



In this issue:

[AFGC Convention](#)

[AFGC District Challenge Birds,
Bees, & Butterflies Garden](#)

[Update on AFGC Website](#)

[Arizona State Life Membership](#)

[Penny Pines News Release](#)

[Northern District Happenings](#)

[Western District Happenings](#)

[Central District Happenings](#)

**Next edition of the
Greenleaf Bulletin to
be out May 2010**

Articles **must** be limited to 250
words or less....

Please send all articles and
photos to azgreenleaf@cox.net

Thank you!

The Greenleaf Bulletin

March 2010

Hello,

It will be amazing to be able to have information circulated as often as 6 times a year via The Greenleaf Bulletin; this is a valuable communication tool to let all members know what is on our AFGC calendar and to announce your clubs events. Keep sending your club's information with pictures to our Greenleaf editor. This is your newsletter. Lets make it fun and interesting.



When your club reports came in at the Spring Board meeting, it was gratifying to hear what our members have accomplished. The new and ongoing projects that are in the works are truly exciting. You make our organization proud!

I hope to see you at the many events that are on the AFGC calendar. And, I will see all of you at the Arizona Federation of Garden Club's State Convention April 9 & 10. We are honored to have Pacific Region Director Sandra Ford as our special guest. It is going to be Great! Do come!

As a reminder: Arizona celebrates Arbor Day on the 3rd Friday of March. (March 19th this year) Have a lovely Spring.

Sharron Luoma, AFGC President

Luoma@cox.net

76th AFGC Convention "It's Showtime"

Registration is now in progress for our 76th annual Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs Convention to be held at the classic Arizona Golf Resort in Mesa on April 9th and 10th. The 2010 Convention is hosted by the East District. The location was selected by the committee chaired by Beth Hoss and Carol Parrott to showcase our President's Theme of "It's Showtime" in a nationally accredited Flower Show held in their stunning glass pavilion. Surely, the architect had AFGC in mind when he designed it. How did he know that someday Arizona's best designers would grace his work with theirs?

We're turning back the clock to a more elegant time when our state was young and so were you and I. Imagine beautiful Spanish Architecture, courtyards with splashing fountains and lush green grounds. Close your eyes and imagine Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire dancing under the stars, their slippers tapping on the Saltillo tile. What a glorious era that must have been.

Friday - Brian Vetter, noted designer - How will he surpass his amazing 25 designs in one hour?

Saturday - Mary Irish, horticulturist and author, will present "Color in the Garden."

As always, we will have a Basket Raffle, 50/50, silent auction and a potpourri of wonderful vendors. To get the most bang for your buck, please consider the total Convention package. The resort has offered a single/double room from \$99.00, suites and casitas available, too. Deadline for room block - March 24, 2010. Located at the corner of Power Road and Broadway, the resort is close to the Superstition Springs Mall, 101, 202, and US60. Come early, stay late, play some golf! The Arizona Federation of Garden Club's annual convention is a wonderful opportunity to see old friends and to make new ones.

Friendships are grown here! See you at the Convention.

AFGC District Challenges

Birds, Bees & Butterflies Garden

Objective and Requirements:

- Make available a grant of \$200 per district to attract Birds, Bees & Butterflies. District Directors submit a request NOW to Birds, Bees & Butterflies Chairman.
- Emphasize native plants.
- Emphasize native pollinators, use plants that attract bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and other pollinators to the garden.
- Must be a new project or a new phase of an existing project.
- At end of project, submit a brief description and picture of project by February 1, 2011. Submit to Bird, Bees & Butterflies Chairman.

Challenge and Awards:

Most efficient and effective use of the grant for the project will receive \$100. Second place - \$50. District Directors send request to: Karley Fahlsing, AFGC Birds, Bees & Butterflies Chairman, 7015 N Camino de los Caballos, Tucson, AZ 85743. For more information, call 520 579-4399 or email karley@totacc.com.

Check out National Garden Club's Special Project for the 2009 - 2011 "Bee Nature's Partner...Plants and Pollinators" <http://www.gardenclub.org/SpecialProjects/SchoolGardens.aspx>.

Update on AFGC Website and Local Club Websites

As reported earlier, Garden Central will be shutting down our free AFGC website effective March 31, 2010. It was decided at the recent Board meeting, at the recommendation of our AFGC Website Chair, that the AFGC website will be moved to another site within the same website provider and will then be maintained by our Website Chair. For those clubs who have previously been represented on the AFGC website, the following is being offered by AFGC.

