

Sandoval County

Master Gardener

Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org>

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



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SCMG Newsletter Submissions
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Please submit news, articles, events and photographs to:
scmgnewsletter@gmail.com

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COORDINATOR'S CORNER

Volunteer organizations are major social and economic forces in our country. Whether the volunteers are rescuing abused animals, raising scholarship funds, building homes or preserving local history, volunteers freely give their time to provide a service to others. A quote by Nelson Henderson seems to capture the heart of much volunteer activity:

The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.

The SCMG organization continues to grow each day in all regions of our county.

Like many volunteer organiza-

tions, the SCMG organization has a board of directors that in consultation with our extension agent govern the organization. We make decisions on behalf of the entire membership. Decisions include how money is spent, selection of continuing education classes, approval of new projects or activities for which volunteer hours are permitted, among others. Each September new members of the board are elected. This year we will be electing a new Coordinator, Assistant Coordinator, Secretary and Member-at-Large (if the bylaw changes are adopted there will be a number of positions available).

One of the most important activities of the Board is to

encourage new leaders to step forward and help us grow into the future. Would you like to help answer the question *How Can We Be a Better Organization?* If so, run for a position on the board. No prior experience is needed, just heart and desire to see the SCMG program be the best it can be. And if you are interested in the responsibilities of board members, please check the website under Governing Board for descriptions for Board members.

If you would like to seek a position contact Nominating Committee members Nancy Bresenham or Julia Runyon.

- Sam

FROM LYNDA'S DESK

Summer is here with blazing sun and sizzling heat. The extension office hosted its annual 4-H Camp in the Valles Caldera on June 5-7. I gave 3 sessions on basic plant science and container gardens to 60 kids ranging in age from 4 to 18. There was lots of energy and interest. The kids are now Master Gardeners in the making in that group.

The County Fair is also com-

ing up from July 27 to August 1. It is well worth coming to see the 4-H kids show their animals and look at their fair entries. You too can enter produce, flowers, and art work and more at the fair. In the past Master Gardeners have contributed the vast majority of entries. The fair depends on you and your entries to add interest, variety, and volume to the competition. See more details in the newsletter.

I also would like to encourage you to run for office on the Master Gardener board. Sam gave a beautiful summary. Experience stop you. We are all lifelong learners and this is simply another opportunity for you to learn, grow as an individual, and serve. It may not be the most fun activity within the organization but it is crucial for its direction and progress.

- Lynda

How to

Choosing right vines can enhance 'vertical' gardening experience

by Jan Koehler, SCMG Intern

Although many have expressed the sentiment that planting a tree means believing in the future, many also do not have the patience to wait for that vertical addition to stretch its lofty presence high above the garden floor.

As part of the instant gratification population pervasive in our society, I have found vertical gardening in the high desert is much more effective and water-wise by choosing vines that thrive in our growing zone. Vines give [[FYYbÎ]bHYFYghîc'a mk U"YX' [UFXyb' and provide plenty of shade when given the appropriate structure on which to climb.

The garden for me is actually an outdoor laboratory in which I can explore plant species characteristics in a relatively controlled environment while decorating the space for my own visual pleasure. Vines assist me in that endeavor and relatively quickly as they will cover the desired garden structure or wall in only a few growing seasons, which in our area are relatively long as compared to more northerly climes.



Trumpet Vine

J. Koehler

The four pillars of the pergola are great supports for the vines I chose for observing which will grow best in this environment. I deliberately planted next to three pillars, avoiding the southwest corner as plants grow toward the afternoon sun. The south-east corner received a trumpet vine; the northeast has a Queen Elizabeth climbing rose; and after several failures including a wisteria, the north-west corner is graced by a honeysuckle which is thriving in its designated space.

As anticipated, the trumpet vine dominates the top of the pergola and, after 10 growing seasons, provides day-long dense shade for my outdoor dining area.

All three vines provide beautiful floral displays from late spring through late fall. Two scent the air with their heady fragrance, furthering the enjoyment of my outdoor room.

Other parts of my garden have vines to elevate the level of visual enjoyment as well. The block retaining wall that defines the property line on one side of the yard is fully covered in green by a single Boston ivy. It is the only species I have planted that attaches to the wall with adhesive pads on its tendrils.

The Carolina Jessamine greets me in early spring with yellow buttercup-like flowers and is grown on trellises against an expanse of the northeast side of my house. It is designated as USDA zone 8, but it is planted in a microclimate, remaining evergreen all winter.

The sweet autumn clematis, which requires shaded roots and sun-drenched foliage, climbs on a series of



trellises by twining. In late summer, it displays a multitude of tiny white scented flowers.

Finally, late last season I introduced two chocolate vines onto trellises that border my property in different locations. They are the new experiment in vining plants. The few mid-spring flowers were small deep purplish bronze with a scent that will increase as the plant matures and produces more flowers.

A garden is truly never static. With each season, the vines provide more beauty and enrich the ecosystem of which they are now a grand part. Birds, bees, butterflies and other interesting insects find many hours of interaction with these vertical garden plants.

I, too, find myself luxuriating in their shade while treasuring their beautiful floral displays. Vines may truly be my favorite part of this outdoor laboratory.

This article text was previously published in the [Rio Rancho Observer](#).

