



# Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>

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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Agriculture cooperating.

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Editor:  
Kate Shadock

September 2020

## Lynda's Corner

Dear Gardening Community,



*Lynda at Water Wise Garden*

On September 13, it will be my 7<sup>th</sup> year anniversary as the Agent managing the Sandoval Extension Master Gardener program. I want to thank you for your service, dedication, passion, and perseverance. Sometimes it has been a difficult process of program change. Mostly it has been a valuable learning experience for us delving into the science, art, and practice of sustainable gardening in the high desert.

Due to budget cuts on the Federal, State, and County level, NMSU is transferring me to Valencia County to fill a two-agent vacancy. I will be the Interim County Program Director and Agriculture Agent. My new position in Valencia County begins on September 1<sup>st</sup>

Rest assured the Master Gardener leadership team has been working behind the scenes to ease the transition and meet the challenge. Moving forward, County Program Director Steve Lucero will oversee the Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Program, until the budget situation improves, and the agriculture agent position is filled. Although I am grateful for the new opportunities this position offers (research, engagement with producers, smaller Master Gardener program, ramping up my leadership role) I will miss you.

Thank you for our years of collaboration, learning, and service. It has been an honor and a pleasure to grow with you in this amazing program. My email and cell phone remains the same. Keep in touch and let me know how your garden grows.

Be well, be safe.

~Lynda

## From Barbara Boyd, Advisory Council Chair

It is with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to Lynda Garvin as she is leaving Sandoval County to become the Extension Agent for Valencia County. I am very happy for her as this is a promotion, a great opportunity, and she is certainly deserving of both. Valencia County’s gain is our loss. On the other hand, I will miss Lynda and I am sad that we will not have a horticulture/agriculture agent for some time due to this move coupled with budget constraints.

While none of us can really make up for that loss there is a great deal we can do.

During the last year we have undergone a reorganization of SEMG from a board to an advisory council. As it turns out this is a fortunate change as it focuses more efforts on committee work rather than bureaucratic structures.



2020 feels a lot like this – chaotic and messy!

Between the SEMG reorganization, COVID-19, and Lynda leaving it might look like it’s time to fold up the tent and go home. But it’s really time to make some lemonade out of these lemons. We have an opportunity to rethink how we have been doing things and look toward new innovations. We can use this time as an opportunity to look at our educational efforts differently – including intern training, continuing education for our members, and public education. We can determine how to keep our membership engaged and how to attract new members.

The committee structure and the volunteers serving on them are spending a lot of time on these issues and are dedicated to developing strategies that will see us through these times, safely and looking forward to a time we’re together again.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know by emailing me at [admin@sandovalmastergardeners.org](mailto:admin@sandovalmastergardeners.org)



Working together we can create new pathways for our members and our community

Photos: Bonnie L. Grant, Certified Urban Agriculturist and Landscaping Network

# Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners

## Year-end Wrap Up and Dues

It is hard to believe it is September already! How quickly the summer passed. Nights are cooling down and days are getting shorter. This is also the time of year we wrap up the projects, submit our volunteer and education hours, pay our dues, nominate, and vote for Council members, graduate interns, and have our annual meeting.

**PROJECTS:** Project chair reports are due to Gilbert Galvan and Sam Thompson by September 15 so they can complete the annual report to Sandoval County and NMSU. The project reporting form is on the website under forms.

**HOURS:** Even though we do not have to complete our hours this year due to Covid-19, it is important for us to continue to share with Sandoval County and NMSU the impact the Master Gardeners are making in our community. A time reporting form will be emailed to all SEMG members via SurveyMonkey. Please fill out the form with the totals for hours you put in during the 2019/2020 fiscal year (October 2019 - September 2020) for continuing education, outreach, and volunteer work. This form is due on September 20.



**DUES:** Veteran members (not the recently graduated interns) dues of \$26.30 for 2020/2021 are due by September 20. You can pay online at the SEMG website <http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/member-dues>. The extra \$1.30 covers the costs of the transaction via PayPal. Please do not send checks, as we are trying to limit physical contact. If you are unable to pay your dues caused by hardships due to the pandemic, please send an email to [admin@sandovalmastergardeners.org](mailto:admin@sandovalmastergardeners.org).

**NOMINATE:** We have three open positions to fill on the Advisory Council - Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. If you are interested in serving in any of these capacities, please email Linda Walsh, the chair of the nominating committee, at [lwalshnm@comcast.net](mailto:lwalshnm@comcast.net).

**VOTE:** We have three open positions to fill on the Advisory Council - Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. A separate email via SurveyMonkey will be sent to dues paying members on September 22. Responses will be due by October 22.

