

Fall 2025 Issue

Johnese Turri, State President 2025-2027

“Planting Seeds of Joy”



Time is flying by—and fall is approaching fast! I hope you all have been having a wonderful summer, full of sunshine, blooms, and maybe even a few garden surprises.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for April 7th & 8th for the Spring Convention in Las Cruces! This year’s theme is “Where Old Mexico Meets New Mexico,” and it promises to be a fun and vibrant event. The committee is hard at work with some wonderful plans in store—you won’t want to miss it!

We Want to Hear From You!

We want every member to know that you are invited and encouraged to contribute to the *New Mexico Gardener*! Whether it’s Club News, Program Highlights, Gardening Tips, Book Reviews, Personal Musings, or short informational articles—we’d love to include your voice. Deadline for the winter edition is November 1st. Get those ideas blooming!

National Connections & “Share to Care”

I recently attended my first Share to Care Zoom meeting with our National President, Vice Presidents, fellow State Presidents, and NGC staff. It was inspiring! I believe these monthly gatherings will be very beneficial as we share ideas on expanding membership and strengthening our clubs.

Let’s keep sharing, growing, and learning together—as we Keep America Beautiful.



Kersti Rock, 2nd Vice President 2025-2027



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with many rewarding moments spent working in and enjoying your gardens! Some clubs held field trips or other planned activities during the summer break and most clubs will soon be resuming their regular meeting schedules and activities as fall approaches. Many of you have attended our New Mexico Garden Clubs' conventions which are always fun, interesting and educational. And, of course, we are part of the South Central Region and National Garden Clubs which host conventions and learning opportunities as well. All of these organizations depend on time, talent and treasure. That is where each of us comes in as members of our clubs and the larger organizations. In addition to

each of us volunteering our time, knowledge and effort, our clubs pay annual member dues to NMGC and NMGC pays annual dues for each member to the National Garden Clubs. In order for NMGC to support its various functions and to cover its obligation to the national organization, NMGC asks for state dues of \$8 per member each year.

According to NMGC Bylaws, state dues should be sent to the 2nd VP by May 1 and are delinquent after July 1. Clubs may get new members throughout the year and state dues for new members should be sent to the 2nd VP when those members join. Right now, the 2nd VP is me, so please send the state dues to: Kersti Rock, at 944 Estates Drive, Los Alamos, NM 87544. I will update the membership records and send the information and checks to our NMGC treasurer. The NMGC President and NM Gardener editor also rely on our updated membership lists. Therefore, it is very important to ensure that the email addresses of club members are correct and up to date in the rosters sent to me. Rosters should include only those members for whom state dues have been paid with the exception of NMGC designated honorary members.

Currently, I have heard from all 19 adult clubs and received state dues for a total of 388 paid memberships. We have one NMGC honorary member. In addition, we have two active youth garden clubs, the Ruidoso High School Youth Garden Club associated with Lincoln Garden Club and Organic Planet Youth Garden Club associated with Uptown Garden Club. The RHS youth group purchased and planted fruit trees at their high school last year and the Organic Planet group is active at the Public Academy for Performing Arts. The youth groups do not need to pay dues to MGC. Adult clubs that still have members for whom state dues have not been paid should try to get the checks and updated rosters in as soon as possible so that these members will continue to receive emails from NMGC and issues from the Gardener.



Humming bird on yucca in Kersti's garden.

Happy Gardening!
Kersti

A Message from Donna Donnelly, our National President, 2025-2027

I want to encourage all members to register on the National Garden Club website:

<https://gardenclub.org>

Once the page loads, click “Member Login” in the top right corner. (We’re still adding features, but the site already offers valuable member resources.)

Kathleen Flanders, District I Director, 2025-2027

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE: October 13 2025, District I Annual Fall Meeting

The meeting will be held at the Albuquerque Garden Center, and will include a lunch, and a fun arts and crafts project presented by our New Mexico President, Johnese Turri. It should be a fun filled day.

