

Winter 2025 Issue

“Meet our Officers”

Donna Donnelly, National Garden Clubs President, 2025-2027

Theme: PLANT AMERICA For the next 100 years

A native of Staten Island, New York, Donna and her family moved to a small pecan farm in Ellore, South Carolina, in 2001. Many sacks of pecans were harvested during those first few years, and in her opinion, there is nothing like a fresh-picked buttery pecan!

Donna is the mother of three grown sons and Mimi to seven grandchildren. She was a Registered Nurse for thirty-eight years, specializing and RNC Certified in Labor & Delivery and Perinatal Nursing.

For the first half of her adult life, she dedicated 23 years to volunteering at the Staten Island Historical Society. Shortly after relocating to the Southern Hemisphere, she joined the Ellore Garden Club. Donna discovered that being part of a garden club was more than just about gardening; she found it gave her a complete sense of well-being and provided excellent programs. Over the years, Donna has taken advantage of educational opportunities offered by NGC and became an NGC Accredited Master Flower Show Judge, a Landscape Design Consultant, and a member of NFA and CFAA.

She has held several chair positions on the Board of Directors of The Garden Club of South Carolina (GCSC), including District Director and State President in 2017. Donna has served on the South Atlantic Region (SAR) Board of Directors since 2011. Since 2015, she has been part of the National Garden Club’s Board of Directors. Additionally, Donna is proud to be a certified South Carolina Wildlife Federation Pro-Birder and a Yellowstone National Park Junior Ranger.

These experiences have enriched her life, and she feels fortunate to have met many talented and knowledgeable individuals from across the United States, including International Affiliates. Where else can you experience such diverse cultural encounters along with all the educational benefits? National Garden Clubs is an incredible and rewarding organization. She is deeply committed to securing the future of NGC and preserving everything that is respected and admired about the organization.



“Meet Our Officers”

Johnese Turri, New Mexico Garden Clubs State President 2025-2027



Johnese considers herself a native New Mexican—she was born in El Paso, Texas, but moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, when she was just a year old. She loved growing up in the desert, which fostered her lifelong love of the outdoors. Her family also had a small cabin in Cloudcroft, where she spent many happy days among the conifers and dreamed of one day living in the mountains.

Johnese has been married for 45 years and is the proud mother of two sons, five grandsons, and one granddaughter. Before moving to

Angel Fire in 2015, she worked for 26 years as an Escrow Officer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Once settled in the high country, she became active in several local nonprofits—including the Angel Fire Garden Club, where she immediately got involved.

Though she was new to garden clubs and hadn't kept many plants while living in Albuquerque, Johnese quickly learned the challenges of gardening at 9,500 feet—where the growing season is short and the elk, deer, chipmunks, and squirrels are always hungry! She now enjoys a yard full of cheerful daisies and a thriving collection of indoor plants.

Johnese is honored to represent the great state of New Mexico. Her goal is to connect all club members with one another—to share ideas, encouragement, and the joy of gardening together.



Event Calendar

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

April 7-8, NMGC State Convention, Las Cruces [Hotel Booking](#)

April 27-29, SCR Spring Convention, San Antonio, TX [Press Release](#) [Schedule](#) [Registration](#)

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

“Meet Our Officers”

Laurie Hixson, 1st Vice President 2025-2027

I was born and raised in New York City but enjoyed getting my hands dirty in the garden. I wanted to be a veterinarian, so I went to a nearby 2-year college and then transferred to a 4-year university in Washington state, where I met my future husband, and got a Bachelor’s degree in Animal Science. We moved to Los Alamos, NM where I began a 27-year career working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in a variety of administrative and programmatic positions. I have two adult daughters of which I’m very proud and one precious 3-year-old granddaughter. They all live in the Washington, DC area, so I travel back there fairly often.



My husband, Rob, and I retired from the Lab in early 2008 and spent a few years in Monterey, California. While Rob taught at the Naval Postgraduate School, I became an active volunteer in the Monterey Bay area, focusing on history and gardening and became involved with the Monterey State Historic Parks. This volunteer work helped solidify the sense that gardens and gardening create an easy and accessible method of fostering a sense of community. Upon returning to New Mexico, I wanted to cultivate that sense of community I felt in California. Working with others, I organized a community garden in White Rock. It is a demonstration garden that is maintained by the community and has received both NGC regional and national awards.

Since retiring, my interests lie mainly with gardening--I joined Summit Garden Club in 2012 and knew right away I found my niche. I’ve become very involved in the NMGC organization since then, first as Treasurer for 8 years, then as NMGC 2nd VP for membership and now 1st VP. It’s a great organization and I wholeheartedly believe in its objectives. I’m thrilled to be a part of such a great organization and am looking forward to meeting every member in the state.

Christine Longthorp, South Central Region Director

SAVE THE DATE

“PLANT AMERICA: See How We Grow”

South Central Region Convention

When: April 28-29, 2026

Where: Historic Menger Hotel, San Antonio, TX

Featuring: Riverwalk boat ride, 2 workshops, orchid and lavender speakers, Blue Star Memorial landscaping, fabulous design program, and Texas hospitality!

[Press Release](#) [Scheule](#) [Registration](#)

Kersti Rock, 2nd Vice President 2025-2027



As another year draws to a close our outdoor gardening tasks are gradually diminishing. So now we have time for something else MEMBERSHIP!! While seven of our adult clubs have seen growth in the past year, our overall NMGC membership has dropped significantly over the past decade and a half, especially since Covid. In the decade before Covid, NMGC membership was solidly in the 500+ range but since Covid, has largely been in the 400's. More than fifteen years ago, our membership was in the 600+ range and I have heard about glory days of as many as 800 members!

