



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	amy13jsa@gmail.com
Flagstaff	Susan Holiday	naris123@cs.com
Peach Springs	Carrie Cannon	Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov
Phoenix	Mark Cirillo	markecirillo@gmail.com
Prescott	Sue Smith	PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com
Santa Cruz	Robin Kulibert	santacruz.aznps@gmail.com
Tonto Basin	Becky Settje	tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com
Tucson	Lyn Loveless	nativeplantstucson@gmail.com
Upper Gila	Diane Drobka	uppergilaaznps@gmail.com
White Mountain	Jess Rollar	aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com
Yuma	Valerie Morrill	yumaaznps@gmail.com



Arizona Native Plant Society Botany 2026 Symposium

In mid-June, the Arizona Native Plant Society held its annual Botany Symposium in partnership with the American Penstemon Society in Flagstaff, marking the first time each society had held a joint conference. The AZNPS sessions convened in the beautiful new museum and conference center at the Lowell Observatory on Saturday and the American Penstemon Society sessions were held in the Flagstaff Elks Lodge on Friday. The joint symposia were very successful, with approximately 150 attendees. The AZNPS meeting provided many interesting presentations and posters.

A highlight of both sessions was the after-dinner presentation by members of the Hakdagwi:va Peach Springs Chapter, possibly the only Native American native plant society chapter in the country. Chapter members made individual presentations that outlined the botanical story of the Hualapai Tribe, including the plant knowledge the people have inherited from their great grandparents who lived entirely off the land. The group highlighted Hualapai plant knowledge, the land, and age-old Hualapai traditions that have sustained the people since the earliest times. The information presented described significant native plants through the lens of basketry and other uses, examining the crucial role that plant resources acquisition has played in Hualapai culture and knowledge, fine-tuned and perfected over millennia.



Carrie Cannon, president of the Peach Springs Chapter, with tribal members who made presentations at the symposium

Arizona Native Plant Society Botany 2027 Symposium

Early plans are underway for the Botany 2027 Symposium, which will be held tentatively on a weekend in March at a location yet to be determined. This will be a special meeting as it will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Arizona Native Plant Society! Presentations and posters will be presented on Saturday, followed by a catered buffet dinner and after-dinner speaker/program. On Sunday, guided field trips to various areas in the vicinity of the meeting site will be offered. Specific details for the meeting will be issued shortly.

Introduction to Grasses Workshop



Grass Class offered in 2024 at the University of Arizona Herbarium

The “Grass Class” is a two-day workshop jointly sponsored by the Arizona Native Plant Society and the University of Arizona Herbarium. This year’s workshop will take place on October 9 and October 16, 2026, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM at the Herbarium on the U of A Campus. Enrollment is limited to 20 participants, and the cost is \$40.00. This class is intended for botanists and natural resources practitioners who have a need to identify grasses in their work, and for serious amateurs who want to expand their botanical skills. You will learn the basic biology and morphology of grasses and will put that knowledge to work identifying living specimens of some representative local grasses. You will practice using a dichotomous key for grass ID, and will be introduced to resources to help you expand your knowledge of these essential plants. Registration is first-come,

first-served. To register, email to Doug Ripley at jdougripley@gmail.com. Following your registration we will send you more details on how to pay the course fee, class location, course outline, and other details.



From left: black grama, desert wheatgrass, and deer grass. Photos: Max Licher

Chapter News

Cochise Chapter



The chapter returns! We are pleased to announce that the Cochise Chapter is being brought back to life! A very successful meeting was held on October 11, 2025, 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. For more information, contact Amy Metz (amy13jsa@gmail.com).

Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff Chapter offers in-person meetings 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 and are held at the Northern Arizona University Biology Sciences Building, Room 328. Street parking is available nearby.

Some of the meetings have been recorded and can be viewed the Flagstaff Chapter's Facebook or at The Arizona Native Plant Society. For details about upcoming meetings, please see our email distribution list (naris123@cs.com), Facebook page, or AZNPS.com.

Register in advance once in order to attend any of the meetings virtually:
(<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gWhRf79ZSEuoMH8rpAf9Ig>)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Use the link Zoom sends or the passcode Flagstaff! to join the meeting.

