

Roots & Shoots



Images courtesy RGRP galleries

December 2011



Roots & Shoots

In this edition:

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Desert Willow Garden

And many more!!

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2012 RGRP Gardens - Lisa Barrkman on her Whimsical Garden



Lisa Barrkman's garden is clearly her passion and playground. Artfully placed containers overflow with dazzling combinations of cacti and succulents combined with whimsical artwork, pots and statues. Pathways thoughtfully meander through the garden, some lead up to a peaceful seating areas overlooking the pool, some lead towards a cactus garden, all are designed to encourage the visitor to leisurely enjoy the garden.

R&S: Tell us a little about yourself and your garden.

I have always loved plants - gardening is in my blood. However I didn't get neck deep into gardening until I move into this house 13 years ago. My vision for the garden has always been for a space that blooms year around making it attractive for butterflies and birds. I have a unique shaped yard filled with distinctive plant specimens and a variety of containers and knick knacks with meandering pathways that encourage you to stop and take your time. The shape, topography, the slope of the yard and a retaining berm has forced me to create big changes in a small space. The location of the neighboring houses has guided the placement of the trees. Through all this I have diligently tried to keep the view from the house focused on the yard.

R&S: What inspired you to offer your garden for the RGRP tour this year?

I was a volunteer with Cherie Czaplicki's garden at the 2011 RGRP. Afterwards, I invited Cherie over to see the garden and she nominated my garden for 2012 RGRP. The nomination though has given me a deadline to complete many of the overdue projects.

R&S: Tell us a little about your garden responsibilities and daily routine?

Although I love being outside and putting around in the garden, I do not have time to dedicate to the garden with my work schedule. So, I have deliberately tried to plant succulents and cacti, since these can go for weeks without being watered. So my daily responsibility is to just tend to the garden and enjoy the plants.

R&S: What are you excited to spotlight about your garden for the RGRP tour visitors?

I have to say my succulents and pots. Perfect for a busy person, they are interesting, unique and different.

R&S: What advice would you give to gardeners who want to create a garden such as yours?

Gardening is a process, don't rush the project, do it in phases and try and enjoy it. Don't be afraid to experiment and don't be afraid to do them yourself. Make sure you have an idea of what you want your garden to be as you develop it.

R&S: What in your opinion is the importance of the RGRP tour for the master gardeners?

RGRP offers an opportunity to educate the public and an avenue for gardeners to see what other gardeners do differently. If you would like to volunteer for the RGRP tours, please contact Ellen Bachman at ellenjb731@gmail.com.

Summer 2011 Master Gardener Training

Congratulations to the Summer 2011 Master Gardener training class on completing of their training and volunteer requirements. Please help me in welcoming the following:

Master Gardeners

Carol Andrews	Christopher M. Boren
Janice Berg	Diane Doiron
Roger Marach	Zuri Roland
Janet Thompson	Karl Wyant

Master Gardener Associates

Bonnie Ball	Susan deQueljo	Ericka Cero Wood
Connie Ballard	Kelly Dee	Olivia Wolsiffer
Julie Boston	Marian Dee	Susie Vaught
Kirsten Carter	Kendall Drake	Jean Updike
Harriet Caspar	Tana Elliott	Kathleen Umlauf
Jane Christofferson	Jeff Fairbanks	Richard Tally
Jaime Collins	Kaley Farley	Donna Summers
Doug Cook	Katrina Farris	Karen Stucke-Jungemann
Deb Coy	Theresa Foster	April Peterson
Clayton Geenen	Cindy Graham	Kristin Stoddard
Adriane Grimaldi	Ragu Kankanala	Pam Perfect
Joe Hummel	Bob Kenison	Mary Ann Sophy
Alfonso Iniguez	Keith Ledet	Robert Patriquin
Alejandra Iniguez	Katie Luther	Allen Smithwick
CJ Johnson	Linda McCabe	Carrie Ostroski
Nikki Julien	Debbie McPherson	Carl Ross
Kevin Michels	Mike Pike	Christine Nimitz
Jon Miller	Dianna Propernick	Adrian Reznik
Willis Miller	Julie Ramsey	Gail Morris
Rebecca Montgomery	Judy Reid	

Images submitted by Eileen Kane, Photos from Desert Garden Institute's Rainwater Harvesting Workshop



Diggings in the Garden

by Pam Perry

Lots going on at the MCCE office this fall! A graduate of the summer class, and master gardener transplanted to Phoenix, Carol Andrews researched bulbs for updating and revamping the bulb garden to add diversity. Plants that sprout and bloom are being marked and identified to facilitate this project. If ***you*** are lifting and dividing, moving or rearranging bulbs in your gardens and have some extra we would love to have named and identified contributions of many varieties. For specifics contact Carol Andrews at: sownsew@q.com.

Summer Waters and Haley Paul continue implementing the water harvesting grant. They collaborated with Paul Holdeman, the Pond Gnome and master gardener to make changes including the removal of the crumbling straw bale wall and trimming of mesquite trees. A new retention basin will harvest rainwater from the roofs and parking lots on the southwest side of the grounds, and provide supplemental irrigation for plantings in that location. A water line break was found under the brown turkey fig during excavation explaining a lack of vigor. Originally this area represented passive water harvesting as water off the roof irrigated the ironwood and fig trees when rains came. Now an "active system", a seating area of permeable pavers will collect water from the roof in a submerged tank for use between 'rain events'. Located in the shade of the conadria fig and the ironwood it will make a great place for the picnic table and benches gifted by the Arizona Herb Association. The pot of rosemary will be replanted by them as well. A weather station has been mounted and rainwater will be measured by this instrument.

We would like to thank Judy and Joyce who are now preparing to hand over the reins of the perennial garden to new volunteers after over a decade of loyal attention to this garden. Interns were wowed by the hidden treasure of sweet potatoes not so-o-o deep underground in the veggie garden, helped one more time with compost and continued fall planting right up to graduation! We could not have the vegetable garden without their generous assistance. Fall planting continues with lettuces going in, as well second or third plantings of some leafy crops as space allows. The peas are about to bloom, and one cuke may bear! A mild fall has resulted in a bumper crop of green tomatoes set on plants remaining from the February. Warm enough to set fruit, maybe not so much to ripen them well... Potatoes planted last January failed seriously this spring and summer, sprouting only spindly vines late in March, which withered in May and June. Recently they sent up healthy shoots among the peas. We have hilled them well with compost, no towers this time, and will consider covering heavily during frost threats. All the plants have welcomed real rain, and a respite from summer heat. The Cascalote is fragrant this year, covered with flower spikes of bright yellow, beginning a winter of colorful desert bloom. The grounds are looking lush, the leucophylums exploded into clouds of color, and the Daleas are now blooming. It has been a great fall recovery for many of our desert plants.

