



Bulletin of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Vol46No7

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## Winter Issue



Fall Board Meeting at the Historic Plaza Hotel  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

# *New Mexico Gardener*

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

Organized 1950	Incorporated August 5, 1952
24 Clubs	564 Paid Memberships
3 Youth Clubs	65 Youth Members

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

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

[www.newmexicogardenclubs.org](http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org)

NMGC User name: nmgc Password: yucca

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### **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 to be submitted as a Word document (unformatted) attached to an e-mail or submitted as email text. **Photos must be sent as .jpg files, maximum three per file, as an email attachment. 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 February 1, 2017

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT - SUZY ANDREGO



I have had another wonderful fall traveling all around the state attending District fall meetings, club meetings, presenting programs, helping with flower shows, judging flower shows, attending Club birthday tea parties, helping with fundraisers and attending lectures, schools and classes. I attended National Garden Clubs, Fall Board meeting in Maine, where I represented our beautiful state and its members while I enjoyed all the meetings, programs, conversations and ideas shared. I never tire of promoting New Mexico Garden Clubs, our programs and our members, wherever I go! And, I sure have enjoyed the beautiful weather this fall. Mother Nature gave us a slow end to summer and even slower beginning of the fall season. Happy Fall to all!

I hope everyone is filling up their NM Garden Clubs notebooks with all the wonderful things each Chairman, Club President or Executive Board member does for their position. The person who follows you will really appreciate all the information. If you attended the wonderful Fall Board meeting in Historic Las Vegas, hosted by District III members and chaired by District III Director, Colleen Hinker, you know how much fun we had while learning so much. Robin Pokorski, National Garden Clubs Leap into Leadership Chairman, came and presented us with four glorious hours (It sure DID NOT feel like four hours!) of incredible Leadership Information. From when and if you say the pledge of allegiance, to how to use a microphone; what you should never put in an email, how to deal with the difficult club member, forgotten meeting etiquette, to LOTS of Parliamentary procedures. What FUN we had! And, WOW .... That was some GREAT information to add to your notebook!

I am looking forward to all the club holiday events I will be attending around the state! And, visiting with each member I meet.

### **CONGRATULATIONS to ALL of the Fall ROSE Recipients!**

#### **2016 Fall ROSE "Recognition of Service Excellence" award recipients are:**

District 1 – Esther Russell – NMGC Youth Chair

District 2 – Dorothy Crawford – Summit Garden Club & Floral Designers

District 3 – Carolyn Bedford – NMGC Recording Secretary

District 4 – Inez Meier – Sunshine Valley Garden Club

District 5 – Kathy Brown – NMGC Yearbook Chair

February 16, 2017, make plans to attend the Hands on Design Workshop, on how to make and "Armature" Design", with National Floral Arrangers Designer, Claudia Chopp. The workshop will be followed by Judges Symposium, February 17 & 18, 2017 where Claudia Chopp will present the Design portion and Gay Austin will present the horticulture topics of Hellebores and Orchids. And remember you DO NOT have to be a flower show school student or judge to attend a symposium. Attending makes each one of us a better exhibitor!

*Continuing on page 4*

# PRESIDENT'S PROJECT UPDATE

Along with the project's I have already presented: Fall 2015: Plant a Butterfly Garden, A Habitat Garden, A Monarch Way Station ... I will pay for your signage and certification. (For a club or individual)

**REMINDER:** Take before and after photos of your pollinator gardens, because then, YOU or YOUR CLUB can apply for my President's Butterfly Garden Award for 2017. Award applications are due **February, 2017**.

Spring 2016: I added "Plant It Pink Gardens", pocket gardens with all pink plant materials, in honor of Breast Cancer Survivors and Awareness ... I will pay for your signage and certification (for a club or individual).

Fall 2016: FOR the last part of my President's Project, I will add: **CLUB FLOWER SHOWS**.

For any **CLUB** that would like to hold a flower show by June 1, 2017 ..... I will help with the following:

Creating the show schedule

Providing 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place ribbons

Providing 10 rosette top award ribbons

Providing entry tags

Providing 3 accredited or higher Flower Show Judges

*As of today, three clubs have taken me up on this offer .... Will your club be next??*

***HELP me promote flower shows; Educate our members and our communities!***

***Your garden club flower show is the perfect way to get started!***

***Let's continue to "Plant Seeds for New Mexico Garden Club's Future!"***

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Just a few Fun Fall Board Photos - lots more in the Foto Overflow attachment and online



Above: President Andregio with Robin Pokorski, our Leadership Workshop Presenter



Barbara Vance and Kermit



Tour Group at the historic Castaneda Hotel former Harvey House

Right: Diane Peterson & Johnese Turri also known as Ms Monarch & Madame



Far right: The Antique store in Las Vegas (Rough Rider Antiques) was ready and waiting for us



## Barbara Vance - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



What an enjoyable two years we are having. We started new offices or chairmanships and had handbooks to help us learn how to write reports and carry out duties. It took a little time to settle into our position and eventually we felt comfortable carrying out the work outlined in our job description. When I attend District meetings – one of my duties is to bring information to members about the many exciting events and learning opportunities that are available. When I first learned about the NGC Leadership program I was very enthused and wanted to encourage all members to attend and learn about different ideas and ways to do our jobs.

