



Sandoval County Master Gardener Newsletter



Sandoval County

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

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SCMG Newsletter Submissions Deadline: 15th of each month

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

June 2014

COORDINATOR'S CORNER

I am sure many of you are doing a balancing act right now between maintaining your own gardens and landscapes and then working on SCMG demonstration gardens and our Hotline projects. Sometimes it does seem like a struggle to get everything done. We can thank the fact that we had some significant rainfall at the end of May to give our gardens and trees an early season boost.

We are in full swing for the town markets, plant clinics and other summer events right now. Master Garden-

ers play a significant civic role in these events by helping our county residents with their plant and gardening questions and in attracting crowds. The Corrales Garden Tour, one of the largest of these events, will be coming up on Sunday June 8th. Master Gardeners will act as docents at each garden as in past years. In addition Master Gardener specialists will be present at the Via Acequia garden across from the Fire Station on Corrales Road to lead potting demonstrations and to answer other horticultural questions. The

demonstrations are set for 10:00 am, 11:00 am, and 2:00 pm.

Finally, I do want to encourage our SCMG Mentors and Interns to continue to interact with each other. This is a good time for Mentors to ask their Interns to participate with them at one of these summer project events. This is a great way for all to get involved in the camaraderie of the organization.

Sandy Liakus
SCMG Coordinator

FROM LYNDA'S DESK

Wednesday, June 4, Santa Fe Botanical Garden and the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service is offering First Detector Training and Continuing Education courses for Master Gardeners, Pest Control Operators, Producers and the general public. This training is part of the National Plant Diagnostic Network's education and training program. Participants who attend the training will become "Certified First Detectors" and be part of a national registry of trained first detectors. Certified First Detectors will have the opportunity to participate in continuing education courses on high

risk / exotic weed and arthropod pests.

The First Detector training is a four hour workshop. Attendance for the whole training is required for certification. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- The Mission of the National Plant Diagnostic Network and Importance of First Detectors
 - The Art and Science of Diagnosing Plant Disorders
 - Sample Submission: Quality and Security
 - High Risk Plant Pathogens
- The First Detector continuing education course is a two hour

workshop. The workshop will cover the following topics:

- High Risk / Exotic Arthropod Pests
 - High Risk / Exotic Weeds
- Registrants will also learn about SFBG's involvement in the **Sentinel Plant Network (SPN)** and how to participate in monitoring for pests in the Garden and nature preserves. Full workshop agenda and downloadable presentations will be available to registrants in advance.

Registration fee:
\$15 for SFBG and SF Master Gardener Members
[Click for more information](#)

Grasshopper Alert for Master Gardeners

By Lynda Garvin, Sandoval County Agricultural/Horticultural Agent



If you haven't heard already, there has been an unusually large outbreak of grasshoppers in the Albuquerque area. On May 5th one homeowner had an estimated 10,000 in their yard and climbing the walls. By now these wingless nymphs have morphed into adults with wings, which mean they can fly longer distances and are difficult to manage. Both locations must be very near to egg beds which were probably 'populated' last fall after a nice rain or two that moistened the soil. They likely hatched at least a month ago during a warm period and have likely been feeding on anything greening up in that area. Having feasted on that until it was gone---very likely---the hungry hoppers moved around, looking for food.

These are nymphs of Orthoptera, Acrididae, and *Trimerotropis pallidipennis*. At our lower elevations, these hoppers can produce 2 generations/year. When they are winged, they tend to fly in 'swarms' often attracted by security lights at night. The next morning, the whole

swarm might be hanging onto the side of a building, waiting to warm up before taking off in search for food. Their host range is broad: some grasses, numerous broadleaf plants including field and vegetable crops, fruit tree and various ornamental foliage, particularly flowering plants. They chew irregular holes in leaves and can be destructive.

While the homeowner can spray the hoppers with several different insecticides labeled for that situation (some of the permethrin and permethrin relatives, acephate for non-food plants, or Sevin (carbaryl)), they are not likely to get the results they're hoping to see---like no hoppers on their premises. You can kill a lot of hoppers with these sprays today but their residual effect is not long.

