



New Mexico Gardener

Bulletin of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Winter Issue



One of the Neatest things I have been invited to do, is ride in the Roswell, NM State Fair Parade with Pam Davis, President of Home Garden Club and Jan Dunnahoo, President of Morning Garden Club. I have never been in a parade before. What fun we had!

New Mexico Gardener

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

Organized 1950
25 Clubs
2 Youth Clubs

Incorporated August 5, 1952
547 Paid Memberships
32 Youth Members

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

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Instructions for Publication in the *New Mexico Gardener*

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Deadline Dates

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

Articles/Photos for the next *Gardener* must be submitted by February 1, 2016.

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To visit the *Members Only* area on the website:

NMGC User name: nmgc Password: yucca

NGC User name : Member Password: flight

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SUZY ANDREGO



I have had a wonderful time this summer traveling all around the state attending club meetings, participating in garden club officer installations, going to fundraisers, going on garden tours and participating in the summer youth "Sunflower Camp". I have helped my youngest daughter present and participate to several youth clubs how to do their Smokey bear/woody owl posters, presented programs, attended many fair and flower shows, as chairman, as an observer and as a Judge. I have chaired Flower Show School 4. I am mentoring five student judges as they write their flower show schedules. I have attended Environmental School 3 which had a truly amazing field trip of the interesting collection of trees on the University of New Mexico campus. Sometimes I am lucky enough to have my friend Debra Sorrell, our New Mexico Garden Clubs Awards Chair with me or my master gardener friend, Dodi Suhr. It is always exciting to meet all the great garden club members and see everything we do around New Mexico and how each activity promotes New Mexico Garden Clubs.

Fall brought more traveling as I attend all the District fall board meetings. I enjoyed all the programs, conversations and ideas shared at each meeting. I brought to each District a copy of the new NGC Environmental book "The Frightened Frog", along with a copy of the new edition of the SCR Inspirations and Smiles book and "NMGC Club President's Book for each club President. The Club President's notebooks, along with the notebooks I made for the Executive Board members, the District Directors and all NMGC Chairman, are tools that I hope everyone can use! Add to them and pass them on to the next member in the position. They are full of GREAT information so I hope that you have looked through them and know exactly where to put all the new information each of you will be gathering here today.

I woke up, in the middle of the night last month, with an idea that I wanted to do something very special, using my two favorite flowers (the Daffodil and the Rose). That idea has become the "ROSE award". The ROSE award is a recognition award at the District level. The candidates for this award are nominated by the District Director and Club Presidents within the district. The candidates are members who have played a large role in their district and had a positive impact. The ROSE award stands for "Recognition of Service Excellence" and will be awarded at each fall and spring district meeting. So, when you see a person wearing a bling rose at a garden club meeting Know that they are a very special and important person in their district.

2015 Fall ROSE award recipients

- District 1 – Debra Sorrell – Awards Chair
- District 2 – Cindy Hills – Website Chair
- District 3 – Jo Ann Layden – Butterfly Chair
- District 4 – Linnea Egbert – NM Gardener Editor
- District 5 – Lisa Peake – member

So Watch for the addition of a springtime "Daffodil award". You never know how 'Daffy' things can get!

Now for my President's Project

One of the most widely recognized butterflies in North America is the Monarch and it is disappearing fast! Most of the decline in the monarch population can be blamed on changing land use. Garden clubs and their members can help increase the population by creating monarch butterfly gardens that includes plenty of milk weed. Gardens that attract and support all other butterflies are also needed.

SO For EACH Butterfly Garden that a CLUB plants, I will use my Ways and Means funds to pay for the club's garden to be certified by either the Monarch Watch Organization or the National Butterfly Association. And, I will purchase the certification sign for the club's garden.

The ONLY difference between the two types of certifications is whether or not you have milkweed planted. If you do, you can have a certified Monarch Watch Garden. If you do not have milk weed, you can have a National Butterfly Association certification.

There is an old saying "Build it and they will come"! HELP me INCREASE the butterfly populations in New Mexico!

AND Make sure to take before and after photos because then, YOUR CLUB can apply for my President's Butterfly Garden Award the end of my term. Award applications will be due **February, 2017**.



Barbara Vance - 1st Vice President



NMGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting “Planting Seeds of Friendship” – October 29-30 – hosted by District I was held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Albuquerque. The NMGC Executive Board met. The NM Judges Council Executive Board held their meeting followed by the Judges Council General Meeting. A President’s Reception was held in President Andrego’s Suite. The NM Judges Council Dinner was followed by the Program: “A Circle of Friends” - Exhibition and Functional Tables, presented by NMJC Student Judges. Students told a little about themselves and briefly discussed their exhibit telling what inspired them to choose the components for the design. Silent Auction items (to raise funds for the Judges Council and NMGC) were on display. Shoppers could sign up at any time – final bidding and winners announced after the Friday program.

Friday’s buffet breakfast was in the Rancher’s Club Room. Table centerpieces were pink and lime green arrangements in honor of breast cancer awareness month provided by NM Floral Artists. Lunch centerpieces were fresh pumpkins filled with fall flowers and dried materials, created by High Desert Design Club.

The Official Opening was in the Garden Room with Jayne Pilley, Protocol Chairman presiding. Mary Ann Moreno, District I Director, gave the Welcome to Albuquerque. The General Meeting was called to order by President Suzy Andrego. Two gentlemen were appointed as time keepers and given safety glasses and glaring flashlights to alert speakers when the allotted time of 3 minutes was up. Officers Reports: President Andrego reported on her projects. Butterflies – planting seeds of conservation for the Monarch Butterflies and planting seeds for butterfly gardens and habitats. During her talk there was a flurry of butterflies swooping here and there – finger puppets put into action that were given out to those at the head table. Officer reports continued, followed by Other Reports, District Directors Reports, and Chairman Reports. Judy Preston, District V Director, invited us to Ruidoso for the 2016 State Convention with special guests scheduled to attend, Woody Owl and Smokey the Bear.

