



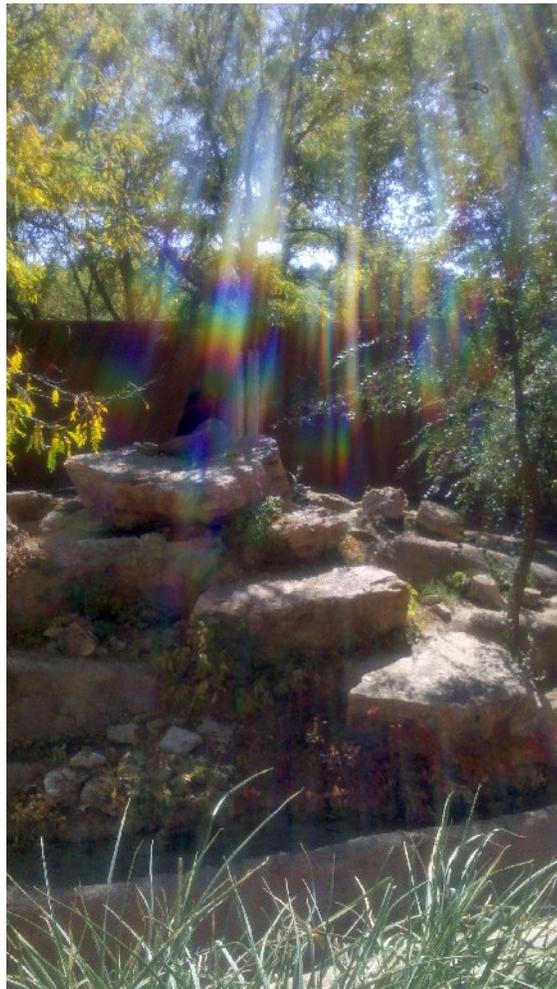
New Mexico Gardener

Bulletin of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 43, No. 4

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Spring Issue



"Just when you think your day is rocky.....remember there is always a rainbow"

Photo and quote by Shirley Tetreault. all rights reserved

New Mexico Gardener

Bulletin of the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. (NMGC)
A Nonprofit Organization
www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

Organized 1950
23 Clubs
4 Youth Clubs

Incorporated August 5, 1952
512 Paid Memberships
45 Youth Members

NMGC, Inc. is a Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
4401 Magnolia Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63110

NMGC, Inc. President 2009-2011

Shirley Tetreault
Albuquerque, NM
Phone: 505-294-4331
E-mail: ammasangels@comcast.net
Theme: Serving Those Who Serve Us

National Garden Clubs, Inc.
Shirley Nicolai, President
E-mail: shirleynicolai@verizon.net
Ft. Washington, MD; #301-292-3667
Theme: Proudly Serving Our Members &
Communities

South Central Region
Judy Grotts, Director
E-mail: grotts@brightok.net
Chandler, OK; #918-377-2557
Theme: Share What You Grow - Share
What You Know

New Mexico Gardener

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Shirley Tetreault

"Serving Those Who Serve Us"

In my first article as your president I said, "Show me a child with a dream and I will show you an adult with a future." We began rebuilding NMGC by educating our youth and encouraging them to grow and design. Brooke Tetreault started the first garden club, The Blooming Gardeners, with 7 members that grew to 25. The Ponderosa Pines Jr. Garden Club, Petal Pushers Jr. and Summit GC Jr. are all active and a valuable part of our state organization. There are other groups within our state that are working with children and in the process of becoming a garden club. I thank you all for your participation in this program and making it a success.



Did you know that our first on line publication of the *New Mexico Gardener* was the fall issue of 2009? Cynthia Shafer spent many hours making this happen which was a tremendous asset to our state during a time of declining membership. How about Cindy Hill and our New Mexico website? She spent a great deal of time creating and recreating after we lost our original host. We get several hits on the site, which Cindy sends to me and I forward on to the appropriate area. Suzy Andrego revised our awards brochure and distributed a CD to every club president in order to access all information on the computer. In 2010 we raised \$1,000 to donate to Wafa for the This Glorious Earth flower show in Boston, Mass. We were the first state to donate which led the charge. These are only a few of the very special things that you do. These are the behind the scenes efforts that you may not know about.

We worked again as a team to raise money for the Blue Star Marker that was dedicated on June 23, 2012. Donations came in from all over the state and the Uptown Garden Club. It is located at the Veterans Memorial Park in Albuquerque just inside the gate. John and Debi Harrington did the unbelievable task of installation one day before the dedication as we waited for final approval. Santa Rosa GC and Socorro GC also had fantastic dedications. We honored those who serve us.

The National Winter Executive Board Meeting held in Albuquerque in January of 2012 was an absolute success. Susan Miller, District IV Director made 19 wooden wagons that were filled with nuts, chili, beans, plants and recipe books that were used as table decorations. All of the Executives took them home as well as our New Mexico hospitality and memories.

And now.....get ready to welcome Isabel Olsen as your 2013 - 2015 State President. She will be installed in Albuquerque at the Annual Convention at the Sheraton Uptown. Our National President, Shirley Nicolai, will perform the ceremony and our South Central Region Director, Judy Grotts, will also be in attendance. You do not want to miss this one. Please make sure that your

registrations are sent in early. The registration form can be found in this issue as well as in the previous issue of the *New Mexico Gardener* Dec 2012/Jan/Feb 2013.

As my term comes to an end I say "Thank You." Thank you for allowing me to represent NMGC as your State President. It has been an honor and a privilege. Thank you for helping me to "Educate, Communicate, Leave a Legacy" and to "Honor Those Who Have Served Us."

