



Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 50 No. 6

December/January/February 2022-2023

Winter 2022-2023 Issue



**The Las Sembradoras Garden Club
Blue Star Memorial Marker
HAS A HOME!!**





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

President's Message

Greetings New Mexico Garden Club members,

As we prepare our gardens for winter, plant spring bulbs and winter pansies, we can take a little time to socialize with other members during the holiday season. I will see many of you as I travel the State accepting your kind invitations to luncheons and parties and meeting new members.

Our first, Fall Executive Meeting took place on October 18th, 2022, here in Albuquerque at the Marriott Courtyard and was attended by four of our five District Directors, all Executive Board members and several Past Presidents. It was enjoyable and very efficient and will prove to accomplish the job but not create a financial strain or require any extra effort from State members.

District III Director Johnese Turri, gave us a report from Amor de la Tierra Garden Club from Las Vegas which is suffering very challenging times. After the devastation from the fires this past summer it was hit again by serious flooding which has left their community without their usual water supply. They are not free to water their gardens and crops and so for the time being they have suspended their membership until such time that they can resume activity. NMGC has pledged to help in any way we can, for example supplying rain barrels or any materials that would give them access to water. We can hope that there will be sufficient snow runoff this winter. I will keep you all posted as I hear more and District III are monitoring their progress.

I would also like to remind you that donating to a tree plantation through Penny pines and naming one of our National forests as a recipient is a good way to reforest after so much burned this year. If you need specific information please contact me. The donation of \$68 for a plantation is a good way to thank a Club President or as a memorial for a club or family member. Even the birth of a grandchild or graduation is good opportunity to sustain our environment with replacing trees.

[Continued on next page](#)

President's Message continued

In our State we have many Blue Star Memorials and on November 18th there will be a new one at the entrance to the National Cemetery in Santa Fe. District II with their new Director Kersti Rock is holding an unveiling ceremony that afternoon. Our State Blue Star Chairman Shirley Tetreault was instrumental in getting the location and support, thank you Shirley. All veterans and families will be greeted with this tribute to our service men as they enter the cemetery. Look for photos in this edition.

Please save the dates of April 11th and 12th 2023 to attend the NMGC Annual Convention hosted by District I here in Albuquerque. It will be attended by our National President Mary Warshauer and our South Central Region Director Rose Knight. This Annual Convention is our only State wide meeting and a great way to hear how other Districts are growing and adding new members. This will also be Debra Sorrell's Installation as your next NMGC President so please make it a priority for your club to attend. The Theme is "Diamonds in the Desert" so I anticipate a fair amount of "fun bling" as we celebrate together.

Meanwhile it fills me with pride to see how many of you are making great strides to recover from the two year pause and to get back up to speed again.

May you and your dear families have a healthy, happy and blessed holiday season...

Warmest Wishes,

Christine Longthorp, President

This was at the opening of the Jewish Community Center Community garden on September 20th 2022 in Albuquerque.

This garden was started in 2018 and has been lovingly tended and developed by volunteers. I was one of the original advisers and therefore they asked me to give the opening speech. Anytime you are in the vicinity please stop by and see what they are growing or bring a book on a fine day and sit in the peace and safety of the garden listening to the soothing water feature and the birds.

This spring it will be a riot of color when the bulbs bloom and the volunteer gardeners will be checking to see what survived the winter and plant a few annuals. It is a testament to a vision being realized and proof that a barren plot of ground can produce beauty and produce.





Los Alamos Reporter

The News from Los Alamos & Beyond



Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker Dedication Slated For Friday At Santa Fe National Cemetery

A Blue-Star Memorial By-Way Marker will be dedicated Friday at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. Courtesy photo.

New Mexico Garden Clubs (NMGC) District II is hosting a Dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker at the Santa Fe National Cemetery at 2:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18.

National Garden Clubs has sponsored its Blue Star Memorial program ever since the close of World War II. Originally begun to honor WWII veterans, the program was expanded in 1951 to honor all men and women who have served, are serving or will serve, in the Armed Forces of the United States.

This Blue Star Memorial By-Way marker was purchased some years ago by the former Las Sembradoras Garden Club when Maggie Rubino was its President. The marker was never installed and eventually found its way to New Mexico Garden Clubs' Blue Star Memorial Chair, Shirley Tetreault. Tetreault has organized the installation of the marker just inside the main entrance to the Santa Fe National Cemetery where it can be seen by all who pass by on their way into the cemetery. Since Las Sembradoras was a NMGC District II club, District II is hosting the ceremony to dedicate the marker.

The ceremony is expected to last about 30-45 minutes.

The Santa Fe Naval Junior ROTC Color Guard will present the colors for the Pledge of Allegiance. Speakers will include NMGC officials, and the Mayor of Santa Fe is expected to attend. Tetreault will describe the history of the Blue Star Markers. Chaplain Jose Villegas will give the Invocation and Benediction. Anne May of Floral Designers will provide a wreath for the marker. Trumpet player Ned Snow will perform Taps at the end of the ceremony. LAGC club members are helping to provide refreshments which will be located near the pavilion above the main entrance road where the marker is installed.



PHOTOS FROM THE BLUE STAR MEMORIAL MARKER DEDICATION









Message from Our First Vice President, *Debra Sorrell*

Winter is not my favorite time of year. I don't love being cold, I don't like closed shoes (my feet can't breathe) and I really hate that the days are so short and dark comes before we've even had dinner. But, for 40 years or so, I enthusiastically celebrate December 21st because it marks the time when every day begins to get a little longer. On the shortest day of the year, I am reminded and encouraged that spring is on its way!

I am very excited about the coming spring and the beginning of my term as NMGC President. I have ideas for projects we can do across the state to benefit our communities and make Garden Club more visible. Many clubs around New Mexico have ongoing community gardens, public sales and open educational events. We can use their ideas and experience to do big things in each of our clubs and, hopefully, encourage new membership.

