

Fall 2026 Issue

Johnese Turri, State President 2025-2027

“Planting Seeds of Joy”



I hope this newsletter finds each of you doing well and enjoying time in your gardens! We’ve certainly had quite a heat wave here in northern New Mexico. While we haven’t been as hot as many other parts of the state, it has still been unusually warm. Unfortunately, we haven’t received much moisture where I live, so I didn’t have

nearly as many daisies or wildflowers this year. Since we’re on a well, we have to be mindful about how much we water. Like many of you, I’ve learned to appreciate every bloom that nature gives us!

One of the greatest joys of serving as your State President has been getting to know more of our members and learning about the wonderful projects taking place throughout New Mexico. Everywhere I go, I am inspired by your creativity, dedication, and love of gardening and community service. Each club brings its own unique talents, and together we are making a real difference across our state.

I am proud to announce that **\$2,500** raised through our Ways and Means raffles at Debra Sorrell’s and my state conventions will be donated to the **Philmont Scout Ranch** to support its re-seeding project following the devastating wildfires. I have requested that the seedlings be purchased from the **J.T. Harrington Forestry Research Center at New Mexico State University in Mora, New Mexico**. I believe this is truly a win-win. We are helping restore the beautiful Philmont property while also supporting an outstanding



New Mexico research facility that plays such an important role in our forests' future. Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets or donated items to make this possible.

Our Ways and Means program depends on the generosity of our members. Each year, raffle tickets and information about the featured items are sent to every club president. If your club or members would like to donate an item for a future raffle, we would be so grateful. Your support allows us to continue funding worthwhile projects that benefit communities throughout New Mexico.



I am also delighted to share that **Shirla Harris**, our Plant a Tree Chairperson, recently presented a check for **\$1,231.90** to the Philmont Scout Ranch for the same reseeding project. These funds will also help purchase seedlings from the J.T. Harrington Forestry Research Center. For the past three years, Shirla has designed and handcrafted beautiful quilts that have been raffled to support our Plant a Tree program. Her extraordinary talent and generosity have not only raised funds but have also brought greater awareness to the importance of planting trees throughout our state. Watching each quilt come to life has been a true joy, and we are so grateful for her dedication.

As we begin looking toward autumn, I hope you'll continue sharing your club news, projects, and photos. I love hearing about all that you're accomplishing, and it's a wonderful way for us to celebrate one another's successes. Together we are planting more than flowers and trees—we are cultivating friendships, strengthening our communities, and leaving a legacy for future generations.

Please let me know if you would like me to attend one of your meetings or install your new officers. I truly enjoy visiting clubs, sharing ideas, and celebrating your accomplishments. Board installations are especially meaningful to me, and I would be honored to install your officers. I would love to!!

Photos: Susan Schultz



Laurie Hixson, 1st Vice President 2025-2027

I just got back from two weeks of garden club conventions—the South Central Region Convention in San Antonio, Texas and then the National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. What a whirlwind couple of trips. Let me tell you about them.



Early-4:45AM early--Monday morning on April 28, seven of us (Christine Longthorp, Suzy Andrego, Shirley Tetrault, yours truly, Debra Sorrell, Vicki Frye, Marina Efroyson) got on a van and went on a 12-hour road trip to San Antonio. What a blast. Try and imagine seven women in very close quarters for 12 hours! Stopped to take a pic at the NM/TX border.

Once we got to our hotel, we met several more New Mexico attendees: Mary Noskin, Coleen Herman and Johnese Turri and her husband Michael. After getting settled in, several of us went to dinner on the Riverwalk.



The first day of Convention was super fun: we went on a river cruise along the famous Riverwalk, a really nice presentation at lunch about a local lavender farm; then we had a workshop on Resurrection Plants (*Selaginella lepidophylla*). I'd never heard of this plant before but it's a desert plant that dries up and looks dead when there's no water, but revives within minutes when in contact with water. Then there was an amazing design program after the banquet. The woman made probably a dozen designs, describing each one, which were auctioned off after the program. It was a great fundraising event.

The next day was Western Day. The morning was mostly business meeting, but after lunch, we had a red, white and blue wreath making workshop. There was a reception honoring the SCR Director, our own Christine Longthorp, and NGC President, Donna Donnelly. Those who went to our NMGC Convention in Las Cruces met Donna. She's a lovely person and a lot of fun! The van ride home seemed to go much faster than the trip out. I made it home in just 14 hours!

In early May, a contingent of NMGC people went to the **National Garden Club Convention** in St. Louis, Missouri. Many of the same people went to National plus 2 husbands, but we flew this time. First afternoon was flower show set up. Next day was for the Executive Board and some seminars. The flower show was judged in the morning and opened for viewing in the afternoon. Lots of amazing designers—it was a great show. All the designs were petite, which can be challenging. Several of our members received ribbons.



See **1st VP**, Page 4



We got to tour the National Headquarters and some people went to the Missouri Botanical Garden. We were running short of time, so we, unfortunately, didn't get to go. There were more seminars on day 2: I went to "Therapeutic Horticulture" and "NGC Schools Forum." I wrote down lots of ideas for club programs from these seminars. Ask me about them when I see you! There was social time every night before the banquets. I'm getting to know a lot of like-minded gardening people. The last day was the business meeting for all attendees and the Awards Banquet. Lots of awards were given out. Unfortunately, New Mexico didn't submit any this year. Something we'll need to fix next year.

In all, conventions are a lot of fun. They provide an opportunity to meet new people and reinvigorate those friendships that you haven't seen since the last convention. I can't express how worthwhile going to these con-



ventions was. It was a lot of travel but well worth it. New Mexico will be hosting the National Convention in 2029 when Suzy Andrego gets installed as the National President. So not much traveling involved. I hope you'll consider going.



The National Gardener
Summer 2026 Is now Available!

[Link Here](#)

Kersti Rock, 2nd Vice President 2025-2027, Membership

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is looking forward to another fun and interesting year of garden club meetings and activities! We can also look forward to seeing members



Photo: Kersti Rock

and friends from all over the state at our next New Mexico Garden Clubs Spring Convention in early April. Many of you have attended these 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. Club treasurers, please begin requesting dues for the coming year well before your clubs stop meeting for the summer so that we can get the state dues and updated rosters in on time. 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.