Volunteer Opportunity!!!

Gail Morris, a November graduate and returning Master Gardener has proposed additions to the Desert Trail to qualify MCCE at 4341 East Broadway Rd. as a Monarch Waystation. The first planting day will be December 3, beginning at 8:00 AM, and all Master Gardeners are welcome help with this project. The ***SAVE THE DATE*** announcement has gone out on the list serve to all MG's and Associates. Please join us! Monarch butterflies migrate to several locations late each fall, going to Mexico or Central America, others to Santa Cruz, California. It is a tremendously long trip for a small, fragile insect. Nectar from local, favorite plants along the journey is not as plentiful as once it was. Gail has developed a list of plants to include on the Desert Trail which dovetail with the many native, wildlife friendly plants that remain from the original plantings. These will meet nectar needs as well as supply food for young butterflies, a.k.a. caterpillars. To register the Desert Trail as a Waystation we need to meet criteria outlined at <http://www.monarchwatch.org/waystations/certify.html>. Find more information about monarch migrations: <http://monarchwatch.org/blog/2011/09/monarch-population-status-12/>. We would not be the first Master Gardeners to undertake this endeavor; See gardeners in Kansas developed a waystation at: <http://www.gardneredge.com/news/2011/09/30/4868-douglas-county-extension-master-gardeners-earn-top-state-award>.

Roots & Shoots

HE WAS THE SMARTEST KID IN CLASS

By Norma Kafer

Who? Larry Bell. Diane Nowlin was the tallest and I was the baldest (chemo). But, no doubt Larry was the smartest.

The three of us were in the Jan. class of '96 and the three of us answered the phones at the main office and the three of us attended Terry's Diagnostic Class every Friday. Diane and Larry would "get into it" during class frequently acting like an old married couple who argued at the drop of a hat. It was a stalemate. You couldn't be around Larry very long before you knew he was a "Marine for life". Did you know how he listed? He was 14 when he borrowed his older brother's birth certificate to enlist. His mother didn't realize this until she received a call from the Marines saying her son, Lenny, has been injured. Well, Lenny was sitting right next to her. Then she figured out how Larry got around the age requirement. If there were guys around who had been in the military they would quickly start telling war stories. Bill Taylor, another diagnostic member was an underwater demolitions expert. Oh, diagnostics would hear plenty of stories, most of them fascinating.

Larry loved roses! We could never figure out how he cared for so many during the summer. He told us of the roses that he entered in the fair and how much money he made from the prizes. He was such an expert that he gained the status of Judge. We in diagnostic gave him all the rose questions. He knew so much about roses. Then he became acquainted with his feminine side and began arranging flowers. That quickly led to Ichbana. We were amazed at how he kept growing and learning.

On Fridays after class a bunch of us would sit around and talk. Larry volunteered for Hospice of the Valley and DBG. During the talk time, Larry would tell of his patients at hospice which would lead into discussions of how we wanted to die and then what would happen afterwards.

Larry went exactly like he wanted to, quickly and no life support. I guess, we could say that yes, Larry, your deodorant finally gave out.

Design Charrette

Fellow Master Gardeners, we just completed our 3rd Design Charrette of the season and we thought we'd give you a break for the Holidays! We won't schedule a December Charrette, but come January we'll be back at it. We have some less than exciting landscapes awaiting your ideas and plans. Our next locations are all in the East Valley. We need some Central and West Valley locations this Spring, so please raise your hands. The qualifications to host a Charrette are simple: be a Master Gardener in good standing and have attended at least one Design Charrette....so please let us hear from you via email at designcharrette@hotmail.com.

As a host of a design Charrette, you receive the benefit of free design ideas in exchange for providing a tour of your property which includes plant identification and information, researched or experimental and a letter of intent y that prioritizes your goals, needs and problems to be solved. A simple drawing of the property must also be provided to the group to use in their landscape design. Lastly, the host provides cups, plates, utensils, napkins and water for the actual Charrette. Guests will bring the food.

Happy Holidays from your Design Charrette Team

Beth Kirkpatrick, Sue Lanker, and Matt Murman

"RGRP has always been strictly a volunteer event, why do we need to commercialize it?"

We recently sent out a broadcast email to the Master Gardener community requesting volunteers for a Finance Chair for the Real Gardens for Real People (RGRP) tour team. The response was truly amazing with highly quality professionals. Tucked among the email responses was a one-line question that read: "RGRP has always been strictly a volunteer event, why do we need to commercialize it?"



First of all, I really appreciate this communication. Would that we had more people in our world who are willing to take the time to put forward their views. So thank you to the Master Gardener who sent in this response. Second, whatever question one might have, rest assured, others have the same question. So as Chair of the Tour, I felt I should probably step forward as well to posit a view in answer to this question.

Indeed the Master Gardener organization was founded in 1971 in King County Washington strictly as a volunteer effort to help people in that community establish their community gardens. The Master Gardener organization and mission has been adopted by almost all States unaltered from the original founding principles and continues to grow from strength to strength. At its heart and sinew, Master Gardeners is a volunteer organization. The RGRP Tour is but one activity in the annual program of a vast portfolio of Master Gardener volunteer efforts. Possibly too few of us stop to fully understand and grasp the breadth and impact of the Master Gardener volunteer effort in Maricopa County every year – and even fewer pause to think how much further we could take these efforts to make even greater impact.

