



HAPPENINGS

December 2011-February 2012

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.*

HAPPENINGS IS GOING ELECTRONIC

Beginning with the Spring 2012 issue, we will be using “fast, friendly, free” electronic delivery unless a paper copy is specially requested. Members will receive *Happenings* via e-mail from our Administrative Assistant, Anna Van Devender. If we do not currently have your e-mail address, or if you are unsure, please e-mail her at aznpsinfo@yahoo.com. **If you do not have access to a computer and/or would like to receive a printed copy, please send a note stating your preference to Anna at: P.O. Box 41206, Tucson, AZ 85741.** We will continue to publish and distribute our semi-annual journal, *The Plant Press*, in printed format, as well as make it available on the AZNPS website.

SAVE THE DATE

The 9th Annual Arizona Botany Meeting
will be held on February 18th, 2012
at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum in Tucson
More information coming soon!

JOIN ANY CHAPTER E-MAIL LIST

To keep up with the latest AZNPS events in any chapter, **join the chapter e-list**, which notifies members about events, conferences, outings, workshops, and volunteer opportunities in the area. To be added to the following chapter lists, send your name and e-mail address to:

Cochise Chapter:	Doug Ripley	Ripley@powerc.net
Flagstaff Chapter:	Dorothy Lamm	Lammke@msn.com
Phoenix Chapter:	Michael Plagens	mjplagens@arizonensis.org
Tucson Chapter:	Carianne Campbell	csfunicelli@gmail.com

CHAPTER NEWS

Cochise Chapter

Evening Programs are held at 7:00 pm on the **3rd Thursday** of each month from September through May in the Old Sheriff's Station conference room, 4001 Foothills Dr. (corner of Highway 92 and Foothills), Sierra Vista. Each gathering features a presentation of botanical interest by a regional expert. The Chapter recently established a Facebook website where information about the chapter and members is posted. Field trips are tentatively planned for the winter and will be announced individually on the AZNPS website and the Cochise Chapter Facebook website: <http://www.facebook.com/AZNPSCochise>

Upcoming Presentations:

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|------------------|---|
| 15 December 2011 | Cado Daily: <i>How Can We Save the San Pedro River?</i> |
| 19 January 2012 | Jerome Ward: <i>Hawaiian Plants and Vegetation History</i> |
| 16 February 2012 | Bob Hermann: <i>Wildflowers of the Huachuca Mountains</i> |
| 15 March 2012 | Susan Wethington: <i>Hummingbirds, their Nectar Plants, and the Potential Impacts of Climate Change on this Interaction</i> |
| 19 April 2012 | Cecile Lumer: <i>Interesting Pollination Strategies in the neo-tropical genus Blakea (Melestoma Family)</i> |
| 17 May 2012 | Tom Van Devender: <i>The Evolution of the Sonoran Desert</i> |

The Cochise County Master Gardeners has invited Arizona Native Plant Society members to their **19th Annual High Desert Gardening Conference** to be held in **Sierra Vista on February 16 and 17, 2012**. Topics will include gardening, food production, landscaping, native plants, and environmental stewardship. Fees for two days are \$100 and for one day \$65, which includes breakfast, lunch and reception. The conference will be held at the Windmere Hotel, Sierra Vista. Phone (520) 458-8278 ext 2141 for more information.

Flagstaff Chapter

There are no meetings during the winter months. Chapter meetings and evening programs will resume in March, and are held at 7:00 pm on the **3rd Tuesday** of each month in Room 328 of the Biology Building, Northern Arizona University. Everyone is encouraged to suggest a field trip to a favorite place. Send your ideas to Barbara Phillips at bagphillips@yahoo.com or give her a call at (928) 527-3421.

Phoenix Chapter

Chapter meetings and evening programs are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in Webster Hall at the Desert Botanical Garden, 1200 N Galvin Parkway.

