



Green Valley Gardeners

A Service Club Made Up of Gardeners

Celebrating our 35th year!

SAND N SEEDS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Chuck Parsons

The days are getting shorter. The summer crops, in our vegetable beds, are beginning to decline. Morning temperatures are pleasant; the summer months are about over.

I welcome the thought of cooler weather. I eagerly await the return of our winter resident members. I look forward to the new seminar series and to appealing member activities to begin. Check out what awaits you in this issue.

A lot of club activities continue through the summer and this year was no exception. Maintenance at our Arid Garden, Median Green and Historic Canoa Ranch continued nonstop. New construction took place at Desert Meadows Park. And, lots of vegetables were grown at our two community garden locations. Hopefully, you were keeping track through the summer, because new this summer was the continued publication of Sand n Seeds so that you could do just that. If this is new information to you, you can go to our web site www.greenvalleygardeners.com to find past issues and catch up.

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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 3 PM visit to Pottery Blowout (3840 East Grant Road). To anyone who purchases during the tour, there will be a 50% discount on any second item of equal or less! There will be a \$50 door price raffle among all participants. After the tour, Frank, the owner, will open early for a Social hour, at 5 PM, his Unplugged Wine Bar located on 118 east Congress for us to enjoy. Frank is extending an exclusive Happy Hour all night long! That includes 7 German beers on tap and 30 natural wines by the glass. Glass pours starting as low as \$5 per 6oz glass. There will be an amazing & intimate (free) Jazz concert from 8pm till 11pm. Either meet or carpool to the Pottery Blowout. **IMPORTANT THAT YOU SIGN UP AT THE SEPTEMBER 10TH SEMINAR** so Frank knows how many people to expect.

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 a 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

With two large velvet mesquite trees in the garden, we have been inundated with pods on the ground for weeks. Number one task on our work options list each week is to "pick up mesquite beans." Some volunteers use a broom; some use a rake, while others are skillful using only their hands. We have also discovered that the pods are so heavy that we cannot fill a large garbage bag and then carry it to the trash area.

Because of sesame leaf roller invasion of our several yellow and orange bells (*Tacoma stands*), our "BT specialist" Elissa Dearing has found it necessary to trim then spray the shrubs weekly. The plants are surviving, but flower production has greatly decreased. Watch your yellow bell shrubs for dried, brown leaves on branch ends.

Hard surfacing garden paths continues. Sections that need to be done, for safety reasons, are being completed first, as funds from the White Elephant 2014 Grant allows. Stop by the garden and see our new walks as well as the many late summer blooms!

CASA MEMORY GARDEN

This garden behind Casa de Esperanza (780 S. Park Center Ave. on the La Posada Campus) had a summer filled with hummingbirds enjoying the many petite red types of salvia. It will soon be time for an autumn cleaning and planting of several Texas Ranger seedlings from the Arid Garden. We continue to receive thanks from Casa staff and visitors who discover the small garden for the first time.



Tall volunteer Indian Mallows at the Arid Garden



Ballerina Josephina, 2nd Arid Garden Mascot



Red salvia makes happy hummingbirds at Casa Memory Garden

HISTORIC CANOA RANCH (HCR) – Raydine Taber

During August, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) filmed a video about their HCR volunteer partnerships. A drone was used to give an aerial view of the ranch and some of the volunteers were used for ground level shots. If anyone is interested in viewing the video, I have a copy.

The monsoon has been delivering a nice amount of rain for the various gardens. The weeds took advantage of the abundant water and mainly sprouted in the east cactus garden. Our volunteers have done an excellent job of removing any of the weeds sprouting from the monsoon downpours. As we get ready to clean up the vegetable gardens and plant our fall / winter crops, Jan Nash is researching plants that will fit within our garden dimensions. We will be trying to maximize the utilization of our space.

NRPR has announced the date for Anza Day. Keep October 25th available to attend and check out all the changes at HCR. This is also an opportunity to learn more about HCR and its volunteer partners. Don't miss the procession by the Anza Coalition ColorGuard. Also available are historic presentations, tours, family fun activities and vendors.

OGDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – George Stone

Old news:

August was awful! Not much grew. Oh! The weeds did just peachy. The monsoon rains kept those suckers green, healthy and tall. The hotter it got, the better they looked, and we sweated like dogs

trying to keep them under control. Thanks go to George Mathes for manning the sprayer. But, that's okay – weeds are just part of gardening.

For the most of August, everyone just maintained and tried to keep cool. Here are our activities for the month:

- 3rd & 18th – continued to work on the shade structure
- 5th – nice article regarding the Wiebe family in the Sahuarita Sun
- 10th – Josh & Tara Wilkey new members joined us as plot holders
- 12th – met with Sahuarita Middle School teacher, Aprylemarie Heule who requested GVG club assistance.

Food donation, for the month, was way down from July – we had 28 pounds.

New news:

- Ogden has two raised beds (each 5 X 10 feet) available for assignment. These beds are designated for those that are physically challenged. Let me know if you or someone you know would like to garden in them.
- The shade structure is complete except for the installation of the cloth. Should be ready by September 15th. The structure will become the focal point for future garden events and workshops as well as our everyday needs.
- I am in desperate need of an assistant! The garden is constantly changing and that is a good thing. If you could spare about 4 hours per week, I could use your help. Contact me (George Stone) at 520-343-9690 and I will bring you up to date on what I need.
- Each year September brings renewed energy to the club. Our club snowbirds start drifting back into town. The seminar series again starts up. Be sure to read, in this issue, about that. And, our social committee gets things ramped up with some great events. Check out the event on September 17th when we go to Pottery Blowout on Grant and end with a social gathering at the Unplugged on Congress.
- In November the Ogden gardeners plant our onion field and we start gearing up for that event later in September. We will be looking for club members to join the fun. BIG plans are in store for the 2016 onion event. Maybe you would like to be a part of that?? I will be at the seminars so please feel free to introduce yourself.

Final comments:

The remainder of the year promises to be a busy time. The fall seminar series begins, plant sale preparations are just around the corner, our election of new board members will take place and several member events, including our annual luncheon. I ask that you give some consideration in helping on one or more of these committees. We have had some great people step up and help where and as needed. We all thank you for that. The need never stops so pick up the phone and call a board member, or better yet, let's go to one of our great seminars, meet a board member there and tell them you are ready to be a little involved. Thanks.

DESERT MEADOWS PARK - Chuck Parsons

There was lots of work in the park this month. Most obvious is the new shade structure in the grassland area. Maintenance has been done everywhere – mowing, spreading mulch, pulling weeds, raking mesquite beans, watering, spraying Roundup, etc. Maybe not as obvious as a huge new structure but every bit as welcomed, appreciated and necessary to keep the park a fun place to visit.



Caption: Ocotillo sculpture

Again, Henry Garcia and Francis Howe have fabricated a beautiful metal piece for the park; this time, a shade structure. The structure provides shade for a bench in the grassland, but also is a backdrop for a beautiful Ocotillo sculpture.

Stacie Meyer is now creating a tile mosaic “water feature” on the patio at the shade structure.

Last month, I reported that Gene Van Dyken placed three large pots he obtained from Pottery Blowout just south of the wildflower bed. These have now been planted by Kathy Stone. The plants include a nice saguaro donated by Megan Todd and some small golden barrels she talked me into donating from my old house in Sahuarita. Pottery Blowout is where we will be having a member event this month. Look to the article on Member Activities for more details. The club received a very nice discount on the three pots Gene bought for the park.



Stacie Meyer and Gary Campbell laying tile mosaic



Pots planted by Kathy Stone

THE COMMUNITY GARDEN @ DESERT MEADOWS PARK – Chuck Parsons

The experiment being conducted this summer will be declared a success!

The experiment:

The Desert Meadows Park committee recommended to the board that we allow winter resident members to apply for garden plots in the community garden. This is a departure from past practice at the Ogden Community Garden. The caveat was that the members allow volunteers from the club to use the plot while they were not here in the summer. Volunteers would grow and harvest produce for both the Green Valley and the Sahuarita food banks. The board approved the concept, which we designated as one of two nonprofit

partnerships in our grant application at Freeport McMoRan Foundation. We committed to a donation of at least 1000 pounds of fresh produce from this arrangement.