So what is the commercialism about? Well, first let me explain why we are putting in place a Finance Chair for the RGRP tour. With a ticket price increase and the tour in a busy part of the city, this year we are likely to have more funds to manage than in prior years. Every year there are various costs associated with production of the RGRP tour that range from printing tickets and a tour guide to purchasing lunches for over 125 Master Gardener volunteers on the day of the tour. There are also funds generated by the tour, which necessarily cover the not inconsiderable cost to produce the tour, and hopefully, increasingly, to fund some wider educational initiatives in the Valley in a state with the second highest poverty rate in the nation. I believe it is our responsibility to carefully track and report these funds both to our Master Gardener community who generate these funds through hundreds of devoted volunteer hours and also to the University of Arizona Extension Office under whose auspices we function.

All volunteer organizations whether the Red Cross or our own state's St. Mary's Food Bank, the largest in the country, have similar fiduciary responsibilities. Thankfully, a small agile team of our volunteers can handle these activities on our behalf. That enables the rest of our volunteers to concentrate on the core mission of educating the general public in responsible gardening practices. But with our Finance team in place, our Master Gardeners and RGRP volunteers can be assured that the flow of funds associated with the RGRP tour are transparently and professionally managed. In addition, we can be sure that we have no surprises, that we are fully compliant with University of Arizona guidelines and that, if we choose to seek corporate sponsorships to enable us to reach deeper into our communities with our efforts – particularly those in greatest need - we are poised and ready for those dialogues.

I hope this goes some way to answer the question that was submitted.

Jane Lucien-Scholle

Roots & Shoots

Traveling Gardener, wandering, wondering, noticing...
Up on the Rooftop

by Linda Larson

Where will gardening grow as more than 1/2 the world's population moves into urban environments? Urban living is associated with greater opportunities, yet one cost of city life is giving up ready access to green space and gardens. Is the future a space age view like the Jetsons or will gardeners prevail and work green space into the picture?

Green roofs could greatly change urban environments in many positive ways. Germany is an international leader in green roof technology. Beginning in the 1960's, the country recognized that a diffusion of heat islands generated in urban areas would reduce energy costs for all. Faced with aging and undersized storm sewer systems reducing rainfall run off would save money. Birds and flying insects utilize green roofs improving biodiversity in the city. A view from a high rise apartment might no longer be a view of the gray roofing material below punctuated by heating and cooling equipment but a planting of grasses, sedum and native plant materials improving the aesthetics of life. Today, Germany has billions of square feet of green roofs, nearly 10% of the roofs in their cities have been greened.

Chicago Mayor Richard Daley was inspired by the German innovations in green roofs and started a push in his city for green roofs in 2006. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg began a similar initiative in 2010. It is an idea we will be hearing more about in the future. For many it sounds counter intuitive. It is hard to understand how installing plant material and water retention on a roof would be a good idea. Yet this isn't a new idea and it is an idea that technology has improved over the years. Some of the first "green roofs" were Scandinavian sod roofs. Faced with limited building materials the home builder stripped the bark from a birch tree and formed a waterproof layer on the roof of the house. The bark would immediately curl so to hold it down a layer of sod was laid sod side down on the bark. A second layer of sod was placed on top of the first with the sod side up. About 6 inches of sod then held the bark in place and the roots of the sod grew to hold the two layers together. This sod roof helped retain the heat in the home in two ways: reducing heat escaping through the roof, increasing air sealing from the weight of the sod pressing down on the wood logs reducing the gaps between them. This traditional building practice was replaced over the years with shingles and other man-made materials.

Today green roofs are seen again as a way to reduce energy costs and moderate run-off of rain water. One green roof will help an individual building. Many green roofs can reduce energy costs and storm drain demand of the massive concentration of rooftops in large cities.



Traveling Gardener Continued...

Green roofs require cooperation and planning between structural engineers, surveyors, builders, architects, water engineers, horticultural experts and public policy authors. New waterproofing membranes have replaced birch bark. Some roofs allow for recreation and gardening benefits by increasing access to green space. Many green roofs are inaccessible to residents.



The idea of green roofs needs advocates and we can't advocate without knowing more about this idea. Some examples of US green roofs include Chicago City Hall, and the San Francisco Science Center in Golden Gate Park. Green space built over other infrastructure include High-line Park in lower Manhattan, Margaret T. Hance Park in Phoenix. Rooftop gardens are also a part of this movement and have great potential for improving the lives of city residents. A small group of containers growing a tomato plant, chives and a geranium can be a roof top garden success. Traditionally large terrace and roof top gardens have been associated with luxury high rise living. Restaurants and clubs in large cities create outdoor patios and gardens. Apartment buildings can be designed with a staggered roof design where the apartment above benefits from the green roof of the apartment below.

The Fairmont Hotel in Vancouver, Canada has a rooftop herb garden that supplies all the herbs used in their restaurants, a value estimated at \$20,000 a year. The downtown Phoenix Sheraton is growing herbs on their rooftop. High rise farming for fresh herbs and vegetables will take advantage of rooftops.

One can be in despair as our native green-space is bulldozed over to build more man-made structures. Yet it can be encouraging to learn more about reclaiming a layer of earth as part of our urban structure. Austrian artist & philosopher, Friedensreich Hundertwasser, was committed to making life livable in a humane environment that was close to nature. He wrote these inspiring words, "Everything under the heavens that is horizontal, belongs to nature. One must be persistent in the quest to green, or forest, all rooftops so that from a bird's-eye view, one would only recognize a natural, green landscape. . . the layer of earth for grasses and trees." Up on the rooftop may be where gardens will grow.

Images by Rich Larson

What a wonderful plant: Eve's Needle aka Cane Cholla By Christine Nunez

I recently received an Eve's Needle plant from a co-worker. This plant is a wonderful succulent that everyone should have.

Scientific Name: *Austrocylindropuntia subulata* (Muehlenpfordt) Backeberg

Family: *Cactaceae*

Recommended Temperature Zone: USDA: 9-10

Frost Tolerance: Hardy in the desert

Minimum Avg. Temperature: 50°F (10°C)

Sun Exposure: Full sun

Origin: High elevations in Ecuador and Peru, 8000 to 12000 feet

Growth Habits: In early stages, this plant is more like a standard cactus, but as it grows it becomes more of a bushy-tree cactus. It can grow as high as 13 feet tall and up to 10 feet in diameter.

