

# SAND'n'SEEDS

## CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

**February 11<sup>th</sup>** – Seminar, Rainwater Harvesting, an Introduction, Kendal Kroesen,  
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

**February 18<sup>th</sup>** –

- Members' tour: Tucson Botanical Gardens (see article in Members' Activities section)
- Members' workshop: Rio Rico FFA propagation (see article in Members' Activities section)

**February 25<sup>th</sup>** – Seminar, Container Gardening,  
Marylee Pangman  
Book signing by Marylee in the lobby afterward.  
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Seminar, Featured plants at plant sale,  
Alex Shipley  
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

**March 3, 4 & 5** – **SPRING PLANT SALE** – Continental  
Shopping Plaza

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** – **TCSS/GVG SPRING FAIR** – Continental  
Shopping Plaza

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Seminar, Rain Barrel – a how to,  
Barry Weissman  
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am  
• Seminar followed by a Members' garden tour

**March 24<sup>th</sup>** – Seminar, Landscaping for birds & butterflies,  
Meg Quinn  
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Spring Garden Tour

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Tucson Master Gardeners' 17<sup>th</sup> annual Home  
Garden tour – tickets will be sold at the Spring Fair

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## **MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES**

### **MEMBERS' ACTIVITY COMMITTEE – Marita Ramsay and Cathy Merritt**

We started out the New Year with a wonderful potluck at La Posada on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Over 80 members attended and the food was delicious and plentiful. Even better, it was an excellent opportunity for members to socialize and become better acquainted with our newer members. Special thanks to Mary Kidnocker for arranging the room, Joanne Atkinson for handling the reservations and Pam Grant for the table arrangements which were our door prizes.

On Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> we are touring Tucson Botanical Gardens and experience the Butterfly Magic Exhibit. Lunch at the Café Botanica is optional after the tour.

Group admission rate is \$11 and we are taking reservations at our weekly seminars and by mail. The cutoff for registration is Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup>. For more information, contact Marita Ramsay 208-290-7770 or Cathy Merritt 503-245-5914

### **MEMBERS' WORKSHOP – Bill Berdine**

As part of the Green Valley Gardeners (GVG) development of inter-generational activities, a workshop focusing on best practices in vegetable plant propagation will be offered at the Rio Rico High Schools (RRHS) Agriculture Departments Green House complex. GVG members will be paired with RRHS Future Farmer of America students and work together on propagation techniques.

The workshop will take place at the Rio Rico High School Future Farmers of America greenhouses on February 18, 2016 from 9 am to noon. A limited number of participants slots are available so early sign-up is advised by contacting Chuck Parsons ([chuckanddana@outlook.com](mailto:chuckanddana@outlook.com)). Bill or Chuck can provide additional information regarding the workshop.

Carpooling will be available leaving from the Desert Hills Social Center's North parking lot at 8:30 am. Dress for greenhouse work and layered clothing is recommended as the work site warms.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

### **ARID GARDEN – Mary Kidnocker**

A warm welcome to our newest volunteers Jan Van Englehoven, Carol Snyder, Sue Schlesinger, and Maria Duane. On the first visit, each is given an in-depth tour of the garden and introductions to established volunteers. The following week they are invited to work on a particular task with an experienced person who can demonstrate methods and help with any questions. We try to rotate tasks so that all volunteers get acquainted with location and care of the low-maintenance plants in our special garden.

Recently trimmed back have been: the many salvias, desert honeysuckle, aloysia bushes, many ornamental grasses, jojobas, trumpet vines, and Indian mallows. During the

coming month, we will be looking at each Texas ranger to evaluate whether to fully rejuvenate or simply reduce size by small amounts.

Come by and check out the winter garden. It won't be long until new growth and spring blooms will be popping, and there will be a whole new look.

## **HISTORIC CANOA RANCH (HCR) — Jack Davis and Raydine Tabor**

To visit this project, take the east frontage road, just south of the new hospital you'll find the entrance gate to the Raul M. Grijalva Canoa Conservation Park, a National Historic Site. The Site consists of 30 of the 300 acres of the original ranch incorporated by Levi Manning in 1910 which grew to around 500,000 acres during its heydays. Restoration of the original main ranch site buildings is under the guidance of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) on behalf of the Pima County Board of Supervisors.

