

Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners Newsletter



Santa Fe Seed Stewards Kick Off 2021 Growing Season Free screening of *“Seed: The Untold Story”*

Story and photos by Project Co-leader Christine Salem

The Santa Fe Seed Library, named one of the *Santa Fe Reporter’s* “25 Things We Love About Santa Fe Right Now” in 2020, is now in its third season. The Santa Fe Seed Stewards and partner organizations are responding to pandemic-related library closures by again locating “mini seed libraries” at 11 locations throughout the county starting in March and continuing through May or as long as seed supplies last.

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To kick off the 2021 growing season, the SFEMG and Santa Fe Public Library will host a free, online screening of the award-winning 2016 documentary, "[Seed: The Untold Story](#)." Featuring Bill McDorman, Vandana Shiva and other seed-security pioneers, this inspirational film offers a powerful exploration of how locally-adapted seeds contribute to biodiversity, culture, community, food security and climate change resilience.

You can view the film for free on [Kanopy](#), the online streaming service offered through the Public Library. A library card, also free, is required and can be acquired online [here](#). The Library has tentative plans to host a panel discussion featuring local seed advocates and experts.

2021 Mini Seed Library locations include the Main, LaFarge and Southside Public Library branches, Reunity Resources, the Santa Fe County Fairgrounds, and Eldorado, Galisteo, Pojoaque and Edgewood. In addition, Home Grown New Mexico is hosting two locations: the Seed Shelter on Burro Lane and outside the classroom in Railyard Park. For most locations, the seeds will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays starting March 6. Please go to [sfemg.org](#), for maps, addresses, dates and times. Patrons must wear masks, sanitize, maintain social distancing and take no more than five packets. Cold season varieties and seeds that must be started indoors will be available in March and warm season varieties later on.

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“We anticipate that the demand for seeds in 2021 will again outstrip supply, as it did in 2020 when a record number of people used their extra free time to engage in home-based hobbies and a lot of new gardeners sprouted up,” said co-project leader Susie Sonflieth. “The Santa Fe Public Library’s Southside Branch, which hosts the Santa Fe Seed Library, locked its doors to the public last March, so we quickly freed the seeds and launched our Mini Seed Library distribution, giving out 5,000 seed packets at seven distribution points in only a few weeks.”

“The seed library is an important component of our mission to provide a wide range of resources to the Santa Fe community — especially during these challenging times. We applaud the Master Gardeners for finding a way to continue the project in response to the Library’s pandemic-related move to curbside service,” said Maria Sanchez-Tucker, Library Division Director.

Over 500 seed libraries have sprung up across North America in recent years to provide access to seeds and encourage seed saving and seed sharing. Seed libraries offer seeds free to the public and request that patrons “pay it forward” by saving a portion of their harvest to return seeds to the library to share with others in the local community. Many gardeners have lost their connection to seeds, becoming reliant on commercial seed companies, many of whom purchase their seeds from as far away as China. Seed libraries are more important than ever as a way of addressing hunger and food deserts. By encouraging seed saving, seed libraries help connect us to the knowledge, traditions and stewardship of people 10,000-plus years ago that have led to the seeds that still sustain us.

As Bill McDorman, founder of Rocky Mountain Seed Alliance, said, “Seeds are self-replicating. They can take information on each life cycle and change themselves each generation. It’s an intelligent, self-replicating system. You can take a pocketful of seeds anywhere on the planet and start a whole new agriculture.” When you buy your seeds each year you miss out on all of that local seed intelligence.

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As in 2019, the SFEMG Seed Stewards will also offer live or (more likely) Zoom workshops on how to check out and “return” seeds, how to harvest and store seeds, and how to save seeds that can create locally-adapted, climate-change resilient varieties of their very own.

Local gardeners can support the seed library by designating a portion of their garden to save seeds to donate. We prefer seeds saved from open-pollinated varieties that have not been allowed to cross with other plants so that they will grow true to type. And we want to hear the family and cultural stories that go along with these cherished seeds.



Master Gardener Bonnie Martin

This project is a community service of the SFEMG Seed Stewards in partnership with the [Santa Fe Public Library](#) and [Home Grown New Mexico](#). We are grateful for the support of Seed Savers Exchange, Baker Creek Rare Seeds, Plants of the Southwest, Lake Valley Seeds, La Villita Farm, Farm Direct Organic, Snake River Seed Cooperative, High Ground Gardens, El Guique Farm, Western Family Farm, Agua Fria Nursery, Botanical Interest, High Mowing Organic Seeds, Reunity Resources, Zulu Petals, La Tienda at Eldorado, the many local gardeners who have donated their seeds, and the hard-working Seed Stewards committee: Rosa La Cerva, Deborah Madison, Bonnie Martin, Diane Pratt, Jody Pugh and Donna Wynant.

