



# SAND 'N' SEEDS

## **Green Valley Gardeners** ***A Service Club made up of Gardeners***

### **Message from the President**—Chuck Parsons

Happy New Year! After a short break during the holidays, the club activities are all up and running again.

We have an excellent line-up of speakers for the weekly seminars. The Membership Activities committee is putting together some new events for your participation and enjoyment. Committee activity is underway on both the Spring Garden Tour and the Spring Plant Sale – two of our major fund raising events. If you have an interest in participating in any of these events please reference our website – [www.greenvalleygardeners.com](http://www.greenvalleygardeners.com) – to find the contact person.

Ongoing year-round are our community projects – the Arid Garden, the Historic Canoa Ranch and Desert Meadows Park – and the two community gardens at Ogden in Sahaurita and at Desert Meadows Park in Green Valley. Please visit these sites frequently to observe the changes with the seasons – and bring a friend or neighbor!

Our club had a stellar year in 2014. I look forward to sharing another rewarding year of gardening experiences with you in 2015!

### **DESERT MEADOWS PARK** – Chuck Parsons

In spite of the winter weather, a few club volunteers met at the park on December 31<sup>st</sup> to do the final work day of our first year. It has been quite a year! Before heading home that day we took a few minutes to look at the progress that had been made since January 1<sup>st</sup> when the club took responsibility for the park. Pretty amazing!

GVG volunteers contributed just over 2700 hours for the year. All together GVG and non-GVG volunteer hours have totaled just over 4590 hours for the year.

GVG spent \$29,000 of our grant funds in December – most of that went to Dominguez Earthmovers for the construction of the new pathways down the center of the park, construction of the surface in the picnic area and refurbishing all the original pathways around the perimeter of the park. Although a major expense, we also received a considerable amount of free labor and machine time from this vendor. He moved earth, soil and debris and he created some berms for future landscaping for us while he had the heavy equipment on-site.

We have invested a total of \$75,816 in the project this first year. The club spent \$22,981 and we spent \$52,835 of the \$116,000 grant we received from Freeport McMoRan Foundation.

The club has budgeted \$7,000 for 2015 to cover the cost of operating expenses. We will have just over \$63,000 left of the grant to spend in 2015. These funds will go to continue the development of the park – more landscaping, structures, park benches, etc. PPEP/YouthBuild has proposed a shed for construction in the community garden area for tool and supply storage. The DM1 Board has requested that we obtain approval from Pima County for the design, which we will do. In the meantime, PPEP/YouthBuild has developed a design for a grape arbor to be constructed between the small gate at the SW corner of the fence and the central pathway. This feature will provide additional screening of the chain-link fence from the street. PPEP/YouthBuild has also submitted a design for an additional ramada in the picnic area. Also for the picnic area, Francis Howe and Henry Garcia are working on an entrance arch. If anything like the sign they created for the park, it will be spectacular!

As you probably know by now, Dana and I have purchased a house across from the park. I have spent some time at the house working in the backyard and working with contractors doing interior renovations. It is a treat to observe the many ways this park is being used by our community. This was especially true during the holidays when it was being ‘shown off’ to visiting family and friends by many! (Yes, our current home and garden is on the market – know of a gardener looking for a delightful SW home and garden? Send them our way.)



**Bird watchers at Desert Meadows Park**

## **OGDEN COMMUNITY GARDEN – George Stone**

A Happy New Year to all. Ogden gardeners are looking forward to a great year but before we look forward, let's look back to what we were able to accomplish during 2014.

