



Green Valley Gardeners

A Service Club Made Up of Gardeners

Celebrating our 35th year!

SAND N SEEDS

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE - Chuck Parsons

I thank the folks who have made our summer editions of the Sand n Seeds newsletter successful. I have enjoyed the articles and pictures submitted by our members tending gardens in other parts of the country. Reminds me of the contrast we experience gardening in the Sonoran Desert.

This year, publishing the Sand n Seeds during the summer months has been an experiment. George Stone made the suggestion that our club had enough members living here full time to warrant a year-around newsletter. The board agreed and made the decision to continue a monthly publication through this summer.

I especially thank Raydine for continuing to provide the editing and formatting required to make it happen.

MESSAGE FROM THE ELECTION COMMITTEE

We are still accepting candidates who are interested in serving on the board. Contact Hal Tokuyama by phone at 805-479-6770 or by email at haltok@gmail.com

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MEMBER'S SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Members' Activity Committee - Marita Ramsay and Cathy Merritt, Co-chairs

Activities for our members will begin on Thursday, September 17th with a visit to Pottery Blowout with a discount to anyone who purchases during the tour. After the tour, Frank the owner will open early his Unplugged Wine Bar located on Congress for us to enjoy. Details will be available at a later date.

October 15th we will visit the Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Plant Nursery. The nursery is where many of the Pima County Parks' trees, shrubs and cacti are grown. We will also have a tour of Prickly Park, adjacent to the nursery, and hands on planting experience led by nursery manager Jessie Byrd.

As many of you know, Jessie Byrd has been instrumental in working with the GV Gardeners at our Desert Meadows Park and the Historic Canoa Ranch, and it will be very interesting to learn from her firsthand.

On Thursday, November 19th, we will tour the Green Things Nursery in Tucson. Green Things is historically one of the largest growers of houseplants, but they have expanded to offer everything from herbs and vegetables to all sorts of flowers, trees and shrubs. We will also be able to see their huge assortment of holiday plants, such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus.

We are pleased to announce that Joanne Atkisson has joined our Committee. Welcome, Joanne.

PROJECT UPDATES

ARID GARDEN UPDATE – Mary Kidnocker



Newly certified Arid Garden mascot, Ebinnie Hinton at her post

Not to be outdone by Desert Meadows Park's mascot, MoJo Parsons... with permission from Byron Hinton, Ebinnie Hinton has been certified as *Official Mascot* of The Arid Garden. Her appointed duties include: each Friday, keeping a close eye on the garden, visitors and its volunteers (especially Byron) from her assigned spot on the mid-garden purple bench. Her sweet disposition is beneficial to us all. Welcome Ebbie !

Monsoon season rains are typically scattered and varied. From June 15 to August 01, the garden received 3.2

inches. Even though moisture seems scant to us, the vigorous plants are growing faster and blooming heavily. Weeds, especially grasses and spurges, are popping up throughout. Noisy green metallic fig beetles, varied grasshoppers, armies of ants, and black shiny cactus beetles have arrived uninvited. However, neither young rabbit resident has been seen this week (not sure what that means).

The garden is colorful and lush now, so stop by for an early morning visit ...and bring your camera.



What's better than a "cold watermelon break"? Jim Campbell (L) & Dwight Kidnocker (L).



You can almost smell the lush polomintha lining the butterfly garden.

HISTORIC CANOA RANCH (HCR) – Raydine Taber

July was a typical southern Arizona summer. First it was hot and dry now it's hot and humid. The last week reminded me of being back in St. Louis, MO. Only thing missing was a river to cool off in.

The hot weather presents a challenge to keep the plants inside the Jr. House alive. The house is most of the time closed. With no electricity in the house for AC or fans, the temperatures soar to triple digits even on a cool day. We did lose a few plants but have replaced them to keep everything presentable for the tours.



Tomato Hornworm



Sr. House Kitchen garden left side planting - mostly herbs.

Like everyone else raising tomatoes, we had an infestation of Tomato Hornworms. Can't tell you how many of those ugly worms I pulled off the plants. Unfortunately, we had to remove one of the plants.

The east cactus garden is doing well. The Dalea has been trimmed back and the weeds have been removed. However, with monsoon in full swing, we will have to weed again in a couple of weeks.

At the Grijalva House, some of the plants in the raised beds have been damaged by white flies and aphids. Jan Nash is researching interim plants that we could use between now and when we plant our cool weather veggies.

