



Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Winter 2023-2024 Issue





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

“Grow Through What You Go Through”

I can hardly believe that this article will be in the Winter edition of the Gardener! This year is sailing by and the holidays will be upon us in no time. As the temperatures cool off (thank goodness!) some of the clubs around the state are slowing down and preparing to tuck in for the “off season”. Interestingly, other clubs are finishing up their summer outdoor garden work and getting ready to go back into full-swing club activities. I think that aptly describes our state and the state of clubs all around the state! We do not all have the same schedules, number of meetings per year, resources, members, interests.....and that’s great! As long as your club meets the needs of your members and promotes the goals and objectives of NGC and NMGC, you are providing a one-of-a-kind experience for people in your community. I know that, because of that, we are all learning to Grow Through the things we Go Through.

I attended all of the fall meetings that were held by the Districts. I am always in awe when I hear all that clubs are doing. There are so many great programs going on around the state. I would love to see all of our District meetings go back to a celebration and sharing event where ALL District members are invited. When I first got involved in Garden Club, the District meeting was so much fun! There was information shared, door prizes, table favors, a great program of some kind and a wonderful lunch. Covid nipped that in the bud. But, we can bring it back!

One way to help with the expenses and manpower for our Districts was discussed at the Executive Fall Board meeting in October. As our numbers have dwindled across the state, it is harder and harder to find enough people to do events like this. Some Districts are down to only 1 or 2 clubs! The Executive Board will be presenting to the membership a recommendation to redistrict and drop from five (5) Districts to three (3). That would mean combining Districts II and III in the north and Districts IV and V in the south. It does create further travel distances for group meetings but it also increases personnel and members for each District. Our hope is that this will make it easier to find help from a larger pool of people in your Districts to accomplish great things for your members! Please think about this issue and plan to attend the Spring Convention in Santa Fe where you will be asked to vote. We need your support and suggestions to make it a successful transition. If it is passed in the spring, the new Districts would take effect in 2025.

There is already a great deal of work going into the 74th Annual Spring Convention for April 10-11, 2024! Laurie Hixson, the convention chair, has gotten us a lovely venue in Santa Fe and is busy with all the details required to put everything together. There will be a couple of fun field trips, good food, a wonderful luncheon speaker and, of course, AWARDS! Encourage your

Message from Our President, Debra Sorrell—Continued

clubs and members to look in the Awards Handbook, find a category for something you're already doing anyway and apply for the award. If anyone needs help with any award, you can contact Ginny Longbotham who is this year's Awards Chairman. Ginny will be sending out reminders and suggestions for all things "award" so start thinking about them early! There could be monetary benefits this year, too. We were able to acquire an email address for receiving all award applications! It is: NMGC Awards@aol.com. Keep that on hand and watch for Ginny's emails.

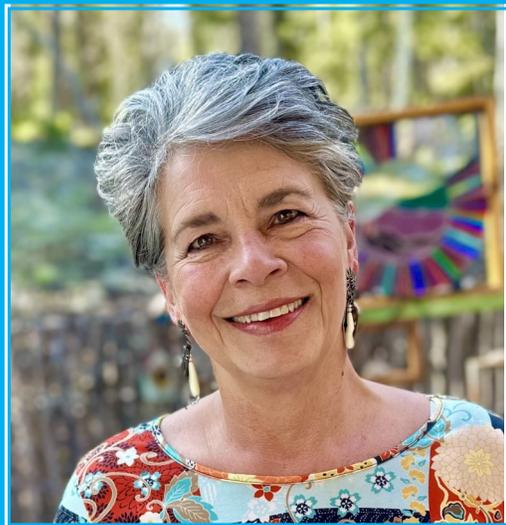
If you are feeling adventurous, I have an idea for you. The National Garden Club Convention is coming to our part of the world! The first week of June will bring NGC to Denver, Colorado. This is a wonderful opportunity to attend a National event without the expense of a flight back east. It would be easy to get a couple of friends and carpool to Denver.....ROAD TRIP! You could share a room and save a lot of money, too. And, of course, the fun and friendship along the way is the best benefit of being a part of Garden Club. The programs, speakers, field trips, vendors and banquets are all worth the trip. Give it some thought and put it on your calendar. I would be thrilled to see a big contingency of New Mexico at the convention. Let's go to Colorado and play!

My President's project is moving right along. Clubs from around the state are selling Penny Pines plantations with great enthusiasm. In order to keep a running total, all forms and money should be sent to Susan Schultz, who is the state Penny Pines Chair. She will keep a tally and forward everything to National. We will be adjusting the Penny Pines form to reflect Susan's address so that it will be easy for you to remember where to send everything. I want to thank you all for your participation and help! The more recognition there is for the plight of New Mexicans affected by wildfires, the less chance there is that our people are forgotten.

