



Sandoval Extension Master Gardener Newsletter

<http://sandovalmastergardeners.org/>



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

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**SEMG Newsletter
Submissions
Deadline: 25th each mo.**

Please submit news,
articles, events and
photographs to:
newsletter Sandoval
mastergardeners.org

Editor:
Kate Shaddock

Meg Buerkle Hunn, Advisory Council Chair

Where have you witnessed unselfish love? This question reverberated through the new movie ***A Case for Love***. The director, Brian Ide, decided to “examine the question of whether or not love, specifically unselfish love, is the solution to the extreme societal and political divide facing the world.” (www.acaseforlovemovie.com)

The feature length documentary interviewed famous and not-so-famous people about love, and nearly everyone in the film said that love is not a “Hallmark” sentimentality but action. Action that is often hard, sometimes radical, and is undertaken without expectation of a ‘reward.’ A former NFL player, diagnosed with ALS, continues to mentor, and support others. Foster parents adopt a trio of siblings, the youngest of whom has suffered such trauma that he is unable to say, ‘I love you.’ A retired marine and his spouse help other military personnel suffering from PTSD. And more...



Colored Heartwood – Photo by Meg Buerkle Hunn

Love is action. It is realizing we are ALL humans; all carrying our own troubles and joys; all in need of love. In the month where LOVE is highlighted (often with chocolates, roses, and wine), of course this post had to be about LOVE!

And this is also a gardening post! I submit that our actions as gardeners are also expressions of love. We love and tend the green growing things in our care by watering them, by providing nutrients, by offering shade from the intense NM sun, by pruning them, and more. And, as Robin Wall Kimmerer so gracefully puts it in her book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, our plants ‘love’ us back - they give us beauty, they provide us oxygen, they ‘sink’ carbon dioxide, they feed us. Plants bring us humans together around dinner tables, and they beckon us into gardens and parks and natural spaces to admire their peaceful beauty.

This month, as culture focuses on Cupid-red-heart love, let us dig deeper (literally, perhaps?) to plant a tree as a love-note to future generations. As the grocery stores peddle chocolate hearts, let us plan (and execute) delicious meals that bring people together and nourish their bodies and hearts. As the stores sell long stem roses by the dozens, let us nurture the natural beauty around us. Let us love unselfishly with our actions toward other humans - and our actions in the natural world.

Meg

February Garden Checklist

1. Have your garden soil tested to save money by knowing what is needed to optimize healthy plants
2. Check out sales at garden centers on bulbs, containers, and garden soil
3. Plan your spring garden and order seeds to have ready when it's time to plant
4. Shop rose catalogs and order your favorite for bare root delivery now through April
5. Consider adding a Persimmon tree to the garden

Source: Month-By-Month Gardening: Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico Jacqueline A. Soule

Public Training Opportunities

Ready, Set, Grow

R,S,G is working on their calendar line-up for 2024 with topics requested by webinar attendees, so please check back here!

At the time of editing this newsletter RSG had no new classes posted. Remember they have several previous classes available as recordings. *Check out the Ready, Set, Grow website for those links*

To register for a class go to: <https://desertblooms.nmsu.edu/grow.html>

Gardening with the Masters - Loma Colorado Library

Fourth Monday of the month. The class runs from 6:45 pm to 7:45 pm as the library closes at 8:00 p.m. These classes are not recorded. We encourage you to join us in person, so your individual questions get answered. New Gardening with the Masters classes will be announced here as they are created.



February 26 – Seed Starting for Spring Gardens – Suzanne Bollenbach

March 25 – Growing Chilies in Central NM – Curtis Smith

April 22 – Round Table – questions about Spring Gardening in NM

Pre-recorded Classes *Courtesy of COVID, we adapted some of our in-person classes to Zoom, recorded them and they are available at <https://sandovalmastergardeners.org/gardening-classes/gardening-with-the-masters-online/>*

Habitat Gardening Info Day

In collaboration with ABQ Backyard Refuge, **Habitat Gardening Info Day**, on **Saturday March 16, 9 am-Noon at Esther Bone Library and the Water Wise Garden**. We will have a talk about local pollinators with Elliott Gordon representing Xerces Society and a talk with Mikal Deese with some live birds. We also plan to have a few info tables set up outside and offer a bee hotel making station and a kid's activity (TBD). Updates will be posted here as they come in.

Rose Pruning Hands On Workshop Saturday 30 March 10:00 am at Corrales Public Library Rose Gardens.

