

## *Summer 2025 Issue*

### ***Johnese Turri, State President 2025-2027***

#### ***“Planting Seeds of Joy”***



On the way home from the Garden Club National Convention in Charleston, I couldn't stop thinking about how amazing garden clubs truly are. It was such a joy to meet our National President and so many wonderful members from across the country—and even internationally! This was my first time attending, and I found the experience to be incredibly inspiring, informative, and educational.

I'm so proud and honored to be the State President! I'm really looking forward to getting to know more of our fantastic New Mexico members. I'd absolutely love to visit your club—just send me an email at

[Johnesemarie@gmail.com](mailto:Johnesemarie@gmail.com), or text 505-250-7150 and I'll do my best to make it!

I'd also love for this publication to be a great resource for all of us. So here's a little challenge: send in your favorite gardening tips, tricks, or anything that's worked well for you. Let's learn and grow together!

**Put a mailbox in your garden to store your tools!**



## ***Kersti Rock, 2nd Vice President 2025-2027***

As your new 2nd VP, I would like to introduce myself. When not traveling, I devote much of my time to both dogs and plants. My first five retirement years were focused on dogs, dog training and volunteering at the local animal shelter. I was an active member of both the local volunteer group that worked with the animal shelter and the local dog obedience club. I still have two dogs and spend a lot of time with them but shifted my volunteer efforts to the Plant Kingdom by joining the Los Alamos Garden Club in 2017. I served a term as the club's Corresponding Secretary and then as Club President from 2020 to 2022. Shortly after this, I became Acting District II Director and was installed as District Director for the 2023-2025 term.



I am honored to have been installed as NMGC's 2nd VP at this year's State Convention in Albuquerque. I understand that one of my duties is to collect dues from each of our clubs and to maintain the official membership list. Each club should send their dues, payable to "New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc." to the 2nd VP by May 1st accompanied by two copies of their membership list. This membership list should only include those members for whom dues are enclosed.

My other duty is to promote membership in the clubs and assist with forming new clubs. New members bring with them new energy and new ideas for our clubs. And our wonderful clubs provide fellowship, fun activities and opportunities to learn more about our shared interests in gardening, the environment and floral design. It's a Win-Win! Here are a few ideas to promote interest in your garden clubs: 1). A beautiful brochure with some photos that highlights your club's purpose, some of your recent club activities and events and, most importantly, when your club meets and how to visit as a guest or join as a member. 2). Invite the public to a special club event such as a program of general interest or a club field trip. 3). Have a club table at community fairs. 4). Write articles about your club's activities (with pictures!) for your community newsletter. 5). Maintain a Facebook page or website for your club. 6). Look into the possibility of forming a youth group that is connected with your club.

I look forward to talking with our various clubs about your membership ideas and finding out what has worked for you! And remember those dues!

# Blue Star & Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Program

*Shirley Tetreault, Chairperson, ammasangels@comcast.net  
Proud to be an American*

As we wind down one administration and begin another it is important to look back on what we have done and what is still to come. The Blue Star/Gold Star program honors our Veterans past, present and future and offers healing to our Gold Star families. This year we will have a special contest and award for our Blue Star/Gold Star program. **When you are traveling the state and find a Marker, stop and take a picture of yourself with the marker and send it to me. We are missing four markers. They are somewhere in the state of New Mexico. Help me find them. One of them may be in the city of Mesilla. A list of markers can be found here:**

<https://newmexicogardenclubs.org/documents/nmBlueStarList.pdf>

Highway Blue Star – dedicated 6/10/2023 – The Village of Cloudcroft in Zenith Park

Highway Gold Star – dedicated 4/27/2024 – New Mexico Veterans Memorial Garden – Albuquerque NM

Highway Gold Star – dedicated 6/8/2024 – Clovis, New Mexico

Highway Gold Star – dedicated 9/23/2024 - Angel Fire, New Mexico Vietnam Veterans Memorial. This dedication had five past State Presidents in attendance and our incoming President.

