



Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 50 No. 8

June/July/August 2023

Summer 2023 Issue



**CONGRATULATIONS to Debra Sorrell
2023 to 2025 New Mexico Garden Clubs President**



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

President's Message

Greetings New Mexico Garden Club members,

This is my last message to you all as your President so I send a big thank you to all of you who came to Albuquerque for our Annual convention on April 12th. The theme was “Diamonds in the desert” and our lunchtime speaker was Joan Karrie from Petal Pushers with a very interesting talk on the formation of gems here in the desert. Our Petite Flower Show was very well entered and supported which shows how in spite of our very changeable weather we can still grow beautiful specimens. I was especially proud as our National President Mary Warshauer and our South Central Region Director Rose Knight, judged the show with me and they were very impressed. Thank you for entering and making New Mexico look good. Our Convention was fun and educational where we met old friends and were encouraged by all the awards given at the banquet. Debra Sorrell was installed as your new NMGC President for 2023-2025 where all her family attended to show their delight and support.

This convention was quickly followed by the South Central Region Convention held in Oklahoma City. This was close enough for four members from our State to drive so saving expensive airfares. It was the last convention with Rose Knight as Director and the installation of Sara McReynolds from Texas as the incoming Director for two years. Her term will be followed by New Mexico with Suzy Andrego as SCR Director.

The first week of May took five of us to the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, WV which was a very grand affair. This was the National Garden Club Annual Convention where Mary Warshauer presided and Brenda Moore was installed as NGC President for 2023-2025. Two of the programs were fun and informative and to see a room full with 619 participants was so welcome after the last few years.

The state of NMGC at this time has three clubs aging out with the remaining members joining active clubs. There is a new youth group in formation and an old one being revived. We have reduced the meetings to one a year for the members and an Executive Board meeting only in the fall. This has saved money and labor and still we are efficient. Our next plan is to see if we can reduce our five Districts to three for the same reasons so we will keep you informed.

Continued on Next page

President's Message continued:

Times they are a changing so we are doing what we can to keep our State Garden Clubs healthy and prosperous.

My final topic is ongoing but a disappointment for me. I began with a President's project of a Sensory Garden to be installed at the VA Hospital here in Albuquerque which requires ground being broken during my term. We all know how much momentum was lost during shutdown but it hasn't gone away. The history is as follows:

About a year before I took office, I was aware of so many servicemen who needed a peaceful and healing place while they were in rehab. Many years ago Petal Pushers had a Sensory Garden at Casa Angelica for the very disabled children of which I was a part. Over time it was not maintained and was eventually forgotten but I always remembered the pleasure and squeals of delight from the children.

This was coupled with a NMGC Scholarship applicant from UNM whose dissertation was a Sensory Garden blueprint and the fact that Sohelia needed to have a customer to qualify her, so we accepted her donation. It still holds for us but will need modifying when we use it. There are a couple of plots available so it will happen but may need to be sponsored by a club or District and it remains to be seen. Thank you for all of your ideas and input which I am serious about using on this project.

This brings me to the end of my term where I have been honored to serve the membership at a very challenging time and proudly be your representative all over the State and Country. Now I hand the reigns to Debra Sorrell, New Mexico's newly elected President. I have made lifelong friends and this time has enriched my life as I hope it has for all I have met in the course of my term. My motto has been "there is more manure than mink" as I now ride off into the sunset with my pruners and crocs! Love to you all...



Christine Longthorp, President







Message from Our 2023-2025 President, *Debra Sorrell*

“Grow Through What You Go Through”

I came across this phrase a while back and it really caught my attention. I could see how it applied to everyone trying to survive the pandemic. We all had to adjust the ways that we operated our daily lives and we did it! People are amazing at adapting to most of the situations they go through, even when they are resistant to it. That is a kind of “growth”. We learn what we need to carry on.

It started me thinking. What if we took that idea and spread it around garden club? How many things could we change for the better if our focus was on growing where we need to most?

Grow through what you go through.....in your gardens. It is undeniable that time in your garden is beneficial to your physical and mental health. When you are troubled or anxious about life, spending time in the fresh air with your hands in the dirt is always a benefit. It can provide a time and place to slow down, breathe and think. Plus, you get tomatoes!! (Or flowers, or squash, or ferns, or.....) So GROW things for your health!

