



## *Los Alamos Master Gardeners*

### Meeting Minutes

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Date: March 1, 2018  
Time: 7:00 p.m.  
Location: Mesa Public Library – White Rock Branch; White Rock, NM  
Meeting Facilitator: Carolyn Mangeng, President

#### REPORTS

##### *Minutes*

The February minutes were approved as written.

##### *Treasurer, Laurie Walker*

Balance: \$1,928.00  
DUES are due!!

##### *Extension Agent, Carlos Valdez*

###### Reminders:

- State Master Gardener Conference – url: <http://nmmgcon2018.org/>  
See *Attachment 1* for Flyer with additional information.
- Please submit Volunteer Hours.

##### *Demo Garden, Denise George*

- Supplemental watering has not started yet, but may need to occur in the next few weeks.
- Volunteer needed to be the Lead for the Ornamental Grass Garden. For more details, contact Denise.

##### *2018 Garden Tour, Marjorie Selden*

The garden write-ups are complete and the brochure is in progress.

##### *New Business*

###### LAMG and Social Media Presence

Several members are working on increasing LAMG's social media presence. More information forthcoming.

###### New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention

Laurie Hickson announced that this event will be open to the NM gardening organizations. See *Attachment 2* and the following url for additional information:

<http://www.newmexicogardenclubs.org/>

#### PROGRAM

Everyone enjoyed an interesting and inspirational presentation by David Salmon on "Gardening with Natives: Perennials, Succulents & Ornamental Grasses". See *Attachment 3* for the handout provided that includes information from the slide presentation and recommended plants. Additionally, see *Attachment 4* for an announcement of David's retail opportunity for 2018 in Santa Fe.

The meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.

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Attending: See Attachment 5.

NEXT MEETING:

Thursday, April 5, 2018

Location: Fuller Lodge, Nambe Room; Los Alamos, NM

Program: Demo Garden – Successes & Challenges, Kimberli Tanner

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberli Tanner, Secretary



# *Los Alamos Master Gardeners*

## Meeting Minutes

### ***Our MISSION***

- ❖ To promote knowledgeable, effective, and safe horticultural and gardening practices in furtherance on New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service; and
- ❖ To promote goodwill in our community by participating in horticultural and educational service projects.

### ***LAMG Officers***

<i>President</i>	*Carolyn Mangeng
<i>Vice President</i>	<b>Vacant</b>
<i>Treasurer</i>	Laurie Walker
<i>Secretary</i>	Kimberli Tanner
<i>Programs</i>	*Doris Thielemann
	*Carolyn Mangeng
<i>Publicity</i>	*Carolyn Mangeng
	*Doris Thielemann
<i>Web Page</i>	Cathe Ragsdale
<i>Design/Maintenance</i>	
* Temporarily filled. Seeking permanent volunteers.	
<i>LA County Extension Agent</i>	Carlos Valdez

### ***Demo Garden Leads***

Overall	Denise George
Hope Garden	
Blue/White Garden	Denise George
Dwarf Conifers Garden	Denise George
	Carolyn Mangeng
Butterfly Garden	Shari Foley
Penstemon Garden	Christine Hipp
	Michelle Berkebile
Groundcovers Garden	Pallis Papin
Roses	Randy Williams
	Dena Brent
Arbor Entrance Gardens	
East	<b>Vacant</b>
West	Laurie Walker
Shade Garden	Class of 2009
	Laurie Walker
Industrial Strength Garden	Denise George
Perennial Mound Garden	Nancy Nunnolley
Gramma Grass Circle Garden	Carlos Valdez
Cactus Garden	Pam Burke
Oasis Garden	John Huang
	Kimberli Tanner
Ornamental Grass Garden	<b>Vacant</b>
Crabapple Lane	Melissa Theesfeld
	Judy Magelssen
Artemesia Garden	Marjorie Selden
Upright Rock Garden	Marjorie Selden
Martha's Orchard	
Trees	Carlos Valdez
Currants	Lena Lopatina
Vegetables	Quinn Abfalterer
Pergola Gardens	Doris Thielemann
Sensory Gardens	
Sight	<b>Vacant</b>
Touch	<b>Vacant</b>
Taste	Denise George
Fragrance	Kimberli Tanner
Casita Gardens	
Lavendar Garden	Kimberli Tanner
East and South Lawn Borders	Kelly Shea
Herb Gardens	Kimberli Tanner
Raspberry/Vegetable Gardens	Quinn Abfalterer



# NEW MEXICO Master Gardeners 2018 Conference

*Hosted by Sandoval County Master Gardeners*

At the Marriott Pyramid Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico

## August 31 - September 2, 2018

*Sustainability, Don't Fight Mother Nature - Work with Her*

**Space is Limited**  
**Register Now to Reserve Your Spot**

For complete conference information and registration visit the website.

