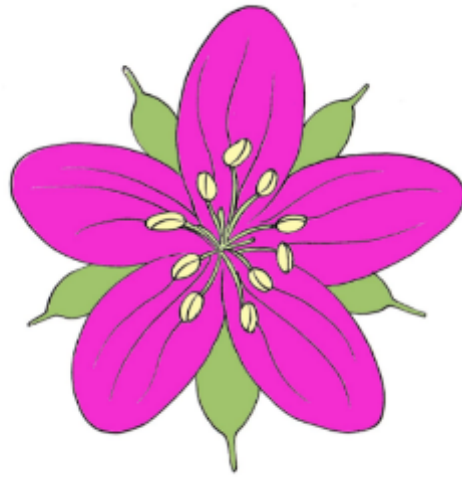




GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

July 1, 2026

Vol 16 No 3

Margaret Madsen, Editor

Bulletin 2026: 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 also available on the GNPS website <http://www.gilanps.org>.

President's Message

SO MUCH MORE TO SEE

In the last Bulletin, I wrote that spring in New Mexico simply doesn't equal spring in the eastern and midwestern US, where early blooming wildflowers burst upon the scene. But after the Bulletin came out, I spent the next two weeks berating myself for two failures, one of commission and one of omission.



First, who am I to disparage spring in the Land of Enchantment? There may not have been many wildflowers at my house, but if I'd made a bigger effort to check out different places, I would've seen plenty of flowers. Mea culpa.

My second failing, the one of omission, was in overlooking the glorious spring days of flowering oaks, when warblers and other migrating birds feast on the dangling catkins, and the emerging leaves are soft and pliable. The flowers and leaves of Emory and gray oaks (*Quercus emoryi* and *Q. grisea*) combine to create an airbrushed appearance. These trees don't need to show off with large colorful blossoms. If onlookers don't grasp their subtle beauty, it's only because they haven't yet

developed powers of observation and discernment. And I should know, because it took me many years to appreciate the blurry, fuzzy majesty of flowering oaks. Mea maxima culpa.

Soon after the oaks dropped their flowers, the desert willows began to bloom. I don't know if this has been an unusually great year for desert willows (*Chilopsis linearis*) or if I've suddenly developed a new eye for them. I've recognized their beauty for many years, of course, but recently I'm seeing desert willows in unexpected places. For example, on a rock face that I've driven past thousands of times, I only just noticed a large desert willow growing out of the rock twelve feet up the slope of the road cut. How could I have missed it all these years? In my defense, at this rock face I usually check out a beautiful bunch grass of *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* (look it up – I bet you'll be a convert).

This is a long-winded way to say that when observing plants, there's always so much more to see than you originally thought. I invite you to join Gila Native Plant Society field trips, which will begin when the summer rains start. For more inspiration, not to mention the camaraderie of fellow plant people, attend the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's annual conference. This year, it's hosted by the Gila chapter in Silver City and surrounding Gila National Forest, September 10-13. I hope to see you there.

To check out the conference schedule and to register, visit npsnm.org/npsnm-state-conference-2026/

-- Donna Stevens

email: gnpspresident@gmail.com

PROGRAMS and ACTIVITIES For This Quarter

FIELD TRIPS/EVENTS/PROGRAMS:

Happy Summer! We'll resume programs again the third Friday in October. Detail information will be in the 4th quarter bulletin.

SUMMER IN THE SILVA CREEK BOTANICAL GARDEN



The garden has burst into glorious bloom! The newly planted Front Yard garden is quite spectacular, as are the Habitat Thicket, the Butterfly Garden, and the Medicinal Garden. Please come by!

We have some new ways be in the garden this summer. We're hosting our first ever **Family Day in the Garden**, from 9AM to noon on Saturday, July 11. It's an event for all ages, with activity booths where you can make botanical art, learn about lizards in town, and process yucca as the Mimbres People did... and lots more. There will be music from the Big Ditch Crickets and the Five-Foot Players and "Chasing Butterflies" with Heart of the Gila. Volunteers will be stationed around the garden to talk about each area. Come yourself or bring the whole family!