A couple of weeks ago, I went out to the ranch to help Pima County NRPR shoot a video about their relationship with their partners. Walked the filming people around to the gardens and explained how and what we do to maintain the gardens. A lot of the video will contain scenes that were done with a drone! Other scenes were shot at the Sr. Kitchen Garden, East Cactus Garden and Grijalva House.

OGDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – George Stone

OLD NEWS:

July was its usual self---HOT and some of our gardeners escaped the heat for a few weeks. NOT ME. I stayed right here and toughed it out. Of course I had little choice since Kathy had knee surgery July 1st. Since forced to stay, I thought we may as well make the best of it. Here is a quick run-down on what went on at the garden for July.

- 1st: wind and rain destroyed 20 % of the garden. Had 2 weeks of clean up.
- 8th: The Greater Green Valley Community Foundation awarded a \$2,000 grant. Members of the Fadlalla family attended the ceremony. This is the third year the Ogden has been awarded a grant from this foundation.
- 10th: Purchased a Bear Cat chipper/ shredder to handle our green material. We should now be able to keep up on our composting.
- 12th: Began infrastructure for 15ft X 20 foot shade cloth over the hummingbird patio. Expect that project to be completed the first week of August.
- 13th: Porta-potty serviced: Always good news. For your info the porta-potty costs us \$100 per month.
- 15th: 6 yards of pecan shells and soil delivered to the garden. Our goal is to lay a 2 inch

layer of pecan shells over the walkways in the hummingbird area. We rented a dump truck from Hertz to complete the task. Those plots that appear low in areas will have soil installed. Plot holders will be notified.

- 16th: Spreading of the pecan shells began. This project will be completed in August.
- 17th: Soil installation began.
- 18th: Troop 471 report they are working on their Mason bee hive and will have it installed soon. Brandi McAnally will report on this project in this issue.
- 19th thru the 26th: continued work on the shade structure.

Ogden Community Garden food donations for the month: This is a new item and we encourage all to report what you have donated. Questions about the donations, I have answers. Food donations reported in July were 713 lbs.

NEW NEWS:

Plots Available: We have one, in ground plot (10ft X 40ft) and one 5ft X 10ft raised bed available. Have a neighbor or friend who would like to do some gardening? This is their chance. Have them call me for details. 343-9690.

August: Getting ready for your fall crops? Remember, before using the roto-tillers you must have demonstrated, to me, that you can operate them. They are powerful machines and can, if not properly used, cause severe injury. Also, there is no need to check the machines in and out. I keep track of their use by an hour meter. All you need to do is keep gas in them and I will do the rest--or have someone else help me.

Need help in plant selection? Ask Lorna Mitchell. She will be glad to spend a few minutes with you planning your garden.

New Members: Laura Lukomski & Jason Weaver, Bill & Paige Bucy are not NEW gardeners--- just transplants from the state of Washington. Welcome Jason & Laura., Bill & Paige. We hope you find a gardening home here with the Green Valley Gardeners.

My Final Comments: As of this month, The Green Valley Gardens are over 300 members strong. Do you realize how impressive that is? I would venture to say that we are probably one of the top 10 clubs in Green Valley in membership and we are still growing. There are reasons for that you know, and one of them is – SAND n SEEDS. Each month, regular contributors make every attempt to provide you with a variety of articles that will be informative, factual and fun filled. You too can be a contributor as well as our regulars. Feel free to submit an article on the topic of your choice and submit them. I'm not going to tell you how to do that for if you are serious – you will find out by asking. If you are reading SAND n SEEDS for the first time – WELCOME. Glad to have you as a fellow gardener. Many people work hard to bring you the best we have. If you have suggestions, don't hesitate to call me at 343-9690 and I will get you to the right person who can help. Remember, if it's dark outside—don't call. If its daylight—you can call. See you in the garden.



CASH CROP

Max Fadlalla, 9, and George Stone, of Green Valley Gardeners, were on hand July 8 to receive a check from the Greater Green Valley Community Foundation to establish a summer education program at the Ogden Community Garden in Sahuarita, where Max also has a garden plot.

NOTE: Grant award was less than the summer education program budget we submitted in the grant application. The Foundation has given us permission to use the funds awarded as needed at Ogden. They will be used to purchase a chipper/shredder and a shade structure (the shade structure was an element of the summer education program budget we submitted).

GARDEN GIRLS – Brandie McAnally

Hello Gardeners! Our Girl Scout Troop had a crazy spring. Our tanks are all replanted and starting to grow (after our proper drainage lesson. While we wait for the magic of nature, we visited the Tucson Botanical Garden. What an amazing location! The girls loved reading all the tags and learning about all the different plant life that grows in our area. They were also extremely excited about the art and interactive elements within the garden. We are working on some plans to add a little bit of interactive fun to our garden as well!