NMGC's Fall Board Meeting in Las Vegas started off with the LEAP INTO LEADERSHIP program/workshop.

Robin Pokorski, NGC Leap into Leadership chair, kept all of us at attention throughout her presentation. We learned about Parliamentary Procedure – Gavel Power – Order of Business - Handling a Motion. She presented information on Leadership – Public Speaking – information about Meetings – starting on time, pledge to flag/or not – Inspiration vs. Invocation – Agendas. Also presented: E-mail dos and don'ts – Committees – Personnel - Dealing with Difficult Personnel – Motivating members. She gave us basic information – expanded on that with stories and incidents she had experienced over the years. We learned about Innate abilities – Learned abilities. Each of us can Learn to be a public speaker - be President of an organization – be a leader. There were a variety of props on the tables in front of us. By running a string from officers to chairmen, to members - we learned how very connected we all are in our organization. There were marshmallows on the tables – and dried spaghetti. What on earth could that be for? The project: “Build the Highest Structure” using the two elements. We learned that one person cannot do it alone. It takes TEAM work. We had Handouts with everything from MOTION CHEAT SHEET, The Difference Between - BOSS and LEADER, Garden Club Structure (NGC down to local Garden Club.) We finished the workshop and attended a reception of tapas and margaritas hosted by President Suzy Andrego. Time to relax and visit with members to catch up on activities.

What a treat to spend the night at the historic Plaza Hotel – built in the 1800's as one of the finest hotels in the territory. Many antique dressers – chairs – settees were on display in the hallways. The food was excellent for all the meals and everyone enjoyed the atmosphere of spending time in this historic building and learning about its colorful history.

Official Opening of NMGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting. President Andrego opened the meeting followed by an Inspirational Reading, Pledge to the Flag and a special guest sang *America the Beautiful*. Reports were presented by Officers, District Directors, and Chairmen and our new Timekeeper kept things on schedule. Each attendee received a corsage that President Andrego made with a piece from a giant puzzle. She recited a poem about Puzzle Pieces – ending with: *Then remember in times of happiness or times of strife, We are all pieces of the puzzle in one another's life.* (by Kristie Livreri, Pacific Region Director.) The report forms for club presidents and district directors make it easier to record important statistics and then have time to tell about unusual/interesting programs or outings. Everyone has been doing a great job in their respective positions and received a gift of appreciation for their efforts. A special Thank You to each of you for preparing and presenting information for all of us to learn about the variety of activities being carried out in our state. We finished all the business, had the final Registration Report and Courtesy Resolutions presented by our beloved “Butterfly Girls”.

The program after lunch was “*History of the Harvey Girls*” presented by Southwest Detours - Kathy Hendrickson and one of the original Harvey Girls from Las Vegas. We learned about the chain of Fred Harvey Hotels and restaurants built alongside the railroad tracks so travelers could stop for a meal, spend the night. We had time for a group photo on the staircase in the ballroom. Many opted to take the tour of the historic La Castaneda Hotel next to the train depot. The hotel is the first of the early Harvey Houses to be built in the Spanish Mission Revival style in New Mexico and the first Spanish Mission Revival building in the State. The guided tour took us through many rooms now in the process of being updated and modernized. What a colorful history of this building and others in the area.

“**By Trail or by Rail, Experience the Great West in Las Vegas, NM**”. We got involved in “Leap into Leadership”, We learned about activities of our members/clubs throughout the state - enjoyed delicious meals – met new friends. Everything was enjoyable! THANK YOU, District III Officers and Members. It was a GREAT EXPERIENCE!

# NMGC CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

## NMGC Awards - Debra Sorrell, Chair

I am finally publishing the changes to the NMGC Awards Handbook which has the new Youth Awards!! We are excited to offer these awards to what we hope is an up and coming generation of gardeners, environmentalists, conservationists, beekeepers, plant lovers, designers, wildlife lovers and pollinator protectors!!! There are awards (in several age categories) for poems, sculptures and butterflies. Check out the new revision to the NMGC Awards Handbook for all the requirements and criteria.

**PLEASE MAKE NOTE!!!** There are some tricky DEADLINES for the Youth Awards. Because the South Central Region youth awards have deadlines in the middle of January, New Mexico has to require very early entry dates for these awards. Otherwise, none of our exceptionally talented youth would be considered for the Region's awards.

**All youth award entries must be submitted to the State Youth Chairman, Esther Russell, no later than January 1<sup>st</sup>!!!** That will give her only 5 days to have them judged and passed on to me, the State Awards Chair. I will then have 5 days to prepare them for the SCR Youth Awards who has a deadline of January 15<sup>th</sup>.

So go get your youth club kids, your grandkids your neighbor's kids and grandkids or some other cute kid you know and help them enter. There is magic in the natural world and magic in the hearts and hands of children. This will be one great way to "mix the magic"!

## Bees - Vicki Frye, Chair

### Bee Photograph Award

There are more than 4000 species of bees in the United States! These are classified into 6 major families. Almost all of these families are represented in New Mexico. So get out there and take your photos!

