



New Mexico Gardener
Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 49 No. 7

December/January/February 2020-21

Winter 2020



Some of the many adventures of our President, Christine Longthorp



*Growing in Harmony in the
Land of Enchantment—
Christine Longthorp*

President's Message

Greetings to New Mexico Garden Club members,

An Indian Summer was a bonus to us this year after a very dry and hot summer. As a parting gift to us 2020 had the prettiest fall colors I have seen in several years and lasted right up to the surprise snow fall we had. Abundant roses, dahlias and garden flowers and vegetables were caught overnight in a freeze bringing an abrupt end to the late blooms. In Albuquerque I had 6" of big fluffy snowflakes. Our members in Angel Fire posted stunning photos of a winter wonderland in a stark contrast to the golden Aspens from the week before.

As we move into the holiday season I am aware of the many changes we have been required to make this year with our socializing and travel needs. At first we trusted it would be temporary but now it has become a new normal. These changes have been embraced by several clubs around the State forcing us all to become more "tech" savvy by joining Zoom meetings and modifying our social needs to online sharing.

This next week I am doing a Zoom wreath making demonstration for Summit Garden Club and if it is successful I will be happy to do programs around the State. Never the less we will be sharing a moment in time, face to face and hopefully keep our connection for the future. Keep this in mind for your 2021 programs.

With Veteran's day behind us, I was reminded how District IV participated in Wreaths Across America by donating money for an evergreen wreath to be placed on the graves of Veteran's graves in our National Cemeteries.

I am also impressed with Facebook photos from members showing the birds and critters in their gardens and surroundings. One memorable pictorial story was when Shirley Tetrault, Uptown Garden Club member, harvested Dill with caterpillars feasting on it. After a short time Shirley was amazed to see beautiful Black Swallowtail butterflies emerge. Members of District V invited us into their gardens to enjoy the abundance of flowers and produce which we probably would not see in a normal year.

National Garden Clubs cancelled the Annual Convention scheduled for May 2021 to be held in New Jersey. I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to hold our joint South Central Region and NMGC Annual Convention scheduled for April to be hosted by District IV in Las Cruces.

Meanwhile please send winter and holiday pictures to Suzy Andrego for our Facebook page. We can all be joined with visuals of holiday decorations, herds of elk in Ruidoso or Angel Fire and the simple beauty of our land of Enchantment at rest this winter.

Please know that I care and miss seeing all of you and pray that I can get on the road again to feel the warmth and friendship of fellow garden club members. May you be blessed with health and happiness knowing we are united with a common love for all of God's creation

Christine Longthorp, President

Social Media Chairmen, Cindy Hill & Suzy Andrego

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TAKE A MOMENT AND "LIKE" US on FACEBOOK!!

And "FOLLOW US" on INSTAGRAM!!



Message from Our First Vice President, *Debra Sorrell*

In so many ways, Garden Club seems worlds away. We have not had meetings or seen each other at all, for the most part. I know that we are all missing the fun and friends we have in our clubs. The activities, projects and community involvement associated with garden club help to keep us busy and learning and SANE!!

It's been too long since we have been able to have an "all together" flower show where everyone can show off their great horticulture or get their creative juices flowing with a design. But, there will come a day when we can go back to our real lives and normal activities. I believe that will be a time when Garden Club can grow in a big way. People in our communities may be looking for ways to get vegetable gardens started or a new hobby going or a creative, artistic outlet. Or, maybe, just a calm and friendly way to relieve their isolation. I can't wait to see if that is true! In the mean time, I pray that you are all doing well, staying safe and finding things to do while we wait for this pandemic to end .



Message from Our Corresponding Secretary, *JJ Huddleston*

The 2019-2020 New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. Annual Report has been posted on the NMGC, Inc. website [www.newmexicogardenclubs.org] in the Members Only section.

Updated NMGC rosters have also been sent to the Webmaster for posting on the site.

Specific changes include Kersti Rock as President of Los Alamos Garden Club; Ginny Longbotham as President of Petal Pushers; Lisa Jacobsen as President of Amor de la Tierra and a current phone number for Michele Ann Tart (Garden Therapy Chair).

Message from Our Parliamentarian, Isabel Olsen



As we all continue to navigate through this challenging time, the impact of COVID-19 continues for all of us. I've received some questions related to the suspension of garden club activities due to the many restrictions imposed as a result of this pandemic. How do we make decisions and how are new officers installed? This is not only true at our garden club level, but equally important for our districts as well. Most of our bylaws do not address emergency situations that occur but perhaps this should be a future amendment to your bylaws. But keep in mind, federal, state and local law supersedes bylaws. For club presidents and district directors, I want to emphasize the importance of communication with members via email and phone. Some of you have set up conference calls, zoom or webinar sessions for the safety of your membership. These are all great avenues to continue with business and education of gardening.

Normally at our Spring District Meetings and luncheons the new officers are installed. I recommend that you work through your normal process of selecting your nominees as your nominating committee usually does. Do not worry about the installation if you are not able to hold your spring meeting, installations are ceremonial and does not affect the time at which the new officers assume office. Because 2020 was a short year due to meetings and activities being cancelled, some clubs and districts have voted to keep the current officers for the 2021 term. So that might be an option especially for small clubs and districts.

Due to these unprecedented circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic there are things out of our control, such as when will we resume our meetings and when we can gather together again. We should all use caution and be considerate of each person's age, health and comfort level. Ultimately we want all our members safe and well.

Before I close I want to give a Parliamentarian tip to all of you that are chairing a meeting. As you proceed through your agenda and have the recording secretary read the minutes and the treasurer give the financials, you do not have to call for a motion and a second to approve. You simply ask if there are any corrections or additions to the minutes? Then state they are filed as written or with the correction. After a treasury report is given, you ask; are there any questions or receipts that need to be submitted? Then state the treasures report is filed for record, and if receipts are submitted you call to approve them with the membership. This is the proper procedure according to Robert's Rule of Order and will save you time in each of your club meetings.



Message From District I Director, Sonia James

This pandemic year has shown us what we can bear, may the coming year remove all this negative energy and enlighten our lives!

