

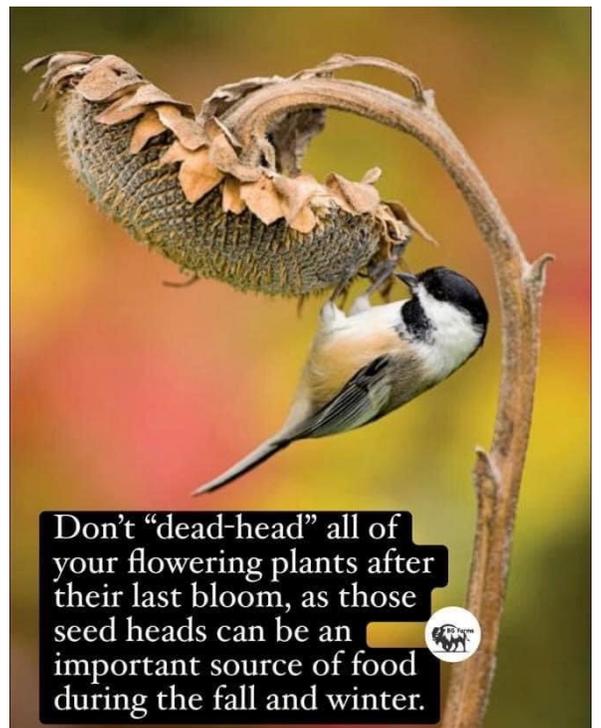


*New Mexico Gardener*  
Quarterly Newsletter of New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc.

Volume 51 No. 6

December/January/February 2024

**Winter 2024 Issue**



Don't "dead-head" all of your flowering plants after their last bloom, as those seed heads can be an important source of food during the fall and winter.





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

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

Change is in the air! We have finally moved from summer to fall.....better late than never. My Chinese Pistache tree is going through some glorious changes of color because of the colder nights here. Some of you up north have gotten snow already. And, there is change in garden club, too!

In the spring, it will be time to welcome new leaders for New Mexico Garden Clubs. Plans are well under way for a fun April convention to pass my administration off to the next with a flourish! This, of course, is a “planned for” change. I am excited to see what a fresh new point of view, from incoming president Johnese Turri, will bring to our state. She is energetic and enthusiastic, very artistic and FUN! I can’t wait for you all to get to know her better.

Let me tell you about an UN-planned for change! At the South Central Region convention, immediately following our state convention, we were going to be installing Suzy Andrego as the next SCR director. It’s New Mexico’s turn to have the director and we voted for Suzy, with Christine Longthorp serving as alternate, at the last convention. YAY!! WEELLLLLLLLLL.....in the mean time, due to unforeseen circumstances in the National leadership roster, a position opened that our fabulous Suzy was qualified to apply for and so she did. During the time that she and I attended the National Fall Board in September, she was interviewed by the nominating committee. I am beyond thrilled to announce officially that Suzy Andrego is the next NATIONAL 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT NOMINEE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! She will be voted in and installed at the national convention in South Carolina in the spring. This is an incredible and deserved accomplishment on Suzy’s part. Congratulations!!

Because the national 2<sup>nd</sup> VP job will be quite consuming, we have needed to move to our alternate SCR director. I am delighted to say that Christine Longthorp will be moving to SCR Director! Our “bench is deep” and we are so blessed to have another highly qualified person ready to step up and do a fabulous job. Congratulations Christine!! **(Continued on next page)**

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

**(Continued from previous page)**

Now, what changes can we implement for New Mexico Garden Clubs that will keep this ball rolling? Leadership is a big key to keeping things growing and moving. All around the state, your districts are trying to fill positions for officers for the next term. I want to encourage you to THINK ABOUT IT. Nobody ever wants to take a job when the committee calls but everyone likes to complain about how poorly things are being done. DO something! Those of you who have a love for your garden club.....take a position. Make sure that your very important club is heard and represented at meetings, both on the district and the state level. Those are the places where decisions get made and voted on. We all want NMGC to be a value to all our members but all our members need access to those meetings. That takes people who will say “Sure, I’ll go listen to what’s going on and come back and tell you” from every club. All the way to the state level (and beyond) that’s all it takes. Someone who can be a go-between - to keep their club members informed. There are NO complicated qualifications.....just a willingness to help.