Essay

Gardening books can be entertaining as well as enlightening

by Cissy Henig, SCMG Intern

I think I have almost as many gardening books as I have cookbooks. I read them like novels. Some have absolutely no relevance to where I live or how I garden. But there is nothing more comforting on a cold winter's day when it is snowing and the roads are bad, as reading about someone's efforts to turn the earth and grow something. So I have a lot of stories about other peoples' gardens. I collected Beverley Nichols' books after I read both of Vita Sackville-West's volumes of collected columns. Gertrude Jekyll, Russell Page, and Penelope Hobhouse followed. British gardens are impossible to create here so it truly is fantasy to read about them.

The one book that I read early and most influenced my gardening was Eleanor Perenyi's Green Thoughts. She writes so well and you can open the book at almost any page and begin with an essay on herbs, a discussion about compost or gardens at night. I read it while I was struggling to adapt my East Coast gardening upbringing to gardening in Monterey, California - a place with two seasons which precluded so much of what was familiar. No fruit trees and no lilacs because there was no cold snap of winter. I learned to love ferns and fuchsias instead.

Moving to Albuquerque was a shock to my gardening soul. The soil, the climate and the lack of rain were not like either Philadelphia or Monterey. I

had to begin again as a novice gardener. Thank god for Rosemary Doolittle. Southwest Gardening explained what was possible, what was feasible and what was not. The beginning of saving grace was the discovery that the American Southwest is a climate very like the Middle East, the original home of roses. Hot, dry and alkali soil. The more I read, the more I realized why I had always thought of roses as a royal pain. The Brits who love roses have a very hard time growing them as roses don't really belong in England. So I read everything about roses and grew them. Thomas Christopher's In Search of Lost Roses is the story of finding thriving roses in abandoned Texas homesteads where pioneer women loving transplanted a reminder of home. I've given up roses because my favorite supplier of old roses closed her mail order business.

Anna Pavord's book about tulips is a fascinating read about a bulb that upset financial markets. Sidney Eddiston writes lyrically about day lilies. The Brother Gardeners by Andrea Wulf is the story of John Bartram's plant export business in Philadelphia and why so many great English gardens have American specimens. Thomas Jefferson's garden journals shed a wholly new light on the most curious man in America who was obsessed with making his gardens produce every sort of flower or food.

And that's just the garden stories. There are also the how-to books. I



latched onto the Sunset books in Monterey. I was glad of them when I moved here. I just focused on different sections. If someone has suggested some new technique in a book, I've read about it. I love Judith Phillips' books.

Books have been so fundamental in my evolution as a gardener. The internet will always provide sources of plants and information about them. But books will persist. ☺

Cissy Henig was born and brought up to garden in Philadelphia. She had to revise and relearn gardening when she moved to Monterey, California. Cissy moved to Albuquerque in 1980, bringing another abrupt shift in gardening, climate, etc. Cissy currently lives in Bernalillo, which wasn't such a traumatic gardening change. She is a retired IT Project Manager whose career was mostly spent in healthcare. Cissy prefers mostly vegetable gardening and would really like to make a go of golden raspberries. She believes that one should always have something to strive for in the garden.

Project Report

Plant sale a big success

by Julia Runyan, SCMG

We had a very successful second annual plant sale in May. We have earned \$1,141.50 so far and I still have a few plants to sell. Thanks to the people who so generously donated plants this year: Terry and Sandy Ganzel; Sam Thomp-

son; Mike Maurer; Charlene Spiegel; Dave Pojmann; Gretchen Neiman; Nancy Rutland; Joan Roschevitz; Penny Davis and Julia Runyan. Also thanks to Jaime Gardner and JoAnn Beuerle for helping with transporting all the plants to the market. ☺

Bulletin

Grasshopper update for 2015

by Dr. Carol Sutherland

K YD Y \ UX U [fYUhWc Ubx fUj bYf than usual spring, leading to lots of d'Ubh [fck h U c j Yf h Y I UZZY WY XDUbX mostly delighted area. Grasshoppers that hatched earlier in the year have had an easy time finding food, to the delight of their predators---reptiles, birds and mammals.

But when summer heat arrives and the green growth matures or turns brown, gccbYf c f UHYfZ j h g I Udd j YX YWc c [nD time. Immature hoppers that had to walk everywhere they went molt into winged adults. These are powerful fliers, capable of flying many miles and also riding the winds in pursuit of food and eventually mates. They fly early and often, consuming what they find and eventually concentrate where the food is.

Green food will be found where people farm and garden---and irrigate! so here they come. For some, spraying for grasshoppers will be a seemingly endless chore. For every one you kill today, two come to the funeral tomorrow---and on and on. There are zillions of grasshoppers out there, so the pressure is there to survive, keep moving and stepping over the bodies of the fallen brethren. Over the years, 50 or so species have been considered as pests of agriculture at one time or one place or another---Vi h k Y \ U j Yb D \ UX the grasshopper plagues that people survived a century ago.

Both homeowners and pesticide labels have changed in the last few decades. < ca Yck bYfg k Ubh h c VY I c f U b j VDUbX EPA has listened to the public---frowning on re-registration of carbamates and organophosphates, especially for homeowners. Products in these categories that are left have far fewer sites and pests listed on their labels. Newer products for homeowners have shorter residuals and, in many cases, reduced effectiveness

against creatures like grasshoppers.

