



SAND 'N' SEEDS

Green Valley Gardeners A Service Club Made Up of Gardeners

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – *Chuck Parsons*

March 2013 has been a record breaking month for the Green Valley Gardeners. Attendance at the monthly seminars continues to be a key link for introducing new members to the club. Our 3-day Plant Sale and the Spring Fair co-sponsored with the Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society were both financially successful – exceeding budget in both cases. If you were not at the Spring Fair this year, the TCSS brought many salvaged cactus. The golden spine hedgehogs were an instant hit!

Leslie Campbell's members-only trip to the **UA Arboretum** was a huge success.

We are excited about the upcoming **33rd Annual Garden Tour**, and ticket sales look promising.

Patricia Pearson is making final arrangements for the carpool trip to **Patagonia** on April 18. The extended deadline for registration is April 5th.

Mary Kidnocker will help us wrap up the year with our 3rd annual **Sunday Afternoon in the Arid Garden** on May 5. We will welcome members and your guests to a wine and cheese party.

Our GVG Fall 2013 and Winter/Spring 2014 **seminar schedules** are rapidly falling into place. Look for a preliminary schedule for fall at the last seminars this spring and on page 4 of this issue.

Of worthy note:

- The Green Valley Gardeners were visibly recognized during the opening ceremonies at the Raúl M. Grijalva Canoa Ranch Conservation Park for our contribution to the restoration of the kitchen

garden and planters. **Jack Davis** has been chairing that project for us and has had willing volunteers help with the implementation.

- **Steve Teichner** presented the GVG with a cash donation designated to supply soil for the Allen J. Ogden Community Garden's raised garden beds. His generosity is greatly appreciated.
- During a recent visit to the Tohono O'odham Nation, **Karen and Thom Metcalf** presented Tohono O'odham Community Action co-founder and master basket weaver Terrol Dew Johnson with fiber art materials. The materials are not traditional materials that the Tohono O'odham use but may be useful for Terrol's contemporary baskets. Terrol was touched by their generosity.

All of these accomplishments would not be possible without the hundreds of volunteer hours our members provide. *Thank you!*

Happy Gardening!



Gardeners assembled for the UA Arboretum tour.

GARDEN TOUR 2013 – *Peggy Cederstrom and Kathy Haught, Co-Chairs*

The Hosts are busy at all five homes preparing for our Tour on **Saturday, April 6, 2013**. Now that the cold weather has retreated, the plants are leafing and new buds are showing, making it easier to identify and label the specimens. We will see and enjoy some spectacular gardens.

➤ We **need more volunteers** on the day of the Tour as **Greeter** at a garden **or Ticket Seller** at the booth at Desert Hills Recreation Center. Contact Kathy Haught at 520-393-0379.

All members should have received their two tickets for purchase in the mail. Please return any tickets you will not be purchasing to Peggy Cederstrom.

Additional tickets may be purchased at any seminar, vendors listed below, or by calling Peggy at 520-648-2540.

- ❖ **Meredith's Hallmark Shop**, 250 W. Continental, Suite 528
- ❖ **The Green Valley Nursery**, LLC, 333 W. Paseo Del Prado
- ❖ **Annie's Cupboard of Green Valley**, 101 S. La Cañada Drive, Suite 16
- ❖ **Native Gardens of Green Valley**, La Cañada Drive just north of Esperanza
- ❖ **Green Valley Gift & Gab**, 120 W. Calle De Las Tiendas

Day of the tour tickets will be sold in the parking lot at the **Desert Hills Social Center**.

We thank our sponsor **Native Gardens of Green Valley**, owned by fellow Green Valley Gardeners **Harry and Ellen March**.

COMMUNITY GARDEN – *George Stone*

Those of us who planted peas in the garden months ago are now enjoying the bounty of that crop. Whether it's sweet pea (do not eat the pod), snow pea (edible flat pod with small peas), or the snap pea with the pod edible with a full size pea,

eat all you can now for this cool season crop does not last long.

The warmer weather has got everyone working preparing the soil and planting just about everything. Several of the gardeners have their tomato plants out hoping Mother Nature does not bring that last minute frost.

A good look at the plots shows that potatoes have been sown. I see radishes, carrots, and lots of cabbage. Sweet potatoes have been ordered and are on the way. We all look forward to tending the garden during April, which by the way is National Garden Month.

Until next month, eat healthy and stay happy. See you in the garden.

ARID GARDEN UPDATE – *Mary Kidnocker*

The garden is popping! After a winter of shades of gray and brown, color is again showing throughout. Unlike last year the finches have not eaten the penstemon buds. Among wildflower blooms have been lots of verbena, desert chicory, fleabane, desert marigold, bahia, lupines, dysodia, dicliptera, and, of course, many penstemon.