Chapter Offices

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

Meetings

Tuesday, September 15, 7:00 PM. Shannon Lencioni, Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife: *Status Report on Two Rare Cacti on the Navajo Nation*



From top: *P. bradyi*
and *P. peeblesianus*
var. *fickeiseniae*.
Photos: Daniela
Roth

Shannon will provide a report on two tiny, rare cacti that grow on the Navajo Nation: Brady's Pincushion Cactus (*Pediocactus bradyi*) and Fickeisen Plains Cactus (*Pediocactus peeblesianus* var. *fickeiseniae*), a northern Arizona endemic. This presentation will provide an update of the four monitoring sites, including survivorship, mortality, recruitment, and reproductive output.

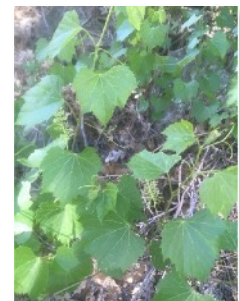
Shannon is the botanist for the Navajo Natural Heritage Program. She has worked within the Colorado Plateau since 2018, and has spent several seasons working on vegetation crews in eastern Nevada and the Wyoming rangeland. In her free time she is found either in the garden, baking pastries, or enjoying the backcountry with her partner and dog.

Tuesday, October 20, 7:00 PM. Riley Jackson and Helena Miera



Desert almond

Riley and Helena are graduate students at NAU. They will discuss their research on desert almond (*Prunus fasciculata*) and Arizona grape (*Vitis arizonica*).



Arizona grape

Field Trips

Please watch for specific details. Carpooling is usually available.

Hakdagwi:va Peach Springs Chapter



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

Chapter Offices

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

Phoenix Chapter



The Phoenix chapter has virtual members meeting on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please join our email list using this link (<https://tinyurl.com/54p6zche>) to receive the registration link for monthly meetings and notifications about upcoming events.

Join our email list using this link (<https://tinyurl.com/54p6zche>).

Follow us at facebook.com/aznpsphoenix and Instagram at @aznpsphoenix.

Contact: (phoenixaznps@gmail.com).

The chapter has a Discord! Members are encouraged to join and collaborate (<https://discord.gg/cMAhVQw6MR>).

Chapter Offices

President: Daniela Howe (imdanielahowe@gmail.com); Treasurer: Kevin Brown; Secretary: Kathleen McCoy. We are currently seeking someone to help run our social media accounts.

Field Trips

Botanical Hikes: With the cooler weather in fall, we will start hosting hikes again. We will do a monthly hike at a rotating location in the valley. We provide a field guide on local plants and magnification tools. Please check the Events page on the AZNPS website for more details. Hikes are rated easy to moderate and about 2.5 miles long.

September 27: Shadow Mountain

October 25: Papago Park

November 15: North Mountain

Volunteer Opportunity

Once a month, in partnership with the Maricopa Native Seed Library, we will be building seed packets and packing them with native seeds. These seed packets are for the library to hand out to the community. All materials are provided; please check the Events page on the AZNPS website to see details. For more information, visit the [seed library](https://libguides.maricopa.edu/seed) (<https://libguides.maricopa.edu/seed>).

Please reach out to phoenixaznps@gmail.com if you are interested in helping build educational content or leading a volunteer effort. We are trying to collaborate with several other conservation groups in the valley and could always use more help.

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

President: Sue Smith; Steering Committee: Jeannie Tutone and Sara Vincent. We can be reached at (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) to join our mailing list or for any other questions.

Chapter Offices

President: Robin Kulibert; Vice President: Rick Kulibert

Tonto Basin Chapter



The 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) to receive up-to-date information and meeting reminders. You can also visit our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts for additional information.

Chapter Offices

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

Tucson Chapter



Monthly chapter meetings featuring local speakers are held the second Thursday of the month at the ENR2 building (Environmental and Natural Resources 2), 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. You do not need to be a member to join these programs.

The 6th Street parking garage is available for a fee. Alternatively, there is a surface lot at W 6th St and N Fremont Ave, which is free.

If you are not on our mailing list and wish to attend one of our meetings on Zoom, email us (nativeplantstucson@gmail.com) to request the Zoom link. Videos of past meetings can be viewed on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSVroOi6enVYcI2CSHTfw) (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVBSVroOi6enVYcI2CSHTfw>). To receive notices of field trips, chapter meetings, and other events, send a message to the chapter [email](#).

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

Chapter Offices

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

Fall Kickoff!

On September 10, the Tucson Chapter will inaugurate its fall season at Molino Basin, a lovely woodland on the slopes of the lower Santa Catalina Mountains. At 3:30 Lyn Loveless and John Schering will lead a plant ramble. At 5:00 we will break for a picnic. The board will provide the sandwiches; attendees are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Due to summer rains in the region, we are looking forward to many amazing finds. Maybe there will even be water in the creek!