The blowup last spring in ABQ may be repeated in the future but I really doubt there would be a widespread [c j D d f c [f U a h c g d f U m \ c d d Y f g Z c f h Y benefit of urban homeowners; environmental studies would have to be done. A plan would have to be agreed upon by all affected parties; if any funds from federal, state or private sources would be available would be a major stumbling block. Some folks would sue against such a program (environmental damage, toxicity, etc.) while others would clamor for it. By the time all the Z [\ h b [j g c j Yf U b X g c a Y I d U b D j g j b g h i h Y X Z j h g Z U U f Y U X m z h Y \ c d d Y f g U j X their eggs, adults died and any losses of property, crops or whatever already occurred. Everybody goes back into their holes again for the winter and the hub-bub is soon forgotten.

H U H g h Y g j h U h c b k j h h U h 5 g Z c f homeowners, the least toxic and overall most effective means of saving their garden veggies = row covers. Fruit trees might be defoliated in part or totally---or not at all. The same goes for landscape plants. Should they be sprayed? At that point, many environmental concerns come in to play. G c a Y d Y c d Y k j g d f U n z a U b m i k c b D too expensive, too much work, too toxic, too disruptive to the environment. They will do what they want and will be sure whatever it is, that it saved them from doom.



And the world keeps turning---and nobody falls off. At least, not nYh A UHYfA A 7Ufc

Dr. Carol Sutherland is the Extension Entomologist at NMSU and State Entomologist for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture. Dr. Sutherland earned her Ph.D. in Gen. Entomology at Oregon State University in 1974. Her expertise is Africanized bees and fire ants. She has worked on range caterpillars, grasshoppers, ants, and a great number of insects and their relatives as submitted for identification by the public, farmers, ranchers, colleagues, other agencies and organizations. She spends much of her time on identifications and supporting the county agents plus outreach programs in entomology and youth (4H and FFA) and adults. She also spends considerable time working with the Master Gardeners and the Pesticide Applicator Training and Certification program.

Project news

Aluminum can drive

by Gretchen Neiman, SCMG Fund Raising Committee Chair

The Fund Raising Committee has a perpetual aluminum can drive. So please save your cans and turn them in for cash money. Any member of the

Fund Raising Committee will gladly accept your funds and thank you.

Gretchen Neiman
Pat Barger
Julia Runyan
Bev Parzyck



Bylaw revision

Why We Believe the SCMG Board Needs to Expand

**by Sam Thompson, SCMG
2012 & 2015 SCMG Coordinator
and Sandy Liakus, SCMG
2013 & 2014 SCMG Coordinator**

The SCMG program has undergone numerous changes in the years we have served as the coordinators. In 2012, long time Extension Agent Rudy Benavidez retired. Rudy pretty much developed the SCMG program and his departure left a tremendous gap. Since that time we have had two Extension Agents (hopefully Lynda is here to stay!). Such changes created a number of challenges for coordinators. We also became aware that NMSU does not have a statewide coordinator to help the many county programs with their organizational growing pains.

With the encouragement of the Extension Office in 2012, members of the board took on the task of developing Bylaw and Policies revisions and updated procedures for the organization.

The intention was to create a structure that would facilitate consistent decision-making in the organization. It was a major effort involving extensive research of other programs to pull together what we thought we needed and to obtain NMSU approval for what we developed. Since that time we have found that some changes are needed.

Recently SCMG members were emailed a Board approved Bylaws revision document for a minimum 30 day review period prior to a vote to approve the changes. We are currently asking the membership to increase the number of board Members at Large by three over the current four Members at Large. This would allow a total of seven Members At Large to be serving on the Board starting in fiscal year 2015/2016. There are a number of reasons that this would be helpful to the organization.

The first and foremost reason is that

having new people join in the leadership of an organization is critically important to a healthy, creative and inclusive organization. Serving on the board, particularly as a member-at-large, is a great way to get to know the organization and to move in to other leadership roles.

Secondly, the amount of work taken on by the board can be considerable. Board members serve as committee chairs, projects chairs or take on board directed projects (such as assessing the possibilities for a larger venue for the 2016 Intern Training Class). The bottom line is that there is plenty of work to go around and more hands would make the load lighter.

We ask that you review the Bylaw revision document carefully and participate in the late July vote to approve increasing the Board Members at Large as indicated and the related service term description. ☺

Project news

Calling all cooks!

**by Gretchen Neiman, SCMG
Fund Raising Committee Chair**

The Fund Raising Committee would like to make our own cookbook and have it ready for sale by the 2015 holiday season.

We have all eaten some really good food at these pot luck lunches and we'd like you all to share. If we can get a commitment from half of our membership then we should have a nice collection. We can collect the recipes by the class graduation in September and be on our way.

If you would like to share your original

recipes or would like to help us proof read and organized them, please email me. No or little response means no cookbook. You can find my email address is in your SCMG roster, or email scmgnewsletter@gmail.com and ask for it.

Remember, these need to be your own *original* recipes. We won't be able to include other cookbook due to copyright restrictions.

So channel your inner chef and share a few of your culinary creations with your fellow SCMGs! ☺



Plant of the month

Bearded Iris

by Jan Koehler, SCMG Intern

Bearded Iris

Scientific Name: *Iris germanica*

Other Common Name: Bearded iris,
German iris

Type: Perennial

Family: Iridaceae

Native Range: Eastern Mediterranean
Zone: 3-10

Height: varies with cultivar; less than
10' (, 10')

Bloom Time: Mid-April to May

Bloom Description: standards, falls and
beards vary in color and size with
individual cultivars

Sun: Full sun (afternoon shade may be
beneficial in NM heat)

Water: Low

Maintenance: Low

Suggested Use: Sunny beds, borders,
along walls, cut flowers,

Flower: Showy, Fragrant

Leaf: Upright, sword-like, parallel
veined

Tolerate: Drought

Culture and Care

Bearded Irises come in a plethora of named color varieties allowing any gardener an almost unlimited choice of color combinations to insure every gardener an individually unique palate in their garden space. These stunning large flowers are also relatively easy to grow with minimal effort.

