

Santa Fe's Newest Rain Garden Debuts on Earth Day Story and photos by Pam McFarland



The new rain garden will provide water for the Rose Family Garden site at the Santa Fe County Extension campus on Rodeo Road.

Santa Fe County's Sustainability Division hosted an Earth Day celebration at the County Fairgrounds on April 22. Although the main event of the day was the planting of Santa Fe County's newest rain garden, there were plenty of activities and music for all attendees.

Santa Fe County Sustainability staff, county commissioners, SFEMG volunteers and local permaculturist Reese Baker all spoke to a chilly audience on this cold spring day. In his brief talk, Baker pointed out that a relatively small percentage of the 6 billion gallons of precipitation that fall in the city each year stays in our ecosystem. If we were to harvest this rainwater, we would decrease erosion, add beauty to our landscapes and recharge our precious groundwater. It isn't as hard as it sounds. (See the article on rain gardens on page 5 for ideas.)

Baker described the construction of the Fairgrounds rain garden, which ensures that precipitation falling on the surrounding impervious surfaces is channeled through the multi-level rain garden and filtered to remove toxins and pollutants. Excess water moves through channels constructed by his crew into the SFEMG Rose Family Garden as well as through a long ditch and culvert into an induced meander constructed in 2021 by SFEMG volunteers. Because the parking lot and nearby buildings constitute 15,000 square feet of impervious surfaces, the rain garden will ensure that on average an additional 115,000 gallons of water are kept on site annually.

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**SAVE THE DATE!
Ask a Master Gardener**

Visit with master gardeners at Wild Birds Unlimited from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Saturday, May 13. SFEMG volunteers will be at the Cordova Road store to answer your gardening questions and help celebrate [World Migratory Bird Day](#) with representatives of the New Mexico Wildlife Center who will be on hand to acquaint you with some of the raptors in their care.

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Our Mission

Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners is a nonprofit volunteer organization whose mission is to learn, teach and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current research-based practices.

sfemg.org

SFEMG is one of more than a dozen county-based master gardener programs run under the auspices of New Mexico State University’s College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. aces.nmsu.edu

NMSU is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator.

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The audience was fascinated by Baker's description of the Siberian elm logs that have been drilled, plugged with a white-rot fungi species called turkey tail (similar to shiitake and oyster mushrooms), and buried in the rain garden. The developing fungi act as a sponge to absorb water, filter out pollutants and release clean water.

This rain garden, constructed over the previous 4 weeks by Baker and his company, The RainCatcher, is quite different from the rain garden that you might build in your yard. It was constructed using heavy-duty earth moving equipment, large boulders and very strong and experienced landscape workers; you might call this a rain garden on steroids!

Come visit Santa Fe's newest rain garden at 3229 Rodeo Road. You'll want to visit often as the rain garden evolves over the coming years.

For more information:

[The Garden Journal interview with Reese Baker \(April 8, 2023\)](#)



Newly planted trees need your help

The County Sustainability Division planted seven trees and shrubs around the new rain garden. All these plants require little or no supplemental water once established, but they need a lot of care during the first couple of years after transplanting. **They need to be watered twice weekly through the first summer, and once every three weeks in the winter.** The long-term success of this project depends on Good Neighbors. If you would like to help care for the plants please send your contact information to the County Sustainability volunteer coordinator, Nav Khalsa nkhalsa@santafecountynm.gov.



County Commissioner Anna Hansen and Reese Baker plant a shrub in the new rain garden on Earth Day.



A Message from SFEMG Board President Anne Rivas

The Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners (SFEMG) are part of the Master Gardeners program run by the New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service. Nationally, through land-grant universities in each state, volunteers can work toward certification as Master Gardeners trained to give the public up-to-date, reliable information on gardening successfully in their community.