*Wishing you a
Happy and
Healthy New Year.*



TIPS FROM THE PRESIDENT



- ◆ When you see water marks on glass vases or stem ware dissolve an Efferdent (or similar) tablet in warm water and watch your glass sparkle.
- ◆ Using wax candles this holiday, add an inch or to of water to the candle holder so that the candle slips out without a trace.



Message from District III Director, *Johnese Turri*

Wow!! What a year!! I sure have missed seeing all the wonderful smiling faces of our members and the laughter and the hugs!! I've not been able to participate in any of our districts clubs activities so I thought I'd share some funny quotes and sayings. Hope these bring a smile to you all.

A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.

~Doug Larson~

A weed is a plant that is not only in the wrong place but intends to stay.

~Sara Stein~

My wife's a water sign. I'm an earth sign. Together we make mud.

~Rodney Dangerfield~

There's one good thing about snow, it makes your lawn look as nice as your neighbor's.

~Clyde Moore~

Why did the tomato turn red?

Because it saw the salad dressing.



When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

Why shouldn't you tell a secret in a garden?

Because the potatoes have eyes and the corn has ears!

What's the best part of gardening?
Getting down and dirty with my hoes



Why didn't anyone laugh at the gardener's jokes?
Because they were



What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?
Pumpkin pi.



What does the letter "A" have in common with a flower?
They both have bees coming after them.

Why do potatoes make good detectives?
Because they keep their eyes peeled.



Message From Our District IV Director, *Ellie Nordgren*

District IV clubs have not been having their regular group meetings due to the New Mexico health order that we can only meet in a group of 5 or less because of COVID-19. However, they have been very creative in finding other ways to stay in touch, be active, and continue with their ongoing Projects. They have also been spending lots of extra time tending their individual gardens.

Gardening is great therapy, especially during these uncertain times. We are all very fortunate to have Gardening as our hobby; we can be close to nature and get peace of mind as we dig and plant and sow, and watch His wonders grow.

Keep Calm and Garden On.



Message from Our District V Director, *Renate Reisel*

Artesia garden club were having a fundraiser for the veterans and were having a sale open to the public there were many items for sale jams crafts hot lunch etc. The profit from the sale was donated to the veterans.

Morning garden club is enjoying the beautiful weather and taking the opportunity to clean the flower beds and added flowers for autumn season plus slowly making plans for the outside Christmas decoration at the local Historical Museum .

Home garden club enjoyed two meetings but due to the virus the are continuing a Meeting on Line given by Marisa Thomson Horticultural Specialist NMSU on Trees.

Lincoln country garden club is always busy just as all the garden clubs the continuing planting at the local hospital court yard and the Capitan Library.

all can soon go back to our regular schedule and enjoy the clubs meetings plus the socializing with garden club friends and guests.

Happy Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas! Stay safe & healthy!

Petal Pushers Garden Club,
District I, Ginny Longbotham,
President

***Ginny Longbotham is the new
President of Petal Pushers
Garden Club.***

CONGRATULATIONS Ginny!!



Roses from
Ginny's
Garden

*Like the winter river
with the still, frozen top
and waters that never stop
running inside*

*When we are at rest,
the most important work is being done*

*Sometimes, a shift in page is all we need
To show us what's next
And the steps we could take*

*With the season's thaw
Will come a powerful rush,
The thrill of seeing what growth has come
When it seemed we were at rest..*

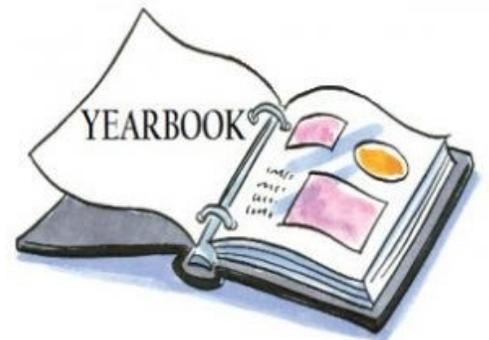
Christine Longthorp

Yearbook Chairman, Doris Jackson

The deadline to Submit Your Club's Yearbook for Awards is February 1, 2021. Please send a copy of your yearbook to me for Judging before this date, to:

Doris Jackson, 316 Venado, Los Alamos, NM 87544-2435

You can Call or Email me with any questions you might have.
Phone: 505-662-7563 or



NM Garden Club Awards, Nanette Tanner & Nancy Hartwick, Co-Chairs



It is that time again to reflect on The New Mexico Garden Club awards program. This program “provides an opportunity for clubs and members to share their garden and garden-related talents” and perhaps win recognition for their club or themselves. If you are interested in participating, Sample applications and requirements for the awards are listed in the NMGC Awards Handbook. To review the handbook simply logon on to the New Mexico Garden Clubs website at www.newmexicogardenclubs.org, then click the Awards tab, then click Award Guidelines-NMGC Handbook in the left hand column. All award applications must be received by the specific NMGC chairperson by

6:00 p.m., Feb 1 with the exception of the Yearbook and Flower Show Schedule applications which are due by 6:00 pm, December 15. To locate the chairperson for your award logon to the NMGC website, click the ‘About’ tab and then click ‘Officers and Chairpersons’. If you have any questions contact Nancy Hartwick or Nannette Tanner, Awards Co-Chairpersons.



Scholarship and Life Membership Chairman, Sue Ferguson

New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., offers an annual scholarship of \$2,500 to a student attending college/university in New Mexico and majoring in fields of study related to horticulture, and the environment. Requirements include that the student is a New Mexico resident and is an undergraduate junior or senior, or a graduate student pursuing a Masters Degree.

The deadline to apply is February 1. Full details can be found at www.newmexicogardenclubs.org/scholarship.html. Perhaps you have a friend or family member you can share this information with.

The Scholarships are funded by sales of NMGC Life Memberships. This membership comes with a Life Membership pin and membership card and costs \$40. Please check this out on the same web page. Memberships make great gifts and the proceeds go to a very worthy cause.



Horticulture Chair – Ellen Reed

Birds in the Winter Garden

A bird feeder near a window and a pair of binoculars will provide much winter entertainment. A decal of a hawk on the window helps prevent the birds from flying into it (See below).