Bearded irises rhizomes respond well if planted in late August through September after the intense heat of the summer begins to wane allowing them enough time to form an adequate set of roots prior to the end of the growing season. It is also the best time to divide and replant iris beds that have become overcrowded after three to five years.

For a generous display of blooms each year, these plants need between 6-8 hours of direct daily sunshine. They will grow in densely shaded areas, but will not produce grand displays of flow-

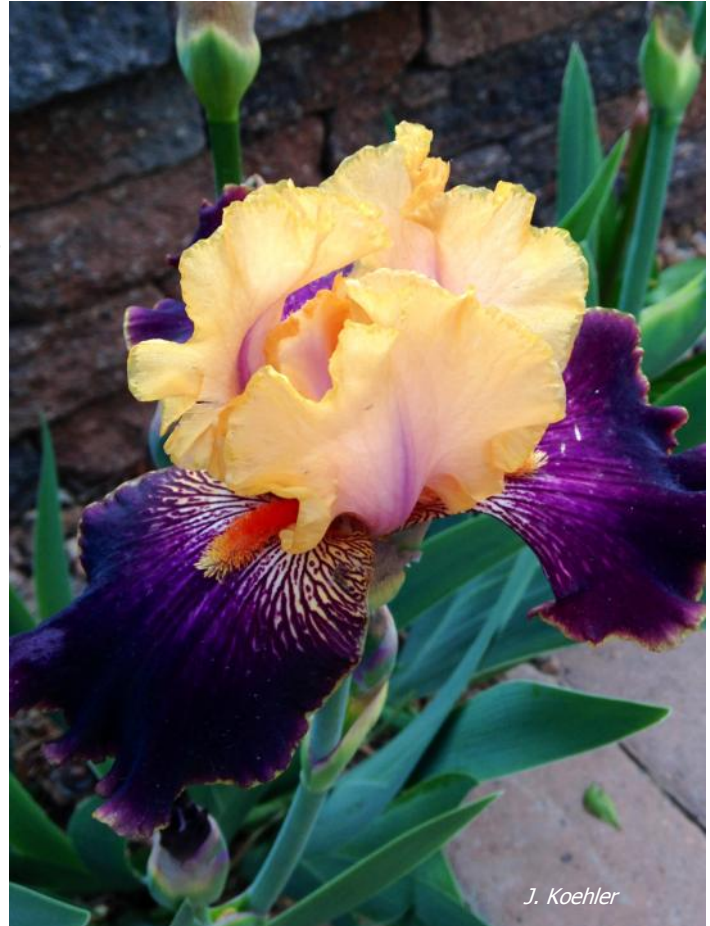
ers, if any. They may, however, benefit from some afternoon shade in the intense NM heat.

Planting these beauties in a well-drained bed with good air circulation is a must. These plants do not tolerate standing water. Rhizomes should be planted 12-18" apart, root side down just below the surface of the soil in our hot climate having no more than a one inch covering of soil and sufficiently watered so as to promote a healthy root system.

Planting too deeply and over-watering are the most common mistakes when cultivating the plentiful color combination varieties of the Bearded iris.

As soon as the bloom season is over, break off the bloom stalk which will prevent the named varieties from possible bee crosses permitting unwanted seeds to become established in the garden over time.

When bloom displays are no longer profuse, it is time to divide the rhizome clump, divide, replant and perhaps share the extras with fellow gardeners. The best practice is to remove the entire clump, divide the rhizomes and replant again spacing them 12-18" apart. If the bed will not be enlarged, leaf trimmed rhizomes can be set aside usually in a dry shaded area until they can be given to another gardener. These showy flowers which share their name with the Greek goddess who per-



J. Koehler

sonifies the rainbow will definitely enhance the Spring beauty of any garden in a grand manner and their upright stiff leaves will look equally as lovely in the border for the rest of the gardening season. ☼

<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=IRGE>

<http://aces.nmsu.edu/pes/lowwaterplants/iris.html>

http://www.irises.org/About_Irises/Cultural%20Information/Grow_Bearded.html

<http://content.ces.ncsu.edu/bearded-iris-for-the-home-landscape.pdf>

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?taxonid=281085&isprofile=0&>

Volunteer Opportunity

HOMEscape Solutions needs a few good people

by Charlene Spiegel, SCMG

Attention Tree Stewards!

Are you a home landscape designer
[K UbbUVYYI 33' H\Yb'h\jg'i bjei Y'cd!
portunity is for YOU!

HOMEscape Solutions, a program sponsored by Sandoval County Master Gardeners, is looking for 3-4 volunteers to assist with the home landscape design course. We are seeking two volunteers to assist Team duties (coordinating the food order and set up etc.), and one for audio/visual assistance.

This program is a 4-week course and consists of four workshop classes to learn how to create your personal landscape.

Course work focuses on artistic landscape design



Course work focuses on artistic landscape design and includes aspects of Permaculture, Xeriscaping, Feng Shui, Southwest Native Plants, hardscape essentials, basic tree care and maintenance - plus much, much more!