What happened next filled everyone with laughter and giggling. The program PLANTING SEEDS OF FRIENDSHIP SCAVENGER HUNT. All present numbered off, 1 – 8 then gathered in their respective groups and picked up a Team Prop Bag – containing comic glasses – Uber moustaches - ornaments – feather boas - pins – butterflies – etc. to be worn by the participants as they hunt for clues. Next instruction – name your Team - based on the items found in the prop bag, and write team name on a foam board. Next, get “official team” picture taken with sign - then begin the scavenger hunt. Team finishing first - the winner - (providing all questions answered). Items were located in the hallways and meeting room. The search was on for: Hand Rake – Frog – Mullein - Lightning Bolt (Ways and Means prize) - Gardening Book – Decorative Wood - Garden Gloves - Potted Plant - Black Bamboo - Dog Bone rock. Near each of these items was an envelope containing the question/s to be answered by each team/member and recorded on the score sheet. Some of the questions: “What is your favorite flower?”, “Tell us something no one would know about you.” “What is the most unusual plant in your garden?” “What is your favorite piece of garden art (from any garden)?” The four winning teams: First place (gold necklaces) Team 7 “Lucky Seven Butterflies”. Second place (silver necklaces) “The Pink Pollinators” Third place (pink necklaces) “Birds of A Feather” Fourth place (lime green necklaces) “Boa Babe Bandits”. The other teams were: “Seed No Weevil”, “Princess Planters” “Princess Frogettes” and “Patriotic Forest Fire Fighters”. Team members wore their necklaces/props to lunch. A FUN time was had by all – with lots of laughter. We met new members, made new friends, visited with one another, caught up on activities. The program was followed by the luncheon - a delicious chicken strips salad, cheesecake dessert. Time for the Courtesy Resolutions: Two Giant butterflies appeared flapping their wings – presenting a wrap up of the activities, fluttering their appreciation and thanks to all and then flew away. Many, many gift bags were given out to winning ticket holders. Truly enjoyable meetings with fun activities. THANK YOU - District !! You ALL did an outstanding job putting on this Fall Board Meeting! GREAT EVENT!



Christine Longthorp, member and Master Judge, and the beautiful floor design she created to honor Suzy.



Exhibition Table Designs: Julie Foster, Kathleen Flanders and Michael Ann Tart at the Judges' Council dinner. Julie’s design was an extra and also won an award at the County Fair.

CANDIDATES FOR SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND ALTERNATE DIRECTOR

In rotation, New Mexico Garden Clubs has to nominate and elect the Director and Alternate Director for SCR for the upcoming term of 2017-2019.

To be eligible for the nomination as Regional Director or Alternate Regional Director, each nominee shall have served as President of a State Garden Club for a minimum of two (2) years and shall have attended (2) of the last three (3) previous Regional Conventions/Meetings at the time of elections. In the event the State Garden Club does not have a nominee who has served a minimum of two (2) years as President of a State Garden Club or is willing to serve, the current President will become eligible for the nomination.

The Regional Director and Alternate Director nominees must be endorsed by vote of the State Board of Directors at its regular meeting, which is our Annual Convention which will be held March 29, 30 & April 1, 2016 in Ruidoso, NM.

New Mexico has two candidates to nominate for the positions:

Shirley Tetreault and Isabel Olsen

The candidate names will be posted in the winter issue of the NM Gardener, along with a few words from each. At the Annual convention, a ballot vote will be taken. The candidate with the most votes will be Director and the other candidate will be the alternate.

Maggie Rubino, NMGC Nominating Chair

Isabel Olsen joined Home Garden Club in 2001. She has held all offices in the club. In 2008 she completed the Master Gardener program, and was the NMGC District V Director in 2009-2011. She served as NMGC Vice President in 2011-2013, and State President for the term of 2013-2015. Isabel received the Special Achievement Award (Silver Medallion) in 2011, and has held chairmanships for South Central Region and is currently the Corresponding Secretary. She is also serving on the Membership Committee and as the Penny Pines Chairman for National Garden Clubs.



Shirley Tetreault joined Uptown GC in 1997 and served as Treasurer, Ways & Means and President.



Shortly thereafter I became the President of the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, District I Director, Master Gardener in 2004, and began teaching a 7 week design class at the Garden Center in 2006. At the State level I have served as Recycle Chair, Blue Star Chair, Flower Show Correction, and two consecutive terms as State President.

At the National level I am presently the Recording Secretary and have served on the Flower Show School Committee. I am also a Master Flower Show Judge and a National Design Instructor.

As New Mexico is now in line for the next Region Director, I feel qualified to fill the position. I have served the Region as Historian, Blue Star Chair, and Life Membership.

At the present time I am the President of New Mexico Judges Council and the President of High Desert Design Club and I continue to work with The Blooming Gardeners Youth Club.



100,000,000 Monarchs migrate 2,000 miles to Mexico

They fly 50 miles a day for 2 months

Wingspan: 4 inches. Weight 1/3 ounce

Numbers in Mexico were down 85% in 2010



CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Mason Bees

I believe that everyone will agree that pollinators are essential to our gardens and crops, big or small. We all need to be help with the pollination process, if we can. Not everyone has room or the time for Honey Bees but Mason Bees are solitary souls. They don't produce honey or wax but they are very efficient pollinators and not considered aggressive.



Mason Bee

A Mason Bee house or habitat does not take up very much room. The females usually prefer to nest in naturally occurring tubes or narrow holes. They acquired the name Mason Bee because after preparing a small nest and laying an egg, she seals up a small chamber in the tube or hole with mud or chewed plant material. After sealing off the egg chamber, she continues to repeat this process until the tube or hole is full. So a single receptacle can have multiple egg chambers. Female eggs are laid at the back and males at the front of the chamber. The males hatch first and basically hang around until the females emerge. The bees mate and the males then die. The females are now off to prepare nests and lay eggs.