Grow through what you go through.....in your garden club. Most of our clubs have gone through the loss of members during the pandemic. Perhaps some people got so used to being at home all the time that they forgot to come back. I am looking forward to sharing ideas about how to get clubs to grow. I am a firm believer that the time you spend together should be fun! If you're not having fun when you go to a garden club meeting, something is missing. I don't think that every meeting should be a party but we need to find ways to get people excited about the next thing they will learn or make or exchange. It takes creative leadership to keep a club relevant and enjoyable. We have lost many people who would share their ideas and take a turn as an officer in their club. It seems now that people are reluctant to take on a leadership role and routinely leave it to one or two people who already know what to do. It is time for us to train up new leaders in our clubs! There are many advantages to rotating leadership within our clubs. It brings a fresh approach and fresh ideas, it keeps any one person from burning out and it promotes collaboration and camaraderie. I heard of a club in Oklahoma where the President made every single person in the club take a job for the club because she felt it made them all more invested their club. It's one great approach to training up new people. We can think of more!! We have new youth clubs popping up in different parts of the state! That is very encouraging. Let's GROW our clubs, our leaders and NMGC!

Message from Our 2023-2025 President, Debra Sorrell—Continued

*Grow through what you go through....*in our beautiful state. My focus, as NMGC President, will be looking for ways to assist and draw attention to the burn scar area in the northern part of the state. The devastating results of the Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon fire cannot be underestimated. Certainly, there have been many people affected by the loss of their homes and businesses. People there have been through a lot! It is an overwhelming problem will take a long time to fix. I want to help educate our members and the public about the long term environmental issues from such a fire. 341,471 acres (534 sq. miles) have been stripped of most all vegetation. The landscape looks very different and it IS very different. There is deep ash in many places. The extreme temperatures have changed the very dirt that is left behind. There's nothing to hold things down, so flooding is a real and eminent danger again this year. There is little potable water available. I am looking for just the right project that will bring attention to the environmental needs of that area and all the fire devastated areas in the state. Penny Pines is where we will start! We cannot help individual people but we CAN help replant the forest. I hope to develop a working partnership with the Forest Service to concentrate on Penny Pines plantings in the Santa Fe National Forest. I am setting a very ambitious goal for my term of one plantation for every member in our state. That gives us 2 years to raise the money for about 500 plantations! OH, MY! Let's GROW a forest!

I am excited to be the new, New Mexico Garden Club President! I know the abundant dedication of NMGC members to making the world a better place because of what you do in your clubs. You are a hard working group and I am honored to have the chance to represent you. Please let me know what I can do for you and your club. Together, we can find ways to grow our clubs, our friendships and our influence on New Mexico!

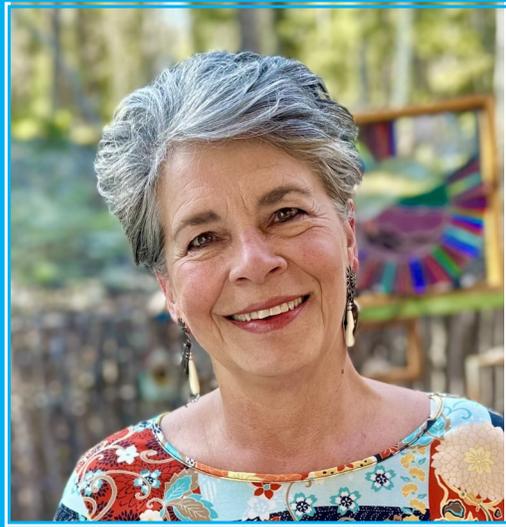
Debra Sorrell





CONVENTION FUN !





Meet the 2023-2025 1st Vice President of Programs, *Johnese Turri*

It was so great to see our wonderful garden club members around the state at the convention!! I sure had missed seeing everyone. I have enjoyed being a district director with Christine as President. Her leadership over these past crazy years has been unwavering.



Up here in the high country we are just now seeing green grass, dandelions and various bulbs peaking up from the ground. The aspens are budding and pretty soon we will have the most beautiful lime green leaves. Excited for summer.



Meet the 2023-2025 2nd Vice President of Membership, *Laurie Hixson*

I've been gardening in New Mexico for 43 years and still haven't gotten the hang of it; floral design, however, is coming along nicely. I look forward to meeting you all!



