



New Mexico Gardener

Bulletin of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Vol. 45, No. 4

Mar/Apr/May 2015

Spring Issue



New Mexico Landscape, Silver City
Artist: Ginna Heiden, Evergreen Garden Club

New Mexico Gardener

Bulletin of the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. (NMGC)

A Non-profit Organization

www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

Organized 1950

25 Clubs

5 Youth Clubs

Incorporated August 5, 1952

544 Paid Memberships

94 Youth Members

NMGC, Inc. is a Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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www.gardenclub.org

NMGC, Inc. President 2013-2015

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Theme: *Helping Gardeners Grow*

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Matter*

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Theme: *Learning, Living, Leading*

New Mexico Gardener

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Isabel Olsen

"Helping Gardeners Grow"

Where has the time gone? It was just two years ago that I began my journey (theme) of "*Helping Gardener's Grow.*" My mission was for all of us to grow in three particular ways. Our knowledge to grow better gardens, personal growth and grow our membership. The results and progress are noticeable; we have made *A World of Difference* for NMGC, Inc. At last year's annual convention we had breakout sessions to help you with different club offices. For this year's convention we will have breakout sessions to help you as Chairmen; how to write a Treasurer report, Club Presidents report and District Director report. All are very helpful for you to know. I hope you make plans to attend the convention. Members of Silver City as well as District IV are excited to host the convention this year. President-elect Suzy Andrego and new state officers will be installed.



Wherever I go in New Mexico, I find wonderful friendly and hardworking garden club members. Regardless of what district or club you are in, we share the same concerns and issues. I've been invited to several of your club events and meetings and have enjoyed every minute. I attended a Flowering Desert meeting in Alamogordo and met some new members. I also attended the Desert Daubers Annual Luncheon and Sunshine Valleys' Membership Tea. This week I will attend Morning Garden Clubs Valentine Tea and I plan to attend soon a Los Alamos Garden Club meeting. I would like to commend Home Garden Club for their Blue Star Memorial Marker dedication in Roswell. It was a special honor to have Andrea Little, the National Chairman from Massachusetts attend. I went to San Diego a few days later to see family, and while I was there I met up with Andrea and attended a Blue Star Memorial dedication there.

At the NMGC Fall Board Meeting in Santa Fe, South Central Region Director, Nancy Voyles spoke to us about Ames Company which is the largest U.S.A. manufacturer of garden tools. National Garden Clubs formed a partnership with Ames two years ago. The company has generously offered a tool grant which is available to all NGC affiliated garden clubs. You know the saying "Nothing ventured nothing gained?" Well, two members can attest to this statement. JoAnn Layden from Angel Fire G.C. and Shirley Tetreault from Uptown G.C. both applied for the Ames Tool Grant for free garden tools. Guess what... both clubs, which have youth clubs, received a variety of adult and youth size tools. Congratulations ladies! A Special Thank You to Sue Ferguson, State Awards Chairman for helping them complete the application process. If you would like to know more about how to apply, please contact any of these three ladies. They will be more than happy to assist you.

I would like to recognize two special people. Cynthia Shafer of Lincoln County G.C. has been the Editor for the *New Mexico Gardener* for the past eight years. She has been committed to informing us all of club activities and garden related information, helping us all as members and gardeners. Georgia Schoenecker of Morning G.C. has been the Scholarship and Life Member Chairman for the past 15 years. Her commitment to our Scholarship program has

given many students an opportunity to continue with their academic education. Both ladies will be retiring from their position next month. I am forever grateful to them both for serving during my term as State President, as they were ready to pass the baton two years ago. Their commitment to me and to NMGC, Inc. speaks volumes of their character. So when you see them, tell them "thank you" for a job well done.

My last act as president will be representing New Mexico in May at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. I will have my walking shoes ready for the Habitat for Humanity Walk a Thon, so if you or your club would like to sponsor a pledge, please send a check to State Treasurer Debi Harrington made out to NMGC, Inc. with HFH walk written in the memo. I am especially looking forward to this convention because a New Mexico member will be installed as a national officer. Past State President, Shirley Tetreault will be installed as the Recording Secretary. Let's all congratulate her and wish her success with her new office.

I have many things to give thanks to you, the members. First and foremost for giving me the opportunity to serve as your state president these last two years. Second, and equally the effort and support you give your garden club and to NMGC Inc. Continue to welcome and mentor all the new members.

Let's Keep *Helping Gardener's Grow*.