The SFEMG is a non-profit, volunteer organization whose mission is to learn, teach and promote locally sustainable gardening through reliable, current, research-based practices. We focus on the needs of the local community, developing projects around a range of local gardening issues and providing ongoing educational opportunities for members and the general public.

Let's Grow is a free monthly education series for the home gardener offered by the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners. You can find a listing of Let's Grow events at <https://www.SFEMG.org>. This is your opportunity to learn something new, from rose care to erosion control at your own property.

Our Spring Plant Sale is in person this year: from 3-6 p.m. Friday May 12, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 13, in the Small Animal Barn on the Extension campus, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87507. Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your questions about native plants available at the sale, and how and where to plant them. Reunity Resources will have a pop-up sale of annuals and vegetable starts during the plant sale. See the Plant Sale bulletin in this newsletter for more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

While you are there you may want to visit our native plant demonstration gardens on the west, south and east sides of the Extension office, as well as the compost operation, herb garden, vegetable garden, cactus garden and the new Rose Family Garden. Extension Master Gardeners are trained by NMSU to give accurate, current, research-based answers to your questions. We are here to help your garden succeed.



We are here to help!

If you have gardening questions, Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners are available to help.

You can pose your questions online [here](#). We'll do some research and get back to you.



A Santa Fe rain garden after the rain | Copyright The RainCatcher, Inc.

Rain Gardens – An Introduction

By Pam McFarland

Successful gardeners in Santa Fe have developed strategies for adapting to our low annual precipitation and intermittent drought. These include choosing xeric and low-water plants, nourishing the soil, applying mulch to diminish evaporation and ensuring that precipitation is “harvested” or moved to areas where it can be used.

Rainwater harvesting refers to the collection, diversion and storage of rainwater for later use. This keeps rainwater close to where it fell rather allowing it to erode the landscape and end up in storm drains or streams.

- **Active rainwater harvesting** ensures that rainwater falling on roofs is captured — for example in a cistern or rain barrel — to be reused at a later time. A half inch of rain on a 2,000-square-foot roof produces approximately 600 gallons of water!
- **Passive rainwater harvesting** includes a variety of designs that catch or slow rainwater by diverting precipitation to locations where it is needed or where it can infiltrate into the ground — in other words, “Slow it down, spread it out, soak it in.” These techniques include berms, basins, swales, stone channels, media lunas, one rock dams, Zuni bowls, leaky dams and rain gardens.

This article describes rain gardens. Resources at end of the article give more details on water harvesting and erosion control.

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A rain garden or “landscaped infiltration basin” is a bowl-shaped depression typically placed in a relatively low spot on your property where the rainwater normally collects or where it can be easily transferred via a stone channel or French drain, for example. The basin is lined with a variety of cobbles, gravels, mulches and plant materials designed to capture, filter and absorb rainwater from impervious or less pervious areas. Swales are similar to rain gardens, except they tend to be long, narrow depressions rather than bowl-shaped.

Rain gardens:

- Reduce erosion,
- Provide “free” water,
- Remove pollutants like fertilizers, metals, and other sediments,
- Recharge ground water,
- Add beauty, and
- Provide habitat for wildlife including beneficial insects such as butterflies and bees.


Most residential rain gardens are 100 to 300 square feet and may be as shallow as four inches or as deep as a foot or two, depending on the amount of precipitation they are expected to process. Most homeowners will find it easier to build multiple smaller rain gardens rather than one large rain garden.

Judicious choice of plants can improve water quality, remove specific pollutants and provide an amazing habitat for wildlife including beneficial insects. Native plants that tolerate both ponding and drought are ideal choices for your rain garden.

Colorado State’s [Building a Rain Garden in Colorado](#) provides guidance about the particular steps that should be followed, including determining the drainage area, conducting a drainage test, determining the garden depth, and choosing appropriate plants.

