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 jdougripley@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: Francesca Claverie Santacruz.aznps@gmail.com
- Tucson Chapter: Jessie Byrd jessie_byrd@hotmail.com
- Yuma Chapter: Valerie Morrill aznpsyuma@yahoo.com
A Message from President Doug Ripley

It has been my great pleasure to work with so many talented and dedicated members during my eleven years as a member of the AZNPS. The enthusiasm and passion our members show for Arizona’s rich and diverse native flora inspires friends and family to join our efforts. With almost 500 members, the reach of our influence has spread to a seventh chapter in 2018 and hopes of another in 2020. Our journal *The Plant Press and Happenings* newsletter, annual Botany Meeting, Chiricahua Weekend, and numerous local field trips, native plant habitat restoration projects, chapter meetings, and speaker events are all the products of volunteer collaboration. With just one part-time paid employee, AZNPS continues to thrive on the blood, sweat, and smiles of volunteers.

I invite you to share your talents, step into a new challenge, and link arms with fellow members. Consider how you might assist with the operations that keep our society lively and relevant. Whether you identify as a leader or a follower, your active involvement serving on the Board of Directors, helping to conduct conferences, organizing local gatherings, and producing publications will be a welcome addition at the state and chapter levels and may well provide you with a very satisfying outlet for your special talents. Indeed, recruiting new participants to assist in managing the Society is crucial for our continued growth and success. I hope sincerely you will seriously consider getting actively involved at some level. To find out more about volunteer opportunities contact your Chapter president or any member of the Board of Directors.

Amazon will return 0.5% of your purchase to AZNPS when you designate Arizona Native Plant Society as your AmazonSmile charity. A few easy steps brings continued rewards to AZNPS. Designate AZNPS as your Amazon Smile organization at: [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)
Chapter News

Cochise Chapter

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

Chapter Offices

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

Meetings

Friday, December 20: Holiday Members’ Night

This program will consist of short presentations by individual members on their botanical adventures during 2019. Please contact Doug Ripley (jdougripley@gmail.com, 520-909-3132), if you would like to make a presentation. Following the meeting, we will enjoy holiday refreshments.

Friday, January 17: Bob Parks, Entomologist. Introduction to Our Native Bees

There has been much discussion recently about the colony collapse that affects the Honey bee, which has a great impact on agriculture. The Honey bee (Apis mellifera) is not native to our continent but is an introduced species. When most people hear anything about bees, it is natural for them to think of this species. Most are unaware that there are over 20,000 species of bees throughout the world. Native bees are extremely important to many of our native plants as pollinators. This presentation, illustrated with Bob’s outstanding photographs, will introduce our native bees with the hope that the audience will learn of the great variety of bees, many of which are found in Arizona.
Friday, February 21: Dan Beckman, Saguaro National Park. Rediscoveries and New Flora Additions in the Rincon Mountains High Country

Flagstaff Chapter

Regular evening programs are presented on the third Tuesday of the month, March through October, at 7:00 PM. These take place at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 1601 North San Francisco St. Monthly field trips are usually scheduled for the following weekend, and are announced via e-mail and the Arizona Daily Sun. These events are free and open to the public. Unless otherwise announced, meet for carpooling to field trips at 8:30 AM, at the OneAZ Credit Union parking lot at the southwest corner of Beaver and Butler. Bring sun and/or rain protection, water, snacks, lunch, and a car or gas money for carpooling. For more information, email Barbara Phillips at bagphillips@yahoo.com or call her at (928) 853-3355. The Chapter has established a Facebook website (http://www.facebook.com/AZNPSFlagstaff) where much useful information about the chapter and its members is posted.

The Flagstaff Chapter doesn't have events planned for winter.

Phoenix Chapter

Chapter meetings or events typically take place at 2:00 PM on the second Sunday of each month (September to May). Meeting locations vary, so please take note of the location when events are announced.

