

2026 Annual Conference and Golden Jubilee Celebration

Roots of Resilience: Native Plants
in the Next Fifty Years



Gila National Forest from Highway 152. Photo by David Phillips.



Thursday, September 10 to
Sunday, September 13

Grant County Conference Center
Silver City, NM

Welcome to the Gila!

Program Guide

Please pull out this section to use during the conference, or download it to your phone. The conference website is here:

<https://www.npsnm.org/npsnm-state-conference-2026/> or scan the code.



Biographies for speakers, workshop leaders, and field trip leaders are posted on the conference website. The site also includes more detailed descriptions of workshops and field trips, accommodations, and more.

Registration is open on the conference website. Early-bird pricing ends July 31.

Register early so your chosen activity isn't filled up.

If you experience problems, please contact Lindsey at: [npsnmmembership \[at\] gmail.com](mailto:npsnmmembership@gmail.com).

The registration fee includes:

Thursday: Welcome Meet-and-Greet for those 21+ with appetizers, beer, and wine.

Friday: Morning presentations, snacks at the break, lunch, one afternoon workshop or field trip, and a reception at the Waterworks, adjacent to the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, with appetizers and a cash bar.

Saturday: One morning workshop or field trip, buffet lunch, afternoon presentations, snack, evening presentation by Doug Tallamy.

Sunday: Bonus guided field trips for those who want to enjoy the Gila for a little longer.



Optional add-ons:

The Saturday banquet is an additional charge.

A special NPSNM baseball cap featuring Wheel Milkweed, *Asclepias uncialis*, is available. On the back, it reads Native Plant Society of New Mexico.

Not included in the registration:

- Breakfasts. Some hotels offer one, but check the times. Restaurant options are limited.
- Plastic water bottles. Please bring a reusable water bottle.
- Dinners on Thursday and Friday, snacks for hikes or during workshops.
- Fees for some workshops and field trips where specified.
- A printed program guide. Bring this one with you!

Conference location: All conference activities and events are at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center, 3031 US Hwy. 180 East, unless otherwise noted in the program. Pets are not allowed there or in any of the activities (except service animals).

Accommodations are listed on the conference website. Three hotels are offering special rates. We recommend making your reservations soon.

You will need your conference name tag to enter all events.



Thursday, September 10

- 3:00-5:00 pm NPSNM Board meeting
5:00-7:00 pm Early conference check-in and Meet-and-Greet at the Murray Hotel Ballroom, 200 W. Broadway. Appetizers, beer, and wine. Must be 21+ to attend.

Dinner on your own – see restaurant suggestions on the conference webpage.

Friday, September 11

Silent auction, poster session, merchandise sales, and educational displays begin.

- 8:00 am-noon Check-in, Grant County Conference Center
8:30-8:45 am Welcome and opening ceremony, Donna Stevens, Gila Chapter President, and the Chiricahua Apache Nation
8:45-9:45 am Keynote Presentation: “Thinking Inside the Box: Using Haiku to see the World New,” Philip Connors
9:45-10:45 am “Native Crop Tool Kit: Supporting Resilient Farming Practices, Pollinator Conservation, and Watershed Health,” Melanie Gisler
10:45-11:15 am Break
11:15 am-noon “Hotter Droughts Increase Forest Drought Stress and Tree Mortality: From New Mexico to Planet Earth,” Dr. Craig Allen and Victor Lucero
Noon-1:30 pm Box lunch
1:30-5:00 pm Field Trips and Workshops (see below)
5:00-7:00 pm Reception at the historic Silver City Waterworks, 1721 Little Walnut Road. Parking is limited. Some may be available at the school next door, or try the Silva Creek Botanical Garden on Virginia and State Streets. Then walk through the garden and cross the bridge to the Waterworks.

Dinner on your own – see restaurant suggestions on the conference webpage.

Saturday, September 12

Silent auction, poster session, merchandise sales, and educational displays continue.

