



**2020**

**New Mexico Garden Clubs  
PHOTOGRAPHY AWARDS**

**BIRD**

**BUTTERFLY**

**HORTICULTURE**

**INSECT**

**LANDSCAPE**

**WILDLIFE**



**What a weird year and a half we've been through! Virtually no meetings and a very long stretch without our gardening friends to hang out with has taken its toll in a lot of ways. But, the garden club photographers came through and have made Volume IV of this book another success! Once again, there were a number of new photographers who entered. Here are 63 new photographs that really help to show the diversity and wonder of our beautiful state!**

**This booklet includes ALL of the entries for the 2020 Photographic Print of the Year. Each entry was submitted in one of 6 available categories—Bird, Butterfly, Horticulture, Insect, Landscape or Wildlife. Every individual photographer was allowed one entry in each category. The award was judged by a panel of professional photographers outside the world of garden club. They were given only numbered photographs for each category.....no other information.**

**Many photographs are entered with imaginative titles and with interesting, and sometimes educational, descriptions. Where those were included, I have added them.....in the photographer's own words.**

**Debra Sorrell**

**Photography Award Chairman**

**NMGC**

**2020**

**PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT OF THE YEAR**

**Juniper Hairstreak Butterfly on Black-eye Susan Bloom**

**Selvi Viswanathan**

**Los Alamos Garden Club**



This Spring I started a Butterfly garden on our deck to attract Monarch Butterflies. As a pleasant surprise this Juniper Hairstreak spotted the blooms of a Black Eye-Susan from 10 am to noon. It had its food, flitting to each bloom on the plant. It is only thumbnail size and its colors are magnificent. I watched for almost an hour enjoying this gem in many angles and took a lot of pictures.

# **BIRD**

**1st Place**

**Xuelan Lopez**

**Santa Rosa Garden Club**



## **2nd Place**

### **Western Tanager**

**Page Steed**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

#### **Western Tanager (*Piranga ludoviciana*)**

**Page Steed**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

Looking at a male Western Tanager is like looking into a bright flame! Its bright orange-red head and flaming yellow body stand out against its black wings, back and tail. This little fellow perched ahead of me on the logging road I was hiking and moved just far away as I approached to maintain a safe distance, posing each time he stopped, as if anticipating that I wanted to take his picture.

Tanagers are one of our favorite birds that migrate each summer into the Sangre de Cristos of Angel Fire, New Mexico.



**Crow *Corvus***  
**Jacqui Binford-Bell**  
**Angel Fire Garden**  
**Club**

Crows on the high plains often gather in the cottonwoods and strip bark to get at insects beneath it.



**Julie foster**  
**Artesia Garden Club**  
**“You looking at me?”**  
**Accipiter missed its lunch.**

**Shar Marquez**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Steller's Jay**

**Susan Schultz**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**Both beautiful and dangerous. According to Cornell Lab, the Steller's Jay will attack Pygmy Nuthatches and Dark-eyed Junco as habitual nest robbers. They excellently mimic crows and hawks. Fascinating and striking birds!**



**Cooper's Hawk**

Sue Ferguson

Morning Garden Club



**Rednaped Sapsucker**

Selvi Viswanathan

Los Alamos Garden Club

The Rednaped Sapsucker visits our yard twice a year during migration periods in Spring and Fall. I look forward to seeing it as it comes to our cherry trees and pinon trees. The intriguing thing to me is it comes in the morning and makes a row of holes on the trunk of the tree (the picture shows the holes) and then leaves. It later comes back to these holes to get the insects that are stuck in the sap. So I wait for the bird to come and it has never disappointed me.

This time many commented that this is my best picture and is taken on my deck close to the cherry tree and with my new camera.

During this Covid19 lockdown taking pictures confined at home birds lifted my spirits!





**Nancy Simma**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Ginny Longbotham**  
**Petal Pushers Garden Club**  
**“Dinner Time”**

**Great Blue Heron**  
**Beverly Cooper**  
**Summit Garden Club**

Taken at Bosque del Apache, a refuge outside of Socorro, NM. I enjoy capturing reflections and I was fortunate that the heron strutted for me and created a reflection of the log he was standing on and his own image in the body of water he was perched above.



**Patricia Williams**  
**High Desert Design Club**

In the spring we noticed that a mother chipping sparrow was making a nest in the potted lilac bush on our back patio. We followed the progress of this little chipping sparrow as she completed the nest and laid three beautiful greenish-blue eggs. The babies grew quickly and whenever the busy little mom flew off to find food, I would snap a photo of the little chicks. This photograph was my favorite.

