

The Buzz at Discovery Park

By Justin Johnson



Photo Courtesy of Rachel More-Hla. Prickly pear blooms on Ten Ranch.

Have you noticed fewer Monarch butterflies floating about these days? Has it been a while since you've noticed a bumblebee buzzing around you? Monarch butterflies overwintering in Mexico have declined by over 90% in the last 20 years. Last year, beekeepers reported losing 40% of their honeybee colonies. With nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of all food crops pollinated by animals, the drastic decline in many pollinators has the potential to dramatically impact humans and the entire ecosystem.



With this in mind, Eastern Arizona College, the Bureau of Land Management, the Gila Watershed Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Southwest Monarch Study have all come together to create habitat for these imperiled pollinators.

The Discovery Park Campus of Eastern Arizona College will be home to a pollinator garden. The garden will be used to demonstrate the importance of pollinators to our ecosystem, the value of native plants, and how to create a water efficient landscape. In addition, the pollinator garden will also provide an outdoor classroom site, a venue to tag Monarch butterflies for research, and a seed production area for the Discovery Park Native Plant Nursery. Over the next year and a half, the garden will be developed and installed.

Keep your eyes peeled on the GWP website and newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

Current Project Updates

FOR MORE INFO SEE WWW.GWPAZ.ORG

Upper Gila Watershed Riparian Restoration

...funded by The Walton Family Foundation, US Fish & Wildlife, and United Way of Graham County

- Will replace invasive tamarisk with native species to restore natural habitats
- Planning for next phase of project – looking into new sites and permitting.

Clifton Restroom

...funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

- Installing restroom facilities in a recreational area just outside of Clifton.
- Final installation being completed.
- Water quality testing being done near site.
- Post-install re-vegetation planning has begun.



San Francisco River Restroom

... funded by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ)

- Will install a second restroom for recreation on the San Francisco River Greenlee County and reduce the E.coli levels on the river and make river recreation safer for our community.
- Work can begin now that we received SHPO cultural clearance.

Developing Greenlee County as a Bird Watching Destination

... funded by Freeport McMoRan Inc., Town of Clifton, and United Way

- Contracts in place to line out the trails, work-up signage, and print brochures.
- New website is being developed.



Discovery Park Pollinator Garden

... funded by Eastern Arizona College, US Bureau of Land Management, USFWS Partners

- Installing pollinator garden at EAC Discovery Park campus to benefit the monarch butterfly and other important pollinators.
- Working on EAC landowner agreement and cultural clearances.
- Our next volunteer event coming soon!

WRRC Water Needs Assessment and Planning

... funded by the BOR & Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative

- Water Supply & Demand Work Team is meeting June 17th, 2-4PM 921 Thatcher Blvd
- Contact Dr. Kelly Mott-Lacroix for more information, klacroix@email.arizona.edu.

Botanical Etymology for Dummies

This month's species is *Thermopsis pinetorum*, or **Pine Thermopsis**, a nitrogen fixing member of the pea family, Fabaceae. Although rare in southeastern Arizona, Thermopsis is found in abundance on Mount Graham.

Thermopsis, Greek *thermos*, a lupine, and *-opsis*, view or appearance of; resembling lupines.

pinetorum, Latin *pinus*, the pine, and *-orum*, belonging to; of the pines or pine woods.

To translate: this lupine resembling flower can be found within the pines.



Pine Thermopsis
Thermopsis pinetorum

EVENTS



GWP

ON FACEBOOK TO KEEP UP WITH
ALL OUR EVENTS!!

June 17th – Water Supply &
Demand Working Group Meeting
2-4PM @ General Services Building

July 8th – GWP Partner
Appreciation Dinner 5:30PM @
Black Hills Catering, RSVP
info@GWPAZ.org

August 12th – Steering Committee
Meeting: Strategic Plan Review

Every Thursday – Open Volunteer
Hours with GWP, 8-11AM @
Discovery Park Greenhouse

Every 4th Wednesday –
Sustainable Funding Working
Group Meeting 11AM @ BLM
Office

Thank you to our partners:

AZ Department of Agriculture
AZ Department of
Environmental Quality
AZ Department of Transportation
AZ Game and Fish Department
AZ Geological Survey
AZ State Land Department
City of Safford
Eastern Arizona College
Farm Bureau
Freeport McMoRan Inc.
Gila Valley Irrigation District
Gila Valley NRCD
Graham County
Graham County Chamber
of Commerce
Greenlee County

Natural Resource
Conservation Service
Southwest Decision Resources
Tamarisk Coalition
Town of Clifton
Town of Duncan
Town of Pima
Town of Thatcher
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Forest Service –
Apache-Sitgreaves and Coronado
U of A Cooperative Extension
U of A Water Resource
Research Center

Get involved in your watershed

For more information, contact Steve Eady at the
Gila Watershed Partnership, P.O. 1614, Thatcher 85552
Email us at info@gwpaz.org

Check out our new website... WWW.GWPAZ.ORG