The 'Valentine' emu bushes that were thought lost because of the cold are showing a few green leaves. We still wait for some foliage on the mesquite and acacia trees. Plants that like afternoon shade are not happy about all the sun under these trees. Mexican honeysuckle flowered heavily before we were able to remove all the cold damage.

Our two neighboring home owner associations had an "Appreciation Morning" to thank the volunteers for all the work done in the garden. It was held on Fran King's patio adjacent to the garden. Weather was ideal. Neighbors brought an abundance of delicious breakfast goodies. We got to meet new neighbors. It was fun to take a mid-morning break.

LOS NINOS – *Elissa Dearing*

The regular school year will end in less than two months for the children at Los Ninos at La Posada. They decided to keep their spring planting simple. Each class chose what they would like to plant.

- The **two year olds** planted four bell pepper plants that each produces a different colored pepper, some Armenian cucumber plants, and two kinds of pumpkin seeds.
- The sunflower seeds that the **three year olds** planted have already sprouted and are nearly an inch tall.
- The **four year olds** planted two kinds of climbing beans and two kinds of bush beans. They are going to compare the growth rates, production and taste of the different varieties.

All of the seeds planted in the spring gardens at Los Ninos came from Native Seeds/SEARCH in Tucson.

CANOA RANCH PROJECT – *Jack Davis*

There are still many plans on the drawing boards that we anticipate our GVG volunteers will be involved in. The courtyard garden at the Jr. Manning house is in the design process. Implementation and timing of this project are still pending budget review and consideration of water harvesting methodology. The Hunter Company donated a solar powered irrigation timer system, which can be utilized in this garden. Plantings near the Grijalva house and a row of rose bushes, which can be seen on early photos of the site, are being considered to recreate the site as it may have been during the mid-1900s. A community garden near the site is possible if the logistics and funding issues can be solved.

Some of our full-time GVG residents have been familiarizing themselves with the logistics of managing the garden portion of the Ranch project in cooperation with the County. Soon we will harvest the current crop of vegetables, which are now rapidly maturing and plant warm season plantings. A group of our volunteers are planning on working out a schedule to visit the site during the summer and early fall.

MEDIAN GREEN – *Mary Kidnocker*

Thanks to **Jim Campbell, Larry Prall, and Dwight Kidnocker** of the Arid Garden crew. They took a couple hours on a recent Friday morning and planted three more golden and three red-spined barrels in bare spots on the club's median. We are adding plants that have long-lasting color, are drought resistant, and are low-maintenance. There was a good supply of wildflowers on the median this spring, including lupines, blue bells, yellow poppies, and desert marigold...none planted by us!

CASA MEMORY GARDEN – *Mary Kidnocker*

Autumn sages are blooming throughout, making for many happy hummingbirds. A catmint transfer from The Arid Garden was put into a large empty container in the garden, and seems to have survived the move. Iris are showing color, and the small woolly butterfly bushes have buds ready to pop. Really pretty are the clumps of Mexican feather grass, already fully green, and gracefully moving with the spring winds.

MEMBER ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE (MAC) – *Leslie Campbell*

About 40 GVG members enjoyed the March 21 UA Arboretum tour. We had great weather, learned more about the history of and choices for trees planted at the University, and got to know each other better during our lunchtime.

April 18 Patagonia Tour – Sign up has been extended to April 5. The day will include 1) a morning at Paton's hummingbird haven, 2) lunch at your choice of a) Velvet Elvis, b) White Horse Tavern or c) bring your own picnic on the town green, and then 3) an afternoon tour of the Native Seeds/SEARCH farm. What a full day! You can choose which of these stops you will do. Just make sure to carpool with folks on the same agenda!

- Contact Pat Pearson with your reservation and choices. Pat888@cox.net

May 5 Sunday in the Arid Garden – Don't miss our 3rd annual spring social in the garden from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. This event is open to GVG members and

their guests. MAC members are busy preparing for this chance for visiting before some members depart for the summer. Be sure to make your reservations by April 25th! Watch for more information via email.

- Email Leslie Campbell for your reservations by April 25! Leslieecc22@gmail.com

We are not done yet! Watch for another early fall cookout / potluck. Details later.

MAC is also looking for help from our GVG members.

- We look forward to having a few more volunteers to work with us on our activities.

AND we want to hear from you on ideas for socials over the next year!