Mason Bee House

If you are interested in having Mason Bees in your garden, please research these little critters further. But here are a few tips :

1. Make sure there is plenty of pollen available in your garden or else they will move on to greener pollen pastures.
2. Mud should be provide in a small cleared area, muddy but not soupy.
3. Drilled wooden blocks or paper tubes can substitute for naturally occurring homes. These can be purchased sometimes locally or online.
4. Mason Bees may also be purchased on line or locally in some areas. There are even websites where you can rent bees and kits. They also offer cleaning of the tubes, and storage thru the winter for the bees.

Please research further if Mason Bees interest you. They would be a great benefit for your garden and educational for you and any children in your life.

Everyone needs to help the pollinators. We need them.

Vicki Frye, Bee Chairman

Bird & Butterfly Chairman



Red Admiral
Echinacea

Here in Black Lake (8 miles south of Angel Fire) Hummingbirds have said goodbye and headed off to warmer grounds, although a few that usually come early and leave late were still frequenting my feeders around October 10th. I usually leave one feeder up until the first of November for travelers that come through and may not find any nectar flowers. We've had our first snow this week (21st of October) but the Russian Sage, Hollyhocks, pansies, and some petunias and marigolds are still blooming, so there's still a source of nectar for the hummingbirds and butterflies. This summer we were graced with the presence of a golden eagle and a great horned owl that seemed to be doing a lot of their hunting in our area. One particular day was memorable because we saw the owl out hunting in early evening around 6:00 pm. He flew out from ground level in front of our car and landed in a nearby tree. We stopped the car on the dirt road to watch him and at that time a ferruginous hawk

landed in the neighboring tree and they both allowed us to watch them for several wonderful minutes as they ignored each other, just 20 feet or so apart. In late November I'll begin filling the feeders for the winter birds, the blue jays have been screeching for attention, but they can wait until the bears go to bed for the winter! I have left lots of seeds on some of the flowers such as lamb's ears, hollyhocks and blanket flowers to also supplement the birds this winter. It means a little more work in the spring for clean-up, but might help them survive.

The butterflies, strangely absent most of the summer, except for a few here and there, began to make their appearance in late August and since then I've seen a steady, but not significant, number of butterflies, mostly Painted Ladies and Cloudless Sulphurs (yellows). We've seen a few Swallowtails but no Monarchs this year. I've also seen some small dark butterflies that I cannot identify yet. I've spent hours trying to learn all about the species we have in New Mexico, and considering there are over 300 different species, it's no easy task! What I have learned is that we are blessed with butterflies, and are ranked third in the nation in number of species! Since I'm located quite north and at an altitude of 8800 feet, we do not see some of the species that prefer the warmer climate that we have in Southern NM. I guess it means I'll have to take some nice trips down south next spring and summer in order to observe other species!



Pyrisitalisa,
Little Yellow

This summer we have been working on the Butterfly Garden at our local Shuter Library in Angel Fire and have registered the garden with the North American Butterfly Association as an official Butterfly Garden and official Monarch Butterfly Garden. We have posted signs designating the garden and have also placed butterfly houses there hoping to entice some of the beautiful creatures to hibernate in them. We have planted milkweed and plan on ordering more butterfly host plants in the spring. I want to remind all of you about avoiding pesticides so we don't kill the butterflies. especially neonicotinoids, which are systemic, meaning that when they are applied, plants absorb and distribute the compounds to all parts of the plant, making the leaves, nectar, pollen, and woody tissue toxic to insects and other arthropods that feed on them. Neonicotinoid and other insecticides, like resmethrin, permethrin, organophosphates, carbamates, and insecticidal soaps that are often used in plant nurseries also have a negative impact on pollinators. Read the labels on the plants you purchase or ask the nursery to ensure that the plants are not sprayed in a way that is harmful to butterflies, caterpillars, bees and other pollinators.



Certified Monarch Sign and House

Jo Ann Layden, Bird and Butterfly Chairman

CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Historian

Just a reminder – club histories are due by February 1, 2016. Once received, a history of the New Mexico Garden Clubs will be compiled and forwarded to South Central Region and National Garden Clubs. Information to each club will be sent soon.

Becky Fuller

Horticulture, Winter Gardening



Enjoy the snow when it frosts the garden and check for footprints of animal visitors. Bird feeders and open water will bring colors and interest in winter. Sunflower chips are less messy than the ones with the shells. Finches like Niger (thistle) seeds and woodpeckers like blocks of peanut butter, lard, cornmeal and oatmeal; also add ground up stale bread and crackers.

When the garden is dormant and occasionally snow covered take time to look at the outlines of bare beds, shrubs and tree skeletons and evergreen shapes. Consider if the lines flow smoothly and have pleasing curves and sharply defined edges. These “bones of the garden” determine the form of the blooming beds”. They may need a more graceful shape or added evergreens for more dormant season interest. Make note of views which need screening or opening up.

If the ground is not deeply frozen, it is not too late to plant spring blooming bulbs that were forgotten or bought at a discount. The seed stalks on spent perennials such as sedum ‘Autumn Joy’ for winter provide interest when they catch the snow. Gold finches will appreciate seed heads on standing sunflowers and grasses. Other perennials can be cut back to allow birds to forage for insects and seed.

Prune evergreens to control size and shape and use trimmings for holiday decorations. Make sure to wash the dust off their leaves with a strong water spray; on a warm morning spray with dormant oil to help decrease spider mites and scale. This will give leaves a shine and cover hard water spots. It will also turn blue spruce and juniper green and so it is not advised on those. Evergreen branches can also be used over bulb beds to conserve moisture and keep soil temperatures even. It is important to water the garden on a warm day throughout the winter. Check the soil moisture and irrigate 1-2 times per month if there is no rain or snow. Pots of overwintered bulbs or perennials may need to be watered more often. Top large pots of spring bulbs with pansies for winter color.