With a lot of hungry hopper pressure coming from nearby rangeland, results will not be satisfying. Dead and dying hoppers can be eaten by other animals ---including your dogs, cats, birds, lizards and other insects, including more grasshoppers. Eat enough of these treated hoppers and you have sick or potentially dying non-target organisms. Repeated use of these products on plants may result in the rise of secondary pest problems (especially spider mites---which are even harder to manage) and phytotoxicity. If you are going to spray for hoppers, read the labels carefully for dosage, safety recommendations, plants that can be treated, spray intervals and 'pre-harvest intervals.' Nolo Bait, an organic biological control, produces infection from a protozoan. It is relatively slow acting and only effective against young grasshoppers. Note: if Nolo bait has not been kept refrigerated or is old it won't be effective. **The bottom line: Evaluate your plants and pick the most valuable ---roses, veggie garden, etc. Buy and install 'row covers,' checking underneath the covers periodically to make sure there are no grasshoppers or other pest problems developing underneath.**

After some period of time, the grasshoppers may fly on to agriculture areas as their preferred food. Until then, it may be a struggle to keep valued plants protected.

New Mexico Department of Agriculture has a list of insecticides that are registered for homeowner use. Additionally, the department is available for anyone to call to ensure a private pest control operator is licensed in the state (575)646-2134.



Grasshopper Alert for Master Gardeners

(continued)

Background information from Carol Sutherland, Extension and State Entomologist:

I have cobbled some basic info together on grasshoppers in NM, but our big 'extravaganza' was published in 1993, covering the 160 species of hoppers we have in NM. At that time, I summarized the 'grasshopper plague' situation from our earliest records (1820s, no less) to the early 90s. Even then, the situations were changing---politically, financially, environmentally and economically. Grasshoppers can be just about anywhere in New Mexico. If they don't reproduce in an area for some reason, they might walk, hop or, for winged species, fly to or through that area in pursuit of food. While 'grass' is part of their name, they consume a variety of broadleaf plants as well---some more than others.

Grasshoppers are well known by ranchers and farmers---and gardeners, too---as nuisances, damaging pests and disasters on wings, depending on individual situations. I have seen them crawling, hopping and flying across I-25 in such numbers as to make the pavement slick as glass when cars ran over them. Cars parked at road-side stops along the interstates had their grills gooey, clogged and stinky with dead and dying grasshoppers after driving through that mess---only to have their grills cleaned by other grasshoppers eagerly eating their departed brethren. At one roadside stop, the hoppers ate not only all of the needles, but also all of the bark off Afghan pine trees about an inch in diameter. The hoppers were so hungry, they were gnawing on the edges of yucca leaves to no avail.

New Mexico ranchers---or children or grandchildren of NM ranchers---may have been involved in the past (pre-1990 or so) with large-scale cooperative grasshopper control programs. Those are things of the past.

'Cooperative grasshopper control programs' involved USDA-APHIS-PPQ, NMDA and local rancher groups in affected areas. There was a formal protocol for identifying problem areas, communication within and among these 3 groups and lots of planning. In those years before 1990, USDA would do 2 grasshopper surveys annually in the usual 'hot spots' around the state; one was for nymphs in spring and another for adults in fall. Grasshopper outbreaks that USDA might consider for action in spring would require a minimum contiguous 10,000A block with 8+ hoppers/sq yd. Borders of this block had to be identified and the area 'mapped' for communication and general logistics. Costs of the treatment program for these projects were divided among USDA, NMDA and ranchers. Once the necessary meetings were held and agreements were in place, ordering insecticides, arranging aerial spraying contracts, organizing the ground and aerial team employees and planning treatment strategies took place. The bigger the project, the longer it took to complete. As projects were evaluated, it appeared relief from grasshoppers was limited---lasting perhaps a year or two at most. Environmental concerns were cropping up as well as more detailed economic analyses. Droughts persisted while economic woes hit the nation. Funding for such projects at the federal level declined dramatically---essentially 'zero' for NM. There hasn't been a large-scale grasshopper project in NM for quite a few years....certainly nothing like there were in the 70s or mid 80s. Whether state funds for grasshopper control are available---good luck with that. Legislators, the Governor's office, NMDA might be contacts, but state budgets are tight, too. Rainy day funds are likely as available as rain is around here.