House Finches and Chickadees are attracted to sunflower seeds. Sunflower chips without shells leave less mess and eliminate the allelopathic effect of the shells on surrounding grass. Goldfinches prefer thistle seeds which can be offered in metal mesh feeders. These need to be bought in small amounts as they become stale and are no longer attractive.



House Finch



Chickadee



Gold Finch



Mesh Feeder

Many ground feeders will clean up spilled seeds or forage in the garden for hidden bugs and earth worms. White winged doves, Spotted Towhees, White Crowned Sparrows, and Juncos are frequent visitors. Occasionally Inca doves will come. In winter robins travel in flocks (round robins) which are occasionally joined by cedar waxwings and on occasion a Murder of Crows. . They enjoy the Pyracantha, holly (Ilex) berries and crabapples.



White Winged Dove



Spotted Towhee



White Crowned Sparrow



Junco



Inca Dove



Robin

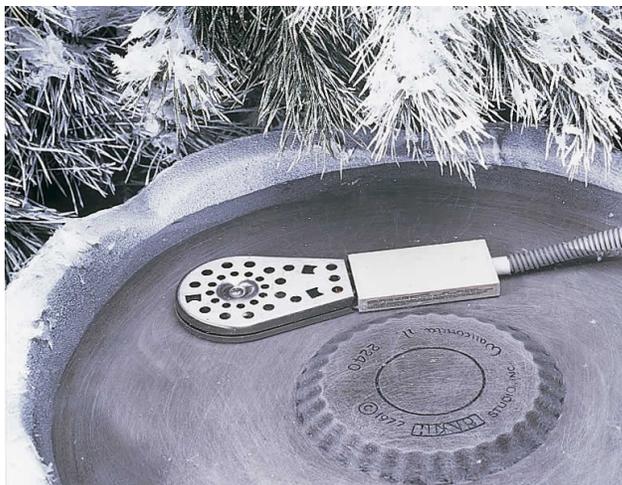


Cedar Wax Wing



Murder of Crows

Dense evergreens such as Juniper and arbor vitae (Thuja) and brush piles provide shelter from cold winds and predators such as hawks and roadrunners. A bird bath with a thermostatic heater is appreciated.



Bird Bath with Heater

A few evergreen plants relieve the drabness: among them are fresh green rosettes of *Lycoris radiata* foliage. Grape hyacinth (*Muscari*) leaves maybe over abundant and become ratty as the season progresses but can be trimmed back with little effect on future bloom. English ivy and *Vinca major* vines are evergreen ground covers but easily get out of control. Parsley, rosemary, and Sage are available all winter.

Evergreen shrubs and trees, especially ones with berries such as holly (*Ilex*), Oregon grapes (*Mahonia aquifolium*), *Nandina domestica* and *Pyracantha coccinea* help brighten the scene, but bare branches offer a stark beauty and reveal the contorted forms of Harry Lauder's walking stick (*Corylus avellana contorta* and Cork screw Willow *Salix malsudana tortuosa*. The gold of the *Eleagnus pungens variegata* or *E. maculata* provides a bright spot. Some crabapples hold their fruit into the winter and are appreciated by the robins and finches. Nandina berries are toxic and are avoided by the birds.

Suet feeders attract insect eaters such as Woodpeckers, Warblers, Thrashers, Kinglets, and flocks of Bushtits. They also enjoy a home-made mix of corn meal, oatmeal, lard, peanut butter and any stale bread, cereal or crackers, which can be ground up. Form this into blocks, refrigerate and press into metal cages. See my recipe.



Woodpecker



Warbler



Thrasher



Kinglet



Bushtit



Wire Suet Cage

Winter is a good time to make note of where an evergreen shrub or tree would add interest to your garden. They can frame a view or obscure and undesirable one.

Marked down bulbs are available in nurseries, and if they are firm, can still be planted until the ground is frozen. Try not to cut into existing clumps of bulbs. Small bulbs can be tucked into the front of the beds by just poking in a narrow trowel.

Then sit by your window and enjoy the birds and the view of your garden and plan for a happier next year.

Ellen Reeds Favorite Winter Fat Bird Food:

1 cup lard, melted in microwave,
add 1 cup peanut butter,
1 cup corn meal,
1 cup oatmeal and mix.

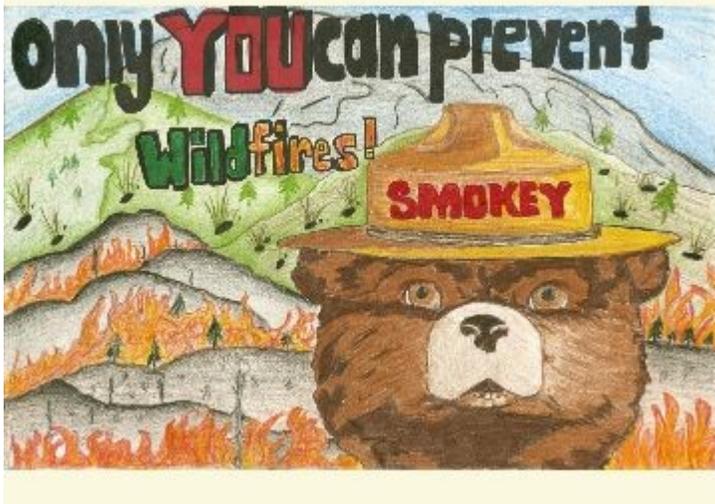
Press into a plastic container and chill.

When the birds are hungry,
hang outside in a mesh bag or wire holder.

Stale bread and cereal can be ground in a blender and substituted
for corn meal and oatmeal.

This is a great way to use up your stale bread,
crackers, cereal, and chips!

Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Chairman, Jennifer Moreno



Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2021 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest! The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc. are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles. All poster entries must be sponsored by a local NGC-affiliated Garden Club. Smokey Bear posters

must include Smokey's wildfire prevention message: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! Woodsy Owl posters must include Woodsy's environmental message: Lend a Hand, Care for the Land! Posters should encourage children to take a personal role in preventing wildfires and protecting the environment. Each entry should be 11 x 17 inches in size. The following information should be written on the back of the poster in the lower-right corner: the artist's name, address, home phone number, grade level, school, teacher's name, city, and state. Should school policy preclude giving students' address and phone number, please include the school address and phone number. Each poster must also show the name of the sponsoring local Garden Club as well as an address, phone number, and email for the local Garden Club. (Do not use a dark marker for this information as it may show through.) Even though school is happening remotely, if you have a grandchild or know of young children that would qualify to enter, please sponsor them! Posters are due to me by January 22, 2021. My address is: 305 Fairmount Park Avenue NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123. For complete rules, ideas, etc...go to the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org and then go to Youth Contests. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! I'm here to help!

Jennifer Moreno,
State and SCR Regional Chairman
Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest
Email: Moreno_jen@aps.edu
Phone: 505-217-4307



Youth Garden Chairman, Lynnette Walker

Youth Gardening during the Winter

Just because the weather becomes colder doesn't mean that gardening must stop. There are many opportunities for children to be involved with gardening indoors. During this unprecedented time in our world, it is especially important to make opportunities to enjoy spending time with the children in our lives. There are several activities that create a love for gardening for all even when the winter snow is falling outside.

1. Create a window herb garden that is grown in pots painted by the children.
2. Grow a hydroponic sweet potato or avocado plant on a window sill.
3. Make a sock chia pet
4. Design a terrarium

Trying out one or more of these activities with children will not only provide quality time with them, but also a little green inside when there is mostly brown outside. Hopefully Spring will be here before you know it.



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Living Potato Heads

This article appeared in the Las Cruces Sun News . It might be of interest to our readers. Marcy and her husband, Jimmy are local owners of a native plant nursery and she was to be the speaker at our state convention in April 2020 and hopefully will speak in 2021.

Naturally Speaking, Marcy Scott



A Townsend's warbler splashes away in a shallow birdbath.
JIMMY ZABRISKIE

Even when conditions are favorable — with mild temperatures, clear skies and light winds — migration can be challenging for birds, especially for youngsters that must strike out on their own for the very first time. Whereas seasoned adults, which have made the round trip to wintering grounds and back at least once before, have gleaned some knowledge about landmarks along their particular route and stopover habitats where they can rest, young birds must rely only on their innate navigation systems and, essentially, a wing and a prayer.

Before their departure, most birds usually spend quite a bit of time bulking up and putting on weight. Hummingbirds consume huge quantities of flower nectar, the sugars in which are converted to fat deposits. Birds that eat seeds and berries, like robins, thrushes, sparrows, and grosbeaks, typically seek out foods that are particularly high in fat. Those that are primarily insect eaters, like swallows, flycatchers, and most warblers, split their time between snapping up gobs of insects and resting. Ideally, when their inner clocks tell them it's time to go, they'll be fattened up and full of energy.

This year in the Pacific Northwest, things didn't quite work out that way and the results were calamitous, with hundreds of thousands of birds dropping from the skies in New Mexico and adjoining states a couple of weeks ago. While biologists throughout the region continue to learn more about what may have happened and where the victims originated, parts of the puzzle seem to be falling into place. (An excellent summary is the American Birding Association's article at <https://www.aba.org/the-data-behind-mysterious-birddeaths-in-new-mexico/>.) Biologists speculate that the widespread and horrific wildfires in the West Coast states may have caused a multitude of birds to depart on their migration before they were fattened up and fit for long-distance flight.

Then, when they hit the southern Rockies, probably running close to empty, they encountered a bizarre weather event with gale-force winds, temperatures that suddenly plummeted to 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and a blanket of snow that effectively killed off any available insects. The end results were heartbreaking and grim, with dead and dying victims strewn across much of New Mexico — the great majority of them insect-eaters.

We may never know the full extent of the terrible toll of this chain of events, but it should make us appreciate how precarious life can be for these intrepid little birds that traverse continents. That they make these trips twice a year is an incredible feat, and many may wonder why they don't just stay in one place. The answer is that the extensive forests in the northern states and Canada offer scads of insects and nesting habitat for raising young, but they are way too cold for those birds to survive the winter. So, when the days begin to get shorter, they head out and make their way to Central and South America, where they jostle with resident birds for food and bide their time until spring.

Other than supporting efforts to mitigate climate change, which is linked to droughts, catastrophic wildfires and bizarre weather events, we may feel powerless to help these feathered travelers, but there are a few steps anyone can take that are extremely beneficial. We can offer a source of clean water for bathing and drinking, which will also be well-used by our year-round residents. We can keep our cats indoors or in an enclosed patio, where they will be unable to prey upon vulnerable birds. And we can avoid using neonicotinoids and systemic insecticides that endanger birds and insect pollinators.

Fortunately, the disaster that took place earlier in the month seems to have mostly ended, and migrating birds continue to trickle through the area. But each time I glimpse a violet-green swallow, western wood-pewee, or hermit or Townsend's warbler, I say a little prayer of gratitude that they have survived to fly another day.

Marcy Scott is a local birder, botanizer, and author of "Hummingbird Plants of the Southwest." Along with her husband, Jimmy Zabriskie, she operates Robledo Vista Nursery in the North Valley, www.robledovista.com, specializing in native and adapted plants for birds and wildlife habitat. She can be reached at HummingbirdPlantsSW@gmail.com



Penny Pines Chairman, Mary Ann Moreno



With ALL the Wildfires NM has had this Summer and Fall, Won't you please consider donating to National Garden Clubs Penny Pines Program?

The Penny Pines program really helps reforest the burned areas and gives wildlife a chance to recover. The baby bunnies and fawns will be grateful, along with bird's, butterflies, bees, and the smaller and larger Mammals.

