

## “David Salman’s Lasting Horticultural Legacy”

By Laurie McGrath

One of the pioneering experts in the horticultural universe has left us. David Salman, founder of Santa Fe Greenhouses, High Country Gardens and Waterwise Gardening, passed away June 5 in Santa Fe. He was a great friend to Santa Fe Master Gardeners for over two decades and will be missed always.

David was an enthusiastic teacher who never said no to our requests for him to teach an intern class, speak at a garden fair, or provide a continuing education presentation on xeriscape design. When the advanced training in native plants gave rise to the Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP) he was excited to support an initiative dear to his heart. He became part of the core curriculum and recently donated nine trees for the native plant demonstration garden at the Santa Fe County Extension Office on Rodeo Road.

As a plant breeder, demonstrating the value and wisdom of planting habitat-improving plants came naturally. His wife, Ava, said he loved nature and the web of life. Insects, butterflies and plants all engaged him early on. From the bayous of Houston, Texas, to the mountains and arroyos of La Cueva, New Mexico, he was observant and happy in the outdoors. So, it makes sense that he pursued his foremost interests and graduated in 1979 with a degree in horticulture from Colorado State University in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

By 1984 he had started Santa Fe Greenhouses with one greenhouse. From there the trajectory of his accomplishments became well known. He traveled worldwide, collecting and propagating plants that conserved water, attracted pollinators and provided stunning beauty in our landscapes. Many have become classics in the trade. He was a founding member in 1992 of Plant Select, a joint venture of Colorado State University and the Denver Botanic Gardens with a mission to discover and



**Courtesy photo of David Salman preparing to add plants at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden in May**



**Ask a Master Gardener**  
**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Master Gardeners and interns will be at the Santa Fe Botanical Garden during the Garden’s upcoming [Community Days](#), where New Mexico residents and students get in **free** with appropriate identification. Look for our volunteers between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, July 4 ► Independence Day
- Saturday, Aug. 20 ► [World Honey Bee Day](#)
- Sunday, Sept. 18 ► Museum Hill Community Day

Note: These dates are subject to change. For current information, check out [santafebotanicalgarden.org](http://santafebotanicalgarden.org).

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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](http://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](http://aces.nmsu.edu)

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

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## A Message from SFEMG Board President Wendy Wilson

What a doozy of a month! My 15- year-old garden helper and I have planted about 650 perennial plants and 50 trees and shrubs. My blessed husband has moved 12 cubic yards of mulch. The windows for our remodel arrived after a 40-week wait. We took a trip to The Hague, and I brought home COVID as a souvenir. Thankfully, it wasn't nearly as debilitating as the booster shot aftereffects.

Most importantly, the rain is falling — literally as I type this. It's a good time to check your irrigation system.

- Is water going where you want it?
- Are individual plants getting water?
- Are plants with emitters still there? Have they died or mysteriously moved?
- Is your tree irrigation wide enough (50 percent wider than the drip line)?
- Is your soil moist at a depth to encourage drought resistant root growth?
  - 24-36" for trees
  - 18-24" for shrubs
  - 8-12" for groundcover, grasses, perennials, vines and annuals
- Does the time your irrigation system is running need to be adjusted?
- Could your established plants thrive with fewer watering sessions each week?
- Do the emitters need to be cleaned, moved or eliminated?
- Is your water budget being used wisely?

For more information, see:

- ✓ [A Waterwise Guide to Trees](#), Water Use and Conservation Bureau, New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
- ✓ [Knowing Your Watering Depth is Key to Growing Healthy Plants](#), Water Utility Authority, Albuquerque Bernalillo County
- ✓ [Same Depth, Less Frequent: Irrigating in Winter](#), College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University

As always, the SFEMGs are here to answer your gardening questions. Please join us at our Ask A Master Gardener sites, submit questions through our website ([SFEMG.org](http://SFEMG.org)) and come visit our demonstration gardens at the County Fair Grounds and see water-wise gardening in live time.

Enjoy July, the depth of Santa Fe summer.

Wendy



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promote the use of plants that succeed in the unique ecosystems of the Plains and Mountain West. He alone introduced a remarkable 60 plants during his career.

High Country Gardens followed in 1993, a collaboration with his wife, Ava. David handled plant propagation and speaking engagements while Ava shepherded a multiple-award-winning garden catalog. When the time came to shift gears, the garden center was closed and mail order operations were sold to American Meadows in 2012. Wisely, David was retained as chief horticulturist and continued his commitment to education and new plant development. The opening of his wholesale enterprise, Waterwise Gardening, LLC in Santa Fe in 2013 signaled that his immense talent and experience would continue to generate new concepts and introductions industrywide.

