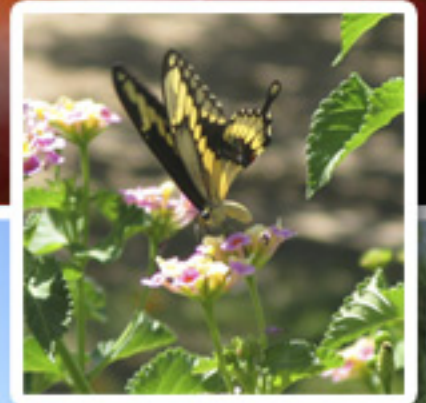
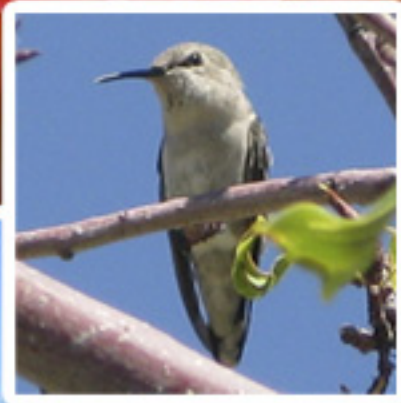


JANUARY 2012

Roots & Shoots



Images courtesy RGRP galleries

ARIZONA COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION
Maricopa County

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES

Roots & Shoots

In this edition:

RGRP Garden Feature

Diggings!

Traveling Gardener

Glow Worms

Pomegranates

Local Nursery

And many more!!

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2012 RGRP Gardens - Roger Marach on his Playground



Roger Marach's garden is a true gardener's playground. The large backyard features diverse growing areas and a collection of cacti, agaves, mature trees, flowering plants and citrus. The planting pattern affords views of beautiful Arizona sunsets in this environment of lush, overflowing, mature plantings. The Marachs prove that a little fun in your soil is good for your soul .

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

I wasn't too big on gardening earlier in life. The gardening bug stuck me when I moved into my first house in Illinois. I wasn't really expecting to do any gardening when we moved to Arizona. My gardening adventures in this house began with wanting to cover the walls with bougainvilleas. Then it was wanting to improve the views from our windows. With a little bit of this and a little of that, my garden was born. Through the years, I have never put in a plant that I haven't liked. We are currently experimenting with flowering plants in the garden to attract butterflies and hummingbirds. The garden has different areas, each with a variety of plants including lantanas, popcorn cassias, citrus, cacti, and many different agaves. A secret garden and a pair of wild bobcats round up the variety in the garden.

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

During the tour of the gardens, everyone stopped by to see my garden and suggested that I offer my garden for the tour, since a sixth garden was needed.

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

Mostly watering & trimming. During summer I am intent on making sure everything is watered and making sure all the plants haven't taken hold.

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

I want to spotlight my garden as a place that gives us solitude and leaves you refreshed. I am also proud of the fact that I have been able to grow everything using common sense and elbow grease, trial and error.

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

Buy a book on gardening in AZ to learn about the type of plants that grow here, understand the type of critters here and the need for conservation of water. This environment has a lot of pluses and minuses; it is when you take it for granted that you run into trouble. View your plants as an investment.

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

The RGRP tour provides people education, and understanding that you can have a beautiful garden in AZ in this environment. If you would like to volunteer for the RGRP tours, please contact Ellen Bachman at ellenjb731@gmail.com

WHO: Janet Rademacher

Janet Rademacher is Director of Business Development at Mountain States Wholesale Nursery in Litchfield Park, Arizona. Janet has worked at Mountain States Wholesale Nursery for 25 years. During that time she has educated hundreds of landscape architects and designers in the Southwest about the beauty of desert plants. Janet is a graduate of the University of Arizona with degrees in Ornamental Horticulture.

She is a well known speaker on horticulture and landscape design. Janet Rademacher adds to the beauty and whimsy of landscapes by creative repurposing all kinds of castoffs, from bottle-caps to hubcaps and mattress springs to old bathtubs.

WHAT: Found Objects as Garden Art & An Outlook on New Plants for Our Region

With a good eye to place things well in the garden, junk becomes perhaps, junque, and hand-me-downs and garbage finds may appear vintage or simply, art. Janet will give us examples of items that can be used in the garden and how they can be used. She'll help us see how various bits of flotsam and jetsam can become art when paired well with plants and placed well in the landscape. If you want to do more with a smaller budget for the yard or have a junk collection that needs either a new life or a trip to the dump, this update is right up your alley...

And of course there are the plants. Janet is a horticulturalist, too and will advise us on plants for our area, some highlights and some new to the nursery trade.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the January update. Happy New Year!

WHEN: January 11, Wednesday morning, 9:00 am

WHERE: at the extension office, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix

FURTHER NOTE, PLEASE READ AND CHECK YOUR CALENDARS

This January update is on the second Wednesday of the month as usual. This is when we've met most months since before I took the course in 1993.

We are in for a change coming in February. The Palo Verde room was reserved by another group before the Master gardeners had a chance to reserve the room for the year, so we adapt.

After January the updates will be on the second Thursdays of the month. There is one exception. In May, we'll meet on the second Tuesday.

As usual July and December there is no MG update. So please check your calendars and plan on updates in February and beyond on the second Thursdays of the month.

Diggings in the Garden

by Pam Perry

A hardy group of volunteers came out in early December to plant several *Asclepius subulata*, the native desert butterfly weed that provides sustenance for migrating butterflies. A queen caterpillar was found feasting in the garden, and adults were seen as well. Our garden is not a stranger to passing butterflies and enhancing its ability to attract even more butterflies will be an ongoing project!

Volunteers pruned, weeded, and cut back plants on the Desert Trail. Lupines are sprouting after early rains, and encouraged by the additional irrigation supplied to the new plants. Recent rains amounted to about an inch, putting water harvesting projects to the test, initiating a new and vigorous crop of weeds, and we hope wild flowers in the gardens.

We had a bumper crop of green tomatoes from plants that were grown since February 2011. The "tomatsettingwindow" was excellent all fall with daytime temperatures well below 95 and night time temperatures hovering above 55 degrees. However, what is good for setting fruit is not always good for ripening fruit. Cool nights and ever shorter days do not initiate ripening! Neither the Celebrity nor the Cherokee purple had ripened fruit. A few grape tomatoes turned red, and in the past the Sungolds have recovered well enough to yield ripened fruit. The harvest was not worth the real-estate sacrificed. Unless tomatoes were the only crop I was interested in, I would not put in a fall tomato crop. Several harvests of green and leafy fall planted vegetables are possible from space which can then be planted with tomatoes in late February, getting a much more effective use of garden space and a successful tomato harvest!

