



University of Arizona, Yavapai County Cooperative Extension

# Yavapai Gardens

November 2001

Master Gardener Newsletter

Special thanks to all the volunteers, speakers, sponsors who made this years conference such a great event.

## Activities

### 1st Meeting I

Yavapai County Master Gardeners Association, November 14, 6:30pm, County Board of Supervisors Boardroom  
10 S. 6th St, 1st Level

The speaker for this first meeting will be Lucy Bradley from Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. Lucy is involved with the Youth Gardening Program, Jr. Master Gardeners, and School Garden Program. After the speaker we will have a business meeting to look at by-laws, discuss election of officers and look at what direction we are going to go with the association.

If you would like to carpool from the Prescott area please contact Jonella at 771-9471 or Eunice at 771-9559 to make arrangements.

**Yavapai Rose Society** - Will meet November 19, 2:00 PM at the First Christian Church, 1230 Willow Creek Road, Prescott. Guests are welcome and there is no charge. For more information call Bob or Nancy at 771-9300, or Dave at 778-5507.

## Table of Contents

Master Gardener Conference ...	pg 1
Flame aniscanthus ...	pg 2
Master Gardener Association ...	pg 3
MG Association By-laws ...	pg 4
November To-do list ...	pg 7

## Master Gardening Conference

Not much gardening information in this month's issue, because I wanted to talk about the new Association and the Master Gardener Conference. Besides, the gardening season is winding down—right? My garden advice for this month is not to bother raking up your leaves; let

them decompose in place. The natural recycling of nutrients has been around a lot longer than rakes.



The Master Gardener Highlands Garden Conference was held at Chapel Rock Conference Center in

Prescott and was a real success. The committee did a tremendous job of putting it together and kept things running smoothly. The setting was beautiful, once again, and the facilities, while reminding most people of their summer camp experiences, were clean and modern, with a hint of history thrown in. The building I stayed in was a 1920's Craftsman style bungalow with a glassed-in porch that was wonderful.

The programs were all well attended. The conference registered the maximum number of people the center could hold. Programs included

topics ranging from forest health, greenhouse, drip irrigation, propagation, roses, graywater, garden equipment maintenance and lots more.

The conference started out with a bang with the keynote speaker's address on forest health. Normally, this isn't thought of as a funny subject but George Duda of the New Mexico Department of Forestry had everyone laughing but left everyone with a new perspective on caring for forests. In spite of what you think, it's not a bad thing to cut trees. For those attendees that live in rural wooded settings this program was a real eye-opener.

Ever thought throwing water down the sewer after washing your clothes was a waste. With a change in the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality rules, it is now legal to recycle this water under some circumstances. The great thing is that the information available about doing this is written in simple, easy-to-understand language.



Jan Groth tried to get though how easy it is to install a drip system but ran out of time. (The biggest problem with conferences is there is never enough time for the programs & questions) In spite of that, I think everyone came away with her main point that anyone can put in a drip system.

On top of all the great programs, there were door prizes galore.

Everyone (that stuck around) got a door prize. There were also poinsettia plants from Willow Creek Nursery and verbena plants for everyone!

Great job and thanks to the planning committee, sponsors, volunteers and Cooperative Extension staff who put this on.

Next year it's fall colors in Flagstaff for our 3rd conference. October at the Snowbowl. Hard to imagine a better setting for a fall conference.

## Flame Anisacanthus

*Anisacanthus quadrifidus* var. *Wrightii*



Flame anisacanthus is rapidly becoming one of my favorite plants. And since there is still time to plant this fall and it

seems a good time to introduce the flame.

The flame of course is the flowers, bright reddish orange tubular flowers that cover the plant from June to November depending on the zone. These small 1 1/2 inch flowers are favorites of hummingbirds.

When you buy a young plant they can look kind of disreputable. Have faith that it will grow into a 3 by 4 foot shrub, that is covered with flowers through the growing season. The leaves are a bright green 1 1/2 to 2 inches long that narrow to a point at the end.

Anisacanthus is a Texas/Mexico native but adapts very well to our climate and is very cold hardy, down to 5°F. While it was originally found along rocky stream banks and floodplains it is very drought tolerant once it has been established. It's most at home in full sun, but can tolerate partial shade, but the bloom will be reduced. A little extra water during the summer will encourage blooming. All the ones I have planted have bloomed the summer I put them in. Good drainage is important but it can grow in a variety of soils including clay, sand even caliche soils.

Maintenance is fairly simple, just prune severely back (6-12 inches above the ground) during the late winter to encourage growth and heavy flowering. Since the plant is deciduous and unattractive in the winter, this should actually improve the look of your winter landscape. When spring comes it will grow back rapidly. The plant can also be lightly pruned in the summer if it seems to be getting straggly. When it comes to watering err on the side of less is more. Mine have been doing well on water just once a week right after planting.

In the landscape place it in the back in flower beds, it does get big or use it in a naturalistic desert landscape on its own. Butterflies and hummingbirds will reward you with many visitations.

