

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April 2018

Vol 8 No 2

Helen Shoup, Editor

Bulletin 2018: Quarter 2

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.

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 Hanna Blood. 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 the [website](#).

April Meeting

When: Friday, April 20, 2018, 7:00 pm

Where: Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus, Room 201

Program description: "Interactions between domesticated, feral, and native bees in the Southwest" will be presented by Dr. Manda Clair Jost, WNMU Department of Natural Sciences.



Old-world honeybees are here to stay. But even though there has been great concern about the status and stamina of European *Apis* and their africanized siblings, the effects these non-native bees have had on native bee and plant species is hotly debated and only partly understood.

This presentation will review the status of domesticated, feral, and africanized *Apis mellifera* in New Mexico and Arizona, with special regard to the potential impacts these bees have had (and may continue to have) on our native bee and plant communities.

Presenter: Dr. Manda Clair Jost has been a professor of Biology at WNMU since 2008 and teaches courses in Invertebrate Zoology, Evolution, Entomology, and other topics. She is also a hobby beekeeper who recently taught a beekeeping workshop for WILL and is currently studying the evolution of host choice in parasitic spider-wasps -- such as the tarantula hawk, New Mexico's official state insect.

Picture provided by Elroy Limmer

April Field Trip

When: Sunday, April 15, 2018

Where: Axel Canyon in the Big Burros

It will include a Moderate/Easy hike in sandy, open washes.

Plants to see: On this field trip, you will see old oaks, walnuts, and amazing cherry trees, hopefully blooming. You will also see lots of other wonderful surprises.

May Picnic

When: Sunday, May 13, 2018, Noon to visit, 1 PM to eat

Where: At the Little Walnut Picnic Shelter

Description: Again this year, GNPS and SWN Audubon are having a joint pot luck picnic. It is always a good time, so plan to join in.

Provided: Drinks of iced tea and lemonade will be provided along with hot dogs.

Need: Please bring a dish to share and your own plates, cups, and silverware. If you would prefer some other beverage, feel free to bring it.

May Meeting

When: Friday, May 18, 2018, 7:00 pm

Where: Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus, Room 201

Program description: Kenneth Sexton will present a talk “Transport and Fate of Plant based and Manmade Chemicals in the Environment.” It will include air pollution, water pollution, uptake of pollutants by plants, and the negative effects on insects eating the plants in the field. This last part is from an EPA Webinar this year. The question obviously is if many different insects are experimentally documented as dying from eating the plants, might bees also be affected.

Presenter: Kenneth G. Sexton, PhD, Research Assistant Professor (Retired) is from the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, University of North Carolina.

Dr. Sexton’s career has focused on movement and transformation of natural and manmade chemicals and the effects of these processes on the environment and mankind. He will discuss his personal interests and the relationship with and results of his studies. He will suggest questions and discussions concerning

decisions facing the people of New Mexico.

May Field Trip

When: Sunday, May 20, 2018

Where: Railroad Canyon

It will include a moderate hike along the Gallinas Creek at 7700 feet.

Plants to see: You will see pines, oaks, walnuts, and other canyon-dwelling companions.

June Field Trip

When: Sunday, June 17, 2018

Where: Meadow Creek in the Pinos Altos Range

It will include a moderate hike along a forest trail with some slope and rocks.

Plants to see: You will see mixed conifer, Gambel oak with cool riparian plants that show themselves depending on the precipitation, but at least it will be cooler up at 7200 ft.

Native Plant Society's Annual Conference

Discover the Plants, People, and Culture of the Gila for Thursday, September 6, until Sunday, September 9, 2018, in Silver City, New Mexico. Set those dates for the conference because you will want to be there, no matter what your particular interest is!

There will be field trips galore – as many as 25! There will be workshops from yoga to grasses and even edible native plants! You will hear such great speakers as Jack Carter at the banquet, Olivia Carrill, co-author of *The Bees in Your Backyard*, and keynote speakers Sharman Russell, Nathan Newcomer, and Richard Felger! Think about what knowledge you can walk away with!

So save those dates on your calendar – September 6-9, 2018, right here in Silver City! And if you pay before August 1, you'll get a discount too! For more specific information, see the [NPSNM website](#).