As of early August, I have heard from 17 adult clubs and received state dues for a total of 325 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 youth groups do not need to pay dues to NMGC.

Finally, let me know if I can assist you with forming a new club or youth group. And, of course, please let me know if you have formed a new club or youth group. Remember to share your ideas and successes in the New Mexico Gardener. New ideas generate enthusiasm and make our garden clubs even more fun!

Christine Longthorp, South Central Region, Director

Hello Fellow Gardeners,

It has been an unrelenting hot season but we hope the monsoons will come to central NM soon and revive our yards.

Please also note my new email and phone number.

I want to share something that I was reminded of recently from William Wordsworth, the poet. Wordsworth explored intensely the influence of nature on the inner life. He believed that a living relationship with nature is a source of strength that can help foster healthy growth and healing of the mind. He also understood what it means to be a gardener.

Creating a garden healed him and his sister Dorothy as a response to losing their parents who died when they were children. At Dove Cottage they cultivated vegetables, medicinal herbs and other useful plants. Their garden was full of “gifts” of wildflowers, ferns and mosses they collected on their walks and brought home like offerings to the earth.

In 1987, I took 32 New Mexico garden club ladies on a tour of gardens in the UK and we went to the Lake District to his cottage and saw this beautiful garden. I remember going up to the attic where William wrote his poetry and saw the view that inspired “Daffodils”, one of my favorite poems. My hope is that our yards sustain us through days when we are feeling adrift in world events and enjoy the healing that nature guarantees.

South Central Region continues to sell jewelry to provide each of the four states in the region with a Gold Star marker as my Director’s project. If you would like to have us bring jewelry to your district or club meeting please let me know and we will be happy to attend.

I also want to remind you that there are South Central Awards that are different from New Mexico’s to apply for. This past convention in San Antonio we did not apply for a single award and some had monetary prizes. At present our new web master is revamping the site and all the information will be there. So, please, see how many you can easily apply for to put New Mexico on the map, and make my last convention as director a memorable one. I will send out a notice when the website is completed, and you can all plan your entries now and be prepared for 2027.

May your gardens bless you with peace...

Christine Longthorp

South Central Region Director 2025-27

calongthorp@hotmail.com

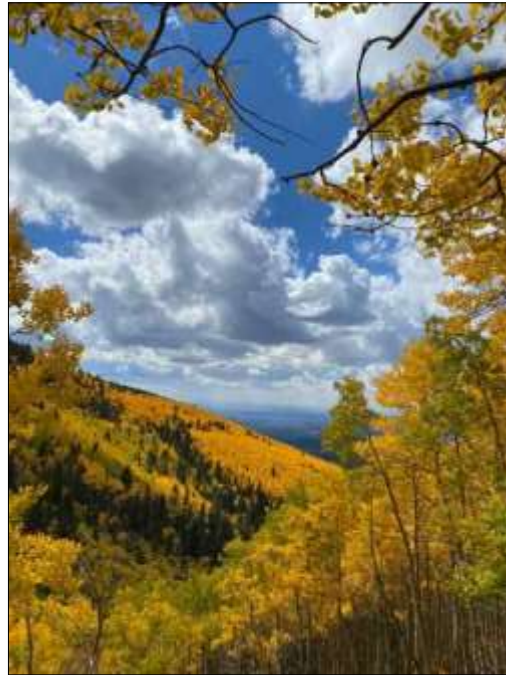
(505) 480-0673

2025 Photographic Award Submissions:

Landscape



*Debi Harrington
Valley Gardeners*



*1st Place Landscape &
Photo of the Year
"Aspens"
Alahna Weller, Los Alamos*



*"Eclipse"
Beth Schneider, Valley Gardeners*



*"Hummer Photo Bomb"
JJ Huddleston, Angel Fire*



*Selvi Viswanathan
Los Alamos*

District V, Mary West, Director

DISTRICT V Is having a Raffle!

We are raffling a beautiful handmade ceramic nativity set. Made by Julie Foster. It is a 17 piece set, the tee pee is 7 3/4 inches tall for size reference.

Tickets are \$1.00 each 6 for \$5.00 or 12 for \$10.00

Drawing will be April 2, 2027 at the New Mexico Garden Clubs' Inc. 77th Annual Convention in Roswell, NM

For tickets contact Julie Foster @ 575-365-3244



District I, Mary Noskin, Director

Save the Date!

District 1 will dedicate its Blue Star Memorial Marker on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**, at the Veterans Integration Center, 2701 Mulberry Street NE, in Albuquerque.

We are planning on a short business meeting starting at 9:30 am

The dedication is scheduled for 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch.

We hope you can join us.

Mary Noskin, District 1 Director

Colleen Herman, 1st Asst Director

Kathleen Flanders, 2nd Asst Director

Marcie Kercher, Secretary

Gina Thoma, Treasurer

Suzy Andrego, Parliamentarian



**Blue Star Memorial Dedication
Albuquerque Veterans' Center
October 13, 2026**

District II, Joyce Zaugg, Director

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

As I prepared to start my day today, I put on the coffee and then went to our living room to open the blinds on our picture window. To my surprise there on my front yard were two deer grazing and enjoying the summer morning. I was surprised because in my part of the White Rock suburb of Los Alamos County, we rarely see deer. The deer population has been growing and they



Photo: Joyce Zaugg

have become very domesticated. The first part of my theme for District II is the idea that we root for each other and that could include the wildlife in our communities. But with that said, I don’t think I want to watch our deer population grow larger.

District II has 4 thriving clubs with a membership of 109. Angel Fire has 43 members, Summit has 26 members, Floral Designers has 10 members, and Los Alamos has 30 members. District II held a successful Spring General and Executive Board Meeting on March 20th. The board invited State President, Johnese Turri and First Vice President, Laurie Hixson as guests of honor. I’m sure most of the clubs have increased their membership

since our Spring meeting and I will have an updated count by the next edition of the New Mexico Gardener.