Lawns should be free of leaves and mown one last time. Mulching beds keep soil moist and weed free. Bowls of paper white narcissus can be started at weekly intervals for indoor winter interest. Keep watch on house plants for insect invaders.

Ellen Reed, Horticulture Chair

Water Conservation



In these days of crisis management around our great nation and the world, here in New Mexico we find scarce helpful water conservation information. Water supplies, both surface and ground water, are constantly being talked about and fought over. Water Rights purchases and transactions complicate an already stressed management system. Endangered species protections have divided Farmers, Ranchers, Native American tribes, Villagers, Townsfolk, City folk and outlanders. Comparisons, by the water conservation awareness environmental advocates, are made between New Mexico cities like Albuquerque and Santa Fe to Western States large metropolitan areas like Denver, Phoenix and Los Angeles. Let it be known that New Mexico aquifers are considerably better than any of those big cities. Additionally, consistently low flows of surface water supplies here in New Mexico are being well managed to meet demands for river restoration, municipal and residential water supply, agricultural diversions and recreational uses. Agriculture can be a sustainable resource and the propaganda that it is **not** sustainable distracts us from beginning to build in resilience for our farms today.

Conservation is the act of preserving, guarding or protecting. These are action words. Therefore **water** conservation is action taken by someone while using the water. Drip irrigation, watering in the mornings and evenings when evaporation is diminished, capturing rain fall, using low flow toilets, these are all examples of conservation activities. Be thoughtful about your gardening and begin to build in resilience from our changing times. Resilience this year means many of us have begun **planting seeds for our future**. These plantings include seeding pollinator plants, creating butterfly gardens and habitat, and conserving the Monarch butterflies.

Many New Mexico gardeners already use good conservation techniques which improves their daily quality of life. As the uncertainty of our climate heightens our anxiety over future water supply, we must not lose site of the importance of water in our New Mexico landscape and culture. Water your garden well and wisely. Grow beautiful gardens. Share your quality of life with everyone you possibly can. And grow on!! Any comments, contact geodejohn@gmail.com.

John Sorrell, Chair

CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

Youth Activities

I have good news and bad news. The bad news is that we have lost three of our youth garden clubs. The good news is that we have one new youth club in process in Roswell. Home Garden Club is hoping to sponsor the new club.

The Blooming Gardeners in Albuquerque and Ponderosa Pines in Angel Fire are still active. Thank you to Shirley Tetreault and Connie Elmore for your dedication to the Blooming Gardeners and to JoAnn Leyden for her dedication to the Ponderosa Pines Youth Garden Club. I also want to thank the Sponsoring adult clubs. Please continue to support our youth as much as you can.

Let our great state of New Mexico set an example for others states by making our youth a priority. Have a wonderful Winter.

Esther Russell, Chairman

Ways and Means Committee Report

The Raffle Fundraiser to support the NMGC, Inc. President's Project is in full swing. The first drawing was held at the NMGC Fall Board Meeting. Jan Smith's ticket has been drawn for an expenses-paid trip to the Spring 2016 NMGC. Convention in Ruidoso. Expenses covered are: full-time registration, hotel and gasoline. This is about a \$350+ value for a fun-filled trip. The second prize is a wrought iron sculpture that can be used for multiple purposes, indoor or outdoor use for gardens or modern floral designs and was won by Joann Layden. Congratulations to the lucky winners! All non-winning tickets will be eligible for a second raffle at the Spring Convention. The prizes include a native jewelry lapis necklace and earrings, and a second wrought iron sculpture piece, for modern designs or as a statement piece in your garden. Tickets are still available for the second drawing. Feel free to contact W & M Chairman for additional tickets if needed. Thank you to all our garden clubs for your generous support of our President's Project.



Suzy and her Directors at District Fall Board Meetings



District I with Mary Ann Moreno at the Historic Hubbell House in Albuquerque



District II with Doris Jackson in Los Alamos



District III with Colleen Hinker in Las Vegas, NM at the Plaza Hotel.



District IV with Nancy Ketchum in Silver City



District V with Judy Preston in Roswell at the Clary Sage Bed and Breakfast

NMGC CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT I



High Desert Design Club has some top notch designers that are a true asset to Garden Club. Show here are Joanne Case (left) and Dianna Dodridge (right). Both were big winners this year at the New Mexico State Fair. In November Designers will work on holiday centerpieces and wreaths.

The **Petal Pushers Garden Club** met at Theresa Edens home last August. We enjoyed touring her garden and seeing the beautiful flowers, plus her husband's vegetable garden. Suzy Andrego shared tips and instructions for entering horticulture and floral arrangements in the State Fair. A wonderful meeting. Thank you Theresa and Suzy.

The September meeting was held at the Garden Center. Award winning Esther Russell's program on "How to Dry Miniature Flowers" was very interesting. Miniature certainly does mean small! Fascinating was the found materials Esther incorporated and turned into convincing tiny containers. October's meeting at the Garden Center was very inspirational. Mary Frances Santistevan, our Vice-President, demonstrated making a Thanksgiving fresh flower arrangement. She also showed us variations of the same theme plus doing some of the preparation ahead of time. Thank you Mary Frances for the hand out and the beautiful arrangements. Petal Pushers meets the 4th Tuesday monthly at the Garden Center. Guests are always welcome!