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Suzy Andrego



I encourage you to attend the convention in Silver City, NM. There will be great programs and workshops. The Judges Council Dinner Program will be presented by all the Judges Council Districts around the state presenting a variety of creative designs with jewels of the desert. There will be a great lunch program and a wonderful dinner program on Thursday evening. And, Friday morning will be our much anticipated awards program and breakfast.

This is an installation convention. I want to thank our current officers and board members. They have done an excellent job! And, we welcome our new officers and board members, looking forward to more new and exciting things for New Mexico Garden Clubs!

I would also like to remind all current state officers and chairpersons to bring all materials and information to the Silver City convention, to be passed onto your successor. This is a good opportunity for you to share information, give advice, let the next officer or chair know what worked or what did not work and leave them with your words of wisdom. The guidance, support and help that you can give to the next officer or chairman is invaluable information and very much appreciated.

I hope to see you in Silver City!





OFFICIAL CALL
66th Annual Convention
"Jewels of the Desert"
March 25-27, 2015
Silver City, New Mexico

This letter will serve as the **official** notice to all New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. members.

The registration form will be found in the Winter and Spring issue of the *New Mexico Gardener*.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 12:00 noon – 5:00 P.M. | Registration - The Red Barn Restaurant |
| 1:00 P.M. – 2:25 P.M. | NMGC Executive Board Meeting - The Red Barn Meeting Room |
| 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. | NM Judges Council Executive Meeting - The Red Barn Meeting Room |
| 3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. | NM Judges Council General Meeting - The Red Barn Meeting Room |
| 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. | NM Judges Council Banquet - Silver City Women's Club |
| 7:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. | Installation of 2015-2017 Officers & Judges Council Program |

"Designing with Jewels of the Desert" presented by designer from each district

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Breakfast on your own at your hotel or a restaurant

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| 7:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. | Registration - Copper Manor Motel (adjacent to Red Barn) |
| 9:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. | Official Opening of NMGC, Inc. 66th Annual Convention - The Red Barn |
| 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 noon | NMGC, Inc. General Business Meeting - The Red Barn Meeting Room |
| 12:00 noon – 1:00 P.M. | Luncheon - The Red Barn Banquet Room |
| 1:00 P.M. – 1:45 P.M. | Program "Floating Down the Gila presented by Dutch Salmon, local author, Naturalist and expert on the Gila River |
| 1:45 P.M. – 2:15 P.M. | General Business Meeting Continues (if necessary) |
| 2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. | Breakout Sessions - The Red Barn Meeting Room |
| 5:30 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. | President's Reception - The Red Barn (cash bar) |
| 6:15 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. | Introduction of Past State Presidents & Club Presidents - The Red Barn |
| 6:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. | Banquet - The Red Barn Banquet Room |
| 7:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M. | Installation of NMGC, Inc. 2015-2017 Officers, Top Award Presentation |
| 8:30 P.M. – 9:30 P.M. | Program "Meet Madam Millie" presented by Liz Mikols |

Friday, March 27, 2015

8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. Breakfast Buffet - The Red Barn Banquet Room
9:00 A.M. - 10:30 A.M. NMGC, Inc. Awards Presentation, Final Credentials, Resolutions

A tour of downtown and the historical area will be arranged at the close of the convention.

Hotel Reservations:

Econo Lodge (575) 534-1111, 1120 Hwy 180 E. Single or Double rates: \$69.95 + tax.

The Copper Manor (575) 538-5392, 710 Hwy 180 E. Single or Double rates: \$45.00 + tax.

Must be made by March 1, 2015 and mention New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Isabel Olsen, New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. President

NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
66th Annual Convention
Jewels of the Desert
March 25-27, 2015
Silver City, 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"/> 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 Cons. | <input type="checkbox"/> State Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional Life Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nat'l Life Member | <input type="checkbox"/> Past State President | <input type="checkbox"/> Guest |

Please complete either a Full-Time Package or Part-Time Registration*:

Full-Time Package includes: \$25.00 registration fee, one breakfast, lunch/program, President's reception, Installation ceremony, dinner/program and gratuity.

EARLY FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked on or before March 1, 2015) \$100.00 _____

LATE FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked after March 1, 2011) \$110.00 _____

NOTE: Registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE after early registration closes on March 1, 2015.