NMGC membership numbers over the past decade and a half:

Year	09-10	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	24-25	25-26
Adult	594	537	532	524	546	564	542	558	561	539	531	489	501	426	406
Youth	20	47	46	76	107	32	25	84	84	71	54	UNK	UNK	33	22

Seven of our adult garden clubs have seen membership increases over the past year but, overall, adult and youth NMGC membership numbers have been declining over the past decade. Part of the problem may be that some of our members fell out of the garden club habit during the Covid years.

There are some simple ways to reverse this trend but it still takes a little focus, a little work and a little persistence. But the results will likely bring more engagement, interest and fun for all members, both new and old! The National Garden Clubs Membership Mondays have stopped for now but three of their videos are still online at the Video Cafe and speak to the three R's of Membership: Recruit, Retain and Revitalize. Here is the web page: <https://gardenclub.org/video-cafe>. You will find these videos under Club Resources. Each topic is covered in about 30 minutes. The videos were from 2021 and 2022 but the basic ideas are still very useful. The Recruit video is about 1 hour but the main presentation is in the first 30 minutes.

And here are some ideas from or inspired by the videos (notice at least one common element!):

Recruit:

- Invite, invite, invite! Talk to people, ask what they are interested in, invite them to visit the club. Talk up your club with other groups you are in.
- Check in with former members who are no longer attending.
- Provide a welcoming, attractive space that is social and fun, provide interesting topics and activities, generate group enthusiasm!
- Consider meeting times and locations and whether these factors are limiting membership.
- Invite the public to attend activities that happen when working folks and people with young children are able to attend.

- Provide creative name tags for everyone, perhaps with a special club logo.
- Assign a greeter to welcome visitors and help them get to know and feel comfortable with the group.
- Always be recruiting - every member can be an ambassador. Have some wearable art such as a pin, t-shirt or cap that can serve as a conversation starter.
- Sponsor a youth group.
- All-ways Advertise - print and social media, community outreach, talk with people in many different venues, different ages, different interests.
- Be social, be interesting, be fun!

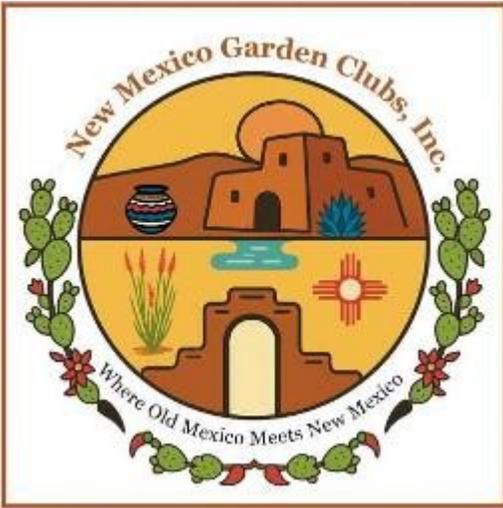
Retain:

- Learn and listen to members. What do they want the mission to be? Lead with that mission in mind. Clubs should do what makes their members happy and motivated.
- Keep things simple, don't try to do everything.
- Actively support and encourage members who take on tasks.
- Do not overwhelm, provide mentorship and education.
- Make sure everyone knows how important they are to the club and that their work is valued.
- Fun!

Revitalize:

- Update, renew, refresh - we don't have to do things the way we have always done them. Try introducing something new to learn, do or accomplish. Mix it up, just a little!
- Change is inevitable, find out what change is needed, what members want to do and what they don't want to do. Find out if there is something they miss doing.
- Consider the possible benefits of changing the meeting location or time, either periodically or permanently.
- Offer more hands on workshops for the public.
- Buddy up when you volunteer, keep members feeling interested and needed.
- Use tech to increase access to speakers, programs, new things to try.
- Plan activities outside of regular meetings.
- Create connections with other garden clubs.
- Study different aspects of gardening and find activities to share with your club - like a giant pumpkin growing contest or learning floral design!
- Consider break out interest groups on special topics like rose growing, native plants or pollinator gardens.
- Keep things simple, interesting and fun!

Garden clubbing is social, fun and interesting! Enjoy the holidays and start thinking about next year's garden club activities!



NMGC State Convention for 2026 April 7th and 8th Las Cruces, NM

Get ready for camaraderie and fun at the upcoming NMGC State Convention for 2026!

We at District IV are excited to be welcoming you to sunny Southern New Mexico. The Hilton Garden Inn in Las Cruces will be your destination on April 7th and 8th.

To our great pleasure and the highlight of our convention, our **National Garden Club President, Donna Donnally** (see page 1) will be attending, and we want to put our best foot forward and welcome her to our state and show that even in our desert climate, we have dedicated gardeners.

This will be our NMGC President, Johnese Turri's first convention and she deserves support from every one of us. The convention committee has been working diligently to make this a convention to remember. We also want to announce that you will be able to register online and use your credit card both for registration and any silent auction purchases.

So, mark your calendars now and come to **"Where Old Mexico Meets New Mexico"**.

Book Your Hotel: <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/newmexicogardenclubs-2026-convention/>

My Favorite New Pollinator Magnet!