Watering Needs: Minimal

Propagation: Cuttings



Image courtesy Cactusjungle.com, accessed at <http://www.cactusjungle.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2010/01/>

We often hear the words “sustainable community garden,” but what those words mean is not always the same to each person. In the case of the Desert Willow Garden, sustainable covers anything and everything from the type of plants, to the structures built, to the lighting and watering systems.

The Desert Willow Garden is currently being developed on land donated to the organization by Superstition Farm in East Mesa. While it is called a “community garden” it is not just a place for the community to come together to grow their own food, but a place where people can come together to learn about a variety of topics ranging from gardening of a variety of plants, to rainwater harvesting to sustainable construction. While it is not yet fully operating as an outdoor classroom, its development process has also been designed to be as educational for the community as the completed project. It is educating the local community, which includes youth who represent Girl Scouts, Honor students, ASU students, foster kids and more. These youth, as well as dozens of adults, have dedicated hundreds of hours to constructing benches and walls out of waste materials – specifically tires, bottles and cans. These sustainable construction pieces are being built with the help of Everlasting Marks (www.everlastingmarks.org), a local non-profit dedicated to educating and engaging youth through hands-on sustainable construction projects that benefit the community. Wherever you look, waste materials have been used to create walls, benches and even define the paths.

Rainwater harvesting is also built into the design. A rainwater harvesting class taught not only the basics of rainwater harvesting, but participants learned hands-on how to install a cistern to catch rainwater off the nearby barn roofs. Boy Scouts and a Catholic Group have helped with planting native and low-water use plants and defining a wash that also helps with rainwater harvesting. Ewing Irrigation, with the help of its partner companies, installed solar powered LED path lighting and an ambient light irrigation system, allowing the garden to remain 100% off-grid! Upcoming plans include a papercrete wall (a locally manufactured block made from recycled paper), a poured adobe wall, a tortoise habitat enclosed by hay bales and ultimately an Earthship building which will serve as the educational facility. An Earthship is a building constructed from rammed earth tires that operates 100% on solar and wind power and catches and reuses rainwater (www.earthship.net).

Once completed the site will be used to host a variety of classes designed to educate youth, teachers and the community about sustainability and gardening; but in the meantime it is doing just that, albeit informally, through hands-on participation and stray visitors to the farm who stumble onto the garden by accident. It is amazing to see so many sustainable practices in such a small garden. But even more impressive is the community effort that has been realized through so many volunteer hours. The time and energy that has been donated by the community to benefit the community at large truly makes the Desert Willow Garden a “sustainable community garden.”

For more information or to volunteer visit www.emnrcd.org and click on Desert Willow.

Maricopa County Master Gardeners are now on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyMasterGardeners>

Here you'll find links to UA research news, regional and national articles about gardening, Maricopa MG projects and updates on the demonstration gardens at the office.

Submitted by Eileen Kane



Lady Banks Rose

by Pam Barnes-Palty

Twice this year I've had the pleasure of traveling to Tombstone, AZ (The Town Too Tough To Die) where I had the opportunity to meet a lovely lady. While Tombstone is famous for long ago gunfights, the Birdcage, and outlaws, I found a more gentle aspect of the town in the form of a Lady Banks rose. Last winter I visited Tombstone with a family member who is also a gardener. We walked the dusty, dry streets of Tombstone, watched the reenactment of the famous gunfight, and toured the historical sites. It seemed like a very different way of life than ours today. It was also a different way of life for Mary Gee, who moved to Tombstone in 1885. Mary had recently wed Henry Gee and they had just arrived from Scotland. Henry was a mining engineer and followed the silver mines to Tombstone. Mary and Henry set their home up as a boarding house, just off of the main street in the town. Their boarding house, now known as "The Rose Tree Inn", served the Vizina Mining Company and was one of the first houses built in Tombstone. Victorian furniture and old china still remain in the home (now a museum) from that time, reminders of an attempt to live a civilized life in the frontier town. But an even more enduring sign of that long-ago life remains, a white Lady Banks rose.

That grand old rose has thrived in its current location since the 1880s. Mary's family had sent a box from Scotland with starts of garden plants, including some rooted cuttings of the "old white rose" (*Rosa banksiae*) from her former home. Mary shared a cutting with a friend and together they planted the rose starts in the patio behind the boarding house. I have wondered just what this beautiful rose, with its tender white blossoms must have meant to Mary. Was it a link to home? Was it a celebration of shared friendship? Was it a symbol of a more gentle life in the middle of a rowdy mining town? We will never know, but certainly the tender starts were nurtured and thrived because the rose is not only still blooming but holds the record as being the world's largest rosebush, as documented by the Guinness Book of World Records. To visit the rose, find "The Rose Tree Inn" at the corner of Fourth and Toughnut streets. After paying a small admission fee, you enter the former boarding house and can visit the Victorian rooms and imagine the stories that those rooms might tell if they could talk. But the real attraction is out the back door to the patio. There stands the white rose, now a large, commanding plant supported on an overhead canopy that covers 8,000 square feet, nearly the entire patio. It has a massive, richly textured, gnarled trunk in the center of the plant. The trunk has a 12 foot circumference. As we learned when we visited the museum in February, the rose is void of leaves and flowers in the winter, being semi-evergreen in that location. By April the rose is abloom with fragrant, delicate white roses, between 1.5 -2.5 cm in diameter. We made a special trip back to Tombstone in early May to see the rose and were rewarded with a few late-season blooms and a glorious ceiling overhead of green foliage. We walked around the trunk, admiring its well aged appearance, rested in the shade of the canopy, then walked to the back of the patio and climbed the steps to an observation platform so we could see the top of the rose canopy from a birds-eye-view.

Mary Gee saw firsthand that the Old White Rose was a sturdy plant; after all, it had grown in her garden in Scotland and it survived the Atlantic crossing and an overland trip to Arizona. A closer look at the history and cultural requirements of the *Rosa banksiae* might help to explain this part of the story. This *Rosa* is a native of central and western China, where it grows in mountains at an altitude of 500-2200 m. *R. banksiae* has likely been grown in Chinese gardens for hundreds of years. It was introduced to Europe in 1807 by William Kerr who found it when he went on a plant-hunting expedition to China. In Maricopa County, *R. banksiae* is often trained over arches, along walls, or down embankments and can reach 12-20 feet tall. It has compound leaves with a standard rose form and the white single or double flowers that bloom in clusters from spring to early summer, providing good spring color. It is generally thornless and has slender, arching branches. It is hardy down to the low teens and single digits but will drop its leaves at lower temperatures. This rose does best in full sun and tends to get powdery mildew in the shade. It requires water once or twice a week and does better in prepared soil but will tolerate unprepared soil. It can be propagated by vegetative cuttings and is of low to moderate maintenance, depending on how it is trained. There are three common varieties of Lady Banks rose: "Lutea" with yellow flowers and no thorns, "Alba Plena" with white flowers, evergreen leaves, and thorns, and "Snowflake" with white flowers.