"BEE The Change You Wish To See"

Joyce Zaugg, District II Director, 2025-2027

“Let’s root for each other and watch each other grow”

As I sit here writing this article, I’m looking out the window that’s near my computer. I see a rose bush that I won in a raffle almost ten years ago. My garden club (the Los Alamos Garden Club) went on a summer field trip to tour Juanita Ortega’s rose garden in Santa Fe. Juanita is a member of the Floral Designers Club and she and her husband are award winning Rosarians. At the end of the tour, Juanita held a drawing to give away a rose bush that she had rooted from one of her own roses. I won the drawing! It is a William Baffin rose bush. I am sharing this story with you because it is an example of our theme. Juanita shared her roses with us back on Au-

gust 17 th 2015. She later came to the Los Alamos Garden Club to do a program on rooting roses so that we could try it for ourselves. I have watched my little rose bush grow to be a huge bush generating many, many blossoms. Every time I look at my rose bush I think of Juanita and that special day many years ago. Special days continue every year when you’re a member of a garden club!



William Baffin Rose Bush-rooted by Juanita Ortega

District II has only four clubs but all our clubs are very active rooting for each other and helping us grow in our knowledge of gardening. District II has a total of 98 members. Angel Fire has 37 members, Floral Designers has 10 members, Los Alamos has 26 members, and Summit has 25 members.

In August, Angel Fire Garden Club had a Devonshire Tea with a silent auction. A local artist shared how to use color in gardens. An Angel Fire business donated a gift certificate for dinner and sleigh ride. Other members donated paintings, jewelry, and craft items they made. Money collected will go to their general garden fund and to their 'Plant a Tree' project. Floral Designers met in March, April and June. Suzy Andrego gave a design program on Featured Plant Material. She titled the program "Spotlighting Spring". The April design program was a Tapestry design presented by Pat Copple. Laurie Hixson presented a program in June on Creative Line designs. Pat Copple again presented a Framed Spatial design titled "Hanging in there" in July. Floral Designers meet monthly for a design workshop. The Los Alamos Garden club meets the third Monday from September through May with a program and business meeting each month. During the summer months, they go on field trips related to gardening. In June they visited the Garden at El Zaguán: A Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners Project and then had lunch at a nearby restaurant. In July they visited the Purple Adobe Lavender Farm in Abiquiu and then had lunch at the Abiquiu Inn. In August they met at the Memorial Rose Garden in Los Alamos for a sack lunch to visit with each other among the beautiful roses. Members have been working all spring and summer on the rose bushes and they are looking very beautiful despite the cages that were installed to protect them from deer damage. Summit Garden Club meets on the first Monday of each month. Summit maintains the White Rock Community Garden as well as gardens at the Bandelier National Monument visitors' center. In May they had a major cleanup of the White Rock Community Garden. Many members and friends turned out to work. This past August they went on a field trip to Origami in the Garden: Kevin and Jennifer Box's Studio, gardens and Art tour.



White Rock Community Garden

New Mexico Garden Clubs' Programs

Archives, Becky Fuller

Ladies, the staff who archives our materials are always ready for additions. Remember when you send materials do not send personal notes or letters, checks or personal information. Materials can be brought to District meetings, State meetings or if you are in Las Cruces we can set up a meeting. Thank you.

Bees, Birds, and Butterfly Gardening, Sabine Kelly



We're buzzing with excitement to introduce Sabina Kelly as the New Mexico Garden Club's new Bees, Birds, and Butterflies Chairperson! Sabina brings an inspiring combination of hands-on experience, academic knowledge, and heartfelt passion to this role. A dedicated pollinator advocate, Sabina and her family raise honeybees and maintain a garden specifically designed to support pollinators. Her love for

planting and gardening is deeply rooted—not just in the soil, but in a desire to protect and uplift the natural world around us. With a master's degree in public health and social marketing, Sabina is especially equipped to create outreach efforts that don't just inform—they inspire. Her programs are designed to connect with people's values and lifestyles, helping turn awareness into action. She's currently buzzing with exciting projects that include:

- Educational workshops on the benefits of beeswax and honey
- Handcrafted honey and beeswax products for the public to sample and use in daily routines
- Pollinator-friendly gardening initiatives to empower our members and communities

Sabina believes that every plant we choose and every product we use can be a small act of stewardship. "Gardening is more than a hobby," she says. "It's a way to care for the world around us—especially our pollinators." Please join us in giving Sabina a warm welcome! We look forward to all the meaningful growth and buzz she'll bring to the club this year. Sabina resides near Angel Fire, NM.



Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Program, Shirley Tetreault, ammasangels@comcast.net



Artesia Gold Star Dedication

It has been a very busy year with the Blue and Gold in the state of New Mexico. On June the 12th we dedicated a Blue Star and Gold Star in Artesia. Artesia Garden Club and the City of Artesia made this dedication possible. Troop 228 presented the colors with a beautiful ceremony. Mayor Pro Tem Jeffrey Youtsey signed



a Proclamation declaring June 12th as Blue Star, Gold Star Family Day. The markers are located at 511 W. Texas Ave in Artesia.

On June the 26th Home Garden Club dedicated a Gold Star Marker to the General Douglas McBride Cemetery at 3101 South Main Street in Roswell. Tim Jennings, Mayor, accepted the marker for the city. Members of the Home Garden Club presented a beautiful wreath. Veterans Services Cabinet Secretary Jamison Herrera and Edward Mendez Department of Veterans Services were in attendance as well as several Gold Star Mothers and families. In closing, Tom Blake sang "Some Gave All."



Home Garden Club Gold Star Marker Dedication

High Desert Design Club has been busy on the reconstruction of the Patriotic Garden at the Albuquerque Garden Center. It has taken several months to clean, weed and recreate; however, we are now at a place where we can begin to plant.

On June the 20th we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Garden Center with 300 people in attendance. Our Gold Star and Blue Star side by side on newly set pavers were impressive for all to see. We will dedicate the Gold in late September or early October.



Gold Star and Blue Star Markers at ABQ Garden Center

Horticulture Program, Maureen Carson

As I write this, it is early August of my second full time summer living in Los Ranchos, NM. While we have been homeowners since 2016 and regular visitors since 2013, we just retired here in December 2023. So I am a newbie to our seasons here in New Mexico. But I'm not new to Horticulture, being an avid gardener for 40 plus years, and a graduate of the New York Botanical Garden's Horticulture Program. I'm also an NGC Master Judge and former Horticulture Chairman of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut Judge's Council. Our state president, Johnese wants me to feature "Tips and Hints" and while I am a well-versed horticulturist, I have much to learn here in our beautiful state! So I'd like to hear from YOU with questions or concerns from your region. We are a big state, the fifth largest in the US, with many different growing conditions. One only has to tune into the daily news weather report to know we have a multitude of forecasts, temperature differences, precipitation differences, elevation differences and wind patterns. It is common to see sun, rain, grapple, snow, high wind all in the same day! As a newbie, here are a few observations and tips I've learned this past decade.

Tip Number 1 - know your regional weather patterns! Even know your neighborhood weather patterns! I am a certified plant nerd and collector. But everything in the nurseries is not meant to be grown here... You don't need to "Collect Them All!" which leads to...

Tip Number 2 - don't buy everything the nurseries sell! Check the hardiness zone, the water needs and all the other conditions a plant needs thrive in your New Mexico microclimate.

Tip Number 3 - start with small plants because they are easier to establish and cost less. Take advantage of local plant society sales and offers from neighbors and friends who want to share. If the locals can grow it, you probably can too!

As you approach the fall planting season, keep these tips in mind when choosing trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs for your garden. And as we enter fall I can't forget to mention Dahlias! They are a personal favorite and are so prolific this time of year. The NM State Fair flower shows will feature many beautiful dahlia exhibits. Following the Fair, the NM Dahlia Society will present its annual Dahlia Show on Sunday, September 28 at the ABQ Garden Center on Lomas Ave in Albuquerque. It is free and open to the public. Details on the state fair and the NMDS shows can be found on the Albuquerque Garden Center Website and the NMDS website. Happy Growing!