This summer:

We had 7 raised beds and 3 in-ground plots managed by volunteers for our first summer. We harvested on our normal Wednesday work day for the Green Valley food bank and we harvested on Saturday mornings for the Sahuarita food bank. As the process became routine, regular plot holders who were leaving for a few days or a couple of weeks would notify us to also harvest their plots. This was unanticipated, made perfect sense, and contributed many more pounds of produce to our donations each week.

The results:

Volunteers will still be managing the plots for another month, but we are very proud to announce that we have already donated 2300 pounds! The donations have been evenly split between the two food bank locations.



Ryan Todd with Armenian cucumber harvest on August 19th.

Special recognition:

I am pretty good at coming up with “concepts” – but concepts really produce nothing without effective implementation. Thanks go to Elissa Dearing for embracing the concept, single handedly getting it started, daily nurturing of the plots, managing pest control and enrolling other volunteers along the way to help with harvest and maintenance. After the experiment was underway, we also give recognition to Ryan and Megan Todd who joined GVG and have become avid volunteers on harvest days.

RYAN TODD’S DMP REPORT

This month at Desert Meadows Park, I helped pick vegetables a lot more. One day we picked 158 lb. of vegetables! That was mainly cucumbers. We had a wheelbarrow full of them. Those cucumbers are tricky! The bed that has them in it is really bushy and I picked them first, thought I found them all, but no. My Mom went to look and she found loads more. When I was picking tomatoes one week, I came across this huge spider that was 2 in long! I like to take the food to the food bank because it is literally a food BANK. There is a lot of food there; with people rolling Pepsi carts and more. I also helped rake mesquite beans.



The real entertainment at Desert Meadows is the dogs. One day, Ebinnie and Mojo kept wandering off from their owners. When Ebinnie wandered off and Byron called her, she just laid her ears back and kept walking. He had to shut Ebinnie in the garden area to keep her contained. She stood by the fence as close to Byron as she could while he was working. We didn't have to shut Mojo in the fence because when he realized he couldn't see Mr. Parsons, he went running to find him. One day, Ebinnie got to ride in the wheelbarrow. When she did, she stood in the bucket on top of the load of dirt like she was Super Dog. When Byron put her back down, she walked really slow and acted like she would so much rather be on the wheelbarrow.

In all, I had a good time working at Desert Meadows Park this month.

PLOT HOLDERS FORUM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Henne Queisser, a new gardener and plot holder at Desert Meadows Park, asked the following questions. Her curiosity was piqued after a summer of gardening. This month, Elissa Dearing is providing the answers.

Question	Answer
What vegetables did best in your summer garden?	Armenian and lemon cucumbers, eggplant, okra, butternut squash, hot peppers all produced well and summer squash (zucchini, Mexican and yellow) until hit by cucumber beetles followed by mosaic virus. <i>(See tomato & bean below.)</i>
What varieties of tomatoes (non-cherry) produced best in your plot?	Flamenco and Nichols tomatoes (seeds from Native Seed Search). Also, Early Girl – readily available as plants.
When should winter squash be harvested?	For butternut, when stem becomes brittle, rind is hard and they are a deep, solid tan color. They can be left on the vine until late Sep or Oct (before frost) then store in cool, dry environment.
My bush beans never took off. Is there some special way to cultivate these?	You are not alone. Gene in #7 had a few to harvest. We grew cowpeas/Black-eyed peas (<i>Vigna unguiculata</i>) in several beds successfully. Tohono O'odham "U'us mu:n" were used but most thrive in poor, dry conditions. Eat the green beans if picked at an immature stage, or shell and cook fresh, or dried and cooked. High in protein and fix nitrogen in your soil. They grow above the foliage so they are easy to pick.
When should onions and garlic be planted?	All my sources say mid-Sep through mid-Nov for both and also scallions.

2015 SEPTEMBER IN YOUR PLOT - Lorna Mitchell

September brings hope of cooler weather but the thermometer won't get the message for quite some time. We need to treat our plants like it is still summer; keep the irrigation going, keep weeds out, control insect pests.

With all the water we've put on our plants the last few months, the soluble nutrients have been washed from the root zone. We need to feed our active growers with a boost of nitrogen. This can be simple, like a teaspoon of Miracle Grow® in a gallon of water and poured at the base of the plant. It is possible to use TOO much fertilizer and cause more problems than not using any. My suggestion is to always use LESS than the label advises.

Those who are willing to take a risk can still plant green beans; choose the '55 days to harvest' varieties and if the frost is late you may have fresh beans for Thanksgiving. Seeds of root crops that will grow through the winter can go in over the next two months. This includes carrots, beets, turnips, parsnips, rutabagas, and radishes. Also plant seeds of kohlrabi, Swiss chard, lettuce, and spinach. Wait a few weeks for peas, they like the soil a little cooler. The sun still bears down viciously on seedlings so water several times a day for short periods until they get established.

Changing seasons will be upon us soon; so we need to get ready. Winter crops will go in next month, and there's still time to grow your own transplants, if you act fast. Start seeds of brassicas: cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, Brussels sprouts in cups at home. Get them in the potting soil NOW to put in the garden by Oct. 15, otherwise you'll be at the mercy of the box stores or pricey nurseries. Those of you who have small seedlings at home, beware of the cabbage looper caterpillar. They can do a lot of damage before you even see them; picking them off is tedious and inefficient. As much as I try to avoid it, this is a time for chemical control. Getting those transplants into the garden by the end of September is even better. This allows the warm soil to establish lush root growth to support the plant all winter, and you'll be eating broccoli two weeks sooner! Prepare your soil now. Keep reading.

Topsoil is the only thing between mankind and extinction, so let's treat ours right. Rotate where your crops grow from one year to the next, redesign the layout to refresh the nutrient drain and aerate the soil by turning it over and digging in composted steer manure and granulated balanced fertilizer. Kill grubs that lurk in those dark places eating your roots. Nourish our friends the earthworms by pouring veggie scrap smoothies into areas you turn over.

Let's talk about garden tools. Shovels, muscles and the obvious aside, scissors are my favorite garden tool. I keep a pair in my pocket, small, pointed, and very sharp. They need to be of good strong quality to snip consistently and evenly. Sewing scissors, hair cutting scissors, or best is surgical scissors but must be made of metal. I use these:

- to trim out the suckers on tomato plants;
- cut tomato hornworms in two;
- harvest eggplant, green beans, zucchini, etc., so I don't rip the stems,
- to cut green tape to tie up tomatoes or cucumbers, etc.,
- slice into squash stems to kill caterpillars,
- remove yellowed leaves or bent stems,
- or whatever !

And my next favorite garden accessory will be a case to carry my sharp pointed scissors in my pocket!

Those are my plot thoughts for now. Happy Gardening!

FROM FARMER BOB AND THE FARMER'S WIFE, LYNN – Robert & Lynn Swan



In case you might wonder, this garden is neither in Green Valley nor Iowa. We are presently on a driving trip through the northwest, primarily Canada. The garden is Butchart Gardens in Victoria, BC. It is spectacular and if you have a chance to visit this area, it's not to be missed! The scenery in this part of the world is spectacular and we have seen billions of trees, caught salmon, observed grizzly bears up close, seen orcas and humpback whales and feasted on seafood galore.

Back to reality! It is approaching time to start planning for your winter garden even though it may still be getting into the triple digits most

days. If you are going to start plants for transplanting, it would be good to start soon. I would consider broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage as possibilities now. Lettuce, kale, sugar snap peas, radishes, etc. may be planted later. Let's use our imagination this year and see what we can come up with. I learned a lot last year and hope to follow up with some ideas this coming winter, ("including bringing some Iowa dirt, if there's room!" says Lynn)

Thanks to the volunteers who planted and harvested for the food bank. It seems you had a good season.

TANK'S GREEN STUFF PRODUCTS

Green Valley ACE hardware is now carrying Tank's Green Stuff organic compost and fine mulch products in the bag. ACE will be the exclusive distributor for the products in our area. Both the Ogden Community Garden and the community garden at Desert Meadows Park have purchased the organic compost in bulk for use in the garden plots. Desert Meadows Park has used a couple large bulk loads of the mulch. It has been used in both the hummingbird/butterfly gardens and in around the native grasses in the grassland area. There are currently piles of each product at Desert Meadows Park should you wish to check it out.

EDITORIAL

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - By Chuck Parsons

This is the sixth (and the last) of my articles in this series. Last month I implied I might be on bended knee asking for members, to volunteer, to run for the board. I received pity apparently. We now have a nice slate of candidates for you to consider for the board next month. Thank you!

At the board meeting this month the nominating committee will present the slate of candidates for approval. The candidates will be announced in the October issue of the Sand n Seeds. You will be

receiving a ballot and candidate biography information in the mail with an explicit deadline. Your new board and officers will be announced at the annual meeting/bar be que in November.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please contact Hal Tokuyama by phone at 805-479-6770 or by email at haltok@gmail.com – thanks.

MEMBERSHIP – Judy Christensen



August has proved to be a very active month for membership. We are excited to add 4 households to our group. Welcome to Robert and Linda Winterland. They sent the following picture of a view of their favorite garden. Thanks for sharing it with us.

We will welcome pictures, from any of our new (or long-term) members, to include in the newsletter. With all the cell phone cameras around, why not snap a selfie near our great landscapes, or a favorite plant?

Also joining in August, we are pleased to have Tara and Joshua Wilkey, Gary and Sandy Vaughn, and George and Virginia Friend. We appreciate your commitment to our organization and horticultural/ environmental education and community service.

Including one late membership renewal, our **TOTAL MEMBERSHIP is 311!**



One of our newest members George Friend



PETALS OF GIVING

The September birth flower is the Aster. This fall-blooming herb with daisy-like flowers is also called the September flower and is said to symbolize love, faith, wisdom and color. The Aster blooms in pink, red, white, lilac and mauve. The Greek word for ‘star’ is how this plant was named, as the shape of the flower head resembles a star. The hidden message “Take Care of Your Self, For Me” is being sent with a gift of asters.

DONATIONS RECEIVED IN AUGUST: Charles Lamb, \$10 for GVG; Chuck Parsons, 5 large Golden Barrel cactus, 1 Red Barrel cactus; 3 Prickly Pear cactus; 2 Agaves with pups; 10 eight-inch miscellaneous small cacti; all total value \$805; Russell Symes, 20 potted plants including soil, value \$250 & 1 electric leaf blower valued at \$75.

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

- **September 10th** – Seminar @ Desert Hills – Sansavieras & Adeniums
- **September 17th** – Member’s Activity Pottery Blowout Tour & Unplugged Wine Bar
- **September 24th** – Seminar @ Desert Hills – Citrus Trees in Our Area, Glenn Wright

- **October 1st** – Seminar @ Desert Hills – Flourishing Container Gardens for A Winter Of Daily Color
- **October 6th** - GVG Board Meeting @ Friends In Deed, 1 PM, open to all members
- **October 15th** - Member’s Activity, Tour Pima County NRPR nursery & Prickly Park
- **October 22nd** - Seminar @ Desert Hills, Description of Plants Being Sold at the GVG Plant Sale
- **October 25th** – Anza Day, Historic Canoa Ranch, 9 AM to 1 PM
- **October 29th** - Seminar @ Desert Hills, Vegetable Gardening in Containers – Start Now and How
- **October 29th, 30th & 31st** – FALL PLANT SALE, @ Continental Shopping Plaza

- **November 3rd** – GVG Board Meeting @ Friends in Deed, 1 PM, open to all members
- **November 5th** – Seminar @ Desert Hills, Bonsai
- **November 12th** – Seminar @ Desert Hills, Orchids
- **November 14th** – Annual Member’s meeting, BBQ/Potluck & Music
- **November 19th** – Member’s Activity, Tour of Green Things Nu

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



Recent Garden Tour 2016 planning committee meeting @ Java



We can always use a few good gardening pictures. Why not submit a few of your pictures?