By-Way Blue Star Marker – dedicated on 5/13/2025 – Mesilla Valley GC – This dedication could not be stopped by the 50 mile an hour wind. It was beautiful and followed by a wonderful reception. See the pictures below.



*Patriotic quilt donated by Las Colcheras quilt guild of Las Cruces*



*Program participants*



*Unveiled*

**As of this writing, the following markers are on order and waiting arrival:**

Highway Gold Star Marker – ordered 12/23/2024 – Dedication TBD – Home GC – Roswell, NM

By-Way Blue Star & Gold Star – ordered 5/4/2025 – Dedication TBD – Artesia GC – Artesia, NM

## ***Tree and Shrub Program***

*Dodi Bernal-Suhr, Co-Chairperson, [bryan.suhr@verizon.net](mailto:bryan.suhr@verizon.net)*

### ***Spring in New Mexico, March 19, 2025***

Like some of you I find there are any number of good reasons to be in a reflective frame of mind today. For example, portions of our beloved state of New Mexico was under an emergency alert for most of the 24 hours of March 18, 2025, because of high winds and extreme dust storms limiting highway visibility. How do we make sense of that? How's that for a side effect of drought! In Albuquerque, we have not had measurable precipitation since November 2024.

How do we deal with that? **MULCH**. Advising people how mulching is a beneficial gardening practice is a good place to start. **MULCH protects the soil surface around plants from dehydration. In addition, any moisture that *might* be present should not blow away or evaporate during these days on end of dry conditions.**

I am certain each of you provide information to 'new' gardeners in your neighborhoods on how to deal with water issues and the challenges we face as we try to grow fruit trees, flowers and vegetables. As NMGC members we know who to call or where to look when we need help with a gardening question. Personally, I find people are eager for information; they want to know how to make things work in their garden. Let's work on that!

### ***Summer (almost) in NM, an Update, May 31, 2025***

What a great time we had at the NMGC convention in April, and I hope you were in attendance for some of it! There was a lot to see and taste! I am happy to let you know our new President Johnese Turri is very excited about the next two years. Her team is looking forward to joining her these next two years by **"Planting Seeds Of Joy"** throughout New Mexico.

For my part, my plans include making sure NMGC members have and know of all the resources available to them in the planting and care of their trees and shrubs. Stay tuned! I would like you to let me know what you are doing; do you have an idea for a tree planting project, is there an issue you might want to share, an idea or observation you have a question about?

Hoping to see and chat with you, I leave you with some inspiration, I hope! **TREES ARE A GIFT FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT.**

## **2025 NM Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest**

Dear Members,

Thanks to all of you for helping this year's Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl poster contest by getting the word out in your communities! This year, there was an equal mix of both Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl posters that were submitted at the state level, and they were all very colorful and beautiful! Many thanks go out to the Garden Clubs and the volunteers that helped them for their outstanding work with these young artists, and for helping to support the poster contest!

This year's NM poster contest winners are:

1<sup>st</sup> GRADE, 1<sup>st</sup> Place—Delilah E., sponsored by Uptown GC and Valley Gardeners GC. Abq, NM

1<sup>st</sup> GRADE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place—Leila B., sponsored by Uptown GC and Valley Gardeners GC, Abq, NM

1<sup>st</sup> GRADE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place—Augustus H.-D., sponsored by Uptown GC and Valley Gardeners GC, Abq, NM

1<sup>st</sup> GRADE, 4<sup>th</sup> Place—Emma J., sponsored by Uptown GC and Valley Gardeners GC, Abq, NM

Honorable Mention was awarded to the remaining 34 poster entries, which were all sponsored by Uptown Garden Club and Valley Gardeners Garden Club. Many thanks go out to Suzy Andrego and Mary Ann Moreno for working with the school and the 1<sup>st</sup> grade students at Route 66 Elementary School. There were a total of 38 amazing poster entries submitted! Congratulations on your dedication and hard work—we couldn't do it without your help!!