# **BUTTERFLY**

**1st Place**

**Juniper Hairstreak Butterfly on Black-eye Susan Bloom**

Selvi Viswanathan

Los Alamos Garden Club



This Spring I started a Butterfly garden on our deck to attract Monarch Butterflies. As a pleasant surprise this Juniper Hairstreak spotted the blooms of a Black Eye-Susan from 10 am to noon. It had its food, flitting to each bloom on the plant. It is only thumbnail size and its colors are magnificent. I watched for almost an hour enjoying this gem in many angles and took a lot of pictures.

**2nd Place**

**“New Life”**

**Shirley Tetreault**

**High Desert Design Club Club**



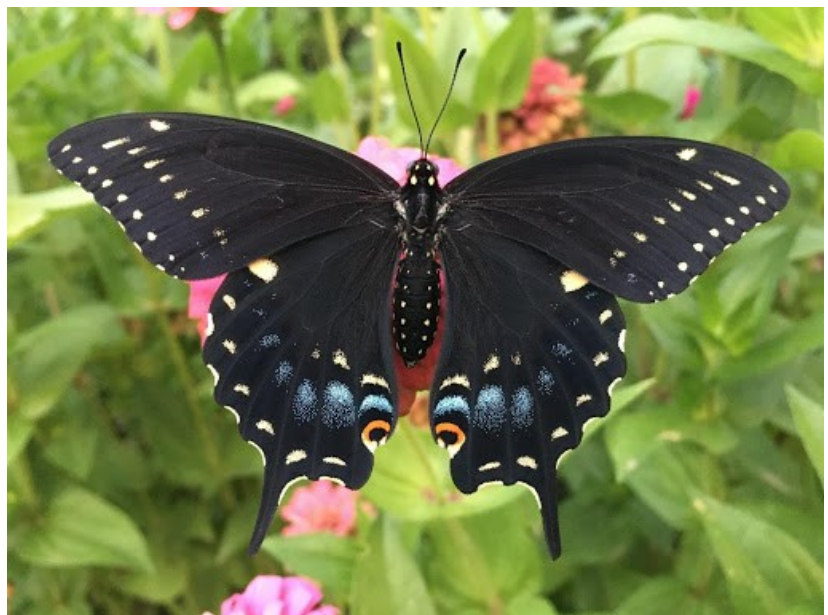
**Jacqui Binford-Bell**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**Western Tiger Swallowtail  
butterfly on chive blossoms**



**Margie Lappin**  
**Uptown Garden Club**  
**Butterfly on a Valerian**



**Shar Marquez**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Sue Wasson**  
**Petal Pushers Garden Club**  
**Butterfly on Pyracantha**



**Diane Peterson**  
**Angel Fire Garden Club**  
**“Sitting Pretty”**

# HORTICULTURE

1st Place

Water Smartweed (*Polygonum amphibium*)

Page Steed

Angel Fire Garden Club



Did you know Angel Fire has a rare high altitude, alpine wetland? Very few exist at 8,500 feet or higher. Beavers built their dam on Cieneguilla Creek just above the culverts under N. Angel Fire Road. Over the past few years, this has created an amazing ecosystem of diverse and unique proportion!

One of the interesting amphibious plants found in this ecosystem is Water (or Swamp) Smartweed. This day, it was blooming prolifically across the wetlands. Ducks love this stuff! They were swimming all about in it, nipping here and there.

Water smartweeds have a long history of human use. Several Plains Indian tribes used the species as a food source, while other groups derived medicines from the roots, stems, and leaves. The term “smartweed” is thought to be a more sanitized version of the original word “arsmart” for the use of the plant in medieval times to relieve itching and swelling of the human posterior.



**2nd Place**

**Oriental Poppy *Papaver oriental***

**Jacqui Binford-Bell**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

This particular poppy has grown in my front bed for almost 20 years. It is not where it should be. They prefer more sun but it persists in spite of that and being buried every winter on ice and snow falling off the roof. I celebrate its persistence by always photographing its blossoms



**Jean Morse-Sanchez**

**Uptown Garden Club**

**Bear Grass in bloom in my garden. Spring 2020**





**Patricia Williams**

**High Desert Design Club**

This is a fabulous example of the resilience of plants, especially those located in the desert. I see this juniper on my walks and it always astounds me in its ability to survive high winds and droughts. I call it “Clinging to Life” due to the roots being so far out of the dirt. I think it is absolutely amazing.