I would love to hit the ground running in April with a solid Board and committee chairmen in place. If you are interested and willing to chair a committee, I would love an opportunity to work with you! I believe that a great team of enthusiastic, encouraging, driven, FUN people can make a difference in people's lives. Let's get ready to move past the long, cold nights of winter. Please consider helping me make NMGC participation a warm and inviting idea!

Debra Sorrell (505)615-8564 or Email - jdsorr@msn.com



Message from District I Director, Sonia James

Hello club members! Winter has arrived early this year and District 1 clubs are busy getting ready for our annual Holiday Fair, to be held on Dec.2nd and 3rd. There will be festive food, home baked deserts, wreaths, poinsettias, greenery and over 40 arts and crafts vendors, Don't forget to check out our unique Garden Shop.

The clubs are also working on many projects for the annual New Mexico Garden Clubs' State Convention to be held on April 11 and 12, 2023 in Albuquerque at the Marriott Courtyard, Journal Center. Some of the projects include name tags, items for welcome bags, centerpieces, table favors, and items for a silent auction. This year the theme is Diamonds in the Desert. It should be a great Convention for NMGC members to attend!

Wishing you and yours a Peaceful Holiday Season and a Healthy, Happy and Prosperous New Year!



Message from Our Second Vice President, Joyce Zaugg

As of this writing we have 413 adult members in 21 clubs. Last year at this time we had 481 adult members in 23 clubs. Sadly Evergreen, Socorro, and Desert Daubers have dissolved. Some of their members have joined other clubs in their area. We have no youth clubs.

The Three R's of Membership—The National Garden Club Membership committee has been offering online Zoom Programs about healthy membership.

The program series is called the 3 Rs of membership. I shared with you in the Summer 2022 edition of the New Mexico Gardener the first of these three Rs—Recruitment and in the Fall 2022 issue the second R which is Retain. Now I would like to share with you the third R which is Revitalize.

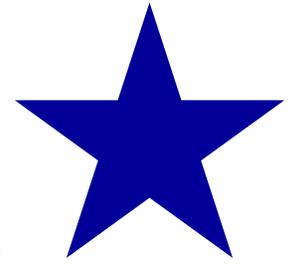
You have recruited new members and are retaining them with exciting programs, meeting their gardening needs, and offering them opportunities to work on community projects. Now it is time to think about how to address the needs of long time members to keep them excited about their club. The presenters of this Zoom meeting offered a number of ways to reinvigorate your club. The first step is to find out what your members want from their experience with their club. One club emailed their members a survey that examined what they thought would make their club experience more meaningful. At their next meeting the members broke into small groups and discussed the survey results. They then came back together in the larger group to brainstorm actions to address the needs of the members.

Many families have both the parents working and spending time with their children is very important. An idea put forth was to offer family friendly meetings and events such as workshops on Saturday mornings at a local park. Invite the community to join you. Another idea was to go on nature hikes where parents and their children could learn about trees, wildflowers, and birds. Start a community garden where families can grow flowers and vegetables together. Long time members can be available to share their knowledge.

Still another suggestion to reinvigorate tired club members is to form break out groups. For example, members of your club who have a passion for roses could meet at a coffee shop outside the monthly meeting to share and discuss their knowledge of roses.

There are many more ideas and information in the 3 Rs presentations that I don't have room in this article to cover. All the Zoom seminars were recorded and can viewed on the National Garden Clubs website. I really liked the power point graphics and the energy and enthusiasm of the presenters. It is easy to get to the videos but it does take a bit of maneuvering. Here is how you do it: Go to the National Garden Clubs website. On the top bar click on member resources. A new window comes up. Scroll down and click on Video Cafe. A drop down menu appears under Video Cafe that says NGC video menu. Click on that. On the next window scroll down until you see Video by Category. Continue to scroll down until you see Club Resources—Mocha Grande. Click on that and on the next window scroll down to numbers 5, 6, and 7. These are the 3 R videos. Number 5 is about Recruitment and is an hour long, Number 6 is about Retaining members and Number 7 is about Revitalizing a tired club. Number 6 and 7 are about a half an hour long. I know this is a lot of "clicking" but I think it is worth the effort. I encourage you to view these videos.

Blue Star Chairman, Shirley Tetreault, Chairman



New Mexico Blue Star Memorials and Locations

As the world turns and the sun rises, we must never forget our veterans who serve to keep us free. Las Sembradoras Garden Club is not forgotten for their efforts to honor our soldiers past, present and future. On November the 18th, 2022 we will dedicate a Memorial By-Way marker at the Santa Fe National Cemetery. Kirsti Rock District II Director put together a wonderful program for the special day. Christine Longthorp, State President and Kirsti Rock, District II Director will recite the Dedication of the Blue Star Memorial Marker that was written by Suzy Andrego. Below is the list of our New Mexico Memorials, their locations and the dedication read on 11/18/22. Thank you to everyone involved in this very special project.