Sabina Kelley, Angel Fire Garden Club

The Rocky Mountain Bee Flower (*Cleome serrulata*) has quickly become my favorite new addition to the garden! Its tall, airy blooms dance in the mountain breeze and burst with soft lavender-pink petals that seem to glow in the sunlight. But the real magic is how much the bees and butterflies adore it—its nectar-rich blossoms are a constant buzz of activity. Hardy, drought-tolerant, and perfectly suited for our high-elevation gardens, it's a pollinator magnet that adds both beauty and purpose to every bloom.



Mary Noskin, District 1 Director, 2025-2027

"Better Together"

On October 21, 2025 Kathleen Flanders District 1 Director verbally resigned starting immediately. On October 29, 2025 District 1 Executive Board met at the Albuquerque Garden Center and following District 1 bylaws Mary Noskin filled the District 1 Director position and Colleen Herman moved into First Assistant Director position. The Board concurred that the 2nd Assistant Director would be Kathleen Flanders.

District 1 Officers:

Mary Noskin District 1 Director

Kathleen Flanders 2nd Asst Director

Gina Thoma Treasurer

Colleen Herman 1st Asst Director

Marcie Kercher Recording Secretary

Suzy Andrego Parliamentarian

I have chosen as a motto "Better Together" with an emphasis on teamwork and collaboration within all of the member clubs.

My project: Blue Star Marker dedication - which is planned for the 2026 Fall Meeting at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Albuquerque.

I am learning on the job and hope to somewhat also fill Kathleen's shoes, not easy - I appreciate any help or guidance.



Soak pine cones in 4 liters of water mixed with an ounce of red food coloring. Let sit over night and then dry on a paper towel. Gorgeous colored cones for Christmas decor!



"Let's Root for Each Other and Watch Each Other Grow"

District II has 4 thriving clubs with a membership of 105. Angel Fire has 42 members, Summit has 25 members, Floral Designers has 10 members, and Los Alamos has 28 members.

The President of Angel Fire Garden Club is Shirla Harris. Angel Fire Garden club meets from May through October taking the winter off because many of their members have residences elsewhere. They reported the following speaker topics: Challenges of High Altitude Gardening, Home protection from forest fires, Importance of healthy Conifer Forests, Bees Farmer info and tour, High Tea with program of History of Tea, Monarch Butterfly/craft. The members maintain 3 gardens in their valley. They managed to get 2 articles in their local newspaper. They have planted 2 pine trees, 10 bushes, and approximately 25 perennials. They have doubled their membership.

The President of Summit Garden Club is Alison Grieggs. Program highlights are: Using fresh herbs in cooking and growing herbs. This is an ongoing project between Summit and the White Rock Senior Center; a tour of Origami in the Garden, the Alcalde Research Center; Plants of the Southwest tour; a joint venture with Angel Fire at the Taos home of Dan Jones. Each event included a luncheon! Several members are trying garden experiments with Saffron and garlic. Summit awards a high school graduating senior with a scholarship. Summit was represented at this year's Los Alamos County Fair's horticultural division with multiple award winners. Summit maintains two gardens at Bandelier and the White Rock Community Garden. Summit is celebrating their 65th year anniversary.

The President of Floral Designers Garden Club is Christine Longthorp. Floral Designers meets the last Thursday of the month. The purpose of the club is to have a venue to practice Intermediate and Advanced NGC approved designs. Their agenda is for one member to demonstrate a chosen design in which the members also participate and then as a group critique. Design highlights were: Tapestry, Creative line design, Hanging spatial design, Assemblage, Cascade, and Layered.

The President of Los Alamos Garden Club is Alahna Weller. Program highlights: Tour of Santa Fe Historical Society house and gardens at El Zaquan on Canyon Road followed by lunch at a nearby restaurant; Tour of the Abiquiu Lavender Farm; Picnic and social at the Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden; a fun gardening quiz program. Los Alamos Garden Club maintains the Los Alamos Memorial Rose Garden and is in the process with the county to install a deer fence. The project should be completed by the end of October/November. Los Alamos Garden Club Awards a scholarship to a graduating senior.

District II held a successful Fall Executive Board Meeting on September 26th. The board invited 3 guests of honor but through unexpected circumstances State President, Johnese Turri and Past State President Debra Sorrell were unable to attend. President Johnese Turri sent a report which Honored Guest Laurie Hixson, State 1st Vice President, read. We were able to set a date of March 20th for our District II Spring Meeting.

I attended the NMGC Fall Executive Board Meeting at Angel Fire on October 8-9. President Johnese Turri held a well run business meeting. The two day retreat was fun and informative. We created dried floral arrangements, toured a "hobbit home", and relaxed among the aspen forest surrounding Johnese's property. The food was excellent and the home hospitality was great! Thanks, Johnese, for a wonderful experience.

New Mexico Garden Clubs' Programs

Share the Beauty Day, Ginny Longbotham, Chair

Share the Beauty Day is how Albuquerque Garden Clubs Celebrate National Garden Week. Share the Beauty Day was originally known as "Mercy" day. The Salvation Army would decorate cans, bring them to the garden center and we would fill them with beautiful flowers. People with disabilities would decorate the cans with yarn. Sometime in the 90's, the Salvation Army no longer was able to provide decorated cans. The many clubs at the Albuquerque Garden Center took on the tradition and Shirely Tetrault has graciously chaired the event ever since.

Since that time, it has grown to one of the most exciting and enjoyable days at the Garden Center when volunteers start at 7:00 am to fill the cans with flowers. However, before we can fill them with flowers, two other days are involved. On one day, volunteers meet and decorate the cans. Another day is met with more volun-



teers who put oasis in the cans.

