



# 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

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

## March 2013

### Coordinator's Corner

Dear Master Gardeners,

March is a busy month for Master Gardeners. Not only are we busy pruning and spraying dormant oil on our own fruit trees and conifers, we are gearing up for our Master Gardener 2013 project work. The official yearly volunteer sign-up for projects and committee volunteers is April 16th at the last training session, but some of the volunteer projects are already starting work sessions in March. Don't forget to attend the New Mexico Xeriscape Expo at the Fairgrounds in Albuquerque on March 2nd -3rd. There will be hundreds of vendor ex-

hibits, free seminars, and our own SCMG volunteers will be there to give garden advice to the public and promote our organization. We will have our own booth this year with project displays. Several of our demonstration gardens have regular maintenance sessions scheduled in March, including the Rio Rancho WaterWise Garden "March Madness" clean-up and irrigation preparation scheduled for the 14th. Please check out the Newsletter for the project schedule and event calendar. For more detail on our projects refer to the SCMG Web site for a listing of the projects, descriptions and contact

information. A seed starting Workshop in Corrales followed by a hands-on seed starting volunteer session for the Seed2Need gardens are in the works for mid to late March. The details will be announced soon. If you need help in starting a project or need resources for your current project, please contact me so I can schedule your requests at the upcoming board meetings. Project Reports are a regular agenda item at the Board meetings, and the Board wants to support your ideas and efforts on behalf of SCMG.

**Sandy Liakus,**  
SCMG Coordinator

### Gina's Journal

Hello Master Gardeners and Interns!

Another exciting month is upon us, with the Xeriscape Conference and Expo in Albuquerque (Feb. 28 - March 3), Kids, Kows, and More in Rio Rancho (March 4 and 5), two different Marketing Workshops for local producers or soon-to-be producers (March 4 and 11), an Advanced Class on Pest Management on March 6, a Vineyard Management

Workshop on March 20, and a Composting and Introduction to Herbs Workshop on March 26. And our wonderful MG veterans are continuing with Gardening with the Masters and the South West Homeowner Gardening Series. In addition, SCMG Hot Line hours begin this month, another sign that spring is on the way! If you haven't signed up already and are hoping for a particular day and time, be sure to sign up early so that you have your

pick of the litter. Also, as a reminder to the veterans, be sure to get in your 10 hours of education, with 4 hours from either a training class or an advanced class. So as you can see, this month is sure to be busy, so take a deep breath, mark your calendars, and enjoy the ride!

**Gina Garland**  
Agriculture and Horticulture  
Extension Agent

### SCMG Newsletter Submissions

**Deadline:  
20th of each month**

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



**Southwest  
Yard & Garden  
Plant Selector**

**NMSU  
Extension  
Cooperative  
Service**

## Southwest Yard & Garden Plant Selector

Whether you're planning a new garden or refreshing an established one, Southwest Yard and Garden Plant Advisor is a great tool to use to get a number of good selections for various garden conditions. The large database highlights plants for xeriscaping, as well as helpful tips and advice for landscaping in New Mexico. One can search the database with inputs for water usage, shade level and plant form to find the plant material that suits your needs. Have fun designing your garden with help from [Southwest Yard & Garden Plant Advisor](#).

The screenshot shows the website interface for the Southwest Yard and Garden Plant Advisor. It includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'Main Page', 'Advanced Search', and 'Desert Blooms web site'. The main content area has a header with the New Mexico State University logo and a breadcrumb trail. Below the header is a welcome message and a search bar. A featured plant section displays a photo of a yucca plant and a brief description. To the right is a search database section with dropdown menus for 'Water usage', 'Shade level', and 'Plant form', along with a 'Perform search' button.

## 18th Annual Water Conservation Conference & Expo



**Conference:** February 28 - March 1, 2013

Albuquerque Marriott Pyramid North, 5151 San Francisco Rd. NE,

Conference hosted by The Xeriscape Council of New Mexico and Arid Lands LID.

**Expo:** March 2 - March 3, 2013

Creative Arts Building at State Fair Grounds, 300 San Pedro NE

For times and Conference and Expo details, visit: [The Xeriscape Council of New Mexico](#)



## Rose Notes from Maryellen Sherman, MG



Hello fellow gardeners.

Even though it seems really nice here in Rio Rancho, it is still too early to think about pushing the mulch away from your roses. Remember twice in the past week Albuquerque had snow. This is the time of year where the weather just keeps changing.

Now is a good time to check your irrigation drip lines for leaks or clogged emitters. If your emitters

are clogged just soak the tops in vinegar water or replace them.

**DO NOT PRUNE** this month! If your roses should start to really green up you might have to prune while you can still see the canes, but put off pruning as long as you can.

Carol Marr has scheduled a rose pruning demonstration in the Rose Garden at the Medaowlark Senior Center on April 4 at 1:15 p.m. You will hear more

about the rose pruning at a later date from Carol. I will be the presenter.

You can increase watering to once every two weeks, but check the soil for moisture frequently, so the soil doesn't completely dry out.

Smile—spring is getting closer!

If you have a question or comment you would like to pass on feel free to contact Maryellen Sherman.



## Southwest Homeowner Gardening Classes Continue in March

### Southwest Homeowner Gardening Classes

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

- March 7: **Principles of Xeriscaping**- Darlene Bassett, Cathryne Richards, and Denise Davis
- March 14: **Gardening in Drought Conditions**- John Zarola
- March 21: **Composting**- Pat and Stephanie Barger
- March 28: **Herbs**- Leah Vesely

**Location:** Extension Office, 711 Camino del Pueblo Bernalillo, NM

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Call (505) 867-2582 to reserve your seat!

