



## Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, June 23, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom.

**Call to order** 3:00 pm

**Present:** Don Graves, President; Wendy Graves, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Mary Barrett, Margie Ann Gibson, Rick Lass; absent Beth Leuck, Elroy Limmer

**Minutes:** Minutes from the April 5, 2022, meeting were approved.

**President's Report:** Don submitted the following report in writing:

\* *Beginner's Guide to Landscaping With Native Grasses:* We are getting very close to a final draft of this guide. Denise Friedrich has completed the grass illustrations. Margie has reviewed the text, and I still need to complete the introduction and glossary. Jackie Blurton will continue to put the guide together when she returns to Silver City in early July. We would love to have the guide copied and ready for sale at the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival on July 30 and 31.

\* I spoke with Kurt Albershardt about sound systems, and he has promised to report back.

\* The native plant sale scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> now has four vendors, with Plants of the Southwest still deciding.

\* I have been in contact with Ann Audrey from Tucson, who is working on a project that looks at climate change resilience in our area, focusing on those native tree species that are drought tolerant. She is photographing these species and will produce a website. I hope to have her agree to present her project at one of our 2023 evening programs.

\* I have been working with Bat Conservation International to organize an agave planting project to help support the Lesser-Long-Nosed Bat. Six landowners (mostly GNPS members) have agreed to have up to fifty agaves planted on their property. The planting will occur August 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup>.

\* GNPS had booths at the Gila Earth Festival in late April and the Give Grandly event on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

\* GNPS will have a booth at the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival with books for sale, information sharing and activities for kids of all ages. I will present "Local Pollinators and Larval Host Plants," the program that Elroy and I developed and presented to Birds and Brews and the Unitarian Universalists. This will be at 1:00 pm on both days of the festival.

\* I have organized and will lead a field trip on trees of the Gila on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. For inspiration, I was guided by a copy of a field trip outline that I found in the archives and led by Richard Felger in 2002.

**Treasurer's Report:** Wendy reported that the Gila Native Plant Society account as of 7/1/2022 had a balance of \$17,612.09. The Silva Creek Garden Account as of 7/1/2022 had a balance of \$18,799.68, of which \$1,138.43 related to the Healing Garden.

**Education Committee Report:** As a member of the Education Committee, Don submitted the following report in writing:

- \* The Education Committee has been reconstituted, comprised of members Kathryn Haase, with 22 years in education (speech pathology); Steve Blake, who taught science at Aldo Leopold Charter School for several years; and me, with one year teaching 6th, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade science (still sane?) and 30+ years teaching community college biology.
- \* The Education Committee will meet with the principal at Jose Barrios Elementary in early July to discuss opportunities for teachers to utilize the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Our hope is to present opportunities for teachers across the curriculum and that meet current state standards.
- \* Education Committee members will lead activities for kids at the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival at the end of July.
- \* The Education Committee is working with the Grant County Archaeological Society to organize a family-oriented event focusing on native plant uses in local cultural traditions: Mimbres, Apache, Hispanic. We hope to have this event ready to roll in the fall/early winter (fingers crossed).

**Book Sales Report:** Rick, who has taken over responsibility for fulfilling book sale orders, submitted the following report in writing:

Since Earth Day, GNPS has sold three copies of *Carter's Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*, and one each of *Conspicuous Butterflies of the Gila National Forest, Common Grasses of Grant and Catron Counties, New Mexico*, and the *Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region*. Don has distributed about 20 of the *Beginner's Guide* to local retailers. We will be reprinting 200 copies of the *Beginner's Guide* in the next month or so, and are ordering 16 copies of *Common Southwestern Plants: an Identification Guide* from the Colorado Native Plant Society, which has been out of stock until recently.

**SCBG Steering Committee Report:** In her capacity as the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Facilitator, Wendy submitted the following report in writing:

Since the GNPS Board last met on April 5, the Steering Committee has had four meetings (April 21, May 5, May 19, and June 2). The notes from these meetings can be found on the [gilanps.org](http://gilanps.org) website (choose the down arrow to the right of "botanical garden" and click on the first link, "Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Meeting Notes").

After our contract with our landscape architect was canceled, we had some rough patches as we moved forward. Members of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden Operations Team were impatient to start work on garden developments without outside help and planning. Others wanted to spend time working on a mission statement that would be more useful at guiding the

planning process. We have moved forward with both developing a new mission statement for the botanical garden while also deciding on contracting with Stream Dynamics for what will eventually be a comprehensive plan regarding both passive, and likely active, water catchment, storage, and use in the garden. The idea is to plan for the water and then plan any new plantings and beds around the waterscape of the garden.

The draft mission statement that the group has landed on is as follows:

“The mission of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden is to foster appreciation of the beauty, ecological roles and cultural significance of native plants.”

This mission statement will need approval from the GNPS Board before being used on any literature or on the website.