Celebrating the 101 Birthday of New Mexico Santa Fe Rotunda



Left to right: Shirley Tetreault, Sam Donaldson, Dusty Roadrunner, Steve Stucker, Connie Elmore and Gilbert Garcia with the Sons of the American Revolution



Shirley Tetreault, Meagan Hill (12), and Miranda Deaton (11), 1st Vice President for The Blooming Gardeners



NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
64th Annual Convention
"Honoring Those Who Serve Us"
March 20 - 22, 2013
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Print Your Name (as you would like it to appear on your nametag)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ E-mail: _____

Garden Club(s): _____

Please check your classification(s) (all that apply)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> NGC Committee Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SCR Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> SCR Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> State Officer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Chair | <input type="checkbox"/> District Director | <input type="checkbox"/> Club President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Club Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Flower Show Judge | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Consultant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Life Member | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nat'l Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest | |

Please make checks payable to **District I, NMGC Inc. 2013 State Convention** and mail with this form to: Betty Heisler, 9012 Hannett Ave., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112-3928 (505) 362-3161.

Please complete either a FULL TIME Package or Part-Time Registration

Full-Time Package includes: \$25.00 Registration fee, Breakfast/Program, Lunch/Program, NGC President/NMGC President's Reception, Dinner/Awards Program & Breakfast/Awards Program
NOTE: Full Time Package Does NOT include Judges Program!

EARLY FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked on or before **March 1, 2013**) \$150.00 _____

LATE FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked after **March 1, 2013**) \$175.00 _____

NOTE: No refunds on registration after **March 1, 2013**. Registration fee is **NON-REFUNDABLE**.

NEW MEXICO JUDGES COUNCIL DINNER/PROGRAM (not included in package plan)

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Dinner/Program Judges Fee *	\$ 40.00	_____
Dinner/Program Non-Judges Fee *	\$ 50.00	_____
Program Only *	\$ 25.00	_____

(*DOES INCLUDE MINIATURE CONTAINER VALUED AT \$15)

NOTE: All NMGC members and guests are welcome to attend the NM Judges Council dinner and program.

PART-TIME REGISTRATION:

Registration fee	\$ 25.00	_____
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Thursday, March 21, 2013

Breakfast/Program	\$ 25.00	_____
Luncheon/Program	\$ 30.00	_____
NGC President/SCR Director's Reception	\$ 10.00	_____
NMGC Banquet/Program	\$ 45.00	_____
Evening Program Only	\$ 20.00	_____

Friday, March 22, 2013

Breakfast/Program	\$ 25.00	_____
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SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

Please contact Suzy Andrego, sandrego@qwest.net

HOTEL:

Sheraton, Albuquerque Uptown, 2600 Louisiana Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, (800) 252-7772.

Single or Double Rate: \$109.00 (plus tax)

Make reservations using the name: NMGC/SCR 2013 Convention.

Deadline for special rate reservations is February 27, 2013.

NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

64th Annual Convention

“Honoring Those Who Serve Us”

MARCH 20-22, 2013

Sheraton Uptown
Albuquerque, New Mexico

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

12 Noon – 6:00 p.m.	Registration
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	NMGC Executive Board Meeting
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	NM Judges Council Exec Meeting
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	NM Judges Council General Meeting
6:30 p.m.- 7:30 p.m.	NM Judges Council Dinner
7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	NM Judges Council Program: (WEAR YOUR BEST RED!)

MYSTIFYING MINITURES
A HANDS ON WORKSHOP
with Shirley Tetreault,
New Mexico Garden Clubs Own,
NGC Design Instructor

Thursday, March 21, 2013

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
(WEAR YOUR RED, WHITE & BLUE)
"Honoring Our Presidents That Have Served"
- 9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Official Opening of NMGC, Inc.
64th Annual Spring Convention
- 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon NMGC General Meeting
12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. NMGC Lunch
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. NMGC Program
"All the Rules to Flying Our Red White & Blue"
- 2:15p.m. – 4:15 p.m. NMGC General Meeting Continues
(if needed)
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. NCG & NMGC President's
Reception
(WEAR YOUR TRUE BLUE)
- 6:00p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Cash Bar & Musical Guest
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. NMGC Dinner
7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. NMGC Program
"Do You Know Your H2O"
Presented by: A.J. Olsen
New Mexico Natural Resource Specialist
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Installation of 2013-2015 Officers
9:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Party with the New President

Friday, March 22, 2013

- 8:00 a.m. – 8:30a.m. Breakfast Buffet
8:30 a.m. – 9:30a.m. NMGC AWARDS Presentation

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
SOUTH CENTRAL REGION
84th Annual Spring Convention
“HONORING THOSE WHO BEAUTIFY OUR WORLD”
MARCH 22-23, 2013
Sheraton Uptown
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Print Your Name As you would like it to appear on your name tag.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ email: _____

Garden Club(s): _____

Please circle your classification (all that apply): NCG Officer, NGC Chair, NGC Committee Member, SCR Officer, SCR Chair, State Officer, State Chair, District Director, Club President, Club Member, Flower Show Judge, Landscape Consultant, State Life Member, Regional Life Member, National Life Member, Guest

Please make checks payable to: District I, NMGC/SCR 2013 Convention and mail them to: **Suzy Andrego, 6612 Dodd Pl N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87110, (505) 888-0480, Suzy email: sandrego@qwest.net**

Please mark either a FULL TIME Package
or Part-time Registration area:

Full Time Package includes: \$25.00 Registration fee, Bio Park Tour/ Train/Lunch, Dinner/Fashion Show/Program, Breakfast/Program, Lunch/Program, Work Shop, NGC President/SCR Director’s Reception and Dinner/Awards Program.

EARLY FULL TIME PACKAGE

(post marked on or before **3/1/13**) \$ 155.00 _____

LATE FULL TIME PACKAGE

(post marked after **3/1/13**) \$ 180.00 _____

NOTE: No refunds on registration after 3/1/13. Registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE.

PART-TIME REGISTRATION

Registration fee \$ 25.00 _____

Friday, March 22, 2013

Tour, Train Ride, Zoo & Lunch \$ 40.00 _____

Dinner & Fashion Show & Program \$ 35.00 _____

Saturday, March 23, 2013

Breakfast/Program \$ 15.00 _____

Luncheon/Program \$ 25.00 _____

NGC President/SCR Director's Reception \$ 5.00 _____

SCR Banquet/Program \$ 40.00 _____

Evening Program Only \$ 20.00 _____

Special Dietary Needs:

Please contact Suzy Andrego, sandrego@qwest.net

HOTEL:

Sheraton, Albuquerque Uptown,
2600 Louisiana Blvd. N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110,
(800) 252-7772.