There is evidence of native inhabitants going back to 2000 BC. In 1775, the Anza expedition overnighted at the site and the only death on the log trek to the Bay Area of California occurred there. Following that period, the Ortiz brothers operated a ranch under a land grant from the King of Spain until the Gadsden Purchase by the US from Spain in 1853. Subsequently, others operated a ranch which grew in size as the railroad became available. It has been said that nearly 50 thousand steers were shipped by railroad out of this part of southern Arizona.

Historical photos and discussions with family members were used to develop a restoration plan to re-develop the HCR as a National Historical Site, which was ultimately dedicated in March 2013. Robert Vaughn, project manager for the restoration, contacted Leslie Campbell, president of GVG in 2013, to determine if GVG would volunteer for garden/landscape development. An agreement was reached to begin the phased garden projects and Jack Davis was asked to honcho the project, in view of previous ranch experiences.

Our project team is now working with the new manager of Pima County Native Nursery(PCNN), Jessie Byrd. In addition to providing GVG with the initial landscape design for Desert Meadows Park, she has been instrumental in locating plants for the Grijalva House as well as researching, obtaining, and planting the fruit trees to the south of the Senior House.

So, why has this partnership with NRPR been valuable to GVG? It is an excellent example of GVG fulfilling its mission and objectives! We also get tremendous public recognition. There are twice weekly tours of large numbers of visitors to the HCR to learn more about the history of HCR and Arizona, coupled with Anza Days, Stargazing, and birding events – thousands of visitors pass through the HCR annually. The 60th anniversary of the famous western movie, Oklahoma, part of which was filmed at HCR, was celebrated in the fall of 2015 with showing of the film in GV and a fiesta event at HCR with the band playing many of the famous songs by Rogers/Hammerstein. This event planned and executed by NRPR drew around 400 attendees. HCR serves not only as a major public education opportunity as well as a way to allow the public to become familiar with other GVG projects and fund raising efforts. In addition, it has allowed the GVG members/guests Gala Event in March of 2015 to be a success and was followed by the members only event at PCNN last fall and tour of NRPR.

GVG and the HCR team would love to have you become a volunteer at the HCR. If you are interested, feel free to contact: Jack Davis at 520-393-8700 or Raydine Taber at 520- 625-0961 or email us at [jlaytond@gmail.com](mailto:jlaytond@gmail.com) or [rs\\_taber@msn.com](mailto:rs_taber@msn.com)

## **DESERT MEADOWS PARK (DMP) – Chuck Parsons**

The article in the recent issue of KGVY Quarterly introduced the park to many more residents of the area. As the issue hit the mailboxes around town the number of visitors rapidly increased. Those that I spoke with were amazed at what the club has accomplished.

There is one ramada that was on the property when we took over stewardship. In the next weeks it will be renovated and become our third picnic area. We received \$5000 from the Country Fair White Elephant plus two generous donations from community residents, one being 2400 paving bricks and the other decorative columns, that will be used in the renovation.

## **FUND RAISING EVENTS**

### **SPRING PLANT SALE – Thom Metcalf and Elissa Dearing**

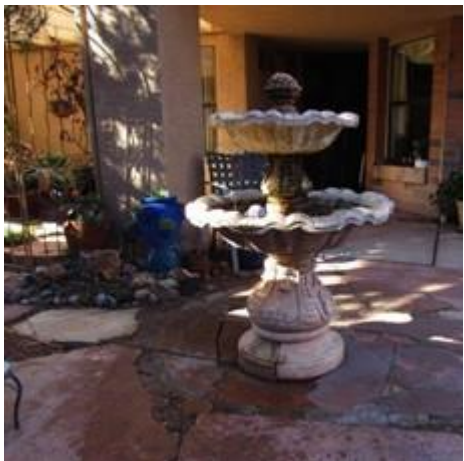
#### **Mark Your Calendar! The 2016 Spring Plant Sale!**

This year's Spring Plant Sale is early in March so you need make landscape plans earlier than in past years.

