

SAND'n'SEEDS

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

March 10th – Seminar, Irrigation – the latest and greatest
Joseph Porranzo
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

March 20th – **TCSS/GVG SPRING FAIR** – Continental
Shopping Plaza – 9 am to 3 pm
Vendors – succulents, wildflowers, cactus, garden art
items and pottery
Seminars at 10 am, 11 am, 1 pm and 2 pm
Rescue cactus being sold by TCSS

March 24th – 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 31st – Seminar, Landscaping for birds & butterflies,
Meg Quinn
Desert Hills Rec. Ctr., 9:30 am to 10:30 am

April 9th – Green Valley Gardeners Spring Garden Tour

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

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MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

MEMBERS' WORKSHOP – Bill Berdine

Another workshop with the Rio Rico FFA – Planning and planting the Spring Garden.

Learn how to battle the warm temps, analyze soils for plant nutrients, planting bed mixes and preparation, herb and vegetable selection and family feeding calculations, plant propagation, starter plant hardening techniques, spring pest issues, irrigation and fertilizer needs, as well as the critical

sow dates for spring crops. The earlier in the season you get going, the better, as you need to sow some crops in early spring for summer growing.

Workshop details: March 19th, 9 am to 11:30 am at Rio Rico High School, Room 205

Contact Bill Berdine for more details.

PROJECT UPDATES

ARID GARDEN – Mary Kidnocker

A warm welcome to our newest volunteer, Sally Sherbina.

On February 19, Leslie Campbell presented an excellent hands-on workshop on proper pruning of shrubs, particularly Texas Rangers, for new volunteers.

After instruction, folks worked in teams practicing on the many rangers in the garden. All enjoyed the learning experience and Leslie's patient assistance. On behalf of the volunteers and the shrubs, thanks much Leslie.

Currently the garden is brimming with blooming pink penstemon parryii, mounds of lavender desert verbena, bright yellow dyssodia, red chuparosa, two types of aloe, and sweet scented cassia bushes scattered throughout.

With no rainfall in weeks and humidity levels remaining in single digits, soil and plants are drying out. It is time to get the hoses out and begin a hand-watering routine... this year earlier than usual.

Come by and check out the colorful garden. With spring upon us, there is a new look, and you don't want to miss it!



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

The February 24th, workday at HCR, was a success. Jessie Byrd and new sidekick, Amy Belk, brought tools and containers from the Pima County Native Nursery(PCNN) to join our GVG team in cleaning out the extensive overgrown plants in the east planters at the Sr House, while preserving many small new growth items to take back to the PCNN. While Jessie served as quarterback for this operation, Byron Hinton received the 'most valuable player' award for strength and his amazing electric saws. This is not to downplay all of our other HCR volunteers who, thankfully, toiled side-by-side in the clean out there as well as our other projects. You are all so sincerely appreciated.

The areas are now ready for planting at the workday, scheduled for Wednesday, March 16. This

process will occur just prior to the Gala Fundraiser for the public on March 19 at HCR. Many descendants of the Manning family are bringing new artifact collections, and will be present on the 3/19 event which will include donations to allow planting of native hackberry trees (*Celtis reticulata*) along the road into HCR.

Then comes the second annual Heritage Fair, Saturday, March 26 (9am-4pm) at HCR which is usually attended by hundreds of visitors. We will have tables and educational materials available for the public, as well as information on other GVG projects and flyers to advertise and, possibly, sell tickets for our Garden Tour on April 9, 2016.

The new Courtyard garden, at the Jr Home, has now been designed by landscape architect, Jessie Byrd from PCNN, and our GVG team. While it may be a while before we will be planting, as we are waiting on final approval, gutter placement and installation of irrigation, the basic design diagram will be posted on the door in the Jr House, which leads to the courtyard garden area. Looks like March Madness will extend into April, and beyond, for the HCR as well as the many other GVG projects.

OGDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – George Stone

As we enter February there are 54 Adult Gardeners & 14 children who are enjoying gardening on a daily basis. The garden has 20 in ground plots, 2 of those are onion project plots. There are 5 raised beds dedicated to those with physical challenges and 3 raised beds that are dedicated to those that are physically handicapped. One in ground bed is available for assignment, the remainder are assigned.

Our 2016 onion project with almost 2,000 onions planted are considered under stress with damage to at least 30 % of the crop. Lorna & Fred Mitchell, who are in charge of production are making evaluations on a daily basis. Plans for an independent budget are being developed but at the present time we have suspended all budget plans until we have a better grasp on our situation.

Last month our girl scout troop #471 held a first day cookie sale event at the garden. Troop leader Brandi McAnally reports \$100.00 in sales were made by the Ogden gardeners. The event actually drew only 2 people. All other sales were made via 8 gardeners calling Brandi and making the purchases. Brandi reports this year's proceeds from the troops cookie sales are earmarked for the girls to experience a summer trip to the Grand Canyon.

DESERT MEADOWS PARK (DMP) – Chuck Parsons

While most of the volunteers were helping with the plant sale, the park burst into bloom! The weather has been ideal, please take the time to go over to the park for a stroll. Better yet, on the way take the McDonald's drive-thru and pick up a lunch to enjoy in one of the picnic areas.

FUND RAISING EVENTS

SPRING FAIR – Chuck Parsons

Mark Your Calendar! The 2016 Spring Fair!

This is the event we co-sponsor with the Tucson Cactus & Succulent Society. It's our fifth year!