2022 District II – Santa Fe National Cemetery, Friday, 2:30 pm, November 18, 2022

2018 District I - **Rededication**, Albuquerque Garden Center, Saturday, July 28, 2018

2017 District V - Ft Stanton Cemetery, Tuesday, September 26th, by Lincoln County Garden Club

2016 District IV - Bataan Veterans Memorial Park, Silver City, NM, Thursday, October 6

2016 District III - **Rededication** - Clovis, NM, Sunday, August 28 at 2:00 p.m. **

2016 NM Garden Clubs Inc. - Conchas Dam, Saturday, July 2 at 10:00 a.m.

2016 District III - Angel Fire GC - Angel Fire - Shuter Library - Sunday, June 12th at 3:00 p.m.

2014 District V - Home GC - Roswell - Gen. Douglas L. McBride Roswell Veteran's Cemetery

2014 Home GC - Roswell - **Rededication** - Court House lawn in Roswell, NM Thursday, September 18

2012 District I - Uptown GC - Albuquerque - Veteran's Memorial Garden on Louisiana, June 23

2011 District I - Uptown GC - Albuquerque Garden Center, July 11

2011 District IV, Socorro GC - Isidro Baca Veteran's Park, November 11,

2010 District III, Santa Rosa GC - Park at Guadalupe County Court House, November 11

2008 District III, NMGC Inc. - State Highway 60/84 Visitor Center, Texico, November 9

**** Rededicated on August 28, 2016, in Clovis, NM**

2007 District II, Los Alamos GC - The Lodge Memorial Rose Garden, July 4

Blue Star, Continued

2006 District IV, Sunshine Valley GC - Veterans Memorial Park, March 7

2005 District IV - Mesilla Valley GC - Veterans Park, Roadrunner Parkway, Las Cruces, NM, June 17

2002 District V, Home GC - Chavez County Admin Bldg, Roswell, NM, February 22

**** Rededicated on Thursday, September 18, 2014, in Roswell, NM**

2000 District III - Angel Fire GC - DAV Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire, July 4

1997 District V - Mountain GC - Library Garden, Cloudcroft, corner of Burro and Swallow St.
June 13

1996 District IV Robledo Mountains Vista GC - Ft. Selden Cemetery, Radium Springs, NM, October 16

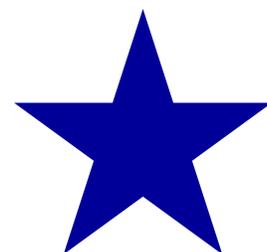
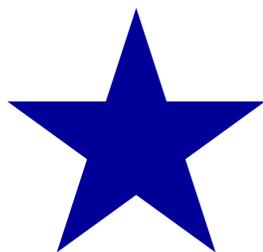
1986 District I - Desert Planters GC - Memorial Rose Garden - Aztec, NM, August 21

1986 District IV - Sunshine Valley GC - Memorial Highway, Highway 80

1986 District IV - Town & Country GC - Gough Park in Silver City, NM

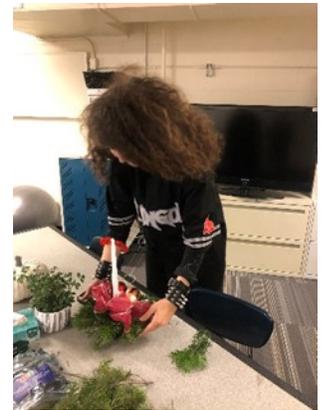
1962 District I - Trailblazers GC - Salmon Ruins, Hi way 64 San Juan County Archaeological Center

24 Memorial Markers as of 11/11/2022



[YOUH ACTIVITIES](#), *Lynnette Walker, Chairman*

Happy Fall! - As many of you may know I recently returned to work teaching after only two years of retirement. It has given me an opportunity to engage an interest in gardening activities to my students. The middle schoolers at my school are anticipating creating a new gardening club on campus, and the high schoolers wanted to learn how to make evergreen centerpieces for their family holiday table. As spring gets closer, expect to see information about the MS gardening club, but enjoy the pictures of the upperclassman creating masterpieces. If anyone is sponsoring a youth gardening club or activity and would like me to include you in future articles please email me the details at Lynnette.Walker@Q.com.



Archives Chairman, Becky Fuller Chairman

Nothing new, just letting members know they can bring materials they want archived to me whenever they are in Las Cruces and I will get them to the Library. If they will not be able to bring them to Las Cruces, I will be happy to collect them at the Spring Convention in Albuquerque.



Life Membership & Scholarship Sue Ferguson, Chairman,

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





Do you like shooting pictures of plants, birds, wildlife, insects, butterflies, or landscapes?

Are you a member of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.?

If so, then you qualify to submit your photos for the annual
New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., Photographic Print of the Year Photography Contest!

For more information go to the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., website

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

and under the Awards tab, peruse the NMGC Awards Handbook (2021 Revision)

[http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org/awards2021/2021 Awards Handbook Revised October 2021.pdf](http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org/awards2021/2021%20Awards%20Handbook%20Revised%20October%202021.pdf)).

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 31, 2023,

BUT GET OUT THERE AND SHOOT PHOTOS NOW!!

Remember, you must be an NMGC, Inc., member to enter!

for more information, contact 2022 NMGC, Inc., Photography Awards Chairman

Page Steed at page@psventuresinc.com



**2021 PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT OF THE
YEAR**

Sandhill Crane Flying Past the Moon

Beverly Cooper

Summit Garden Club,

Los Alamos, New Mexico

"The 12 MUST Have Items for the Gardener in Your Life"



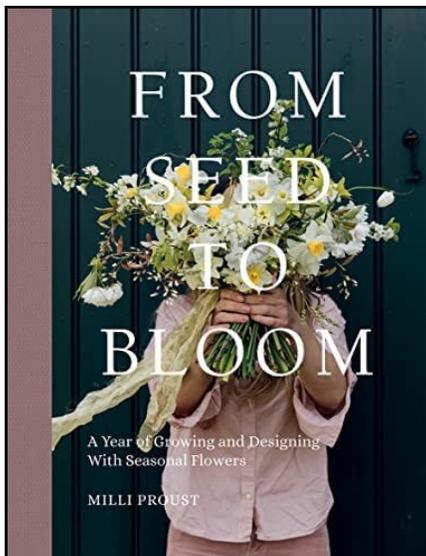
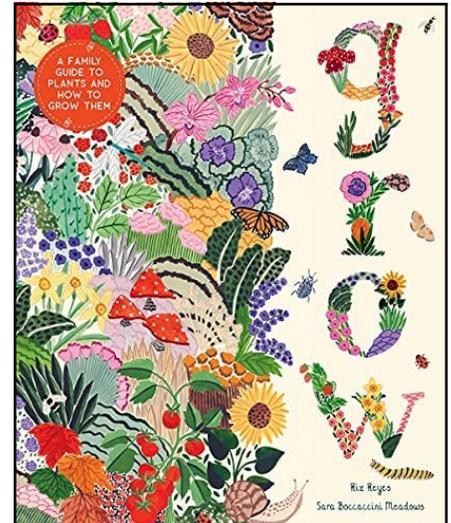
Subscription to Garden's Illustrated magazine

The best garden magazine, Garden's Illustrated is a British-based gardening magazine that features beautiful photography and inspiring stories and articles about gardens great and small. Despite being based in Europe, they also feature plenty of suggestions for plants and gardens suitable for our New Mexico climate.