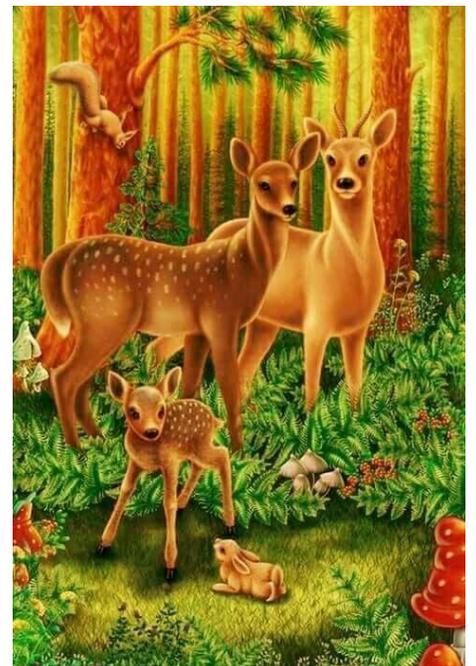
\$68.00 will buy a 200 Tree Seedling Plantation. You need to fill out a form, designate which forest you want the National Forest Service to plant seedlings in. With your check for \$68.00, made out to National Garden Clubs, Inc., and your form, you mail them to National Garden Clubs Headquarters in St. Louis. The address is on the form.

National Forest's in New Mexico are: Carson National Forest- Taos NM, Cibola National Forest - Albuquerque, NM, Gila National Forest - Silver City, NM, Lincoln National Forest – Ruidoso, NM, Santa Fe National Forest – Santa Fe, NM.

I have not received any Penny Pines this quarter. I'm hoping to receive some this quarter!



Call or email me for a form, I will send it out to you! Jbmamoreno@gmail.com or (505)266-8498.



GARDEN CLUB NEWS from Around the State

Uptown Garden Club, District I, *Mary Ann Moreno, President*



Garden Chair, Jean Morse in the Uptown gardening planting fall annuals.

Members have been up to all kinds of things during this unusual time. See what they are doing below:

Uptown Garden Club has not had a meeting since March, of 2020. Many of our club members are older, and we have listened to the Governor warning us about meetings. I started a project with my larger Rose bed to keep me busy. I planted eight new roses bringing a total of 26 roses in the formal rose garden. I bought weed barrier cloth and bags of pecan shells from a Nursery. The work began with weeding and digging up clumps of grasses and Buttercups (very invasive), pesky Muscari bulbs and Bishop's weed. Our weather was hot so the work went slowly, weeks went by and then I started to cut most of the weed barrier cloth, and placed it around the roses and soil. Bags of pecan shells are heavy. I dragged and carted some to spread around the roses. More work needed to be done. Suzy

Andrego came to my rescue to help me finalize this project. She cut and laid more weed cloth on the gaps, and poured pecan shells on the bare spots and under some of the rose bushes where I had not put enough pecan shells. The Rose Garden looks great and ready for spring. I am so thankful for Suzy's help.

***Mary Ann Moreno,
President***



Apples, June Gandert, Uptown Member

I have three apple trees and this year they produced pounds and pounds of apples. Since the trees produced more than I could easily harvest and use, I contacted a site called Food is Free ABQ. I made an appointment online and a very cheerful, enthusiastic young woman arrived at my house right on time wearing a mask. She proceeded to harvest the first big tree and had me make appointments for her to come out twice more as more apples became ready for harvest. She let me keep however many apples I wanted and then made good use



of the rest. Unblemished apples were given to sites that distribute food directly to those in needs. Apples with bad spots that need to be cut out are given to sites that have kitchens that are willing to cut them up and use them for the needy. Apples that are in really bad shape, having fallen to the ground or attacked by bugs, are taken to farms that feed pigs, etc., or are composted. I think my trees were able to contribute 150 pounds! I am happy to not deal with picking loads of spoiled apples from the ground that were not harvested in time. In case anyone has fruit trees in the Albuquerque area that produce more food than be kept up with, here is a link to the site <https://www.fifabq.org/harvesting>. They also seek volunteers for helping with harvests in case you don't own fruit trees yourself but are interested in exploring Albuquerque in a new way!



"This summer I enjoyed the blooms of successfully overwintered *Bletilla striata* - a deciduous orchid native to China that is hardy here in New Mexico (USDA Zone 7a to 9a). It has wonderful bright pinkish-purple satiny petals on tall elegant stems, and glossy, broad-leaved foliage that pairs well with hostas and heucheras. If you've never grown a hardy orchid in the garden, *Bletilla striata* is a very easy and reliable hardy orchid to grow here."

Uptown Member Steven Hong-Elder

Rarely have I ever had the time to dig right in and get all of my garden projects on my list accomplished in one year. Well, this was the year!! I have spent many hundreds of hours in my gardens during this crazy time in our world. The garden has always brought me to a place of excited stillness (if there is such a thing.) and allowed me to find peace in my favorite spot. I have been busy this year. I replaced several problem issues with my irrigation system, redesigned some hardscape and some perennial beds. Gave all my shrubs and perennials some heavy handed and much needed pruning. I was able to get rid of some old and worn out perennials. But my most needed, hardest and favorite project has been the renovation of my flagstone entrance into my back gardens. With the help of my neighbor, all the flagstone I had previously installed (22 years ago) which came free from a rest stop just west of Santa rosa and took 5 trips to acquire, was removed. Then we had to dig up the site as the Mulberry tree roots had lifted many of the stones and some of my brick borders on the garden beds. I had Bryan Suhr, Arborist and friend, come and look at all the roots. Once the roots were taken care of the flagstone was reinstalled and leveled in a bed of fresh sand. Then I filled in around the flagstones with some beautiful 7/16" gravel. We left a large spot for my pots to sit on. I will install the post after January to allow the soil and flagstones to settle in to their new homes. It really came out nice. The best part is, now, when you come to my back gardens, I will not have to worry as much that someone will trip and fall on the unlevel stones. I am looking forward to hosting in my garden sometime in 2021. ***Uptown Member, Suzy Andrego***



Amor de la Tierra Garden Club, District III, Lisa Jacobson, President

I was elected the new Amor de la Tierra Garden Club president in May of this year replacing Pam Taylor; Diana Springer stayed on as Secretary and we elected a new Treasurer, Jean Ganaway.