**Lorraine Baca**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Xuelan Lopez**

**Santa Rosa Garden Club**

**Gymnocarpus physocarpa, or “Hairy Balls”**

**Margie Lappin**

**Uptown Garden Club**



**Zena Kinne**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**

**Indian Paintbrush Flower**

**Susan Schultz**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**This plant color can range from yellow to bright red. It can obtain nutrients from photosynthesis as well as a parasite to prairie grasses.**





**Shar Marquez**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**

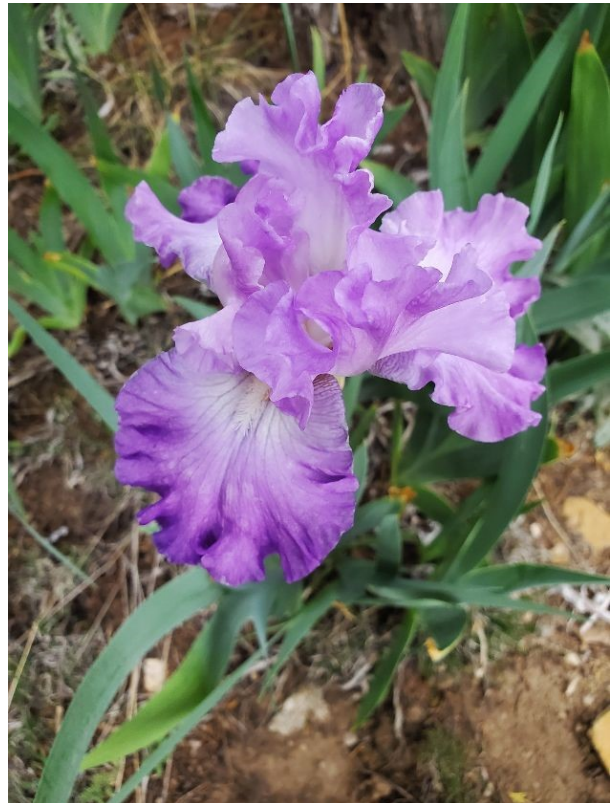
**Beverly Cooper**  
**Summit Garden Club**  
A water lily in my backyard pond which also features goldfish and koi and a small waterfall. Every summer, I have blooming water lilies of a couple of shades of pink. I also tried to capture some motion in the water alongside the flower.



**Ginny Longbotham**  
**Petal Pushers Garden Club**  
**“Crazy Daisy Dahlia”**



**Julie Foster**  
**Artesia Garden Club**  
**“Blue Skies Overhead”**



**Lavender Iris "Cabin Beauty"**  
**Shirley Tetreault**  
**High Desert Design Club**

# **INSECT**

**1st Place**

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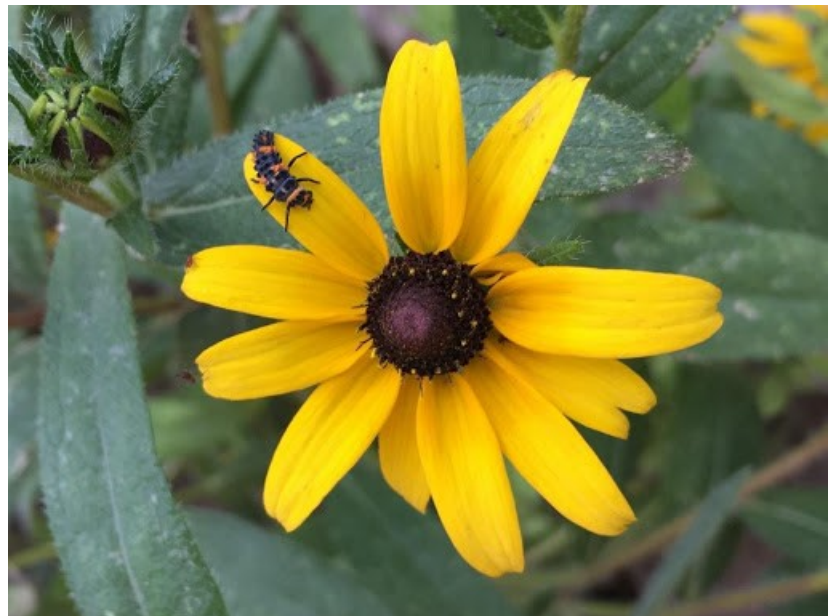
**Angel Fire Garden Club**





**2nd Place**  
**Green Lacewing Babies**  
Margie Lappin  
Uptown Garden Club

**Shar Marquez**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**





**Bumblebee on Currant blossoms**

**Jacqui Binford-Bell**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**



**Beverly Cooper**

**Summit Garden Club**

**A Praying Mantis is captured on one of my own dahlias in the dahlia bed I grow every year in my front yard. I happened to be outdoors when I saw the insect alight on the flower and ran and retrieved my camera to capture it in action.**



**Nancy Simma**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**

# **LANDSCAPE**

**1st Place**

**The Rio Grande Gorge**

**Page Steed**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**



**The Taos subrange of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains rise to over 13,000 feet and serve as a spectacular backdrop to the 800-foot deep Rio Grande Gorge.**

**This geological feature in northern New Mexico was formed by the watercourse of the Rio Grande River following a tectonic chasm, or rift. Beginning near the Colorado border, the approximately 50-mile gorge runs from northwest to southeast of Taos, New Mexico, through the basalt flows of the Taos Plateau volcanic field. The gorge is home to an abundance of wildlife, including mule deer, red-tailed hawks, mountain blue-birds, prairie dogs and big horn sheep. Ancient pinon and juniper forests are home to 500-year-old trees.**





## **2nd Place**

**Patricia Williams**

**High Desert Design Club**

An early morning walk as the sun was coming up provided this stunning landscape. The light was absolutely stunning and the yucca was in just the right place. I simply had to take a photograph.