- 7:30 am-noon Field trips meet in the Conference Center parking lot unless otherwise noted.
9:00 am-noon Conference Center opens, on-site Workshops begin.
Noon-1:15 pm Buffet Lunch
1:15-1:20 pm Welcome and Housekeeping
1:20-2:10 pm “Pollination, Fermentation, and Distillation: The Biocultural Coevolution of Mezcal, Bats, and Humans,” Carlos Martinez del Rio
2:10-3:00 pm “Stewardship in Action: Connecting People, Data and Rare Plants Across New Mexico,” Erica Rowe and Katie Kline

3:00-3:30 pm	Break. Last chance for silent auction, poster session, merchandise sales, and educational displays
3:30-4:20 pm	“Why the Native Plant Society of New Mexico Should Support Foraging and Medicinal Plant Harvest,” Kelly Kindscher
4:20-4:25 pm	Announcement of poster awards
4:25-4:30 pm	Announcement of next year’s conference and closing remarks
4:30-5:30 pm	Pick-up of silent auction purchases
6:00-7:00 pm	Banquet dinner and cash bar for registered attendees at the conference center
7:00-7:15 pm	Break and transition to the Large Event Room
7:15-7:30 pm	Presentation of the Jack and Martha Carter Conservation Champion Award
7:30-8:30 pm	Banquet Presentation: “Keeping our Common Birds Common (And our Common Plants Common),” Doug Tallamy
8:30 pm	Closing remarks and conference conclusion, Donna Stevens, GNPS President



Sunday, September 13

Bonus Field Trips. Start times and locations will be in your registration packet. The Conference Center will not be open.

Workshops and Field Trips



Along the Continental Divide Trail. Photo by Margie Gibson.

Please read this:

Silver City is at 6,000 feet, yet temperatures can stay warm in September. **Stay hydrated;** higher altitude and temperature increase the risk of dehydration. **Bring water for all excursions.** Please bring a reusable water bottle: the conference center has a filling station. No single-use disposable water bottles will be provided. You will need appropriate shoes or boots for walking and hiking. Bring a hat, sunscreen, snacks, and, where needed, hiking poles. For some field trips, you might want binoculars or a hand lens. Pets are not allowed (except service animals).

Directions and meet-up locations will be in your registration packet if they differ from the conference center or its parking lot. Fees for field trips or workshops will be paid on-site (cash or check only).

Friday Afternoon Workshops

Two-day Workshops

W 1 Creating Crevice Gardens. On Friday, Mike Kintgen, Curator of Alpine Collections at the Denver Botanic Gardens, will introduce participants to crevice gardening and showcase numerous examples of the technique. The group will then spend the rest of Friday afternoon and Saturday morning at the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, planning and creating a crevice garden. Limit 13.

W 2 Dyeing with Native Plants. Learn about the history and techniques used to produce colorful dyes from common native plants and use traditional methods to create dyes that will then be used to dye silk and wool. Continues on Saturday. Fee \$40 for supplies. Limit: 12.



One-day Workshop

W 3 Cyanotype Printing with Native Plants. Discover the art of cyanotype, a photographic process developed in 1842, and print on watercolor paper using pressed plant specimens. Materials fee \$20. Limit: 15.

Friday Afternoon Field Trips

F 1 Dah guh teh, Ha honda Nde benah. Chiricahua Apache Lifeways: A View of a Sacred Land.

Join us for a 3-hour horseback ride along the Gila National Forest Dragonfly loop trails with open discussions on plants and a reliance on a balanced Earth. Also offered on Saturday. Fee: \$100.00 Limit: 4.



Datura wrightii in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Photo by Elroy Limmer.

F 2 The Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Easy, wheelchair-accessible. See our beautiful garden, featuring over a hundred plant species native to the region. The tour will discuss the planning process, implementation, and future activities. Limit 12.

F 3 Home Garden Tour. Easy. Visit a quarter acre of Gila/Mimbres native and edible plants in the gardens of a 1906 historic home in downtown Silver City. Limit: 15.

F 4 Silver City Flora Project Tour. Easy. Explore the “wilds” of Silver City with members of the Silver City Flora Project, focusing on taking notes on the plants observed, which will be used for the project’s plant inventory. Limit: 16.

F 5 Regenerative Landscaping with Rainwater Harvesting Tour. Easy. By car, learn about rainwater-harvesting landscapes. This tour features aesthetically crafted rainwater-harvesting earthworks, cistern storage systems, and graywater systems. Limit: 18.

F 6 New Earth Project/Pilot: Climate Change Mitigation Through Food Waste Reduction. Easy. Tour the New Earth Project, which focuses on carbon sequestration, food security, replacing fertilizers and pesticides, soil health, reducing food waste, and lowering landfill methane emissions. Limit: 16.

F 7 Plants of Saddle Rock Canyon. Easy/Moderate. The canyon features rugged rock walls and great vegetation. Expect to see a variety of trees and, farther upstream, the success of the riparian restoration project, with native trees and shrubs making a glorious comeback. Limit: 12.