This year volunteers created 800 flower designs and had 40 members working on the designs. We started at 7:00 a.m. and were still working around 1:30. Deliveries started at around 1:30. This year we expanded to Rio Rancho doing an additional 90 and Princeton had an increase to 277.



Each year our project is on the 1st Monday in June to tie in with National Garden Week. When you deliver a small soup can full of fresh blooming flowers, the smiles received from the patients is unbelievable. We would love to see this expand to other clubs in the state.

Photos Courtesy of Ginny Longbotham

Blue Star & Gold Star Memorial Program, Shirley Tetreault, Chair

“New Mexico Blue Star Memorials and Locations”

Below is a list of our **Blue Star Markers** throughout the state. I believe there are a few missing that are not on this list. If you find one that is not on this list, take a picture of yourself with the marker and send it to me with the details. I need to know where it is, the date it was dedicated, the club name and your name etc. My email is ammasangels@comcast.net There will be a special gift at the annual spring convention if you locate one.

In addition, Plant America is offering special grant money for those that apply and are willing to plant red, white and blue flowers around their markers. This will be happening all over the USA. Please [go online](#) for all the details to this program. This is also a good time to make sure that your marker is in great shape.

2025 District IV – Mesilla Veterans’ Park, Mesilla Valley GC, May 13, 2025

2023 District V – Cloudcroft, NM, June 10 2023

2022 District II – Santa Fe National Cemetery, Las Sembradoras GC, November 18, 2022

2018 District I - **Rededication**, ABQ Garden Center, July 28, 2018

2017 District V - Ft. Stanton Cemetery, September 26, 2017, Lincoln County GC

2016 District IV - Batan Veterans’ Memorial Park, Silver City, NM, October 6, 2016

2016 District III - **Rededication** - Clovis, NM, August 28, 2016

2016 District II - NM Garden Clubs Inc., Conchas Dam, July 2, 2016

2016 District III - Angel Fire GC, Angel Fire - Shuter Library, June 12, 2016

2014 District V - Home GC, Roswell, Gen. Douglas L. McBride Roswell Veterans’ Cemetery

2014 District V - Home GC, Roswell, **Rededication**, Court House lawn, Roswell, NM, September 18, 2014

2012 District I - Uptown GC - Albuquerque - Veterans’ Memorial Garden on Louisiana, June 23, 2012

2011 District I - Uptown GC - ABQ Garden Center, July 11, 2011

2011 District IV-Socorro GC, Isidro Baca Veterans’ Park, November 11, 2011

2010 District III- Santa Rosa GC, Park at Guadalupe County Court House, November 11, 2010

2008 District III-NMGC Inc. - State Highway 60/84 Visitor Center, Texico, NM, November 9, 2008

2007 District II-Los Alamos GC, The Lodge Memorial Rose Garden, July 4, 2007

2006 District IV-Sunshine Valley GC, Veterans’ Memorial Park, March 7, 2006

2004 District IV - Mesilla Valley GC, Veterans’ Park, Las Cruces, NM, June 17, 2004

- 2002 District V-Home GC, Chavez County Admin Bldg, Roswell, NM, February 22, 2002
2000 District III - Angel Fire GC, DAV Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire, July 4, 2000
1997 District V - Mountain GC, Library Garden, Cloudcroft, NM, June 13, 1997
1996 District IV-Robledo Mountains Vista GC, Ft. Selden Cemetery, Radium Springs, NM, October 16, 1996
1986 District I - Desert Planters GC, Memorial Rose Garden, Aztec, NM, August 21, 1986
1986 District IV - Sunshine Valley GC, Memorial Highway, Highway 80
1983 District IV - Town & Country GC, Gough Park, Silver City, NM
1962 District I - Trailblazers GC, Salmon Ruins, San Juan County Archaeological Ctr

“Gold Star Markers”

Below is the current list of Gold Star Markers in the state of New Mexico. Gold Star Families’ mission is to offer honor, hope and healing through remembering fallen heroes by coming together. While their hero paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, survivors live daily with the pain of the sacrifice. Gold Star Families endeavor to provide an atmosphere of emotional and psychological conduit for healing. Living service men and women were represented by the Blue Star, and those who had lost their lives are represented by the Gold Star.

New Mexico:

- By-Way Gold Star – dedicated 11/12/2025 – Albuquerque Garden Center – High Desert DC
Highway Gold Star – dedicated 6/26/2025 - Home GC – Roswell, NM
By-Way Gold Star – dedicated 6/12/2025 – Artesia GC – Artesia, NM
Highway Gold Star – dedicated 9/23/2024 - Angel Fire, NM, Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial. This dedication had five past State Presidents in attendance and our incoming President.
Highway Gold Star - dedicated 6/8/2024 – Clovis, NM
Highway Gold Star – dedicated 4/27/2024 -New Mexico Veterans’ Memorial Garden – Albuquerque, NM Uptown GC and High Desert GC

Highway Gold Star and Highway Blue Star ordered 6/26/2025 Dedication TBD – City of Hobbs, NM.

Archives, Becky Fuller, Chair

Hi Clubs! Get your information to me, and I will get them to NMSU Library.

New Mexico Judges' Council, Debra Sorrell, President

New Mexico Judges Council is actively engaged in keeping all of our judges trained and up to date on the latest information from National. We are given the privilege of evaluating the work of others and we are committed to being knowledgeable, fair and encouraging to every participant.