There is a lot we can all do to support Suzy, Christine and Johnese in their upcoming positions. The biggest thing is to be WILLING! Who knows where an offer to lend a hand will take you but I’m certain it will be rewarding.

*Debra Sorrell, President*

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



## **AWARDS! AWARDS! AWARDS!**

If you have not looked yet, it's December and while you prepare for all the December follies of the season, DON'T forget about AWARDS!! Take a photo of that lasting flower in the garden, even with snow on it or a beautiful sunset, the precious bird on the winter tree limb, or the garden pest that is still bussing around. Did you paint a tree or shrub over 3 feet tall? Did you provide water and for for our feathered friends? LOOK at the nm Garden Clubs Awards Handbook and see if you qualify for one of the 27 different awards we have!!

**DEADLINES for Awards are:** **For National Garden Club Awards:** January 15. **For South Central Region Awards:** January 31st. **For District I Awards:** February 1st. (for other districts check with your District Director). **For NM Garden Club State Awards:** February 1st.

More good news! We are going back to monetary awards for NMGC State Awards. We are asking each club to donate at least \$25 towards the award of their choice (first come first serve). We also accept donations from any individual. To date we have donations from Uptown, High Desert, Petal Pushers garden clubs and three individual donations, too. YEAH!! Make checks payable to NM Garden Clubs and mail to me.

Where do you submit your award entries? You have two choices: You can email them to [NMGCAWARDS@aol.com](mailto:NMGCAWARDS@aol.com) or [Sandrego@aol.com](mailto:Sandrego@aol.com). NOTE: District I Award entries go to [photodebi@gmail.com](mailto:photodebi@gmail.com).

PLEASE NOTE all the enclosed information regarding all the youth Contests!! Get those kiddos writing, drawing and creating!!

Wishing each and everyone of you and yours a joyous, blessed Christmas season and cheers to a great 2025!! Ginny Longbotham, Awards Chairman

## **Youth Contest Reminder!**

Hooray - our Youth Essay Contest is BACK!

Deadlines are coming up

and we hope this email helps generate more interest and participation in this fun-filled youth event.

NGC's Essay Contest offers young people the opportunity to unleash their creativity through writing, inspiring them to express and explore their imaginative ideas around environmental issues via the essay format.

For details go to : [www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities](http://www.gardenclub.org/Youth&Scholarship/Contest&Activities)

**ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN**

***Please observe club & state deadlines!***

### **NGC 2025 YOUTH ESSAY CONTEST**

**IS RECYCLING PLASTICS THE ANSWER TO OUR PLASTIC DISPOSAL PROBLEM?**

#### **WHO'S ELIGIBLE?**

**Grade 9 – Grade 12**

*General Education, Special Education or English for Speakers of Other Languages*

**who are either NGC Youth Club members or ANY kid when sponsored by a local affiliated NGC garden club**

For details go to

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

Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities

OR your state garden club's website!

**CLUB ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO**

**YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN:**

**OBSERVE YOUR STATE DEADLINE!**

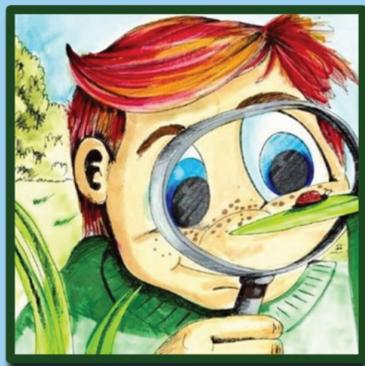
For more information email:

James Pavelka, NGC Essay Contest Chairman  
[jamespavelka@comcast.net](mailto:jamespavelka@comcast.net)



# NGC 2024 POETRY CONTEST

## CELEBRATING OUR GREEN WORLD



**"I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE,  
SOMETHING GREEN OUTSIDE"**

### WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

**ALL kids Grade K– Grade 9**

*who are either*

NGC Youth Club members

*or*

ANY kid when sponsored  
by a local affiliated NGC garden club

For details go to

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

Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities

OR your state garden club's website!

