



# Master Gardener Newsletter

New Mexico State University  
Cooperative Extension Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
College of Agriculture & Home Economics

Dona Ana County Office  
530 North Church Street  
Las Cruces, NM 88001  
Phone: (505) 525-6649 Fax: (505) 525-6652

## MASTER GARDENER PROFILE OF A LONG TIME MEMBER: ANN FAIR

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tainer gardening of flowers. Her favorite flower is the geranium.

In 1980 she returned to Kansas where she met and married Dale, a young successful attorney. They bought a home and she did the landscaping and joined the local master gardening club. She was particularly fond of planting perennials around the perimeter of the house.

In 1996 Ann and Dale moved to New Mexico where she learned all about xeriscaping and the drip irrigation system as well as furthering her knowledge of desert plants and other perennials local to this area.

She was also in the first class of Master Gardeners here in Dona Ana County. She considers John White an inspiration and has always enjoyed his humor and knowledge. Ann has been one of our most active members, writing some of the biographies which have appeared in our newsletter as well as providing us with helpful gardening tips.

Her tip for you this year is as follows: When you feel that the rabbits are getting the best of your garden, try applying "Shake Away" to the base of the plants you wish to protect. It is 100 percent organic and will keep small animals such as squirrels, rabbits, skunks, chipmunks, etc away from your precious plants. Although rather pricey at \$19.99 for a 20 oz container, Ann says she found it effective and available through Guzman's on University.

Ann bids you all a successful year of very happy and productive gardening.

Written by Pat Anderson  
Dona Ana Master Gardener

Ann grew up watching her family raise flowers and vegetables. It started with her grandmothers and then later, her mother. She has always loved the magic of the garden.

After high school, she attended and graduated from Kansas University (KU) where she received her degree in biology. At the same time, she managed to include cheerleading for the university. After school she became a high school teach of biology. And, as she has always like to be busy, she also became a Master Gardener.

Ann was married to an Army man who was killed in action while trying to save his men. She has three sons: Chuck, John and Pete. When the boys were in college, she became bored and wrote to embassies in Central America looking for employment. El Salvador responded and she successfully taught there. She also lived in Italy and Germany. In all three places, because of space constraints, she enjoyed con-

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### Congratulations !

Marian Wolle and her husband, Jordan won 10 gold medals in swimming for their age group at the recently concluded State Senior Olympics.

### Don't Miss It !

MASTER GARDENER  
MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2008

# Honey Do's by Dixie La Rock

## Honey Do's by Dixie La Rock



### Ornamentals

- Plant and divide clumps of bearded iris and daylilies
- Plant seeds of pansy, Johnny jump-ups, snapdragons, and pinks for fall transplant
- Plant annual and perennial wildflower seed for spring bloom. Bachelor buttons, flax, lunaria, coreopsis, Mexican hat, and penstemon are options.
- Start planting chrysanthemums now.
- Fertilize roses in early August for fall bloom
- Order bulbs for fall planting
- As temperatures cool, aphids may re-emerge. Hose them off!
- Remove seed heads from crepe myrtles
- As usual, deadhead flowers, oleander, and others.
- Continue to plant cactus and other warm season succulents.

Fertilize ornamental grasses with a balanced fertilizer to enhance flowering. Water well after application.

### Fruit, Nut, and Shade Trees

- Water pecans deeply as nuts are beginning to fill
- Black pecan aphids may become a problem. Treat to prevent premature leaf abscission.
- Surely it's time to stop cover sprays. Read pesticide label.
- Harvest 'Bartlett' pears from trees before they turn gold.
- Finish planting palms.

Continue treating peach tree borers on plums, apricots, peaches, and almonds.

### Vegetables and Herbs

- In areas of the garden that have finished producing, renovate the bed for fall planting by adding compost and working it in

- Divide garlic chives, lemon grass, and mints (MI).

Time to plant bush and pinto beans, beets, chard, collards, carrots, kohlrabi, leaf, Romaine, and head lettuce, mustard, radishes, and turnips

### Lawns

- Later this month, fertilize established cool season turf

- It's time to start seeding cool season grasses. Incorporate phosphorus into seed bed before seeding.