#### I. Requirements:

- A. Photos and coversheets due to State Bee Chairman by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
- B. Winning photos will be sent to the state Awards Chairman by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### II. Criteria:

- A. Each Photo must be no more than 5"x 7".
- B. Accompany each photo with a cover page that includes:
  1. Your name, address, and garden club
  2. Information about the photo, such as when and where the photo was taken and identification of any plant in your photo.
  3. Include any details on your photo taking experience.
  4. Include fun facts about the bee you have photographed.
  5. You may enter as many as 3 photos with individual cover sheets.
  6. Print must be clear and focused.

#### III. Scale of Points:

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| A. Photographic Quality                  | 50 points           |
| B. Artistic Quality                      | 50 points           |
| C. Details of bee, plants or experience. | XX points           |
|  | Total of 100 points |

#### IV. Award:

- A. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and HM Certificates
- B. Monetary award may be given.



## Bird and Butterfly Chairman - Jo Ann Layden

Wow, what an exciting report I have for you, after spending several days in Mission, Texas, for the Texas Butterfly Festival! I had read about this festival, which was held in conjunction with the North American Butterfly Association's (NABA) biennial meeting and since I am a member of NABA and your bird and butterfly chairman, I wanted to get more knowledgeable about butterflies. I suspected this would be a great place to learn since the festival is held in Mission, considered the "butterfly capital of the USA." I was not wrong! The very first day of the festival we toured the National Butterfly Center (NBC) and spotted 64 different types of butterflies. We had a lot of help in identifying them, with experts who have been studying or just enjoying butterflies for years. Mission is located in the southern Rio Grande valley, which is known for no fewer than 11 different types of habitat, from tidal wetlands to riparian forest, brush-land scrub to prairie savanna, and is home to more than 1,200 different species of plants, 500 species of birds, 200 vertebrate species, roughly 300 species of butterflies, and over 90 species of dragonflies! So it is no wonder that we saw more butterflies in three days than I will probably ever see the rest of my life!

Besides butterflies, we saw many different types of birds found in that region, including a green jay, which is one I had never seen. The habitats were full of butterflies and the melodic sound of many different birds. It was difficult for many of the participants to stay focused on butterflies as birds that we were interested in flew overhead or landed in nearby foliage. Although there are a few poisonous snakes in



Gulf fritillary

*(Continued on page 7)*

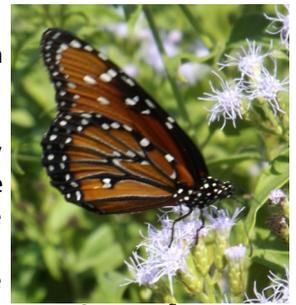
# NMGC CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

(Continued from page 6)

## Bird and Butterfly Chairman

the area, we only saw one snake and it was not a rattler or a coral and not poisonous. It was called a “ribbon snake” and was quite beautiful (as snakes go!). What startled me about the snake was that it had climbed about 3 feet up a bush! Wasn't too happy to know they climb so easily!

One thing that also surprised me was the intense interest in some butterflies that were no larger than my fingernail! Some were quite rare, and although they were beautiful, it was difficult to spot them or take pictures, as they moved swiftly and are so tiny. The other species of butterfly that I was less familiar with were the Skippers, and I'll admit although I'd seen some previously, I had truly assumed that it was a type of moth! We had several great speakers and workshops while at the festival and one of the speakers made me realize that although I don't see many species of butterflies here near Angel Fire, one of them, the Painted Lady butterfly, was the feature of this scientist's talk. I had assumed Painted Ladies were “just common” butterflies because we get so many of them here. Come to find out they are amazing creatures, migrating as far as, or even further, than the Monarchs! The scientist, who has been studying them in the Western hemisphere, and also Europe, discovered that they fly extremely far in their migrations, even from Europe to Africa, and have even been seen at 27,000 feet in high mountains! I am so proud of my Painted Ladies now and have a deep respect for them.



Queen on flower



Group chasing butterflies

It was interesting to meet people from the entire United States and discover how much time, money and resources many of these people spend in studying or just enjoying butterflies. We also discovered how difficult it is to raise caterpillars through one of the workshops we attended that focused solely on the caterpillars and how to care for them. I also realized that although I was feeling sorry for myself for only seeing maybe one Monarch (if I'm lucky) per year, even in Mission they are not that prevalent. We saw only one while we were there.

We must still remember to provide habitat for these marvelous creatures, and in doing so, we provide pollinators for our food and also habitat for the birds and other creatures, plus the enjoyment of just seeing the butterflies and birds! Wanted to mention that New Mexico was featured in the “The Butterfly Gardener,” a quarterly published by NABA, and Selvi Viswanathan, from Los Alamos had submitted beautiful butterfly pictures that were on the covers, both front and back. Is she a Garden Club member? Sure hope so!