**CLUB ENTRIES MUST BE SENT  
TO YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN:  
OBSERVE YOUR STATE DEADLINE**

For more information email:  
James Pavelka, NGC Poetry Contest Chairman  
[jamespavelka@comcast.net](mailto:jamespavelka@comcast.net)

### NGC annual Youth Poetry Contest deadlines are coming up

and we hope this email helps generate more  
interest and participation  
in this fun-filled youth event.

NGC's Poetry Contest enables our youth to  
embrace their creativity  
through the art of writing by encouraging them  
to express and explore their creative thoughts  
through different types of poetry.

Soon, you'll also receive our other Youth Contest announce-  
ment reminders,  
more events encouraging creativity in our youths.

For details go to: [www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/  
Contest & Activities](http://www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities)

### NGC annual Youth Sculpture Contest deadlines are coming up

and we hope this email helps generate more interest  
and participation  
in this fun-filled youth event.

NGC's Sculpture Contest enables our youth to help  
save the environment  
and keep our planet green by expressing them-  
selves.

Using a variety of recycle materials, they create 3-  
dimensional works of art  
celebrating all forms of the natural world.

Soon, you'll also receive our other Youth Contest  
announcement reminders,  
more events encouraging creativity in our youths.

For details go to

[www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/  
Contest & Activities](http://www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/<br/>Contest & Activities)

**ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO YOUR STATE  
YOUTH CHAIRPERSON**

**Please observe club & state deadlines!**

## NGC 2025 YOUTH SCULPTURE CONTEST

### SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT TO KEEP OUR PLANET GREEN

#### WHO'S ELIGIBLE?

**Grade 4 – Grade 8**  
*General Education, Special Education or  
English for Speakers of Other Languages*  
**who are either**  
NGC Youth Club members *or*  
ANY kid when sponsored by a  
local affiliated NGC garden club

For details go to  
[www.gardenclub.org](http://www.gardenclub.org)  
Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities  
OR your state garden club's website!

**CLUB ENTRIES MUST BE SENT  
TO YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRPERSON:  
OBSERVE YOUR STATE DEADLINE**

For more information email:  
Terry Critchlow  
NGC Sculpture Contest Chairperson  
[tcritchlow@aol.com](mailto:tcritchlow@aol.com)

**PREVIOUS  
winners!**



Just a reminder - our annual Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest deadlines are coming up! Please forward this email to all your State Presidents to help generate more interest and participation in this fun-filled youth event.

In the next two weeks, a similar marketing card for the Poetry, Essay and Sculpture Contests will be arriving in your inbox and we hope you'll forward them to your State Presidents as well.

For details go to [www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities](http://www.gardenclub.org/Youth & Scholarship/Contest & Activities)

**CLUB ENTRIES MUST BE SENT TO YOUR STATE YOUTH CHAIRMAN:  
PLEASE OBSERVE YOUR STATE DEADLINE!**



**Message from**  
**President Elect,**  
***Johnese Turri***

Happy Winter to all!!! Up here in Northern New Mexico it's already

snowed!!

I'm so excited for the 2025 NMGC State Convention in April. It's special as it's New Mexico Garden Club's 75th Anniversary!! And we get to host the South Central Region (SCR) convention right after!!!

If you haven't been to a convention, this one will be a great one to attend. It will be a wonderful time to celebrate and get together. I've never been to the SCR convention so I'm pretty excited and it's right here in NM!!