Our District is busy preparing for the Fall Executive Board meeting which the Angel Fire Garden Club will be hosting on September 18th. I will be sending out a Call for Meeting soon.

ANNOUNCING 2027 Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl Poster Contest

**Children from first through fifth grade
are invited to participate in this annual
drawing contest featuring conservation icons
Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl!**

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and the National Garden Clubs, Inc., are giving students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of wildfire prevention and basic environmental conservation principles through original drawings of Smokey Bear or Woodsy Owl.

[Announcement](#)

[Contest Information](#)

[Timeline & Deadlines](#)

[Contest History](#)

[Check Out the New NGC Youth & Scholarships Page with More Color & Jazz!](#)

Debra Sorrell, National Garden Clubs July 2026 Designer of the Month



Debra Sorrell is July's National Garden Clubs' Designer of the Month. Debra is from Albuquerque, NM, and has been a garden club member for 14 years. She belongs to Uptown Garden Club and NM Floral Designers. Debra's gardening influence came from her father who was an avid gardener with a special love for iris. She just completed the requirements to be an NGC four-star member! Congratulations Debra! Debra loves to give programs to local garden clubs. When asked about her favorite design type she stated that she absolutely loves the freedom of creating "Creative Designs" as they provide

the opportunity for imagination, inspiration and artistic interpretation. She uses staging panels and underlays when designing to be able to play with color and space within her designs. Debra would tell a new garden club member to try everything that sounds even remotely interesting to them. She joined garden club to learn more about gardening and never dreamed she would learn the art of floral design. Keep your mind open and try everything. There is the perfect niche for everyone in garden club. She loves that as a member of National Garden Clubs, her garden club and her design study group, there are endless opportunities to share and work with so many wonderful people! CONGRATULATIONS to Debra for being the NGC July Designer of the Month!



Doug Tallamy to Speak at NM Native Plant Society State Convention

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM) is celebrating their golden jubilee statewide this year. The state conference will be held from September 10-13 in Silver City. [Registration for the conference will begin on July 1.](#)

The conference entitled, "Roots of Resilience: Native Plants in the Next Fifty Years," features nationally known speakers Doug Tallamy and Philip Connors. Tallamy is the author of several books, including *Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard*, which became a New York Times bestseller and was featured in the Spring 2026 New Mexico Gardener.

2026 HARVEST CRAFT FAIR & PLANT SALE

FRI, SEPTEMBER 25 9 am to 4 pm
SAT, SEPTEMBER 26 9 am to 3 pm

Autumn & Holiday Themed Vendors!
Fun & Food!

Bedding Plants/Pansies/Violas
Mums/Homegrown plants

Lavender Blue Dilly Dilly

Candy Scott, High Desert Design Club

With everything blooming early this year the lavender full bloom season may be a couple weeks early, but still lovely. "Lavender is the gift of serenity in a busy world." - Ralph Waldo Emerson. All that lavender and so much to do with it. In ancient times the Egyptians used it in the mummification process, the Greeks were more practical and used it to treat insomnia and back pains. During the Bubonic Plague it was thought to ward off disease.



Photo: Dimitri Iakymuk

Even though when we look around lavender is everywhere, it is not native to North America. England boasts the largest lavender maze in Cotswood, and it is through the many large lavender gardens that English lavender made its way to the colonies. The Shakers were the first to successfully grow and harvest lavender farms here. The world's largest lavender farm is Bridestowe Estate in Tasmania that is 260 acres and

over 650,000 plants.

The color was named for the plant, which was named for the Latin word lavare meaning "to wash". A member of the mint family it is related to sage, rosemary, and thyme, so the song should have been "Lavender, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme", not parsley. In the garden lavender wants full sun and will grow to 2-3 feet high and 2-4 feet wide. Lavender grows well in New Mexico for many reasons besides wanting a lot of sun like, being native to the mountainous regions of the Mediterranean high desert works. Also lavender is not only drought tolerant it hates humidity, which having visited Florida in the summer I am totally in agreement with. Too much watering can lead to fungal disease and other problems, so if your lavender is having issues, cut back on the watering. For the lazy gardener lavender does not require feeding, but it does like a once a year pruning in late summer or early fall. Lavender is toxic to pets, on the upside, deer don't like it either.



*Photo:
Susan Wilkinson*

Lavender is pollinator friendly and bees that frequent lavender fields produce what is called Lavender Honey and is sought out for not only the scent, but for the delicate flavoring it imparts. Lavender has many uses in the kitchen, a farm to table plant. Herbs de Provence is made with lavender so if you want to make your own combine 2 Tbsp. dried oregano, thyme, savory, tarragon, basil, marjoram, parsley, and 1 Tbsp. dried anise seed and lavender. Other lavender recipes include lavender mint lemonade, blueberry lavender lemon sorbet, orange lavender shortbread cookies, blackberry lavender preserves, and many more recipes you can Google.

See *Lavender*, Page 12

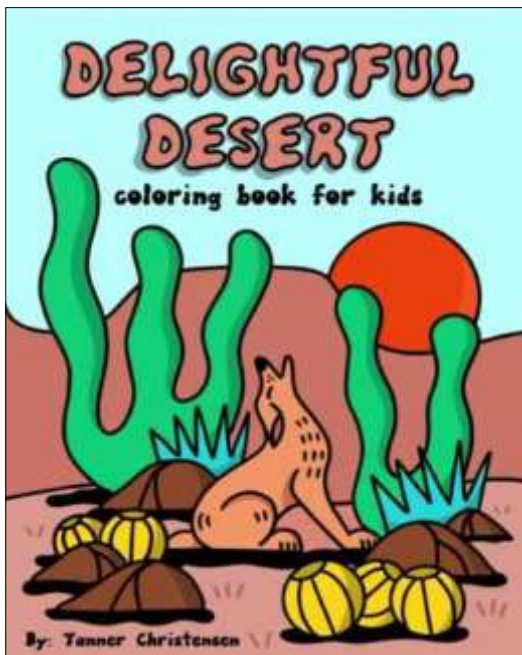
Speaking of preserves with all this early blooming our fruit and vegetables are going to be ready for canning. If you, like me, have discovered the joys of jam and jelly making, this is your time of year. I hope you have enough extra to bring some of your bounty to the State Fair. While the Fair runs September 10 - 20, the entry dates for the Home Arts is August 21 - 22. Some of my best combos have been with peppers combined with blueberries, pomegranates, cherries or peaches. I use different peppers, from Hatch, banana, jalapeno and anything else I see, plus some colorful bell peppers for, as you can guess, color. I also like making marmalade combos, like blackberry blood orange. The problem with blood oranges is they are in season late winter and, as I been known to scream, no fruit in my garden. When I see blood oranges in the market I zest and juice them and then freeze them in measured containers, ready to go when my fruit is ripe. So, if you never thought about bringing things to the Fair to be judged "just do it", you will enjoy the experience and maybe a blue ribbon.