**INTERN GRADUATION:** The Education Committee and Communication Committee are working on something special for the Intern Graduation.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** The annual meeting will certainly look and feel different than years past. We will set up a Zoom meeting for all members to attend on October 24 at 3:00. One important agenda item is to thank Lynda Garvin for all she has done for the Sandoval Master Gardeners.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Linda Walsh – SEMG 2018**

The nominating committee is seeking nominations for three openings on the SEMG Advisory Council. They are for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer. There are all for a one-year term of office. This will be the first year for the Advisory Council to operate as such and because SEMG has undergone many changes in the past year, as we all have, the organization is looking for creative and new ways to bring the joys of gardening to the citizens of Sandoval County. We need your help to continue our good work. You will be joining a dedicated team of Committee Chairs and volunteers.

The duties of the Chair are: call and preside over meetings of the Advisory Council, prepare and distribute agendas developed with the Advisory Council, serve as the second signature on the bank account, and send communications to members regarding SEMG business with the help of the Communication Standing Committee.

Responsibilities of the Vice Chair are: in the absence of Chair shall assume the duties of Chair, edit the Zoom transcription to contain action items and decisions made, present the minutes to the Advisory Council and ensures it is on the website for membership access, and serve as chair of an ad-hoc Nomination Committee in the late summer/early fall to recruit new members to stand for election.

The Treasurer prepares the chapter annual budget, ensures that the bank account is reconciled monthly and fulfills all necessary fiduciary responsibilities. Accounting or bookkeeping experience and/or Quicken experience (not QuickBooks) would be preferred.

## Areas of Expertise – Be Bold & Build Our List

Kate Shaddock – SEMG - 2018

As Master Gardeners we know a lot!

Many of us have become statewide experts on different crops, techniques, and methodologies. As part of our Charter we interpret horticultural knowledge developed at New Mexico State and national land-grant universities. We share this information to solve problems for local gardeners and actively participate in establishing and maintaining gardens throughout the community. Our approach goes beyond simply repeating “what the experts wrote” with our neighbors and community. In the process of creating our own gardens, working with outreach projects, and taking Intern training many of us have developed specific areas of interest and expertise.

This specialized expertise is invaluable to the Master Gardener team when we get Helpline calls and queries. It is also fabulous to have this resource to tap into for our own gardens. Many of us know who in our Intern class to call for information about grapes, pruning fruit trees or planting tomatoes. Do we know who to contact for help with houseplants, cacti, or garden pests? Maybe not, so we start asking for leads to a person who can answer a question, or potentially even come by and look at our problem. All that searching is frustrating, time consuming and often doesn't help us find an answer. Imagine how that process feels to the gardeners and homeowners in our county!



A few years ago, we began compiling a list of Master Gardener who expressed expertise in specialized areas. Originally it was simply to serve the Helpline so we could support callers and drop in visitors without frequently going to Lynda Garvin. Now, with Lynda moving to a new county it's even more important that we update our list, drawing from seasoned MGs as well as recent Interns on the list.

When we took the Helpline training as Interns we were repeatedly told “You don't need to know everything. You need to be able to take down information and find the resources to help”. The same instruction goes for admitting to a level of expertise. Does this mean you know everything about that subject? No! It means you do know a lot, can answer simple queries, are willing to help, and know how and where to find answers to more complicated questions.

The time involved can add up over the winter as gardeners make plans for spring and summer in their own yards. Remember, any hours you spend supporting our Helpline and the community are recordable.

We will be sending a Survey Monkey poll out soon. Please be willing to step up to support this project.

*Photo: Douglas County (Kansas) Master Gardeners*

## GARDEN2TABLE RECIPE CORNER

Basil, green beans, sweet corn, apples, summer squash, tomatoes, eggplant, and the ubiquitous green chile (New Mexico's state fruit) are examples of the late summer harvest season in New Mexico. Whether we're harvesting our home gardens, Seed-to-Need gardens, or shopping at our local grower's market or grocery store, this produce is readily available to cook, bake, grill, or pickle into nutritious foods.

September has also been the month where we have often run into our Master Gardener friends at the State Fair, Corrales Grower's Market, or Wagner Farms; have volunteered together at the Corrales and Placitas garden tours or the Corrales Harvest Festival; and have welcomed the new Master Gardener graduates during a ceremony of shared food and celebration of a year's worth of volunteer experiences. This September, however, will be different as we continue to protect ourselves and our loved ones COVID-19 by cancelling or limiting our public activities. As we do so, there's still a bounty of produce to harvest, buy, share, and prepare.