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# Master Gardener's Association

In two weeks we will be holding the first meeting of the new Yavapai County Master Gardener Association. We hope that everyone will attend. (See back cover for directions) The organization is going to be run by us—the Master Gardeners. While we are firmly associated with Cooperative Extension and Jeff Schalau will be our advisor, it is our responsibility to make this organization flourish. In this issue I've included a copy of our by-laws which was put together by a group of volunteers along with Jeff. Special thanks to Lucia Murphy for being the driving force behind this and also providing most of the information we used to write the by-laws. The other members of the committee jumped into the task and spent time traveling back and forth between Prescott and Cottonwood and hours of meetings. Eunice Ricklefs acted as our unofficial secretary and kept track of the meetings and made all the revisions on the bylaws so everyone was kept up to date.

In the by-laws you will see that the organization needs volunteers. Officers need to be elected and committees set up. Members of the organizing committee will serve as temporary officers until elections but we would like to get more people involved. If you would like to serve as an officer, please speak up! It really won't be a difficult task.

Committees need to be formed and volunteers are needed for by-laws, program/education, membership, nominating and social committees.

Bev Emerson has offered to chair the membership and recognition committee. She will be responsible for keeping track of volunteer hours and working on recognition for those people who volunteer each year.

The by-laws committee would be convened when changes need to be made, which hopefully won't happen often.

The program/education committee will be the busiest. One of their jobs will be to organize the programs for the bi-monthly meetings. This should be fairly easy. The organizing committee was able to come

up with enough ideas and contacts to get us through the first year of meetings, so this committee's job is half done. The other part of the committee's work will be developing and staffing volunteer opportunities. They will be responsible for developing new programs and finding volunteers to help implement them. But, before you run and hide, there are already plenty of people looking for help with gardening projects and lots of ideas for others. They include school gardening programs, projects in nursing homes and care facilities, Master Gardening tables at various events like the County Fair, Pecan Festival and Prescott Farmers Market. The committee won't be starting from scratch.

The nominating committee will be responsible for finding individuals interested in running for the association offices.

Last, we need some volunteers for the social committee. This committee will handle refreshments for the meetings and organize other social activities.

The organizing committee looks to make the Association an opportunity for advanced training—a Master Gardener requirement—and a clearing house for volunteer projects. Volunteering is another requirement of the organization. It is also a way for us to get to know one another.

One thing we are not going to be is a fund-raising organization. While we will be asking for donations to cover the costs of refreshments, there is nothing in place to handle large quantities of money. This was done so we would focus on our core mission of education and volunteering. We cannot forget that the Master Gardener program was designed to be an outreach program to the community and we need to get better at it.

Getting this organization up and running has already been work, but there is more to be done. That old saying about many hands lightening the load is very true in this case. When we took the Master Gardener class we made a commitment to volunteer. This is an opportunity to begin doing that. Be there or be square!!









## November Calendar

Continue to plant spring bulbs. Dig up glads and dahlias in higher elevations (above 5000 feet,) as they are sensitive to the cold.

Don't let any late-blooming weeds get away from you. The seeds from just one plant can create an entire forest of weeds next season. Just because it's cooling off doesn't mean it's time to stop weed control.

If you haven't already, take in any houseplants that you put outside for the summer. If there hasn't already been freezing temperatures in October, they certainly will come in November.

Mulch shrubs, perennials and trees, especially in the colder areas. Even in lower elevations mulch will help your plants survive unexpected cold weather and help retain moisture. Winter can be very dry.

Prune grapes and summer-flowering berries.

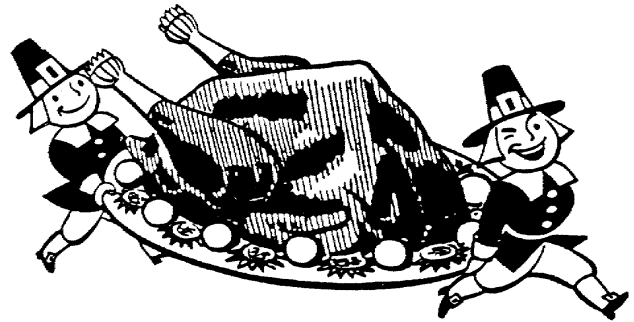
Don't forget to keep watering trees and shrubs through the winter.

There is still time to plant wildflowers.

Clean up your garden. Remove dead leaves, stems and flowers. This will help keep some insects at bay come spring. Many pests overwinter in the litter that accumulates in the summer.

This is a good time to install a drip system.

The number two killer of trees is improper pruning. If you are not sure how to prune your trees, now is a good time to learn. Do not top your trees or use any other excessive pruning technique!!! This type of pruning reduces the life of the tree. If you are not sure how to prune, contact the Extension office for more information.



The "Arizona Master Gardener Manual" is now on-line. Check out <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/>

### NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Let me know about your garden, the types of seeds you planted, interesting articles you found-anything of gardening interest. Send to:

**Nora Graf**

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**Camp Verde, AZ 86322**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schalau". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Jeff Schalau**

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