

SAND'n'SEEDS

April 2016

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Upcoming Events

- April 7th - Seminar - John Murphy - Gardening With and Without Rattlesnakes - 9:30 am - Desert Hills Social Center
- April 9th - Spring Garden Tour - Fund Raiser - 9 am to 3 pm
- April 14th - Seminar - Wendy Lotz - Historical Gardening in the Southwest - 9:30 am - Desert Hills Social Center
- April 28th - Seminar - Margaret Joplin - Garden Art - 9:30 am - Desert Hills Social Center
- May 15th - Arid Garden party for members



Arid Garden -- Mary Kidnocker

PROJECT UPDATES



Wildflowers at Arid Garden
Mary Kidnocker

Arid Garden by Mary Kidnocker

A warm welcome to our newest volunteer, Carol Gunneman!

Current blooming wildflowers include pink penstemon, mounds of verbena varieties, bright yellow dyssodia, nicotiana, and fleabane, all volunteers scattered throughout the garden. The LaScala raised cactus bed is also a riot of small colorful flowers. Prickly pear plants and

trichocereus cactus are covered with buds waiting to pop.

A special thanks to neighbor Dale Maas who has loaned us an adorable bird house with bird attached, as well as gifting the garden a large red flowered 'Kangaroo Paw' plant.

Mark your calendar for the annual "Sunday in the Garden" event on May 15th -- beverages, foo, entertainment, chatting with fellow gardeners, and a chance to meet our resident bunnies -- at the beautiful Arid Garden, where else?!

Historic Canoa Ranch (HCR) by Jack Davis and Raydine Taber

Super thanks to our GVG volunteers, Jessie and Amy of Pima County Native Nursery (PCNN), and the HCR staff for one of the busiest months since original planting of the HCR gardens. Having removed the severe overgrowth of cactus/succulents on the E garden of the Sr. House, in February, PCNN staff provided replacements with smaller, slower growing plants. The kitchen gardens at W Sr. House and the Grijalva House cleaned out and the initial warm season plants, as designed by Jan Nash, were substituted.

A sudden failure of the original single station irrigation timer at the Sr. House kitchen garden was detected by the Pima County HCR staff. Knowing we were planning to have dual irrigation lines to allow placement of hanging baskets, they located a dual station timer and replaced the single one. This then allowed our irrigation person and Jack to install the overhead irrigation for the hanging baskets.

All of these activities were completed in time for the Pima County NRPR Gala Fund-Raising event on March 19th, attended by descendants of the Manning family from California; who brought memorabilia and provided tales of their early days at the HCR to Pima County Supervisors, donating public and our GVG representatives, including President Berdine. Refreshments and a BBQ dinner followed as the sun set and newly supplied electricity in the Jr. House provided shadowy lighting around the fireplace and new display case areas. Initial donations of trees for the road leading into HCR, as well cash to further assist the restoration project were announced by the NRPR staff.

Then on Saturday, March 26th, the Heritage Day celebration was attended by many hundreds of visitors. Our GVG volunteers had tables and displays at both the Sr. House and the Grijalva House providing information and handouts of the many GVG projects,

including the forthcoming garden tour. This time we kept count of the number of public for whom gardens were explained, information provided and, for many touring of inside the garden with herb tasting, if desired. Although most of the activity occurred at the Sr. kitchen garden, due to the proximity to the entrance, 177 visitors were communicated with at both locations. Again, thanks to the many GVG volunteers there from 8:30 am to near 3 pm.

Desert Meadows Park

by Chuck Parsons

If you have not visited the park in the last week, you must! Three beautiful clay totems have been installed along the Anza Trail. Betty Johnson provided coordination of this project at the GVR clay studio. I understand that twenty-one members of the clay studio provided the pieces which make up the totems. Each piece is in itself a piece of art -- together they make a stunning addition to the park.