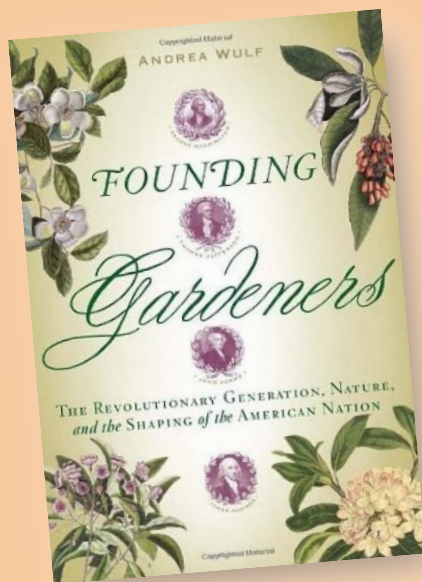


**David describes cactus propagation to individuals with the SFEMG's Santa Fe Native Plant Project (SNaPP) on April 9 at Waterwise Gardening  
Photo by Kathy Haq**

It should come as no surprise that David Salman received the American Horticultural Society's "Great American Gardeners" award in 2008. By then he could be credited with changing gardening in the West, sharing a passion for and knowledge of sustainable landscaping that benefited attendees at his talks and customers worldwide.

David's generosity is legendary. He shared his knowledge, experience and engaging stories throughout our community and beyond. Before he passed he was donating plants, labor and his own time to help refurbish some areas of the Santa Fe Botanical Garden.

At his funeral service, Cantor Cindy Freedman spoke. "We thank you, David Salman, for opening all of our eyes to the stunning beauty of the natural world — plants, trees, animals, mountains, rivers. Encouraging folks to learn about native plants and water conservation. Bringing beauty into our world. Reminding us to stop and be mindful of nature's beauty."



## Book Review

By Eugenia Parry

### “My Own Vine, My Own Fig Tree” — Patriot Planters

— Andrea Wulf, ***Founding Gardeners: The Revolutionary Generation, Nature, and the Shaping of the American Nation***, New York, Vintage Books, A Division of Random House, Inc., 2012, 349 pp.

When Thomas Jefferson, at 84, learned of a 4-foot cucumber grown in Ohio, he appealed from Monticello for seeds from the mammoth. Would the gardener “spare a few to a beggar”? Jefferson wasn’t the only consummate horticulturalist among our Founding Fathers. George Washington directed slaves to cultivate fabulous native plantings on 8,000 acres at Mount Vernon. James Madison’s greenhouses at Montpelier gave onto lush gardens surrounded by thick American forests. John Adams relaxed in a kitchen garden on only 40 acres in Quincy, Massachusetts, “digging stumps and roots,” which didn’t curb his passion as a garden connoisseur. Or his and Madison’s study tours of English gardens — the ultimate in the art — only to discover them proudly displaying American plants!

Andrea Wulf is a historian attracted to subjects where she can explore ways of thinking about intricate connections within nature. Her biography of Alexander von Humboldt (*The Invention of Nature, Alexander von Humboldt’s New World*, 2015) reveals a prescient genius, a model thinker for our own time with “a plurality of mind,” according to Goethe, who saw no boundaries between the sciences. Here in an American history, she examines men who while they gardened also founded a Republic. Original enough. And Wulf’s clearly detailed style makes this history lesson a special delight for native plant gardeners. The depth of her research (100 pages of documentation) reveals these early Americans, like von Humboldt, as boundaryless statesmen. Innovative thinkers with dirt under their fingernails.

Their gardening zeal mirrored their patriotism. Washington saw in the cultivated soil “the country’s wealth and independence.” As they forged a break with the past, they looked at American wildness as the epitome of the country’s national character. Emulating that wildness, their estates included native forests, plains, waterfalls — “qualities they linked to national character, untainted by history, the blood of tyrants, cathedrals, monuments of corrupt religion.”

“In no other country,” wrote their journalists, “would heads of state return to their private lives to promote agriculture, botany, and other useful sciences that add to the welfare of their country and of mankind in general.”

Jefferson liked talking to gardeners. It was far more useful, he said, than wasting time “on good dinners and good society.”





## Hairy Goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*)

By Mark Chalfant

A tough sun lover, hairy goldenaster's cheerful yellow and ray disk flowers brighten the xeriscape garden. Native bees and bumblebees seek out this xeric garden staple. There isn't a tougher, more drought-tolerant daisy for landscaping.