Upcoming Presentations:

13 December 2011 John Gunn: *Elephant Trees in Arizona*

Elephant Trees are one of the most interesting plants in the Sonoran Desert. They are sought out for their beauty, unusual form, and fragrant offering. John Gunn, Conservation Resource Manager of Spur Cross Ranch, will discuss the habits and distribution of *Bursera* species in Arizona.

10 January 2012 David Morris: *Ethnobotany of the Pima and Tohono O'odham*

Explore the harvest of the desert with Native American naturalist David Morris. Learn about the many uses of our desert plants and the biology that makes them useful. Some plants have provided for people of the desert since prehistoric times. Learn how plants of the Sonoran Desert were used for food, building, medicine and magic.

14 February 2012 Joe McAuliff: *Long Lived Shrub Clones in the Sonoran Desert*

Joe will present his recent research on long-lived shrub clones in the Sonoran Desert. He has been working with giant Creosote Bush clones for more than a decade, but also has recently discovered giant, long-lived clones of a Wolfberry species in Baja California and in Arizona near Casa Grande.

Field Trip: Wednesday, 29 February 2012 Pinal Creek and Haunted Canyon

There's an extra day in 2012 so why not use it to go on a nature hike? This rather hidden location is accessed through a vast mining area west of Miami, Arizona. This is in conjunction with the Audubon Club, so we will look early for birds then shift our attention to plants, wildflowers and insects as temperatures warm. We'll finish by 3:00 PM. Contact mjplagens@arizonensis.org for reservations and details.

As always, everyone is encouraged to initiate a field trip to a favorite place. Announce it at a chapter meeting and/or send details to Cass Blodgett cblodgett2@cox.net or Michael Plagens mjplagens@arizonensis.org for email distribution.



Tucson Chapter

Chapter meetings and evening programs are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through May, beginning at 7:00 pm at the Arizona Game & Fish Office, 555 N Greasewood, on the west side of the road between Speedway & Anklam. Doors open at 6:30 pm; an AZNPS sandwich board will be located at the entrance to the AZ Game and Fish Office.

14 December 2011 Don Swann: *The 2010 Saguaro Census*

Don Swann will present the results of the 2010 Saguaro Census, a once-a-decade "citizen science" program that Saguaro National Park uses to monitor its signature plant. He will also speak about the ecological history of the park, which was established in 1933. Don's presentation will focus on the census, recent saguaro mapping projects at the park, the relationship between saguaros and climate.

11 January 2012 Greg Starr: *Cool Plant Combinations for Hot Tucson Gardens*

Greg Starr will discuss some cool plants for hot gardens and discuss using them in interesting combinations. He will show pretty pictures of many awesome plants all while enticing you to go out on a limb and use your imagination. Who knows what incredible combination is lurking deep within your subconscious waiting to grace your landscape.

8 February 2012 Margaret Pope: *Botanical Art of the Sonoran Desert Region*

Historically, the relationship between botany and art has helped inform physicians, botanists, gardeners, amateur botanists and the general public about plants. Following in this tradition, the Sonoran Desert Florilegium Program is working to preserve and promote the work of past and present botanical illustrators and artists. The program is designed to create, collect, exhibit and store botanical images for research, education, documentation and aesthetic appreciation. Our vision is to develop awareness within the general public of the aesthetic value and ecological importance of plants as an aid to conserve and protect our Sonoran Desert flora.

TUCSON WEED WARRIOR GROUPS

- 1) Sonoran Desert Weedwackers, Tucson Mountain Park meet on the third Saturday of each month. To volunteer, contact Marilyn Hanson at mfhanson@comcast.net.
- 2) Sonoran Desert Weedwackers, Saguaro National Park East meet on the second Saturday of each month at the Rincon Mt. District Visitor Center. To volunteer, contact Bethany Hontz at bethany_hontz@nps.gov or 520-733-5187.
- 3) Oro Valley Buffel Busters meet on the second Saturday of each month. For more info, contact Carmen Ryan, 520-229-5070.