- Just send ideas to Leslie and Pat.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

❖ **Walt Hill**

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

- April 4 Seminar *Soil Mixtures* Kevin Callaghan from El Toro/Triple A Landscape Materials at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- April 6 Spring Garden Tour Self-guided tour showcasing 5 gardens in the Green Valley area from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (\$8/member, \$10/non-member)
- April 11 Seminar *Sky Islands & Madera Canyon* Sarah Williams from Sky Island Alliance of Tucson at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- April 18 Members Event *Carpool* to Patagonia with visits at **Paton's Hummingbird Haven** and **Native Seeds/SEARCH Farm** (Donations to organizations)
- May 5 Sunday Afternoon in the Arid Garden. Welcome members and their guests to a wine and cheese party at Arid Garden 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

PRELIMINARY 2013 Fall Seminar Series

9:00 to 9:30 am – Time for socializing and discussing gardening questions with Master Gardeners

- September 12 Seminar *History and Evolution of our Community Garden* George Stone, Garden Manager, at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- September 19 Members Event *Tour of the Arivaca Community Garden*
- September 26 Seminar *Stopping Insects and Plant Disease at the Border* Representative from the Border Patrol at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- October 3 Seminar *Tucson Mission Gardens* Bill O'Malley at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- October 10 Seminar *Insects and Moths of Madera Canyon* Jeff Batsome at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- October 17 Seminar *Roadside Geology* Richard Yetman at West Center from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- October 24 Seminar *Description of Plants Being Sold at the GVG Fall Plant Sale* Alex Shipley from Civano Nursery at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- October 31 Seminar *Orchids and Other Indoor Plants* Phil Mullarky, Tucson Master Gardener, at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- November 7 Seminar *Restoration of the Historic Canoa Ranch Gardens* Robert Vaughn from Pima County Natural Resources, Parks & Recreation at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)
- November 14 Seminar *Trees for our Area and Winter Care* Greg Doherty from Bartlett Tree at Desert Hills from 9:30 – 10:30 am (Free)

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.

SAND 'N' SEEDS 'N' MORE

ROOT STOCK



*Root Stock is taken from a compilation written by **George Gries** and updated by **Ken Bichl**. We'll provide excerpts of our history. It's called Root Stock because the club has grown on the stock provided by our founders. – Editors*

1982: The pace of activity did not slow appreciably this year. Loe Zake and later Win Mani served as president. Brad Johnson and then Olie Ohman filled the Treasurers position, Ganson Byers was Secretary and John King replaced Jim Michael as editor of *Sand 'n' Seeds*. Beginning in September the seminars moved indoors at the Federal Savings and Loan Building (now 99 West). Club meetings were held in the Southwest Savings club room.

Two highly significant events occurred during the year. On April 24, a very successful Garden and Patio tour (Homer Munger, Chairman) was held and a movement to form a Women's Auxiliary was spearheaded by Dalton Brown, Kay Kenehan and Elizabeth Betz. Their first formal meeting was held on October 4 with Martha Comfort as speaker. Thus was born the first Women's Auxiliary of any men's Garden Club in the U.S. and which served as a model for many others until the later 90's when the Auxiliary set up its own existence with no ties to the Men's Garden Club.

Over 1000 people attended the Second Annual George Merten Garden and Patio Tour (Al Ogden, Chairman) which featured 13 sites. Discussions were held during the year on the possibility of forming a Rose Study group within the Garden Club and of building a greenhouse for Club use at the West Center. Both ideas were later abandoned.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS: Jim Michael was presented the award for Achievement in Horticultural Journalism at the Regional meeting. Winston Mani and Homer Munger were awarded the Bronze Award by the Local Club. Certificates of Honor were presented to George Baldwin, Dalton Brown, Lisalotte Schauman, Herb Holy, Lee Lambert, Ken Strang and Leroy Czerwinski. Herb Holly was the recipient of the Founders Award at the Garden Show. George Brookbank was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime member.

Specify the Recipe and Triple A Fertilizer Mixes The Soil By Ron and Vicki Sullivan

Kevin Callaghan, president of Triple A. Fertilizer, has heard all the jokes about fertilizers and composting. You might say he's as smooth and polished as pumice.

Callaghan will offer his expertise about soil mixtures and more at the Green Valley Gardeners' seminar on **April 4, 2013**. The seminar is at Green Valley Recreation's **Desert Hills** Center. Doors open at 9 a.m. for coffee and socializing. 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 a.m. and last approximately an hour. All seminars are open to the public and free of charge.

Jennifer Cushman writes, "Kevin's grandfather, Thomas "Bill" Callaghan, began Triple A Fertilizer Co. in Tucson 60 years ago. An avid gardener, the elder Callaghan began making his own mixture of fertilizer and soil that was rich in nutrients and perfect for the dry Southwestern climate."

"When his friends and neighbors began asking him how he grew such beautiful landscaping, Bill Callaghan and a partner pooled their money and started the company. Their specially-blended fertilizers were marketed under the brand name El Toro."

"El Toro, the Spanish word for bull, seemed appropriate. It identified the product and fit well with Tucson," Kevin Callaghan said.

"When Bill Callaghan bought land at Fairview Avenue and Roger Road in 1929, there were no homes or buildings around his fertilizer business. But as the city grew, homes began encroaching on his business, and homeowners complained about the ripe smells emanating from Triple A."

