



SAND 'N' SEEDS

Green Valley Gardeners A Service Club made up of Gardeners

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – *Chuck Parsons*

We kick off a new year! Several members are taking on new roles, including me as your club President. Board members, committee chairs, and I request your continued support. Together we can share our love for gardening with each other and the community, and have fun in the process!

Ron Sullivan is our Vice President. Ron and Vicki garden in one of our Community Garden plots and will be editing *Sand 'n' Seeds*. **Raydine Tabor** has assumed the Treasurer role. **Jo Ann Wilson** is our new Secretary. Past and present officers of the board met in early December to establish the budget for 2013. The budgeting process gave us a preview of the exciting projects and events that are being planned.

We have interesting seminars lined up for the winter/spring series, and lots of suggestions coming in for seminar speakers next fall. We will have several social activities (See page 2 about the Potluck Dinner) and tours scheduled throughout the year for the membership.

Our newest community contribution is a project at the Canoa Ranch being chaired by **Jack Davis**. He has a report on that project in this edition on page 3.

We had a significant growth in membership last year. I hope we have good retention in 2013—and perhaps attract even more members. Please renew your membership now (See page 4), and in the process let us know on the renewal form what committees and/or projects you'd like to participate. It is my experience that I have gained the most gardening knowledge by working with other members in this way.

LOS NINOS DAYCARE – *Elissa Dearing*

The three classes at Los Ninos planted their gardens in early October. Since this was our first fall garden, we decided to try a wide variety of vegetables along with some edible flowers. After weeding and preparing the beds with manure, the two-year-olds planted a small raised bed with lettuce, radishes, and beets. They also planted some violas in pots. The three-year-olds planted a large raised bed with rainbow chard, turnips, kohlrabi and carrots. The four- and five-year-olds planted two raised beds with broccoli, cauliflower, sugar snap peas, mustard greens, and borage. In early December the children were excited to harvest their first crops of lettuce, radishes, and mustard greens for a salad. They have also started harvesting the mature outer leaves of the chard. The broccoli will be ready soon.

Thanks to **Chuck Parsons**, irrigation was installed in the beds before we planted this fall. The consistent watering has made a big difference in the quality and quantity of the produce.



Young gardeners discovering leafy greens.

POTLUCK DINNER – Joanne Atkisson

Come to the Green Valley Gardeners Potluck Dinner on Tuesday, January 29th, 2013 from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm at **La Posada Recreation Center**, located at 685 S. La Posada Circle, Green Valley. Members are welcome to bring a guest.

Please make **reservations** no later than **Friday, January 18th, 2013**, by calling Joanne Atkisson at 520-648-2946 or email Joanne at pat.joanne@live.com.

Members with the last name starting with the following please bring:

A thru F – main dishes

G thru L – side dishes

M thru R – appetizers

S thru Z – desserts

All dishes should serve at least 8 people. Place settings, coffee, soda, iced tea, and ice will be provided. Members are free to bring their own beverages.

Directions: From I-19 take the Continental exit. Go east on Continental, cross the river through the pecan groves. Turn left (west) at White House Canyon Road in front of the Java Coffee House. Turn left at each of two 4-way STOP signs. Now you are on La Posada Circle. Continue on the circle until the sign on the right says "Recreation Center". Look for the shuffleboard courts with the Recreation Center adjacent. At Recreation Center door look for signs to the room for the Potluck.

If coming on Old Nogales Highway from the stoplight at Old Nogales and Sahuarita Road, go to next traffic light and turn left in order to stay on Old Nogales Highway. Continue past Quail Creek to four-way stop sign at White House Canyon Road. Turn right at Java Coffee House and follow directions above to the Recreation Center.



OGDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – George Stone



Pit bosses Jeff Karnes and Hal Tokuyama with taste tester Chuck Parsons at the Pig Roast.