You may have one page on the AFGC Website to list information about your club. You may send your information to the Website Chair at the email address below in a Microsoft Word document or plain text by email. You also may have one photo on the page. The photo should be sent as a separate jpeg file. It is the club's responsibility to keep the information current. All member clubs will be listed on an AFGC page and by clicking on the club name, viewers can go to the club page. It is my understanding that if your club has a separate website, a link can be added to your page so that viewers can be directed to your own site. Send requests for pages and/or links on the AFGC website to the Website Chair, Jane Buck at jluck41@gmail.com. Further information/options for individual club websites is available at <http://www.websitemigration.info/>.

ARIZONA STATE LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Arizona State Life Membership is a \$25.00 tax deductible donation to the AFGC Scholarship Fund. It is special to receive or give one to honor someone in your club or community. The \$25.00 is deposited in a restricted account for AFGC scholarships and only the interest is used for this award, so the money deposited continues to grow and is a gift that keeps on giving. We also have State Life Membership pins for \$7.00. The recipient can receive a certificate at the AFGC State Convention or at their own Garden Club.

The AFGC scholarships are given to outstanding students at Arizona's three State Universities (University of Arizona, Arizona State University and Northern Arizona University). An application for State Life Membership is available at [AFGC Greenleaf.org](http://www.AFGCGreenleaf.org), click on Resources. For more information, please write or call Diana Johns, State Life Membership Chairman, 26213 South Nottingham Drive, Sun Lakes, AZ, 85248-9287 or call (480) 895-8729 or (480) 213-1517.

Penny Pines Rejuvenates Forests

Across The U.S.*

News Release from National Garden Clubs

More Than 80 National Forests Benefit As National Garden Clubs and U.S. Forest Service Team Up For The Environment

ST. LOUIS--Since launching a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service in 2004, National Garden Clubs Inc. (NGC) and its various affiliates across the country have collected more than \$75,000 on the local and state level for the U.S. Forest Service's well-known *Penny Pines* program, which is dedicated to replanting damaged forested areas. These funds have taken root coast to coast, benefitting 80 national forests in 42 states. But, as environmentalists know, saving forests is an ongoing task. To step up the effort in 2010, NGC is issuing a plea to communities and civic organizations nationwide to pitch in.

“Deforestation through natural disasters or human activities remains a major concern to National Garden Clubs’ membership,” says Renee D. Blaschke, of Smithville, Texas, NGC president. “The loss of trees is not only an aesthetic blight but also an environmental threat.” Blaschke says that donations made to the NGC Penny Pines effort can designate a specific state or national forest to benefit. Contributions to Penny Pines can be made individually or through school, organization or club fundraisers.

NGC requests that donations be made in multiples of \$68. This was the cost of planting 10 acres when the Penny Pines program was first started in California in 1941 as a statewide conservation program, and has been retained as a minimum donation through the years. According to Art Loesch, NGC Penny Pines chairman, \$68 now covers the cost to plant approximately 350 seedlings, which translates to about one acre. NGC issues handsome personalized certificates recognizing donors or their honorees. Complete information is available on the NGC Web site at <http://www.gardenclub.org/>.

In addition to the Penny Pines program, other service projects offered by National Garden Clubs Inc. include the *Plant It Pink* project, healing gardens and horticultural therapy programs, *Blue Star Memorials*, school gardening initiatives for children, flower shows, and a host of civic beautification and improvement efforts. Founded in 1929 and headquartered in St. Louis, NGC has 200,000 members connected to a vast network of 6,300 local clubs, 50 state clubs, and a National Capital area club, as well as a sizable group of international affiliates. NGC is the largest volunteer organization of its type in the world.

(Media contact: Patricia Binder, 636-441-0022, pbbinder@finkelco.com, or Debra Finkel, 314-878-1213, debefinkel@finkelco.com, Finkel & Binder Communications LLC, agent for National Garden Clubs Inc.)

Northern District Happenings

Alta Vista Garden Club

The members of Alta Vista continue to find ways to educate and beautify our community. Last fall, our members took our new National Garden Club President at her word and planted 300 daffodils at the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Island Park. Now, every time we pass by this gateway area, we look for signs of the green swords piercing the ground heralding to the community the arrival of a golden spring.

Alta Vista supported the Miller Valley Elementary School Habitat Garden sponsored by the Highlands Center for Natural History, by donating the money for the steel contained in the metal and wood composite benches installed in the area. In a genuine, spontaneous comment, one student exclaimed, "We don't have to sit on the ground anymore!" Since there were funds remaining from the project, the Club voted to give a specialty piece of equipment to the Granite Mountain Middle School teacher who guided the students through the welding part of the project.