I'm looking forward to visiting all the clubs next year as your President. I've had the wonderful opportunity to meet a lot of you and can't wait to meet more from around the state!!

*"A garden teaches us more than just the art of nurturing. It teaches us the joy of patience, the thrill of growth, and the wisdom in the cycle of life." – Anonymous*

*"In every gardener, there's just the wilderness instinct, tamed by the love of cultivation and the joy of nurturing life." – Anonymous*

*"In a very real sense, gardening is an act of faith. We plant tiny seeds in the earth and trust that they will grow into flourishing plants. It's a reminder that life is full of beautiful surprises." – Anonymous*



# The 2025 New Mexico Garden Clubs Convention, & 2025 South Central Region Convention ARE COMING UP!!



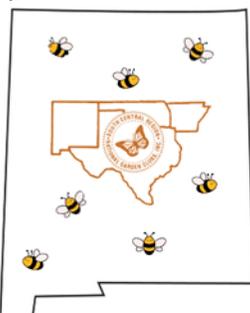
**NM Garden Clubs' Annual meeting & convention**  
**Monday April 14-Tuesday April 15, 2025**  
**at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque**  
**& WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR 75TH BIRTHDAY!**

**You wont want to miss this convention!**

The NM Judges Council dinner on Wednesday night will be a Challenge Design program followed by their birthday celebration. This will be a TON of fun! Tuesday brings the annual meeting then the lunch program will be a recycled fashion show. Tuesday afternoon there will be a reception at the Albuquerque garden center. Tuesday evening will bring the President's reception, the annual President's parade, the Awards Banquet and Installation of President Elect Johnese Turri.

**Every Event will be a giant birthday celebration!**

The state convention committee is working hard to make this a fabulous 75th Birthday Celebration! **WATCH for the Registration email in early February!**



**NM Garden Clubs is Host for the South Central Region Convention**

**Wednesday, April 16—Thursday April 17, 2025**  
**at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque**  
**“Bee Enchanted in New Mexico”**

**If you have not been to a South Central Region convention NOW is your opportunity! Come meet garden club friends from our region (NM, TX, OK & AR) and HAVE FUN!!!** Wednesday we will have a private tour of the Indian Pueblo cultural center and all it offers along with a special indigenous lunch, followed by a Bee house workshop. Wednesday night dinner program will be on our Feathered friends who are pollinators. After the annual meeting Thursday lunch will bring a special performance written by Heather white of Texas, followed by an afternoon presentation from Ken Hayes on all about Bees and Honey. The dinner banquet program will be a design program by NM Master Judge, Kreg Hill who will turn a line design into a line mass design and then into a mass design. **Can't Wait to see this program. We will end the evening with the Installation of our very Own Christine Longthorp, the 2025-2027 South Central Region Director!**

The state convention committee is working hard to make this a fabulous Convention! **WATCH for the Registration email in early February!**

## Youth Activities, *Lynnette Walker, Chairman*



Summer is over and students are back in school anxiously awaiting winter break. Organic Planet Garden Club which is sponsored by Uptown Garden Club members were eager to get their hands in the dirt. Due to the summer-long construction of the handicap ramp at school, we were not able to start our pollinator garden this year. We have high hopes to see bees and butterflies in our garden this spring. We have however planted 200+ spring bulbs in our garden and are anticipating a colorful spring garden.

We have had several meetings this school year where we learned how to make creative designs and entered an alien at the State Fair Youth Flower Show. The club is very new to flower design and is struggling with using flowers in an unnatural way for the designs. We had a 6<sup>th</sup> grader win a State Fair Special and the Youth Top Exhibitor Award for their Roswell Alien. We also had Smokey visit the flower show to see the celebration cakes for his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.



