

# Alta Vista Garden Connection

April, 2017  
Editor—Vicki Hughes



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## Happy May Birthday's to....

18th	Karen Crossley
24th	Barbara Samuels
24th	Vicki Hughes
30th	Dianne Moyer

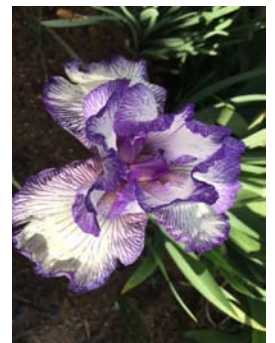
## Message from President Dede

An apple a day may keep the doctor away, but 20 or more a day keeps the weeds away! In our busy lives, sometimes weeding our garden, especially when Spring arrives seems a bit overwhelming. I do not like pesticides so keeping up with those nasty weeds has been a bit challenging.



However, I have found that an old simple habit of finding 20 weeds to pull each time I visit my garden is

not only fun but so easy to do and keeps my flower beds looking their best. Each morning I grab my cup a Joe and head out to the garden. While I am admiring what has come to bloom or crying over what the deer stole in the middle of the night, I pick 20 weeds and off to work I go. In the evening, it is usually a glass a wine, but again I go down and pick a few weeds.



Look forward to seeing you all next week. If I look a lot older, it is because I am officially a Granma. Baby Braxton Avery Mitchell was born on June 8th. Can't wait to bore you with photos.



## Report from Habitat for Humanity Committee:

Robin Borok and Ruth Lysak visited the two 2016 Habitat homeowners who are eligible to receive plants this spring. One of them is a wanna-be landscape designer, who draws up plans for her lot at 2 AM while nursing her youngest of 4 children!! She had an impressive array of plans and plant lists, so it will be a pleasure to help her out next month.

The other owner, while not as plant-savvy, is still interested and has nurtured what she planted last year over the winter. The irises we gave her at her home dedication are blooming healthily on the south side of her home.

Very encouraging for success, going forward.

## STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW . . . .

- **UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING?** Just call or email Lauren Newington for an excused absence — 650-515-6518 or laurennewington@gmail.com

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**ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES****March 28, 2017**

Call to order: 1:33 PM, Dede Erceg, President

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of February 28 approved with the following corrections: members helping to make up a raffle basket for the AFGC Phoenix Convention are: Toni Ristich, Chris Robinson, Cheryl Booth and Carol Westfall.

Roll Call: 26 present, 3 excused absences, 2 absent. Renie Collier requested to become an associate member. A motion for this was made, seconded and voted upon and Renie is now an associate member.

Birthdays: Happy Birthday to Renie Collier, Marjorie Cole and Cynthe Brush. Karen Crossley brought a guest to the meeting, Dianne Benjamin, who will be moving to the Prescott area in the future.

Corresponding Secretary: Toni Ristich reported that she sent a sympathy card to the family of Rusty Hansen, who was a former member of AVGC. Toni also thanked the hostesses for snacks today: Anna Bess Robinson and Barbara Samuels for food and Debbie Mathern and Nicki Elms for drinks. Thanks also to Renie Collier for champagne.

Treasurer's report: Checking account balance \$4722.22 after expenses, including a \$50.00 donation to the Sharlot Hall museum. Savings account balance \$15,359.77, total assets \$20,081.99.

50/50 Raffle: Robyn Grant won \$14.50.

Purple Box Raffle: Carol Westfall won a lilac sprig, candle, soap and magnesium oil.

Penny Pines: \$67.15 collected as of today; the club voted on and approved that the next memorial tree be dedicated to Rusty Hansen. Nicki Elms has the certificate for the last Penny Pines memorial tree for Maggie Sullivan. Nicki will give the certificate to Frances Martinez to keep with other records.

#### Committee Reports:

Membership; Lauren Newington reported that AVGC has 29 regular members, 3 associate members and 1 honorary member. Lauren stated that Cynthe Brush will be taking over this committee.

Beautification: Lauren Newington reported on projects as follows: Current Projects: Coyote Springs Elementary School, received \$1000.00 from the club this year. Pending Projects: La Tierra, possible \$200 donation, pending their response to the committee request for a meeting. Good Samaritan, possible \$140, pending response to letter sent 3/1/17, to delineate what is needed and who will do various tasks. DeFacto Projects: Smoki Museum tidying up, volunteers needed. Firehouse clean up - was done recently by club members. Closures of Projects: Blue Star Memorial Upkeep is on a drop in basis; Mtn. Oaks tools and wheelbarrows closed; Sharlot Hall received seeds from Renie Collier, Robyn Grant and Pat Moomey; Kayla's Hands, closed; Discovery Garden - beds ready Spring 2017, Loretta will check and keep us posted; Lincoln School, expanding beds, may write proposal (Elena Greenberg).