References:

- [“Rain Gardens: A Guide for Homeowners and Landscapers,”](#) by the Wisconsin Standards Oversight Council and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Of particular note: Figure 5 on page 20.
- [Rainwater Harvesting for Drylands & Beyond,”](#) Volumes 1 & 2 by Brad Lancaster (available at the Santa Fe Public Library)
- Find other erosion control methods described on the [SFEMG SNaPP demo gardens webpage](#)



"Rain harvesting should be made mandatory and should be made more systematic to ensure that every drop of rain is preserved."

– M.S. Swaminathan, an Indian agronomist and global leader of the green revolution

You won't want to miss this!
Friday, May 12, and Saturday, May 13

IN PERSON
for the first time
since 2019!



PLANT SALE

The SFEMG's annual plant sale returns as an in-person event the second weekend of May, giving shoppers the opportunity to pick up plants just in time for Mother's Day!

Wendy Wilson, lead organizer and immediate past president of the SFEMG board of directors, says, "Most plants will be native to the southwest and all are expected to do well in Santa Fe County." The plants are being obtained from the Santa Ana Native Plant and Tree Nursery, which is operated by Santa Ana Pueblo. Reunity Resources will have a pop-up at the Fairgrounds and will be selling vegetable starts and annuals.

Selections in 4-inch and 1-gallon containers will include perennials, shrubs, trees and cacti. Saskatoon Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) will be sold in 5-gallon pots. Click here for [a complete list of available plants](#).

In keeping with the SFEMG's education mission, volunteers from the following SFEMG projects will be on hand to answer your gardening questions: [Ask a Master Gardener](#), the [Santa Fe Native Plant Project](#) and the [Yard Habitat Certification](#) program, first piloted in 2021 and 2022.

The plant sale is the SFEMG's primary fundraiser and helps support all SFEMG education-based projects in Santa Fe. For a list of projects, see <https://www.sfemg.org/projects>

Where? Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, 3229 Rodeo Road, Santa Fe

Open to the public: 3-6 p.m. Friday, May 12, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, May 13



Available Now!

['Tulip Blossoms' Forever Stamps](#)

"A member of the lily family (Liliaceae), the tulip (genus *Tulipa*) originated as a wildflower in Central Asia. There, despite the dry, rocky environment, these tulip ancestors were able to survive because they could draw nourishment from the bulb." This new set features closeup views of 10 different tulips. Read more at [USPS.com](https://www.usps.com).



Top: Low-to-medium water kit
Left: native bee on Apache Plume (*Fallugia paradoxa*), the shrub species in this year's low-water kits

Santa Fe Pollinator Habitat Kits ***Proposal submissions open May 1***

Announcement and photos by Kaitlin Haase, Xerces Society

For the third year in a row, the Xerces Society is offering free pollinator plants through the Santa Fe Pollinator Habitat Kit Program! 200 kits will be available this year to residents and local organizations willing to commit to providing the time, labor and space to establish these plants in yards and gardens throughout urban Santa Fe.

These kits contain native plants that support a diversity of pollinators throughout the year. Two kit types are available again this year: a low-water option and low-to-medium water option, each with a 1-gallon shrub and a flat of 32 2-inch pots of eight perennial species. All plants are grown pesticide-free by the Santa Ana Native Plant Nursery and are sourced from regionally local seeds, ensuring plants are adapted to our arid climate and valuable to local pollinator populations.

600 kits have been distributed since 2021, with partners planting 19,800 pollinator plants across Santa Fe! This program provides quality plants and pollinator gardening guidance at no cost to the program partners and is part of the Santa Fe Pollinator Trail initiative to create connected, climate-resilient pollinator habitat in urban Santa Fe. Many public space partners host educational events and maintain demo gardens featuring the pollinator habitat kits including the Santa Fe Extension Master Gardener demonstration gardens, the wildlife garden at the Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary, the Santa Fe Botanical Garden and many others.