**If you have any youth gardening activities don't hesitate to get in touch with me at [Lynnette.Walker@q.com](mailto:Lynnette.Walker@q.com)**



## Message from District II Director, Kersti Rock

District II now has four clubs! We are very pleased to have Angel Fire Club join the District. District II currently has 101 Members: Los Alamos Garden Club (30), Summit Garden Club (25), Floral Designers (11) and Angel Fire Club (35). Los Alamos Garden Club, Summit and Floral Designers all worked hard to help District II host the very successful April 2024 NMGC State Convention in Santa Fe. During the summer, District II welcomed Angel Fire Club into the district via an email vote. The District held their Fall Board Meeting on September 25 at the Crossroads Church in Los Alamos, NM. NMGC President and 1st Vice President, Debra Sorrell and Johnese Turri were honored guests. The Board discussed plans for the 2025 District Spring meeting with a possible flower show as a special event to welcome Angel Fire members to the district. The District II

Spring meeting will be on Friday, March 14, 2025.

Los Alamos Garden Club has regular monthly meetings, September through May, and monthly field trips June through August. The club tends the Memorial Rose Garden that it created in the late 1950's. Judy Handy organizes Monday morning work parties. The garden has suffered increasing damage from the burgeoning deer population so Kersti Rock has headed an effort to work with the County to obtain an attractive deer fence. This project is moving along nicely and the deer fence will hopefully be installed sometime in the next year or two. In May, Los Alamos Garden Club awarded a \$1500 scholarship to graduating high school student Cameron Meadows. Also in May, NMGC President Debra Sorrell presented a program to the club on iPhone tips and tricks for taking better photos. Debra returned in September to present a workshop on botanical art called flower pounding. Summer field trips included a trip to Ghost Ranch, tours of several home gardens followed by a potluck and a tour of the Governor's Mansion and Gardens in Santa Fe.

Summit Garden Club meets on the 1st Monday of each month. This spring and summer, club members enjoyed a trip to Velarde Orchards, a tour of Los Luceros historical property and farm, heard a history of Summit's partnership with Bandelier National Monument, had a private tour of Black Mesa Winery and Cidery and orchards and held a members' roundtable. Summit supplements their programs with "5-minute gardener" sessions where a member briefly shares on a topic of interest. The club also invites members and guests to pop-up events such as a field trip to NM Wholesale Plant Co and a tour of RainCatcher/Reese Baker's innovative installations for urban rainwater, fungi and graywater user in the home gardens. Summit has installed several community gardens (and supports others) as well as gardens at the Bandelier National Monument visitors' center.

Floral Designers meets on 4th Thursdays to study a specific design at each meeting. Recent designs include an abstract design by Anne May, an underwater design by Christine Longthorp, a framed spatial design by Juanita Ortega, a creative design by Anne May, a sculptural design by Pat Copple and an interpretive design of a book title by Shelby Green. The club celebrated their 30th anniversary in June at the home of Anne May. Doris Jackson and Shelby Green were honored as founding members. The club also purchased a brick for the National Garden Club "Path of Success" project.

Angel Fire club worked hard to ready their gardens at the Angel Fire Vietnam Memorial in time for Memorial Day. Club members visited the Taos home and gardens of Nan Fletcher, author of "Monthly Guide to Growing a Sensational Garden in Northern NM and the Rocky Mtns." Another Taos outing was a tour of landscape designer Dan Jones to see his 5 acres of gardens. Club members also enjoyed a tour of two homes and gardens in Black Lake - a memory garden created by Cathleen Thatcher and the Hobbit home of Ralene Welch. Johnese Turri held a birdhouse painting and decorating workshop. Some items from the workshop were donated to sell at the Art Studio Tour at the end of September. Shirila Harris created a beautiful throw that was raffled off with the proceeds going to the Penny Pines project.

***( Continued on Next Page )***

*(Continued from Previous page)* It has been a good year and, as this year draws to a close, District II looks forward to an active and creative year ahead in 2025.



NOTE: Attached photos are of Ashley Pond Park at the end of September and again at the end of October. These are somewhat different views but the change in the landscape from summer to fall over just one month is striking!