National Garden Week, Ginny Longbotham



Morning Garden Club celebrated National Garden Week on June 7th at the Roswell Public Library. They celebrated pollinator gardens. We had a book raffle, flyers, posters, and container gardens to help inform the library families about our pollinators. There was lots of excitement from adults and kids alike. The Historical Society for Southeast New Mexico helped with bracelets, information, decorations,

and blessing bags. Shout out to Vicki Hobson, Debbie Rodriguez, Amy Tellez, Sue Ferguson, and Whitney Hobson for all their help.



We also had a display of gardening books at the Library,.

The last photo is of the NGC/Morning Garden Club National Garden Week poster displayed on the front door of Roswell Seed Company, Main Street, Roswell, NM.



My Favorite Plant, *Penstemon neomexicanus*



Stephanie Kinnamon

My new favorite plant is *Penstemon neomexicanus* (New Mexico Beardtongue) because even though it is on the New Mexico Rare Plants list, after our monsoon rains, they are popping up everywhere. When their natural beauty shows up in where fire and flooding has destroyed everything else, they bring hope for better days!

National Garden Week, Share the Beauty Day, Shirley Tetreault

Each year for the kickoff of National Garden Week we create floral designs and take them to nursing homes around the city. This year we celebrated June 2. Our members work throughout the year decorating cans with lace, material, buttons, etc. Albertsons, Trader Joes and our members provide beautiful flowers. We begin designing at 7:00 am and start delivering at 11:00. This year we had 30 members, creating 800 designs. It is a wonderful program that makes a lot of people very happy. The Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs is our sponsor and provides the oasis for the decorated cans.

If you are interested in starting a program with your garden club, please contact me at (505) 1259-2263. It would be great to have this program Statewide.



Plant-A-Tree

Shirla Harris, who is our Plant a Tree Chairwoman, has knitted a beautiful afghan (see attached) to raffle off with the proceeds going to Plant a Tree. She is selling tickets for \$5.00 a piece or \$20.00 for 5. If you'd like to purchase some, please contact her at 719-406-8647.



Tree & Shrub Program, Dodi Bernal-Suhr

For this issue of our newsletter, I will be taking you around our state of New Mexico. Two flower shows in July and the third coming up in a month, the NM State Fair, 'Treasures of New Mexico' Flower Show, has prompted me to share with you how three young people made my day! It was inspiring and Great Fun. I recommend highly participating in a flower show; actually, submitting an exhibit, working at the flower show or making sure to support everyone's efforts by attending the show.

The reward for recognizing someone's achievements in Horticulture and Design and awarding ribbons at an NGC Flower Show is very satisfying.

'Christmas in July', an NGC and Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs sponsored flower show. It was a success on multiple levels. As chair of Clerks & Runners I get to participate from the get-go. Hopefully, inspiring others to get involved as support to the NGC Judges and being among the first to see **all** the exhibits in Horticulture and Design at their peak before the show opens to the public. A personal note, my grandson earned a blue ribbon and an Award of Merit in Horticulture at the 'Christmas in July' show. He's been growing tomatoes and sunflowers for years!



Preston Suhr & Maryann Moreno

On to Artesia as part of a group of six judges for Julie Foster's 'Fair, Farm, and Ranch Fun' to give recognition and reward everyone's efforts in Horticulture and Design. Master Judge Shirley Tetreault had been in Artesia recently conducting one of her classes in Design – Exhibition Tables and her participants really showed us they paid attention! Special attention in the Youth Division, Julie Foster's granddaughters swept the awards market. I was inspired by both as they appeared to be having the best time with their BIG smiles!



Amber and Garnet Weaver

We got back to Albuquerque to great news that

there will be flower shows at this year's New Mexico State Fair. Once again, I will be Clerks & Runners Chair for the four standard flower shows, hoping my small contribution will add to a successful NM State Fair Flower Show. It's a lot of work.

