

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 Chapter: Doug Ripley aznpscochise@gmail.com

Flagstaff Chapter: Susan Holiday naris123@cs.com

Phoenix Chapter: Lisa Rivera aznpsphoenix@gmail.com

Prescott Chapter: Sue Arnold PrescottAZNPS@gmail.com

Santa Cruz Chapter: Robin Kulibert Santacruz.aznps@gmail.com

Tucson Chapter: Lyn Loveless lyndloveless@gmail.com

Upper Gila Chapter: Kara Barron uppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Yuma Chapter: Deirdre MacDonald yumanativeplant@gmail.com



Chapter News

Cochise Chapter



In normal circumstances, we have monthly programs on the third Friday of each month from September through May at 5:00 PM in the Cochise County Community Development Office conference room, 4001 Foothills Dr. (corner of Highway 92 and E. Foothills Drive), Sierra Vista. With the start of the Covid-19 pandemic we have been holding our monthly meetings virtually via Zoom Conferencing on Friday of each month at 7:00 PM. We will continue our remote meetings probably to the end of 2021. To attend a meeting please send an email to Doug Ripley (aznpscochise@gmail.com) requesting an attendance link which he will email to you. Please note that most of our monthly virtual meetings are recorded and that you can access them on the YouTube Channel link: http://vew.me/aznpsyt

The Chapter has established a Facebook website (http://www.facebook.com/AZNPSCochise) where much useful information about the chapter and its members is posted.

Chapter Offices

President: Douglas Ripley (aznpscochise@gmail.com); Vice President: Elliott Hendricks (emhndrks@yahoo.com); Secretary: Deann Sanner (longeyesone@gmail.com); Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

Meetings

We will not be holding our monthly meeting during June, July, or August. The first virtual meeting of the new season will be held on Friday, September 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM via Zoom conferencing.

Field Trips

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel our September 2021 Chiricahua Mountains Field Trip, as the Southwestern Research Station does not anticipate opening by September. We may be able to conduct a field trip later in the summer which will be announced on the Chapter Facebook website.

Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff chapter holds monthly presentations on the **third Tuesday** of the month at **7:00 PM**. Our presentations at this time are all virtual via Zoom. In many cases, meetings are also live-streamed to our Facebook page. Links to the online programs will be sent to chapter members on the e-list, and are available on request by emailing marist23@cs.com. Meetings are announced on our Facebook page (Arizona Native Plant Society Flagstaff Chapter) and on the calendar on the AZNPS website (aznps.com). Many of our meetings are being videotaped; the videos will be posted, when available, on our AZNPS YouTube Channel.

Meetings

Tuesday, June 15: Dr. Judith Bronstein. Binders full of Women: Female Scientists in The American Naturalist, 1867-1917

In this talk, Dr. Judie Bronstein will look at the women who were publishing in a leading biological journal, *The American Naturalist*, in the first fifty years of its publication (1867-1917). How did they enter science, and under what conditions were they able to persist, either as professionals or as publishing amateurs? What lessons can we take away for how to increase diversity in science today?

Judie Bronstein is University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at University of Arizona. She served as the first (and, to date, only) female Editor-in-Chief of *The American Naturalist*, the oldest still-publishing scientific journal in the United States. She has a strong interest in the history of science.



Tuesday, July 20: Rachel Burke. Mapping Nectarivorous Bat Habit from the Nectary Up: Implications for Agave Conservation in the Southwestern U.S.



The lesser long-nosed bat (Leptonycteris yerbabuenae), Mexican long-nosed bat (Leptonycteris nivalis), and the Mexican long-tongued bat (Choeronycteris mexicana) undertake long-distance migrations from south-central Mexico to the southwestern United States. Following a corridor of seasonal food availability, these bats play important ecological roles as pollinators and seed dispersers throughout their ranges. While these bats feed on many species of plants throughout their ranges, Palmer's agave (Agave palmeri) is among one of the most important food sources in the summer portion of their range. As part of a landscape-scale project to better understand summer habitat and inform management for these bat species, I mapped the distribution of Agave palmeri at multiple scales and assessed summer habitat quality via plant

density and potential nectar production. This information can help managers better protect important foraging grounds for these bats and identify potential restoration sites for *Agave palmeri*.

