



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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NMSU and the U.S.
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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

January 2020

Lynda's Corner

I don't know about you, but with every news story and Facebook posting I often feel overwhelmed and saddened by the state of our planet. Fires in Australia, oil spills in the Gulf and along pipelines, the rapid decline and extinction of species, super storms, and drought.

I've been thinking a lot about what positive actions I can take as a citizen of planet Earth to have an impact locally and globally. I just finished reading "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren. Jahren is a geobiologist whose research has given us an eye opening and awe inspiring look into the magic and persistence of seeds and plants in general. In her epilogue she tells us as consumers a tree is cut down in our name each year. Her request is for each of us to plant at least one tree a year. She encourages us to check our newly planted tree daily, observing its progress and deepening our connection to it. It's a simple act with a big ripple effect.

She recommends oak species that are slow growing but hardy. Along these lines I am also committed to completing a project I visualized many years ago, of developing a fact sheet on the best 5 trees for different areas of the County – the Rio Grande corridor/bosque, the sand hills, Placitas, Cuba, and Jemez.

I am asking for your assistance and will be sending out an email in January to develop the list of tree species for each area based on your successes and experiences. The second Master Gardener class on January 21st will focus on how our food choices impact the environment and what actions we can take to contribute to a healthier and happier future.

Happy New Year!

BUR OAK – Photo from Arbor Day Blog



From Seeds to Mastery!

By: Suzanne Bollenbach, SCMG 2018 Education Committee

Happy New Year, everyone! Can you believe its 2020? A new decade, in an almost new century.

I look forward to every new year and the changes it might bring and the challenge to make it better than the last. I'm counting down to those noticeably longer days. The one thing that doesn't change at my house is the mountain of new seed catalogs that start to arrive. I am in heaven for weeks perusing each one, I don't want to miss anything. Sticky notes flag the pages in them all. Now what to do with all those new varieties and the venerable heirlooms you've flagged? It's time to get those seeds and plan your 2020 gardens.



Nowhere better to learn and teach others how to grow their favorites, whether it be vegetables, trees or your favorite perennials or annual's than from the Masters. Of course, I mean The Sandoval County Master Gardeners. The Sandoval County Master Gardener's 2020 classes start in January and we are pleased to have a full class. If you didn't make this year's classes, keep your eyes, and ears open for the 2021 class registration.

This year we are excited to offer a range of class from some of the best instructors the state has to offer. Soil, water climate, weeds, plant pathology, entomology and much more will be covered in this year's classes. REMEMBER: these classes are also open to our Veteran Sandoval County Master Gardeners and count as education hours. It may be that a class was not offered when you were an intern or maybe there is a different instructor and may have new information to offer. These classes can also be a great refresher.

I'm looking forward to meeting the new Interns and hope to also see some familiar faces!

Classes: January 14th thru April 21st.

Time: 12:30 – 4:30 pm

1500 Idalia Rd

Bernalillo, NM



Continuing Education Classes, 2020

March - April Schedule FREE & OPEN to the public

DATE	TOPIC	DESCRIPTION	PRESENTER	TIME	LOCATION
Tues Mar 10	Newbies' Introduction to Gardening in New Mexico	Successful gardening in central New Mexico is a different ball game from most other parts of the U.S. We will discuss soil, sun, water, wind, rain, and many additional factors that make gardening in NM unique and rewarding. Also, we will cover plant selection & location so that you have the right plant in the right place to maximize success.	Gilbert Galvin <i>SCMG</i>	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Meadowlark Senior Center * <i>Gardening with the Masters</i>
Thurs Mar 26	How to Overcome the Challenge of Growing Tomatoes in Sandoval County	Heat, wind, & disease bearing insects are some of the major challenges faced by tomato growers in Sandoval County. Discover ways to minimize their impact by selecting the best varieties of tomatoes to grow here and using row cover and shade cloth.	Sam Thompson <i>SCMG</i>	1:30 - 3:00 pm	Meadowlark Senior Center * <i>4 Seasons Gardening</i>
Tues Apr 14	I Like Chiles!	The very knowledgeable Dr. Smith will share with you the varieties of chiles that he grows. While he loves these, he will also talk about the ones that he <i>wants</i> to grow! Come find out about hot chiles, extremely hot chiles, and beautiful, ornamental chile plants that add a splash of vibrant color to your landscape, both indoor and outdoor.	Dr. Curtis Smith <i>NMSU Horticulture Specialist (Retired)</i>	7:00 - 8:30 pm	Meadowlark Senior Center * <i>Gardening with the Masters</i>
Thurs Apr 23	The Cottage Garden	In this class, concepts from the British cottage garden will be tweaked and enhanced so that they may be used for our high desert gardening.	Michael Reed <i>Permaculture Instr. Bernalillo Co. Extn. Master Composter</i>	1:30 - 3:00 pm	Meadowlark Senior Center * <i>4 Seasons Gardening</i>

*Meadowlark Senior Center, 4330 Meadowlark Ln SE, Rio Rancho. Tel. (505) 891-5018

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What is “Gardening With The Masters”?

