

Alta Vista Garden Connection

July, 2016
Editor—Sandy Irwin



What's Inside . . .

<i>President Dede's Message</i>	1
<i>Business Meeting Minutes</i>	2
<i>Garden of the Month</i>	3
<i>What's Next . . . Schedule</i>	
<i>of Events</i>	4
<i>Upcoming GDOs</i>	4
<i>Habitat News</i>	5
<i>October Program</i>	5
<i>No. District Meeting</i>	6
<i>GDO Road Trip</i>	6
<i>Happy Birthday</i>	6
<i>Spotlight On . . .</i>	7
<i>From the Weed Patch</i>	8, 9

Message from President Dede

Gardens are so much more than just pretty plants and trees. A good garden can also be host to many birds and small animals. I used to get frustrated when the rabbits and quail ate all my seedlings or when the birds picked away at my cherries the day before I was going to pick them. But now I grow more food for the animals than for John and myself. I just love the all the animals I see in my garden year round.



My doves had 3 baby chicks that we watched hatch and learn to fly. Two of the babies have disappeared, but one of them still hangs out with its mom and dad.

Dozens of sparrows swarm my garden when the sprinklers system comes on around 6am. Coveys of quail come up to my vegetable garden each evening marching in rows like little soldiers. The house finches have now for 4 years running made nests in our awnings.

Around my hot tub we have frogs that come out after the first real strong week of monsoon showers. (I am really hoping we get some rain soon).

We even had a bird sneak in through our dryer vent this spring and hatch its babies in the hose that goes from the dryer to the outside.

This winter I put out salt blocks and had 3 deer visit my garden each morning for several weeks. They did eat several Iris just as the buds were about to bloom and trimmed my apple tree a little more than I would have. But watching them wander through the yard was worth the sacrifice.



For almost 5 years we have heard an owl hooting at night. Last year he started hanging out by our pool... get all wet and then groom himself sitting on the fence. This year he finally found himself a mate. The two owls sit on the fence and watch for mice and lizards.

What I have noticed, since I have allowed the squirrels, quail, birds, deer and owls to roam freely, is that I don't have the usual pesty bugs in my garden. They seem to be paying me back by eating the aphids, flies and grasshoppers that usually attacked my garden this time of year.

Please send any photos you have to share of your favorite animals and I will share with the club.

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
- **CHRISTMAS IN JULY!?!?** — We will be collecting \$5 each for all those who want to participate in the Living Christmas Ornaments October program at the July meeting. So bring your check-books!! See page 3-6 in your year book or page 5 in this newsletter for information.

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ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**June 28, 2016****CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:29 PM, at Yavapai Title.

ROLL CALL

Lauren Newington's Granddaughter Melissa gave the roll call. Today's question was, "Favorite Garden on the tour?" There were 30 members in attendance and 1 guests.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Niki Elms, Rosemary Reiss, Ruth Lysak, Connie Martin and Mary Ann Mira

MINUTES

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

Last Balance: \$15,605.16

Garden Tour: \$10,053.52 (minus expenses, still calculating credits)

INSTALLATION OF NEW ASSISTANT TREASURER

Karen Crossley nomination. All in favor of election by acclimation. Induction completed.

BUDGET OVERAGES

Notification of budget overages.

Vote Yearbook overage of \$150. All in favor. Vote \$300 gift certificates for \$50 for each home owner. All in favor.

Vote Money Certificate of Deposit in the amount of \$10,000 to set aside for June 2017-2018 expenses. Discussion tabled to shop around. Input from Karen Crossley next meeting.

50/50 RAFFLE

\$29.00 dollars was collected; Linda Williams won \$14.50.

PENNY PINES

\$14.20 beginning for June plus today's collection. Niki received certificates of donation for the 19 Hot Shots and for Ann.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

There are 4 resignations. Connie Martin. Pat Moomey. Susan Tolley. Debbie Freund.

Need volunteer for Pat Moomey's "Gardening Tips" position. Table discussion for next meeting.

GARDEN TOUR

Create CD's for Garden Tour participants created by Dede for the AVGC. Participant gift certificates. Possible member orders.

GARDEN TOUR SURVEY

Form from Dianne Murphy. Hand-out asking for comments and input to improve next Garden Tour. Discussion of participant's positive and negative comments. Multiple suggestions were shared. Suggestion to adjust committee.

CHAIR REPORTS

Community Beautification: N/A

Conservation Tip: N/A

Gardeners Day Out: Saturday, July 9th, 8 AM. Penstemon Festival Plant Sale - Arboretum, Flagstaff. See Newsletter.