Learn more about the Santa Fe Pollinator Trail in this [StoryMap](#). To fill out a project proposal form, visit the Santa Fe Pollinator Habitat Kit webpage: <https://xerces.org/pollinator-conservation/habitat-kits/santa-fe>

Please share this opportunity with your friends, family, and neighbors in Santa Fe who would like to garden for pollinators! Organizations such as schools, churches, museums, and other public spaces are encouraged to join as well!



Spotted Coralroot
(*Corallorhiza maculata*)
Courtesy Terry Glaze,

Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center

Wild Orchids ***Here in Santa Fe County***

By Peggy Rudberg

Orchids. Just the word evokes steamy primeval cloud forests teeming with astonishing blossoms. We don't know when orchids first appeared, but their pollen was recently discovered in the Dominican Republic attached to the back of a bee encased in 15- to 20-million-year-old amber.

While the orchid family ([Orchidaceae](#)) may be the largest plant family, with estimates of over 28,000 native species, many are rare or at risk. Though orchid species are abundant (10 percent of the world's plant species) individual species may contain only a few specimens in a single colony. At least 50 percent of around 200 orchid species known in the United States and Canada are threatened or endangered. Since the advent of cloning in the 1950s the majority of orchids on offer are hybrids and cultivars.

The increased interest in wild orchids dates back to the Age of Discovery when European ships seeking new trade routes returned home with exotic plants. Orchid's gorgeous flowers made them a primary target for collection and in the 19th century "Orchidelirium" led some orchid hunters to destroy whole populations to increase the value of their find.

Orchids are found in every habitat from the Arctic Circle to the equator, but about 90 percent of orchids prefer tropical or subtropical conditions. They vary in size from a few millimeters to the 2-ton *Grammatophyllum speciosum*. All but one native orchid in the United States (excluding Florida) are terrestrial perennial monocots, growing in or on the ground. Most tropical orchids are epiphytic, meaning they grow on the surface of other plants, typically trees.

The word orchid comes from the Greek word *orchis*, suggesting testicles, based on the appearance of rounded double root tubers of some species. Orchids begin life as microscopic seeds without endosperms. To survive the seeds must land in soil containing a suite of appropriate mycorrhizal fungi to provide nutrition and other resources. After seeds germinate and develop into seedlings, most orchids can photosynthesize their own nutrients but take seven years to bloom.

The structure of orchids has some interesting peculiarities. Their stamens (pollen producers) and pistils (pollen receptor) are united into a singular column attached to the top of the ovule in the center of the flower. Three sepals, sometimes fused, create an outer whorl and three petals form the inner ring. The sepals and two bilateral petals usually look the same, but the

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third lower petal, called the lip or labellum, is typically a different shape, color and size. Some lips are slippery, spilling pollinators, primarily bees, wasps and flies, into the flower center. Some are hinged, trapping pollinators inside. Other orchids have a trigger mechanism that when disturbed, eject pollinia (bundled pollen masses) onto the insect's back. And still other flowers imitate female insects or their pheromones, enticing males into pseudo copulation.

While illegal collection is still a challenge, orchids are also harvested for human consumption. Orchids have been used since ancient times as traditional medicine. In Turkey and the Middle East orchid bulbs are dried and ground to make salep, a hot beverage, and the fruit of *Vanilla*, a genus of the orchid family, is the source of the fragrant spice. Native to Mesoamerica it became a major crop of Madagascar, providing 80 percent of the world's supply. Because of high demand, most vanilla flavoring today is artificial.

Because of New Mexico's diverse geographical regions it provides habitat for 28 species of wild orchids. Here are three natives to look for. *Corallorhiza maculata* or spotted coralroot is found in almost all counties of New Mexico. It is mycotrophic, lacking chlorophyll and dependent on fungi to aid absorption of nutrients from host plants. It has multiple flowers on a single leafless stem but often occurs in groups. It blooms from May to July at a wide variety of elevations.

**Fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*) and
yellow lady's slipper
(*Cypripedium parviflorum*)**

**Courtesy David R. McAdoo,
Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center**



Santa Fe County has two of the most lovely but rare endangered slipper orchids, the fairy slipper (*Calypso bulbosa*) and the yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*). The pink fairy slipper with one basal leaf is found between 8,000 and 10,800 feet from after snow melt to early July. The lady's slipper can measure up to 4 inches in diameter and appears between 6,000 and 9,500 feet a little later than the fairy slipper. Feel lucky if you should happen upon one of these beauties. But don't pick. Orchids do not survive transplanting and are illegal to collect in National Forests.

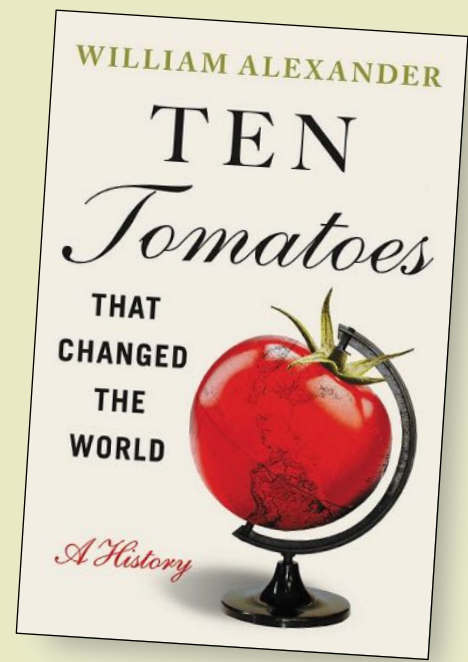
References:

Coleman, Ronald A. "The Wild Orchids of Arizona and New Mexico." Cornell University Press (2002).

Dodson, Calaway H. "[Orchid \(family Orchidaceae\)](#)" Britannica (2023).

A Book Review By Eugenia Parry

"Does this thing have a future?" The author doesn't need to be coy. Sophisticated Aztecs, in 16th century Tenochtitlán (present-day Mexico City), cultivated the tomato, called it *xitomatl* and brought it into their kitchens. Three hundred years later it became southern Italy's signature vegetable while American ingenuity made its popularity global; of Domino's 15,000 pizzerias in 84 countries, India has 1,200.



William Alexander, best-selling journalist-tomatophile, wrote "The \$64 Tomato: How One Man Nearly Lost His Sanity, Spent a Fortune, and Endured an Existential Crisis in the Quest for the Perfect Garden (2007)." Fifteen years later, he's back with a no-less entertaining cultural history.

Based on conversations with a slew of informants – from the curator of the *Museo del Pomodoro* (Province of Parma) to Florida's commercial growers of the ugliest, ill-flavored tomatoes on the planet to far-sighted hydroponic growers in mile-long greenhouses in Coldwater, Michigan – Alexander's 10 lessons are surprising and absorbing.

For Cosimo de Medici, founding father of great Italian Renaissance art patrons, the "unhealthy, smelly, and strange" nightshade was neither fruit nor vegetable, certainly not food. It was decorative, which explains the surprising appearance of two bronze *pomodori* by sculptor Giambologna in a 16th century frieze on the doors of the cathedral at Pisa.

Early Americans found tomatoes "an errant humbug," besides being, like the tomato hornworm, thoroughly disgusting. Yet Thomas Jefferson grew and ate tomatoes at Monticello in 1802. Later in the century "Tomato Pills" conned a health-conscious public into buying mere laxatives. Innovators like Mr. Heinz learned to sterilize bottles to contain his "pleasing" tomato ketchup and Mr. Campbell put tomato soup into metal tins on assembly lines that preceded those Henry Ford claimed to have invented for his automobiles.

Despite Italy's early resistance, the best tomatoes emerge from its landscape. From around 1910, the San Marzano tomato's supreme flavor owes to a magical combination of volcanic soils below Vesuvius, deposits of calcium from the river Sarno and salty maritime air from the Tyrrhenian Sea.