New for early winter is a heat tolerant Portuguese kale, an ancient strain of the *Brassica oleracea* Acephala. Used in classic Portuguese kale soup, it cooks up similarly to collards. It has a sturdy stem, which like chard is best cooked separately, and a little longer. Mmmm we shall see how this does. Find a video of field trials for this plant at Johnny's Seeds, and recipes for the soup are all over the WEB! The heirloom purple shelling peas Chuck brought to us from Thomas Jefferson's Monticello estate are wonderfully vigorous; 5 feet tall and climbing, and blooming with lovely big purple flowers. Sugar snaps and Mammoth Melting Oregon varieties are right behind in production of flowers, and we may harvest snap peas before Christmas!

The new crew has taken on the perennial garden under Judy and Joyce's guidance and it is planted, weeded and looking quite well this fall. Carol Andrews continues to mark plants as they emerge in the bulb garden and is welcoming any additions you might like to share. Do not be shy. Steve and Debbie Young have offered a heritage and old rose workshop late winter, with a short presentation, and some hands on pruning. These roses require a much different care than the hybrids we are more familiar with! Trail days will be announced for late winter and spring event. Watch the list serve for days and times!

The 56th Annual VNSA Used Book Sale

VNSA has received donations of an unusually large number of Gardening Books this year, and gardeners of all levels of experience will be excited by the quality and variety of books available. Book sale will be held at:

**The Exhibit Building of the Arizona State Fairgrounds
on Friday, February 11 and Saturday, February 12, 2012.**

The Volunteer Nonprofit Service Association (VNSA) is a local, all-volunteer organization committed to providing used books to our community at reasonable prices and to supporting Valley nonprofit agencies with the sale proceeds. As they have for over 50 years, VNSA members collect book donations year round and for two days every February host one of the largest used book sales in the country.

For more information, visit our website www.vnsabooksale.org or call [602-265-6805](tel:602-265-6805).

Design Charrette

After taking a holiday break in December we hope you are ready to help design another garden. The next Design Charrette will be at the property of Beth Kirkpatrick in South Chandler on Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 AM until noon. We welcome experienced Master Gardeners and those who have never attended a Charrette, including Interns. We work in teams so this is a great opportunity to learn from each other. Come out and enjoy a cool, sunny morning with fellow Master Gardeners helping Beth with her garden and earn three hours of volunteer time. After our design session we always end with a great potluck lunch. Here is what Beth has to say about her property:

"We purchased this house in September after it had been empty and foreclosed for over a year so virtually every tree and plant was dead. The only survivors are some very tough foothills Palo Verdes and three mulberry trees that were getting water each time the neighbor irrigated. The property is over an acre and has flood irrigation as well as three supplemental irrigation controllers for the parts that are not under flood irrigation so there is great opportunity for growing all kinds of plants. We are interested in fruit trees, perhaps a small orchard, a vegetable and herb garden and an overall design scheme for the front and back yards and front courtyard. If you are interested in working on a true blank slate with tons of potential come and join us, we need lots of help!"

All you need to bring are your ideas, paper and pencil and a dish to pass for our potluck lunch. If you're like most of us, we have made New Year's resolutions to lose weight and eat healthier, so let's go light on the desserts and load up on salads and vegetables. Please reserve your spot by e-mail at designcharrette@hotmail.com or by calling Beth Kirkpatrick at 480-275-4833.

Happy New Year!

What is a Design Charrette...And How Can I Participate?

A Design Charrette is a forum hosted by a Master Gardener to develop design ideas for a chosen landscape. As a Master Gardener, you can host a Charrette for your own property or any other. This is a 3-hour event that includes a tour of the grounds, potluck and design discussion. The number of attendees is usually limited to 12.

HOSTS: Receive the benefit of free design ideas. As the host, you will provide a tour of your property which includes plant identification and information, researched or experimental. The host provides a letter of intent for the property that prioritizes 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. Guests will bring the food.

GUESTS: No formal landscape design education is required. But we do require that you bring your imagination! Come; enjoy the garden tour, plant identification and the opportunity to learn from fellow Master Gardeners as we share our design ideas. Each guest will need to bring a potluck dish. Design Charrettes are held on Saturday mornings and the date is determined by the host and Design Charrette team. If you are interested in hosting a Design Charrette or have any questions, please contact us at: designcharrette@hotmail.com

Your Design Charrette Team

Beth Kirkpatrick, Sue Lanker, and Matt Murman

2012 RGRP - from the Chair

Hello 2012

When it comes to our gardens, no matter what happened in our gardens last year, every gardener believes next year's will be better. One of the many absolutes of gardeners is faith. There are many tired gardeners but there are few old gardeners among us. Our gardens keep us young in spirit with the faith we can always create new beginnings.

As we turn the page to a new year, most of us give at least passing thought to some New Year resolutions. Why not give some thought to what new beginnings we want to achieve in our gardens as well? And as Master Gardeners whose mission is to educate our communities in responsible gardening practices, how can we lead by example?

Possibly rethink how we use water? Can you capture rainwater? Are you interested in harvesting grey water from your utilities? Can you reduce consumption? Can you use your current consumption to grow more food rather than ornamental planting?

Are you growing at least some of your own food? Last seen during World War II, victory gardens are springing up everywhere especially in urban environments to grow healthy, clean food. Not only does this provide us with fresh fruit and vegetables free from chemicals and preservatives, it also serves to reduce carbon emissions in protracted food supply chains. If not on our own property, perhaps this is the year to consider getting involved in one of the Valley's many community garden schemes. Do you buy your food from local suppliers? Most locally grown and seasonally available food is more nutritious, tastes better and is better for our environment and local economy.

Perhaps there is a new compost pile that can be created with otherwise wasted household scraps and garden cuttings. Compost is one of nature's best mulches and soil amendments used instead of commercial fertilizers. You can make it without spending a cent and improve your soil structure dramatically.

What can you recycle and reuse in your garden? Rebar for fencing? Found objects for garden art? Otherwise discarded containers or building materials that could be used perhaps for herbs or vegetable planters?

The 2012 Real Gardens for Real People Tour features gardens of Master Gardener's who are well down these pathways. We are so excited to share these gardens as well as over 25 educational speakers and experts on best practice in the garden – more than ever before with our tour supporters. But the needs of our fragile planet are evolving more rapidly than we can respond. If each of us can take a few small steps to nurture our environment as part of our New Year commitments, what a difference we can make.

I received a note over the holidays referring to assistance received from Master Gardener's - for which I take no credit – which read: "I have found kindness to be a common thread amongst Master Gardeners. Your team of experts have encouraged me at every step, every bend in the road."