Garden of the Month: Chistine Robinson's "drive-by" garden.

Northern District: N/A

Habitat for Humanity: Plants are dying. Provide plants not fruit trees to owners two months after move-in. Contact owners for confirmation of planting. Only plant in spring and fall.

Membership Committee: N/A

Programs: N/A

APPRECIATION FROM PRESIDENT

Kudos to various members helping Dede throughout the year with a "Pick a Plant" gift. A succulent to all...!

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**NEW BUSINESS**

Discussion of protocol in regards to being courteous between fellow club members. Possible change in bylaws. Discussion on how to diffuse negativity. Possible needed procedures. Nothing in bylaws to release a confrontational member. Suggestion "Code of Conduct" in writing and organization of committee.

ADJOURNMENT

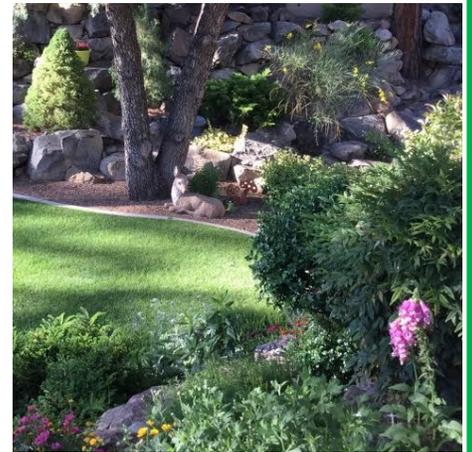
The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Linda Pratt, Substitute AVGC Recording Secretary

*July Garden of the Month***THE “STONEY CREEK” GARDEN***By Linda Williams and Tomie Sue Goulet*

Once upon a time, an artist from England moved to Prescott and created a breathtaking garden on an Arizona mountainside among the pines in Timber Ridge. Welcome to Alta Vista Garden Club's July Garden of the Month at 1919 Timber Point West. This forested lot with steep sides, a flat bottom and a huge natural basin with a natural creek running through it provided an interesting challenge for the owner. With her knowledge of landscaping and building design, Christine Robinson began the awesome task of transforming this lot into a garden that reminds one of the famous Butchart Gardens of British Columbia.

Christine got help moving huge boulders into place and then began the arduous task of filling the space in between with rocks to artistically form her garden terraces. A creek runs through the property and needed to be controlled for those sometime “gully-washers” we can get in the mountains. A culvert was installed in the creek and was camouflaged with enormous boulders. Now the creek is controlled and a waterfall was created to catch runoff during heavy rains. Christine says it is one of her favorite features of the garden. This waterway, of course, called for a footbridge, which leads to a flagstone walkway and patio.



Once the infrastructure was in place, with her paintbrush and palette in hand, Christine began filling the canvas with a variety of trees, evergreens and shrubs of various textures and colors. She used red tipped photinia, berberis, Oregon grape, junipers, holly, heavenly bamboo, and yews. There are different shades of green and red represented. Mingled amongst them are perennials that bloom from early spring to late fall, such as creeping phlox, yellow yarrow, salvias, lavenders, blue-bells, candy-tufts, hollyhocks, penstemon, Shasta daisies, and roses making for an ever-changing display. This artist groups certain flowers or flower hues in a large planting so that their color enhances the foliage around them.



Favorite trees in this garden are the Colorado blue spruce and the Japanese maple. Color is everywhere in the rock-filled garden with red yarrow, pink mums, orange zinnias, blue delphiniums, lavender, phlox and echinacea. This garden's beauty flourishes during every season. It has been the backdrop for wedding and graduation photos. Christine and her husband are “do-it-yourselfers” and built a wishing well using block and a wooden access door. They covered the well with faux stone. This wishing well cleverly hides the lawn mower.

Christine will tell you that gardening is her artistic outlet. “Placing plants to maximize their beauty is my version of painting.” Christine, we love your painting! Christine Robinson

joined the Alta Vista Garden Club in 2004, at which time her garden was selected to be on their biennial Prescott Garden Tour and it was selected again in 2012. In 2014, it was featured in Phoenix Home and Garden Magazine.

