



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

Volume 50 No. 5

June/July/August 2022

# Summer 2022 Issue





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

## *President's Message*

**Greetings New Mexico Garden Club members,**

I hope you have all enjoyed the glorious Spring weather this year. The only thing missing is rain which would bless our state so much at this time. We continue to pray for all our members who have and are currently affected by the wild-fires. May there be a swift and safe end to protect our forests, human life and wildlife.

District V hosted a very successful Annual Convention at the Hotel Artesia in March. It was well attended and as we followed our new schedule of one day it proved to be adequate and suited those who had to travel the farthest. Our Awards Chairman, Nancy Hartwick, put together a superb Awards banquet for our dinner program and with all the surprises provided by the hotel and the colorful spring table decorations it was great fun.

District I will be hosting our 2023 Annual Convention in Albuquerque on April 12<sup>th</sup> when Mary Warshauer our National President will be attending. Please plan to attend and show her a good New Mexico welcome. The theme is "Diamonds in the desert".

This is a reminder to you to take photos of insects, butterflies, birds and flowers so that you can enter the photography section at the end of the year. Page Steed a member of Angelfire Garden Club has posted all the winners on our website and I encourage you to take a look. Our phones take great photos so don't worry about not having a camera it is open to what catches your eye and timing.

Recently I attended the South Central Region meeting held in Galveston Texas. It was great fun being with fellow gardeners from Oklahoma, Texas and Arkansas. Almost half of the attendees were first timers which gave the event lots of new energy. Our New Mexico Gardener won for best publication thanks to our editor, Suzy Andrego and to all of you who send her articles and photos. It makes the Gardener interesting and colorful. We also placed high in our Penney Pines contributions and even more with our forests on fire we need to buy plantations in memory and thanksgiving for friends and family to replace the trees that are burned. Remember you can choose a National forest to give your donation to. Next Year the SCR meeting will be held in Oklahoma City and several of us are planning to drive so let's represent New Mexico well.

## *President's Message continued .....*

Finally, several New Mexico members are on our way to Orlando, Florida for the NGC Convention and I will report on that in the next edition. Meanwhile I heartily encourage you to invite neighbors and church folk to any field trips or socials you are holding this summer. If on a neighborhood walk you see a pretty garden or someone working in their yard, stop and admire their efforts and tell them about your club. Please support your membership chairman and increase numbers so that the energy is contagious.

Happy planting,

*Christine Longthorp, President*



Interested in Submitting a photo of your design to be considered for the Vision of Beauty Calendar? Click on this link for the directions and a form

<https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/vision-of-beauty-entry-form.pdf>

**FUN at the  
NEW  
MEXICO  
GARDEN  
CLUBS  
ANNUAL  
CONVENTION**







Our Gracious Host Joy!







## Message from Our First Vice President, *Debra Sorrell*

Some days, it seems that our entire beautiful state is on fire! Virtually every corner of this Enchanted Land has been affected by fires. While, initially, it seems that we have lost so much of what makes New Mexico special and beautiful. But.....there is hope on the other side of all this!

First, of course, is the safety of the people of the area and then, the rebuilding of lives, homes and businesses that were displaced by this series of disasters. Wildlife and forests and plants galore have been ruined or displaced, too. But, a new and fresh landscape WILL follow! My husband and I were in Yellowstone 6 years after their devastating fire of 1988 which burned just shy of 800,000 acres. Based on our friends' warnings, we expected complete devastation. But, what we found were stunning, huge meadows of wildflowers, buzzing with pollinators. The wildlife was abundant and looked well fed. It was amazing! Things were certainly different than the deep forests we had hoped for but, no less spectacular.

We are gardeners, arborists and wildlife enthusiasts in this crowd. Who better to help with the needs and restoration of all the burned areas?! I'm sure that there will be plenty of projects our clubs around the state will find to help "re-enchant" our beloved New Mexico! I can't wait to see what all your creative minds and generous hearts come up with!



## Message from District Director, Sonia James

All the clubs in District 1 are getting ready for their summer projects and the summer activities at the Garden Center.

The annual "Parade of Homes" garden tour will be held on Sunday May 22nd. This year, because of the traffic at various sections of the tours, ticket holders will be bussed to the two sections of homes. There will be music at some of the homes on tour and lunch will be served at one of the homes. Many of the Albuquerque nurseries are sponsoring the homes on the tour.

"Share the Beauty Day" will be held on Monday, June 6th. Decorated cans (done by some of the clubs), over 800) will be filled by club volunteers and then delivered to nursing homes, assisted living homes, etc...throughout Albuquerque. A Daylily Show and Sale will be held on Saturday, June 16th. There will be a Dahlia Show and Sale in September.

*I wish all of you a great and busy summer!!*

## Message from Our Second Vice President,

### *Joyce Zaugg*



Hello fellow gardeners! The National Garden Clubs, Inc. membership committee has sponsored a series of online seminars with guest speakers sharing valuable ideas about building strong club memberships. The title of the series is called the 3Rs Series. The 3Rs are recruit, retain, and revitalize. The R that I would like to share with you in this edition of the New Mexico Gardener is the first R---Recruit. The most difficult challenge clubs have today is getting new members in the door.