This garden features a variety of roses to experience different pruning techniques. The workshop will be led by Master Gardener Kate Shaddock who shares decades of passion for (almost) every variety of rose available. This is a hands-on workshop and will continue until all the roses are ready for the season. Join us anytime this morning. Many hands make light work. Bring your gloves, rubbing alcohol and sharp pruners.

TREE NEW MEXICO CLASSES

Spring Tree Awareness Classes by Tree New Mexico

Cherry Hills Library

Second Saturday of each month, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
(February 10, March 9, April 13)

International District Library

Last Monday of each month, 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
(February 26, March 25, April 29)

[Registration is required. Please email education@treenm.org to register.](mailto:education@treenm.org)

Anatomy of a Tree

Would you trust a doctor to diagnose and treat you if they had never studied human anatomy? Trees are no different! Learn about the amazing and elegant design of trees and how they live and function so you can understand how to diagnose and care for them.



Photo: <https://arboristutah.com/>

Correct Tree Planting

Trees live in the same place for their entire lives. Learn how to find the right location and how to properly plant them to get them off to an ideal start in life. Tools, preparing the site, "mudding in," mulching, staking and more will be covered in this third installation of the Tree Awareness Series.

Tree Pruning and Maintenance

Understand why, when, and how to prune, what types of cuts to make, and when to call a Professional.



Two Keys To Successful Gardens In New Mexico

1. Know Your Garden Texture – Sand Silt Clay Or A Combo

Simple Jar Test Provides A Preliminary Soil Analysis



To learn how to do your own soil texture test – check out this helpful article.

<https://hgic.clemson.edu/factsheet/soil-texture-analysis-the-jar-test/>

2. Know What Your Garden Soil Needs

Soil testing helps us understand the soil environment in which our plants must survive. A complete understanding of the soil would include its physical, chemical, and biological properties. Physical properties relevant to plant production include soil texture, permeability, compaction, and water-holding capacity. Chemical properties include soil pH, salinity, and plant nutrients.

Soil biology determines how efficiently nutrients are released from organic matter, how well organic matter is decomposed, and a host of other properties conducive to plant growth. Management practices affect all three of these categories.

Soil testing provides a “snapshot” of what conditions were like at the time of sampling, and this allows farmers and homeowners to plan their management practices for the coming growing season. Common questions like “How much manure should I add?” or “What fertilizer should I use this year?” or “Do I need to lower my soil pH?” can be answered with a soil test. It is most common to focus on the chemical and physical properties of soil, but the biological aspects are gaining more attention. Several tests have been developed to assess some of these properties.

The USDA NRCS’s Soil Quality Assessment webpage (<https://soils.usda.gov/SQI/assessment/assessment.html>) offers some insight into measuring certain biological properties.

NOTE: This guide includes a list of locations to send your soil for testing.

Original Article : [Appropriate Analyses for New Mexico Soils](#)

Guide A-146

Robert Flynn

College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University

Author: Extension Agronomist, Department of Extension Plant Sciences, New Mexico State University

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Deliberate repeat from January



38th Annual THINK TREES: An Urban Tree Care Conference **Nuts and Bolts: Back to Basics**

Date: February 8th & 9th, 2024

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Albuquerque
1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102

To Register: <https://ttnm.regfox.com/ttnm-2024>

Regular Registration (\$235.00)
Students with Valid I.D. (\$80.00)

Please let us know which of the following CEUs you are interested in.*

1. New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA)
2. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)
3. American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)
4. Society of American Foresters (SAF)

See next page for bonus – FREE – Session on Saturday

BONUS – FREE Session on Saturday 10 February

Presented by Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott

**Famous horticultural researcher, author, and Washington State University
Cooperative Extension Specialist**

WHERE: ABQ Bio Park Botanic Garden
(In the atrium near the High Desert Rose Garden)

TIME: 9:00 – 12 pm

MEETING PLACE: Look for the THINK TREES sign near the Botanic Gardens entry gates at 9:00 am. We will be there distributing wristbands to registered attendees and guiding folks to the Atrium.

***SPECIAL THANKS TO THE ABQ BIO PARK for hosting this event and ALLOWING
FREE ENTRY TO THE BOTANIC GARDEN!***

TOPICS:

1. **Diagnostic Delusions** – Topics include why misdiagnoses occur, misperceptions about plant physiology, leading causes of premature plant death, and preventing problems.
2. **Bat Sheet Crazy** – How sheet mulches damage soil and tree health, deciding which mulch material to use, mulch myth-busters, and more!

Who's invited: While we are prioritizing volunteers and gardening group members for this event, we are happy to include others as space allows.