The GVG Spring Plant Sale will be on March 3, 4 & 5. It will be in the far North East corner in the Continental Shopping Plaza off of Continental Rd in Green Valley. We are planning to bring color to this sale with as many flowering plants as we can find. However, if you lost any of your cactus or succulents due to cold weather, we will have a fine collection of them also. Many of our members have asked for more Trichocereus, so we are working with a local grower to bring a beautiful collection of these flowering cactus to the sale this year.

The Spring Plant Sale will be one of our most beautiful with the largest selection of plant varieties we have ever had. Hope to see you March 3, 4 or 5 at the 2016 GVG Spring Plant Sale.

### **SPRING GARDEN TOUR – Sara Hein and Pat Pearson**



Preparations for the 36th Annual Spring Garden Tour is full swing! Mark your calendars! This year's tour of five local landscapes is Saturday, April 9th from 9-3. Three of the homes are in Green Valley and two are on north La Canada in Sahuarita. Each offers something different, reflecting different styles of landscaping in the desert southwest.

We will begin sign-ups for greeters at Thursday seminars starting this week, on February 4th. Look for our table and add your name to the list! Being a greeter at one of the five homes only requires two hours of volunteer work, leaving lots of time to visit the gardens and is a great opportunity for newcomers to the club.

Ticket Sales will begin early in March. Ticket prices are \$10 for club members and \$12 to the public. As an added benefit to being a club member, you can pre-purchase tickets at the membership price of \$10 for friends and family! This is a major fund raiser for our club and money received supports

our many community projects! Greeters as well as hosts need to purchase tickets in order to participate.

For further information, please contact the co-chairs: Sara Hein or Pat Pearson



## **SAHUARITA SWEET ONIONS**

Lorna and Fred Mitchell have lovingly planted and are tending the 1900 onions planted at the Ogden garden for the upcoming Spring onion sale.

Lorna and Fred had spectacular onions coming out of their Ogden plot last year. Assuming all goes well with weather, critters and nature we should be enjoying our very own 'Sahuarita Sweet Onions' on our dinner table soon!

## **PLOT HOLDERS FORUM**

### **IN YOUR PLOT – February 2016 – Lorna Mitchell**

Winter's crops are still giving harvest and we anticipate a lot of cabbage, Brussel's sprouts, kale, cauliflower, turnips, carrots, beets, chard, and broccoli. But, Spring will come and we want to be ready for it.

I started my tomato, eggplant, and pepper seeds the middle of January. There is a tremendous potential inside a tiny seed and it is great fun to watch it grow! Use paper cups, yogurt containers, or 2" pots on a tray to grow your own seeds of the varieties you want this summer. Choose a fine textured potting soil and put some in a bucket, stir in water to pre-moisten it then fill the cups. Put one seed in each cup and label it. I cut strips from plastic milk jugs and write on them with a fine Sharpie marker and slip it in the edge of the pot for labels. Pre-soaking the seeds in a little water overnight helps them wake up. Keep the soil moist but not sappy and keep them warm in the house, on thick old towels to insulate the roots. When green shoots appear give them as much sunshine as temperature allows- keep them always above 60 degrees F (they prefer over 70 when very young). Carrying them outside to your warm brick patio for a few hours then bringing them inside as it cools is ideal. Transplant them into larger pots in a few weeks if needed.

As they grow at home, prepare open sections of ground at the garden for planting by digging in composted steer manure and granulated fertilizer. Major plantings will take place the end of March or early April so pace the work load.

Irish potatoes go in the garden this month. They are not a root at all, but a tuber – a specialized fleshy part of an underground stem that stores food. They produce a better harvest if more of the stem is under the ground! "Seed" potatoes may be ordered for more varieties or found locally, or my favorite source is my pantry. Look in the dark corners for forgotten potatoes from the holidays that are growing; they will grow and produce tender little new potatoes.

Dig a trench 12-18 inches deep and mix in organic matter with a little fertilizer containing phosphate, then fill it up halfway. Cut the growing “eyes” from a potato, but not too close, and set them in the bottom 6-12 inches apart. Cover with about 2 inches of soil; irrigate. As the green shoots grow up a couple inches, cover them with soil again. Repeat this until the trench is filled or even mounded up a little. The young shoots should do fine even through the expected cold spells yet to come. DO NOT plant sweet potatoes until May.

