

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO



BULLETIN

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH 2015

Editor: Charles Holmes

PROGRAMS

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, with refreshments following the program.

Activity updates and further details will be posted on our website www.gilanps.org. You will also receive an email reminder before the date of each program.

On Friday, January 16th, at 7:00 pm in Harlan Hall, Dr. Richard Felger will speak to us about "New Food Crops: Half a Century of Botanical Adventures."

Dr. Felger resides in Silver City where he studies native food plants in southern New Mexico. He has conducted new crops research in arid lands worldwide and has written or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, in addition to books and popular writings on topics including new food crops, botany and ethnobiology. One of his strong interests is addressing (cont)

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agricultural independence for arid regions. His publications are listed on the University of Arizona Herbarium website. A current project involves adapting New Mexico native food crops into our normal food consumption regimen.

On Friday, February 20th at 7:00 pm in Harlan Hall,

We do not yet have a speaker, or rather we have not yet had a confirmation.

We will let you know as soon as that is arranged.

On Friday, March 20th at 7:00 pm in Harlan Hall.

We do not yet have a presenter, or rather we have not yet had a confirmation.

Again, we will let you know as soon as that is arranged.

R E P O R T S

On October 17th, 2014, an auditorium full of our members and guests listened to Lisa Mandelkern describe the intriguing and beautiful plants of the Tübingen Botanical Gardens of Germany.

Lisa has been a long-time collaborator with the New Mexico Native Plant Society; Jack Carter remembers her from at least 1990. She has done extensive work in plant photography in our local area.

Lisa divided her presentation into three parts. The first was a description of the local landscape in the part of Swabia around Tübingen, which is just south of Stuttgart. The prominent feature is "greenness" with lots of water and fog. She also noted many (cont.)

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tours, especially for children.

The second part of her presentation was a biographical description of the founder of the botanical garden, Leonard Fuchs, who lived in the middle of the sixteenth century and professionally was a physician for eye ailments. But, his other principal interest was in the diversity of plants with which he became quite knowledgeable. He wrote a massive book called *De historia stirpium* which was a compendium of the plants (from around the world) which were known to him at the time. This book was highlighted by gorgeous illustrations.

In the third part of her presentation, Lisa displayed many brilliantly colored slides of plants from around the world that were part of the collection at the Tübingen Gardens. Many were astounding! Some seemed quite similar to our local examples, often being from the same plant families.

On Friday, November 21st in Harlan Hall, A.T. Cole from the Pitchfork Ranch gave us considerable insight into "Human-Caused Climate Change."

The first section of his presentation concerned his, and his wife, Lucinda's, monumental efforts to restore the landscape of the Pitchfork Ranch, especially by managing and rerouting many of the sources of water in that area that would otherwise be wasted. He showed us a great map of all the water sources and *cienagas* that flow southeast from the area of the Burros toward the Pitchfork and beyond. A number of us, who are familiar with the area, were greatly impressed with this. In several photos we were given a graphic view of some of the water redirection projects that have rerouted the valuable resource into more manageable areas.

A second part of the presentation gave us "a big load" of historical statistics that describe many of the national climate research projects over the past decade, or more. These have tried to predict the percentages of climate change over an expanse of years to the present, and even the future. The factor that emerges as the most striking is the failure to correctly predict those percentages to the numbers that they have actually reached currently. What will even the near future bring? The prospects seem to be quite scary!

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The final section of his presentation was directed towards A.T's concept of "Restoration Climate Gardens". This concept has occurred to him as a rebirth of the concept and actuality of "Victory Gardens" of the World War II years. Too many of the farmers who would have provided food resources were absent fighting the war in faraway places.

The concept of Restoration Climate Gardens would apply in Silver City with the development of many, many neighborhood food plots whose products would be sucking up vast amounts of carbon which otherwise would be escaping into the atmosphere. Isn't this what we should be aiming to accomplish?

SPECIAL REPORTS

On Sunday, December 14th, twenty-eight of the GNPS members celebrated Christmas and the New Year with a pot luck party at the American Legion Hall on College St.

The food was superb! What great cooks we have in this community! This annual get-together allows many of us to socialize in ways we do not usually have the opportunity to do otherwise. Please give serious thought to joining us at this party next year.

NEW GNPS OFFICERS

President: Ron Groves

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Jeff Boyd

Treasurer: Pam Bryant

State Representative: Keller Suberkropp

Trip Leader: Kevin Keith