Gardener's Day Out: Renie Collier reported that the trip to the English Tea Room had 20 attendees, see the newsletter for pics and details. Next GDO is April 20, tour of historic downtown with Mike King. The mini tour of member gardens has been moved from April to May.

Habitat for Humanity: Ruth Lysak reported that AVGC is partnered with Habitat for Humanity to provide \$125 for plants and supplies for new home owners. There are 3-5 new homes per year. There are currently two homes ready for planting in the Spring, Ruth will contact them in April for planting plans.

Program Committee: Linda Williams reported that the program for the next fiscal year is set, they are just waiting to hear from Watters Garden Center to finalize the schedule.

Yearbook Committee: Diane Moyer asked everyone to verify their information for publication in the yearbook.

Nominating Committee: The following are nominees for the positions listed: President, Julie Lessard; Vice President, Roberta Pelay; Recording Secretary, Robin Borok; Corresponding Secretary, Toni Ristich; Treasurer, Karen Crossley; Interim Assistant Treasurer, Nicki Elms. No nominations were received from the floor. Voting will occur at next month's meeting.

**ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Continued—March 28, 2017**

## Old Business:

a. In the fall of last year, the club tabled discussion of a large donation to the Highlands Center for Natural History. The issue was re-introduced today with discussion of donating \$1000.00 to HCNH for a plaque acknowledging AVGC, or \$2500.00 for a bench. There is currently only \$1500.00 left in the discretionary budget. Discussion ensued, with a motion made, seconded and approved by raise of hands to donate \$1000.00 to the Highlands Center.

b. There is a proposal to add a Standing Rule to the current standing rules to address reimbursement of club members for expenditures on behalf of the club. The Standing Rule would read: "When a club member incurs an expense on behalf of the club, the receipt for reimbursement will be submitted to the treasurer within two regular meetings of the club plus one week following the date of the expenditure. If receipts are not received during this time frame, the club will consider the expenditure a donation."

c. Many ideas for fund raising were discussed. For 2018, Linda Williams and Lauren Newington suggested a tour between two renovated downtown homes with a lunch and raffle baskets. Other ideas included selling wildflower seeds and or autumn planted bulbs at Farmer's Markets; a garage sale at Diane Murphy's house, with club members selling crafts; Renie Collier suggested raffling a night's stay and dinner at the Prescott Resort; Debbie Mathern suggested raffles for oil changes, dinner out; other ideas - selling divided bulbs at any of the above venues and a quilt raffle at any of the venues.

## New Business:

a. Carol Westfall mentioned that the Prescott Community Gardens will be planting fruit trees in April, within the fenced in area, that upon bearing fruit will provide food for the homeless who frequent the area. She suggested this might be a good project to which the club could donate next year.

b. Much discussion ensued regarding pros and cons of remaining in the Federated Garden Clubs of America. Some points mentioned: dues to the National and State branches of the FGC total \$500. The FGC provides significant insurance for local events, such as the garden tour. The structure of club meetings, Presidential and Vice Presidential duties and expectations are dictated by the FGC. Many ideas for gardening are gleaned from attending District and State FGC Conventions. Members agreed that some structure is necessary and good for the garden club to function. Also, members stated it would be nice not to have business meetings every month, as required by the FGC. Recommendations included researching insurance costs for individual events (Cynthe Brush), alternative storage options (Karen Crossley), re-send email summarizing pros and cons (Dede Erceg).

Meeting adjourned at 3:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Borok, Recording Secretary



## Gambel's Quail ~ Mary Ann Mira



As I was pondering which bird to write about this month, my 6 year old miniature, long haired dachshund made the decision for me. Ariel is quite the huntress - birds, lizards, and anything that she can chase within our walled backyard. As she dashed out the slightly open back patio door the other day, she flushed a bird INTO our house instead of chasing it away. You'll understand that I was shocked when a large bird flew in



through the doorway and straight up to the ceiling fan in our great room. Here is what I saw! Luckily, after opening both patio doors and having the mate calling for my visitor from outside the house, this Gambel's Quail flew outside without giving my house the grand tour!!