In recent years, the University of Wyoming has come up with a program to advise ranchers/land managers of their options to treat their own grasshopper problems hopefully before they escalate. Again, with the drought, how many can afford to do that with no guarantee of producing pasturage for livestock is anyone's guess.

For farmers and the general public, various insecticides are registered in the state for various crops and situations. Realize that no one insecticide is 'the answer' to grasshoppers; also, there can be such 'pressure' from hordes of starving grasshoppers that relief after an application might last just hours before more hoppers have replaced the fallen ones.

For small scale gardens or very important smaller ornamentals, homeowners should consider 'row covers' as barriers to the pests. They may be awkward to install and 'not pretty' but they might protect these high value plants from destruction.

For those who get some 'hot responses' to these suggestions, Mr. Brad Lewis at NMDA has 'volunteered' to explain these situations to clients, review control options with them and answer questions. His number: (575)646-3207.



JOIN US FOR THIS YEAR'S
WALK & TALK
DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE OF
THE WATER WISE GARDEN

JUNE 19, 2014
6:30PM – 8:30PM

WATER WISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN
950 PINETREE RD., RIO RANCHO, N.M. 87124

Join us for an evening in the Water Wise Demonstration Garden! Learn the history, and how the facility is designed to represent a beautiful environment all while conserving water. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs or blankets to sit in the grass meadow. Family and friends welcome. Pre-registration is required and seating is limited. Call today!

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER CONTACT: KORYN LOWRY @ 505-896-8389



Save the Dates: July 24th – 26th, 2014
 Los Alamos, NM
 New Mexico Master Gardener's Conference



Be a Writer!

Ever thought about writing an article for publication? Why not now? The SCMG newsletter will consider all submissions. Articles on gardening, events related to gardening, humorous articles, your gardening experiences, book reviews...you name it. Material must be original or properly attributed as to origin. Newsletter staff will work with you to edit as necessary for length, organization, grammar, etc. Submissions are reviewed by SCMG officers and the Extension Service office with regard to horticultural correctness as well as appropriateness for the newsletter.

The newsletter is also looking for people interested in writing a recurring column. If you are knowledgeable about a subject such as houseplants, container gardening, landscape design, or any topic of interest to Master Gardeners, consider sharing your expertise and experience with the rest of us. We want the newsletter to be informative, educational, and entertaining.

Contact us at scmgnewsletter@gmail.com .

Save the date

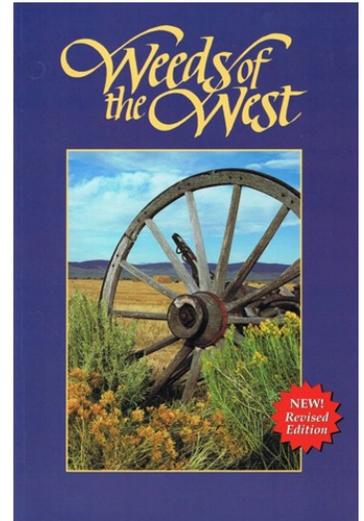
Wednesday July 23 from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Dr. Wendy Hamilton, Professor & Extension Specialist, Program Development, Accountability & Grantsmanship, will facilitate training for all Master Gardeners covering civil rights requirements, attendance sheets, demographics, and project reporting tips. If you are a project leader this is a required training. Everyone will benefit from this training, especially if you act as the registration person at classes or consider being a project leader in the future. If you cannot attend the training, Lynda Garvin will facilitate another session in the near future. Please register with the office at: sandoval@nmsu.edu or call Elizabeth at 867-2582.

Book Review: Weeds of the West

by Dudley Vines, SCMG

Last year SCMG made available for purchase the reference book "Weeds of the West", by the Western Society of Weed Science. Since mostly what I grow is weeds, I figured this book would be a good investment. The paperback book has 628 heavy pages, with high quality photographs. To identify a weed, you have three options: (1) look at every picture and compare to the weed in question, (2) the book is organized by plant family, so you can narrow down the picture search if you can guess the family, or (3) use the identification key at the back of the book. Being a nerd at heart, I chose option number 3 to try to identify a weed I found in a remote area of my back yard that was a vineyard before the big freeze. I get quite a number of these weeds every year, and I was curious. Here is my weed:



The plant identification key starts off with a decision of monocot versus dicot. Even I could remember that most monocots have parallel leaf veins like grass, so I jumped right away to the dicot key starting with step 11.