F 8 Botany for Beginners. Easy/Moderate. Designed for people who are beginning to learn about plants in New Mexico. We will visit Cherry Creek and learn about common trees and shrubs, the basics of plant families, and tips for plant identification. Limit: 12.

F 9 Dead Man’s Canyon Botanical Sauntering Adventure. Easy/Moderate. A casual hike along a forested ravine in the Burro Mountains offers access to a particularly lush, diverse mosaic of grasses, forbs, ferns, cacti, and shrubs. Limit: 12.



Gambel Oak, *Quercus gambelii*. Photo by Margie Gibson.



*American Bumble Bee.
Photo by Elroy Limmer.*

F 10 Bumble Bee Atlas Field Training. Easy/Moderate. Learn how to catch, photograph, and release bumble bees as part of a community science initiative to discover more about them. Limit: 15.

F 11 Hiking San Vicente Creek Trail and Open Space. Easy/Moderate. This urban hike explores a microcosm of what makes the desert Southwest unique, traversing two important plant community types: Cottonwood Bosque Forest and Chihuahuan Desert Grassland. Limit: 20.



F 12 The Flora of Signal Peak. Moderate. This field trip will explore a magnificent display of native plants, color, pollinators, and birds, and offer exceptional views near the top of Signal Peak. En route to the top, we will travel through a landscape dramatically altered by fire. Limit 12.

F 13 Iron Bridge Conservation Area. Moderate. This area is part of The Nature Conservancy's Gila River Preserve, offering the opportunity to hike around the complex floodplain and explore secondary channels. Limit: 15.

F 14 Forest Drought Stress and Tree Mortality. Moderate. Discover the stages of drought impact by visiting conifer sites in the Gila National Forest. Learn about forest insect and disease management and how to identify stress-related issues. Limit: 15.



Photo by Elroy Limmer.

Saturday Morning Workshops

Continuation of W 1 Crevice Garden and W 2 Dyeing with Native Plants Workshops.

W 4 Printing Botanicals in the Dirty Pot. Have fun creating beautiful botanical prints from plants gathered in your backyard ecosystems using the Dirty Pot Method, the Blanket Method, and the Botanical Dye Pot. Materials fee: \$20 Limit: 12.

W 5 Rooted in Place: Poetry as a Path to Resilience. Turn observations and descriptions of plants and/or animals into poems that express overcoming hardship or finding hope in difficult times. Limit: 15.

W 6 Plant Ornament Felting. Learn basic needle felting techniques. Wool roving and needles will be provided. Each participant will make at least one plant-themed felted ornament. Materials fee: \$15 Limit: 8.



Katydid Nymph. Photo by Elroy Limmer.

W 7 Expressionism Versus Documentation: Macrophotography in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. An introduction to macrophotography, focusing on composition, technique, and other photography elements, with an emphasis on photographing plants and insects in the botanical garden. Limit: 10.

W 8 Mounting Herbarium Specimens. Learn how to mount a plant specimen and mount one of your own for inclusion in the Teaching Collection at the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium. Limit 12.

W 9 Disseminating Seeds throughout Southwest New Mexico. A presentation covering the history and organization of the Southwest New Mexico Seed Library, seed cleaning and packaging, harvesting times, and how to start and maintain a seed library. Limit: 15.



Saturday Morning Field Trips

F 15 Dah guh teh, Ha honda Nde benah. Chiricahua Apache Lifeways: A View of a Sacred Land. Horseback ride. See Friday description. Fee: \$100.00 Limit: 4.

F 16 Native Medicinal Plants of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Easy. Tour the botanical garden's medicinal plant section to learn about traditional and modern uses of medicinal plants and how to prepare and grow them. Limit: 12.



The mural at the Silver City Museum. Photo by Margie Gibson.

F 17 Youth Mural Program: A Walking Tour of Silver City Murals. Easy. Discover our wonderful downtown murals and learn the stories behind each, including who created them, their significance, their community impact, and some fun anecdotes. Limit: 12.

F 18 Mosses and Liverworts at Little Cherry Creek. Easy. Visit this heavily wooded, seasonal riparian area in the Pinus Altos Range, which is rich in both vascular plants and bryophytes. Limit: 10.

F 19 The Fabulous Flora of City of Rocks State Park. Easy/Moderate. Learn about the park's flora and notable geologic features, a prime example of the Chihuahuan Desert in southwestern New Mexico. Limit: 25.