Print or digital subscription \$82 annually

Grow: A Family Guide to Plants and How to Grow Them by Riz Reyes, \$22.99

Although meant to be a children's book, *Grow* is a charming book that details 15 plants and fungi and their role in sustaining communities and changing cultures around the world, detailing unique characteristics and interesting facts. It is a celebration of plants and their relationship with humanity and is wonderfully illustrated with gorgeous watercolor and gouache painting. Abramsbooks.com



From Seed to Bloom: A year of growing and designing with seasonal flowers by Milli Proust, \$29

Milli Proust is a British flower grower and designer who brings a fresh take to the idea of floral designing. Featuring soft and romantic flowers like foxgloves, English roses, dahlias and more, Proust's book connects a dual love of gardening and floristry with each spilling into the other. Written from the perspective of a gardener, her advice is pragmatic and inspiring and is filled with beautiful images of garden beds and flowers cut from her Sussex plot. barnesandnoble.com

These pruners are the best pruners, used by horticulturists and gardeners all over the world who swear by them. They stay sharp forever and are designed to prevent tired hands. More importantly they are both strong and precise with their cuts - they can be used for cutting flowers or deadheading roses as readily as they can cut through thick and woody branches.

Japanese Okatsune Bypass Pruner, \$56.50

hardwickandsons.com



“The 12 MUST Have Items for the Gardener in Your Life” continued



Crack and Crevice Weeder by Red Pig Garden Tools, \$27

Weeds are a fact of life, but they don't have to be a nuisance with this weeder. The durable metal head allows for quick and deft work with weeds and can either be used to attack singular weeds or with the flat of the head slice through weed seedlings (and the wooden handle fits easily and comfortably into the hand).

Gardentoolcompany.com

The shovel to replace all your other shovels! There's nothing worse than a shovel either rusting or the handle breaking off, and this shovel (a spade really) is perfect for any garden task you can think of. Its construction has an extended head for greater strength and the sharp end will allow you to dig deep and well in your garden.

Groundbreaker Spade by Burgeon and Ball, \$85

<https://www.gardentoolcompany.com/>



Not all watering cans are created equal, but all the Haws watering cans are amazing. Their sturdy construction prevents them from breaking or leaking like cheaper watering cans, and the all-important rosebud tip allows you to create a fine and even shower that is perfect for watering even the most delicate seedlings or finely raked soil surface.

Haws Indoor Watering Can, \$134.95 williams-sonoma.com

H. Potter Terrarium Wardian Case

Bring a bit of elegance to your home during the winter with this gorgeous Wardian case. Small enough to fit on a desk or table, it is made out of glass with a brass frame and a powder-coated tray and is the perfect (and beautiful) way to house tropicals, ferns and mosses

Plant Terrarium Container Wardian Case Indoor Planter 65-1R \$89.50

www.hpotter.com



Paper pot maker

A fun gift for the gardener that starts their own plants from seeds and is also eco-conscious, this tool allows for any gardener to create a whole host of biodegradable pots. Excellent for starting vigorous-growing seeds like tomatoes and zucchini and cosmos.

Paper pot maker, \$26.95

gardeners.com

"The 12 MUST Have Items for the Gardener in Your Life" continued

Crabtree and Evelyn Hand Lotion

This hand lotion is amazing for gardeners - both as far as its ingredients that highlight the soft floral notes of lavender and the zingy citrusy scent of verbena as well as bringing much-needed nourishment and moisture to the hands.

Verbena and lavender hand cream, \$23



Gardener Scented Candle by Boy Smells

Citrus and bright tones mark this candle with scents of honeysuckle blossoms and tomato gardens that is fresh and wild - a perfect candle for brightening up the home in the winter months.

GARDENER, \$36

Boysmells.com

Burpee Seed Storage Tin

With a sturdy steel exterior, leather handles and strong metal clasps, this seed tin will last you for many years! It has three separate compartments to sort and organize your seed packets and comes in green, ivory and navy blue.

Seed storage tin, \$44.95

burpee.com



**Happy Holidays to All Gardeners,
especially the
New Mexico Garden Club Gardeners!**

Putting your Garden to Bed, By Dorothy Duff

(Dorothy lives in the Manzano Mountains, near Ponderosa Pines, NM)

In New Mexico we have hardiness zones ranging from 5a to 8a, but by now most of us have noticed a slowdown in the garden. In Zones 5-7 you have most likely experienced freezes significant enough to put plants into dormancy (a period of arrested plant growth). So what should you do to assure that your plants come through the winter and thrive next spring?



Dahlia Bed After a Freeze

Let's start with the vegetable garden. Now is the time to remove plants and add them to the compost bin unless diseased. Plants that showed signs of disease should be discarded. If you allow plants to remain in the beds it may provide the opportunity to spread disease or provide a habitat for insects like squash bugs to over winter. An alternative is to plant cover crops in the beds which will add nutrients to the soil and provide habitat for beneficial microorganisms. Winter hardy cover crops include winter rye, hairy vetch and buckwheat. Best practices for soil management suggest that soil is never left bare. Consequently if you are not planting cover crops consider providing protection to the soil in the form of mulch. Inexpensive straw mulch works well for vegetable beds.

