

Gila Conservation Coalition presents
12TH ANNUAL
Gila RIVER FESTIVAL

HONORING OUR HERITAGE:
THE NATURAL & CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE GILA



SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2016

**SILVER CITY / GILA RIVER
GILA NATIONAL FOREST**

575.538.8078

gilaconservation.org

Gila 12TH ANNUAL RIVER FESTIVAL

HONORING OUR HERITAGE:
THE NATURAL & CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE GILA



This year's centennial of the National Park Service provides an opportunity to explore the philosophy behind our nation's accomplishments in preserving our cultural and natural heritage and to understand future challenges to preserving biologically important landscapes, such as the Gila River watershed, and protecting public lands held in trust for all Americans.

Since the painter George Catlin first proposed the idea of "a nation's park . . . some great protecting policy" in 1832 in response to western expansion and the loss of wild places and their indigenous peoples, the creation of the national parks evolved along with a uniquely American land ethic.

The Gila Region is a beneficiary of this preservation movement in American history, with creation of the nation's first wilderness area, the Gila Wilderness, and the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument.

Looking at the history of resource protection in the Gila Region, the 12th annual Gila River Festival takes inspiration from the National Park Service's mission "to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations."

IN MEMORIAM: MARTA GREEN

November 30, 1945–December 15, 2015

Our dear friend Marta Green passed away in December. She was a champion of the Gila River Festival and always supported our work to keep the Gila River free-flowing. Marta volunteered her time and artistic energy to create buttons such as, "Frankly, my dear, I don't want a dam!" and "No Dam Diversion!" We miss you, Marta. Wherever you are now, we hope there's a wild river flowing by, singing you a lullaby.



WALTER SZYMANSKI

PLANNING Your Trip

TRAVEL TIME

from
Silver City to

Mangas Springs ~ 20 miles, 20 minutes

Bill Evans Lake ~ 30 miles, 45 minutes

Gila Bird Area ~ 30 miles, 45 minutes

Iron Bridge Conservation Area ~ 20 miles, 30 minutes

Lake Roberts/Gila Cliff Dwellings ~ 50 miles, < 2 hours

Mimbres Culture Heritage Site ~ 30 miles, 45 minutes

Mogollon Box Day Use Area ~ 30 miles, 45 minutes

River Ranch ~ 40 miles, 60 minutes

LODGING

The lovingly restored historic Murray Hotel in downtown Silver City is offering a 15% discount on all rooms for Gila River Festival guests. You must call the front desk at 575-956-9400 and mention the Gila River Festival to obtain this special rate. www.murray-hotel.com.

For other options, see the Silver City Arts and Cultural District website at <http://silvercitytourism.org/lodging-main> or call 575-538-5555.

For camping in the Gila National Forest, see their website at www.fs.usda.gov/gila or call 575-388-8201. See the Silver City Arts and Cultural District website at <http://silvercitytourism.org/camping> or call 575-538-5555 for more camping ideas.

FESTIVAL FOOD

Silver City has many excellent restaurants. Visit <http://silvercitytourism.org/grab-a-bite/> for suggestions.



Visit us on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/GilaRiverFestival

Cover art: M. Fred Barraza, *The Gathering* (detail) Brochure design/layout: Sarah Johnson
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FEES & Registration

Gila River Festival field trips and workshops have limited space and require pre-registration and a fee. **Please register by September 12** to guarantee your participation. You may register online with payment via PayPal or mail in the registration form with your payment. Events fill up quickly; please register early to avoid disappointment. Late arrivals will be accepted at the event site as space permits. Please leave your pets at home. Carpooling is encouraged. Field trips proceed rain or shine. Sorry, no refunds if you've registered and paid for a field trip and decide at the last minute not to attend. **Note:** Events at Western New Mexico University and in downtown Silver City do not require pre-registration.

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

EVENT	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	FEE	TOTAL
THURSDAY 9/22			
Mangas Springs Migrants	_____	\$16	_____
Mesquite Reconnaissance Mission	_____	\$16	_____
River Ranch Tour	_____	\$16	_____
Gila Middle Box River Survey	_____	\$16	_____
Gila Headwaters	_____	\$10 at the door	
FRIDAY 9/23			
Water Is Life	_____	\$20	_____
Floodplain Diversity of the Gila River	_____	\$16	_____
Continental Divide Trail Stewardship	_____	FREE	_____
Gila Diversion & Reservoirs	_____	\$16	_____
Public Lands Legacy	_____	\$10 at the door	

Note: Events taking place on Forest Service land are authorized by the Gila National Forest through a special use permit.

EVENT	NUMBER OF PEOPLE	FEE	TOTAL
SATURDAY 9/24			
Birding at the Bridge	_____	\$16	_____
Mimbres Culture Heritage Site	_____	\$16	_____
Family Fly Fishing Adventure	_____	\$20 (kids \$5)	_____
Kayak the Gila	_____	\$85	_____
Fantastic Flora of the Gila River	_____	\$16	_____
SUNDAY 9/25			
Brunch: Gila River's Vital Role	_____	*	_____
<i>*See page 37 for price range</i>			
Help protect the Gila River			
by becoming a member of the Gila Conservation Coalition at an introductory cost of only \$10!			
	_____	\$10	_____
TOTAL ENCLOSED			\$ _____

Events at the Global Resource Center are wheelchair accessible. For questions about handicapped access for other events, please call the Gila Conservation Coalition at 575-538-8078.

Festival Headquarters: Festival registration, information, and sales: Global Resource Center, Western New Mexico University, 12th & Kentucky Streets. Festival information also available at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson.

Fee waiver: Many Festival activities require a registration fee, and a few fee waivers are available. For more information, contact the Gila Conservation Coalition at 575-538-8078. Evening events at Western New Mexico University have a suggested donation at the door, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Make checks payable to Gila Conservation Coalition and send to 305A N. Cooper St., Silver City, NM 88061. For more information, email: info@gilaconservation.org or call 575-538-8078.

Credit card payment and online registration available at www.gilaconservation.org/wp/?page_id=245

MAJOR Sponsors

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Gila/Mimbres Community Radio–KURU ~ Gila Native Plant Society ~

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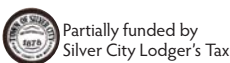
New Mexico Humanities Council & the National Endowment for the
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Anonymous



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Southwestern NM Audubon Society ~ The Wilderness Society ~
Vicki Allen, LISW, Individual, Child and Couples Therapist ~
Western Institute for Lifelong Learning

~ FRIENDS ~

Bear Creek Herbs ~ David Rose & Ceil Murray ~
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Melvyn Gelb & Mary Ann Finn ~ Pauline & Richard Matthews ~
Morning Star ~ Regalos de la Tierra Pottery Co. ~
Robert Pittman & Kathleen Wigley ~ Ronald Parry ~
Sharyn McDonald ~ Silver Architects ~ Silver City Food Co-op ~
Summit Technical ~ Syzygy Tileworks ~ TheraSpeech

FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS

Gila Conservation Coalition Gila Resources Information Project
Upper Gila Watershed Alliance

SPECIAL THANKS

All of our presenters and volunteers Anna Cherkos Linda Hannan
Nancy Kaminski Carol Martin Town of Silver City
Bayou Seco The Average Cadaver The Roadrunners Sonnie Sussillo

SCHEDULE Overview

EVENT	TIME
Thursday 9/22	
Mangas Springs Migrants	7:00–noon
Mesquite Reconnaissance Mission	8:00 a.m.–noon
Prehistoric Heritage of SW New Mexico	9:00–10:00 a.m.
Continental Divide Trail as Living Museum	10:15–11:15 a.m.
River Ranch Tour	noon–5:00 p.m.
Gila Middle Box Wild & Scenic River Survey	1:00–5:00 p.m.
Status and Trends of Gila River Biota	1:30–2:30 p.m.
Public Lands & Latino Culture	2:45–3:45 p.m.
Sacred Water	4:00–5:15 p.m.
Gila Headwaters: Threatened—Once Again	7:00–8:30 p.m.
Friday 9/23	
Water Is Life	7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.
Floodplain Diversity of the Gila River	8:00–11:30 a.m.
Continental Divide Trail Stewardship	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Icons and Symbols of Our Regional Heritage	9:00–10:00 a.m.
100 Years of National Park Service History	10:15–11:15 a.m.
The River Is Food	11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Gila River Diversion & Storage Sites	1:30–5:00 p.m.
Ross Calvin: Unheralded Spokesman for the Gila	1:30–2:30 p.m.
Where the Arts Meet the Environment	2:45–3:45 p.m.
What Is Now/What Could Be	4:00–5:30 p.m.
Audrey Peterman Keynote: Public Lands Legacy	7:00–8:30 p.m.
Saturday 9/24	
Birding at the Bridge	7:30–11:30 a.m.
Mimbres Culture Heritage Site Archaeological Tour	8:00 a.m.–noon
Family Fly Fishing Adventure	9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Kayak the Gila	9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.
GILAvisions	9:00–noon
Making a Home in the Heart of the Gila	noon–5:30 p.m.
The Fort Sill Apache Tribe's Gila Homelands	1:00–2:00 p.m.
The Fantastic Flora of the Gila River	1:15–5:00 p.m.
Gila River Extravaganza	3:00–10:00 p.m.
Sunday 9/25	
Brunch with Phil Connors: The Gila's Vital Role	10:30 a.m.–noon



