



# 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	<a href="mailto:aznpscochise@gmail.com">aznpscochise@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	Lisa Rivera	<a href="mailto:aznpsphoenix@gmail.com">aznpsphoenix@gmail.com</a>
Prescott	Sue Smith	<a href="mailto:PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com">PrescottNativePlantSociety@gmail.com</a>
Santa Cruz	Robin Kulibert	<a href="mailto:santacruz.aznps@gmail.com">santacruz.aznps@gmail.com</a>
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Tucson	Jack Dash	<a href="mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com">nativeplantstucson@gmail.com</a>
Upper Gila	Nathan Cline	<a href="mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com">uppergilaaznps@gmail.com</a>
White Mountain	Jess Rollar	<a href="mailto:aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com">aznpswhitemountain@gmail.com</a>
Yuma	Valerie Morrill	<a href="mailto:yumaaznps@gmail.com">yumaaznps@gmail.com</a>



## Save the Dates!

### Announcing the Botany 2025 Conference

The Arizona Native Plant Society will hold its annual Botany Conference March 1 – 2, 2025. The conference venue will be the famous and spectacular Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix.

On Saturday, March 1, several guided field trips will be offered to local areas of botanical interest. Also, a special “behind the scenes” tour will be offered to view newly completed facilities in the gardens.

The conference agenda will include oral and poster presentations from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM on Sunday, March 2. A continental breakfast will be offered from 8:30 to 9:00 AM on Sunday with a catered lunch at noon. An optional evening meal and program will also be offered on Sunday following the conference.

The conference committee is currently developing ideas for a conference theme and lining up potential speakers. Specific details about the conference agenda and registration information will be made available soon on the AZNPS website and through direct communications to chapters and individual members.



## Thank you, Members! You've made a big difference in 2024

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As 2024 concludes, a review of the year wouldn't be complete without highlighting some of the projects that society members have contributed to through donations, annual dues, and—most importantly—hands-on participation.

- Hosting Boy Scout Eagle work on habitat restoration projects.
- Encouraging city and county agencies to undertake buffel grass and stinkweed eradication programs.
- Enhancing the Waterman Restoration Site, located in the Ironwood National Monument, a twelve-year, ongoing project with the Bureau of Land Management and other partners.
- Working with the AZ Department of Transportation to coordinate invasive species eradication along state highways.
- Sponsoring the Plant Atlas Project of Arizona (PAPAZ) programs to provide botanical training, encourage native plant collecting and inventory work in under-collected regions of the state.
- Establishing working relationships with Arizona Land and Water Trust, Friends of the Madera Canyon.
- Offering two-day grass identification workshops at the UA Herbarium
- Sponsoring the annual Arizona Botany Meetings (2024 meeting held August 17-18, 2024, at Pima College in Tucson). The 2025 Meeting will be held on March 2, 2025, at the Desert Botanic Garden, Phoenix.
- Continuing major buffel grass eradication project at "A" Mountain, Tucson.
- Leading local field trips and chapter meetings.

**If you have recently received a letter reminding you to renew your membership, please return it. You are important to everything we hope to accomplish in 2025!**



# Chapter News

## Cochise Chapter



Unfortunately, the Cochise Chapter remains in an inactive status, as explained in previous *Happenings* newsletters. Chapter president Doug Ripley has continued to try and 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 singlehandedly. 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 thus far. Consequently, the Cochise Chapter will remain in an inactive status for now. Individuals who would like to help restore the Cochise Chapter to an active status should contact Doug. Phone: 520-909-3132, email: [jdougripley@gmail.com](mailto:jdougripley@gmail.com).

## Chapter Offices

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



Superstition Mountains. Photo: Shelley Silva

## Flagstaff Chapter



The Flagstaff Chapter meetings are offered 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 at the 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.

### Chapter Offices

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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))

### Recordings of Past Meetings

The following presentations were recorded in 2024 and can be viewed the Flagstaff Chapter's Facebook page or at The Arizona Native Plant Society website.