You can keep up with us throughout the season on Facebook (facebook.com/aznpsphoenix), our webpage (aznps.com/chapters/phoenix), and Instagram. Follow us at @aznpsphoenix and use the hashtags #aznativeplants and #aznpsphoenix in your plant posts to help us showcase the beauty and importance of Arizona native plants!

Chapter Offices

Annual Chapter elections were held at our October meeting. Our offices are President: Lisa Rivera; Vice President: Natalie Melkonoff; Secretary: Danielle Carlock; Treasurer: Steve Blackwell. We look forward to leading our Chapter with an enjoyable and productive season! Please feel free to contact us at aznpsphoenix@gmail.com.
Recap of August Field Trip

On Sunday, August 11, our members were treated to a tour of the greenline in Tempe’s Papago Park Preserve. Our knowledgeable and passionate guide was Richard Bond, botanist and horticulturist with the City of Tempe Water Department. We were impressed by the amazing work he has done over the past two decades to remove invasive species and to create a riparian habitat that includes primarily native plants. This area truly is a hidden gem!

Richard also gave us a bonus tour of Tempe’s Xeriscape Demonstration Garden. He explained the different planting zones and water-saving practices used in its landscaping. This and other municipal demonstration gardens in the Phoenix area are free and open to the public. We recommend visiting to learn about xeriscaping with native plants and to enjoy the scenery.

Volunteer Opportunities

Various volunteer opportunities are available this season with our Chapter and our partners. These are announced at Chapter meetings and to our email list as details become available. Please contact us if you are interested in learning more.
Recent Meetings

Our September meeting was dedicated to preparing for the new season and incorporating member input into our activities. We discussed possible meeting topics and brainstormed speakers to consider reaching out to. In addition, Chapter member Danielle Carlock presented a poster on the desert native seed library project she is implementing at Scottsdale Community College.

We recently formed a new partnership with the South Mountain Environmental Education Center (SMEEC) in Phoenix. To kick-off this collaboration, the guest speaker at our October meeting was Lisa Herrmann, SMEEC Education Manager. Lisa presented about SMEEC and gave us a tour of the facility. We also learned ways our Chapter can help SMEEC improve their native plant outreach and research, such as through their phenology citizen science project and interpretive displays.

SMEEC is open to the public and offers a variety of self-guided and guided programs. For more information, please see their website at smeec.org. We encourage you to visit and join their mailing list to be notified about special events.

Upcoming Meetings

By popular demand, we are promoting native plant and seed swapping at all of our Chapter meetings! If you have extra potted plants or seeds, share the goodness with others by bringing them to an upcoming meeting. If possible, please label the items with their scientific name.

Our December meeting will be Sunday, Dec 8 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM at SMEEC. In the spirit of giving, this will be a volunteer day for members to collaborate on various projects to support and increase SMEEC’s outreach regarding native plants. Potential ideas include planning a member-led guided walk on their nature trail, helping plan SMEEC’s pollinator demonstration garden, and developing a curriculum for a new SMEEC program.
Directions to SMEEC (10409 S. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85042):

- Take Central Ave south to South Mountain Park.
- Take the first left immediately after the Park entrance gate house.
- The SMEEC Visitor Center is up the hill to the right. There are a few parking spots there (including accessible parking). If full, please park in the large lot below to the left and walk the paved trail to the SMEEC facility.
- The Visitor Center will be closed to the public, but you can access our meeting room through the open door in the courtyard.

Our January meeting will be Sunday, Jan 12 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM at Desert Botanical Garden, 1201 N Galvin Pkwy, Phoenix, AZ 85008 (meeting room TBA). Our guest speaker will be Aireona Raschke, Program Director of the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA). We will learn about CAZCA’s work and how AZNPS collaborates on some of these projects.

In lieu of a Chapter meeting in February, we are tentatively scheduled to have a workshop on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb 9 at SMEEC, presented by CAZCA and the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. Along with volunteers and staff from South Mountain Park, we will learn about the invasive plants that threaten our native habitats and how to identify them. Then, we will be introduced to the Collector app, a program that is being used around the Valley to map the presence of invasive plants in desert parks and open spaces. Training will include hands-on practice with the app out on the trails near SMEEC. More details to come!