Imagine if we combine that faith we have as gardeners in new beginnings, our commitments at the start of a new year and our awesome professionalism and kindness in educating our communities about good gardening practices...Just imagine.

Wishing you all a new year full of blessings and many happy surprises in your gardens.

Jane Lucien-Scholle

Roots & Shoots

Traveling Gardener, wandering, wondering, noticing...

A Year of Happy - Garden of Useful Plants, Montreal Botanical Garden

by Linda Larson

Inspired by a new year we follow a familiar path as we resolve to spend more time with family & friends, learn something new, help others, eat better, exercise more, reduce stress, and save money. The list designed to inspire us to be our better selves often does just the opposite and creates more stress within the first month of the year. If only there was an easy way to achieve these resolutions! Well, "There is a garden for that!"

Any garden will do but "The Garden of Useful Plants in the Montreal Botanical Garden" illustrates the essence of a good life especially in these uncertain economic times. Indeed this garden originated in 1936 in the midst of the Depression. Landscape designer, Henry Teuscher had just finished drawing the plans for the Montreal Botanic garden that year. Yet plans for a garden are rarely really finished and he unexpectedly found himself with multitude of men eager to labor through the Canadian Public Works Program. Inspired to make their lives better he designed the *Garden of Useful Plants*. Creation of this unique garden served to help the workers learn something, eat better, reduce stress, get lots of exercise, help their families, and earn money. The garden continues today to help all visitors achieve the similar goals.

The Montreal Botanical is considered to be one of the most outstanding gardens in the world. With 27 thematic gardens it requires the energy of an explorer to discover all it holds. You can visit 27 types of gardens and several acres of arboretum. There are examples of Chinese, Native Peoples, Alpine, Rose, Aquatic, Japanese, Crevice gardens and more. There is unending beauty in flowering plants, color combinations, cultural details, and garden hardscape. Yet I found myself fascinated by *The Garden of Useful Plants*. This is after all the heart of gardening, full of edible plants for humans, for livestock, plants which can be transformed into textiles, or pressed into oil. Plants which heal our bodies, flavor our food, keeping us healthy, fed, warm, and functioning in this world today.

The garden is organized by plant parts or "from roots to fruits and shoots to leaves." It is informative, inspiring and surprising to wander through such a collection of plants. I was overcome by the extent of the plants and the pure potential of the soil and charged out with an evangelistic zeal to grow more useful plants. It was a zeal similar to that energy which prompts those resolutions made on the eve of the New Year. Realistically recreational gardeners cannot plant so many purposeful plants. I will not grow cotton to spin into cloth for clothes or grow all my food. It would be an enormous amount of work require so much space and as the enthusiasm wanes I just hope for a good radish crop. This often happens to our New Year resolutions. Still after a visit to Montreal I see the inspiration a garden provides to help keep those New Year's resolution.



Stocks from below
Pumpkin on a Stick
Eggplant, Bay leaves,
Rokoberry.



Curly Kale & Okra



Images Courtesy Rich Larson

Traveling Gardener Continued...

If you want to **spend more time with family & friends**, and **save money** the garden outside your door, provides a ready space to gather and enjoy each other. Working in the garden, entertaining, relaxing and visiting are all available and affordable within just a few steps. If you want to **learn something** new, there is an unending knowledge of the natural world to explore. If you **help** a 5 year old little boy discover the scent of plants in a garden and see his eyes light up in surprise, it will make your day. You will also be mentoring a new generation in ways of connecting to nature. Michael Pollan author of *Food Rules*, writes "Eat food, mostly plants!" The odds of achieving the goal to **eat better**, increases greatly with a vegetable garden. Your creativity may be stimulated as new, interesting crops, such as rainbow chard flourish in your garden, spurring you to make fun, nutritious meals to share with family and friends.

Working in your garden gets you **exercising**: rake the leaves for a cardio session, rotate your flower pots and you will stretch and bend, move bags of mulch and you're lifting weights. **Reduce your stress** levels and increase your optimism while walking around your garden noting the new shoots and buds that will be opening soon. The garden landscape helps connect you to the natural rhythms of the seasons and cycles of life.

All those popular resolutions can be achieved in a garden. What could be easier for gardeners? Cultivate those resolutions and find a Year of Happy!

A Visit to the Maricopa Cooperative Extension Office

By Linda Grass

Recently, was the second time I had visited the Maricopa Cooperative Extension Office (I live in Surprise). The first time was to pick up some things then I walked around on my own. This time I volunteered a few hours on the Desert Trail and spent time with Pam Perry. I was AMAZED at the varieties of vegetables being grown in Phoenix. I love vegetable gardening and feel I do pretty good shopping for seeds at the big box stores. After I saw the varieties of Mustards, Kale, Peas and the different vegetables I had not ever heard of, I have to admit my curiosity spiked.

Pam was growing four types of Mustard Greens and four or five types of Kale, three types of Sunflowers and on and on. I walked in awe throughout the vegetable garden at the variety of crops that can be grown in Phoenix. So when I got home I did research on the internet. It took me almost 30 minutes to find purple type mustard (not a common variety) and it still was not like the one she had growing. This research has proved to me how small I have been keeping my gardening world.

I especially took notice at the layout of the gardens. They look to be about three feet wide and some are on a winding path to make use of as much space as possible. I have to admit it makes a lot of sense. Anywhere in the garden both sides of the row can be accessed. The paths are lined with about two inch deep wood chips to prevent weeds. Pam stated Eucalyptus is best, Pam does not chip and since getting the chips deep enough, the weeds finally stopped coming through. (Hmmm, wood chips are soon to be my best friend.) My vegetable gardens line the walls to maximize space.

Learning about gardening in class provides a good foundational basis; however SEEING all of this successfully working in our environment provides a whole new dimension to the lessons in class. I encourage each of you to spend time volunteering at the Maricopa Cooperative Extension Office. The available practical education is endless. Numerous people work together, share their successes and failures and get a lot of things accomplished for the Master Gardener program. Each of us have our own special interests and as a result we have lessons learned we can share.

In November of 2010, I got a call from a man who claimed that when he walked across his new ryegrass lawn at night, his footprints left a faint green glow in the grass. At first I thought he was a prank caller, but after we talked a bit, I realized he was sincere. Always anxious to solve a mystery, I started conducting research to find out if bioluminescence in ryegrass was a familiar phenomenon.

Bioluminescence is far more common in marine habitats than in fresh water or on land. If you have traveled by sea at night, you may have witnessed the brilliant blue glow from millions of single-celled marine algae called dinoflagellates. Dinoflagellates emit light in response to mechanical disturbance, such as the force of a boat powering through the water, or being hunted by predators. The intensity of the light given off by the algae at night is dependent upon the brightness of the sun during the previous day.

