

**GILA
NATIVE
PLANT
SOCIETY**

July 2017

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Helen Shoup, Editor

Bulletin 2017: Quarter 3

This quarterly Bulletin of the Gila Native Plant Society of Silver City, New Mexico, provides the latest communications between the society and the members.

It is delivered via your email unless you request otherwise. The online version allows color photos and for a lower cost (essentially free for GNPS). The Bulletin will continue to be available on the [GNPS website](#).

Programs/Field Trips for This Quarter

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 from September through May, unless otherwise specified. Refreshments follow the program. Field Trips are set for April through August.

All field trip participants meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts

Center Theater on E Street at 8:00 am for carpooling. The field trips are April through September and are nearly always held on the third Sunday, unless otherwise specified. The leader is Kevin Keith. The trips are also free and open to the public. The destination may change, depending on the weather and the state of the plants.

Activity updates and further details are posted on the [website](#). You will also receive an email reminder before the date of each meeting.

The Gila Native 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
- To support the use of suitable native plants in landscaping

For information on programs, publications, and membership, please visit www.gilanps.org.

July Field Trip

When: Sunday, July 16, 2017

Location: Tadpole Ridge Trail 232 in the Pinos Altos Range, Gila National Forest. One-way travel time is approximately a half hour.

From Silver City, we will take Hwy 15 North for approximately 13 miles (5 miles to Pinos Altos, then 8 more miles). The trail is on the left, a quarter of a mile before Signal Peak Road.

Description: This moderate hike on a well-maintained trail passes through a flat, open ponderosa forest before ascending an east-facing slope. The elevation is 7300-7700 feet.

Plants to see: Legumes will be in bloom: *Cologania angustifolia*, *Lathyrus leucanthus*, *Lotus wrightii*, *Phaseolus pedicellatus* var. *grayanus*, and others.



Cologania angustifolia
([WNMU photo by Russ Kleinman](#))



Lotus wrightii
([WNMU photo by Russ Kleinman](#))

August Field Trip

When: Sunday, August 20, 2017

Location: Little Dry Creek Trail 180 in the Mogollon Mountains, Gila National Forest. Elevation is 6800 feet. It will be moderately difficult. One way travel time is approximately 1 1/2 hours.

From Silver City, we will take Hwy 180 W for 49 miles. About a half mile past the Aldo Leopold Vista, we'll turn right onto CR 2-1 for 3 miles, then left onto FS Road 196 for 4 miles to the trailhead.

Description: The first half of a mile of Trail 180 follows an old dirt road with some up and down grades and cobbly surfaces. It contours above the canyon eventually descending into the bottom and follows the creek.

Plants to see: The canyon bottom supports a perennial stream and its attendant [riparian \(streamside\) vegetation](#).

September Meeting

When: Friday, September 8, 2017

Important: Not the typical 3rd Friday of the month to avoid conflict with the state NPSNM meeting in Taos

Program: "Important Plant Areas" of the Gila; a Virtual and Photographic Tour

Presenter: Patrice Mutchnick, PhD, Botanist, currently working with the Upper Gila Water Alliance (UGWA) on Salt Cedar control in the Gila, worked with the Gila NF Rare Plant Program from 2011-2016

Description: Through photos and interactive maps, this talk explains the concept of Important Plant Areas as defined by the 2017 state-wide "Rare Plant Conservation Strategy." Eight distinct areas have been identified in the Gila. We'll examine some of the rare plants that reside in each of these unique habitats to understand what makes these areas worthy of special protection.

September Field Trip

When: Sunday, September 17, 2017

Location: Blackjack Trail 568 in the Big Lue Mountains, Apache National Forest, Arizona. Elevation is 6200 – 6500 feet. One-way travel time is approximately 1 1/2 hours.

From Silver City, we will take Hwy 180 W for 45 miles, then turn left (west) on Hwy 78. It's about 20 miles to the Blackjack Campground where we will park.

Description: For the first mile, our route will follow a dirt road along a canyon bottom inhabited by Ponderosa and Chihuahuan pine. The road then goes up onto a ridge into a woodland of Mexican piñon and Madrean live oaks.

Plants to see: The ridge supports *Pinus cembroides* and abundant *Macroptilium gibbosifolium*, the orange stringbean, in the understory



[Pinus cembriodes](#)



[Macroptilium gibbosifolium](#)

Plant of the Quarter: Apache Plume

By Keller Suberkropp

General description

Apache plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*) is one of the showiest native shrubs, a member of the rose family (Rosaceae).

