



# HAPPENINGS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Arizona Native Plant Society  
Our mission is to promote knowledge, appreciation, conservation  
and restoration of Arizona's native plants and their habitats

## Join Any Chapter E-List

The best way to keep up with the latest AZNPS events is to join the chapter e-list, which notifies members about meetings, events, conferences, field trips, workshops, and volunteer opportunities in the area. Don't forget to keep us updated on e-mail address changes. To be added to any chapter e-list, send your name and e-mail address to:

Cochise	Amy Metz	<a href="mailto:amy13jsa@gmail.com">amy13jsa@gmail.com</a>
Flagstaff	Susan Holiday	<a href="mailto:naris123@cs.com">naris123@cs.com</a>
Peach Springs	Carrie Cannon	<a href="mailto:Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov">Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov</a>
Phoenix	Vacant	<a href="mailto:phoenixaznps@gmail.com">phoenixaznps@gmail.com</a>
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Upper Gila	Vacant	<a href="mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com">uppergilaaznps@gmail.com</a>
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Yuma	Valerie Morrill	<a href="mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com">yumaaznps@gmail.com</a>



## Botany 2026 Conference

Plans are currently underway to hold the annual Botany 2026 Conference in the Flagstaff area in June 2026. We have decided to hold the conference jointly with the annual meeting of the American Penstemon Society (APS). The joint AZNPD and APS planning committee is exploring possible venues for the conference, which will feature a half day of presentations followed by afternoon field trip options and an evening dinner with an invited speaker. Additionally, guided field trips will be offered on the second day of the conference to some of the very interesting and beautiful botanical locales in the Flagstaff area. Formal conference announcements will be forthcoming with additional details in the new year along with a call for presentations. All members are encouraged to start thinking about the conference and consider making a presentation or helping with planning by volunteering to serve on the planning committee. Please contact Doug Ripley if you have questions or would like to get involved with the conference planning process. Phone: 520-909-3132, email: [jdougripley@gmail.com](mailto:jdougripley@gmail.com).



Kendrick Park. Photo: Doug Ripley

**Have you recently received messages from AZNPS regarding your membership renewal?**



If you haven't already done so, please take a few moments to renew your membership via the AZNPS website ([aznps.com/membership](https://aznps.com/membership)) or by postal mail. We rely on your membership to continue the work that makes a difference for the native ecology of Arizona.

# Chapter News

## Cochise Chapter



**The chapter returns!** We are pleased to announce that the Cochise Chapter, which has been in an inactive status for the past two years, is being brought back to life! A very successful meeting was held on October 11 at the San Pedro House in Sierra Vista, during which plans for the rejuvenation of the chapter were presented to current members along with prospective new members. Attendees were asked to explain what types of activities they would like to see the chapter pursue. The attendees concurred with a suggestion that monthly meetings should resume and feature a guest speaker. Other activities such as field trips were also discussed and they will be organized as the new chapter progresses. The chapter has scheduled its first formal meeting for January 31, 2026, at 10:00 AM in the conference room of the Sierra Vista Library, 2600 E. Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista. For more information, contact [Amy Metz](mailto:amy13jsa@gmail.com) ([amy13jsa@gmail.com](mailto:amy13jsa@gmail.com)).

### Meeting

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#### **Saturday, January 31. Doug Ripley: *The Natural History of the Dragoon Mountains, Cochise County, Arizona***

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Doug is a charter member and the long-time president of the Cochise Chapter of the Arizona Native Plant Society. His presentation will illustrate his observations of the Dragoon Mountains flora and fauna using photos he took during the past 17 years, as part of a study he undertook with Jim Verrier to document the flora and vegetation of the mountains. The presentation will take place in the conference room of the Sierra Vista Library, 2600 E Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista.





## Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff Chapter meetings are offered in-person with the option to watch from home via Zoom. The meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, March through October, at 7:00 PM. The meetings are now being held at the Northern Arizona University Biological Sciences Building. In 2026, we may meet in the new herbarium space or Room 328. Stay tuned for details in the spring. Street parking is available nearby.

The chapter is currently on winter break, and talks will resume in March 2026. For details about upcoming meetings, please see our email distribution list ([naris123@cs.com](mailto:naris123@cs.com)), Facebook page, or [AZNPS.com](http://AZNPS.com).