[“25 Things We Love About Santa Fe Right Now”](#) *Santa Fe Reporter* (Jan. 28, 2020)

A Message from SFEMG Board President Wendy Wilson

So, let's play true garden confessions. I adore hydrangeas. I like petunias. I can't grow cosmos under grow lights to save my life and outside of the garden lilies leave me cold. Gardening saved my children's lives. (I mean, pulling weeds kept me from killing them at least 10,000 times!) I'm sure you have your own garden confessions and aren't we richer for our diversity of likes and dislikes?

It's the mission of the SFEMG to pass on gardening information in a non-discriminatory, non-biased and educational way. We are good at it. We can be better. At our January board retreat we challenged ourselves to increase our outreach to our Spanish speaking and Indigenous neighbors. We aim to include more information and activities for families with young children. Let's put our minds together to grow an organization that welcomes and provides services to all our neighbors.



The Santa Fe Public Spaces Tree Inventory project, led by Athena Bashir and Becky Touchett, and the SFEMG demonstration vegetable garden, led by Carl Troy, will have Spanish speakers on-site. Select Continuing Education opportunities will be listed and taught in Spanish.

At the Randall Davey Audubon Center, native plants and those that benefit pollinators and wildlife are being labeled and mapped by Colleen Madrid, Ann Caudell, Jean Shaw-Hioki, Susie Sonflieth and Marta Gyeviki. We are hopeful that our Audubon Center day camps for children, led by Chris Durlak, can resume later this year as public health restrictions are lifted.

Joan Dayton, Ruthbeth Finerman, Lissa Johnson and Karen Ramage are working with the Historic Santa Fe Foundation in the Garden at El Zaguán to support historic plants whilst being mindful of a changing climate, the need for more waterwise plantings, and the continued creation of a beautiful and lush garden for visitors to enjoy. An updated garden guide and plant list are under development to inform and enhance the experience.

How do I see the SFEMG perpetuating a culture of inclusion and education that nurtures a love of gardening among all our Santa Fe neighbors? Naturally, I'm counting on our outstanding membership. We have 150 returning Master Gardeners, 38 returning 2020 interns and 60 current interns, with more on the waiting list. In spite of rigid public health restrictions last year, we made a huge impact on Santa Fe's gardening community. Members donated 2,548 hours on upkeep of our projects and provided 217.5 hours of public education. In addition, they managed to accumulate 1,168 hours of

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continuing education to increase their value to the local gardening community. Our yearly goal of 10,000 volunteer hours is achievable with Santa Fe County's current yellow status. We can now have 10 participants at each site per work day.

Our Virtual Plant Sale, the SFEMG's premier fundraiser, is scheduled for early May. Our chairpersons, Susie Summers (sbsummersnp@hotmail.com) and Bonnie Martin (ooley12@msn.com), are ordering plants and organizing order fulfillment and pick-up logistics. They need their fellow Master Gardeners and interns to help. Look for more information in next month's *SFEMG Newsletter* and keep an eye on SignUpGenius for information on how you can support this important event.

I look forward to gardening, learning and socializing with you this year.

Fondly,
Wendy



“[Biophilia] means the inborn affinity human beings have for other forms of life, an affiliation evoked, according to circumstance, by pleasure, or a sense of security, or awe, or even fascination blended with revulsion.”

— American biologist, naturalist and writer Edward O. Wilson discussing the title of his 1984 book by the same name. The word was originally popularized by German-born American psychoanalyst Erich Fromm in the 1960s.

Available Now! 'Garden Beauty' Forever Stamps

“Gardening is one of the nation’s favorite pastimes, and with these stunning new [Garden Beauty](#) stamps, the U.S. Postal Service celebrates the American passion for flowers and gardens.” *Source: USPS.com*



Save These Dates!

There is a silver lining to the coronavirus cloud: Some events that might have been out of reach for many of us in the past can be enjoyed this year because they've gone virtual. See for yourselves and mark your calendars!

See next month's SFEMG Newsletter for more information about our Virtual Plant Sale.