The final five poster contest winners will be announced at the upcoming National Garden Club Annual Convention. Please go to the NGC webpage at: <https://gardenclub.org/smokey-bear-woods-owl-youth-poster-contest> to view the winner's posters on the contest webpage when they are announced at that time. In the meantime, congratulations to all of the New Mexico poster contest winners! As we look ahead to next year's contest, please help us spread the words of Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl: Only You Can Prevent Wildfires! And: Lend a Hand Care for the Land.



Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Moreno, New Mexico Smokey Bear/Woodsy Owl Poster Contest Chairman, [moreno\\_jen@aps.edu](mailto:moreno_jen@aps.edu)

## **Plant-A-Tree Program**

**Shirla Harris, Chairperson, [echo.harris3530@gmail.com](mailto:echo.harris3530@gmail.com)**

Angel Fire Garden Club has a heart for the 'Plant a Tree' campaign! We love our forest and the fires last year came close to home. Last year we had a successful raffle to help with the donations. \$550.00 was collected even though we have a smaller club as probably only half of our population is here year round.

This year you will have an opportunity to join the fun of getting a double benefit from your 'Plant a Tree' donation. Find Johnese Turri at the State Convention and purchase your chance at winning a lovely throw. All monies go to replenishing our forests. You can buy 1 ticket for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00, while knowing your money is going to an amazing cause.





**Christmas  
in JULY**

**A National Garden Clubs, Inc. Standard Flower Show**  
Friday, July 18, 2025  
&  
Saturday, July 19, 2025

**Presented by:**  
**The Council of Albuquerque Gardens, Inc.**  
Member of National Garden Club, Inc.  
South Central Region  
New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. District 1

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
Friday, July 18, 2025 - 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
Saturday, July 19, 2025 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

**For a Show Schedule Contact: [Suzy Andrego - Sandrego@aol.com](mailto:SuzyAndrego@aol.com)**

## ***District II, Joyce Zaugg, Director***

Hello! My name is Joyce Zaugg and I was installed as District II Director at the District II Spring meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank Kersti Rock for doing an excellent job of reinvigorating District II after a two year hiatus. Her leadership was invaluable to all the clubs in District II. My term of office is 2025-2027. I have very talented people on the board. NMGC President Elect, Johnese Turri, installed Debi Harrington as Assistant Director, Ann Cooke as Treasurer, and Linda Hoffman as Recording Secretary.

March 14<sup>th</sup> was a cold and windy day when District II held their Spring meeting at the Cottonwoods on the Greens located at the local golf course. We welcomed Angel Fire Garden Club to District II by sponsoring a flower show. It has been many years since a flower show happened in Los Alamos. Many members attempted their first flower design or horticulture entry. Members were excited to receive ribbons for this first try. Special thanks to Laurie Hixson and her crew for organizing the event.

District II has four clubs with a total membership of 99. Angel Fire has 33 members, Summit has 25 members, Los Alamos has 30 members, and Floral Designers has 11 members.

Los Alamos Garden Club's President is Alahna Weller. The club holds monthly meetings every third Monday from September through May. During the summer months, they gather to go on field trips. In February, Anne May presented a floral design program in preparation for the upcoming flower show. The March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting program was based on Saint Patrick's Day and was titled Peas, Pansies, and Potatoes. Sue Hansen grew pea seedlings and distributed them to each member. Joyce Zaugg brought homemade potato soup. Joyce then taught everyone how to draw pansies. At the April meeting, the new officers were installed. Debi Harrington presented a program on Low Profile Floral Designs.

Summit Garden Club's President is Alison Grieggs. Their meetings happen on the first Monday of every month. Alison is leading the members to revise their bylaws and standing rules. The member will be celebrating their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The club is dedicated to the larger community through several ongoing projects. The members maintain the White Rock Community Garden plus historic gardens at Bandelier National Monument visitor's center.

