

Sat., Aug 22, Arizona Native Plant Society Botany Walk on Nature Trail

Every summer since 2015, Doug has met with members of the Arizona Native Plant Society for a monsoon botany walk in Madera Canyon. This year Doug & 6 ANPS members hiked the Nature Trail from Wrightson Trailhead to Amphitheater (retracing the steps of the 2015 botany walk!).

This section of Nature Trail winds through shady side canyons of Madrean Pine/Oak Woodland & across sunny traverses of Interior Chaparral, revealing an impressive diversity of plants. With seasonal rains having “greened up”, the group was able to identify well over 100 species of trees, shrubs, grasses, & wildflowers!

Flowers were particularly numerous & showy in the dappled shade of the oaks & pines- yellow-orange Amber Lily, blue Pinewoods Spiderwort, scarlet Santa Catalina Paintbrush, pink Bushy Tick Clover, yellow San Pedro Daisy, & many others lit up the trailside vegetation. On the more exposed, sunny Chaparral slopes, the group was able to ID specialties like Southwest Coral Bean, Palmer’s Agave, Sotol, Arizona Rainbow Hedgehog cactus, & Wright’s Pincushion cactus. With his plant expertise, participant Dr. John Scheuring helped everyone sort through the many different species of grasses along the trail. The plant highlight of the walk was a handsome Tall Milkweed, *Asclepias elata*, in full bloom at trailside.

Photos:

- 1) Tall Milkweed, *Asclepius elata*
- 2) ANPS walk- hiking the Nature Trail traverse

Photo Credit: Doug Moore