- Continue fertilization schedule for warm season grasses.

- It's time to apply a pre-emergent herbicide for cool season weed control. Follow label directions carefully.

Discontinue grub treatments as white grubs are larger and moving deeper in the soil profile.



### Miscellaneous

- Depending on weather, continue deep watering schedule for everything.

- Mary Irish suggests some alternative pesticides:

○ For annual weeds, use a 50% alcohol/50% water solution or full strength white vinegar. For invasive weeds such as Bermuda grass, use 12.5% white vinegar, 12.5% lemon extract in 75% water. These are contact herbicides so spray weed thoroughly and avoid contact with desirable vegetation.

To kill ants, cut up the rind of 1 or 2 oranges and blend in blender with enough water to make slurry. Pour slurry onto ant hill. The volatile oils permeate the hill, killing the ants.

# Master Gardener Matters

We had our usual busy meeting, trying to get everything done before our speaker. Jeff filled in at the last minute when our scheduled speaker had to postpone, but fortunately he didn't mind as he wanted to practice his chile presentation before he gave it at a conference. Unfortunately the business part of the meeting ran late so he had to hurry through the last few slides. Some of the things I learned were: 1) there is a self-guided tour of the chile test plots at the Fabian Garcia Research Center, 2) standard chiles can be planted deeper like tomatoes and they'll grow roots along the stem, 3) chiles can be rooted easily from cuttings, 4) in sandy soil, water chiles a little each day rather than watering for a longer time period once or twice per week, and 5) Tabasco is always made in Louisiana while Louisiana Hot Sauce can be made anywhere.

Our educational programs committee is in need of more ideas for programs, especially last minute programs when a speaker cancels late, so give it some thought for the September meeting. We may be able to offer our speakers some sort of honorarium in the future which may help with retention. We also discussed helping master gardeners who attend conferences with costs if they are willing to give a report, bring back handouts, etc. Another suggestion was to ask the Toastmasters if they have anyone with a gardening related topic willing to give a presentation.

If you remember, in June Jeff agreed to make copies of the emails and reports he receives as follow ups to the hotline questions. This has been working out really well as the copies are filed with the original report sheet so all interested parties can read the experts' answers. It really helps increase everyone's knowledge when further explanations and answers are available so we appreciate Jeff taking the time to do this.

Our budget/finance committee met and really got a lot done. They've created a quarterly budget, come up with a plan for buying needed items, gotten the master gardeners a separate purchase card and account, and met with NMSU reps to learn what we can and cannot do. Our new number for making copies is 0002468, so please use that from now on. They're also discussing creating logo designs for us to discuss.

The Expo committee has also been busy accomplishing tasks and nearly everything is ready for September 20-21. If you haven't yet given Dee a copy of your printed materials on your topic, please do so at the September meeting so she can get copies made. Mary T. got donated seeds from Curtis & Curtis and these have been put into small packets to give away at our Expo.

We'll also be helping at the Southern New Mexico State Fair again this year. Please call or email Larry Dickson, [larrydarlene@zianet.com](mailto:larrydarlene@zianet.com), if you are interested in helping. We are only needed to check entries in and to help at the end with pick-ups this year so help is only needed on Sept. 29 & 30 and on Oct. 5. You can also sign up at the September meeting.

Our semi-annual Plant Sale is scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>. Sunland Nursery has given us a number of plants, but as usual, all of you are encouraged to pot up plants from your yard or houseplants. If you will email Barb, [bsal-lach@nmsu.edu](mailto:bsal-lach@nmsu.edu), about the number and kind of plants you have, it would be appreciated. Valice is working on the signs again and she needs to know which plants we'll have.

On October 15, the Community Garden & Greenhouse at the Community of Hope will be building a hoop house greenhouse using PVC and plastic under the direction of Del Jimenez. If you are interested in hands on experience, they will be starting at 8 am and all are welcome.