*Continued on page 8*

Floral Designers President is Christine Longthorp. The club holds their meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays each month except November and December. Each month the members study a specific category design type. One member picks a design type and each member designs an arrangement unique to them based on the chosen design. The members offer friendly critiques with the goal of learning and improvement. The February meeting featured Debi Harrington's choice of "Exploration-Freedom of Style. Suzy Andrego chose a featured plant material design for the March meeting.

Angel Fire Garden Club's incoming President is Shirla Harris. Angel Fire holds their meetings from May through October. They will be installing club officers at their June meeting. They are busy planning programs for the upcoming months.

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## ***District II, Kersti Rock, Immediate Past Director***

District II is looking forward to our Spring 2025 meeting on March 14 in Los Alamos. We will be installing our District Officers for the 2025-2027 term and celebrating the addition of Angel Fire club to our District with a flower show prior to the meeting! The meeting will be held in the Cottonwood on the Greens community room at the Los Alamos Golf Course. The flower show will be in an adjacent room and will be open to the public while the District is having lunch and holding their General meeting. We are asking for flower show entries from members of each of the District II clubs: Los Alamos Garden Club, Summit Garden Club, Floral Designers and Angel Fire Club. Some clubs have recently had programs on floral design but no prior experience is necessary to enter. The intent is to have fun, learn and inspire!

Spring will be here before we know it. Here are a couple of photos (Chickweed and Bellflower) taken last year in the Valles Caldera National Preserve. We can look forward to seeing these beauties again in a few months!



Chickweed



Bellflower

## ***District V, Officer Installation Photos***



*Mary West, District V, Director*



District V Officers, Mary West, President, Lina Offenbacher, Asst. Director, Pat Krakauskas , Treasurer, Vicki Hobson, Recording Secretary



*District V Director, Mary West, and District V Club Presidents*

“Life is bristling with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to cultivate one’s garden.”

—Voltaire

# Angel Fire Garden Club

Shirla Harris, Club President



I have moved a lot in my adult life and have had over a dozen homes where I always planted trees, shrubs and flowers, but never had the opportunity to join a Garden Club. Well when I arrived in Angel Fire a few years ago, I was soon overwhelmed with high altitude, short growing season, little sun ( I live in a forest after all) crushing snows and precious four legged neighbors that took me to be their own personal chief for their own personal salad bar! I pride myself in being a problem solver so the first year I built little cages for each plant. If you drove by my house you might have easily mistaken it for a plant zoo. I eventually heard about the Angel Fire Garden Club and found my way to a meeting. I expected to gain valuable knowledge and hopefully a few new friends, but what surprised me the most was the opportunity to become a part of a vibrant community that diligently worked to

beautify their community. These precious people (I say ‘people’ instead of ‘women’ because we even have a few brave men) not only dreamed of, planned, installed and now maintain three gorgeous gardens in our little valley/mountain paradise!

If you are ever close by, you will want to visit our Vietnam Veteran’s Memorial Garden, Butterfly Garden at Sutter Library and will naturally see our Median Garden on your way up to the Ski Slope or High Mountain Bike Park.



I have found some of my best friends in my 78 years through sharing a common goal. Well knees in dirt, rubbing elbows while weeding will defiantly bring about bonding. If you are not presently in a garden club, I highly recommend you find the closest one near by and take the plunge. Knowledge, encouragement, friendship, service opportunity, yummy snacks and very little financial output: hard to beat!