If the title is a familiar thought- keep reading! A lot of hard work goes into growing our fruits and vegetables. It's a labor of love! However, having them pecked and/or eaten by relentless bunnies, birds and other animals is frustrating, to say the least. We grow grapes at our home and had this problem until we constructed a "cage" to keep out the majority of hopping and flying animals from above and below. The following is a guide to help in the construction of a "garden cage". Additionally, there are some learned tips shared within the article that emphasize certain materials and methods we have found to be valuable to enhance the end result. The total cost was about \$750, and it was a 2 person weekend project.

Rentals for this project are available at some Home Depot and Lowe's locations and include a 2-man gas auger, a trenching machine and a gas run.

Materials: The majority of items are purchased at Home Dept/Lowes. The amount of each material will depend on the size of your cage. The example I will provide is for a cage 24' x 24'. Depending on the size of the garden, you can scale materials down to the appropriate portions. Another location I was able to find fence parts I could not find at Home Depot is the Western Fence Company on 224 S. 23rd St in Phoenix. They will make/weld any fence part you may need. Lastly, the bird net covering the top and sides, can be purchased at Home Depot but not in the size I needed. If you need a larger net or want one customized, I suggest going on-line and type in "bird net" into Google and a thousand different options will pop up.

- 15 bags of Quick Dry Cement
- 100 ft rolled, 1/2" Mesh, "Hardware Cloth", 36in length
- 30 x 30ft durable polypropylene, 3/4in mesh, bird net
- 50 ft of 1/8in galvanized wire rope
- Galvanized steel, Fence frame parts*
- 15 2-3/8in x 8ft, 16 gauge, "Terminal Post" (Same as chain link fence posts)
- 12 1-3/8in x 10, 17 gauge, "Top Rail" (120Ft)
- 10 1-3/8in "Rail Ends"
- 5 1-3/8in "Top Rail Sleeve"
- 10 2-3/8in "Post caps"
- 20 2-3/8in "Brace Band"
- 5 2-3/8in "Chain Link Eye Top"
- 100 Carriage bolts/nuts

Step 1: Plan, plan, plan!

How much land/space are you working with? How tall does it need to be? What kinds of animals are feeding on my garden? These are important questions that need to be answered to effectively plan and build the right cage for your needs. Plot out your garden with wooden stakes and tie a piece of string on each stake to make sure you are making straight lines. Level the ground you will use within the cage. Troughs, hills etc. can be dug later for what we plant but we want flat, level land to work with during construction. Measure twice and dig once! Figure 1 is an example. We suggest buying all the materials you need in the beginning. If planned correctly, this should not be a problem. Definitely go with metal over wood for the frame parts. We used chain link fence materials for all of the poles and framework. Wood will only last a few years with the sun and heat in AZ. If maintained, galvanized steel will last substantially longer.

Step 2: Dig, dig, dig!

Use the 2-man auger to drill holes into the ground where you will place the metal terminal posts. Auger down between 18-24 inches to have a firm footing around the support posts. Auger all the holes you need first and do your best to make them all of equal depth. If the holes have different depths, you will be digging by hand to make them all level. Have the Auger do the work for you!

Keep Them Varmints continued...

Second part of the dig step is to use the rented Trencher to trench a 12 inch deep line around the perimeter of the garden. Be aware of trenching through the auger holes previously drilled into the ground. Try to trench a few inches outside of the holes to not interfere. The 36 inch, ½ inch mesh, metal, rolled fence we purchased will slide 12 inches into the ground around the perimeter and be 24 inches above the ground to serve as a perimeter wall. See Figure 2. This is important because some animals will burrow below the ground for access. If any animal can dig down over a foot and through a ½ inch mesh, metal fence, they can have whatever is in my garden! For that kind of an effort, they deserve it.

Step 3: Alignment and cement

This is a little tricky. Align your terminal posts with each other in straight, equidistant lines and make sure they are the same depth before adding cement and permanently placing them. If they are not aligned and of equal depth, things will not fit seamlessly together plus it will look goofy. After all the Terminal Posts are equidistant and of similar depth, mix and pour the cement. Set the Posts in the cement, use a magnetic bubble level up against the post, making sure each stays straight and in alignment, then let dry overnight.

Step 4: Roll out the fence

Take the ½ inch mesh, metal fence and roll all the way around the perimeter in the trenched hole. Attach it to the Terminal Posts at each 6 ft interval using either plastic zip ties or cut off small pieces of metal wire and twist/tie the fence to the Terminal Posts. The wire twists are far better and longer lasting. Fill in the trench hole with dirt to secure the rolled fence into the ground.

Step 5: Where's my roof?

Measure out and construct 5, 24 ft "Top Rail" pipe extensions. You will need to use the "Top Rail Sleeves" to extend the Top Rails to 24 ft with some cutting to modify to the right size. Take a 2-3/8 "Brace Band" and fit it to the top of each of the perimeter Terminal Posts with the exception of the middle Terminal Posts. Next, add the 2-3/8 in "Eye Top" to the 5 middle posts. Attach the 24 ft "Top Rail" pipe to the Terminal Posts using the 1-3/8 in "Rail Ends" on each perimeter Terminal Post. The 24 ft "Top Rail" will slide through the middle Terminal Post "Eye Tops" and reach each "Rail End." The 24 ft Top Rail pipe should slide into the "Rail Ends" and if measured appropriately will go from side to side with no additional support needed, resting in the middle on the Terminal Post "Eye Top." The second part of this stage is to use a 1/8 in galvanized wire rope and attach it to the Terminal Posts on the two ends. Hence, in one direction the Top Rail will be the frame and the other two sides will be the 1/8 in wire rope. See Figures 3 and 4 for a little more clarity if the verbiage doesn't make sense.