The four classes are held at the Sandoval County Extension Center and will meet on Friday night from 6:30PM to 9:30PM, and Saturday from 10AM to 3PM, beginning August 21st and 22nd, 2015, and again on Friday and Saturday, September 11th and 12th; there is a two week period between classes for project startups. The course culminates by sharing our projects and celebrating our experiences during the last Saturday class.



Substantial discount provided for volunteer team leader assistants

The normal course fee is \$85/person and includes a complete materials and resource kit, Friday night appetizers and Saturday lunches; *participants are requested to commit to the entire 4-week course. **However, as a volunteer Team Leader assistant, your fee is only \$45 (to cover cost of food and kit).***

For more information about volunteering, call or email **Cathryne Richards** (see your SCMG roster, or email scmgnewsletter@gmail.com). ☺

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Ancient gardens one of the seven wonders of the world

Wikipedia

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon are listed as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. They were first described by [Berossus](#), a Babylonian priest (ca. 290 BC) who wrote that they were built by King Nebuchadnezzar II for his queen, Amyitis, who was homesick for the mountains of her native Media. The gardens were said to be a terraced series of gardens, with water being lifted up to the gardens using an [Ar-
VX la YXYgDgWYk](#) type of machine.

high walks, supported by stone pillars; rendered the prospect an exact resemblance of a mountainous country. This he did to gratify his queen, because she had been brought up in Media, and was fond of a mountainous situation. The gardens were said to be a terraced series of gardens, with water being lifted up to the gardens using an [Ar-
VX la YXYgDgWYk](#) type of machine.



This hand-colored engraving, probably made in the 19th century, depicts the fabled Hanging Gardens

National

Master Gardeners serve communities

Looking for some free gardening advice?

USDA has a cadre of volunteers who provide free gardening tips and have a wealth of science-based research to answer your questions.

HFUJbYX VmI G85d7ccdyfUhj Y 9I! Extension Service, Master Gardeners provide information in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. To find a local Master Gardeners, visit <http://www.extension.org/mastergardener>

WASHINGTON, July 9, 2009 E [A UghYF; UfXYbYfgUFY U'j U' UV'Y'FY! source for people who want to get some tips on gardening and growing h\YJf'ck b'ZccX Zca U'fYU'YI dYfth' said Agriculture Secretary Tom VIl-gUW' "I; fck j b['Zi]hg'UbX'j Y[YHUV'Yg' in your own garden not only promotes a healthier lifestyle, but helps communities develop a safe, nutri-hJci g'UbX'gi ghUj bUV'Y'gci fW' cZ ZccX" I

Master Gardeners can help Americans of all abilities to plant, grow and har-j YghU' [UfXYbZ gja]Uf'hc' I G85d7 IDYcd'Yd; UfXYb"D9UF]Yf'h\g'nYUf' Q&\$- Q'J]gUW' "Ui bW'YX'h\Y IDYcd'Yd; UfXYbDcb' I G85'dfcdYfmi]b'cfXYf'hc' help illustrate the many ways USDA

works to provide a sustainable, safe and nutritious food supply as well as protect and preserve the landscape where that food is produced.

The Master Gardener program, which began in 1972 in Washington, is another important example of how people can contribute to promoting healthier food and communities.

Since its inception, the program has grown to 94,865 volunteers [in 2009] across the country who give horticulture information to the public through a variety of locally-based programs. Volunteers receive 40 to 80 hours of instruction and, in return, give an equal number of volunteer hours during the next year. As the federal partner in the Cooperative Extension Ser-j JWZ I G85d7ccdyfUhj Y GHUJ'FY! search, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) provides funding and national leadership to the program.

[9I hYbg]cb'A UghYF; UfXYbYf'j c'i b! teers are more than just members of 'cWJ' [UfXYb'Vl VgZ' gUjX'6]"<cZa UbZ national program leader and Master ; UfXYbYf'W'bhUW'Uh 7GF 99G" [H\Ym bring to bear the science base of the land-grant university system in service to their communities, through the training and certification they receive as well as the research-based Ubkg Yfg'h\Ymdfcj]XY" I

During 2008, this network of Master Gardeners provided more than 5 mil-

lion hours of volunteer work in their communities E valued at \$101.4 million. Nearly 80 percent of these 5 million hours take place in metropolitan areas. Additionally, in 2008, more than 16,000 new Master Gardeners joined the program for the first time, infusing the program with new life.

Master Gardeners bring to bear the science base of the land-grant university system in service to their communities.

Although each community has its own unique projects, all Master Gardeners present workshops, answer gardening hotlines, work with youth, plant demonstration gardens and teach gardening throughout the country. ☼

Ed. Note: This information is from a 2009 USDA press release found [here](#). The Master Gardener program has advanced a great deal since then. Although exact numbers are not available at the present time, there are lots of MG volunteers, and the a Jgg]cb '\UgbD'WXUb[YX'" GUbXcj U' County Master Gardeners are a very dynamic part of the national program. We have an engaged and active membership with many, many projects benefitting our communities.