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

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

Dinner/Program Judges Fee \$25.00 _____

Dinner/Program Non-Judges Fee \$30.00 _____

Program Only \$10.00 _____

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

*PART-TIME REGISTRATION: (Part-time registration is for those who only wish to attend part of the convention activities for Thursday, March 26 and/or the Awards breakfast on Friday, March 27, 2015. Registration fee and meals are priced separately.)

Thursday, March 26, 2015

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Registration Fee | \$25.00 | _____ |
| Luncheon/Program | \$20.00 | _____ |
| Dinner/Program | \$30.00 | _____ |
| President's Reception & Installation | \$10.00 | _____ |

Friday, March 27, 2015

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------|
| Awards Breakfast Buffet | \$20.00 | _____ |
| Part-Time Total | \$ | ____.____ |

Please make checks payable to District IV NMGC Inc. 2015 State Convention and mail with this form to:

Buelah Oyler
2715 Ridgeway Ct.
Las Cruces, NM 88011
#575-522-0143
bboyler@centurylink.net

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS OR HOTEL QUESTIONS: Nancy Ketchum nanketch1@gmail.com or 575-956-3024

HOTEL: **EconoLodge** 1120 Hwy 180 E 575-534-1111 \$69.95 + tax
The Copper Manor 710 Hwy 180 E 575-538-5392 \$45 + tax

For both of the above please be sure to mention New Mexico Garden Club, Inc., March 1, 2015.

Other choices include

The Murray Hotel: 200 West Broadway 575-956-9400
The Palace Hotel: 106 West Broadway 575-388-1811

(These hotels are historic and are located downtown. Both have on-street parking. The Palace Hotel does not have an elevator. Be specific if you are sharing a room and need two beds.)

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

2nd Vice-President/Membership – Nancy Ketchum

Congratulations to all clubs with new members. The winner for the largest percentage of growth will be announced at the NMGC Spring Convention in Silver City.

Keep in mind the membership contest offered by President Isabel Olsen. Isabel has offered \$50 to the club with the highest number of new members during the contest period between September 1, 2014, and March 1, 2015. Yes, you may still send dues and membership information to count for this contest. Members enrolled during March 2015, will count as 2015 members. It's still competitive, so be sure to send in the information and dues now.

Thank you club treasurers. You kept such well-organized lists and sent everything in a timely manner. I appreciate the opportunity to work with you.

Awards – Sue Ferguson, Chair

At the beginning of January, I sent out reminders to all the clubs about entry deadlines for state, regional, and national award applications. I also contacted our chairmen in a similar fashion.

I was delighted to be able to submit 17 applications from our clubs and from one individual member, for National Garden Club awards. Award winners will be announced at the NGC Convention in Louisville, KY in the middle of May.

About the same number of applications have been submitted to South Central Region and these award winners will be announced at the SCR Convention in Tulsa, OK in April.

I've been receiving many applications for our state awards these last few weeks, as have our state chairpersons. It has been really encouraging to see so many clubs and individual members, documenting their many achievements.

I thank you all for your hard work in submitting your award applications and I am very much looking forward to congratulating you at our awards ceremony at the convention in Silver City next month.

Award Donations – Sue Ferguson, Awards Chair

Through the generosity of club and member, sponsors, New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., is able to give small cash amounts to our award winners. However, the Award Monies Fund is running low at the moment.

I would like to ask you to consider being an award sponsor. You can specify the award you would like to support or your contribution can go into flexible monies and can then be used where needed.

Checks should be sent to our state Treasurer, Debi Harrington, and perhaps you could also let me know you are doing this and which award you would like to sponsor. The awards will be given out at our annual Convention in Silver City at the end of March.

Thank you very much for considering this request.

BeeGAP – Rene McCoy, Chair

National Garden Club partnered with Crown Bees, an education and pollination company in Washington State in late 2013. I volunteered to be the "Bee GAP" (Gardeners Adding Pollinators Program) chairperson because pollinators are precious to man's survival. Crown Bees offers discounts to clubs and their members helping us to Make a Difference in keeping with National Garden Club President, Linda G. Nelson's theme. Through this partnership, as chairperson, I have presented programs to schools, clubs and given handouts to Master Gardeners and agriculture agents and growers in several communities and placed posters and literature at libraries, at plant nurseries, and fairs. The whole purpose is to invite bees into your gardens, farms and backyards by planting native plants and heirloom varieties of herbs and perennials for forage for pollinators. Research has shown that native plants are four times more attractive to native bees. There are 4000 different native bee species and more than 130 species of native mason bees in North America. Using little or no pesticides and providing an appropriate bee habitat is the most important consideration for aiding pollinators to venture into your yard, neighborhood or community. Crown Bees encourages purchasing the Mason Bees because they non-invasive, non-threatening to honey bees and they close the gap created by the decline of the honey bee. The mason bees are efficient and they result in about 99.7% pollination of vegetables, fruits, nuts and flowering plants. Without pollination, food producing plants will not provide food! You can sign up for Bee-mail at www.crownbees.com to receive more information.

