



# Sandoval County Master Gardener Newsletter



New Mexico State University • Cooperative Extension Service • U.S. Department of Agriculture

Sandoval County

Steve M. Lucero,  
County Program Director

Gina Garland  
Agriculture and Horticulture  
Extension Agent

New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator.

NMSU and the U.S. Department of Agriculture cooperating.

## SCMG Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline:**  
**20th of each month**

Please submit news, articles, events and photographs to:  
Amy Upperman

## April 2013

### Coordinator's Corner

Dear Master Gardeners,

April represents a new beginning. It is a month of tree blossoming and greening, and a time to look forward to the last of freezing temperatures. It is a time for an awakening of the senses -- sight, sound and smell. It should also be a time to take stock in our local environment and consider how we impact our surrounding land, resources and community.

As Master Gardeners, we are in a unique position to make a positive impact on our environment and community. April 16th will be the official date for both Intern and Veteran Master Gardeners to sign up for projects. There are several new and expanded projects for Sandoval Master Gardener partici-

pation, ranging from Hotline-credit project options to large community service opportunities. Please plan on attending the April 16th training class to refresh your knowledge on pesticide safety, to congratulate the Interns for completing their training, and to sign up for a favorite or new project. Project Chairs will be there to talk to you about their projects and to obtain volunteers. As a treat join the group for the pizza and MG potluck.

All forecasts indicate we will be in our third straight year of a severe draught, presenting challenges to our farmers, orchard growers and residential gardeners on managing scarce water resources. High quality river water flow to our reservoirs is being restricted, and as a result

many growers in the state are resorting to pumping ground water for irrigation with the subsequent problem of salt buildup. The ground water is receding dramatically in some residential and agriculture rich areas of our state. This situation is going to reduce crop yields and force some growers in our state out of business. As Master Gardeners we have learned about the proper management of our soil and efficient watering. It is up to us to inform and demonstrate to the citizens of the county conservation techniques in these areas. It is also appropriate that Earth Day occurs on April 22nd to remind us of our limited and precious growing resources.

**Sandy Liakus,**  
SCMG Coordinator

### Gina's Journal

Hello Master Gardeners and Interns!

It's officially spring and gardening is in the air! Training classes are coming to an end this month, so it's time to put away your pencils and start thinking about volunteer opportunities for the year. I know many of you are already involved in your favorite projects, but in case

you want to try something different, or even add another venture to your repertoire, there are many options available. All of the wonderful active projects are listed on the SCMG website, with more being added throughout the year. Additionally, on the last training session there will be an opportunity to sign up for projects you are interested in,

to ask questions to the project chairs, and to participate in the potluck lunch. And finally, if you haven't signed up for hotline yet, there are still plenty of openings available, so give us a call at the office or stop on by and pick out a day that works for you!

**Gina Garland**  
Agriculture and Horticulture  
Extension Agent



**NMSU  
News Center**

**Date:** 2013-02-05  
**Writer:** Justin Bannister, 575-646-5981, [jbannist@nmsu.edu](mailto:jbannist@nmsu.edu)  
<http://news-center.nmsu.edu/9188/nmsu-researchers-sequence-chile-genome-hope-unlock-genetic-secrets>

## NMSU Researchers Sequence Chile Genome, Hope to Unlock Genetic Secrets

Researchers with New Mexico State University's Chile Pepper Institute, working in cooperation with researchers in South Korea, have completed a high-resolution draft of the chile pepper genome. This is the first time the scientific feat has been performed with chile. The announcement was made today at the New Mexico Chile Conference.

"This puts NMSU and the Chile Pepper Institute on the cutting edge with a new level of research," said Paul Bosland, an NMSU Regents Professor and director of the university's Chile Pepper Institute. "This gives us a tool for mapping genes that we didn't

have before. Having a sequenced genome will unlock the genetic secrets of the chile pepper providing a powerful tool to examine previously unimagined questions and will accelerate efforts to breed improved cultivars."

Bosland said the genome map has the potential to benefit the New Mexico chile pepper industry by improving chile peppers so that the plants can adapt to climate change, use less agricultural water and are able to resist insects and diseases. He said chile peppers might even be improved to better treat human diseases. [Read full story.](#)

This Newsletter editor's links to other seed stories:

**Save NM Seeds**  
[GE Chile?](#)

**Occupy New Mexico**  
[Save Traditional / Native New Mexico Chile from Genetic Engineering by NMSU!](#)

**New Mexico Chile Association**  
(a chile industry lobbying group)  
[Breeding Solutions Statement](#)

And in recent news:  
**The New York Times**  
[Supreme Court Appears to Defend Patent on Soybean](#)

**Reuters**  
[France to maintain ban on GMO crops: PM](#)

## Seed Bank Project Approved

At the March 19, 2013 SCMG board meeting, a seed bank project, presented by Intern, Karen Dhanens, was approved as a volunteer opportunity project. Its purpose is to collect seed from plants that grow successfully in our local area. The idea, still in its incubation stage, is to make local seed available to the public through the library system. Training on seed collecting methods would be given to volunteer seed producers.