Perennials and beds with shrubs provide more of a challenge. Do you remove the leaves that have fallen from a deciduous shrub or not? Actually the leaves will provide a nice mulch for the winter unless the plant showed signs of disease during the growing season. If the plant was diseased it is best to remove those leaves and discard (not in the compost bin). If you want a neater look and want to remove the leaves then provide some mulch for soil protection. Leaves from healthy plants are great for the compost bin as they break down quickly. They do not need to go to the landfill !! More tender plants will have a better chance of surviving the winter if well mulched.



End of Season 11/14/2022

Dahlias have become very popular lately and they have even shown up at the big box stores. In zones 7 and 8 the tubers can remain in the ground and mulching will help survival. Wet and cold is what causes dahlias to rot so even when in a milder climate tubers in a soggy location are likely to rot. After your dahlias experience a freeze and turn black it is best to cut them back (to about 10-12") which along with the cold signals to the plant it is time to go dormant. If your ground freezes during the winter it is unlikely the tubers will survive and digging and storing it the best option. If you have dahlias in pots move them to a dry garage and they have a good chance of surviving.

Putting Your Garden To Bed Continued:

Another question about which there is some discussion is whether or not to cut back your perennials after they have become dormant. In general plants with seed heads provide food for wildlife so in many cases leaving them is a good idea. Many gardeners choose to leave some stems for winter interest and they provide some protection from harsh winter winds. However for other perennials the stems may collapse and form a mat which can harbor pests over the winter. When in doubt don't hesitate to look up the growing specifics for your plants. Here is some guidance on what to cut back and what to leave.

What Not to Cut Back

Artemisia (*Artemisia* spp.)
Aster (*Aster x frikartii*, *Aster* spp. ,*Symphytotrichum* spp.)
Autumn Joy Sedum (*Hylotelephium* 'Herbstfreude')
Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
Blue Beard/Blue Mist (*Caryopteris x clandonensis*)
Coral Bells (*Heuchera* hybrids)
Lamb's Ear (*Stachys byzantina*)
Lupine (*Lupinus*)
Mums (*Chrysanthemum*)
Purple Coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
Russian Sage (*Salvia yangii*)
Salvia (*Salvia nemorosa*)
Tickseed (*Coreopsis* spp.)

What to cut back*

Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia x grandiflora*)
Bee Balm (*Monarda didyma*)
Catmint (*Nepeta*)
Hollyhock (*Malva alcea*)
Japanese Anemone (*Anemone hupehensis*) hardy type
Penstemon (*Penstemon barbatus*)
Phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
Speedwell (*Veronica spicata*)
Tanacetum coccineum
Yarrow (*Achillea*)



Leaving Leaves When Not Diseased



Mulch, Mulch & Mulch



Clean Your Garden Tools

Putting Your Garden To Bed Continued:

*In many cases when you choose to cut back a plant leave some stem. Cut back only half the stem height and cut back to the ground in the spring.

Fall is also a time for planting. In most New Mexico zones it is not too late to plant your spring blooming daffodil or tulip bulbs. Garlic is also planted in the fall. If you just cannot stop gardening then consider a winter garden focusing on greens and lettuces. In New Mexico you can continue to grow right through the winter by just providing some protection from the coldest weather.

While it is probably too late in zones 5 and 6, in warmer areas you could still look to expanding your garden by taking cuttings from your favorite plants. Many of our favorite perennials are easily grown from cuttings and fall cuttings grown over the winter will be just the right size to put out into your garden in the spring.

Lastly, fall is a great time to clean your tools. Nothing feels better in the spring than to bring out your tools and see that they are clean and sharp. Wash and use steel wool to get off the stubborn material. Be sure to dry them thoroughly and add a bit of oil to the working parts. Fall is a good time to sharpen your tools so they are ready for pruning when the time comes.

So if you thought you were done in the garden for the year...well, not quite yet. But tidying the garden provides a sense of completion to the season and indication of a job well done.



Plant Spring Bulbs



Cover Crop in Raised Bed

BOOK REVIEW by Steven Hong-Elder

Book Review: Laura Dowling 'Floral Diplomacy at the White House'

In 2009, Laura Dowling received news that the White House florist had retired (after a 32 year tenure). At the time, she was working as a part-time florist out of her basement kitchen in D.C. while working another full-time job. She applied - not really thinking that she would get the position that hundreds of people were applying for - but to her astonishment she found herself amongst the 12 semi-finalists for the position, and would eventually be selected as the White House florist.

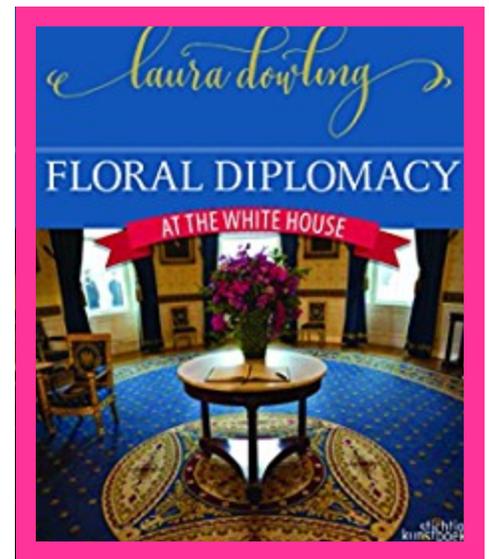
In a truly American story, Laura ascended from her basement kitchen to the highest floral designer position in the nation - and in the White House nonetheless due to hard work, dreaming big and following her passion - and that's just the first few pages of the book!