Single or Double Rate: \$109.00 (plus tax)

Make reservations using the name: **NMGC/SCR 2013 Convention.**

Deadline for special rate reservations is February 27, 2013.

NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

84th Annual Spring Convention

“Honoring Those Who Beautify Our World”

MARCH 22-23, 2013

Sheraton Uptown
Albuquerque, New Mexico

CONVENTION SCHEDULE

Friday, March 22, 2013

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Registration
10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Board Bus For the ABQ Bio Park
10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Albuquerque Bio Parks
"JAPANESE GARDEN" (A Desert Approach)
Train Ride and Zoo Tour
BOX LUNCHES WILL BE SERVED!

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. SCR Executive Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Cash Bar & Musical Guest
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner Buffet –
**(WEAR YOUR RECYCLED OUTFIT
And/Or Your DENIM TO DINNER)**

8:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Recycled Fashion Show
8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. SCR Program
"That Container Looks Familiar"
A Design Program with Dorothy Gibbons

Saturday, March 23, 2013

- 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration
8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
(WEAR A BUTTERFLY TO BREAKFAST)
- 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Program
WINGS OF ENCHANTMENT
"Life Cycle of A Butterfly" with Tatia Veltkamp
- 9:45 a.m.- 10:00 a.m. Official Opening of the
84th Annual SCR Convention
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon SCR General Meeting
- 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m. Luncheon
"Honoring SCR State Presidents"
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Program
"The Tale Of Cynthia Ann Parker"
Presented by: Sarah McReynolds
- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Work Shop
"Creative Paper"
by Pam Schmille
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Continuation of General Meeting
(If Needed)
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. NCG President &
SCR Director Reception
(WEAR YOUR PRETTY PURPLE)
- 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Cash Bar & Musical Guest
- 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **AWARDS Program**
- 9:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Installation of New Officers
- 10:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. New Director's Celebration

OKLAHOMA, TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS

Please go through jewelry boxes and other treasures and find items to contribute to the SCR Scholarship Fund. Get your items to your state president or anyone else attending the SCR meeting in Albuquerque. CONTRIBUTE TO: 1PHYLLIS' HOUSE OF TREASURES IN ALBUQUERQUE.

Suzy Andrego named our SCR Ways and Means room in Little Rock – *Phyllis' House of Treasures*. She suggested we do it again in Albuquerque at the SCR meeting March 22 and 23, 2013. It was so much fun for me, and many of you said you enjoyed hanging out there to visit and discuss the treasures. The nicest part was that we made \$1600 for the SCR Scholarship Fund and it was all profit. Suzy and Mary Ann Moreno will be the New Mexico committee members who will accept your donations of jewelry and other small treasures in New Mexico. If the two of them collect your things ahead of the SCR meeting, it will be easier to get them priced and arranged before the meeting. If you are not at a meeting where they will be, it is okay to take your stash to the SCR meeting in Albuquerque. Be sure to locate the place designated for PHYLLIS' HOUSE OF TREASURES as soon as you arrive at the meeting—so you can both contribute your donated treasures, and purchase some as well. In 2012 we had the most exquisite items contributed. I did not dream such lovely pieces could be "parted with" from so many of you. Many of our members simply cleaned out jewelry boxes, and looked around their homes for other items—small items that travel easily. Many of us came home with beautiful treasures, and the scholarship fund was \$1600 richer. I extend 100,000 thanks to you for your participation.

Phyllis Byrum

Ways and Means Chairman, South Central Region, 2011-2013

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

1st Vice-President, Isabel Olsen

Happy New Year to all NMGC members. I'm very excited and optimistic about 2013 and all that it has in store for us! As we approach spring many of us are eager to dig in our gardens, are busy planning district meetings and our state convention and South Central Region Convention. I want to commend you on your efforts.

The 64th Annual Convention will be hosted by District I at the Sheraton hotel in Albuquerque. Immediately following is the South Central Region Convention. We will be honored with the presence of the National President, Shirley Nicolai and SCR Director, Judy Grotts. I invite and encourage you to attend both events and thank our outgoing officers and welcome the incoming. It is such a great opportunity to meet garden club members from New Mexico and also neighboring states and to share ideas.

I would also like to remind all current state officers and chairpersons to bring any materials and information that may be passed onto your successor. This will be a good opportunity for you to share your thoughts and words of wisdom. All the guidance, support and help that you can give will be most appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all!

Blue Star Markers/Memorial Gardens – Donna Turney, Chair

There have been three Blue Star Memorial Markers dedicated during 2011 and 2012, two of which were Highway Memorial Markers. The first was a byway marker dedicated on July 3, 2011 at the Albuquerque Garden Center in conjunction with a patriotic flower show, both sponsored by Uptown Garden Club, Debi Harrington, President. The presence of military personnel from nearby Kirtland Air Force, the Southwest Regional Director Judy Grotts, State President Shirley Tetreault and numerous visitors as well as members of the Albuquerque clubs made it a very festive occasion.

The second was a Memorial Highway Marker dedicated November 11, 2011 in conjunction with the rededication of the newly renovated Isidro Baca Veteran's Park in Socorro and sponsored by the Socorro Garden Club, Susan Miller, President. Member Betty Easley was the chairman for the club's portion of the event. There were numerous military veterans in attendance and letters were read from several politicians unable to attend. State President Shirley Tetreault and husband Al were in attendance at the ceremony and the lunch following catered by VFW members.

June 23, 2012 marked the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker in a median located at Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque. This was again sponsored by Uptown Garden Club, Debi Harrington, President. An honor

guard from the base was highly visible for the event as well as current NM State President Shirley Tetreault, Past NM State President Colleen Hinker and members from area clubs.