Step 6: The badminton net

Not the technical name but that's what I call the net that goes around the top and sides. The material is durable polypropylene and lasts pretty long in the Arizona sunshine. Mine are 4 years old and counting. The size of the mesh is ¾ in, which is small enough to stop most birds. Installation of the net will require at least one more person, depending on the size of your cage. Spread the net over the entire top and drape it around the sides down to the metal fence that was rolled into the ground. You need to tie the net to the rolled metal fence. We used plastic zip ties. These are good but will only last a year or two in the Arizona sunshine. Another choice is to use small gauge metal wire. See Figure 4

Final thoughts...

There are a number of different variations you can make from the basic design we explained in this article. We figured out a way to put shade over the entire garden cage with a clever addition plus there was a lot of learning that went into this project. I did my best to provide an instructional guide on how to build a cage of your own but some of the instructions may not be crystal clear. Please feel free to give me a call or email for further information.

Pat Greer Scholarship

by Marianna Hancin

A number of years ago I received an email from a Master Gardener researching the health and psychological benefits of gardening. I can't remember what information I sent to the requester, but today I'm in a position to provide more. Not only have I observed the benefits over the last twelve years as a Master Gardener, but recently read a letter defining some of the best things about being part of a gardening community.

This letter was sent by Mack Greer (and his brother Ed and sister Debbie) to the MG Northwest Valley Satellite office. Their mother Pat Greer was one of the stalwart volunteers in the Northwest Valley office. From 2006-2011 Pat served as co-director, staffing coordinator, and librarian of the office, before she passed away earlier this year. She loved to share her time and expertise with everyone. Master Gardeners at the Northwest Valley office recently established the Pat Greer Scholarship to be awarded annually to an intern needing financial assistance for the MG class. Pat would have loved this because in her lifetime she volunteered to pay for others to attend the class. Mack sent the following letter after learning of the new scholarship. I hope it inspires you to value working with and enjoying the comradeship of fellow MGs. Ask yourself if what you do in the gardening world makes you a healthier being.

"Please accept this letter of thanks...It is still difficult for me to write about the last few years. I find it challenging to express the complex emotions that we have experienced...Let me express the many points of which I am thankful to the NWWV MG club. First of all, let me thank you for the invitation to the Dinner. Seeing Mom's old friends reminded me of how thankful she was to have you all. I also deeply appreciate the kindness the Master Gardeners extended to Ed and me.

I have mentioned it before, but I need to say it again. The Master Gardeners filled a place in Mom's heart that had been empty for years. The Gardeners not only gave an outlet for Mom's intellectual curiosity, it also gave her a way of giving back to the community. Most importantly it gave Mom a sense of camaraderie, friendship and purpose that she did not have since her Sorority days. I truly believe that the Gardeners and your individual friendship put life in her years as well as adding years to her life. Please remember the power of friendship both when you think of Mom and when you think of each other.

I understand what an extraordinary step the Master Gardeners took in creating a scholarship in Mom's name. I am sure that Mom is overjoyed by this and if she were here with us she would be honored, proud and speechless. Please extend to your fellow Gardeners my family's deepest thanks. This step showed us that you truly understood Mom. We stand ready to offer any support you may need.

On the more practical level let me say that Ed and I have always enjoyed working with and associating with the Master Gardeners. We have to offer Mom's and our friends: two strong backs and two trucks. Tables, plants, pots, signs, books and furniture all must be moved from time to time. We, being men, like to lift things and drive trucks. This offer of help extends to the Master Gardeners as well as individuals and other organizations. Community service has always sustained the Greer family.

Sincerely,
Mack and all
The Greer Family

The Holly and the Ivy

by Sheryl Stradling

Caroling and holiday music are wonderful holiday traditions. This ancient English Christmas Carol's history combines a mixture of references to traditional pagan customs surrounding the winter solstice as well as Christian symbolism. The first two stanzas are familiar:

The holly and the ivy
When they are both full grown
Of all the trees that are in the wood
The holly bears the crown.

The holly bears a blossom
As white as lily flower
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Saviour.

The carol continues its stanzas, with the holly berry symbolizing the blood of Christ, and the leaves symbolizing the crown of thorns Christ wore, with no reference to the ivy. Yet this song's history goes back to a previous time when holly symbolized the male force, and ivy the female. In ancient English villages, it apparently was a mid-winter custom to have singing contests between men and women, where the men sang carols praising holly for its "masculine" qualities, and the women sang of ivy for its "feminine" qualities. This was "the contest of the holly and the ivy."

In Druid times, holly and ivy, as well as mistletoe, were revered for their winter greenery as a promise of spring's return, fertility, and renewal of life. Holly was thought to possess a mysterious life force because it bore berries in winter. It was used for protection around homes in winter to capture evil spirits. Mistletoe was considered sacred and thought to have miraculous healing qualities, bringing good luck and blessings since it grew on the sacred oak trees and never touched the earth. If enemies happened to meet beneath it, they would call a truce until the next day. This eventually led to the custom of hanging mistletoe in a doorway as a symbol of good will. Roman traditions also used ivy, thought to have magical powers to guard against intoxication, as garlands during the festival of Bacchinalia, dedicated to Bacchus, the god of wine. Holly was associated with the god, Saturn, when celebrating the winter solstice festival.

The traditions of the holly and the ivy are but one of the many combinations of customs and folklore that have blended into the holiday celebrations and music that many enjoy this time of year regardless of their religious beliefs or family history. Isn't it interesting to know how our modern décor with evergreens (both real and faux!) came about??