<http://nmmgcon2018.org/>



Social events will include a Friday night welcome reception, an optional Sunday dinner at a local vineyard, and Sunday morning tours to local gardens.

Well known experts such as Judith Phillips and Baker Morrow will teach seminars and lead hands-on classes. Topics covered, including growing zone changes and pollinators for year-round gardening are crucial during these times of climate change.



All About Discovery!  
**Cooperative Extension Service**  
College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is an engine for economic and community development in New Mexico, improving the lives of New Mexicans through academic, research, and extension programs. New Mexico State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and educator. NMSU and the US Department of Agriculture cooperating.

If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate in the classes, please call in advance (505) 867-2582.



Come Join Us in the  
**"Footsteps of the Three Sisters"**  
at the New Mexico Garden Clubs, Inc. 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
April 5, 2018

at Buffalo Thunder Resort in Santa Fe, NM

Speakers: **Roxanne Swentzell** *"Creating Sustainable Lifestyles by  
Recreating the Design Patterns of Nature"* and **Clayton Brascoupe**  
*"Revitalizing Traditional Agriculture for Spiritual and Human Need  
through the Preservation and Conservation of  
Traditional and Heirloom Seeds"*

There will also be tours and vendors!

Contact Laurie Hixson [hixsons@comcast.net](mailto:hixsons@comcast.net) for times and cost

March 1, 2018

Los Alamos County Master Gardeners

**“Gardening with Natives: Perennials, Succulents and Ornamental Grasses”**

Presented by

David Salman

Founder & Chief Horticulturist

High Country Gardens catalog/website

Photos by David Salman

**2. The Role of Our Landscapes In the Web of Life**

Our landscapes *MUST* be more than just beautiful. Collectively, our urban, suburban and rural gardens and landscapes can make significant contributions to help;

- lessen the effects of climate change
- replace the loss of wild lands
- help protect and conserve water resources
- provide nectar for imperiled pollinators and habitat for insects upon which song birds feed.

Native plants need to have a leading role in making our waterwise landscapes all of the above .

**photo caption:** Aspen Vista above Santa Fe, October

**3. The Importance of Being Xeric**

Water is our most essential resource, especially in arid lands. And our landscapes need to be populated with plants that *thrive with less water*, not just survive by being “drought tolerant”.

A well designed waterwise landscape (xeriscape) should utilize native plants that can grow with natural precipitation (and some supplemental irrigation) and not depend on water intensive plant species (native and Old World) to make up the bulk of our landscape plantings.

**photo caption:** Yucca thompsoniana, Hesperaloe parviflora yellow and red forms’, Perovskia atriplicifolia, Arctostyphlos→

**4. What is a native plant?**

- A native plant is a species found in North America.
- Growing in North America naturally without being introduced from another part of the world by human intervention.
- Native plants can have a very large area to which it’s native or a very limited area (known as “endemic”)
- Native range of a plant can expand or decrease over time due to climatic changes.

**photo caption:** Echinocerus species, Hymenoxys and Scutellaria →

**5. Why It’s Essential to Use Native Plants in the Waterwise Landscape**

**Natives are essential because:**

- They are food plants for beneficial and other insects that are an essential part of the region’s food chain
- They are sources of seeds and fruits for feeding wildlife
- They’re well adapted to the erratic weather/climate of New Mexico

- Generally waterwise
- Well adapted to alkaline, humus deficient soil conditions (pedocal soil)
- Help to provide a sense of place reflecting the native landscapes that surround us.

**photo caption:** Titmice feeding on aphids

## **6. Native Trees - a cornerstone of landscaping for habitat**

Oaks are one of our most important genera for habitat, providing songbirds with caterpillars

- *Quercus macrocarpa* (Burr Oak) coming into leaf in mid-spring
- *Quercus gambeli* (Gambel's Oak) showing its fall foliage

## **7. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

### **Planting them :**

- For non-woody plants, it's best to start with young plants in small pots. Avoid gallon containers and old, tired plants; vegetative vigor is essential to establishment.
- Cacti and succulents are generally best planted as bare-root transplants.
- Plant early in the spring as many natives are cool season growers that establish when temperatures are cold.
- Inoculate with mycorrhizae (beneficial root fungi) at planting time

## **8. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

### **Mulching**

- An essential technique to reduce transplanting stress and maintaining soil moisture during establishment.
- For herbaceous and succulent plants, use non-humus building mulches that drain quickly and don't hold water.
- Crushed gravel, pine needles, crushed pecan shells are good choices
- Woody plants can be also be mulched with shredded wood chips and shredded bark.