If you are interested in joining Karen to help develop this project, she would appreciate your assistance. Please contact: Karen Dhanens.

## Rose Notes from Maryellen Sherman, MG



Well, are your roses getting really leafed out. Mine are, but I'm glad I waited to prune them until after the March 23/24 weekend of very cold and windy weather. I plan to start to prune during the last week of March and maybe into the first week of April. Be sure to cut at any 'outward facing bud eye' about 1/4 inch above the bud eye. Cut dead or damaged canes back to healthy growth. Cut out canes that grow to the center of the plant and any that are rubbing. Envision your plant looking like your hand cupped with your finger pointing up. Be sure to

clean up all the cut canes.

Brush the mulch away from the crown of the plant. This will encourage new canes to grow from the crown. The bare root roses you planted in February should be showing some signs of growth this month. When you see green leaves poking through the mulch, carefully brush away every few days until the canes are leafed out.

Fertilize your roses about mid-April (or about two weeks after you prune) with a well balanced fertilizer (16-8-8 npk). Follow the directions carefully. Sprinkle the fertilizer around the drip line; do

not just dump the fertilizer on the crown. Using a hose, water the rose plants the day before fertilizing and water with a hose again the next day right after you fertilize making sure the fertilizer gets down to the root zone.

Water once a week to keep the soil moist.

I will be presenting *Rose Growing and Pruning* April 4th, 1:15pm, at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. Following the presentation, a demonstration will be provided in the Rose Garden.

Smile—spring is here!

## ★ Last Day of Training Classes — New Venue ★

The final Intern Training class, pizza party and potluck, will be held at Rio West Church on April 16, 2013 from 1:00 - 5:00pm. Rio West Church is located at 6751 Pasilla Rd NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144. See you there!

## Rio Rancho Earth Day Celebration - April 20



On April 20, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Keep Rio Rancho Beautiful and the Esther Bone Memorial Library will present the 2nd annual Earth Day celebration outside in front of the library. The celebration highlights efforts to increase energy efficiency, water conservation, improve green practices,

waste management, decrease our carbon footprint and promote sustainable living.

SCMG will have a display for xeriscaping, and information about Master Gardener training and Gardening classes for the public.

If you are chairing a project that would like to have

an information table at the Earth Day Celebration, please reserve your space by contacting: Connie Walsh by the end of March.

Set up time is 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Each group is responsible for staffing their own table and chairs, providing the handout material and clean up.

## Corrales Growers' Market Season Opens



One of the sure signs of spring is the opening of the Corrales Growers' Market on Sunday, April 28th. As veteran Master Gardeners know, the CGM is a wonderful venue for learning the gardening issues that concern many Sandoval and Bernalillo county residents as they appear at our table with the most interesting and varied questions for us to answer. As busy as we are

with researching answers, talking with the public and just enjoying the beautiful Sunday mornings at the market, there is the added benefit of SHOPPING for our weekly vegetables, fruits, homemade bread and jams! The following Sundays still have space for Master Gardeners to participate:

May 5 and 12, June 9 and 16, July 7 and 14, August 4, September 1, 8 and 15,

October 6 and 13.

Since you will be able to get hotline hours for participating at the Market, you must sign up ahead of time as no "walk ins or drop-bys" will be permitted. We can also use several Master Gardeners who are willing to be on the alternate list.

If you wish to join us at the CGM, please contact Polly Garner.

## Rose Growing and Pruning Presentation & Demonstration



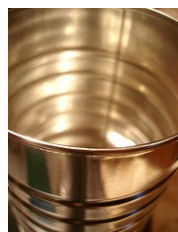
SCMG will host a presentation on *Rose Growing and Pruning* April 4th, 1:15 pm, at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho. Fol-

lowing the presentation, a demonstration will be provided in the Rose Garden. The presenter is Mary Ellen Sherman, Rosarian and Master Gar-

dener. The address is 4330 Meadowlark Lane in Rio Rancho, 505-891-5018.

Contact Carol Marr.

## Save Your Empty Coffee Cans!



Master Gardeners, please save your empty coffee cans! Elizabeth had a great idea that could help us prevent the vandalism of the plant markers in the

Water-Wise Garden. She suggested that we fill the coffee cans with cement before placing the plant markers in them and burying the markers. Please

bring your empty cans to me at the board meeting, or drop them off at the office and Elizabeth can save them for me.