Plant of the Quarter: Angelita Daisy

By Keller Suberkropp

General description

Angelita daisies produce golden yellow flowers. They belong to the aster or sunflower family (Asteraceae). The plants are small dense short-lived perennials that are about 1 foot tall and wide. The plant forms slender green grass-like leaves at its base.

The "flower" is really a cluster composed of many small disc and ray flowers, and the ray flowers have square tips. They bloom nonstop throughout the spring and summer.



Name background

The genus name *Tetrandeum* is Greek for "four nerves," referring to the 4 prominent veins on the ray flowers. The species name *acaulis* means "without a stem," referring to the basal position of the leaves. Fittingly, a second common name for this plant is "stemless 4-nerve daisy."

Location

They grow wild in dry, open grasslands and deserts across the western United States.

Care

The plants are drought tolerant once established and are not particular about the soil they inhabit as long as it has good drainage. Angelita daisies like full sun but can handle some partial shade.

Propagation

They form a taproot and are not easily transplanted. Plants are generally propagated by seed.

Advantages

They are seldom eaten by rabbits or deer, and the the flower clusters attract a variety of insects, both of which are great advantages in Silver City.

Quilt Raffle for Conference

Here is the quilt created on silk by Elli Sorensen:



It has 44 native plants hand-painted on silk - can you name them all? It is approximately 6"6" x 3'8" in size.

This raffle will have the quilt as the grand prize, and it will be given away at the October 2018 meeting. We also have second- and third-place winners:



This 2nd Place Winner is Rothrock's Basketflower (*Plectocephalus rothrockii*), a photograph taken by Elroy Limmer and float-mounted on metal. It is approximately 11"x14" in size.



This beautiful picture is a signed original poster by Jim Brandenburg from his book *Chased by the Light*. Framed and matted, it is approximately 19" x 25" in size.

The tickets will cost \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20, so we hope to sell a lot of tickets! The tickets will be available at the next meeting.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report

By Elroy Limmer, Garden Chairman

Late December and early January saw the installation of a beautiful sculpture "Tree of Life" designed and executed by Denise Friedrick. It is a great addition to the Garden and receiving many compliments. It is made of stainless steel and should be able to withstand anything that mother nature can throw at it.

Thanks go to William Norris, Jeff Boyd, Jim Blurton, and Denise Friedrick for installing the piece. Final assembly was on Jeff's trailer, and then it was hauled to the art pad where it stands today. Thanks to Denise for the many hours she spent on the magnificent work. If you haven't been by to see it, please stop and enjoy.



It's amazing how fast so many plants are starting to grow. In just three days, plants that didn't show any sign of life to an inch of new growth. We are planning to add a number of new plants this spring. It seems to be getting harder to get good natives, so we are having to start more from seed, something we have never done.

Hopefully our efforts will be fruitful. We want the Garden to be at its best for the State Conference in September. The word is out that we have a beautiful garden here in Silver City, so we can't disappoint our many plant-loving guests.

On our latest workday on March 23, eleven of us finished preparing the garden for the season. We managed some pruning, removed some weeds, repaired the fence, rakes leaves, improved the path, and even accomplished more mulching!

Some of the projects I hope we can manage before the Conference in September include adding an additional coat of paint to the fence and some of the art panels,

building a stone bench, reworking one of the raised beds, and finishing the back side of the kiosk. If anyone is willing to spend a few hours other than on our scheduled work mornings, please give me a call. As any gardener knows, there is always work that can be done, and the more help we get, the more the beautiful the garden.

Here are some photos from our latest workday:



Angela Flanders



Jim Blurton and Curtis Shimp



Jackie Blurton



Steve Collie, David Commings, and Hop Kleihauer

Hope to see you in the Garden!

Elroy, Garden Chairman

Photos of the Gila from Nathan Newcomer

Nathan Newcomer from New Mexico Wilderness Alliance had an exquisite slide show with his talk last fall at the GNPS meeting. He has sent us a few photos from it - and the photos are great! Enjoy, compliments of Nathan (who will be a keynote speaker at the Conference here in Silver City in September)!



**This photo shows a place in the Gila Wilderness called The Meadows.
It is found along the Middle Fork of the Gila River.**



This is the Upper San Francisco Box, north of Reserve.