LOCATION/MEETING PLACE	FEE
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 6:45 a.m.	\$16
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 7:45 a.m.	\$16
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 11:45 a.m.	\$16
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 12:45 p.m.	\$16
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	\$10
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 6:45 a.m.	\$20
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 7:45 a.m.	\$16
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 8:00 a.m.	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 1:15 p.m.	\$16
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Fine Arts Center Theater, WNMU	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	\$10
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 7:15 a.m.	\$16
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 7:45 a.m.	\$16
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 8:45 a.m.	\$20
TBD	\$85
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 11:45 p.m.	FREE
Global Resource Center, WNMU	FREE
Murray Ryan Visitor Center 1:00 p.m.	\$16
Bullard to Yankie & Texas Streets	FREE
Light Hall Patio & Gardens	see p. 37

FESTIVAL EVENTS & **Activities**

~ THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 22 ~

Festival Registration, information, and sales:

Global Resource Center, Western New Mexico University,
12th & Kentucky Streets, 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

AND Festival Information: Murray Ryan Visitor Center,
201 N. Hudson, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

MANGAS SPRINGS MIGRANTS

Field trip with Jarrod Swackhamer. 7:00 a.m.–Noon.

Participant limit: 15. **Fee:** \$16. **Registration required:** see page 4.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 6:45 a.m., carpool to Mangas Springs, and return to Silver City by noon. **Travel time:** 20 minutes each way.

Join expert birder Jarrod Swackhamer as he helps you to discover what the day has in store! September is a great time to run into migrants heading south, and there are few better places in the county for such a rendezvous than Mangas Springs. Mangas Springs is an enticing stopover, boasting the lushest and most vegetated point along Mangas Creek, which connects the Big Burro Mountains to the Gila River. Migrating warbler possibilities include Wilson's, Orange-crowned, MacGillivray's, and Nashville, but are by no means limited to this line-up. Other migrants like Cassin's Vireo, Western Tanager, and Lazuli Bunting are also on the move. Mangas Springs is a marshy riparian area that hosts a wide array of breeding, migrating, and wintering birds alike.

This field trip consists of mostly easy, shaded walking. Please bring a hat, water, sunscreen, good walking shoes, and binoculars.

Jarrod Swackhamer is an accomplished birder and serves as the Education Co-chair of the Southwestern New Mexico Audubon Society.



Wilson's Warbler.

Photo: Mark Watson

MESQUITE RECONNAISSANCE MISSION

Field trip with Asher Gelbart, Rita Herbst and Kristin Lundgren.

8:00 a.m.–noon. **Participant limit:** 25. **Fee:** \$16. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 7:45 a.m., carpool to field trip destination, return to Silver City by noon.

Travel time: 45 minutes each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate.

Join the Mesquitos (the Mesquite group of Grant County) as they explore mesquite territory in search of mesquite trees with the best-tasting pods. The Mesquitos are native food enthusiasts engaged in exploring the economic viability and sustainability of a local mesquite harvest. We are referring to food-based mesquite products like flour, and value-added products like baked goods, mixes, and syrups, and even the chaff that can be used in beer brewing. Native Americans traditionally used all parts of this important tree: fresh and dried pods for food, water resistant wood for bowls and cradles, root fibers for cordage, leaves for teas and medicine, and pitch for paint and mending pottery. The first step in this adventure is finding the best trees, and then creating a collaborative map of the mesquite forest in our county.

As the field trip date approaches, the Mesquitos will scout out the best mesquite patch with the ripest pods. Please bring hat, water, snacks, and sturdy walking shoes. This is a moderately difficult excursion, where heat and snakes may be encountered. Be prepared for an adventure!

Asher Gelbart, resident of Mimbres, has been harvesting mesquite pods for the last eight years. He has participated in annual mesquite milling festivals in Tucson and Cascabel, and is excited to introduce newcomers to the fun and rewarding experience of foraging for this abundant, delicious, and vibrant wild food resource.

Rita Herbst, a longtime resident of Silver City, is the manager of the Nuevos Comienzos Community Kitchen at The Volunteer Center, where she encourages and supports small food-based community businesses.

Kristin Lundgren is the garden coordinator at The Commons. When not working in the garden with non-native fruit and veggies species, Kristin works on creating a new food economy with local, native foods.



WVNMU Department of Natural Sciences & the Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium

Mesquite pod

THE RICH AND MULTI-STORIED PREHISTORIC HERITAGE OF SOUTHWEST NEW MEXICO'S GILA RIVER AREA (IN A NUTSHELL)

Presentation by Dr. Cynthia Ann Bettison, Western New Mexico University. 9:00–10:00 a.m. **FREE.** Global Resource Center, WNMU.

Southwest New Mexico's Gila River area is incredibly rich with prehistoric and historic sites that tell the many stories of the different peoples and cultures of the past. Using knowledge obtained from over 100 years of archaeological investigations, this fast-paced presentation will explore 2,000 years of the region's prehistory, from the Archaic period to the Salado phase, and will feature what archaeologists have learned, and continue to learn, about the peoples who inhabited the area.

This lecture will use archaeological evidence to answer such questions as how different groups used the land and lived, how they interacted, whether some groups "moved" into the area or existing groups adapted to environmental changes and group movements. Did peoples and/or groups actually "abandon" the Gila River area, and is the Western concept of "abandonment" truly applicable to prehistory?

Intertwined throughout the presentation will be information on how instrumental the National Historic Preservation Act—now celebrating its 50th anniversary—was, and continues to be, in preserving the rich and multi-storied heritage of Southwest New Mexico's Gila River area, and how the Antiquities Act of 1906 established the only National Monument containing a prehistoric Mogollon site open to the public.

Dr. Cynthia Ann Bettison, a Registered Professional Archaeologist, has conducted and participated in archaeological research in the American Southwest, Southern California, Peru, and Nevada for 36 years. She has published articles in a number of professional journals and presented hundreds of professional papers, lectures, and tours to a wide range of national and international audiences. Her research interests include the development of prehistoric ethnic group identity formation and interaction in west central and southwest New Mexico and east-central Arizona, prehistoric Mimbres and Mogollon archaeology, and prehistoric pottery of the Southwest. Dr. Bettison has been the director of the Western New Mexico University Museum since 1991.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL AS LIVING MUSEUM

Presentation by Teresa Martinez, Director, Continental Divide Trail Coalition. 10:15–11:15 a.m. **FREE.** Global Resource Center, WNMU.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) is much more than just a line on a map: it is a living museum of the American West, a place to reconnect with nature, and a unifying force bringing together people from all walks of life. Silver City enjoys the distinction of being the first designated Gateway Community to the Continental Divide Trail. In these times of increasing threats to public lands, it behooves us to acknowledge the far-reaching vision of the US Congress when they designated the Continental Divide as a National Scenic Trail in 1978.

In her presentation, Teresa Martinez will highlight the trail's history, significance, beauty, and natural and cultural history. She will share some harrowing and humorous tales of CDT hikers, as well as talk about the importance of continuing to protect public lands for the benefit of all citizens.

On Friday, September 23, join other volunteers to work on a section of the Continental Divide Trail near Silver City. See Friday's schedule for more info.

Teresa Martinez has more than 25 years of experience with management of iconic American trails, first with the Appalachian Trail, and now with the Continental Divide Trail. Martinez is the Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, based in Colorado.



Continental Divide Trail Coalition

CDT Trail Terminus

RIVER RANCH TOUR

Field trip to River Ranch with Ron Troy, New Mexico Land Conservancy and Mark Watson, NM Department of Game & Fish. Noon–5:00 p.m.