2012 was a banner year for the Allen J. Ogden Community Garden. We started the year with 22 gardeners and ended with 31. In January we lost longtime member **Angelo LaScala**. New members include **Mark & Pamela Sulger, Ron & Vicki Sullivan, Bill & Carolyn Ronald, Elise and Vienna Schloeder, Steve Teichner, Kim Skomars, and Lorna & Fred Mitchell.**

Successful community gardens are made up of active involved volunteers. That certainly describes our garden. We appreciate the Board's approval of our budget requests. As a group, the gardeners accomplished the following:

Constructed and painted 5 benches ... **Bought** yard art from a local recycling artist ... **Painted** the sheds a bright purple ... **Purchased** a clock, thermometer, and 8 chairs for the gazebo ... **Replaced** the picnic table ... **Purchased** a scale to weigh our produce that we plan to donate ... **Built** a cold frame ... **Added** 40 yards of topsoil to avoid flooding during monsoons ... **Posted** new directional, educational, and fun signs ... **Fed** the hummingbirds and participated in a hummingbird study ... **Hosted** the Green Valley Gardeners after a seminar in late September ... **Enjoyed** a pig roast on Veterans' Day ... **Contributed** more than a ton of produce to local food banks and our neighbors ... **Experimented** with heirloom seeds from Baker

Creek Heirloom Seeds ... **Wrote** grants to Annie's Seeds, Seed Savers Exchange, Territorial Seed Company, and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds for heirloom seeds for 2013 ... **Installed** overhead sprinklers to compare that method with individual plant emitters ... **Purchased** a cultivator ... **Participated** in the Spring and Fall Plant Sales ... **Helped** each other lay new irrigation lines, fertilize, till, plant, weed, and harvest ... **Negotiated** a 20-year extension to our lease agreement with Neil Johnson, the landowner... **Cleared** the land adjacent to the current garden ... **Published** pictures and stories in the *Green Valley News* and local HOA papers

But most importantly we had fun. If you are interested in volunteering at the Ogden Community Garden, contact **George Stone**, project manager, at 123gstone@gmail.com. You too could be an Ogdener!

ARID GARDEN UPDATE – *Mary Kidnocker*

Welcome to our new volunteer, **Sara Hein**. After working one Friday morning to thin out an overgrown patch of *Agave funkiana*, the next week she brought her strong husband to the garden. Thanks to Sara's guidance, some hubby muscle, and a steel digging bar, the stubborn agave were overcome!

For several Fridays **Jim Campbell** and **Larry Prall** have worked like "troopers" reconstructing the river-rock linings along our paths. They removed the stone, dug out the soil, strained out the pebbles, returned and leveled the soil, and replaced the river rock. This is heavy-duty labor, but the paths look gorgeous as finished. Thanks much, Jim and Larry, for all the work.

Plans are being finalized to construct a new raised "Sensory Garden" adjacent to the butterfly garden area. The hope is to get construction done this winter so new scented and textured plants can go in when springtime arrives. Work will be done by the volunteers, expecting completion in time for our May 5 "Sunday in the Garden" club event.

MEDIAN GREEN – *Mary Kidnocker*

Have you noticed how tidy our median on La Canada Boulevard looks? **Elissa Dearing** and **Ilse Gudehus** recently spent time there pulling weeds, gathering litter, spreading seed, and generally cleaning the area. The word is that our median is the best maintained in the community, and we know why. Thanks ladies!

CANOA RANCH – *Jack Davis*

In November, 20 members started Phase I of the refurbishing of Canoa Ranch. We cleaned out existing beds that had not been touched since the 1960s. We designed plantings that may have been similar to the 1920s at the elder Manning home. On December 17 this phase was completed with the herbs and vegetable plants nestled in the "kitchen garden". Cacti, agaves, and a few xeriscape perennials found new homes in the east side 50 foot planters. Frost, bird, and critter protection have been completed and drip irrigation planning has been undertaken.

