley Pedersen, a Landscape Architect master’s student from Rhode Island School of Design, to develop a garden master plan and an interpretive master plan for the SCBG. This will be done during January, 2023, as part of her degree work.
- SCBG steering committee contracted with a local rockwork expert to armor the creek bank under the pour-off from the V-shaped roof constructed over the amphitheater.
- SCBG steering committee contracted for a plan for the north end of the garden with a local water harvesting contractor. This plan includes recontouring the street and ditch on the north side of the garden to better channel and contain water flowing past the north end. Also included in the plan is to rework the two water infiltration basins in the north end and to add a habitat thicket of native plants surrounding the infiltration basins.
- GNPS is two years into a Professional Services agreement with the Town of Silver City to maintain the SCBG. The SCBG receives up to \$15,000/year in reimbursement for expenses toward the garden under this agreement.

Part VI: Conservation Activities and Support

- Collaborated with Bat Conservation International and planted 300 *Agave palmeri/A. parryi* on selected properties (mostly NPSNM members) in support of Lesser Long-nosed

(Leptonycteris yerbabuene) and Mexican Long-nosed (*Leptonycteris nivalis*) Bats. Plans are underway to plant 180 agaves in January, 2023.

- Major sponsor of the 9th Annual Natural History of the Gila Symposium. The event featured presentations on research, management, education and policy focused on the Gila region of Southwest New Mexico and Southeast Arizona.
- Sponsors of Gila Earth Day (Gila Resources Information Project) and Gila River Festival (Upper Gila Watershed Alliance).
- Supported major pollinator and habitat improvement at the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.
- Awarded \$500 grant to the City of Bayard Public Library to support the establishment of a native plant garden on site.

Part VII: Financial Statement

Please see report by Wendy Graves.

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