During our time at the Tucson Botanical Garden we also visited the butterfly exhibit and got up close and personal with not only the butterflies but the FROGS too. They were both so bright and fanciful!! One could image the butterflies as dancing little fairies...floating from flower to flower as the frogs played a very skilled game of hide in seek within the leaves and stems on the damp garden floor.

We were so inspired that we decided to call in Arte Belle Painting to teach us how to **PAINT** a butterfly. Arte Bella Painting is an amazing local talent that comes to you and teaches your group step by step how to paint a picture. The girls did an amazing job and had soooo much fun that we decided to take our new painting skills to the next level!!! What is the NEXT Level you ask? A **MURAL** of course!!!

Where will we be creating our MURAL MASTERPIECE? Well...our garden...where else!!!

We are planning on painting our garden tanks with lots of COLOR!!!! We will also be adding a rainbow archway for the girls to grow green beans and cucumbers on. This will add color and create that FUN, interactive element to our garden the girls love soooo much. After all, gardening is not ALL hard work.

This teaches the girls to be a Brownie **ELF**.... Explore, Link ideas, and Fly into Action! We **EXPLORED** other gardens, **LINKED** ideas about painting and added fun details to our garden, and now we are **FLYING** into action as we implement our ideas. Look for pictures of our new fun garden additions in next month's article.



Brownie Troop @ the Botanical Garden

** Editor's note: This is our Ogden Community Garden Brownie Troop.



Mason Bee Hive

DESERT MEADOWS PARK - Chuck Parsons

Club members volunteered 440 hours during July! In addition we hired a crew from Desert Valley Landscaping to finish the flagstone pathways. A lot was accomplished this past month in spite of the heat.

A yard swing was donated, repainted and installed along the Anza Trail. It is nestled in a clump of native mesquite trees which provide morning shade and is oriented to provide excellent sunset views in the evening.

A lot of hours have gone into the barrio garden. The Wednesday morning volunteers have found this area to be a great place to gather and cool off!
I will tell our story this month with pictures:



Flagstone pathway in the wildflower garden.



New entry into the barrio garden picnic area from the Anza Trail



Newly installed pots by Gene Van Dyken. Soon to be planted by Kathy Stone.



Flagstone pathway into the hummingbird / butterfly picnic area



Yard swing recently donated to the park and installed along the Anza Trail. A great place to enjoy a sunset.

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN @ DESERT MEADOWS PARK – Chuck Parsons

A bountiful harvest was had by most plot holders in July! A total of 768 pounds of produce was donated to our two local food banks – the Green Valley and the Sahuarita branches. Outstanding!

Elissa and I appreciate the number of Desert Meadows plot holders that notify us when they will be on vacation of a week or two giving us permission to harvest their plots too. This additional produce adds to our club's contribution numbers.

Just a note to all plot holders at both Ogden and Desert Meadows – at Sahuarita Food Bank there is a clipboard hanging on the wall in their dry-storage room for the garden club. If you make a contribution there, please log your donation on that clipboard after you get the weight from the scale. Their scale is now located at the back door of the church – near the two cold storage lockers. At Green Valley Food Bank they still create a receipt for your contribution. If you ask them to indicate Green Valley Gardeners on the receipt we should add to the club's contribution numbers for the year. You will receive a copy of the receipt; if you email me that number I will also add it to my spreadsheet.

RYAN TODD'S DMP REPORT

I have done a few more interesting (or not?) things at Desert Meadows Park these last few weeks, one of which was pulling Bermuda grass. I also planted barrel cacti, worked on the Barrio Garden, and helped harvest the Food Bank gardens. I found, while picking the gardens, a perfect eggplant! I had never had eggplant before, so I decided to try it. I grilled it, and it was fantastic! I had it with spaghetti and that was even better! Also, my Eagle Scout project proposal is almost ready to turn in. I hope to start building one of the picnic structures soon.

PLOT HOLDERS FORUM

IN YOUR PLOT: AUGUST - By Lorna Mitchell

August is a time of renewal in the desert garden; a new beginning for many kinds of vegetables, a chance to start over and try again. Temperatures will continue to soar but humidity should remain high, so plants will grow rapidly. Rains will probably be sporadic so keep the irrigation timers turned on unless you are present daily.