### **Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl, Jennifer Moreno Chairman**

Mary Ann Moreno did a Smokey Bear Poster contest presentation to the first grade classes at RT 66 Elementary School in Edgewood, NM. The children just loved hearing Smokey the bears story and learning about Smokey and how he comes from New Mexico, and what they can do to prevent forest fires. Mary Ann Moreno and Judy Grotts (both former South Central Region Directors who are VERY passionate about Smokey the Bear) both donated all kinds of Smokey and woodsy Owl “swag” for the children to have once they created their Smokey the Bear Posters. We will keep everyone posted to see if we have any winners at the spring awards.



## Trees & Shrubs, Dodi Bernal-Suhr, Chairman

### Planting A Tree, Valley Gardeners Contribution to Saluting Branches

The day started early for Bryan and me. The first challenge of the day was to fit the 'Mesa Glow' maple in the back of our SUV without doing significant damage to the tree before we got to the Santa Fe National Cemetery. Done.

Arborists and work crews were asked to meet by 8:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe National Cemetery for the initial work assignment briefing. Our 'Saluting Branches' day of volunteer service began. Getting started early meant more work could be accomplished by the work crews, their focus would be pruning and as many tree removals as could be finished in one day. Additionally, without any official time, planting the tree **was** on the schedule that day.

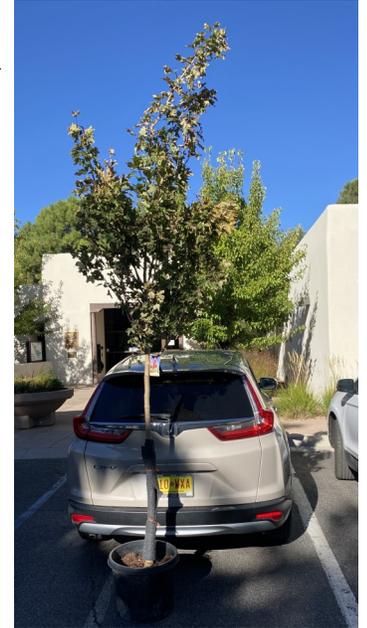


The grounds can only be described as peaceful. Vistas in every direction. Trees scattered throughout. Green grass with mowers making their way among the many white grave markers.

It was my first time there and I was moved by the quiet several times during the day.

We were fortunate to have this first NGC tree planted in a welcoming spot, just as you make the turn into the grounds on your right with plenty of room to grow.

Don't miss the opportunity to plant a tree and/or shrub. It could be a rewarding experience for all involved and 'Saluting Branches' is an annual event.



## Blue Star/Gold Star, Shirley Tetreault, Chairman

As we all know the Blue Star/Gold Star program is an NGC program. It is who we are and what we do. We started this back in 1945, and it gets stronger every year honoring our Veterans and Gold Star Families. It takes months of hard work and love to put one of these markers in place and have a dedication ceremony. Without this effort it could not be done. So, this report will be thanking those that made it all happen. It started with an anonymous donor that kicked everything into motion. Following are the dedication dates, and the organizations involved:

**April 27, 2024** -New Mexico Veterans Memorial in Albuquerque – NM Gold Star Mothers, Kirtland Spouses Club, High Desert Design Club, Uptown Garden Club, NM Garden Club and private anonymous donors

**June 8, 2024** – W 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Bonita Road in Clovis – NM Gold Star Mothers, VFW Post 3280 & Auxiliary.

**September 23, 2024** – Vietnam Veterans Memorial – 34 Country Club Rd, Angel Fire NM – NM Gold Star Mothers, David Westphall Veterans Foundation, Angel Fire Garden Club. This dedication was attended by five past New Mexico Garden Club State Presidents, our sitting President, and our future President.

**December 3, 2024** – I ordered our fourth marker that will be placed in General Douglas McBride Veterans Cemetery after arrival – NM Gold Star Mothers, Home Garden Club, Pioneer Bank.