Meet the 2023-2025 Historian, *Ariel Seamon*

I'm Ariel, the Historian for NMGC. I spend most of my time with my husband, Andy, and our two dogs, Jack and Zuko. Besides looking after my houseplants, my other favorite hobby is reading so I'll always welcome a good book recommendation!

"Compared to gardeners, I think it is generally agreed that others understand very little about anything of consequence."

– Henry Mitchell, 1923-1993

Meet the 2023-2025 Recording Secretary,

Jennifer Moreno



Hello, I have been a member of National Garden Clubs (NGC), South Central Region (SCR), and New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. (NMGC, Inc.) for many years and I've served in different capacities over the years including; President, 1st Vice President, and 2nd Vice President of Valley Gardener Garden Club, as the Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman for NGC, SCR, and NMGC, Inc., as the Indoor Gardening Chairman for NGC, as the Ways and Means Chairman for NMGC, Inc., as an

instructor for Environmental Schools, as well as in my role as a NGC-accredited Master Flower Show Judge. I love to share my knowledge about judging, designing flower designs and gardening, and have given many informative programs to my Garden Club over the years. In addition to Garden Club activities, I also enjoy spending time with my family, cooking, reading, hanging out with my friends, and spending time with my "furry" children. It is my honor to be your Secretary and I look forward to serving NMGC, Inc. for the next two years!

Meet the 2023-2025 Treasurer, Debby Hasse



I am a member of El Jardin Garden Club in Los Lunas. I am currently in the process of redoing my outside areas as I have lived here 35 years. I love to read, be outside, spend time with my children and grandchildren and travel anyway for any reason. I raise alpacas and chickens. My menagerie also includes 1-3 dogs (depends on how often my granddaughter is here) and 1 cat.





Meet the 2023-2025 Parliamentarian,

Suzy Andrego

Debra has asked me to be her Parliamentarian, and continue as the NM Gardener editor. I look forward to serving under Debra and can't wait to see what new adventures await this term.

If anyone has a parliamentarian question that needs answering for yourself or your club, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always available to help!



Meet the 2023-2025 Corresponding Secretary,

Joyce Zaugg

I have been a member of the Los Alamos Garden Club since 2011. I have served my club as President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and Recording Secretary. I was the 2nd VP of NMGC, Inc. under President Christine Longthorp. I am currently serving as Assistant District II Director. President Debra Sorrel asked me if I would be apart of her board as Corresponding Secretary and I accepted that position. My main responsibility will be to compile the Annual Report.

I hope to do a good job for all of you.





Message from District I Director, Sonia James

I have enjoyed being your District Director and wish you a Happy Spring and Happy Gardening!

Enjoy some of these photos from the Spring District I meeting. Debi Harrington was installed as our new District I Director.





Message from District II Director, Kersti Rock

District II held its first Spring Meeting in three years on March 7, 2023 at the United Church in Los Alamos. All three clubs in our District were represented and we were delighted to have NMGC President Christine Longthorp and NMGC 1st Vice President Debra Sorrell as our honored guests. Debra Sorrell performed the installation of the incoming District officers for 2023-2025. She made the ceremony fun by describing the duties of each office in terms of the characteristics of an animal chosen from local New Mexico wildlife. Each incoming officer received a framed photograph of their animal. Following the meeting and lunch,

Christine Longthorp presented a very enjoyable program on creating beautiful arrangements using inexpensive bunches of grocery store flowers. We were amazed by the beauty and variety of arrangements that could be made at very low cost!

Installing District II Officers, March 2023 - (from left) Ann Cooke, Treasurer; Joyce Zaugg, Assistant District Director; Kersti Rock, District Director; Betsy Comly, Recording Secretary; NMGC President Elect, Debra Sorrell, Installing Officer



NMGC President Christine Longthorp presenting her program on "Flowers from Garden to Vase" at the DII Spring meeting, March 2023

About a dozen members from District II attended the 2023 NMGC Annual

Convention in Albuquerque. We were very impressed by the creativity and talent displayed in the Judges Council Flower and Horticulture Show on Tuesday afternoon. District II's Floral Designers Club members Laurie Hixson and Anne May each won a First Award in a design competition.



Laurie Hixson, Floral Designers - First Award - Canary Diamonds, NMGC 2023 Convention



Anne May, Floral Designers - First Award - Hope Diamond, NMGC 2023 Convention

The Judges Council Design program that evening was Thia Smith's demonstration of new trends in floral designing. Thia rapidly created gorgeous arrangements which she then transformed into completely new arrangements with a few quick changes. It was like watching a magic show! The Lunch program by Joan Karrie on Diamonds in the Desert was



very interesting even though, as we learned, there are no real diamonds occurring naturally in New Mexico!