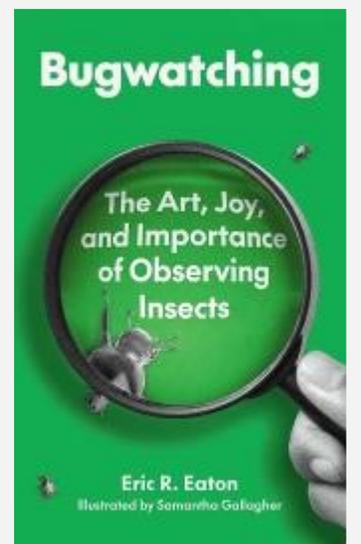
The Council meets quarterly and provides a place for judges to hone their skills and share ideas. We met in July and talked about how to write better comments on the backs of entry cards in preparation for the State Fair. We met again in October and discussed “the good, the bad and the ugly” of judging at this year’s State Fair flower shows. There are always issues that arise in a series of 4 shows back to back. Being able to come together and discuss them as a group is so informative and helpful. The Fair, itself, made life pretty hard for everyone but our judges did a fabulous job!

In January, NMJC will be pinning 6 new judges who have just recently become accredited. We are so proud of each of these ladies! Congratulations to Sue Bond, Gigi Zacharias, Gayle Smart, Dodie Bernal-Suhr, Gina Thoma and Anne May! It is a big commitment to get through the process and they all did it with flying colors. That means that we have plenty of judges who are anxious to use what they know. If your club is willing to host a Small Standard or Specialty Flower Show, we can round up plenty of people to help you get it done! Some can help you get ready and our new judges would love the opportunity to do their thing! Contact me any time and let’s talk!

Book Recommendation

Bugwatching: The Art, Joy, and Importance of Observing Insects, by Eric Eaton

Insects are the most abundant wildlife on the planet but also the least observed. “Bugwatching” shares tips for attracting desirable bugs to your garden. The book helps us better appreciate and understand insects and improve our success rate in finding, watching, and identifying them. Eric Eaton, entomologist, has written or contributed to several books, “Insectpedia: A Brief Compendium of Insect Lore” “Wasps: The Astonishing Diversity of a Misunderstood Insect” and others.



Wildflower & Native Plant Program, Jackye Meinecke, Chair

“Wildflowers to Plant Now”

When we see California poppies and larkspur blooming in spring gardens, it makes us want to rush out to get seeds to plant. However, that often fails to meet our expectations. The trick to brilliant wildflowers in the spring is to plant them now.

Many of the spring blooming wildflowers require a winter chill to germinate. Germination also is enhanced by our fall and winter moisture — rain or snow. These sturdy spring bloomers will spend the winter making roots, so they burst forth with color in March and April.

Here are wildflowers that can be sown now for spring blooms:

- California Bluebells
 - California poppies (N) and other poppies
 - Chocolate Flower (N)
 - Angelita Daisy (N)
 - Fall Aster (N)
 - 'Imagination' Verbena or Moss Verbena (*Verbena tenuisecta*)(N)
 - Penstemons
 - Bachelor Buttons or Cornflower
 - Larkspur
 - Calendula
 - Pansy and viola
 - Columbine (N)
 - Coreopsis (N)
 - Blue Flax (N)
 - Blanketflower (N)
 - Hollyhock
 - Black-eyed Susan
 - Mexican Hat (N)
 - African Daisy or Cape Marigold
 - Desert Marigold (N)
- (N) = Native to the Southwest



Horticulture Program, Maureen Carson, Chair

“The Leaves They Are a Changin’”

Change, it is inevitable. No matter where you stand on climate change, I hope you'll agree with me that seasonal change in New Mexico is magical! When you read this, we will be well on our way to the holiday season and new year. But for now, I'm enjoying the cooler temperatures, the golden cottonwood foliage in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, and the bounty of the harvest which are all gifts of the Fall Season.

As your garden space changes from producing to resting, relish the subtle shifts. Notice what makes you pause. Maybe vibrant foliage, interesting bark texture, plump berries or seed pods, or even the sharp contrast of the now-exposed path, fence or wall. As the foliage succumbs to overnight temperatures, keep in mind that many beneficial insects overwinter in dried stems and leaves. If possible let some of the garden debris stay until spring, especially that of host plants such as milkweed (*Asclepias*), bee balm (*Monarda*) and rue (*Ruta*). As I was walking my garden in mid-October, I noticed more than a dozen baby Black Swallowtail Caterpillars on my *Ruta graveolens* plants. Knowing they would likely freeze before becoming chrysalises or worse yet, they would become butterflies in mid-November with little nectar plants available, I decided to bring them into a controlled habitat. Once they have all become chrysalises, I'll keep them in a cold area(not freezing), so they stay dormant until spring. Fingers crossed!



Baby caterpillars on host plant



Larger caterpillars growing in habitat mesh structure



First caterpillar becomes chrysalis. Change is inevitable!

Photos Courtesy of Maureen Carson

In closing, here are some quick reminders:

- -DO water trees! A deep watering on a mild day once or twice a month in winter is preferred to short, shallow more frequent watering.

- DO save seeds of favorite plants; it is the most economical and rewarding way to grow your garden.
- DO plant spring bulbs right up until the ground freezes. Daffs, Allium, Muscari and Iris are good choices if you battle deer, bunnies, squirrels, etc.
- DON'T prune spring bloomers like forsythia, lilac and viburnum or you will lose spring bloom. A rule of thumb is almost always PRUNE AFTER BLOOM.
- DO wait until March to hard-prune most roses but DON'T prune Lady Banks Roses until after bloom.
- DO enjoy your holidays and dream a little with the 2026 nursery, seed and plant catalogs. Maybe it's time to change things up in your garden.