We invite you to come look at this beautiful garden and don't forget to bring your camera

WHAT'S NEXTSchedule of Events

July 26	1:00 PM	Alta Vista Garden Club Meeting Yavapai Title, 1235 E. Gurley Street, Prescott Program – Drying Tomatoes and Herbs Demo, Intro to Slow Foods Prescott presented by Chef Molly Beverly, Chair of Slow Foods Prescott
July 30	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> – Easy Grow Roses
July 30	9:30 AM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Mushroom Madness
August 6	9:30 AM	<i>Watters Garden Center</i> – Secret Gardens with Hedges and Privacy Screens
August 12	6:30 PM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Bug-A-Boo Bliss
August 12	9:30 AM	Gardeners' Day Out – Flower Picking at Green Creek Farms, Dewey
August 13	7:30 AM	<i>Highlands Center</i> – Audubon Bird Walk
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

UPCOMING GARDENERS' DAY OUT

By Renie Collier

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12 GREEN CREEK FARMS IN DEWEY



Pick your own flowers at Green Creek Farms located in the Dewey area. Lindsay Statler has been growing flowers for bouquets for brides and wedding parties and invites the public to come out and pick your own. Here's the deal:

- Meet at 9:30 AM at Frontier Village in the parking lot at the Home Store
- Bucket prices are \$5, \$10 and \$20 (excluding dahlias which are \$2 each)
- Wear comfortable shoes, hat and sunscreen. Clippers and buckets are provided.
- Then lunch at Black Board Kitchen – a very quaint café in Prescott Valley

We must have a minimum of 10 people in order to have the garden open to us. There will be a sign up sheet at the July meeting.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – CHANGES IN THE MAKING

By Ruth Lysak



The Alta Vista Garden Club had noticed some challenges with respect to the Club's contributions to the new Habitat homeowners. Following discussions on some of the issues, it was decided that the Club will no longer help the new homeowner choose plants prior to their closing and home dedication.

The Club will wait a few months after closing and contact the new homeowner as to whether they want plants; if the answer is "no", then we and Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity will not proceed. If they choose to have plants, the AVGC Committee will make arrangements to choose plants with them, taking into consideration fast-growing, water-wise plantings.

AVGC Committee Members, along with PAHH volunteers (to dig the holes) will work together to correctly plant with amended soil and provide instructions on watering, etc. We will plant only in the spring and fall, not in the heat of summer.

Both Alta Vista Garden Club and Prescott Area Habitat for Humanity are hopeful that this new approach will give a better survival rate for the plants we purchase.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY!!!????

PARTICIPATE IN THE OCTOBER PROGRAM LIVING CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT WORKSHOP



That's right everyone. The holiday season is fast-approaching, and our October Program we will be making a most unique Christmas ornament using simple provided materials such as a glass hollow ornament, petite succulents, berries and moss. Our own Club Member, Loretta Bresof, is an accomplished flower designer and will lead us step-by-step in creating these unique pieces.

All materials will be provided and it is imperative that you sign up to participate at the July meeting so that we can order the appropriate materials for this fun workshop.

The cost to Club Members is \$5 each for all materials. Make checks payable to Alta Vista Garden Club or exact cash would be appreciated.



SAVE THE DATE
2016 NORTHERN DISTRICT MEETING
HOSTED BY THE ALTA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Saturday, October 22, 2016

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Be there at this fun event at the Phippen Museum

The Featured Speaker will be Dr. Mark Sinclair, Professor and Program Chair, Applied Meteorology Department of Applied Aviation Sciences, at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Prescott, AZ.

Also, members will share in their activities from the following groups:

- High Desert Designers - Sedona
- Cerbat Garden Club - Kingman
- Flagstaff Flower and Garden Club - Flagstaff
- Sedona Area Garden Club - Sedona
- Alta Vista Garden Club - Prescott



ART & HERITAGE OF THE AMERICAN WEST
PHIPPEN MUSEUM

GARDENERS' DAY OUT ROAD TRIP



FLAGSTAFF ARBORETUM
PENSTEMON FESTIVAL & PLANT SALE

Contributed by Debbie Mathern

The July "Gardeners' Day Out" adventure was a trip to the Flagstaff Arboretum. Six members and three guests enjoyed free admission--allowing more money to be spent at the plant sale fundraiser. Lunch was at Busters, followed by a little shopping and a stop at Wagner's Nursery.

HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO

05 – Anita Zytkowski

19 – Chris Robinson

24 – Sandy Irwin





SPOTLIGHT ON BARBARA SAMUELS

Contributed by Vicki Hughes

Barbara Samuels was a fairly new resident of Prescott, Arizona when she first came to Alta Vista Garden Club with her neighbor, Nan Maxfield, in 1997. She has served as secretary and has been a part of our Habitat for Humanity Committee for a few years.



She grew up in the suburbs of New York City. When she was a young woman, she worked as a secretary in the City and rode the Commuter Train. That is where she met her future husband David, who's family actually lived 2 doors from her. They were married and



lived in the New York area where they raised their family of 4 children.