Alta Vista spread Christmas cheer after our annual Christmas party by placing over a dozen poinsettias in the reception, dining, recreation and medical areas as residents of the Arizona Pioneer Home beamed.

We also donated food to the Open Door Pantry and warm sox to the Open Door Homeless Project.

None of these projects could have been completed without your support of [The Prescott Garden Tour](#).

We hope to see you as you enjoy your day in the six private, distinctive gardens on Saturday, June 12. For further information contact Cathy Michener at 928-541-9341 or at caasam@cableone.net.

Cerbat Garden Club



Cerbat GC members judge more than 330 Arbor Day posters submitted by 5th grade students from Kingman area schools.

(left to right: Virginia Hunter, Nina Brackett, Sandie Womack, Connie Day, and Lynda Goldberg)

Cerbat Garden Club received a \$2000 community challenge grant from the Arizona State Land Department – Urban Community Forestry Program in support of our Arbor Day Education Program and Community Celebration.

Nina Brackett gives information to 5th grade students at Black Mountain School about the Arbor Day Poster Contest and Community Celebration.



Cerbat members visited 5th grade classes in 7 schools with lessons on the 2010 Arbor Day theme *Trees Are Terrific.....and Energy Wise*. More than 330 students submitted posters for the Arbor Day Poster Contest. A five-judge panel of Cerbat members reviewed each poster and selected 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for each school. The winners will receive cash awards and certificates signed by Kingman's mayor. Every student who submitted a poster will receive a tree sapling to take home, plant, and grow. We will conclude this year's celebration with a community tree planting on April 24 at the newly-constructed White Cliffs Middle School.



Cerbat GC member and Chair of the HMMC Meditation Garden Project Sujatha Kalanithi hands a signed contract and retainer check to landscape architect Dennis Anderson.

Cerbat GC has signed a contract with local Kingman landscape architect Dennis Anderson for the meditation garden project at the new Hualapai Mountain Medical Center. The fundraising campaign will begin in earnest this spring for this monumental project. Completion of the meditation garden is expected to take up to 2 years.

Cerbat's 7th annual fundraiser luncheon will be held on Saturday, May 1 from 11:30 – 2:00. This year's theme is "Springtime in the Desert." The program will be presented by one of the Lake Mead National Park Rangers on the topic of desert wildflowers. Tickets are just \$10.00. Club members and many local merchants donate numerous raffle prizes, a major draw in the community for this fundraiser. If you would like to purchase tickets, donate a raffle prize, or have questions, please contact the General Chairman Pat Krivenko (928) 692-2945.

Western District Happenings

PECAN GROVE GARDEN CLUB

Submitted by **Val Colvin**

Pecan Grove has been awarded a Community Challenge Grant for their School Education Tree Project. The grants require matching “in kind” hours, materials or cash. Total value of the Education Grant will be \$11,518, and includes planting trees at all elementary and junior high schools in Yuma School District #1 and Crane Elementary School District #13. Twenty-seven schools and more than 17,000 students will be involved. In addition to the \$5,759 grant, funds for this project are provided, in part, by the Urban and Community Forestry Financial Assistance Program administered through the State of Arizona Forestry Division-Urban & Community Forestry, and the USDA Forest Service.



The first tree was planted at Ron Watson Middle School on January 25. Attending and helping plant the tree were: Certified Arborists Frank Saldana and Frank Vasquez; Ron Watson student council members; Willene Calvert, Pecan Grove President; Marlina Parrott, and Val Colvin club members; and special guest Louise Wakem, Urban and Community Forester, Arizona State Forestry Division Project. Project Chairman is Renee McGarvie. The anticipated completion date of the project is early March.

The purpose of the Community Challenge Grant is to educate. Education provided by Pecan Grove Garden Club for the Tree Project includes a tree planting demonstration by a Certified Arborist at each school, a video of proper tree planting procedure to all classrooms, and assurance that all classrooms receive a printed description of the Sissoo tree that is being planted at all schools. A coloring and activity book featuring Yuma trees is provided to each elementary student and seven quality urban forestry and tree information books is donated to each middle school library.

MGM Garden Club and Yuma Garden Club

Submitted by **Karen Bowen**



Charlotte Cook, co-chairman of Yuma Garden Club's flower show, enjoying the horticulture displays.

The MGM Garden Club's Open House and the Yuma Garden Club's small standard flower show offered everyone a chance to begin Valentine's Day celebrations a little early. Both events were held at the U of A Cooperative Extension Office, February 13, and were centered around romantic themes.

