

GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

April 1 2022

Vol 12 No 2

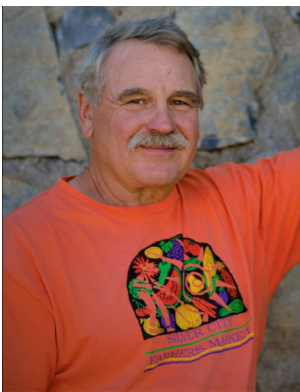
Betsy Kaido, Editor

Bulletin 2022: 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 also available on the GNPS website <http://www.gilanps.org>.

President's Message

We Cannot Do This Without YOU!



Every small non-profit faces the same types of issues and concerns and at the top of the list is finding volunteers to cover the myriad of positions and tasks that help to keep an organization vibrant, dynamic and relevant to its members and the community. The Gila Native Plant Society is reaching out to our diverse and talented membership to help us continue to grow and be the best that we can be, but we must do a better job of matching our volunteer needs to the talent that we know makes up the GNPS membership.

Here is what we need help with:

- Ron Groves, our long-time online bookstore manager, who has been providing stellar service to GNPS for so many years is stepping down from this position. We need to find a suitable replacement ASAP.
- Our Programs Committee was formerly the task of the vice president, but since we don't have one, we need a small group of volunteers to step forward to help line up speakers for our evening programs.
- Since Covid began, we have not been able to get into our local schools and many of the initiatives that we had started have basically come to a halt. We need a small group of dedicated members, interested in education, to help reconstitute our Education Committee.
- Our website needs to be rejuvenated, so we are looking for volunteers to take a good, critical look at our website (gilanps.org) and make recommendations as to how it can be improved.
- Our GNPS Facebook page needs the help of someone comfortable with social media.
- I have decided not to seek a third, two-year term as president of GNPS and Wendy has decided not to seek re-election as GNPS treasurer. We will need to find new leadership for these positions, which will start in January of 2023. Don't worry, we will both still be active in GNPS and, in all likelihood, will volunteer to help with some of the tasks mentioned above. As former president, I will continue to serve on the GNPS Board for at least two additional years.

Things to know:

- You do not need to be a native plant expert.
- You do not need to be a long-standing member of GNPS.
- The current board will be in place for another year, helping with this transition.
- We are a helpful and welcoming group.
- If you are contemplating any of these positions and have questions, please feel free to email us at gilanative@gmail.com.

So, as you can see, we are in desperate need of volunteers to step up and help. The Gila Native Plant Society has grown during Covid times and now, with over 175 members strong, we are bigger than ever, so the need to expand our volunteer base is greater than ever. We certainly have the talent and expertise to make this happen. Rest assured that we will help any and all volunteers who wish to step forward in service to GNPS to feel comfortable in their new role. We cannot do this without YOU!

--- Don Graves

Activities for This Quarter

Monthly evening programs will be presented in April and May on the third Friday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Gila Chapter and Audubon members will receive a Zoom link

by email; any others interested may request a link from gilanative@gmail.com. All are welcome. For more information check our website at www.gilanps.org/events/programs.

Friday, April 15, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – "The Ecology of Herbal Medicine " -- presentation by Dara Saville



Join this discussion on some of our region's most famous medicinal plants. We'll explore iconic local landscapes, key medicinal plants from those places, and species responses to environmental change. We will also look at what we can learn about medicinal uses of these plants as they play healing and balancing roles in their ecosystems and in our bodies. Moving through these themes, we will discuss *Juniperus monosperma* (juniper), *Sphaeralcea* spp. (globemallow), *Pedicularis* spp. (lousewort/betony), and *Populus deltoides wislizeni* (cottonwood), all of which are featured species in Dara's recently published book, *The Ecology of Herbal Medicine*.

Dara Saville is an author, herbalist, geographer, and native plant advocate. She is a board member of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Native Plant Society, the founder of Albuquerque Herbalism, an herbal studies program, and the executive director of the Yerba Mansa Project, which focuses on environmental education and native plant restoration in the Bosque.

