

Alta Vista Garden Connection

February, 2016

Editor—Sandy Irwin



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Message from President Dede



A CLEAN GARDEN IS A HAPPY GARDEN...

Now that we have been blessed with a burst of warm weather, it is a great time to get out into that garden and get it ready for Spring and Summer plants.

and animals from eating all your hard work.

This month's meeting will be focusing on our budget.

Start a mini compost area by getting rid of those dead leaves and debris in your garden. Old leaves create a perfect habitat for aphids and other unwanted pests. While some gardeners spray pesticides to get rid of aphids...I DO NOT. Spraying pesticides contaminates your soil and also kills beneficial bugs that create a healthier garden.

So clean up your garden and begin thinking of plants you can plant that deter the nasty bugs

I look forward to seeing you all at our next meeting, Tuesday, February 23, at 1 PM at Yavapai Title on Gurley Street.

Happy Gardening,

Dede

STUFF YOU SHOULD KNOW

UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING? Just call or email Sheron Vandetti for an excused absence — 776-0662 or sav16230@q.com

BRING YOUR GENTLY USED GARDEN TOOLS TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING — The Community Beautification Committee is collecting tools for two area schools who have vegetable gardens (Mountain Oak and Coyote Springs). Toni Ristich is heading up the collection and her wonderful husband has volunteered to clean, oil, repair and sharpen them.

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ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**January 26, 2016****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM, at Yavapai Title.

ROLL CALL

Sharon Vandetti gave the roll call. Today's question was "Favorite Pastime?". There were 32 members in attendance; seven guests (two visiting for their second time, and 1 guest from Habitat for Humanity).

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Francis Martinez
Julie Lessard

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Deborah Mathern
Nancy Goodrich
Cam Waguespack
Linda Pratt

MINUTES

Corrections to the October minutes: none. The minutes were approved as printed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Nicki noted the Treasury Report was sent out prior to the meeting, and that she will always have the most up-to-date treasury report with her for anyone who may have questions or concerns. The club has a checking balance of \$8,296.40. Checking and Savings balance is \$13,650.40.

Nicki noted a bank fee, for \$30, confused some people. It was a voided check fee, and will be backed out on the next statement.

Anita Zytkowski requested that Nicki update the treasury numbers (today's balance, not last month's balance), as of the meeting date, so it is recorded in the minutes. The suggestion was tabled until the rules can be reviewed. It was noted that the balance given today is the balance from the last bank statement.

50/50 RAFFLE

\$50.50 was collected; Nicki Elms won \$25.25.

Nicki Elms will be selling Statewide 50/50 Raffle tickets this month, and at next month's meeting. Price is \$1/ ticket.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Board has been working hard on the 2017 budget, and noted the Iris Society is no longer in need of our donation. A motion was carried to donate the monies that would go toward the Iris Society to the Highland Center Juniper Fund.

Kathy Madedo gave a brief synopsis of the club's donation to Adopt-a-Vine, and what the monies are used are for.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Toni Ristich shared that she sent a get well card to Kathy Madedo, who recently had surgery on her thumb. She also read a thank you note from Lucille Hurst, who the club sent a certificate from Penny Pines.

CHAIR REPORTS**Garden Tour**

Diane Murphy gave a review of the AVGC Garden Tour. Members will direct guests around their assigned garden, and direct any garden related questions to an on site Master Gardener. One garden is an encore garden. Four gardens are in Prescott; two gardens are in Prescott Valley. We will be making storyboards for each of the gardens, showing before and after photos. In April, we'll have a slide show preview and narration of all the gardens.

Garden Tour tickets will go on sale April 1st, at various locations around town. On the day of the tour, please plan to be at your assigned garden from 7:45AM to 3PM. There will be an artist, musician, and two master gardeners at each garden. Renie Collier will be presenting the liaison teams at next months' meeting.

Diane requested that anyone who knows of someone who would like to advertise their business in our booklet, to please let her know.

The AVGC brunch will be held the day after the Garden Tour, on Sunday, at 9 AM, at garden 1; from there we will caravan to all other gardens. Spouses are invited.

Community Beautification

Cheryl Booth shared some of the things the committee is working on, including offering assistance to Sharlot Hall to create a vegetable garden, of days past. The committee will also be contacting the Kiwanis to see how they might help with Kayla's Hands, and may also be providing Highland Center with plant markers for the new Highlands Center's Discovery Gardens.