Prescott Chapter

To stay up to date on all of our 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 doesn't have events planned for the winter months.

Chapter Offices

Secretary: Patricia Hills, p.hils@q.com; Treasurer: Sue Arnold
Santa Cruz Chapter

The Santa Cruz chapter meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 PM, alternating between Sonoita (at the fire station) and Patagonia (at the BRN offices on 1 School St).

Chapter Offices

President: Francesca Claverie (afclaver@gmail.com); Secretary: Ariana Raley (ariraley@protonmail.com); Treasurer: Perin McNelis

Tucson Chapter

Our chapter has outgrown our former meeting space at the Ward 6 offices. THE NEW LOCATION for our monthly meetings will be at the Environment and Natural Resources Building, on the University of Arizona Campus. The building address is 1064 E Lowell Street, and the building is located between Lowell and 6th Avenue at the corner of Park Avenue. You can find it on a map at https://map.arizona.edu/. Use the magnifying glass icon and search for building number 120, the Dennis Deconcini Environment and Natural Resources Building.

Meetings will begin at 7:00 PM, typically on the second Thursday of each month. There is free parking just south across 6th street or you can use the parking garage next door on Lowell. Garage parking costs $1/ hr after 5:00 PM. (credit cards only). Save a couple bucks and carpool with a friend!

Chapter Offices

President: Jessie Byrd (jessie_byrd@hotmail.com); Vice-President: Andrew Cordery (ecotrot@gmail.com); Treasurer: Jackie Taylor; Secretary: Lyn Loveless (lyndloveless@gmail.com).
Meetings

Thursday, December 12: Daniel Beckman. *Rediscoveries and New Flora Additions in the Rincon Mountains High Country*

Dan is a plant aficionado and a field technician for Saguaro National Park. He will report on recent floristic survey work in the high mountain regions of the Rincons, where he and his collaborators have been working to relocate rare plants and add to the floral understanding of these fantastic, hard-to-reach locations.

Thursday, January 2: Sue Rutman. *Microscanning: The Art and Science of Plants*

Sue is a botanist and a retired naturalist from Organ Pipe National Monument. She has been using microscanning to explore the beauty and the biology of native plants viewed up close, and she will share some of her breathtaking images of the amazing architecture of plants.

Thursday, February 13. Rob Parker. *Chasing Centuries: The Search for Ancient Cultivars Across the Desert Southwest*

Ron will recap his recent book, as he shares his travels and explores the depth and duration of human/agave coevolution across the desert southwest, discovering unusual agaves apparently associated with archaeological sites long since abandoned by residents of extinct ancient cultures.

~ Grants Available for Arizona Botanical Pursuits ~

The Tucson Chapter of AZNPS maintains a grant program through generous bequests from long-time members Horace Miller and Ginny Saylor. The Horace Miller Publication Grant is available to assist with the costs of disseminating original work concerning the biology of native plants of Arizona and northwestern Mexico via printed and/or electronic media. The purpose of the Ginny Saylor Research Grant is to support the costs of active research in the biology of native plants of Arizona and northwestern Mexico, enhancing public understanding of native plants.

The deadline for applications for Research and Publications Grants is November 18, 2019, 11:59pm MST. For more information, and to apply, see the link on the AZNPS web page, under “Resources” or follow this link: [https://aznps.com/grants/](https://aznps.com/grants/)
Activity and Field Trip Reports

Chiricahua Mountains Field Trip and Workshop

The Tucson and Cochise Chapters once again sponsored the annual three-day botanical workshop in the Chiricahua Mountains on September 21-23, 2019. Thirty-eight participants enjoyed staying at the Southwestern Research Station in Portal and participating in lectures, field trips, and a plant identification laboratory. Members from most of the AZNPS Chapters were able to attend, as well as members from New Mexico and Colorado. Fortunately, the later rains in September greatly enhanced the number of plants we encountered in flower.