**Tranquility**

**Margie Lappin**

**Uptown Garden Club**



**Dawn of a New Day after the storm**

**Jacqui Binford-Bell**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**Landscape in the land of big skies is often more about the clouds than the land. And in New Mexico mountains the dawns can be as specular as the sunsets.**



**Lorraine Baca**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Jan Villa**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**

**Susan Schultz**  
**Angel Fire Garden Club**  
**Eagle Nest, New Mexico**



**Xuelan Lopez**

**Santa Rosa Garden Club**

**Santa Sosa, NM got first snow. I took this picture at Santa Rosa Park Lake.**



**Shar Marquez**

**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**“Room for One More Bloom”**

**Ginny Longbotham**

**Petal Pushers Garden Club**

**"Turbulence"**  
Shirley Tetreault  
High Desert Design Club



Nancy Simma  
El Jardin Encanto Garden Club

# **WILDLIFE**

**1st Place**

## **Mama Bear and Two Cubs**

Selvi Viswanathan

Summit Garden Club



I feel I had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity on June 4th, 2020 when I took a photo with my Canon camera of a Mama bear with two cubs at our own backyard pond. We had a mother bear with 3 cubs in our Barranca mesa neighborhood, so we had to be careful. Then while looking for a Wilson Warbler around 10:30 am, I noticed the mother bear coming from the canyon followed by three cute cubs going to our pond. So with my camera I took this picture of them drinking water. The claws show how sharp they are! The second cub is not easy to spot; it is between two in the back. So I want to share my excitement.

## 2nd Place

### Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*)

Page Steed

Angel Fire Garden Club

Rocky Mountain Bighorn sheep did not

inhabit the Rio Grande Gorge of New Mexico until 2006, when the Taos Pueblo released 23 onto the landscape. The Department of Game and Fish followed with the release of 25 additional bighorns in 2007. Today their population has grown to about 280, and they have expanded their habitat to craggy mountainous areas in nearby Red River and Questa, New Mexico.

This young juvenile surprised us when it ran right past us and gingerly scrambled up onto nearby rock ledges. He was curious and stopped long enough for me to capture a few shots.



Julie Foster

Artesia Garden Club

“Fox was in someones henhouse”  
but not mine.



**“Active Spring”**

**Ginny Longbotham**

**Petal Pushers Garden Club**

**Cotton Tail**

**Susan Schultz**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**Freezing is a defense  
mechanism and makes for  
good photos!**





**Shar Marquez**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**



**Sue Wasson**  
**Petal Pushers Garden Club**  
**A tortoise at the ABQ BioPark**

**Nancy Simma**  
**El Jardin Encanto Garden Club**





**Black Bear Ursus American's**

**Jacqui Binford-Bell**

**Angel Fire Garden Club**

**Black Bear greeting the light through the trees**



**Sue Ferguson**

**Morning Garden Club**

**Pronghorn Antelope west of Roswell, NM**

**Patricia Williams**

**High Desert Design Club**

**I was on my morning walk. I rounded the corner and spotted a bobcat, about 15 feet away from me. She paused and looked me in the eye. I stopped in my tracks. At the time I thought she had a dead rabbit in her mouth and wanted to snap a photo. I didn't get any nearer, as not to alarm her, and very cautiously raised my phone to take a quick shot. She dropped her "prey" in the street for a bit and it was then that I realized she actually had her cub in her mouth!**

**I watched as she picked it up again and carried the cub across the desert.**



**Xuelan Lopez**

**Santa Rosa Garden Club**

**By a ranch North Las Vegas, NM.**

**A big THANK YOU to all participating photographers!!!**

<b>Lorraine Baca</b>	<b>El Jardin Encanto Garden Club</b>
<b>Jacqui Binford-Bell</b>	<b>Angel Fire Garden Club</b>
<b>Beverly Cooper</b>	<b>Summit Garden Club</b>
<b>Julie Foster</b>	<b>Artesia Garden Club</b>
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<b>Jan Villa</b>	<b>El Jardin Encanto Garden Club</b>
<b>Sue Wasson</b>	<b>Petals Pushers Garden Club</b>
<b>Patricia Williams</b>	<b>High Desert Design Club</b>