Mail Check Payable to:

Sandoval County Master Gardeners, P.O. Box 400 Bernalillo, NM 87004



## CONNECTING Local Food Producers With Local Markets

*FREE and open to the public for those who either currently sell their produce or want to begin.*

**Albuquerque**, March 4, 2013, 6-8:30 pm at Bernalillo Co Extension Office, 1510 Menaul

**Rio Rancho**, Monday, March 11, 2013, 1:00 pm at Loma Colorado Library, 755 Loma Colorado Dr NE

[PDF flyer](#)     [SCMG Upcoming Events page](#)

## Kids & Kows & More—Could Use Your Help



### Kids & Kows & More

Santa Ana Star Center,  
Rio Rancho  
Monday, March 4, 2013  
Tuesday, March 5, 2013

Sandoval County Extension hosts Kids, Kows and More (KK&M), a school program that focuses on how everyday agricultural products are made. The Southwest Dairy Farmers, New Mexico State University and Texas A&M University are the sponsors.

The Extension service would appreciate SCMG Volunteer help with the KK&M Program at Santa Ana Star Center and with stuffing goody bags for the 5th graders.

Filling Bags – Hour for Hour Extension Office Support SCMG Hours Thursday Afternoon, February 28, 2013, 1:00 p.m. or Friday Morning, February 29th, 8:30 a.m.

Help with Sandoval County Agents Needed at

Santa Ana Star Center - Hour for Hour SCMG (Teach, present, or help)

Volunteers for the program will meet at Santa Ana Star Center at 8:30 a.m. for orientation.

This year the program is inside! Lunch will be provided.

Please contact Elizabeth Hackett at: [sandoval@nmsu.edu](mailto:sandoval@nmsu.edu) or call 867-2582, if you can volunteer filling bags or at the program.

## Master Composter Training for 2013



Applications are now being accepted for the Bernalillo County Extension Master Composter training for 2013.

The 30 hour program will be presented on all Wednesday evenings and

Saturday mornings in March 2013 at the Bernalillo County Extension Office.

Application and complete program information are available at:

[www.nmcomposters.org](http://www.nmcomposters.org)

For more information, contact: John Zarola, Outreach Coordinator, Bernalillo County Extension Master Composters Assn.

## March Madness Workday ~ Rio Rancho WaterWise Garden



Photo: Clare Trevor

Come and join us for "**Leaf Lunacy and Litter Cleanup**" on March 14, 2013 from 8:00-11:00AM. This will be our first workday of the year at the garden. Bring gloves, a hat, sunscreen, water, and if you have a rake and/or a

rope-handled tub or other large hauling carryall, that would be great. We'll have wheelbarrows available. This will be a workday to do some early spring cleanup in preparation for our "**Irrigation Insanity**" workdays in April and

"**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.

## 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.

### **March 6, 2013, 9:00 a.m. Wildlife/Pest Control**

*Dr. Sam Smallidge, Extension Wildlife Specialist and Assistant Professor at NMSU*

### **April 11, 2013, 9:00 a.m. Turf Grass Maintenance**

*Dr. Bernd Leinauer, Extension Turfgrass Specialist and Professor at NMSU*

### **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*

## 2013 Workshop Schedule

### **March 14, 2013, 1:00 p.m. Seed Starting Workshop @ at the Corrales Community Ctr., 500 Jones Rd, Corrales, NM 87048**

*Judy Jacobs, Veteran Sandoval County Master Gardener*

Space is limited, so please sign up in advance by either [emailing Gina](#) or calling the office at 867-2582.

### **March 20, 2013, 9:00 a.m. Vineyard Pruning and Maintenance @ Milagro Winery**

*Rex Franklin, Veteran Sandoval County Master Gardener*

### **March 26, 2013, 9:00 a.m. Composting and Vermicomposting & Herbs @ Extension Office**

*Pat Barger and Stephanie Barger, Veteran Sandoval County Master Gardeners and Bernalillo County Master Composters, and Leah Vesely, Veteran Sandoval Master Gardener*

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## 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)

Thank you to all who  
contributed news items,  
articles and volunteer  
information for the  
SCMG Newsletter

SCMG Newsletter  
Submissions

Deadline:  
20th of each month

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



Sandoval County

**March 5**

### Gardening with the Masters

"**Introduction to Bee Keeping**" Speaker: Chris Behl  
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

**Thursdays**

**10:00 - 11:30 a.m.**

### Southwest Homeowner Gardening Classes

March 7: "**Principles of Xeriscaping**"- Darlene Bassett, Cathryne Richards,  
and Denise Davis

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Mail Check Payable to:

Sandoval County Master Gardeners, P.O. Box 400 Bernalillo, NM 87004

**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

### WEEKLY

**1st & 3rd  
Thursday**

### Rio Rancho WaterWise Garden—950 Pinetree Rd., Rio Rancho

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

**March 6**

### DeLavy House Garden Maintenance

Sandoval County Historical Society, Edmund Rd., Bernalillo  
1st Wednesday of each month. Call for fall/winter hours.  
Contact: Charlotte Wilson

**March 14**

### Rio Rancho WaterWise Garden—"Leaf Lunacy and Litter Cleanup"

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Contact: Sue Trevor

**March 19**

### SCMG Board Meeting

Tuesday, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (prior to Training Class)  
711 Camino del Pueblo (Old County Courthouse) 1st Floor

**Sandoval County Master Gardener Program is on Facebook.**

<https://www.facebook.com/SCMasterGardeners> — or click image.

Do you have photos of SCMG projects and events? Contact Gina  
Garland to have them posted to our Facebook page. [ggarland@nmsu.edu](mailto:ggarland@nmsu.edu)