Participant limit: 20. **Fee:** \$16. **Registration required:** see page 4.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 11:45 a.m., carpool to the River Ranch, and return to Silver City by 5:00.

Travel time: 1 hour each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate.

NM Game and Fish Department's Mark Watson and NM Land Conservancy's Ron Troy have teamed up to lead a fall equinox tour of the River Ranch located on the lower Mimbres River 25 miles southeast of Silver City. The River Ranch, formerly owned by the late Gene and Elisabeth Simon, includes 1,010 deeded acres and approximately 2 miles of the lower Mimbres River. Realizing the ranch's importance for fish, wildlife and agriculture, the Simons worked with NMLC to place a conservation easement across the ranch in April of 2011.

Participants may see some of the 23 Species of Greatest Conservation Need that have been documented on the Ranch. The tour will include viewing along 380 acres of Mimbres River riparian habitat. Among the Fremont cottonwoods and velvet ash located on the ranch is the Tigner Grove, home to the state's largest velvet ash tree with a height of approximately 95 feet. Please bring plenty of water, binoculars, and footwear for river crossings and for navigating through large stands of big sacaton grass.

Ron Troy is a wildlife biologist and the Southern New Mexico Project Manager for the New Mexico Land Conservancy. **Mark Watson** is a Terrestrial Habitat Specialist with the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.



NM Dept of Game and Fish

Mimbres River, River Ranch

GILA MIDDLE BOX WILD & SCENIC RIVER SURVEY

Field trip with Nathan Newcomer, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

1:00–5:00 p.m. **Participant limit:** 12. **Fee:** \$16. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 12:45 p.m., carpool to Gila Bird Area parking area, and return to Silver City by 5:00 pm. **Travel time:** Approximately 45 minutes each way.

Difficulty level: moderate to strenuous.

The Gila Middle Box is located south of the towns of Gila and Cliff, New Mexico. The majority of the area is currently managed as a U.S. Forest Service Inventoried Roadless Area, and includes thirteen miles of the Gila River, in addition to several tributaries. The National Park Service has concluded that this section of the Gila River possesses several Outstandingly Remarkable Values that merit its eligibility as a part of the National Wild & Scenic River System.

The scenery found all along the Gila River in the Middle Box is remarkably attractive. The northern section of the area displays a wide riparian floodplain straddled by towering mountains with deeply incised canyons. The further one goes down the river, the more dramatic the canyon walls become. The overall scenery and visual attractions along the river are highly diverse and appealing. Fremont cottonwood, narrow leaf cottonwood, Arizona sycamore, and willows characterize the area's beauty, and in many ways, the riverine solitude offers an unforgettable, and tranquil journey into the subtle essence of Gila River country.

Participants will be taught how to conduct a Wild & Scenic survey while hiking downstream. This field trip is moderate to strenuous. Expect numerous river crossings, uneven ground, minimal elevation gain, shaded canopies, full sun at times, and the lack of a trail system further down river. Expect to get wet!

Please bring hat, shoes that can get wet, water, snacks, and sunscreen.

Nathan Newcomer is a fifth-generation New Mexican with fourteen years of experience working on wilderness campaigns in the state of New Mexico. He was previously a grassroots organizer, media director, and associate director at the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, having first joined the organization in 2002. He is currently the organization's Grassroots Organizer for the Gila.

“Wild rivers are earth’s renegades, defying gravity, dancing to their own tunes, resisting the authority of humans, always chipping away, and eventually always winning.”

~Richard Bangs & Christian Kallen, *River Gods*

UNDERSTANDING THE STATUS AND TRENDS OF GILA RIVER BIOTA: USING THE NATURAL HERITAGE NM CONSERVATION INFORMATION SYSTEM AND APPLICATIONS

Presentation by Dr. Esteban Muldavin, Director and Senior Ecologist with Natural Heritage New Mexico. 1:30–2:30 p.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

The Gila River basin in New Mexico harbors diverse plants and wildlife that are highly valued by the citizens of the state. Natural Heritage New Mexico (NHNM) serves New Mexicans in their efforts to effectively manage and conserve these valuable biological resources. Through the New Mexico Conservation Information System (NM-CIS), they provide the most current data and analysis on 700+ sensitive species throughout the state, along with information on the habitats they occupy. Natural Heritage New Mexico's goal is to provide the best available conservation science to practitioners to unfold solutions to the problems of conserving our state's rich biota against a backdrop of limited water, land use impacts, energy development, and climate change.

In the Gila basin, NHNM tracks 99 animal species along with 43 plants of conservation interest. They are also engaged in developing rapid assessment techniques for understanding the ecological condition of the riparian ecosystems along the river (NMRAM). To date, they have conducted 20 NMRAM assessments that reflect a wide variety of riparian conditions across the basin. To further support these efforts, they have embarked on a comprehensive mapping of wildlife habitat along the river, in collaboration with the Forest Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. The combination of efficient assessment techniques and an accurate resource mapping will provide a firm foundation for effective conservation planning and management into the future.

***Dr. Esteban Muldavin** is the Director and Senior Ecologist with Natural Heritage New Mexico. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in Biology from New Mexico State University.*

“Water sustains all life. Her songs begin in the tiniest of raindrops, transform to flowing rivers, travel to majestic oceans and thundering clouds and back to earth to begin again. When water is threatened, all living things are threatened.”

~Indigenous Declaration on Water to the United Nations—July 8, 2001

PUBLIC LANDS & HISPANIC CULTURE, TRADITIONS & HISTORY

Presentation by Liz Archuleta, HECHO. 2:45–3:45 p.m., Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

From southwestern deserts to northern forestland, Hispanics throughout America have a strong connection to our nation's diverse landscapes. Whether it is fishing in the Gila River, hiking in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, hunting in the San Luis Valley, or camping in the Coconino National Forest, Hispanics have been enjoying the great outdoors for generations. Spending time in the outdoors is a part of our culture, tradition and history—connecting us to our ancestors, and guiding how we see our future. Learn about how outdoor recreation on public land is important to Hispanic/Latino communities and is fundamental to the future of our public lands and natural resource policy.

Elizabeth “Liz” Archuleta is the Arizona Spokesperson for Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors (HECHO), a non-profit organization that works to protect healthy watersheds, clean air, and robust wildlife habitats so that we can continue to enjoy and practice centuries-old cultural traditions that depend on these open spaces. She is currently serving her fifth term on the Coconino County Board of Supervisors representing District Two. A native of Flagstaff and fourth-generation resident, Liz is the first Latina elected to office in the history of Coconino County.

SACRED WATER

Panel Discussion with panelists Alex Mares, Rick Quezada, Michael Darrow, and moderator Tom Vaughan. 4:00–5:15 p.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

In this panel discussion, tribal members will discuss their people's unique and important cultural, historical, and spiritual relationship with water. How is this connection currently being endangered and undermined? And how does this relate to the current and future threats to the Gila River, and the many beings that are tied to it today and tomorrow?

Native Americans have much to share with the wider community about their bond with and respect for water. In this panel discussion, they will share their prehistoric, historic, and current perspectives and experiences with water.

Alex Mares, of Diné and Mexican descent, has worked as a Park Ranger and Interpreter in both Texas and New Mexico for over 28 years. He worked as Lead Ranger at the world renowned cultural and sacred site known as Hueco Tanks State Historic Site for 15 years. Anthropologist **Rick Quezada** has served his pueblo, Ysleta del Sur, as a traditional spiritual leader for over 10 years. He teaches classes in his native language, Tiwa, to tribal members, and serves in the pueblo's language revitalization program. **Michael Darrow**, the Fort Sill Apache Tribe's Tribal Historian and Secretary-Treasurer, works with the tribal cultural and language preservation programs. **Tom Vaughan** has worked at several national parks, including Chaco Culture National Historical Park and Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site, and was one of the founders of the Council for American Indian Interpretation.

GILA HEADWATERS: WORLD-CLASS WILDERNESS BUT THREATENED—ONCE AGAIN

Presentation by Dave Foreman, The Rewilding Institute. 7:00–8:30 p.m.
Global Resource Center, WNMU. **Fee:** \$10 suggested donation at the door.

The Gila Headwaters Wilderness and Wild Rivers Landscape in the Gila and Apache National Forests and adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in New Mexico and Arizona is a world-class wildland and a key link in the Alaska to Central America Spine of the Continent Wildway, but it is threatened by shortsighted development interests once again.