By: Kate Shadock, SCMG 2018 Editor

I’m speaking with Sharon Walsh, SCMG 2016, to learn more about the “Gardening With The Masters” program.

Sharon, I know you have many titles with the different hats you wear. What is your title for this program?

I am the coordinator. I get people lined up to make presentations. I also let Meadowlark know what the presentations are going to be ahead of time. That is a standard requirement for using their space.

Do you know how did this program come into existence or when it first started?

I know it’s been going since 2013, not sure when it officially started. This is an educational outreach service for the community by the Sandoval County Master Gardeners (SCMG).

It’s open to everyone to attend the classes. Is there any restriction on who can come to the sessions?

We welcome everyone. There are no restrictions, not even age restrictions for people to attend. It is an educational outreach for the community.

How is class content selected?

We time the content with the seasons. For example, indoor plants, hardscapes and pruning during the winter, Garden preparation and vegetable growing in the spring, weeds and plant diseases in the summer and managing the harvest in the fall. Then I recruit presenters around the general topics.

Can the public request topics for sessions? How would they make such a request?

Requests and suggestions are welcome Our favorites are when people recommend a topic and volunteer to present on that topic. The best way is to contact the [County Extension office](#) and submit a request.

What is your best advice to folks considering taking these classes?

Come to a few of the classes. There is no obligation. These classes are designed to be very applicable to anyone’s home garden. There are different topics presented twice a month, year-round. On Tuesday evening 7:00 to 8:30 and Thursday afternoon at 1:30 to 3:00. Schedule is on [SCMG website](#).

What’s your best advice to Master Gardeners and Interns about this program?

*I’m always recruiting people to give presentations. It’s a great way to learn something new, hone your skills in Public Speaking, share your knowledge **and** its credit hours for community outreach and education hours for attendees. As a presenter there are administrative hours, outreach and education hours.*

“We have several members and interns with expertise that would be valuable to the program and to the community. This is a great opportunity for them to be involved for a specific amount of time. Lifelong learners are proven to be healthier and happier people.”

Southwest Plant of the Month

American aloe, Amole plant *Manfreda maculosa*

Plant Form Flower

Plant Size 2' x 1'

Plant Type Perennial

Water Usage Low

Sunlight Sun, Partial Shade

Colors Green, Purple, Red, White

Physical Description Succulent, light green leaf blades with reddish brown spots, rest on the ground in basal rosettes. Erect flowering stalks rise to bear scapes of large, bulbous based, trumpet-like, flowers. The greenish or cream colored blossoms fade to rusty red-purple with the anthers extended well beyond the flower tube on red filaments. Spreads slowly from root offshoots or "pups"

Care and Maintenance Freezes to the ground in winter. Give protection for quick recovery in spring from the fleshy roots.

Gardener's notes One of several south Texas/Mexican species, some of which are endangered by land clearing and thoughtless collecting. Not a true Aloe but related to Agaves. An unusual, colorful plant worthy of trying in desert gardens. Will accept container cultivation.



Manfreda maculosa

Information from: desertblooms.nmsu.edu/

Southwest Beneficial Insect of the Month

Beneficial flies (Order: Diptera)

(ii) Tachinid flies (Family: Tachinidae)

The flies in this family are parasitoids, i.e., the females lay their eggs on or in the bodies of other insects, and when the fly larvae hatch, they gradually consume the host until it dies, and the fly larvae pupate. Many tachinids attack larval moths and butterflies, although some species parasitize other insect groups (e.g., cucumber beetles). The adults often resemble large houseflies but have a bristlier abdomen. They sustain themselves on nectar and pollen, and so are often found on flowers during the summer.



Adult tachinid flies. Note bristly abdomen.



Mature tachinid larva emerging from dead host (cucumber beetle) prior to pupating.

Information from: <https://aces.nmsu.edu/pubs/insects/welcome>