### Chapter Offices

President: [Kirstin Phillips \(flagstaffAZNPS@gmail.com\)](mailto:flagstaffAZNPS@gmail.com); Chapter Contact: [Melissa Amberson \(azmelissa@yahoo.com\)](mailto:azmelissa@yahoo.com); Email Distribution: [Sue Holiday \(naris123@cs.com\)](mailto:naris123@cs.com); Hike Information: [Barbara Phillips \(bagphillips@yahoo.com\)](mailto:bagphillips@yahoo.com).



San Francisco Peaks, Flagstaff. Photo: Shelley Silva

## Recordings

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The following presentations were recorded in 2025 and can be viewed the Flagstaff Chapter's Facebook page or at The Arizona Native Plant Society website.

**Tea Time with Native Plants:** Ashley Doyle

**Nursery Restoration Efforts of Bebb's Willow (*Salix bebbiana*):** Adair Patterson

**Propagating Native Plants:** Amelia Blake

**Analysis of Potential Hazards to the Future Conservation of the Endemic Alpine species San Francisco Peaks Ragwort (*Packera franciscana*):** Catherine Young

## Hakdagwi:va Peach Springs Chapter



For information on chapter activities, contact [Carrie Cannon](mailto:Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov) ([Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov](mailto:Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov)).

### Chapter Offices

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President: Carrie Cannon; Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez; Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

## Phoenix Chapter



The Phoenix Chapter is undergoing a revitalization effort after a period of inactivity. A planning meeting for this effort was held on November 22, for present chapter members as well as invited potential new members. Meeting participants were briefed on the proposed revitalization effort and potential future chapter activities and given an opportunity to share their ideas for future initiatives that the chapter could offer.

As this process moves forward, chapter members will be informed of its progress as well as new projects and activities that will be offered. Please contact either Peter Pawliuk ([peterpawliuk@gmail.com](mailto:peterpawliuk@gmail.com)) or Ammar Mand ([sonoranstarts@gmail.com](mailto:sonoranstarts@gmail.com)) for more information or to volunteer to assist with the revitalization project.

## Prescott Chapter



The chapter continues to manage species growing in Walnut Meadow at the Highlands Center for Natural History, to provide workshops on plant families, to make seed balls to help with Prescott National Forest restoration, and to schedule evening programs.

### Chapter Offices

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President: Sue Smith; Steering Committee: Jeannie Tutone and Sara Vincent. We can be reached at [PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com).

## Santa Cruz Chapter



For information on chapter events, you can be added to our email list and/or follow our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/aznpssantacruz) (<https://www.facebook.com/aznpssantacruz>). Send an [email](mailto:santacruz.aznps@gmail.com) ([santacruz.aznps@gmail.com](mailto:santacruz.aznps@gmail.com)) to join our mailing list or for any other questions.

### Chapter Offices

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President: Robin Kulibert; Vice President: Rick Kulibert

## Tonto Basin Chapter



The AZ Native Plant Society Tonto Basin Chapter invites anyone interested in learning about native plants in Gila County to join us for chapter meetings, botany walks, and conservation activities.

Our chapter meets on the first Friday of each month, October through May, and includes guest speakers, botany walks, and field trips. Please join our email list ([tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com)) to receive up-to-date information and meeting reminders. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for additional information.

## Chapter Offices

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President: Becky Settje; Vice President: Teri Balaska; Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden. We can be reached at [tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com).

## Meetings

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**Friday, December 5, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Kenda Svoboda, North Zone Botanist, Tonto National Forest: *Searching the Sierra Ancha for Rare Plants***

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Kenda is North Zone botanist for the Tonto National Forest. The presentation will take place at US Forest Services Ranger Station, 1009 State Route 260, Payson.

**Friday, January 9, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Wendy Hodgson: *Grand Canyon—More Than Just Beautiful, Awe-Inspiring Views, Neat Geology, and Weird Squirrels!***

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Wendy is herbarium curator emerita and senior research botanist at the Desert Botanical Garden. The presentation will take place at the Payson Public Library, 328 N McLane Rd, Payson.

## Field Trip

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**Friday, February 6, 10:00 - 11:30 AM. Teri Balaska: *Sonoran Sentinels: Keystone Guardians of the Desert Botany Walk***

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Teri is vice president of the Tonto Basin Chapter. The botany walk will take place at the Saguaro Monitoring Site. This is located three miles east of Highway 188 on Greenback Valley Road/Forest Service Road 71 (across from the new Tonto Creek Bridge), Tonto Basin.