Thia Smith - Judges Council Design Program - "New Design Techniques for 2023", NMGC 2023 Convention

After the Wednesday program, some attendees enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Turquoise Museum, now housed in the Gertrude Zachary Castle. The Castle, built in 2008, was worth a visit in itself. The tour was followed by a fun shopping spree in the Museum's gift shop! That evening, District II's Los Alamos Garden Club won the following awards, Club History, Second Place, Class II, Standard of Excellence, Third Place, Class II and 2022 Membership Increase, Third Place. At the end of the evening, outgoing NMGC President Christine Longthorp was honored for her two terms of service as State President along with all the other outgoing officers and the incoming officers were installed by Suzy Andrego.

District II also presented a short skit announcing the theme, location and date for their hosting of the 2024 Annual Convention. The skit, with a few bumbles and laughs, came off pretty well in presenting District II's theme of "Rising from the Ashes." District II members portrayed the devastation of a forest by fire, followed by its recovery. Convention members were invited to attend the next Annual Convention, to be held at the Courtyard by Marriott in Santa Fe, April 10 and 11, 2024.



2022 NMGC TOP AWARD **WINNERS**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qxULkDQGEo7TMFIZYfXG2eZn69t0a741/view?usp=sharing>



For all other Award
Winners See
Awards Book
attached to this
edition of the NM
Gardener



MEMBER OF THE YEAR
Page Steed
Angel Fire Garden Club



HORTICULTURIST OF THE YEAR
Kristen Thompson
High Desert Design Club

2022 DESIGN OF THE YEAR
Kristen Thompson
High Desert Design Club



BEGINNING DESIGNER
Laurie Hixson
Floral Designers



SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Debi Harrington
Petal Pushers Garden Club



MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Mary Ann Moreno
Uptown Garden Club

Blessing written for the NM State Convention, Diana Wong, Sgt, USAF

Let us bow our heads as I invite you to pray in your tradition, as I pray in mine...

Heavenly Father,

We ask you to watch over us, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to gather here today, for this NM State Garden Club Conference.

Thank you for protecting us as we traveled here to meet, learn and grow.

Bless this room of attendees and volunteers, who made this conference possible and all those who support their mission that they strive to accomplish. We ask for your guidance and support, to make new connections, and gain the wisdom to take what we learn during this conference, to teach others to join in our efforts.

Help us to engage in meaningful discussions, to make the right decisions, and allow us to grow closer as a group and nurture the bonds of our community with humility, gentleness and care.

We ask that you bless the hands and hearts who tend the flowers they grow and gardens they build. Your Garden's Lord, "Healing Garden"!

In the bible gardens were a place of beauty, shelter and sustenance. The abundance that God offers to us. The quiet care that can produce fruitfulness in our lives and the world around us. A flower is a symbol of Life, Love and Beauty. It symbolizes strength, joy, hope, peace and spirituality.

So we ask that you bless those who give their time, those who seek to help and serve the needs of others through these "Healing Gardens". That they and they're efforts may be blessed as they bring the gift of Life, Love and Beauty to others. That their Labors may be fruitful and rewarding.