JUNE 7-11

[New Frontiers: Rising from Roots](#)

American Public Gardens Association (open to members and non-members)

AUG 20-22

[People and Native Plants. A Journey through Time](#)

Native Plant Society of New Mexico Annual Conference 2021

SEPT 12-17

[2021 International Master Gardener Conference](#)

The conference will feature six days of virtual networking, workshops and education brought to you by the Virginia Extension Master Gardener program.



We are here to help!

If you have a gardening question, Santa Fe Master Gardeners are available to help. Go to sfemg.org and pose your question. Someone will do research and get back to you.





Fendler's Sundrops (*Oenothera hartwegii* ssp. *fendleri*; synonym *Calylophus hartwegii* ssp. *fendleri*)

by Ann Caudell

Fendler's Sundrops' native range includes the Southern Great Plains south to Texas and west to Arizona, and dry mesas and limestone outcroppings on the Colorado Plateau at elevations of 4,000 to 7,000 feet. It is also found on roadsides, hill-sides and plains.

It is a member of the Onagraceae (evening primrose) family and is classified as a woody perennial. It is an upright, coarse-textured perennial that has green leaves with scallops on the edges, pale stems and large yellow flowers that are



Megan Hansen (via Wikimedia Commons)

on the ends of upright narrow stems. The flowers have four petals making them appear square. The flowers fade over time to reddish pink and orange and stay on the plant creating beautiful contrasting colors. This plant begins to bloom in June and blooms all summer. It is unique in that its flowers open during the day while most primroses bloom at night.

Landscape use: A small-area ground cover, the plant works well in dry gardens, dry slopes, rock gardens and rock outcroppings. Its colors go well with sagebrushes (*Artemisia* spp), native cacti, succulents, penstemons, blackfoot daisy (*Melampodium leucanthum*), blue flax (*Linum lewisii*) and bunch grasses such as purple three-awn (*Aristida purpurea*), blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*), Mexican feather grass (*Nassella tenuissima*), sheep's fescue (*Festuca ovina*) and Indian rice grass (*Eriocoma hymenoides*). It attracts hawk moths, butterflies and hummingbirds.

Planting and care: You can plant this low-maintenance treasure in full sun in nutrient-poor, well-drained soil. Fendler's Sundrops are grasshopper resistant and very drought tolerant, requiring little irrigation once established.

Planting and care: Start from seed or cuttings.

Plant type: woody perennial

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Bloom time: spring and summer

Size: 1 foot tall by 3 feet wide

Sun: full sun

Soil: lean, well-drained soil

Water: low

USDA zones: 4-8

References:

Busco, Janice and Nancy R. Morin. *Native Plants for High-Elevation Western Gardens – 2nd Ed.* (Chicago Review, 2010) In Partnership with The Arboretum at Flagstaff.

Carter, Jack L., Martha A. Carter, Donna J. Stevens, and Jennifer M. Bousset. *Common Southwestern Native Plants: An Identification Guide – 3rd Ed.* (Colorado Native Plant Society, 2018)

Springer-Ogden, Lauren and Scott Ogden. *Waterwise Plants for Sustainable Gardens: 200 Drought-Tolerant Choices for All Climates* (Timber, 2011)



Russ Kleinman, Western New Mexico University
Department of the Natural Sciences and the
Dale A. Zimmerman Herbarium

New Mexico State University Webinar Series

Trees & Shrubs Part 1	1 CE
Trees & Shrubs Part 2	1 CE
Trees & Shrubs Part 3	0.5 CE
Quick Guide to Planting Trees	0.5 CE
Maintenance and Diagnosing Tree Problems	1 CE
Tree Selection and Care: Avoiding Probable Pests and Disasters	0.5 CE
Ready, Set, GROW! Gardening Webinar Series: Selecting and Planting Trees	1 CE
Ready, Set, GROW! Pollinator Habitat for Fall/Winter Garden	0.5 CE
Ready, Set, GROW! Planting the Fall Veggie Garden	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 include the information in the next issue. **Note that some of these sources may have paywalls.**

[“Monarch Butterflies Are Nearing Extinction: 5 Ways to Help”](#) by Kier Holmes, *Gardenista* (Feb. 18, 2021)

[“Experts identify ‘super-plant’ that absorbs roadside air pollution,”](#) by PA Media for *The Guardian* (Feb. 18, 2021)

[“City Heights Seed Library Cultivates Interest In Native Plants”](#) by Max Rivlin-Nadler, *kpbs.org* (Feb. 16, 2021)