Phase 2 includes the possible establishment of another "kitchen" and perennial garden at the Junior Manning home. A green light to embark on Phase 2 is dependent upon water availability and budget which is anticipated to be forthcoming in early January. When we receive a GO, the remainder of our volunteers will be called upon to participate as well as many of those who have participated in Phase 1.

If you missed the original call for volunteers and would like to participate or have questions, please contact Jack Davis at jlayton@mtdig.net.

For members who receive *Sands 'n' Seeds* in the electronic version, refer to page 7 of *Sands 'n' Seeds 'n' More* at the end of the PDF version.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Jan Ajemian
Lois Davis
Nora & Tom Knox
Lorna & Fred Mitchell
Henne Queisser

IT'S MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME! – Jan Nash

We are gearing up for another year of seminars, fun times together, and giving back to the community through many great projects. We hope you will continue to be a part of it.

Look for a membership renewal form in your mail in early January. You may download a renewal form anytime at www.greenvalleygardeners.com.

Individual dues remain at \$25.00, and Household memberships are \$35.00.

To have your name in the Directory and remain a member in good standing, dues must be received by February 1.

Checks and renewal forms may be

- dropped off at seminars in January
- or mailed to
Green Valley Gardeners
P.O. Box 86
Green Valley, AZ 85622

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ✓ January 10 Seminar *Pruning tips and best trees for our area* **Chuck Parsons** at Desert Hills from 9:30 -10:30 am (Free)
- ✓ January 17 Seminar *Rose selection, planting, and care* **Lauren Kettenbach** from Tucson Rose Society at Quail Creek Madera Clubhouse from 9:30-10:30 am (Free) (See page 5 of *Sands 'n' Seeds 'n' More* for profile on speaker.)
- ✓ January 24 Seminar *Citrus care and maintenance* **Glenn Wright** from Yuma Cooperative Extension at Desert Hills from 9:30-10:30 am (Free)
- ✓ January 29 Potluck Dinner at La Posada from 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm (Bring a dish) Contact **Joanne Atkisson**
- ✓ January 31 Seminar *Mission and projects of Native Seeds/SEARCH* **Bill McDorman** from Native Seeds/SEARCH at Desert Hills from 9:30-10:30 am (Free) (See page 8 of *Sands 'n' Seeds 'n' More* for profile on speaker.)
- ✓ February 7 Seminar *Cactus and care* **Mark Sitter** from B&B Cactus at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- ✓ February 12 Luxury Coach Tour to *Desert Botanical Gardens* in Phoenix from 8:30 am – 5:30 pm (\$93/person) Contact **Mary Kidnocker**) (See page 10 of *Sands 'n' Seeds 'n' More* for trip reservation form.)

The mission of The Green Valley Gardeners shall be to promote gardening education and related environmental issues to its membership and the gardening public through educational and charitable means.

We have more for our electronic version. In fact it's called ***Sands 'n' Seeds 'n' More***.

In the ***'n' More*** pages of this issue, you'll find

- ❖ Profile of **Lauren Kettenbach**, speaker at the January 17 seminar
 - ❖ Full report from **Jack Davis** on our Canoa Ranch project
- ❖ Profile of **Bill McDorman**, speaker at the January 31 seminar
 - ❖ **Desert Botanical Garden** tour reservation form

We invite you to keep reading!

SAND 'N' SEEDS 'N' MORE

The Sonoran Desert Rose Is Pretty in Pink

By Ron and Vicki Sullivan



Lauren Kettenbach only grew shades of pink roses.

She'll share her knowledge of all shades and colors of roses, pruning and more at the **Green Valley Gardeners seminar January 17, 2013**. The seminar is at **Quail Creek's Madera Clubhouse**. The doors open at 9 a.m. for coffee and socializing. Several Pima County master gardeners are always on hand to answer questions, identify plants, and offer solutions to your gardening problems. Seminars begin at 9:30 and last approximately an hour. All seminars are open to the public and free of charge.

"Twenty five years ago I visited my sister who lived in Portland, Oregon. She took me through the Portland Rose Society gardens. I said, 'I want some roses.'"