Contact Sue Trevor.

## Irrigation Insanity Workdays ~ R.R. Water-Wise Demonstration Garden



Photo: Connie Walsh

Come and join us for "**Irrigation Insanity**" workdays in April 1st - April 5, 8:00—11:00 a.m. We would appreciate it if you can help us for any or all of these days to help repair and map the irrigation system. Since there will be no instruction on how to

repair or map the irrigation, you will need to have experience.

Bring gloves, a hat, sunscreen, water, and if you have a garden tools, that would be great. We'll have wheelbarrows available.

If you cannot help with this

activity, please join us for "**Wacky Weeds**" workday in May. Volunteers will be assigned a specific area of the garden. Contact Sue Trevor to be added to the list for email updates for this and future spring workdays in the WaterWise Garden.

## Results of Leaf Lunacy and Litter Cleanup

Thank you to all of our Volunteers who made our first Spring Cleanup Day a huge success! Sandoval County Master Gardeners, Interns and Tree Stewards all contributed to the Cleanup Workday in the Water-Wise Garden.



## Spring Tree Steward Training

Join our team of Rio Rancho Tree Stewards! Volunteer tree stewards work in teams of two or more and receive tools, training and ongoing support to help our city care for trees in our local parks. Tree Stewards visit their designated park and report tree and park concerns,

assist with light pruning and tree wells and attend quarterly social events.

Volunteers for this rewarding program are asked to serve our community for a one-year period and attend an informative, hands-on Saturday workshop. This fun, interactive and valuable workshop

includes training with certified arborists and urban forestry experts in a morning classroom session and hands-on training at a local park in the afternoon.

Training will take place on Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at UNM-West. To register, call 891-5015 by April 19.



## 2013 Advanced Class Schedule

All Advanced Classes will be held at the Extension Office, 711 Camino del Pueblo, 1st Floor.

### May 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m. **Water**

*Dr. Bruce Thomson, Professor at University of New Mexico*

### May 23, 2013, 9:00 a.m. **Weed Management**

*Dr. Jamshid Ashigh, Extension Weed Specialist and Assistant Professor at NMSU*

New Mexico State University is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action employer and Educator. NMSU and the US Department of Agriculture cooperating.

## Come to the Casa!

Spending two hours at Casa San Ysidro (just opposite the old church in Corrales) is a great and pleasant way to gain SCMG volunteer hours. The date is

Saturday, May 18 for the annual Corrales Heritage day. We will be helping children plant corn, sunflowers, beans, etc. in little plastic 4-packs to take

home and nurture.

Please contact Therese Barts to get in on the fun in two hour segments from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

## Corrales 4th of July Parade —Committee Lead and Volunteers

“I LOVE a Parade”  
c'mon ... everyone sing along!

I don't know anyone that doesn't “love a parade” ... and that's why we want to be a part of the Corrales 4th of July Parade for 2013. The parade takes place on the main street of Corrales beginning at 10 a.m. and is ON July 4th, but if you are thinking it's only a 'Corrales thing'... not so! People come from Rio Rancho, Albuquerque, Placitas and adjoining areas.

Sandoval County Master Gardeners plan on partnering with Penny Davis; Seed2Need, and join in on the fun to raise awareness for both the NMSU SCMG program and Penny's award winning Seed2Need project. We are hoping for volunteers that would be

able to come out early on July 4th and walk along/ride along a tractor and float. Have you always wanted to decorate a 'float'?! This is your chance! ... Calling all creative SCMG's! We need banners made and fun decorations for our tractor and 'float'. This promises to be lots of fun and a wonderful way to meet and greet members of our community.

In the tradition of parades, most participant's throw out candy to the crowd. Instead, we'd like to be able to toss out seed packets with the Sandoval County Master Gardener logo and Seed2Need logo. Do you have a contact with a seed company that might be willing to donate packaged seed for us? Please share your information.

Also currently seeking

anyone that would enjoy being on the Publicity Committee for our organization. Finding opportunity to share what we love about being a Master Gardener to the public is a great way to get involved! Contact us to sign up and/or contribute to the first involvement of the Corrales 4th of July Parade.

One last request ... if you are part of the ever growing Facebook community ... please take a few minutes to LIKE us, share a comment or post a picture! on our very own Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/SCMasterGardeners>

Contact: Kathy Carr, SCMG Secretary & Publicity Chair.

## Fun at the Xeriscape Expo



Julia Runyan, Mary Vesely, Margaret Vedeler, Nancy Kirkwood



Sue Trevor, Sandy Liakus, and Cathryne Richards



Margaret Vedeler, Nancy Kirkwood, Mary Vesely, Suzanne Maxwell

Thank you to all our volunteers.