At the base of all three markers, appropriate plantings added to the beauty of the installations.

While the emphasis of this current administration has been to promote the installation of Blue Star Memorial Markers, there are existing memorial gardens being maintained by garden clubs in the state. A complete current list of these has not been compiled. There is a garden in Alamogordo and one in Aztec. If the club you belong to sponsors a memorial garden please send information to donnalomr@gmail.com and it will be forwarded to the next chairman.

New Mexico now has 16 dedicated Blue Star Memorial Markers among well over two thousand nationwide. Twelve of these have been installed since 1996 and I have been privileged to attend all but two of the dedications. Each one has been special. Every one who has become involved in this endeavor has caught the spirit of appreciation that the markers are intended to invoke.

Environmental Studies School I – Mary Ann Moreno, Chair

Environmental Studies School I, "THE LIVING EARTH" will be held in Angel Fire, New Mexico July 18 – 20, 2013. This is a National Garden Club, Inc., sponsored school. To be an Environmental Consultant the student must attend the series of four schools, which will be held around the state. We hope to go to Bosque Del Apache, Sacramento, New Mexico, Jemez, New Mexico, and other points south or north in the near future to hold our schools.

The cost of ESSI is \$40.00. Lodging and food are not included in the price. Our instructors will be highly qualified and professional teachers and follow the curriculum of the four schools. J.J. Huddleston has been working closely with Angel Fire Resort for prices of rooms and condos. The school coincides with the Wild Flower and Garden Tour held annually in Angel Fire on Saturday, July 20th, which we will attend after the school is over, go home, or stay if you wish. Some changes have been made to the ESS Curriculum and will be announced at the May 24 – 26 National Garden Clubs, Inc., Annual Spring Convention in Seattle, Washington. At this time I feel it is important that we book our rooms or condos as spring and summer rates will go up in price. The resort is offering a 10% discount for room or condo prices – please mention this when you call the resort. Rates are as follow: standard room \$103+ tax, Alpine room \$125.10 +tax. Condos: 1 bedroom, \$125.00 +tax, \$65.00 cleaning fee; 2 bedroom condo, \$125.00 + tax, \$65.00 cleaning fee; 3 bedroom condo, \$134.10 +tax, \$75.00 cleaning fee. These prices reflect the 10% discount. To book: call: 1-800-633-7463 and ask for Environmental Studies School rates. Please call Mary Ann Moreno for more info about the school, 505-266-8498 or email: jbmamoreno@gmail.com

Flower Show School – Mary Ann Moreno, Chair

Flower Show School III will be held in Roswell, New Mexico, on June 21 – 23, 2013. Our two instructors will be Pam Braum, NGC Horticulture Instructor from Tennessee, who will teach and show us how to exhibit horticulture: Succulents and Cacti, Containers and Dish Gardens, and NGC Design Instructor Fran Wittgartner from Colorado, who will teach and show us how to make creative Floral Designs, and lecture on Flower Show Procedure. The fee for the school is \$95.00 and includes two breakfasts, two lunches, snacks, and other refreshments. All NGC Judges, Garden Club members, Master Gardeners and members of the gardening community can attend our flower show schools. We welcome you to come and audit and learn more about Horticulture and Floral Designs or study to become National Garden Clubs, Inc., Accredited Judges. New students can start the schools with School III. Please join us in beautiful Roswell and enjoy the fun.

Please contact our Registrar, Rene McCoy, at 575-973-0226 in Roswell or FSS Chairman Mary Ann Moreno, at 505-266-8498 in Albuquerque for more information. Brochure will be in the next Gardener.

NGC President's Project – Sue Ferguson, SCR/NGC Consultant

The deadlines are fast approaching for applications for the 2011-2013 NGC President's Project - PLANTINGS for PUBLIC and SPECIAL PLACES. The three different categories are: Gardens with Edibles, Container Gardens, and Trees and Shrubs. Information and the one-page applications can be found at www.gardenclub.org. Monetary awards from \$150 to \$300 are available and all applications will be recognized with certificates. The deadline is April 1, 2013. Please let me know if I can help with your applications.

Another project is the NGC School Gardens Project 2011-2013, "Protect our Friends the Pollinators...They are Plants Best Friend", deadline March 1, 2013. Again, information and a one-page application form can be found at www.gardenclub.org.



**Bylaws Committee: Sally Warner, Organizational Studies Chair
Lequita Lett
Colleen Hinker**

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES
OCTOBER 26, 2012

ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

Section 2: QUALIFICATIONS:

A. Reads: To be eligible for nomination for President or First Vice-President, a member must have served on the Executive Committee a minimum of two (2) years in an elected capacity and an additional two (2) years on the Board of Directors by the time of election. The member must have attended two (2) of the immediate past four (4) annual state conventions.

CHANGE TO READ:

A. To be eligible for nomination for President or First Vice-President, a member must have served on the Executive Committee a minimum of two (2) years in an elected capacity and an additional two (2) years on the Board of Directors by the time of election. The member must have attended two (2) of the immediate past three (3) annual state conventions.

ARTICLE V: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

Section 1: Nominating Committee:

B. To be eligible for election to the Nominating Committee, a member or an alternate must have served at least two (2) years on the Board of Directors of NMGC, attended at least two (2) of the last four state meetings one of which the convention prior to election and be knowledgeable about State Personnel.

CHANGE TO READ:

B. To be eligible for election to the Nominating Committee a member or an alternate must have served at least two (2) years on the Board of Directors of NMGC, attended two (2) of the last three (3) state meetings one of which is the convention prior to election and be knowledgeable of State Personnel.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Section 1: Composition:

A. The members of the Executive Committee shall be:

CHANGE TO READ:

A. The voting members of the Executive Committee shall be:

President's Project – Plantings for Public and Special Places
NGC Container Gardens Committee – Mary Ann Moreno

CREATIVE CONTAINERS – STACK EM

Creating a stacked container garden unit is easy.