In this talk, Dave Foreman, who first began working on protection of the Gila 45 years ago, explains the wonderful ecological diversity of the Gila Headwaters as a melding of the Nearctic and Neotropical biomes of the Western Hemisphere, the blending of western and eastern ecosystems, and how it is the key wilderness and wild river complex between the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem and Central America.



Nancy Morton

Dave Foreman on Noatak River, Alaska

He also will give the linked history of protection and threats to this great Wilderness and Wild Rivers landscape since Aldo Leopold first proposed protection of it in 1922, and call wildlovers to action to defend it from the latest threat of a boondoggle water diversion from the Gila River where it leaves the Gila Wilderness. Only by permanently protecting the Gila and its tributaries under the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act can we ensure that development threats to the river will be ended.

Dave Foreman has worked as a wilderness conservationist since 1971 with a wide variety of groups including the Gila Wilderness Committee, Wilderness Society, The Nature Conservancy, Earth First!, Wildlands Project, Sierra Club, Rewilding Institute, and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. He is the author of many books, including *Rewilding North America* and *The Great Conservation Divide*. He lives in his hometown of Albuquerque.

Festival Registration, information, and sales:

Global Resource Center, Western New Mexico University,
12th & Kentucky Streets, 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

AND Festival Information: Murray Ryan Visitor Center,
201 N. Hudson, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

WATER IS LIFE

Field trip with Alex Mares and Rick Quezada. 7:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Participant limit: 10. **Fee:** \$20, + \$5 per adult entrance fee at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. **Registration required:** see page 4. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 6:45 a.m., carpool to Gila Cliff Dwellings and then to rock art site near Lake Roberts, and return to Silver City by 3:00 p.m.

Travel time: Almost 2 hours each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate to strenuous.

Field trip participants will travel to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument to experience and learn about how a prehistoric Pueblo people developed, and how they depended on an intimate relationship with water. The group will be led on an uphill and downhill hike to a 12th Century Mogollon cliff dwelling ruins. Several pictographs inside cave ruins will be visited, and petroglyph site nearby will be visited. Information on the importance and meaning of water to the daily and cultural lives of various native groups of the area will be discussed. Accompanying the group, and participating in the discussion, will be members of the Ysleta Del Sur Tigua Tribe and the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, along with your Diné guide, Alex Mares.

On the return trip, a roadside interpretive display about the various Apache bands of the area will be visited, as well as the Gila River itself. Upon nearing Lake Roberts, an additional pictograph site will be visited.

Field trip members are required to have a hat, appropriate footwear for hiking, sunscreen, at least 2 liters of water, lunch and snacks and the ability to hike up and down a narrow 2-mile round-trip canyon trail, with an elevation gain of 180 ft. The trail is at roughly 6000' elevation, is unpaved, uneven and can be steep in some places.

Alex Mares is of Diné and Mexican descent and has worked as a Park Ranger and Interpreter in both Texas and New Mexico for over 28 years. He worked as Lead Ranger at the world renowned cultural and sacred site known as Hueco Tanks State Historic Site for 15 years.

Anthropologist **Rick Quezada** has served his pueblo, Ysleta del Sur, as a traditional spiritual leader for over ten years. He teaches classes in his native language, Tiwa, to tribal members, and serves in the pueblo's language revitalization program.

FLOODPLAIN DIVERSITY OF THE GILA RIVER: A REFERENCE RIVER

Field trip with Dr. Esteban Muldavin and Martha Cooper. 8:00–11:30 a.m.

Participant limit: 15. **Fee:** \$16.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 7:45 a.m., carpool to the Iron Bridge Conservation Area on the Gila River, return to Silver City by 11:30 a.m.

Travel time: 30 minutes each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate.

Flows of the Gila River shape and sustain diverse floodplain habitat in the Cliff-Gila Valley of New Mexico. In addition to flows, historic and current river management, such as grazing and levee building, influence riparian habitat and wildlife. The Iron Bridge Conservation Area, purchased by NM Dept. of Game and Fish and The Nature Conservancy in 2006, has been transformed, demonstrating the resilience of riparian systems that still experience a natural flow regime. During elevated flows and floods, water moves from the main channel of the river into secondary channels, spreading across the floodplain. Riparian vegetation establishes and survives along these channels and wetlands.

Field trip leaders will discuss the historic paths of the river, explore recent changes in the river channel, and look for vegetation patterns on the floodplain. They will discuss the six endangered species that can be found at this site and associated monitoring efforts. This hike will integrate information included in the New Mexico Riparian Assessment Methodology handbook—authored by NM Natural Heritage Program and the NM Environment Dept., as well as the Gila River Flow Needs Assessment—authored by a team of independent scientists.

Please bring a hat, sunscreen, good hiking shoes, water, and snacks. Moderate level hike across uneven ground with no trail. People should be prepared for occasionally pushing through thickets of willows and cottonwoods, but will not be crossing the river, so hiking shoes are recommended.

Martha Cooper is the Southwest New Mexico Field Representative for The Nature Conservancy, based in the Cliff-Gila Valley. For over a decade she has managed the Gila and Mimbres Riparian Preserves and worked with partners on related restoration, education, and policy projects to protect and expand their conservation values.

Dr. Esteban Muldavin is the Director and Senior Ecologist with Natural Heritage New Mexico. He has a B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in Biology from New Mexico State University.

“The song of the river ends not at her banks
but in the hearts of those who have loved her.”

~Buffalo Joe



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Service Project with Teresa Martinez, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and Gila National Forest. 8:00 a.m.–4:45 p.m. **FREE.**

Meet at Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 8:00 a.m. for shuttle to project area, or meet at Gomez Peak Trailhead at 9:00 a.m. Return to Silver

City by 5:00 p.m. **Travel time:** Approximately 15 minutes each way.

Difficulty level: easy. There will be a variety of tools and tasks including establishing trail tread, restoration, sign installation and building trail structures.

Join the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, the Gila National Forest, and local Silver City volunteers in a day of fun, camaraderie, and giving back to the Continental Divide Trail. Volunteers are needed to do trail maintenance in the Gomez Peak/Little Walnut area of the Gila National Forest near Silver City. The project is family friendly.

- 8:00 Meet at Murray Ryan Visitor Center for shuttle to Gomez Peak Trailhead.
- 9:00 Meet at Gomez Peak Trailhead on Little Walnut Road. Brief overview of the project(s) and safety meeting.
- 9:30 Hike to project site(s)
- 10:00–3:00 Trail Maintenance
- 3:30 Return to trailhead
- 4:00 Afternoon reception

Tools, project materials, work site supervision, qualified First Aid personnel, safety equipment and water will be provided. A reception with food and refreshments will follow at 4:00. Please provide your own lunch and snacks, and wear closed-toe shoes, hat, and sunscreen.

Teresa Martinez, the Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, works with public lands agencies on the Continental Divide Trail.



Photo courtesy of Paul Magranti—PMaggs.com

ICONS AND SYMBOLS OF OUR REGIONAL HERITAGE

Presentation by Diana Molina, Creative Director for JUNTOS Art Association. 9:00–10:00 a.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

This presentation, featuring stunning photos of the Gila region and southwest New Mexico, is an eclectic, multi-faceted portrayal of our cultural legacy that embodies our landscape and the spirit of our people through symbols, sometimes with a distinctly modern twist. If New Mexico is known for its distinctive regional culture, our symbols are keys to the stories of our inherited culture and the shared regional consciousness of communities that shape the American Southwest.

And, while humans create culture, the land itself has a direct influence in that creation. Our geography, with close proximity to Mexico, and our natural features unify our experience of place; they give shape to our unique identity, our collective character, unified but not homogenized.

***Diana Molina** traded in a career as a software engineer to follow her passion as a professional photographer and writer. She moved to Europe for a decade before settling back home in New Mexico's Mesilla Valley. Her work has appeared in Elle, Esquire, GEO, GQ, Marie Claire, National Geographic Traveler, Vogue, Texas Highways and New Mexico Magazine, and her exhibits have shown in museums worldwide.*

100 YEARS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORY— AND LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES

Presentation by Rita Garcia, Chief of Interpretation at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument. 10:15–11:15 a.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

In the 21st century, changing perceptions, needs and use for public lands are very different than they were in 1916. One hundred years later, do we really need national parks and monuments anymore? Some people feel that the federal government has gotten it all wrong. Do state government or private owners know how to do it better?