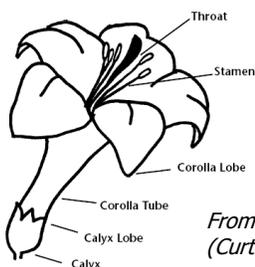
At step 11 the next decision was whether a corolla was present. Hmmm. Probably not the Toyota variety of corolla. If you're not sure what a corolla is, you better get your Master Gardener manual out! Hint: it is the petals.

Dicot Key

11(3)	Corolla not present	13
	Corolla present	12
12(11)	Petals distinct	22
	Petals united, at least below	43

Dicots without Petals

13(11)	Calyx present, often petal-like	14
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From the Botany section of the SCMG manual (Curtis Smith)

My weed had petals, hence a corolla was present. It says to go to step 12, which asks whether the petals are distinct (separate) or if the petals are united. My weed's petals were united from about halfway down. So we move on to step 43. Take note of the 5 yellow stamens and the single pistil for later steps in the identification.



Book Review: Weeds of the West (continued)

by Dudley Vines, SCMG

Dicots with United Petals

- 43(12) Stamens more than 544
- Stamens 5 or less46

My weed had 5 stamens (see previous photo). On to step 46.

- 46(43) Ovary superior (free from calyx)47
- Ovary inferior (adherent to calyx).....55

I pulled some of the petals and stamens off so I could see the ovary at the bottom of the pistil. It was free from the calyx. Time for step 47.



- 47(46) Corolla regular48
- Corolla irregular or strongly 2-lipped.....53

My weed's flower had a nice form with all the petals shaped the same. I decided the corolla was regular. On to 48.

- 48(47) Pistil 149
- Pistils 252

That was easy – my flower had one slender green pistil rising up from the ovary to catch pollen. Step 49 then.

- 49(48) Corolla dry and paperyPLANTAIN FAMILY
(Plantaginaceae), pg. 402
- Corolla colored, not dry and papery50

The corolla again. My corolla was definitely colored, and it was not dry and papery. To step 50.

- 50(49) Ovary 4-celled, commonly 4-lobed; fruit of 4 nutlets; flower
arrangement coiledBORAGE FAMILY
(Boraginaceae), pg. 198
- Ovary 1-, 2-, or 3-celled; fruit a capsule or berry51

I pulled the ovary loose from the flower and tried to slice it open, but my dull knife crushed it. I could see it wasn't 4-lobed, and I knew that these weeds produce a yellow-brown capsule, so I chose to try step 51. Of course I could always backtrack to step 50 if this route didn't work out.

- 51(50) Calyx of 5 distinct sepals; fruit a capsule; plants climbing or trailing
.....MORNINGGLORY FAMILY (Convolvulaceae), pg. 278
- Calyx 4 or 5 toothed or cleft; fruit a capsule or a berry; plants erect
or diffuseNIGHTSHADE FAMILY (Solanaceae), pg. 554

My flower's calyx (the sepals that cover the bud before it breaks open) were 5 in number (see 2nd photo), the fruit was a capsule, and the plant was erect (not a climber). Conclusion – my weed belonged to the nightshade family. Turning to page 554 and browsing the nightshade family, this is what I found:

Book Review: Weeds of the West (continued)

by Dudley Vines, SCMG

Silverleaf nightshade
Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav.



Flowers of silverleaf nightshade are blue to violet and have 5 petals with yellow anthers in the center. Fruit are yellow or orange and are filled with seed.



Small, orange, round fruit of silverleaf nightshade.