# High Desert Design Club

**Shirley Tetreault, Club President**

As a design club our focus is on the study of design for upcoming shows. We have several that are in sight including Christmas in July at the Albuquerque Garden Center. However, in March we are focused on a new project at the Garden Center. We were asked to work and maintain the Blue Star Garden on the North side of the building. We planted the Iris “Allen James Tetreault” in front of the flagpole and plan to place more patriotic named Iris around

the Blue Star. We are still in the process of identifying plant material already in the garden before making any major changes. We are seeing Daffodils and Tulips as well as Roses (Santa Claus), Plumbago and a few others that are too early to tell. We will keep a weekly progress chart for the future. It is a fun and exciting club effort for High Desert. It is our hope that members of our community will visit the garden and enjoy the beauty and remember our Veterans Past, Present and Future. We meet every Monday from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. to clean, weed and water.



We are busy getting ready to show at the Albuquerque Garden Center. July 18th and 19th will be “Christmas in July” and our members will be showing what they know. We have a new member, Victoria Jones, who will be jumping on board as well. This should be a fun show with a lot of color. Everyone will be breaking out their Santa Clause decorations. Below are pictures of illuminary designs that were studied in April in preparation for the show.



Members are also hard at work on Share the Beauty Day and getting ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Garden Center. It will be June the 20th. Come join us.



## **Los Alamos Garden Club**

**Alahna Weller, Club President**

The Los Alamos Garden Club learned about flower arranging in anticipation of the 14th of March District II Flower Show, complete with judging. Entering a flower show was a first time endeavor for many of us. We are looking forward to another show.

The recent rains have helped our Memorial Rose Garden at Fuller Lodge blossom. Even if the rose bushes are still in cages due to deer damage they are blooming. LA County is purchasing a deer fence to go around the garden and it hopefully will be installed in the coming year.

This month, June, we are touring the flower garden at El Zagan, a house and garden belonging to the Santa Fe Historical Society followed by lunch at a restaurant on Canyon Road in Santa Fe. July has us looking forward to a trip north to the Abiquiu Lavender Farm. In August we will have a sack lunch in the Rose Garden to admire our hard work maintaining the garden during the summer.

**JOIN US**  
TO DISCOVER  
ONE OF  
ALBUQUERQUE'S  
BEST KEPT SECRETS,  
THE ALBUQUERQUE GARDEN CENTER

FRIDAY, JUNE 20, FROM 4:30 TO 8:30 PM  
10120 LOMAS BLVD NE, ALBUQUERQUE  
(inside Los Altos Park)

We're having a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration,  
free to the public

REFRESHMENTS - ENTERTAINMENT - GIVEAWAYS

And get all the details on what  
the Garden Center has to offer you

Join us for an evening of fun!

**DIG IT 505**



Albuquerque GardenCenter

# Mesilla Valley Garden Club

**Linda Frank, Immediate Past Club President**

Our November meeting was held in the Activities room at the Village of Northrise, a senior living community here in Las Cruces. Members brought cuttings from their yards, and Judy Laird provided painted vegetable cans filled with wet oasis to serve as vases. We crafted centerpieces for the dining tables. It was a bit of a challenge for those of us who are not that artistically gifted; however, we were all proud of the final results. Several residents provided moral support as they wandered through the room to the pool area. All together 20 tables were adorned with the fresh bouquets.



In December we had our annual Christmas party. We typically have a potluck at a member's home. However, this year we decided to do something a little different and lunched at a local, historic restaurant, La Posta de Mesilla. As usual, the decorations were outstanding and the camaraderie, exemplary. A festive time was had by all, and no one had to cook! In addition to all the fun, the Club also welcomed our newest honorary member, Jackye Meinke, who has contributed to the garden community in the Mesilla Valley in myriad ways for many years.

The landscape architect for the city of Las Cruces, Cathy Matthews, was the guest speaker at our January meeting. The meeting was open to the public, and we were thrilled to welcome 11 guests. Cathy fielded questions from the attendees about parks in or planned for their neighborhoods.



# Sunshine Valley Garden Club

*Cindy Johnson, Club President*



In November we had a fun time making pinecone Christmas ornaments. Member, Inez Maier, provided the pinecones from the many trees on her property, and Terri Clements provided all the items to decorate them.