The 1916 Organic Act created the National Park Service (NPS) to manage and care for special places across the United States and its protectorates. Like any other organization, the NPS has made mistakes; but unlike anyone else, the NPS has had one hundred years to learn how to do it better. Come discover what the first 100 years have been like for the NPS; and share your thoughts on what you hope will come of the second century of caring for your public places—your natural and cultural heritage.

***Rita Garcia**, Chief of Interpretation at Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, with more than 20 years' experience with the National Park Service. She is a native Arizonan who loves the wild places and wants to help others find their special connection, too.*

THE RIVER IS FOOD

Presentation by Richard Stephen Felger, University of Arizona Herbarium.
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

The river is food, the forest is food, the desert is food. Follow Gila River water down through conifers, oaks, grasses, mesquites, and cactus. Down to the Colorado confluence and on to the Río Colorado Delta. Once, you could walk all the way in the shade of cottonwoods and willows, trails of seep-willow smells, places of no spines. Food plants everywhere. Over 500 species of edible wild plants—some as trail snacks, some as essentials. Our interest is drawn to those essentials. Acorns needing no leaching, spicy mustard seeds, sunflowers, amaranths and teparies, desert tree legumes, cactus fruits so good you would forget about summer heat, seawater grain and a richness of other perennial grains, and desert goji berry.

The upper Gila—like other reaches of the sacred water—was a sweet place, with so many good things to eat and so many good places to grow crops. Cultivated places that looked just like the Wilderness World; no wonder The People did not want to leave. Every place and every year and season brings a different diversity for growing and harvesting. Like the whole riverine ecosystem, the upper Gila region is an ideal place for adapting economically viable native food crops, especially for no-till agriculture. Some water is needed, but minimal compared to non-desert crops, and poor quality water is okay. Learn from The People before, hedge your bets, intercrop food plants for farms and home gardens. These native crops feature high nutrition, taste, and local food resiliency—and nowadays the markets exist. Fit the crop to the land, not the land to the crop. They say a “food desert” is where poor people live and nutritious food is hard to get. But Apache elders say, The Desert is where the Food is.

Richard Felger has conducted research in deserts worldwide and has written or co-authored more than 100 peer-review publications, in addition to books and popular writings in desert botany, ethnobiology, and new food crops. His most recent book, *Plant Life of a Desert Archipelago: Flora of the Sonoran Islands in the Gulf of California*, co-authored with Ben Wilder in collaboration with Humberto Romero-Morales, is now available in soft cover. His *People of the Desert and Sea: Ethnobotany of the Seri Indians*, co-authored with Mary Beck Moser and long out-of-print, is again available from the University of Arizona Press. Richard is a researcher with the University of Arizona Herbarium and lives in Silver City with his wife, Silke Schneider, and many animals and plants.



Mark Erickson

Richard Felger

GILA RIVER DIVERSION & RESERVOIR SITES

Field trip with Todd Schulke, Center for Biological Diversity. 1:30–5:00 p.m.

Participant limit: 20. **Fee:** \$16. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 1:15 p.m., carpool to field trip destination, return to Silver City by 5:00 p.m.

Travel time: Approximately 45 minutes each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate.

The NM CAP Entity and the Interstate Stream Commission are bound and determined to take a large amount of water from the Gila River. In July 2016, the CAP Entity notified the Bureau of Reclamation to analyze two projects, proposing to remove 150 cubic feet per second of water, a river in itself, upstream of Mogollon Creek. The water would be either dumped onto the sandy ground supposedly for later capture or pumped into reservoirs, potentially including Spar Canyon, which is in a Gila National Forest roadless area.

On this field trip, Todd Schulke will lead a tour of the proposed diversion and reservoir sites. Participants will learn the diversion and storage details and come to understand why this large project is harmful to the river and the species that depend on it.

Please bring a hat, sunscreen, water shoes, snacks, and water. This is a moderately strenuous hike across uneven ground, sometimes with no trail. People should be prepared for mud, crossing the Gila River, and occasionally pushing through willow thickets.

Todd Schulke is one of the founders of the Center for Biological Diversity. He oversees the Center's forest protection and restoration program and has been working for more than 25 years to protect the Gila River.

“Men may dam it and say that they have made a lake, but it will still be a river. It will keep its nature and bide its time, like a caged animal alert for the slightest opening. In time, it will have its way; the dam, like the ancient cliffs, will be carried away piecemeal in the currents.”

~Wendell Berry

ROSS CALVIN: UNHERALDED SPOKESMAN FOR THE GILA

Presentation by Ron Hamm, historian and writer. 1:30–2:30 p.m.
Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

Ross Calvin didn't find his voice for his beloved Gila Country until mid-life, after coming to New Mexico to restore his health. Then this Harvard educated scholar, Episcopal priest, and acclaimed advocate of the Southwest began speaking for it with a powerful, articulate voice. His classic *Sky Determines* and *River of the Sun* tell of a region unfamiliar to many until he took up his self-proclaimed mantle of interpreter. Even though he is unknown to many today, his words speak loudly even now.

His message, clear and bright as our New Mexico sky, deserves to be heard and heeded for its clear illumination of our cultural and natural heritage. His words, like the flow of the Gila, can influence and inform if we allow them to seep into our consciousness. Why? Because Calvin understood climate—by which he meant sun and weather and sky. This insight allowed him to explore and explain its influence on New Mexico's landscape. He believed our climate determines everything humankind does in this lovely but sometimes hostile setting. This philosophy underscored his "unrelenting theme" in following the sky's all-determining influence on ecology, science, and natural history.

Ron Hamm first came to New Mexico a half century ago. Although he has left it on occasion, its hold on him has never weakened. Hamm has been a journalist, PR practitioner, teacher, and now a writer of New Mexico biography.

WHERE THE ARTS MEET THE ENVIRONMENT

Panel Discussion with Hakim Bellamy, Colin Diles Hazelbaker, Peter Bill
2:45–3:45 p.m. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

What motivates people to care about conservation and become careful stewards of nature? Often it's the way environmental issues are framed and discussed, either as abstract concepts separate from us, or as issues that profoundly touch our daily lives. Where do the arts and environmental activism intersect? With heartfelt and artful poems, stories, artwork, films, music, and photos, artists can convey in a heartbeat what environmentalists often struggle to explain in complex policy statements.

Addressing an audience of international conservationists in 1968, Senegalese forestry engineer Baba Dioum said, "In the end we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand; and we will understand only what we are taught." It often falls to artists to teach us to love, understand, and conserve.

Join this discussion of the relationship between art and conservation with three New Mexico artists: Hakim Bellamy, Albuquerque's inaugural poet laureate, Peter Bill, painter and filmmaker, and Colin Diles, musician and producer.

WHAT IS NOW/WHAT COULD BE

Collaborative Performance. 4:00–5:30 p.m.
Fine Arts Center Theater, WNMU. **FREE.**

The forest that grows along the Gila River demonstrates tremendous capacity for both regeneration and destruction. Humans are unable to recreate the complexity or beauty of this forest, but we have the power to significantly alter and degrade it.

An installation co-created by a team of partners will combine sculpture, performance, song, spoken word, and sounds to explore the processes associated with the Gila's riparian forest and to celebrate its beauty. This performance will demonstrate the dynamic relationships between the Gila River and people—people who have the power to protect or degrade this river ecosystem.

Once a forest on stage is created from cloth, recycled materials and other objects, the audience will be invited to walk among the trees.

Artistic Director: Ann Marie Elder, Associate Professor, WNMU; Technical Director: Patrick Rogers; Lighting Designer/Artistic Creator: Tasha Cooper; Artistic Creator/WNMU Staff: Cindy Medrano; Students of Aldo Leopold Charter School and Western New Mexico University; In collaboration with: Kathy Whiteman, Assistant Professor of Biology and Outdoor Leadership Studies, WNMU, and Martha Cooper, The Nature Conservancy's Southwest Field Representative.



Tasha Cooper

PUBLIC LANDS LEGACY

Keynote Address by Audrey Peterman, writer, activist, & President of Earthwise Productions

7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Global Resource Center, WNMU.

\$10 suggested donation at the door.

For leaders in the effort to retain the free-flowing Gila River, the current state of the Everglades ecosystem in South Florida can serve as a cautionary tale. In an era when money and greed appear to trump every iota of good sense, the Everglades is responding to years of ditching, diking and pollution by compromising the very source of money. A toxic algae bloom resulting from effluent dumped into the Everglades is wiping out the tourism industry in multiple Florida counties, and once-sought-after beaches are being shown around the world as fetid places to be avoided at all costs.