Editor's Note: Selvi is an active member of Los Alamos Garden Club

## Garden Therapy - Renate Renie Reisel, Chair

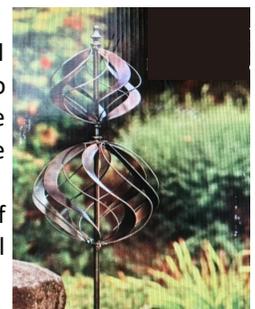
I encourage all garden club members to record the ongoing work in your yard and to create a journal for Awards. Many of you have worked with adult centers making fall flower arrangements, or simple corsages. Or working in schools teaching children the art of gardening, all most interesting programs. Please send me your projects that are Garden Therapy related. **\*as our Gardening Therapy Manual says\***

- If you are sad, plant something, it will make you happy
  - If you are happy, plant something, it will make you happier.
  - If you have nothing to do, plant something, it will give you an interest .
  - If you are too busy, plant something, it will help you relax.
- Happy gardening to all

## Ways and Means – Juanita Ortega, Chair

The first three prizes of the Ways and Means Committee raffle were given away at the recent NMGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting in Las Vegas, NM on October 27 -28, 2016. The lucky winners are Marion Butler – expenses-paid trip to the NMGC, Inc. 2017 Annual Convention in Albuquerque; Peggy Otero – the two-strand turquoise nugget necklace and sterling silver earrings, and Mary Ann Moreno – the turquoise rectangles and cross necklace and turquoise earrings.

We have new prizes to offer for the 2017 NMGC, Inc. Annual Convention coming up April 25 – 27, 2017. One of the prizes is an 84” wind catcher outdoor garden ornament. All of the non-winning tickets from the first drawing will be eligible to win at the upcoming drawings. Thank you and good luck to all who purchased raffle tickets!



## Wildflower & Native Plants – Cynthia Shafer, Chair

Hope you had a great and successful summer with your wildflowers and native plants. Can't believe the Holidays are upon us; which means Award season is approaching fast.

Gardening with Native Plants is very rewarding. Native Plants are acclimated to our climate, which means they are drought tolerate and do not need a lot of attention. Plus, they are a good source of food for our wildlife. Check with your local County Extension Service to find out which Native Plants grow best in your area.

Dig out all the photos you took this summer of your gardens and check out the requirements for the Wildflower & Native Plant Award which can be found in the Awards Book located on NMGC, Inc. website: [www.newmexicogardenclubs.org](http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org). Always be a Wildflower!

# NMGC CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

## Horticulture - Ellen Reed, Chair

Well, we call it a greenhouse but it is mostly a glass room attached to the west side of our house. This is not an ideal setting because the afternoon sun is very intense; however that is where it would fit. It also insulated an unheated room which was converted from an open patio by the previous owners and is now our dining room. My husband designed it with south facing passive solar skylights which bring in a lot of light and heat. The dimensions of five feet by thirty feet (5'x30') were dictated by the available space and the size of the rooms it adjoins. The west facing thirty (30') wall is double paned glass. Thirty Two by seven feet (32'x7') glass windows with two, sliding glass doors allowing access to the outside patio. The floor is insulated with 2 inch (2") Styrofoam, tiled and sloped to three (3) floor drains. A small sink is plumbed with cold water for convenient watering. I wish I had had hot water as well as cold plumbed; this would have been easy because of the proximity to a bathroom. Faucet water in winter may be a shock to some tropical plants.

I had hoped to raise winter tomatoes and greens in this space but the temperatures and other conditions made this difficult. In the end I settled for growing plants I enjoy and are happy in the existing conditions.

A window evaporative air conditioner was installed on the north end with a closeable high wall vent in the south end. An inline thermostat turns the AC on when the temperature reaches 85 degrees. A small thermostatic heater comes on at 50 degrees in the winter. The windows are insulated on winter nights with roll down aluminum blinds.

I have found that Hoyas, Epiphyllum, Zygo cacti and orchids, especially Phalaenopsis, grow well in these conditions and bloom in the winter. I no longer murder coleus and Gesneriads. Certain other cacti and succulents also tolerate these conditions.

A rebar rod suspended six inches from the ceiling for hanging pots almost doubled the number of plants the area will accommodate.

A problem with mildew was solved by a ceiling fan and mildew resistant paint on the ceiling.

Snails and insects introduced on plants summering in the yard can be eliminated with snail bait and a systemic insecticide added with a slow release fertilizer when the plants are brought back in for the winter.

The plants in bloom are moved in full view of the dining table through a seven foot (7') sliding glass door. In the summer the interior glass door is closed to keep the greenhouse heat from the house. In the winter a screen door in the opening allows an exchange of house and greenhouse heat and excluded the cat.

If the temperature and humidity were better controlled a wider variety of plants might be grown. Most of my plants are relatively drought tolerant and will survive on one weekly watering. The orchids and Epiphyllum cactus bloom more freely with a weak fertilization from a squirt bottle every two weeks.

This west facing passive solar greenhouse functions well for compatible plants. In addition it affords a pleasant winter view from the dining area and also affords a buffer between the outside and an expanse of glass windows and doors by the dining table.

## New Mexico Gardener - Linnea Egbert, Editor

I am so impressed each quarter with the thoughtful and well written reports everyone sends to me for the newsletter. However, the way they are sent can be more helpful, so the following are reminders of *what to do* and *what not to do* when sending a report.