Attractions

The flowers attract bees and butterflies, and the fruits attract birds.

Care

Apache plume is extremely drought tolerant and grows in arroyos and dry, rocky slopes in pinyon-juniper woodlands at elevations of 3000-8000 feet. These shrubs prefer full sun and can reach 6 feet high by 6 feet across. In this area, Apache plume is generally evergreen.

Uses

The stems of Apache plume were used by some native peoples to make brooms and arrow shafts. These shrubs are useful in erosion control as they form extensive root systems.

**Flowers**

In the spring and sometimes in the fall, the plants produce white, rose-like flowers with yellow centers. Flowers have 5 petals and are 1-2 inches across.

**Fruits**

Each flower forms multiple small fruits called achenes. These achenes are attached to long purplish-pink feathery plumes that some think resemble Apache war bonnets and, hence, the common name. These small achenes are carried by the wind as a result of their feathery attachments.



Foliage/Leaves

The leaves of Apache plume are small and deeply lobed with the edges rolled under. The upper surface of the leaf is green and hairy, the underside duller and scaly, said to resemble small frog feet.



The Bush

Besides spreading via the small achenes carried by the wind, this showy native bush can also spread by producing underground woody rhizomes.

Website of the Quarter

A good website to help you with choosing native plants for your yard is the [Native Plants Database](#)

You can filter the list of plants by what type of plants you want, such as trees or grasses. And if you don't live in the immediate area, you can also change the zip code.

This web address adds the birds that these plants attract in our area (Silver City)!

This website includes many of the plants from the GNPS Plant Sale in the spring, so if you did not buy the plants you need then, you may have trouble locating them

now. However, you may be able to order them from the local nursery.

Moral to the story: Plan now and buy your plants from GNPS next spring!

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report

By Elroy Limmer, Garden Chairman

In the second quarter, volunteers did a lot of cleanup. We purchased a power pole pruner which helped greatly with the pruning of low branches and dead limbs. Illiff Dolton did a great job getting this material on the ground, which meant a lot of cutting, hauling, and raking to the street by others. We all appreciated the City for hauling it away. About 30 new plants were planted, some as replacements and others as additions to the Garden.



A big thanks to Chloe Mydlowski, our University scholarship recipient who volunteered to water while some of us were out of town for a month. She did an excellent job, and we lost no plants in this summer's heat.

Many folks are visiting the Garden and thanking us for doing such a great service for the community. If anyone would like to help out in some way, join our work days or if you can't help at that time, contact me and we will work something out.

We wish Charles Holmes a speedy recovery from his recent illness. Charles has spent countless hours developing and maintaining the Garden over the last 10 years. Hope to see you back in the garden soon!

"Give Grandly - Give Local" a Great Success

The Gila Native Plant Society participated in "Give Grandly - Give Local" again this year on May 6. "Give Grandly" is part of an annual fundraising event that focuses donations to local non-profits in one 24-hour window. However, this year; we had more time to make the minimum \$250 to qualify for the matching funds provided by the Sponsors - and we did. Our organization received donations from so many of our members; with your help, GNPS brought in just over \$1000. Thank you to everyone who helped!

Annual Scholarship Awarded

Every year the Gila Native Plant Society hopes to find a deserving candidate for a scholarship among students with a keen interest in native plants.



This year, at its meeting on April 21, 2017, the Gila Native Plant Society was delighted to award a scholarship of \$1,000 to Chloe Mydlowski, who is majoring in

botany at Western New Mexico University, with minors in chemistry and geology. She has already completed many courses in her major and hopes eventually to enter a graduate program to do research in plant biology. Among the areas of study she finds particularly interesting are the molecular pathways that regulate plant growth and development and the effects of environmental and atmospheric pollution on different plants and fungi.

On the personal level, Chloe has been fascinated by plants and the out-of-doors since childhood. She is an avid gardener and maintains a small seed bank. She recently took a break from her academic studies to do some world traveling with her husband Tim Eaton, especially enjoying Taiwan, Mexico, and Colombia.

Chloe is also a vocalist and a musician on the electric bass and washboard. Among her many talents, she is a graphic designer in different media and a tattoo artist. And she and her husband are currently helping the Gila Native Plant Society to redesign its website.

15th Annual Native Plant Sale Concluded



On Friday, April 21st, people who had ordered native plants from GNPS picked up their plants across from Gough Park. Ordering had gone on through March in person and online.