Laura was the White House florist during the Obama Administration. I personally am a big fan of Michelle and Barack, but even if you are not there is a lot to learn about the role of flowers in the White House and their role as more than just a pretty background ornamentation. In fact, Laura talks at length about the role of the flowers and how they played a very special role in laying the theme and spirit of the White House and America's diplomacy. Most people might scoff at the idea of flowers having any role in our foreign relations, but for those of us who understand flowers (and the effect that they can have) we understand just how significant and how powerful this can be, even given how subtle the appearance and effects can seem at the time.

The book details the behind the scenes details - what a typical day is like as the White House florist (busy and long!) what her working space and floral room is like, her vision and style for the White House and how she worked with Michelle Obama to create a vision and esthetic that worked well with the message of the administration.

It also covers individual events, such as her first state dinner (the Indian state dinner) and how each event was set up, the inspiration and work for each event and the overall design and experience of making each event happen. For those of you who have ever done event design with florals, you will appreciate the scale and scope (and stress!) of making an event happen at the White House.

There are a ton of fun floral arrangements in the book, such as the Christmas display of robot replicas of White House First Dogs Sunny and Bo, the environmentally friendly and recycled Christmas and holiday decor (including trees made out of recycled magazines and newspaper, recycled soft-drink cans with boxwood trim that appear more like glittering trees made of glass and tinsel than aluminum, and the gilded eco-friendly oak leaf door) and even the



Book Review continued:

2014 Olympic torch made out of carrots and gloriosa lilies (aka flame lilies) emerging from an artichoke base and wrapped with a garland of bundled green beans, echoing the First Lady's 'Let's Move' movement.

I might say that Laura has a signature look in that she uses flowers, branches, edibles like apples and pears on the outside of her containers. I particularly love a cube vase that was covered in tiny pears - packed close so you couldn't see the glass and having the brightly colored arrangement inside the vase echo the lime green color of the pears with bupleurum, bear grass, green hellebores and green hypericum berries that gave such a wonderful feeling of lushness and vibrancy.

I also love the way that Laura just has so much fun and is so creative in her approach. During the Super Bowl for example, Laura created vases covered in the usual snacks that would be found at a Super Bowl party - chips, pretzels, goldfish and Cheetos that were then filled with florals along with two "footballs" created out of pussy willow and beef jerky (that were then rumored to be tossed around the State Room!)

I also really like the fact that the apple served as a symbol for Michelle's 'Let's Move' movement, both for its symbolism of a healthy lifestyle and food choices as well as the apple's long history of being a symbol for learning and education. The apple was not only utilized in the floral designs of Laura (including a gigantic five foot apple covered in faux apples present at the 'Let's Move' party in 2011) but also was a mainstay in the First Lady's East Wing office, serving not only as decor and symbolism but also as an encouragement for the visitors and team to eat apples instead of less healthy snacks. This is such a fun book for a glimpse not only into the life of a White House florist but also into the White House itself and the many events that occur and the role that flowers and decor play in them. Although I know some people who would argue regarding the significance of flowers in the White House, I think we all know that the inclusion of flowers into an event can drastically change the perception and experience had. This even goes as far as the type and color and amount and scale of flowers - they have an immediate and powerful effect on whoever sees them, and this is one of the reasons why I think flowers are so important. Indeed, the concept of 'floral diplomacy' is a very real and very powerful one!

I love as well that Laura made an emphasis on local, domestic grown flowers as well as using more unusual blooms and materials (at the time) including Cafe au Lait dahlias and passion flower vine. It was at this time that I feel as if the local flower and garden style arrangement was starting to just get started, and we started seeing more of these lovely, opulent, organic designs with new and unusual varieties of flowers intermixed with flowering branches, berried branches, vines, ferns, and moss that while may seem to be relatively mainstream right now were revolutionary at the time. The book of course has plenty of pictures of Laura's bold and brightly colored and opulent designs, and it's worth reading just for the visuals alone. But you will also find the book to be well written - really bringing you into the White House and giving you the full experience of what it was like to be Laura and the challenges she faced and the fun and creativity she had in fulfilling those challenges.

You can get a copy of Floral Diplomacy on Amazon (along with her other books A White House Christmas, Wreaths, and Bouquets - all of which are full of design tutorials) and you can also follow her on Instagram @lauradowlingtheflorist

Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Jennifer Moreno, Chairman

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2023 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.) The deadline for submitting posters to the NM state chairperson (which is me) is January 20, 2023. The deadline for the states in the SCR to submit posters to the SCR chairperson (which is also me) is February 24, 2023. Please send poster entries to my address: 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>Smokey Bear Poster Contest. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions! I'm here to help! <https://gardenclub.uga.edu/images/postertoons.jpg>



Email: Moreno_jen@aps.edu Phone: 505-217-4307

Penny Pines, Mary Ann Moreno, Chairman



At the recent Fall Executive Board meeting all the New Mexico Garden Clubs, District Directors were gifted a Penny Pines Jar, decorated by Suzy Andrego and a Penny Pines Pin to wear when promoting Penny Pines. Look for them when you are at an event. We have LOTS of need for Penny Pines Plantations in New Mexico! Please Support Penny Pines at the state, district and your club. For More information, please contact me, Mary Ann Moreno at (505)266-8498.



Garden Club News from Around the State

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

We have enjoyed several great programs. Propagating and growing succulents indoors, visiting a grower and producer of marijuana products and growing sustainable food sources hydroponically.

Our next get together will be our Christmas party where we will be updated by our President Christine Longthorp on her President's Project.

We are looking forward to the new year and celebrating Mesilla Valleys' 92nd Birthday! Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, May 9 in case you think you might like to help us celebrate. We would love to have you. Details to follow.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy, Healthy New Year!



Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, *by Helen Carpenter*



In August, we met for a sack lunch and social time at the Memorial Rose Garden at Fuller Lodge. Everyone brought their own chairs, sack lunches and beverages. This is the garden that the club maintains. It was pleasant to sit, visit and not work. Judy Handy shared her sandwich with a bee.

