



Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 51 No. 3

March/April/May 2024

## Spring 2024 Issue

# **Penny Pines**

## **Help Replant NM Forests**

Saving Forests \$68 At a Time

National Garden Club, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, helps to sustain our nation and urban forests through the reforestation/forest education program, **Penny Pines**.

**\$68 buys a 200 tree plantation!**

**In New Mexico in 2022**

**21 fires consumed 904,422 acres  
across the state**

- Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak Fire was largest in NM history (341,735 acres)
- Black Fire in Gila was second largest in NM history (325,136 acres)
- *Between 12.5 million - 21 million seedlings are required for the reforestation of just one of those fires.*

**2023-2025**

**New Mexico Garden Clubs President's Project**

**500 plantations**

Debra Sorrell, President  
New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.



**Poster Design Credit: Shawna Cory**



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

### ***“Grow Through What You Go Through”***

Are you ready, New Mexico Gardeners? Spring is right around the corner! I'm SOOOOO excited! Our enchanted State is very different from the north to the south so, I know that the signs of spring arrive at different times, depending on where you live. But, the days are getting a little longer for all of us and the promise of warmer days ahead and bulbs popping up is in all of our futures. Most importantly, gardening, and Garden Club both start

to gear up in the spring. Greenhouses are opened up, gardens are prepped, the seeds you ordered arrive and are planted, a watering schedule gets set and the fun begins!

For Garden Clubs, the spring kicks into gear with District meetings around the state. These meetings are meant to be an opportunity for the clubs and members in your area to get together and share meeting ideas, project ideas, club's issues and to have a chance to socialize. Hopefully, there is also a wonderful program for everyone to enjoy and learn from. Please take advantage of this chance to meet the other members in your district and find out what's going on outside your own club. Each member pays dues to the District through their club dues. Attend the meeting, which helps to support the organization, and helps you stay informed. Contact your District Director to get the times and details for your meeting:

District I - March 11, 2024      Debi Harrington - [photodebi@gmail.com](mailto:photodebi@gmail.com)

District II - March 8, 2024      Kersti Rock - [ankaere@gmail.com](mailto:ankaere@gmail.com)

District IV - March 6, 2024      Linda Brandis - [brandislinda@gmail.com](mailto:brandislinda@gmail.com)

District V - March 21, 2024      Julie Foster - [jalfff@pvtnetworks.net](mailto:jalfff@pvtnetworks.net)

Next up will be the New Mexico Garden Clubs annual Spring Convention and Awards Banquet, April 10-11, 2024. The clubs of District II, under the direction of convention Chair Laurie Hixson, are planning a fabulous event in Santa Fe. There will be a renowned New Mexico arborist who speaks, field trips, awards and a great deal of fun to be had! Plus, we will have the current South Central Director, Sarah McReynolds, as our guest. Sarah is from Texas and is a real firecracker! Come and meet her and hear about another extension of our organization. Look for all the details in this edition of the Gardener and plan to attend!

## Message from Our 2023-2025 President (continued)

I am very curious about the participation in these larger meetings. I hope that you are taking the time to enjoy these events. If you do, I'll be happy to see you there! If you do not go to either one or both of them, I wonder why. Is it time? Expense? Something else? Please, please, please let me know your thoughts. Our desire is to connect members from Angel Fire to Las Cruces, and all points around, to expand education and encourage the spread of Garden Clubs across our state. How are we missing that mark? I value your comments and suggestions!!

That covers the big meetings within our state for the spring. They will be followed by the South Central Region convention, April 24-25, 2024, in Little Rock, Arkansas. New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc is a part of SCR.....along with Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. It is a lot of fun to meet with gardeners from the other three states and hear about their "doings". There is so much to learn from each other! There are many passionate people in the world of gardening. The more of them you meet, the more your own knowledge stretches.

Finally, the National Convention! This year, members from New Mexico have the rare opportunity to attend a national event without spending a fortune on travel because it's close! The NGC 2024 Spring Convention will be held in Denver, Colorado, June 3-5. It's a lovely time of year to drive to Colorado with a friend or two. If you make it a real "girls trip", you could have 2 or 3 in a room, have a blast and save money. There will be lots of available field trips, shopping, great food and fun. Also, all the incoming State Presidents will be recognized and given their certificates (which was supposed to happen last spring). It would be really exciting to have a healthy contingent of NMGC members there for support! Think about a little summer jaunt to Colorado and we can all party together!

When you pay your annual dues to your own club, a portion goes to your District, some to the State, some to the Region and some to National. Each and every member of a club is investing in each one of those groups. Each of those groups have a vast number of resources available to you and your club. There are national, regional and state chairmen who are delighted to provide you with ideas and tools and support. There are schools, forms, resources, articles, links.....generally a deep well of things to draw from to enhance your clubs and your love of all things gardening. You have already paid for them so USE them! Some of those resources are annual meetings.

Continued on Next page.....

## Message from Our 2023-2025 President (continued)

After such a busy time with all the meetings and conventions, I find I come home physically tired and mentally energized! I'm ready to share with my garden club friends at home all the many things I've discovered and learned along the way. I've seen this over and over.....someone hears about something cool at a convention and goes home and tries it with their club. That's exactly how things stay fresh and relevant and interesting and new. Conventions can give you that "Oh, I've never thought of that" experience that keeps things from getting stale. They provide an uplifting, party like venue to keep us connected to each other, across all levels of the organization, so we can pass the best back down to our members. Perhaps each club might consider sponsoring one member a year to attend one of these great meetings. They are for YOU!

Then, out to the garden for me! Some clubs begin their meetings in the spring and some stop meeting now and take it back up in the fall. Most meet year round. Whatever your club's meeting schedule is, enjoy your spring! I hope you are setting yourselves up to grow beautiful things this season.....flowers, plants, veggies, friendships and love. In all the things you go through, keep growing.

*Debra Sorrell, President*



### **TREES** by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see  
A poem lovely as a tree.

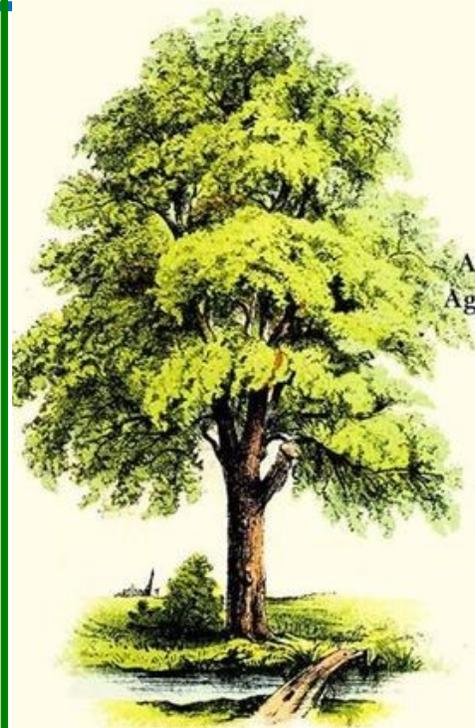
A tree whose hungry mouth is prest  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast;

A tree that looks at God all day,  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray;

A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair;

Upon whose bosom snow has lain;  
Who intimately lives with rain.

Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree.





New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

**OFFICIAL CALL**  
**73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention**  
***“RISING FROM THE ASHES”***

April 10 – 11, 2024  
New Mexico Governor’s Residence and  
Marriott Courtyard Santa Fe

This is the Official Notice to all members of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.  
The registration form is in the Spring issue of the *New Mexico Gardener*  
and may be printed from the NMGC website

**Wed., April 10, 2024**

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
12:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
12:30 PM – 2:00 PM  
2:30 PM – 3:30 PM  
5:00 PM – 5:45 PM  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

**PRECONVENTION**

**Tour 1** – El Rancho de las Golondrinas  
Registration Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe - Atrium  
NMGC Executive Board Meeting – La Cumbre Room  
NM Judges Council General Meeting  
NM Judges Council Happy Hour  
NM Judges Council Banquet – Loma/Sierra Room  
NM Judges Council Program – movie night – Atrium

**Thurs., April 11, 2024**

7:30 AM – 8:00 AM  
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM  
9:00 AM – 9:15 AM  
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM  
12:00 PM – 12:30 PM  
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  
1:30 PM – 2:30 PM  
2:30 PM  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM  
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
6:15 PM – 6:30 PM  
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM  
9:00 PM – 9:30 PM

**OFFICIAL NMGC, INC. CONVENTION**

Breakfast on your own  
Registration Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe - Atrium  
Caravan to Governor’s Residence – 1 Mansion Drive, Santa Fe, NM 87501  
Official Opening of NMGC, Inc. 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention – La Vista Room  
NMGC, Inc. General Business Meeting  
Caravan to Marriott Courtyard – 3347 Cerrillos Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507  
Luncheon – Loma/Sierra Room  
Program: “Trees are Killing our Forests” by George Duda, Retired New  
General Business Meeting continues (if necessary) otherwise free time  
Free time to visit the plaza – gift shops – museum – take a tour  
**Tour 2** - Santa Fe Botanical Garden  
President’s Reception – Marriott Courtyard, Santa Fe President’s Suite  
Banquet – Introduction of Past State Presidents & Club Presidents –  
Banquet  
Award Presentations  
Final Credentials, Resolutions, and Closing

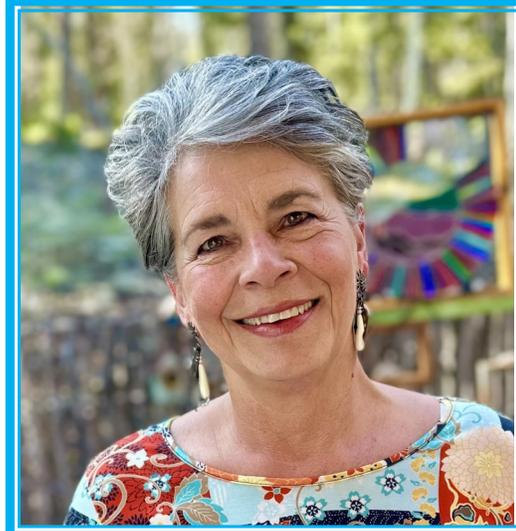
**Fri., April 12, 2024**

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

**POST CONVENTION**

**Tour 3** – Allan Houser Sculpture Garden

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



District II has been working on the NMGC Annual convention April 10th & 11th in Santa Fe. I'm excited about going and getting to see our awesome members from all over our wonderful state.

My first convention was so fun and I knew after that I would make it to as many as I could. When our district was in charge of it years ago, it was such an eye opener of how much work the districts do! So awesome to walk into a room decorated by gardeners!

I was honored to work with Diane Peterson on the resolutions for a couple of years. We had such fun preparing for our "skits" at the end of the conventions. I sure will miss her!!



Up in the high country we still have LOTS of snow!!! We don't get to plant anything outdoors until around the 1st week of June. Our growing season outdoors is very short.

I look forward to seeing you all in April!!



**2024 NMGC  
ANNUAL CONVENTION**



**SANTA FE, NM**

Hello All and Happy Spring!

I hope you're all ready for a great time this spring. Our NMGC Annual Convention will be fabulous! This year's Convention is extra special: in addition to being held at the Courtyard Marriott Santa Fe, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has invited us to have our convention meeting at her residence in Santa Fe! We will have our general business meeting at the Governor's residence and then return to the Marriott Courtyard for lunch and our program and the remainder of the convention.

Official dates of the Convention are April 10-11, 2024. But we've added a special tour the day after on Friday. We've made arrangements to have a guided tour of the Allan Houser Sculpture Garden south of Santa Fe. Tentative plans are to go on the tour in

the morning and then go to the famous San Marcos Cafe and Feed for lunch. Their cinnamon rolls to die for.

Speaking of tours, there are three total. In addition to the Allan Houser Sculpture Garden tour on Friday, there's a tour of Rancho de las Golondrinas on Wednesday morning. Las Golondrinas is a living history museum. During the summer they have reenactments of how life in the Santa Fe area was like. We will have the place to ourselves to explore and enjoy (and be grateful for the invention of indoor plumbing!). On Thursday afternoon we will be going to the Santa Fe Botanical Garden. This is a gem to be sure. If you haven't been before you're in for a treat. In addition to all the different plant species they exhibit, the artwork incorporated throughout the garden is worth a trip in itself.

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. Alternately, you can copy and paste the link into your web browser and it will take you to the same page. <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1695942146718&key=GRP>

Deadline for the \$99 room rate is March 10, 2024, so don't wait too long to make your reservation.

Our President's been very busy this year. When you come to the convention, you'll be the first to find out all the things she's been working on to help improve our organization. Our luncheon program, by George Duda, has a very intriguing title—"Trees are Killing our Forests." He's an expert in forestry, so we'll be getting the real scoop.

If your time permits, plan on coming to the Judges Council activities. You don't need to be a flower show judge to participate. You probably know many of the people too! They're planning an evening of fun starting with a taco bar buffet. This will probably be the most relaxed banquet you've been to in your whole life! After the banquet, they've planned a fun movie night for everyone. So, plan to join in on the fun. You won't be disappointed.

I personally would like to see as many NMGC members as possible at this convention. There are so many of you that I haven't met. Please consider coming to this convention. (I'm thinking road trip with your fellow club members.) If you haven't been to an NMGC convention before, you're in for a treat. If you've been to a previous convention, this will prove to be the best one yet. I'm looking forward to seeing you there! Please come seek me out and introduce yourself. As Membership Chairman, I see everyone's names. It will be great to put a face to the name.

***Laurie Hixson, NMGC, Inc. Convention Chairman***



## **CORRESPONDING SECRETARY – Joyce Zaugg**

Hello,

My name is Joyce Zaugg. Debra Sorrell has asked me to be the Corresponding Secretary. The biggest part of my responsibilities is to gather, edit, and distribute the Annual Report. The Annual Report is our historical documentation of our activities for the year. With that in mind, all Officers, District Directors, and Chairpersons need to send me their annual reports by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Your reports should cover June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023-May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. If you're a club President, you are invited to send a year end report but it is optional.

Please send your reports to my home address which is 115 Fort Union, Los Alamos, NM 87547 or email at [greenleavesjoy@gmail.com](mailto:greenleavesjoy@gmail.com). Thank you.

## **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 Sorrell'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](mailto:susan.f.schultz@gmail.com)





## Parliamentarian, *Suzy Andrego*

Sandrego@aol.com

### **TIP ....**

**DID YOU KNOW .....** After the reading of the previous meeting minutes you do NOT need a motion to approve them. You only need to ask and state:



**ARE THERE CORRECTIONS OR ADDITIONS TO THE MINUTES?  
IF NOT, THEY STAND APPROVED AS READ.**

## Ways and Mean Chairman, *Mary Ann Moreno*

THANK YOU for supporting the Ways and Means for 2024 . Debra Sorrell and Suzy Andrego will be going to the district meetings and you will have an opportunity to view in person, the items that will be raffled off. Suzy will have raffle tickets with her so you can still purchase opportunities to win some of the wonderful prizes. The funds from the Ways and Means are to support Debra Dorrell's President's Project of 500 Penny Pines Plantations during her term. This project helps support reforestation of the burned forest fire lands surrounding Las Vegas and Santa Fe, NM. Some of the items available for the 2024 Ways & Means Raffle are Four unique purses, a \$50 Home Depot Gift card, a Handmade Southwest Ceremonial beaded necklace and earrings, a Blue stone & Sterling earrings and necklace set, and a Turquoise & sterling bird pendant.

All clubs received photos and raffle tickets. If you have not done so, please mail me or get to me your ticket stubs and monies. These need to be to be before April 5, 2024. If you club needs more tickets, contact me, or ask Suzy for some when you see her.

The raffle will be held at the 2024 Convention in Santa Fe, April, 11, 2024. You do not need to be present to win.

If you are interested in donating anything towards the 2025 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.

***Gratefully the Ways and Means Committee Members: Mary Ann Moreno, Jennifer Moreno & Suzy Andrego for the President's Project.***

**SOME OF the New Mexico  
Garden Clubs Ways & Means  
Raffle Prizes for 2024**



Navajo Ceremonial  
Necklace & Earrings



Babylon  
Purse



FUN Kitty  
Purse



Sterling &  
Blue Stone  
Set



Double D  
Ranch 2023 edi-



Patricia  
Nash Purse



## Message from District I Director, *Debi Harrington*

### **"Going Green Through Education and Application"**

District I has seven very active garden clubs that continue to educate their members and frequent guests. Meeting at various times throughout each month, there is a time and place for everyone to fellowship and learn with other gardeners and floral designers, join in projects to beautify their homes and communities - all while focusing on many of NGC's objectives. I am so pleased that the clubs in District I diligently strive to have varied and unique new programs each year. I firmly believe clubs shouldn't allow themselves to get into a rut by having the same topics and speakers year after year.

On Monday, March 11th, District I will have its Annual Spring meeting, Lunch and Program. We have a GREAT program lined up on "Dazzling Dahlias". It will be presented by experts Dorothy Duff and Edith Iwan, from the NM Dahlia Society. Trust me, these two ladies KNOW, GROW, and SHOW Dahlias!

Lunch is being provided by Valley Gardeners GC. The menu will be a DELICIOUS Pasta Bar, Tossed Salad, Homemade Breads, Dessert, Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade. Vegan and Gluten Free options will be available. The cost is only \$15.

Floral centerpieces will be provided by several Moriarty GC members. There will be table favors for each attendee and drawings for some great door prizes! And, we will have District I Award announcements by our Awards Chair, Trudie Meyer.

Please join us for this fun, educational day! In addition to District I members, all NMGC members are invited to come learn more about Dahlias from two of New Mexico's experts! To make a reservation, please email Treasurer, Debby Hasse, at: [hassefarms@msn.com](mailto:hassefarms@msn.com) by Wednesday, March 6th. I hope to see you there!

Garden Blessings, Debi Harrington



**JOIN GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS FROM AROUND THE US for**

**South Central Region**

**Gardening Schools III 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](mailto:judygrots@cotc.net)**



## Message from District II Director, Kersti Rock

The District II 2024 Spring Executive Board and General meeting will be held at the United Church in Los Alamos on March 8. We are very pleased to have New Mexico Garden Club's State President, Debra Sorrell, and Past President, Christine Longthorp, attending as our honored guests. LANL biologist and local penstemon expert, Dr. Larry Deaven, will be providing a program on "The Penstemon Gardens at the Los Alamos Nature Center."

In November, Los Alamos Garden Club had a very helpful program on the care and maintenance of garden tools by Del Jimenez of New Mexico State University. In December, LAGC members met for their annual Holiday luncheon. In January, LAGC members learned how to create surprisingly realistic coffee filter flowers in a workshop led by Joyce Zaugg and Trish Spillman. Floral Designers has not met since October. In November, Summit members prepared seed packages for the Los Alamos County seed libraries. In December Summit club members held a cookie exchange, where members brought their favorite garden tool and yard art to show and pass around.

Under the expert guidance of convention chair Laurie Hixson, District II is continuing to plan for the 2024 NMGC Convention in Santa Fe. The Convention will be held on April 10 and 11 at the Courtyard by Marriott on Cerrillos Road in Santa Fe. The Convention Schedule, including some exciting tours, is available in the 2023-2024 Winter Issue of the New Mexico Gardener. Also available in that issue is a link to reserve a room at the Courtyard by Marriott under the NMGC group rate. In order to obtain the group rate, rooms need to be reserved by March 10, 2024. District II looks forward to seeing our fellow garden club members from all around our beautiful state at the Convention.

## Life Membership & Scholarship *Christine Longthorp, Chairman*



### LIFE MEMBERSHIPS



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.

**The NMGC Membership pin costs \$20!**

**SUPPORT OUR NMGC SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

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

We have much to be thankful for this spring. Ruidoso High School Garden Club which currently has 10 members are having a membership drive this month to recruit gardening enthusiasts. According Laurie Hixson, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP of Membership This is a 100% increase in membership because there was not a youth club last year. This is so exciting. They are also busy gearing up for the spring. Hopefully I will have many activities to report about in the May issue.

Other fantastic news is that Uptown Sponsored “Organic Planet” gardening club at the Public Academy for Performing Arts Charter School in Albuquerque has 20 active members. This is a 200% increase from last year because they as well did not have a club last year. They hold meetings twice a month on every other Wednesday. They have started their cold greenhouses out of plastic gallon jugs and the lettuce, Brussel sprouts, and spinach to name a few are already sprouting. they cleaned up the beds around campus from the winter and have noticed all the daffodils already poking through the ground. They are trying to order caterpillars for their pollinator garden, but the company they can afford only ships west of the continental divide due to government regulations on Monarchs. However, they are still researching and hope to have caterpillars to release in the spring. When members of the club went up to the round house for unrelated reasons, they met a man who is piloting a chili seed in space research project that they are going participate in with excitement. They will keep us informed of their progress. Last week, they did a flower pounding card activity with gusto. A big thank you to State President Debra Sorrell for lending out the mallets, hammers, and rocks. Also, thank you to Suzy Andrego for delivering them to the club. They enjoyed this activity so much that they want to try again for Mother’s Day. They are so proud of the beautification of their campus and look forward to the spring bulbs and plantings that will be happening in the coming months.

If you have any youth gardening activities Please contact me at [Lynnette.Walker@q.com](mailto:Lynnette.Walker@q.com)



Blue Star/Gold Star, Shirley Tetreault, Chairman



**WOW! WOW! WOW!** The state of New Mexico is Blue and Gold and still going strong. As of right now we have three Gold Star Memorial Markers on site and waiting for installation. They will be dedicated at the Angel Fire Viet Nam Memorial Garden, New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque and the other in Clovis, NM. A lot of hard work as well as NM Garden Clubs (Angel Fire, High Desert Floral Designers and Uptown ), special members, Gold Star Mothers, and special military groups has made this happen in our state. There will be a lot of opportunities to attend a dedication which will be announced soon.

At this time, Artesia Garden club is working with the city of Artesia to place a Blue Star and a Gold Star in a city park surrounded by our beautiful American and New Mexico flags. I just got notice that there is an individual in Roswell that would like to place another Gold Star in their city.

As we approach Spring, please make sure that your memorial markers are clean and well maintained. This is a great time to plant and clean in and around them. Have a wonderful spring and God Bless America and those who serve.



## **Horticulture Chairman, Ellen Reed, Chairman**



As the temperature warms, enjoy the bulbs you planted last fall. Consider where you would enjoy more and make a note in your garden calendar for next fall. Order vegetable and flower seeds from the new catalogs.

Remove old hellebore leaves to expose emerging flowers. Bulb foliage needs to mature naturally to ensure strong blooms next spring. However, developing seed pods should be snapped off. Cutting the stems with clippers may spread viruses.

Gradually clean dead leaves from the beds and sprinkle slow release fertilizer around clumps of emerging bulb foliage and perennials. Renew mulch with compost. If the perennial clumps are too large they can be lifted and divide into healthy divisions. Replant the extras or pot them for the April Garden Fair in Albuquerque, or shared with friends. Crowded groups of daffodils may be dug and separated as the foliage fades and while they can be identified. One way of digging bulbs without slicing them with a shovel is to insert a hose nozzle with a strong stream of water and wash the soil away from the clump. Add a high phosphate fertilizer and compost to the area and replant the larger bulbs. Small bulbs will eventually reach blooming size and can be grown in an out of the way place.

When it is possible to identify volunteer annual seedlings, thin them for a better display or move them to other spots. Make sure they are not invasive weeds.

Don't be in a hurry to prune winter damaged branches and shrubs. Especially wait to cut back crepe myrtle, buddlea and vitex which bloom on new growth. When they start to leaf out, cut back to a strong bud and remove weak growth. Spring flowering shrubs should be pruned after blooming to strong new growth for healthy blooms next spring. Removing spent blooms renews the bushes and keeps them compact. Fertilize and water well after pruning.

To bring some winter sunshine inside, cut branches of forsythia or winter jasmine on a warm day and keep them in water and bright light until they open.

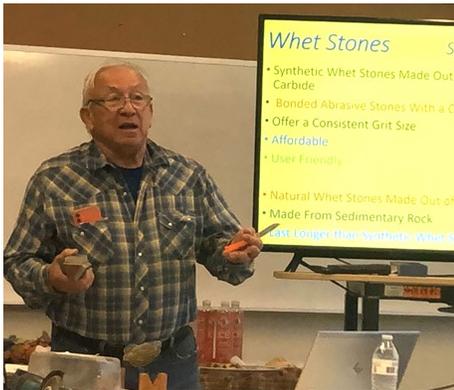
In the Albuquerque area the last frost occurs between April 15 and May 15<sup>th</sup> but, the ground has not warmed enough to plant tomatoes, chili's and warm season annuals. Wait until later in May to plant your purchases from the nurseries.



# Garden Club News from Around the State

## Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, by Helen Carpenter & Linda Hoffman

In November, Del Jimenez, Agricultural Specialist from the NMSU Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde, NM spoke to us about the care and maintenance of garden tools and equipment. He demonstrated manual sharpening technique, and demonstrated a battery operated sharpener. He had asked that we bring some of our own tools. He provided us each with a file and had us each demonstrate we knew the correct way to sharpen our own equipment.



Del Jimenez Program Speaker



Judy Handy learns how to sharpen loppers

Our December meeting is traditionally a Holiday Luncheon. Member Trish Spillman brought table decorations-fabric wreaths and a beautiful pine cone one that she had made, each with a different technique. The catered meal was enjoyed by almost all of the club membership.



Delicious Desserts



Trish Spillman pine cone wreath



Members enjoying lunch

**Los Alamos Garden Club, District II, by Helen Carpenter & Linda Hoffman**

*(Continued)*

Our January meeting was a craft workshop. Members Trish Spillman and Joyce Zaugg demonstrated how to make flowers from coffee filters. Each had the same materials but a different technique. All results were attractive. A spring-like craft for a cold day.



Trish Spillman-vase of coffee filter flowers she made



Sue Hansen holding her creation



Joyce Zaugg demonstrating her version of coffee filter flowers

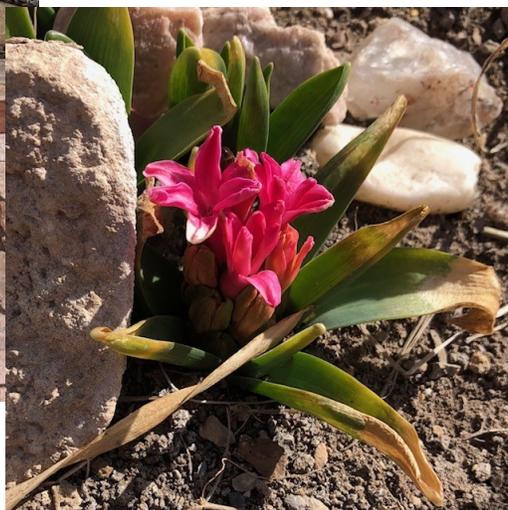
## Morning Garden Club, District V, Vicki Hobson, President

Late in November, Morning Garden Club helped decorate the outside of the Historical Society of the Southeast's museum by placing wreathes and pine swags all around the perimeter of their porch.

Since we are doing less gardening outside, we used our time in December to gift the new Habitat for Humanity home owner with a wreath and hanger, an outdoor planter filled with spring bulbs, and tools and a garden hose so they can care for their new yard. During our Christmas party, members brought an abundance of gifts that clients of The Refuge for Battered adults were requesting... so much that it took two car loads to deliver them.

Our January meeting presenter was David Blount from Home Garden Club showing us methods for starting seeds indoors that he has been successful with for many years. Our February meeting will focus on compost and how to do it correctly, presented by Debbie Rodriguez, a club member and Chaves County Extension Master Gardener.

Our civic gardens are resting quietly at the present time, with a few spring bulbs beginning to peak through the soil. We've done some maintenance, but definitely don't have to do much weeding at present. I think everyone is ready to start gardening outdoors as the weather allows. Happy Spring.



Part of our butterfly garden's kid friendly art, which is almost hidden by flowers in the summer, but easily seen during the winter.

## High Desert Design Club, Shirley Tetreault President

2023 was another great year for High Desert DC. In July and August, we went outside the box and studied Roses and Iris. Everyone was very excited to hear Beth Schneider on the Iris side and Connie Wenk with the Roses. The State Fair was another highlight with a lot of winners. October opened a whole new learning experience for us. The Glow and Stroll at the Garden Center was a great success. With the help of Gwen Thorman (and her great artwork) our garden spot was amazing. All of our members have special talents that we love. We all dressed up in a Halloween costume and walked through the gardens scaring people. In November we had a lot of food and a big cake celebrating 10 years. **Happy Birthday High Desert Design Club!** It is always so much fun to be a part of this club.



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

This Fall, Summit members sorted and packaged seeds for the LA County Library seed libraries, both Los Alamos and White Rock branches.

At our Winter social we held a cookie exchange; plus people brought their favorite gardening tool and a piece of yard art. Pictured is Barbara Mann, showing some members her pruner that is crafted specially for people with small hands. We all held and practiced using this beautiful instrument. In the other photo is a garden gnome.



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

December 20, 1960



**GREETING GUESTS** at the holiday cocktail party of the Petal Pushers Garden Club are, from left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Kious and Mr. and Mrs. George W. Hosking, who comprised the host and hostess com-

mittee. Decorative appointments for the annual courtesy, held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dale B. Walker, 6308 Natalie NE, were in traditional green and red.

(Journal photo)

### **PETAL PUSHERS EXCITING CIRCLE OF LIFE!**

Petal Pushers held its monthly meeting and we had two new guests who signed up and paid their dues! But that's not the best part. One of the members, Pat Kious brought us a newspaper clip that she found. Her mother-in-law, Dale Kious, was a Petal Pusher member in 1960. The other lady in the picture was Betty Jo Hosking. Patty told us that Dale passed away in mid-nineties. Christine Longthorp was at our meeting and told us awesome stories of Dale and Betty Jo. I'm sure there are many other members who remember these ladies. And now! We have the next generation.

Petal Pushers March Meeting: March 26<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am Grace's Room. We will be making Nesting Wreaths. If you would like to join us in this fun event, please bring a wreath or suet container and join in the fun. You can also bring cotton balls, yarn, raffia, feathers, and anything else to put in the nesting wreaths. Then you can take it home and watch the birds build their nest. Please let Ginny Longbotham, [ginnylin@comcast.net](mailto:ginnylin@comcast.net) or 505-280-2660 if you plan to attend.



## Sunshine Valley Garden Clubs, District IV, Cindy Johnson, President

Our November meeting was spent doing pine cone crafts. We made pine cones with peanut butter and bird seed to hang outside for the wild birds to enjoy, and painted them as flowers.



We had a nice turnout for our holiday luncheon in December. Lots of good food, desserts, gifts, prizes and fun.



As an annual tradition, the Club delivered poinsettias to the Veterans, Assisted Living and Nursing Homes in Truth or Consequences.

At our Yearly Business Meeting in January, we planned the Programs for the year, collected dues and revised our Yearbook

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

Our November 14 meeting was hosted by Club Treasurer, the talented, and retired flower show judge, Judy Laird at her spectacular home at the foot of the Organ Mountains. Judy's presentation topic was "Crafting a Della Robbia". After a short discussion about becoming a flower show judge, Judy explained the history of the Della Robbia centerpiece. Lucca Della Robbia was an Italian Renaissance artist who was the first to make actual floral arrangements using fruits, nuts, and vegetables, as well as flowers, vines, and ribbon. Judy whipped up three gorgeous, autumnal arrangements in no time while sharing tips and tricks for design and how to keep those pumpkins from rolling out of the vase.

Two guests of club members joined in the fun.



## Mesilla Valley Garden Club, District IV, Linda Frank, President (Continued)

In December Becky and Darvy Fuller hosted the Club for a Christmas Luncheon and their spacious home on the opposite side of the valley. Members pitched-in numerous delicacies, which were enjoyed by one and all. There were loads of canned goods donated to the food pantry of the Gospel Rescue Mission, and children's books for the library at Jardin de los Ninos. We played Holiday Bingo with Stephanie Keepers ringing out the numbers. Coins were used to cover cards, which were then added to our Penny Pines fund.

Also in December, the Club was happy to be able to provide seeds to the inmates of the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility for their Winter and Spring gardens.

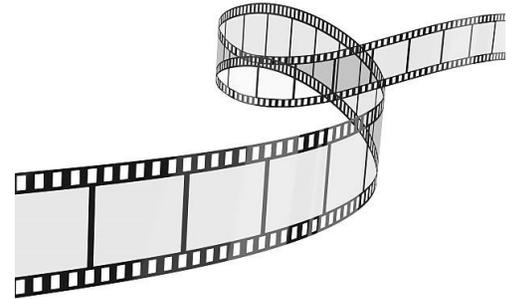


January saw the Club meet at the Branigan Library for an informative lecture about "Pests and Beneficial Insects" given by NMSU assistant professor and Extension entomology specialist, Dr. Joanie King. Dr. King shared the 'control' pyramid for pests, plantings to encourage beneficial insects, and a variety of resources available for additional information. The meeting was open to the community, and we were happy to have two guests join us.

# NEWS FROM New Mexico Judges Council



Join New Mexico Judges Council for Our Annual Meeting April 10th, 2024 at the Santa Fe Marriott Courtyard, and the NM Garden Clubs Annual Convention. The Evening dinner will be a Taco Bar, followed by a movie night. A very relaxing evening of visiting and enjoying our friends and viewing a movie about a flower show. See the NM Gardener Clubs Convention Registration form, attached to this issue of the NM Gardener for more information.



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

See the attached Brochure for Flower Show School 4  
or Email NM Judges Council President,  
Suzy Andrego at [Sandrego@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Sandrego@aol.com)**

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

# *New Mexico Gardener*

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

A Non-profit Organization

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

Organized 1950

Incorporated August 5, 1952

25 Clubs

525 Paid Memberships

2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

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

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St. Louis, MO 63110

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**Theme: "Grow Through what you go through"**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Brenda Moore

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Theme: Plant America—Go Green

**South Central Region**

Sarah McReynolds

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Theme: Plant America—Pollinate South Central

**New Mexico Gardener Editor**

**Suzy Andrego**

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**VISIT the *Members Only* area**

**on the our website:**

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

## **Instructions for Publication**

The *New Mexico Gardener* is published quarterly: March, June, September and December. The Editor reserves the right to edit any copy for clarity, accuracy, or space requirements. It is the responsibility of the article writer to ensure that names are spelled correctly. All articles need to be submitted as a Microsoft Word document (unformatted) attached to an e-mail or submitted as email text.

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

**Photos must be sent as .jpg files, maximum three per file, as an email attachment. Do not frame or otherwise enhance. Poor quality photos will not be accepted (i.e. out of focus or grainy.) Photos that are submitted with the photographer's name will receive photo credit.**

**Articles/Photos for the next *New Mexico Gardener* must be submitted by February 1, 2024**