*Heterotheca* is derived from the Greek words *heteros* meaning "different" and *theca* meaning "container," which refers to ray and disk cypsela (dry, single-seeded fruit developing from a double ovary) being morphologically different in various species. *Villosa* is derived from the Latin word for hairy and signifies the presence of densely hairy or silky leaves and stems.

The native distribution of hairy goldenaster, a member of the largest family of dicots, Asteraceae, extends across the central and western part of North America, from coastal British Columbia to Baja California; east to Texas, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Ontario; and south into northeastern Mexico. It is widespread throughout New Mexico, notably in northern New Mexico and Santa Fe County.



**Southern Dogface (*Zerene cesonia*) nectaring in hairy goldenaster**  
Photo by Pam Wolfe

Hairy goldenaster favors a variety of environments in low and high elevations, including grasslands, woodlands, meadows, plains, prairies, rocky slopes and fields. It is plentiful on roadsides and in disturbed areas. It appears in forests of piñon-juniper, ponderosa-oak and Douglas fir.

Like most members of the aster family, this plant provides food and shelter to a host of beneficial insects. The Xerces Society included hairy goldenaster among the 16 plants in its pollinator habitat kits for Santa Fe. A variety of native bees was observed visiting hairy goldenaster in a [two-year study](#)

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carried out by Montana State University, and Olivia Carill listed hairy goldenaster among the 17 “magnet plants, those that attract an extraordinarily diverse bee fauna” in the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The [National Wildlife Federation Native Plant Finder](#) reports 15 species of moths and butterflies that use the plant as host.

**Landscape use:** Hairy goldenaster is an excellent choice for native gardens, rock gardens, prairies and meadows. Unassuming and fuzzy-leafed, it produces small, yellow flowers all summer into early fall. Preferring full sun and dry conditions, it spreads in poor soil. It supplies nectar and pollen for native bees and bumblebees, offering nutrients from the xeriscape garden well into fall.

**Propagation and care:** Hardy and easy to grow, hairy goldenaster thrives in harsh exposures and poor soil. It reproduces from seed and requires no pre-treatment to break dormancy. Sow or plant anytime in well-drained soil. Seeds and plants are available from local nurseries. Plants will show some flowers the first year and flower abundantly in following years, readily re-seeding in the garden. There are no serious pest or disease issues.

**Plant type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Bloom time:** May to October

**Size:** 6-12 inches high and 12-24 inches wide

**Sun:** Full sun, tends to sprawl in part shade

**Soil and habitat:** Dry well-drained soil, gravelly and sandy soils

**Water:** Low, drought tolerant once established

**USDA zones:** 5-8

**Elevation:** 4,000-10,500 feet

#### References:


[Golden aster](#), Southwest Yard and Garden Plant Advisor, New Mexico State University

[Hairy Goldenaster](#), Wildflowers of New Mexico, George Oxford Miller

[Native Plants for Wild Bee Conservation Fact Sheet: Hairy False Golden Aster](#), Montana State University

Carril OM, Griswold T, Haefner J, Wilson JS. 2018. Wild bees of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument: richness, abundance, and spatio-temporal beta-diversity. [PeerJ 6:e5867](#)

Native Plant Society



of New Mexico

Native Plant Society of New Mexico

**2022 Annual Conference**

***A Land Ethic for Seven Generations***

*"We are a part of everything that is beneath us, above us, and around us.  
Our past is our present, our present is our future, and our future is  
seven generations, past and present."*

— Winona LaDuke

Friday, August 5 - Sunday, August 7

University of New Mexico  
Continuing Education Building  
1634 University Boulevard NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131

[Click here for more information.](#)

Rio Grande cottonwood (*Populus deltoides* spp. *Wislizeni*)  
Photo by George Miller

## Backyard Bugs



### Mourning Cloak (*Nymphalis antiopa*)

Narrative and photos by Pam Wolfe

The mourning cloak butterfly spends most of its life cycle as an adult. This is unusual for creatures in the order Lepidoptera, where the adult stage of the life cycle — from egg to larva to pupa to adult — is often only weeks or even days. Some adult Lepidoptera do not feed, but live only long enough to mate and lay eggs. Adult mourning cloaks, however, spend the winter in hibernation, emerging in early spring. They belong to the family Nymphalidae (brush-footed butterflies). Brushfoots appear to have only four legs, the front two being much reduced in size and functioning more like mouthparts than legs. [Bug Eric](#) writes that these are used by the female to scratch the leaves of potential host plants, allowing her to sample the chemistry of the plant for suitability as a host. The mourning cloak is common throughout the northern hemisphere and will produce two generations annually in the southern latitudes of its range.