Bees and Butterfly Program, Sabina Kelly

Sabina Kelly serves as the Bees and Butterflies Chairperson for the Angel Fire Garden Club. She tends mountain hives with her partner, Jack Allen, creates beeswax and honey products, and works to inspire pollinator-friendly gardening wherever she goes.

“Keeping the Hives Warm at 8,500 Feet”

At 8,500 feet in Angel Fire, winter arrives early and settles in deep. As temperatures drop, even these resilient creatures need a helping hand at this altitude. To help the hives survive we provide extra care in winter to ensure our busy girls are bee-ming come spring!

While the garden sleeps under snow, inside the hives the honeybees cluster around their beloved queen and vibrate their wings working together to stay warm. Our beekeeping role shifts from tending flowers to helping the bees endure the long, cold months ahead.

Before winter, we make sure each hive is strong—with healthy bees, a solid queen, and plenty of honey stores. We reduce entrances, wrap the hives for insulation, and protect them from mountain winds. Managing moisture is just as important; condensation can chill the cluster, so we add ventilation and absorbent material inside.

Through the snowy months, we **pretty much cross our fingers and pray alot!** Bees will stay safe inside their hives until they sense warmer temperatures. **They've only been doing this for thousands of years. We often support them with sugar water until** the first wildflowers are blooming **and the ladies sense its time to forage.** Their melodic buzzing return feels like nature's reward for a winter well-tended.

The bees thank you, too, for planting pollinator-friendly gardens that welcome them home each spring.

New Mexico Garden Club News

El Jardin Encanto Garden Club, Mary Lou Wilson, Co-President

El Jardin Encanto recently took a field trip to Los Poblanos Farms in North Valley of ABQ. We did a self guided tour and saw garden beds, farm animals (sheep, alpacas, guineas, and chickens), flowers and the shop.



Photos Courtesy of Mary Lou Wilson

Socorro Garden Club, Mary Gillard, President



R-L: Wendy Jackson, Susan Larson and Mary Gillard at the Hammel Museum Octoberfest with our plant sale, which brought in over \$400.



Great participation in the Socorro County Fair Flower Show.



Members and other volunteers cleaning up Bosque del Apache Arboretum Cactus garden. Removal of packrat nests is an ongoing problem.

Photos Courtesy of Mary Gillard

Angel Fire Garden Club, Renee Kuharski

Angel Fire Garden Club had a busy summer with events and the care of three gardens. AFGC maintains the following gardens: Memorial (Vietnam Veterans Memorial), Butterfly Garden at the Shuter Library and the Median Garden. All work is done by garden club volunteers. Additionally, the AFGC hosted these events during the summer of 2025.

May: Presentation on Fire Ready in Angel Fire with the Angel Fire Wildland captain from the AFFD. Also, A NM Forester stationed in Ute Park spoke on Healthy Forests and Ecosystems.



June: The presentation and discussion centered on High Altitude Gardening in Angel Fire with Mica Meyer, AFR landscaper. He provided tips and answered questions on high altitude gardening challenges.



July: Beekeeping with Jack Allen and Sabina Kelly Who provided a look at beekeeping in the mountains.



August: President Shirta Harris hosted a Devonshire Tea at her home. Speaker Sharn Sorenson provide a brief history of tea and the cultural significance.

September: On the 8th the AFGC and the Los Alamos Garden Club toured SpiriTaos with lovely gardens and lunch. On the 11th Johnese Turri hosted the AFGC and speaker Kakkie Cunningham. Who spoke on Monarch Butterflies. Her program was on all aspects of the Monarch.



October: On the 9th the AFGC held a dedication at the Butterfly Garden, remembering a long time member Diane Peterson. October 13 was our last meeting of the season. Gardens being put to bed. Drawings held for the afghan for "Plant-a-Tree" lucky winner Renee Kuharski Tokens are given to the members working on behalf of the GC: Kiy had the most tokens at 22; 2nd place was Barbara Thorne with 17 tokens. They each received a lovely Afghan. Congratulations and thank you and everyone for your hard work this past summer.



Lincoln County Garden Club, Stephannie Kinnamon, President

This year we have new officers, which not only means lots of learning, but also lots of NEW ideas!

Last year, we made the Ruidoso High School Garden Club “Honorary Members” of the Lincoln County Garden Club, so they are now officially affiliated with the New Mexico Garden Clubs. This year, we did something new by offering two scholarships to last year’s seniors to support these high school graduates in their pursuit of a college degree in Horticulture, Range Management, Plant or Soil Management, or other areas related to agriculture and/or plant sciences. One of the requirements of the scholarship was that the recipients must return to Ruidoso and give a presentation at one of our monthly LCGC meetings about what they have learned. We can’t wait to hear all about the wondrous things they are learning!



Speaking of the RHS GC, last year, they purchased and installed a water catch system, so this year, they have been busy planting fruit trees on campus that they purchased with grant money they received from the LCGC last Spring.

In addition, the garden they planted this Fall produced enough carrots to share with the Culinary Arts class, so they can prepare and serve them



at their weekly “Teepee Lunch.” We are very proud of this wonderful youth garden club’s efforts and the impact they are making at their school.