The three pillars of recruitment are 1) Attitude of Openness, 2) Always Recruiting, 3) Always Advertise.

Robin Hammer from Kenwood Garden Club in Chevy Chase, Maryland presented information on the first pillar—Attitude of Openness. What is the Attitude of Openness? It is invite, invite, invite. It says join us; come into our family of friends. This Open Hand image symbolizes the welcoming, friendly atmosphere our clubs strive for. We want everyone who comes into our meetings for the first time to feel that they are welcome. Some practical ways of doing this is host programs that are open to the public. Assign a member to be a greeter. Their job is to greet the new prospective members and make them feel welcome. Learn why they came to the meeting, how they learned about your club, and what interests them about gardening. Introduce them to the club members. Wear name tags. Name tags are important to make the new prospective member feel comfortable. Have a current member give the new member an orientation about your clubs structure, community projects, your social events, and your expectations and promises. Provide new members with a new member portfolio. Follow up with the new attendees via phone calls, email, or text messages.

Bonnie Stockel from Wynn Stone Garden Club in Olive Branch, Mississippi presented the second pillar—Always Recruiting. Every member is an Ambassador representing your club to the wider world. Our responsibility is to share the love of gardening, share our good works, and share the fun. One practical way you can promote your club is to prepare a one minute “elevator speech” that you can use if someone asks you about your garden club. If you are in an elevator or with a group of people, and someone asks you, “What is a garden club?” how would you answer? To prepare your speech answer these questions.

- Why my garden club? Think about what you love most about your garden club—and how your garden club engages with the community.
- What’s our community impact? Pick the service project that makes you proudest of your garden club.
- How do we make an impact? By working together with people in our community who care. More hearts and more hands mean more opportunities for service and partnership. And, What are some of the programs we offer.

## Message from Our Second Vice President, (continued)

The third pillar, Always Advertise in All Ways, was presented by Diane Dawson from Elmhurst, Illinois. She covered four areas in which we can make ourselves known to the world.

### **Print and social media**

Our clubs are familiar with traditional print media. These include brochures and book-marks promoting the benefits of joining a garden club. Also one page bulletins or flyers that can be posted at local businesses. Your club can submit personal interest articles to local newspapers. Through social media your club can extend the awareness of your club to find new members where they are at. Get on Face Book. Check out other social media outlets when it makes sense for your local club.

### **Community outreach**

Submit club information to local directories and community calendars. Ask to speak at local community meetings (Rotary, Chamber of Commerce). Participate in parades, farmer's markets, and other town events. Reach out! Wear your club T-shirts, post signs when your club is doing community work, garden walks, and flower shows. Wear your life membership pins.

### **Don't forget DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusiveness)**

Provide an environment where all people are WELCOME. Diversity provides a variety of points of view that will make your club better. DEI is a term used to describe policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of diverse groups of individuals, including people of different ages, races, ethnicity, abilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientation.

### **Play outdoors**

Lastly have fun and play outdoors!

There was a lot of information shared during the online seminar. I hope you will find something here that may work for your clubs recruitment efforts.

The second R is Retain. I will share with you what I gleaned from that seminar in the Fall Edition of the New Mexico Gardener.

Now for some nuts and bolts—**Dues and rosters are now due.** Please send me your current membership lists. This list should include member first and last name, address, landline phone/cell phone, email address. State dues are \$8.00 per member. You need to send me one check for \$8.00 times the number of active members in your club. Please double check your members email addresses. Our state newsletter, the New Mexico Gardener, is sent out to all members in the state using email. If we don't have the correct email address then they don't get all the wonderful articles and news from around the state.

## **2021 Awards**

January 1, 2021– December 31, 2021

New Mexico Garden Clubs Annual Convention

March 23-24, 2022 in Artesia, New Mexico

### **DESIGN OF THE YEAR**

*Award sponsored by the New Mexico Judges Council, Inc.*

**Debi Harrington**

*Petal Pushers Garden Club*

### **MEMBER OF THE YEAR**

*“Member of the Year” award presented by NMGC, Inc.*

**2021 Member of the Year**

**Not Awarded**

### **HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR**

*“Horticulturist of the Year” award presented by NMGC, Inc.*

**2020 Horticulturist of the Year**

**No Entries**

### **MENTOR OF THE YEAR**

**Recipient is chosen by the NMGC President**

*The Mentor of the Year award is given to the member of NM Garden Clubs that has shown themselves to be a “Mentor” to others by their actions as a trusted guide and teacher to all members - conveying their experience and expertise while increasing confidence, performance and leadership abilities in other Members of NM Garden Clubs,*