Those are my plot thoughts for now, Happy gardening

## **THE IOWA FARMER** – Bob and ‘The farmer’s wife’ Lynn Swan

It seems like it is a little bleak around here this year. We got spoiled by last winter's warmth. This amaryllis is giving us a little color, I planted it around Christmas time (please see page 8). They really are a nice plant to have in the winter and give a little brightness. Our outside flowers just don't seem to be doing all that well this year. I did see a few poppies blooming last week so there is hope yet. As I write this on 2/1/16 it is cold and windy, definitely not spring like.

The Desert Meadows garden is really looking nice. My compliments to all who have helped on the project for the past two years. Almost every time I am working on our raised bed someone will stop and ask questions about the park. I particularly like the labels on the various plants. As a transplanted mid-westerner (like most of us), desert plants are not too familiar and the labels help us learn about our surrounding vegetation.

Our raised bed is producing, but not as bountifully as I would like. I am assuming that when we finally get temps in the upper 70's for a few days' things will perk up. I am able to get a pretty nice bag of mixed greens weekly which enhances our salads. Lynn made a good chicken, sausage, vegetable soup last week in which she used a nice bunch of kale to add flavor. Very healthy also.

I recently started a small planter in our house of some left-over lettuce seed that we are going to use for micro greens. It's something you can do with extra seed.

Enough rambling. Before we know it we will be complaining about the hot weather. Keep in mind that it isn't too long before the calendar tells us it's time to start spring and summer plants.



## **A DEMONSTRATION PLOT AT DESERT MEADOWS PARK**

Have you checked out plot #14 at Desert Meadows Park? It is just inside the gate at the grape arbor on your right. Hard to miss – it is the most unique plot in the community garden.

Megan Todd, a Green Valley Master Gardener, is using this plot to demonstrate small space options for growing vegetables. It contains several raised bed options including this unique tower with 50 pockets for plants.

The tower is a well-engineered system capable of recycling kitchen scrapes for plant nutrients and minimizes water consumption. Soon you will be able to purchase raffle tickets to own one of these marvels. The MGs will be selling tickets at the Spring Plant Sale, the Farmer's Market MG table and at the Spring Fair.

## EDITORIALS

### **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – Bill Berdine**

The first month of 2016 provided our membership and community guests with four exemplary seminars. Tony Sarah (propagation of plants), Les Hayt (Rose Care), Mark Sitter (Cactus and Succulents) and Jack Kelly (Pruning). If you have not noticed, Jack Kelly gave us his power point pruning presentation and it is now posted on our web site ([www.greenvalleygardeners.com](http://www.greenvalleygardeners.com)). This a very generous gift on Jack's part. I anticipate a continuation of these valuable learning opportunities as the seminar series continues this month. I am learning how to access the Green Valley News and Sun's Calendar column and article submission. We will have better advertisement of our seminar series and presenters which should increase our visibility and seminar attendance. I am looking for someone with experience writing for a newspaper to assist the Seminar Committee in making our public notices more effective and timely.

This past month we started providing additional member activities involving visits to member gardens. Over 40 members visited France Howes gardens and enjoyed his landscaping and critter control efforts. Following Jack Kelly's presentation, up to 50 members watched as he demonstrated pruning techniques on various trees and shrubs at Desert Meadow Park. This month, three additional member activities will be offered, with a visit to the Tucson Botanical Garden and two workshops at the Rio Rico High School Future Farmers of America on plant and veggie propagation. I encourage you to take advantage of these learning opportunities. Sign-up sheets will be at upcoming seminars.

If you have not already renewed your membership, please do so as soon as possible. Be sure to note, on the renewal form, what committees and/or projects you would like to participate in this coming year.

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible and I am willing to meet with you individually or in groups of specific areas of interest. My contact information is ([whberdine@roadrunner.com](mailto:whberdine@roadrunner.com)). Take care and be sure to sharpen your hula hoe as it won't be long before spring weeds will be with us.