Prescott Chapter

There are no meetings during the winter months. Chapter meetings and evening programs will resume in March, and are held the **2nd Thursday** of the month at 6:30 pm at the Highlands Center for Natural History, 1375 S. Walker Rd. (928-776-9550).

Yuma Chapter

Chapter meetings and evening programs are held on the **3rd Thursday** of the month at 7:00 pm at the Yuma Main Library, September through April. Watch for meeting announcements in the Yuma Daily Sun "*What's Going On*" column.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Members of the Cochise and Tucson Chapters participated in a trip to the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch of the National Audubon Society in Santa Cruz County on October 13, 2011. At the Ranch Dr. Linda Kennedy conducted a grass identification workshop followed by a field trip on the Ranch to observe many of the native grasses identified in the class.



Dr. Linda Kennedy, Director of the Appleton-Whittell Research Ranch, National Audubon Society, conducting a native grass identification workshop



Members of the Appleton-Whittell grass workshop

This trip was organized by Maricopa Audubon, and also attended by Phoenix Chapter AZNPS members. A few spots along the Florence Highway from Mesa showed signs of green in the shrubs and ocotillos, but most spots looked brown and withered due to the general poor showing of the past summer's rains. We found that Box Canyon was also exceedingly dry. None-the-less our search for plants (and birds) was a pleasant experience. All of the colorful walls of this deep canyon are covered with brilliant lichens and the sandy bottom is littered with car-sized boulders shed from above. The geology is mostly a very porous rhyolite that absorbs and releases water slowly to the benefit of a diverse flora.

Some of the interesting flora we found with open blooms included Snapdragon Vine (*Maurandella antirrhiniflora*), Spiny Haplopappus (*Machaeranthera pinnatifida*), Sand Mat (*Chamaesyce* spp.), a few Saguaros (yes! open bloom spotted by Laurie), and Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*). We found many other species in vegetative state, some with just a few withered leaves. We challenged ourselves to name them with confidence.

As expected, Canyon Ragweed (*Ambrosia ambrosioides*) is common along the canyon. Many of the leaves were completely covered with blistered galls. Mike Plagens identified these as caused by gall mites in the family *Eriophyidae*. The mites live inside the blisters and are less than 1 mm.

-Mike Plagens



Phoenix Chapter members of the expedition to Box Canyon:
Allan Ostling, Laurie Nessel, Ron Sigler and Mel

Four members of the Phoenix Chapter met at the Sonoran Desert National Monument to hike up Table Top Mountain. This was a steep 2,000-foot elevation rise, 8-mile round trip hike. We started our hike from the transition between the Lower Colorado Desert and the Sonoran Upland and ended up in chaparral grassland communities. Lots of fun. Conditions were very dry from the end of summer and early fall drought. Some of the highlight finds include a single *Hibiscus coulteri*, lots of *Tequilia canescens*, two *Penstemon psuedospectabilis*, *Acourtia nana*, and plenty of *Jatropha cardiophylla* thriving in its northern most habitat. -Cass Blodgett



WORKPLACE GIVING TO SUPPORT AZ NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY



Does your workplace have an EFAZ campaign? Don't forget about workplace giving for making contributions to Arizona Native Plant Society through the Environmental Fund for Arizona (www.efaz.org), which supports many of our state's conservation and environmental organizations. Employees of the federal government, Arizona state government, some counties, city programs, and a growing number of private companies can participate. If you don't have a workplace giving program, see the EFAZ website to find out how we can help get one started. The EFAZ website lists businesses with campaigns supporting EFAZ organizations, but that list needs to be expanded in communities throughout the state. Feel free to contact Laine Seaton, EFAZ Exec. Dir. (laine@efaz.org) with ideas or suggestions! Help us spread the word.

Government employees.... If you work for a government entity or corporation, you can also make contributions through your workplace to support Arizona Native Plant Society as part of the Combined Federal Campaign (AZNPS #38438), and the State Employees Charitable Campaign.

