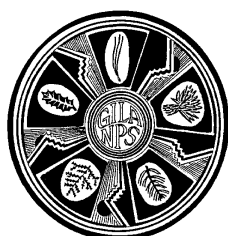


GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO



BULLETIN

APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2014

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.

Friday, April 18th at 7:00 pm, room 110 of Harlan Hall, WNMU, Dr. Jack Carter will tell us about "Human Population, Conservation and Survival."

The population explosion, a long-time concern of Dr. Carter, has been heightened by recent readings of Tim Flannery, William deBuys and Alan Weisman. By reviewing portions of their writings, he will tackle several of the biggest questions facing humankind and every other living thing on this small planet.

2.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trip participants should meet by 8:00 am in the south parking lot of the Western New Mexico University Fine Arts Center Theatre to arrange for carpooling. Those attending must sign a release-of-liability form and will receive a list of native plants likely to be seen in the hiking area

Field trip participants should bring water, lunch, a hat and sunscreen. Also, please wear good hiking shoes. For more information, call Deming Gustafson at 388-5192 or email him at demgus@msn.com.

On Sunday, April 20th, the Gila Native Plant Society will conduct a field trip to the McMillan Campground in the Gila National Forest to complete last fall's study of the difference in a mile or so of the Cherry Creek Canyon flora.

The Gila 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 and to support the use of suitable native plants in landscaping. For information on programs, publications and membership, please visit www.gilanps.org.

On Sunday, May 18th, the Gila Native Plant Society will sponsor a field trip starting at the Royal John Mine Road at the Mimbres Bridge. Our leader has found this to be a fascinating presentation of aquatic flora, providing there has not been a recent flood. (What's the chance of that?)

3.

On Sunday, June 15th, the Gila Native Plant Society will sponsor a field trip heading for the cooler high country of Signal Peak Road. We can expect to discover drought resistant plants that may do well in our more cared-for gardens

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Friday, April 18th, those of you who ordered native plants from the Gila Native Plant Society Plant Pre-sale should pick them up in the large parking lot across from Gough Park in the morning.

R E P O R T S

On Friday, January 17th, George Farmer told us why "Seed Matters: We Reap What We Sow."

His emphasis was on how we can grow for sustenance that which is not necessarily native to our particular area but is valuable for our future health.

The focus should be on growing and developing seeds that are NOT hybridized or genetically modified by the massive agriculture/food industry. (Cont.)

4.

Their efforts, in addition to the effects of climate change and environmental change over the past century, have greatly reduced the diversity of vegetable/food plants available to us. It is really shocking.

George emphasized six major points/reasons why we must start saving seeds on our own:

- 1) Renew your age-old partnership with seeds**
- 2) Retain control of OUR food supply**
- 3) Preserve OUR heritage of biodiversity**
- 4) Develop and preserve strains adapted to your/our own growing conditions**
- 5) Help preserve our right to save our seeds instead of seeds owned by those who developed them genetically**
- 6) Increase our available options of species or varieties, especially of open-pollinated seeds.**

On Friday, February 21st, Renee West, the current President of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, gave us her thoughts on "Climate Change in Southern New Mexico."

We are either in or entering a state of Climate Chaos! Glaciers are quickly receding. This may contribute to drought, freezes, fire and flood.

As we have noted in the central and eastern areas of the country, the winter and early spring have seen vastly varying temperatures with as much as 75 degrees in just two days.

Fire is an almost constant danger in our local area with a great many Red Flag Warning days. She noted that during the last few years nearly half of Carlsbad National Park forest acreage has burned. One major consequence of this is the very rapid change in animal habitats and habits.

Renee's FIRST IDEA: Business as usual must be abandoned!

5.

She indicates that a drastic lifestyle change is in order, including efforts to bring sustainability, meaning help not harm to the land base.

This includes limiting solar farms, which take land out of use. Also, the search for oil and gas takes land out of practical use. Wind energy development takes vast areas of land out of use. It requires 12.5 million acres of land which is equal to the area of ALL national parks. It also accounts for the killing of huge numbers of birds, especially bats and song birds.

SECOND IDEA: Trying to save species by moving them to other habitats for safety will lead to serious negative consequences, considering that they have spent thousands of years to adjust themselves to the habitats they now occupy.

THIRD IDEA: We need to stop thinking that we are the most important species on Earth and that we can adjust all environments to suit ourselves without harming other important species and the natural forces of the Earth. WE MUST PROTECT THE LAND! A DRASTIC LIFESTYLE CHANGE IS IN ORDER!

On Friday, March 21st, Martha Ames Burgess told us about the "Incredible Edibles of the Sonoran Desert and Beyond."

She not only displayed slides of many of those edible plants but she also laid out samples on tables which we could investigate and even taste in our after-lecture meeting room on the first floor. What a marvelous treat!

Among the species that were displayed were Barrel Cactus fruit, also known as "starvation food." We also investigated Ocotillo blooms, the edible parts of Creosote Bush, Chia, known as a super food having major medical usages, *Opuntia* tea, and lots of *Cholla*.