You're most likely to see Gambel's Quail in groups (coveys) on the ground, walking and foraging or scurrying between patches of cover. When alarmed they break suddenly into flights that tend to cover short distances but can be up to half a mile. Otherwise their flights are confined to "short hops" up to roosting spots and across barriers such as canyons. That is exactly what happened to the quail that "roosted" on my ceiling fan! You can look for groups of quail feeding on vegetation together in the early morning and late afternoon.



Did you know that Gambel's Quail can lay 10-12 eggs? You might expect that high number if you've seen a line of young following mother and father along walls or across roads. The young leave the nest within a day after hatching, and follow their parents. Both parents tend to the young and lead them to food sources, but the young feed themselves. They can fly short distances at age of 10 days but are not full grown until later.

Gambel's Quail eat mostly seeds, leaves, & berries. They eat many fresh plant shoots, leaves, and buds, especially during spring. Cactus fruits and the berries of mistletoe, hackberry, and other plants are eaten when available. Seeds are important in the diet at all times.

I never expected to have such an "up close and personal" experience with a Gambel's Quail, but I'm glad it was a short visit with no damage done!!



## WHAT'S NEXT . . . Schedule of Events

April 22	9:30 AM	Watters Garden Center - Going Native and Low, Low maintenance
April 25	1:00 PM	Alta Vista Garden Club Meeting— "Beautiful Garden, Beautiful Gardner" Essential Oils and Herbs Demo
April 29	9:30 AM	Watters Garden Center - Grow Your Own Groceries - Tomatoes 2 Fruits
April 29	9:00 AM	Highlands Garden Center— "What you need to know to Grow" before the Native Plant Sale
April 29	3:00 PM-5:00 PM	Garden Tour / Wine & Appetizer party at Dede's home— 3550 W Center Street, Chino Valley
May 6	10:00 AM-3:00 PM	PAIS Annual Spring (Kaleidoscope of Color) Iris Show @ Mortimer's Nursery
May 6 May 7	8:30 AM-2:00 PM 10:30 AM-1:00 PM	Highlands Center – Native Plant Sale
May 23	1:00 PM	Alta Vista Garden Club Meeting— Installation of New Officers— Reception and Basket Auction Hosted by Dede at her home
May 25	10:00 AM	Gardeners' Day Out – Mini Garden Tour of Members Gardens - Robin Grant & Tomie Sue Goulet's gardens.
June 21	10:00 AM	Gardeners' Day Out – Mini Garden Tour of Members Gardens— Mary Ann Mira & Loretta Bresof's gardens.

## Additional Interesting Events - Marjorie Cole

From last month's newsletter.

**May 10 (field trips) – May 11 (meetings): The Verde River: State of the Watershed Conference.** This year marks the first year for The Verde River: State of the Watershed Conference, to be held May 10-11th, 2017, in historic Clarkdale. Hosted by the Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition (VWRC), this event is held to bring together the broad network of partners, community members, local leadership, scientists, restoration practitioners, business owners, and all other river enthusiasts who have a vested interest in the health of the Verde River Watershed. Through field trips, conference sessions, and a keynote speaker, the conference will bring our audience into the folds of the state of the Verde River Watershed, as it sustains flows, restores habitat, and promotes community. VWRC invites all of you—our partners and friends—to join us for this inaugural event, and contribute to its success. Cost: \$35 <http://www.verderivergreenway.org/the-verde-river-state-of-the-watershed-conference/>

**May 11, Thursday, 6:30 pm: Native Plant Society.** Janie Agyacos, Wildlife Biologist Red Rock Ranger District, speaks on "Climate Change in the Southwest - predicted effects to Southwest Flora and Fauna." Highlands Nature Center, 1375 S. Walker Road, Prescott, [\(928\) 776-9550](tel:9287769550).

**May 13-14: Native Plant Society Annual Arizona Botany Meeting.** The AZ Native Plant Society is hosting their 14th Annual Arizona Botany Meeting at Prescott College on May 13-14. The theme for the meeting is Where Mexico Meets Canada —Exploring the Botanical and Ecological Significance of Arizona's Mogollon Highlands. The meeting is open to the public. The early registration fee is \$30.00 and includes Continental breakfast, lunch, and refreshments (coffee & tea). After May 1 the registration fee increases to \$40. For more information and to register go to: <http://www.aznps.com/documents/Botany%202017-Announcement.pdf>