**2020 Mentor of the Year**

**Suzy Andrego**

*Uptown Garden Club*

## **2021 Special Achievement Award**

*Not Awarded*

### **BEGINNING DESIGNER**

*Not Awarded*

### **BIRDS**

**1st Place Individual**

**Shar Marquez**

*El Jardin Encanto Garden Club*

### **BUTTERFLY GARDENING IN NEW MEXICO**

**1st Place Individual**

**Shar Marquez**

*El Jardin Encanto Garden Club*

### **CERTIFICATE OF COMMENDATION**

*NGC, Inc. Certificate for individuals who have been members  
of an accredited garden club for 20 or more years.*

**No Entries**

### **CIVIC DEVELOPMENT**

*This award is for landscape projects in public areas. Such areas include:  
schools, civic buildings, hospitals, shopping areas, cemeteries, roadsides,  
historic sites, enhancement of parks, trails, small pocket gardens, street plantings,  
etc.*

***Morning Garden Club***

**1st Place, Class II**

## **CLUB HISTORY**

**Best Club History**

***Morning Garden Club***

**1st Place**

***Santa Rosa Garden Club***

**1st Place, Class I**

***Morning Garden Club***

**1st Place, Class II**

***Petal Pushers Garden Club***

**2nd Place, Class II**

***Sunshine Valley Garden Club***

**1st Place, Class III**

***Lincoln County Garden Club***

**2nd Place, Class III**

***Valley Gardeners Garden Club***

**3rd Place, Class III**

## **FOOD GARDENING**

**No Entries**

## **GARDEN THERAPY**

**No Entries**

## **LITTER CONTROL AND RECYCLING**

**Individual award only**

**No Entries**

## **LONGEVITY AWARD**

*This award is for a Club project that has been maintained by members for over three years. This award gives recognition for the patience and dedication it takes to continue a program or project for many years.*

### ***Morning Garden Club***

**1<sup>st</sup> Place, Class II**

## **MEMBERSHIP INCREASE AWARD**

*The club gaining the most members.*

### **Sunshine Valley Garden Club**

*1st Place Percentage new members*

*1st Place Most New Members*

*13 new members (82% Increase)*

### **Petal Pushers Garden Club**

*8 new members (38% Increase)*

### **Moriarty Garden Club**

*4 new members (36% Increase)*

### **Morning Garden Club**

*5 new members (25% Increase)*

### **High Desert Design Garden Club**

*7 new members (24% increase)*

### **New Mexico Floral Artists**

*2 new members (17% Increase)*

### **Valley Gardeners Garden Club**

*4 new member (12% Increase)*

### **Flowering Desert Garden Club**

*1 new member (10% Increase)*

### **Uptown Garden Club**

*2 new member (7% Increase)*

### **Mesilla Valley Garden Club**

*1 new member (6% Increase)*

## **STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE**

*This serves as an evaluative overview for your Club's program year.*

*Program Year is January 1st through December 31st, annually.*

### **Valley Gardeners Garden Club**

**Top Point Earner (690 Points)**

#### **Artesia Garden Club**

**1st Place Standard of Excellence,**

**Class I (213 Points)**

#### **Santa Rosa Garden Club**

**2nd Place Standard of Excellence,**

**Class I (210 Points)**

#### **Moriarty Garden Club**

**1st Place Standard of Excellence,**

**Class II (520 Points)**

#### **Los Alamos Garden Club**

**2nd Place Standard of Excellence,**

**Class II (250 Points)**

### **Valley Gardeners Garden Club**

**1st Place Standard of Excellence**

**Class III (690 points)**

## **TREES**

**Walter B. Suhr Memorial Award**

***No Entries***

## **WATER CONSERVATION**

***Individuals only***

***Not Awarded***

## **WILD FLOWERS AND NATIVE PLANTS**

***Individuals only***

***Not awarded***

## Photography Awards, Page Steed, Chairman

Category	Place	TL Points	Photographer	Garden Club	Location
<b>Bird</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	384	Beverly Cooper	Summit Garden Club	Los Alamos
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	378	Susan Schultz	Angel Fire Garden Club	Angel Fire
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	361	Selvi Viswanathan	Los Alamos Garden Club	Los Alamos
<b>Butterfly</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	352	Shar Marquez	El Jardin Encanto Garden Club	Los Lunas
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	350	Debi Harrington	Petal Pushers Garden Club	Albuquerque
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	343	Selvi Viswanathan	Los Alamos Garden Club	Los Alamos
<b>Horticulture Specimen</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	370	Beverly Cooper	Summit Garden Club	Los Alamos
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	338	Juanita Ortega	Floral Designers Garden Club	Santa Fe
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	325	Julie Foster	Artesia Garden Club	Artesia
<b>Insect</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	383	Selvi Viswanathan	Los Alamos Garden Club	Los Alamos
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	364	Debi Harrington	Petal Pushers Garden Club	Albuquerque
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	341	Margie Lappin	Uptown Garden Club	Albuquerque
<b>Land-scape</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	381	Beverly Cooper	Summit Garden Club	Los Alamos
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	377	Susan Schultz	Angel Fire Garden Club	Angel Fire
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	343	Debi Harrington	Petal Pushers Garden Club	Albuquerque
<b>Wildlife</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>	360	Susan Schultz	Angel Fire Garden Club	Angel Fire
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	326	Jacqui Binford-Bell	Angel Fire Garden Club	Angel Fire
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	325	Shirley Tetreault	High Desert Garden Club	Albuquerque

The **2021 Photographic Print of the Year Award** went to  
**Beverly Cooper of Summit Garden Club**  
for her entry in the bird category!