Grow Through What You Go Through means so many things to me. Each individual in a club has their own life issues. Each club in the state has its struggles with keeping their membership numbers up and active. Our state organization needs leaders and member participation in order to bring quality events to all who attend. I could go beyond New Mexico in our need to GROW, but then things get really crazy and overwhelming! Let's all concentrate on ways to grow New Mexico Garden Clubs.....in quantity and quality. Show kindness and respect to your fellow members and find ways to lift each other through tough times. Our clubs are an outlet of beauty, education and friendships. Thank you for all you are doing to keep them strong!

Debra Sorrell, President

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



As I'm writing this, I just heard snow is predicted next week (week of October 16th)!! We've had such a beautiful fall - Mother Nature has been good to us not having a hard freeze. The leaves are glorious. They've been blanketing the road - the sun shining on them makes me think what heaven must be like!!! I feel so blessed to be up

here in Angel Fire!

What a wonderful time I've had being the new 1st VP. I've attended a couple of planning meetings and attended my first District meeting in Los Alamos. It's great to see what other districts do. I am so looking forward to visiting your districts/clubs with Debra and Laurie!

The Angel Fire Garden Club's October meeting featured Suzy Andrego's wonderful presentation "Stay on the Brighter Side....don't wait to change your bulbs". Before the meeting Suzy and Debra planted a butterfly bush at the Butterfly Garden at the library in honor of Diane Peterson or Madame Butterfly as some of us call her.

Getting excited for the 2024 NMGC Annual Convention in Santa Fe on April 10-11. District II



**2024 NMGC
ANNUAL CONVENTION**



SANTA FE, NM

Hello All and Happy Winter!

I know it's cold outside and, although most of us are probably not gardening, many of us are at least thinking about it. The pile of gardening catalogs by my sofa are just calling to me.

Something else to look forward to is our upcoming NMGC, Inc. Annual Convention on April 10 - 11, 2024. I'm excited about this convention! We're planning a lot of fun things that everyone should enjoy. In addition to informing our membership of what's been going on throughout the state, our President's been very busy,

we've got many other items on the agenda. Our luncheon speaker should be fabulous—judging by the title of his presentation, “Trees are Killing our Forests.” He's got quite the bio—16 years as the NM State Forestry Division's Timber Management Officer and 11 years as the State Urban Forester.

We're also working on some exciting tours, although some still need finalizing: Santa Fe Botanical Garden, El Rancho de las Golondrinas, and the famous Allan Houser Sculpture Garden. We're trying to keep the costs down as much as we can, so in that vein, we're asking the people going on the tours to make their own arrangements for getting to the venues. We're encouraging everyone to carpool.

The Judges Council is also planning some really fun things. Maybe this is the year you come to their meeting and banquet to learn about the great things Judges Council is involved in and have some fun too!

Santa Fe is a beautiful in the springtime, and the Courtyard Marriott Santa Fe is a great place to have as a home base. The facilities have been renovated recently and the meals will be excellent! We've made it easy to register for the convention. Just press Ctrl and click on the following link and it will take you to our very own reservation page.

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1695942146718&key=GRP>

I'm very excited about the upcoming Convention! It'll be more fun than a barrel of monkeys! (Does anyone know the history behind that statement? If so, let me know. 🤔) I hope that with so much advanced notice, you'll be able to include our Convention in your springtime plans.

Hope to see you there!

Laurie Hixson, NMGC, Inc. Convention Chairman

**2024 NMGC
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

73rd



SANTA FE, NM

Annual Convention Schedule
"RISING FROM THE ASHES"

April 10 – 11, 2024

Marriott Courtyard Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico

Wed., April 10, 2024

PRECONVENTION

12:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Registration Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe - Atrium
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM	NMGC Executive Board Meeting – La Cumbre Room
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	NM Judges Council General Meeting
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	NM Judges Council Banquet – Loma/Sierra Room
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM	NM Judges Council Program – movie night

Thurs., April 11, 2024

OFFICIAL OPENING - NMGC, INC. CONVENTION

	Breakfast on your own
8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	Registration Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe - Atrium
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM	Official Opening of NMGC, Inc. 73 rd Annual Convention – La Vista Room
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM	NMGC, Inc. General Business Meeting
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM	Luncheon – Loma/Sierra Room
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Program: “Trees are Killing our Forests” by George Duda, Forest Health Program Assessor for Ciudad Soil & Water Conservation District
2:00 PM	General Business Meeting continues (if necessary) otherwise free time
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Free time to visit the plaza – gift shops – museum – take a tour
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Tour 1 - Santa Fe Botanical Garden
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM	President’s Reception – Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe President’s Suite
6:15 PM – 6:30 PM	Banquet – Introduction of Past State Presidents & Club Presidents – Loma/Sierra Room
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Banquet Meal
7:30 PM – 8:00 PM	Memorial Service & Top Award Presentations
8:00 PM – 9:30 PM	NMGC, Inc. Awards Presentation, Final Credentials, Resolutions, and Closing

Fri., April 12, 2024

CONVENTION

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Tour 2 – Allan Houser Sculpture Garden
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Make reservations using the weblink: <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1695942146718&key=GRP> or call (505) 473-2800 and mention New Mexico Garden Clubs to receive the special room rate.

The Marriott Courtyard Santa Fe hotel sparkles in the heart of the Southwest. Experience the West’s most vibrant city without the high costs generally associated with resort destinations.

Courtyard Santa Fe hotel mirrors the culture and treasures of the great Southwest. Step outside and discover nearby favorite attractions such as The Santa Fe Plaza, the Santa Fe Opera House, and the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum, in addition to the natural wonders of whitewater rivers and alpine action. Just minutes from downtown, the Courtyard is a valuable alternative for Santa Fe lodging. Stay afterwards and enjoy all that northern New Mexico has to offer.

Tour Descriptions

Thursday, April 11, **Santa Fe Botanical Garden:** Designed by nationally recognized landscape architect W. Gary Smith, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden is a valuable resource to northern New Mexico through educational programs and service to the community. The centerpiece fruit orchard is flanked by a meadow garden and a xeric garden. The orchard is nestled into the hillside, surrounded by a rugged retaining wall on three sides. The Orchard Gardens feature spaces that combine horticultural and architectural elements. Plants were selected for their beauty and ability to thrive in the Santa Fe landscape. Ojos y Manos: Eyes and Hands, is an ethnobotanical garden featuring raised beds for annual crops and an extensive collection of plants with traditional uses; the Piñon-Juniper Woodland, is a natural area showcasing native plants common to the community.

Friday, April 12, **Allan Houser Sculpture Garden at Haozous Place:** In 1976, Allan Houser and his family acquired a 50-acre parcel of land in southern Santa Fe County, populated with juniper and chamisa and awe-inspiring vistas. Over time, he built a group of studios and created an expansive outdoor garden to share his sculptural works with collectors, museum groups, and visitors from across the world. The Sculpture Garden displays over 70 monumental works – both representational and abstract.

In an effort to minimize costs, transportation to the tours will be the responsibility of the participants. Carpooling is encouraged.

Additional Nearby Attractions

The Railyard	Santa Fe Plaza
Museum Hill	Santa Fe Opera
Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary	Leonora Curtin Wetland Preserve
NM Plant Co. greenhouses	Meow Wolf

Vendor Information

Tables will be available for a nominal fee to sell garden related items. Garden clubs and members are invited to join some local vendors in participating in the Vendor’s Lobby. For more information, contact Laurie Hixson, hixsons@comcast.net or 505-672-3483.

Sponsor Information

Would your organization like to help sponsor this year’s Annual Convention? The organizational committee welcomes any support. For more information, contact Laurie Hixson, hixsons@comcast.net or 505-672-3483.



IT'S TIME TO APPLY FOR NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUB AWARDS

Tis the season, yes, it is the season for celebrating the holidays! However, get ready for another season, time to think about which awards you will enter. There are so many different ones, and I'm sure everyone will enter at least one.

The deadline is February 1st, 2024. While you wrap, bake and decorate, put your thinking cap on and look through the awards booklet, which is located on the website.

www.newmexicogardenclubs.org— ID = nmgc password = yucca

If you have any questions, please send me an email or a call and I will get your answers. I will be sending our "tips" for applying soon.

Ginny Longbotham, Awards Chairman 505-280-2660—ginnylin@comcast.net
NMGCAWARDS@aol.com



Wreaths Across America - December 16, 2023

Santa Fe National Cemetery

REMEMBER- HONOR- TEACH

Gold Star Mothers and many, many volunteers will remember the fallen by placing a wreath on the grave site of their heroes. A short ceremony will be held at 10:00 am placing wreaths on each branch of the military service. The wreaths are placed by the Gold Star Mothers and military personnel. At the conclusion of the ceremony hundreds of wreaths will be disbursed for placement at each grave site marker. An individual can access www.WreathsAcrossAmerican.org for information on purchasing a wreath and/or volunteering.

Merry Christmas - Happy New Year, Shirley Tetreault, Blue Star/Gold Star Chair

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. *Susan Schultz, Chairman*

Please make sure that you are sending your Penny Pines Form, along with your check to the NM Garden Clubs Penny Pines chairman, Susan Schultz.

Susan will be tracking all the Penny Pines donations for President Debra Sorrel's President's project of donating 500 Penny Pines Plantations during her term as President.

Susan Schultz
PO Box 349
Angel Fire, 87710
(208) 520-6505 susan.f.schultz@gmail.com



Parliamentarian, *Suzy Andrego*

Do you or your club have a parliamentarian question or know anyone that does? I am always available to help . If I do not know the answer right away, I have plenty of resources to find the answer. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always available to help! Sandrego@aol.com



Ways and Mean Chairman, *Mary Ann Moreno*

Items available now for the 2024 Ways & Means Raffle are Four unique purses, a \$50 Home Depot Gift card, a Handmade Southwest design beaded necklace, a Blue stone & Sterling earrings and necklace set, and a Turquoise & sterling bird pendant.

All clubs will received photos and raffle tickets before the end of October, 2023.

The Ways and Means money raised will support the NMGC President's Project to purchase Penny Pines Plantations to help reforest the burned areas in our beautiful state.

The raffle will be held at the 2024 Convention in Santa Fe, April, 2024

If you are interested in donating anything towards the Way and Means , or want to come join us as a committee member, Please call Mary Ann Moreno (505) 266-8498 or email her at jbmamoreno@gmail.com or Suzy Andrego (505) 259-3318 or Sandrego@aol.com.

Gratefully the Ways and Means Committee Members: Mary Ann Moreno, Jennifer Moreno & Suzy Andrego for the Presidents Projects.

Life Membership & Scholarship *Christine Longthorp, Chairman*



LIFE MEMBERSHIPS MAKE GREAT GIFTS or HONORS for ANYONE!



The New Mexico Garden Clubs Annual Scholarship is funded by the sale of New Mexico Garden Club Life Memberships, NMGC Membership pins, and Book of Memory donations. A New Mexico Garden Club 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.



Message from District I Director, *Debi Harrington*

"Going Green Through Education and Application"

NMGC's District I members met on October 2, 2023 at the Albuquerque Garden Center. NMGC State President, Debra Sorrell, was the District I honored guest. We gifted her with a Penny Pines "plantation" to help reforest the Las Vegas, NM 2022 burn area and help her meet her President's Project goal.

Twenty-seven members were in attendance and enjoyed learning about NMGC Awards, as well as District I Awards. Awards for both programs are now being accepted. District I members enjoyed a bountiful salad and soup bar while dining at beautifully decorated tables by Petal Pushers GC. They received plantable sunflower packets as table favors from Uptown GC. Set-up and clean-up were provided by numerous Valley Gardeners GC members, which allowed others to enjoy a time of fellowship.

The 2024 Spring District I meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024.

May all NMGC members enjoy a safe and blessed Holiday Season.



Message from District II Director, Kersti Rock

District II has already experienced some nights well below freezing and it's not yet November. The district's three clubs, Los Alamos Garden Club, Summit Garden Club and Floral Designers are very active, each club having increased its membership over the past year. All three clubs have resumed their regular schedules after the summer. In September, Los Alamos Garden Club enjoyed their annual Harvest luncheon and a very interesting talk on African violets by Dena Brent, member of the Albuquerque African Violet Club. In October, LAGC heard a talk on day lilies, their various types and growing conditions, by Joe Lynch of Santa Fe. Summit Garden Club's recent activities include a tour of the Randall Davey Audubon complex in Santa Fe and a talk on eradicating bindweed by Del Jimenez of New Mexico State University. Floral Designers Club has resumed their meetings with recent programs on petite designs and the use of double containers in designs.

The District II Fall Board meeting was held at Crossroads Bible Church in Los Alamos on September 29. We were very pleased to have New Mexico Garden Club's State President, Debra Sorrell, and the 1st Vice President, Johnese Turri, attend as our honored guests as well as NMGC's Penny Pines Chair, Susan Schultz. Susan gave us an excellent presentation on the Penny Pines reforestation program, a long standing partnership between the National Garden Clubs and the USDA Forest Service. Debra Sorrell's theme of "Grow Through What You Go Through" is directing her President's Project of establishing 500 Penny Pines Plantations in two years. This goal could be achieved if each club in the state funds about 15 plantations both years.

District II's planning for the 2024 NMGC Convention in Santa Fe next April is in full swing. Convention Chair Laurie Hixson held a convention planning kickoff meeting at the White Rock Library on September 22. She provided information folders for each of the committee chairs. The Convention's theme is "Rising from the Ashes". District II looks forward to seeing NMGC members from all over our beautiful state in Santa Fe on April 10 and 11, 2024!



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

Wanted to start out with the bad news that we had very few entries at the two youth shows at the State Fair. We did not have a single horticulture entry this year. Please help me change that for next year!!

Mr. Hector Romo from Ruidoso High School reached out to members of the **Lincoln County Garden Club**. He is new to Ruidoso. Coming from Texas, he was aware that gardening is very different in the High Desert!

This is the first year of the Plant Science Curriculum at the High School and Mr. Romo asked if members of the club would be willing to talk with the two Plant Science classes. Several members of the Club volunteered.

In September, Margaret Southard presented "Soil". She made the lesson interactive by bringing soil kits for students to learn to test.

In October Mary Lemmond, Jessica Sheldon and Sophia Mims presented "What to Plant in Ruidoso in the Fall". The company Botanical Interests has a "seed program" for students and graciously sent a large box of seeds as well as catalogs for each student. After discussing the meaning of "frost dates", students scoured the catalogs and seed packets to see what could be planted now. Future programs about Composting and Soil Reclamation. Greenhouses and Propagation are planned for future classes.

Organic Planet, the youth garden club at PAPA Charter School in Albuquerque had a student win a "State Fair Special" for their design in September. We are currently planning a butterfly garden on campus for the spring. We ordered "milkweed" seeds to plant and will do that as soon as they arrive. We have amended the soil in the bed we chose and are breaking down our raised garden beds for the winter. We planted mums in our front circle bed for fall color. We still take good care of the pansies Debra Sorrell (**Uptown Garden Club**) donated to us after Uptown's flower pounding activity that we did last spring. With a gracious donation of geranium cuttings from Sandra Baca (**Uptown Garden Club**), we will be planting and sending each member home with a new geranium. Thank you also to Vicki Frye (**Uptown Garden Club**) for passing on sunflower seed packets from her son for us to plant in the spring. We would also like to thank Suzy Andrego and Vicki Frye (of **Uptown Garden Club**) for their \$200 donations each to purchase the mentioned raised beds. It is with everyone's help that we can teach our youth about the joys of playing in the dirt.



Share the Beauty Day - From Soup Cans to Smiles! By Ginny Longbotham

While attending our State Garden Convention, I visited with some other state and Region members about Share the Beauty Day. Most had no idea what I was talking about. I told them it was so rewarding and fun. After explaining it to them, they asked if I would write a story about it, so they could do the same in their area. I said sure, it is my pleasure. This is the story:

In the beginning, many moons ago, it started, an elderly lady at The Salvation Army had some of their special need locals put yarn or string around soup cans as a project. She then contacted the Albuquerque Garden Center and ask if they would put flowers from their gardens in the cans and then the Army would deliver to shut ins. The delivery day was called Mercy Day. The elderly lady passed and the project was scheduled to end. That was over fifteen years ago. other members of the Council decided to step up and revitalize the program. The name was changed to Share the Beauty Day and after many tries, i.e., rocks in bottom of cans, and other options, it was found that oasis works best and soup cans are great because they fit in boxes so easily and are all the same size.

Years later that tradition is still being carried out on the first Monday of June, the beginning of National Garden Week. Months before the big day, soup cans are collected. Usually, 600-800 cans are decorated with
(Continued on Next Page.)



elderly lady at The



Shirley Tetreault and



From Soup Cans to Smiles! (Continued from Previous Page).

festive duct tape and paint, some with can pull tabs and glue on diamonds and stars. It was found that color paper and wallpaper did not work as it gets wet. The day before, a small group meet and place oasis in the cans with water.

The next day, early, 6:30 am, 30-40 members from all different council garden clubs, bring in flowers and greenery from their yards (they get up even earlier to pick their yards). We busily chat and visit while filling the cans with flowers. About noon, cars are loaded up and delivered to 6/7 different asst livings, hospitals and the VA individually to their rooms. The flower cans for the VA are always decorated with Red White and Blue (even the flowers!) For the years during covid, we could only deliver to the front desk. The year that we were totally confined from going to normal places, we took them to police substations and fire stations. It's a yearlong process, but the smiles and hugs we get when delivering is priceless.

If you live in a smaller community, you may not need many cans. Also, we are investigating alternate sources of cans, i.e. a can manufacturing can company. You need a contact from the hospital, assistant living or wherever you wish to deliver to get the date and time set for delivery. I would love to hear from any of the clubs around the state, region and country that would like to execute this wonderful event. From what I can find out, no one does this in the country except for Albuquerque. If you or your club would like more information, contact: Ginny Longbotham 505-280-2660

My wish would be to spread smiles across the country for the many shut ins. Let's start out National Garden Week spreading smiles!!!

**JOIN GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE US for
South Central Region**

Gardening Schools II via ZOOM!!

(New Mexico is a Member of NGC South Central Region)

THIS IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email Judy Grots at judygrots@cotc.net

To all NGC State Presidents & all Blue Star/ Gold Star Families Memorial Marker State Chairmen;

Sewah Studios is grateful for the longstanding business relationship they have had with National Garden Clubs, Inc. over the years. However, over the past few years they have been faced with a multitude of unforeseen problems. The workforce across our country is not what it was pre-pandemic. For Sewah to meet the high customer expectations it has become necessary to develop a strong employee base. To recruit and retain top employees it required an increased labor cost of 40%. Rising material and shipping costs caused them to reevaluate their pricing.

Sewah Studios plan a plant expansion to allow a 50% increase in marker production. These things noted, Sewah finds it necessary to implement new price increases based on their cost for materials, labor and shipping expenses per item.

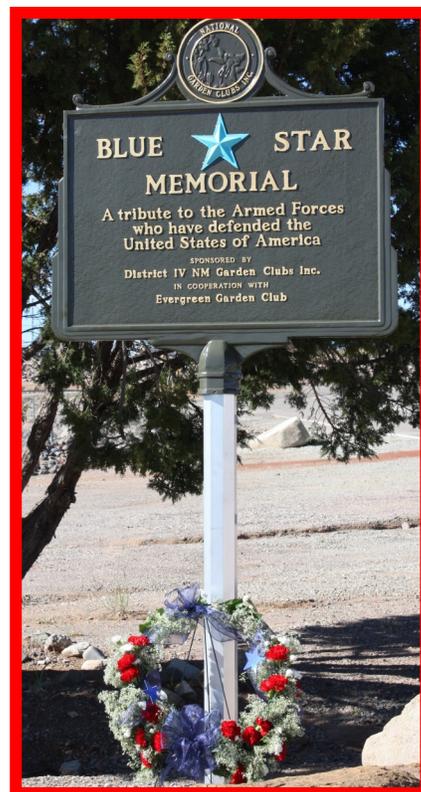
Sewah Studios assures National Garden Clubs, Inc. that our price changes are still below their general pricing. The new pricing effective January 1, 2024 is listed. Please share this information to all of your District Directors.

Respectfully,

Candace Fleming Wells

NGC Blue Star & Gold Star Families Memorial Marker Chairman

BLUE STAR-GOLD STAR	2023	2024
MARKER W/7' POST	1995	2350
MARKER W/10' POST	2095	2460
BY-WAY	665	750
REPLACEMENT 7' POST	375	375
REPLACEMENT 10' POST	475	475
REFURBISHMENT	1200	1200
REFURBISHMENT/CAP REPAIR	1450	1450
SHIPPING WESTERN STATES	100	300



Trees and Shrubs, *Dodie Bernal-Suhr, Chairman*

What is a “Community Forest”?

In your own words, define *forest*.

Forest: trees in a group, trees in a community.

Have a look, just outside your front door, up and down the street. To one degree or another, you live in a ‘community forest’. If you are fortunate, when your neighborhood was developed, someone had the foresight to add a landscape budget that included trees!

Your ‘community forest’.

This time of year, how does your ‘community forest’

look? For us, in New Mexico weather plays a huge role. Rain! Mostly not enough rain to see our plants through the extreme heat we can experience in our high desert. We need to plan on some form of irrigation to keep our plants alive. Too much rain in the spring when temperatures are cooler will show up as mildew on lilacs and other sensitive plants.

Through all of it, heat, drought and sometimes strong winds, our community forest lives!

In our cities, towns, and neighborhoods, we can be a factor to benefit our community forests.

We can assess tree health in our parks, schools, and neighborhoods. Sometimes it’s as simple as pointing out to a neighbor if their tree looks drought stressed. Perhaps your child’s school would like some help with planning and planting a tree on Arbor Day.

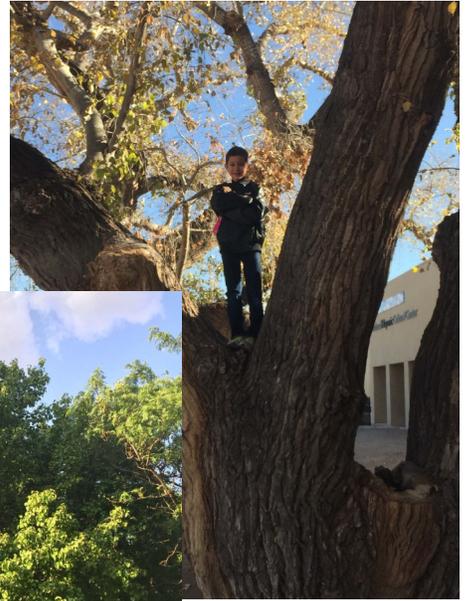
Share your ideas on how to make our communities part of a the larger ‘community forest’ that we can all enjoy. This is taken from the International Society of Arboriculture, they say, ...

“More Trees Please”!

‘Please enjoy this collection of scenes of our Albuquerque community forest’ taken by Bryan Suhr.



(Trees and Shrubs, continued. From previous page.)



Blue Star Memorial, Shirley Tetreault, Chair

Our Stars are shining bright, and this Chair is extremely happy with the response from our Garden Clubs in New Mexico. Our first Gold Star Marker has been ordered and Angel Fire Garden Club will play a major role in the dedication in the spring. High Desert DC and Uptown teamed up to fund the 2nd marker at the VA Memorial Gardens in Albuquerque. We are also looking for a Spring dedication. An anonymous donor put in \$500. for a Gold Star Marker in Clovis. We do not have a club in Clovis at this time but hopefully we will have a big showing when the time comes. We are also working on a Blue and Gold in Artesia. We live in a very patriotic state and our Veterans, and their families are very important to us. If your club has a desire to help in the funding of any memorial marker that would be greatly appreciated. Contact me, Shirley Tetreault, 505 259-2263 for questions.





Garden Club News from Around the State

Summit Garden Club, District II, by Betsy Comly, Vice-President

Late Summer found Summit members caring for their own yards, maintaining the White Rock Community Garden and three gardens at Bandelier, and making suggestions for plants on the East side of Los Alamos Medical Center. Also, Laurie Hixson spoke on the inception and development of the White Rock Community Garden, plus gave a tour, to the Los Alamos Bee City group and others. In August, we toured the Randall Davey Audubon Center, Santa Fe. In September, Gillian Sutton, of Flowers by Gillian, Los Alamos, gave a demonstration and talk on using items found in nature, such as pine cones, cattails, and dried flowers, for our Fall arrangements.

In October, we invited the public to hear Del Jimenez of New Mexico State speak on eradication of bindweed. Many people attended, to find a way to combat this terrible weed in our lawns, flower and vegetable gardens. Mr. Jimenez explained to us that there is no silver bullet to eradicate bindweed. The roots can grow 30' horizontally, and 15' deep. Bindweed mites require three years to totally weaken the plant. Spraying with high concentrate vinegar will kill above ground growth, but not the roots; and cutting the plant at the base accomplishes the same. Since the plant requires foliage and sun for photosynthesis, removing the plant's foliage will, after several years, totally weaken it. Herbicides have the same effect, except stronger, as they will attack the root. Still, four or five applications are required to get rid of the weed. For more information, contact Del Jimenez, 505-929-4707 or 505-852-2668. He will return your call.

Our group is slowly and cautiously returning to meetings not totally dominated by Covid concern.



Home Garden Club, District V, David Blount, President

Home Garden club of Roswell is back on track for another fun year of learning and growing. Members of the club attended their first meeting on September 22nd at the Chaves county extension office meeting room. Topics of discussion covered details of the club yearbook for this coming season. Prior to our first meeting in on September 14th, the club participated in the Bitter Lakes wildlife refuge dragonfly festival. Chairperson Renate Reizel put together a fabulous booth oriented towards assisting children in building their own pollinator Garden. Lots of members turned out to help with this endeavor.

Our first meeting of the year was held at the Chaves county extension office. The members learn about fishing in Alaska and help to choose programs for the upcoming year.

October's meeting was held at the home of Gloria Mendiola. Our speaker was Lenore Savage who spoke about healing through herbs. Her presentation was extremely interesting and very pertinent to the health concerns of most gardeners. Lenore described different herbs that were better and a more natural replacement than medications prescribed by modern medicine. Members received a wealth of information and resources for further study. November's meeting will be held at the home of David Blount county president home Garden club.

November's meeting will be held at the home of President David Blount. Members will learn the ins and outs of vermiculture from presenter Bobby Hatley. Additionally, there will be a copy of Gary Larson's book There Is A Hair In My Dirt on hand for members to enjoy!

Happy fall to all New Mexico gardeners from the members of Home Garden club in Roswell.

The first four photos are from the dragonfly festival. Home Garden club member Branca Barrett pictured in photo number two. Random children involved in the making of a pollinator Garden.

The last photo is from our October meeting. Lenore Savage speaking to home Garden club members at the home of Gloria Mendiola.



High Desert Design Club, Shirley Tetreault President



High Desert DC celebrated our 10th year today, 10/8/23. It was an amazing day. Pictured are Shirley Tetreault, HD Sorrell, State President Hampton, Council we all got together and beautiful picture of present. We had a big and visited and then



President, Debra and Regina President. Then took one big everyone pot luck, laughed studied creative design with garage sale finds. We also studied table settings for future shows. Our members work hard and study December our



hard all year long and in finale is working the kitchen at the Holiday Fair. Hope to see you there.



Floral Designers, District II, Ann May, President

Floral Designers continue to pursue the study of various design types.

At our September meeting, Doris Jackson presented a comprehensive program on Petite Designs. In October Patricia Copple challenged us to construct a design using two containers.



**El Jardin Encanto, District I,
Fall Project
At the Good Life Senior Center in Los Lunas, NM**



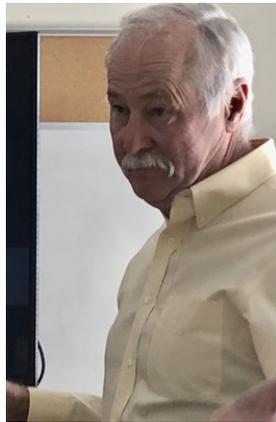
Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, The article was written by Helen Carpenter and the photos are by Barbara Antos, our club Historian.

In August, we visited the Cactus Garden of Sig Lodwig, a local White Rock resident. So many cacti. Many in pots so they can be brought in and protected during winter in his greenhouse. And then a nice visit to Joyce's home for refreshments.

September we had our Fall Harvest Luncheon and a program on African Violets by Dena Brent. Did you know there are more than 16,000 varieties?

In October, some members attended a presentation on bindweed by Del Jimenez, Alcalde Science Center. Thank you to Summit Garden Club for the invitation to join them. Very interesting - perhaps best way to kill the roots and all is with nematodes. Could take 3 years.

At our October meeting, Joe Lynch presented a program on Daylilies. He had beautiful photos of hundreds of Daylilies from his former home in PA. And did you know there are 89,000



varieties of these! Wow!

Dena Brent, African Violets Joe Lynch, Daylilies & Del Jimenez, Bindweed



Members intently listening to daylily lecture



Linda Hoffman, Joyce Zaugg, Helen Carpenter- final touches to some luncheon dishes.



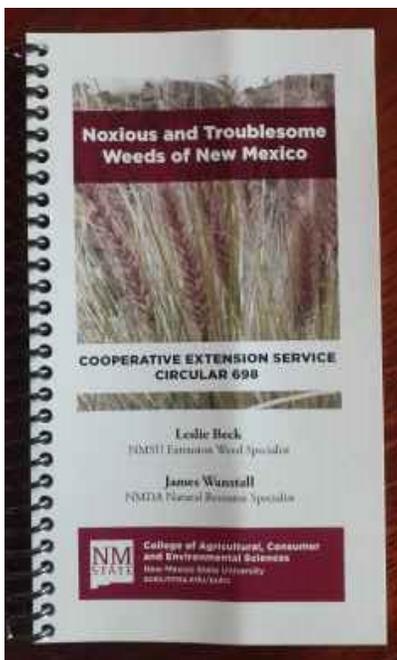
Lodwig Cactus Garden tour

Mesilla Valley Garden Club, District IV, Linda Frank, President

After our Summer hiatus, the Mesilla Valley Garden Club met September 12 at the Dona Ana County government center. We celebrated the memory of Beulah Oyler and her many contributions to the Club, the Community, and folks she inspired over the years. Following the memorial, our guest speaker, Dr. Leslie Beck, NMSU Extension Weed Specialist, {nmgcNewsletter_2023Winter_MVGC_photo1.jpg} and co-author of “Noxious and Troublesome Weeds of New Mexico” {nmgcNewsletter_2023Winter_MVGC_photo2.jpg} gave an enthusiastic and thorough presentation about weed identification and management strategies for crops, turf, and landscape. Participants were encouraged to bring weed samples for identification and many did. We were thrilled to have eight guests at the meeting.

Our October 10 meeting was hosted by Linda Miller, Las Cruces, avid gardener, and owner of High Desert Blooms, in her lovely and shaded back yard {nmgcNewsletter_2023Winter_MVGC_photo3.jpg}. Linda’s presentation topic was Propagating Plants from Cuttings. After a discussion about cuttings, root division, seed collection, growth nodes, rooting hormone, and maintaining a high humidity environment, she encouraged each of us to help ourselves to a grow pot and potting soil and take cuttings from her garden – tradescantia, mint, oregano, coleus, sage, and more – dip in hormone and take home a souvenir. Mine’s still growing! {nmgcNewsletter_2023Winter_MVGC_photo4.jpg}.

Four new members joined the Club at the meeting!



NEWS FROM New Mexico Judges Council

Flower Show School 3 will be held January 20-21, 2024

Flower Show School 4 will be held July 27 -28, 2024

See the attached Brochure for Flower Show School 3

or Email NM Judges Council President,

Suzy Andrego at Sandrego@aol.com

Want to put on a Flower Show

but your club is not sure where to begin??

Contact NM Judges Council President,

Suzy Andrego at Sandrego@aol.com

and she can put you in touch with Flower Show Mentors.

Did you know that any member of a garden club can download the *National Garden Clubs Handbook for Flower Shows* ?

Just go to National Garden Clubs website, www.gardenclub.org, go to Flower Show Schools, Flower Show resources and the 2023 edition of the Handbook for Flower Shows.

If you have any questions or need help downloading the Handbook, contact Suzy Andrego at Sandrego@aol.com

New Mexico Gardener

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2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

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

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Theme: Plant America—Go Green

South Central Region

Sarah McReynolds

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Theme: Plant America—Pollinate South Central

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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, 2024