



Sandoval County Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>



Sandoval County

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

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SCMG Newsletter Submissions
Deadline: 21st each mo.

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

Editor:
Kate Shadock

February 2019

President's Corner

Twenty-eight interns started SCMG training in January at the County Administration Bldg. Interns and mentor teams meet from 12:30 to 1:30 to go over any issues and network with other teams. Lecture presentations begin at 1:30. Because of limited classroom space we ask veterans to arrive early to make sure we have space available for you.

This month's Gardening with the Master's classes at the Meadowlark Senior Center in Rio Rancho are **Growing Orchids** on 12th at 7:00pm. On Thursday the 28th at 1:30pm Sam Thompson shares how to successfully grow **Tomatoes**. Check the monthly calendar on the website for upcoming programs.

We have two new projects one involving cancer patients at UNM and Sandoval County Senior Volunteers this year.

Keep these in mind as great volunteer activities to get your hours in.

HEADS UP: The Board of Directors meeting has been changed to the 3rd Tuesday at 10:00am at the Health Commons Bldg. B at the County Administration complex. Meetings are open to the membership, please feel free to join us.

~ Julia

Lynda's Corner

It's a busy month for all things plant related: Master Gardener training is in full swing.

The **Organic Conference**, the largest of its kind in the Southwest is on February 15 and 16 at the Hotel Albuquerque.

The Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance is hosting the second **Seed Summit** and has offered \$100 off the registration fee of \$250 to all Master Gardeners, seed librarians and farmers.

This amazing networking and educational event happens February 22 and 23 at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe.

If you love seeds, want to learn more, or contribute to a resilient regional seed system, this is the event for you!

The annual SCMG plant sale will be held in April. If you grow seeds indoors for your garden, plant a few extra to donate to the plant sale.

Plants will be sold at the Master Gardener training graduation ceremony on April 30, also at the Corrales Grower's Market on April 28 and used for projects.

Other exciting news: Master Gardeners will be planning, designing, and constructing a demonstration garden in front of the Sandoval Health Commons focusing on edible and pollinator plants.

Our first planning meeting is February 8 at 2:00 at the Health Commons meeting room.

We will also be planting a kitchen garden using Ollas as the primary watering system as Casa San Ysidro in Corrales.

So much happening! If you want to more, contact me at lgarvin@nmsu.edu

~ Lynda



Welcome, 2019 Interns!

By Dudley Vines, SCMG

On Tuesday, January 15 the 2019 SCMG class met for orientation. This is the first time classes are being held at the Sandoval County Administration building at NM 528 and Idalia Road.



This year, starting at 12:30 an SCMG project will give a presentation about what they do and how volunteers can help. Lecture portion of the class is from 1:30 to 5:00. Mentors meet with interns in between the project presentation and class. We have twenty-eight interns starting the class, and many veteran mentors are there to guide them along.

The 2019 class will no doubt contribute greatly to SCMG in the future. The end-of-class celebration will be held April 30th,

and all SCMGs are invited to meet these fine folks (details to be announced). Membership will be bestowed at our annual meeting in the fall, after the interns have fulfilled their volunteer hour requirement. Space is more restricted than we had anticipated in the 2nd floor training room, with only a few seats available for veterans to attend classes for continuing education credit. Come early when you want to sit in on a class.



Yes! There really is a "Free Lunch"!

Thanks to the Sandoval County Senior Services Department, a "free lunch" is provided to the new Intern class and their Mentors each week. Class attendees have the opportunity to view the menu and **sign-up** for the free lunch, which is served promptly at noon before each class.

A new menu is posted each month on the Sandoval County website, so participants can review what is being served. A signup sheet is the only requirement needed to partake in these tasty dishes - next week is Frito Pie - YUM!

Many heartfelt thanks to Sandoval County Senior Services and our go to person (and coordinator) - Megan

Beneficial of the Month

Big-eyed bugs

(Order: Hemiptera; Family: Geocoris species)

Small, inconspicuous insects (approximately 5 mm long) that are very common in both garden and agricultural settings. Both adults and immatures ('nymphs') are readily identified by their broad head with large eyes projecting from the sides; nymphs are similar in shape to adults but are smaller and lack fully functional wings. Adults are usually brown or reddish in color and the nymphs a paler brown/grey. As true bugs, all stages have piercing mouthparts and feed by sucking the liquid contents from their prey (insect eggs, aphids, small moth larvae, etc.).

Beneficial of the Month material courtesy of NMSU ACES:

[Pocket Guide to the Beneficial Insects of New Mexico](#)



Adult Big Eye Bug

Southwest Plant of the Month

Blue star

Amsonia spp.

Plant Form	Flower
Plant Size	2' x 1'
Plant Type	Perennial
Water Usage	Low
Sunlight	Sun, Partial Shade
Colors	Blue, White

Physical Description: Mounds of willowy leaves and wiry stems topped by star-shaped, white to light blue flowers in spring. Can spread by root stolons.

Care and Maintenance: Avoid overwatering. Dies back to hardy roots in winter. Difficult to locate seed or plant source.

Gardener's notes: Several attractive native species, including *A. longiflora*, *A. palmeri*, *A. ciliata* and sand-loving *A. arenaria*.

Southwest Plant of the Month material courtesy of NMSU ACES

<http://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/plantadvisor/>



NMSU receives NSF grant to work on adaptive landscape irrigation using saline water

Date: 01/07/2019

*Writer: **Melissa R. Rutter** mrrutter@nmsu.edu*

New Mexico State University's Extension Turfgrass Specialist Bernd Leinauer and his team in cooperation with the Colorado School of Mines have received a grant of \$750,000 from the National Science Foundation to work on making landscape irrigation scheduling technology more user friendly, particularly when it comes to using it in conjunction with saline, non-potable water. [Read Entire Article...](#)

Calling all "Foodie" Veteran SCMG's!

Julia Runyan and Charlene Spiegel generally head up the "hospitality" segment of our Intern training class by managing breaks. This includes starting the coffee pot, setting up the break room with snacks, and cleaning up and storing everything after the last break (usually no later than 3:30pm). All of the break room items are now conveniently kept in the SCMG office storage room, so managing this effort has been greatly streamlined.

These breaks are an important part of Intern training, as they allow the Interns and veterans alike to socialize with each other while enjoying everyone's favorite past time – eating!

To ensure that we continue to provide this service, we are requesting the assistance of several volunteers (one or two each week) to assist with these duties. Below are the class dates beginning in February – so pick one when you can be available from 1:30pm (start the coffee pot) until 4:00 (clean up after 3:30 break).

Please contact Charlene Spiegel or Julia Runyan if you are able to assist. And of course, homemade snacks or goodies contributed by our membership are always WELCOME!