This year, we are also saying “Adios!” to two of our very valuable and talented members, Mary Lemmond (outgoing Treasurer) and her sister, Jessica Sheldon, as they move to Arizona. Our party planners and hostesses did a fabulous job putting together a fun Fiesta-style lunch and celebration to honor them, including gift cards and a beautiful “Memory Book” for Mary & Jessica and door prizes for the party goers. We wish them well as they move to Arizona.



Lincoln County Garden Club, Debbie Myers

A few of the Lincoln County Garden Club Members kept up with the Community Garden at Smokey Bear Ranger Station, this summer!! Overall, we had a great crop of asparagus, snow peas, carrots, tomatoes, squash, peppers, strawberries, rhubarb, etc.

It was a difficult summer to host our Educational Gardening Experience because of all of the flooding!



The Blue Star Memorial, that was erected at Ft. Stanton in 2017 by the Lincoln County Garden Club, got a makeover this past September. It's really looking GREAT now!!!

The carved bears, that were commissioned by the Lincoln County Garden Club and carved by Jesus Figueroa, have been a real treat for Ruidoso Public Library patrons. The Garden Club takes care of this garden every year. The wild horses have also been enjoying the carved bears while they help the Lincoln Co. Garden Club members weed the garden. This horse actually wanted to get into the library to learn about the plant he was eating in the library garden!!!!



Albuquerque Garden Clubs, Ginny Longbotham, High Desert Design, Petal Pushers, and Uptown



We had our annual Glow n Stroll the night of October 25 at the Albuquerque Garden Center. The first picture is of Pumpkin Hill where all the pumpkins carved by the assorted clubs are place on a prominent hill in our gardens.



Second picture is of Uptown Garden Club that enjoyed a day of carving at Jewell Cutter's home where she served an very delicious brunch.

Third picture is of the Petal Pushers that gathered in the garden center prep room, decorated the room and several members made great food to munch on while we carved our pumpkins for Pumpkin Hill.



Each club took a Halloween theme movie and decorated different areas of the gardens and the public was entertained it all from 6-9 pm. Besides all the displays, food was offered and bands played.

Aretesia Garden Club, Marta Akerman, Vice President



Had a great time touring Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (fish hatchery) It was interesting and lots of fun. Enjoyed lunch afterwards.

We had a great time helping Morning Garden Club make center pieces for table at Eastern N.M. State Fair. We gathered flowers from home, we had a lot of beautiful flowers.



October meeting was planning Spring District meeting and voted on them for Flower Show at Fair.

High Desert Design Club, Shirley Tetreault, President

High Desert members are constantly working hard on projects for the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs. We meet there every month on the second Wednesday at 1:00 pm. It is fun and exciting. We laugh and play and eat. We use this facility, and we help in every way we can to maintain it. We always have an educational program, and it shows by the number of ribbons earned in our State Fair and Council shows. Our members are amazing. In October everyone created a beautiful chili ristra for their home.

On November the 12th, 2025 we will dedicate a Gold Star Memorial plaque at 1:00 pm. You are all invited to attend – 10120 Lomas Blvd N.E., Albuquerque, NM. We are in the process of to know they are never forgotten.



Beatrice & Leude



Jo Ann



Catie Glover

Photos Courtesy of Shirley Tetreault

Los Alamos Garden Club, Selvi Viswanathan, Member

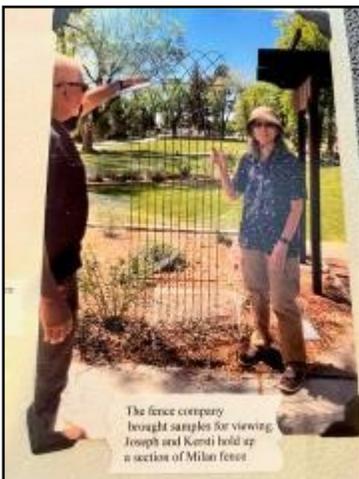


The picture included here I took on July 20th around noon in our container garden. I saw two tailed butterfly flitting around 11am on my deck. It is fortunate of 20 containers this one is only a couple of feet from me. It has wildflower plants Rocky Mountain Bee plant and Coreopsis first time. These two plants intertwined I was fooled first two different blooms on same plant. This picture shows the beautiful blue sky makes it more spectacular.

Los Alamos Garden Club, Alahna Weller, President

Los Alamos Garden Club is having a mulching party November 8th at the Memorial Rose Garden. All volunteers are welcome. Hopefully this is the last year we have to mulch around the deer deterrent wire cages. A 7' fence is on order, to be installed by

Los Alamos County-soon, we hope, once all the parts have been procured.



The fence company brought samples for viewing. Joseph and Kersti hold up a section of Milan fence.

VISIT the Members Only area

Of our Website:

<https://newmexicogardenclubs.org/nmgcprivate/nmgconly.html>

User Name: nmgc

Password: yuccaPlant

Sunshine Valley Garden Club, Cindy Johnson, President

Our September meeting program was WEEDS. We were amazed to learn of their many uses, including medicinal, edible and beneficial. Some of these weeds include dandelion, chickweed, purslane, yarrow and goldenrod. Even the goat heads have some good in them!



The Club had a booth at the Annual Sierra County Fair in October. We displayed our banner, had an exhibit on propagating, information on the Smokey Bear and Woodsy Owl Poster Contest, business cards, a flyer announcing our next meeting, and an Invitation to our meetings giving the day, time and location. We also had a slip of paper for those interested in joining to fill out with their name and phone number and deposit in a container. We received seven responses, and each received a follow-up call.