***Congratulations Beverly!***

As you can see, it was so VERY CLOSE and only a few points separated the top contenders.

If you were not in attendance at the convention to receive your award(s) and certificate(s) , someone from your club has picked them up and will be getting them to you.

A presentation was prepared and was on display at the NMGC Annual Convention in Artesia. Because of high printing cost and low budget, I am unable to provide printed versions of the presentation to everyone. For your convenience, however, here is a link to the presentation (in pdf format) which you can download and save, share, or print if you so desire:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/kmeotuqhlmgllqe/2021%20NMGC%20Inc.%20Photographic%20Print%20of%20the%20Year%20Presentation.pdf?dl=0>

I hope you enjoy the presentation. As you will see, we had many wonderful photo submissions! It was an honor and pleasure to chair this competition and such a joy.

Thank you one and all for your participation, and I hope you will continue to get out there and take great photos and submit them for next year's competition!

*Photographic  
Memories to you all,  
Page*



## Archives Chairman, *Becky Fuller Chairman*

I have nothing new at this time for Archives. If you have material please let me know and we can possibly make plans for an exchange.



## Life Membership & Scholarship *Sue Ferguson, Chairman,*

**CONGRATULATIONS to NM Garden Clubs**

***Newest Life Members:***

***Ellie Nordgren***

***Dorothy Duff***

***Susan Schultz***



**LIFE MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS or HONORS for ANYONE!**

THE NMGC Annual Scholarship is funded by the sale of NMGC Life Memberships, NMGC Membership pins, and Book of Memory donations. A NMGC Life Membership comes with a Commemorative Life Membership pin and costs \$40. They make great gifts for anyone! The NMGC Membership pin costs \$20 and again makes a great gift for yourself or a friend. More details about the Scholarship Program can be found on our website. Please visit and see the different ways you could help support this most worthwhile project.



Order From

Sue Ferguson

5065 Bright Sky Road

Roswell, NM 88201

[sjferguson@plateau.email](mailto:sjferguson@plateau.email)

# FUN TIMES at the South Central Region Convention in Galveston, Texas



Design created by Shirley Tetreault in Honor of NMGC State President, Christine Longthorp



NM Garden Clubs won BEST newsletter of the Region!! YEAH !



# MORE FUN at the National Garden Clubs Convention in Orlando, Florida!



South Central Region Members at National



# National Garden Clubs Petite Flower Show, NGC Orlando Convention

Congratulations to Debi Harrington, Christine Longthorp, Kathleen Flanders, Shirley Tetreault and Suzy Andrego for entering exhibits in the show. Debi took home several Top Exhibitor Awards (Botanical Arts Artistic Craft Award (for Williamsburg ) + Award of Distinction (Mt. Rushmore) plus some 1st place ribbons. Christine, Kathleen and Suzy took home 2nd place ribbons and Shirley and Suzy took home some 4th place ribbons. It was a fabulous show. For more information, click this YouTube Link to see the whole show. **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

Debi Harrington's entries:

The Grand Canyon



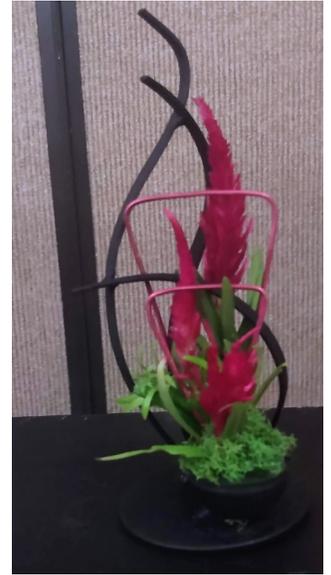
Boston Symphony



The Alamo



Area 51



The Great Lakes



Mount Rushmore



Williamsburg

Shirley Tetreault' Entries



Visit the YouTube link to see the entire NGC Petite Show ...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ch8afNaJ7To>



Christine Longthorp' s Barbie



Kathleen Flanders Pressed Flower Photo, Williamsburg

Suzy Andrego's Alamo & Hat



## **Horticulture Chairman, Ellen Reed - Edible Flowers**

Many garden flowers can be interesting in salads. In order to use blossoms and leaves as decorative and flavorful additions, it is important that NO insecticides as well as systemics have been used. The plants should not be near pollution from a busy street.

Violas, pansies and violets all brighten early spring salads. The starry blue flowers of borage *Borago officinalis* as well as the cucumber flavored leaves can also be eaten. The leaves have stiff hairs but can be used if finely shredded. Borage is best grown from seed in partial sun and poor soil. The flowers are very attractive to bees.