References accessed November 21, 2011

http://www.carols.org.uk/the_holly_and_the_ivy.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holly_and_the_Ivy

<http://www.tryskelion.com/tryskelion/yule7.htm>

December 2011 Events Calendar

Submit events to [Karen Sankman](#)

Upcoming Events		
Now-Dec. 21	Phoenix Permaculture: Fruit Tree Orders	Deadline to order fruit trees is Dec. 21, 2011. Info/Order
Jan 10-May 1, 2012	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale, \$275. Info/Register
Jan 13-15, 2012	Maricopa County Home and Garden Show	Fri, Sat 10 am-6 pm, Sun 10 am-5 pm, Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 W. McDowell Rd., Phoenix. \$5. Info/Discounts
Jan 21-June 10, 2012	Permaculture Design Certification Course	Cost is \$995. Info/Register
Jan 21, 2012	East Valley Citrus Clinic	9 am-noon, Greenfield Citrus Nursery, 2558 E. Lehi Rd., Mesa. \$8 advance purchase/\$10 at the door. Info/Tickets
Jan 28, 2012	West Valley Citrus Clinic	9 am-noon, Truman Ranch in Surprise, AZ. \$8 advance purchase/\$10 at the door. Info/Tickets
July 10-Oct 30, 2012	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix, \$275. Info/Register
December 2011		
Thu 1	NW Satellite Office Diagnostic Clinic	10 am-noon, 13815 Camino del Sol, Sun City West. Kris Coates (623) 214-2385. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Thu 1	Phoenix Permaculture: Herb and Citrus Dehydration Basics	6:30-8 pm, Practical Art, 5070 N. Central Ave., Phoenix. \$15 donation. Info/RSVP
Thu 1	Arizona Herb Association Meeting	7-9 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Carolyn Hills , AZ Herb Assoc.
Thu 1	East Valley Garden Club Meeting	7-9 pm, Mesa Community College at 1833 W. Southern, Kiva Room in the basement of the Clock Tower Building. Judy Smith (480) 539-0381, East Valley Garden Club .

Items in green denote an event sponsored by the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service, and/or an opportunity for volunteer hours. Underlined words are links to websites or e-mail addresses.

Thu 1	Rose Society of Glendale Meeting	7 pm, Glendale Women's Club, 7032 N. 56 th Ave., Glendale. <u>Rose Society of Glendale</u> , <u>Gerry Mahoney</u> (602) 616-3137
Fri 2	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 2	Desert Designers Meeting	10 am-noon, Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern, Tempe. <u>Wanda Collins</u> or (480) 882-2569.
Fri 2,3,4	26 th Annual Poinsettia Festival	10 am- 5 pm, <u>Gardener's World</u> , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. Free
Dec. 3	3 rd Annual Tour de Coops	7:30 am-4:30 pm, self guided tour of chicken coops in the Valley, \$10. <u>Info/Tickets</u>
Sat 3	Volunteer Opportunity	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Plant butterfly host and nectar plants along the Desert Trail. <u>Pam Perry</u>
Sat 3	Arizona Herb Association Weed and Feed	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Everyone is welcome! Fun, hands-on experience. <u>Carolyn Hills, AZ Herb Assoc</u>
Sat 3	San Tan Garden Club	8-9 am, Queen Creek home. Call Sandy at (480) 987-9821 for address and information.
Sat 3	Master Gardener Q&A Session	10 am-2 pm, Northwest Regional Library located in the Surprise Recreation Complex, 16089 N. Bullard Ave, Surprise, AZ. <u>Lynn Rivers</u> (623) 412-1882. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Sat 3	Bonsai of Scottsdale Meeting	1:30 pm, Granite Reef Senior Center, Rm 6, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale. <u>Pat Mitchell</u> (480) 575-5649. <u>Info</u>
Sun 4	Gourd Art Class	10 am-2 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. \$30mem/\$39 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sun 4	Plants of the Bible Guided Tour	1:30 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Learn about botany, history, and scripture on this slow-paced walk. <u>Info</u>
Mon 5	Desert Pointe Garden Club Meeting	9 am-noon, Ahwatukee home. Contact for address: <u>Judy Tolbert</u> (480) 961-1768, <u>Desert Pointe Garden Club</u>
Mon 5	Ask a Master Gardener	10 am-noon, Sun City Library, Bell Branch, 16828 N. 99th Ave, Sun City. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice. <u>Cherie Czaplicki</u> or <u>Antje Schneider</u>

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Mon 5	Scottsdale Garden Club Meeting	11:30 am, Cottonwoods Resort, 6160 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. RSVP for luncheon to Judy at (480) 964-4789. <u>Scottsdale Garden Club</u>
Mon 5	Valley of the Sun Gardeners Meeting	6:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Orvalita Hopkins, Valley of the Sun Gardeners</u>
Mon 5	Orchid Society of AZ Meeting	7-9 pm, Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 Herrera Way, Phoenix. <u>Julie Rathbun</u> (602) 843-0223. <u>Orchid Society of Arizona</u>
Tue 6	NE Valley Satellite Diagnostic Clinic	10 am-noon, Via Linda Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale. <u>Debbie Lyding</u>. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Tue 6	Tuesday in the Garden	3 pm-dusk, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring gloves and tools that you like to help with maintenance in the demo garden. <u>Pam Perry</u> (602) 279-6250
Tue 6	Down to Earth Toastmasters	6-7:15 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. <u>Olivette Aviso</u> (480) 235-5989. <u>Down to Earth Toastmasters</u>
Tue 6	Sun Country Iris Meeting	7 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Ardi Kary</u> at (480) 949-0253, <u>Sun Country Iris Society</u>
Tue 6	Phoenix Bonsai Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Elsie Andrade</u> (602) 995-3870. <u>Phoenix Bonsai Society</u>
Wed 7	RGRP Meeting	Noon-2 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring a dish to share for a holiday potluck. <u>Jane</u> or <u>Kris</u>
Wed 7	Holiday Floral Arrangements	1-3 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$60 mem/\$75 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Thu 8	Grand Opening Xeriscape Demonstration Garden	9 am, 15626 N. Del Webb, Sun City.
Thu 8	Tolleson Gourd Patch Meeting	2:00-4:30 pm, Tolleson Senior Center, 9555 W. VanBuren, Tolleson, AZ. <u>Lana Hinde</u> (602) 843-9015
Thu 8	Spirit of the Desert Gourd Patch Meeting	4:30-6:30 pm, Sewing Room at the Sun Lakes Oakwood Arts & Crafts Center, 24201 S. Oakwood Blvd, Sun Lakes, AZ. <u>Sally Kiste</u> (480) 895-7638, <u>Spirit of the Desert</u>
Thu 8	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Meeting	7-10 pm, Mesa Community College Library, 1833 W. Southern Ave, Mesa. (480) 807-3475. <u>Mesa East Valley Rose Society</u>