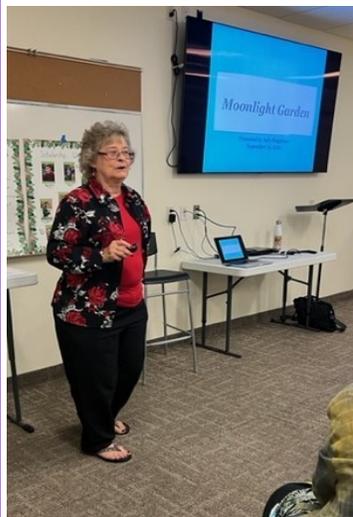
As our club doesn't have an elected president, we are discussing how to cover the duties of club president and maintain our presence as a club. Some past presidents and regular members have volunteered to run our meetings.

On September 9, 2022 we celebrated our clubs 75th anniversary. (photos) A celebration was held at the Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden. County dignitaries, past LAGC presidents, Los Alamos community leaders were invited to attend. NMGS, Inc. First Vice President, Debra Sorrel, came and brought us a message and a Presidential Citation from the NMGC, Inc. President, Christine Longthorp. The message read: Congratulations to Los Alamos Garden Club for 75 years as an organization. You formed a Garden Club in 1947 which was on the heels of World War II not long after Los Alamos was opened after being a closed city. One could only imagine as residents emerged how much was needed to refocus and feel hope again.



Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, *Continued*

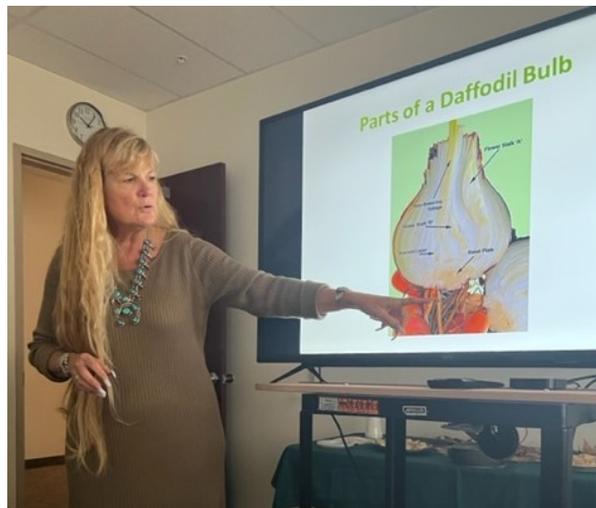
To create a group of women who encouraged gardening for both fresh vegetables and flowers to give visual pleasure was brilliant. What an amazingly inspired beginning that has stood the passage of time and still brings beauty, bounty and hope to today's residents of Los Alamos. You as



members are a shining example of a club that is based on the principles of making a difference for your community. Keep up the good work and once again congratulations from New Mexico Garden Clubs.

At our September meeting, Judy Magelssen a member of Summit Garden Club and Master Gardener presented an illustrated talk about the Moonlight Garden she designed with a fellow gardener and planted at the demonstration garden. Following the meeting and the program we enjoyed the Harvest Luncheon prepared by members.

Our October meeting program speaker was Suzy Andregio. She gave an illustrated talk on bulbs- The types of bulbs, how to select, color ranges, plant medium and planting advice. We can hardly wait for spring.



Throughout the summer, almost every Monday morning, many members continued weeding, pruning, and deadheading roses at the Memorial Rose Garden. This year's summer brought an abundance of rain which encouraged rose growth. However, the new growth enticed an abundance of deer. Cloches (chicken wire cages) were constructed and placed over roses thus saving many blooms for the public to enjoy. A border of marigolds was planted around the exterior garden border adding additional color to the saved rose blooms

UPTOWN Garden Club—District I, Steven Hong-Elder, President

Dear New Mexico gardeners,

Since August we have been very busy! We do not hold a meeting in

September since many of our members are very active in the state fair (whether competing, judging or volunteering) and our garden club is very proud of the active participation every year at the state fair. Many members participated and won awards for various entries, and the month was very busy with ensuring that the state fair event ran smoothly and was well-attended. October was particularly festive with a Halloween party hosted at our president's home. It was a great opportunity to socialize and celebrate the end of the summer and we welcomed five new members to our club! We had a hands-on floral design project utilizing seasonal gourds, dried flowers and sunflowers to create a harvest-themed arrangement and members had a great time (and the weather luckily cooperated as well!). A Halloween-themed buffet consisting of a cinnamon coffee cake, fresh fruit and a spooky snack mix was enjoyed by all.



Uptown Garden Club Continued:

We have not yet completed our November activity, but we will be going on a private tour of the Georgia O'Keeffe museum in Santa Fe where we will explore the early to late works of the famous southwestern painter and getting a behind-the-scenes experience (after which we will be dining at the La Fonda Hotel on the Plaza a for lunch). It's sure to be a fun activity and a wonderful way of experiencing the natural splendor of New Mexico and a nice way to enjoy the works of a local treasured artist.

We're looking forward to a great end of the year and closing out 2022 strong, while looking forward to another season of gardening in 2023!



Socorro Garden Club, Millie Sigman, President

I thought we would share the History of Socorro Garden Clubs with everyone. As far as we know, Socorro Garden Clubs is the oldest Garden Club in New Mexico.

Mrs. Tom Brown took the first step in organizing the Socorro Garden Club by calling a meeting at her home on February 6, 1936. This core group of gardening enthusiasts soon recruited more people, and the group was off and gardening. Mrs. Brown was the first President of Socorro Garden Club.