[“5 Plants With Medicinal Properties in Your Own Backyard”](#) by Sarah Watts, *Discover* (Feb. 15, 2021)

[“Uprooted: A Gardener Reflects on Beginning Again”](#) by Page Dickey
A book review by Katie Beale, *Gardens Illustrated* (Feb. 16, 2021)

[“Saving the Butterfly Forest”](#) Photography by Brendan George Ko and text by Carolyn Kormann, *The New Yorker* (Feb. 8, 2021)

[“In an anxious winter, the garden still offers consolation”](#) by Julia Rubin, *Associated Press* (Feb. 10, 2021)

[“The Master Gardeners: In the company of bees”](#) by Pam Wolfe, *Santa Fe New Mexican Home Magazine* (Feb. 7, 2021)

[“Soon, You Could Be Wearing Mushroom Leather. But Will It Be Better for the Environment?”](#) by Leslie Nemo, *Discover* (Feb. 2, 2021)

[“Healthy Work, Healthy City”](#) announcement by the architectural firm NBBJ that biophilia — the concept that describes humanity’s innate connection to nature — is the inspiration behind Amazon’s new headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, and a special building called the Helix. (Feb. 2, 2021)

[“Four plants that are scientifically proven to be therapeutic”](#) by Sandra Gutierrez G., *Popular Science* (Jan. 25, 2021)

[“5 Beautiful Ways to Make Fresh Herbs Last Longer”](#) by Stacey Lindsay, *Gardenista* (Jan. 12, 2021)

The Garden Journal Radio Show

Every Saturday
10-10:30 a.m.



Tune in to KSFR 101.1 FM on Saturday mornings from 10 to 10:30 to listen to a lively entertaining, and informative gardening show. Show host: Christine Salem

March 6: Slow Food Santa Fe edition

Hosts Lissa Johnson and Nina Rosenberg interview Zoey Fink, New Mexico Campaign Organizer for the National Young Farmers Coalition, about being a young farmer in New Mexico.

March 13: SFEMG edition

Santa Fe County Extension Agriculture Agent Tom Dominguez hosts this show featuring news and gardening tips from New Mexico State University experts.

March 20: Food, Farms & Friends edition

“Soil Stories” with host Carrie Core

March 27: Home Grown New Mexico edition

Jannine Cabossel, “The Tomato Lady,” discusses April in your vegetable garden.

More info at [Giant Veggie Gardener](#)

Schedule subject to change. To listen to previous broadcasts, click [here](#).

March Calendar of Events

We do not know when face-to-face events will be viable again, but please continue to check the SFEMG website and the websites of other organizations to see what's being offered. Note that "phc" stands for "per hour of class time."

Mar 5	2021 7th Annual Tree Diversity Conference (DBG)	6.5 CE
Mar 10	Cold, Hardy Succulents and Cacti (CSU)	1CE
Mar 11-12	2021 Annual Fruit Grower Workshop (NMSU)	each day 3 CE
Mar 13	Herb Propagation 1 (SFEMG)	2 CE
Mar 13	A New Gardener Boot Camp (DBG)	6 CE
Mar 14	Herb Propagation 2 (SFEMG)	2 CE
Mar 17	Amazing Vegetables A to Z: The Garden Build (DBG)	2.5 CE
Mar 18	Cold-Hardy Berry Varieties Suited for the Mountain West (USU)	1 CE
Mar 24	Amazing Vegetables A to Z: Planting (DBG)	2.5 CE
Mar 24	Invasive Species: Understanding the Issues , presented by the Front Range Invasive Species Campaign (CSU)	1.5 CE
Mar 31	Amazing Vegetables A to Z: Extended Gardening (DBG)	2.5 CE

- DBG:** [Denver Botanic Gardens](#)
CSU: [Colorado State University Extension](#)
NMSU: [New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service](#)
SFEMG: [Santa Fe Extension Master Gardeners](#)
USU: [Utah State University Extension](#)
XS: [Xerces Society](#)

Looking ahead:

April 1	https://www.xerces.org/events/oregon/soil-invertebrates-getting-to-know-life-in-soil (Xerces Society)	1.5 CE
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See next month's SFEMG Newsletter for more Continuing Education options

Members Only: For a complete list of Master Gardener projects and to sign up, please visit SignUpGenius, a link to which is in the Members Only section of the SFEMG website. To log hours worked and to see year-to-date totals, visit Track It Forward in the same location.



Mission Statement:

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.

New Mexico State University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and educator.