Lavender flowers of chives *Allium schoenoprasum* can be sprinkled over salads.



Nasturtium flowers and leaves are quite peppery as are the young green seeds.

Daylily flowers are dried and used in Chinese cooking and sold as “golden needles”. The fresh flowers are decorative on salad bowls and pleasantly sharp to the tongue. If picked in the morning they will still be fresh for supper and would be dead tomorrow anyway. *Calendula officinalis* is called pot marigolds and their petals and leaves are edible.

Flowering heads and young green seeds of parsley, celery, dill, cilantro and fennel can be added to tartar sauce or cream cheese.



Of course broccoli and cauliflower are the young flower buds.

A less common herb is *Perilla frutescens*, “Shiso” in Japanese, is easy (too easy) to grow. It transplants easily though an annual and it reseeds readily. A common variety has fringed purple leaves much like coleus. It can be shredded as a garnish and the leaves or flower clusters used in tempura. The volunteer seedlings can be left for temporary fillers in the early summer garden and are easily pulled when the plantings are too crowded. Pinching out the top pair of leaves will cause the plant to become more compact.



*Achillea millefolium*, ‘yarrow’ leaves can be used for a tea. Supposedly ‘Achilles’ mother held him by the heel when she bathed him in yarrow tea so his heel was not made invulnerable to arrows.

***Be sure of the identification of you plants before eating them!***

## Let's Save Our Precious Water by Dorothy Duff

I had originally planned to write a three part series on water conservation but after such a frighteningly dry early spring I thought readers might be eager for some specific strategies for maintaining a garden in a water-wise way. Please consider showing off your strategies (either current or new ones) by submitting for the NMGC Water Conservation Award

Let me start of by asking if there is anyone out there who is not worried about the availability of water for our gardens? For most of New Mexico spring precipitation was been seriously lacking which can be evidenced in the early and numerous wildfires. Winds have been relentless and very drying. So let's start thinking about water and how we can use it wisely.

**Recent drought information:** Records from US Drought Monitor ([www.drought.gov/states/new-mexico](http://www.drought.gov/states/new-mexico)) indicate that 96.8% of New Mexico is in Severe Drought (or worse) as of April 2022. The National Climate Prediction Center ([Climate Prediction Center \(noaa.gov\)](http://Climate Prediction Center (noaa.gov))) forecasts above-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation across the southwest for April through June. Furthermore precipitation events may become more intense but occur farther apart with lengthy dry spells in between. Inconsistent moisture for our gardens is a serious issue so maintaining an effective watering strategy is essential.

What does this mean for New Mexico gardeners? Already many of us have experienced one of the following: 1) landscape watering restricted to certain times and days of the week, 2) restricted access to ascequia water and flood irrigation or 3) wells with decreased production or going dry.

Here are some basic tenets of water conservation to consider applying to your property and gardens.

**Keeping water on your property:** Do everything you can to make sure water does not leave your property.

- If you have a sprinkler system that means adjusting the sprinkler heads so water is not running down the sidewalk and in to the streets.
- If your land slopes try creating berms and swales so when it rains they will slow the water down so it is absorbed into your soil.
- Level your planting beds by creating a retaining wall.
- If you have gutters or canales divert that water in to an area that benefits plants and prevents run off.

**Harvesting water for later use:** Many of use already have water barrels but if you do not check with your local water authority as some provide free water barrels as part of a home water use assessment. If you are thinking of harvesting water on a grander scale contact

## **Let's Save Our Precious Water (continued)**

your local Soil and Water Conservation District. Some districts (mostly rural) have a cost sharing programs to help with the expense of cisterns and water catchment systems.

**Household water:** There are simple things you can do around the house to make the most of your water.

- Keeping a pitcher by the sink (or tub/shower) to catch water while waiting for the water to warm. If you take tub baths save that water to also use on trees and shrubs.
- If you wash some things in a dish tub you can apply that water to trees or shrubs.
- Reuse cooking water on outdoor plants

In general if the water has detergents in it consider using it primarily on trees and shrub where any chemicals will be more dispersed.

### **In the garden**

- If you have an automatic watering system but sure to check it regularly for leaks and broken or misdirected nozzles. Also there are automatic components that can be added to a system that sense when it is raining so the system does not turn on during a rain
- Plant wisely. Group plants together that have similar water needs. Generally you would have the plants closest to the house with the higher water needs and the more distant plant xeric ones.
- Sprinklers in general are not water efficient especially in our climate where evaporation rate is high. Instead consider drip irrigation, soaker hoses or even hand watering.
- Use mulch on your plants to the depth of two to three inches. For you vegetable garden light weight row cover can diminish the evaporation rate while allowing rain to penetrate.
- Restrict watering to hours of the highest humidity such as early morning and late evening.
- Hand watering with a hose or watering can may also be a way to monitor you water usage plus it gives you the opportunity to enjoy your plants and scan for any infestations or problems.
- Of course a drip irrigation system will be most efficient. Many systems can be install by the home owner. But like a sprinkler system drip systems need to be check each year for leaks or water being misdirected.
- A moisture meter is a handy, inexpensive tool that can help you gauge whether or not watering is needed

## Let's Save Our Precious Water (continued)

- If you use a hose with a sprinkler or soaker hose invest in a simple hose end timer which will shut off the water automatically.