TO REGISTER: Go to Free Volunteer Program for 2024 Think Trees Conference - Feb 10, 2024 - EZregister

1. Click Register Now
2. Enter your contact details
3. Note: If you volunteer for an organization that's not listed, please enter it in the auxiliary prompt below
4. "Continue"
5. Select the option to send confirmation to yourself
6. Click "Checkout" (This is IMPORTANT!)

See Registration Page for more event details

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Many Hands Make Lightwork!

Often, during our busiest times it's easy to forget the difference Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners (SEMG) make to our members and our community. Because we operate under the direction of NMSU, New Mexico State University, we are given the opportunity each year to slow down and collect the data on how we fulfilled our mission to educate and serve our communities in sustainable high desert gardening.

It's always a wonderful surprise to see all the numbers for activity, education, impact, and outreach – our direct connection to our community. Numbers, alone, cannot tell the whole story of lives touched, friendships made, and calories burned – suffice it to say there are plenty of all three included in these numbers.

Number of volunteers Male 39; Female 139

Total number of existing volunteer members 143

New volunteers 35

Total number of volunteer hours reported 9372.2

Total number of continuing education hour reported 2955.4

Approximate hours of training received by new volunteers 2940

Number of direct contacts – two-way interactions with the public where there is an exchange of educational information. 3324

Number of events where SEMG interacted with the public 385

Number of site visits 65

Participants at live educational presentations 514

Number of educational presentations 27

SEMG unique website contacts 78,077 visitors

Social media unique followers 890 (FB only)

Total reach on newsletter 15,648

Total reach on newspapers and magazine articles 105,148

Food Security: New Mexico is ranked 6th in the nation for food insecurity and 3rd for food insecurity in children. (American Health Rankins, 8/2022)

SEMG, with many public volunteers, helps address food insecurity by growing and donating fruits and vegetables to local food pantries and delivering educational programs on home food production. SEMG actively grows produce for donation in four programs/locations. Seed2Need, Corrales Family Practice Garden, New Beginnings and Story Book Garden. The first two are intentional food production gardens; the last two offer food to clients and visitors.

These gardens donated 58,846 pounds of food from Seed2Need and The Corrales Family Practice Garden.

This produce was donated to 7 different organizations: St Felix Pantry, Casa Rosa, The Storehouse, Rio Grande Food Project, Road Runner Food Bank, Valle Del Sol Adult PSR (New Beginning Garden) and St. John's Episcopal Food Pantry

Eight classes related to home food production were offered and attended by 98 people.

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Time To Start Preparing For The SEMG Annual Plant Sale!

Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale

**Where: Corrales Growers Market
Corner of Jones Road & Corrales Road**

When: April 28th 9am-Noon ← or until we sell out



If you are growing plants that you would like to donate to our cause, we would love to have them.

Food, Flowers, Shrubs, small Trees and Houseplants (including cuttings) are all acceptable donations.

please email wittiee@netzero.net for more info



NM STATE Extension Master Gardener Sandoval County

The public is also welcome to donate plants to this sale with the proceeds going to Sandoval Extension Master Gardeners. In years past, we have appreciated donations of mature cacti, as well as young perennials, herbs and houseplants. They are all popular items and sell out quickly.

HELP WANTED #1

SEMG volunteers and Project Manager for the 2024 Placitas Elementary Garden project reboot.

Contact SEMG Outreach Committee co-chairs Penny Lundgren and Sandy Liakus for more information and to express your interest in educating and guiding children in gardening. SEMG volunteers will be working with Placitas PTO on this project.

HELP WANTED #2

Help Line Coverage We still have need of volunteers to cover the Helpline. This is online, from the comfort of your own home. Each week of coverage earns 10 hours of Outreach credit. For more information, contact Sandra Liakus via email or phone number in the member roster.

Reminder to Members & Interns

SEMG provides several opportunities for interns and members to visit public gardens with a guide, labs where garden research is undertaken and commercial locations that are not accessible to the public. Sometimes we even get to tour private gardens with the designer and/or homeowner to see and hear why they made the design decisions. These opportunities are most numerous in the early spring when both gardens and gardeners are resting.

To be current on these openings – keep an eye on our website, in the MEMBERS ONLY section called [PROJECTS AND VOLUNTEERS](#). Some of these sessions are initially available only to Interns; and will be open to members, if there are spaces left towards the end of the sign up period. Some are only available to members as part of their advanced training.

When you sign up to attend a session, we do expect you to be there. Since these sessions are not accessible to others, have limited space, and are customized to SEMG we want to respect our hosts time and commitment to our organization, by attending the sessions we've signed up for.

On this same link is an ever changing list of volunteer opportunities where we can give hours to in order to both fulfill our requirements for the year and to learn more about SEMG's support of Sandoval County residents.