The plot holders are busy converting their gardens from cool season to warm season crops. Lots of activity taking place which attracts many curious visitors that are not accustomed to our two-season gardening. Also the winter-resident plot holders are turning their plots over to GVG to tend during the summer. Elissa Dearing is planning what will be planted in each of the plots. Again, all the produce from these plots will be donated to the food bank. We harvest on Wednesday for the Green Valley branch and on Saturday morning for the Sahuarita branch. If you would like to help prepare, tend and harvest these plots, Elissa will well your help. You just need to check in with her at the garden on Wednesday and Saturday mornings.

The wildflowers are beautiful, so while at the park to check out the totems, be sure to walk the grounds and enjoy all the blossoms especially around the Hummingbird/Butterfly picnic area.



Clay totem, one of three
Greg Hill

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Spring Garden Tour by Sara Hein

Be sure to purchase your tickets for this annual event, sponsored by Green Valley Gardeners. Your donation of \$10 for members or \$12 for the general public helps to support our many wonderful community projects.



This year's Garden Tour features five unique and beautiful landscapes; a peaceful courtyard, a wildlife habitat, a colorful poolside retreat, Mediterranean and a sprawling desert landscape.

The tour is Saturday, April 9th from 9 am to 3 pm. Advance discounted tickets can be purchased at this Thursday's seminar (9:30 am Desert Hills Social Center, "Gardening with and without snakes in the Sonoran", come early for tickets), Wednesday's Farmers' Market in Green Valley Village, or at Friends in Deed on the morning of the tour. General public tickets are available at each of those locations as well as Native Gardens, Happy Quail, Hallmark and Chamber of Commerce (checks or cash only at the four stores). For more

information on ticket sales, please call Sara Hein 970-237-9430.

Seminar Committee

Barry Weissman gave a seminar in March on how to make a rain barrel. He has provided the following references:

- Video -- HOUZZ: How to make a rain barrel [Link](#)
- Precott Rain Garden -- Instructions & recommendations for plants [Link](#)
- Brad Lancaster; Rainwater Harvesting, Vol 1, Appendix 4 -- Plant list [Link](#)
- Cooperative Extension bulletins [Link](#)
 - AZ1565 -- Basic Components of a Rainwater Storage System
 - AZ1344 -- Harvesting Rainwater for Landscape Use
 - AZ1564 -- Passive Water Harvesting

Membership Activities Committee

The committee would like to hear from you as to activities and/or tours you'd like them to consider for fall, winter and spring. Please contact the co-chairs, Marita Ramsay or Cathy Merritt.

Membership by Judy Christensen

We are happy to welcome 9 new members that joined in March. Say hello to:

- Nancy Lucas and Peter Van Wormer
- Richard and Kathleen Pearson
- Michael Sarracino and Rita Davis
- Ruth and George Tamminga
- Dean Yoesting

Thanks to each of you for supporting Green Valley Gardeners and our mission of horticultural education and community service.

Message from the President -- Bill Berdine

The past two months, February through March, have been an amazing concoction of gardening activities. The GVG seminar series with presentations by Glenn Wright (Stone Fruit), Jennie MacFarland (Urban Bird Habitats), Marylee Pangman (Container Gardening), Alex Shipley (Spring Plant Sale), Joseph Porrazzo (Rainbird Irrigation), and Barry Weissman (Rain Barrel) we averaged well over 125 attendees per session. This affirms the GVG Board's commitment to the seminar series.

With this in mind, I am soliciting recommendations for seminar topics and presenters for the upcoming Fall/Winter 2016 and the Winter/Spring 2017. Your input will be much appreciated as we move forward with the seminar schedule.

I would like to direct the membership's attention to our activities at the Historic Canoa Ranch (HCR). For the past several years, Jack Davis and Raydine Taber have led a group of GVG volunteers in the renovation of the HCR's vegetable and herb gardens. The work has been focused on planting vegetables and herbs that would have been staple crops for the original residents. The renovation and growth of the HCR by Pima County and the GVG is remarkable. The HCR may will be our next major club effort for the greater Green Valley community. If you have not been to the HCR lately, you might want to add this to your "to do list".

If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact me. [Email me](#)

Editor: Chuck Parsons | Green Valley Gardeners | 520-904-9020 |
chuck@greenvalleygardeners.com | www.greenvalleygardeners.com

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