Petal Pushers State Fair Volunteers. Back L—R; Carole Stomp, Pat Ledford and Sonja James Front L—R; Joan Higgs, Rebecca Gaston, Shirley Tanzola and Sue Wasson

NMGC CLUB NEWS

The Trailblazers Garden Club in Farmington has mellowed out! For the first time in our history we are not in charge of the Floriculture Room at the San Juan County Fair! No designs! No schedules to fill in! Our summer is open! We miss it. Our May program fell through so did we wig out?? NO! We went out for Chinese! It was a blast and our short meeting was quite efficient. Everything was Copacetic!!

In June we concentrated on improving our own gardens by having a plant exchange. So we chatted about plants - the ones we had and the ones we wanted. One ditz, who shall remain nameless, forgot her plants but we did not stress out. The members who wanted the plants and the member that had the plants met for lunch! Boss!!

We had an outa sight meeting in July with a program on "Tomatoes - Fruit or Veggie?" A little refresher course in plant categories is always good. Can you dig it?

We learned in August how good for us cucumbers are. A groovy veggie! We also made fab botanical candles!

Our friend from Ku-Tips Nursery came out in Sept and filled us in about native plants and others that do well in our area as well as apple trees. We went ape over the possibilities!

We Trailblazer chicks are so cool! When our October program fell through we weren't hacked off but took in the quilt show. It was a gas! Especially the artist who painted quilts into his paintings!

If you're in our area fellow gardeners, come hang with us! Barbara Cole

DISTRICT II- Doris Jackson, Director

District II has 3 clubs, Floral Designers, Los Alamos, and Summit. We have 74 members and are very involved in Community projects and floral design. The District II Fall Executive Board Meeting was held in Los Alamos on October 13, 2015. The clubs will be holding a Small Standard Flower Show at the Fuller Lodge Art Center on June 17, 2016. This flower show will coincide with the opening of the Art Center show "Pulse". Suzy Andrego presented Cindy Hills, NMGC, Inc. Website Chairman, with the new ROSE AWARD. We were honored to have as our guests Suzy Andrego, NMGC, Inc. President and Barbara Vance, NMGC, Inc. 1st Vice President.

Floral Designers have been busy this late summer and early fall. In August, we visited the Taos gardens of member Tricia Stammberger, which feature hundreds of dahlias of different varieties, sizes, and colors. Tricia and her husband also hosted us

for a patio luncheon enjoyed by all. We voted to have a Small Standard Flower Show on June 17, 2016. The show will be held at the Art Center at Fuller Lodge in Los Alamos. Planning and preparations will continue. September was busy with four of our members exhibiting horticulture and floral designs at the three New Mexico State Fair Flower Shows. Our monthly meetings include design programs that are presented by two members. All members bring their arrangements to share and discuss with the group. Suggestions are made and the arrangements are critiqued using the NGC, Inc. Design Scorecard to keep focus on how the designs may be improved. The program at the September meeting in Santa Fe featured Traditional Line and Line-Mass Designs. The class title was "Tried and True", presented by Dorothy Crawford and Barbara Vance. The October meeting will be held in White Rock, featuring a Transparency Design program titled "Peek



Stammberger garden path with spectacular mountain views



Modern line/Line-Mass Designs: L—Shelby Green R—Dorothy Crawford

-a-Boo", presented by Dorothy Crawford and Laurie Hixson. Photos by Juanita Ortega

This summer, **Summit Garden Club** members were able to enjoy both local activities and out-of-town excursions. Continuing our community service from last year, we nurtured our gardens in the snack shop area at Bandelier National Monument, and at the White Rock Community Garden. In both cases, we heard the gardens were enjoyed by all. At one meeting, we toured three members' gardens. We saw Poi ponds, vegetable gardens, fruit trees, bark, rocks, beautiful roses, and xeric perennials. Each member came away with new projects in her mind and the names of plants she just had to have.

We next traveled to Taos to see the Stammbergers' garden, a beautiful space filled with many trees and flowers, especially dahlias. Some years, the Stammbergers have as many as 1200 dahlias, all in bloom during the month of August. Tricia Stammberger, a floral designer and judge from Texas, also showed us a contraption that held 4 pots dangling from a tree. The Stammbergers truly turned this piece of high desert into a lush oasis, which they graciously share. A lunch at Lamberts Restaurant in Taos completed our day.

We rounded out the summer with an excursion to the Salman Raspberry Farm in Mora. Mike Salman spoke to us about the history of the Salman Ranch, in particular, and also about the history of the Mora Valley, beginning with the land grand days, and about the geology of the area. We then picked raspberries, and purchased gifts (Christmas shopping almost done now) from the Salman store. We ended the day with a raspberry sundae, and headed on home through the Santa Fe National Forest. What a beautiful part of the country we live in!

Now, it's time to mulch the perennials, and plan for next year's plantings.



I—Doris Thieleman's Garden Above—Salmon Ranch Tour



NMGC CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT III - Colleen Hinker, Director

Our District met at the Plaza Hotel on October 15th in Las Vegas, New Mexico for our Fall Board meeting and of course, some Halloween fun. Our membership in the District is 73 members, most of which are members of the Angel Fire Club!! Santa Rosa Garden Club as of May, 2015 was 10 members. We were honored to have 5 more ladies join and immediately become active in our projects. This Club is up to 15 members now and the programs and activities reflect the number of active members. Angel Fire Garden club has 68 members and as expected, has many projects even though their weather is more severe than Santa Rosa's. That's a hard working group.

Santa Rosa Garden club has organized Floral Design programs for the Puerto De Luna Senior center. This group meets about every other month and some have joined the club, but all enjoy the activities. They are growing in confidence and creative design. The club had a very successful Flower show at the Guadalupe county fair. The Show was entitled 'Gardening with the Elements' and always has a lot of participation and viewing. Several of the designs went on to the State Fair and won some BIG awards there.

But their treasury was getting to low to support their activities. A garage Sale was held in September and was very successful. There are enough funds now to continue the PDL sessions, support their community projects and give a nice scholarship to a local High school graduate. The hospital medicinal herb garden is growing and is well attended. And the ongoing maintenance of the Blue Star Memorial is continuing to include a new wreath this November 11th.

