



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	Doug Ripley	aznpscochise@gmail.com
Flagstaff	Susan Holiday	naris123@cs.com
Peach Springs	Carrie Cannon	Carrie.Cannon@hualapai-nsn.gov
Phoenix	Lisa Rivera	aznpsphoenix@gmail.com
Prescott	Sue Smith	PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com
Santa Cruz	Robin Kulibert	santacruz.aznps@gmail.com
Tonto Basin	Becky Settje	tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com
Tucson	Jack Dash	nativeplantstucson@gmail.com
Upper Gila	Nathan Cline	uppergilaaznps@gmail.com
White Mountain	Jess Rollar	aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com
Yuma	Valerie Morrill	yumaaznps@gmail.com

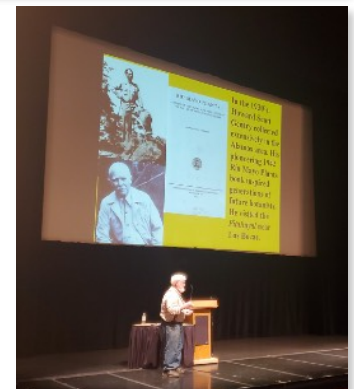
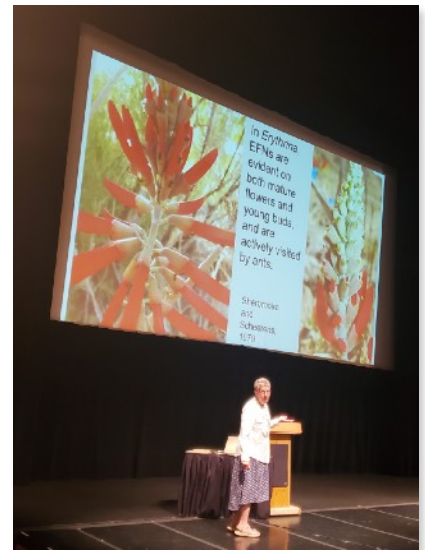
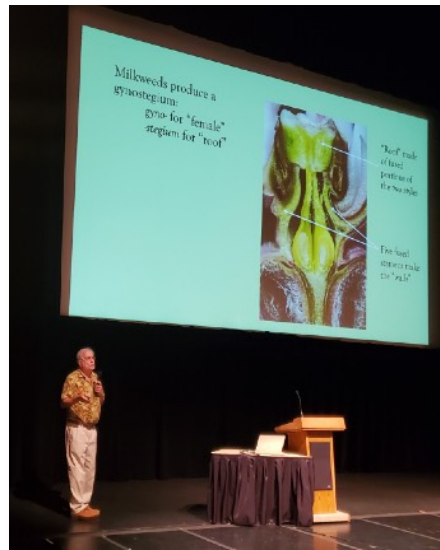


The 20th Annual Arizona Botany Meeting

Following a five-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic and other limitations, the Society was finally able to hold an in-person annual botany meeting at the Pima Community College (West Campus) August 17 - 19.

The program, which was attended by approximately 145 people, included excellent presentations by 14 individuals along with poster sessions presented by seven individuals and organizations. Three guided field trips were offered on the second day of the conference: 1) Texas Canyon Nature Preserve at the Amerind Foundation led by Liz Loveless and Sue Rutman; 2) “King Canyon Plants and Petroglyphs” led by Jack Dash; and 3) “The Return of Natives to Romero Canyon” led by John Scheuring.

The 2025 Annual Botany meeting is scheduled to be held at the Desert Botanical Gardens in Phoenix on May 7 and 8.



Clockwise from top left: Carrie Cannon, Gene Thomas, Lyn Loveless, Tom Van Defender, Jack Dash, John Scheuring

Chapter News

Cochise Chapter



Unfortunately, the Cochise Chapter remains in an inactive status, as explained in the last “Happenings” newsletter. Chapter president Doug Ripley has continued to find a way to return the Chapter to an active status but without success. The principal need is for volunteers to serve in the various officer positions, especially the president. Doug Ripley has been the chapter president since its inception in 2010 and now finds it extremely difficult to continue in that role single-handedly. Furthermore, he plans to move from Cochise County within the next six months. Efforts at recruiting members to help run the chapter have been unsuccessful. Consequently, the Cochise Chapter will remain in an inactive status.

Chapter Offices

President: Douglas Ripley (jdougripley@gmail.com); Vice President: vacant; Secretary: Deann Sanner (longeyesone@gmail.com), Treasurer: Pat Sullivan.



Sonoran Desert. Photo: Shelley Silva

Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff Chapter offers in-person meetings this year with the option to watch from home via Zoom. The meetings will still take place on the third Tuesday of the month, March through October, at 7:00 PM.