## Tucson Chapter



Monthly chapter meetings featuring local speakers are held the second Thursday of the month at the ENR2 (Environmental and Natural Resources 2) building, room 225, on the University of Arizona campus. Meetings are in a hybrid format so that interested folks can attend in person or via Zoom.

If you are not on our mailing list and wish to attend one of our meetings on Zoom, email us ([nativeplantstucson@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com)) the week before the meeting requesting the zoom link. Videos of past meetings can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSV1oOi6enVYcI2CShTfw) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSV1oOi6enVYcI2CShTfw>)

Watch our [chapter page](https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/) (<https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/>) on the website for more information.



## Chapter Offices

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President: Lyn Loveless; Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch; Secretary: Georgette Mehalik. We can be reached at [nativeplantstucson@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com).

## Meetings

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**Thursday, December 11, 7:00 PM. Holiday Celebration and Members Showcase**

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**Thursday, January 8, 7:00 PM. Jack Dash: *The Southwest Native Plant Primer: 235 Plants for an Earth Friendly Garden***

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**Thursday, February 12, 7:00 PM. Francesca Claverie, Borderlands Restoration Network: *Propagation for Restoration***

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## Summer Events

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### Monsoon Mixer

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Our annual Monsoon Mixer was postponed until September, in hopes that late rains would bless us. At that time, we gathered at Slow Body Brew, an eclectic pub located in the industrial area near downtown. It was nice to see friends, exchange some cool plants, publications, and summer stories. We were honored to have AZNPS President Doug Ripley join us.





## Madera Canyon

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At the end of August, we ventured into Madera Canyon in the Santa Rita Mountains with guide extraordinaire Doug Moore. Although the creek was dry due to the ongoing drought, we saw flowering *Bouvardia*.



## Passive Water Harvesting

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October featured two field trips, one to Honeybee Canyon, in the Tortolita Mountains, and the other in Oro Valley and Oracle, led by Chuck LeFevre of Common Sense Passive Water Harvesting. The tour included touring water harvesting landscapes along roadways, public common areas, and both small and large front yards that employed berms, a rock dam, and other passive-water harvest projects.



## Upper Gila Chapter



To keep up-to-date on chapter activities, please contact us at our [chapter email](mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com) ([uppergilaaznps@gmail.com](mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com)).

### Chapter Offices

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President: Vacant; Vice President: Diane Drobka; Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna; Treasurer: Julie Davis.

## White Mountain Chapter



Our chapter covers all of Navajo and Apache counties, but welcomes native plant enthusiasts from Greenlee and northern Gila Counties also. For more information, contact the [chapter](mailto:aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com) ([aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com](mailto:aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com)).

### Chapter Offices

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President: Jess Rollar; Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson; Treasurer: Bob Rollar; Master Gardener: Michelle Straight.

## Yuma Chapter



Yuma will forgo regular monthly, in-person meetings for the foreseeable future. Instead, we will focus on outdoor activities, such as field trips and work projects, with a virtual format for meetings and similar indoor activities.

Announcements of these events and other news updates will be posted via email. If you would like to receive updates, please contact us at our [chapter email](mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com) ([yumaaznps@gmail.com](mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com)) and ask to be put on our list.