Audrey Peterman will dissect the anatomy of this tragedy in her presentation, and compare it to the current threat to the Gila River. Could a similar environmental catastrophe be in store for the ecosystems supported by the Gila if the river is dammed and diverted? Concerned citizens in New Mexico should be galvanized into action by this real-life example as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the legacy of conservation in America.

In the face of numerous recent threats to public land, it's essential to acknowledge the vision of late 19th and early 20th century conservationists who were instrumental in the establishment of the National Park Service, Forest Service, and other federal land agencies. Peterman will talk about the philosophy behind and the need for preservation of public lands, especially our national parks, as the refugia of much of our natural and cultural history. She will highlight the contributions of the unsung heroes of the conservation movement, women and people of color, and urge all Americans to become steadfast stewards of public lands.

Audrey Peterman is the author of *Our True Nature: Finding a Zest for Life in the National Park System* and, with her husband Frank Peterman, of *Legacy on the Land: A Black Couple Discovers Our National Inheritance and Tells Why Every American Should Care*.

For 20 years, Audrey Peterman has been part of the effort to restore the Everglades, including Everglades National Park. In 1999, she and her husband Frank were presented with the George Barley Award for their leadership in engaging African Americans with the restoration effort. President of Earthwise Productions Inc., which provides consulting and training services to public land managers and conservation organizations, she is a pioneer in the movement to connect urban communities with the public lands systems.



Festival Registration, information, and sales:

Global Resource Center, Western New Mexico University,
12th & Kentucky Streets, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

AND Festival Information: Murray Ryan Visitor Center,
201 N. Hudson, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

BIRDING AT THE BRIDGE

Field trip with Brian Dolton. 7:30–11:30 a.m. **Participant limit:** 12. **Fee:** \$16.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 7:15 a.m., carpool to the Iron Bridge Conservation Area on the Gila River, and return to Silver City by 11:30 a.m.

Travel time: 30 minutes each way. **Difficulty level:** moderate. Total hiking distance about 2.5 miles, mostly road/trail walking with minimal elevation gain.

On this field trip, be prepared to be surprised. Birding in September is somewhat challenging, with fall migration much less predictable than in spring. Participants may see a range of species including warblers, flycatchers, finches, sparrows, woodpeckers and hawks. And though the birding may be unpredictable, this we can guarantee: you'll enjoy this walk along the beautiful Gila River and have a lovely time.



Western Tanager.

Photo: Mark Watson

Please bring hat, sunscreen, good walking shoes, water, and snacks. Field trip guide Brian Dolton will have extra binoculars and birding guides; if you have your own, please bring them.

Brian Dolton is an Englishman transplanted to New Mexico. He has led birding trips for the local Audubon chapter for six years and has seen almost 250 species of birds in Grant County.

GILAvisions

Community Presentations and Performances

9:00 a.m.–noon. Global Resource Center, WNMU. **FREE.**

What does the Gila River mean to you? How do you relate to and celebrate the natural and cultural heritage of the Gila River, and envision it now and in the future?

GILAvisions

voices of the river

Community members respond to these questions in many ways, and they'll communicate their ideas to you, in the form of talks, performances, demonstrations, videos, photos, and more. These short presentations (5 to 15 minutes each) will move you in unexpected ways, as you share the GILAvisions of your fellow New Mexicans.

MIMBRES CULTURE HERITAGE SITE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

Field trip with Marilyn Markel. 8:00 a.m.–noon. **Participant limit:** 20. **Fee:** \$16.

Registration required: see page 4. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 7:45 a.m., carpool to the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site, and return to Silver City by noon. **Travel time:** 40 minutes each way.

Archaeologist Marilyn Markel will begin this tour with a talk inside the newly renovated Mimbres Culture Heritage Site Visitors' Center, and then lead you through the Mattocks ruin. Located along the Mimbres River, the site was occupied from about A.D. 550 to the mid-1100s. Marilyn will talk about its inhabitants, what went wrong, and why they abandoned their homes. Did they experience an extended drought? Exceed the land's carrying capacity?

The Mattocks site is an excellent example of a Mimbres Valley settlement. Past archaeological excavations allow interpretation of the site at a level of detail not possible at unexcavated sites, and this relatively undisturbed site may be one of the last major sites in the middle Mimbres drainage.

Marilyn Markel teaches archaeology at Aldo Leopold Charter School in Silver City and is the President of the Grant County Archaeological Society, the Southwest Chapter Coordinator of New Mexico SiteWatch, and the Education Coordinator at the Mimbres Culture Heritage Site.

SILVER CITY ART ASSOCIATION
Gila River Art Tour

Saturday, September 24

Gallery hours vary

The following galleries on the self-guided tour will feature works inspired by the Gila River. For more information on participating galleries, visit www.silvercitygalleries.com.

BLUE DOME GALLERY

307 N. Texas St.

COPPER QUAIL GALLERY

211-A N. Texas St.

Wide variety of nature-based art reflecting the beauty and value of the Gila Wilderness: wildlife and landscapes in photography, paintings, glass, clay, wood.

HUTCHINGS FINE ART

406B Bullard St.

Deborah Hutchings' oil and watercolor paintings of local landscapes and the Gila River and bronze sculptures by Jim Palmer.

LEYBA & INGALLS ARTS

315 N. Bullard St.

Gila River paintings by gallery artists.

LOIS DUFFY STUDIO

211-C N. Texas St.

Featuring prints and paintings of Grant County scenes. Open 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

MOLLY RAMOLLA ARTS

203 N. Bullard St.

Featuring Molly Ramolla's works in wax casein, egg tempera, watercolor, sculpture, jewelry and more.

MOONSTRUCK ART GALLERY

110 W. Yankie St.

Featuring felted nature pouches by Pat Bouchard and "earthy" pottery by Bill Blakemore, with new vessel shapes and glaze combinations. Opening 3–5 p.m.

RAVENSONG ARTS

106 W. Yankie St.

ARTS from the natural world, Gila River paintings by Diane Cornelius.

SOUL RIVER

400 N. Bullard St.

"Into the Wilderness": nature paintings by Gay Scheibl and Chuck Volz.



SYZYGY TILE

106 N. Bullard St.

Featuring nature themed tiles; birds, flowers, and more. Open 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

THE PLACE AT THE PALACE

201 N. Bullard St.

Featuring art by Tom Holt, Fidel Hinojosa, Rita Sherwood & Ginna Heiden.

Opening 5–7 p.m.

TREE SPIRIT GALLERY

206 N. Bullard St.

Fine Art, Photography, Local Pottery, Hopi Art & Crafts.

WILD WEST WEAVING

211-D N. Texas St.

Weaving demonstration during Gila River Extravaganza.

ZOE'S GALLERY

305 Cooper St., corner of Market, next to GRIP office. Open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Working in clay and mixed media, forms are sensual and tactile, ranging in scale from handheld to public art. Nature is present as a constant muse.



And Don't Miss . . .

GILA RIVER ART EXHIBIT

September 1 thru 25, Murray Ryan Visitor Center, 201 N. Hudson St.

Hours: Monday thru Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

ABOUT THE COVER ARTIST

M. Fred Barraza is a multimedia artist, working in printmaking, painting, drawing, illustration and sculpture. He is currently a Commissioner with the New Mexico Arts Commission, Office of Cultural Affairs. For five years, Barraza taught drawing, printmaking and art appreciation classes at WNMU, and has created covers and illustrations for over a dozen books. He combined his love of water and Mimbrenño design to create the cover artwork, "The Gathering" (detail shown; see full piece at www.gilaconservation.org).

FAMILY FLY FISHING ADVENTURE

Field trip with Jason Amaro, Jeff Arterburn, Tom Hines, and Dutch Salmon.

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. **Meet** at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 8:45 a.m., carpool to Bill Evans Lake, return to Silver City by 4:00 p.m. **Travel time:** 45 minutes each way. **Participant limit:** 20 (this includes kids). Register early: this class fills up fast! Children are welcome on this field trip, and must be registered and accompanied by an adult. **Fee:** \$20 adults; \$5 kids (12 and under). September 24 is FREE Fishing Day—no fishing license required. All other NM Dept. of Game & Fish rules and regulations apply.