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Thu 8	AZ Rare Fruit Growers Meeting	7:30 pm, Palo Verde Room at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. AZ Rare Fruit , Monte Palmer (480) 688-2087
Fri 9	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 9	Grand Opening Xeriscape Demonstration Garden	9 am, 6229 N. Mockingbird Lane, Paradise Valley. Info
Fri 9	Washington Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. Orvalita Hopkins , Washington Garden Club
Fri 9,10,11	26 th Annual Poinsettia Festival	10 am- 5 pm, Gardener's World , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. Free
Sat 10	Phoenix Pond Society Meeting	9 am, Member home. Contact for address: Dave Nelson (480) 357-7205. Phoenix Pond Society
Sat 10	Sunrise Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Member home in Tempe. Contact for address: Julie at (480) 838-2414.
Sat 10	Winterizing Your Landscape	10-11 am, Surprise Public Safety Building Auditorium, 14250 W. Statler Plaza, Surprise. Free to residents, \$5 non-residents. Info/Register
Sat 10	Master Gardener Q&A Session	10 am-noon, Avondale Civic Center Library, 11350 W. Civic Center Drive, Avondale. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice. E-mail or (623) 333-2602
Sat 10	Ask a Master Gardener	10:30 am-1:30 pm, White Tank Branch Library, 20304 W. White Tank Mountain Rd, Waddell. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice. Angie Tatum (623) 882-7976
Sat 10	Edible/Medicinal Desert Plant Guided Walk	1:30 pm, Boyce Thompson Arboretum , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Learn about native desert plants have fed, clothed, and healed indigenous peoples for a millennia. Info
Tue 13	Desert Sun African Violet Society Meeting	10 am, for location contact: Ann Stoetzer (623) 872-9020. Desert Sun African Violet Society
Tue 13	Tuesday in the Garden	3 pm-dusk, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring gloves and tools that you like to help with maintenance in the demo garden. Pam Perry (602) 279-6250
Tue 13	Arizona Native Plant Society Meeting	7-9 pm, Webster Auditorium at Desert Botanical Garden . Arizona Native Plant Society , Mike Plagens

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Tue 13	West Valley Rose Society Meeting	7 pm, Landscape Mart, 8028 W. Thunderbird Rd, Peoria, AZ <u>Heidi Leavitt</u> (602) 971-0179, <u>West Valley Rose Society</u>
Tue 13	Phoenix Bonsai Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. Elsie Andrade (602) 995-3870. <u>Phoenix Bonsai Society</u>
Wed 14	New River Gourd Patch Meeting	8:30 am-1 pm, Pioneer RV Park, 36408 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix. <u>Karen Friend</u>
Wed 14	Master Gardener Update	No Update this month.
Wed 14	Saguaro Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern, Tempe. Mary Trick at (480) 829-7972.
Wed 14	Scottsdale Rose Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Eldorado Community Center, 2311 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale. <u>Michael Levitt</u> (480) 206-3806
Thu 15	NW Valley Gourd Patch Meeting	3:30-5:30 pm, Nadaburg School, 21419 W. Dove Valley Rd in Wittmann, AZ. <u>Judy Moody</u> (623) 544-6866, <u>NW Valley Gourd Patch</u>
Thu 15	Desert Valley Orchid Society Meeting	6:30 pm, Scottsdale Senior Center, 10440 E. Via Linda, Scottsdale. <u>Steve Grass</u> (602) 508-1808, <u>Desert Valley Orchid Society</u>
Fri 16	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 16	Tempe Garden Club Meeting	9:30-11:30 am, Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern Ave, Tempe. <u>Josephine Vincze</u> , <u>Tempe Garden Club</u>
Sat 17	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8 am, Mesa Community College Rose Garden, 1833 W. Southern Ave, Mesa. Bring gloves and pruners/shears. Training provided. <u>Mike Cryer</u> , <u>Deadheaders</u>
Sat 17	Ask a Master Gardener	9:30 am-12:30 pm, Sunrise Mountain Library, 21109 N. 98th Ave., Peoria. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice. <u>David Haase</u> (623) 889-5585.
Sat 17	Desert Sun African Violet Society Meeting	10 am, for location contact: <u>Ann Stoetzer</u> (623) 872-9020. <u>Desert Sun African Violet Society</u>
Sat 17	Master Gardener Q&A Session	10:30-1:30 pm, Civic Center Library, 11350 W. Civic Center Drive, Avondale. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice. <u>George Salamunec</u>
Sat 17	Plants of the Bible Guided Tour	1:30 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Learn about botany, history, and scripture on this slow-paced walk. <u>Info</u>

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Sat 17	Bonsai of Scottsdale Meeting	1:30 pm, Granite Reef Senior Center, Rm 6, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale. <u>Pat Mitchell</u> (480) 575-5649. <u>Info</u>
Sun 18	Medicinal Plant Processing Workshop	1-3 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. \$30 mem/\$39 non-mem. <u>Info/RSVP</u>
Sun 18	Tree Tour	1:30 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. <u>Info</u>
Sun 18	Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society Meeting	2-4:30 pm, member home. Contact for address: <u>George Chi</u> (480) 248-7685. <u>Phoenix Chrysanthemum</u>
Tue 20	Tuesday in the Garden	3 pm-dusk, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring gloves and tools that you like to help with maintenance in the demo garden. <u>Pam Perry</u> (602) 279-6250
Tue 20	Down to Earth Toastmasters	6-7:15 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. <u>Olivette Aviso</u> (480) 235-5989, <u>Down to Earth Toastmasters</u>
Tue 20	Phoenix Bonsai Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. Elsie Andrade (602) 995-3870. <u>Phoenix Bonsai Society</u>
Tue 20	Phoenix Rose Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Phoenix Rose Society</u> , <u>Jeannie Cochell</u> (602) 363-6444
Wed 21	Southwest Gourd Society Meeting	7-9 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. <u>Lana Hinde</u> (602) 843-9015, <u>SW Gourd</u>
Fri 23	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Tue 27	Tuesday in the Garden	3 pm-dusk, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring gloves and tools that you like to help with maintenance in the demo garden. <u>Pam Perry</u> (602) 279-6250

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