Blue Star Memorial – Shirley Tetreault, Chair

Did you know that there is still money in the Blue Star memorial fund? If you already have a marker in place or are considering purchasing one, give me your information and if funds are still available, you could receive \$100.00. I believe there is still \$500.00 in the account which means that five markers could be treated to some tender loving care. Prior to the annual convention in Silver City, I will rededicate the funds if there have been no further requests. I am sure that someone out there can benefit from this money. Please contact me at ammasangels@comcast.net or call me at (505) 259-2263.

Suggestions for roses to beautify your marker: Peace Rose, Veterans' Honor Rose, Purple Heart Rose, Bronze Star Rose, Silver Star Rose, Memorial Day Rose, America Rose, Honor Rose, 4th of July, Lasting Peace. Just a few ideas to consider. There are also many other flowers with patriotic names. Jump on board and take advantage of this one time offer of \$100.00 based upon eligibility.

Garden Club members can access the National Website for a complete location of all markers throughout the Country. When traveling, hopefully you can see some of them and get ideas from other states. Read the annual report for New Mexico locations. See if your garden club is listed.

Blue Star Memorial – Jan Smith, Home Garden Club Chair

Home Garden Club dedicated a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the General Douglas L. McBride Veteran's Cemetery, Roswell, NM on Saturday, November 8, 2014. The local American Legion Honor Guard presented the colors; Cadet Girl Scout Sarah Nichols, of Troop 18031, led the attendees in the pledge of allegiance, after which local Councilwoman Natasha Mackey sang the National Anthem. We were honored that Andrea Little, National Garden Clubs Inc., Blue Star Marker Chairman, was able to attend from her home in Massachusetts. Jan Smith of Home Garden Club and Shirley Tetrault, NM Garden Clubs, Blue Star Marker Chairman, unveiled the plaque. Suzy Andrego from Uptown Garden Club in Albuquerque read the dedication.



patron saint of gardeners, that it will thrive.

You need this: Well, maybe not all of you, just those who, like me, remember Pearl Harbor vividly. The only movement more painful than squatting down to work in the garden is trying to get up again. I have a plastic tractor seat about a foot high, mounted on a base which is like a shallow bowl, on which I can swivel around and scoot over grass and dirt. Using this seat I can do many garden jobs that would not be possible without it. I don't remember where I bought it, but I recently saw a similar one at Tuesday Morning.

And maybe this: This item deals with weather, and weather relates to gardening, does it not? I have an indoor/outdoor thermometer that is so much more than that. In addition to indoor/outdoor temperature it tells the date, the time, percent of humidity, and the forecast for the day. A little man--he looks vaguely Italian and I call him Luigi--wears clothing appropriate to the weather forecast, and waves and smiles. I leave home at 7:15 a.m. every day to walk my dogs, and I consult Luigi so I can dress appropriately for the weather. Luigi came from Home Depot--he was a gift but I think he costs around \$20.

I leave you with two quotes which I found, of all places, on a roll of paper towels:

"You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt"

and

"Gardening is a way of showing that you believe in tomorrow"

Garden Therapy for Late Winter and Spring 2015 – Helen Moser, Chair

"Flowers and gardens always make people better, happier, and more helpful; they are sunshine, food and medicine for the soul."

The above quote is the essence of garden therapy. In these waning days of winter and anticipation of Spring we need to think about how we garden club members experience the *joy* of green shoots poking up through the ground, the sense of *well-being* we get when digging in the dirt, the *healing* powers that come to our "monkey-minds" as we prepare for another growing season and the *satisfaction* we feel by accomplishing an indoor or outdoor garden project. These are the basic things we can pass on to others, senior citizens, school children, troubled youth or mentally challenged adults. Looking forward to the New Year, I would hope that all the New Mexico garden clubs would find a project, a one-time activity or an on-going one that blooms as the club's members participate in them. There are so many ways, big and small, to bring a bit of happiness, joy and satisfaction to person's life. I wish for all of you a spring season of sunshine, strong backs and the opportunity to smell the flowers!