### **MEMBERSHIP – Judy Christensen**

January was an amazing month for Green Valley Gardeners! We welcomed 23 new members, plus 2 additional household partners of current members. WOW!! Twenty-five new members in one month definitely set the bar to a new high. Your Board and project chairs are encouraged and excited by your enthusiasm. Thanks for your support of our mission of education and community service.

Please welcome Robert Buehler, Wally and Glenda Bosma, Kathleen Brady and Steven Falk, Bill and Diane Carley, Larry Coffin, Ruth and Dalen Durr, Jill Foerster, Steven and Carla Jeschke, Cindy and Don Lambert, Debbie Lucas, Diane Nanovich, Susan Nelson, Eilene Pace, Robert and Karen Schmidt, Jan and Marv Van Englehoven. New Household members are Gary Gabriel and Cheri Smith. Two new members were accidentally left out of the last issue. With apologies, a special and belated welcome to Karen and Tim O'Brien. **Cheers!**

## **VOLUNTEERING AT DESERT MEADOWS PARK – Ryan Todd**

This month, Mr. Parsons let me use the shredder. The shredder shreds all of the sticks from pruning a plant/tree. It was really fun because I felt like the God of Death, shoving my victims into the punishing blades of death. When I put in a stick, the shredder ripped it out of my hand and ate it. It was fun, until I stopped the blades up. We have a family tradition of stopping up the blades of the shredder at Desert Meadows. My mom did the same thing when she got to use it a while back. Luckily Mr. Parsons is getting good at fixing it. I hope I get to do that again. I know I did other things this month, but the shredder was so awesome that it made me forget everything else.

I will be busy this month because my grandparents are visiting from Kentucky. I can't wait to show them what I've done at Desert Meadows. My Eagle Scout project is one of them. I hope they like the park.

## **JANUARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Donations to Green Valley Gardeners:

Mike Kilby  
Melissa Jennings  
Helen Hogan  
Larry Coffin

Donations to Historic Canoa Ranch project

Arlene Zaloznik  
Kathie Murphy

Donations to our seminar program

"Matt" Hilpertshauser-Degan & Dick Degan

Donations to Desert Meadows Park project

Hans & Phyllis Hohle  
G. Gabriel  
R. Bierman  
Diann Shively

*Thanks!*

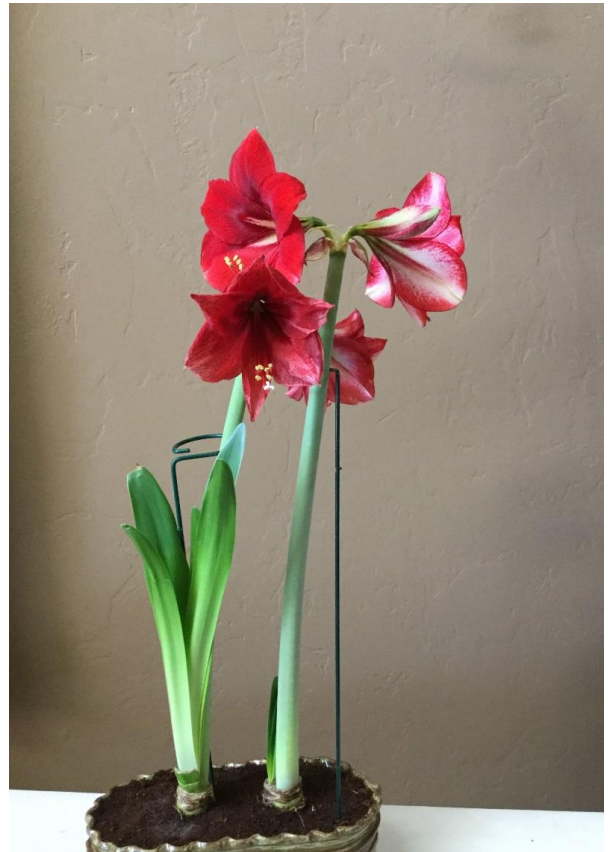


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or, to send an email use the contact section on our website: <http://greenvallygardeners.com>