## **9. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

### **Match the plants with the soil type** into which you're planting

- It's essential to match plant soil preferences.
- Clay is a difficult soil for a lot of plant species, especially ones that require good drainage and air circulation around their roots . But there are "clay lovers" that thrive in heavy clay soil
- Sandy soils are also a challenging root environment for many plants. But again, there are sand loving plants that thrive in sandy locations.

photo caption: Severely compacted soil in a new Rio Rancho subdivision →

## **10. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

### **Soil amendments and fertilizing**

- Preparing the soil for planting is essential especially when planting into disturbed and compacted soils
- Use soil amendments sparingly when preparing the soil for planting. I use a handful or two of Yum Yum Mix organic fertilizer and some Planters II trace mineral fertilizer ("rock dust").

- Inoculate with mycorrhizal fungi
- Fertilize lightly with Yum Yum Mix in the fall.

### **11. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

#### **Watering**

- Native establish quickly in the landscape and watering needs change during the first growing season
- For xeric species water regularly for the first 6 to 8 weeks to establish new plants. Then reduce frequency to weekly in monsoon season.
- Use drip irrigation carefully and set the emitters well off to the side of the root ball once established .
- Many species need very little extra irrigation once established.

### **12. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

#### **Maintaining Native Perennials and Grasses**

- Cutting back herbaceous species should be done in mid-spring  
NOT in the fall. Enjoy the winter beauty of your natives and Old World plants.
- Leave plants standing over the winter months provide shelter for insects, spiders and areas to forage for songbirds.
- Standing plants can also help to shade the soil and conserve moisture (essential during dry winters).
- Standing plants help to gather blowing snow out on the plains.

### **13. Successfully Cultivating Natives in the Waterwise Landscape**

**Divide ornamental grasses** in mid-spring when clumps begin to die-out in the middle.

- Dig the clump out of the ground. Cut it into 4 pieces (like cutting up a pie).
- Knock off the dead foliage and roots from the middle.
- Re-plant into the planting hole enriched with compost and Yum Yum Mix.

### **14. Getting Native Plants to Naturalize in the Garden**

Encourage plants to re-seed by leaving the flower spikes standing until seeds ripen.

*Hymenoxys acaulis* v. *ivesonii* is an excellent naturalizing species and should be allowed to ripen seed each season

The transplants of *Penstemon plameri* can be short lived in the garden but seedlings will be better adapted and live longer.

### **15. The Beardtongues (*Penstemon*)** - they are the royalty of Western Wildflowers

- There are over 300 species in North America growing from coastal areas to the highest mountain peaks
- The western US has the greatest diversity and showiest species
- They vary in size from the tiniest miniatures to huge specimens
- Very important plants when planting habitat plants for pollinators attracting butterflies, bees and hummingbirds

**photo caption:** *Penstemon superbus* in a Phoenix landscape →

## 16. Successfully Cultivating Penstemon in the Waterwise Landscape

General requirements include:

- Planting them into “lean”, well drained soils. (Some species will tolerate clay but only under arid growing conditions.)
- They are often pioneer plants in nature and are some of the first to colonize disturbed soils and burn areas. They don’t like to be crowded by other plants.
- Using non-compacting mulches like crushed gravel (best), pine needles (where not in forest fire prone areas), crushed pecan shells.
- Never use as mulch, bark, moisture retentive compost, leaves or grass clippings.

## 17. Maintaining Penstemon

The evergreen, shrubby species should be sheared back after blooming to maintain attractive foliage.