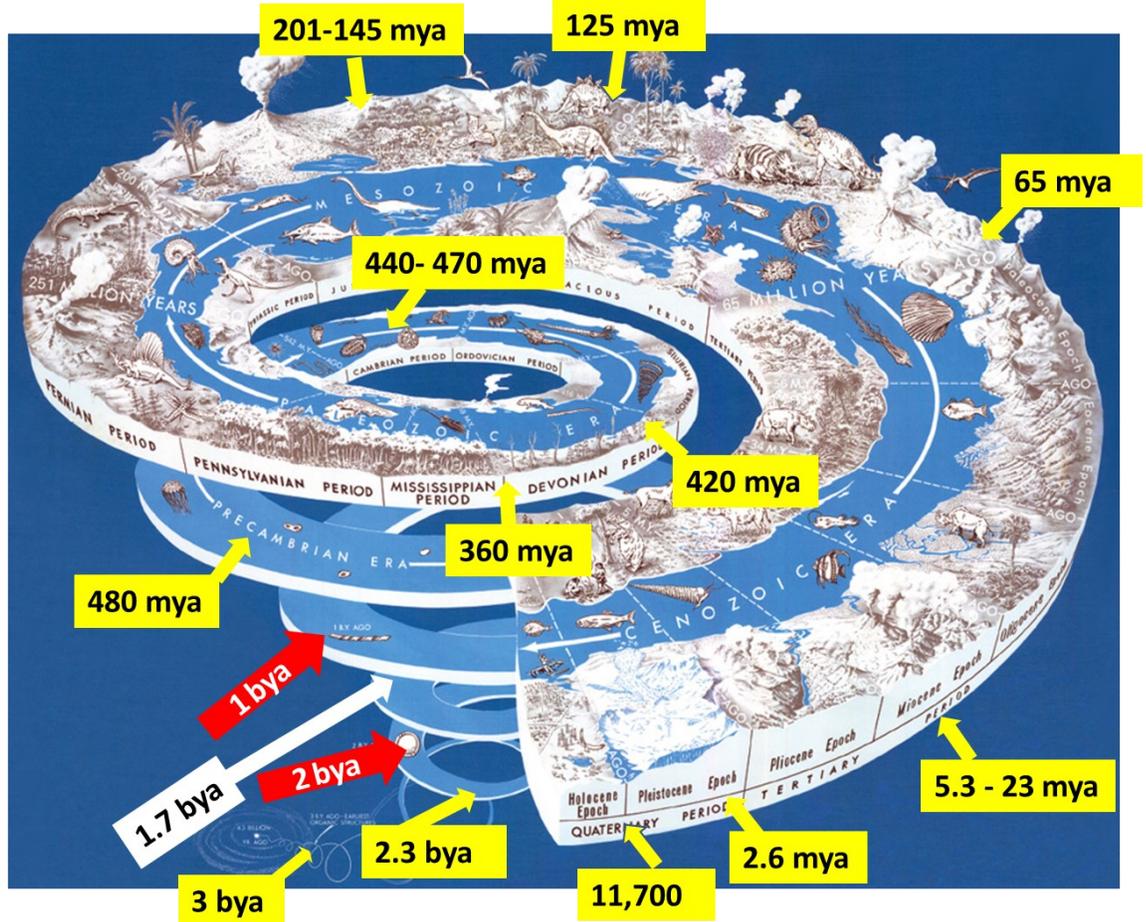
Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the good things you have bestowed upon us. We ask that you give each of us the health and strength to do your will.

Fill us with your unending love and amazing grace. In this we ask...Amen



Time Spiral CHART & TEXT from Joan Kerrie's Presentation on the Diamonds in the Desert at our Annual NMGC Convention

New Mexico



Text that goes with the slide

This spiral attempts to show the timeframe and what happened from now (here at the start) round and round the spiral way down to this tiny dot when the Earth condensed from the cosmic dust about 4 and ½ billion years ago. Let's hit the highlights going backward in time .

Here is today. Moving backward 11,700 years, we come to the end of the last ice age.

At 2.6 million years ago (2,600,000 mya) that ice age started. That's probably not exactly what you learned at school, but although there were some warm times, this is considered one long ice age.

Between 5.3 - 23 mya (that's almost 18 million years), North America was home to large land animals like giant beavers and mastodons; horses evolved during this timeframe.

At 65 mya, the dinosaurs died out. They have existed for 180 million years and have dominated the land for most of that time.

You'll be interested in this – about 125 mya the first flowering plants appear.

Here's where the dinosaurs first appear, at 245 mya.

A hundred and 15 million years earlier, 360 million years ago, the first seed-producing

Time Spiral TEXT Continued

At 420 mya spore-producing plants appear and the first animals adapt to living on land (millipeds).

Just before that, only 20 or so million years earlier, fish with jaws appear. The first land plants appeared at 470 mya first land plants. They were mosses and liverworts.

At 480 million years ago, life in the sea began to make shells.

Now, were almost ½ a billion years ago. We have along way to go to get to our target of over 1 ½ billion.

From 480 million, we go around the curve until we reach the one billion mark. AT this time, the seas were filled with single-celled organisms of all kinds. Some were cyanobacteria and were producing oxygen using photosynthesis. At this time oxygen made up about 2% of the atmosphere (as opposed to 21% today.)

Between one and two billion years ago, the single-celled organisms in the sea, are reproducing and evolving.

