



Annual Report 2023

Part I. Officers, Board of Directors, and Committee Chairs

President: Margie Gibson

Vice President: vacant, Mary Barrett (resigned 7/11)

Treasurer: Cathleen Norman (replaced Dave Becker 7/14)

Secretary: Betty Spence

Past President: Don Graves

At Large Board Members: Mary Barrett (resigned 7/23), Wendy Graves (resigned 5/6), Marty Eberhardt, Rick Lass, Beth Leuck, and Elroy Limmer.

Book Sales: Rick Lass

Bulletin: Betsy Kaido

Field Trips: Andrew Tree, Don Graves

Education Committee: Steve Blake

Conservation Committee: David Becker, Phil Hastings

Kiosk: Margie Gibson

Membership: Betsy Kaido

Member Communications: Betty Spence

NPSNM State Board Representative: Betty Spence

Plant Sale: Don Graves

Programs: Don Graves, Margie Gibson

Publicity Coordinator: Betty Spence

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Management Team: Naava Konigsberg

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee: Marty Eberhardt

Meetings of the Board of Directors were held in person (with some Zoom participation) from January through November, except for April and June. Between meetings, chapter business was conducted by email.

Part II. Evening Programs

This year's in-person programs were held in Harlan Hall on the WNMU campus at 7:00 p.m. on the third Friday of the month. All in-person programs were also on Zoom. Most of our programs are recorded and posted on our YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbwzLgBuQ1e1Q4sjsn8ZXw/playlists>

January 20, "Knowing the Sunflower Family in New Mexico" by Dr. Richard Spellenberg. 16 in person, same on Zoom.

February 17, "Native Trees for Silver City: Ten Best Practices" by Ann Audrey. Zoom only, 39 signed on.

March 17, “Boston Hill Wildflowers 2022: The Overlooked, the Unexpected, and the Seldom Seen” by Andrew Tree. 52 in person, 41 on Zoom.

April 21st via Zoom, “Tales of Three Rivers,” by Mary Harner, University of Nebraska, Kearney. Zoom only, 20 signed on.

May 19, “Updates on the floristic diversity of alpine ecosystems in the southern Rocky Mountains” by Hannah Marx. Zoom only, 17 signed on.

June 16, “Wetland Jewels of the Gila,” by Steven Fry. Zoom only, 17 signed on.

October 20, “Delinquent late-night pollinators: A story about nectar bats, agaves, and what’s happening in the Gila,” by Mallory Davies. 53 in person, 9 on Zoom.

November 17, “Rare thistles in the high Mogollon Mountains; an update on Graham’s Thistle,” by John Gorey. 26 in person, 13 on Zoom.

Part III. Field Trips

The drought necessitated some innovation, such as the landscaping tours. Most of our field trips limited the number of participants and filled up very quickly.

March 18, “Wildflower Ramble on Boston Hill” led by Andrew Tree

March 21, “Pop-Up Field Trip: Poppy Promenade in the Floridas” led by Don Graves.

April 19, “Wildflower Wander on Boston Hill” led by Andrew Tree.

June 18, “Landscape Tour of a Homeowner’s Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI)” landscaping tour at the home of Betsy Kaido.

July 23, “Landscaping Field Trip in Downtown Silver City” at the home of Anne Hedlund.

August 29, “Forest Wildflower Walk” led by Andrew Tree.

September 17, “Wildflower Hike in the Pinos Altos Range” led by Andrew Tree.

October 14, “City of Rocks Plant Walk” was an invitation to our members from Friends of City of Rocks, led by Bill Norris.

Part IV. Other GNPS Events and Activities

We held a workshop on Sunflower identification the day after Dr. Spellenberg’s talk, “Knowing the Sunflower Family in New Mexico.”

We participated in Giving Grandly, a fundraising event for 64 local non-profits. We were represented in planning and setting up a new giving platform and had a booth on May 6 at the Maker's Market.

Wendy and Don Graves represented us in a "Community Conversation" organized by the Silver City Museum and held in the Silco Theatre on April 15.

In conjunction with SWNM Audubon, our annual picnic was held at the Gomez Peak Pavilion on May 13 and was well attended.

On June 29, GNPS volunteers helped rescue 240 agaves from Chino Mine, which will be replanted for Bat Conservation International.

We participated in two community events with booths and activities for kids (Earth Day, April 22) and the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival (July 29 and 30).

We held another very successful Native Plant Sale on August 12.

In cooperation with Bat Conservation International, we planted agaves on nine members' properties on January 10, 12, and August 29 to 31.

On October 27, the Education Committee presented a hands-on introduction to native plants in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden for about 35 Jose Barrios Elementary School fourth graders and their teachers.

At our November 17 meeting, we held chapter elections for at-large board members. Dinah Demers, David Phillips, and Stacy Sollisch were elected. Marty Eberhardt and Elroy Limmer were re-elected.

Our annual Holiday Party was held on December 10 in the historic Silver City Women's Club building and was well attended,

Part V. Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG)

We completed a Master Plan for the garden this year, the result of hundreds of hours of work between GNPS volunteers knowledgeable about plants and planning (the SCBG Steering Committee) and a landscape architecture graduate student from the Rhode Island School of Design. The plan was introduced to our members and the public at an open house in the garden on August 5, and information about it is available on our website: <https://gilanps.org/scbg-home/>

We launched a capital campaign to raise \$75,000 for implementing Phase One of the Master Plan following the Open House, with fundraising appeals to members on October 4 and November 27.

We applied for an NM Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant for \$49,865 for Phase One. The grant application was 19 pages long, with numerous essay questions. On December 21, NMORD announced we received the grant in full.

Work is close to completion for a Habitat Thicket at the north end of the garden featuring plants that supply food and shelter for birds and other wildlife, as well as demonstrating rainwater harvesting from two streets bordering the garden.

Revisions began to make the butterfly shape in the Children's Butterfly Garden more visible.

Volunteers continue to spend hundreds of hours caring for the garden.

Part VI: Financial Statement

Our financial report will be submitted by Cathleen Norman, Treasurer.

This annual report is respectfully submitted by Margie Gibson, President, Gila Native Plant Society.