*This is my last report for 2024, and I say thank you for your heartwarming love for this important program.*

*These Gold Star dedications provide Honor – Hope and Healing.  
Thank you, New Mexico!*



Laying of Wreaths for Wreaths Across America





# Garden Club News from Around the State

## High Desert Design Club, - District I—Shirely Tetreault, President

As we end 2024 the report for High Desert Design Club is amazing. We work hard all year long in the study of floral design to be ready for all the upcoming shows in the area and we pay strict attention to the New Mexico State Fair. Their hard work pays off with a lot of big ribbons at all events. We also have two student judges in our membership who are about to complete their final test to become an accredited judge and one attending her second school in February.

In addition, our members took on the first Gold Star Marker in New Mexico with a substantial donation for the project. The Marker is located at Louisiana and Gibson at the Veterans Memorial Garden. When asked to adopt the Blue Star Garden and the Albuquerque Garden Center they jumped at the chance. Our next phase will begin early spring when we begin to see new growth. It will be a beautiful sight with our red, white and blue plants showing off what they do best. We will work on the garden weekly to make sure it is in beautiful condition for all to see.

So.....our final act this year is working the kitchen at the Holiday Fair (Albuquerque Garden Center). It is a lot of work and takes a lot of planning and preparation. This is our only fundraiser for the year and enables us to work on special projects. Members are happy, and have fun working together, making new friends and learning more about each other. Also, just a little tired.

One final note..... we lost a dear friend Sonia James. She was a long-time member of High Desert DC and always wore a beautiful smile. We have purchased a brick at the Garden Center to honor her. She will be deeply missed. I know she will be watching over us to make sure we are doing things right.



## Morning Garden Club, - District IV—Vicki Hobson, President

The Historical Museum was wreathed and ribboned this morning, thanks to our members. Renate warmed us up with hot cocoa and treats on this chilly start. So drive by see our handiwork.



Morning Garden Club has stayed busy tending our civic gardens and preparing for our club's meetings. We also spent a great deal of time and energy putting on our city wide second annual pollinator party. We held the event June 22 at Roswell's Spring River Zoo and decided to quickly add extra booths to help the evacuees from Ruidoso's devastating wild fires. Several hundred people attended and could do crafts, fish, learn about plants and pollinators, bee keeping, plant a garden, and win free books on pollinators. We raised \$226 to help the evacuees. It was a resounding success.

Sadly, that same zoo and many areas in Roswell were flooded recently and were severally damaged. Roswell is working to help one

another and our club is working on several ways to repair our city, gardens, and help those in need.



## Los Alamos Garden Club—District II

What a special treat our 1<sup>st</sup> VP, Sue Hansen, arranged for our August field trip. We visited the New Mexico Governor's Mansion. We learned so much history about the mansion! Even though the gardens were under construction (new drip systems, etc.), we saw some lovely gardens. We enjoyed lunch at the Dr. Field Good's cafe before heading to the mansion.



Lunch at Field Goods



Group Photo front entrance



Reception Room



One of the many patios



Flowers at the Mansion



Front Entrance



Beautiful Art Form



Members pounding flowers

We returned to our regular monthly meetings on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Crossroads Bible Church. As is our tradition, we celebrated our opening meeting with a harvest potluck luncheon. The program speaker was none other than our State President, Debra Sorrell. She presented a hands on program of the art form of flower pounding. Even though we didn't have the absolute best flowers (Pansies are considered the best). Everyone enjoyed creating beautiful masterpieces. We welcome a new member, Carol Whitaker.

Our speaker for the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting was Edith Iwan. Her presentation was about dahlias. We learned so much about the care and planting of dahlias. She brought beautiful specimens which she generously shared with our members.