The Angel Fire report follows.

At the District Level, We decided to change Banks because the change of policy and charges. But we are still a 501c3 organization. Our other problem involves the Blue Star Marker located in Texico, near Clovis, New Mexico. The State is closing down the visitors center there and building a truck weighing station. The project manager informed us that it needed to be moved to a safe place. The Order of Eagles helped us to fund this and is willing to move it soon. We then need to find a place to re-dedicate it at (somewhere in the City of Clovis). The negotiations are still ongoing. There is always something!!

Angel Fire Garden Club has been very busy this year with our three signature gardens and helping with the Girl Scout Camp.



Lady Monarch's, Johnese Turri, (l) and Diane Peterson, Angel Fire Members & State Resolutions Co-Chairs at Convention

The Butterfly garden at the Shuter Library has been designated as an Official Butterfly Habitat. The signs and milkweed were planted last month. We are excited to have butterflies all over this garden! The garden gets help from our youth group and Servant Groups that come over the summer. We have a great relationship with the Shuter Library board and partnered with them to purchase a water fountain and the Memorial By Way Marker.

This year, we have partnered with Angel Fire Proud (our community beautification committee) on our median. We had several weeding and planting days and even used crushed glass from the transfer station instead of mulch. It looks wonderful and sparkles in the sunlight! Working with this group has been great.

The Blue Star Memorial, which is at the Viet Nam Memorial, did very well as did the other gardens because of the wonderful rain we had over the summer. Weeding and dead-heading is always needed. We always get so many compliments from visitors about this special garden.

The Ponderosa Pines Youth Group has been growing! Quite exciting to see 13 members in this group. They really help out with the weeding and are always eager to help us.+

Our 68 member garden club group is having fun and gaining valuable knowledge through our programs. We look forward to our 2016 gardening season.

DISTRICT IV

Desert Daubers—Members joined with Mesilla Valley to teach floral design and sponsor a Flower Show. A successful plant and bake sale was held. A member of the Audubon Society described the characteristics and habits of owls. Another meeting was dedicated to the care of irises. Members also learned how to force the blooming of Paper white Narcissus.

Evergreen—Two major events took place in Silver City this year when Evergreen sponsored both the State Convention and Fall Meeting. At the District IV Fall Meeting in Silver City, plans were made for District IV to sponsor a Blue Star Memorial to be placed at Bataan Park in Silver City. This is on the way to Fort Bayard and the National Cemetery. Other activities were visits to members' gardens. One mature garden had whimsical, yet practical touches, such as pith helmets, lace and children's umbrellas used to shade plants. Another garden was planted with deer resistant plants. Lastly, members toured the garden of Monica Rude, aka Desert Woman. She shared the trials and tribulations of straw bale gardening that was her experiment for the season. Monica grows herbs in her garden to use in salves, tinctures and other products. Evergreen plans a holiday flower show in early December.

Flowering Desert— Since the State meeting in Silver City in the spring members have continued work at the Memorial Rose Garden, sponsored and manned the Otero County Fair Flower Show in August. The club visited a zoned yard and a xeriscaped yard. One member, a Master Judge was invited to judge the Las Cruces Show and she also entered designs and won ribbons for her efforts. A new member was welcomed in the spring,

NMGC CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT IV Continued

Mesilla Valley—As usual, Mesilla Valley members have been very busy. The members maintain a city median, share producing and creating designs for a flower show with another garden club, have a yard sale, but also participate with other clubs, business, and citizens in the annual Tour of Gardens.

Mesilla Valley and Desert Dauber Garden Clubs held a Small Standard Flower Show in September. The meeting that month featured a talk by Jackye Meinecke about Garden Tasks for fall and included what flowers and vegetables should be planted now. In October, we traveled to El Paso for a guided visit to the Chihuahuan Desert Museum Gardens at the University of Texas, El Paso.

Three of our members attended the State Fall Board Meeting in Albuquerque. They were MVGC President Charlene Brock; Becky Fuller, NMGC Historian; and Beulah Oyler, NMGC Archive Chair. The Crown Plaza Hotel was a lovely venue for the meeting and Suzy Andrego was a very gracious Presidential hostess. We are looking forward to Suzy's visit to Las Cruces for our annual Christmas party.



Becky Fuller, Beulah Oyler and Charlene Brock at convention

Socorro—As a memorial to members who have passed away, the club had a flat rock inscribed with the words "In memory of those who have departed. This rock is installed in the flowerbed at Socorro Hospital.

Members planned, purchased plants and landscaped an observation station at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. This was referred to as the Point-of-Land project. It is a beautiful, restful place with a scenic view on every side.

On Earth Day, members participated in education activities sponsored by the Bosque del Apache. Students, in grades one through four, planted a seed in the proper amount of soil. Instruction was given in care and maintenance of seeds to help grow a full plant.

The club held a spring plant sale as well as the usual fall Oktoberfest plant sale. A guest speaker from State Garden Club gave a demonstration on arranging a winning floral design. The annual horticulture display at the Socorro County Fair was more successful with more entries than last year.

Sunshine Valley— After a summer break in July and August, the **Sunshine Valley Garden Club** met on September 11, 2015. Since the annual County Fair was fast approaching (October 8-11), most of the meeting was spent discussing the work required at our flower display booth. Doris Adams made a floral arrangement as an example of what to enter in the Fair. We will no longer have the Sierra Vista Hospital planter for a Club project as the Hospital is now using a local company for all its landscaping and gardening. However, we installed colorful metal flowers at the City Triangle as a new project. Also at the meeting, the pressed flower art created during the summer workshops was on display.



