



GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

July 2016

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Helen Shoup, Editor

Bulletin 2016: 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 and field trips 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 April, 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 a.m. for carpooling. The field trips are April through September, 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 program/field trip.

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 17, 2016

Destination: Deadman Canyon Trail 786 in the Big Burro Mountains

Description: The Gila Native Plant Society will conduct a field trip to Deadman Canyon in the Big Burro Mountains to explore our native flora.

August Field Trip

When: Sunday, August 21, 2016

Destination: Tadpole Ridge Trail 232 in the Pinos Altos Range

September Meeting

When: Friday, September 16, 2016, 7 pm

Where: WNMU's Harlan Hall, 2nd floor

Description: Tentatively, Matt Schultz and Mitchell White of the USFS will present a talk on the status of the Gila Forest Planning project.

September Field Trip

When: Sunday, September 18, 2016

Destination: Tennessee Gulch in the Big Lue Mountains, 3 miles west of Mule Creek

Plant Sale Another Success

For the Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23, members and other community members picked up their native plants bought from GNPS and visited

the table in Gough Park. The sales/profits for GNPS this year were a little less than last year, but it was still a success! We all look forward to the celebration - and plant sale - next year!

Featured Plant: Fairy Duster (*Calliandra eriophylla*)

Are you looking for a native bush to attract butterflies and hummingbirds? The Fairy Duster is the plant for you!

The Fairy Duster bush gets its name as a reference to its "showy appearance" and is in the Fabaceae (pea) family. The genus name *Calliandra* means "beautiful-stamens"; the species name *erriophylla* is Greek for "wooly leaf." This bush is common in Silver City.



The flowers are spherical in cream, pink, or white, 1 1/4 to 2 inches in diameter. The shrub contains several clusters of flowers with long slender stamens, which are usually straight but are sometimes curled.

(photo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calliandra_eriophylla)

Pruning

Pruning for this particular plant is not required; however, if you do prune it, the plant will be much denser.

Growing requirements

The Fairy Duster grows well in dry areas, such as ours. It can survive with little water and varied amounts of sunlight, including full sun. It needs dry, alkaline soil, preferably containing gravel, good drainage, and is hardy down to 0 degrees F.

Pollination

The Fairy Duster bush attracts bees, flies, butterflies, and hummingbirds as pollinators. It attracts many because it produces a good amount of nectar. When the seed pods have been pollinated and reach maturity, they break open and launch the seeds for propagation.

Food source

The unpoped seeds are edible, and the deer often eat the seeds before they develop. Birds such as quail also eat the seeds.

Description: The Fairy Duster bush is usually 3 feet by 3 feet in size, a low, densely branching plant with slender, ridged stems, small leaves, and 2-inch flowering balls, providing a beautiful spring display and sometimes again in the fall.

(photo: <http://www.graniteseed.com/products/seeds/calliandra-eriophylla>)



Give Grandly Helped GNPS

Give Grandly was a local event promoting community support of non-profit organizations. It happened on May 14th, and GNPS had a table at the Farmers Market. It was very successful, earning more than \$1000, thus exceeding the minimum to receive the \$250 matching donation.

The chapter appreciates the support from the community, enabling the group to provide scholarships, to complete the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, and to continue providing education on native plants to local school children and to adults.

2016 Annual Conference in Las Cruces

It is great to have the 2016 Annual Conference by the Native Plant Society of New Mexico close at hand - in Las Cruces! It will be September 22-25 and will be **Celebrating the Organ Mountains - The Desert Peaks National Monument: Hidden Diversities and Secrets Revealed.**

For more information about the conference, click this link:
<http://www.npsnm.org/events/2014-annual-conference/>

With it so close, hopefully many more of us will be able to attend!

Programs/Field Trips from Last Quarter

A description of the programs and field trips from last quarter follow:

April Meeting



On **Friday, April 15, 2016**, Gila Native Plant Society had its monthly meeting at WNMU's Harlan Hall, focusing on a study of the Gila Cliff Dwellings.

William (Bill) Norris, Richard Felger, Russ Kleinman, and Kelly Kindscher reported on their findings from their ongoing study of the monument flora: **A Floristic Study of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National monument: Revelations, Mysteries, and Challenges**. They have discovered more than 400 plants, almost all of which are native to the area - an unusual occurrence these days. They had a slide show of many of the plants. It was enjoyed by all who attended.

April Field Trip

When: On Sunday, April 17, 2016

Where: Kevin Keith took a group to Granite Gap for the hike.

Location: About 1 1/4 hours (15 miles on i-10 west out of Lordsburg) and about a mile of dirt road

Description: This BLM-owned site had many plants not common in the Gila region, many of which were in bloom at the time. It was easy walking among fantastic rock formations.

May Field Trip and Joint Picnic

When: May 15, 2016

Where: The area around Gomez Peak and Gomez Peak Pavilion

Description:

* The hikers explored the area, identifying native plants and enjoying the rock formations before lunch.

* For the joint picnic with the SW NM Audubon Society, GNPS provided the water and iced tea and the Audubon Society provided hot dogs. Members brought delightful side dishes, and all had a good time.

* Though attendance was light, Audubon and GNPS would like to have the joint picnic again next year.



June Field Trip

When: Sunday, June 19, 2016

Where: Meadow Creek in the Pinos Altos Range, approximately 40 minutes north of Silver City

Description: It was an easy hike that followed a road and trail along the creek. The group saw some huge Gambel's oak and some interesting plants as well. They learned about the Meadow Creek drainage and how it supports some of the largest trees in the Gila region.

Notes from the Silva Creek Botanical Garden

By Elroy Limmer

The garden is doing well. On Friday, April 29, 2016, a group planted more natives for the spring. Good for our pollinators!

The fence will be installed soon, and plant signs will be installed shortly. There may be a sculpture on the art pad at the garden, hopefully completed by the end of the year. Let's hope for more rain too!

Course to Identify Our Native Trees and Shrubs

By Jeff Boyd, Education Chairman

On Friday and Saturday, June 17 and 18, 2016, Donna Stevens presented a course focusing on 30 of our common native trees and shrubs. They spent 2 hours on Friday learning about the plants and then had a field trip of about 4 hours on Saturday to actually learn to recognize/identify the plants.



Donna Stevens is the co-author of *Common Southwestern Native Plants: An Identification Guide*, so it was a real treat to have such a knowledgeable person talking about and then pointing out the trees and shrubs in our area!

The course on wildflowers was postponed until we have more flowers in bloom, possibly August. You will be notified when final plans are made.

New Members

We had some new members join this quarter:'

- * Todd Tietsort
- * Ronald Root
- * Julie Hovar
- * Jane Foraker-Thompson
- * Pam O'Brien / Don Ernst
- * Linda Lopez
- * John Little
- * Danna & Ben Seeland

We all welcome these folks to the chapter!



Our mailing address is:

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Silver City, NM 88062

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