Grass Identification Workshop

The Cochise and Tucson chapters partnered with the University of Arizona Herbarium to teach a half-day course on grass identification on October 25. The attendees were members of the American Society of Landscape Architects. The course covered the bare essentials of grass morphology, dissection of grass spikelets, recognition of introduced grasses and native grasses suitable for landscaping.
Madera Canyon Field Trip in September

This annual trip for the Tucson Chapter was led by Doug Moore, a naturalist in Madera Canyon. Participants hiked the Carrie Nation Trail in upper Madera Canyon to the Carrie Nation Mine. In addition to a wide diversity of native plants, the hikers were greeted at their lunch site by a young black bear, who apparently was not impressed with the lunch menu and ambled away. On their return, one hiker pointed out yellow bluestem (*Botryochloa ischaenum*) along the trail. This is an explosively noxious weed that has engulfed most of Cochise County grasslands in just a few years. Doug Moore contacted his USFS “go-to” man about this and set up a meeting of the Santa Rita/Santa Cruz USFS Supervisor and the range specialist the following week. Subsequently, yellow bluestem was identified all the way from the USFS property line to the upper trailhead. The USFS will bring in a 500 gallon tank with a long hose and spot-spray the first 90 ft of roadside all the way up to and including the first 300 ft or so of infested trail. Thus, this was not only a highly informative and enjoyable hike, but members managed to make a difference by being on the spot to raise the alarm for timely action to snuff out Yellow bluestem in Madera Canyon. Way to go, Dennis!

The Waterman Restoration Site

John Scheuring reports, “We have been blessed by a series of very productive Eagle Scout Service projects at the Waterman Restoration site this Fall. In September 2019, a troop provided 15 youth and adults to work on the lower landing strip, installing water harvesting one rock dams. During the course of their work, they discovered a fourth federally endangered Turkshead Barrel Cactus on the restored project area! A week later, another troop provided 36 youth and adults who built one rock dams on over 4 acres on the upper end of the site. In early November, yet a third Eagle project organized 15 youth and adults to build additional water harvesting structures.

“The November project was the 13th Eagle Scout service project on the Waterman site. Their service has been important in providing distributed moisture to over 2000 desert trees and over 115 native plant species, now growing over the 18 acres of previously dilapidated landscape. In 2020, we will celebrate the 10 year anniversary of this remarkable restoration of returning a buffelgrass monoculture to a native plant Sonoran Desert landscape. We will certainly have something to celebrate!”

So we did! On November 2, a “party and learning gathering” was held at the restoration site, to celebrate the planting of native trees and plants, observe the water harvesting features, and applaud the restoration of this 18-acre section of the Ironwood National Monument.
Yuma Chapter

We have meetings on the **third Thursday** of each **month** at **7pm** at Arizona Game and Fish Department office, located on Ave 9E and 28th Street

**Chapter Offices**

President: Valerie Morrill (bebbia@hotmail.com); Vice President: Karen Reichhardt (ayekarina52@gmail.com); Secretary: Erv Barnes (aznpsyuma@yahoo.com); Treasurer: Tom Fox.

**Meetings**

**Thursday, December 19:** Val Morrill. *An Online Program ABCs of Botany: Easy Ways to Learn the Families*

**Thursday, January 16:** Erv Barnes. *All About the Caltrop Plant Family*

**Thursday, February 20:** *Arizona Peace Trail*

We will discuss plans to designate a 4WD and off-road trail from Yuma to northern Arizona.

**Field Trips and Events**

Unless otherwise specified, all field trips leave at 8:00 AM. Meet to carpool at parking lot between Applebee's and the 99 Cents Only store, located on south Fortuna Frontage Rd.

**No December field trip: Enjoy the Holidays!**

**January 10 - 12:** Yuma Birding and Nature Festival

**January 17 - 19:** Yuma Home and Garden Show at Yuma Civic Center

Master Gardeners and Yuma garden clubs will host plant sales, displays, exhibits, and talks in the west wing of the civic center.