# April 2013

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

|  |           |  |           |   |           |  |
|--|-----------|--|-----------|---|-----------|--|
| Telephone Hotline hours<br>9am -12pm and 1 - 4pm<br>Monday-Friday                            | <i>1</i>  | <i>2</i><br>Gardening w/ the Masters<br>"Picking the Correct Plant for New Mexico"<br>7:15–8:45 pm     | <i>3</i>  | <i>4</i><br>Rose Growing and Pruning<br>1:15pm<br>Meadowlark Sr. Ctr. | <i>5</i>  | <i>6</i>   |
| <i>7</i>   | <i>8</i>  | <i>9</i>   | <i>10</i> | <i>11</i>   | <i>12</i> | <i>13</i>  |
| <i>14</i>  | <i>15</i> | <i>16</i><br>Last day of Training Classes<br>1:00-5:00pm<br>Rio West Church                            | <i>17</i> | <i>18</i>   | <i>19</i> | <i>20</i><br>Earth Day Celebration<br>10am -1pm<br>Esther Bone Library           |
| <i>21</i>  | <i>22</i> | <i>23</i><br>Board Meeting<br>2:00-4:00pm<br>Bernalillo Town Hall Hearing Rm. (South of old Ext. Ofc.) | <i>24</i> | <i>25</i>   | <i>26</i> | <i>27</i><br>Tree Steward Training Class<br>8am–4pm<br>Pre-registration required |
| <i>28</i><br>Corrales Growers' Market Opens<br>9am–12pm<br>(earlier & later for volunteers.) | <i>29</i> | <i>30</i>  |           |   |           |  |

## Sandoval County Master Gardener Events & Volunteer Opportunities

COOPERATIVE  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE

SANDOVAL COUNTY  
EXTENSION  
SERVICE

P.O. Box 400  
Bernalillo, N.M. 87004

Phone: 505-867-2582

E-mail: [sandoval@nmsu.edu](mailto:sandoval@nmsu.edu)

Web: [sandovalmastergardeners.org](http://sandovalmastergardeners.org)

### Newsletter Editor Position Open

Looking for creative, detail-oriented volunteer familiar with desktop publishing software and able to attend Board meetings.

For details, contact Amy Upperman.  
Training offered, if needed.

### SCMG Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline:**  
**20th of each month**

Please submit news, articles, events and photographs to: Amy Upperman



Sandoval County

- April 2**      **Gardening with the Masters**  
"Picking the Correct Plant for New Mexico" Speaker: Cande Lewis  
Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho, NM  
7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Free – Offered by the NMSU SCMG  
Contact John Zarola
- April 4**      **Rose Growing and Pruning Presentation & Demonstration**  
with Maryellen Sherman  
Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho, NM  
April 4th, 1:15 p.m. Free. Contact: 505-891-5018.  
Following presentation, a pruning demonstration will take place in the Rose Garden.
- April 16**     **Last Day of Training Class** — pizza and potluck party — 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Rio West Church, 6751 Pasilla Rd NE, Rio Rancho, NM 87144
- April 20**     **Rio Rancho Earth Day Celebration**  
Esther Bone Library, 950 Pinetree Road SE, Rio Rancho, NM 87124  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (See highlights on page 3.)
- May 7**        **Gardening with the Masters**  
"Introduction to Permaculture" Speaker: Michael Reed  
Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho, NM  
7:15 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. Free – Offered by the NMSU SCMG  
Contact John Zarola
- WEEKLY**
- Sunday**      **Corrales Growers' Market — Season opens April 28**  
500 Jones Rd., Corrales  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Contact: Polly Garner
- Wednesday**    Corrales Town Hall Gardens--4324 Corrales Road, Corrales, NM  
mornings      Contact Judy Jacobs for exact hours.
- 1st & 3rd**      **Rio Rancho Water-Wise Garden**—950 Pinetree Rd., Rio Rancho  
**Thursday**      9:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Contact: Sue Trevor
- Thursday**      **Meadowlark Rose Garden**  
Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Lane, SE, Rio Rancho  
Call for dates and hours. We will work as needed through the winter.  
Contact: Carol Marr
- MONTHLY**
- April 1 - 5**     **Rio Rancho Water-Wise Garden—"Irrigation Insanity"**  
8:00 - 11:00 a.m.  
Contact: Sue Trevor
- April 3**        **DeLavy House Garden Maintenance**  
Sandoval County Historical Society, Edmund Rd., Bernalillo  
1st Wednesday of each month. Call for fall/winter hours.  
Contact: Charlotte Wilson
- April 23**      **SCMG Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.  
Bernalillo Town Hall Hearing Room (South of old Ext. Ofc.)