Sunshine GC Flower Show

Photo by Linda Brandeis

We had our annual Flower Show at the Sierra County Fair in Truth or Consequences on October 8-11. There were 121 entries. Member, Doris Adams won a Best of Show for her floral arrangement.

Our regular meeting on the 2nd Friday of the month was held on October 16 instead due to the County Fair dates. Member, Lindy Rose, delighted us with a program on "The Meaning of Flowers." We received a handout listing flowers and the meaning they conveyed during the Victorian Era (for example, Dahlia=Dignity, Hollyhock=Ambition, Pink rose=Grace). She shared several of her flower paintings with us, and we enjoyed a delicious cake she had designed based on a Georgia O'Keeffe flower painting.

District V

This year has been filled with a wide variety of activities for District V Club members. Program topics included learning about local birds, tree plantings and dedications, planter boxes, lasagna gardens, and Butterfly Gardens and making HyperTufa pots.

Activities included visiting the Hondo Valley Iris Farm, the Eastern New Mexico State Fair, the Capitan Fair & Flower Show, the Dragon Fly Festival, as well as visits to the Bitter Lakes Wildlife Refuge, the Mescalero Tunnel Gardens, local parks and mainstreet activities, plant sales & farmers markets, home & garden shows.

The Clubs also hosted a variety of fund raising events in each respective location.

Artesia was very busy this Fall with the Eastern New Mexico State Fair. Julie Foster won Sweepstakes Honors with 3 Blue Ribbons. Isabel Olsen received Alternate Best of Show, and three other members had entries in both the Horticulture and Design competitions.

Read activities of Home, Lincoln County, and Morning Garden Clubs below. Lincoln will be hosting the 2016 State Convention in Ruidoso on March 30, 31 and April 1st. Our members are already very busy with behind the scenes details of planning this event. Committees have been developed, the location has been designated, the menu has been selected and various members are working away designing centerpieces and items for silent auction.

The District V Fall Board meeting was held in Roswell at the Clary Sage Bed & Breakfast on October 6. Our meeting was well attended and a delicious lunch was served to 27 members and officers. We also enjoyed the company of our State President, Suzy Andrego as our guest. The State Fall Board Meeting in Albuquerque was a great event filled with information, activities and great fellowship and fun. The meetings were informative, the activities were fun and the food was delicious.

Judy Preston, Director

NMGC CLUB NEWS

DISTRICT V continued



Home Garden Club The Dragonfly Festival is a yearly event that takes place at the Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge each year in September. We set up a coloring contest and dragonfly craft for the children. festival Later that month we had our first meeting at the Robert H. Goddard planetarium where members Karen Davis (right) and Lisa Gibson (left) hosted.



Members gathered at the home of Agnes Bonham, standing, to prepare the flowers and bees for the float entered in the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Parade



We were honored by the presence of Ms. Suzy Andrego, who so kindly agreed to ride on our "Vintage Vegetable Truck" in the parade! The day after the parade, we all gathered for our District V meeting at the Clary Sage Bed & Breakfast. During this same week the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Flower Show took place at the fairgrounds. Many of our members entered and came away with ribbons! Our own Renate Reisel won best of show! As fall is in full bloom,



Suzy Andrego and Pam Davis, HGC President.

we continue to freshen up our garden at the Spring River Park & Zoo and keep the hanging planters at the Roswell Museum & Art Center filled with color! Our November meeting will grace us with Ms. Shirley Tetrault. Bringing us

Lincoln County Garden Club: The annual flower show was held the first week in August during the Lincoln County Fair in Capitan. Many beautiful flowers were entered and the displays looked wonderful. Several garden club members won ribbons, including Lisa Peake's Grand Champion arrangement. New Mexico Garden Club president, Suzy Andrego, attended the Fair and gave us helpful tips on judging flowers.



Suzy and Imelda Home at the LC fair in August

The August meeting was a field trip to the Nde Farm and Fish Hatchery in Mescalero. The farm produces organic vegetables for the community of Mescalero in hoop houses made of PVC pipe and plastic over raised beds and so much more. Following the tour, we presented them with a donation.

Early in September, Lincoln County Garden Club, presented 2 gardening books to the Ruidoso Public Library in memory of Bev Yohner, long time garden club member who recently passed away. She supported the Mountain Living Home and Garden show, worked tirelessly in the library garden and the hospital courtyard garden, always with a smile on her face and served on many club committees.

In September the club met at Lisa Peake's barn to make Hypertufa containers which is a mix of cement, perlite and peat moss making it a light weight container. It originated as a replacement for tufa stone that was carved to make planting troughs.



Lisa Peake (R) receiving the 1st ROSE award.

Many creative containers were made, including the shape of a hand, round and square pots. Thank you Lisa and Gordon Peake for a fun morning in your barn!



Grand Champion at the LC Fair - Lisa Peake

Several club members attended the District V fall board meeting in Roswell October 6. Lisa Peake received the first ROSE award created by New Mexico Garden Club President, Suzy Andrego. The acronym ROSE stands for Recognition of Service Excellence. Lisa received a pretty (blingy) purple rose pin. Congratulations, Lisa!

October brought a regular meeting and work session at Otero Electric that was fun and casual. Since May, LC garden club has welcomed 5 new members bringing our membership to 37 active members and 4 honorary members! Marilyn Barnes received the Life Member pin this year. It's been a busy spring and summer for Lincoln County Garden Club and we anticipate a beautiful autumn and holiday season

Morning Garden Club Morning Garden Club is in "fall swing" with activities! This past Saturday we prepared three flower beds at the Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico House Museum, using the "lasagna garden" method. We were fortunate to have five cadets from New Mexico Military Institute help us with this activity. We will be planting these beds in the spring.



We continue our upkeep on two butterfly garden flower beds in Cahoon Park, bird feeders and pots at the nursing home, and our "Alaina Garden," at the Archives for Southeastern New Mexico.