I started with a lavender quote and I am ending with one:

"Lavender reminds us that simplicity is the ultimate form of sophistication."

-Leonardo de Vinci.

Book Review: Delightful Desert — Coloring Book for Kids by Tanner Christensen



This coloring book for kids is full of fun and delightful depictions of the Southwest Desert including animals, plants, art and more. In this coloring book you will find:

- **Thirty** unique illustrations hand drawn by the author
- **One sided** pages to avoid bleed-through
- **What age is this book for?** The illustrations in this book are appropriate for kids anywhere from 1-8 years old. Some illustrations are more simple and some more complex for a range of options
- **Desert scenes** that will familiarize kids with the beautiful desert environment

2025 Photographic Award Submissions: Horticulture



"Wild Iris"
Shirley Tetreault
High Desert Design



1st Place-Horticulture
"Pepper"
Dodie Bernal-Suhr, Valley Gardeners



"Bug in an Iris"
Beth Schneider, Valley Gardeners



"Opuntia erinacea x Columbiana"
Debi Harrington, Valley Gardeners

New Mexico Garden Clubs' Programs

Share The Beauty Day, Griffon Ruston, KOB4, June 2, 2026

We could all use a little more joy in our lives and volunteers at the Albuquerque Garden Center are proving it doesn't take much to do just that.

Volunteers from gardening groups all over the metro meet at the Albuquerque Garden Center every June to assemble hundreds of homemade bouquets. After a few hours of work, they deliver the bouquets to nursing homes around the city.

"When we've come in with those flowers, those people's face just light up. They're so happy to see a fresh flower and somebody come in to see him. It's just wonderful," said Shirley Tetreault, chairwoman of Share the Beauty Day. "That one arrangement is going to go and make somebody's day so positive and so happy. That's my goal."

Organizers call it "Share the Beauty Day." Their couple hundred bouquets at the start turned into 780 bouquets this year. That includes a few special patriotic bouquets for veterans.

"Some of these folks have not seen relatives for a long time and they're just amazed that we do this for them. It's just to see the joy. They can't come to the garden center and look at our beautiful gardens so we're just bringing all these flowers, all this beauty to them. It's just to remind them that we see you, we hear you, and we all love you," said Sue Bond, of High Desert Design Garden Club.

All it takes to make a bouquet is just a soup can, some decorations and a handful of fresh flowers. Members collect and decorate the cans while local businesses and florists donate all the flowers.

"With very little effort, you can make a lot of people happy in a very short time," Tetreault said.

Link to full article, [Albuquerque Garden Center Spreads Joy with Share the Beauty Day](#)

Event Calendar

September 5—6, [Hatch Chile Festival](#)

September 10—13, NM Native Plant Society 50th Anniversary State Convention, ["Roots of Resilience,"](#) Silver City, NM

September 13, [2026 Placitas Garden Tour](#), Placitas, NM

September 25 — 26, 9a—3p, ABQ Garden Center Craft Fair & Plant Sale

September 26, [Silver City Commons Gala: Garden Under the Harvest Moon](#)

September 30—October 4, [Southern New Mexico 60th Annual State Fair & Rodeo](#)

October 8—11, [Sierra County Fair](#)

October 13, District I Blue Star Marker Dedication, Veterans' Integration Center, Albuquerque

April 1—2, New Mexico Garden Clubs State Convention, "I Went to a Garden Party," Roswell, NM

Blue Star/Gold Star, Shirley Tetreault, *Chair & Gold Star Mother*

This Chair is bouncing off the walls with excitement. For years I have been asking for pictures of our markers that are not on my list. I print the list at least once a year and have offered a prize if you locate a lost marker.

I received a call from Ellie in T or C with Sunshine Valley Garden Club. She found a marker that they are trying to refurbish. Ellie and Sunshine Valley Garden Club are in the process of working with the city to get help in this area and locate more history regarding the marker. When this project is complete, we will have a rededication ceremony to celebrate this wonderful find.



See a picture of the marker on a postcard in the upper right dated **1966**. The trees in the back are very small and as of today they are very large and surround the marker. This find is very exciting and we will want to see you there at this special dedication.

On June the 29th we dedicated a Gold Star Marker in Ft Stanton. Debbie Meyers and Lincoln County Garden Club did an outstanding job on this dedication. She is greatly appreciated and they make our state shine. Look for Debbie's full report and pictures in this publication



Don't forget to mark your calendars for **October 13, 2026**. Mary Noskin, District I Director, will have the dedication for a Blue Star Marker at the Veterans Integration Center in Albuquerque.

Horticulture, Maureen Carson, *Chair*

CH-CH-CH-CHANGES!