First we need a source of clear glass containers that will be strong enough to support one on top of each other. I chose three heavy clear glass goldfish bowls that are about seven inches tall, with a six inch base that fits into the six inch wide opening on top of the bowl. I found them at my local pet store. A thrift store is also a fun place to find great stackable containers. The secret is thick clear heavy glass for strength and bases that fit snugly into the openings on top of the containers. Remember those old turtle bowls we had as kids? They are perfect for this kind of project.



Next prepare the containers for plantings and place a one inch layer of washed charcoal on the bottom of the container to help with drainage. Make a soil mix of two cups potting soil, ½ cup vermiculite, ½ cup perlite and add water to moisten. Double or triple this recipe if needed. Fill each container with two or three inches of moistened soil mix on top of the charcoal. Select your small or miniature plants that are similar in type. Some suggestions: create a succulent or cactus container with plants that love heat and warm climates. Plant a colorful, cool container with plants like tiny ferns, mini trees, cyclamens and mosses. Make a great fragrant herb container with tiny cuttings or small plants of basil, thymes and mints that will reward you when you use the herb cuttings for crafts or cooking. Remember to water well after you plant your container. An effective way to decorate a container would be to use small pebbles to cover the soil around succulents or cactus. The rocks hold heat and moisture in the soil and watering is kept to a minimum. The thin leaves of cool growing plants could have a sprinkle of perlite around each plant for moisture and to enhance the beauty of each plant. Aquarium gravel in different colors would also be effective. Let the containers rest after planting until the plants become established. Then stack them in a secure spot with bright light and no direct sun. Remember that the top container is not covered and open to the air. You will need to rotate the bottom container to the top every three or four days, be very careful as the containers are heavy. Watch to see that the containers are not over watered as moisture will condense on the glass and some plants will love it and others will rot. The plants are relying on your good judgment as we all live in different climates.

Miniature or small containers are also fun using clear glass containers that stack. You can start cuttings, and mini African Violets, tiny ferns and ivies that will all love to grow in your clear glass sugar bowls, candy bowls or small containers that come with a lid. Stack three or four containers together, keep out of the sun, and watch the progression of growing plants. All the instructions above are used to plant these smaller containers. Just think small or mini for the

ingredients and rotate the containers as directed above. Keep the clear glass lid on the top container for moisture. Have fun!



ARMATURE DESIGNS

By Suzy Andrego

Shirley Tetreault, MaryAnn Moreno and I have just returned from the Instructors, Judges Council and Flower Show School Symposium in Tampa Florida. We spent two and one half days in seminar. And, every minute was worth the trip!

There are many new changes in design, horticulture and policy. Please plan to attend the NM Garden Clubs' State Convention and Judges Council program in March and learn all about them. But, I would like to share what we learned about the new **Armature Design** which was added to our design list in fall of 2011. The program was presented by Tony Todesco, NGC Design Consultant. The Armature Form Design is a creative design featuring an Armature (*a skeleton and/or grid like structure.*) The Armature form is created by the exhibitor and supports plant material and other optional components.



The Armature is imaginative and made from plant or man-made materials or may be a combination of both. It is (the armature) is greater in proportion than the combined other components.

The Armature is self-supported or may rely on a container(s) or other devices. Water tubes or other means of water supply for fresh plant material may be used.

The Armature design may be a floor design, staged on a pedestal, table or be suspended.

The grid/skeleton has crossing lines. The grid form is created by the exhibitor. The grid can be visual. It may be constructed of many components or be constructed of one or more materials or it may be as simple as one component. It may be fresh, dried, man-made or a combination.



Purchasing a pre-made grid sculpture and painting it does NOT indicate that it was made by the exhibitor.

The Armature form structure must cover 51% or more of the total design area. Components may not be supported by the device that holds the Armature. The components must be held in place, in some manner by the Armature, and may be attached, balance, wedged to or on the Armature.

If a container is used to support the Armature and floral foam or a pin holder, etc is used in the container, other components may NOT be inserted. In this case, the foam or pin holder would be supporting the component.

There will be Armature designs for viewing at the NMGC/SCR Convention. Plan on coming to the NMGC/SCR Spring Convention.



MEMBER'S CORNER

OKRA LOVERS UNITE! Submitted by Rosemary Maddox Mesilla Valley Garden Club

I stole that title from an article in "Cooking" by Sarah Kahn, but I added the exclamation point myself. I was weaned on okra, so to speak, so I have long been a member of the Okra Fan Club, not to be confused with the Oprah Fan Club. We are the people who like boiled okra--anyone can like fried okra. I'm talking fresh okra here--frozen will get you through a long winter but as we okra lovers know, it's not the same.

Okra, a Malvaceae or mallow, is a relative of hibiscus, cotton and hollyhocks, and is native to Africa--the Bantu word for okra is gumbo. Okra is widely used in Indian recipes and its Indian name is bhindi. My Kentucky-born grandmother, who was the gardener and cook in our household, pronounced it "okry." Okra likes heat and dislikes over watering, which makes it well suited to growing in New Mexico. Soaking the seed or nicking it before planting is recommended, although I have had no problem with germination without those steps. It does need space and plants should be spaced about two feet apart in rows three feet apart.

The only potential problems I came upon in my research were fusarium wilt, a soil-borne disease, and root knot nematodes. Scientists, when you finally find a cure for cancer, PLEASE find a simple way to kill off nematodes before they take over the world and we all starve, or we have to live without okra and tomatoes, which would be almost as bad. Crop rotation is not a viable solution when you live on a small city lot.

Okra is not a vegetable you can easily work into your menu daily, like tomatoes, and it does have to be picked often. A pod that is tender one day may be tough and inedible the next, so it keeps you on your toes. I have actually, albeit grudgingly, taken bags of okra to the food bank. Fried okra needs no recipe, but I found an instruction which caught my fancy--"head and tail it." Slice into 1/2-inch wheels, toss in cornmeal, and fry a few minutes on each side until golden brown. I grow Japanese eggplant and jalapenos, and I like to combine and fry the three vegetables for an afternoon snack, which we eat with our fingers like popcorn. My husband always says, "Delicious tea, Luv." He lived in London in the 50's and has never gotten over it.