Throughout the 1930's and 1940's the members took the clubs avowed purpose quite seriously, dedicating themselves to cleaning up untidy vacant lots and beautifying the Socorro Plaza. During the war years they worked for the Red Cross, and in 1942 held a Victory Harvest Festival to raise money for war relief. Victory Gardens were doubtless an important part of their personal activities, as well.

Over the years Socorro Garden Club has engaged in many civic beautification projects, county flower shows, has landscaped public areas such as the Plaza and Public Library and has provided flowers at the local sanitarium and hospital. One of the longest ongoing activities was the Christmas Ideas Show, a very popular community event for many years.



Morning Garden Club—District 5, Vicki Hobson, *President Elect*

Roswell's Morning Garden Club actively participated in the Eastern New Mexico State Fair in October. We helped and participated in the 2 flower shows, which included both horticulture and designs for the 100th anniversary celebration of the fair. We also had an educational event there and had member Vicki Burress discussing caterpillars and butterflies as well as showing living examples of these critters and how to encourage their growth. We also had 2 different butterfly crafts demonstrated by members for fair goers to enjoy too.

We purchased a pollinator house for the native bees, which will be installed by city personnel in Cahoon Park. Our butterfly garden is also located there and is evolving into a winter bird feeding area now.

Our members have had several design classes this fall and are having a wreath exchange for our Christmas party. Everyone has started with the same wreath, but it's up to us to make them special with ideas presented by our own Pegi Naranjo Smith.

We hung wreathes and garlands outside of the Historical Museum of Southeastern NM, as is our club's tradition. There is also a Christmas tree which will be decorated inside the adjacent archives building by members.

We look forward to tending to the civic gardens we have in the area, as weather allows. They are resting now and giving us time to plan for next year.

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

At our September meeting we had a very interesting and informative presentation by Rand Berger, a local worm farmer. Worm farming is the process of recycling organic matter with the help of earthworms. He explained the benefits of worms for the garden, the many varieties of worms, those best for worm farming and how to start one.

This year our Club opted to have a Flower Display rather than a Show at the Sierra County Fair in October. This proved to be a big success and we plan to do the same next year. We put out plants and cuttings that did not sell at our Plant Sale in May for "free" and they were gone in less than 2-1/2 hours. The Peoples' Choice Award went to Cindy Johnson for her Fairy Garden and First Place to Inez Maier for her Cherry Parfait rose. Also, for the first time the racks were covered which vastly improved the look of the display.



Valley Gardeners, District I, Gigi Zacharias and Dorothy Duff Co-Presidents

Valley Gardeners started off the fall thinking about how we can grow our gardens and share the results with other gardeners. Mary Voldahl a Master Gardener led us in an October workshop on how to take cuttings and growing them on. By taking cuttings from your garden and growing them through the winter you have new plants ready for your beds in the spring. This is a strategy Mary has used in her own garden and teaches a class on cuttings in the Bernalillo County Master Gardener Program. This was “hands-on” and we had great fun using the plant material provided plus garnering more information about what we might take from our own gardens for cutting material.



Then in November members tried their hand at basic floral design keeping in mind holiday themes. The hands on class was led by flower show judge Kathleen Flanders who showed us how to create a design to last the holiday season. We also celebrated the birthday (with cake of course) of long time member and former president of Valley Gardeners, Jennifer Moreno. Food and Flowers...what could be more fun?



New Mexico Judges Council, Suzy Andrego, President

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL I is COMING

Flower Show Procedure on Zoom, Saturday January 14, 2023
Design and Horticulture are **in person** Saturday January 21 & Sunday 22, 2023
Design (Line, Line Mass & Mass, along with the History of Designs)
& Horticulture (Orchids and Conifers)

*If becoming a flower show judge—the written exam will be Wednesday January 26, 2023
Cost is \$100.00 (included a light breakfast and nice lunch for both in person days)*

*Or if just wanting the information one day is \$50.00 or both days \$100.00
(Zoom is included)*

You don't Want to miss this!

*You do NOT have to want to become a judge to take flower show School -
It makes you a better exhibitor and helps you understand the way a flower show works!*

*New Mexico Flower Show Judges Come Support our future judges!
Your cost is \$ 50.00 for both days with breakfast & lunches included.*

*Sign up TODAY Deadline is January 2, 2023
To register—Contact Debra Sorrell (505)615-8564 or Email at jdsorr@msn.com*

*For more information, contact Suzy Andrego, NM Judges Council President
(505)259-3318 or Email: Sandrego@aol.com*

New Mexico Flower Show Judges is hosting a Flower Show at the New Mexico Garden Clubs Annual Convention April 11, 2023, at the Marriott Courtyard, Journal Center. The Title is “Diamonds in the Desert” The Flower Show schedule will be available January 15, 2023. Any New Mexico Garden Club member may enter the flower show!

Watch for the Show Schedule!

Enjoy the following pages of Photos of Flower Shows
that were held around the state this fall!

You too could be a judge and come have fun with us!



**Eastern
New Mexico State
Fair PHOTOS**



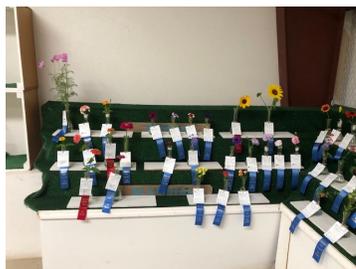
New Mexico State Fair Flower Shows



Bi-County Fair Grants & Gallup



Torrance County Fair



T or C Fair

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

25 Clubs

525 Paid Memberships

2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

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

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St. Louis, MO 63110

www.gardenclub.org

NMGC, Inc. President 2021-2023

Christine Longthorp

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

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Mary Warshauer

E-mail: Mary@Warshauer.com

Theme: Plant America—Play Outside

South Central Region

Rose Knight, Director

E-mail: jkknight@suddenlink.net

Theme: Plant America—Embrace the Future

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VISIT the *Members Only* area

on the our website:

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 February 1, 2023