While touring the garden in preparation for contracting with us regarding water in the garden, the personnel from Stream Dynamics (specifically Martha Egnal) noted that the bank of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden needed protection from the amphitheater roof runoff before monsoons commence this year. Although we may be able to use the water off of this roof in the future, we have not been able to agree on how it will be used, and therefore, we needed to protect the stream bank temporarily. We contacted Green Energy Now for an estimate. The project was approved and the stream bank protection is in place.

Our contract with Stream Dynamics is presently underway. Martha Egnal felt that we needed to start with the northern section of the garden first, addressing the ditch along State St., the openings for runoff water coming from that ditch into the garden, and the swales on the northside which receive the runoff from the ditch and which currently overflow and cause problems in the garden. At the same time, the bird thicket that has been in the plan for that region of the garden will be developed, as it will likely surround both swales. This part of the plan will have a shovel-ready design for the Steering Committee by Wednesday, July 13. In addition, Martha will work out a rough draft for water from/to Virginia St., along the west side of the garden. Also, in this phase of the planning, she will facilitate a discussion at a Steering Committee meeting about water harvesting from the amphitheater roof and the ways that water can be used. We will have a preliminary design for this part of the plan by July 22 with written recommendations for roof water management.

### **New Business:**

**Maintaining MailChimp (Membership Coordinator):** Wendy explained that she had been maintaining the Audience list on the GNPS MailChimp account, although it was not logically part of the responsibility of the Treasurer. That task should be part of the function of Membership Coordinator, now vacant.

After some discussion, the following points were made:

It was clarified that the Membership Coordinator received emails from the state Membership Coordinator, currently Lindsey Kirchhevel, updating the membership of the Gila Chapter from time to time, and reported the updated information to the Board. The person filling the

position would not have to be on the GNPS Board. In addition to maintaining the mailing list (Audience) on the MailChimp account, the Membership Coordinator should also be responsible for sending new members a welcome email, along with the most recent GNPS Bulletin.

Betty offered to draft a description of the Membership Coordinator's functions for further discussion.

**MailChimp Questions (Adding /Removing Names):** Wendy raised the question whether the MailChimp Audience should include only current members. That implied two other questions: (1) Should lapsed members be removed from the mailing list; (2) Should non-members who asked to be put on the mailing list be accommodated? One consideration was that our MailChimp membership might cost more if our Audience exceeded a certain number. Issues raised in the discussion: On the one hand, we did want to encourage participation in our activities. On the other hand, being on the MailChimp list to be informed of all our activities was just about the only advantage we offered to members, since most activities were open to anyone. With regard to eliminating lapsed members, an appropriate grace period should be allowed. Wendy noted that the state Membership Coordinator did not remove people immediately without multiple contacts; she would find out from Lindsey Kirchhevel precisely what the state process was.

**Official Sign-Off for GNPS Email:** Wendy said that there should be an official sign-off on emails sent out by GNPS, perhaps a couple of different sign-offs for acknowledgement of donations or membership. Margie is working on a design.

**Carter's *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* (Cost, Donations):** The question was raised of reducing the cost of Jack Carter's *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*. Don reviewed the history of the printing of this third edition of Carter's book. It had cost GNPS around \$10 per copy to print, and we were paying some \$460-\$480 per year for storage. We had not moved many copies so far. Currently we were selling it for \$30 retail with a 20% discount for booksellers. It was proposed to reduce the price to \$25, with a discount to \$20 to booksellers.

There was general agreement that \$25 was a sensible price, but some discussion about who counted as a bookseller – Teachers wanting the book for their students? Other NPSNM chapters wishing to sell it to their members? And should the discount only apply to case purchases? The sense of the meeting was that there was room for negotiation.

**Motion: The Board agrees to reduce the price of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico*, third edition, from \$30 to \$25, with a further 20% reduction for resellers, and to allow room for negotiation in particular cases.**

Don raised the possibility of giving away some copies free in a worthy cause. The sense of the meeting was that the President had discretion to donate some free copies provided the value did not exceed \$200, based on our cost of \$10. Any donation larger than \$200 worth would require a Board vote.

**Motion: The Board agrees that the President has discretion to donate copies of *Trees and Shrubs of New Mexico* without cost, provided the value of the copies does not exceed \$200, calculated at \$10 per copy.**

**SCBG Budget:** Margie, speaking for the SCBG Operations Team, submitted the following budget for basic maintenance of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden for the 12 months ending June 30, 2023:

Garden Basic Maintenance Budget

Soil	\$500
Walkway material	\$450
Landscape blocks (retaining wall blocks)	\$320
Elm removal	\$3,500
Hose cart	\$250
Hose	\$150
Miscellaneous maintenance supplies (such as tools, garbage bags, deer repellent)	\$350

It was noted that that all the items were for repetitive basic maintenance, except the very large item of \$3,500 for one-time elm removal, which deserved separate discussion and a separate vote.

**Motion: The Board approves the Garden Basic Maintenance Budget for the Period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, with the exception of the item for elm removal, which is to be submitted to a separate vote.**

**Edward Jones Investment Account:** Discussion was deferred until absent Board members could be present.

**NPSNM State Conference Sunflower Scholarships:** Betty reported that, of the two students recommended by Russ Kleinman and William Norris, one was already engaged by the Albuquerque Chapter to give a regular presentation at the state conference and the other was unable to present an application for the Sunflower Scholarship because of medical issues. The lesson learned was to make sure the information on the scholarships was shared much earlier in the lead-up to the conference.

**Design/Printing of GNPS Book Marks and Riparian Plants Brochure:** The item had been added to the agenda because we were running low on the some of the material useful as hand-outs at events. Don said that the decision had been made to hold off on reprinting the GNPS bookmark until Margie was able to redesign it. With regard to the riparian plants brochure, Wendy offered to contact the original designers, Angela Flanders and Jeff Boyd, to see if it needed updating.

**The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.**

## Appendix:

### **Motions passed by exchange of email since the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting**

**Motion passed by exchange of email on May 20-22, 2022: The GNPS Board approves a payment of \$500 to Jackie Blurton to put together the *Beginner's Guide to Landscaping with Native Grasses* from start to finish, make revisions, as necessary, and work closely with Copies on the Run to produce the finished product.**

Explanation: The Beginner's Guide series has previously been approved by the Board. Don Graves has volunteered to write the introduction and the plant descriptions of this second in the Beginner's Guide series, with Tom Stewart, President of the Native Plant Society of NM proofing the descriptions. Denise Friedrich volunteered to make the original art sketches of the chosen fifteen native grasses and Don and Bill Norris (botanist at WNMU) have reviewed the finished drawings for accuracy and style. Margie Gibson is willing to offer advice on layout, fonts, etc. for this new guide. It is proposed that GNPS have Jackie Blurton work on this guide, as she did on the first in the series, the *Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region*. Jackie has the experience to put this guide together, within a timeline of late July, which should be plenty of time to bring it all together. Payment will be made when the GNPS Board approves a finished product.

**Motion passed by exchange of email on May 19-24, 2022: The GNPS Board accepts the estimate of \$664.75 submitted by Green Energy Now (GEN) for temporary protection of the stream bank from potential erosion due to run-off from the amphitheater roof in the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, the work to be as described in the attached estimate.**

Explanation: There is a potential erosion issue under the new amphitheater roof, on the side that pours off toward Silva Creek. As a good steward, GNPS needs to protect that bank from possible erosion on a temporary basis as the SCBG Steering Committee plans for a more permanent use for the water. GEN has indicated that they will be able to finish this job before monsoon rains if the work is approved quickly.

**Motion passed by exchange of email on May 31, 2022: The GNPS Board approves the payment of \$224 for a lifetime license to use the theme plug-in and the divi-builder page editor for WordPress on the gnps.org website.**

Explanation: In order to fully update the gnps.org website, it requires the theme plugin and the page builder/editor that were used by our web designer when the website was first designed. The page editor/builder and the theme plugin are proprietary, and require a \$224 expenditure to purchase a lifetime license for GNPS.

**Motion passed by exchange of email on June 2-4: The GNPS Board accepts the attached design proposal and approves the cost of \$1200 for a design by Stream Dynamics for water**

**harvesting on the north end of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden. Of the total cost, \$300 will be paid upon board agreement.**

Explanation: This initial design is the first step in the creation of a long term comprehensive water plan for the entire property of the SCBG. Due to the complexity of this project and the multiple variables and constraints that need to be integrated into the design process, both the design and the implementation need to happen in stages. This design proposal and contract addresses the biggest issue—stormwater entering from the northwest corner and related flooding and erosion problems—while initiating the planning and design process for other areas of the garden. The cost is for the design and does not include implementation.

**Motion passed by exchange of email on June 9-10, 2022: The GNPS Board approves the printing of 200 additional copies of the *Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region* at Copies on the Run for a cost of \$4.23 per copy.**

Explanation: We are very close to selling our 400th copy of the Beginner's Guide to Planting Native Perennials of the Gila Region and it is time to order more. Copies on the Run tells us that although they have had to raise prices substantially, they are honoring their former prices to repeat customers for projects such as ours. The Guide costs us \$4.23 per copy and that will remain. We sell the guide for \$5.00, which is proving profitable to our GNPS mission. We need to order more to continue our outreach to our local communities and the greater online community, by virtue of our online bookstore. Some errors could be corrected before the printing.

**Motion passed by exchange of email on June 18-19, 2022: The Board agrees to sponsor up to two eligible students from the Gila area to attend and present posters at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico, at a cost of \$300 per student.**

Explanation: The hosts of the 2022 NPSNM annual conference, the Albuquerque Chapter, have already reached their limit of six Sunflower Scholarships to the conference. However, two students in our region that were identified by William Norris and Russ Kleinman as worthy candidates have only recently been alerted to the possibility. If they are interested, GNPS is willing to pay for one or two extra scholarships, and that is acceptable to the Albuquerque Chapter.