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**Welcome back AFGC Members**

Dear AFGC Member,

Here we are in August! We are having a sizzling Arizona summer throughout most of our state. Our Northern members must certainly be enjoying the summer. I have been spending as much time as possible in Lakeside, where the weather is lovely... cool nights and afternoon rains. As I write this memo, it is 113 F. here in Scottsdale.



It has been an exciting year with flower shows, garden tours, a successful fundraiser, a great convention, a new blue star memorial, daffodil contests, butterfly contests, and educational meetings. AFGC has excelled in winning state, region and national awards for youth, publications and scholarships. Our members can be so proud of their accomplishments.

As we begin a new Garden Club year, I would like to remind you that we need to familiarize ourselves with our AFGC website. Websites and e-mail communication are becoming increasingly important and provide a wealth of information. Let it be a tool for you to increase your knowledge about upcoming events in our state. Don't forget to check the links to National Garden Clubs, Inc. and Pacific Region websites and events.

We all continue to grow and to learn new things. That includes this president. I am especially grateful to be able to travel around the state to visit each of our districts and to get better acquainted with our wonderful members. We have many exciting plans for this next year including, hosting the Pacific Region Convention. Please plan to attend. Our National President Renee Blaschke will be here, as well as Sandy Ford, Pacific Region director and all of the state presidents from the 8 states in our region.

Looking forward to seeing all of you again at The Fall District Meetings.

[Sharron](#)

## Calendar of Events

**September 23, 2010**

NGC Fall Board Meeting  
Great Falls, MT

**September 25, 2010**

[Andy Devine Days Parade](#)  
Kingman, AZ

**October 9, 2010**

[Northern District Meeting](#)

**October 16-17, 2010**

Orchid Society of Arizona  
[Annual Orchid Show and Sale](#)

**October 16-17, 2010**

Desert Botanical Garden  
[Fall Plant Sale](#)

**October 16-29, 2010**

Arizona State Fair

**October 26, 2010**

AFGC Board Meeting  
Mesa Community College

**October 30, 2010**

Master Gardener Fall  
Plant Sale  
Maricopa County  
Extension Center

**November 2nd, 2010**

Eastern & Central District  
Meeting  
[Registration Form](#)

**Nov 13th & 14th, 2010**

"Viva Sonora"  
Standard Flower Show  
[Tucson Garden Club](#)

**November 16, 2010**

Pecan Grove Garden Club  
["Citrus in Yuma"](#)

**November 18, 2010**

Holiday Greens Workshop  
Sedona Public Library

**November 20, 2010**

MEVR Rose Show & Dinner  
Mesa Community College

## ATLANTA ABLOOM

Carol Parrott



When I first learned that I would be going to National Garden Club's 81st Annual Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, I wasn't too excited. May in the South? Humidity, bugs and more humidity? We Westerners are pretty spoiled!

Then Sandy Ford, our Pacific Region Director, arranged for me to share a room with Nevada's President elect who convinced me to come two days early to take advantage of the pre-convention tours National was offering.

The first day we toured mansions, gardens and plantations and enjoyed a Southern buffet luncheon at one of the mansions. We sampled fig jam served on home made bread, family recipe provided for all.

The second day we toured the State Botanical Gardens of Georgia where The Garden Clubs of Georgia built their magnificent headquarters. One of their members catered our yummy lunch served in their elegant meeting room. Later we would find that after the luncheon, when they were taking the tablecloth off the head table, a highly poisonous snake slithered out from under our NGC President, Renee Blaschke's chair.

In the afternoon we toured the historic building and gardens of the first garden club in America, the "Ladies Garden Club" founded 1891. Returning to the hotel, our bus bottomed out making a turn and we all got off, sat on the curb, and waited for the tow truck. NGC sure knows how to put on exciting tours!

The Convention opened promptly and stayed true to schedule. It was flawless, fast and very interesting.

The designs were magnificent and from the USA, Mexico and South America. The seminars were fabulous, vendors were varied and there was something for everyone. The speakers were fascinating and the dinners were first class.

Highlights for me:

- Representing Arizona and receiving our state awards. I overheard someone say, "You can't beat Arizona in the School poetry contests. They always take it."
- Getting to know all the wonderful people in the Pacific Region.
- Getting to meet all the wonderful gardeners from our glorious USA.
- Dinner with the Gunderson's in a local Italian gourmet restaurant. Thank you Elaine for helping and guiding me through my first, but not last, NGC Convention!