The MGM event was titled, "Bring your Sweetheart to the Garden" and offered the public a tour of the Robert Moody Demonstration Garden, a chance to enjoy knee-slapping music provided by the Old Time Fiddler's group, free refreshments, and the opportunity to buy their sweetheart a long-stemmed rose.

After the MGM Open House, Yuma Garden Club opened their flower show to the public. The theme, "Bring Your Sweetheart to the Flowers", gave floral designers a fun opportunity to create arrangements centered around romantic titles: "First Kiss", "Tiny Treasures", "First Love", and "Love in Bloom". The horticulture division had classes of foliage plants in containers, flowering plants in containers, orchids, cacti, and cut specimens of herbs. The public and garden club members in the Federated Garden Clubs of Yuma were invited to participate in the show. An educational exhibit was provided by Karen Bowen which taught the principles of xeriscape landscaping.

The Award of Merit winners were: Val Colvin, Pecan Garden Club, cacti division; Stacey Bealmear, Urban Horticulturist with the U of A Cooperative Extension Office, foliage division; Cal Kelley, Yuma Garden Club, flowering plant division. The Horticulture Sweepstakes winner was Judy Vine, Yuma Orchid Society, and the Design Sweepstakes winner was Charlotte Cook, Yuma Garden Club. The Best of Show winner was Karen Bowen, Yuma Garden Club.

The chairmen for the flower show, Mary Lou Milstead, Charlotte Cook, and Karen Bowen, were all pleased at the great success of Yuma Garden Club's flower show.

Central District

Desert Pointe Garden Club

Last November, members from the Desert Pointe Garden Club began working on a series of garden projects with students at the Summit School of Ahwatukee. Suchi Roy and Laura Otradovec, Summit School teachers, participated in the project with Desert Pointe members. The first project was the "make a wish" wildflower seed throw" that was reported in the January Greenleaf. Today, the gardens are lush with greenery and wildflowers beginning to bloom.



Our most recent garden project, with the preschoolers was to create a Hummingbird garden on campus. Ande Glaese gave a classroom lesson on hummingbirds and how to attract them to a garden. Several members assisted the children in planting the garden, and a feeder & a nest building supply cage donated by Desert Pointe were set up in the garden as well. As you can see from the photo, it is difficult to say who enjoyed the gardening experience more, the children or the members. Desert Pointe Garden Club members will be visiting with the preschool children periodically to help them care for and appreciate their new Hummingbird garden.

NEED PROGRAM HELP?

Garden club members, remember, I am available to assist you with programs and to provide possible program ideas should you need my help. I also have a list from which to create themes for yearly meetings, special gatherings or celebrations and flower shows. Contact your Program Chair, Wanda Collins at wanda.qcaz@yahoo.com

PLANT SPOTLIGHT



Phacelia campanularia

Desert Bluebells

How could anyone be blue looking at this pretty face?

Every Arizona gardener deserves to be happy and our Arizona Blue Bell puts a smile on your face. This sweet little flower brightens gardens throughout our state.

Plant the seeds in fall on gravelly soil for early spring bloom. They take minimum water once established but do require full sun and good drainage. The green fuzzy heart-shaped leaves are red around the edge. Care should be taken when handling, as it causes dermatitis in some people.

Our Bluebell is very short, usually under a foot, so plant them where they can be seen and beloved. Let the magnificent flower go to seed. Gather the seeds, share with your friends and watch how these beauties put a smile on their face.

By Carol Parrott

Photo by Bob Lindholm

Floral Fiesta

The Arizona Flower Show Judges Council wishes to thank all those who supported our design program "Floral Fiesta". The winner of the Hergesheimer containers was KAREN HEABERLIN who was thrilled with the containers and the arrangements that were in them.

2010 Calendar of Events

March 13th

Maricopa County Master Gardeners
Real Gardens for Real People Tour

March 19th

Tempe GC Garden Tea
Petersen House

March 27th

MEVRS Annual Garden Tour

March 31st

Everything is Coming Up Daffodils Contest

April 9th & 10th

AFGC Convention
AZ Golf Resort, Mesa, AZ

April 10th

Scottsdale Rose Show

April 22nd

Pacific Region Convention
Spokane, WA

April 25th

The Phoenix Rose Society
Tea in the Garden

May 1st

Cerbat Garden Club
Springtime in the Desert

May 14th

National Garden Clubs Convention
Atlanta, GA

May 21st & 22nd

It's About Time
Standard Flower Show
Sedona, AZ

June 6th - 12th

National Garden Week

June 12th

Alta Vista Garden Club
The Prescott Garden Tour