They discovered Prescott when David's membership on the board of Lutheran Brethren Nursing Homes in Phoenix area brought them on a trip to Arizona. They moved here in 1996 and settled in their home off of Haisley Road. She still enjoys many happy memories of their 56 years of marriage. David passed in 2014.

Barbara enjoys singing, is a member of her church choir and was a member of Sweet Adeline's for about 10 years. She also creates custom greeting cards using her large collections of Rubber Stamps, and organized the Water Aerobic sessions at her community pool. She has also taught in Pre-Schools and worked as a realtor.

She first began gardening with her father as he continued his tradition of growing a Victory Garden. She liked working the soil and watching things grow.

Her property is a combination of native Ponderosa Pines, Prickly Pear Cactus and Manzanita, with hard-scape of brick and rock. They bought two prickly pear paddles from a garden in Cliff Rose many years ago, and they didn't do very well. David wanted to dig them up but Barbara protected them and see today what they have done. Her favorite garden plants would be Iris, Day Lilies, Pansies and Calibrachoa, commonly called Million Bells. These days Barbara and her dog, Walter, focus on their indoor garden and the potted plants on the deck.



Of course, her major challenge in the pines are deer and the javelina. Her property requires amendment by bringing in lots of soil and mulch. Also the root systems of 1 pine in the front yard prevents any other trees from being planted near it.

Her gardening tip would be to repeat successful planting.

From the Weed Patch . . .

PRISON GARDENS

By Carol Westfall



Prisoners at San Quentin building organic garden

What if we had a magic pill to stop violence and crime? Not 100% effective, but a darn sight better than what we have today. It would probably fly off the shelves! Here is the intriguing part...What if it's something that we, as gardeners already know about?

What do the words "San Quentin" conjure up in your imagination? Knots of disgruntled men milling around? Convicts banging their cups on the table in protest of the food, guards looking on apprehensively? Razor wire curling around the fences of the outdoor recreation yard? Weary men who have been caught in the revolving door of crime and recidivism?

Thanks to the Power of One, a woman named Beth Waitkus, stepped forward to make the images fade. Beth was looking for a way to restore her own faith in humanity after 9/11 and hit upon the idea of a prisoners' garden. Her Insight Garden Program debuted in 2002 and has been blooming ever since. A holistic, transformative curriculum was developed over the years that included altruistic goals with high-falutin chapter names, such as, "The Human Ecological Connection," "Inner Emotional Process Work," "Food and Urban Agriculture,"- hardly the topics convicts would be attracted to, but, the lure of a fresh tomato was too much for them.

In an online video, I saw five, large raised beds constructed in San Quentin's prison yard. They were filled with the richest soil and planted with vegetables and flowers by hands that may have used guns or their fists to hurt others. Smiles, determination and collaboration were the expressions worn on the faces of the gardeners. Organizers observed the garden became the only place where different races could congregate and work without the fear of violence from others. Being in or near a garden reduced stress. Gardeners gained benefits from working with Nature, creating the possibility for hope and change in their personal lives. Upon release, from prison, many are employed by landscaping companies. Probably the best endorsement of the program came three years after its beginning when the convict-gardener recidivism rate was a low 10%, compared to national rates of between 40-60%.

To define why this program and other horticultural therapy programs are effective is complex. One factor is a sense of empowerment. The "simple act" of caring for plants requires a trio of responsibility, empathy, discipline that ultimately transfers to the interpersonal realm. By growing plants, people also grow. The act of nurturing nature can strike a "deeply personal chord" with the grower, and as Beth has observed, "When values shift, behavior shifts."

Weed Patch Continued on Page 9

Weed Patch Continued from Page 8

The Insight Garden Program is not the only prison program to encourage gardening. In Minnesota, a law went into effect that requires correctional facilities to start gardens if space and security allow. Two inmates who are gardeners there admit that they do get razzed or seen as the geeks of the garden, but they let the remarks roll off their backs-remarkable when you learn that one was convicted for attempted murder and the other for felony drunk driving. They like the fact that the excess produce ends up in the hands of hungry Minnesotans, and in some way, makes up for “all the stuff we’ve done wrong...”



Another program in Missouri had such a bounty, that after feeding the prisoners, they donated 163 TONS of produce to food pantries, shelters, churches, nursing homes and schools! See what the lure of a real, fresh tomato can produce?

OK...so probably there is no magic pill to stop violence and crime, but from personal experience and soil science, we know when we put our hands in the soil, something transformative does happen. We feel calmed, hopeful, serene. If that’s not magic in this day and age, I don’t know what is.