- Finally consider increasing the numbers of drought tolerant plants in your garden. New hybrids are constantly being developed to give you the look you want while requiring less water.

In conclusion there is hope for our having beautiful gardens while still being water-wise. Try some of these strategies and share what you have accomplished in your application for the NMGC Water Conversation Award



Moisture meter



Hose end timer



Retaining wall



Directing gutter water to plants



Pitcher by sink



Hand water



## Garden Club News from Around the State

### **Mesilla Valley Garden Club, District 4, Becky Fuller, President**

Mesilla Valley Garden Club Had their March meeting at the New Mexico Game and Fish Department where Sgt. Chris Ortega answered our questions about animals native to our area and how we keep them out of our gardens. He suggested planting natives that are resinous and therefore naturally repellent to certain smaller animals. Unfortunately, for larger animals a fence is the only deterrent.

Several husbands and a guest also attended.

Judy Laird and I attended the NMGC Spring Convention in Artesia where a great time was had by all!

We had our April meeting at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum. We toured the hundreds of Iris' planted by the Las Cruces Iris Society for the National Iris Society Convention held here April 11-16. While at the museum we toured their greenhouse. There were many species of cacti and plantings that are sold at their plant sale to benefit the museum. We nominated our slate of officers and voted. They will be installed at our next meeting.



We met at "A Bite of Belgium" for our May meeting. We had a delightful lunch and installed our officers. I will remain president until May of 2023, Linda Frank will be my vice president, Linnea Egbert secretary and Judy Laird treasurer. We then discussed a get together in early August and adjourned to Jeff Anderson's garden. Jeff is an extension agent and an avid Palm lover as well as a myriad of other plants. He plants lots of natives but also many, many exotics. We had a great time and dispersed with our heads full of unusual plants.

## **Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, Kersti Rock, LAGC president**

Before sitting down to write this article, I took a moment to look out at the smoke from the Cerro Pelado fire burning in the Jemez Mountains. The fire has been burning for almost two weeks now. There is continuing uncertainty as to whether or not Los Alamos will have to be evacuated. The fire's progression has been slowed somewhat by the fact that it is following the burn scar from the Las Conchas fire eleven years ago. And the firefighters have been doing a great job! With cool nights and quieter winds in the mornings, Los Alamos has still enjoyed some hours of clear air and the signs of a beautiful spring are all around.

The Los Alamos Garden Club began looking toward spring in February with a talk on garden safety practices from Tracey Speyrer, rosarian and work safety expert. Tracey spoke on topics such as physical hazards, chemical hygiene, equipment safety and environmental safety.

In March, just as it officially became Spring, NMGC president Christine Longthorp presented LAGC with an excellent program on creating simple Spring floral arrangements. We were delighted that Suzy Andrego accompanied Christine so that she could also visit with our club! We invited our sister clubs from District II and were very happy that Judy Magelssen and Nancy Nunnelley from the Summit Garden Club were able to join us for this program.

### **Christine beginning her program on Spring Floral arrangements]**

Two days after the March meeting, Joyce Zaugg, Alahna Weller and I drove to Artesia, NM for the New Mexico Garden Clubs Annual Convention. Judy Magelssen from Summit Garden Club, also from District II, joined us at the meeting. District V did a great job hosting the convention and everyone



was delighted with the Artesia Hotel and the wonderful service they provided. Artesia is a nice little town and they take great pride in their Main Street that is decorated with murals and

sculptures, many of which celebrate the region's history in ranching and the oil business.



**[(from left) Joyce Zaugg, Alahna Weller and Judy Magelssen at the Convention lunch on Thursday, March 24]**

## Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, (continued)

On April 16, Del Jimenez, NMSU Agriculture Extension Specialist led LAGC's annual rose pruning workshop at the Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden. The workshop was well attended and one attendee, Barbara Antos, has since joined our club. We are delighted to have her as a new member!

On April 25, Christine Longthorp and Debra Sorrell were guests at our Spring meeting and Potluck Luncheon. Christine served as our Installing Officer for the club's incoming officers. Her beautiful ceremony used a color theme, represented with long scarves, to signify the qualities of each office. All the offices were filled except for Club President. Kersti Rock and Joyce Zaugg, hopefully assisted by a couple of other past Presidents, will ensure that the duties of this office are attended to.

[Christine with the newly installed officers (from left): Trish Spillman (H), Addie Jacobsen (CS), Vicki Ricketts (2nd VP), Diane Thurston (T), Joyce Zaugg (1st VP), Linda Hoffman (RS) and Christine Longthorp, NMGC President]



Note: District II is starting up again and we will have acting officers for one year until a nominating committee comprises a slate and that slate is voted on next Spring. The acting officers until next Spring are Kersti Rock (Director), Joyce Zaugg (Recording Secretary, and Ann Cooke (Treasurer). We are still hoping to obtain an Assistant Director.