Rachel Burke is a biologist based in Las Cruces, New Mexico. She has a master's in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Ecology, as well as in Applied Geography, both from New Mexico State University. She currently works as a wildlife biologist for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and has spent several years

Tuesday, August 17: Kate Watters. Creating a Pollinator Garden: Backyard Beauty, Biodiversity, and Resilience



Kate is a farmer, floral designer, writer and visual artist who is wild about plants. She makes her livelihood from Wild Heart Farm, a one-acre oasis in Rimrock, next to Beaver Creek. She grows flowers, medicinal herbs, and pollinator habitat, and hosts plant gatherings. She worked in service to wild plant communities for 20 years in the Grand Canyon and across the Colorado Plateau, always aware and curious about plant/pollinator interactions. Kate has developed land-based artist residencies and workshops and co-curated exhibits with scientists and artists to advocate for pollinators and public lands. To follow her entrepreneurial and artistic

Phoenix Chapter



To stay up to date on Chapter activities and announcements, please subscribe to our **email list** by contacting <u>aznpsphoenix@gmail.com</u>.

We also share a variety of native plant news and information on our **Facebook page** (<u>facebook.com/aznpsphoenix</u>) and our **Chapter webpage** (<u>aznps.com/chapters/phoenix</u>).

Follow <u>@aznpsphoenix</u> on **Instagram** 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, Vice President: Pam McMillie, Treasurer: Danielle Carlock, Secretary: Kathy Balman. We can be reached at aznpsphoenix@gmail.com

Upcoming Summer Activities

In past years, the Phoenix Chapter typically took a hiatus over the summer due to hot weather, busy schedules, and seasonal travel. However, with the convenience of virtual events via Zoom, we will host at least one Chapter meeting this summer. So, whether you'll be near or far in the coming months, we look forward to staying connected and hope to "see" you then!

Summer Chapter Meeting (Date TBD) – Book Discussion: We will discuss a book chosen by members. More information coming soon.

Chapter events will be announced to our email list subscribers at least two weeks in advance. So please be on the lookout for messages from us throughout the summer for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Plant List Focus Group

We are seeking volunteers to assist in the development of our chapter's native landscaping plant list, such as:

- Providing feedback on plant availability at local nurseries and seed suppliers.
- Letting us know which information you find helpful when deciding which native plants to use in your landscaping.

This is a virtual volunteer opportunity, with communication occurring via email or Zoom meetings. If you are interested in helping us develop the plant list, please contact aznpsphoenix@gmail.com.

Community / Citizen Science Opportunities

Please visit the <u>Phoenix Chapter web page</u> for a wide variety of community / citizen science projects that you can participate in at home, during a walk in your neighborhood, or while exploring Arizona's public lands.

Recap of Spring Activities

Latest Plant Profiles

Every month we post a new Plant Profile to our blog, written by Kathleen M. McCoy, a Master Naturalist and AZNPS Phoenix Chapter member. Each Plant Profile highlights a plant native to Arizona and/or the Sonoran Desert. Each one also has an accompanying version written in Spanish. The latest Plant Profiles feature New Mexico thistle (Cirsium neomexicanum), Engelmannis hedgehog cactus (Echinocereus engelmannii), and Sacred Datura (Datura wrightii).

We hope you enjoy and look forward to the Plant Profiles! If there's a particular native plant you would love to see featured, please let us know by messaging <u>aznpsphoenix@gmail.com</u>.





New Blog Feature: There's No Such Thing as Too Many Books!

We are excited to announce a new feature on our Chapter blog: book reviews! Our Vice President, Pam McMillie, has collected many native gardening, botany, and nature books over the years. Now she's sharing her insights with us through periodic book reviews. The <u>first one</u> details the book *Attracting Native Pollinators* by the Xerces Society.

Seed Ball Pilot Project Update

In June 2020, we began a pilot project in collaboration with the <u>Maricopa Native Seed Library</u> to study the success of using seeds balls as a method to add native plants to home landscapes. Seed balls are widely used, but there are few published studies about them. So we teamed up to study their germination success in various residential locations throughout the Valley.