**Chrysalis found under a plant display table at Waterwise Gardening, LLC (top) and the adult mourning cloak, just emerged from the chrysalis, acclimating to its all-new form**

Adult mourning cloaks feed on tree sap and rotten fruit, very occasionally visiting flowers for nectar. The preferred host for the black and red spiny caterpillars is willow (*Salix spp.*), but [Bugguide.net](#) lists in addition elm (*Ulmus americana*), hackberry (*Celtus occidentalis*), cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), and birch (*Betula papyrifera*).





Too beautiful to eat: Sondrio Select Italian dry pole beans | Photo by Christine Salem

*The SFEMG's Santa Fe Seed Stewards are offering free "Seeding Resilience" gardening classes Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at the Southside Branch Library, 6599 Jaguar Drive, July 7-Aug. 4. No registration is required. To learn more about seed saving, visit [Santa Fe Seed Library](#) on the SFEMG website. For questions about the 'Seeding Resilience' gardening classes, contact Christine Salem at [jcsalem@comcast.net](mailto:jcsalem@comcast.net).*

**July 7:** The series kicks off with a screening of *Seed: The Untold Story*. This award-winning film follows passionate seed keepers protecting our 12,000-year-old food legacy. With Vandana Shiva, Winona LaDuke and Jane Goodall.

**July 14:** Seed Stewards and Master Gardeners Susie Sonflieth and Diane Pratt will present *Seed Saving for Resilient Gardens*. They will cover the basics of harvesting, processing and storage of vegetable, herb and flower seeds through hands-on demonstrations.

**July 21:** Kelly Nace with The Firebird covers *Drip Irrigation Basics* and best practices for setting up a do-it-yourself water-wise drip irrigation system.

**July 28:** The film *Kiss the Ground*, narrated by Woody Harrelson, explores the astonishing capacity of our soil, if coupled with regenerative practices, to reverse our carbon footprint and help feed the world.

**Aug. 4: Planning Your Fall Vegetable Garden.** Local vegetable guru Jannine Cabossel, aka The Tomato Lady and Master Gardener Emeritus, offers proven techniques for extending your gardening bounty well into the cooler fall months.

In addition, from 1-3 p.m. on **Saturday, Sept. 24**, Seed Stewards and Master Gardeners Susie Sonflieth and Diane Pratt will offer *How to Save Seeds for Resilient Gardens* in conjunction with the SFEMG's "Let's Grow!" free public education series. The class includes the basics of harvesting, processing and storage of vegetable, herb and flower seeds through hands-on demonstrations and will be held at the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, outdoors under the portal of the Exhibit Hall.




**Let's Grow!**  
 FREE public education series for the home gardener



**Saturday, July 9**  
 Harvey Cornell Rose Park, 1315 Galisteo Parkway, Santa Fe

**How to Deadhead Roses Properly**  
 Hands-on instruction from 9-9:30 a.m.  
 Hands-on practice 9:30 a.m. to noon  
*Bring hand-held pruners, gloves and drinking water, and wear long sleeves*



**Easy from seed**

Blanketflower (*Gaillardia artistata*) and Prairie Coneflower (*Ratibida columnifera*) are the most successful of the wildflowers planted from seed in August 2021 on the west side of the Santa Fe County Extension Office on Rodeo Road. This small patch of reclaimed meadow will “green up” now that the summer rains have begun, but through this painfully dry spring Blanketflower and Prairie Coneflower have been supporting pollinators and other beneficial insects. — Pam Wolfe for the SFEMG Santa Fe Native Plant Project | Photo by Kathy Haq

**“Gardening is the slowest of the performing arts.”**

— Cultural landscape historian and writer Mac Griswold



# 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. **Note: SFEMG no longer uses the NMSU database for tracking volunteer hours that was piloted in 2021.**
- If there is a dollar sign, there is a fee.
- 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](mailto:deutsch.stephanie@gmail.com)

## Saturday, July 2

[Greenhouse Design and Operation](#)

Santa Fe Community College / \$ / 3 CE

## Tuesdays, July 5-July 26

[Seed to Supper Vegetable Gardening Series](#)

Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch, 6599 Jaguar Drive, Santa Fe

**July 5:** Planting Your Garden

**July 12:** Caring for Your Growing Garden (Part 1)

**July 19:** Caring for Your Growing Garden (Part 2)

**July 26:** Harvesting and Using Your Bounty

Classes are free. Space is limited. To register, contact Sally Cassady at (575) 646-0334 or

[scassady@nmsu.edu](mailto:scassady@nmsu.edu) / 2 CE per class attended

## Wednesday, July 20

["Water Storage" with Sandra Liakus, Sandoval County Extension Master Gardener](#)