F 20 Birding and Botanizing the Gila. Easy/Moderate. Good for both birds and plants; some birds include Painted Redstart, Bridled Titmouse, Steller's Jay, and possibly the Olive Warbler and the Band-tailed Pigeon. Limit: 12.

F 21 The Plants at Lake Roberts in the Gila National Forest. Moderate. Explore several habitats at Lake Roberts, including the riparian zone, lake edge, and rocky cliffs, with a chance of seeing showy wildflowers. Limit: 15.

F 22 Hugging the Fort Bayard Big Tree. Moderate. Hike to a special gem, the over 800-year-old Big Tree, an alligator juniper measuring 18 feet in circumference, 6 feet in diameter, and 60 feet tall. Limit: 14.



Reakirt's Blue. Photo by David Phillips.

F 23 Butterflies of the Gila. Moderate. Ramble through Saddle Rock Canyon in search of butterflies, including Sulfurs, Swallowtails, Hairstreaks, and Blues – possibly 20 or more species. Limit: 15.

F 24 Boy Scout Road to Meadow Creek. Moderate. From tall Ponderosa Pines to sun-drenched riparian meadows, this hike showcases displays of native flowering plants and grasses. Limit: 12.



Sphinx Moths on Basketflower, Plectocephalus rothrockii, at Lake Roberts. Photo by Elroy Limmer.



Sunday Bonus Field Trips

Off Highway 180 East, about 4 miles from Silver City

F 25 Dragonfly Trail Petroglyph Hike. Easy/Moderate. This hike through piñon-juniper grassland and a riparian area features petroglyphs, including a dragonfly. It is convenient for those heading south or through the Black Range. Limit: 12.



Granite Gap. Photo by Margie Gibson.

Off Interstate 10 and Highway 80, Southwest of Silver City, approximately an hour's drive (one-way)

F 26 Exploring Granite Gap. Easy/Moderate. This area in the Peloncillo Mountains features stunning rock formations and a diverse array of flora. The range serves as an important migration corridor for wildlife and a safe haven for plant species from the surrounding desert. Limit: 12.

Off Highway 152, Northeast of Silver City

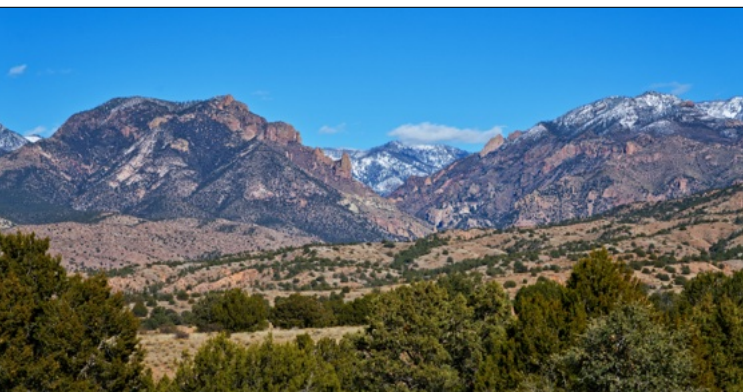
F 27 Black Range Crest Trail. Moderate/Difficult. This hike offers stunning views of the Black Range, amazing geological features, and a wide variety of native plants. Limit: 12.

Off Highway 15, North of Silver City, about a three-hour round-trip drive

F 28 Gila Cliff Dwellings Exploration. Moderate. An in-depth exploration of the canyon's riparian corridor, cliffside habitats, and cultural landscape, with frequent stops to discuss native plant communities, wildlife relationships, geology, and active land stewardship. Limit: 15.

F 29 Plant Biogeography of the Gila River Headwaters. Moderate.

This trip will go into the heart of the Gila Wilderness along the river and highlight the river's resilience through fires and floods. We will identify native trees and shrubs. September is an ideal time for wildflowers here. Limit: 12.



The Mogollons in winter. Photo by David Phillips.



Trail at Gila Cliff Dwellings. Photo by David Phillips.

Off Highway 180, Northwest of Silver City, about 3 ½ hours round-trip

F 30 Visit The Mogollons. Moderate/Difficult. The hike begins at the Willow Creek trailhead, leading into a high-elevation spruce and fir meadow and serving as a gateway to the Gila Wilderness. September is perhaps the best time of year to see its floral beauty. Limit: 12.