News

New SCMG Signs for events

Staff

The SCMG Board voted recently to purchase two large signs for MG use at events at which members answer questions and discuss gardening tips & techniques with persons. The signs

can be used on ordinary ground or on cement or other hard surfaces. The signs will be stored at the Casita. Please sign up on the board in the Casita to reserve a sign when you need to use one. *Photo by Mike Stoy*



Notice

Master Gardeners Encouraged to Exhibit at 2015 Sandoval County Fair

by **Sandy Liakus, SCMG**
Past SCMG Coordinator

The 2015 Sandoval County Fair will be held from July 27 through August 2 in Cuba at the County Fairgrounds. Not only is this a fun and affordable family event, it is time for Sandoval County Master Gardeners to exhibit the best of their fresh and preserved garden produce. For more information on the County fair go to

www.sandovalcounty.com/fair. The dates for Sandoval County Fair are earlier than some other surrounding county fairs, and it can be challenging to have premium vegetables available that early in the season. However with the spring rains we received this year, there may be a greater variety of vegetable and fruit exhibit specimens to choose from in your garden or orchard compared to previous years.

Sandoval County Fair indoor exhibit rules allow submissions from Arts and Crafts to Container Grown Plants Divisions including Food Preservation, Baked Goods, Agriculture and Floriculture. The latter two divisions list the most popular exhibit items for Master Gardeners. For a list of the Sandoval County Fair Indoor Exhibits go to <http://sandovalfair.org/resources/indoorexhibit2014.pdf>.

The county fair is not just for 4-H kids

County Fair exhibition is open to all Sandoval County amateur crafters, preservers, bakers and growers. It is not just for 4-H kids; it is for adults too. We all like to show off the fruits of our labor and win blue ribbons.

Master Gardener exhibit participation in the past county fairs has been small with just a few select Master Gardeners breaking that habit, and increase our participation in the 2015 Sandoval County Fair. That vegetable, fruit and flower exhibits from our SCMG project and community gardens are encouraged too. Last year the Bernalillo Community Garden team won blue ribbons in two different categories of sunflowers. Just give exhibit credit to your project and/or community garden team.

The printed version of the 2015 Sandoval County Fair booklet will be available soon at the Extension Office with more information on the County Fair event schedule and rules for exhibiting.

This year Sandoval County Master Gardeners Mike Mauer (Class of 2010) and Martha Mann (Class of 2002) will help other members with advising on exhibit rules, labeling exhibits, keeping exhibit items fresh, and transporting exhibits to Cuba to arrive just in time for the first day of judging. The County Extension Office will notify members for exhibits a week or so before the County Fair opening.



The Bernalillo Community Garden Won 2- First Place Blue Ribbons at the 2014 Sandoval County Fair: Photo: Sandy Liakus August 2014

Master Gardeners just need to drop off their exhibits on the day before the judging occurs.



D. Vines



SANDOVAL COUNTY FAIR

SCHEDULE

2015

Monday, July 27, 2015

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. 4-H Indoor Exhibit Check-In

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. RV Daily Check-in
 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 4-H Indoor Exhibit Judging
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Art Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)

Wednesday, July 29, 2015

8 a.m. - 6 p.m. RV Daily Check-in
 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Queen Contest Horsemanship (Arena)
 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. 4-H Baking Check-In
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Open Indoor Exhibit Check-In
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Art Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)
 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Open Horse Show Registration
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. 4-H Small Animal & Livestock Check-In
 10:30 a.m. 4-H Baked Goods Judging
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Open Horse Show
 6 p.m. Youth Horseshoe Contest *Free - Team of 2
 (Pavilion)

Thursday, July 30, 2015

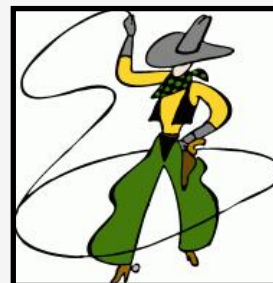
8 a.m. - 6 p.m. RV Daily Check-in
 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. 4-H & Open Small Animal Check-In
 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. 4-H & Open Livestock Check-In
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
 9 a.m. Queen Contest to be held at The Cuban Cafe.
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Art Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Open Exhibit Judging
 11 a.m. 4-H Cloverbud Rabbit & Poultry Show
 (Rabbit & Poultry Barn)
 12-1 p.m. Judges Luncheon (for Open indoor exhibits)
 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Open Indoor Judging
 1 p.m. 4-H Rabbit Show (Rabbit & Poultry Barn)
 TF 4-H Poultry Show (Rabbit & Poultry Barn)
 TF Open Poultry and Rabbit Show (Rabbit/Poultry Barn)
 4 p.m. Open Livestock Jackpots (Leeson Arena)
 TF Youth Lamb & Goat Dress-Up Show (Leeson Arena)
 5 p.m. Grand Entry
 5:30 p.m. 4-D Barrel Race (Rodeo Arena)
 TF Bull Riding Derby-Futurity
 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. Youth Dance - (4-H & FFA Only)

ATTENTION SCMG!!
COUNTY FAIR ENTRIES ARE
DUE TO THE EXTENSION OF-
OFFICE (ELIZABETH HACKETT)
BY 3:00 PM, TUESDAY, JULY
28TH. OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED FROM 11:45 AM UNTIL
1:00 PM.

Entries will be transported to the fairgrounds on Wednesday morning by SCMG Fair Chair, Martha Mann.

Indoor Exhibit Check-in is from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28th if you would like to take entries yourself.

It's Fair Time!