This is Angel's Roost located in the
Lower San Francisco River Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

D. Friedrich Chosen Judge for SW Birds Show



In January 2018, sculptor Denise Friedrich, creator of GNPS' Tree of Life in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden on Virginia Street, was selected as judge for the 5th Annual Southwest Birds Show at Bear Mountain Lodge by the Grant County Art Guild. Birds and bird-related art is the subject of the show.

Jackie Blurton, Grant County Art Guild Board Member and show chair (and active GNPS member), said,

"Birds are the wildlife we see and interact with most in our daily lives. The works in the show are inspired by our experience of them in our life and imagination and our desire to relate that experience to others."

The 5th Annual Southwest Birds Show was on display for the month of March at Bear Mountain Lodge at 60 Bear Mountain Ranch Road in Silver City.

Published 23 January 2018 from: <http://www.grantcountybeat.com/events-calendars/local-events/41765-judge-selected-for-southwest-birds-show>

Give Grandly! Give Local!

"Give Grandly! Give Local!" will happen again this year on Saturday, May 5, 2018.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, all donations to the Gila Native Plant Society on May 5 will be tax-deductible! Donations of all sizes are appreciated.

"2018 marks the 5th annual Give Grandly event, and to celebrate the community is

aiming high for a collective total of \$500,000 raised in 5 years. The event will be held on May 5, 2018, concurrent with the first Silver City Farmers Market of the season.... Give Grandly! has raised over \$368,990 for southwest New Mexico¹s nonprofits over the past 4 years. Join us on May 5, 2018, and help us celebrate the 5th annual Give Grandly by raising a collective total of \$500,000 in 5 years!

"#5in5 Give a little. Give a lot. Give Local. Give Grandly! And help us make history again...."

For more information about how to donate to the Gila Native Plant Society as part of the 5th Annual Give Grandly, watch the [website](#).

Ongoing Plant Sale

It isn't too early to think about what you want to plant in your garden. A great variety of attractive native plants are available to order at the Gila Native Plant Society's 16th Annual Native Plant Sale. How does it work? You order plants April 8, and they will be ready for pick-up in late April, just at the right time to plant.



Choose from a wide selection of native trees, shrubs, flowers, cacti, and grasses.

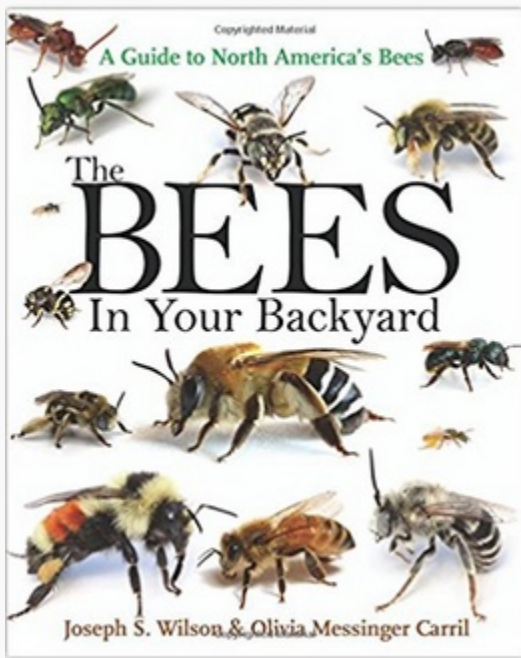
Why grow native plants in your garden? Once established, native plants conserve water and require less care than non-natives. They are more likely to resist disease and predation (many are deer resistant!). Since they are adapted to our climate, they are more cold-hardy than non-natives and can withstand our strong sun. And they support local varieties of birds, butterflies, and other pollinators important to our region's vitality.

Plants may be ordered online. Go to the [GNPS website](#), where you will find photos of the plants on offer along with information on their cold tolerance, their requirements in terms of elevation, water, and sunlight, and their size when full-grown. Online ordering will be available through April 8th.

Plants ordered online will be available for pickup on Friday, April 20, 2018, from 9 to 11 am in the parking lot across from Gough Park at 12th and Pope Streets.

Book for the Quarter: *Bees in Your Backyard*

Bees in Your Backyard: A Guide to North America's Bees is written by Joseph S. Wilson and Olivia Messinger Carril, who will be a speaker at the Native Plant Society's Conference in Silver City, NM, this September.