After the flowering spikes have been sheared off reveals the attractive, evergreen foliage for the rest of the year

## 18. Penstemon species - *Penstemon strictus* (Rocky Mt. Beardtongue)

- is one of the easiest and longest lived species

photo captions: (L) Close-up of flower spikes , (R)The whole plant /Jordan Valley Conservation Gardens

## 19. Penstemon species - *Penstemon eatonii* Richfield Selection

- Outstanding early blooming species
- An improved selection from the USDA Plant Materials Center Aberdeen, ID originally collected from around Richfield, UT

## 20. Penstemon species - *Penstemon pseudospectabilis* ‘Coconino Country’

- is a selection from - northern AZ that is a strong naturalizer

## 21. Penstemon species - *Penstemon virens* (Blue Mist Beardtongue)

photo caption: growing under pines in the Black Forest of east central CO

## 22. Penstemon species - *Penstemon pinifolius* (Pineleaf Beardtongue)

- is a variable evergreen shrublet from NM and AZ

photo captions: (L) A plant of *P. pinifolius* at sunset , (R) A close-up of the fabulous mid-summer flowers

## 23. Sage (*Salvia*) - A big genus of important ornamental plants with great value for pollinators of all types

### *Salvia azurea* (Prairie Sage)

- One of the best natives for attracting bumble bees.
- Late season bloomer in August-September.

### 24. Sage (*Salvia*) - *Salvia darcyi* (Red Mexican Sage)

- Blooms all summer long
- Very heat tolerant
- Spring plant to establish before winter

### 25. Sage (*Salvia*) - *Salvia dorrii* (Great Basin Sage)

- A cold hardy, woody species from the Great Basin of Western North America (Nevada and contiguous states)
- Late spring bloomer with evergreen silver foliage

**26. Sage (Salvia)** - *Salvia pachyphylla* (Giant Mojave Sage)

- A woody shrub from mountains of southeastern CA
- Blooms for several months in summer

**27. Hummingbird Mint (Agastache)** - A genus of spectacular species with aromatic flowers and foliage and nectar-rich flowers for all types of pollinators

**Agastache rupestris (Licorice Mint Hyssop)**

- First introduced by High Country Gardens in 1996.
- Started the Agastache craze that has continued to the present day.

**28. Hummingbird Mint (Agastache)** - *Agastache cana* (Pink Hummingbird Mint)

- Is a rare New Mexico native species that attracts hummingbirds
- A willing re-seeder when planted into gravel mulch

**29. Late spring blooming natives** - *Eriogonum* (Sulfur Buckwheat) a long season of color with flowers and colorful seed heads. Essential plant for creating habitat by hosting numerous beneficial insect species.

- *Eriogonum umbellatum* 'Kahah Creek'

Plant Select® winner

- *Eriogonum umbellatum* 'Poncha Pass Red'

**30. Long Blooming Natives**

- *Oenothera fremontii* 'Shimmer' (Fremont's Evening Primrose)
- *Oenothera caespitosa* (Tufted Evening Primrose)

**31. Long Blooming Natives** - *Hymenoxys scaposa* (Thrift Leaf Sundancer Daisy)

- Completely rabbit resistant
- Blooms late spring and late summer with monsoon rains.
- A good re-seeder that spreads gently, especially in gravel mulch.

**photo caption:** Blooming with *Opuntia basilaris* (Beaver tail pad cactus) →

**32. Long Blooming Natives** - *Melampodium leucanthum* (Blackfoot Daisy)

photo caption: Growing with *Agave havardiana* and *Agastache Glowing Embers*®

**33. Long Blooming Natives** - *Mirabilis multiflora* (Wild Four O'clock)

- Forms a huge tuberous root extending into the ground 18 to 24 inches deep.
- After the first year of watering to establish the plant, stop irrigating .
- Likes being around the drip line of Junipers

**34. Long Blooming Natives** - *Monardella macrantha* 'Marion Sampson'

- Very unusual California native with incredible scarlet flowers all summer
- Is most at home in partial shade under pine trees
- This is a reliable zone 6 cold hardy selection
- Blooms much of the summer

**35. Late Season Blooming Natives** - *Solidago sphacelata* 'Golden Fleece' (Compact Goldenrod)

- Goldenrod is incorrectly blamed for summer allergies. Its pollen is not dispersed by the wind, only bees.

- Outstanding genus for insect pollinators and beneficial insects.

**photo caption:** Growing with *Agastache cana* →

**36. Late Season Blooming Natives** - *Vernonia lindheimeri* v. *leucophylla* (West TX Ironweed)

- Outstanding foliar plant with silver white foliage.
- Highly attractive to butterflies.
- Very xeric

**37. Late Season Blooming Natives**

*Zauschneria garrettii* Orange Carpet ® - an outstanding groundcover form

- Blooms for several months in late summer for

*Zauschneria latifolia* v. *arizonica* (Hummingbird Trumpet or Fire Chalice)

**38. Late Season Blooming Natives** - *Zinnia grandiflora* (Prairie Zinnia)

- A very xeric, long lived perennial
- Grows in a wide range of hot and cold climates
- Blooms in late summer
- Completely rabbit resistant