Fireflies, which are flying beetles, are examples of terrestrial bioluminescent insects that are common in some parts of the United States. Many of us recall fond childhood memories of capturing fireflies and stealing their glow. Several species of fireflies occur in Arizona, but ours don't glow like those from the Midwest.

Another potential explanation for the glowing footprints in the lawn was something called "foxfire". Foxfire is the bluish-green glow that can be seen while hiking in the damp forests at night and is caused by wood-rotting fungi from the genus *Armillaria*. There is plenty of decomposing organic matter in the mulches used to top dress ryegrass seed and probably some associated *Armillaria* as well, so this seemed like a plausible explanation for the unusual glow in a recently installed winter lawn. I called the client back and asked him to submit a sample, but he never brought one in. We had to leave that one in the "Unsolved Mysteries" file, at least for the time being.

This past November I got another call about a glowing ryegrass lawn. This time it was from a woman whose children were reporting that their ryegrass lawn was teeming with glow-in-the-dark worms. The children had been playing with them each night, and were able to rub off the glowing substance onto their hands. I asked her to bring in a chunk of the sod, plus some of the worms preserved in alcohol. The family delivered the samples the very next day, anxious for an explanation. We took the sod into a dark room and sure enough, the worms were excreting little pearls of mucus that glowed green in the dark!

Thanks to the good work of curious children armed with flashlights and hand trowels, we were able to determine that earthworms were the source of the eerie green light underfoot. There are at least 33 species of bioluminescent earthworms around the world and we are fortunate to have at least one right here in Arizona. The samples preserved in alcohol are awaiting final identification by an annelid specialist, or someone that studies segmented worms. Contact me in a few weeks if you are interested in learning the outcome of the identification.

Another scientist, Dr. John E. Wampler, emeritus professor from the University of Georgia Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, has done extensive research on the biology of bioluminescence and the mechanisms that allow earthworms to glow in the dark. Although we still don't understand *why* earthworms produce mucus that glows, Dr. Wampler has made great strides in explaining *how* they do. Visit his site at <http://bmbiris.bmb.uga.edu/wampler/> to learn more about his work and the biology behind glowing earthworms.



Image accessed at <http://thumbpress.com/top-10-light-emitting-creatures/bioluminescent-mushrooms-%e2%80%93-foxfire/>, accessed on January 3, 2012

The Gardener's New Year's Resolutions

by Sheryl Stradling

Well, here it is again – a new year and a fresh beginning – or so I always think. I have big ideas. Every year I start off enthusiastic, eager, and just excited to be able to do more and better! I love New Year's resolutions – what would I do without them? I actually write them every year, revisit and revise them, and assess my progress at year's end. I just never know if I really accomplish anything important, or if I'm just slogging along.

When it comes to gardening (one of my passions, of course), my ideas are even bigger. You know about the eyes being bigger than the stomach syndrome. Well, when it comes to gardening, it's about the ideas being bigger than the time, space and ability. You know what I mean. Well, this year I am really going to straighten myself out – and you can, too. Read on . . .

The gardener's top ten New Year's resolutions for 2012:

I will not buy in quantity at plant sales, no matter how good the deal or how great the plants, or even how enthusiastic the sales force. Did I really need four pomegranate trees?

I will always work with my master plan in developing my yard (What master plan? Are you kidding?) so it looks put together like the photos in *Phoenix Home and Garden magazine*, rather than piece meal and disorganized like all my other projects.

I won't -- absolutely will not -- start any garden projects I can't finish and I mean finish within a reasonable period of time (a couple of months maybe?), not the next 25 years!

Of course I will always plan ahead. My dad had a sign on his desk that said **PLAN Ahead**. No more last minute changes of direction and moving the tangerine tree that had just gotten acclimated to its current location and produced a load of fruit (and of course, we lost most of the root ball in the move).

I will never forget where I stored something while waiting for the right planting time, especially that favorite packet of rare seeds I had to search for on the Internet and wait 6 weeks to get. The ones I can't find now...

I will be patient and forgiving of my partner when he "innocently" trims the cape honeysuckle hedge back to nothing (it wasn't sticking out in the driveway that far!) or hacks off the edge of my sprawling lantana (the one the hummingbirds love) so it is even with the rock bed (I thought it covered it up rather nicely!)

And yes, I will be kind to my neighbor, when she constantly asks me for advice on her garden and does exactly the opposite of what I suggest -- and then complains that it didn't produce the results she expected and wants me to fix it.

Oh, and I won't spray anything with weed killer or pesticides, no matter how much of my garden is eaten by critters or how many dandelions and other weeds proliferate in the lawn (yes, we still have one, due to my partner's rain-drenched Seattle ways).

I will not purchase any plants I don't have space for no matter how beautiful the blooms, how rare the species, or how much fun it would be to try something I've never grown before. I mean not only space, but a space that is ready to plant **now!** No tucking in somewhere (and moving it later)!

And lastly, I will turn the compost pile regularly, like clockwork, bugs and all, whether I feel like it or not!

Happy gardening in 2012!

I found myself at a local nursery recently, visiting my friend Christine who happens to be a third generation Berridge family member, owners of the Berridge Nurseries. I often find myself relaxing, sipping on a hot cup of coffee as I stroll through the landscape of my local nursery and think about how wonderful it would be to work in such a beautiful and relaxing environment. Well, I learned a lot about the trials and tribulations of an independent, local nursery from Christine and her sister Melinda. Let me tell you, there's a lot more to it than a hose and a cash register!

Family-owned Berridge Nurseries has been serving customers and the community since 1938. James Berridge, Jr. opened the first Berridge Nurseries on Central Avenue at Earll Drive. In 1952, the nursery was expanded and moved to Camelback Road and 16th Street, where Mr. Berridge built the buildings himself and began to expand to both wholesale and retail on 21 acres of land. Next time you find yourself enjoying a meal at Duck 'N Decanter, take a moment to go back in time and imagine that you're sitting in the middle of the old Berridge Nursery. Because in fact, you are. Mr. Berridge built the Duck 'N Decanter building on his property, where the new specialty sandwich shop was sublet. This Phoenix landmark is lined with eucalyptus trees, planted by Berridge, and still provides shade for lunches and relaxing afternoons. Eventually, Berridge moved to its current location on Camelback Road and 46th Street. Over 73 years later, the Berridge family continues the tradition and has become a community destination.