(To quote David Bowie)

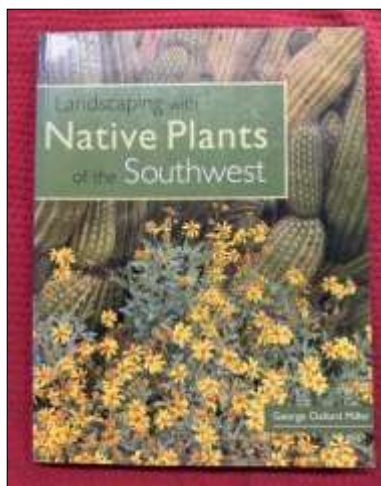
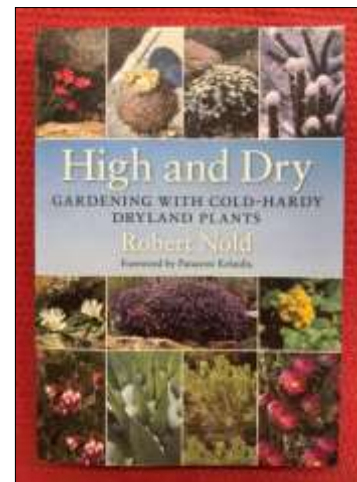
As I write this column somewhere in the middle of summer, we are expecting yet another 100 degree day here in Albuquerque. We are well over the two or three 100 degree plus days we usually get in a "normal" year. Hopefully we will get additional monsoon rain through the end of August but as of this writing, that is an unknown. So if you are like me, you are taking a hard look at what you are currently growing and how to cut back on water usage.

The first layer I look at is of course trees. I would absolutely protect existing and mature trees with regular deep root watering and monitoring for pests and disease. When choosing new specimens, do some research and choose Right Plant, Right Place. I was blessed to have existing mature trees such as Rio Grande Cottonwood, Pinon,

See Horticulture, Page 16

several fruiting and sterile Mulberry, Afghan Pines and loads of Juniper. I recently added a Burr Oak, a Sycamore, a Big Tooth Maple, a Mesa Glow Maple, a Raywood Ash and several Afghan Pine saplings plus some smaller trees like Redbud, Smoke Tree, Manzanita and Elderberry. They have been placed strategically in the landscape to offer future shade to the next generation. But if your idea of planting a tree is in a xeriscape setting covered in landscape fabric and rocks/crushed stone, please reconsider! A tree planted in that environment, even with adequate irrigation, will likely fail! With the heat zone created by the fabric and hard scape, the soil temperature where the roots live will be many degrees higher than the ambient temperature, giving the tree "hot feet!" It will cause stress which will weaken the tree and make it susceptible to pests and disease.

Next layers are shrubs and perennials which can also include ground covers. When I moved here from Connecticut, I sought out information about my new climate, even though the Zone Map said it was a similar zone number. I found author Judith Phillips right away, and her **"New Mexico Gardeners Guide"** became my go-to resource, along with her other books. I also referred to **"High and Dry"** by Robert Nold and **"Landscaping With Native Plants of the Southwest"** by George Oxford Miller. Local nurseries are also wonderful resources, as are fellow Garden Club members and Master Gardeners.



But really, I have learned to LOVE what grows here! I no longer try to nurse along a well-loved plant from back east such as Japanese Maple, Lily of the Valley or Hydrangea. Instead I embrace Campsis, the many Salvias and Penstemons, Yucca, Optuna and even Sotol! So if the climate here is becoming even hotter and drier we must CH-CH-CH-CHANGE our expectations! I'd love to hear from you about what you find successful in your part of New Mexico. We have many climate variations so please consider sharing what works for you.

Just a little reminder: The New Mexico State Fair will be held September 9-20 with NGC Flower Shows on 9/9, 9/11, 9/14 and 9/17 and Youth Shows on 9/12 and 9/19. You can find the Horticulture

Schedule on the [Albuquerque Garden Center web site](#). Entry cards will be available in advance at the AGC. Please remember to list the Botanical Name (specific epithet) of your entry and underline it. For example *Salvia greggii* and cultivar if you know it in single quotation marks, such as 'Arctic Blaze.' Do not just put Red Sage or Red Salvia. If you only put the common name you will NOT BE ELIGIBLE for a top exhibitor award.

Here's to the CH-CH-CH-CHANGING Season! May it be good to all of us plant growers in New Mexico!

Garden Therapy, Dr. Bel Meader, Chair



Photo: Dr. Bel Meader

What is garden therapy? It is any gardening that helps to better the lives of people with regard to their physical, emotional, mental, or spiritual well being. These might include children with physical or mental disabilities, teenagers who may be troubled with mental illness, delinquency, or alcohol/drug abuse, adults needing rehabilitation for injuries, and/or the elderly who might suffer from dementia, depression, or bereavement.

There are a number of different types of therapy gardens. Some may be designed for children with disabilities. These might include wheelchair accessible paths with bright and fragrant blooms, childlike or child designed stepping stones, whirligig ornaments and murals, and an area open for plant-

ing/cultivating seeds. For teens, active involvement to foster sense of self and self direction is helpful. Individual or group raised bed projects that the teens design themselves can be empowering. Group projects can help teens work on social skills. As a clinical psychologist, I have worked with many agencies on garden projects for adults. Hospitals, occupational health and rehabilitation facilities use garden therapy to enhance both physical and emotional well being. Another kind of garden therapy is gaining traction with nursing facilities who are creating memory gardens for those with dementia. Garden therapy, with its exposure to light and beauty, has also been found to improve both serotonin and dopamine (critical mood brain neurotransmitters) in the elderly.

Perhaps you and your garden club are involved in a garden therapy project? We would love to hear about it, see photographs, or even visit. We do have an award for the chosen therapy garden of the year. Please see the [awards section of our website for details](#). Applications are due February 1 of 2027. Please send an email to me at dr.belmor@gmail.com.

Archives, Beck Fuller, Chair

I want to remind everyone to let me know if they want something archived. We can make arrangements to make it happen! Becky Fuller, 575-571-6281.

Wildflower & Native Plants, Jackye Meineke, Chair

If you managed to plant a swathe of wildflowers this spring, good job! As wildflowers complete their bloom cycles, you will want to consider collecting seeds to scatter in an additional wildflower section or to enhance the bed you have started. If you have bags of seeds, you may choose to share with others in your garden circle, who may also have seeds to exchange. Also, you may choose to donate extra seeds to a seed bank at your local library or find a neighborhood seed library, if any exist in your community.

After the first freeze, you may want to mow or cut down the wildflower stems, or you can leave them up as shelter for insects and to feed the birds through the winter. Either way, after the next rain, consider removing weeds, especially any perennial weeds, such as silver nightshade.