General Horticulture – Daina Blount, Chair

As chairman of the General Horticulture Committee, I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to be available to answer any Horticulture questions for the past two years.

An item of interest for gardeners in parts of the state with alkaline soils is the use of soil sulfur in vegetable, flower, tree and shrub gardening. Many who have tried gardening in our alkaline soil and salty water have soon found that there are problems. Iron is bound with the alkali, resulting in iron deficient plants with pale green leaves. In addition, acid loving plants benefit greatly from the use of soil sulfur. The use of soil sulfur, at regular intervals as a soil

amendment, makes it possible to grow acid loving plants that otherwise would not grow in many areas of New Mexico.

If I can answer any questions in the near future, my e-mail is dlcblount@gmail.com.

National Garden Week – Donna Turney, Chair

The following paragraphs constitute this Chair's "Swan Song." It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve during this term.

While tours of gardens, large and small, along with other activities call attention to our 'good' works around the state, National Garden Clubs established the first full week in June each year to remind us that we are all engaged in gardening in some form.

I have received, one way or another, reports of happenings around the state describing some of the ways that National Garden Week has been shared with local communities. There have been other happenings that I did not hear about. I do hope that you will make this an important week wherever you live and will share the details with the next chairman so she can write the report to share your ideas with others.

Remember the **FIRST FULL WEEK IN JUNE** and start planning now. The posters distributed last year are still good for this year. You can copy these if needed or you may order more from National Headquarters in Missouri. The addresses are in the front of the *National Gardener*. Best wishes to all who read thisand those who don't!!

New Mexico Gardener – Cynthia Shafer, Editor

After eight years I am retiring as Editor of the *New Mexico Gardener*. I have really enjoyed being Editor and meeting so many of you, but it is time for a break and to let a fresh mind take over. It is because of your articles, your photos, your knowledge of gardening and the work you do in the communities that has made the *Gardener* a success. THANK YOU! Also, a big thank you to my proof readers, Barbara Bauer and Elena Hansen, for their many hours of work, I couldn't have done it without them.

New Mexico Gardener – About the New Editor, Linnea Egbert

Linnea, her husband John and their Maltese, Chloe, moved to Las Cruces in the fall of 1999 from Seahurst, a suburb of Seattle, Washington. The newly retired dental hygienist and salesman were attracted to southern New Mexico by the contrast in weather and culture from the Pacific Northwest. They now live in a home just outside the city limits and the desert has taken on new meaning to them – especially in the garden.

Linnea joined the Mesilla Valley Garden Club shortly after arriving in Las Cruces and did it with both feet on the ground and running. She stepped in as Vice- President when that position was vacated followed by a two-year term as President. She was appointed New Mexico Gardener Editor in 2001 continuing in that position for four years and received a NMG Award for the Bulletin. She initiated and chaired the installation of a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker in the Las Cruces Veteran's Memorial Park. The date of the

dedication of the marker, June 17, 2005 coincided with Mesilla Valley Garden Club's 75th Anniversary

She has chaired the Las Cruces Tour of Gardens for several years and continues to help by producing the brochures, tickets, and posters and chairs the Grant Committee.

Linnea is a quilter – a very compatible hobby to gardening. She is a past president of Las Colcheras Quilt Guild and has held several chairmen positions including newsletter editor.

New Mexico Judges Council – Suzy Andrego, President

March 25th will be NM Judges Council Annual Spring meeting in Silver City. The Judges Dinner program will be "**Jewels of the Desert**" ... five CREATIVE designs, one from each of the five districts, using or incorporating their "Jewel of the Desert." **You Won't' Want to miss this program!**

You do NOT have to be a judge or student judge to attend our dinner and program! Have dinner with the judges and enjoy the design program. All you have to do is add the judges' dinner and program to your registration for convention.

And, the NM Judges Council Ways and Means will be a Recycled Jewelry sale! Come see what "Jewels of the Desert" we will have! I am sure there will be something you just have to have!

I am hoping to see you down in the desert with all the "jewels of the desert," that I am privileged to know!

Youth Activities – Esther Russell, Chair

Here we are beginning a new year. We have four youth clubs in Albuquerque, one in Angel Fire and the youth activity program in Roswell. These programs are dormant during the winter months and will get going in late spring and summer.

We have had some impressive entries for awards. This is very exciting and something for our state to be proud of. Thank you to the sponsoring clubs and our youth members. Keep up the good work.