A gentle reminder to all NM Garden Clubbers, get involved! We need your support. Bring your entries. Every person that attends the shows counts. Hoping to see and chat with you, I leave you with some inspiration, I hope!

Youth Activities, Lynnette Walker



According to Children and Nature Network, “Encouraging children and youth of all ages to participate in gardening, whether at home, school, or in the community, can positively impact their health, development, and the environment. Every year, more and more youth are being lost to screens and the indoors. If we, as gardeners, can encourage just one child to get their hands in the dirt and grow

something, even if it is just for a few minutes a day, that is one less child in front of a screen for a little bit. Hopefully, it will foster a love for gardening, and that little bit will become longer each time they are with the plants. Eventually, that child could join a garden club at school, or start one if they don’t have one, help start a community garden in their neighborhood, or help an elderly neighbor with their garden. The possibilities are endless, but the idea is the same: “more green, less screen.”

If you have a youth who is interested in gardening in your life, encourage them to enter their horticulture, designs, or both at the New Mexico State Fair at Expo New Mexico on September 6th and 13th. All the information and youth schedule can be found on the state fair website under Floriculture. <https://statefair.exponm.com/p/participate/competitions/floriculture>.

If you have any youth activities, please email me at Lynnette.walker@Q.com.



New Mexico Garden Club News

Sunshine Valley Garden Club

Cindy Johnson, President



Propagating Plants was our program in May. It is a great way to increase plant collection and save money. We learned various ways to propagate, including cuttings, division, and layering. Two members brought special blend potting soil in addition to plant and leaf cuttings so we could have a hands-on experience. We took home the ones we did, along with a nice instruction guide. It was lots of fun getting dirty.



We had our annual “Summer Kick-off Luncheon” in June at La Cocina restaurant in Truth or Consequences. This is always a nice get-together to start the summer.

Summit Garden Club

Alison Grieggs, President

In August the Summitt Garden Club visited the Kevin & Jennifer Box Studio and Garden, which features ‘Origami in the Gardeen’. Located just 12 miles south of Santa Fe on State Hwy 14, the stunning 35 acre property is set within an historic landscape distinguished by rock formations, spring fed wetlands and scenic vistas.

The property was master planned by the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture in 2007 to become a world class destination. The plan led to restoration of the original Turquoise Trail, an ancient trade route that crosses through the property as well as rehabilitating a natural artesian spring and riparian wetland. An impressive architectural museum with facilities was designed to be accessible from Hwy 14, a National Scenic Byway and was built as a home/studio by Kevin and Jennifer in 2012. Their family business creates manages, finishes and distributes artwork to 14 galleries and exhibitions around the world. The building is all electric, powered by 9.8 kw of solar panels on the roof. A geothermal ground source heat pump regulates the temperature of the building year round. Other sustainable features such as 100% waste water recycling, passive solar design, low maintenance and recycled building materials all combine to create incredibly efficient architecture that houses the activities of today and tomorrow.

Recently the Riparian wetland was restored in collaboration with a State Fish and Wildlife Grant. The majority of non-native trees were removed and mulched back over the wetland, engineered drainage repair and rock work was installed for erosion control and over 60 native and historically important trees and shrubs were planted in the philosophy of an edible forest for future generations. This area will someday be further established, labeled and made accessible as a botanical garden extension of the existing sculpture gardens on the property.

Box Studio LLC. believes in Reduce, Re-use and Recycle. They use recycled metal in the majority of their casting process and all of their work is 100% recyclable. They recycle and re-use everything they can to reduce their impact on the environment and are proud to produce less than one barrel of trash per week of combined home and studio trash. A percentage of the company profits are donated every year along with artwork to further raise money and awareness for causes they are passionate for.



Petal Pushers

Ginny Longbotham, President, It's Petal Pushers for the Win!!!



