

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April 2016

Vol 6 No 2

Helen Shoup, Editor

Bulletin 2016: Quarter 2

This quarterly Bulletin of the Gila Native Plant Society of Silver City, New Mexico, provides the latest communications between the society and the members.

It is delivered via your email unless you request otherwise. The online version allows color photos and for a lower cost (essentially free for GNPS). The Bulletin will continue to be available on the [GNPS website](#).

Help Your Garden Thrive!

**Discover beautiful trees, shrubs, & flowers
at the Gila Native Plant Society's 14th**

**Annual Native Plant Sale
At the Home and Garden Expo**

Saturday, April 9, 2016 - 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Western New Mexico University Intramural Gym

**Come to our booth to talk with our landscape consultants,
use our reference books, and place your order in person.**

Great southwest gardening books also available for purchase.

**Or order plants online now thru
April 19th at**

http://www.gilanps.org/Plant_Sale_Info.html

**Pick up plants Friday, April 22, 9:00-11:00 am
at the parking lot across from Gough Park,
12th & Pope Streets.**

**Remaining plants will be sold at Gough Park on
Earth Day, Saturday, April 23.**

Programs for This Quarter

All programs are free and open to the public. Meetings are usually the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm at WNMU's Harlan Hall, unless otherwise specified. Refreshments follow the program.

All field trip/hike participants meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater on E Street at 8:00 a.m. for carpooling. The leader is Kevin Keith. The trips are also free and open to the public.

Activity updates and further details are posted on the website. You will also receive an email reminder before the date of each program.

The Gila Native Plant Society is committed

- To promote education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the Southwest
- To encourage the preservation of rare and endangered plant species
- To support the use of suitable native plants in landscaping

For information on programs, publications, and membership, please visit www.gilanps.org.

April Meeting

On Friday, April 15, The Gila chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico will hold a meeting at 7:00 p.m. at WNMU's Harlan Hall, second floor. The featured talk will be **A Floristic Study of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument: Revelations, Mysteries, and Challenges** by William (Bill) Norris, Richard Felger, Russ Kleinman, and Kelly Kindscher.

The 4 presenters will provide findings from their ongoing (since 2013) study of the monument flora, which include discovery of 400+ vascular plants and 100+ mosses and liverworts. They will also describe a mystery: more than 100 vascular plants documented previously at the Gila Cliff Dwellings have eluded the presenters to date despite 3 years of intense field work. Finally, the presenters will describe their plans to complete this floristic inventory of the monument and hopefully fill in some of these gaps.

April Hike

When: Sunday, April 17

Destination: Tennessee Gulch in the Big Lue Mountains approximately 3 miles west of Mule Creek

Directions: From Silver City, take Hwy 180 W for 45 miles. Turn left (west) on Hwy 78 for 13 miles. We will park just off the pavement on FS Rd. 111.

Description: Our first field trip of the season will take us to the outskirts of the Gila region. The trail (moderate) winds through a mosaic of ponderosa forest, woodland, and rock-sculpted outcroppings of white rhyolite. The Madrean pines (*Pinus chihuahuensis* and *P. cembroides*) are known in the vicinity.

May Hike

When: Sunday, May 15

Destination: CD Trail to Eighty Mountain in the Pinos Altos Range. Moderate; a couple of hundred feet of elevation gain over two miles.

Directions: From Silver City, go north on Little Walnut Road for 5 miles to FS Rd 506 (dirt). Continue for approximately 3 miles. The CD trailhead is on the left.

Description: The trail passes through Ponderosa forest, eventually contouring the north slope of Eighty Mountain. Gambel oak (*Heuchera*) and the maidenhair fern (*Cheilanthes*,) occupy the shadiest sites on the slope. This hike is on the morning of the annual GNPS picnic.

June Hike

When: Sunday, June 19

Destination: Little Dry Creek Trail 180 in the Mogollon Range (moderate)

Directions: From Silver City, take Hwy 180 W for 49 miles. About a half mile past the Aldo Leopold Vista, turn right on FS Rd 196 (dirt). Go 7 miles to the trailhead.

Description: The first major drainage on the north side of the San Francisco/Gila divide, Little Dry Creek supports a perennial stream and its attendant riparian vegetation.

Annual Picnic in May

The Gila Native Plant Society is planning the annual picnic in conjunction with the local chapter of the Audubon Society and May 15 at covered pavillion at the Little Walnut/Gomez Peak picnic area.

There will be a field trip in the morning and then a late lunch at 2:00 pm with the Audubon Society members who will provide hot dogs. All GNPS members will need to bring their own silverware, plates, and cups, as usual. Water and iced tea will be supplied.

Featured Plant: Native Junipers

By Dr. Keller Suberkropp

Junipers are evergreens (Gymnosperms) in the family Cupressaceae. They are one of the major trees in the pinon-juniper woodlands around Silver City.



Foliage: Juniper leaves look like small scales.

(photo:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juniperus_deppeana)

Cones

Most junipers are dioecious in that they produce male and female cones on separate trees.

