

Arizona Blooms

News from Scottsdale Garden Club

Member of Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs

Pacific Region Garden Clubs

National Garden Clubs

October 2024

Vol 3, No 1

President's Corner | Carol Parrott



Dear Garden Club Members,

It's October, the time of year when many of our members, including me, are returning to the valley. If you're a snowbird or a sunbird ... Welcome back, we're glad you're here.

In the summer we live at 8,000' in the middle of the Dixie National Forest, a forest that is stressed from years of drought and rising temperatures. The snow load was low again this winter and offered no relief from the drought.

Upon arrival in Utah this summer, the forest floor was covered with pinecones. They were everywhere, a bumper crop. In 32 years, we never saw anything like it! The U.S. Forest Service explained that healthy trees put their energy into growth; stressed trees produce an abundance of pinecones hoping to perpetuate their existence and not go extinct!



Is Mother Nature sending us a message? And, if so, what can we do?

Well, we can start by replacing all the beautiful plants we lost over the summer with native or

desert adapted plants, like the Native Fairy Duster pictured here:



Photo by Bob Lindholm

This simple act contributes much to our conservation efforts. Native plants use far less water and do not require fertilizers.

Conservation means the sustainable use and management of natural resources, including wildlife, plants, water, air, and earth deposits.

Congratulations! We all thank you for your conservation efforts.

I can't wait to see everyone at our October meeting.

Fondly, Carol

**For October's Meeting
Deadline to Sign up or Cancel:**

Wednesday, Oct 2nd, 2024 by Noon

Email or Text:

susansalembier14@gmail.com

or 602-743-9133

**If you have pre-paid, you must cancel, or
your account will be charged.**

October Meeting Preview |

Jeanne Isbell



“Celebrating Scottsdale’s Sister Cities”

Lisa White of Scottsdale’s Sister Cities will introduce us to their programs which aim to “Build Bridges of

International Understanding and Goodwill.” Scottsdale’s Sister Cities is the theme of this year’s SGC Standard Flower Show.

Tablespaces will be contributed by **Aurien Priess**.

Yearbooks will be distributed!



Thought for the Day

“A garden is only as rich and beautiful as the integral health of the system; pollinators are essential to the system - make your home their home.”

-- Derry MacBride, National Affairs and Legislation Chairwoman, Garden Club of America

Mark Your Calendar

October 17-20, 2024 (Oct 17– DBG Mbrs Only)
Reservations required; 7:00 am – 3:00 pm
Desert Botanical Garden Fall Plant Sale

October 23, 2024 –

AFGC Fall Executive Board Meeting - 10:30
AFGC Fall BoD Meeting – 1:00 pm
Valley Garden Center, 1809 N 15th Ave,
Phoenix, AZ 85007

November 12, 2024

SGC Field Trip to Berridge Nurseries
Seasons Shop
4647 E Camelback Rd, Phoenix, 85018 –
Meet at 10:00 am; Lunch to follow at The
Henry, 4455 E Camelback Rd

AFGC Scholarship Awards | *Jamie Dick*

Congratulations to **Sophia Page!**



It is indeed a pleasure to announce Sophia as the AFGC \$5,000 scholarship award recipient for the 2024-2025 academic year. She is an outstanding ASU student majoring in Applied Biological Sciences. Her academic performance, leadership qualities, and hard work truly set her apart.

We were delighted to meet Sophia at our AFGC 90th Annual Meeting where she presented the research project that she leads which compares biodiversity in an urban desert landscape to soil sequestration. She leads a team of ten other students working on this project.

We are excited to welcome Sophia to the AFGC family. She exemplifies our commitment, as an organization, to promoting the love and knowledge of gardening through education, resources, and scholarships.



Her application was forwarded to NGC and PRGC in competition for an additional \$4,000 and \$1,000 scholarship, respectively.

MJ Sobota
Judy Kennedy

October 24
October 26

The AFGC Scholarship Committee also selects two Gertrude Claypool Scholarship winners through the ASU Foundation. **Alexandra Nelson** and **Mario Torres Gasco** were the outstanding recipients of \$5,000 each for the 2024-2025 academic year.

Thanks to the garden club members serving on the AFGC Scholarship Committee: From the left below, **Sharon Davis**, Judy Kennedy, **Sophia Page** (student recipient), **Jamie Dick**, and **Jennifer Moreland**.