GARDEN CLUBS NEWS

District I

High Desert Design Club - There is a tremendous amount of club input here. Members are really encouraged to request the programs that they would like to work on. All of our designs this year will be focused on the State Fair schedule for 2015. The theme is "A Bug's Life." In February, we will have a posy pin workshop; March will be a hat decoration workshop and April will be Type II hanging design. Each month, members will bring their own container and materials to construct the specific design that month.

This garden club is growing at a high rate of speed, as well as education, laughter is a very important part of our afternoon. Many of our designers have applied for awards and are certainly not afraid to enter a Flower Show. We welcome visitors and prospective members on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at the Albuquerque Garden Center.

Members of the **Petal Pushers Garden Club** met in November at the Garden Center and were very inspired by Christine Longthorp's presentation of Holiday Home Decor. Christine is a professional designer and was president of Petal Pushers at one time. Not only did she present a very informative program, but she also suggested sources for floral supplies and community resources for inexpensive supplies. Thank you Christine for all the beautiful and easy ideas for us to use in our own homes.

Scones, tea sandwiches, fruit, breads and, of course, tea and coffee were enjoyed at the club's December Holiday Tea held at the Garden Center. Guests Mary Whigham, outgoing Council President, Debi Harrington, incoming Council President, plus Laurie Rivera the Garden Center Office Manager joined us for this very relaxing and enjoyable get together. A very pleasant way to conclude our year for 2014.

The January meeting was held in Ginny Longbotham's beautiful home. Our guest speaker, Debi Harrington, spoke on the art of photographing flowers and garden subject matter. Debi covered many aspects of photography which included composition, camera settings, and the various types of cameras and their features and capabilities. Thank you Debi for your talk and slide presentation.

We are planning and looking forward to some interesting programs for 2015. We meet the 4th Tuesday of each month at 9:30 am at the Garden Center. Guests welcome!

District II

Floral Designer's' does not meet November, December and January; however, we did meet in January 2015 as we had to cancel June 2014.

Floral Designers' continues to have each member, as they are able, to bring a design to share and be critiqued. In 2014-2015 we continue to use the book "Designing by Types" and the Handbook. Members are presenters each month. In January, we met at the home of President Dorothy Crawford, the program was a small design. The requirements of a small design as defined in the NGC Handbook are the same as a Miniature except the dimensions may not exceed eight inches in height, width or depth. The presenters provided an eight inch square



to see if the design conformed – (Photo at right: designer and photographer Dorothy Crawford.) It was difficult to keep the container from being too heavy for the small materials. The title for the design was "It's a Small, Small World." In photo on left the designer used a sculpture containing circles that did relate to the world. (Designer and photographer Doris Jackson.)



February's meeting is a Stretch Design and we will not meet in March as several members will be attending District II Spring meeting and the NMGC Convention in Silver City. April will be a combined program of designs with District II Judges Council.

November and December were very busy months for **Los Alamos Garden Club**. At the November meeting Floral Designers member Juanita Ortega presented a program on making potpourri. She provided rose petals from her rose garden for the members to use. When the mixing was done each member filled a pretty organza bag to take home.

The annual "Gently Used Ornament Sale" was held at the Festival Of Trees at the Senior Center. Decorated Trees are donated for auction. Linda Hoffman decorated a number of trees which were donated. The club had a table for the ornament sale. Everything was sold, a good profit was made. It was decided that a portion of proceeds from the sale would be used to purchase an engraved paver being offered by the Parajito Environmental Education Center. Club members made donations to reach the \$1000 necessary for the purchase. The new building will open in April.

Joyce Cady hosted a pinecone wiring workshop. The wired cones were to be tied on the fresh green wreaths club members make for the annual Wreath Sale. Doris Jackson made beautiful red bows for each wreath. Over half of the wreaths were sold prior to the sale.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving members made the trip, permit purchased from the Forest Service in hand, up to Jemez Mountains to cut the greens for the wreaths. Members spent two days making fifty wreaths to sell. The sale was held in the Los Alamos National Bank lobby.

Ann Shafer hosted the annual Holiday Social with members providing the food. Husband and friends enjoyed a very special event.

January was back to a regular club schedule. An interesting program was presented on Nature Conservation in the Rio Grande Valley and Jemez Mountains. Dale Lyons, son of member Alahna Weller was the presenter.

The nominating committee was appointed. The committee made fast work of their task and have announced that all positions are filled.

LAGC will host the District II Spring Meeting March 9th at Fuller Lodge. Several members will be attending the NMGC, SCR and NGC Conventions.