We had a potluck for our Annual Christmas Luncheon in December. There was lots of scrumptious food, including homemade posole. Our special guest was NMGC President, Debra Sorrell. Everyone got into the Christmas spirit and went home with full stomachs.



Our Annual Business Meeting was held in January, with election of new Officers, collection of dues, and 2025 Program planning. We are looking forward to our Annual Membership Tea on February 14.



Our Annual Membership Tea was held on Valentine's Day at Geronimo Springs Museum in TorC. We had a great turnout with 3 guests and a new member. It was a very lovely gathering, and everyone had a wonderful time!

Here are some of the succulents we planted at our garden club meeting in March.

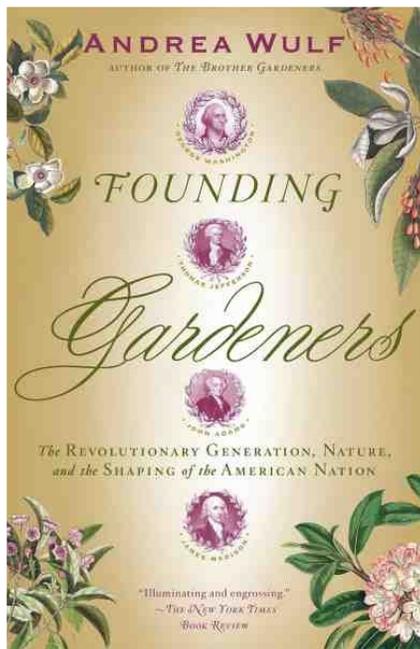


We had our Annual Plant Exchange (aka Pot Party) at President Cindy Johnson's home on April 12. Eleven people attended, and everyone had a great time. There were lots of plants to choose from and delicious refreshments.



# ***Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation by Andrea Wulf***

***Review by Jackye Meineke, Mesilla Valley Garden Club***



This intriguing book examines America's founding fathers' passion for gardening, agriculture and botany, which provides readers insight into their democratic beliefs and political convictions, which ultimately influenced the founding of our nation. Washington, Adams, Jefferson, and Madison operated farms, believed agriculture was the noblest occupation and the foundation of democracy.

The founders of our democracy talked and wrote about gardening with each other and with other scientists all over Europe, researching better farming methods and seeking out new and exotic plants. These men loved to talk and write about gardening and agriculture, and spent leisure time inspecting farms and gardens both here and abroad. At contentious times during the revolution, the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the developing of a new nation, these leaders often would escape to tour gardens and farms together, which would become the metaphors for their discussions and often led to political compromises and agreements.

Wulf offers a new perspective on the men we associate with politics rather than with plants.

This more than 500 page nonfiction book was published by Vintage in 2011.

## ***Calendar of Events***

**June 13**, 11a—2p, Artesia Garden Club, Exhibition Table Designs

**June 20**, 430p—830p, Albuquerque Garden Center 50th Anniversary

**July 15—16**, 845a—6p ET, Garden Clubs of Ohio, Gardening School Course 1

**July 18** 1p—4p & **July 19** 10a—4p, Council of Albuquerque Gardens Inc, Christmas in July Standard Flower Show

**September 6**, 9a—12n, Bosque del Apache Desert Arboretum Volunteer Work Day

# Photos from New Mexico State Garden Clubs And South Central Regional Conventions Albuquerque, April 2025



# New Mexico Gardener

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

A Non-profit Organization  
www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

Organized 1950  
25 Clubs  
2 Youth Clubs

Incorporated August 5, 1952  
525 Paid Memberships  
54 Youth Members

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

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**NMGC, Inc. President 2025-2027**

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**Theme: "Planting Seeds of Joy"**

**National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Donna Donnelly

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Theme:

**South Central Region**

Christine Longthorp

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Theme: "Let the Good Times Growl"

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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 August 1, 2025**