

Alta Vista Garden Connection

February, 2017
Editor—Vicki Hughes



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Message from President Dede

Spring is here! Time to do final fall cleanup and get ready to plant cool weather crops. Or kick back enjoy a cup of coffee and think about all the fun our Garden Club has planned for this coming year.



Hope you all can join us for this months meeting on Tuesday Feb 28th, 2017 at 1pm. Our meeting will begin at 1:30pm with our guest speaker. After our guest speaker we will be having our normal meeting.

Please plan some extra time cuz we have a lot to discuss. Bring a check for your dues of \$33 and some extra cash for a special raffle. The 2017 AFGC Convention is April 21-23 and they have asked us to please encourage each of our members to purchase 3 tickets. Tickets are \$2 each or \$3 for \$5. 50% of the proceeds will go to AFGC and the other 50% will be split between two lucky winners.

We will be signing up for next years committees and discussing our 2018 Garden Tour Fundraiser.



Happy March Birthday's to....

March 6th	Dianne Murphy
March 6th	Roberta Pelayo
March 11th	Loretta Bresof
March 13	Lauren Newington



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

January 24, 2017

Meeting called to order at 1:30 PM

Minutes Approval: Meeting minutes of October and December 2016 approved without revision.

Roll call: Question - What is your favorite rose color? 26 present, 5 absent

Birthdays: January: Frances Martinez, Julie Lessard, Tomie Sue Goulet; February Debbie Mathern and Nancy Goodrich

Introductions: Here for first visits to AVGC were Diane Mathew (mentor Dianne Murphy) and Steve Brubaker (mentor Linda Williams)

Corresponding Secretary: Toni Ristich thanked snack providers Lauren Newington and Linda Williams and drink providers Mary Ann Mira and Chris Robinson. Toni reported that she sent out a get well card to Renie, and a sympathy card to Robin Grant. Ann Schoen sent a note of resignation to the club, citing travel plans. Helen Goodrich sent a card to Vicki to thank her for sending newsletters to her mom, Nancy Goodrich, honorary member. A thank you card was received from Prescott Creeks for a donation from AVGC. Toni mentioned two letters received from two student recipients of the Helen Wright Memorial Scholarship Fund. Frances Martinez told us that these are not scholarships of the AVGC, but a fund established by Mrs. Wright, a former AVGC member, to help deserving students at NAU, Yavapai College and Prescott College.

Treasurer's Report: Nicki Elms reported checking account funds of \$ 4,612.09 and savings account funds of \$15,358.51 for a total of \$19,970.60.

50/50 Raffle: \$33.00 collected, Linda Williams won the raffle.

Penny Pines: In September Gloria Lewine reported that we had \$68 to purchase a tree in memory of someone, but at the time it was not certain who would be honored. That tree will be in memory of Kayla Mueller. Currently there is \$32.52 in the Penny Pines jar - the next \$68.00 memorial tree will honor Maggie Sullivan, a former AVGC member. The Board will need to select three more honorees after the next tree is purchased.

Committee Reports:

Program Committee: Julie Lessard reported that there is an opening for chairperson of the Program Committee, since Ann Schoen has resigned. Lauren Newington and Lin-

da Williams have agreed to co-chair this committee.

Nominating Committee: Carol Westfall discussed upcoming elections and that the nominating committee (Carol, Marjorie Cole and Karen Crossley) will be contacting possible candidates for open positions. President, Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Corresponding and Recording Secretary are all two year terms.

Garden Tour Committee: Dede Erceg reported that she has spoken with Board members and now presents to the club questions for consideration: Do we want to continue the Garden Tour? Do we want to change the venue? Planning the tour, contacting garden owners and coordinating gardens, volunteers, artists and musicians is a huge job - suggestions include making each garden team responsible for coordinating things for the garden they are assigned to; including fewer gardens; finding something else to do for fund raisers. Julie reported that the garden tour began in 2004 and has not been an activity that the garden club has "always" done. This issue will be discussed at our next meeting.

Membership: Lauren Newington reported that we have 30 regular members, 2 associate members, 1 honorary member and two potential members visiting today. The Membership Committee currently has 9 members who meet on an as needed basis. They welcome new members to AVGC, keep roster and roll call and are mentors to new members. Tomie Sue won the Purple Box raffle. Don't forget to put in a ticket at the beginning of each meeting for your chance to win the Purple Box raffle!

Beautification: This group receives requests for project support and community beautification. We currently support the Coyote Springs Elementary School garden and classroom instruction. There are currently 12 members on the committee who meet on an as needed basis.

Old Business: Dianne Murphy reminded us that the Million Pollinator Gardens Project is underway. This is a national project of the Federated Garden Clubs. For the Arizona FGC, Judy Tolbert, President, reports there will be four, one-thousand dollar prizes for the clubs registering the highest percentage of participation in the national project. Club members need to register their gardens and Dianne demonstrated how to fill out the online form. She also said she would send a link via email to our club members if any would like to participate. Once a club has won a prize, they will have one year to write up plans for how they intend to use the funds.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM

The Northern Flicker ~ Mary Ann Mira



One of my favorite members of the Woodpecker family is the Northern Flicker. I love its colors and its unique call. It is a medium-sized member of the woodpecker family which is native to most of North America, parts of Central America, Cuba, and the Cayman Islands, and is one of the few woodpecker species that migrate.

Although it can climb up the trunks of trees and hammer on wood like other woodpeckers, the Northern Flicker prefers to find food on the ground. Did you know Flickers love to eat ants? Ants are its



main food, and the flicker digs in the dirt to find them. It uses its long barbed tongue to lap up the ants. Flickers also eat berries and seeds, especially in winter, including poison oak and ivy, dogwood, sumac, wild cherry and grape, bayberries, hackberries, elderberries, and sunflower and thistle seeds. During the winter it will also visit suet feeders.