**photo caption:** A large patch showing its value as a xeric groundcover ↓

**39. Late Season Blooming Natives** - *Liatris mucronata* (TX Blazing Star)

- September blooming to extend the season with this genus.
- Sought out by migrating Monarchs

**40. Native Annuals**

*Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy)

**photo caption:** with *Opuntia basilaris* (Beaver Tail Cactus)

**41. Cold Hardy Native Cacti** - *Echinocereus coccineus* (Needle Spined Claret Cup)

- One of the toughest and most beautiful of the native wildflowers

**42. Cold Hardy Native Succulents** - *Agave havardiana* (Havard's Century Plant)

- a cold giant from West Texas that is insect and hummingbird pollinated

**43. Cold Hardy Native Succulents**

- *Agave utahensis* v. *kaibabensis* (Kaibab Plateau Century Plant) ↑
- *Agave parryi* (Parry's Century Plant) with *Agastache*

**44. Cold Hardy Native Succulents**

- *Yucca baccata* (Banana Yucca) songbirds relish the sweet flesh of the late summer seed pods
- *Yucca brevifolia* v. *jaegariana* (Compact Joshua Tree)

**45. Cold Hardy Native Succulents** - *Yucca faxoniana* (TX Tree Yucca)

- most cold hardy of all the tree yucca species

**46. Cold Hardy Native Succulents**

- *Yucca pallida* (Pale Yucca)
- *Yucca rostrata* (Beaked Yucca) Chihuahuan species of tree yucca from southern TX/northern MX

**47. Cold Hardy Native Succulents** - *Dasyllirion* (Desert Spoon or Sotal)

- showy genus of Chihuahuan desert native with outstanding evergreen foliage.
- *Dasyllirion texana* (TX Desert Spoon)
- *Dasyllirion wheeleri* (Wheeler's Desert Spoon)

**48. Cold Hardy Native Succulents** - *Nolina* (Beargrass)

- are evergreen succulents with evergreen grass-like foliage.
- *Nolina greenii* (formally known as *Nolina texana*) - Beargrass
- *Nolina microcarpa* (Little Seeded Beargrass)

**49. Native Ornamental Grasses**

- Cool and Warm Season species provide long lasting beauty through the winter months
- Excellent for holding the soil and filtering rainfall/snowmelt

**photo caption:** Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambtion' with Yucca, Opuntia, Zauschneria at Denver Botanic Garden

**50. Ornamental Native Grasses** - Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambtion' (Blue grama grass)

**51. Ornamental Native Grasses** - Bouteloua curtipendula (Side Oats Grama)

**52. Ornamental Native Grasses** - Sporobolus wrightii (Giant Sacaton Grass)

**53. Ornamental Native Grasses** - Muhlenbergia reverchonii Undaunted® Ruby Muhly (Seep Muhly Grass)

**photo caption:** Ruby Muhly in winter

**54. Ornamental Native Grasses**

- Muhlenbergia dubia (Pine Muhly)
- Muhlenbergia emersleyi El Toro® (Bull Muhly) →

**55. Ornamental Native Grasses**

- Schizachyrium scoparium (Little Bluestem Grass)
- Andropogon gerardii 'Lady Bug Red' (Big Bluestem Grass)

**photo caption:** with Solidago and Aster

**56. Looking forward to spring planting and good summer rains!**

**photo caption:** A rainbow over my house in Santa Fe

**NOTES:**

Follow David and learn more about gardening in northern NM on his website  
**[waterwisegardening.com](http://waterwisegardening.com)**

Plant to come to the spring **2018 Waterwise Gardening plant sale** Thursday, Friday and Saturday last week in April through end of May. 2902 Rufina St., Santa Fe



## Plants You Wish You Had

Mark your calendars!

WATERWISE Gardening will be open to the public  
Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays in May.

  
**WATERWISE**  
Gardening, LLC.  
*Brought to you by David Salman!*

### **WATERWISE Gardening, LLC** *Plant Breeding, Propogating and Growing*

2902 A Rufina Street  
Santa Fe, NM 87507

Shop the best new and tried and true  
perennials, ornamental grasses, conifers, cacti, succulents,  
heirloom annuals and more!

Sign up for VIP sale dates and gardening tips

[waterwisegardening.com](http://waterwisegardening.com)

**More Open Dates!**

**April 21st**

**April 26, 27, 28th**

**Open to the public**  
**Thursday, Friday, and Saturdays in May**

2902 A Rufina Street | 9 AM to 4 PM