Saturday, April 16, 2022, Field Trip to Cienega Trail, 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Meet at 9:00 am at the Cienega Trailhead (the first parking lot you come to after entering City of Rocks State Park).



GNPS has joined with William ("Bill") Norris, Biology Professor at WNMU, to organize a spring wildflower hike at the Cienega Trail at City of Rocks State Park. As the name implies, the trail leads to a rare wetland. This will be a new part of the park to explore, and we'll see what flowers the spring has brought out. Ed Leuck and Bill will be our leaders.

Saturday, April 23, 2022, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm – Table at Gila Earth Day

The Gila Chapter will have a table at the Gila Earth Day celebration in Gough Park, Silver City. We will have activities for children and will offer our fine selection of books for sale.

Saturday, April 30, 2022, Field Trip to Pitchfork Ranch. Meet at 8:00 am at the parking lot next to the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theatre to carpool and caravan.



A.T. and Lucinda Cole have invited us to come botanize at Pitchfork Ranch on Saturday, April 30th. Over the years the Coles have worked hard at restoration of the land, and it is fascinating to see what they have achieved (<https://www.pitchforkranchnm.com/>). Located down in the grasslands near Soldier's Farewell peak, Pitchfork Ranch has a different flora than we find around Silver City. Among other things, it hosts a rare plant, *Euphorbia rayturneri*, found only in three places in New Mexico. In addition to our hosts, we will have the expertise of Russ Kleinman and possibly Bill Norris and Jim McGrath, too. The trip down takes an hour and might not be easy for all vehicles.

Sunday, May 15, 2022, noon, Joint GNPS/Audubon Picnic at the Gomez Peak Picnic Pavilion

The Gila Chapter and the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society will hold a joint picnic for their members. Beverages and hot dogs and the fixings will be provided, but everybody can bring their best pot-luck offering.

Friday, May 20, 2022, 7:00 pm via Zoom – “Penstemons – Some of the Most Beautiful Flowers in the World” – presentation by Russ Kleinman



Penstemons are beautiful members of the native flora of New Mexico. Along with showcasing the variety of colors and shapes, we will discuss their adaptations to pollinators, recent changes in their classification, and a new Penstemon species that has appeared in our area. Join us as we examine this most beautiful group of native plants!

Russ Kleinman has been documenting plants in the Gila for 17 years, adding them one by one to gilaflora.com. He photographed his first Penstemon in 2005 and enjoys searching for rare species of this wonderful genus.

Flower photos courtesy of the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium, WNMU; Pitchfork Ranch photo courtesy of A.T. and Lucinda Cole.

Silva Creek Botanical Garden



Thank all of you who helped get the garden cleaned up for spring. Elroy and I were ready to reschedule our first workday after an unexpected snowfall – but our hardy crew knocked the snow off the native grasses and started trimming.



Photos courtesy of Val Weston.



Despite the short notice for our second work party, we had even more help. Because of you, we accomplished a lot. It was great seeing all of you and watching the garden emerging from the scruffiness of winter.

Photo courtesy of Elroy Limmer.

Although many of you have spent more time in the garden than I have, when I've been working alone, I frequently get thanked by people walking through – so know that our community truly appreciates you. Again, thank you!

In other garden news, this quarter saw an update for the north side of the kiosk, with educational information such as the importance of native plants and their age-old relationships with insects and other pollinators. The kiosk also has changing information,

including upcoming events and a wildlife feature – currently on the Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, *Aphelocoma woodhouseii*. It also explains that volunteers from GNPS maintain the garden.



Two new volunteers adopted the garden's Little Free Library. Once Elroy replaced the broken window, they've kept it stocked and organized, and parents regularly bring their children to look through its contents. The garden's library is now registered with the Little Free Library organization, so it's on their world map.

-- Margie Gibson
Deputy Garden Manager

Plant of the Quarter

Junipers (*Juniperus species*)



It is early spring in Silver City. For many of us, that means our allergies are awakened by the junipers in the area. Have you noticed that about half of the junipers turn reddish brown this time of the year? Those are male trees that are producing pollen. Sometimes when the wind blows, it carries such large amounts of pollen that it looks like smoke is coming off the tree. Juniper pollen is a powerful allergen for many. Junipers are wind pollinated and are evergreens (Gymnosperms) in the family Cupressaceae. They are one of the major trees in the pinon-juniper woodlands around Silver City. Juniper leaves look like small scales.