We have a new location! The meetings are now being held at Highgate Senior Living Center at 1831 N Jasper Dr. on McMillan Mesa. Park anywhere in the parking lot or on the street. Buzz to be let in if the door is locked and come upstairs to the second floor.

Some of the meetings have been recorded and can be viewed the Flagstaff Chapter's Facebook or at The Arizona Native Plant Society website or YouTube channel. 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://uso2web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsfumpqjkqG9Pfnq_NUM33A-2Ncv9G9NA2

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining 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 17, 7:00 PM: Mariola Barrera. *Poa fendleriana* *Demography and Fecundity*



Poa fendleriana. Photo: Max Licher

Perennial grasses are key components of ponderosa pine forest ecosystems yet there is little information on their life history and populations (Bakker and Moore 2007, Bakker et al. 2010). Studies about plant population dynamics are useful for understanding a species' population structure and for predicting the impacts of disturbances such as harvesting, fire, grazing, and drought. Demography is used to study population dynamics by examining how populations change over time using birth rates, death rates, and life expectancies (Freckleton 1999). Understanding the population dynamics of the understory plants, in particular the demography of dominant perennial grass species, will enable managers and scientists to consider how environmental change, disturbances, and restoration treatments will affect the understory plant communities

For my project, I will use a long-term data set from within the ponderosa pine-bunchgrass ecosystem on the Coconino National Forest near Flagstaff, Arizona, to investigate the demography of a dominant perennial bunchgrass, mutton bluegrass (*Poa fendleriana* (Steud.) Vasey). This network of fine-grained (1-m²) permanent chart quadrats was remeasured annually from 2002-2022, for a total of 21 consecutive years (Bakker and Moore 2007, Bakker et al. 2008, Laughlin et al. 2009, Strahan et al. 2015, Moore et al. 2022). I will develop a size-based life table using data from 2002-2023 to estimate survival (and mortality), growth (from the plant basal areas over time), and life expectancies for this species. I will determine if this species' population has been increasing, decreasing, or staying steady over the past 22 years. Lastly, I will collect reproduction (fecundity) data, such as number of flower stalks, maximum flowering height, and glume counts from the individual mutton bluegrass plants growing on these quadrats, which will increase the precision of my demography model.

Mariola Barrera is a Senior in the School of Forestry at NAU, pursuing a certificate in Forest Health and Ecological Restoration as well as a minor in Biology. She received her Associates of Applied Science in Natural Resource and Environmental Sustainability at Phoenix College and is also a certified Master Gardener of Northern Arizona. She currently works for the Ecological Restoration Institute as a research assistant, for Dr. Margaret M. Moore in the ecology lab in Forestry, as well as for Dr. Tina Ayers in Biology. Her primary interest is merging her passion for botany and forestry, as she has an infinite curiosity of knowing the plants within the landscape, how they function, their relationships, and how it all ties into the intricate web of ecological dynamics as it pertains to management and for her own knowledge.

Tuesday, October 15, 7:00 PM: National Park Service Inventory and Monitoring



Photo: NPS

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



To stay up-to-date on chapter activities and announcements, please subscribe to our **email list** by writing to our chapter email (aznpsphoenix@gmail.com).

We also share a variety of native plant news and information on our Facebook page ([facebook.com/aznpsphoenix](https://www.facebook.com/aznpsphoenix)) and our Chapter web page ([aznps.com/chapters/phoenix](https://www.aznps.com/chapters/phoenix)).

Follow our chapter on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/aznpsphoenix/>) and use the hashtag #aznativeplants on your plant photos to help us showcase the beauty and importance of Arizona native plants!

Chapter Offices

President: Lisa Rivera; Treasurer: Danielle Carlock. We can be reached at aznpsphoenix@gmail.com.

Upcoming Activities

The Phoenix Chapter hosts events periodically throughout the year. Chapter events will be announced to our email list subscribers at least two weeks in advance.

We are in need of members to help plan our activities. If you are interested in assisting with the planning, organizing, or facilitation of Phoenix Chapter events, or would like to learn more, please contact Lisa Rivera (aznpsphoenix@gmail.com).

Prescott Chapter



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

Meetings

Friday, October 4, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Becky Settje. *Tools of the Trade*

Learn about websites and books to help identify Arizona native plants and practice using a hand lens. Following the presentation, we will use our new skills to identify some native plants in the chapter president's garden. Location: 268 E Stephen's Way, Tonto Basin.

Friday, November 1, 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Kenda Svoboda. *Grasses of the Mazatzal Foothills*

Kenda Svoboda from the Payson Forest Service will lead us in a grass walk at the Deer Creek Trailhead located at the intersection of Highway 87 and Highway 188, south of Rye. Bring your hand lens, if you have one, and have fun learning how to ID grasses in the field.

Tucson Chapter



The Tucson Chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month, from September to May. We resumed in-person meetings in a hybrid format that allows folks to join us on a Zoom interface if they prefer. Watch our [chapter page \(https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/\)](https://aznps.com/chapters/tucson/) on the website for more information.

If you are not on our mailing list and would like the link for a meeting, [email \(nativeplantstucson@gmail.com\)](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com) us 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).

Chapter Offices

President: Jack Dash; Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch; Secretary: Matthew Lutheran

Meetings

Thursday, October 10, 7:00 PM: Douglas Ripley, President, Arizona Native Plant Society. *An Introduction to the History, Geology, Flora, and Fauna of the Dragoon Mountains, Cochise County*

One of the "Lesser Sky Islands" of southeastern Arizona, the Dragoon Mountains possess an incredible history, geology, flora, and fauna. Since retiring to Cochise County in 2008, Doug Ripley and his good friend, well-known Arizona botanist Jim Verrier, have been studying the Dragoon Mountains with a goal of compiling a floristic catalogue and eventually publishing a comprehensive flora of the area. In this talk, Doug will present an introduction to the mountains by summarizing the work he and Jim have accomplished to date using photos taken and data collected during their field work. **Location:** The ENR2 Building, University of Arizona



Dragoons. Photo: Doug Ripley

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).

Chapter Offices

President: Nathan Cline; 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).

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: Mary Rimron

Flagstaff: James Landahl, Kevin Rand

Peach Springs: Chesley Ross, Pam and Chuck Steffen

Phoenix: Jen Urso, Lauren Bearfield, Danna Saunders

Prescott: Jo Gloves, Keith Heisler, Matthew Halldorson, Cheryl Casey

Tonto Basin: Dyana Hesson

Tucson: Erin Creekmur, Blainey Korff, Ingrid McCarty, Patricia Carillo, Charles Benito, Crystal Richmond, Hannah Woelke

Yuma: Jeremy Welch

For More Information, Contact the Chapter OfficersOr visit the AZNPS [website \(www.aznativeplantsociety.org\)](http://www.aznativeplantsociety.org).**AZNPS Headquarters**Administrator: [Pat Sanchez](mailto:Pat.Sanchez@arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com) arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com**Cochise Chapter**President: [Douglas Ripley](mailto:Douglas.Ripley@aznpscochise@gmail.com) aznpscochise@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary Deanna Sanner

Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

Flagstaff ChapterPresident: [Kirstin Phillips](mailto:Kirstin.Phillips@flagstaffaznps@gmail.com) flagstaffaznps@gmail.comContact: [Susan Holiday](mailto:Susan.Holiday@cs.com) naris123@cs.com

Treasurer: Tina Ayers

Presentations/Field Trips: Barbara Phillips

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

Secretary: Shaileen Gonzalez

Treasurer: Alicia Cesspooch

Phoenix ChapterPresident: [Lisa Rivera](mailto:Lisa.Rivera@aznpsphoenix@gmail.com) aznpsphoenix@gmail.com

Treasurer: Danielle Carlock

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

Vice President: Rick Kulibert

Tonto Basin ChapterPresident: [Becky Settje](mailto:Becky.Settje@tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com) tontobasinnativeplants@gmail.com

Vice President: Teri Balaska

Lead Botanist: Eric Sjoden

Tucson ChapterPresident: [Jack Dash](mailto:Jack.Dash@nativeplantstucson@gmail.com) nativeplantstucson@gmail.com

Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch

Secretary: Matthew Lutheran

Upper Gila ChapterContact: [Nathan Cline](mailto:Nathan.Cline@uppergilaaznps@gmail.com) uppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Vice President: Diane Drobka

Secretaries: Julie Plath and Clara Gauna

Treasurer: Julie Davis

White Mountain ChapterPresident: [Jess Rollar](mailto:Jess.Rollar@aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com) aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com

Education Coordinator: Anita Thompson

Treasurer: Bob Rollar

Master Gardener: Michelle Straight

Yuma ChapterPresident: [Valerie Morrill](mailto:Valerie.Morrill@yumaaznps@gmail.com) 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.Silva@shelley.a.silva@gmail.com).



ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY
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- \$35 Family, \$60 family for 2 years
- \$75 Commercial
- \$500 Patron
- Renewal
- \$30 Individual, \$50 Individual for 2 years
- \$50 Organization
- \$100 Plant Lover
- \$1,000 Lifetime

Preferred Chapter:

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

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Tucson, AZ. 85717

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