## **Calendar of Events**

**February (TBA) 2011**  
AFGC Spring Board Meeting  
Mesa Community College

**February 15, 2011**  
Pecan Garden Club  
["Landscaping on a Budget"](#)

**March (TBA) 2011**  
Cerbac GC Annual Luncheon

**March 3-4, 2011**  
Flower Show Symposium  
Valley Garden Center,  
Phoenix

**March 13, 2011**  
Pecan Garden Club  
["Welcome to My Garden Tour"](#)

**March 26-27, 2011**  
Scottsdale Garden Club  
["Springtime in the Desert"](#)

**March 31-April 3, 2011**  
Arts and Flowers  
Phoenix Art Museum

**April (TBA) 2011**  
Arbor Day Comm. Celebration & Tree Planting,  
Kingman, AZ

**April 14th - 16th, 2011**  
"Desert Splendor"  
Pacific Region Convention  
Hilton Resort, Scottsdale, AZ

**April 17th, 2011**  
77th AFGC Annual Convention  
Hilton Resort,  
Scottsdale, AZ

**April 15-17, 2011**  
Mohave County Home &  
Garden Expo,  
Kingman, AZ

**May (TBA) 2011**  
Cerbac GC Fundraiser  
Tour of Gardens,  
Kingman, AZ

**May 27th - 30th, 2011**  
NGC Convention  
Marriott Hotel  
Washington DC

**June 5- 11, 2011**  
National Garden Week Boyce  
Thompson Arboretum

Things I learned:

- National Garden Club puts on a great convention.
- Gardeners are ordinary people who do extraordinary things. It was amazing to learn what others are doing all across our great nation.
- Magnolia flowers are the size of a small dinner plate.
- Southern hospitality rocks!

Next year's convention is going to be in Washington DC and I encourage you to go. I promise you that you won't be sorry.

## **National Garden Club Headquarters**

Judy Tolbert

On a recent trip, I had the pleasure of visiting the Missouri Botanical Gardens, and while there, I decided to also visit the National Garden Club headquarters. The building resides just outside the garden but is directly accessible. The staff was very friendly and helpful and gave me a tour of the building pointing out items of interest. One of the most interesting features was the carpet in the main hall. Each NGC Region was represented in an area that bordered the main carpet, and the logo relative to their State's Garden Clubs was woven into each border. I have posted a few photos on our website including the Arizona logo as it appears in the Pacific Region carpet as well as several of the beautiful porcelain flowers displayed in glass cases in the main hall. To view more photos go to the AFGC Photo Album under [NGC Headquarters](#) . If you have an opportunity to be in St. Louis, Mo, the garden and the NGC headquarters make for a full day of beauty and entertainment.



## **Daffodil Contest**

Barbara Mlnarik

Don't forget to plant your daffodils in the next few months. The Photo Contest is on again for 2010 -2011. More information will be posted on the website soon so start hunting for some awesome bulbs.

## **Kudos to Mary Jo Wall!**

Sharron Luoma

Mary Jo has been AFGC Scholarship Chairman for 15 years – And during that time, AFGC has received 14 national scholarships for our students. This is an awesome accomplishment on the part of Mary Jo and her committee who make sure that the applicants are interviewed, their applications evaluated, all rules followed and forms filled out correctly; then sent on to National for further evaluation. To view all of the 2009 - 2010 Arizona Scholarships awarded by NGC and AFGC 75th Anniversary Scholarship Fund go here.

[http://www.afgcgreenleaf.org/media/AA/Al/afgcgreenleaf-org/downloads/81141/Scholarship\\_Page.doc](http://www.afgcgreenleaf.org/media/AA/Al/afgcgreenleaf-org/downloads/81141/Scholarship_Page.doc)

## Design Corner

Buff Harrington



### Helpful Hints: Gerber Daisy

- Cut the end of the stem in a sharp point so that the gerber can get as much water as possible

- Oasis clogs the stem of gerbers so, using a pencil, make a hole in the oasis and insert the gerber stem into that hole. Leave half an inch extra in the length of the hole so that the oasis debris will not clog the gerber stem.

- Decorative wire can be wound around the stem to keep it standing straight or you can carefully bend the wire and stem to get the stem to arch.

## District Challenge

### Birds, Bees & Butterflies Garden

Karley Fahlsing



Two projects are currently underway but grant funds are still available for your projects and it's simple to qualify.

### What's in it for us?

A \$200 AFGC grant is available to each District for projects that attract birds, bees and butterflies. Ask your District Director to request the grant from the AFGC Birds, Bees & Butterflies Chairman. The most "efficient and effective" use of the grant for a project will be awarded \$100. Second place will receive \$50. Winners will be announced at the AFGC Convention in April 2011. "Efficient and effective" can have many interpretations. Do not limit your imagination or utilization.