Silverleaf nightshade Solanaceae (Nightshade family)

A perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall, spreading by roots or seeds. Stems are sparsely covered with short yellow thorns. Leaves and stems are covered with dense short hairs that give the foliage a gray or silvery appearance. Leaves are narrow, lance-shaped, with entire to wavy margins. Flowers are 3/4 to 1 inch wide with violet to light blue (sometimes white) petals. The mature fruit is a yellow or dull orange berry, which may eventually turn blackish.

Silverleaf nightshade is native to the central United States, but has spread to other areas where it is found on rangeland, in pastures, waste areas, and cropland. The berries and foliage are poisonous to livestock. This plant should not be confused with the true horsenettle, *S. carolinense* L., which is also a rhizomatous perennial, but lacks a dense silvery covering of hairs and has broader, more toothed leaves, and more prominent spines.

Non-standard names: white horsenettle, blueweed.

Above three photos and text reproduced from Weeds of the West.

Investigation complete. My weed was a silver leaf nightshade and it is poisonous to livestock. Yikes! I washed my hands really well. I'll be trying to get rid of it even though I don't have any actual livestock. I figure if it's toxic to a 1000 lb. cow, it's probably not good for people either.

Since one man's weed may be another man's wildflower, *Weeds of the West* could be a useful reference book for any of us. There is a copy in the Casita for hotline use. The book is authoritative and comprehensive, and I recommend it to anybody who wants to be able to identify common wild plants of our area. Even if you'd rather search through hundreds and hundreds of photos than counting stamens and studying corollas like some nerds.

Fundraising News

SCMG's first fund raising project is a raffle for a beautiful quilt to be held during the Corrales Garden Tour. You can check it out at Quilts Ole on Corrales Road in Corrales, where tickets are available at \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Or contact Gretchen Neiman, Julia Runyan, or Patricia Barger (contact information is in your SCMG roster).

There are also plans for a plant sale at Idalia Market during their Lavender Festival on Saturday, June 14, 2014. If you have healthy house or garden plants you would like to donate, please contact any of the committee members. Please make sure plants are in clean pots that you do not want back. The committee will take care of the pricing.

Support the Sandoval County Master Gardeners organization personally and by letting friends know about the raffle and the upcoming plant sale.



Photo: Gretchen Neiman

Heritage Day at Casa San Ysidro

By Therese Barts, SCMG

Hooray, hooray! Heritage Day at Casa San Ysidro went along very smoothly on Saturday, May 17. We helped more than 30 delighted children plant marigolds, Indian corn, strawberry popcorn, pinto beans, and sunflowers (all plants indigenous to the Americas) in 4-pack planters to take home in their own mini portable green house (plastic bag). Besides that, we answered lots of gardening questions, were never stumped (!), and also distributed Indian corn growing kits.

Enthusiastic SCMG volunteers on that day were Edward and Therese Barts, Beth Chambers, Ginger Golden, Miriam Joseph, Babs Langner, Judy Salas, and Christine Tade. Special thanks are due to the Albuquerque Museum staff, Beth Chambers, Polly Garner, Linda Garvin, Judy Jacobs, Sandra Liakus, Judy Salas, and Sam Thompson for their exceptional encouragement and their contributing needed supplies and gear.

Our volunteers are now looking forward to the Corrales Harvest Festival on the last weekend in September when the SCMG will be distributing children's growing kits at the Casa museum. We will welcome any and all SCMGs to join us in celebrating the historic New Spain harvest at the open house festivities at the Casa. This activity is a pleasant, non-strenuous way to earn volunteer hours at the impending end of the SCMG fiscal year. Please contact Therese Barts (see your SCMG roster for contact information) to include your name on the "interested participants" list.



Therese Barts, SCMG, and Christine Tade, SCMG Intern, having fun at Heritage Day

Photo: Carol Lopez, ABQ Museum

Board Notes

The SCMG Board met on Tuesday, May 20 at the Extension offices in Bernalillo. A synopsis of the meeting follows:

- Revisions to SCMG financial policy for budgeting, checks, and petty cash were approved.
- The new bookshelves in the Casita have been anchored to the wall, and Linda Shaughnessy has volunteered to be the SCMG librarian.
- Job description responsibilities related to reporting and archiving were discussed.
- Activities at the state Master Gardener Conference in Los Alamos July 24-26 were discussed.
- The need for project chairs to provide project descriptions with photos in a revised format for the new website was discussed.
- A new opportunity for a community garden in Corrales was presented for discussion.
- Hotline (Casita, remote, and email) activities were discussed.
- Committee reports presented included:
 - Fund Raising
 - Publicity
 - Web
 - Facebook
- Project reports included:
 - Progress on the New Beginnings Garden move to OLOS/Bernalillo Community Garden
 - Heritage Day at Casa San Ysidro (written report by T. Barts)



Brown Bag Dates and Intern/Mentor Events

May
June-August

Plant ID for the Corrales Garden Tour Date: TBD
Attend a board meeting

In Memory of Linda Jo Bresenham

SCMG Master Gardener Nancy Bresenham and husband Jack Bresenham stand in front of a beautiful Gambel Oak tree planted on May 13th at the Rio Rancho WaterWise garden in memory of their daughter Linda Jo Bresenham. Nancy and Jack's friends participated in the tree planting ceremony that was officiated by Jay Hart, Rio Rancho Parks and Recreation.



Photo: Sandra Liakus



First Detector Training

Wednesday June 04

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: **Udall Building 2nd floor conference room, 725 Camino Lejo, Santa Fe**

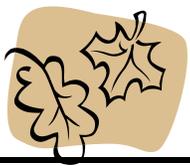
Lunch break in Botanical Garden

Santa Fe Botanical Garden and the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service is offering First Detector Training and Continuing Education courses for Master Gardeners, Pest Control Operators, Producers and the general public. This training is part of the National Plant Diagnostic Network's education and training program. Participants who attend the training will become "Certified First Detectors" and be part of a national registry of trained first detectors. Certified First Detectors will have the opportunity to participate in continuing education courses on high risk / exotic weed and arthropod pests.

More information, agenda, and details [here >](#)

Registration fee includes the all day workshop, admission to the Botanical Garden at Museum Hill, refreshments, and lunch. If you have any questions about the workshop, please contact Cristina Salvador, Collections Manager, cristina@santafebotanicalgarden.org or 471-9103.

[Or click here](#)



SCMG June 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>SCMG Board Meetings Third Tuesday of month, Sandoval County Extension Office, 2:00-3:00pm</p>	<p>Click on links for details</p> <p>Telephone Hotline Daily 9:00am-12:00, 1:00-4:00pm in Casa</p>		 <p>MASTER GARDENER Sandoval County</p>			
<p>1 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	2	<p>3 -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>	<p>4 -First Detector Training 8:30am</p>	<p>5 -WaterWise Garden 9:00-11:00 -New Beginnings 10:00am -Seed2Need 5:00-7:00pm</p>	6	<p>7 -Butterfly event at The Great Outdoors Nursery & Botanical Gardens -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>
<p>8 -Corrales Garden Tour -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	9	<p>10 -Home composting basics -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>	<p>11 -DeLavy House/ Sandoval County Historical Soc 9:00am</p>	<p>12 -Seed2Need 5:00-7:00pm -New Beginnings 10:00am</p>	13	<p>14 -Lavender Festival at Idalia Rd Marketplace -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>
<p>15 Newsletter Articles DUE! -Lavender Festival at Idalia Rd Marketplace -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	16	<p>17 -SCMG Board 2:00pm -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>	18	<p>19 -WaterWise Garden 9:00-11:00 -New Beginnings 10:00am -WaterWise Garden Walk & Talk 6:30-8:30pm -Seed2Need 5:00-7:00pm</p>	20	<p>21 -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>
<p>22 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	23	<p>24 -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>	25	<p>26 -New Beginnings 10:00am -Seed2Need 5:00-7:00pm</p>	27	<p>28 -Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>
<p>29 -Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	30					



SCMG July 2014



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<p>13</p> <p>-Corrales Growers Market 9:00am-4:00pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Newsletter Articles DUE!</p> <p>-SCMG Board 2:00pm</p> <p>-Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>-WaterWise Garden 9:00-11:00</p> <p>-New Beginnings 10:00am</p> <p>-Seed2Need 5:00-7:00pm</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>-Seed2Need 7:00-9:00am</p>
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