My major focus has just been on holding our small garden club together during these uncertain times. We suspended our usual indoor meetings in favor of meeting in a local park, where we could easily social distance and be more safely outside. We continued to work on civic projects around Las Vegas in small groups, including the Art Park and a planted median on the Plaza ... with plans to tackle the overgrown Siberian Iris beds at Carnegie Library in the spring.

We had an opportunity to tour a local Hugelkultur-inspired garden and ask lots of questions of its creator – who also uses the same method to raise food for the local Farmers' Market. This gardening method is particularly interesting in view of the ongoing drought predictions for the coming year; capturing as much moisture as possible is going to continue to be a challenge for most of us.

By far, the best thing we did this year was the Fall Bulb Exchange on Saturday, October 10th, on the Plaza. Members of the garden club plus local citizens came together and exchanged garden bounty with each other. We passed out 150+ iris bulbs, along with plum trees, houseplants, perennials, spring bulbs, and whatever else people had in their yards that needed thinning. It was a great success for the community, as well as the club. More than 25 (new!) people signed up to be on our email list, and we all felt we'd really accomplished some fabulous outreach in the community.



Adding Yard Art to the Garden

My October garden was filled with morning glories, cosmos and marigolds all in full bloom. The huge blue flowers of the morning glories along with the vibrant pinks, oranges and yellows of the cosmos and marigolds greeted me every day as I drank my morning coffee. I had nursed the garden through the ravages of midsummer heat and finally was able to enjoy its beauty and the fruits of my labor. And then it happened, an early hard frost. Overnight the beauty and color of the garden were gone. It seemed so unfair as I only had received three weeks of its radiant colors. But this was not the first time I had spent countless hours throughout the summer's heat just to keep the plants alive for a chance of a beautiful autumn bloom. You see, I live in a subdivision with stucco houses built close together and cinder block walls towering above crusher fine paths. A wonderful environment for the many lizards that enjoy basking in the scorching sun, but not so much for me, an often frustrated gardener.

Year after year having the same issue of midsummer heat producing an overall drabness, I racked my brain as how to bring color into the garden during its most stressful times. Finally, the answer was found. Thus, the entrance into the world of garden mosaics. While the garden slept peacefully during the winter months, there was plenty of time to learn how to create yard art. With the help of U-Tube tutorials, I learned the basics of creating mosaics. My first projects were to make glass mosaic stepping stones. Inexpensive round cement pavers bought at local big box stores were decorated with designs of flowers, birds, insects and other critters that enjoy the garden. When completed, the stones were placed on expansive crusher fine pathways adding a cheerful pop of color to the ho-hum landscape. It was a beginning.



Mosaiced flower pots became the next way to add color and pop to the garden. An easy project and so much fun! All that was needed were inexpensive materials, such as, terra cotta pots, glass tiles, adhesive and grout, along with little bit of creativity and just a few hours of time. It wasn't long before I realized broken dishes, seashells, pebbles, jewelry and other found objects could be incorporated to create beautiful designs also. As time went on and feeling more comfortable working with mosaics, gazing balls made from recycled bowling balls, and rock art also became part of my garden repertoire. There seemed to be endless possibilities in making the garden more vibrant.



Next summer high heat and stressed plants again will be challenging, and as in the past, the addition of more heat resistant plants will be added to the garden beds in hopes of survival. However, for sure, the few sparkly and colorful pieces of yard art already in place will hold their color mid season until the intense heat subsides and the garden shows its beauty again. The pleasure that comes from combining gardening and art has finally eased the frustration of this New Mexico gardener.



Morning Garden Club, District V, Sue Ferguson, President

Morning Garden Club continues to keep in touch with its members through Facebook while in-person meetings are on hold. Containers at the Roswell Refuge for Battered Adults, and Sunset Villa Care Center have been reworked for the Fall season. The Butterfly Garden in Cahoon Park, maintained by our members, is being visited by many seed-eating birds. Pansies and dusty miller plants have been added to the Alena Garden at the Roswell Historical Museum Annex, and fall clean-up has begun following the first snow.

We will be collecting gifts for the Roswell Refuge, and baking cookies for local charities in time for Christmas. Although we cannot decorate the interior of the Roswell Historical Museum because of state restrictions, we look forward to adorning the exterior with fresh greenery and pine-cone ristras to celebrate the holiday season.

Best wishes to you all for a Merry Christmas, and a Safe, Healthy New Year.



Sunshine Valley Garden Club, District IV, Linda Brandis, President

All meetings and activities were cancelled due to COVID-19. We were particularly disappointed that we could not have our Annual Flower Show at the Sierra County Fair in October. We always look forward to this, as it is a great way to increase our membership.

A keep-in-touch letter was sent out to all members updating them on what was happening with the Club relating to the COVID-19 pandemic and what meetings we are hoping to have in 2021.

The Executive Board was able to meet outdoors at a local restaurant to address the many business items and changes needed since the Club had not met since February.

We wish all of you good health. Stay safe.

The love of gardening is a seed once sown that never dies, but never grows to the enduring happiness that the love of gardening gives. –
Gertrude Jekyll (2016) 'Wood and Garden – Notes and Thoughts, Practical and Critical, of a Working Amateur'



Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, Kersti Rock, President

Los Alamos Garden Club, District II The weather is suddenly cold and we are two months in to our regular club year. While “regular” is not the best descriptor this year, the Los Alamos Garden Club has continued our monthly meetings via Zoom. We had about half the club attending both the September and October meetings online. The September meeting was followed by a presentation from our local County Extension Agent, Carlos Valdez, on Planting for Fall Color. Carlos spoke to us about trees, shrubs and perennials that provide beautiful fall color in addition to their other attributes. There have been an increasing number of the local mule deer in our neighborhood and they feast on people’s gardens as they pass through neighborhoods going from one canyon to another. Carlos pointed a number of deer resistant plants during his talk. For instance, the paperbark maple tree, which grows to about 10 feet tall in New Mexico and has leaves that turn a brilliant red in the fall, are repellent to deer because they dislike the curling papery bark. For those who are trying to choose native plantings it must be noted that this tree originates from Central China but, although not native here, it is quite beautiful.