"I happen to live in the house I grew up in. My mother had planted three rose bushes in the front of the house. After returning from Portland, I went to a local Tucson family run nursery and picked out 9 or 10 roses. I called the Tucson Rose Society to ask if they could recommend a gardener to take care of the roses. The lady at the society politely said we take

care of our own roses. She put me in my place. She then said why don't you come to a meeting and off I went."

"Over the next ten years I probably had 350 rose bushes. For the first ten years I only had shades of pink. If it's a pink rose, I have to have it. I originally wanted to grow a lavender rose. It has a beautiful fragrance but it really doesn't grow well here. So I stayed in the pink range from light to dark. Now I grow every color in the rainbow."

Kettenbach has never publically shown her roses. "I am the only person of the Tucson Rose Society that does not show my roses. If I showed them I would probably become more obsessed with them than I already am. I enjoy growing them and giving them away. If the rose has some bug damage, it doesn't matter; the people couldn't care less."

"The biggest misnomer about roses is that they are difficult to grow. They are really not. There are so many petals. Some can have 200 some can have 4. They come in every size, shape and color imaginable. There really isn't a color that you can't come up with. They are easy to grow in most places but the southwest is one of the more difficult areas because of the heat and water issues."

She has been a consulting rosarian with the Tucson Rose Society for 12 years. She often makes local house calls. If someone is too far away, she requests that they email her describing the problem and attach photos of the issue. "I can usually diagnose the problem from the photo." Her standard advice is "If you put roses in the ground, water them well, and fertilize once or twice a year, you will have nice roses".

Kettenbach spoke about how the rose industry is dramatically changing. "The labor market is changing. There are no longer people willing to lie on their

stomachs eight hours a day grafting roses. All the roses in this garden are grafted. Lying down in the fields to bud them is very intense labor.”

As the rose market paradigm continues to change, Kettenbach has a positive outlook for our cross border communities of southern Arizona and

northern Mexico. “I believe that if there were more cross border exchanges I think it would bring communities together. I’m very into bringing people together. We are so close and Mexico has so much to offer. I think that’s wonderful. I’ve never met a gardener I didn’t like”.

The Sonoran Desert Rose

By Ron Sullivan

Floribunda are especially well suited
For those who prefer less color diluted
There are Taylors and McEntires for clarity of color
But the Chicago Peace rose is my choice among others

Though Nematode worms search deep in the soil
Hybrid Teas and Floribunda do much to their spoil
Let’s not be too harsh on our microscopic friends
They dine on bacteria, fungi and then

There are greater challenges in our Sonoran rose gardens
For instance, fresh water and heat are but two that we pardon
Monsoons and tectonics create our landscapes
There are roses that grow to help us escape

Doctor Huey’s root stocks aspire as do Cherokees
Kettenbach has developed her own remedies
At home in her garden no disrespect or floozy
Longer stems are the rule no insult to Huey

Henry Ford once quoted your color is black
A choice of selection the Model T lacked
One score and five Lauren smiled and gave wink
I can grow any color as long as it’s pink

CANOA RANCH OVERVIEW – Jack Davis



For many of our Green Valley Gardeners Canoa Ranch is a little known entity. However, nestled just south of The Springs lies the heritage site frequented by numerous native tribes, the first overnight stop of the Anza Expedition, and site of one of the largest ranches in Arizona. The ranch, originally a Spanish land grant, grew to some 500,000 acres. Much of the property was purchased by Fairfield and thus became the site of our homes today.