I hope your wildflower garden provided summer days filled with butterflies, bees, a wide range of insects, and a variety of birds visiting your wildflowers. Lately, I've been seeing lots of beneficial praying mantises, gorgeous orange and black butterflies, and lesser goldfinches visiting my flowers. With luck, some of your wildflowers may have attracted the tiny, sweet Inca doves — one of my favorites.

If you had planned to plant a wildflower patch, but spring disappeared too quickly, now is the time to get a wildflower garden going for next spring. Choose your location and clear the weeds that have popped up with summer rains. Rake the soil so that it is loose and ridged. Perhaps top the soil with a light layer of pea gravel or small rock, which protects the seeds and holds a little extra moisture. Choose your fall and spring blooming seeds or a southwestern seed mix at your local nursery or online. Sow them over the rocky area and gently tamp

the soil down — most wildflower seeds do not need to be buried or covered. Then wait for spring.

If you want to hurry the flower season along, whether you have planted a new garden or have put your summer garden to bed, water the flower seeds to get them growing. The fall blooming wildflowers will rush to bloom and the spring bloomers will settle in through the winter. However, if you push the wildflowers to grow in the fall, you may want to

water off and on throughout the winter months, unless we are getting regular rain storms.

While the weather is cool and we aren't spending our days moving hoses and checking our irrigation systems, we can plan and prepare for a spring blooming with color and life.



*Photos: Mary Wilson
El Jardin Encanto*

Mary writes, "Maximilian sunflower and crepe myrtle in my front yard. They need more water this summer due to extreme heat."

Roses

I'm Thorny — Deal with It!

Candy Scott, High Desert Design Club

August and September are busy months for gardeners. In August it is time to dig, divide and replant or to buy and plant new bulbs, tubers and rhizomes. This will make them ready to bloom in spring. August is when iris clubs in Albuquerque (Aug.15) and Rio Rancho (Aug 29) hold their sales, so you can get your new irises in the ground by September.

September is time to prepare your late blooming flowers and vegetable harvests for the State Fair. Roses and dahlias are the main attraction at the flower shows, but there are many other varieties on display. I go around with my camera and take pictures of what I want in my garden. Clue to those taking pictures at flower shows, first take a picture of the flower and next one of the name tag. The show schedules are on the Fair's website under Competition-Floriculture and will also at the Garden Center.



Photo: Annie Spratt

Every dahlia thinks it's the main attraction and honestly, who am I to argue. Having dahlias in your garden is because you need a touch of diva. "There is nothing like the first hot days of spring when the gardener stops wondering if it's too soon to plant the dahlias and starts wondering if it's too late." (Henry Mitchell) After the dahlia lovers found the perfect time to plant, you hear them muttering at this time of year "bigger, bolder, bloomier." Dahlias have a long bloom season and will be in full glory July through October.

The New Mexico Dahlia Society welcomes you to visit the dahlias at the ABQ Garden Center but also those at the Agri-Nature Center, the main dahlia garden is in the field closest to Rio Grande Blvd. More dahlias are next to the west parking lot and a raised bed close to the main building. At the Garden Center the Dahlia Show is Sunday, Sept. 27 from 1:00pm-4:00pm, entries may be brought from 7:30am to 9:30am

As I am writing this the wind is creating the "Coming to America" scene where all the rose petals are scattered around. My backyard is prepared for King Jofre's entrance. By the time you get this you have probably already done your first, second, or maybe even third of the season deadheading. I had a friend in preparation for all the work she was going to be doing in her rose garden treated herself by buying a new variety rose each spring. Feel free to follow in her tradition.

See Roses, Page 20

Roses are one of the oldest flowers, but the oldest living rose bush is a mere 1000 years old and is climbing up the side of a wall of a cathedral in Germany and fittingly called the "thousand year rose". Though much closer to home is the largest rosebush, a white Lady Banksia, which spans 9000 sq. ft. in Tombstone, Arizona, planted in 1885. The tallest is in Vienna and rises 28,559 ft. As awesome as this all sounds, why is it I keep thinking that I'm glad I am not the one doing the deadheading.



Lady Banks, Tombstone, AZ

In 1998 the rose Overnight Scentsation was on the same Space Shuttle Discovery as John Glenn, his second time in space. Overnight Scentsation not only thrived, it bloomed and then the experiments on how low gravity effects the fragrance began. Results, it smelled sweet, but different.

The roses that came with my house that are nameless and ones that I bought that I can call by name, but a rose by any name, or not, smells great. Eleanor Roosevelt said "I once had a rose named after me and I was very flattered. But I was not pleased to read the description in the catalog: not good in a bed, but fine against a wall." So, petal to the metal there is another rose bush that needs deadheading.

***Photo: Maureen Carson,
Horticulture, Chair
Xeriscape Berm on My Property***



A very mature agave and sotol were survivors and I installed a new berm with rock outcrops. No landscape fabric, and drip system only to establish native cacti and succulents and few drought tolerant small trees and shrubs including Bird of Paradise, Apache Plume, Fernbush and Dalea.

2025 Photographic Award Submissions:

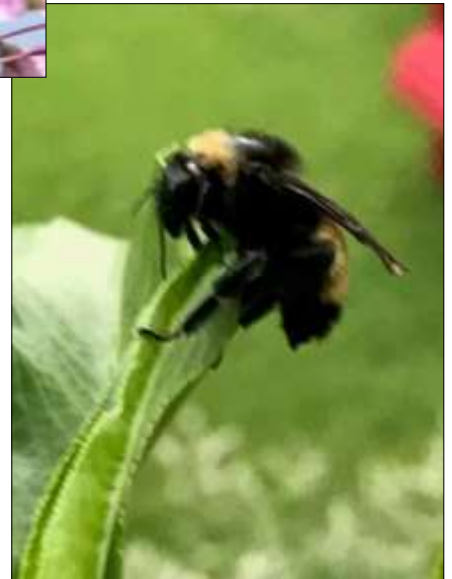
Insects



"Ants on a Zinnia"

Dodie Bernal-Suhr, Valley Gardeners

1st Place-Insects
Selvi Viswanathan
Los Alamos Garden Club



Beth Schneider
Valley Gardeners

2025 Photographic Award Submissions:

Humorous Nature



Left: "Aspen with Eyes"
Selvi Viswanathan
Los Alamos Garden Club

Right: Julie Johnson
Socorro Garden Club



New Mexico Garden Clubs News

Summit Garden Club, Alison Grieggs, President

Scholarship Goal and Dimes\$Dollars For Scholars: In June, we sold garden gloves at three events across four days: at the Los Alamos Master Gardeners' monthly meeting, the LAMG Plant Sale @the LA Demo garden, and at the WRCG for Chamberfest. It looks like we sold 21 pairs! Woo hoo! Great fundraising for our scholarship fund—we'll have an update on our progress to our annual \$1000 goal at our next meeting.