Another continuing project is to bring recyclables, (batteries, light bulbs, etc.) to each meeting for collection. We also, bring motel soaps, shampoos, and other items to donate to our local women's and children's shelters. Our next big project will be to decorate the Historical Museum for Southeast New Mexico, for Christmas and their annual Christmas Open House.

Our Flower Show for the Eastern New Mexico State Fair was the largest yet, with 374 horticulture entries and 32 design entries. Our member Rene McCoy received "Best of Show" for design, and Renate Reisel received "Best of Show" for her Horticulture entry. A huge thank you to Sue Ferguson for organizing and chairing this event! Happy Fall!



Photo Overflow



By M.E. Sprengelmeyer
The Communicator

One day soon, a mountain lion might get a scare when it's wandering around in the darkness near Puerto de Luna.

In a flash, solar-charged, motion-detecting sensors could awaken the bright-eyed beast now guarding a prominent hillside at the Spirit Haven Ranch – an eight-legged arachnid the size of an old Volkswagen “bug.”

This spider is so big that drivers might spot her from a bend in the nearby Puerto de Luna Road. But have no fear, artists Fred and Colleen Hinker say.

“This is not a black widow spider. This is a grandmother spider, a guardian spider,” Mrs. Hinker insists.

On Tuesday, the Hinkers were putting the finishing touches on a front-yard sculpture inspired 30 years ago during the couple’s “gypsy” travels, after Mr. Hinker, an engineer, had escaped the corporate world.

In the mining town of Dayton, Nev., they came across a VW beetle that had been converted into a towering daddy long-legs of sorts – from a species of German-engineered spiders that also has been spotted climbing from a rooftop in Reno, Nev., standing guard outside a pasture in Avoca, Iowa, or looking across the countryside of jolly old England.

“I said, ‘That’s neat. I want one of those someday,’” Colleen Hinker said.

Years passed, the couple eventually settled on the sprawling farm in the Pecos River valley a few miles south of Santa Rosa. But the dream of that VW spider



never died. They finally found their “bug” a couple years ago. It had seen better days. It wasn’t running and its undercarriage was kaput. The Hinkers retired it to the countryside and recently started giving it the transformative makeover.

Fred Hinker used his engineering skills to design the double-jointed legs, which hold up the hollow, black-painted body on a platform with a very slight bounce. Once it was set in place on the scrub-covered mound near the couple’s home, the legs were painted bright yellow, and on Tuesday morning Colleen Hinker was applying black stripes while her husband proudly looked on.

Few have seen the unique sculpture yet. The unveiling will take place gradually, as nearby trees lose their leaves for the season, offering more unobstructed views from the nearby state highway.

There was a lot of chatter on Tuesday as the art installation was being completed. But that was just the large community of turkeys feasting in the farm fields far below.

On a nearby dirt road, a little tin box is waiting for contributions from visitors, including art-lovers and critics alike.

“STOP HERE,” the sign says. “Please put your fears and worries in this box before entering. You can choose to reclaim or abandon them as you leave. We do not want negative thoughts to enter here. They are bad for the plants, the animals, the earth, us, and definitely for you. Don’t worry about them getting mixed up with any others. They know who their owners are.”

M.E. Sprengelmeyer, (575)472-3555 office, ErstHap@hotmail.com
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Top - A Circle of Friends Meeting. Left to right: Functional table for two diners by Sarah Bianco, Functional tables for one diner by Juanita Ortega and Carolyn Bucklen at the Fall Board .



Above: Exhibition table design by Julie Foster.



Planting Seeds of Friendship Scavenger Hunt teams at convention.



NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS, INC.

67th Annual Convention

Enchanted Legends of Sierra Blanca

March 30-31, April 1, 2016

Ruidoso, New Mexico

NAME TAGS WILL NOT BE PROVIDED

SHOW YOUR CLUB PRIDE

EACH ATTENDEE IS REQUIRED TO BRING YOUR CLUB NAME TAG

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"/> Guest | |

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

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

EARLY FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked on or before March 14, 2016) \$105.00 _____

LATE FULL-TIME PACKAGE:

(postmarked after March 14, 2016) \$125.00 _____

NOTE: Registration fee is NON-REFUNDABLE after early registration closes on March 14, 2016.

Calendar

2015

- December 5 Christmas in Silver City
- December 5 Holiday Flower Show
- December 25 Full Cold Moon
- December 31 Award application deadline for both National Garden Clubs.

2016

- January 28 & 29 Judges Symposium
Phoenix AZ
 - February 1 Deadline for submitting all NMGC award applications to the specific chairman.

Deadline for SCR awards
 - February 1 Article deadline for *New Mexico Gardener*
 - March 1 Deadline for reports to State Awards Chairman by State Chairmen
 - March 7 District I, Spring Meeting
 - March 10 District IV, Spring Meeting
 - March 17 District V, Spring Meeting
 - March 23 District I, Spring Meeting
 - March 24 District III, Spring Meeting
 - March 30, 31 & April 1 NMGC, Inc. 2016 Annual Convention, Ruidoso, hosted by District V
 - April 8 & 9 SCR Convention
Bentonville AR
 - May 2-6 NGC Convention, Grand Rapids, MI
 - June 5-11 National Garden Week
 - October 27 - 28 NMGC, Inc. 2016 Fall Board Meeting, Las Vegas
- 2017
- April 25-27 NMGC, Inc. 2017 Annual Convention, Hosted by Albuquerque
 - April 28-30 South Central Region 2017 Convention, Albuquerque

Photo Overflow continued . . .



Left: Breakfast arrangements made in pink and green in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month provided by NM Floral Artists.



Right: Luncheon table designs filled with fall flowers and dried materials were created by High Desert Design Club



Bee the Change!
Left: Pam Davis and Brook Smith with a banner announcing President Pam's theme.

New Mexico Gardener

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To: