



Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

The meeting was held at the home of Margie Gibson, Past President

Called to order at 2:00 pm.

Present: Donna Stevens, President; Cara Staab, Vice-President; Naava Koenigsberg, Treasurer; Betty Spence, Secretary; Margie Gibson, Past President; Marty Eberhardt, Elroy Limmer; David Philips; William Norris, guest

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Board meeting of June 10, 2025, were approved.

New Business

WNMU Herbarium Proposal: William ("Bill") Norris, an invited guest, explained that the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium at Western New Mexico University (WNMU) now had close to 35,000 specimens. There was a need to create JPEG images of the specimen sheets so that they could be put online and made available to other researchers. Zachary Rogers, curator at the NMSU herbarium, had advised on the equipment that would be needed, and GNPS member Betsy Kaido had offered to donate the funds (\$9,100) to purchase the equipment. It was thought that the most convenient way to handle the purchases, if the GNPS Board was willing, would be to involve the Gila Native Plant Society as the recipient and handler of the donation.

Discussion: Naava wondered how complex it would be to handle the various purchases. Bill Norris said that of course he could be involved in handling the purchases. She also asked whether the GNPS membership would have access to the results of the project. Bill explained that, once the specimens were turned into images, they could be put on a website such as SEINet, which would be available not only to other researchers but to the general public as well, including, of course, GNPS members. Board members expressed approval of the request. It was suggested that one way to handle the finances was for GNPS to create a separate account, on which Donna, Naava and Bill Norris would be authorized to draw. GNPS would need to create a project to support the imaging of the herbarium collection. Betsy would need a letter from GNPS attesting that her donation was for charitable purposes.

Motion: The Board agrees to establish a GNPS project to support the imaging of the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium collection and also agrees to accept a donation of \$9,100 from Betsy Kaido to fund the project.

William Norris withdrew from the meeting.

NPSNM Documentarian: Margie reported that the Documentarian of the state organization had resigned due to ill health. As NPSNM President she had contacted the presidents of the other chapters, and she would like for us to spread the word to the GNPS membership about the need for a new candidate. She explained that the Documentarian kept charge of the official documents of the organization and from time to time deposited them in the NPSNM archive at New Mexico State University. The Documentarian was also an officer of the Native Plant Society of New Mexico and as such a member of the state board. Betty agreed to draft a MailChimp to our membership. [Subsequently, Margie, in her capacity as President of the state organization, decided to compose and send out one letter to all NPSNM members.]

Board Reports

Treasurer's Report: Prior to the meeting Naava circulated her quarterly report covering the period from April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025, comprising the fourth quarter of our fiscal year 2024/2025. The report showed income and expenditures by project and included a summary of accounts. As of June 30, 2025, the balance in all our GNPS-labelled accounts in the First Federal Credit Union and Edward Jones was \$83,857.68, and the balance in all our SCBG-labelled accounts was \$82,943.02. She thanked Donna for proofing the accounts.

Under income and expenditures, she noted that Don Graves had not yet spent the entire budget approved for the Pollinator Booth Display. In the Silva Creek Botanical Garden, the construction of the wall around the tank was by far the largest expense item.

In the account summary, the large increase in the total assets in GNPS-labelled accounts was primarily due to the increase in the Edward Jones mutual fund; its value might drop in the future, given the uncertainties in the economy. Whereas the Edward Jones money market funds offered a good rate of return, the FFCU money market accounts were earning very little, and she suggested eliminating them. Betty recalled that Dave Becker, the previous treasurer, had set up the money market accounts at FFCU so that funds not needed right away could be earning at least some interest but could also be quickly transferred to checking when needed.

Naava reported that in 2023-2024 funds had occasionally been allocated to the wrong account. First Wendy Graves and then she had attempted to straighten out the allocations. Although neither had been able, after much effort, to determine a definite amount, she thought that a transfer of \$2,000 from the GNPS accounts to the SCBG accounts would approximately correct those errors.

Motion: The Board agrees to transfer \$2,000 from the GNPS accounts to the SCBG accounts to correct past errors in allocating funds.

She noted that part of the reason for the allocation errors was the extremely confusing way that FFCU displayed the accounts. For that and other reasons she was contemplating eventually moving the accounts to Western Bank. She, Margie and Marty would be working on the 2025-2026 budget. With the aid of the rest of the Steering Committee, she was also tracking expenditure of the grant monies.

Committee and Other Reports:

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Report: Prior to the meeting, Marty circulated the following Steering Committee report for July 2025:

“There’s lots of activity in the garden these days. The rains are reviving everything. Meanwhile, we’re getting ready for an opening celebration for Phase One on **Sunday afternoon, October 12**. Mark your calendars!