Our Donations to Espanola Humane Shelter from our Spring Focus in April: We took many, many bags and boxes of pillowcases, blankets, towels, and sheets to the Humane Shelter and wow! They were so appreciative for the gifts. Thanks to our members for sharing your love with the dogs and cats that need it most in northern New Mexico.



Our Next Donation Drive: Summer Focus for July/August: The focus of our next donation drive will be children to start the new year with fresh school supplies. Our collections will go to elementary students in Los Alamos and Pojoaque. Pojoaque Valley Schools is a collection of communities near the Pojoaque Pueblo, comprising people from diverse ethnic backgrounds. The Pojoaque Valley School District (PVSD) serves approximately 2,000 students, including students from the Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, Ohkay Owingeh, San Ildefonso, Santa Clara, and Tesuque.

July Social: We field-tripped to Ojo Caliente Spa Resorts for a personal tour of their beautifully landscaped grounds, a look behind the scenes at their organic farm that produces for their onsite restaurant, and of course! Lunch there. We planned a "dry" visit, meaning we didn't schedule any soaks or spa services. Opening in 1868, Ojo Caliente Mineral Springs Resort and Spa is one of the oldest natural health resorts in the United States, and the only hot springs in the world with a remarkable combination of four different sulfur-free mineral waters including iron, arsenic, lithia and soda.

Mesilla Valley Garden Club, Becky Fuller, President

We do not meet in the summer, however, a few of us got together with Russell Hernandez, the mayor of Mesilla, and his crew planted a Patriot Garden at the Mesilla Veteran's Park, using red white and blue-ish/purple petunia's. It actually worked out pretty well. We will resume our meeting on **Tuesday, September, 8th**. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!



Lincoln County Garden Club, Debbie Myers, Member



On June 29, 2026 the Lincoln County Garden Club hosted the Gold Star Memorial Dedication at Fort Stanton, NM Cemetery. Healing America's Heroes earned the money to purchase this great tribute to Gold Star Families!!

The US Air Force Color Guard provided the colors and Taps. They were amazing, even in all the wind!!!



Judy Petersen-Ellis along with Suzy Andrego gave a lot of information on the Gold Star History. We greatly appreciated and learned a lot from all the research done on the History!!



New Mexico Garden Club members in attendance were, from Left to Right: Linda Frank, Suzy Andrego, Shirley Tetreault, Debbie Myers, Johnese Turri, Mary West & Vickie Frye!!

Shirley Tetreault and Becky Christmas honored Gold Star Wives by placing yellow roses under the wonderful new Gold Star Memorial at Ft. Stanton, NM Cemetery.



Debbie Myers accepted the National Garden Clubs, Inc. "Gold Star" Certificate from Shirley! You can tell – it was a VERY windy day!!!



Bob Wooley, Board President of Healing America's Heroes, at Ft. Stanton, was presented a Gold Star Certificate by Shirley Tetreault. Healing America's Heroes earned the money for the Gold Star Memorial Plaque!



Shirley Tetreault presented Becky Christmas with a Gold Star Certificate. Becky is President of the Gold Star Wives.

New Mexico State Garden Club President, Johnese Turri gave a wonderful tribute to Gold Star Families.



We had about 70 folks from Angel Fire to Las Cruces attend the Dedication!! Including these two sweet Vets!!

A GREAT big thank you to the Lincoln County Garden Club for hosting the refreshments after the Dedication.



Debbie Myers recruited all of the eight GREAT speakers and played the National Anthem & God Bless America with her band, as folks sang along. Debbie also wrote the program and Emceed the Dedication. Thank you Suzy Andrego for printing the great program!!

Lincoln County Garden Club, Stephanie Kinnamon, President

For the Lincoln County Garden Club, Fall is a time to rest and enjoy ourselves after a busy summer full of interesting programs and fun events!

June 9 - LCGC presented a Summer Reading Program on dinosaurs at the Ruidoso Public Library. LCGC members read stories, broke geodes, and helped kids make clay fossils and color cut outs of dinosaurs.

See Lincoln Co. Garden Club, Page 25



DINOS!

LCGC member Debbie Myers organized the Gold Star Memorial Dedication at the Fort Stanton State Veterans Cemetery on June 29. LCGC members provided refreshments.

On July 11 LCGC members received a "Thank You" for installing and maintaining the Fort Stanton Chapel flower beds.



Several LCGC members volunteered at IRONMAN 70.3 Ruidoso Triathlon on July 12 which made us eligible for a Volunteer Grant.



UPCOMING EVENTS include:

August 4 - 8 - LCGC will host the Lincoln County Fair Flower Show.

September 15th - LCGC will host the District V Fall Meeting at Downshift Brewing Company's Riverside restaurant for some Fall FUN!

Lincoln County Fair Flower Show

Hosted by Lincoln County Garden Club

DATE: Tues, August 4th - 8th 2026 PLACE: 101 5th St, Capitan, NM 88316

Come to enter your favorite flower stem, plant, or arrangement in the show, or just enjoy seeing all the beautiful entries.