Mary Ann Mira shared Mt. Oak Elementary is in need of tools. If you have any tools you wish to donate, they may be given Toni Ristich. Coyote Springs Elementary has asked the club for assistance on the benefit of herbs, companion planting, and pruning. If you're interested in helping kids, or have skills in these areas you would like to share, please let Mary Ann know.

MINUTES CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

UPCOMING GARDENERS' DAY OUT

By Renie Collier

WINE & DESIGN EVENT AT ALLAN'S FLOWERS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 6 PM



Join your fellow Club Members at the Allan's Flowers Wine & Design Event. You will get flower arrangement tips in this informative workshop. Best of all, while you are creating your floral masterpiece, drink wine and sample appetizers. All this for only \$25. Renie Collier will be collecting your money at the February 23rd meeting. Checks should be made out to Allan's Flowers and must be paid at the February meeting in order to attend.

Rose Pruning Event at Yavapai College

Contributed by Dianne Murphy

It's time to prune the roses at Yavapai College. If you would like to help and to learn how to prune roses please join us on Feb. 24 at 10 AM at the rose garden. Bring your gloves, pruners, rake and drinking water. An alternate day is March 2 at 10 AM in case of bad weather on the 24th. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the meeting. Our garden club takes care of the roses in exchange for using the sidewalk in front of the Performing Arts Center for the start of the Garden Tour.

MINUTES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Conservation Tip

Pat Moomey is taking recycled cards if you'd like to bring them to the meetings. Pat also shared that you may be eligible for a Certificate for Wildlife Habitat (please visit the National Wildlife Federation website at <http://www.nwf.org> for further information). She also passed around a basket of pinecones that she painted, which resemble zinnias, and is a fun project for kids or grandchildren.

Gardeners Day Out

Anita Zytkowski passed around a sign up sheet for the February Gardeners' Day Out. On Thursday, February 18th, we'll be attending the Scottsdale Celebration of Fine Art, which will have 100 artists on site. Please plan on leaving at 9:30 AM. If you are willing to drive, please let Anita know. You are welcome to bring a friend, if you wish.

Dede noted that they had fun making their own art at the January GDO Cork and Canvas. Several members brought their masterpieces to share.

Renie Collier shared the March Gardeners' Day Out will be a "Wine and Design" event at Allan's Flowers, on Wednesday, March 9th, at 6PM. Cost is \$25. Wine and snacks will be served, and everyone gets to make a flower arrangement.

Programs

Lauren Newington mentioned the Program Committee would like ideas for next year's programs. She asked each member to suggest an idea for the committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Rene Collier introduced her guest, Gail Martin, Director of Volunteer Services, from Habitat for Humanity. Gail presented the AVGC with a certification of appreciation for the club's contributions to Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity. Gail gave a brief overview of what the Habitat for Humanity does, their guidelines, volunteer opportunities, and the Habitat for Humanity Restore.

Ann Krsiean, the outgoing Northern District Director, introduced Marjorie Cole, who has taken over responsibilities as the new Northern District Director. Marjorie passed around a sign up sheet for those who would like to assist AVGC in hosting and preparing for the Northern District meeting in Prescott, this September.

2017 Budget

Budget requests from Committee Chairs have been sent out. If you have a suggestion or question regarding the budget or budget process, please get with one of the Committee Chairs, Julie Lessard, or Dede Erceg.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted

June Wharam, AVGC Recording Secretary

WHAT'S NEXTSchedule of Events

Feb. 18	9:30 AM	Gardeners' Day Out – Road trip to Scottsdale Fine Arts Celebration. Contact Anita Zytkowski for details.
Feb. 23	1:00 PM	Alta Vista Garden Club Meeting Yavapai Title, 1235 E. Gurley Street, Prescott Program – Winter Bird Watching by Bonnie, of Jay's Bird Barn
Feb. 25	9:00 AM	Highlands Center – Medicinal Plants of the Desert and Highlands
Feb. 27	9 AM-12:30 PM	Tempe's Urban Forest Workshop & Expo – Tempe History Museum. Visit www.tempe.gov/urbanforest for details.
March 5	9:30 AM	Watters Garden Center – Living Screens – Privacy that Blocks Prying Eyes and Wind
March 9	6:00 PM	Gardeners' Day Out – Wine & Design Floral Workshop at Allan's Flowers in Prescott
March 12	9 AM-4 PM	Real Gardens for Real People Tour – presented by Maricopa County Master Gardeners
March 12	6:30 PM	Highlands Center – Evening Forest Walk & Star Party
March 19	9:30 AM	Watters Garden Center – Controlling Gophers, Bugs and Disease in the Garden
April 22	10:30-3 PM	Kaleidoscope of Colors – presented by the AZ Federation of Garden Clubs
June 18	8:00 AM	ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB – PRESCOTT AREA GARDEN TOUR
Oct. 22	10 AM-3 PM	SAVE THE DATE – AZ Federation of Garden Clubs Northern District Meeting hosted by Alta Vista Garden Club at the Phippen Museum

SAVE THE DATE . . .

SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH PRESCOTT AREA GARDEN TOUR

Contributed by Dianne Murphy



Remember, Saturday, June 18, 2016, is the biennial garden tour featuring six outstanding gardens in the Prescott area. It is the major fund raiser for the club. Proceeds from this event go toward the Alta Vista Garden Club's work in local education, conservation and beautification projects. Also, all participants and a guest are invited to an after-party brunch on Sunday, June 19.

We look forward to all Club Members' participation in this fun event.

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE STATE

There are a plethora of events sponsored by various garden clubs around the great state of Arizona in the coming months. Here are but a few:



Tempe's Urban Forest Workshop and Expo

Saturday, February 27, 9 AM – 12:30 PM

Tempe History Museum, 809 E. Southern Avenue

Join local arborists, tree organizations and specialists to learn how you can help make a city like Tempe a shady, tree-filled city. The expo will include information on tree selection, xeriscaping, fruit and nut trees and planting a pruning demonstrations. For details, visit www.tempe.gov/urbanforest

15th Annual Real Gardens for Real People Tour

Saturday, March 12

9 AM – 4 PM

Presented by the Maricopa County Master Gardeners, this tour inspires home gardeners to responsibly create and care for their own gardens. Throughout the self-guided tour, Maricopa County Master Gardeners demonstrate how sustainably created, do-it-yourself gardens can inspire lifelong horticultural learning. For details, visit www.RealGardensforRealPeople.com



Kaleidoscope of Garden Colors

Friday, April 22

10:30 AM – 3 PM



The Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs presents their garden party fundraiser at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel South Mountain. This party will include demonstration workshops on floral and Ikebana design, a sumptuous lunch, a Chico's fashion show and a dynamic garden speaker, Tom Ogren, on the subject of Allergy Free Gardening. For registration forms, visit <http://www.azgardenclubs.com/home/calendar>.

Attention AVGC Club Members!! Remember to bring donations for our raffle basket for this fundraiser to the next meeting. We have a big basket and are looking to fill it up to the top.

NEWS FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



The Alta Vista Garden Club was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity in recognition of the Club's continued support. Members of the Club have provided their expertise and plantings to the new home owners of Habitat homes. Those pictured from left to right are Alta Vista Garden Club President, Dede Erceg, Coordinator for Habitat for Humanity Volunteers, Gail Martin, and Committee Chair, Renie Collier.

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS TO

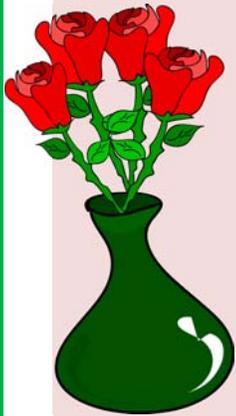
06 – Dianne Murphy

11 – Loretta Bresof

13 – Lauren Newington

Happy Birthday



FROM THE WEEDPATCH**WHERE DO FLOWERS COME FROM?***Contributed by Carol Westfall*

Editor's Note – Carol wanted to share this note to her friend about the concern she has for the flower industry

Dear Florrie,

As you know, I write some of the columns for the Weed Patch for our garden club's newsletter. The Patch is a catch-all that speaks to the wide interest, knowledge and curiosity of our members. Any member can share information through this feature.

In this month of February, the season of love, I thought the natural tie-in to be red roses. I wanted to find out how these tokens of passion and affection reach us here in the middle of winter. I had heard about the Dutch Flower Markets, and how they are a collecting point for flowers of all kinds throughout the year, how flowers are flown in from the European countries and places in Africa to be wholesaled out and begin their Middleman Shuffle by air and truck throughout the world. The Netherlands has over 40% of the worldwide market. In the last 20 years or so, new players/market forces have emerged. Not much remains the same in business, as in life.