At our October meeting we discussed ways to improve our booth at the Fair next year. It was suggested that we have “Free Plants” with a plant marker saying, “Compliments of Sunshine Valley Garden Club” and information about our Club. We had a guest at our meeting from one of the booth responses.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, November 14 at Geronimo Springs Museum, 1:30 p.m. We will be doing Christmas pinecone crafts. All are welcome.

Mesilla Valley Garden Club, Linda Frank, Member

The October meeting of the Mesilla Valley Garden Club was hosted by Dr. Bel Meador and her husband at their home. After a very British tea, the Club members toured the gardens, which Bel and her husband have taken from zero-scape to a hybrid xeriscape-British border bed garden. As you might have surmised, hubby, Neal, is a British boy. The view from their home overlooking the Mesilla Valley was stunning!



Photos Courtesy of Carolyn Bergsagel

Valley Gardeners, Debi Harrington, President



Valley Gardeners is an extremely active garden club that continues to meet on the second Thursday evening of most months - October through May. In the Summer, members enjoy touring member's gardens and other local gardens. Members always show up in force to volunteer at the Albuquerque Council of Garden Clubs events.

In September, members volunteered in numerous positions at four state fair shows, as well as provided many of the judges. Members entered and won lots of awards, both in the Horticulture and Design divisions. A number of members also created a beautiful, educational display 'Treasures of the Valley' about the Rio Grande, perhaps New Mexico's greatest treasure. Members also helped with Council's Harvest Fair Arts and Crafts Festival and entered the Dahlia Show, where several members won top awards.



In October, Michele Ann Tart presented a wonderful educational program on indoor cacti and succulents, which included many wonderful specimens. Members also created a display area for Council's Halloween Glow 'n Stroll.

On November 13th, Maureen Carson will present a demonstration of dividing a variety of houseplants. Many of the divisions will be donated at Christmas to Saranam for our annual holiday project. Valley Gardeners currently has 40 members and has many educational and exciting programs coming up in 2026: A Petite Design Workshop, Gardening for Birds, Gardening in a Changing Climate, Growing/Showing Bearded Iris, and several beautiful garden tours during the Summer. We welcome guests at any of our programs/meetings AND we always welcome new members. For details about any of our monthly meeting contact Debi Harrington by email at: photodebi@gmail.com.

Photos Courtesy of Debi Harrington

Planning a Community Garden, Victoria Shumacher, Mesilla Valley Garden Club

I was recently invited to assist the town of Mesilla in planning a community garden. I'm a retired horticulturalist for the City of Cincinnati Parks Department and was excited to dust off some of my skills. I've learned the hard way, there are a number of considerations to take into account when planning a community garden. I shared these with Mesilla and thought some of you might find this information useful.

#1 Location & Installation

- Is this in existing city/town park?
 - Is there a designated safe place to store tools, hoses, fertilizer etc.?
- Is it near a playground?
 - Is there a plan for keeping children and animals out of planting beds?
- Where is the closest water source?
 - What hose length is required to reach planting beds from water source... 50, 75, or 100 ft?
 - Is a hose provided? If so, is there a secure place to store it each day? Or, if not, will whoever tends to the garden, need to bring a hose each time?
 - Or is a drip-line provided for the beds?
- Will you be planting in the existing ground or in raised beds?
 - If existing, who will till the soil and add the needed amendments?
 - If raised beds, who will build the raised beds, and pay for the raised bed soil, mulch etc. to fill the beds.
 - If raised beds are used, these will compact over time, who will be responsible for paying for that additional soil, composted mulch etc. to continue having a viable planting area.
- Who will design the initial garden layout?
- Do you already have local individuals who have agreed to participate in this project?
- ADA accessibility: not only access of the gardens themselves, but ADA accessibility throughout the raised beds.
 - If a governmental entity is involved in the Community Garden, then ADA accessibility is even more important (because it is the law if using government funds.)

#2 Maintenance

- Who will be responsible for planting, watering, fertilizing, pruning, and end of season clean up?
 - Will this be strictly volunteers or does the town Parks or Maintenance Departments have any involvement in this?

Will there be a “Community Garden Committee” with an assigned Captain, who collects contact information and oversees that the maintenance is being completed on a regular schedule?

If this is being maintained by volunteers (who are often older) will they be willing to commit to come out and water every time it is 100 degrees?

- Will there be an assigned government employee in which issues, questions, problems can be addressed in regards to the Community Garden?
- Will a city truck be available for large debris removal (especially at end of season clean-up,) when there can be multiple bags of debris?
- Is there a plan for weed control? ...putting down newspaper or landscape fabric between planting beds? hand pulling? chemical spraying?
- Who will be responsible for purchasing the soil additives, fertilizer, hoses, tools, and plants?
- If vegetables are being grown, is there a plan to keep pests and critters out of the planting beds? Who will pay for chemical pest control or fencing against critters?
- Is there a budget for this project, and what does that include?
- Is there a possibility for a corporate or business sponsor to help with the costs of this project?

Bosque del Apache Arboretum Update, Cari Powel, Desert Arboretum Manager

Solarization Success!

The pollinator site is looking exceptionally beautiful right now with the golden yellow jimmyweed bushes (*Isocoma pluriflora*), towering sunflowers, and a rainbow of globemallow flowers! We removed the plastic on this summers solarization test plot and were pleasantly surprised to find a nice square plot of soil free from both johnsongrass and bindweed! This plot is now the perfect space for infilling with our target plants and seeds. We're excited to solarize more areas next summer when it it hot enough.



Photos Courtesy of Cari Powell

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2 Youth Clubs

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22 Youth Members

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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. 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.

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