

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

B U L L E T I N

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2013

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, September 13th –

The Gila Native Plant Society will have our first meeting of the Fall at Harlan Hall at 7:00 pm. A speaker for this event has not yet been chosen.

We will notify you well in advance when that person has been selected. Sorry for any inconvenience this may create.

2.

FIELD TRIPS

Field Trip participants should meet at 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, July 21st, the Gila Chapter will sponsor a field trip to the Gold Gulch Spring.

We are hoping that the monsoons have at least partially arrived so that we can treat our eyes to views of *Lemna* (Duckweed), *Mentha* (the Field Mints) and *Salix* (the Willows), of which we have at least seven in our region.

On Sunday, August 18th, the Gila Chapter will sponsor a field trip to Knight Peak, south of Silver.

We hope to see *Lithospermum* (the Gromwells or Puccoon) on the south side, with its magnificent view all the way to Lordsburg and farther south. On the north side we expect to view *Amelanchier* (the Utah Serviceberry).

3.

On either Sunday, September 15 or 22 (we will let you know well in advance) we will be heading to the McMillan Campground, which is one of our more lush areas.

This is one of our very favorite locations in the Cherry Creek area. It is also the home of our famous *Crataegus wootoniana* (Wooton's Hawthorn). We will also likely see *Valeriana* (Valerian) and, if the rains come, there will be a great flush of beautiful species.

R E P O R T S

On Friday, April 19th, Bill Norris gave us a wonderful description of the Role of the Amateur in Botany.

He began this rousing talk by informing us that almost nobody that holds an active professional position in botany on an academic staff has adequate time to study plants in the field. At best, the academic botanist is only able to find a couple of months in the summer recess period to do this vital work. So much of what needs to be done has shifted to "amateurs" (non-professionals) or is just not being done.

The rest of his presentation focused on the activities and accomplishments of several individuals that Bill knows from various parts of the country.

In respect to our own region, most of us know that special individual who is filling that role – our own Russ Kleinman. He deserves great acclaim for his online "Vascular Plant of the Gila Wilderness." It is our "regional encyclopedia of native plants."

4.

On Sunday, May 19th, fourteen avid plant seekers headed to Railroad Canyon hoping to find the usual flush of beautiful plants for which the area is well known. This was a month before the Silver Fire started on the eastern side of the Black Range.

In the first few moments of our trek into the area, we could tell that the usual flowing water was mostly missing and dryness had set in. However, more avid searching began to turn up a rather large number of species, some of which we rarely see. Most of us know the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), and Box Elder (*Acer negundo*). But how many of you have seen a *Quercus rugosa* (Netleaf Oak) or the *Symphoricarpos rotundifolius* (Roundleaf Snowberry)? We were also delighted to see many *Lupinus brevicaulis* (Short-stemmed Lupine). There were also a large number of Southwestern White Pine (*Pinus strobiformis*) and Cliff Fendler Bushes (*Fendlera rupicola*. One of the more prolific species was the *Clematis ligusticifolia* (Cliff Fendlerbush).

So, the experience was not a bad one after all.

On Sunday, June 16th, eleven intrepid plant seekers headed up the Signal Peak Road looking for the right spot to satisfy our need for viewing lots of native plants. We made three stops and then began to be really discouraged until we just started to walk along the road on the north side of the mountain not far from the top. Fortune was really with us because within less than fifty yards we came upon dozens of species of which many are rarely seen in places we frequent.

Among them were *Acer glabrum* (Rocky Mountain Maple), *Rubus idaeus* (Red Raspberry), the famous Osha (*Ligusticum porteri*), *Sambucus coerulea* (New Mexico Elder), *Aquilegia desertorum* (Desert Columbine), *Ribes pinetorum* (Golden Gooseberry), the Coppermine Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum biflorum*).

I could go on and on with this list, but this gives you a good idea of how well we eventually fared with this ultimate search.