Most junipers are dioecious in that they produce male and female cones on separate trees. The male cones are small and reddish brown and produce large amounts of pollen in late winter – early spring. Male trees frequently turn brown due to the many male cones produced.



Female trees produce seeds in fleshy female cones that are sometimes called juniper "berries". These juniper "berries" are blue to purple and the cones of some species have been used to flavor gin and different dishes, including wild game. Junipers are also important for wildlife as they provide nesting habitat and the "berries" are eaten by a variety of birds. Bears also eat the "berries". Mule deer browse juniper foliage.

Three native juniper species occur around Silver City. All are trees.



Alligator juniper (*J. deppeana*) is the most common and largest of the southwest junipers. The bark has squarish plates and resembles alligator skin. Female cones contain 3-5 seeds. The Big Tree in Fort Bayard is the second largest alligator juniper in the U.S.



One seed juniper (*J. monosperma*) has shredding, linear bark and female cones contain one, sometimes two seeds.

Photos courtesy of Keller Suberkropp

Rocky Mountain juniper (*J. scopulorum*) also has shredding linear bark, and female cones contain one small seed. The ends of the branches are very droopy. This juniper primarily occurs north of Silver City.

In addition to the natives described above, other juniper species are popular ornamentals widely used in landscaping. These are mainly shrubs.

-- Keller Suberkropp

Native Plant Society of NM Annual Conference



The Albuquerque chapter will host the NPSNM annual conference on August 5-7, 2022. The theme, "**A Land Ethic for Seven Generations**", is inspired by an age-old Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy, and honors the 20th Century thoughts of Aldo Leopold. With climate change and a legacy of ecosystem abuses clearly coming home to roost, our speakers and activities will offer multiple perspectives on the ecology of New Mexico and beyond to broaden the conversation, understand recent findings, and present pragmatic solutions.

Traditions like a silent auction, banquet, outdoor reception, workshops and a variety of field trips will not be left out! Go to <https://www.npsnm.org/conference-2022-status/> for more information, including the conference program and how to register.

GNPS in Give Grandly 2022



GNPS will be participating again in Give Grandly 2022, the big annual fundraiser for local nonprofits sponsored by the Grant County Community Foundation. This year Give Grandly will be a live event on Saturday, May 7th, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, with tables for the participating nonprofits next to the Makers' Market at Main Street Plaza in downtown Silver City.

We'll be there, along with many of your other favorite organizations. Come say hello and donate if the spirit moves. Or donate online at www.givegrandly.org – the website is being updated and readied to receive your donations. We'll be sending more details as the event approaches.

Works By Members

This poem by Alberto Blanco, a very prominent Mexican poet, was translated into English by GNPS member Carlos Martinez Del Rio. The poem is illustrated by a Jackie Blurton painting.



El nopal

En la arena dorada
por los soles de antaño
y punteada de sombras
por los lagartos de hoy.

Se extiende el nopal
lento como una bandera
y veloz como la luz

The nopal

On the sand gilded
by ancient suns
and speckled with the shadows
of today's lizards

Extends the nopal
slow as a flag
and swift as the light

de sus flores amarillas.

of its yellow flowers.

De la primera explosión
conserva en su sangre
la raíz del magma
en la llama de sus tunas

From the first explosion
it retains in its blood
the roots of magma
in the flame of its tunas

Y en sus pencas ovals
de espinas jeroglíficas
la voz de otra historia
y el silencio de otro tiempo.

And in its oval pads
of hieroglyphic spines
the voice of another history
and the silence of another time.



Les Brandt painted this view of Saddle Rock.



Our mailing address is:

PO Box 457
Silver City, NM 88062

The Gila Native Plant Society is committed

- To promoting education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the Southwest
- To encouraging the preservation of rare and endangered plant species
- To supporting the use of suitable native plants in landscaping.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)
Gila Native Plant Society · PO Box 457 · Silver City, NM 88062 · USA