Join experienced fly fishing guides Jason Amaro, Jeff Arterburn, Tom Hines and Dutch Salmon on an outing at Bill Evans Lake. Here you will learn the rudiments of fishing dry flies, wet flies, nymphs and streamers, the basic knots, and the first-step mechanics of casting a fly, and hooking and “playing” a fish. The where-to-go and how-to of other Gila area game fish (various trout, small-mouth bass, carp, etc.) will also be reviewed.

Please bring: Your fly fishing gear (but if you don't have any we'll rig you up), hat, sunscreen, wading shoes, snacks, lunch, and plenty of drinking water.

Jason Amaro, the Sportsman Conservation Coordinator for Trout Unlimited, is a New Mexico Wildlife Federation board member and a former fishing guide for Chama Land & Cattle. **Jeff Arterburn** is President of the Gila–Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited. **Tom Hines** is a local Silver City area angler and he ties some of the prettiest flies you'll ever see. **Dutch Salmon**, writer and Gila Conservation Coalition co-founder and chairman, early on when Gila trout became legal, caught one near 20" and was “hooked.”



Gila Conservation Coalition

Dutch Salmon fly fishes along the Gila River in the Mogollon Box area.

KAYAK THE GILA

Kayak trip with Far Flung Adventures. 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Participant limit: 15. **Fee:** \$85. **Registration required:** see page 4.

We will contact participants with information on where to meet. If there is not enough water to float the Gila River, registration fees will be refunded in full.

The Gila might be missing from an inventory of the world's longest rivers, but it's at the top of the list when it comes to rivers with heart—BIG heart. Steve Harris and Todd Schulke are two of the many river runners who drop everything to float the Gila when the water is up. To merge with the beating heart of a live river, in a region where most rivers are tamed and constrained—well, that's what it's all about.

Unlike many Southwestern rivers, the pastoral Cliff-Gila Valley still supports healthy riparian areas, and is an easy and lovely 1.5- to 2-mile float. Join Steve and Todd for a relaxing and informative trip down the Gila.

Participants should bring: hat; sunglasses with retainer strap; shorts; short-sleeved shirt; sneakers, booties or water shoes (with sandals a distant second choice); 1–2 liters of water; lunch and snacks; sunscreen; and a lightweight shelled jacket in case of inclement weather. Far Flung Adventures will provide one-person inflatable kayaks, paddles, helmets and life jackets.

NOTE: Although extensive river experience is not necessary, please be realistic about your physical condition and make sure you're capable of performing several short carries. To prevent injuries, the Gila River Festival reserves the right to limit this excursion to individuals in good physical condition.

Steve Harris, the owner of Far Flung Adventures, has been kayaking for over 30 years. Harris is also the Executive Director of Rio Grande Restoration. **Todd Schulke** is one of the founders of the Center for Biological Diversity. When these two aren't at work protecting our forests and rivers, chances are they're running a Southwestern river.



Kayakers stretching before the put-in.

MAKING A HOME IN THE HEART OF THE GILA

Field trip with Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument interpretive guides.

Noon–5:30 p.m. **FREE. Registration required:** see page 4.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 11:45 a.m., carpool to the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, and return to Silver City by 5:30 p.m.

Travel time: ~1.5 hours each way on the lovely Trail of the Mountain Spirits National Scenic Byway.

National Public Lands Day celebrates all of our nation's public lands and the many benefits they offer to each and every one of us. Come celebrate your public lands and national park places while discovering your national heritage at the Gila Cliff Dwellings. Walk one mile, and 700 years into the past to explore a homeplace for the Mogollon Culture. Enter caves and dwellings for an up-close glimpse into the lives of these people.

The one-mile trail to the Gila Cliff Dwellings is at roughly 6000' elevation and includes a 180-foot gain in elevation to get to the dwellings. The natural trail is unpaved, uneven and can be steep in some places. There are several areas with uneven, stone stairs that vary in height. Sturdy shoes, sunscreen, water and hats are needed to protect yourself during your visit. The guided site exploration will last about one and one half hours and will be led by a NPS interpretive guide trained by Rita Garcia, Chief of Interpretation at the Monument.



THE FORT SILL APACHE TRIBE'S GILA HOMELANDS PAST AND PRESENT

Presentation by Jeff Haozous, Tribal Chairman, and Michael Darrow, Tribal Historian. 1:00–2:00 p.m. Global Resource Center. **FREE.**

Fort Sill Apache tribal leaders will discuss the tribe's history to its aboriginal homelands encompassing the Gila River watershed, its forced removal and incarceration as prisoners of war, and the progress of its return to New Mexico.

The Fort Sill Apache Tribe is the successor to the Chiricahua & Warm Springs Apache Tribes. In 1886, they were taken as prisoners of war by the U.S. Army and removed from their homelands of southwestern New Mexico to Florida, Alabama and Oklahoma, where they were released.

They organized as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe after a federal court affirmed their claim for the loss of over 14.8 million acres of their homeland. The Tribe has always maintained its independence as Chiricahua–Warm Springs Apaches and its desire to return to its rightful home. In 2011 its land in Akela, NM received reservation status.

Jeff Haozous has served as Chairman of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe since October 2002. Michael Darrow has served as the Tribal Historian since 1986. Both have long been committed to returning the Tribe to its homelands.

THE FANTASTIC FLORA OF THE GILA RIVER

Field trip with William Norris and Richard Felger. 1:15–5:00 p.m.

Participant limit: 25. **Fee:** \$16. **Registration required:** see page 4.

Meet at the Murray Ryan Visitor Center at 1:00 p.m., carpool to the Mogollon Box Day Use Area, and return to Silver City by 5:00 p.m.

Travel time: 1 hour each way.

This field trip will be led by two expert botanists who know all the plants you're likely to encounter, and then some. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, you'll learn something new on this plant hike. Fall is peak time for observing the trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and grasses of the Gila River riparian zone. The trip leaders will introduce participants to this flora, with emphasis on the ecology and cultural uses of these fascinating plants. They'll also discuss the importance of public lands as refugia of threatened and endangered plants.

Please wear sturdy shoes, hat and sunscreen, and bring snacks and water. A 10X hand-lens is recommended.

Difficulty level: Moderate to Easy. Participants should expect to encounter uneven terrain, with little elevational gain. You may get your feet wet while walking along the river's edge, but you will not be crossing the river.

William Norris is Professor of Biology at Western New Mexico University, where he teaches numerous botany courses to support the only university botany degree available in New Mexico. He is currently collaborating with other botanists on floras of the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and City of Rocks State Park.

Richard Felger, a researcher with the University of Arizona Herbarium, has conducted research in deserts worldwide. He has written or co-authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications, in addition to books on botany, ethnobiology, and new food crops.

“ Humankind has not woven the web of life.
We are but one thread within it.
Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves.
All things are bound together . . . all things connect.”

~Chief Seattle

GILA RIVER EXTRAVAGANZA

Featuring Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers with the Gooday Family; Spoken Word Poetry with Hakim Bellamy, Colin Diles & Friends; Video Projections by Peter Bill; Monsoon Puppet Theater parade; Music by The Road Runners, Bayou Seco, and The Average Cadaver.

3:00–10:00 p.m. **FREE.**

Face Painting & Mask Making—3 p.m. at Bikeworks, corner of College/Bullard
Monsoon Puppet Theater Parade with Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers—4 p.m.
Extravaganza at Yankie and Texas Streets with music, food, kids' activities, spoken word poetry, video projections, and Fort Sill Apache Dancers—4:30–10 p.m.

Kick off the Gila River Extravaganza with a special Monsoon Puppet Theater parade featuring the Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers and Monsoon Puppets. To help you get in the spirit, we'll do face painting, and mask and puppet making with all materials provided at 3:00 at Bikeworks on the corner of College and Bullard. At 4:00, we'll line up at Bikeworks for the parade down Bullard Street. Show off your painted faces, puppets, and masks!

When the parade ends at Yankie and Texas, the party continues with more kid- and family-centered fun in the street from 4:30–10:00. Food vendors and light refreshments provided by the Silver City Food Co-op and Gila Conservation Coalition will be available.

Dance to live music by Silver City's own great musicians: The Average Cadaver, Bayou Seco, and the Roadrunners. We'll teach simple folk dances for Bayou Seco's music, and you're on your own for the other bands!

Wait until dark for a visual and aural feast for the senses.

Beginning about 8:00, listen to spoken word performances by Hakim Bellamy, Albuquerque's inaugural poet laureate, accompanied by Albuquerque musician and producer Colin Diles. Local poets will add their voices to the mix.