Green chile is still available this summer at the Corrales Growers Market, Wagner and Sichler Farms, the Fruit Basket, Sprouts and other grocery stores. And I have seen some people donning masks over the last couple of weekends waiting for their chile to be roasted. However, if you prefer to pick up a bushel or bag to roast at home, there are many ways to do so. This website--<https://www.hatch-green-chile.com/pages/how-to-roast-hatch-chile>—provides instructions on how to roast chile using the oven, grill, stove, and even the microwave. You can also find many of our favorite New Mexico chile recipes on this site as well. I especially appreciated reading about the nutritional

value of green chile in an article published by Lovelace Hospital, since we eat so much of it throughout the year

(<https://lovelace.com/news/blog/new-mexico's-own-hatch-chile---healthy-hot-bite>).

And for those with apple trees or who have been blessed by a bag of fresh apples from a co-worker, friend, or neighbor, consider making a batch of slow cooker apple butter that can be eaten as a condiment or used to bake quick breads or cakes

(<https://www.southernliving.com/recipes/slow-cooker-apple-butter>). You can also substitute thinly sliced crisp apples for

crackers and add a slice of sharp cheddar for a healthy appetizer or snack. And if you're like me staring at a counter loaded with zucchini and have grown tired of the same zucchini bread recipe, try baking this moist vegan bread that uses avocado for the fat (<https://www.forksoverknives.com/recipes/vegan-breakfast/zecret-zucchini-bread/>); I promise you won't be disappointed.

For our Garden2Table September recipe, we selected **Summer Harvest Soup**, which can also be called *Late Summer in a Pot*.

This is the perfect soup to make after a trip to the growers' market or grocery store when you're tempted to buy every fresh vegetable in sight. It is easy to prepare and perfect for lunch or light dinner. The leftovers are even better the next day.

I would love to hear your feedback on our monthly recipes. They were selected based on readily available, seasonal produce, ease of preparation, and nutritional value. Please feel free to email me at [cassandantonio@aol.com](mailto:cassandantonio@aol.com) with your comments, questions, or suggestions.

Stay Safe and Healthy,

Cassandra D'Antonio

Chair, 2020 Garden2Table

## Garden2Table Recipe:

### SUMMER HARVEST SOUP

*This flavorful gluten-free and nutritious vegetable soup provides a quick, easy meal after harvesting your home garden or taking a trip to the growers' market.*

Prep Time 5 mins | Ready in 30 mins | Serves 4-6

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cups of tomatoes, peeled (optional) and diced
- 2 medium zucchini, diced
- 2 cloves of garlic, minced
- 4 cups of chicken or vegetable broth
- 4 ears of sweet corn, kernels cut off the cob
- ½ cup of fresh basil or other fresh herbs, chopped
- ¼ cup of grated parmesan cheese (optional)
- Salt & pepper



#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oil in a large pot over medium high heat. Add in chopped onion with a kiss of salt and sauté for 5 minutes or until onion is fragrant and translucent.
2. Stir in tomatoes, zucchini, and garlic with one more kiss of salt and some black pepper and cook for 5 minutes. Add in chicken broth and crank up the heat until it comes to a high simmer.
3. Reduce heat to a low simmer and add corn, basil, and parmesan cheese (optional). Cook for another 5 minutes or until the zucchini is fork tender and corn still has its fresh pop.
4. Serve and enjoy.

*\*Adapted from [CleanandDelicious.com](http://CleanandDelicious.com)*

Photo: [CleanandDelicious.com](http://CleanandDelicious.com)

## Southwest Plant of the Month

Blue mist flower, Bone set

*Conoclinium greggii* (*Eupatorium greggii*)



### General Information

**Plant Form** Flower **Plant Size** 2' x 3'

**Plant Type** Perennial **Water Usage** Low

**Sunlight** Sun, Partial Shade **Colors** Blue, Purple

**Physical Description:** Fuzzy blue-lavender masses of flowers on short stems above a thick green groundcovering foliage. Spreads by underground rhizomes.

**Care and Maintenance Needs:** Limited but regular water to avoid sparse foliage and to maintain blooming, especially in full sun. Potentially invasive if over watered.

**Gardener's Notes:** Accepts part shade and a variety of soils. Rhizominous roots can be divided for transplants in spring. Native from west Texas to SE Arizona. Look for cultivar "Boothill". Most other similar commercially available Mist or Floss flowers, including Eupatoriums and Ageratums, require more irrigation.

Information from: <https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/plantadvisor/>