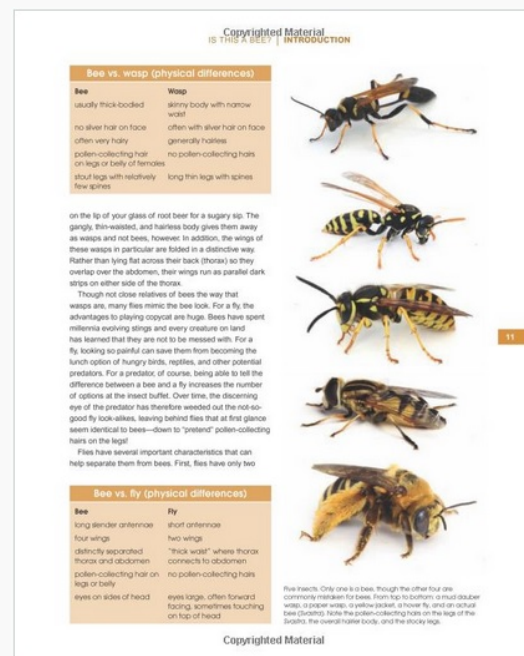
From the back cover: *The Bees in Your Backyard* provides an engaging introduction to the roughly 4,000 different bee species found in the United States and Canada, dispelling common myths about bees while offering essential tips for telling them apart in the field.

The book features more than 900 stunning color photos of the bees living all around us—in our gardens and parks, along nature trails, and in the wild spaces between.

It describes their natural history, including where they live, how they gather food, their role as pollinators, and even how to attract them to your own backyard. Ideal for amateur naturalists and experts alike, it gives detailed accounts of every bee family and genus in North America, describing key identification features, distributions, diets, nesting habits, and more.

- Provides the most comprehensive and accessible guide to all bees in the United States and Canada
- Features more than 900 full-color photos
- Offers helpful identification tips and pointers for studying bees
- Includes a full chapter on how to attract bees to your backyard

"The decline of bees in recent years has led to a growing awareness of the importance of these insects. *The Bees in Your Backyard* provides a great introduction to the bees of North America and an invaluable aid to anyone learning to differentiate the various kinds. I know of no other book for general readers that describes all the genera to this extent."



- **Sheila Colla, coauthor of *Bumble Bees of North America: An Identification Guide*** (on the back cover of the book)

Bees in Your Backyard costs \$21.92 from Amazon (shipping and handling included upon occasion).

You can get more information about this paperback at [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/Bees-Your-Backyard/dp/1607742222).

Programs from Last Quarter

A description of the programs from last quarter follows:

January Meeting

On Friday, January 19, 2018, 7:00 pm, Sara Fuentes-Soriano, plant scientist, presented a talk entitled “The Intriguing and Wonderful Natural History of Uncommon Southwestern Mustards.” The meeting was held in Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus, Room 201.

She explained:

- The different geographic areas where the Physarieae tribe of the mustard family can be found
- Some useful morphological and molecular features to help us recognize species
- About a few species that are locally and traditionally used for medicinal purposes



Bicolor Fanmustard



Newberry's Spectacle Pod

February Meeting

On Friday, February 16, 2018, 7:00pm, Richard Felger of the University of Arizona Herbarium presented a talk about orchids: March to the North: The Last Tropical Orchid. It was held in Harlan Hall, WNMU Campus, Room 201.

He talked about orchids, oaks, agaves, yuccas, daturas, cacti, and so many others that have been hugely diverse toward the tropics, but only a few of them have marched to the north. He talked about how these outliers achieved their northern march and how they differ east and west of the North American continental divide and from those found in South America.



March Meeting

On Friday, March 16, 2018, 7:00 pm, The meeting was held at the Volunteer Center of Grant County, Silver City.

Hanna Blood presented a talk entitled “Wildly Cultivating” on gardening with native plants. Her great experience with native plants was obvious as she helped with many problems. Remember to look for her at the Silver City Farmers' Market in May.

Gila Native Plant Society was grateful to the Volunteer Center for stepping up to

the plate when we needed an alternate place to have the meeting.



Hanna Blood at the Farmers' Market



Our mailing address is:

PO Box 457
Silver City, NM 88062

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