There will be 21 vendor offerings this year – the biggest variety yet. Local growers will be selling cactus, succulents, wildflowers and perennials, a new cactus mix is being introduced, artists will be selling pots and glass art. Always a big attraction is the cactus rescue sale – I understand that TCSS has had two successful rescues recently so the selection should be good this year. A great opportunity to purchase a saguaro!

There are 4 seminars available at no charge:

- At 10 am – Chuck Parsons, Taking the mystery out of Sonoran Desert gardening
- At 11 am – Megan Todd, Tips for successfully growing tomatoes
- At 1 pm – Jon Weeks, The annual cycle of cactus care
- At 2 pm – Leslie Campbell, Benefits of native herbaceous plants in arid landscapes

As with the plant sale, I will be asking for volunteers to help set up, provide sales assistance, cashier and strike the event at the end of the day. Your help is welcome!

SPRING GARDEN TOUR – Sara Hein and Pat Pearson

With beautiful, warm spring weather in full swing, the 36th Annual Spring Garden Tour can't be far behind!!! Mark your calendars for the gala event on **Saturday, April 9th**, from 9:00 AM-3:00 PM. Five beautiful landscapes in Green Valley and Sahuarita have been chosen and the homeowners are busy preparing for our tour.

Tickets have been ordered and will be available for purchase starting the second week in March.

The tour is a major fundraiser for the club and your participation has always been phenomenal! Tickets for MEMBERS ONLY can be purchased at the discounted price of \$10 at Thursday seminars. As an added bonus, you can purchase as many tickets as you would like at that discounted price for friends and family!

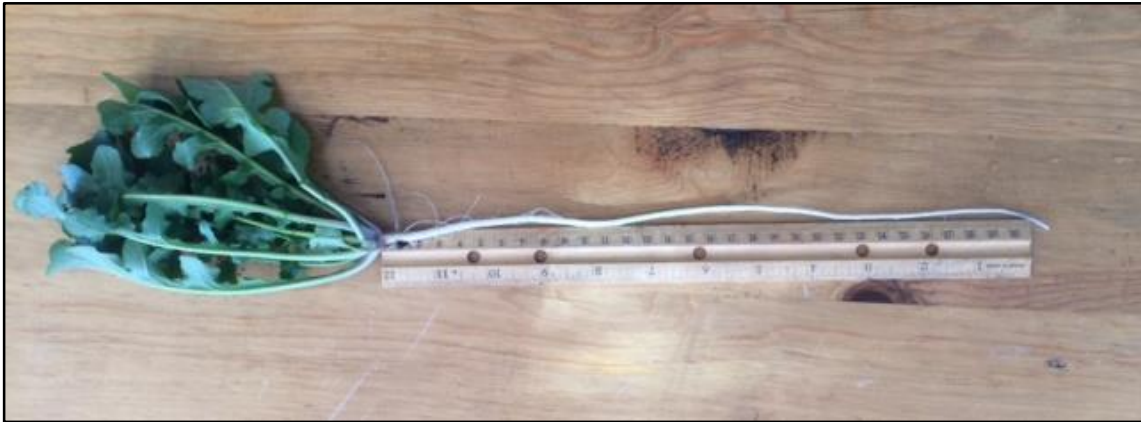
Four local businesses will be selling tickets, but only for the full public price of \$12. Please support these local businesses, but please don't ask for a member discount from them. They only accept CASH OR CHECKS!!! They are:

- Happy Quail, Green Valley Village, suite 71
- Native Gardens of Green Valley, north of Esperanza on La Canada
- Meredith's Hallmark, Continental Shopping Plaza, suite 258
- Chamber of Commerce of Green Valley/Sahuarita, 275 W. Continental RD

We also will be selling tickets at Wednesday's Farmers' Market in the Green Valley Village and at Spring Fair on Sunday, March 20th at the Continental Shopping Plaza.

So buy your tickets, grab a friend or two and enjoy a visiting these five beautiful landscapes!

PLOT HOLDERS FORUM



Arugula from Carol and Mark Thompson's plot at Desert Meadows Park

Sorry no contributions from Lorna Mitchell or the Iowa Farmer this month.

EDITORIALS

MEMBERSHIP – Judy Christensen

We added **16 new members** in February. Please welcome Dave and Dorie Nichols. Dave is already working on the new picnic pavilion at Desert Meadows Park. We appreciate your expertise in construction!



Also sending her picture is Brenda Nelson. Thanks!



Welcome to Zoe Brennagh, Connie Butz, Carol Gunneman, Douglas Lisotto, Sharon McPeak, Robert and Mary Ellen Noel, Joy Perry, David Schutt, Kristine Sells, Betsy Smith-Schatz, Tom Ward and Dick Wilke. Thanks to each of you for your support of the Green Valley Gardeners! Hope you have an opportunity to help with our next major projects: the Spring Garden Fair and the Garden Tour.

Newsletter is a little shorter this month. Folks were really busy with the plant sale and other spring activities. In addition, the email distribution of the newsletter caused my providers to suspect I was spamming so I encountered having both my outlook.com and gmail.com accounts shutdown. I was out of communication for most of the month. I also lost lots of email during this time. I some of our regular contributors did in fact email articles, I apologize for dropping the ball!

Hopefully in April will be we have contributions from Lorna, Ryan and Bob the Iowa Farmer again for your enjoyment.

FEBRUARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donations to Desert Meadows Park project
Betty Johnson
Eilene Pace

Thanks!



Contact us: Green Valley Gardeners, P.O. Box 86, Green Valley, AZ 85622-0086
or, to send an email use the contact section on our website: <http://greenvalleygardeners.com>