As far as I know, okra is the only vegetable which is not available in its fresh form all year and okra in the grocery stores in season looks a little worse for wear. The best source, if you don't grow your own, is farmers markets, where presumably the little pods were removed from the mother plant earlier that day. Why isn't okra grown in Mexico and shipped here in the winter, like chile pods? I presume either it doesn't travel well or the demand is not great enough to make it a

profitable crop. OKRA LOVERS UNITE! We are a weak and disorganized faction.

Okra is entertaining. For example: Lambert's Cafe, Home of the Thrown Rolls Cafe (Google it) is based in Sikeston, MO, not far from my birthplace. They have other establishments in Ozark, MO, near Springfield, and Foley, Alabama--I have patronized both the ones in Missouri. A young person in a chef's hat and white apron walks around with a big pot and if you catch his eye and extend you hands, he will throw you a roll. No, they don't throw okra, but another young person follows him with a huge pot of fried okra and a big spoon and fills your plate until you say "No more." Their okra appears to have been dredged in batter and deep fried and is the best I've ever tasted. I'm too stingy with oil to do that. Of course, they serve other food but it's the okra and thrown rolls that I remember.

I hoped to close with a unique okra recipe, but it didn't turn out well. I found a recipe for okra salad which called for chopped bell pepper, onion, and tomato, fried okra (frozen breaded), and bacon. So far so good, but after combining the ingredients, the recipe called for an oil, vinegar and sugar dressing (I used light Italian dressing) and the salad was to be chilled. Well, surprise, although the taste was interesting, the fried okra was soggy. I will do this again and after plating the vegetables, sprinkle them with the fried okra and then the bacon. I think that would work. We okra lovers don't give up easily.



GARDEN CLUBS NEWS

District I

Petal Pushers Garden Club met at the Albuquerque Savoy Bar & Grill in December to celebrate its annual Christmas party. In addition to sharing a tasty lunch, the members brought gifts of toiletries and gift cards which were delivered to the residents of Barrett House, an Albuquerque women's shelter. The ladies also received Christmas hand soap party favors.

In November, Mary Frances Santistevan presented a fun program in which she taught the art of bow making. She supplied ribbon to all of the women and showed them step by step bow tying technique and how to use the ribbons in Christmas decorating.

Sandy Hollingsworth helped Georgia Allen host the January meeting in Georgia's lovely home. Mary Ann Moreno demonstrated many different ideas for constructing terrariums of all sizes and designs. She generously supplied a wide variety of plant material and containers so each member could take home a completed terrarium.

The patio committee and Junior Petal Pushers are taking a winter break because of cold weather and school functions. They are looking forward to spring and resuming their gardening activities.



Dick and Nancy Kanthack, Patty Williams, Sonia James, Sandy Hollingsworth, Nancy Davis, Joan Higgs, Susan Olinger, Mary Frances Santistevan, Georgia Allen, Lois Byron, Shirley Bray, Carol Stomp, Marie Kellerman, Anna Mulkey, Millie Ewing

Trailblazers Garden Club has been busy here in far-off Farmington. We were inspired in November by the beautiful Christmas trees decorated in a local nursery. In December we indulged in a delicious Christmas brunch and then were amazed that a local Master Gardener could make a beautiful evergreen wreath out of scraps of pine and fir.

(Photo: Becky Houghton, member Rosalind Ragsdale, wreath artist.) The program committee committed to take on the challenge of doing that project as a program for all our members next year. One of our members, Becky Houghton, was the lucky winner of the wreath! We also collected a great quantity of toiletries to donate to the local Family Crisis Center. The member that carried it all into the Center swears that it weighed close to a ton!



December is also time to decorate the Christmas tree at our local hospital, San Juan Regional. The ladies did a spectacular job of decorating in red and gold - a subtle salute to New Mexico's centennial.

Our year has begun with sadness, however, at the loss of one of our brightly colored flowers in our club. Jackie Watson passed January 18. Several of our group attended her funeral and we all extend our sympathies to her family.

District II

Angel Fire Garden Club's Old Fashioned Christmas Walk and Party was a huge success! We enjoyed great weather, lovely Christmas decorations at our Host and Hostess' three homes, and wonderful Christmas music by a talented duo. *(Photo: Richard & Carla Sides.)* Hors d'oeuvres at the Smith's, main meal at the Alton's, and dessert at the Peterson's were all simply delicious. Our last stop even included live music by a local musician. Our club members danced the night away with their usual style and flourish!



Now let's move on to our New Year of 2013. We are busy making preparations for the Spring District II Meeting to be held on March 11th at the Lodge in Angel Fire. In January we made centerpieces for the tables. It was a fun gathering of talented ladies, though none of our men members showed up for that one! *(Photo: Donna Dace & JJ Huddleston.)*



During this slow season our club is working on awards with a gentle reminder from our 1st V.P., J.J., that the deadline is Feb. 1st.

The next time I write an article for the NM Gardener, my presidency will be drawing to an end and spring will be in the air! Until then, rest and enjoy the winter moisture with no weeding! Cheers.

District III

Since our very successful flower show in August, **Santa Rose Garden Club** has slowed down a bit. Our County Fair Board was very happy with our 56 flower designs and 85 horticulture entries, especially the youth participation. The theme "Let's Go" included sections such as "by car, by boat, by plane and by train." This created an exciting display for the viewing public - even for the cowboys and 4-H kids!

In September, we treated ourselves to a trip to Mora to pick raspberries and view the Alpacas up the road. Then it was back to work weeding at our cemetery planters as the weeds had gotten ahead of us. We prepared and planted the LAST planter at the local Evergreen Cemetery and it looks great. Mavis Rascoe, one of our members, and her family donated the monies to buy the drought resistant plants in honor of her deceased husband, Floyd. We can hardly wait to see our plants 'wake up' in the spring along with the hundreds of daffodils we have planted around the town.