The seed balls contained a mix of 13 native species. Thirty participants "planted" two seeds balls at their home in July 2020. We followed up with participants monthly to monitor any germination that appeared to be the result of the seed balls. The poor monsoon and winter rainy season hindered germination, as the seed balls require several heavy rainfalls (or regular supplemental watering) to fully disintegrate into the soil.

March 2021 was our last formal month of data collection. We greatly appreciate the time and effort participants dedicated to this project over nine months. Overall, there were few reports of germination which could be due to a variety of factors, such as the drought conditions, extreme summer heat, poor seed viability, or the method used to make the seed balls. We will use all of the data collected to write a final report about the pilot project, which we will share later this summer.

For more information about the seed ball project, please contact Danielle Carlock at seedlibrary@scottsdalecc.edu.





Two seed balls successes: Spreading fleabane (*Erigeron divergens*) on the left and Desert chia (*Salvia columbariae*) on the right. It appears that amended soil may have assisted germination. Photo credits: Judy T. (left) and Jessica Nguyen (right)

Book Discussion: Bringing Nature Home

At our Chapter meeting in March, we had an engaging discussion about Douglas Tallamy's book, <u>Bringing Nature Home</u>. While the book primarily focuses on the Eastern U.S., the overall theme is the importance and need for native plants in home landscapes across the country to support healthy ecosystems. Tallamy also highlights the vital role of insect herbivores in the food web and provides regional recommended plant lists. We highly recommend this book!

City Nature Challenge 2021: Greater Phoenix Area

At our April Chapter meeting, we learned about the City Nature Challenge from guest speaker Jeny Davis, coordinator of the Desert Botanical Garden's Metro Phoenix EcoFlora. Many Chapter members then participated in this global bioblitz by using iNaturalist to document and identify plants, animals, and other living creatures found in greater Phoenix.

To see the wide variety of nature observations from the City Nature Challenge 2021: Greater Phoenix Area, visit the project page on iNaturalist.

Prescott Chapter



To stay up to date on chapter events, you can be added to our email list and/ or follow our Facebook page. Send an email to PrescottAZNPS@gmail.com to join our mailing list or for any other contact. Follow us at www.facebook.com/AZNPSPrescott to keep up-to-date on chapter events.

The Prescott Chapter is currently in a "dormant" state and has no events planned. Please check out the other chapters for Zoom meetings or other online events that you may find interesting!

Chapter Offices

Secretary: Patricia Hils; Treasurer: Sue Arnold

Santa Cruz Chapter



Monthly presentations are held on the **third Thursday** of the month from **6:00** - **7:30 PM**. Our presentations at this time are all virtual via Zoom.

The URL is <u>zoom.us</u> (not <u>zoom.com</u>). The meeting ID is 874 9175 9629 and the "waiting room" security function will be used.

To stay up to date on chapter events, you can be added to our email list and/or follow our Facebook page. Send an email to santacruz.aznps@gmail.com to join our mailing list or for any other contact.

Chapter Offices

President: Robin Kulibert (crobint60@gmail.com); Vice President: Rick Kulibert (santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com)

Tucson Chapter



The Tucson chapter holds its monthly meetings on the **second Thursday** of the month, from **September - May**, at **7:00 PM**. Because of COVID-19, our meetings at this time are all virtual via Zoom. In many cases, meetings are also live-streamed to our Facebook page (see below). Links to the online programs will be sent to chapter members on the e-list and are available on request by emailing native-plantstucson@gmail.com. Meetings are announced on our Facebook page (Arizona Native Plant Society Tucson Chapter) and on the Tucson Chapter page of the AZNPS website (aznps.com). Many of our meetings are being videotaped, and the videos will be posted, when available, on our AZNPS Tucson YouTube Channel, at https://www.youtube.com/ channel/UCVBSV1oOi6enVYcI2CShTfw

Chapter Offices

President: Lyn Loveless (lyndloveless@gmail.com); Vice-President: Jack Dash (pjdash23@gmail.com); Treasurer: Jackie Taylor; Secretary: vacant

To communicate with the chapter officers, write to nativeplantstucson@gmail.com.

Upper Gila Chapter



Chapter activities, including meetings, have not been finalized. To keep up to date on activity dates as they are finalized, please contact us at uppergilaaznps@gmail.com.