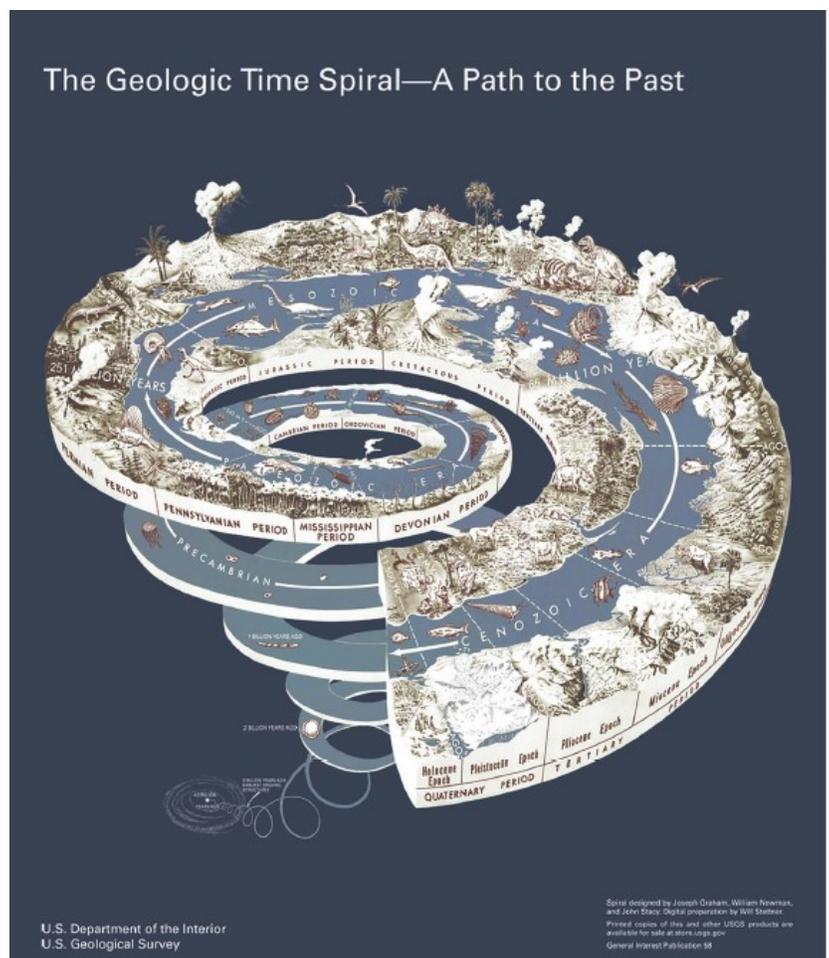
2.3 bya is when the atmosphere just begins to have oxygen in it. Cyanobacteria evolved 700,000,000 (700 million) years before, but it takes a long time for atmospheric oxygen to build up.

Way down at 3.5 bya is when life probably first appeared in the ocean.

So where did New Mexico come in?

Here, at 1.7 billion years ago.

THANK YOU Joan Kerrie for a Fabulous presentation. We now know that NM is the Diamond in the Desert!



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

I write this article with very exciting news. Lincoln County Garden Club is starting two Youth Activities!!! As reported by Mary Lemmond, Treasurer Lincoln County Garden Club

The first is with the Ruidoso High School Garden Club. It is the end of their school year soon, but we donated eight bags of garden soil for their raised beds at the school and invited them to attend any of our summer meetings. We will meet with the sponsors and define how we want to be associated together, but for now we were just glad to meet the members - I'd say about 15 but four of them are graduating Seniors.

The second is with the High Mesa Youth Project, they have raised beds at the shelter already, but we hope to teach planting and gardening and perhaps cooking or eating of some of their produce. No firm structure to that project as yet, but we received a grant to help defray some of the costs.

Other fantastic news is that the newly founded "Organic Planet" gardening club at the Public Academy for Performing Arts Charter School in Albuquerque which is sponsored by Uptown Garden Club has constructed 3 raised beds (they said it was fun using power tools) and planted a variety of vegetables and herbs in each of the beds. Because school is out for the summer they set up a hose timer to keep the plants watered. They plan on meeting each month to check on the beds and



the cosmos and sunflowers they planted where the spring daffodils are finished. (As the sponsor I was instructed to check at least once a week ☺). They are so proud of the beautification of their campus and look forward to the many activities in the coming year.