The male cones are small and brown and produce large amounts of pollen in late winter to early spring. Male trees frequently turn brown due to the many male cones produced, and when the wind blows the pollen looks like smoke coming off the tree. Juniper pollen is a source of allergies for many in this area.

Junipers produce seeds in fleshy female cones that are sometimes called juniper

“berries.” These juniper “berries” are blue to purple, and the cones of some species have been used to flavor gin and different dishes including wild game.

Junipers are also important for wildlife as they provide nesting habitat and the “berries” are eaten by a variety of birds that spread them to other areas. Bears also eat the “berries.” Mule deer browse juniper foliage.

Disadvantage

One disadvantage to junipers is that they use much water, so you need to take it into consideration if thinking of adding one to your garden.

Native species

There are three native juniper species that occur around Silver City. All are trees.

- Alligator juniper
- One-seed juniper
- Rocky Mountain juniper

Alligator juniper (*J. deppeana*)

The Alligator juniper is the most common and largest of the southwestern junipers.





Captions: All alligator juniper photos

Upper left: The bark has squarish plates and resembles alligator skin. (Photo: Keller Suberkropp)

Lower left: Male cones, small and brown, pointing downward (Photo: KellerSuberkropp)

Lower right: Female cones (Photo: Keller Suberkropp)

Upper right: Alligator juniper trees (Photo: <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/plants-c/bio414/species%20pages/Juniperus%20depeana.htm>)

One-Seed juniper (*J. monosperma*)





Captions: All one-seed juniper photos

Upper left: Shredding, linear bark (photo: Keller Suberkropp)

Lower left: Female berries/cones

(photo:<http://www.naturesongs.com/vvplants/oneseedjuniper.html>)

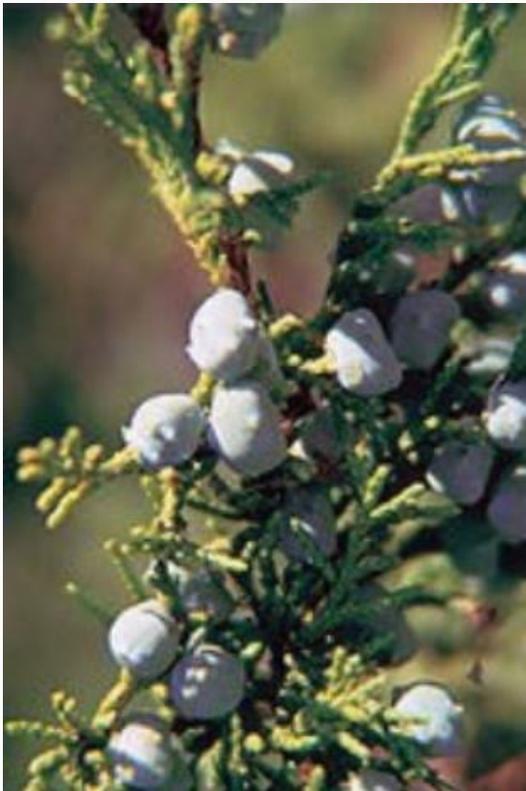
Lower right: Male flowers

(photo:<http://www.naturesongs.com/vvplants/oneseedjuniper.html>)

Upper right: One-seed juniper trees

(photo:<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=JUMO>)

Rocky Mountain juniper (*J. scopulorum*)



Captions: All Rocky Mountain juniper photos

Left: Foliage & new cones

Right: Rocky Mountain tree

(Photos: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juniperus_scopulorum)

Ornamentals (non-native)

In addition to these native juniper trees, other juniper species are popular ornamentals (not native) that are widely used in landscaping. These species are mainly shrubs.

Give Grandly

By Jeff Boyd and Andy Payne

Give Grandly is a local event for promoting community support of non-profit organizations. It is scheduled for May 14th, 8:30 - 2:30, at the Farmers Market, East 7th Street at Bullard, in Silver City. The Gila Native Plant Society is participating this year, and we hope you can attend and give generously to organizations of your choice. For those who cannot attend, donations can be accepted via a smart phone throughout the day of the event.

Please help support the GNPS to continue providing scholarships to worthy WNMU students, to complete the re-making of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, and to continue providing education on native plants to local school children.

Programs from Last Quarter

A description of the programs from last quarter follow:

January Meeting

On January 15, Dr. Keller Suberkropp spoke to us on **Adaptations in Photosynthesis Occurring in Many of our Native Plants**. Dr. Suberkropp explained how plants continue carrying out photosynthesis in such arid environments as we have in New Mexico, including adaptations C-4 and CAM to overcome this problem.

Dr. Suberkropp had a slide show of photos of plants and diagrams of the adaptations to make is simpler to understand.

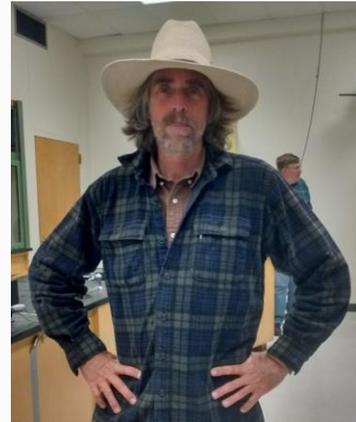


Presenter: Dr. Suberkropp taught freshman biology, mycology, and microbial ecology at New Mexico State University and University of Alabama for 28 years. His research examined the ecology of the fungi that live in freshwater streams. Since moving to Silver City, he has been active in the Gila Native Plant Society and is a past president of the Society.