As the garden grows, we want to grow our outreach. We're starting our first ever **docent program** (tour guides). We hope to be able to offer regularly scheduled tours for community groups. Please sign up by contacting Dana Baskett, our volunteer coordinator, at vcgardens.gnps@gmail.com. There will be a three-session class, from 8:00-9:30 each morning, on July 18 and 25, and August 1. You'll get the inside skinny on each garden area, as well as the history of the garden, and the Master Plan, which is evolving, as all good plans do. We hope you'll consider joining us.

At our upcoming statewide conference in September, you'll have the opportunity to create a new exhibit at the garden. There's a two-session class to **build a crevice garden**. You can gain some new skills and make your mark on Silva Creek Botanical Garden's development! You can sign up for this workshop on the Native Plant Society of New Mexico's web page (npsnm.org).

And speaking of helping the garden, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention that we always need folks at the **garden work parties** on Friday mornings, usually monthly, but sometimes more often. If you're receiving this bulletin, you probably also get the work party appeals. And if you'd like to **help with weeding and/or watering** outside of those hours, we'd love

to have you. Please contact Dana at the email address listed above.

We hope to see you in the garden!

-- Marty Eberhardt, Silva Creek Botanical Garden Committee



"Roots of Resilience: Native Plants in the Next Fifty Years"
September 10-13, 2026
Grant County Veterans Memorial Business
and Conference Center

NPSNM State Conference
REGISTER NOW!

As you know, our chapter is hosting the Native Plant Society of New Mexico state conference this year on the Society's 50th anniversary. The conference is in

September, but **now is the time to register.**

Early registration starts July 1 and is available through July 31. The fee goes up on August 1, and registration closes altogether on August 21.

Go online to <https://www.npsnm.org/npsnm-state-conference-2026/> to see all the information and reserve your spots.

We are emphasizing workshops and field trips this year, with an opportunity both Friday afternoon and Saturday morning (and a few bonus field trips on Sunday for those interested in going farther afield). To choose the field trips or workshops that suit you best, please consult the full descriptions available on the website above.

Your registration fee also includes a Meet-and-Greet on Thursday at the Murray Hotel, a reception on Friday evening at the Waterworks, break snacks and two lunches, and, of course, all our great speakers. The banquet has an extra charge, but all registrants are welcome to come hear Doug Tallamy speak after the banquet. For more details, consult that ever-helpful web page.

Also available for purchase is a special NPSNM baseball cap featuring the rare Wheel Milkweed, *Asclepias uncialis*. On the back, it reads “Native Plant Society of New Mexico.” It can be pre-ordered for \$28 in conjunction with registration (to be picked up when you check in at the conference) or purchased for \$30 at the conference.



Silent Auction Donations Needed!

Please consider donating goods or experiences to the silent auction to be held at the NPSNM conference, September 10-13, Silver City. We're especially seeking items valued at less than \$50. Silent auctions generate significant funds at annual conferences, and in

2026, all money raised remains with the Gila chapter. Suggestions include: jewelry, pottery, glassware, artwork, weavings, art photos, small antiques, native plants and seed sets, gems and minerals. Special local experiences (e.g., casita for two; natural history, native plant, birding, or cultural experiences. Use your imagination!)

If you'd like to donate, please let us know at gilanative@gmail.com

Native Plant Sale

**Saturday, August 8th
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Gough Park parking lot
at 12th and Pope
in Silver City**

**Sales with cash
or checks only
Meet and buy
directly from Arizona
and New Mexico
native plant growers.**



Pine Needle Penstemon, *Penstemon pinifolius*, by Jackie Blurton

Plant of the Quarter

Plant of the Quarter will return in the Fall. Happy Summer!

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