At the Council flower show this past weekend, July 18th, the clubs were asked to enter and decorate Christmas trees. The theme was "Christmas in July". Petal Pushers decorated a tree to "feed the birds", making seed ornaments, popcorn, dried orange slices and cranberries. Even our pets got involved, we collected fur from Cooper the dog and Mork n Mindy the kitties and made pillows for the birds to fill their nests with the fur for comfort. It was a winner! First place! Plus the tree

keeps on giving, members got to take home the goodies and put on their trees for the birds!



Mesilla Valley Garden Club

Becky Fuller, President

As a club we do not meet in the summer months, however, several of us took a field trip to Palomas, Mexico to explore possibilities for the convention that will be held in Las Cruces next April. We also had a luncheon and meeting at Judy Laird's to revise the District IV By-Laws and Standing Rules. Great snoring fun was had by all! However, the camaraderie was fantastic!

We are looking forward to our new season with a much more relaxed schedule. We hope everyone has had a great summer! also our thoughts and hope for a much less chaotic weather presence in Ruidoso.

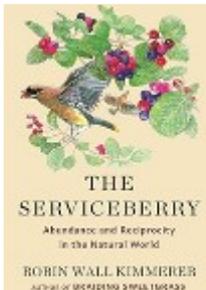
Los Alamos Garden Club

Alahna Weller, President

The Los Alamos Garden Club is enjoying the summer. We work at the Memorial Rose Garden on Mondays early in the AM to beat the heat. We are anxiously awaiting a fence the County is purchasing to go around the garden. This will allow us to remove the cages that have been MOSTLY deer proof. July 23 we carpoled to Abiquiu to tour the Lavender Farm. Most of us left with a bunch of lavender (some cut their own) and other lavender themed items from the gift shop. The farm is for sale for \$1,800,000 if anybody is interested!! The elderly owner/originators of the farm are retiring. Afterwards we went to the Abiquiu Inn for a wonderful lunch outside, under a large ramada. We joyed that our Club should be called The Los Alamos Garden and Eating Club, as we usually go out to eat after everything that we do. The Los Alamos County Fair is July 31, August 1 and 2. Hopefully, flowers and arrangements will be entered by some of the members. We look forward to a pot luck picnic in the Rose Garden in August.



The Serviceberry, reviewed by Stephanie Kinnamon



My favorite book this summer was *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. As Indigenous scientist and author, Kimmerer shows how we can learn from Indigenous wisdom and the plant world to reimagine our society. She states: “Serviceberries show us a model based upon reciprocity, where wealth comes from the quality of your relationships, not from the illusion of self-sufficiency.”

Lincoln County Garden Club

Stephanie Kinnamon, President

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope" Lady Bird Johnson



Since May, when our new officers were installed, we have been working hard to learn our new positions and carry on with the tradition excellence of our past leadership.

Our club is based in Ruidoso, NM, so we have been assessing the needs of our members who were affected by the devastating flooding that occurred on July 8th. Our club members are working together to find ways we can help not only our members, but also our community.



Home Garden Club

Sandi Davis, President

The highlight of our summer has been our Home Garden Club hosting the Gold star Memorial Marker Dedication June 26, 2025 at General Douglas McBride Cemetery, Roswell, NM. We were honored to have Brigadier General Jamison Herrera, NM Dept of Veteran Services Cabinet Secretary, Edward Mendez, Dept of Veterans Services Division Director, Benefits, Cemeteries & Memorial Programs & Tim Jennings, Mayor of Roswell. They all gave a wonderful heartwarming speech. The Presentation of Colors was presented by Roswell Veterans Honor Guard. It was a perfect day to honor the Gold Star Families .



High Desert Design Club

Shirley Tetreault, President

On July the 9 th Julie Moss did an outstanding program with “reed”. It is a thin wooden material that can be easily bent and maneuvered to form a great design structure. Everyone had a great afternoon coming up with different versions of the technique.



Our reed creations!