This success story sounds like an entrepreneur's dream, but it's a tough business and being an independent, local nursery is full of challenges and surprises. Nurseries have to remain nimble, responsive and aware of the changes in their business environment, physical environment and community. When big box stores and chain garden centers started popping up, it became very difficult for the Berridge, Bakers, Harpers and Whitfills of the Valley to compete with their purchasing power. Trucking and fuel prices have increased, which has increased the cost of plants and supplies. A slower economy means fewer new homes and home improvements, which has drastically cut back customer flow and sales in the past few years. The hard frost in 2010 was great for sales, but the vendors that the nurseries rely on for plants, lost a lot of products and even whole crops to the frost. This presented quality and quantity issues. On the other end of the thermometer, the heat island effect as a result of tremendous growth in the Phoenix metro area has pushed the fall season into October instead of September. Fall is a booming season for nurseries, so this has impacted the traditional sales trends.

Certainly, for any master gardener the challenges seem to be trumped by the benefits of working in a beautiful environment every day. At these nurseries, you'll find the rhythm of life in every corner. The nursery is a haven for essential pollinators such as hummingbirds, bees and butterflies. Rabbits abound, and although they are cuddly they can be a plant's worst enemy! You'll even find a wild rooster and a random chicken now and then.

Local nurseries rely on you, their neighbors, friends and loyal customers, to value the friendly service, plant knowledge and great advice a local nursery brings, even if that costs a little more at the register. Remember, having knowledgeable staff help you find the right plant and supplies up front certainly saves you money down the road! Stop by your independent, local nursery this weekend and invest in your community while enjoying the beauty surrounding you. Take the time to appreciate the labor and love invested in the acres of plants. Instead of rushing to the first salvia or angelita daisy and heading to the checkout counter, notice the bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and life that abounds and enjoy the experience.

Announcement:

Berridge Nurseries has announced that they are now offering a 10% discount to master gardeners, with your I.D. badge (restrictions apply and are listed at the nursery). Also, edible fruits/herbs/veggies are not taxed.

What I did on my Summer Vacation

By Catherine Luther

This seems to be a consistent topic for one of the first assignments given to virtually every primary school student. So, being an intern in the Master Garden program, it seemed like the appropriate time to share the amazing gardens I visited on my summer vacation. I had the opportunity to spend two glorious days at two unique gardens. The Getty Center in Los Angeles and the Getty Villa in Malibu. These two properties are vastly different but equally beautiful.

The Villa sits on top of a hill on Pacific Coast Highway. The Getty Villa was modeled after the Villa dei Papiri, a Roman country house in Herculaneum that was burned by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. Like most Roman homes of this period, the Villa has formal and household gardens. The formal gardens includes an inner and outer peristyle with replicas of ancient statues and marble basins. The 230 foot long reflecting pool is lined with plants favored by the ancient Romans, including laurel, boxwood, myrtle, ivy, oleanders, and grapes. The atrium, being the main public room in a Roman house, was designed with an open ceiling or "campluvium", which allowed air and light as well as allowed rainwater to fall into the "impluvium". This water was then channeled to an underground cistern to be used throughout the property. The household garden had a vast collection of herbs and fruit trees that satisfied the home's medical and culinary needs.

The much larger Getty Center sits smack dab in the middle of Los Angeles off the 405 freeway. A visit to the Getty Center begins at the parking garage. As you walk to the tram which will carry you $\frac{3}{4}$ mile up 881 feet above sea level, you encounter the first garden. The modern sculpture garden and reflecting pool is designed as an outdoor gallery with individual outdoor rooms. On the 5 minute tram ride to the summit, my obvious excitement seemed to irritate the employees who were heading to their workday. The lush green vegetation, the bright blue sky, the dramatic white stone architecture, and the breathtaking view of the Pacific had obviously become routine to these staff. After disembarking the tram, I eagerly walked out to various vantage points to take in the vastness of the place. I decided to begin with the architectural tour.

Architect Richard Meier designed the Getty Center to highlight both nature and culture. Meier's use of squares and circles unites the buildings, terraces, and landscapes. The walls, windows, floors, and walkways are all organized in a grid pattern composed of 30 inch squares. The massive white stone, 1.2 m. sq. ft of it, glistens in the bright Southern California sun. The 16,000 tons of travertine blocks came from Bagni Tivoli, Italy. Many of the travertine contains fossilized leaves, feathers, and twigs. The use of natural light is one of the Getty Center's most important architectural elements. How Meier's works are affected by changes in light throughout the day impact both the inside and the outdoor spaces. Meier collaborated with landscape architect Laurie Olin to compliment the massive white grid buildings with colors and textures in the landscape.

Abstract artist, Robert Irwin, often known as the master of light and space, was commissioned to design the Central Garden. Irwin called his garden at the Getty "a sculpture in the form of a garden aspiring to be art." Geometric formations are the basis for the Central Gardens' design. Irwin used these formal geometric plans to transition from the formidable scale of Meier's architecture to the intimacy of his garden. As you zigzag down the path of Irwin's Central Garden, the changing sounds of the stream create a "sound sculpture." As you proceed to the reflection pool, a maze of over 400 azaleas awaits you. Arizonians will feel at home in the warm cactus garden on the South Promontory. While balance is achieved with the cooler north side planted with blues, purples and grays. The 400+ species of plants used by Irwin though out the Getty gardens contribute to his sole purpose of providing beauty.

As I sat and watched the people, young and old, experiencing the Getty each in their own way, I was certain this goal was achieved.

Roots & Shoots

The Perfect Pomegranate

by Liz Lonetti

The garden is looking pretty good this time of year – any perennials that survived the summer have completely recovered and temperatures haven't dropped to the damaging freezing range at night. We're starting to harvest some winter crops and I'm excited to see the citrus trees have next year's crop developing some color and full of promise for the future, but the star of the show at this time of year is POMEGRANATES!!



Accessed at www.wonderfulpomegranateresearch.com, accessed on January 3, 2012

Pomegranates survived the harsh summer with their precious fruits nourished through the heat and made sweeter in our seasonal furnace. Some cultivars are ready to harvest beginning in September, making it one of the few fruits that ripen at this time of year and a must have for the savvy gardener looking to extend a fruit harvest as long as possible! They also store well kept in a cool place, and compare with apples for an excellent shelf life.

Pomegranates originated in the northern region of India to the Himalayas of Iran and some varieties do quite well with some frost, although temperatures below 12degrees F can permanently damage the trees. Surprisingly they do very well in our desert home and can be prolific producers in your garden as they prefer arid conditions. They are very drought tolerant once established, but prefer regular irrigation for best fruit set. The pomegranate even makes a good container tree, if given a large pot.

It is impossible to discuss pomegranates without referring to the world's leading authority, Dr. Gregory Levin, author of [Pomegranate Roads: A Soviet Botanist's Exile from Eden](#). Dr. Levin spent over 40 years traveling Central Asia and the Trans-Caucasus, collecting and cultivating over 1,100 varieties of pomegranates, eventually sending the best of the best to be grown out at UC Davis in California.