Los Alamos Club, Joyce Zaugg, President

Our Los Alamos Garden Club, along with the County of Los Alamos, dedicated the new deer fence on 22 May with ribbon cutting ceremony. Kersti Rock had the honor of cutting the ribbon. She dedicated many hours working with the Los Alamos Historical Preservation committee and the Los Alamos Parks and Recreation committee to get the project completed



The Los Alamos Garden Club has enjoyed an active and educational summer, with members gathering to appreciate beautiful garden, learn about sustainable agriculture, and look forward to another unique outing in August.



Our club kicked off its summer activities in June with a picnic luncheon at the Los Alamos Memorial Garden. With the new deer fences completed, we were surrounded by colorful rose blooms and enjoyed good



food, friendship, and the opportunity to appreciate the garden we have helped maintain for many years. The Memorial Rose Garden continues to be one of Los Alamos' most cherished public garden and a source of pride for the club and community.

In July, our members traveled to Desert Verde Farm in Santa Fe for a guided tour of the New Mexico's only aquaponics farm. They raise tilapia fish and use them to nurture their plants in a closed loop ecosystem. They grow a wide variety of greens, culinary herbs, and fruiting vegetables. They harvest weekly and provide produce to local restaurants, food hubs, food banks, and schools. They did not sell to the public as of yet.



Also in July, we said goodbye to our long time member and former club president, Ann LePage with at luncheon at a local restaurant. She shared at the luncheon that she intends to

join a local garden club as soon as she gets settled in. We will miss Ann's participation in our club activities and wish her the best of luck in Ohio.



Our Garden Club's summer adventures will continue in August with a visit to the Origami Sculpture Garden, located south of Santa Fe. Our members are looking forward to exploring the unique outdoor collection of large-scale origami inspired sculptures set on three acres of natural landscape. We will have the opportunity to make our own paper folded origami. We will then go to lunch at the Refinery 14 restaurant in Madrid.

Photos: Joyce Zaugg

Sunshine Valley Garden Club, Christine Johnson, President

At our May meeting refurbishment of the Blue Star Highway Marker in Truth or Consequences was discussed. For several years many efforts were made, but without any success. A Committee was established to actively proceed with it. There are many factors involved in its accomplishment, but hopefully we'll finally get it done. Two new members joined our Club at this meeting.



Fun, fun, fun was had at our Annual Summer Kick-off Luncheon in June at Casa Taco. The Club does not meet in July and August. In September, we plan on making garden crafts as well as planning our booth at the Annual County Fair in October.

“We might think we are nurturing our garden, but of course it’s our garden that is really nurturing us.”

Get Outta’ Town!

Garden Related Goings On Elsewhere

TxDOT Map Blooms with New Feature: A new “wildflower layer” added to TxDOT Statewide Planning Map is designed to bring both data and discovery to users. Drivers can pinpoint the exact area to plan where they can not only park to see the flowers, but get the best pictures. The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) recommends drivers park away from traffic and not on top of flowers.

Pennsylvania Dept. Of Conservation and Natural Resources Meadow Kits: The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources announced the availability of free Pocket Meadow Kits for residents across the Commonwealth. These small meadow plantings provide environmental benefits for communities by improving stormwater absorption, supporting pollinators, and reducing long-term lawn maintenance.

Sacramento, CA Grass to Meadow Rebates: Rebates are available to City of Sacramento customers to replace existing grass with drought-tolerant landscaping. Single-family customers can receive a maximum rebate of \$3,000 for eligible expenses, which is calculated at \$1.50 per square foot of grass converted on the front, side and back yard.

Bosque del Apache Desert Arboretum, Cari Powell, Arboretum Manager

Hope you're staying cool in this summer heat. The refuge has gotten some rain and the plants (and weeds!) are doing alright at the pollinator site.

July 25 & August 1 were volunteer workdays, cleaning up packrat nests, trimming plants from the trail, cactus rescue, etc. The old bathroom nearby is being torn down and these cactus are at risk of being demolished as well! I'm hoping to move them to the arboretum or by the entrance to the driving loops.



We were able to get out another solarization patch in July, so you'll notice that, if you visit the site. I'm ordering grass seeds to plant once we pull the plastic up. If we get a lot of fall rain like last year, that will be perfect for the seeds.

As you may remember, we also had the very large cottonwood at the site trimmed back in March. We recently gave it 200 gallons of water and it looks amazing!



Here's a small sampling of the plants I found while we were weeding at the site the other day.

I also wanted to share with you a great video and article from Amy Dolan with the Xerces Society about native New Mexico Bumble Bees, their status and what you can do to help protect them!

Video -[New Mexico's Amazing Bumble Bees and How We Can Help](#), with Amy Dolan, of the [Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation](#) and article -[New Mexico's Bumble Bees Need Your Help](#).

Keep Growing!

New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. Officers

President, Johnese Turri

(505) 250-7150

johnesemarie@gmail.com

Theme: Planting Seeds of Joy

1st Vice President, Laurie Hixson

(505) 672-3483

hixsons@comcast.net

Recording Secretary, Linda Frank

(575) 405-9238

chinongardens@gmail.com

Treasurer, Ginny Longbotham

(505) 280-2660

ginnylin@comcast.net

Parliamentarian, Suzy Andrego

(505) 259-3318

sandrego@aol.com

2nd Vice President, Kersti Rock

(505) 412-1060

ankaere@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary, Mary Noskin

(505) 238-5731

noskinmary@gmail.com

Historian, Ariel Seamon

(505) 507-5851

adrewsea@gmail.com

New Mexico Gardener Editor, Linda Frank

(575) 405-9238

newmexicogardenclubs@gmail.com

Organized 1950

19 Clubs

2 Youth Clubs

Incorporated August 5, 1952

404 Paid Memberships

22 Youth Members

New Mexico Gardener

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

A Non-profit Organization

www.newmexicogardenclubs.org

Deadlines for submission: February 1, May 1, August 1, November 1

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.

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

4401 Magnolia Avenue

St. Louis, MO 63110

www.gardenclub.org

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Donna Donnelly

E-mail: dmdonnelly@gardenclub.org

Theme: "Plant America for the Next 100 Years"

South Central Region

Christine Longthorp

E-mail: christinelongthorp@gmail.com

Theme: "Let the Good Times Grow!"