New Mexico State University "Ready, Set, GROW!" Webinar / 1 CE phc

## Thursday, July 21

[Bring Back the Pollinators: Managing Pests While Protecting Pollinators](#)

Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation / 1 CE

[Entangled Life: Merlin Sheldrake in Conversation with Eugenia Bone](#)

New York Botanical Garden / \$ / 1 CE

## Thursday, July 21, and Saturday, July 23

[Seasonal Wildflower Identification](#)

Santa Fe Community College / \$ / 1 CE phc

## Thursday, July 28

[Good for the Land, Good for Us: How Farming Can Improve Human Health](#)

Smithsonian Associates / \$ / 1 CE



## 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. **Note that some of these sources may have paywalls.**

[“Small efforts in landscaping are needed now”](#) by Laurie McGrath, shared with permission of *HOME/Santa Fe New Mexican* (June 2022)

[“What if the next big crop we grow is for building materials?”](#) by John Laurenson, *Marketplace* (June 20, 2022)

[“NMSU’s soil health research project helps local producers”](#) by Tiffany Acosta, NMSU press release (June 20, 2022)

[“Learn all about New Mexico onions at this year’s onion field day”](#) by Adriana M. Chávez, NMSU press release (June 16, 2022)

[“Coneflower 101: Care Tips, New Varieties and More”](#) by Rachael Liska, *Birds & Blooms* (June 16, 2022)

[“Native Blanketflower Will Blanket Gardens in Bold Color”](#) by Jill Staake, *Birds & Blooms* (June 16, 2022)

[“Florist Shares The Best Ways To Preserve Flowers From Home”](#) by Nicole Tommasulo, *The List* (June 16, 2022)

[“Sunflowers: the best varieties and how to grow”](#) by Matthew Biggs & Jason Ingram, *Gardens Illustrated* (June 15, 2022)

[“In ‘Seed Stories,’ Photographer Thierry Ardouin Unveils the Stunning Diversity of Plants”](#) by Grace Ebert, *Colossal* (June 8, 2022)

[“Bees are legally fish in California, court rules. Here’s why and what led to it”](#) by Noor Adatia, *The Sacramento Bee* (June 7, 2022)

[“How to Make Blue Spruce Trees More Blue”](#) by Karen Holcomb (reviewed by Victoria Lee Blackstone, horticulturist), *Hunker* (June 7, 2022)

[“\\$2 million NSF grant to train NMSU’s future agriculture, artificial intelligence researchers”](#) by Minerva Baumann, NMSU press release (June 6, 2022)

[“The regenerative farm working to improve soil without fertilisers”](#) by Joanna Partridge, *The Guardian* (June 3, 2022)

[“Hollyhocks: how to grow alcea”](#) by John Hoyle with photographs by Torie Chugg, *Gardens Illustrated* (June 1, 2022)

[“What’s the oldest tree on Earth — and will it survive climate change?”](#) by Craig Welch, with photographs by Keith Ladzinski, *National Geographic* (May 31, 2022)

[“Rancher Finds a ‘Pot of Gold’ Containing a Perfectly Preserved 1000-Year-Old Pueblo Variety of Corn”](#) by Sara Burrows, *Return to Now* (February 8, 2022)

# The Garden Journal Radio Show



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

## July 2: Slow Food Santa Fe Outloud Edition

Hosts Lissa Johnson and Nina Rosenberg interview Erin Wade, chef/owner of Vinaigrette restaurant, about her forthcoming book.

## July 9: SFEMG Edition

Charlie Shultz, Lead Faculty in the Controlled Environment Agriculture Program, joins co-host Christine Salem to talk about the potential of hydroponics and aquaponics in our food system.

## July 16: Soil Stories Edition

Host Carrie Core features a conversation with Phoebe Suina, founder and owner of High Water Mark LLC, about restoring the soil and watershed after a fire and what we can learn from indigenous practices to prevent and mitigate the impact of wildfires.

## July 23: NMSU Extension Edition

Santa Fe Extension Agriculture Agent Tom Dominguez and his guests discuss the latest news from the Cooperative Extension Service.

## July 30: Home Grown New Mexico Edition

Jannine Cabossel, "The Tomato Lady," shares tips and techniques for backyard vegetable gardening and a to-do list for August. See more at [Giant Veggie Gardener](#).

You can find past episodes of The Garden Journal here at [sfemg.org](#).



### We are here to help!

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

Just go to [sfemg.org](#) and pose your question. We'll do some research and get back to you.