RSVP for this event to nativeplantstucson@gmail.com with "Molino Basin" in the subject line.

Meetings

Thursday, October 8, 7:00 PM. Dan Beckman: *Flora of the Rincon Mountains*

Dan is a botanist and field technician with Saguaro National Park. Dan has explored and collected in these mountains since 2017 and plans to publish an updated flora of the region.

Thursday, November 12, 7:00 PM. Chris Robie, Xerces Society: *The Moths of Southeastern Arizona*

Chris will speak about the moths of our region, highlighting their connections to the local flora and ecosystems.

Thursday, December 10, 7:00 PM: Members Showcase

The theme of this meeting is crafty garden projects. Perhaps you make your own seed-collecting or starting kits, yard art, pots, trellises, labels, or signs for your plants. Please think of sharing your creativity in a 10 - 15 minute presentation. For more information, contact Susan Husband (sushus12@gmail.com) or 520 327 0405.

Upper Gila Chapter



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

Chapter Offices

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). Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/AZNPSwhitemountain) for updates and weekly native plants reports (<https://www.facebook.com/AZNPSwhitemountain>).

Chapter Offices

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) and ask to be put on our list.

Chapter Offices

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

Welcome New Chapter Members!

Cochise: Mike Doyen, Dominic Esqueda, Sherri and Michael Murphy

Flagstaff: Madeleine Bryant, Jaclyn Corbin, Jalyn Gearries, Keya Hanson, Alexandra R Kulig, Emily Manne-Nichols

Phoenix: Ruth Becerra, Audrey Eaton, Cherry Farrell, Cameron Gainer, Angela Judd, Michael Kohner, Jesuslene Ring

Tucson: Joe Black, Terry Hodge, Gerold Kaplan, Susan Marihugh, Jennifer Nash, Karen Parke, Nala Rogers, Jonathan Sapan, Ellen Sosin, Don Swann, Robert Thomas

White Mountain: Amy Richerson



Walkingstick cactus (*Cylindropuntia spinosior*). Photo: Lyn Loveless

For More Information, Contact the Chapter OfficersOr visit the AZNPS [website \(www.aznativeplantsociety.org\)](http://www.aznativeplantsociety.org).**AZNPS Headquarters**Administrator: Pat Sanchezarizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com**Cochise Chapter**Acting President: Amy Metzamy13jsa@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Vacant

Flagstaff ChapterPresident: Kirstin Phillipsflagstaffaznps@gmail.comContact: Susan Holidaynaris123@cs.com

Treasurer: Patti Van Tuyl

Presentations/Field Trips: Barbara Phillips

Peach Springs ChapterPresident: Carrie CannonCarrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov

Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez

Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

Phoenix Chapter

President: Daniela Howe

phoenixaznps@gmail.com

Vice President: vacant

Treasurer: Thiery Haynesworth

Prescott ChapterPresident: Sue SmithPrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com**Santa Cruz Chapter**President: Robin Kulibertsantacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com

Vice President: Rick Kulibert

Tonto Basin ChapterPresident: Becky Settjetontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com

Vice President: Teri Balaska

Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden

Tucson ChapterPresident: Lyn Lovelessnativeplantstucson@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch

Upper Gila ChapterVice President: Diane Drobkauppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna

Treasurer: Julie Davis

White Mountain ChapterPresident: Jess Rollaraznpswhitemountain@gmail.com

Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson

Treasurer: Bob Rollar

Master Gardener: Michelle Straight

Yuma ChapterPresident: Valerie Morrillyumaaznps@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).



ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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Address Service Requested

Arizona Native Plant Society

AZNPS is a 501 (C) (3) organization

Your membership is tax-deductible, minus \$12 for *Plant Press Arizona*

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| ☐ New | ☐ Renewal |
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| ☐ \$35 Family, \$60 family for 2 years | ☐ \$50 Organization |
| ☐ \$75 Commercial | ☐ \$100 Plant Lover |
| ☐ \$500 Patron | ☐ \$1,000 Lifetime |

Preferred Chapter:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Cochise | ☐ Flagstaff | ☐ Peach Springs | ☐ Phoenix | ☐ Prescott | ☐ Santa Cruz |
| ☐ Tonto Basin | ☐ Tucson | ☐ Upper Gila | ☐ White Mountain | ☐ Yuma | |

Members with email access will receive email notice when new *Happenings* newsletter and *Plant Press Arizona* issues are posted online. **Please indicate if you prefer to receive *Plant Press Arizona* via postal mail.**

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