“Christmas in July” was a beautiful flower show at the Albuquerque Garden Center on the 18 th of July. As always, we had a lot of big winners. Candy Scott won the Petite Award, Mary Noskin won sweepstakes for design, Julie Moss won sweepstakes for Horticulture and Victoria won the Table Artistry Award. We had 94 Horticulture entries, 45 Design entries and a total of 39 exhibitors. Kathy Dubroff was our Chair for the Club Competition class. She organized 14 of our members and created a beautiful Christmas tree. Her expertise helped us to win 2nd place. It was a great day.



Angel Fire Garden Club, “Buzzing with Knowledge“

Sabine Kelly

On a warm summer morning, members of the Angel Fire Garden Club soaked up some sun and knowledge during a delightful and educational field trip to a local beekeeper’s home. The visit, held on July 14, offered a firsthand look at the fascinating world of honeybees and the essential role they play in high altitude gardening and ecosystem health. Hosted by a passionate beekeeper, the tour gave club members the opportunity to observe an active hive, learn about bee colony structure, and discover how beekeepers manage hive health and honey production at 8,400 feet elevation!



Attendees were captivated by the chance to see the queen bee in action and to watch worker bees carry out their duties with precision and purpose. In addition to the hives, several members were amazed by the lush flower gardens surrounding the property. Bursting with vibrant color and buzzing with pollinator activity, the gardens served as a living example of the symbiotic relationship between bees and blooms. Many commented on how beautifully the plants were thriving, clearly benefiting from the healthy nearby hives. Beyond the hive, the group also explored the

process of transforming beeswax into a variety of products. From wood wax to healing salves, the beekeeper shared homemade samples and explained how this natural material is harvested and used. Several members expressed surprise at the versatility of beeswax and left with inspiration to try making their own products at home. “This was one of our most engaging field trips yet,” said a club member. “It’s incredible how much there is to learn about bees—especially how vital they are to the success of our gardens.” The visit concluded with light refreshments and an informal Q&A session, where members asked about pollinator-friendly gardening practices and how to support bee populations in northern New Mexico.

Angel Fire Garden Club

Shirla Harris, President

Angel Fire Garden Club is having a Devonshire Tea with a silent auction in August as a way to have fun yet includes a type of shopping. For the program a local artist is going to share with us how to use color in our gardens. An Angel Fire business donated a gift certificate for dinner and sleigh ride which will probably be our largest item. Some members will donate paintings, jewelry or craft items they have made. Moneys collected will go to our general garden fund and also to our 'Plant a Tree' contribution.

We are also looking forward to meeting up with another club in our district for a field trip to a garden in Taos with lunch out!

Bosque del Apache Arboretum Updates

Cari Powel, Desert Arboretum Manager

Educational Signage - We are working with the Public Lands Interpretive Association to design the first pollinator education sign at the site. It will be unveiled at the ribbon cutting ceremony on August 16!

Trail Completion - The trail extensions are now completed and the trail is packed down and ready for traffic!

Institute for Applied Ecology, River for Monarchs Report

- In 2023, the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) initiated a collaborative restoration project called "River for Monarchs" with the goal of creating 16 stepping-stone habitat sites for monarch butterflies along the Rio Grande corridor and its major tributaries in New Mexico. The Rio Grande serves as a migration corridor for the monarch butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*) due to its north-south alignment combined with roosting habitat provided by native cottonwood trees. As a major riparian corridor in the arid Southwest, it is also a hotspot for other pollinator species, with over 3,000 species documented. However, the bosque has been extensively altered by land use changes, use of herbicides and pesticides, and flood management. This has resulted in decreased populations of native plant species including milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), the obligate larval host plant for monarch butterflies. The loss of migratory and breeding habi-





To achieve our restoration goals, IAE is drawing from the expertise of local entomologists, restoration practitioners, and nurseries. IAE is also working with 11 land management partners who have conducted larger-scale restoration work at our project sites, such as floodplain connectivity improvements, invasive tree removal, and cottonwood plantings, as these activities set the stage for our work: planting monarch resource plants. These plantings will include milkweed as well as a diverse array of nectar resource plants for adult butterflies and other pollinators. We will utilize both nursery grown plants and direct seeding for our planting work, and the majority of the plant materials going into the ground will be from locally sourced, wild-collected seed.