July 27 to
August 2, 2015

2015 SANDOVAL COUNTY FAIR SCHEDULE

Friday, July 31, 2015 - SENIOR DAY

8 a.m.- 6 p.m. RV Daily Check-in
 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. Art Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)
 9 a.m. 4-H Meat Goat Show (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Dairy Goat Show (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Market Swine Show (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Market Lamb Show (Leeson Arena)
 10 a.m. Queen's Contest Written Test (location TBA)
 TF Queen's Contest Orientation (location-TBA)
 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Senior Activities (Dance Pavilion)
 Bingo - Horse Shoes - Lunch
 1 p.m. Horseshoe Showdown
 1:30 p.m. 4-H Cloverbud Lamb & Goat Show
 2:30 p.m. 4-H County-Bred Steer Show (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Market Steer Show (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Replacement Beef Heifer Show
 3:30 p.m. 4-H Round Robin Showmanship (Leeson Arena)
 TF 4-H Dog Show (Leeson Arena)
 6 p.m. Queen Crowning (Rodeo Arena)
 TF Mutton Busting (Rodeo Arena)
 TF Wild Horse Race (Rodeo Arena)
 7 p.m. Grand Entry (Rodeo Arena)
 TF Rodeo (Rodeo Arena)
 9 p.m.-12 a.m. Dance- (Dance Pavilion)

Saturday, August 1, 2015

8 a.m. Rodeo Slack (Rodeo Arena)
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Art Silent Auction (Exhibit Hall)
 9 a.m. -10a.m. Parade Line-up
 10 a.m. Parade (Downtown Cuba)
 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Gourd Dancing
 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. La Familia Roping
 11:30- 1 p.m. Buyers' Luncheon (Dance Pavilion)
 12 p.m. Antique Tractor Show
 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. Pow Wow
 1:00 p.m. Parade Awards (Leeson Arena)
 1:30 p.m. Jr. Livestock Auction (Leeson Arena)
 4 p.m. Watermelon Eating Contest (Pavilion)
 5 p.m. Grand Entry
 TF Mutton Busting (Rodeo Arena)
 TF Wild Horse Race (Rodeo Arena)
 6 p.m. Rodeo (Rodeo Arena) Calf Scramble (Rodeo Arena during Rodeo)
 TF Balloon Glow (Rodeo Arena)
 9 p.m. - 12 a.m. Dance (Dance Pavilion)

Sunday, August 2, 2015

9 a.m. Cowboy Church
 10 a.m. Exhibit Halls Open
 10 a.m. Art Silent Auction
 (Last Time for Bids)
 10 a.m. Small Animal &
 Livestock Check-Out
 (Leeson Arena)
 11 a.m. **Animal**
 Scramble
 (Leeson Arena)
 12 p.m. **4-H & Open Indoor**
 Exhibit Check-Out
 12 p.m. Junior Rodeo
 (Rodeo Arena)

Around the home

The black widow

by Dave Pojmann, SCMG

Black Widow Spiders are common throughout the Southwestern United States. Before I moved to New Mexico, I had only seen one in the wild. I was familiar with the brown recluse spider, having lived at the epicenter of that spider's realm, but had given little thought to the black widow, and had not even seen one in my yard here in three years. Recently, I was preparing buckets for relocating plants when I felt something crawling on my arm. When I looked, I saw a very fat glossy black spider. I knew what it was, so I brushed it off and stepped on it. When I found more of them in an irrigation sump, I figured it was time to learn more about the black widow and what to do if I were bitten. Here are a few of the facts I learned from my research.

Black widow spiders are the most venomous spiders in North America, and their venom is 15 times more toxic than a rattlesnake's. Don't panic yet. Because the spiders are small, they cannot inject as much venom as a rattler, and their bites are seldom fatal. Elderly persons and young children are more susceptible to the black widow venom. Only the female black widow is poisonous. They are shy and solitary,

socializing only during spring copulation. Yes, they sometimes kill and eat their mates. Black widows are nocturnal, but spin webs during daytime. The females are about an inch in length with glossy black bodies, and have a telltale bright red hourglass abdominal marking that signals danger to predators and attackers. Males are smaller, have longer legs, and lack the red mark. Eggs average 500 to a sac and a typical female may lay a half-dozen sacs a summer. Luckily, most of the babies don't make it to maturity, as young spiders are cannibalistic. Their diet is mostly insects. Like most spiders, the black widow is capable of living for several months without food. Their lifespan is one to three years. They avoid humans and prefer dark, quiet spaces. You will find them in sumps, sheds, totes, pipes, woodpiles and other such locations.

To avoid being bitten, it is wise to wear gloves when gardening. Before you pick up a pot, reach into a dark space, or unravel a hose, check for webs and spiders. Most common garden insecticides will kill spiders. Read



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_Widow_11-06.jpg

the label to be sure before you spray, and treat areas that would likely be home to black widows regularly.

If bitten by a black widow spider try to remain calm; the treatment needed depends on the reaction to the venom. Early treatment is important, especially for young children and elderly people. First aid treatment includes washing the bite thoroughly, applying ice wrapped in a cloth to the wound site, elevating the limb if possible, applying an antibiotic ointment and seeking medical attention. A physician can evaluate the severity of the bite and give specific treatment to relieve pain or respiratory problems if necessary. Persons with heart conditions or other health problems may require a hospital stay if bitten by a black widow spider. If possible, kill the spider and take it with you when you get medical attention. If a person passes out, or has trouble breathing, call 911 for emergency transportation to a hospital.

The black widow does not always inject venom into a wound, so the reaction may be minor; however, if there is abdominal pain, cramping, vomiting, nausea or breathing difficulty, the victim needs immediate professional medical care.