In August the master gardeners were welcome volunteers at the Butterfly Flutterby at the Chihuahua Desert Nature Park and the Chile field day. Both were very well attended and had lots of learning going on. All the volunteers had a great time and recommend both of these activities to others. We also participated in the Extension tables at the Hatch Chile Festival on Aug. 30 & 31 and a report on that will be given at the September meeting.

Darrol and Jeff have been assisting the Chaparral Community Garden and there was some discussion on how best to give additional aid. Some of the proposed ideas included having them use a digital camera to send photos of problems to us via email, getting the liaison to be our educational program some month, and paying gas and master gardener class fees for a Chaparral community member if they agree to help with the community garden. Jim Lane was volunteered by Joan to read gardening articles in Spanish to see if they would be useful before we send them to the liaison.

Well, you can see why we ran late, what with all the discussions. Hope to see you at our next meeting on September 17.

Barb and Juliet



If you are an individual with a disability who is in need of an auxiliary aid or service to participate in an Extension activity, please call 575-525-6649 at least two weeks prior to the event.

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# MASTER GARDENER PROFILE:

## Delfi Mondragon

Written by Ann Palormo

Delfi Mondragon savors retirement's independence

Since she arrived in Las Cruces in 1996, Delfi Mondragon has lived in La Mesa, near Memorial Medical Center and now the Four Hills area of Las Cruces. "I now have a very small back yard, but that's enough for a retired professor," she says.

Before coming here she has gardened in Albuquerque, Hawaii, Arizona, and Omaha. She got her start in gardening growing up with her grandmother who enlisted her help with the gardens she planted. Until now, however, she mostly watched the plants grow.

When asked what she like to grow best, Delfi stated with a chuckle that she is always most proud of my \$72 tomato and vegetables in general.

Delfi enrolled in the 2007 Master Gardener class after retiring from full time employment at New Mexico State University. "I've had a list of things I wanted to do when I retired and that was one of the first I tried," she said.

Gardening in this area presents many challenges. In such a long and hot summer Delfi says she tends to forget that tomatoes don't maintain their blossoms if it is too hot. "I am disappointed until I remember and then I wish I had planted them earlier," she says. "Does anyone have secrets they would like to share?"

She has also enjoyed gardening successes. "In about 1970 I had so many zucchini that the neighbors would pretend not to be home when they saw me coming with a basket," Delfi laughs.

After a career as a doctor of public health, Delfi says she absolutely loves retirement.

Actually she is not fully retired. She works part time as the faculty advisor for public health in with NMSU's Counties College program.

Delfi recently sold her "big" house and is looking forward to traveling in 2009. She is the proud mother of a "busy and independent" daughter who has her master's degree from Cornell University.



*Congratulations !  
Marian Wolfe and her husband Jordan won 10 gold medals in swimming for their age group at the recently concluded*





# September 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> JUST A REMINDER...  Your Master Gardener Hours Are due By the end Of SEPTEMBER	<b>2</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office Paul Anderson Alisison	<b>6</b>  SIGN UP FOR THE MASTER GARDENER HOTLINE!
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  Ann Palermo Pamela Crane OPEN	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  A Shine Ring OPEN OPEN	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  Karen Gray OPEN OPEN	<b>17</b> MG MEETING  9 am to 11 am  Extension Office	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  S Poindexter OPEN OPEN	<b>20</b>  GARDEN EXPO AT ENCHANTED GARDENS
<b>21</b>  GARDEN EXPO AT ENCHANTED GARDENS	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  Lauren Bishop OPEN OPEN	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  Pat Anderson OPEN OPEN	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Southern New Mexico State Fair Begins Sept 29 And ends October 5  Checking entries In and out.	<b>30</b> MG Telephone Hotline  9 am to 1 pm  Extension Office  OPEN OPEN OPEN		Coming up October 4  Plant Sale  Downtown Mall	  Coming up October 15  Hoop House Greenhouse Building  Community of Hope Off Amador  Starts 8 am	