In October, a local amateur naturalist, Bob Dryja, gave us a talk about variations in our local bird populations and how they are affected by changes in the environment. He also gave us some ideas for ways we can support birds in our gardens by using native plants, providing water and avoiding the use of pesticides when possible. Some specific plantings he recommended were sunflowers, Shasta daisies, Black-eyed Susans, and Butterfly bushes. Despite a national downward trend in bird populations, it was interesting to hear that the bird population in Los Alamos is actually increasing, especially among house finches, robins, towhees and crows. This may be due to a combination of factors - the Cerro Grande and Las Conchas fires that devastated the surrounding mountainsides and the relative bounty of gardens in the townsite. During the summer, our club maintained our connections by holding monthly outdoor socials with small groups and everyone wearing masks. We met twice in the Fuller Lodge Memorial Rose Garden that the Los Alamos Garden Club helps to maintain.

den Club helps to maintain.

In August we visited a Victory Garden behind the Hans Bethe house on Bathtub Row and the Demo Garden in downtown Los Alamos that is maintained by the local Master Gardener's Club. In mid September, a couple of our Garden Club households hosted garden tours at their homes in the valley near San Ildefonso Pueblo. Everyone wore a mask and social distanced, the late summer weather was gorgeous and it was a wonderful time. In early October, we were blessed with a beautiful fall day for a dedication of the Kathy and George Taylor Memorial Bench at Ashley Pond Park. Members of our Garden Club, the local League of Women Voters, and from the Los Alamos Board of Public Utilities attended. Kathy and George were active and had friends in all these organizations. We have a holiday themed craft planned for our November program following our meeting. May we all continue to find ways to remain active and happy despite the challenges of this year. The holidays approach and hopefully better times are just around the corner!



Los Alamos Garden Club members talk outside with Trish Spillman during the September Garden Tours



Dedication of the Taylor Memorial Bench by Los Alamos' Ashley Pond in October

Santa Rosa Garden Club, District III, Colleen Hinker, President

Photos from Our Fall Tea Party



Lincoln County Garden Club, District V, Cinda Jennings, President

Birds In The Garden—A Love/Hate Relationship

Many of us have worked hard to develop a beautiful and inviting landscape. The problem is the "inviting" part.

There is a never ending supply of tips and articles about nurturing a garden that welcomes birds. I think I have read them all. Starting with planting colorful flowers that appear as neon signs to hummingbirds to the native plants that attract bugs that the Western Tanager loves.

The problem with these endeavors which do produce positive results are the side effects. All of my efforts have brought joy and disaster. What I have done is create the perfect storm for attracting Acorn Woodpeckers!

I know I am not the only one who suffers from their relentless onslaught against my personal property. I've spent hours researching how to get rid of them and I've learned there are several suggestions.

Here are the results of my personal study:

Lets start with the big plastic owls. I've spent around \$60 on these wide eyed wonders only to see a woodpecker standing next to one seeming to have a one sided conversation.

The woodpeckers then proceeded to make nickel size holes in the wood siding on the house. Next came a plastic hawk. Another \$20. After a couple of flybys, the peckers were back at work on the siding.

Between plastic birds of prey we treated the outside of the house for bugs. Yuck.

All of this time I am using a plastic pop gun to scare them away when I catch them.

Finally after a bit more research I've come up with a solution that looks like we are having a party at our house seven days a week. The less than environmentally friendly mylar balloon. It seems to freak them out a bit! The more helium the better! The bouncy, shiny and reflective nature of the balloons seems to frighten them.

I wish I could say this works 100% of the time. There are still a few brave Woodys out there who are so hungry they will chance an encounter with a party balloon. Fortunately these brave birds are few and far between.

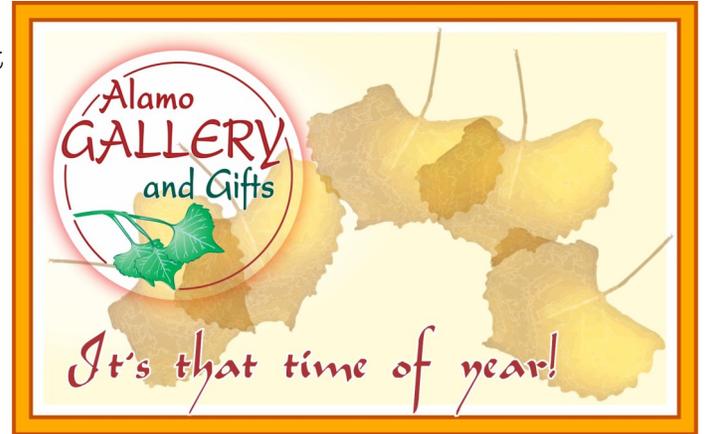
I wanted to share this in case you might suffer a similar infestation of woodpeckers.

Happy Fall to you all. I am sharing a picture of our courtyard before the freeze which the birds seem to love. If you have any other suggestions for me please email me at cindaloujennings@yahoo.com.



Socorro Garden Club, District IV, Millie Sigman, President

Socorro Garden Club had a plant sale in front of the Alamo Gallery on October 19, 2020 followed by lunch at the Socorro



Springs. There was a steady donation of plants and customers throughout the day.

We had a snowstorm and freeze on October 26 and 27 therefore; our gardens are now in winter rest.

Tami Ireland continues to monitor Point of Lands Overlook at the Bosque del Apache Wildlife Refuge.

Mary Gillard Pack posts the most wonderful photos of her yard on our Socorro Garden Club Facebook page. She had beautiful dahlias this year.

We will skip November meeting and depending on covid-19 virus plan a December 2020 event.

Members are curious as to whether other New Mexico Garden clubs are holding meetings and events during this virus shutdown.



Pecos Valley Youth Club, District V, Renate Reisel, Leader

A couple members of the youth garden club enjoyed replacing the flowers from the summer with a variety of Chrysanthemums at the Historical Museum.

At the present time the club is not having any meetings and only communicating by email and the youth club Face book page .

Valley Garden Club, District I, Gigi Zacharias, President

We continue to volunteer for Albuquerque Council events. We had members work at the harvest fair plant sale as cashiers and clean-up crew and we have been working in the garden center shop and the garden center library.