- On January 1st, 2014, we could count 36 adults and 7 children who were enjoying gardening at the Ogden Community Garden.
- February 20<sup>th</sup>, we installed our first handicap port-a-potty.
- March was GVG's spring plant sale, where several Ogden gardeners were able to donate time. On March 13<sup>th</sup>, several club members attended the Continental Elementary School in their honoring of those who have volunteered. Later, in the month, Sammy Rodriguez was able to earn a Brownie Scout garden badge at the Ogden garden.
- April saw several hours being spent at Friends In Deed volunteering. GVG's annual garden tour was held with great results.
- May 14<sup>th</sup>, we started the construction of raised beds. Our intentions were, with budget funds available, to complete 5 by the end of the year.
- June 26<sup>th</sup>, we harvested 650 onions which were planted in November as a GVG fund raiser. Over \$900 was earned.
- July 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, Ogden gardeners attended the annual Garlic Festival in Willcox, Arizona.
- August 18<sup>th</sup> saw the completion of 3 raised beds.
- September 3<sup>rd</sup> was the date construction of the 5 raised beds was completed. All beds were assigned within weeks.
- October 5<sup>th</sup>, lockers for every gardener were installed at a cost of \$1,200. Those funds were donated by garden member Steve Teichner. The Ogden gardeners also started volunteering at the Cross Roads Mission in Nogales, Arizona
- November 26<sup>th</sup>, three Ogden members volunteered to serve Thanksgiving Dinner to area residents who are less fortunate. Fifteen gardeners toured San Xavier's Co-Op farm as part of our annual outreach efforts. Our 2015 onion fundraiser saw 6 volunteers plant 1,440 onions that will be harvested later in the year.
- December 9<sup>th</sup>, Sahuarita Brownie Scout Troop #471 visited the garden as a field trip.
- The year ended with 43 adults and 6 children who garden

## **MEMBERSHIP** - Judy Christensen

2014 was a truly remarkable year for membership in the Green Valley Gardeners. We added 89 new members last year and now have a total of 274 gardening enthusiasts in our organization. We start 2015 with 30 new members who joined since September. These 30 fortunate folks will not have to renew their membership until January 2016. The rest of us, however, will be receiving a membership renewal notice this month. Please return the form and your check by mail to PO Box 86, Green Valley, AZ 85622, using the enclosed envelope. You may also pay dues by credit card (Visa or Master Card) at the Thursday seminars on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>. Renewals received by February 1<sup>st</sup> will be included in the printed 2015 Member Directory.

Please welcome two new families joining in December. They are Eric and Trish Barr and Miranda, Maged and Max Fadlalla; they are interested in The Ogden Community Garden in Sahuarita.

Thanks to all 89 of our new members for supporting our educational and service missions. We hope you get involved in one or more of our ongoing projects, learn a lot from our many experienced gardeners, and most importantly have fun!

## **ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR** – Leslie Campbell and Sara Hein

Annual Garden Tour – April 11, 2015

As our club continues to grow, in both membership and activities, our annual fundraisers become even more important. When GVG was a “young” club, the Garden Tour was our most significant source of funds. Today we depend on our spring and fall plant sales, and the Garden Tour, to assist with our community service projects, members’ activities and GVG’s operational expenses.

Tour ticket prices have not increased in many years, but this year there is a nominal change. Members’ price will be \$10 and public’s price \$12.

For the 35 years of our Garden Tour, 2 tickets have been reserved for each member (or member household). You can buy them for yourself, or sell to a friend – at the member’s price. We really appreciate these members’ sales and hope you will support GVG in this effort.

We should have tickets available in early March at our seminars and at the March plant sale. Please pick up your 2 tickets at these locations, or we will mail them to you [it helps our expenses if you can pick them up].

If you need more tickets, members of tour committee will be selling tickets at both of the above locations - to both the public and members (have your member ID with you please).

In late March there will also be sales at local businesses – all tickets sold at these outlets will be at the \$12 public price. However, if you need more at the membership rate, contact us.

## **HISTORIC CANOA RANCH** — Jack Davis

Despite the freezing weather necessitating frost cloth and turning off irrigation, so far, no significant damage has occurred at the gardens. Certain plants, known to be root hardy, have lost leaves as have the new trees. A big thanks to our volunteers continuing their twice weekly visits to the Historic Canoa Ranch (HCR).





Artichoke in the Kitchen Garden of HCR, Manning Sr. House

Raydine Taber and Jack Davis are working with the leaders at Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation, (PNRPR). A huge thanks to Robert Vaughn and Joy Mehulka , with whom we met in Tucson last week, for providing the storyboard and information and photos of the Ranch history. We have sent photos of our volunteers at work on the projects along with photos from Jessie Byrd. We were also fortunate to have a guided tour of the rapidly expanding Pima County Native Nursery, which is now adjacent to the PNRPR headquarters on River Road.

Early preparatory work has been undertaken at the site of new gardens on the west side of the Junior House and, although much more work is needed, including roof drains, water storage, and developing irrigation mainlines, it is probable that design and development of these gardens will be forthcoming in 2015 as our next project. As mentioned in the December issue of the Sand 'N Seeds, mark your calendars for the GVG members and guests gala event, Thursday, March 19, at the HCR, including special tours, lunch, and entertainment. Further information will follow later this month and early February.