Alexander's buoyant text turns grim when he witnesses how Florida processes tomatoes commercially. Picked, bright green from "poisoned sand" ... hard as golf balls, they endure railroad travel to ethylene gassing places (shades of other mass murders) that turn them implausibly pink. Okay for pizza chains. Appalling everywhere else. No wonder connoisseur-growers fought back with the celebrated "heirloom" Brandywine.

Alexander ends contemplating beautiful tomatoes in Canadian greenhouses in winter, and soil-less hydroponics, methods that will feed the future. At home, he bites into a warm tomato he's grown from old seeds gathered at Tenochtitlán. It's no Brandywine. But it tastes damned good.



Let's Grow is a **free public education series** for home gardeners and the garden-curious who want to learn about soil, compost, native plants, creating habitat for pollinators and more! Mark your calendars! No registration required.

9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 6 | How to Select & Plant a New Rose

Harvey Cornell Rose Park, 1315 Galisteo Parkway

A new rose will be planted as part of a demonstration. Basic soil prep and fertilization instruction will be shared along with information about identifying and managing insects and diseases that compromise rose health.

9-11 a.m. Saturday, May 27 | TWO events, ONE location

Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Campus, 3229 Rodeo Road

➤ **9 a.m. and again at 10 a.m. | How to Plant a Native Grass Meadow**

Learn how to successfully establish a native grass meadow from seed and which grasses do best in our area.

➤ **9:30 a.m. and again at 10:30 a.m. | How to Implement Erosion Control**

Learn about one-rock dams, media lunas, Zuni bowls and more.

9 a.m. Saturday, June 17 | How to Garden with Native Plants

Native Plant Demonstration Gardens, Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Campus, 3229 Rodeo Road

Learn how to successfully grow colorful, drought-tolerant, low-maintenance native plants.

5-7 p.m. Friday, June 30 | Gardening for the Past, Present & Future

Garden at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Road

Learn how the historic garden was created in the mid-1800s, changes in landscaping over the last 170 years and how climate stresses and sustainability goals are driving new plant choices and gardening practices.

9 a.m.-Noon Saturday, July 8 | How to Remove (deadhead) Spent Rose Blooms Properly

Harvey Cornell Rose Park, 1315 Galisteo Parkway

Proper deadheading stimulates new growth and offers the opportunity to shape the bush.

Instruction from 9-9:30 a.m., hands-on pruning from 9:30 a.m.-noon.

Bring hand-held pruners, gloves, drinking water and a light container for cut rose canes.

Wear long-sleeved clothing. Hats and sunscreen recommended.

1-2:30 p.m. Saturday, July 29 | A Plethora of Plants for Plentiful Pollinators

Randall Davey Audubon Center & Sanctuary classroom, 1800 Upper Canyon Road

Join Kaitlin Haase, Southwest Pollinator Conservation Specialist with the Xerces Society, for a presentation on planting for pollinators in Santa Fe. Kaitlin will discuss which native plants support New Mexico's diverse pollinator species and how to promote a year-round pollinator-friendly landscape. With a focus on drought-tolerant, resilient plants that provide blooms from early spring to late fall, this presentation will review the numerous plants that are essential to supporting native wild bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Following the presentation, the group will walk through the Audubon gardens to observe plant and pollinator interactions.

9-11 a.m. Saturday, August 12 | Landscape Design Basics: Revitalizing a Flower Bed

Garden at El Zaguán, 545 Canyon Road

Learn to create site-appropriate, sustainable and stunning gardens using a historic property as an example. Discover how style, water access, soil, microclimates, color, structure and seasonality shape plant options and placement, and how climate change and biodiversity are inspiring innovative designs and gardening.