Summit Garden Club's November meeting program was "Using Landscape Design Principles in Flower Arranging" by member Shirley Carter. Shirley was owner of a Landscape Design Firm before retiring and moving to New Mexico. Also, each month there is a "5 Minute Gardener," the member presenting may choose any subject, e.g. horticulture, birds, floral design, etc. Each November we provide a decorated tree for the Los Alamos Senior Center Festival of Trees silent auction. This was our 10th year. The 7 foot tree and all the decorations were donated to Summit by District II Director Barbara Vance. The title of this years tree was "Gardener's Gold." (Photo at right.)



December brings our annual Holiday cookie exchange and afternoon social. Garden club members are also great cooks. (Photo at left.)

There is no January meeting and a Valentine's Tea is planned for February with sharing time by members of plans for Spring planting. March will be "Local Wildflowers" presented by Teralene Foxx Co-Author of "Plants of the Southwestern Woodlands."

With the additional moisture in late January, members will be checking the new plantings at Bandelier National Monument. Several will be attending the District II Spring meeting and the NMGC Convention in Silver City.

District IV

This past fall **Mesilla Valley Garden Club** members planted paperwhite narcissus bulbs to brighten our homes for the upcoming Winter Holidays. Numerous paperwhites adorned the home of Becky and Darvy Fuller at Mesilla Valley's annual Christmas Party. At this time of year MVGC donates clothing and food to the Gospel Rescue Mission and also children's story books to El Hardin de Los for Niños a pre-school for homeless children.

The scheduled programs for the January and February meetings had to be changed due to the illnesses of the original presenters. However, Mesilla Valley members met the challenge and presented both educational and enjoyable programs. Helen and Jerry Moser presented "Asian Landscaping and Garden Designs," a presentation of pictures taken while they were touring Vietnam, Cambodia and China. In some of the gardens in China, plants are not dug into the ground when a design is made, but left in pots. The pots are then put into the holes in wire creating a design. During our February meeting, Rosemary Maddox showed a video on how to prune rose bushes. She also had bushes available in her yard on which to practice.

Socorro Garden Club is still alive and doing well. Did lose two members recently, Martha Bonds, a long, long time member and Priscilla Gwin, a recent one. We will be placing a memorial stone in the garden shortly. We did do the county fair again and were surprised at all the entries.

A program on Xeriscaping was presented by Doris Adams at the **Sunshine Valley Garden Club** November meeting. Xeriscaping is a landscaping method that employs drought-resistant plants and special techniques to conserve water. The information was very helpful for gardening here in Truth or Consequences because of the drought conditions, poor soil and variable weather. Also, at this November meeting, members brought in canned food to be donated to a local food pantry and a wreath was raffled off to make money for the club.

Our Annual Christmas Luncheon was on December 12th at the Elephant Butte Inn. Everyone took home an ornamented Christmas mug that was used as part of the centerpiece. A good time was had by all. We also took Poinsettias to the nursing home, assisted living and Veterans home for them to enjoy during the holidays.

We were fortunate to have Jeff Dornbusch as our guest speaker at our January meeting. He discovered an approximately 90 million year old fossil turtle in this area. Jeff brought in and discussed a variety of rocks and other fossil specimens that were found in close proximity to the turtle.

Our Annual Membership Tea will be on Friday, February 13, 2015. Members are asked to bring guests to help increase our membership, and their favorite teacup and finger foods. Wearing hats and gloves is optional. We are really looking forward to this event.

District V

District V includes five garden clubs located in the southeast part of the state: Artesia, Home, Lincoln County, Morning and Mountain. State President Isabel Olsen, is a member of Home Garden Club. Total District V membership is currently 113 member strong and one youth member. All of the District V clubs have solicited new members as one of their top priorities. The Artesia club has 15 members, Home has 31 members and 1 youth member, Lincoln has 35 members, Morning has 26 members and Mountain has 5 members. The District V Garden Clubs are very active in their communities. As this is my last report as District V Director, I want to thank the club presidents and their members for their support and helping to make it a fun and educational term. I made some wonderful friendships and enjoyed the fellowship at their meetings. The District V clubs continue to promote the National Garden Club, Inc.'s Mission to educate, provide resources and networking for its members and to promote the love of gardening, floral design and civic and environmental responsibility in their monthly programs and they take the National Garden Club, Inc.'s pledge to heart by their work in their communities, their club projects and with their monthly programs.