Kevin Callaghan took over the business as president when his father retired in 1984. Two years later, he and his wife Tami bought the company.

Chuck Parsons, president of the Green Valley Gardeners, commented, "Kevin supplies soil to our Arid Garden for projects. He supplied the soil for our Casa Community Center projects, which include the Memorial Garden renovation and the raised beds for the Los Niños project. More recently Kevin supplied the soil for the Canoa Ranch project. The Green Valley Master Gardeners get their soil mix from Kevin for the demonstration vegetable gardens."

"Kevin also supplies soil mixes for several of the Tucson area growers such as Greg Starr, Plants for the Southwest, and B&B Cactus. The growers specify their recipe and Kevin mixes the soil in bulk. You can purchase a soil mix from Kevin in a bag, a pick-up, or have it delivered in bulk. He has been my most consistent source of pumice."

For more information about Triple A Fertilizer Company, visit them at 8665 South Alvernon Way in Tucson.

Green Valley Is Island Living

By Ron and Vicki Sullivan



Did you know that we live in the islands? No, not the Bahamas or the Greek or Hawaiian islands. We live in the Sky Islands.

Sarah Williams, Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator, along with Rod Mondt, Protected Lands Program Coordinator and SIA co-founder, will share their knowledge of Sky Island Alliance (SIA), at the Green Valley Gardeners' seminar on **April 11, 2013**. The seminar is at Green Valley Recreation's **Desert Hills** Center. Doors open at 9 a.m. for coffee and socializing. 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 a.m. and last approximately an hour. All seminars are open to the public and free of charge.

"I've always been fascinated by nature and consider myself a naturalist. A few years ago, I met someone who worked at Sky Island Alliance. He convinced me to volunteer in the field. I was

hooked on the importance of the organization's work. Shortly after, I applied for a job as a part-time field assistant and thankfully got the job. That was six years ago," Williams reported with a smile.

"Last year SIA celebrated its 20th anniversary. The group started in the early nineties with just a couple of people walking forest roads, determining which forest roads didn't need to be there. They mapped a huge part of the Coronado National Forest and shared their travel management recommendations with the U.S. Forest Service. From there it just kind of steam rolled."

"The boundaries of the Sky Islands consist of about 75,000 square miles. The region comprises southeast Arizona, southwestern New Mexico, and parts of northern Mexico's states of Sonora and Chihuahua. The Baboquivari Mountains are the westernmost Sky Island range, the Pinaleno Mountains that border Arizona and New Mexico are the easternmost, and the Sierra Madre Occidental is the border to the south."

"This region is considered the Sky Islands because the mountain 'islands' are forested ranges separated by vast expanses of desert and grassland plains. They are among the most diverse ecosystems in the world because of the wide range of habitats and species.

For more information about Sky Island Alliance, visit www.skyislandalliance.org.

Canoa Ranch Project: The Whole Story – Jack Davis



The formal dedication of the Historic Canoa Ranch-Raúl M. Grijalva Conservation Park was a fabulous event, drawing around 300 folks, many of whom represented second, third, and fourth generations whose forefathers had worked at the Ranch. There were also a number of descendants of the Manning family who, along with Friends of Canoa Ranch, provided a historical review as well as a glimpse of future plans for the project. Congressman Grijalva, whose parents worked at the Ranch where he grew up until age five, also provided a leadership role in the dedication.

The dedication was followed by the first docent-led tours of the Ranch. During the tours there were many compliments regarding GVG-developed gardens as well as plantings inside the Jr Manning house, which served as the main visitor center. Robert Vaughn, project manager, and his Pima County NRPR crew accomplished a miraculous restoration process before the event.

There are still many plans on the drawing boards that we anticipate our GVG volunteers will be involved in. These plans include the courtyard garden at the Jr house which is in the design process. Implementation and timing of this project are still pending budget review and consideration of water harvesting methodology. The Hunter

Company has donated a solar powered irrigation timer system, which can be utilized in this garden. Other future considerations include plantings near the Grijalva house and a row of rose bushes, which can be seen on early photos of the site as was the recently planted grass and shrubs. The purpose of these features are to, as closely as possible, to recreate the site to be as authentic as it may have been during the mid-1900s. Also, as a more long-term possibility, is the consideration of a community garden near the site if the logistics and funding issues can be solved.

Since the dedication some of our GVG volunteers, who are full time residents, have been familiarizing themselves with the logistics of managing the garden portion of the Ranch project in cooperation with the County. Soon we will need to harvest the current crop of vegetables, which are now rapidly maturing and plant warm season plantings. A group of our volunteers are planning on developing a schedule to visit the site during the summer and early fall.

Book a Tuesday or Saturday tour during April by calling the Pima County NRPR at 520-877-6004. Be forewarned: the tours are rapidly filling. Tours in the fall are expected, but they are not yet scheduled.