Do

- \* tell me who you are – I don't know all of you and sometimes it is necessary to search the state membership database to find a name that will match your email address.
- \* be specific in the Subject Line of the email. My published email address is designated for the newsletter so it isn't necessary to write *New Mexico Gardener, Newsletter or Article*, instead use your club name or chairmanship.
- \* remember that guidelines and deadlines for the newsletter are printed on page 2 of every issue of the Gardener.

Do not

- \* send anything in a pdf. Text should be in a word processing program (unformatted) or you may send in the text area of an email.
- \* embed your photos in the text of your article, instead attach photos to an email and in the subject line, well – see #3above.

## Youth Activities - Esther Russell, Chair

It's hard to believe that the Holidays are upon us already. Our three youth clubs have slowed down so the children can focus on school. Pecos Valley Youth Club has some holiday plans.

Our awards are due soon. Youth leaders and sponsoring adult clubs, please help the children apply for our youth awards. Debra Sorrell, State Awards Chairwoman will have the list of awards. If you need any help or have any questions, please contact me or Debra.

Enter, Enter, Enter!!

I would like our adult clubs to please think of sponsoring some new youth clubs in the near future. Also, I would encourage the adult clubs to collect anything you might have at home to donate to our existing youth clubs. The following is a list of a few possible donation items: Gardening books, clay pots, gloves, garden tools, notebooks, pencils, pens, paper, aprons, anything they can use for garden projects. Thank you to all who have helped in any way to encourage our youth learn and grow. Remember, our youth today are our gardeners and teachers of tomorrow.

# NMGC CHAIRPERSONS REPORTS

## Historian - Becky Fuller

I am looking forward to receiving club histories, it has been fun getting to know each club through their history of deeds. As the state historian, I submit the state history after two years. Be sure to include a club history when you apply for awards.

## Water Conservation - John Sorrell, Chair

Conservation is the act of preserving, guarding or protecting. These are action words. Therefore **water conservation** is an 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. Continuing with our theme, "**planting seeds for our future**", let's look at water conservation from a bit bigger perspective.

Our surface and ground water here in New Mexico all originates in a watershed. As the name implies, water "sheds" from snow melt and rainfall flowing downhill to streams, meadows, rivers and lakes. In this process it also infiltrates into and recharges our aquifers. These rivers flow eventually outfalls into the Gulf of Mexico or the Pacific Ocean. The upper and lower Colorado River watersheds flow into the Pacific ocean while the Rio Grande and Arkansas River watersheds flow to the Gulf. So how can management of these watershed areas preserve, guard and protect (**conserve**) the water we use every day in our homes and gardens? By actively supporting through participation in soil and water conservation projects designed to enhance the capacity to capture and store water. These include restoration of burn areas with landscape-scale projects, forest thinning projects, vegetation management, and prescribed burning of over grown areas.

For some watershed conservation resources information look to:

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute
- AllAboutWatersheds.org
- New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute – NMHU
- Nature.org/riogrande

Water your garden well and wisely. Grow beautiful gardens. Share your quality of life with everyone you possibly can. And grow on!!

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## NMGC CLUB NEWS - District 1

### Petal Pushers Garden Club - Carol Stomp, President



At the August meeting Mary Ann Moreno, Director of District I, spoke on growing African Violets. She covered all phases of caring, growing and exhibiting the plants. Thank you Mary Ann for the plant starts and your informative program. In September our guest speaker was Keith Mead of the Orchid Society. Keith's program covered the history, classification and the growing of orchids plus their challenging care requirements. After the September meeting we had a luncheon honoring our long time member Lois Byron, who moved to Washington State. Lois has served in many positions over the years in Petal Pushers and Council, in helping to enlarge the Garden Center. Lois's name was added to the Council of Garden Clubs honoree bronze plaque for her numerous contributions and service. Thank you Lois. You will be missed!

Debi Harrington, Council President of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, was our guest speaker at the October meeting. Debi's program covered the art of making wreaths applicable through the seasons. Debi is an award winner and excellent floral designer and judge. Her slide presentation was informative and inspirational. Thank you Debi! We appreciated seeing the various wreaths and samples you brought.

Petal Pushers is an active group and we truly enjoy working and supporting our various activities and are looking forward to many more in the future. Some of the projects in which we have taken part include the Harvest Fair, State Fair, Penny Pines, Habitat for Humanity and maintaining the Marie Torrens Courtyard garden. We also put out a New Members booklet which helps our new members in becoming familiar with our history, affiliation, meetings and members requirement. We are looking forward to our Holiday Luncheon at which time we donate practical items to the Barrett House for women and children.

Guests are always welcome to attend our morning meetings on 4th Tuesday .most months at the Garden Center. Petal Pushers Garden Club provides educational programs at every meeting. We place emphasis on private gardens and horticulture education. We are looking forward to some very informative and interesting programs planned for this year.

Feel free to contact our president Carol Stomp (505-433-2466) or the Garden Center office for further club details.



