



Annual Report 2024

Part I. Board of Directors

President: Margie Gibson

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Cathleen Norman

Secretary: Betty Spence

Past President: Don Graves

At Large Board Members: Dinah Demers, Marty Eberhardt, Elroy Limmer, David Phillips, and Stacy Sollisch.

Beginning in January, the Board of Directors met eight times in person (with some Zoom participation). There were no meetings in February, July, August, or December. Between meetings, chapter business was conducted by email.

Committee Chairs and Core Volunteers

Agave Planting: Don Graves

Book Sales: Rick Lass

Bulletin: Betsy Kaido

Field Trips: Andrew Tree, Don Graves

Education Committee: Steve Blake

Conservation Committee: David Becker,
Phil Hastings

Kiosk: Margie Gibson

Membership: Betsy Kaido

Member Communications: Betty Spence

NPSNM State Board Representative:
Betty Spence

Plant Sale: Don Graves

Programs: Don Graves, Margie Gibson

Publicity Coordinator: Betty Spence

Silva Creek Botanical Garden
Management Team: Naava Konigsberg

Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering
Committee: Marty Eberhardt

We also started a **Conference Planning Committee** for the 2026 conference, which marks the 50th anniversary of NPSNM. The conference is planned for September 11-13 with the theme “Roots of Resilience: Native Plants in the Next 50 Years.” We have reserved space at the Grant County Veterans Memorial Business and Conference Center and have begun contacting speakers.

Part II. Evening Programs

This year, all but one of our programs were held in person at Harlan Hall on the WNMU campus at 7:00 p.m. on the third Friday of the month. All programs were also on Zoom. Most of our programs are recorded and posted on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWbwzLgBuQ1e1Q4sjsn8ZXw/playlists>

January 19, “If You Plant It, They Will Come: Meet the bees in your neighborhood and their favorite native plants!” This program was conducted by Zoom only, setting a record of 78 participants.

February 16, “The History of the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.”

March 15, “Phylogenetics and Population Genomics in the Milkwort Genus *Hebecarpa* (Polygalaceae).”

April 19, “Insect Galls of the Southwest.”

October 18, “Exploring the Flora of Silver City.”

November 15 Membership Meeting, Elections, and program on “Observations from the Field.”

During the membership portion of the meeting, the following officers were elected for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2025: Donna Stevens, President; Cara Staab, Vice President; Cathleen Norman, Treasurer; and Betty Spence, Secretary. Revisions to the Bylaws were approved.

Part III. Field Trips

The drought necessitated some innovation, such as the landscaping tours. Most of our field trips limited the number of participants and filled up very quickly.

April 9, “Hidalgo County Chihuahuan Desert Wildflowers,” led by Andrew Tree.

We sponsored three field trips for the centennial celebration of the Gila Wilderness:

May 25, Willow Creek/Iron Creek in the Mogollons led by John Gorey.

May 29, West Fork of the Gila River, led by Bill Norris and Russ Kleinman.

June 2, Sapillo Creek in Spring Canyon, led by Don Graves and Elroy Limmer.

July 21, “Know Your Trees,” led by Don Graves.

August 22, “Summer Flora of Oak, Pinyon, and Juniper Grasslands,” led by Andrew Tree.

August 27, “Perambulation on the Playa,” led by Andrew Tree.

October 14, “City of Rocks Plant Walk,” Co-sponsored by Friends of City of Rocks and led by Bill Norris, Ed Leuck, Russ Kleinman, and Andrew Tree.

October 15, “A Walk on the Wild Side.” Don and Wendy Graves led landscaping tours of their yard. It was repeated on October 16 because so many people wanted to attend.

Part IV. Other GNPS Events and Activities

We had a table at the Natural History of the Gila Symposium from February 28 to March 1.

We participated in Give Grandly, a fundraising event for 64 local non-profits, and had a booth for the in-person event on May 6 at the Maker’s Market.

Our annual picnic in conjunction with BASWNM (Audubon) was held at the Gomez Peak Pavilion on May 19 and was well attended.

We held another very successful Native Plant Sale on August 17.

At an open house on September 20, GNPS and the Silva Creek Botanical Garden received a certificate from Town Mayor Ken Ladner for our “outstanding partnership, contribution, and commitment to the Waterworks project.”

We participated in community events, including booths and activities for kids, for Earth Day on April 20 and the Tamal Y Mas Festival on November 16. We also participated in a Welcome Back Bash for Western New Mexico University students on August 24. We were a sponsor of the Gila River Festival from September 27 to 29.

In cooperation with Bat Conservation International, we planted agaves on seven members’ properties. Members also collect samples using eDNA kits to monitor which species of nectar-feeding bats are coming through and when.

Our annual Holiday Party was well-attended on December 8 in the historic Silver City Women’s Club building.

Part V. Silva Creek Botanical Garden (SCBG)

We worked on implementing the Master Plan for the garden this year, with funding from our members, an NM Outdoor Recreation Trails+ grant, and the Town of Silver City. It involved many, many volunteer hours for new improvements as well as maintenance.

The Children's Butterfly Garden's butterfly shape was redesigned to improve visibility and replanted with native plants. On September 14, a highly successful open house was held, with over 90 participants, including many children.

Ashley Pederson, who created the Master Plan, began work on a detailed design for the Children's Pollinator Garden. Steve Morgan, a retired landscape designer, drafted a design for a new front entrance. The art panels were moved next to the amphitheater in preparation for the new wall that will surround the iconic water tank.

Part VI: Financial Statement

Our financial report will be submitted by Cathleen Norman, Treasurer.

Margie Gibson, President of the Gila Native Plant Society, respectfully submit this annual report.