Our newest project, the Hospital Medicinal Herb Garden, took a lot of time watering and caring for it through the terrible drought and heat this summer. We will have to replace some of the plants come spring, but we are on a learning curve on what will survive the enclosed patio we have to work with.

Carolyn Bedford and Colleen Hinker attended the Flower Show School in Roswell and Carolyn is on her way to be a judge. Both judged at the State Fair and won blue ribbons for their entries. Then we enjoyed fellowship and cookies at our yearly Christmas Party in December. It had snowed the day before and several of our members who come from ranches were unable to make it. Betty Eastland and her daughter, Pam, also stayed home, but we took them cookies anyway!

We have just finished our 2012 Scrapbook and History. It always surprises us how much we have accomplished through the years. All of it has been done through hard work and not a little money. The rewards not only are beautiful gardens, but also special connections with our garden club friends.

District IV

The November meeting of **Desert Daubers Garden Club** was hosted by June Bingler. Elsie Pipirongos gave a very interesting talk on hummingbirds. Hummingbirds often go to plants like lantana not only to get nectar, which is in a very small amount in lantana plants, but to find insects. The most common hummingbird in this area of the US is the Rufus.

In December, Nancy Hall hosted a very lovely luncheon for our monthly meeting. June Bingle provided the desserts. Jacquie Meineke, owner of Enchanted Gardens, gave an outstanding and informative talk on box turtles. We never realized they had an adoption committee or the fact that you have to have your yard inspected to make sure it is turtle friendly before you are approved. Turtles are quite delicate.

In January Joe Kane, Horticulturist, from 150 Sunset Event Center in El Paso and Mike Gaglio, Biologist, from Frontera Land Alliance gave excellent talks on Desert Wildflowers for Planting. They shared information on how to plant and when to plant. Mike also does a monumental amount of work on the restoration of land that has been damaged. They were kind enough to bring along some plants for our club to plant and to teach us about the correct type of fertilizer for cacti. They also showed us a new way to water plants of any kind. It is called Dri Water. It is in a container similar to a milk carton, in a gelatinous form. The bottom of the container is cut off; the whole container is submerged in the ground near the roots. It is like a time capsule in that one container will release allotted amounts of water over a period of 90 days.

In February we will be hosting our annual anniversary luncheon at the Double Eagle Restaurant. More information on that meeting next time.

Evergreen Garden Club's November, January and February meetings focused on historical perspectives of the Gila Region. November's program on the settling of the Mimbres Valley by Spanish and Mexican farmers and ranchers was presented by Elsie Ramon, a longtime resident of the Valley. January's meeting was held in the beautiful 1890's home of the Hinajosa's. Dr. Richard Felger gave a talk on how he became interested in botany as well as some of the plants used by Indigenous peoples before Europeans arrived. Some of these plants can still be found and grown today. One example is the *Tepary bean* that need almost no watering. Tepary beans are smaller than the commercial type beans found in the grocery store and can survive on one or two good waterings per season. Much more than that will produce a lot of leaves and fewer beans. Native Seeds/Search in Tucson (nativeseeds.org) carries 28 varieties. February's meeting was on Pueblo Pottery by Claude Smith. Our March meeting will be on a topic that is on many peoples minds as the fire season starts up again. It will be on "Defensible Space" by Gary Benavides from the Grant County Fire Management Office.

Mesilla Valley Garden Club's first meeting of the New Year in January featured a most informative talk by Alex Mares, Leasburg State Park Heritage Educator and Law Enforcement Ranger on the NM and Chihuahuan Desert native plants, their medicinal and food uses. There are over 100 plants that provide carbohydrates to the "meat heavy" Native American diet giving the quote "there is a purpose for every plant; you just need to find it" relevance. If you watch birds and animals foraging for food, you will know what is safe to eat.

The Spring District IV meeting will be hosted by our club on March 7th at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Mesilla. Mr. Buddy Ritter, owner of the restaurant will be the featured speaker. He grows the most amazing orchids; we hope to learn how also. NMGC, Inc. President Shirley Tetreault will be present.

February will bring us on campus at NMSU to tour the Arthropod Museum. We all want to identify the kind of bugs we see in our yards!

March brings the three garden clubs of Las Cruces together for a luncheon meeting and talk given by Dr. John Maxel, of NMSU on "It's Hard To Kill A Tree."

In April, we will take a road trip to the Sierra Vista Nursery to tour their greenhouses and gardens and having a picnic lunch if the weather cooperates.

May 4 is the annual *Tour of Gardens* in the outlying areas of Mesilla. All monies raised go to supporting various charities. Then the MVGC wraps up its year with a potluck dinner and the installation of officers at a club member's home.

At the November meeting of the **Sunshine Valley Garden Club** well known artist, Delmus Howe, was the featured speaker. Delmus did a demonstration on how to draw a flower. He showed us how to outline the petals and how to shade the colors. He used a rose that he picked from his sister's garden. He also painted the flowers on the wall of the Civic Center in Truth or Consequences. Delmus started his art career 50 years ago in New York City. He started out as a musician, but he discovered an art studio in the same area. His paintings are in art museums all over the world.

In December, we held our Annual Christmas Party at The Club Restaurant in Elephant Butte. It was well attended. We hired a band which played Christmas carols. Many of the members won door prizes. Doris Adams and Florence Reddy took poinsettias to the Nursing Home, Assisted Living, and Veteran's Home and to our oldest member, Lennie Weber, at the Nursing Home. Also, some members took a name from the Christmas tree at the bank to buy a gift for a resident at the nursing home.

In January, we held our first meeting of the year. We discussed our projects around town. We plan to plant flowers that will stand up to the cold weather. Doris Adams brought in Larkspar seeds for anyone that would like to plant them in their garden to come up in the fall. We discussed our Annual Membership Tea to be held in February. Everyone is to wear a hat and bring food. We are trying to increase our membership. We are announcing our monthly meetings on the local radio station and television. Our guest speaker was Jeff Thornbush, a collector of rocks. He finds them all around our area. He says that it takes years for rocks to form under the sea and when the sea washes away they form mountains. Some stones like limestone will turn into marble. He also carves rocks into dogs or other animals or items.