Plants! Pollinators! - As you may know we FINALLY got rain recently and many of the plants are doing fabulous! The container plantings from the fall of 2023 are all doing great. The wolfberries are particularly thriving with many of the plants already bearing fruit. Both the showy and broadleaf milkweed planted at the same time are also looking

amazing. There is a ton of horsetail milkweed flowering as well. I even found a couple pollinators on my visit last Friday.



Queen butterfly - (*Danaus gilippus*)



Wolfberry - *Lycium torreyi*
Planted fall 2023



Scarlet Globemallow - *Sphaeralcea coccinea*
Native at site



Red Dome Blanketflower - *Gaillardia pinnatifida*
Planted spring 2024



Broadleaf Milkweed - *Asclepias latifolia*
Planted fall 2023



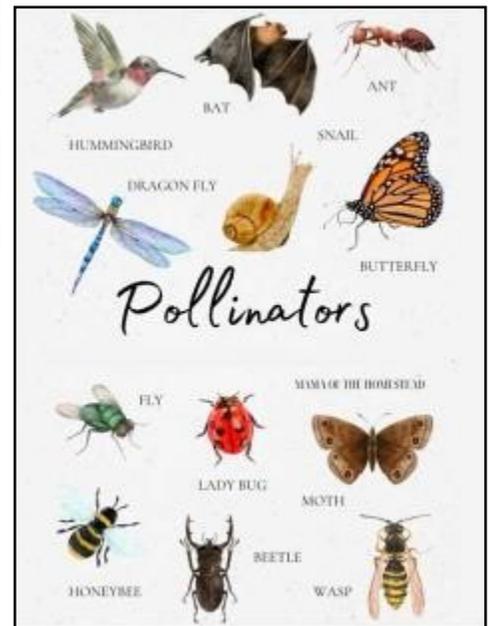
Trantula hawk wasp on horsetail milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa* ssp. *illinoensis*)



Colorado four o'clock - *Mirabilis multiflora*
Planted fall 2024



Showy Milkweed - *Asclepias speciosa*
Planted fall 2023



Albuquerque Garden Center 50th Anniversary Celebration

Ginny Longbotham

Albuquerque Garden Center celebrated the 50th anniversary of the building being dedicated. It was a great success! Over 500 people attended and many never had been to the center. Each club had the opportunity to have a table and information for their club. Many clubs had new members join! Entertainment was on going, and many, many door prizes were given away! TV stations, radio stations were in attendance and also council members, including Tammy Fiebelkorn, who is our area commissioner and Don Champine. Along with the speakers and entertainment, give aways included hot dogs and lemonade and Celina's biscochitos! Carl Soderberg, a long time member and minister gave rededicated our great Garden Center and honored the volunteers who kept us going for 50 years and implored more to volunteer to keep up with the next 50 years.



Calendar of Events

September 4-14, NM State Fair Flower Show, ABQ Fairgrounds

September 16, District IV Board Meeting, T or C

September 17, 10a, District V Board Meeting, Roswell

September 26, District II Board Meeting, Los Alamos

September 26-27, 9a, Harvest Craft Fair & Plant Sale, ABQ Garden Center

October 3-4, NM Judges Council Special Design Program, ABQ Garden Center

October 8, NMGC Fall Executive Board Meeting

October 13, District I Board Meeting, ABQ Garden Center

December 5-6, 9a, Holiday Craft Fair Plant Sale, ABQ Garden Center

April 7-8, NMGC State Convention, Las Cruces

May 4-6, NGC National Convention, St. Louis, MO

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

Johnese Turri

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Theme: "Planting Seeds of Joy"

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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Theme:

South Central Region

Christine Longthorp

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Theme: "Let the Good Times Grow!"

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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

Fall
Winter
Spring
Summer

Date

August 1
November 1
February 1
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, 2025