Megan Swan, Hannah Andrascik, Christopher Calvo, NPS Southern Colorado Plateau Network: *Taking the Pulse of Vegetation Communities in National Parks on the Colorado Plateau*

Mariola Barrera: *Plant Demography and Fecundity Traits for Mutton Bluegrass* (*Poa fendleriana*)

Zane Robertson: *The Genetic Identity and Range of Rumex orthoneurus* (*Polygonaceae*)

Jesse Duff-Woodruff: *A Day in the Life of an Agency Botanist*

Wendy McBride: *Conserving Rare Plants and Their Pollinators*

Janice Busco: *The Life and Seasons of the Living Roof*

Catherine Young: *The Efficacy of Using Terminal and Axillary Bud Cuttings as a Means of Propagation for the Endemic Alpine Species San Francisco Peaks Ragwort* (*Packera franciscana*)

## Hakdagwi:va Peach Springs Chapter



For information on chapter activities, contact Carrie Cannon ([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



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](mailto:aznpsphoenix@gmail.com)).

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

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President: Lisa Rivera; Treasurer: Danielle Carlock. We can be reached at [aznpsphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:aznpsphoenix@gmail.com).

### Upcoming Activities

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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](mailto:aznpsphoenix@gmail.com)).

## 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

## Meetings

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**Friday, January 17, 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Wendy Hodgson. *Pre-contact Agaves in the Southwestern United States: Rediscovering Lost Crops Among the Hohokam and Other Arizona Cultures***

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Location: Payson Public Library, 328 N McLane Rd, Payson, AZ

**Friday, February 7, 10:00 - 11:30 AM: Teri Balaska. *Plant Families and Plant Specialties***

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Location: TBD

## Field Trips

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**Friday, December 6, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM. Botany Over the Bridge, Tonto Basin**

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Join us for a 10-mile roundtrip adventure to explore the plant diversity in a chain-fruit cholla forest, desert ridge, and riparian area. This driving tour will include three stops and minimal walking.

Directions: From Highway 188 in Tonto Basin, turn east on E Tonto Creek Bridge Rd. After crossing the new bridge, continue straight on FS Rd 71/Greenback Valley Rd. The road turns to gravel at 1.3 miles from Highway 188. Continue on the gravel road for 2.2 miles. Turn right into large parking area. You do not need high-clearance or 4-wheel drive. Carpooling will be encouraged at our first stop.

**Friday, January 3, 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM. Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

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Carpooling will be arranged from Tonto Basin. Please RSVP so we can secure a group rate and/or library passes.

## Volunteer Project

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The Tonto Basin Chapter will be partnering with the Friends of the Tonto National Forest to help monitor saguaro in the Tonto Basin area. Please visit [Saguaro Monitoring: Friends of the Tonto National Forest](#) for more information. A 1.5 hour zoom training-session is required and field training will be available.



## Chapter Report

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On Friday, November 1, our chapter met at the Shoofly Ruins in Payson to learn about grasses in the Tonto National Forest. Kenda Svoboda, North Zone Botanist from the Payson Forest Service, described several grass species as well as other plant species located in the area and provided useful handouts and a microscope for further identification.

## 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/>) 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>).

## Chapter Offices

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

## Upper Gila Chapter



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

## Chapter Offices

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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 ([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 ([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

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## Welcome New Chapter Members!

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**Cochise:** Carrie Britten

**Flagstaff:** Cheryl Blume, Jared Feller

**Phoenix:** Jelena Grbic, Adam French, Mary Crenshaw, Kirsten Norton, Diane Pataki, Dorothy Turner

**Prescott:** Gary Schoolcraft, Derek Duval

**Tonto Basin:** Brad Lucek, Jacqueline Bleth

**Tucson:** Jennifer and Sergio HenbestCalvillo, Blainey Korff, Sue Fleishman, Thomas McConnell, Kelly Amsberry, Tamara Tormohlen, Barbara Kane, Terry Porter, Harold Wood, Anna Davis, Charlotte Burrill, Anna Davis

**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**President: [Douglas Ripley](#)[aznpscochise@gmail.com](mailto:aznpscochise@gmail.com)

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary Deanna Sanner

Treasurer: Pat Sullivan

**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: [Lisa Rivera](#)[aznpsphoenix@gmail.com](mailto:aznpsphoenix@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Danielle Carlock

**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: [Jack Dash](#)[nativeplantstucson@gmail.com](mailto:nativeplantstucson@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Andrew Gourevitch

Secretary: Matthew Lutheran

**Upper Gila Chapter**Contact: [Nathan Cline](#)[uppergilaaznps@gmail.com](mailto:uppergilaaznps@gmail.com)

Vice President: Diane Drobka

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

AZNPS is a 501 (C) (3) organization

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