You can find more information on the black widow on the Internet or your local library. 🌐



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black_Widow_spider,_Female.jpg

The Bulletin Board

Openings for 2016 Board

for the 2016 Election at the Annual Meeting in September:

- Coordinator
- Asst Coordinator
- Secretary
- Member-at-Large

Please contact Nancy Bresenham, JoAnn Beuerle, Sandy Liakus, or Julia Runyan to tell us about yourself or a suggested candidate. Contact information is in your SCMG roster. Or email SCMGnewsletter@gmail.com.

Sandoval County Fair Entries

are due to Elizabeth Hackett in the Extension Office by 3:00pm, Tuesday, July 28 (the Extension office will be closed from 11:45am to 1:00pm). Entries will be transported to the fairgrounds on Wednesday morning, July 29, by SCMG Fair Chair, Martha Mann.

Indoor Exhibit Check-in is from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 28th if you would like to take entries yourself.

The Joy of Garden Math

Hey, nerds. Check out the new article posted on the SCMG website that explains some math concepts that can help figure out how much fertilizer to apply, how much gravel or mulch to buy, and an introduction to how long to run your drip irrigation.

Click on the title above, or find the article posted under [FYWbh: fYyb BYk gJ](#).

Master Composter Workshops

07/15/2015 Home Composting Basics: 10:00 am to 12:00 noon at [Bear Canyon Senior Center](#), Room 5, 4645 Pitt NE, Albuquerque. To register call 505-767-5959 or send email to register@nmcomposters.org.

07/18/2015 Composting With Worms (Vermicomposting): 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at [Taylor Ranch Library](#), 5700 Bogart NW, Albuquerque, NM. To register call 505-897-8816 or send email to register@nmcomposters.org.

07/25/2015 Home Composting Basics: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at [Highland Senior Center](#), 131 Monroe NE. To register call 505-256-2000 or send email to register@nmcomposters.org.

International MG Conference

SEPTEMBER 22-25, 2015
MID-AMERICA CENTER, COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

Gardening With the Masters

Gardening with the Masters is a long-standing monthly lecture series, presented by the SCMG. Master gardeners and other invited experts offer useful horticultural presentations for the high desert home gardener. The lectures are free and open to the public. Upcoming events:

July 7: Residential Rain Water Harvesting E MG Sandy Liakus

August 4: Fall and Winter Vegetable Gardening E MG Loren Mein

Inclusion for special needs populations is standard for all Senior Service Programs. If special accommodations are required please contact the staff upon registration.

*Meadow Lark Senior Center
4330 Meadowlark Lane SE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124*

Idalia Road Marketplace

Dates for the Idalia Rd. Market place where SCMG will have an information booth to provide SCMG information and books on gardening are:

Lavender Fest: July 18 and 19

Garlic Fest: Aug 15 and 16

Chili Fest: Sept. 12 and 13.

Contact Julia Runyan to volunteer.

Food Preservation Workshops

This summer, starting in June, the Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service will be conducting classes in making jams and jellies; pickles; salsa; canning tomatoes, fruit, and vegetables; and freezing and drying foods.

Pre-Registration is required, and the fee for each canning class is \$20. Call Bernalillo County Cooperative Extension Service for reservation and information 243-1386

Click on the link above for complete information.

*The SCMG newsletter:
spreading the dirt.*





SCMG July 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	SCMG Board Meetings Third Tuesday of month, Sandoval County Extension Office, 3:00pm	Click on links for details Telephone Hotline Daily 9:00-12:00, 1:30-4:30 in the Casita	NOTE: the official SCMG calendar is on the website			
			1 -DeLavy House garden 9-11am	2 -WaterWise Garden 8:30-11:00am -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	3 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	4 -Home Depot Plant Clinic 10am-2pm
5 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	6	7 -Gardening With the Masters: Rainwater Harvesting	8	9 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	10 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	11
12 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	13	14 -Ed Committee 2:00pm	15 Newsletter Articles DUE!	16 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	17 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	18 -Idalia Road Marketplace Lavender Fest
19 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm -Idalia Road Marketplace Lavender Fest	20	21 -SCMG Board 3-5pm	22	23 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	24 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	25 -Santa Ana Plant Clinic 10am-2pm
26 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	27 -Sandoval County Fair	28 -Sandoval County Fair	29 -Sandoval County Fair	30 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am -Sandoval County Fair	31 -Sandoval County Fair -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	



August 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	SCMG Board Meetings Third Tuesday of month, Sandoval County Extension Office, 3:00pm	Click on links for details Telephone Hotline Daily 9:00-12:00, 1:30-4:30 in the Casita	NOTE: the official SCMG calendar is on the website		 Sandoval County	1 -Sandoval County Fair -Home Depot Plant Clinic 10am-2pm
2 -Sandoval County Fair -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	3	4 -Gardening With the Masters: Fall & Winter Vegetable Gardening	5 -DeLavy House garden 9-11am	6 -WaterWise Garden 8:30-11:00am -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	7 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	8
9 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	10	11	12	13 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	14 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	15 Newsletter Articles DUE! -Idalia Road Marketplace Garlic Fest
16 -Idalia Road Marketplace Garlic Fest -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	17	18 -SCMG Board 3-5pm	19	20 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	21 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	22 -Santa Ana Plant Clinic 10am-2pm
23 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	24	25	26	27 -New Beginnings 9:30-11:00am	28 -Zia Pueblo Farmers Market (Bernalillo) 4:00-7:00pm	29
30 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-12:00pm	31	 Sandoval County				