1-3 p.m. Saturday, September 30 | Save Seeds & Contribute to the Resiliency of Santa Fe Gardens

Under the Exhibit Hall portal, Santa Fe County Cooperative Extension Campus, 3229 Rodeo Road

Learn the basics of harvesting, processing and storing a variety of seeds, and experience hands-on demonstrations with materials covering basic seed-saving methods for vegetables, herbs and flowers.

Presented by Santa Fe Seed Stewards and Master Gardeners Diane Pratt and Susie Sonflieth.

Calendar

Please read the fine print!

- Master Gardeners must complete 10 hours of continuing education (CE) by Nov. 30 and are encouraged to record CE credit hours in [Track It Forward](#) as soon as possible after completing the activity.
- If there is a dollar sign, there is a fee.
- **Many of these courses require pre-registration.**
- The acronym "phc" means Master Gardeners can earn 1 credit hour of continuing education for each hour attended.
- If there are other opportunities, suggestions, or questions please send them to Stephanie Deutsch: deutsch.stephanie@gmail.com

6 p.m. Tuesday, May 2

Bindweed Mites with Del Jimenez, NMSU Agricultural Specialist
Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe
Santa Fe Rose Society / 1 CE / no registration required

8 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday, May 4

[Hoop House Construction Workshop](#)

Sponsored by Wagner Farms, NSMU Sustainable Agriculture Science Center at Alcalde
and Sandoval County Cooperative Extension / 1 CE phc

Thursday-Saturday, May 4-6

[On the Horizon: Looking to the Future of Plant Conservation](#)

2023 Center for Plant Conservation Annual Meeting
Desert Botanical Garden, Phoenix, Arizona / \$ / 1 CE phc / registration required

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 9

[Roadside Pollinator Habitat with John Busemeyer and Andrew Alderete,
New Mexico Department of Transportation](#)

Native Plant Society of New Mexico, Santa Fe Chapter / 1 CE / free and open to the public

11 a.m.-Noon Thursday, May 11

[Lights Out for Fireflies and Other Insects](#)

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation / 1 CE / registration required

6-7 p.m. Thursday, May 11

[Creating the Española Healing Foods Oasis Webinar](#)

Pajarito Environmental Education Center / 1 CE / registration required

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 16

[Santa Fe Cactus and Succulent Club Monthly Meeting](#)

1 CE / free and open to the public

4 p.m. Wednesday, May 17

[Dealing with the Challenges of Growing Tomatoes in the Desert Southwest
with Sandoval County Extension Master Gardener Sam Thompson](#)

NMSU Cooperative Extension Service Ready, Set, GROW! Webinar / 1 CE / registration required

7-8:30 p.m. Thursday, May 18

[Water Conservation at Home \(in-person and live streamed\)](#)

Pajarito Environmental Education Center / 1.5 CE / registration required

8:30-10:30 a.m. Friday, May 19

[Garden Conversations at Weldon's Museum Hill Café featuring Linda Churchill,
the Santa Fe Botanical Garden's Director of Horticulture](#)

SFBG / \$ / 1 CE phc / registration required

8:30 a.m.-Noon Monday, May 22

[Soil Health for Small-Acreage Producers](#)

1 CE phc / registration appreciated

New & Noteworthy

Have you recently read a gardening-related article or book, visited a horticultural website or blog, listened to a podcast, or seen a nature show or documentary you think other gardeners would enjoy or find useful? Send a link to the newsletter (news.sfemg@gmail.com) and we'll try to include the information in the next issue. The articles were published in 2023 unless otherwise indicated. **Note that some of these sources may have paywalls.**

["Spring gardening is here: Are you ready?"](#) by Emeritus Master Gardener Laurie McGrath, shared with permission of *HOME/Santa Fe New Mexican* (April 2)

["Life with Less Water: Amid a withering drought, New Mexico leaders struggle to plan for life with less water"](#) by Elizabeth Miller and New Mexico in Depth, *Santa Fe Reporter* (April 26)

["Edimentals: What are they, and how to grow them in your garden"](#) by Veronica Peerless, *Gardens Illustrated* (April 25)