SEEDS to Plant in the Garden: Green beans, squash, corn, kohlrabi, carrots, Swiss chard, radishes, leaf lettuce for harvesting young, cucumbers, etc. Sow seeds every two to three weeks for successive harvests. Mid-August is good planting time for most veggies except seeds for tomato, peppers, or other slow developing heat loving plants.

Start seeds for winter plants in pots at home: Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts. Keep them moist and in the full sun, which means lots of attention. These plants should go in the garden the beginning of October at the age of 6-8 weeks. Even if you don't grow your own, research varieties so you know what to look for later. It's good to browse seed catalogs and decide on new varieties of winter crops to try, too.

TOMATOES: Continue vigilance for tomato hornworms and spray with BT to control. Be sure the sprayer has never had weed killer or pre-emergent solutions in it. For indeterminate tomatoes prune out spurs that originate at the leaf nodes to prevent gangly vegetative growth and channel energy into fruit. Determinate tomato varieties should put on another crop soon; if they are not flowering and setting fruit, cut back about one third of the overall size. Keep ground clear under plants to prevent disease spread and mold. Transplants of quick fruiting tomatoes can yield results if put in very soon.

Squash: Watch for the stem borer, pulling out the caterpillar at a very early stage may save the plant. Better yet, remove the old meandering plant and start seeds for a new crop – it will produce before you know it.

High humidity and moist soils encourage growth of fungi and pests. In places of dense and neglected overgrowth it is possible to get pathogenic fungi such as powdery mildew or rust. Open up these areas to allow circulation of air and light to prevent damage. Pill bugs and/or sow bugs thrive under decaying leaf matter on moist soil and emerge to eat your germinating seedlings, even if they are yards away. Don't believe they only eat dead leaves; they should be your first suspect when expected seedlings don't appear. Keep the ground clear of debris, including weeds, during the rainy season. Those are my plot thoughts for now. Happy Gardening!

SUMMER HARVEST – Bob Swan

This is a photo of Lynn harvesting Super Sugar Snap Peas. This is one of our favorite summer veggies. The reason I have included it is that they can be grown in Arizona in the winter. I'm not



sure this is the best variety to use in the raised planters, as it is pretty tall and requires some type of support. A variety that I have tried that might work is Cascadia.

Other news from our garden: I harvested the first two tomatoes. They were a little small, but tasted like real tomatoes. For those who for some reason or other haven't tasted midwestern tomatoes I feel sorry for you. Come visit us in a couple of weeks for a real treat. We also have zucchinis, cabbage, radishes, lettuce, and in the fruit line gooseberries, mulberries and apricots.

We have enjoyed asparagus in many forms since mid-May but that is now over, as the final date to harvest was July 4.

We are beginning to do some processing and will make a batch of apricot jam this afternoon. Already in the freezer are a couple bags of gooseberries and some freezer jam.

From my NOAA weather forecast it looked like the heat may have abated somewhat in GV. I hope so. We did have a nice rain this morning (.76 in.) and, all the crops look good

Your Iowa farmer, Bob

**Editor's note: Bob wrote this article in early June.

ZUCCHINI PANCAKES

Up to your ears in zucchini? Here's a recipe you may not have tried.

½ pound zucchini, washed and trimmed	2 Tablespoons minced yellow onion
1 large egg	1/8 Teaspoon garlic powder
½ cup panko (Japanese style bread crumbs)	1/8 Teaspoon black pepper
¼ cup grated, fresh Parmesan cheese	

Coarsely grate the zucchini in bowl. Add egg, panko, cheese, onion, garlic powder and pepper; mix well. Heat large frying pan, preferably nonstick, over high heat. Lightly coat inside of pan with cooking spray. Drop rounded tablespoons zucchini mixture into pan, allowing room for spreading; flatten slightly. Cook over medium-high heat 2 to 4 minutes on each side, or until lightly browned. Remove from pan. Keep warm. Repeat with remaining zucchini mixture until all pancakes are cooked.

EDITORIAL

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - By Chuck Parsons

This is the fifth in my series of articles regarding the board. Recall that Hal Tokuyama is the 2015 nominating committee chair. He and the committee have been identifying potential candidates for our fall election. We will be electing three new board members. The newly elected members will participate along with the standing board members in electing officers for 2016. We currently have 4 officers – President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These board members form our executive committee.

This month I will define the role of Treasurer. Our by-laws (Article VI, paragraph B – found on our website) define the duties and responsibilities of the officers. In this paragraph, reference is made to our “Job Descriptions.” I quote the job description for Treasurer:

The Treasurer shall supervise the financial affairs of the club and ensure that financial records are kept in accordance with accounting standards. The Treasurer shall ensure that timely, accurate financial statements are presented to the Board; shall issue checks; shall reimburse members' expenses promptly; pay bills; make timely deposits; provide a yearly budget based on committee chair's needs for Board approval in February of each year; collect dues and provide the Membership Chairman with an accurate list of paid members; and shall issue quarterly water bills to the gardeners using the Allen Ogden Community Garden. He/she will also work closely with fundraiser chairs to provide adequate cash start-up funds.

I have personally held the position of Treasurer while serving on the board so I can speak to the details; however, as we have grown and as we have successfully won grants, this position has become much more complex. For example: seasonal plot fee collection for Desert Meadows Park; tracking expenses against the Freeport McMoRan Foundation, the White Elephant Foundation and the Green Valley Community Foundation Grants; and providing monthly accounting reports to all chairs, which is now being done by the Treasurer, are not mentioned in the job description.

I was Treasurer in 2012. That was the year we transitioned from manual bookkeeping to Quicken software. At that time it seemed a big step. Infinitesimal compared to the changes Raydine Taber has accomplished during her tenure.

Raydine has held the position since 2013. She has added more of the Quicken tools, adopted several of the electronic banking tools offered by BMO Bank and has implemented credit card transactions for our fund raisers. Mark Thompson volunteered to do an independent audit of our accounting for 2014. In his report to the board, he highly recommended that we obtain a bookkeeping service. He pointed out that for our size and complexity; it was too much to ask of a volunteer! This is a topic for our strategic retreat this fall. In fact the job description needs an edit, and the check signature section of our by-laws needs to change in recognition of electronic banking. If a bookkeeping function were to be implemented, then the role of Treasurer would be akin to that of a Chief Financial Officer in the business world.

As our club evolves, we have a goal to eventually provide on-line payment for membership renewals, social events, garden tour tickets, etc. One benefit of transitioning our daily/monthly

financial transactions to a bookkeeping service might be to free up time for our Treasurer to explore options to accomplish this goal.

Next month I will make a plea (maybe on bended knee) for members interested in serving on our board to let me know. In the meantime, if your interest has been piqued to serve on our board, please contact Hal Tokuyama by phone at 805-479-6770 or by email at haltok@gmail.com – thanks.

MEMBERSHIP – Judy Christensen

300 + Members and Growing! This is an exciting time for our club. What a terrific group of folks interested in gardening...in the desert. Starting this Spring I thought we might possibly reach 300 members, but it has happened during the heat of the summer, our “slow” season! Thanks to ALL our new members for their interests and support.

Please help me welcome 2 new households: Susan and Erik Lehman, also Fred Jackson and Georgia Stark. Both are interested in garden plots in Desert Meadows Park. Happy veggie gardening!

We appreciate your commitment to our organization and to horticultural/ environmental education and community service.

PETALS OF GIVING



Glads, as they are often called, are native to tropical and South Africa and are any plant of the genus *Gladiolus*. The plant has sword-shaped leaves with one-sided spikes of funnel-shaped, bright flowers. “Love At First Sight” is the meaning of this flower when offered as a gift.

DONATIONS RECEIVED IN JULY

We thank the following donors for their kind generosity: Betty Saidler & Ron Vacik, steel swing set including wicker settee and cushion for DMP (value \$250). Kelly Galvin, planting soil, 2-tier raised-bed kit with cover, drip irrigation for DMP, (value \$125).

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

- **September 10th** – Seminar @ Desert Hills – Sansavieras & Adeniums
- **September 17th** – Member’s Activity Pottery Blowout Tour & Unplugged Wine Bar
- **October 15th** - Member’s Activity, Tour Pima County NRPR nursery & Prickly Park
- **October 22nd, 23rd & 24th** –Fall Plant Sale
- **November 14th** – Annual Member’s meeting, BBQ/Potluck & Music
- **November 19th** – Member’s Activity, Tour of Green Things Nursery

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/>

SAND n SEEDS PHOTO GALLERY



Brownies learning to be artists



Grijalva House, Historic Canoa Ranch

“Gardening from the 45th Parallel, Near Lake Michigan” – Judy Christensen



Monarda (Bee Balm),
Asiatic Lilies, Liatris &
Shasta Daisies from my
garden in Upper North
Michigan.



Gloriosa Daisies, Garden
Phlox & Heliopsis



Morning Light

CACTUS BLOSSOMS IN GREEN VALLEY