**Monday, January 20:** Botanizing trip to Kofa Wildlife Refuge

**Saturday, February 22:** Botanizing Jeep Trip

We will explore a portion of the Arizona Peace Trail, from Imperial Wildlife Refuge to Yuma Wash and Trigo Mountains. 4WD required.
Report on the AZ Native Plant Society Botany 2019 Conference

The annual Arizona Native Plant Society Conference was held on August 31 to September 1, 2019 at the Eastern Arizona College in Thatcher, Arizona. This year’s conference was held in cooperation with the Gila Watershed Partnership. The theme of the conference was “Exploring the Botanical Diversity, Ecology, and History of Arizona’s Native Flora.” Approximately 100 attendees participated in the daylong oral and poster presentations, followed by dinner and a presentation by Gwendolyn L. Waring on her new book *The Natural History of the San Francisco Peaks. A Sky Island in the American Southwest.* On the second day, local field trips were offered to: The Safford Grids, Pleistocene terraces of the Gila River north of Pima, Arizona; The Pinaleño Mountains and Mount Graham; and the Gila Native Plant Nursery in Safford.
A New Arizona Wildflower Identification Book!

*Guide to the Plants of Arizona’s White Mountains*

by

George C. West

University of New Mexico Press

Arizona Native Plant Society members may find a new book by the late George C. West to be an extremely useful guide to Arizona wildflowers and other plants. Published posthumously following Dr. West’s death in 2016, members of the Arizona Native Plant Society (Steve Ganley, Larry Norris, and Doug Ripley) worked with the UNM Press’ editor to edit the manuscript and provide some additional illustrations. The book is neatly organized into three parts, which include woody trees; all other annual, biennial, and perennial flowers, shrubs, and vines; and ferns. This useful guide is written in accessible language that makes it easy to identify over five hundred plant species found in the region. Nearly a thousand incredible color photographs of flowers, leaves, and other features provide nuanced detail that helps the reader differentiate various species of flowering plants, trees, and ferns. Each species description includes the plant’s common and scientific names, taxonomic family, and habitat, as well as a detailed physical description. Color-coded page borders for each section of the book point readers to the information they seek. The *Guide to the Plants of Arizona’s White Mountains* is a must-have reference for all outdoor enthusiasts exploring this popular region of the Southwest.

The book is available at bookstores or directly from the University of New Mexico Press c/o Longleaf Services, Inc. To order, please call 800-848-6224 or visit www.unmpress.com.

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**Welcome New Members!**

**Flagstaff:** Rachel Williams

**Phoenix:** Susan Holohan, Ron Parker, Austin Rasmusson, Alexander Ponikvar

**Prescott:** Diane Hafeman, Melissa King, William Williams

**Tucson:** Myrna Beards, Nathan Kline, Kari Hackney, Dan Johnson, Sierra Lauman, George Nibler, Curtis Hahn and Bonnie Woods Jennifer Paton, Lucille Reeser, Shawn Rose, Marlene Shamis, Ronny Van Ommeren, Steve West, Monica Wnuk
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AZNPS, CONTACT THE CHAPTER OFFICERS
Or visit the AZNPS website: www.aznativeplantsociety.org

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Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

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Treasurer: Tina Ayers

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bagphilips@yahoo.com 928-853-3355

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Secretary: Danielle Carlock

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Treasurer: Jackie Taylor
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Secretary: Erv Barnes
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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
May 1st for June - August events
August 1st for September - November events
November 1st for December - February events
Arizona Native Plant Society
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○ $75 Commercial
○ $500 Patron
○ Renewal
○ $30 Individual
○ $50 Organization
○ $100 Plant Lover
○ $1,000 Lifetime

Preferred Chapter:
○ Cochise
○ Santa Cruz
○ Flagstaff
○ Tucson
○ Phoenix
○ Yuma
○ Prescott
○ Non AZ

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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