



**GILA
NATIVE
PLANT
SOCIETY**

B U L L E T I N

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 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, October 16th, in Room 219 of Harlan Hall on the Western New Mexico U. campus, Dr. Richard Felger of the University of Arizona Herbarium and Sky Island Alliance will give a presentation: Native Plants for Food, Fun and Beauty – for Today and a Global Dry Future.

We have good reason to celebrate a wealth of local/native plants for home gardens, urban landscaping, food resiliency, farming and education. Those plants are strongly supporting guilds of native insects, birds and our own species. The presentation will explore promising examples for intermediate use and what we have learned this year. Go Native Silver City!

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.

On Friday, November 20th, in Room 219 of Harlan Hall on the Western New Mexico U. campus, Dr. Dale Zimmerman, Professor Emeritus of WNMU, and Patrice Mutchnick, Botanist: Butterfly Way Project, will present a program on Butterflies and Native Plant Hosts of New Mexico: Habitat Restoration.

The program will begin with an overview of local butterflies and their native plant hosts with photographs by Dr. Zimmerman.

Next, progress on the native plant restoration project at the Gila River Farm will be presented and future plans and projects will be explored.

The Butterfly Way Project is a habitat restoration effort, funded entirely by donations, and begun in honor and memory of Ella Kirk, Ella Myers and Michael Mahl, young naturalists and student scientists from the Aldo Leopold School.

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The annual Gila Native Plant Society Holiday Party will be held on Sunday, December 13th, at 1 PM at The Commons/Volunteer Center, 501 E. 13th St. in Silver City.

Here are the driving directions. If you are coming from Route 180, turn south (towards the town center) on Swan St. Proceed down Swan to East 13th then turn right. This is a one-block street with the Commons, a large recessed complex, at the end of the street. Park anywhere. If you are coming more from the center of town, get to W.12th St. Go east crossing Pope and Hudson and then to Swan. Turn left and go to E. 13th St. Turn left on E.13th and park. Again this is a one-block street with the Commons, a large recessed complex at the end of the street.

Since this will be a potluck affair:

- Bring a selection of food to share with the others**
- Provide your own plates and silverware**
- GNPS will provide a major meat dish and beverages**
- > We would appreciate some help in setting up the tables and chairs and restoring them after the festivities.**

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

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM JEFF BOYD REGARDING THE GILA NATIONAL FOREST REVISED PLAN

As reported at the Sept. GNPS Meeting, the Gila National Forest is starting the process to develop a Revised Plan for managing the forest. They are currently in the assessment phase: determining the condition of the forest, etc. They have asked the Gila Native Plant Society to provide any input we may have on 'special places' within the forest. A 'special place' is an area with unusually rich plant or animal diversity, unique species, endangered or 'at risk'

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species, or unique individuals of a species. This would help the Gila Forest Planning team to identify areas that need special attention and protection. As members of the GNPS, we can help save these 'special areas' by reporting them to the Planning Team. Your input can be emailed to Jeff Boyd: boyd189@gmail.com or, if you prefer, directly to the Planning Team at: gilaplan@fs.fed.us. Visit the project web site for further information: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/gila/home/?cid=STEL.PR03828671>.

R E P O R T S

On July 19th a group went to Tadpole Ridge, FS Trail 232, in the Pinos Altos Range, elevation 7300'- 7700'. The habitat was open ponderosa forest and east-facing mesic slopes.

Many legumes were in flower: *Cologania angustifolia* (Long Leaf Cologania), *Lathyrus leucanthus* (Rocky Mt. Sweetpea), *Lotus wrightii* (Wright's Trefoil), *Phaseolus pedicellatus* var. *grayanus* (Gray's Lima Bean) and half a dozen others. The unusual *Eriogonum alatum* (Winged Wild Buckwheat) was in bloom and a population of stunted *Pinus arizonica* (Arizona Pine) was eking it out in shallow soil on exposed rock.

On Sunday, August 16th, a group trekked through the Lower Gallinas, FS Trail 795, in the Black Range. Elevation: 6670 -6800. Habitat: Riparian with ponderosa forest on adjacent slopes and benches.

The creek bottom, heavily scoured from winter flooding, had recovered well. Numerous plants were in full bloom, some seldom seen: the Nodding Onion (*Allium cernuum*), the Crag Lily (*Echeandia flavescens*), Pony's Foot (*Dichondra argentea*), and Red Figwort (*Scrophularia macrantha*).

5.

On Sunday, September 20th, a group went to the Gila River Middle Box, FS Trail 745, in the Burro Mountains. Elevation was 4400 feet. The habitat was semi-desert grassland, woodland and riparian interface.

The turnout was good for the season finale with 14 participants. *Rivinia humilis* (Pidgeon Berry), with ripe red berries, was found sheltered within the driplines of juniper. *Maurandya antirrhiniflora* (Little Snapdragon Vine), with its triangular, hastately lobed leaves and purple flowers, delighted us at our shady lunch spot overlooking the river.