A few members report the following. Pat Robinson: Fall seems to be the time of subtraction. I have been cutting down stuff for weeks (remembering to leave some for birds and good insects). This weird year we allowed a few wild sunflowers to grow in our lawn in sight of our windows. The plants grew to 8-10' tall and we were rewarded with glorious bloom and weeks of entertainment watching the birds (mostly many types of finches) find all of the seeds. My idea of a great bird feeder!

Bonnie McClain: Since June, I have been a vendor at Bosque Farms Growers Market selling facemasks. I did not set out to sell masks, but finally found one that I loved because it didn't fog up my glasses and was breathable so I began making masks for family and friends and then started selling them. So far, I have sold close to 1,000 facemasks and have contributed my earnings to Citizen Church's mission in Chihuahua, Mexico, Kingdom Builders, and a Citizen Church group that funds various projects. I recently made a bunch of Christmas masks. Bosque Farms will have a Winter Craft Show on November 14 and 21, Saturdays, from 9-3. I think there will be between 25-30 crafters along with food trucks. Bosque Farms Winter Market will be held outside, (social distancing and masks) at 1090 North Bosque Loop, Bosque Farms, NM 87068.

Stay safe and healthy. Happy holidays!



Angelfire Garden Club , District III, Susan Schultz, President

The Angel Fire Garden Club has been puttering right along these past few months. Like the rest of the world we are covid exhausted and doing what we can to keep our spirits up. From disease, multitudes of tourists escaping populated areas, to a very threatening forest fire we are asking ourselves, “what’s next?”. So, having put our Signature Gardens to rest we are welcoming the silence of the winter snow and the much needed moisture.

We celebrate what we have accomplished and look forward to spring of 2021 and the flourish of growth it always brings. We had our first Zoom meeting and had a robust discussion on putting gardens to bed for the winter. There were also celebratory comments about how all of us “older” women figured out how to work the Zoom program!

The yearly seed exchange meeting was a rousing success with it being held outside with social distancing and facemasks! The highlight of the meeting was the Penny Pine presentation to our heroes at Moreno Valley Health Clinic. Representing the Clinic was Ella O’Reilly. The certificate represented approximately 350 trees to be planted in the name of the wonderful people at the Clinic.

In addition to seeds and plant exchanges, 2nd Vice-President, Kathy Davis gave out tulip bulbs to all participants. The instructions are to wait 10-12 weeks and watch it bloom on Facebook in January 2021! What fun! Can’t wait to see the posted photos.

The end of the season brings a fun and social distancing activity. A Secret Santa gift exchange will top off a very odd and challenging year. Thank you to all of the wonderful individuals that have kept this fantastic organization alive and well during these troubling times. See you in a very hopeful 2021!

Activities with a low risk of contracting the coronavirus: (COVID-19)

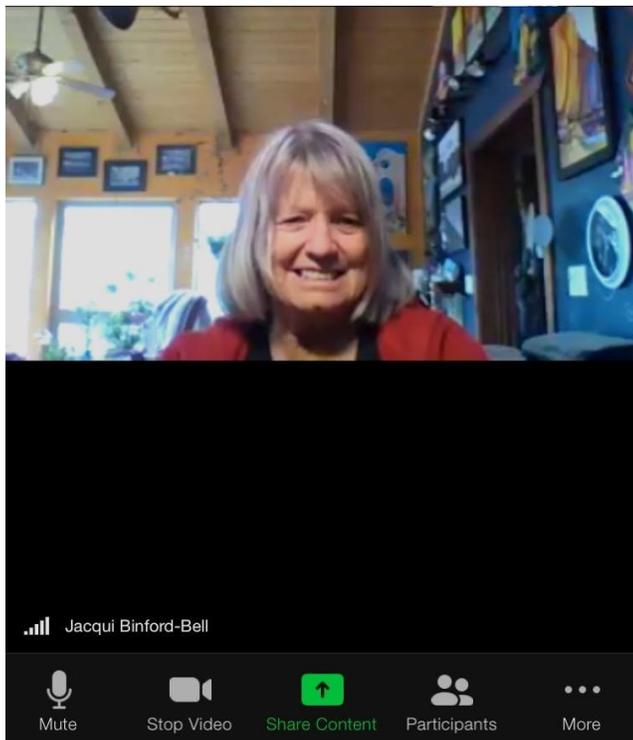
- Talking to your plants
- Watering your plants
- Fertilizing your plants
- Repotting your plants
- Looking at plants online
- Buying new plants online
- Replying to this with a picture of your favorite plant



Hard workers of the Angel Fire Garden Club!
All the Signature Gardens are ready for Winter.



President, Susan Schultz, presents the Moreano Valley Health Clinic, a Penny Pine certificate for their outstanding work through these trying times.



Jackqui Binford-Bell explains getting ready for high altitude winters during the Zoom

Fall in the beautiful Butterfly Garden.



From fall to winter in Angel Fire with photos by Page Steed!



how to identify CHRISTMAS CACTUS THANKSGIVING CACTUS & EASTER CACTUS



Schlumbergera x buckleyi
Christmas Cactus (US)



Schlumbergera truncata
Thanksgiving Cactus (US)



Rhipsalidopsis
Easter Cactus (US)

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| ◆ April 19-20, 2021 | South Central Region Convention | Las Cruces, NM |
| ◆ April 21-23, 2021 | NMGC Annual Meeting & Convention | Las Cruces, NM |

New Mexico Gardener

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

Organized 1950	Incorporated August 5, 1952
24 Clubs	526 Paid Memberships
2 Youth Clubs	91 Youth Members

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

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on the our website:
www.newmexicogardenclubs.org
NMGC User name: nmgc**

Instructions for Publication

The *New Mexico Gardener* is published quarterly: March, June, September and December. The Editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements. It is the responsibility of the article writer to ensure that names are spelled correctly. All articles need to be submitted as a Microsoft 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. Do not frame or otherwise enhance. 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
Fall	August 1
Winter	November 1
Spring	February 1
Summer	May 1

**Articles/Photos for the next *New Mexico Gardener* must be submitted
by February 1, 2020**