The best known variety of pomegranate is the Wonderful. It is the oldest commercial cultivar, typically the kind you get in the grocery store and its name is quite descriptive as it is a large, sweet fruit on a tree that produces heavily. The fruit stores well, maintaining a high quality for many weeks under good conditions. Other varieties are now being offered to the home gardener and each has slightly different characteristics. Some have earlier or later harvests, some fruit is sweeter and some more tart, color is also being selected for varieties ranging from white seeds to deepest purple.

Some other varieties* to consider would include:

AC Sweet. Sweeter fruit than Wonderful, more widely adapted (better quality in cool-summer climates). Small, glossy-leafed, ornamental tree with showy Turkmenistan (country of origin) orange-red blossoms in late spring. Very suitable to espalier and container growing. Harvest late summer. Non-split ripe fruit can be stored in a cool, dry place for two months or more.

Ambrosia. Medium to large size fruit with pale pink skin. Large seeds with dark red, sweet-tart juice. Good source of antioxidants. Long-lived, any soil.

Garnet Sash. Naturally slightly dwarf tree is extremely precocious, setting profuse amounts of attractive flowers and fruit in the first year. Would make an attractive ornamental. Fruit is small to medium sized, with

Pomegranate continued...

yellow skin, blushed pinkish red. Garnet Sash has large seeds with very flavorful sweet-tart juice, a great source of antioxidants. It would be an excellent choice for juice blending. Harvest from late September to mid October.

Grenada. A true grenadine selection. Fruit is colored a dark, burgundy-red all over. Seeds and juice are dark red, with good flavor.

Kashmir. Medium size pomegranate with light pink-red exterior. Ruby red seeds have intense flavor with no overbearing acidic taste. Plant has a slightly spreading growth habit and can also be grown as a tree. Keep any height with summer pruning.

Pink Satin. Medium to large size, medium pink to dark red fruit with medium to large, light-pink edible seeds. Wonderful refreshing light-colored juice is non-staining, with a sweet, fruit-punch flavor. Plant is vigorous and can be grown as a shrub or tree and kept any height by summer pruning.

Sharp Velvet. Large sized pomegranate with a very appealing, unique mildly acid refreshing flavor. Fruit has a dark red exterior and dark seeds, the color of crushed-red velvet. Upright growing plant sets huge crops of highly ornamental fruit and can be kept any height with summer pruning.

Any of these varieties would do well in our Phoenix location, as they require only 150 – 200 hours of chill and we get at least 250 each winter season. They are also self-fruitful, meaning that you don't need to have more than one tree to get a good harvest of fruit, unlike some trees that need a mate to cross-pollinate. All have excellent antioxidant qualities and would do well eaten fresh out of hand, juiced or used in cooking.

Since the number one complaint I've received about pomegranates is that they take so long to seed, I'll share with you the absolutely fastest way to remove the seeds from a pomegranate. Take your pomegranate and cut it down the center so that the stem and blossom ends are at the top of each half. Hold your pomegranate half in your hand, cut side down and over a large bowl. Then take a large heavy spoon, or other blunt heavy object and whack away at the pomegranate (I mean put some spirit into it!). This will quickly separate the seeds from the skin. You could do this over a large bowl filled with water if you want the seeds to easily separate from the membranes, as the membranes float while the seeds will sink to the bottom. This whole process should not take more than a couple minutes once you practice. If your intent is to juice the fruit, just take your cut halves and use a citrus reamer style juicer and juice it as if it were an orange or grapefruit.

This year the Valley Permaculture Alliance is offering classes on fruit tree care as well as 13 different varieties of pomegranates, some of them cultivated from the best of the best of Dr. Levin's research. The VPA is very excited to be able to offer some of those rare varieties for sale to the public as a part of this years exciting [Fruit Tree Program](#). If you love pomegranates, consider adding this versatile tree to your yard and garden, you won't be disappointed.

*Descriptions primarily from [Dave Wilson's Nursery](#)

January 2012 Events Calendar

Submit events to [Karen Sankman](#)

Upcoming Events		
Jan 21- June 10	Permaculture Design Certification Course	Cost is \$995. Info/Register
Jan 23- Feb 15	Smartscape Program	3:30-6 pm M and W, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix, \$75. Info/Register, Haley Paul (602) 827-8200 x395
Feb 18	Rose Pruning Workshop	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Short presentation on roses followed by hands-on pruning. Bring pruners and gloves. Pam Perry (602) 279-6250
Feb 18	African Violet Show and Sale	Sale 10 am- 4pm, Show 11 am-4 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave., Phoenix. Free. "Violets Celebrate Arizona's Centennial," presented by Desert Sun African Violet & Gesneriad Society. Ann Stoetzer , Info
Mar 31	Real Gardens for Real People Tour	9 am-4 pm, north Scottsdale area, \$25 advance ticket price. Info/Tickets
July 10- Oct 30	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix, \$275. Info/Register
January 2012		
Sun 1	Plants of the Bible Guided Tour	1:30 pm, Boyce Thompson Arboretum , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Learn about botany, history, and scripture on this slow-paced walk. Info
Mon 2-6	Tomato Production Seminar	University of Arizona, Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, Tucson. \$1049. Info/Register
Mon 2-8	Tomato and Lettuce Production Seminar	University of Arizona, Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, Tucson. \$1499. Info/Register
Mon 2	Desert Pointe Garden Club Meeting	9 am-noon, Ahwatukee Recreation Center, 5001 E. Cheyenne Dr., Phoenix. Judy Tolbert (480) 961-1768 , Desert Pointe Garden Club
Mon 2	Scottsdale Garden Club Meeting	11:30 am, Cottonwoods Resort, 6160 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale. RSVP for luncheon to Judy at (480) 964-4789.

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.