Following the meeting, we all enjoyed an interesting presentation on creating small and side yard gardens. Our presenter was Robin Kennedy who is serving as the interim County Extension agent for Los Alamos County. Our long time extension agent, Carlos Valdez, has retired and the County is searching for a permanent replacement.

After the program, we all sat down to enjoy a salad and dessert potluck luncheon. The luncheon tables were wonderfully decorated with May baskets containing flower arrangements by Trish Spillman and Harvey Cruz. Many other club members contributed to organizing the luncheon, setting up and cleaning up, as well as bringing delicious salads and desserts to share. These events are always such fun and they happen because so many hands come together to contribute to them.

## Los Alamos Garden Club, District II (continued)

Spring Potluck Luncheon table with some of the floral arrangements]

On April 30, LAGC held our Annual Fundraiser by holding a Yard and Plant sale. Judy Handy provided the space for the sale as well as many hours of work. Helen Carpenter was the sale's master organizer. And there were many, many other members who worked long hours before, during and after the sale to make it all happen! The sale was a success, raising somewhat more than the club needed to cover the cost of the scholarship we provide each year to a graduating high school senior.



[7 people at the Yard Sale main table (from left): Kersti Rock, Ann LePage, Judy Handy, Joyce Zaugg, Helen Carpenter, Diane Thurston and Alahna Weller]

Our May meeting will be followed by a workshop on rock painting, led by Joyce Zaugg. We are looking forward to each creating a hand painted rock to take home to our gardens.

It has been a very busy few months! Time to take a break, more or less, during the summer. Joyce Zaugg, our 1st VP in charge of programs, is planning some club visits to various members' gardens. This year is also the 75th Anniversary of the Los Alamos Garden Club. We are planning a celebration for sometime this summer.

## Lincoln County Garden Club, District V, by Cynthia

*Shafer*

March we enjoyed a very entertaining and fun Floral Design Class instructed by Suzy Andrego, Debra Sorrell and special guest NMGC President



Christine Longthorp. Everyone who attended really enjoyed the class and went home with a beautiful arrangement.

In April members planted a tree with the assistance of Ruidoso Parks & Rec. This year we planted three Aspens at Two Rivers Park. LCGC paid for the trees, Parks & Rec dug the hole and planted the trees while we watched. We will also be planting a Pear tree at the Humane Society of Lincoln County in memory of Marilyn Barnes and her beloved dog Mary.

The May meeting will be a Business Meeting and potluck. We will also have an installation for our new President Debbie Myers and our new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President Patty Citrowske.

We are starting to plan our Programs for the 2022-2023

term and starting to update our Yearbook.

Some of our members had to evacuate during the McBride fire but were lucky to have homes to come back to, as so many people did not. Our hearts and prayers are with everyone in Northern New Mexico.



## El Jardin Encanto Garden Club, District 1, Shar Marquez, Co-President and Debby Hasse, Co-President

11 April was the long-anticipated District 1 meeting at Special Touch Catering in Albuquerque. Mary Lou, Shar, Debby all got chosen for raffle prizes and chose one of NM Garden Club President Christine Longthorp's beautiful floral bouquets, that she made on-site, Adrienne was also chosen and received a gift card for the Albuquerque Garden Center Shop. We had a great meal and conversations. On our way home that afternoon there was a large cloud of smoke rising over Valencia County. This smoke plume ended up later being named the Big Hole Fire north of Belen in the Bosque. After it was all over it burned 75% of the Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area. Our April meeting the following Thursday was going to be a nature walk at the Whitfield Center so instead we had a potluck at the home of Shar Marquez. There was delicious salads and desserts. To show our support for the Whitfield Center a few members went out to help them celebrate their Science Fiesta and go for a guided walk thru the burn area. While out there you could hear woodpeckers in the background, hummingbirds, and hawks flying overhead. There was a great blue heron coming in to land in the natural pond and a Canada goose nesting in the middle of the pond. The green grasses were starting to peak up from the charred ground and life seemed to be coming back to the area. 29 April we celebrated the Big Kick Off with the Los Lunas Library, who were celebrating pollinators, handing out wildflower packets, building bee houses and watching a pbs documentary, "My Garden of 1,000 Bees". They have many other youth activities planned over the summer. May's meeting will be in Santa Fe at the Botanical Garden.



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

The Club's Annual Membership Tea was held in February. Our special guest was First Vice President, Debra Sorrell, who shared about the current happenings with NMGC. A good time was had by all. The Tea is a yearly event to help increase our membership, and members are encouraged to invite guests to this festive and fun event to let them see what we're all about and hopefully join our Club. We dress up in tea party attire, with hats and gloves being optional, and members bring their favorite teacup. There is always an ample selection of teas and finger foods provided by the members.



In March, we had a very informative program by Megan from Sierra Soil and Water Conservation District. We learned about the soils in our area and what amendments to add. She also informed us about the various ways to collect rainwater, the advantages of worm composting, and the financial assistance and help they offer to residents for drip irrigation.