The Town of Silver City is renewing our \$15,000 funding for the 2025-2026 FY.

The bricks have been laid in the patio, and we’ve moved some cactus out of the cactus garden since the pathways are changing. Never fear, there will be another Santa Rita prickly pear, and we’ll be giving out the cuttings at some future member event. Meanwhile, the “Cactus Garden” will be a more generic “Desert Garden.” Margie has graciously offered to take on the leadership for this project.

Diana Ingalls Leyba and the Youth Mural Project will do the educational part of the mural July 14-26. To our relief, given the short time frame, she is going to get the YCC to do the donor/volunteer part in the fall.

The beautiful welcome sign frame is almost done, as is the (also beautiful) welcome sign. The habitat thicket signs are in progress. We’ll be putting in a desert willow, a bike rack, and a bench.... Please check out the progress!”

Marty confirmed that Jacqui Olea, Assistant Town Manager, had responded to her concerns about the confusion regarding the term of our contract with the Town. As a result, we had a contract from the Town for another year (2025-2026). The SCBG Steering Committee had chosen the afternoon of October 12 for a celebration of the completion of Phase One. Elli Sorensen planned to have art activities. Marty said she would talk to David about educational activities; unfortunately, some other members of the Education Committee would not be available then. Overall, the garden was looking good, and the work on the main entrance was almost done.

Education Team Report: Prior to the meeting, Don Graves circulated a report on the Education Team’s planned outreach activities in the 3rd Quarter 2025, as follows:

- “* Elroy and I will be in Las Cruces on July 9 drumming up participants for the NM Bee Workshop.
- * We will be at Whiskey Creek on July 12 with Rachel Burke and eDNA kits.
 - * The Ed Team will be working with Diana Ingalls Leyba July 14-16 working with the young mural makers for the SCBG mosaic tile wall.
 - * July 26 and 27 is the Mimbres Hummingbird Festival. This event requires us to be present for long hours over two days, so booth volunteers are needed. Elroy and I will be presenting on pollinators both days of the festival.
 - * August 12-15 is our GNPS NM Bee Workshop with Olivia Messinger Carril.
 - * August 16 is our GNPS Native Plant Sale. Volunteers needed.
 - * I will do a special PP presentation for DAR and the City of Santa Clara sometime during the last two weeks of August, if they so desire.
 - * Wendy and I have a trip planned in mid-September-October.
 - * Tamal Y Mas Festival is in early November. Volunteers needed for booth.”

David reported that volunteers were needed for the Hummingbird Festival. Betty offered to send out a MailChimp calling for volunteers and would monitor the responses.

Unfinished and General Business:

August 16th Native Plant Sale: volunteers, advertising

Betty said that she would send a MailChimp calling for volunteers early in August. Marty Eberhardt said that she and her husband would be volunteering.

Betty reported that last year we had spent close to \$500 on ads for the native plant sale, and this year the ads might cost a little more. She asked whether the Board was willing to have her arrange for ads again this year. Board members agreed and did not set a limit. After discussion, it was agreed that the best media for ads were the Desert Exposure, the Mimbres Messenger, the Silver City Daily Press and the Deming Headlight.

Margie explained that Prescilla Titus had been propagating plants. Priscilla would like to sell some to cover her expenses, which came out of the Garden Management Budget, and to raise funds for the garden. A sale at the garden would be planned.

The suggestion was made to sell them at the plant sale. GNPS would have two booths. We would be selling books and giving out literature at one booth; last year we sold plants for another vendor at the other booth, and this year we could sell our own. There would not be many. Donna said she would inform Don Graves, who was organizing the plant sale.

Motion: The Board agreed to that we should sell some of the plants propagated for us at the native plant sale, the proceeds to benefit the garden. [Subsequently, it was decided instead to sell the plants on another occasion.]

Date change for the next meeting: Donna suggested that the next Board meeting should be held on Monday, August 11, instead of the usual second Tuesday of the month, to avoid conflict with the Bee Workshop, which would begin on August 12. The Board agreed.

September Program: Cara explained that the September 18th program featuring a talk by Carlos Martinez del Rio, “Mescales, Bats and Humans,” would be held at The Hearth rather than WNMU, because Carlos wanted to be able to allow the participants to taste some mezcal beverages, which would not be possible at the university. In response to questions, she explained that The Hearth, located at 1915 N. Swan, had the mission of providing a space where people could “rest, restore and connect” (www.hearthnm.org). The cost of renting the Hearth was \$40. Naava asked Cara to get an invoice from The Hearth for the rental.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Spence
Secretary, Gila Native Plant Society