Northern Flickers generally nest in holes in trees like other woodpeckers. Occasionally, they've been found nesting in old, earthen burrows. Like most woodpeckers, Northern Flickers drum on objects as a form of communication and territory defense. When defending their nest or territory, the object is to make as loud a noise as possible, and that's why woodpeckers sometimes drum on metal objects. The males also show aggressive displays, including swinging their head back and forth, flicking wings open and spreading their tail to show off the bright underside. Courtship displays are very similar.



The Northern Flicker's habitat is open forests, woodlots, groves, and semi-open country. With its wide range, from Alaska to Nicaragua, the flicker can be found in almost any habitat with trees.



Did you know that Native Americans used Flicker feathers as part of prayer sticks for war and as a hair decoration that indicated a healer? The Flicker is also known as a spirit totem to the Native Americans.

"Slow Food Good Clean and Fair" / Program at Coyote Springs Elementary School ~ By Linda Williams

Hi Everyone!

Karen and I had our first class of 2017 yesterday, 2/3 at Coyote Springs. It was great to be back with the Students.

Yesterday we learned how to make a Green Goddess Dressing using the recipe from the Slow Food Magazine, Chop Chop. It was delicious.

We introduced the students to a new herb: Tarragon. Karen brought in two plants which she found when she was in California, the week before.

The students chopped and measured all the ingredients and put them in the blender that Karen brought from home.

The Dressing was used as a dip for vegetables, which the students prepared: cucumbers, celery, tomatoes, carrots and snap peas.

During one of our previous classes, the subject of spaghetti squash came up: how to cook, what does it look like, how come they call it spaghetti squash.

There wasn't enough time or an oven large enough to cook a spaghetti squash in the Classroom, so I prepared it at home and kept it warm.

Each student got a turn to "shred the squash" and to taste it plain and then with the Green Goddess Dressing.

The students said the Green Goddess Dressing was a success and the sugar snap peas were the favorite vegetable to dip.

Meanwhile Brent Welsh is preparing the Habitat for Spring planting. He has numerous plants in his new Greenhouse and has seedlings growing in the Classroom.

Karen and I can't believe we only have four more classes before school ends!

WHAT'S NEXT . . . Schedule of Events

Feb 25	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> — Fragrant Mountain Roses
Feb 28	1:00 PM	<i>Alta Vista Garden Club Meeting</i> — "Pumps Pipes and People" Highlights Prescott waterworks operation from 1863 to today. Particular emphasis is given to the first 100 years.
March 4	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> – Spring Raptor Experience—Focus on the benefits of attracting raptors and wildlife, such as natural pest control, energy, water, soil conservation and how they can complement a backyard environment. We will be flying large owls, eagles, & falcons through the green houses here at Watters, so bring the grandkids.
March 11	8:30 AM-10:30 AM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Prescott Audubon Bird Walk
March 11	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> — Fruit Trees from Planting to Pruning.
March 16		<i>Gardeners' Day Out</i> – English Tea Room, Carefree – Sign up with Karen Crossley
March 18	7:30 PM-8:30 PM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Star Party! With the Prescott Astronomy Club
March 18	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> - Living Screens - Privacy that Block Prying Eyes and Wind
March 25	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> — - Top 10 Trees of Spring
May 6	8:30 AM-2:00 PM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Native Plant Sale

Million Pollinator Garden Challenge

If you haven't already done so, please sign up for the Million Pollinator Garden Challenge. We now have 14 members signed up. Sign up before March 8th, then please let me know.

Below are links for wildflower seed sowing in winter and for Crown Bees regarding Mason Bees. I hope you find them helpful and interesting.

<http://www.hgtv.com/outdoors/flowers-and-plants/flowers/why-you-should-sow-wildflower-seeds-this-winter>

google: crownbees.com



Alta Vista Garden Club Budget ~ Mary Ann Mira

As we prepare to discuss the future of the Garden Tour or any other fundraising we do to sustain the expenses of our club, I thought it would be helpful to see how much money we actually NEED each year. I have taken the operating expenses and the donations from the spreadsheet Nicki prepared for our budget year 2015-16, a non-garden tour year, to see what the totals would be. Here's what I discovered:

Garden Club Budget 2015-2016

Operating Expenses	Amount
Life Memberships	\$ 0.00
AFGC Dues	\$ 500.00
AZ Corp Filing Fee	\$ 10.00
AFGC Projects/Convention Basket	\$ 30.00
Garden of Month	\$ 75.00
Glove Program	\$150.36
Historian (supplies, etc.)	\$ 50.00
Membership Expenses (badges, etc.)	\$182.00
Misc. Business Expense (gift cards, room rental)	\$188.56
Newsletter	\$ 69.66
Postage	\$170.60
President's Discretionary Fund	\$ 100.00
Program Expense (incl. speakers + supplies)	\$250.00
Publicity	\$ 342.00
Social Exp. (Xmas, etc.)	\$342.80
Storage Locker	\$485.00
Website (include domain name)	\$150.00
Fundraising Reimburse (note cards, etc.)	\$120.00
Yearbook	\$550.00
Total for year:	\$3,815.98
Donations	Amount
Grants	\$100.00
Arbor Day	\$ 40.00
Highlands Center (Juniper Fund)	\$300.00
Yavapai College Adopt a Vine	\$100.00
Community Beautification	\$300.00
Iris Society	\$ 50.00
Prescott Creeks	\$250.00
Youth Awards	\$200.00
Penny Pines	\$136.00
Total for year:	\$1,476.00
Grand Total of Operating Expenses & Donations:	\$5,291.98