Edith Iwan on Dahlias



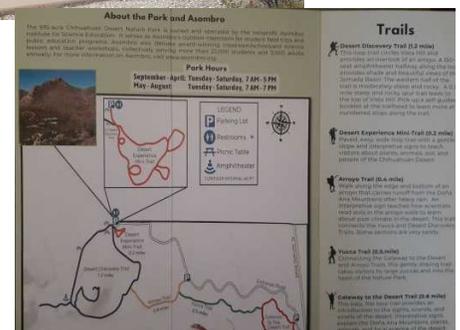
Members learning about Dahlias

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

Our Summer hiatus wasn't a leisurely as usual. Committees were busy planning 2024-2025 programs, researching the background, terms, and conditions of the RW Ludwig scholarship, and readying for our 95<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, which will be held in conjunction with a Blue Star Memorial dedication.

We resumed normal programs in September when the Club was treated to all things iris in the "Iris University" presented by Howie Dash, MVGC Club member who is also Vice President of the American Iris Society. We enjoyed the shade of the pergola on Howie's iris farm while learning about propagation, pollination, fertilizing, and planting techniques. Howie generously gave each attendee a rhizome of an iris he hybridized, which is a candidate for the Dykes Medal.

In October we had the opportunity to visit and tour the features of the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Park, which is in our own backyard. The park offers hiking trails, a xeriscape memorial garden, shade ramadas and picnic tables, three art installations, an amphitheater with beautiful views and shaded seating, plant identification signs, a rainwater harvesting system, a remediation experiment in an area damaged by trespassing cattle and unauthorized off-road vehicle use, and a weather station. The Park also hosts student field trips and special events like, "Shrimp in the Desert", and "Noche de Luminarias."



## Lincoln County Garden Club—District IV—Debbie Myers & Mary Lemmond, Presidents



The programs we've enjoyed this fall have been outstanding: August's Program was about Rainwater Collection, by David Chelgren from Alamogordo. There is a very active Master Gardener program in Alamogordo, and LCGC has benefited from their expertise. Mr. Chelgren shared many useful websites with us.

The September Program was Harvest & Recipes, by Marla Caughron our fearless Community Garden Leader. We learned a lot about harvesting and preserving food, plus we were gifted with delicious recipes.

October's meeting was an outstanding talk about Fruit Trees by Sid Gordon, Otero County Extension office. The discussion covered topics about other trees and was so

fitting to our unique gardening habitat in Ruidoso. In addition to about 12 guests from the community, we had two special guests, Vicki Hobson, and information from District V.

**Penny Pines**—LCGC and individual Penny Pines Program to promote re-devastating fire and floods. So far, we've and hope to add more.



members have been contributing to NGC's foresting Lincoln National Forest after our had seven contributions to the program

**Member News:** The homes of three smoke-damaged. While life is not "normal" we are all learning a "new normal". A few of our members moved due to repercussions from the disasters. We will miss them.

**Community Projects:** Library Garden: One of our community projects is the maintenance of the garden in front of our Library. A group took on the task of re-oiling the wooden bears which greet library visitors and in the process found they were badly decomposing. One member led a search to have new bears created. When they are finished, we plan to have a "Bear Party" to celebrate their arrival. We held a fall clean-up at the Library Garden which was spectacular from all the rain Ruidoso experienced this summer.

**Community Garden:** Community Garden is adjacent to the Smokey Bear Ranger Station on Mecham Drive in Ruidoso. Planted by our own Debra & Debbie, beautiful sunflowers greet you when you come into the garden. While programs have stopped for the season, they were well attended and gave members and the community a place to garden, gather and fellowship. Participants harvested yummy and good-looking carrots!



**High Mountain Youth Project:** Another Community Project is gardening in raised beds at the High Mountain Youth Garden. Raised beds were already built but have been refurbished and planted with vegetables for participants to grow and eat!



**Lincoln County Fair:** Members were actively involved in the Lincoln County fair in Capitan. Several of the members worked to set up, take flower show entries, help judge and then clean up after the show. ALSO, a couple of our members won SEVERAL ribbons for their entries.

**Seed Collections:** Members are collecting seeds for those who lost gardens and plants from the fire and floods. We will distribute the seeds and will look forward to glorious gardens next year.

# 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*

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: Plant America—Pollinate South Central

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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, 2025**