



July 2019

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Helen Shoup, Editor

Bulletin 2019: Quarter 3

This quarterly Bulletin of the Gila Native Plant Society of Silver City, New Mexico, provides the latest communications between the society and the members.

It is delivered via your email unless you request otherwise. The online version allows color photos and for a lower cost (essentially free for GNPS). The Bulletin will continue to be available on the [GNPS website](#).

Field Trips for This Quarter

All field trip participants meet in the south parking lot of the WNMU Fine Arts Center Theater on E Street at 8:00 am for carpooling. The field trips are April through September and are nearly always held on the third Sunday, unless

otherwise specified. The leader is Hanna Blood. The trips are free and open to the public. The destination may change, depending on the weather and the state of the plants.

Activity updates and further details are posted on the [website](#). You will also receive an email reminder before the date of each field trip.

July Field Trip

When: Sunday, July 21

Where: To the Pinos Altos Range

August Field Trip

When: Sunday, August 18, 2019

Where: To Sacaton Mesa

September Field Trip

When: Sunday, September 15

Where: To Fort Bayard Preserve

Plant of the Quarter: Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)

By Keller Suberkropp

Description

Yarrow is a member of the aster family (Asteraceae). The genus name *Achillea* comes from the mythical Greek character, Achilles, who carried it into battle to treat the wounds of his soldiers.

Locations

Yarrow is native to Asia and Europe but apparently was introduced to America during colonial times and has spread across the continent. Currently it is considered native to North America by a number of sources. It is frequently found in mildly disturbed soil of grasslands and open forests.

The Flowers

Plants bloom from late spring (April) into early summer (June). Yarrow produces tiny long-lasting white ray and disc flowers in dense flattened inflorescences. Inflorescences attract a variety of insect pollinators including butterflies, bees, and wasps. A number of cultivars have been produced with flowers of different colors.



Uses

Yarrow is considered a useful companion plant as it repels some pest insects while attracting good predatory insects such as predatory wasps, ladybugs, and hoverflies.

Leaves have been used as a food and in teas.

Yarrow is also a useful medicinal herb as it stops the flow of blood when applied to wounds. Yarrow has been used by a number of native American tribes for medicinal purposes.

Foliage

It produces leaves that are almost feathery, and the plant has a strong sweet scent. It is an herbaceous plant that spreads with underground rhizomes and can be weedy.



Silva Creek Botanical Garden Report

By Elroy Limmer, Garden Chairman

Early in the season we had good rains and cool weather which got the gardens off to a good start, but the rains really diminished in May and June, so that has meant watering needed to keep things looking good.

Butterflies are abundant and feeding on the nectar of many of our native garden plants. Two of our Garden visitors were doing an impromptu butterfly survey and had counted 9 species when I talked to them; I will bet they found several more species before they were finished. About a month ago I talked to visitors from Ohio; they had been talking to neighbors who had visited Silver City and were told that if they came to town that the Garden was a "must see." They asked me to thank everyone for doing such a wonderful job. So word of our Garden is spreading.

We have had a couple of workdays this quarter, and the place is looking very good, if I do say so myself. As you all know, we couldn't do it without so many pitching in to help. As always a big thanks, and if you haven't been by for a while, it's time for another look; the early mornings are wonderful.

Hope to see you in the Garden!

Elroy Limmer, Garden Chairman and our Photographer of all the photos



Workdays in April



Painters in April



Painters in June



Workday in May



Betsy working in June

Photos from Earth Day





Elroy Limmer took the two top photos from Earth Day and Les Brandt's Mary Ann took the bottom two photos.

Photos from Plant Outing in June

Elroy Limmer shared these photos with us - he is our photographer!



Programs from Last Quarter

A description of the programs from last quarter follows:

April Meeting

When: Sunday, April 21

Where: Hanna Blood lead the group on the "Low Desert Wildflower Wander," and all found spring wildflowers!



Photographer: Elroy Limmer

May Picnic

When: Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12, 2019, co-hosted by the Audubon Society, met at 11:00 am and ate lunch at noon

Where: Little Walnut, by the Gomez Peak trail head



Photo by Elroy Limmer

May Meeting

On Sunday, May 17, 2019, at 7:00 pm, Richard Felger gave a presentation on MESQUITE: the Tree of life, the Tree of future.

May Field Trip

When: Sunday, May 19

Where: To the Bird Sanctuary to walk along the edge of the glorious Gila river, where the *Anisacanthus* was putting on quite a show



June Field Trip

When: Sunday, June 16

Where: The Black Range in Bloom

Description: Hanna Blood, our leader, took us to Railroad Canyon off Route 152 up in the Black Range. They wandered along the bubbling Gallinas Creek, running

with this year's abundant winter precipitation. It was a moderate hike at 7100-foot elevation; the trail crossed the creek several times over rocks and wound through riparian and mixed conifer forest habitat.

There was plenty of Alder (*Alnus oblongifolia*) with their sweet-smelling leaves and Blue Willow (*Salix irrorata*). The stream bank was home to herbs, such as violets, wild strawberries, raspberries, Wood's Rose, and members of the mint family, many of which were in bloom. Hidden in the understory, they found Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum fendleri*), False Solomon's Seal (*Maianthemum racemosum*), and New Mexico Alum Root (*Heuchera novomexicana*). They even caught the end of a very spectacular Lupine bloom.



Our mailing address is:

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The Gila Native Plant Society is committed

- To promote education, research, and appreciation of the native flora of the Southwest
- To encourage the preservation of rare and endangered plant species
- To support the use of suitable native plants in landscaping