****GRANT OPPORTUNITIES****

Miller/Ginny Saylor Publication Grants

The Tucson Chapter of AZNPS is again offering a **Miller/Ginny Saylor Publication Grant** for 2012. In all, \$1,000 is available to individuals or nonprofit organizations to assist in publishing—either traditionally or on the web—materials related to Arizona native plants. Membership in AZNPS is not required. One or more grants may be awarded to projects that will be judged on their a) contribution to scientific knowledge of native plants, b) public understanding of native plants and their environments, or c) conservation of native plants. *These grants are to be used for publication costs only, not research.*

Ginny Saylor Research Grant

The Tucson Chapter will also award one \$500 **Ginny Saylor Research Grant** to an individual, group, or institution to support research that enhances our understanding of native Arizona plants. This grant is funded through a generous bequest from the estate of Ginny Saylor, a long-time Tucson Chapter member.

The deadline for the submission of all grant applications is March 31, 2012.

Details of the application process for both grants are at: <http://www.aznps.com/grants.html>

Contact Ries Lindley at Ries.Lindley@gmail.com if you have any questions.

FREE WILDFLOWER POSTERS FOR CLASSROOMS

We would like to get our beautiful *Northern Arizona Wildflowers* or *Sonoran Desert Wildflowers* posters into classrooms! Please consider adopting a school near you or a classroom that your child or grandchild attends. Each Chapter now has a supply of our posters illustrating native plants from the southern or northern half of our state. An idea might be for you to visit with or write an introductory letter to your favorite teacher(s), showing them the appropriate poster. You might also want to work with a chosen teacher who wants to do a class project about our native plants. If you can't do this, perhaps someone else in the chapter can. The important first step is to get our posters distributed! The poster is a great educational tool.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Cochise

Robert Behrstock & Karen
LeMay

Flagstaff

Jennifer & Isaac Ogle

Phoenix

Joyce Partain
A.B. Green
Britt Thomas Myslinski
Kathleen Robertson
Andrea Blestrud

Prescott

Jacki Hardy
Christy Hastings
Janet Modjeska
Warner Wise

Tucson

Jenny Reid & John Foster
William P. McCourt
Kelly VanDenBerg
Bob Bauman
Linda M. Brewer
Howard Byrne

Carianne Campbell

Fiona Clark
Mary Lou Cole
Wayne Colony
Mr. & Mrs. Clemson Lewis
The Magic Garden
Johnnie Pierce
Laurie Richards
Charles & Kim Miller

Yuma

Gary & Cathy Reeves

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT AZNPS, CONTACT THE CHAPTER OFFICERS

Or visit the AZNPS website: <http://www.aznps.com/index.html>

Cochise Chapter:	President: Douglas Ripley Secretary: Deanna Sanner Treasurer: Pat Sullivan	ripley@powerc.net longeyes1@msn.com patolisa@cox.net
Flagstaff Chapter:	Contact Person: Dorothy Lamm Treasurer: Tina Ayers Events Coordinator: Barbara Phillips	Lammke@msn.com tina.ayers@NAU.EDU bagphillips@yahoo.com
Phoenix Chapter:	Co-Chair: Michael Plagens Co-Chair: Cass Blodgett Treasurer: Suzanne Cash	mjplagens@arizonensis.org cblodgett2@cox.net roxiep@msn.com.
Prescott Chapter:	President: Carl Tomoff Events Coordinator: Sue Smith	ctomoff@prescott.edu suejs01@yahoo.com
Tucson Chapter:	President: Carianne Campbell Vice President: Deb Green Treasurer: Diane Kelly Secretary: Greta Anderson	csfunicelli@gmail.com dcgreen10@comcast.net kelly@timdarby.net anderson_greta@yahoo.com
Yuma Chapter:	President: Valerie Morrill	bebbia@hotmail.com

AZNPS HAPPENINGS is a forum to promote chapter news and activities throughout the state, including summaries of board meetings, committee updates, and information about the annual meeting. Please contact your chapter president or program coordinator to contribute information, or e-mail the Happenings editor, Kathy Darrow, at wild_kat@cox.net

Send information 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