Beginning in the 60's, the cultivation of roses that had been centered in Southern California and the south, moved to Colombia and Ecuador. The higher altitude, intense sunlight and equatorial temperatures were perfect conditions for the flower fields and greenhouses, much like the conditions that produce beauties in our Prescott area. In the 90's, Dole Foods invested in Latin American enterprises. Today, Miami International Airport receives more than 60% of all imported flower shipments in the U.S., over 32,000 on any given day and triple that during this loving season. By the time some of the 200 million roses reach us here, they may have traveled over 5,000 miles. In the European markets, investors established operations in Kenya and in Ethiopia for the European and Indian markets.

Some of the bloom came off the rose when I found growers are free to use hazardous chemicals in the form of pesticides, fungicides and insecticides that have been banned here by the FDA. Methyl bromide, known to deplete the ozone layer and acephate, a neurotoxin hazardous to humans and toxic to bees, are being used in these foreign growing areas. Beautiful products are the result- just check out the grocery stores, Trader Joe's, floral deliveries - but the growers know of the situation. One even remarked that it would not be good to take a bath in rose petals.



There appear to be canaries in the goldmine. A 2007 study showed over 60% of the workers, mostly women, exhibited health-related problems - rashes, respiratory and eye problems, higher than average rates of premature births, malformations and miscarriages. Add to that the social and educational problems. For example, in Kenya in the Lake Naivasha region, the total number of workers and their families has increased from 6,000 to 240,000 over a period of 20 years. With that increase come crowded schools and living quarters and the friction that arises between the native population and the migrants. Wages are low and it's hard to determine local currency buying power, workers in Kenya collect \$59-\$94 monthly, while in Ethiopia, workers earn \$28-\$46- estimates that work out to about 2% of each bloom's retail price. In Colombia, the regular work schedule of a 60-hour week can balloon to 6-10 extra hours a day during February and May(Mother's Day).

ARTICLE CONTINUES ON PAGE 7



SPOTLIGHT ON *Deb Freund-Kaukol*

Contributed by Vicki Hughes

Not only is Deb a vibrant person who is very willing to share her knowledge & experience, but her home and garden are lovely and very welcoming. She grew up in the Dakota's, where she began gardening as a child, helping her mother in the family gardens. They moved to Arizona when she was 14 and she had the pleasure of landscaping her Prescott home. Deb has created a zen garden for a little R&R. Retriever Jojo and Deb enjoy the summer days under the ramada. Her selection of architectural pieces are great additions to her yard, creating a beautiful and welcoming location to relax and enjoy the quiet and peaceful setting.

Professionally, her first love is flying. She flew Air Tankers for the US Forestry Service and she is an airline Captain for Southwest. She has been in a woman's flying group, "The 99's", for many years.



The goals and challenges that Deb face in her garden is to minimize and simplify needed maintenance, thereby avoiding the need to physically overdo. Her favorite Tip would be to use Organic Fertilizer and favorite Tool would be Soaker Hoses.

Artistically, Deb enjoys the way she can carry the look from her garden into the house. She loves that in the fall, the yellow Aspen

leaves match the yellow back-splash tiles in her kitchen. Also, Deb's windows, along one wall, allows her to watch the birds while working in the kitchen...again bringing the outside in. In addition to gardening, she also enjoys throwing pottery and painting. Her artistic flair is evident throughout her home and garden.



ARTICLE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Besides the consequences for the workers, there is that elephant in the room - the environmental cost. You know that roses are heavy feeders and thirsty plants. The demand for water (estimated at 8-15 quarts per bloom) has caused water to be diverted from traditional food-producing agriculture operations. Lake Naivasha, the second largest lake in Kenya, is crucial for the survival of the Masai. The lake reserves have shrunk by 40 % since the establishment of the nearby flower farms. In Colombia, hazardous chemicals have been discovered 900-1200 feet down in the soils and eventually will end up in the depleted aquifer. I guess we can't really throw rocks at their glass houses, given large the number of chemicals floraculture uses in the U.S., but it does make me aware that when Mother Earth takes abuse, the people who live in the area will, at some time, be bruised.

I was heartened by some good news though. There is a growing movement to raise worker's wages and to improve the social conditions. The flower growers and the florist industry (floral alone is valued at \$20 billion a year) are attempting to bring healthier products to the customer. There are companies and trade organizations promoting higher standards by hand-selecting the farms they deal with based on healthier agricultural practices. Yet, even with all of this positive change, I now feel some ambivalence, maybe even sadness, about bringing home a bouquet with the groceries.

What do you think? I value your opinion.

Your gardening friend, Carol