Mon 2	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>
Tue 3	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 3	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 (602) 279-6250</u>
Tue 3	Down to Earth Toastmasters	6-7:15 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. <u>Olivette Aviso (480) 235-5989</u>. <u>Down to Earth Toastmasters</u>
Tue 3	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 3	Arizona Herb Association Meeting	7-9 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Presentation: Making a Thai Curry with Thai Basil. <u>Carolyn Hills, AZ Herb Assoc.</u>
Tue 3	Phoenix Bonsai Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Elsie Andrade (602) 995-3870</u> . <u>Phoenix Bonsai Society</u>
Thu 5	NW Satellite Office Diagnostic Clinic	10 am-noon, 13815 Camino del Sol, Sun City West. <u>Kris Coates (623) 214-2385</u>. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Thu 5	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. <u>Judy Smith (480) 539-0381, East Valley Garden Club</u> .
Thu 5	Rose Society of Glendale Meeting	7 pm, Glendale Women's Club, 7032 N. 56 th Ave., Glendale. <u>Rose Society of Glendale, Gerry Mahoney (602) 616-3137</u>
Fri 6,7,8	Lettuce Production Seminar	University of Arizona, Controlled Environment Agriculture Center, Tucson. \$549. <u>Info/Register</u>
Fri 6	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 6	Desert Designers Meeting	10 am-noon, Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern, Tempe. <u>Wanda Collins</u> or (480) 882-2569.
Sat 7	Arizona Herb Association Weed and Feed	8:30 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway Rd., Phoenix. Everyone is welcome! Fun, hands-on experience. <u>Carolyn Hills, AZ Herb Assoc</u>

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Sat 7	San Tan Garden Club	8-9 am, Queen Creek home. Call Sandy at (480) 987-9821 for address and information.
Sat 7	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 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 7	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 7	Bonsai of Scottsdale Meeting	1:30-3 pm, Granite Reef Senior Center, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale. <u>Pat Mitchell</u> (480) 575-5649. <u>Scottsdale Bonsai</u> , <u>Info</u>
Mon 9	Desert Rose Gardening	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Mon 9	Orchid Society of AZ Meeting	7-9 pm, Arizona State Veteran Home, 4141 Herrera Way, Phoenix. PowerPoint program on the highlights of the 20 th World Orchid Conference in Singapore (Nov. 2011). <u>Julie Rathbun</u> (602) 843-0223. <u>Orchid Society of Arizona</u>
Tue 10	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. Topic: Master Gardener Orientation with Kristen Wagner.
Tue 10	Desert Sun African Violet Society Meeting	10 am, for location contact: <u>Ann Stoetzer</u> (623) 872-9020.
Tue 10	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 10	Phoenix Permaculture: Backyard Composting Basics	6:30-8:30 pm, Tempe Transportation Center, 200 E. 5 th St., 2 nd Floor, \$15 donation. <u>Info/Register</u>
Tue 10	Arizona Native Plant Society Meeting	7-9 pm, Webster Auditorium at <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> . <u>Arizona Native Plant Society</u> , <u>Mike Plagens</u> (602) 459-5224.
Tue 10	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 10	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 11	New River Gourd Patch Meeting	8:30 am-1 pm, Pioneer RV Park, 36408 N. Black Canyon Hwy, Phoenix. <u>Karen Friend</u>

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Wed 11	Master Gardener Update	9 am-noon, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Topic: Janet Rademacher from Mountain States Wholesale Nursery will discuss found objects as garden art and new plants for our area. <u>Deb Sparrow</u>
Wed 11	How to Be a DBG Volunteer Orientation	9 am-1 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> . <u>Volunteering</u> (for online application and interview information)
Wed 11	Saguaro Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Pyle Adult Center, 655 E. Southern, Tempe. Mary Trick at (480) 829-7972.
Wed 11	RGRP Meeting	12-2 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Help plan for the March Real Garden for Real People tour. <u>Claire Sievers</u>
Wed 11	Desert Vegetable Garden Planting and Harvesting	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Wed 11	Scottsdale Rose Society Meeting	7:30 pm, Eldorado Community Center, 2311 N. Miller Road, Scottsdale. <u>Michael Levitt</u> (480) 206-3806
Thu 12	Weeders Garden Club	9:30 am-noon, Cottonwood Community Center, 25630 Brentwood Dr., Sun Lakes, AZ. <u>Weeders Club</u> , <u>Pat Bunkley</u> (480) 883-1556.
Thu 12	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 12	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 12	Introduction to Xeriscape	6-8:30 pm, Avondale City Hall, 11465 W. Civic Center Dr., Avondale. Register at <u>Esmie Avila</u> (623) 333-4422
Thu 12	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>
Thu 12	AZ Rare Fruit Growers Meeting	7:30 pm, Palo Verde Room at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. <u>AZ Rare Fruit</u> , <u>Monte Palmer</u> (480) 688-2087.
Fri 13	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 13	Washington Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15 th Ave, Phoenix. <u>Orvalita Hopkins</u> , <u>Washington Garden Club</u>

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Fri 13, 14, 15	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/Discount
Sat 14	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 am, Mesa Community College Rose Garden, 1833 W. Southern Ave, Mesa. Bring gloves and pruners/shears. Training provided. Mike Cryer , Deadheaders
Sat 14	Phoenix Pond Society Meeting	9 am, Member home. Contact for address: Dave Nelson (480) 357-7205. Phoenix Pond Society
Sat 14	Sunrise Garden Club Meeting	9:30 am, Member home in Tempe. Contact for address: Julie at (480) 838-2414.
Sat 21	Design Charrette	9 am-noon, Charrette at a South Chandler home. Reserve at Beth or (480) 275-4833.
Sat 14	Cholla Jewelry	10 am-noon, Desert Botanical Garden , \$45 mem/\$56 non-mem. Info/Register
Sat 14	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 14	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 14	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
Sun 15	Tree Tour	1:30 pm, Boyce Thompson Arboretum , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Info
Sun 15	Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society Meeting	2-4:30 pm, member home. Contact for address: Wayne Wight . Phoenix Chrysanthemum
Tue 17	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. Topic: Botany with Kelly Young.
Tue 17	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 17	Down to Earth Toastmasters	6-7:15 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Olivette Aviso (480) 235-5989, Down to Earth Toastmasters

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Tue 17, and Thu 19	Caring for Your Desert Garden	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$50 mem/\$62 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Tue 17	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 17	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 18	Sage Advice	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$30 mem/\$38 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Wed 18	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>
Thu 19	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 19	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 20	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Fri 20	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 21	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 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 21	East Valley Citrus Clinic	9 am-noon, Greenfield Citrus Nursery, 2558 E. Lehi Rd., Mesa. \$8 advance purchase/\$10 at the door. <u>Info/Tickets</u>
Sat 21	How to Be a DBG Volunteer Orientation	9 am-1 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> . <u>Volunteering</u> (for online application and interview information)
Sat 21, Sun 22	Ethnobotany of the Sonoran Desert	9 am-5 pm, Pueblo Grande Museum, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix. \$215. <u>Info</u> (At the calendar page, go to Jan. 21 and click on "Ethnobotany" for information and registration).
Sat 21	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.