In 1921 the ranch was purchased by the Manning family and ran as a cattle ranch and farm till the 1950s, after which the land was abandoned. As part of the Ranch Conservation Project of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, Pima County has purchased and is managing numerous areas of former active ranches under its Natural Resources, Parks, and Recreation Division. For further details visit www.pima.gov/sdep/ranch.html

As part of this process, Pima County purchased Canoa Ranch and the surrounding 4,800 acres and began the process of reconstruction of the crumbling buildings, left for some 50 years to the rats, bats, and desert environment. The site, located on south frontage road, is now known as Canoa Ranch-Raul M. Grijalva Conservation Park. The reconstruction process has produced a metamorphosis from the time some of you may have toured in the spring of 2012. Roofs and crumbling adobe walls have been replaced and painted. Water flow has been established to many of the heritage trees. (www.pima.gov/npr/parks/canoaindex).

Early this summer and fall, site visits were made by Leslie Campbell, Chuck Parsons, and Peggy Cederstrom at the request of project manager Robert Vaughn to determine the feasibility of Green Valley Gardeners to accept a project of re-establishing kitchen gardens and other plantings at the historic Manning homes. In addition, the possibility in the future of developing a

second community garden was discussed. Their foresightedness and the Green Valley Gardeners Board's approval have led to the current projects.

In November, a call for volunteers was instituted resulting in some 20 Green Valley Gardeners members, many of whom have participated in the two workdays which has resulted in completion of Phase 1-cleaning out existing beds that had not been touched since the 1960s; also, designing plantings that may have been similar to the 1920s and beyond at the elder Manning home. On December 17 Phase 1 was completed with the herbs and vegetable plants nestled in the "kitchen garden" and cacti, agaves, and a few xeriscape perennials in the east side 50 feet planters. Frost, bird, and critter protection have been completed and drip irrigation planning has been undertaken. Of course, the question arises as why to plant in December? The reason is that Pima County Natural resources, Parks, and Recreation plans to recruit docents for training in January and begin public tours in February-March. This time table leads us to Phase 2, the possible establishment of another "kitchen" and perennial garden at the Junior Manning home which is destined to become the visitors center and possible other sites. A green light to embark on Phase 2 is dependent upon water availability and budget which is anticipated to be forthcoming in early January. When we receive a GO, the remainder of our volunteers will be called upon to participate as well as many of those who have participated in Phase 1.

To date, no volunteer called has said no and the project has been accomplished by an amazing team of volunteers. Now we all know that Green Valley Gardeners members have been famous for their efforts in all of our ongoing projects and that is Green Valley Gardeners' secret of success. However, the Canoa Ranch projects offer a somewhat different slant as they include opening the door for each of us to discover more history of Arizona from the time of the native occupation to present day. The projects offer a glimpse of the evolution of the Sonoran Desert and the people as well as many of the heirloom plants they utilized. It is our heritage and as some articles have noted, "this is our Independence Hall, our Sistine Chapel. If we don't protect these areas, they are gone forever."

If you missed the original call for volunteers and would like to participate or have questions, please contact Jack Davis by email at jlayton@mtdig.net.

Searching for the Sustainable Tomato by Ron and Vicki Sullivan



From behind the Iron Curtain to Guatemala, **Bill McDorman** has been searching, collecting, and banking seeds for over 30 years.

He'll share his knowledge on the thriving local food movement, the organic versus genetically modified organism debate, and more at the **Green Valley Gardeners seminar January 31, 2013**. The seminar is at **Desert Hills** in Green Valley. The doors open at 9 a.m. for coffee and socializing. Several Pima County master gardeners are always on hand to answer questions, identify plants, and offer solutions to your gardening problems. Seminars begin at 9:30 and last approximately an hour. All seminars are open to the public and free of charge.

McDorman is executive director of Native Seed/SEARCH, a 30 year old Southwestern seed conservation organization based in Tucson.

"Native Seeds is made up of 2,000 members that came together in a breath-taking example of non-governmental, self-governing, nonprofit long-term problem solving. National Geographic reported that by the turn of the 20th century over 90 percent of the varieties of foods has disappeared. We call it an industrial storm. Two or three generations of people got pushed out. Thirty years

ago Barney Burns and Gary Paul Nabhan, co-founders of Native Seeds/Search, started saving what was left."

In a recent interview, McDorman spoke about Native Seeds' mission. "We teach a six day seed school to people from around the world. People say we are doing this urban radical agriculture. So much of what we teach is just going back. Our job now is to take out the best of what we have and educate communities about seed saving and sustainability."

"In the 1980s I traveled to the Soviet Union to look for a tomato that would grow at 6,000 feet. This was during the time of Gorbachev, Glasnost, and Perestroika. I took the Trans-Siberian railroad through five time zones. My hope was to bring back one variety of tomato. I wound up bringing back 60 varieties. Every Soviet had their own garden they saved their own seeds. I was in the midst of a fresh picked tomato laboratory. Everyone was competing for the best tomato. For 70 years there were 2 million people doing this. It was a genetic laboratory unlike the world will ever know again. For them a salad was tomatoes and maybe a cucumber and onion. I took lettuce seeds but nobody wanted them. 'Why would you put green leafies in a salad?' someone asked. They opted for flavor."

An innovative partnership with Pima County Library resulted in a seed bank exchange program. Heirloom seeds from Native Seed/SEARCH and other non-profit and commercial seed organizations have contributed to a seed exchange program through branch libraries. The system duplicates the same process as checking out a book. After planting the heirlooms, allow a few plants to go to seed. Return those seeds to the library with your story.

In 2012 McDorman was a participant of City of Tucson Mayor Rothschild's Green Round Table with 25 other non-profit executives. The question asked was "Where can Tucson and the region go

collectively? What should be our vision for sustainable agriculture”?

“My 20 second answer was Tuscany. In the Italian region of Tuscany, people from all over the world travel there to eat their food. It’s a unique place. The food has been there for centuries. Recently reported in a New York Times article, Thomas

Jefferson walked down the steps of a Tuscany winery. The 13th generation winery is still there. It’s their pasta, pesto, tomato sauces, and their wine. Travelers go there because it belongs to Tuscany. It’s been there a long time and they got really good at making it. That’s the model we want here in Tucson and the Southwest.”

**Sustainable Revolution:
A Tribute to Teosinte*
By Ron Sullivan**

Kunta Kinte you found your roots
Your search was not in vain
4000 years of lofty trek
Teosinte did sustain

From Mezo to Pimeria
Three sisters did arrive
Hohokam and O’odham
Did their gardens keep alive

Though gaps of lost generations
Let’s not ponder on that past
Woodstock, Glasnost celebrations
Perestroika did outlast

Tucsonenses and Sonorenses
San Agustin and more
Heritage Seeds and Native Seeds
GV Gardeners did explore

As benighted lambs eat ivy
We give thanks unto our past
A tribute to Teosinte
Your footprint will outlast

*Maize is derived from teosinte, a perennial grass



**DESERT
BOTANICAL
garden**

*SPECIAL FROM THE
MEMBER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE*

Want to tour one of the premier gardens of the Southwest?

How do you feel about driving to Phoenix's center?

Like to nap instead of driving home tired?

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Leave Green Valley on a luxurious motorcoach for a day-trip to

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN in PHOENIX

Depart at 8:30 AM - Return around 5:30 PM

We will have our own professional driver, a knowledgeable travel guide, a docent-led tour of magnificent gardens, a gourmet box lunch in the shade of the gardens, and afterward a comfortable ride back to Green Valley with time for a snooze. How about that for a cool, sunny winter day?

Because we must have a minimum of 32 travelers to make the trip happen, it is important that we get your reservation as soon as possible. Cost is \$93 per person... a bargain considering all the plans are made for you, park admission fee, the cost of fuel, wear & tear on your car, a terrific lunch, and a day spent with fellow gardeners.

Spouses and guests are welcome to come with us.

✓ ***Yes, I'm excited about the Desert Botanical Garden trip, so here is my reservation:***

Names: _____

Number going _____ x \$93 each

Print this page and send with your check to:

Mary Kidnocker
685 S LaPosada Cir GH 605
Green Valley, AZ 85614