["How to grow peonies in pots – top tips for beautiful container displays"](#) by Holly Crossley, *Homes & Gardens* (April 25)

["Sorghum Bran Rises as an Ingredient for Enhancing Gluten-Free Bread"](#) by Jessica Ryan, USDA Agricultural Research Service press release (April 24)

["Carnivorous pitcher plants may use tempting aromas to lure prey to their death"](#) by Laura Baisas, *Popular Science* (April 24)

["A new robotic seed can wriggle into soil to harvest climate data"](#) by Sara Kiley Watson, *Popular Science* (April 20)

["Helping Reduce Methane Emissions by Solving a Sticky Problem for U.S. Produce Exporters,"](#) USDA Foreign Agricultural Service feature (April 20)

["NMSU to host NM Agriculture Sustainability Workshop May 17-18"](#) by Elizabeth McCall, NMSU press release (April 19)

["USDA Invests Over \\$46M in Sustainable Ag Research and Education,"](#) USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture press release (April 19)

["Troy Scott Smith on not watering at Sissinghurst: 'It's incredible that we are making these interventions' "](#) by Stephanie Mahon, *Gardens Illustrated* (April 18)

["How to Design a Perennial Garden With Colors That Last From Spring to Fall"](#) by Bart Ziegler, *The Wall Street Journal* (April 18)

["The Garden Decoder: What Is 'Dry Shade'"](#) by Kier Holmes, *Gardenista* (April 14)

["How Is It Possible That Flowers This Fabulous Are So Easy to Grow? Plant Them ASAP With These Tips"](#) by Deanna Kizis, *Sunset* (April 14)

["Her tiny native plant habitat garden is flourishing. And she didn't even need a yard"](#) by Jeanette Marantos, *Los Angeles Times* (April 11)

["Remarkable arctic tomato could offer solution to supermarket shortages in the future"](#) by Molly Blair, *Gardens Illustrated* (April 1)

The Garden Journal Radio Show



Every Saturday
10 to 10:30 a.m. on KSFR 101.1 FM

May 6: Slow Food Santa Fe Outloud Edition

Hosts Lissa Johnson and Nina Rosenberg interview Adan Manuel “Manny” Encinias, the new executive director of the Santa Fe Farmers' Market Institute.

May 13: SFEMG Edition

Host Alexa Bradford talks with local Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP) co-leader Lesley Janis and one of the founders of SNaPP, Emeritus Master Gardener Laurie McGrath, about the SNaPP demonstration gardens and planting native plants to attract pollinators.

May 20: Food, Farms and Friends: Black Health New Mexico Edition

Join host Sunshine Muse and producer Carrie Core for the Black Health New Mexico Edition, featuring discussions on food, diet, traditions, culture and equity through the lens of the Black experience. This new “Garden Journal” edition is a conversational plate of intentional food for thought. You may never look at history, the present, or the food you eat the same.

May 27: Giant Veggie Gardener Edition with Jannine Cabossel, “The Tomato Lady”

Chris Salem hosts Jannine Cabossel to hear tips and techniques for backyard vegetable gardening and a to-do list for June. See more at Jannine’s Blog:

<https://giantveggiegardener.com/>

You can find past episodes of The Garden Journal here at sfemg.org.

A Passing of the Torch

After 10 years with The Garden Journal, Christine Salem has handed the torch to Master Gardener Alexa Bradford. Alexa is taking over as project leader of The Garden Journal, including the overall administrative responsibilities. She will continue on as producer and host of the Master Gardener edition of The Garden Journal as well as point person with the producers of the three other editions of the Garden Journal.

Alexa moved to Santa Fe from Dallas, Texas, in 2020 and was a member of the SFEMG intern class of 2022. She hosts the podcast “Jubilation: From Work Life to the Rest of Your Life” and began co-hosting The Garden Journal in the spring of 2022.

