

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO



BULLETIN

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2014

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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, October 17 at 7:00 pm in Harlan Hall, Lisa Mandelkern will give a presentation on "The Botanical Garden at Tubingen".

Lisa has been fascinated by the flora of New Mexico for a long time. In 1991 she became a member of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico. Since then she has become an enthusiastic amateur botanist and plant photographer. She has served as the President of the Las Cruces Chapter of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and also as president of the state organization. (cont)

2.

When in Germany visiting relatives, she always makes sure to stop at the Botanical Garden in Tübingen. This garden traces its history back to Leonhart Fuchs, who lived from 1501 to 1566. Fuchs is most remembered for his innovative "Notable Commentaries on the History of Plants." Lisa will discuss this great doctor/botanist in some detail and then she will examine the role that botanical gardens play in the development of knowledge of plants and in plant conservation.

The Botanical Garden in Tübingen is also a place for enlightenment, appreciation and relaxation. This place is a plant photographer's paradise!

The second half of the presentation will feature some 50 flowering plants arranged by family. Many of these plants are native to Europe; some unusual or rare plants hail from faraway places all over the globe.

Friday, November 21st at 7:00 pm, room 219 of Harlan Hall, WNMU, A.T. Cole will present "Human-Caused Climate Change and Habitat Shallowing as an Adaption Tool."

It is long-passed time that we recognize that terms like *extended drought and fire season* are no longer relevant and unwittingly play into the hands of the flat-earth-science-denier fellowship. Droughts end and seasons change. Climate change is making the arid Southwest "hotter and drier" than anywhere else in the continental U.S. "When compared to the 20th century average, the West has experienced an increase in average temperature (cont.)

during the last five years that is 70% greater than the world as a whole." The "new normal" can be referred to as *permanent warming and year-round fires*.

Now the question is "How to Adapt?" Landscape restoration is a key part of the solution. The mantra of the "Three R's" is now five: "Recycle, refuse, reuse, reclaim and restore." Restoration is something anyone can do anywhere, regardless of land size or ownership. This talk will offer ideas on just how. (cont)

3.

After 33 years in Casa Grande, Arizona, A.T. & Cinda Cole retired to the Pitchfork Ranch, an hour south of Silver City, ten years ago. They are restoring the nine mile reach of the Burro Cienaga that runs through the ranch, repairing the grasslands, improving wildlife habitat and introducing endangered animals and plants.

R E P O R T S

On July 20th eighteen avid plant-seekers attended a trip to Railroad Canyon in the Black Range. It was WET!

A little after arrival we rather quickly found that the stream that runs through the valley was moving too fast and too high for everyone to cross safely!

We spent over half an hour just accounting for all the species that occurred before we reached the stream. There were many *Alnus oblongifolia* (Arizona Alder) along the stream . Also, we found quite a number of mosses and some mushrooms that drew our attention. In addition, we located some *Clematis ligusticifolia* (Virgin Bower) near the stream bank. There were quite a few *Grindelia arizonica neomexicana* (New Mexico Gumweed) that were not yet very "gummy."

Just before the stream crossing (which we could not negotiate) we came across a few *Rhamnus betulifolia* (Birchleaf Buckthorn) with a few red berries.

Not being able to cover much territory at that location, we drove back down the road to the Upper Gallinas area. There we found a number of interesting plants, including the *Agastache micrantha* (White Giant Hyssop) and the *Lepidium virginicum* (Poor Man's Pepperweed).

4.

On Sunday, August 17th, we drove a short way up the Sheep Corral Road after there had been a few rains in that area.

There were seventeen of us who found a lot in two small areas. Here is a brief description of a very successful trip.

One of the first interesting plants that we discovered was the Crag Lily (*Echeandia flavescens*). We also came across many *Commelina dianthifolia* (Birdhill Day Flower) in several color variations from almost white to deep blue (which is the one you usually expect). Before we left the first area we came across a cluster of *Houstonia wrightii* (Pygmy Bluets), which we had not seen in quite a while.

We then travelled to another area farther up the road. This was loaded with many other species. There we found what had been predicted in the previous newsletter – *Solanum jamesii* (the Wild Potato). Nearby was a dense, massive collection of yet-to-bloom *Cosmos parviflorus* (The Wild Cosmos). We estimated there must have been about five million of them in this spot.

Before we left, we came across a single *Castilleja integra* (Southwestern Indian Paintbrush), which was quite a treat!

For the last trip of the season, On September 21st, a small group of six of us headed to Pancho Canyon (near Lake Bill Evans) to see what the rather extensive rains had produced.

There was not a lot of variation, except in the myriad of grasses, which we did not generally recognize. However, what we did find were a number of plants which we rarely see on our other hikes.

Take for instance the Pale Wolfberry (*Lycium pallidum*) which only the leader recognized. Then, there was the *Solanum heterodoxum* (Melon Leaf Nightshade) which had spectacular violet flowers and vicious-looking burs. Few of us had seen that before.

Another not-often-seen small tree was the *Ptelea trifoliata* (Hop Tree).
(cont.)

5.

We discovered a tight collection of this very attractive species.

I have to admit that I was confused when I falsely-identified what I thought was an often-seen *Gutierrzia sarothrae* (Snakeweed). It turned out to be an *Ericameria laricifolia* (Turpentine Bush). I was amazed at how similar they look

SPECIAL REPORT

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK CELEBRATION

We are in the final process of making arrangements for our annual Christmas Potluck Party, but they are not quite completed.

We expect that this celebration will be held on Sunday, December 14th. Please mark that date and we will notify you shortly of the confirmation and further arrangements.