### What defines a qualifying project?

Must be a new project or a new phase of an existing project.

Use plants that attract birds, bees, and butterflies

Emphasize native plants and wild flowers.

### What do we need to do when we complete the project?

Send a brief write-up with photos, including those showing the growth of the garden by February 1, 2011. It is recognized that some projects will have a later planting than others. Send your write-up and photos to Karley Fahlsing, AFGC Birds, Bees & Butterflies Chairman, 7015 N Camino de los Caballos, Tucson, AZ 85743. For further information, please contact Karley at 520-579-4399 or email [karley@totacc.com](mailto:karley@totacc.com)

## Pacific Region and AFGC Convention Fundraiser

A Jewelry Boutique to be held in the Vendor Room is one of several fund raising projects planned to help defray the cost of hosting the 2011 Pacific Region and AFGC Conventions. Weeders Garden Club has graciously volunteered to manage the jewelry boutique, and will be collecting gently used or superfluous jewelry to be offered for sale at the jewelry booth. We hope members will dig into their jewelry boxes and find items they can contribute to this endeavor. Diana Johns, who is Chairman of this project, would like to collect the items at the AFGC board meeting on October 26, 2010 to be held at Mesa Community College. It was suggested that members bring their donated jewelry to their September and October club meetings and your club president or representative who will attend the October Board meeting can deliver them to Diana. For further information, please contact Diana Johns at 480-895-8729 or email Ann Wesolowski at [annw85248@gmail.com](mailto:annw85248@gmail.com)

## Plant Spot



One of the major benefits of participating in the Master Gardener program is the great educational opportunities offered at the monthly updates for MG volunteers. Since the Plant Spot for this issue was about planning a fall vegetable garden, having the opportunity to attend Pam Perry's knowledgeable presentation on the subject couldn't have worked out better. Pam is the Director of the Demonstration Garden at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension office and with the help of other volunteers and interns, she has greatly expanded the vegetable gardens over the past several years. She is a devoted and long time MG and as difficult as it may seem with the temperatures reaching 110° or better, Pam convinced us that it is a perfect time to start planning a fall vegetable garden. There are several excellent books that discuss the various methods and tips on planting a garden including *Desert Gardening* by George Brookbank, *Desert Gardening for Beginners* from the AZ Master Gardener Press, and if you really want to get intense, read *How to Grow More Vegetables* by John Jeavons.

## Washington Garden Club

Wally Vigors  
President



The Washington Garden Club invites you to learn about Permaculture from an expert. Please join them on September 10th at 9:30 AM at the Valley Garden Center located at 1809 N. 15th Ave in Phoenix for coffee, cake and an exciting 90 minute presentation by Doreen Pollack, Permaculture Designer, Master Gardener and owner of Down 2 Earth Gardens.. Doreen will provide advice to home owners on how to reduce the use and dependency of outside resources in their landscape. Doreen specializes in working with do-it-yourself gardeners and people just beginning to use their garden for growing edibles. She is also the Chair of the Board for the Permaculture Guild and one of their class instructors. For more information, please contact Ralph & Linda Pierce hostess: [Chiefrigger@cox.net](mailto:Chiefrigger@cox.net)  
623-936-7207

## Alta Vista Garden Club



If you didn't attend the Prescott Garden Tour on June 12th, you missed some lovely gardens. Six Prescott gardens were on display and each was unique in its setting. Be sure to check out photos of the tour at our Alta Vista Photo Album on the AFGC website.

Pam emphasized the importance of soil preparation and planning your space to insure the best results for your efforts. For information on how to grow a successful vegetable garden, the preferred varieties for our AZ climate and the ideal time of year to plant them, click here to download UofA Publication AZ1005, and also Publication AZ1435. Pam will be presenting a class on Vegetable Gardening for the Low Desert on September 18, 2010 which is open to the public as part of the Desert Garden Institute series of classes presented by Master Gardeners. To view other classes available this fall, log on here.

<http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/dgi.htm>

**NEW MEETING SITE**



Cerbat Garden Club has a new meeting place this year. In return for Cerbat's participation in designing and implementing an onsite meditation-healing garden, the new Hualapai Mountain Medical Center in Kingman has graciously offered the club a meeting site at it's facility. With a number of new members, a terrific line-up of programs, and projects too numerous to list, Cerbat officers and members are anticipating a very exciting but busy year.