Home Garden Club has been very busy this fall with fun and interesting programs. The November program was presented by Rev. Larry Sydow who gave a singing program on the history and usage of herbs. December was our Annual Holiday Potluck. Members teamed up and decorated tables in a holiday theme. A gift exchange and potluck lunch followed. We also collected blankets and toiletries for the Woman's Refuge in Roswell and delivered them after the luncheon. In January we had our annual Membership Tea. Patsy Bass presented a very interesting program on butterflies. Two new members signed up and we hope to get

several more. November 8th was Home Garden Club's Blue Star Memorial dedication at the General Douglas McBride Veteran Cemetery in Roswell. We had a large turnout, including the National Garden Club Blue Star Memorial Chairman, Andrea Little and Shirley Tetreault, NMGC BSM Chairman.

Members met at Jan Smith's home and made holiday centerpieces for Make a Difference Day. The centerpieces were delivered to Sunset Villa Retirement Center for the residents to enjoy. In January, Roswell's Habitat for Humanity dedicated another home. Several Home Garden Club members attended the dedication and presented the new home owner with a gift card to a hardware store and a house plant.



Imagine a magical morning in the mountain village of Ruidoso. Snow has fallen and the air is frosty. Inside the Episcopal Church of the Holy Mount the tables are set for **Lincoln County Garden Club's** annual holiday luncheon.

Each table is spectacular: a bountiful Thanksgiving table with flowers and vegetables in rustic autumnal colors; a whimsical peppermint candy cane Christmas table; a wine country table featuring a gorgeous centerpiece; a majestic pheasant-themed table complete with feathers. Garden club members arrive bringing items for the food bank and more. Master Gardeners, Imelda Horne and Nannette Tanner, are amusing presenters who show how to make wreaths from succulents. Cynthia Shafer has made pretty living favors for everyone of Tiger Aloe. The party continues with a 5-member Top Brass Ensemble playing patriotic songs, classical pieces and Christmas carols. Truly a magical holiday extravaganza for Lincoln County Garden Club members!



December is a time to celebrate friends and family for us and January brings time to rest and plan our garden happenings for the spring so we don't meet as a club. May 2015 already be off to a great start for New Mexico gardeners!

Morning Garden Club thoroughly enjoyed Floral Designer Esther Davis' program on the techniques for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Jan Dunnahoo, our Museum Decorations Chairman, and club members were eager to begin with homemade Victorian ornaments to decorate the tree. On our Member Memorial Tree displayed at the Museum during the Christmas season, we decorate with velvet hearts commemorating deceased members. This year we added a velvet heart in memory of Martha Morris. Though they have gone, they still live on in the garden of memory.

Three of our members went to Sunset Villa Senior Home and helped the Seniors with Pinecone bird feeders using peanut butter and bird seed. We had fun and a good visit.



We are sill planting bulbs with the help of young students from the Military Institute and, hopefully, we will be finished by the end of this month.

Each year our club enjoys a Habitat for Humanity Dedication. Georgia Schoenecker, Chairman, our buyer and expert in tools, presented a basket to the mother and children with a plant, small tools, spade and rake.

I am very happy to say we hosted a workshop for kids on terrarium and dish garden at the Extension Office. One small boy was so busy in all the little details with plant and decorations. Hopefully we have more kids at the time we plant our Butterfly Garden in April.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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| Feb 26 | District IV Spring Meeting, Las Cruces |
| Mar 2 | District I Spring Meeting, Albuquerque |
| Mar 3 | District III Spring Meeting, Angel Fire |
| Mar 5 | Full Worm Moon |
| Mar 8 | Daylight Savings Time Begins |
| Mar 9 | District II Spring Meeting, Los Alamos |
| Mar 12 | District V Spring Meeting, Roswell |
| Mar 20 | Vernal Equinox |
| Mar 25 – 27 | NMGC, Inc. Convention, Silver City |
| Apr 4 | Full Pink Moon |
| Apr 10 | SCR Convention, Tulsa, OK |
| Apr 22 | Earth Day |
| Apr 24 | Arbor Day |
| May 1 | Article Deadline for New Mexico Gardener |
| May 4 | Full Flower Moon |
| May 12 – 18 | NGC Convention, Louisville, KY |



INSTRUCTIONS 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 submitted as e-mail text. **Photos must be sent as .jpg files, one photo per file, as an email attachment; please do not embed in Word documents. Poor quality photos will not be accepted (i.e. out of focus or grainy.)** 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, 2015 to:

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