For those new members interested in participating in our GVG activities, as a volunteer, it is a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the colorful history of the area plus helping to develop HCR as a major attraction of this region. For further information you may contact: Jack Davis at: [jlaytond@mtdig.net](mailto:jlaytond@mtdig.net) or Raydine Taber at: [rs\\_taber@msn.com](mailto:rs_taber@msn.com)

#### **ARID GARDEN – Mary Kidnocker**

On December 12, we accepted a generous check (\$5,000) from The White Elephant to use for continued renovation of our gravel paths. First, the west-most path will be reconfigured to remove curves and

preserve locations of two old multi-headed yucca plants, drainage upgraded, and path surface transformed from uneven gravel to firm pavers. Work is expected to take place this winter.

Ever wonder how the Friday crew handles extremely cold winter mornings?

On January 2 when the nighttime low dipped to 23 degrees, at least nine hardy volunteers came to the garden starting at 7:40. First we held a somewhat lengthy discussion of the New Year's Day football marathon; then all walked around surveying plant damage (and trying to find a warm spot.) With stiff, numb hands, several devoted souls picked up windblown litter, swept sidewalks, and removed chuparosa stems that were strangling bahia seedlings. After the sun showed stubborn resistance to burning through the clouds (meaning it stayed cold), at approximately 9:45 AM there was a unanimous motion made and accepted that we all promptly go home and thaw. A special thanks to all of the nice folks who came to the garden despite the sub-freezing conditions!

## **MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES** – Marita Ramsay

Our next member event will be a trip to the Boyce Thompson Arboretum on Thursday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. A brief stop for a morning break will be at the Pinal County Historical Museum in Florence, AZ. This small but history packed museum is always interesting. Then on to the Arboretum, which displays over 3200 desert plants and 800 different cacti in a native Sonoran environment. After a picnic lunch, docents will lead us along The Arboretum trails.

Departure time is at 8:30 AM; returns at 5:00 PM near Denny's parking lot at Duval Mine Rd and I-19.

Cost is \$93.00 per person and includes roundtrip transportation via motor coach, admissions, box lunch, bus refreshments and services of a tour director and driver tip.

Sign-up sheets and reservation forms will be available at the weekly, Thursday, seminars beginning January 8<sup>th</sup>. You can also call Marita Ramsay 208-290-7770 for a reservation form if you are unable to attend the seminars.

## **Help Wanted:**

Litter pick-up at the government center, library and White Elephant properties in Green Valley. You will be replacing Jim Campbell in a role that he has done for the past 20-years. You will work with Jo Ann Wilson. It just takes about an hour per week – pay isn't particularly good, but Jim says he has gotten great personal satisfaction knowing his time benefits his community. If interested contact Jo Ann Wilson, Jim Campbell or any of your board members. Contact information can be found on our web site [www.greenvalleygardeners.com](http://www.greenvalleygardeners.com).



## PETALS OF GIVING

Donations made during December were for DMP – Chuck Parsons and Raydine Taber each \$25. Judy Christensen donated a humming bird feeder pole.

## CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR

- **January 15**, Seminar, Mark Sitter, B&B Cactus Farm, Caring for Cactus & Succulents (he will bring some “bomb proof” plants, at Quail Creek Clubhouse, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- **January 22**, Seminar, Glenn Wright, Yuma Cooperative Extension, Caring for Citrus, at Desert Hills, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- **January 29**, Seminar, B. J. Cordova, Tucson Clean & Beautiful, Tucson Clean & Beautiful An overview, Desert Hills, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- **February 5**, Seminar, Jack Kelly, Retired – Pima County Cooperative Extension, Pruning, The good, the bad & the ugly, Desert Hills, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- **February 12**, Seminar, Linda Kennedy, Audubon Research Ranch, Executive Director, Audubon Research Ranch, An Overview, Desert Hills, 9:30 AM to 10:30 AM
- **February 19<sup>th</sup>**, Member’s Activity, Boyce Thompson Arboretum Tour, PleasureBent Tours, information at Thursday seminars or contact Marita Ramsay (see web site for contacts)

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