# NMGC CLUB NEWS

## DISTRICT II DIRECTOR - Doris Jackson

District II Fall Executive Board meeting was October 20th in Los Alamos with President Suzy Andrego and 1st VP Barbara Vance attending. The following week District II club presidents and many members attended the NMGC Fall Board Meeting in Las Vegas. Robin Pokorski's Leadership Workshop was the highlight of the meeting. District II Clubs have been busy this fall with projects, programs and opportunities to further their gardening knowledge.

## Floral Designers Garden Club— Juanita Ortega, President

Members of Floral Designers have had an active late summer and autumn. In August, we enjoyed a luncheon at the clubhouse of Quail Run Resort in Santa Fe and visited two beautiful residential gardens. In September, some of our members entered designs and horticulture specimens at the New Mexico State Fair. Our September design program featured a Duo Design, titled "Takes Two to Tango". This is a Creative Design organized in one container or in containers joined to appear as one, or in a contrivance or mechanic. It is organized as two designs, back to back and is entered in two separate classes in the Design division of a flower show. We did not meet in October.

Six of our members attended the District II Fall Board Meeting in Los Alamos and four attended the NMGC, Inc. Fall Board Meeting in Las Vegas. We do not meet in November and December. Our January 2017 meeting will be in Los Alamos and the program will be an Abstract Creative Design, titled "Whimsical Imagination".

Juanita Ortega, President



Duo Design by Pat Copple

## Los Alamos Garden Club

During the summer, the Los Alamos Garden Club doesn't have regular meetings but we plan fun field trips. In June, members enjoyed a tour of the Santa Fe Opera Gardens. Some of these gardens are hidden from the usual opera goer and others are there for all to see and enjoy. They were all beautiful. A few of our members help to maintain the gardens. Later in June, we participated in "Garden Clubs Evening at the Nature Center" with Summit Garden Club and Master Gardeners. Our club showed community members how to plant and care for roses.

In July, a few members enjoyed a trip to the Angel Fire Garden Tour. Even with such a limited growing season, the gardens were lovely.

In August, many members visited the New Mexico Wildlife Center. Also in August, we had a Summer Social & Potluck Picnic. This is one event many of us will not soon forget. We had one of the worst lightning/thunder and rain storms that caused plates to fly off the tables and drench all of us. But all the photos we took showed smiling faces and the food was fantastic.

All through the summer months, our members maintain the Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden. We cleared out many of the old rugosa roses to allow the hybrids to flourish and, girl, did they ever!

Then for our September meeting, our speaker was a no-show so one of our members stepped up and filled in. Marion Good talked about her experiences with gardens and farming in Africa and South East Asia where she lived and worked for many years -- so interesting and what a struggle.

In October, a few members toured the Friedman Recycling center in Albuquerque. The tour was fascinating and very informative. The speaker at our October meeting was the new manager at the Los Alamos Cooperative Market, who gave an interesting talk about this valuable community resource.

Submitted by Helen Carpenter and Cindy Hills

## Summit Garden Club

Our Summer was filled with maintenance of two civic gardens, a very successful plant sale, and out of town excursions to broaden our knowledge and have some fun. The trees and shrubs at the Bandelier National Monument courtyard and at the community garden in White Rock (part of Los Alamos) are now well established, and, with care from us, are thriving and being enjoyed by all.

In August, we lunched at Gabriel's Restaurant, just North of Santa Fe, and then enjoyed a garden tour of a private home in Santa Fe, High Meadows – three acres, fully cultivated.

In September, we traveled to Abiquiu, toured the Purple Adobe Lavender Farm, and had lunch at the farm.

In October, our program was "Outdoor Lighting". Shirley Carter, Summit member and retired landscape architect, spoke on the functions and aesthetics of outdoor lighting. Also, Patrick Connolly, an electrician with the firm Higher Ground Electric, talked about recent changes in the electrical codes and some new products. In addition, he discussed the problems most frequently encountered when people decide to change the exterior lighting in the yards of their 40 year old homes.

Our big project was our semi-annual plant sale at PEEC (Pajarito Environmental Education Center) on a Saturday in central Los Alamos. Our time, venue, and publicity were obviously right, as we had more than 300 plants, and those plants were all sold.

Time to put a little Yum Yum mix in the soil, and think about what planting we want to do next Spring.

Submitted by Betsy Comly



Photo by Doris Thielemann

# NMGC CLUB NEWS

## District III - Colleen Hinker, Director

Our Members have been busy with their gardens and fighting the hot weather, grasshoppers, and lack of moisture.

## Angel Fire Garden Club—Johnese Turri, President

Our Angel Fire Garden Club has had a busy summer and fall taking care of our three signature gardens. We had many “work” days at each of these gardens as we moved through the months of May thru September. The beginning of October found us getting them ready for winter and the median gets special attention as we decorate it for the holidays.

We’ve had such amazing programs for our members during our monthly meetings. We had a wonderful local gardener invite the club out to her garden and she spoke about how to envision the landscaping of your garden. Another amazing gardener showed us her organic vegetable garden. We had a presentation on water features, how to make butterfly feeders, and a fun seed exchange meeting. All were well attended and so much fun!