District V

October brought fall color to Roswell. The weather was beautiful and the trees turned golden.

Renate Reisel and other **Home Garden Club** members helped make 18 table centerpieces for Make-A-Difference Day. The arrangements were delivered to Sunset Villa for the enjoyment of the residents.

Members of the Club attended the Flower Show School II in Roswell. The designs created by those attending were inspiring.

Debi Harrington of Uptown Garden Club made the trip down to Roswell and presented a wonderful program on birds. Afterwards, Debi and Jan Smith were able to take a behind the scenes tour of Bitter Lake and take pictures of the cranes coming in at night to roost.

The newest Habitat for Humanity home was dedicated on November 29th. The club gave the new home owner, Margarita Ibarra, a gift card to the local Ace Hardware store.

Our December meeting was a potluck and gift exchange at the home of President Jan Smith. A lively time was had by all. We play a version of Chinese gift exchange. You never know what you will end up with! Members brought personal items and games that were donated to the local women's refuge.

Roses in New Mexico led off the year. The members each received the Albuquerque Rose Society's *Growing Roses in Albuquerque*. We discussed our successes and failures growing roses in Roswell.

November was a busy month for **Lincoln County Garden Club**. With the help of village parks and recreation personnel and "John," the John Deere tractor, several large rocks were set in the library garden. (*Photo: Nannette Tanner directing "John."*) Work continued on the gravel paths, mulching and weeding. The carved bears were cleaned and varnished.



Eight garden club members worked in the courtyard garden at the hospital conditioning the soil and thinning plants. We hope to see pretty results next spring.

A Greenspire Linden tree was planted at Sierra Vista Primary School in November in memory of Shirley Neuhaus, longtime member of our club. Belonging to a garden club in Tampico, Mexico, Shirley learned Spanish and to grow indigenous plants. She brought her talents to Ruidoso in the 1960s and served three terms as president of garden club, was a bilingual teacher, an Altrusan and supporter of Food Bank.

This year's annual holiday lunch gave members an opportunity to showcase their "seeds of creativity!" Members designed festive table scapes for our pot luck luncheon. Themes could be anything from Thanksgiving, Christmas, books,

picnic, etc. but most tables reflected Christmas. Donations for military personnel serving overseas and non-perishable food items for the food bank were collected. President Judy Preston left us with this thought "May winter's season be a time of rest and renewal for all."



Morning Garden Club held a fun meeting in November. Rick Fulton, Garden Center Manager of Schenk Nursery & Landscaping Co. of Roswell, explained how to choose and care for roses in our area. The rose bush that he brought as a visual aid was later raffled off to club members.

Eight students attended the second Flower Show School held here in Roswell. Excellent instruction was given by Shirley Tetreault and David Robson of Chicago. Several club members organized the school as well as providing lunches for attendees.

On November 1st, Melanie Deason and Deana Bozarth helped the 4 & 5 year olds at Working Mother's Day Nursery plant iris rhizomes and daffodil bulbs. The children did some weeding in two tractor tires which had been old vegetable gardens. Then Deana and Melanie tidied up the flower clock created last summer and added new plants. It was a full morning's work! Later in the month Melanie conducted a flower arranging session with these children. They made Thanksgiving Day arrangements in tuna cans for the children to take home.

In mid-November, parts of three days were spent decorating the Historical Society for SENM Museum for the holiday season. Our decorators were featured in a full page article in the Roswell Daily Record, including photos and a brief history of the club's long-time project, which is our Christmas gift to the community and out-of-town visitors.

Our December meeting brought a full house for the Christmas brunch and program presented by Elvis Fleming, Archivist for the Museum. We were charmed and educated by the stories he shared about "Christmas in Early Chaves County." This was part of our club's theme of celebrating the Centennial year. Two deceased members were honored as ornaments were dedicated for our Member Memorial tree, a feature of the Museum holiday decorations. We continued our annual Christmas gift-giving to the Roswell Refuge for Battered Adults.

Before we knew it, it was time to dismantle the Christmas decorations in January, 2013! Committee Chairman Renate Reisel purchased new decorations to replace worn ones. She and her volunteers spent hours reorganizing and storing the numerous boxes of decorations. This should make next year's decorating an easier job.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Mar 4	District I Spring Meeting, Garden Center, Albuquerque
Mar 6	District V Spring Meeting, Cloudcroft
Mar 7	District IV Spring Meeting, Mesilla
Mar 10	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Mar 11	District II Spring Meeting, Angel Fire
Mar 14	District III Spring Meeting, Santa Rosa
Mar 20	Vernal Equinox
Mar 20 – 22	NMGC, Inc. Convention, Albuquerque
Mar 22 – 23	SCR Convention, Albuquerque
Mar 27	Full Worm Moon
Apr 22	Earth Day
Apr 26	Arbor Day
Apr 25	Full Pink Moon
May 1	Article Deadline for <i>New Mexico Gardener</i>
May 4	Las Cruces Tour of Gardens, Las Cruces
May 24	Full Flower Moon
May 24 – 26	NGC, Inc. Convention, Seattle, WA



GUIDELINES FOR PUBLICATION IN THE *New Mexico Gardener*

The *New Mexico Gardener* is published quarterly: March, June, September and December. The Editors reserve the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements. It is the responsibility of the article writer to ensure that names are spelled correctly. All articles need to be submitted as a Word document (unformatted) attached to an e-mail or in submitted as e-mail text. **Photos must be sent as .jpg files, one photo per file, as an email attachment; please do not include in Word documents.** Photos that are submitted with the photographer's name will receive photo credit.

Deadline Dates

Spring February 1
Summer May 1
Fall August 1
Winter November 1

Articles/Photos for the next *Gardener* must be submitted by May 1, 2013 to:

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