The Club gathered at member, Cindy Johnson's home on Saturday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the annual Plant Exchange (aka "Pot Party"). Members brought plant items they wanted to exchange, including seedlings, transplants, flowers, and even large bushes and trees. They chose what they liked and took them home. We always have a fun time and come away with some new plants to try in our gardens.

## High Desert Design Club, District I, Shirley Tetreault, President

It is always a pleasure to report on High Desert DC. They are high functioning, love to eat and love to be with each other to just visit and enjoy their surroundings. On Saturday, May the 7<sup>th</sup> four of our members attended the Enchanted Vista Iris Society show in Rio Rancho. All were big winners as you will see in the pictures below. Everyone was doing something new, fun and exciting.

Every Tuesday three of our members work in the Veterans Memorial Garden on Louisiana. They prune and deadhead all the roses to honor our veteran's past, present and future. The Roses are in wonderful condition and are in full bloom.

Share the Beauty Day is a Council event that happens every year the first week in June. It is the beginning of National Garden Week. We decorate cans and on June the 6<sup>th</sup> about 800 cans are filled with beautiful floral arrangements. We begin at 7:00 a.m. and start deliveries to various nursing homes in Albuquerque at 11:00 a.m. Every resident receives one. It is great to be a part of something that makes so many happy in a short period of time. High Desert members dedicated their meeting on 5/11/2022 to decorating these very special cans for our seniors.

This is who we are.....This is what we do.



Preparing for Share the beauty day decorating cans for our special event.





From left to right - Members of High Desert Designers entered the Rio Rancho Iris Show: Shirley Tetreault with Peggy Naranjo Smith, Beth Schneider, Stefani Yates-Groff and Trudie Meyer were all big winners at the Iris show in Rio Rancho on 5/7/2022.

## Morning Garden Club, District V, Renate Reisel, President

The tulips and daffodils are finished with their bloom, and many other flowers are coming up in our butterfly garden. It is always amazing how many different flowers are blooming early in the springtime, the irises were very beautiful, and making room for the daylilies, plus all the sunflowers are poking through the soil. Members are busy planting flowers in our containers around different areas in our city

Flower arrangements were made for Sunset Villa Retirement home, to be enjoyed by the seniors.

There is enjoyment working with the young children from Los Pasitos Learning Center, teaching them the love of gardening. The children enjoyed planting flowers and tomato plants with the help of members.



**New Mexico Judges Council, Suzy Andrego, President**

***New Mexico Judges Council Symposium  
July 29-31, 2022, at the Albuquerque Garden Center.***

***Creative Vs. Traditional Designs, along with Floor Designs will  
be presented by Gina Jogan, National Garden Clubs Design  
Instructors Chairman.***

***Evergreen Shrubs and Container plantings will be presented  
by Darlene Newell, National Garden Clubs Horticulture  
Instructors Chairman.***

***We WILL have a fabulous Silent Auction of Design Containers!  
In addition we will have some Ken Swartz of  
Bent & Twisted Containers to Sell !***

***You DO NOT have to be a judge to attend. Attending a Judges Symposium  
makes you a better exhibitor.***

***It also helps you understand what judges are looking for.***

***For more information, contact Suzy Andrego,  
Email: [Sandrego@qwest.net](mailto:Sandrego@qwest.net)***

**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

- |                       |                                    |                 |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ July 29-31, 2022    | NM Judges Council Judges Symposium | Albuquerque, NM |
| ◆ October 18, 2022    | NMGC Executive Board Fall Meeting  | Albuquerque, NM |
| ◆ October 24, 2022    | NM Judges Council Fall Meeting     | Albuquerque, NM |
| ◆ April 11 & 12, 2023 | NMGC Annual Convention             | ABQ, NM         |

# *New Mexico Gardener*

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

A Non-profit Organization

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

Organized 1950

Incorporated August 5, 1952

25 Clubs

525 Paid Memberships

2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

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

4401 Magnolia Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63110

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

**NMGC, Inc. President 2021-2023**

**Christine Longthorp**

2700 Vista Grande Dr. NW #89 Albuquerque NM 87120

Phone: (505)480-5230 E-mail: [christinelongthorp@gmail.com](mailto:christinelongthorp@gmail.com)

*Theme: "Growing in Harmony in the Land of Enchantment"*

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Mary Warshauer

E-mail: [Mary@Warshauer.com](mailto:Mary@Warshauer.com)

Theme: Plant America—Play Outside

**South Central Region**

Rose Knight, Director

E-mail: [jkknight@suddenlink.net](mailto:jkknight@suddenlink.net)

Theme: Plant America—Embrace the Future

**New Mexico Gardener Editor**

**Suzy Andrego**

[Sandrego@qwest.net](mailto:Sandrego@qwest.net)

**VISIT the *Members Only* area**

**on the our website:**

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

## 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.

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

**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.**

**Articles/Photos for the next *New Mexico Gardener* must be submitted by August 1, 2022**