If you have any youth gardening activities

Please contact me 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 when they are at the annual convention, April 11 & 12, 2023 in Albuquerque, at the Courtyard Marriott Journal Center.

Also, whenever they are in Las Cruces I will take items also and get them to the Library.

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.**

The 2023/2024 New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc., \$2,500 Scholarship recipient is

Mireya J. Ferran. A graduate of Los Alamos High School, Mireya is currently a sophomore at New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM, majoring in Horticulture. She ultimately hopes to pursue a master's degree in plant pathology, or related discipline. Mireya has not only achieved academic excellence in her studies (3.86 GPA), she has also been exceptional in extra-curricular activities. As a member of NMSU Horticulture Forum, she has been re-elected as Treasurer for the coming year. She has recently received the "Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Cotter Endowment Fund for Work or Research Experience" award, and will be doing a summer research project on "Cultivation of *Pleurotus pulmonarius* in Pecan Shell/Husk Substrate Mixture". Mireya is also the recipient of a National Garden Clubs, Inc., 2023/2024 \$3,800 Scholarship.



Blue Star Memorial, Shirley Tetreault, Chair

Below is an excerpt from a beautiful letter that was written to me by my very dear friend, Carolyn Bucklen. It was several years ago at the Tomato Fiesta in Albuquerque at the Garden Center. She knows that I have been the Blue Star/Gold Star Chair for many years and that my heart is always with our Veterans. As we approach Memorial Day, think of how important our Blue Star/Gold Star program is to so many. God bless the USA.



“ At the Tomato Fiesta yesterday quite a few men asked for directions to the Blue Star Memorial both in the garden shop and outside. I was doing 'free' floral designs in awesome containers (donated or thrift store finds.) that had languished unnoticed on the shelves for far too long. I made several forays into the garden to collect blooms to supplement my leftover class greenery. I came in and out the kitchen door and each time I would see people pausing silently to reflect in front of the memorial, singly or in clusters. You could tell that for most it was a sacred moment as they stood absorbing the tribute as they spent more time than it would take to read the memorial and move along. I was privileged to have witnessed this salute to our veterans as I finally realized the true significance of the Blue Star memorial project. Veterans are so stalwart and are known for their silence regarding their service. These small recognitions resonate deeply within their spirits. Our Blue Star Memorial location couldn't be more perfect either. I had often wondered why our 'BSM' hadn't been more prominently located within the garden rather than relegated to the end of an often-skipped pathway. Several people asked me 'what was down there' before heading toward the larger garden space in the opposite direction. Watching the reaction of the veterans convinced me that the location couldn't be more perfect, giving them space and privacy to reflect in peace without being hustled along by other strollers in the garden. “

2024 Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, Jennifer Moreno, Chairman

Children from first through fifth grade are invited to participate in the 2024 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.) If you have a grandchild or know of young children that would qualify to enter, please sponsor them! 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!

Jennifer Moreno,
New Mexico State Chairman and SCR Regional Chairman
Email: Moreno_jen@aps.edu; Phone: 505-217-4307;
Address: 305 Fairmount Park Ave NE, Alb, NM 87123



Penny Pines, Mary Ann Moreno, Chairman

We have LOTS of need for
Penny Pines Plantations in New Mexico!

We collected enough for 3 plantations at the Annual Convention!

Consider Giving a Penny Pines Plantation for an outgoing Club President or District Director.

Support Penny Pines at the state, district and your club. For More information, please contact me, Mary Ann Moreno at (505)266-8498. Your new Chairman will be announced soon.





Garden Club News from Around the State

Summit Garden Club, District II by Kersti Rock

Summit Garden Club celebrated Spring by holding work parties at the White Rock Community Garden and at our gardens at Bandelier. We are very appreciative of the national park service for supplying the plants needed to increase and maintain the foliage at Bandelier, and of the Los Alamos Master Gardeners for providing funds and plants for the White Rock Community Garden.

Earlier in the year, we held indoor meetings; Liz Martineau informed us of the new seed library in Los Alamos, and Angela Prada, Los Alamos extension officer, spoke about care of our plants in late Winter and early Spring.

Also, several of us attended the New Mexico Garden Clubs state convention in April. Among awards received by our members was "Photo of the Year" award won by Beverly Cooper.



Beverly Cooper with
"Photographic Print of the Year"

Columbine at WR Community Garden



Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, by Joyce Zaugg

In February, our own Kersti Rock presented a wonderful slide show of Fairy Gardens. One very special one that she visited was the Anna Marie Sculpture Garden in Maryland. The Fairy Garden display is an annual event.



At our March meeting, Debi Harrington showed us how to make beautiful Petite Floral Designs.

In April, Angela Prada, our local Extension Agent, gave an interesting presentation on Companion Plantings. At this same meeting District II Director, Kersti Rock, installed our 2023-24 officers. She gave each officer a petite floral arrangement.



Several LAGC members attended the State Convention. We all had a wonderful time. We hope everyone enjoyed our skit advertising the 2024 Convention that will be held in Santa Fe.

Our newest member, Barb Antos, attends her first state convention



Valley Gardener, District I, Dorothy Duff & Gigi Zacharias Co-Presidents

“Conserve that thy descendants may have abundance forever”

At our March meeting, the speaker was Barbara Shapiro, an experienced-- Master Gardener, who also teaches the Albuquerque extension master gardener class on ornamental horticulture.

Barbara's presentation focused on dividing perennials so that we can share our gardens.



Ten members attended the District I meeting and luncheon which was held at the Albuquerque Garden Center. Three new members: Catie Glover, Dodie Bernal-Suhr and Kristen Thompson joined us in March.

Valley Gardeners were very active at the recent NMGC Convention Flower Show. In Horticulture you saw blue ribbon entries from Bryan and Dodie Suhr, Lynette Walker, Suzy Andrego, Maple Levine Dorothy Duff and Gigi Zacharias. In design we saw blues, reds and 90+ by members Beth Schneider, Dorothy Duff and Gigi Zacharias. Beth Schneider took the top Design Award and Suzy Andrego and Dodie and Brian Suhr won top awards in Horticulture.

We had several members attend the meeting and the awards banquet. Congratulations to Kristen Thompson who won horticulturist of the year and beginning designer of the year.

Several Valley Gardeners volunteered at the annual Garden Council spring plant sale. What a great way to start off the gardening season.

Our April meeting followed the convention by two days and since some members were not able to attend the convention we felt it was important to meet to discuss the convention and have some fun. The fun came in the form of snacks, free seeds, free plants recently taken from the garden and multiple plant door prizes.

Conversation was lively and everyone had something to take home to their garden.

We have our usual potluck scheduled for May and in June we will have a field trip with Brian Suhr who will be guiding us through tree/shrub pruning techniques.

We invite visitors to our meetings. We meet the 2nd Thursday of most months at Los Griegos Health and Social Sciences Center. Located at 1231 Candelaria Road NW



High Desert Design Club, Shirley Tetreault President

There is always something exciting going on at High Desert Design Club. Our Annual Convention was great with a Petite Flower Show included. Our own State President, Christine Longthorp Judged the show with Mary Warshauer (National President) and Rose Knight (Region Director). What a great honor to have all of them together. Several of our members entered in both design and horticulture. It was a great experience. We are now working on Alice's Adventures in Wonderland which will be held on June the 16th and 17th at the Albuquerque Garden Center. I hope you will all enter the show. See you there. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 1:00 at the Garden Center.





**NM Judges Council Design Program
Presented by Thia Smith**



New Mexico Judges Council

is excited to announce that we will be hosting a

Design program and Workshop *presented by David Robson,*

October 13 & 14, 2023

Watch your email for more details to be announced !

Everyone can attend this wonderful program and workshop!

New Mexico Judges Council, Suzy Andrego, President

FLOWER SHOW SCHOOL II is COMING

Flower Show Procedure on Zoom, Saturday July 2, 2023

Design and Horticulture are **in person** Saturday July 29 & Sunday July 30, 2023

Design (Table Designs (Functional & Exhibition) and Petite Designs
& Horticulture (Salvias & Sansevieria)

*If taking for credit to become a flower show judge—
the written exam will be Wednesday August 2, 2023*

Cost is \$125.00 (included a light breakfast and nice lunch for both in person days)

*Or if just wanting the information one day is \$60.00 or both days \$120.00
(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 \$ 60.00 for both days with breakfast & lunches included.*

Sign up TODAY Deadline is JULY 7, 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 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.

4401 Magnolia Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63110

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

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

New Mexico Gardener Editor

Suzy Andrego

Sandrego@aol.com

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 August 1, 2023