This summer we had two very important events which took place on a sunny afternoon at the Shuter Library. We had a very moving dedication of our Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker and the dedication of our Butterfly garden. It was a wonderful event which gave great exposure to the library and our wonderful community.

Our 14th Annual Garden Tour was very successful and just seems to get better and better every year.

Johnese Turri, President



Garden meeting



Working on the median



Memorial Garden helper

## Santa Rosa Garden Club - Carolyn Bedford, President



The Santa Rosa Garden Club along with the Angel Fire Garden Club spent the last few months getting ready for the NM Fall Board meeting which was held in Las Vegas, NM. District Director, Colleen Hinker, enlisted the Santa Rosa club to make table decorations for two of the meals and Frances Speight was the all-around worker in both Santa Rosa and Las Vegas. The Angel Fire members prepared and cared for a "silent auction". Fred Hinker from Santa Rosa was the check-in registrar and Joann Layden handled mail-in registrations. A big thank you to the many others that offered and gave their help to make this meeting a great success.

In August club members traveled to Mora to visit the Salman Raspberry Farm. The weather was perfect. Everyone picked several pounds of raspberries. A photographer from the Albuquerque Journal was there and took pictures of the group.

November and December will have the members making holiday arrangements, first for Thanksgiving and later for Christmas.

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah or whatever you celebrate this time of year. Santa Rosa wishes you all good gardening.

# NMGC CLUB NEWS

## District IV - Nancy Ketcham, Director

**Evergreen Garden Club** hosted the District IV Fall Meeting in conjunction with the dedication of the District IV Blue Star Memorial Marker at Bataan Memorial Recreation Park in Santa Clara, NM. The program included participation by the local VFW and Vietnam Veterans. The program began with bagpipe music and an honor guard. The mayor of Santa Clara, NM, and several veterans joined the district members for lunch. Judy Laird of Mesilla Valley created the floral centerpieces on the tables. This year marked the first time that Evergreen held a small standard flower show at the Grant County Fair.



Lequita Lett - Design for Texas Fall Convention

**Flowering Desert Garden Club** held its annual flower show at the Otero County Fair and continues to maintain the Memorial Rose Garden in Alamogordo. Recent highpoints are the addition of three new members and a new Facebook page.

**Socorro Garden Club** continues to maintain the gardens at Veteran's Park, the hospital and Point of Land at Bosque del Apache. On Earth Day, the club worked with students from the San Antonio schools. Annual events include participation in the flower show at the Socorro County Fair and the plant sale fundraiser at Oktoberfest. In May, club members attended the Annual Garden Tour at Altura Park, sponsored by the Albuquerque Garden Clubs.

**Sunshine Valley Garden Club** did not meet in the months of July and August; however, many of our members braved the summer heat and continued to work in their gardens. The new 2016-017 Yearbooks were distributed at the September meeting. The main topic of the meeting was preparation for the upcoming Flower Display at the annual Sierra County fair in Truth or Consequences. It is the biggest event of the year for us, and provided an excellent opportunity to acquaint people with the Club, and also helps to increase membership by having flyers, business cards and pamphlets available at the booth. A program on flower arranging was given by Doris Adams. She had on display examples of three different arrangements in various sizes and types that she had made in accordance to the rules for entry into the Fair.



At our October meeting we discussed the results of the Fair. We had 174 entries, 52 of which were in the Junior Division. Doris Adams won Best of Show for her floral arrangement, Inez Maier won Best of Show for her rose and Evelyn Johnson won the Peoples' Choice award for her Burgundy Shamrock. Many thanks to Suzy Andreggo and Debra Sorrell for judging. We look forward to a program on composting at our next meeting in November.

Submitted by Nancy Ketcham

## Mesilla Valley Garden Club - Charlene Brock, President

After a three month "vacation" our club met at our member Patti's home. Three new possible members attended that were invited from the last Tour of Gardens. The timely program on Zika mosquitoes was presented by Dr. Carol Sutherland of NMSU and a lot of valuable information was obtained on mosquitoes and insects.

October took us on a visit of Landscapes, Vineyards, and Gardens of the Douro River Valley of Portugal presented by members Jerry and Helen Moser who toured the area by river boat. Also, a motion passed designating Barbara Gerhard, who recently moved to Washington, as an honorary member of the club.

La Semilla's Educational Director led us on a field trip to Mayfield High School and East Picacho Elementary School in November. La Semilla has a farm-to-table educational program in place and works with these and three other schools in Las Cruces. Mayfield has a huge and lush garden, a tool building, educational lab, and a greenhouse. They also have five new fruit trees that were purchased with a grant from the Las Cruces Tour of Gardens this year. The best thing about East Picacho was all the chickens yards next to their raised bed gardens.



Chicken coops at East Picacho Elementary School

Five of our members (MVGC President Charlene Brock, Becky Fuller, NMGC Historian, Beulah Oyler, NMGC Archive Chair; Judy Laird, District IV Assistant Director, and Linnea Egbert, NMGC Newsletter Editor) attended the State Fall Board Meeting. The Historic Plaza Hotel was a lovely venue for the meeting and Suzy Andreggo was, as always, a very gracious Presidential hostess. We are looking forward to Suzy's visit to Las Cruces for our annual Christmas party.