Chapter Offices

President: Kara Barron; Vice President: Diane Drobka; Secretaries: Julie Plath & Clara Gauna; Treasurer: Julie Davis. Contact: uppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Yuma Chapter



The Yuma chapter has no planned events for the summer months. Should events of interest arise, notice will be sent via our email list and/or Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/YumaAZNPS. We plan to reconvene on a regular basis October through April, with in-person meetings, field trips, and projects. Please join our email list at yumanativeplant@gmail.com in order to receive notifications of our upcoming events.

Chapter Offices

President: Valerie Morrill; Vice President: Karen Reichhardt; Secretary: Deirdre MacDonald (yumanativeplant@gmail.com); Treasurer: Tom Fox

Conservation Committee Report

John Scheuring Conservation Committee Chairman

Giving Native Species a Chance in the Lower Romero Canyon

During the 1990s and early 2000s, Fountain Grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) became a popular landscape plant in the Phoenix and Tucson area golf resorts and upscale neighborhoods.

Almost immediately, Fountain Grass went feral and spread along alleys and roadsides. Fountain Grass quickly invaded wet riparian canyons of the Tontos including the Superstitions, Santa Catalinas, and Rincons. Fountain Grass invasion added to the already common riparian invasives Bermuda Grass and Lehmann's and Boer Lovegrasses.

Starting in 2016, AZNPS-led volunteers took on Fountain Grass herbicide spot spray of Cargadera and Alamo canyons on the western slope of the Santa Catalinas and by 2000, the weeds were under control and the native plants were recovering. We do continue to monitor and clear invasives from those canyons. In 2021, AZNPS-led volunteers have taken on 1.1 miles of lower Romero Canyon, also on the Catalinas' Western slope. A unique rainfall pattern this year caused Romero Canyon to run with water since January 1 and by May it is still running at a trickle. The conditions have been ideal to spot-spray invasive species. As in the other canyons, our approach is simply to "spray out the bad guys and leave the good guys."

Lower Romero canyon is easy to access and hike to starting in Catalina State Park, so we have managed to follow up with optimal frequency spot spraying Fountain Grass and other invasives as they emerged until the end of April. Besides Fountain Grass, we have also been targeting Lehmann's and Boer's Lovegrasses, Natal Grass, Wild Oats, Bermuda Grass, Sahara Mustard, Ripgut Bromegrass, Canary Grasses, and some Red Brome in areas where it is choking out the edges of riparian pools. The upshot has been a welcome return of Deer Grass as the main native mid-riparian species, explosions of Monkey flowers along the edges of pools, various rush species, and prolific sprouting of Fern acacias and Hummingbird Trumpet plants. We are anticipating a nice layering of various native species as their emergence and flowering time arrive during the season.

The New Fountain Grass Awareness Brochure

Fountain Grass was listed as an Arizona Noxious weed in 2020. Yet public and governmental awareness is very low, as people are used to seeing it in landscapes and it looks nice. In March of this year, the Tucson and Phoenix AZNPS chapters worked together with other sister organizations to draft and publish a Fountain Grass awareness tri-fold brochure. A Spanish version will soon appear.

The brochure can be downloaded from aznps.com

The brochure is being disseminated in the governments of the City and Tucson and Pima County. A Tucson Conservation Committee is now being formed. Our initial task will be the building of public awareness and action to remove Fountain Grass and replace it with native species. We will target HOAs, businesses, and individual homeowners.







Clockwise from top left: Page 1 Fountain grass brochure; page 2 fountain grass brochure; spot-spraying of fountain grass in Romero Canyon; recovery in Romero Canyon

Botany 2021 Conference

Preliminary plans are being developed for this year's Botany Conference. It will be held virtually on the evenings of September 27, 28, and 29. Stay tuned for more details! Please contact Doug Ripley (aznpscochise@gmail.com) if you have any questions on the conference, suggestions, or wish to volunteer to help run the meeting.

The Plant Press Name Change

As discussed in the last *Happenings*, the Board of Directors was considering changing the name of our journal. At that time the Board solicited input from the members on the proposed name change. A total of nine members replied. Four disagreed with changing the name and 5 were more or less in favor of the change. Several new names were suggested but eventually the Board decided on the name: *Plant Press Arizona* which will be used starting with the spring summer issue, Volume 44 (1). In addition to the new name, our graphic designer Julie St. John will design a new masthead that will incorporate a small amount of Arizona botanical artwork into each issue's cover.

Please discontinue use of the email address <u>aznpsinfo@yahoo.com</u>. Due to changes with the Yahoo service plan, messages sent to that address will no longer be forwarded to <u>arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com</u>, which is the only email account that is now used for the state-wide organization.

Welcome New Chapter Members!

Cochise: Rebecca Deja, Mike Foster, Joni Giacomino, Nancy Mann, Robert Parks, Brian Sanfelici

Flagstaff: Sat Best, Craig Dremann, Erica Fraley, Suzanna Hubbard, Paul Whitefield

Phoenix: Wes Brownfield, Von Mark Cruz, Teresa Davis, Rose Enriquez, Susan Ganter, Christopher Geldis, Stephanie Klein, Mary Poste, Rebecca Settje, Pam Shields, Sheryl Thomas, Mia Tramz, Nancy Welch, Alexa Esquivel, Kaylee Delcid, Shawnalea Shelly

Prescott: Mary Ann Weber, Memory Russell

Santa Cruz: Howard Buchanan, Desert Seeders LLC, Therese Hummel, Bets Stover

Tucson: Vanessa Bergenthal, Edda Blume, Mary Busby, Jeannine Crounse, Desert Seeders LLC, Elizabeth Johnson, Les Krammer, William Leja, Peggy Ollerhead, Aaron Peretz, Jenise Porter, Tanya Quist, Alex Schauss, Steve Serling, Mary Anne Viney, Mark Wright, Travis Knowles

Creating a Native Plant Garden During the Pandemic

Diane Drobka

Vice President, Upper Gila Chapter Arizona Native Plant Society

During the pandemic, I used some of my time at home to create a desert island in our front yard. Here's a photo of my garden and a list of the species in it, which has already increased since I took the photo! I thought it would be a weekend project but it took me about a week, not counting my time salvaging chunks of concrete at a dump site. My garden is composed of mainly native plants with a few exceptions, such as Gopher Plant and Red Hot Poker.





FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AZNPS, CONTACT THE CHAPTER OFFICERS

Or visit the AZNPS website: www.aznativeplantsociety.org

AZNPS Headquarters

AZNPS Administrator: Pat Sanchez arizonanativeplantsociety@gmail.com

Cochise Chapter

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Vice President: Elliott Hendricks Secretary: Deanna Sanner

Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

Flagstaff Chapter

Contact: Melissa Amberson Treasurer: Tina Ayers

Presentations/Field Trips: Barbara Phillips

Phoenix Chapter

President: Lisa Rivera aznpsphoenix@gmail.com

Vice President: Pam McMillie Treasurer: Danielle Carlock Secretary: Kathy Balman

Prescott Chapter

Santa Cruz Chapter

Secretary: Patricia Hils PrescottAZNPS@gmail.com
Treasurer: Sue Arnold PrescottAZNPS@gmail.com

President: Robin Kulibert

Vice President: Rick Kulibert santacruz.AZNPS@gmail.com

Tucson Chapter

President: Lyn Loveless lyndloveless@gmail.com

Vice-President: Jack Dash Treasurer: Jackie Taylor Secretary: Vacant

Upper Gila Chapter

Contact: Kara Barron uppergilaaznps@gmail.com

Vice President: Diane Drobka Secretaries: Julie Plath & Clara Gauna

Treasurer: Julie Davis

Yuma Chapter

President: Valerie Morrill vumanativeplant@gmail.com

Vice President: Karen Reichhardt

Secretary: Deirdre MacDonald yumanativeplant@gmail.com

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 e-mail the *Happenings* editor, Shelley Silva, at shelley.a.silva@gmail.com. Photos are always welcome!

Please send information for the newsletter by:

February 1st for March - May events

August 1st for September - November events



ARIZONA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY P.O. Box 41206 Tucson, AZ 85717

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Arizona Native Plant Society AZNPS is a 501 (C) (3) organization Your membership is tax-deductible, minus \$12 for Plant Press

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

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