**ADOPT-A-BLOCK**



In 2006, Cerbat GC worked with the City of Kingman, Downtown Merchants Association, and the Clean City Commission on the "Downtown Beautification" civic improvement project by placing large planters along historic Beale Street in Old Town. Club volunteers have maintained the planters, and have regularly added colorful and seasonal annuals. In 2010, members voted to once again team with the Clean City Commission. Cerbat joined the "Adopt-A-Block" program and now are responsible for three blocks along historic Beale Street including the care of three more planters at the Powerhouse Visitors Center.

## HORTICULTURE THERAPY



*We are sad to share the news that long time member Winnie Donald passed away July 28th, 2010. Winnie was Superintendent of Floriculture at the state fair for many years, and she instructed many AFGC members in the art of Ikebana. Winnie was 94.*

Cerbat's Horticulture Therapy Committee, co-chaired by Sharon Mozis and Connie Day, quietly go about making life more beautiful and enjoyable for residents of Kingman's nursing homes and adult care centers. Several landscape projects have been accomplished over the past three years at Desert Highlands Care Center. Most recently, the employees' patio was landscaped using bulbs, cacti, and drought-tolerant plants and now they can enjoy their free time surrounded by a lovely desert-scape area.

## Pecan Grove Garden Club

Val Colvin

### 443 YOUNG PEOPLE ENTER THE 17th ANNUAL YOUTH POETRY CONTEST



The 2009-2010 topic selected by NGC was "Our Beautiful World", and competition was open to young people in kindergarten through ninth grade, with each grade judged as a separate contest. Winners were honored during a public ceremony on December 6, 2009. Parents, grandparents, teachers and others, totaling 110, were present to hear the children recite their poems. First, second and third place winners received gift certificates for use at a bookstore. All students submitting entries received certificates.

<http://www.afgcgreenleaf.org/home/awards>

## Desert Sun Tennis Courts Project

Val Colvin



On July 1st, Pecan Grove Garden Club and Yuma tennis enthusiasts celebrated the grand reopening ceremony of the Desert Sun Tennis courts located adjacent to Friendship Park, Yuma Civic Center and Desert Sun Stadium. Pecan Grove Garden Club donated \$2600 for landscaping around the facility. Becky Chavez, City Parks and Recreation director and City Administrator Greg Wilkinson opened the ceremony offering special thanks to the Garden Club for its generous donation. The refurbished landscape features low water use desert plants, trees, landscape boulders and aggregate matching the color of the tennis courts. The Garden Club has plans to add signage in the future to identify plant material and the club as a sponsor.

See more photos of the Desert Sun Tennis Courts Project on the AFGC Website.

## Scottsdale Garden Club

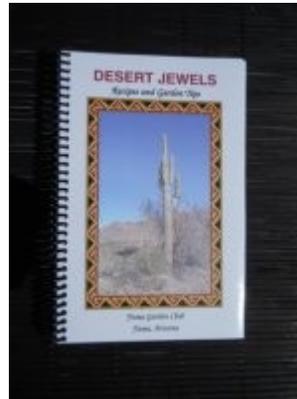
Rea Heesch

### *“Springtime in the Desert”*

A Standard Flower Show

On March 26th – 27th 2011 at the Mustang Library, Scottsdale Garden Club invites you to see an amazing display of the Desert in Bloom featuring colorful spring flower horticulture specimens, floral designs, artistic crafts, youth and educational exhibits. All classes in this event are open to any amateur grower or designer.

Check the AFGC website for the Springtime in the Desert Flyer for details on time and location. For more information, email [pidgez@cox.net](mailto:pidgez@cox.net) or call at 480-922-3157.



The Yuma Garden Club has a new cookbook of member's favorite recipes hot off the press. "Desert Jewels" contains not only recipes, but also gardening tips. To order a copy, contact Cal Kelley ([geo-cal@hotmail.com](mailto:geo-cal@hotmail.com)) or Karen Bowen ([bowenkaren@ymail.com](mailto:bowenkaren@ymail.com)), Cost is \$15 plus \$3 shipping. All proceeds go to fund their community service projects. To view the Yuma Garden Club 2010-2011 Programs and Calendar go to this site. [http://www.fgcyuma.org/yuma\\_garden\\_club3.html](http://www.fgcyuma.org/yuma_garden_club3.html)

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State Life Memberships (\$25.00 each) are often purchased as a gift for a friend or to honor a garden club member. AFGC deposits the money in a restricted fund using only the interest for scholarships. For Life Membership information, contact

Diana Johns,  
26213 S. Nottingham Dr.  
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248-9287