Complementing the performances, projected on the Murray Hotel will be the striking images and videos of Peter Bill, filmmaker, artist, and photographer.



SantaFeSelection.com

Dance of the Mountain Spirits

Fort Sill Apache Fire Dancers with the Gooday Family. 9:00 p.m. Yankie & Texas Streets. **FREE.**

For many generations, the Chiricahua Apaches, now known as the Fort Sill Apache Tribe, have performed the Dance of the Mountain Spirits yearly and during sacred occasions to drive away sickness and evil and bring good health and good fortune. The Fire Dancers are a traditional group and rarely perform for the public.

THE GILA RIVER'S VITAL ROLE IN AMERICAN CONSERVATION

Brunch with writer Philip Connors, author of *Fire Season*.

10:30 a.m.–noon.

Light Hall Patio & Gardens

Fee: GCC members: \$50/individual; \$75/couple

GCC non-members: \$60/individual; \$85/couple

Enjoy a lovely brunch at the newly completed Light Hall Patio & Gardens, and listen as writer Philip Connors explores the meaning of the Gila River in the history of American conservation at a time when it faces enormous new threats.

Philip Connors has spent fourteen summers living as a seasonal caretaker on publically owned land in the Gila National Forest, keeping watch from a fire tower, an experience that has given him ample time to reflect on the meaning and the promise of wild federal land, as well as its durability and fragility as a political idea. He will remind us of how the Gila Wilderness grew out of an impulse to protect wild places from the threat of development, and make the case for preserving the free-flowing Gila River as a way of honoring the original intent of the Gila Wilderness, as envisioned by Aldo Leopold. He will also scan the future for a glimpse of how the “world’s first wilderness” and its riparian heart will continue to accrue and evolve meaning in a changing climate on a crowded planet.

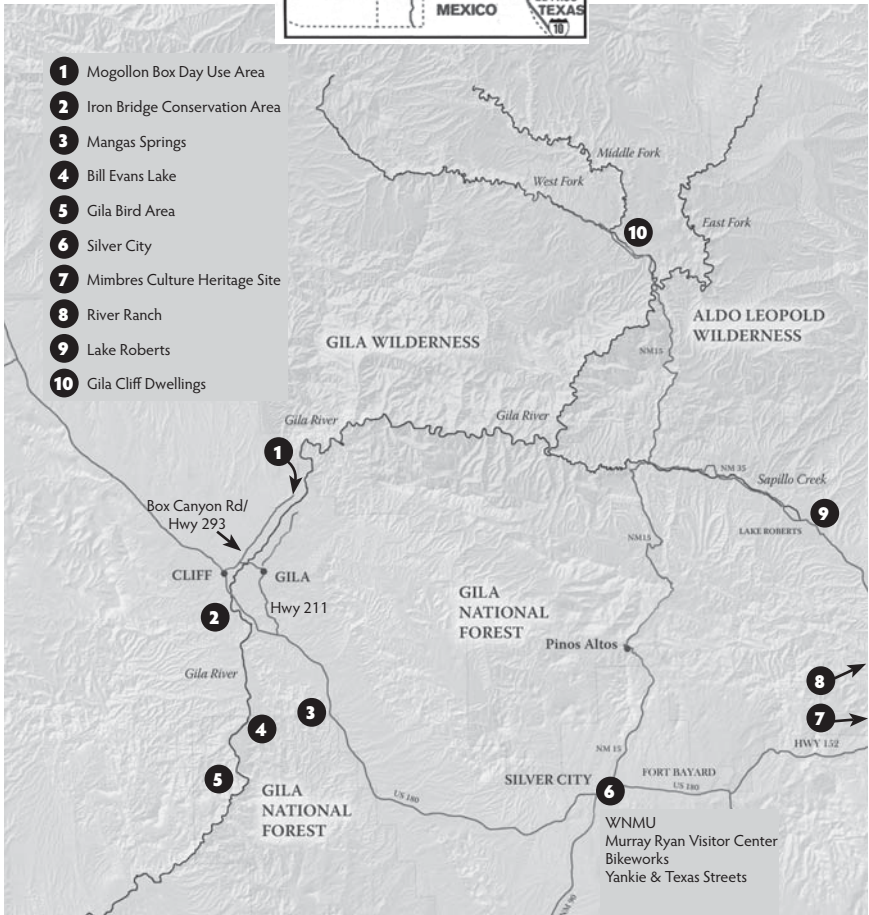


Philip Connors is the author of *Fire Season: Field Notes from a Wilderness Lookout*, winner of the *National Outdoor Book Award*, the *Sigurd Olson Nature Writing Award*, the *Reading the West Award for nonfiction*, and the *Grand Prize at the Banff Mountain Book Competition*. His second book, *All the Wrong Places*, tells the story of his brother’s untimely death, and of how he found solace and a renewed sense of purpose in the high country of the Gila. His essays and articles have appeared in *Harper’s*, *Orion*, *the Nation*, *the New York Times Magazine*, and many other papers and magazines.

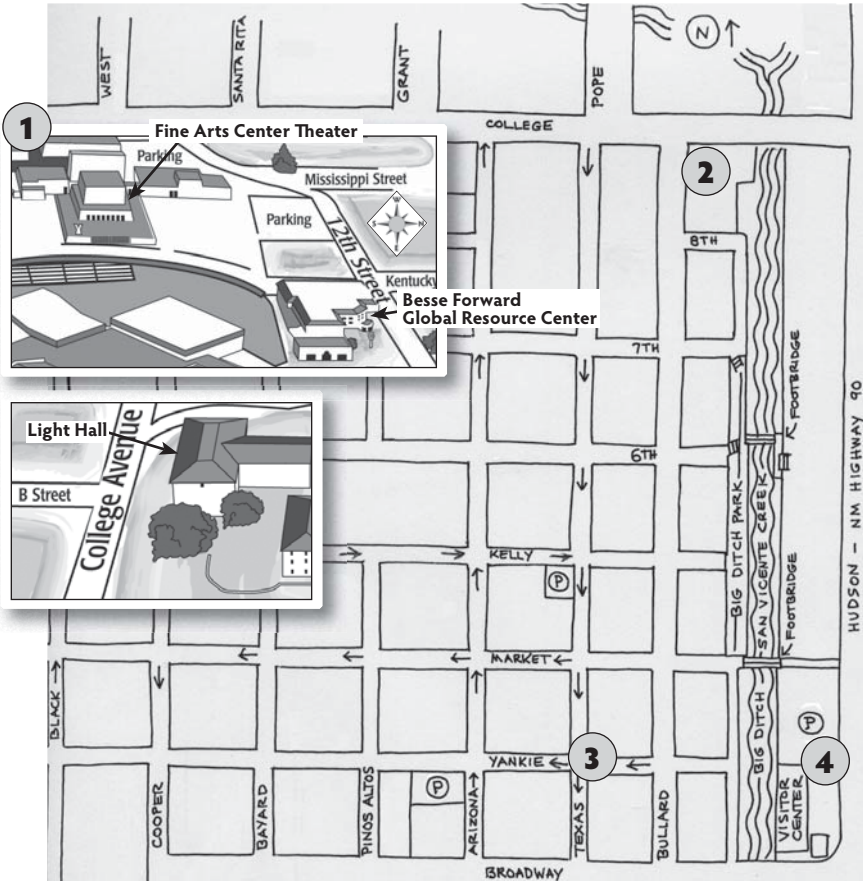
FESTIVAL & AREA Locations



- 1 Mogollon Box Day Use Area
- 2 Iron Bridge Conservation Area
- 3 Mangas Springs
- 4 Bill Evans Lake
- 5 Gila Bird Area
- 6 Silver City
- 7 Mimbres Culture Heritage Site
- 8 River Ranch
- 9 Lake Roberts
- 10 Gila Cliff Dwellings



DOWNTOWN Silver City



- 1 Besse Forward Global Resource Center***
Western New Mexico University
12th & Kentucky Streets

*festival registration, info, sales

Fine Arts Center Theater
Kentucky Street

Light Hall
College Avenue & B Street

- 2 Bikeworks**
820 N. Bullard Street

- 3 Yankie & Texas Streets**

- 4 Murray Ryan Visitor Center***
201 N. Hudson

*festival information, t-shirts

Gila Resources Information Project
 a partner of the Gila Conservation Coalition
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 Silver City, New Mexico 88061
www.gilaconservation.org
 575-538-8078

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Online Registration:
www.gilaconservation.org

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