February Meeting

Van Clothier, Owner/Director of Stream Dynamics, Inc., presented **Take Back the Rain! Stream Dynamics & Urban Water-harvesting in Silver City, NM.**

In a sub-watershed, the streets, roofs, parking lots, and sewer systems collect stormwater. As a result, this collection alters water flow, transports contaminants, and impacts the health of our waterways.



Mr. Clothier showed photos of projects with many before-and-after shots as examples of what can be done to save the water in Silver City. His company Stream Dynamics has been awarded \$138,220 by NMED as part of its River Stewardship Program. Many of these projects were done at least in part with funds from this grant. He is planning more projects in the future to use the funds to help Silver City make good use of the rain and local water.

Stream Dynamics is a local business that hopes to guide our community on how to take back the rain and how to work with nature through rainwater harvesting to beautify our neighborhoods and improve watershed health.

March Meeting

The Gila chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico held a meeting in Silver City on March 18, 2016, with a talk on the topic **Adventures of a New Mexico Rare Plant Botanist.**

Field Botanist Jim McGrath described his involvement with New Mexico rare plants over the past 15 years, using a slide show of rare plants he had found. Jim's story began with a description of the strategies, problems, and successes in performing rare plant clearance surveys in the oil and gas fields of northwest New Mexico.

Jim expanded his association with rare plants by developing rare plant workshops with follow-up field trips. These field trips allowed Jim to learn the rare plants of the Sacramento and White Mountains of central New Mexico and the gyp soils of the White Mesa area near Albuquerque. Jim's years as NPSNM conservation chair gave Jim the opportunity to learn the rare plants of the Blue Hole Cienega Nature Preserve at Santa Rosa. The workshops and field trips allowed Jim to share his knowledge with others.

Notes from the Silva Creek Botanical Garden

By Elroy Limmer

Good news! Most everything that you hard working volunteers planted last spring at the Garden has over-wintered well. Money is available for more plants, so I am planning another work day on Friday, April 29. at 8 a.m. We will be planting more natives that support our native pollinators. Anyone that has thoughts on anything that needs to be added to the Garden, please let me know and we will see if we can incorporate them. More signage is in the works.

Work is coming along on the new decorative fence that will be placed along Alabama street. Thanks to George Farmer for hauling materials with his flatbed trailer and Denise Fredricks for agreeing to weld the panels. Once they are completed another call for help will be coming to install the fence.

Here's hoping we get some rain, so things keep thriving.

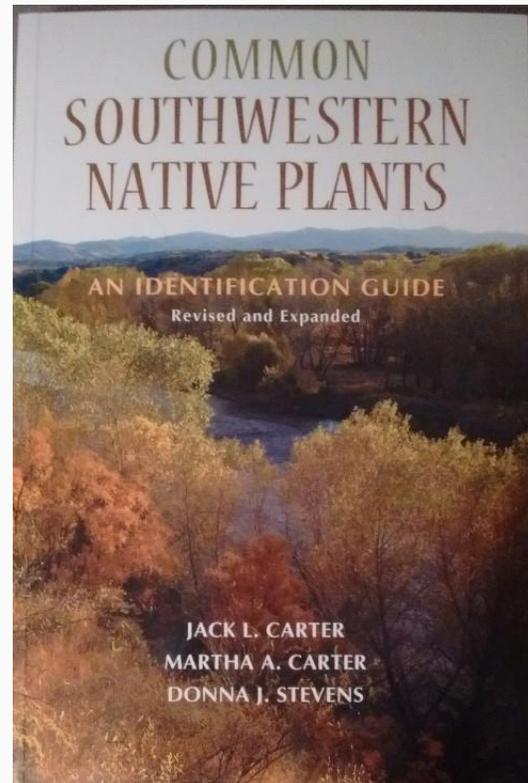
Featured Book

Common Southwestern Native Plants: An Identification Guide, Revised and Expanded

By Jack L. Carter, Martha A. Carter,
Donna J. Stevens

Now with full color on every page and many new photographs, the new edition of this popular pictorial guide has expanded to include 128 woody plants and 39 herbaceous flowering plants common to the Southwest.

Considerable attention is given to the history of botany in the region, with biographical sketches of the early botanists. Big-tree records have also been added for many of the species.



This book brings together colorful photographs, exquisite line drawings, and written descriptions. Included are medicinal and traditional cultural uses, suggestions for landscaping and attracting wildlife, and Spanish common names. For those wishing to go further with plant identification, each selection has a detailed description, distribution records, and habitat information. Perfect for travelers in the Southwest, this book has broad educational value and can be enjoyed by non-specialists and specialists alike.

Cost: \$24.00 plus \$3.73 shipping and handling

To purchase the book, go to the [website](#).



Our mailing address is:

PO Box 457
Silver City, NM 88062

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