As usual, they had a choice from a wide selection of native trees, shrubs, flowers, cacti, and grasses. The organization appreciates all the help from members, ordering and taking care of the plant setup. The plant sale was another great success for GNPS.

Programs from Last Quarter

A description of the programs from last quarter follows:

April Meeting



On April 21, Dr. Corrie Neighbors, PhD, Assistant Professor of Geology at WNMU, spoke about recent research regarding the characteristics of earthquakes that could well be induced by oil and gas activities in Oklahoma.

Numerical modeling of the 2011 M5.7 aftershock sequence shows lower than average stress releases for these induced earthquakes compared to typical tectonic events that occur in this region. These results have implications for the seismic risk and intensity of ground shaking from these man-made events.

April Field Trip

The field trip on April 16 went to Ira Canyon in the Big Burro Mountains, which has a 4400-foot elevation. There was no trail and some minor uneven surfaces with flat and open terrain.

The group saw many evergreen as well as deciduous trees and mustards (below right) and mints in bloom.



May Picnic

On Sunday, May 14, 2017, GNPS had an annual picnic with Southwest New Mexico Audubon. The picnic was at the National Forest shelter on Little Walnut Road.

May Meeting

On May 19, Dr. Jony Cockman, PhD, BLM Biologist, presented a program to the group about the Safford BLM Rare Plant Program and how a college became important regarding the work of the BLM and US Fish & Wildlife.



Dr. Cockman has been working with New Mexico and Arizona flora since 1984 and working with riparian habit assessment and restoration in Eastern Arizona with the BLM and interns from Eastern Arizona College (EAC).

May Field Trip

On Sunday, May 21, Kevin Keith took the field trip group to Skates Canyon in the Pinos Altos Range. They saw a ponderosa forest and junipers, then some willows. The shade-tolerant plants were on the cliffs on the south side.

Plants to see: Riparian, ponderosa forest, piñon/juniper are in the woodland. A perennial flow supports willows, alders, and large-diameter Rocky Mountain junipers. Cliffs on the south side provide conditions for shade-tolerant species: *Draba*, *Corydalis*, *Valeriana*, and ferns.



Ponderosa Pines



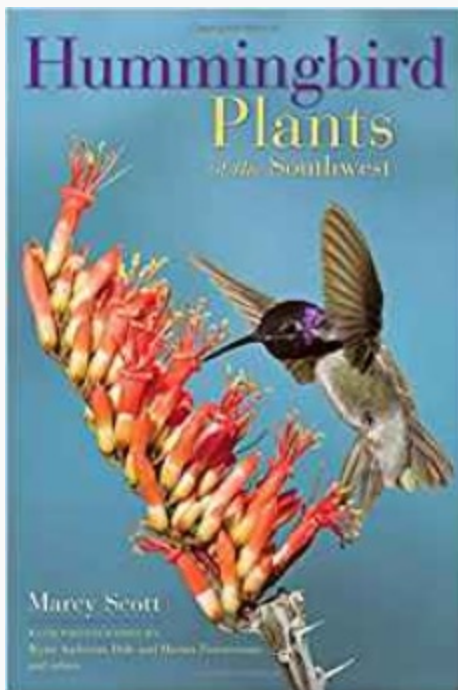
Valeriana arizonica

June Field Trip

On Sunday, June 18, Kevin Kieth led the group to Railroad Canyon, Trail 128, off route 152 in the Black Range. They saw a perennial stream cool and shady enough to support white fir, red-osier dogwood, and Mimbres figwort (*Scrophularia macrantha*) on the left.



Book of the Quarter: *Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest* by Marcy Scott



Hummingbirds and plants have co-evolved. These little flying jewels need nectar and shelter, while many native plants need to be pollinated by the birds. Hummingbird fanciers along their migration routes can enjoy the flower/bird show and even help species threatened by loss of habitat with wise landscape choices. It's easy. Just add hummingbird-friendly native plants to your garden, and take some simple steps to enhance the habitat in your yard and beyond.

Here, Marcy Scott provides a wealth of guidance. 120 plant profiles, with detailed information on their significance to hummingbirds, distribution, known habitat, and appearance Plant-focused profiles of the 14 regularly occurring hummingbird species Hummingbird natural history, plant pollination, and how and why to create habitat Tips on landscaping, finding plants, and gardening in the Southwest 15 ways you can help hummingbirds and their flowers

** From the inside flap of the book*

To buy this book, you can order it from [Amazon](#) for \$18.93.