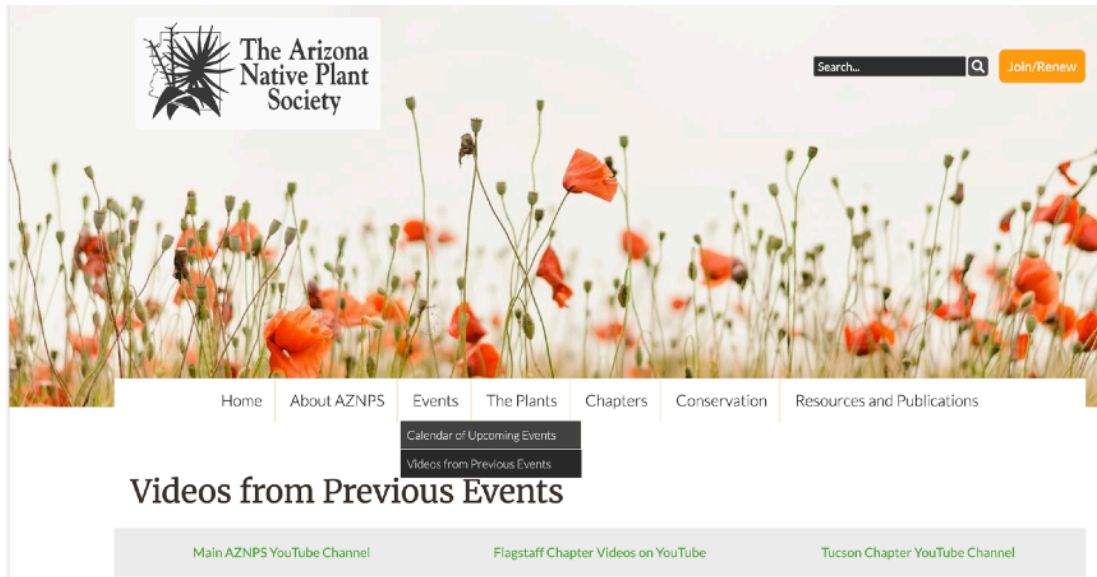
### Chapter Offices

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President: Valerie Morrill; Vice President: Karen Reichhardt; Secretary: Deirdre MacDonald; Treasurer: Tom Fox

## Video Recordings

The Arizona Native Plant Society maintains a video library of many past chapter meetings and symposia. Interested in yuccas? Slime molds? Kartchner Caverns? These and other recordings can be found [here](https://aznps.com/video/) (<https://aznps.com/video/>).



## Welcome New Chapter Members!

**Cochise:** Robert Parks, Emily Schroeder

**Flagstaff:** Rob Massatti, Lupita Wessler

**Phoenix:** Amanda Cattelino, Erica Sieff, Crissa Wolf, Lynn Zoroya, Ammar Mand, Daniela Howe, James Headley, Desiree Myers, Deana McMillion, Thomas McDonald,

**Prescott:** Kirsten Allen, Laura Beebe, Emile Blaine, Richard Gollhofer, Edie Radford

**Santa Cruz:** Julie Mitchell

**Tonto Basin:** Catherine Scheer, Linda Stukel

**Tucson:** Oskar Anderson, Karen Arthur, Michelle Beddor, Christopher Cornelius, Sara Kamenski, Robert Perrill, Lenox Pichardo, Stephen Jackson, Joan Van Denbos, Lee Blackwell, Beth Kane



**For More Information, Contact the Chapter Officers**Or visit the AZNPS [website \(www.aznativeplantsociety.org\)](http://www.aznativeplantsociety.org).**AZNPS Headquarters**Administrator: Pat Sanchez[arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com](mailto:arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com)**Cochise Chapter**Acting President: Amy Metz[amy13jsa@gmail.com](mailto:amy13jsa@gmail.com)

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

**Flagstaff Chapter**President: Kirstin Phillips[flagstaffaznps@gmail.com](mailto:flagstaffaznps@gmail.com)Contact: Susan Holiday[naris123@cs.com](mailto:naris123@cs.com)

Treasurer: Patti Van Tuyl

Presentations/Field Trips: Barbara Phillips

**Peach Springs Chapter**President: Carrie Cannon[Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov](mailto:Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov)

Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez

Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

**Phoenix Chapter**

President: Vacant

[phoenixaznps@gmail.com](mailto:phoenixaznps@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Vacant

**Prescott Chapter**President: Sue Smith[PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com](mailto:PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com)**Santa Cruz Chapter**President: Robin Kulibert[santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com](mailto:santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com)

Vice President: Rick Kulibert

**Tonto Basin Chapter**President: Becky Settje[tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com](mailto:tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com)

Vice President: Teri Balaska

Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden

**Tucson Chapter**President: Lyn Loveless[nativeplantstucson@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch

**Upper Gila Chapter**Vice President: Diane Drobka[uppergilaaznps@gmail.com](mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com)

Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna

Treasurer: Julie Davis

**White Mountain Chapter**President: Jess Rollar[aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com](mailto:aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com)

Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson

Treasurer: Bob Rollar

Master Gardener: Michelle Straight

**Yuma Chapter**President: Valerie Morrill[yumaaznps@gmail.com](mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com)

Vice President: Karen Reichhardt

Secretary: Deidre MacDonald

Treasurer: Tom Fox

**AZNPS Happenings** is a forum to promote chapter news and activities throughout the state. Please contact your chapter president or program coordinator to contribute information, or email the *Happenings* editor, Shelley Silva ([shelley.a.silva@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.a.silva@gmail.com)).



ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY  
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### Arizona Native Plant Society

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- |                                   |                                 |                                     |                                      |                                |                                  |
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