## Sierra County Fair - Horticulture Best of Show—Daniel Garcia



Daniel is an 11 year old fifth grade student at Sierra Elementary School in Truth or Consequences. He is the youngest of four children, plays in two soccer leagues, and helps his parents get ready each week for the Sunday School classes they teach. He gets his love of gardening from his mommy as she started taking him out to help her when he was six months old. He first started gardening on his own when at six years old he planted about 50 watermelon seeds without telling anyone. It wasn't long before he had plants all over the yard. He is a big help now in the garden as he separates bulbs in the fall and is learning how to trim and deadhead roses. He choose his prize winning rose himself so it would be at its peak for judging and, it was.

Information provided by Annette Garcia (Mommy)

# NMGC CLUB NEWS

## District V - Judy Preston Director

District V gardeners are still busy with local gardens, sanctuaries, memorial areas and assisting to make our local communities beautiful. Involvement in Home & Garden Shows, Fairs, Flower Shows & Plant Sales have kept us working busily as summer drew to a close and Fall has arrived. In our spare time, we have gone on Field Trips, shared picnics, luncheons, and gathered a wealth of information during our club programs. We have scattered wildflower seeds at every opportunity and worked to increase our butterfly plantings for the Monarchs.

Foggy weather is here and seems to be announcing big weather changes on the High Mesa of Sierra Blanca. Our various clubs are busy now planning their respective holiday luncheons and special presentations of holiday themed happenings.

Thank you Artesia, Home, Morning and Lincoln County Garden Clubs for all that you do to make our District welcoming and beautiful no matter which season is at hand.

As we begin to collect and design our Fall Decor items, let me wish you all a Very Happy Thanksgiving and a wonderful Holiday Season filled with many blessings.

**" Planting Seeds ~ Pulling Weeds ~ Cultivating Garden Relationships"**

## Home - Pam Davis, President

April - Members Garden Tour - We were overwhelmed by the beauty of 5 gardens in full bloom! We caravanned to view everything from iris in a variety of colors to an incredible rock and cactus garden.

May - We gathered in the home of Agnes Bonham and greeted our last meeting of the 2015-2016 year with an outstanding program from Mr. Mike Sudduth with "Pecos Valley Honey Company". Our beekeeper lead us on a journey through the life cycle of a bee and bee colony.

June, July and August kept our club busy at the Spring River Park & Zoo garden and the Bitter Lake garden. These namesake gardens are beautiful, we are very proud to have the opportunity to work on them.

September - Ms. Peggy Voigt was our guest speaker and told us all we needed to know about entering the Eastern New Mexico State Fair flower show. She guided us with precision on how each entry can be a winner!

October - A field trip to the beautiful Hondo Valley took us to the home of Larry and Dorothy Torrez. Invited to San Patricio, we had our luncheon in their historical, family, adobe house and took a personal guided tour of their gardens.

## Lincoln County - Nannette Tanner, President

In September we made a trip to the Valley of Fires. Really something to see. We hiked around the trail and then had a picnic lunch. Several people made the trip to Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge at San Antonio, NM in October. Not many birds yet, but they are getting the habitat ready for the fall season. This project requires year-round work to make it a beautiful place for birds. Next will be our November luncheon on the 17<sup>th</sup> at the First Christian Church on Hull Road. Bring a salad or dessert to go with our main course. We will have a craft class during the luncheon. This has been an extremely busy year, so it is time to sit and visit and eat! *Thanks* to all of you for your hard work in making this garden club a *great* one! Hard to believe the year has passed so quickly.

We have time off during December and January to reorganize and our next meeting will be in February on thinning trees, something we all need to know. We are planning to send an article on gardening to the *Ruidoso News* each month and the first one will be on collecting seeds.

***Sow seeds of love and kindness!***



1st Place - Rene McCoy

Flower Show Eastern NM State Fair

# Blue Star Memorial Dedications



District III Rededication, Clovis



District IV Blue Star Dedication, Santa Clara

## Calendar

2017

- February 16 NMJC Floral Design  
Hands On Workshop
- February 17-18 NMJC Judges Symposium  
Albuquerque, NM
- March 13 District I, Spring Board Meeting  
Albuquerque
- March 21 District II, Spring Board Meeting  
Santa Fe
- March 16 District III  
Las Vegas
- March 7 District IV, Spring Board Meeting  
Truth or Consequences
- March 23 District V, Spring Board Meeting  
Roswell
- April 25 - 27 NMGC, INC. 2017 Annual Convention  
Albuquerque, NM
- April 28 - 30 South Central Region  
2017 Convention, Albuquerque
- May 18 - 20 NGC Convention, Richmond, VA  
(Installation Year)
- September 12 - 16 NGC Fall Board Meeting  
St. Louis, MO

2018

- May 21 - 24 NGC Spring Convention  
Philadelphia PA
- September 25 - 30 NGC Fall Board Meeting  
Orlando

New Mexico Gardener  
POBox 328  
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To: