



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

“Grow Through What You Go Through”

I really love autumn in New Mexico! The weather cools off a bit (at least occasionally), my Pistache tree changes into the most glorious array of color I have ever seen, the smell of roasting green chili is in the air, the farmer’s markets with fresh goodies are everywhere and FAIR season gets underway! Across the state, there are county fairs and Albuquerque hosts the NM State Fair. Each fair has a flower show (four at the state fair!) which are popular with the public. For most of us in garden club, this is the place where we get to interact with the public about what we do.

The summer has been a rough one for some of our members. Ruidoso and Lincoln county, as you know, suffered devastating wildfires that surrounded the town and caused major evacuations for weeks. Unfortunately, many people did not have homes to return to. Then, monsoon season started! The massive damage done by flash floods took more homes and chewed up the landscape. So, here we are, talking again about the needs around New Mexico because of fire. The Calf Canyon/Hermit’s Peak burn scar area from 2 years ago is a very long way from it’s recovery and flash flooding through there caused the town of Las Vegas to be evacuated during the summer. There were 7 other significant fires in 2022 – big ones in the Jemez and Gila wilderness areas – and all will require many years and a lot of \$\$\$ to come back fully. All of this highlights the need to collect for Penny Pines which will help to plant trees in all the effected forests in the state! It is small drop in the bucket for fulfilling the needs in all of these areas, but it helps to bring attention to the issue. Whether a fire is started by a government agency, an individual or by lightning, the destruction and the need for restoration is the same. Thank you to all of you who have helped to collect those \$68 plantations! Every one of them is important and needed.

Message from Our 2023-2025 President (continued)

Another thing that this Fall brings us, in garden club, is a new nominating committee for state level offices. Our President-Elect, Johnese Turri, will need a good group of officers to help through her term, 2025-2027. If you are interested in a position on the Board or in a future chairmanship, please consider saying yes if the nominating committee calls you.

Clubs.....ponder who in your club might make a good person to represent on the state or district level. "Business" is not the most enjoyable part of garden club membership but, it is necessary. In order for all corners of the state to feel represented, we need officers from all around. I know that some areas of the state don't believe their interests and needs are always considered. That is not true.....we are all trying to do the best job we can for everyone in the organization.....BUT, one way to ensure that your part of the state is in on every decision is to have representation! In my opinion, every member of a club should have a job. That might be president of the club, a committee chair, a District position, a State chairmanship or a myriad of other things that need SOMEONE'S attention. None of these positions are hard or that time consuming. And, you have a bunch of people along side to help. Please think about doing more than filling a chair at your club meetings! We want you and your fresh thoughts and ideas. I know of a club in Texas that requires every member to take a turn as club president! Changing the guard in leadership is what keeps things new and interesting. Every single member has strengths and knowledge to share with New Mexico Garden Clubs! PLEASE, let us learn what are YOURS!

2025 will be NMGC's 75th birthday! We will be celebrating that throughout the Spring convention in April. A committee has already started meeting and great plans are underway. Many more details will follow but be sure to mark your calendars now to save the dates. April 14-15 is the New Mexico GC convention. It will be immediately followed by the South Central Region Convention, April 15-16. We will have many guests from the other 3 states in our Region..... Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Plan to come and show them all some New Mexico hospitality! A number of them will be here for all four days so you will have a true opportunity to make

Message from Our 2023-2025 President (continued)

some new garden club friends. When we were in Little Rock last April, they had Mexican food for one of the dinners. They did “sopapillas” for dessert.....some FLAT thing sprinkled with cinnamon and sugar. Not even a decent churro! I invited them all to come to New Mexico for the next meeting and I would see to it that everyone got a real sopapilla! YUM!!!

I love representing our state as your President! We have a very diverse group of clubs and members, and I have been enjoying everyone! As this last 6 months of my term is upon us, I would just like to say that I would relish one more visit to every single club. Please invite me to something you’re doing. I can do a program or just come and sit with you. Let me know and I WILL come!

Debra Sorrell, President



**PENNY PINES UPDATE:
NEW MEXICO GARDEN CLUBS
HAS PURCHASED 98
PENNY PINES PLANTATIONS!! YEAH!!
KEEP PURCHASING THEM!
THANK YOU EVERYONE!**



Clovis Gold Star Dedication

June 8, 2024 - Clovis, NM





Message from 2nd Vice President, Laurie Hixson

Hello Garden Club Members!!!

We still have a fair number of clubs that have not submitted their state dues for this year. So I thought it would be beneficial to outline the process.

Dues are collected to run the organization. We, NMGC, also pay dues to the national and regional organizations with these funds. Each club pays the state \$8 in dues for each of their members with the exception of honorary members. Also, youth clubs do not pay dues. The state pays their dues to national.

Dues for the new year are payable to New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. and to be sent to the 2nd Vice-President (me) by May 1st, and are delinquent after July 1st. My address is 307 Potrillo Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87547 and my email is hixsons@comcast.net. Please send your dues along with a copy of your club membership list including only those members for which dues are enclosed. Preferably, you can send me an electronic copy of the club membership list. And please, make sure the email addresses of your members are up to date. We've been getting a lot of bounced email messages lately. It's important to have the correct email address for our members as this is the primary method of communication—especially for things such as the state, regional and national newsletters. Thank you for your cooperation!



Parliamentarian, Suzy Andrego

Four tips for September

1. a member should always rise to make a motion or to address the group.
2. when making a motion, a member should say "I move to...", not "I make a motion..."
3. a motion should always be approved by a second person who says, "I second the motion"
4. a member does not need to be recognized to second a motion



If you have parliamentary questions, email me at Sandrego@aol.com



Message from District II Director, Kersti Rock

The three District II clubs have had a busy year in addition to preparing for the 2024 State Convention. Los Alamos Garden Club held a program or workshop every month from September through May with the exception for December when the club held its holiday luncheon. The club also had a special luncheon in September when the regular monthly meetings resumed following the summer and in April when club officers were installed for the coming year. The club enjoyed a delightful visit to Ghost Ranch in June learning about its history and admiring the stark beauty of the area. The club enjoyed several garden tours and a luncheon following the final tour at Selvi Viswanathan's home. A tour of the Governor's Mansion and surrounding gardens is planned for August. LAGC worked hard in the Memorial Rose Garden to repair the damage done by the local deer over the winter. Nearly all the rose plants are now protected by chicken wire cages and there are many blossoms now that the deer have been prevented from eating them. Passersby are starting to compliment the garden. The Deer Fence Committee is making steady progress toward working with the County to construct an attractive deer fence around the garden so that the wire cages can eventually be removed. Approval for the project has been obtained from the local Historic Preservation Advisory Board and from the State Historic Preservation Division. A presentation on the deer fence proposal will be given to the County Parks and Recreation Board on September 12.

Summit Garden Club held several social events as well as standard programs. A particularly notable program was on the eradication of Jimenez, an invasive species with New Mexico State University. Summit gardens at Bandelier and the White Rock National Monument Community Garden. Members also participate in care and design of several church and public gardens.



Floral Designers Club explores the elements and principles of garden design with each member bringing a design based on a pre-selected theme. The pros and cons of each design are constructively discussed. Some of the themes included Designs with Two Vases, Spatial Thrust and Abstract Designs.

appreciated by many of our bindweed by Del agricultural specialist University. Summit gardens at Bandelier and the White Rock Members also design of several gardens.

explores the elements design with each design based on a

We expect that District II will soon be growing. More news on that later. Overall, it has been an interesting and successful year. District II looks forward to the coming year of building our knowledge of gardening and sharing our love of community.

Trees & Shrubs, Dodi Bernal-Suhr, Chairman

A Newsworthy Report

The planting of a tree at the Santa Fe Veterans Cemetery is almost HERE! Permission has been given by the onsite manager to plant a tree by District I garden club, Valley Gardeners. The tree has been selected. 'Mesa Glow' maple. The date is September 18, 2024 during the national day of service "Saluting Branches".

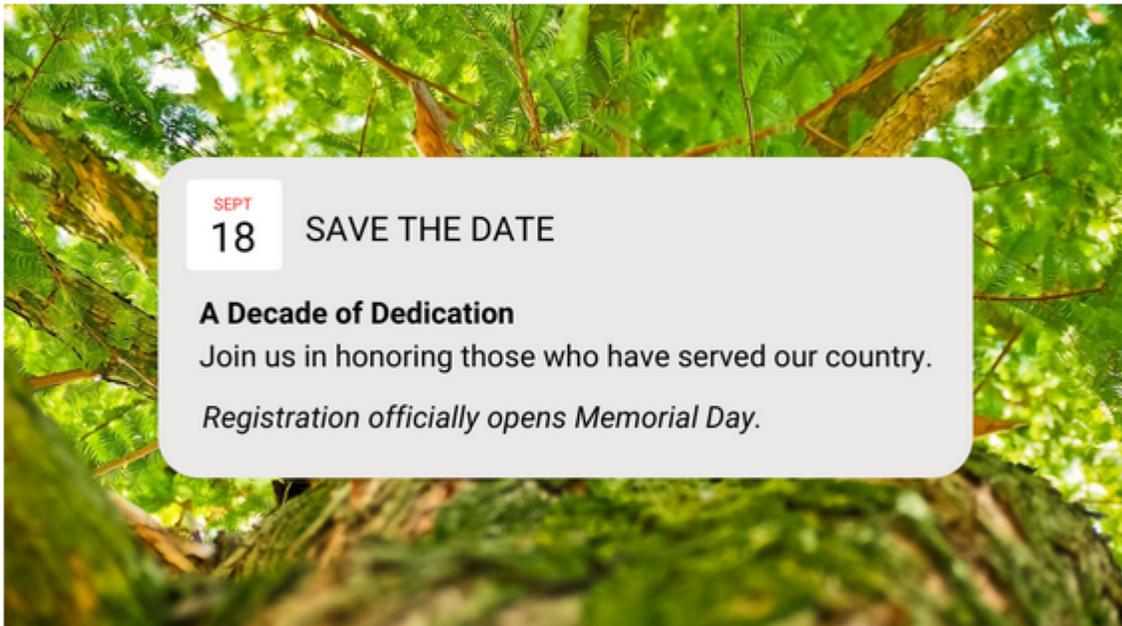
For me, participating in the national event is inspiring. Arborists *throughout* the nation give one day of service at national cemeteries to honor our veterans. The national program is in its 10th year. This is the third year New Mexico participated in the "Saluting Branches" program.

I am excited. There will be pictures of a group giving a day of service to an emotional cause, we all know someone that has given their best to our country.

Remember to let me know about your tree planting activities. Document with pictures and most important let our NMGC Awards Chair, Ginny Longbotham know about it!

You are welcome to reach out to me, Dodie at bryan.suhr@verizon.net





Happy Spring! As we embark on the journey of 2024, we are thrilled to kick off our 10th year of service – a Decade of Dedication to honoring our nation's veterans through tree and landscape care. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support and dedication over the past decade.

We would like to express our deepest appreciation to our generous sponsors and partners who have stood by our side, enabling us to make a \$4 million impact on veterans' dedicated properties nationwide in 2023. Your support has been instrumental in our success, and we are immensely grateful for your continued partnership.

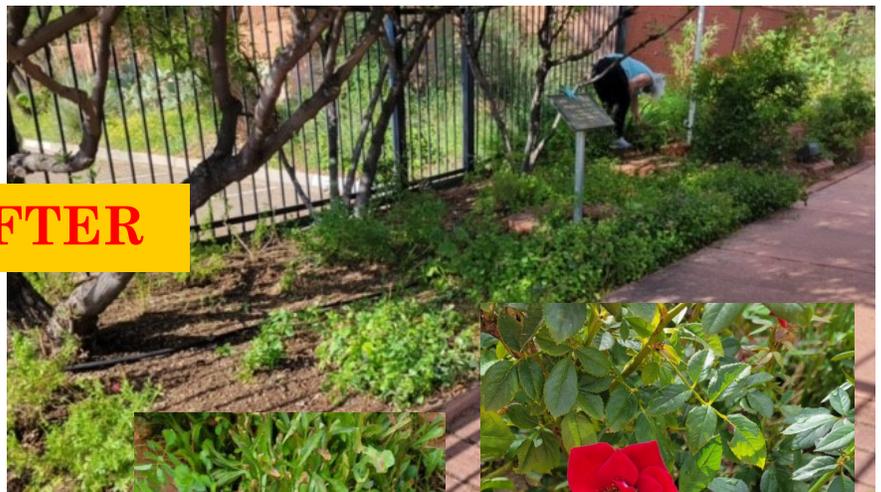
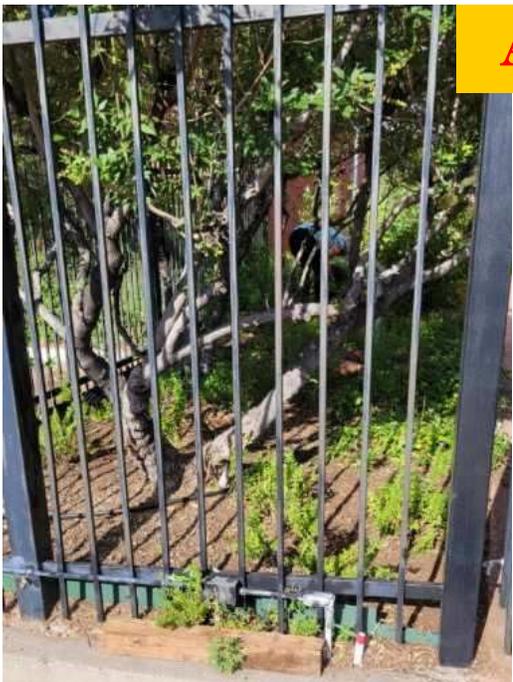
Blue Star/Gold Star, Shirley Tetreault, Chairman

The Blue Star Garden at the Albuquerque Garden Center has been adopted!! High Desert Floral Design Club are the new caretakers! Work has begun to maintain this garden bed. Thank you High Desert. This was the very first Blue Star Memorial in Albuquerque.

BEFORE



AFTER



Horticulture Chairman, Ellen Reed, Chairman

It is with a VERY heavy heart that we tell you that our longtime Expert Horticulturist and Master Flower Show Judge, Ellen Reed peacefully passed away June 16, 2024. She has left a huge legacy to NM Garden Clubs and NM Judges Council. She was a huge supporter of Flower Show Schools, and anything that had to do with plants. Her absence will leave a hole in many things garden club. She will be deeply missed!

April 4, 1934 - June 16, 2024

Ellen Hill Reed was born in Flushing NY to parents Frederick Hill and Louise Douglass Hill. She was raised in Guilford and Bangor ME with periods in TX, Mobile AL, and Fort Myers Beach FL during the war. She attended University of Maine at Orono and graduated with a degree as a Medical Technologist. She moved to Boston and worked at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. She met her husband Willam P. Reed there at a square dance and they moved to D.C. after marrying in 1957. They lived overseas when Bill was a doctor in the service in both Germany and Japan where they began their extensive travels to foreign lands.



Ellen and Bill moved to Albuquerque, NM in 1969 and she soon created her award-winning garden, which she tended for over 50 years.

Ellen discovered her love of gardening with her grandmother in Guilford Maine and her love of shell collecting in Florida when she lived there. These interests motivated much of her life.

She loved exploring new foods and cuisines. She and Bill traveled extensively to many countries often with mycologists and naturalists. She was a voracious reader with a thirst for knowledge. Ellen always had cats in her life. She eagerly shared her passions (using Latin names) with grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to be.

She was a long time member of Uptown Garden Club, involved in creating the Albuquerque Garden Center and Albuquerque Botanical Garden, and was a founding member of the Albuquerque Master Gardeners. She was also an active member of the Mushroom Society, Wildflower Society, and several other horticultural societies. She was a National Garden Clubs Master flower show judge and exhibited her horticulture extensively at the New Mexico State Fair annually, winning numerous ribbons and awards. She authored numerous articles about gardening in Albuquerque, the high desert and the SW.

She is survived by three children Martha, Steve, and Richard; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and her sister Sarah.

Gifts can be made in Ellen's memory to Albuquerque Garden Center at 10120 Lomas Blvd. N.E. Albuquerque, NM 87112, Uptown Garden Club, C/O Vicki Frye, 612 Granite Point SE, Albuquerque, NM 87123, New Mexico Judges Council C/O Debra Sorrell, 2632 Cocono SW Albuquerque, NM 87105 .



Garden Club News from Around the State

Sunshine Valley Garden Club, District IV – Cindy Johnson, President

What a nice program put on by Ginger Corcoran of Elephant Butte at our meeting on May 10th. She showed us how she makes her natural soaps. Many ingredients were mixed together to make beautiful soaps. It will take 6 weeks before they are ready to be used. She gave us gift bags with samples of other products she makes. Ginger's products can be seen on gingerrosesoap.com.



Our "Summer Kick-off Luncheon" was held at Geronimo Springs Museum on June 14th. We had a potluck where everyone brought delicious food. Not only do we have terrific gardeners, but also wonderful cooks as well. Our next meeting won't be until September 13th, as the Club does not meet in the months of July and August.

Sunshine Valley Garden Club meets on the second Friday of the month at 1:30 p.m. at Geronimo Springs Museum in Truth or Consequences. No meetings are held in July and August.

NEWS FROM New Mexico Judges Council

Flower Show School 4 is over.

We now have 8 students ready to write a flower show schedule. And there are now two student exhibitors and one new flower show school student! **If you see on of them, congratulate them on their success. They have earned it!!**

I will get the honor of pinning 8 new accredited flower show judges at the Annual meeting. I can not wait!!

Suzy Andrego, NM Judges Council President

“A CHALLENGE CLASS”

The New Mexico Judge Council's Program for the Annual Meeting to be held April 14, 2025 at the NM Garden Clubs Annual convention
At the embassy Suite Hotel on Lomas Blvd.

This is where 8 designers get the same container, plant materials and mechanics and they each create a design in 30 minutes.

Plan to come, enjoy dinner and this wonderful FUN Design program with us.

Registration will be in the December, 2024 NM Gardener.

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.

New Mexico Gardener

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A Non-profit Organization

www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

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Incorporated August 5, 1952

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525 Paid Memberships

2 Youth Clubs

54 Youth Members

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NMGC, Inc. President 2023-2025

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Theme: "Grow Through what you go through"

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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 November 1, 2024