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Sat 21	Desert Sun African Violet Society Meeting	10 am, Yucca Branch of Phoenix Public Library, 5648 N. 15 th Ave., Phoenix. Ann Stoetzer (623) 872-9020.
Sat 21	Pruning Landscape Trees and Shrubs	10 am, Gardener's World , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. \$5, includes product coupons over \$5 in value. RSVP or (602) 437-0700.
Sat 21	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. George Salamunec
Sat 21	Pruning Roses and Fruit Trees	11:30 am, Gardener's World , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. \$5, includes product coupons over \$5 in value. RSVP or (602) 437-0700.
Sat 21	Plants of the Bible Guided Tour	1:30 pm, Boyce Thompson Arboretum , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. Learn about botany, history, and scripture on this slow-paced walk. Info
Sat 21	Bonsai of Scottsdale Meeting	1:30-3 pm, Granite Reef Senior Center, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale. Pat Mitchell (480) 575-5649. Scottsdale Bonsai , Info
Sat 21	Dig In! Steps to Starting a Community Garden	1:30-4 pm, Mesa Main Library, 64 E. 1 st St., Mesa. Free. Info
Sun 22	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
Sun 22	Cooking with Citrus	2-4 pm, Desert Botanical Garden , \$50 mem/\$62 non-mem. Info/Register
Tue 24	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. Topic: Soil, Water, and Plant Relationships with Kelly Young.
Tue 24	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
Wed 25	Sustainable Edible Gardens	6:30-8:30 pm, Desert Botanical Garden , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. Info/Register
Thu 26	Sonoran Desert Trees: Selection and Care	6:30-8:30 pm, Desert Botanical Garden , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. Info/Register
Thu 26	Phoenix Permaculture: Raising Chickens in Your Backyard	6:30-8:30 pm, Practical Art, 5070 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, \$15 donation. Info/Register

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Fri 27	Main Office Diagnostic Clinic	8 am, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Bring plant or insect specimens for ID and advice.
Sat 28	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 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 28	West Valley Citrus Clinic	9 am-noon, Truman Ranch in Surprise, AZ. \$8 advance purchase/\$10 at the door. <u>Info/Tickets</u>
Sat 28	Roses: Arranging the Language of Love	9-11 am, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$70 mem/\$88 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 28	Phoenix Permaculture: Raising Backyard Domestic Quail	9:30-11 am, Practical Art, 5070 N. Central Ave., Phoenix, \$15 donation. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 28	Concepts of Landscape Design	10 am, <u>Gardener's World</u> , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. \$5, includes product coupons over \$5 in value. <u>RSVP</u> or (602) 437-0700.
Sat 28	Gourd Art Class	10 am- 2 pm, <u>Boyce Thompson Arboretum</u> , 37615 U.S. Highway 60, Superior, AZ. \$30 mem/\$39 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 28	Landscape Maintenance Practices for Homeowners	11:30 am, <u>Gardener's World</u> , 3401 E. Baseline Rd., Phoenix. \$5, includes product coupons over \$5 in value. <u>RSVP</u> or (602) 437-0700.
Sun 29	Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society Meeting	2-4 pm, Dorrance Hall at <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> . <u>Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society</u> . Judy Braun-Brody (480) 481-8129
Tue 31	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. Topic: Landscape Design with Jo Miller.
Tue 31	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 (602) 279-6250</u>
February 2012		
Sat 4	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 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>

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Sat 4	How to Be a DBG Volunteer Orientation	9 am-1 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> . <u>Volunteering</u> (for online application and interview information)
Sat 4	Herbs: Sowing, Salads, Salves	9 am-3 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$80 mem/\$100 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 4	Fiber Plants and Basketry Workshop	10 am-3 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$80 mem/\$100 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sun 5	Lettuce Bowl Gardening	Noon, Southwest Gardener, 2809 N. 15 th Ave., Phoenix, \$40. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sun 5	Pruning Trees and Shrubs	1-4 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$30 mem/\$38 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Mon 6	Introduction to Propagation	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Tue 7	Master Gardener Training Classes	9:30 am-12:30 pm, University of Arizona Eller College of Management, 16425 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale. Topic: Selecting, Planting, Staking trees, and Chemical Safety with Kelly Young.
Tue 7 and Thu 9	Hypertufa Pots	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$70 mem/\$88 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Wed 8	RGRP Meeting	12-2 pm, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension, 4341 E. Broadway, Phoenix. Help plan for the March Real Garden for Real People tour. <u>Claire Sievers</u>
Thu 9	How to Grow a Tomato	6:30-8:30 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 11	Mesa East Valley Rose Society Deadheaders	8:30 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 11	Talking Tinctures	10 am-noon, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$45 mem/\$56 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sat 11	The Gardener's Guide to Cactus	10 am-noon, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$25 mem/\$32 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sun 12	Crazy About Tomatoes	Noon, Southwest Gardener, 2809 N. 15 th Ave., Phoenix, \$35. <u>Info/Register</u>
Sun 12	Cooking with Quinoa	2-4 pm, <u>Desert Botanical Garden</u> , \$50 mem/\$62 non-mem. <u>Info/Register</u>

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News for 2012

- We start the year by wishing Debbie Mauldin a very happy retirement. She has been working with the Master Gardener program since 2003 providing support for the training classes and hour reporting, among other duties. We hope she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and travelling.

Jesse Davenport, one of the office receptionists, will be assisting us in Debbie's place. Jesse can be reached at 602-827-8200 x300, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. or via email at jmdavenp@cals.arizona.edu.

- This year, we will be moving to a state-wide system for reporting volunteer and educational hours. The system allows volunteers to enter and edit their own hours as well as make comments regarding their activities. Information will be emailed to everyone shortly regarding how to access and login to the system.
- With the input of several Master Gardeners, we have slightly altered the program policy. The biggest change is the elimination of Master Gardener Associates so that the split calendar is no longer an issue as this was a big source of confusion. Other changes have to do with correcting improper grammar and clarifying some sections. The new policy can be found at <http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/mgcentral/uploads/ProgramPolicy.pdf>
- Maricopa County Master Gardeners will be able to count their hours volunteering at the Desert Botanical Garden as part of their Master Gardener volunteer requirements in the following areas: Ask a Gardener; Plant Hotline; Docent and school guides. To be an Ask a Gardener volunteer and/or a plant hotline volunteer, it is not required for Master Gardeners to become a DGB member; however, docents and school guides will need to be DBG members as they will have to undergo additional garden training. For information regarding becoming a volunteer at the Desert Botanical Garden, please contact Angelica Elliott at 480-481-8171 or aelliott@dbg.org.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support of the Master Gardener program.

Kristen

krwagner@cals.arizona.edu

SAVE THE DATE

We  Our Master Gardener Volunteers

Appreciation and Recognition Luncheon

Monday, February 13, 2012 – 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.