AFGC is proud to support students interested in helping our environment and who show excellent leadership skills.

October Birthdays



Best Wishes to our members with an October Birthday!

Christine Morgan **October 6**
Betty McMichael **October 12**
Lenda Sundene **October 16**

Plant of the Month | *Jeanne Isbell*

Growing Penstemon

Penstemon, often called “beardtongue”, is one of my favorite native plants. This wildflower thrives in the desert’s challenging climate, offering vibrant blooms that attract pollinators like bees and hummingbirds. Its drought tolerance and adaptability make it perfect for our low-desert landscape. Here are 5 tips on how to successfully grow penstemon in your home gardens.



1. Choose the Right Varieties -Not all penstemon varieties thrive in the low desert. Look for species adapted to hot, dry conditions. My favorites are “Penstemon Parry”, Parry’s Penstemon which has brilliant pink flowers and is a favorite among pollinators, and “Penstemon eatoni”, Firecracker penstemon. Known for its bright red blooms, this species attracts hummingbirds and makes a vibrant addition to the garden.
2. Provide Well-Draining Soil – Penstemon prefers rocky or sandy, well-drained soil, mimicking its native desert environment. Amend heavy clay soils with coarse sand or organic material to improve drainage, as soggy soil can cause root rot.
3. Plant in Full Sun – Penstemon needs at least six hours of direct sunlight each day. Full sun encourages abundant flowering and



healthy plants. Ensure your plants are placed where they receive maximum sunlight to thrive in the heat.

4. Water Sparingly – Once established, penstemon is very drought-tolerant. Water young plants regularly until they are rooted, but after that, reduce watering. During the summer months, deep water once every 10-14 days. Over watering can lead to fungal issues and weak plants.

5. Prune After Blooming – After penstemon blooms in the spring, cut back the stalks to encourage new growth and prolong blooming. Deadheading also prevents the plants from self-seeding excessively, keeping your garden looking tidy.

By choosing the right varieties and following these tips, you can enjoy the beauty of penstemon in your desert garden year after year.

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with Brent and Becky's

With Bloomin' Bucks, we're not asking for your money. We are asking you to do what you normally do... buy plants for your garden through Brent and Becky. They offer a great variety of quality plants and bulbs at a reasonable price!

How Bloomin' Bucks works:

- Use your smart phone camera to view the QR code to the right or go online to www.bloominbucks.com
- Select from the drop down "Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc."
- Click GO to start shopping from their huge selection of plants, bulbs, supplements, books, tools, and more!

What you get:

- Your order will ship directly to your front door.
- And AFGC will automatically get 25% of your product total.

There really isn't an easier way to support us. find us at: www.azgardenclubs.com

Treasurer's Report | Susan Salembier

April 2024

Starting Balances (04/01/24)

Checking/Savings \$7,875.50 / \$6,879.00

INCOME

Dues	528.00	
Table Centerpieces	49.00	
Penny Pines	30.00	
Fundraiser (Net)	-163.75	
Raffle	72.00	
Lunches	663.00	
Name Tags	17.00	
TOTAL INCOME	1195.25	/ 0.00

EXPENSES

AFGC Donations	75.00
Name Tags	16.83
Lunches	975.38
New Member Gift	16.28
Officer Expense	9.38
Publicity (EarthFest)	45.74
TOTAL EXPENSES	1138.61

Ending Balances (04/30/24)

CD 6,000.00
 Checking/Savings \$7,932.14 / \$879.00
 (Includes \$544.042 of Prepaid Lunches)

Meeting Minutes | Carol Parrott

McCormick Ranch Golf Club
 May 6, 2024

President **Carol Parrott** called the meeting to order at 12:00.



Birthdays were acknowledged and guests were introduced: Mayor of the City of Scottsdale

David Ortega and his wife, **Rosemary Gannon**.

The centerpieces were designed by **Diane Davis** and **Evie Campbell**. The blessing was given by **Evie Campbell**.

Luncheon was served from 12:00 – 1:00.

Mayor **David Ortega** addressed our club and thanked us for the invitation.

Scottsdale Water Conservation Specialist, **Bill Casenhiser**, presented a program on “Water: Use it Wisely.”

April minutes were approved as published. **Susan Salembier** gave the Treasurer’s Report. She collected dues and donations for Penny Pines. Susan shared her Arbor Day experience and digitizing our club’s history.

Carol Parrott explained that every attempt would be made to keep the cost down on the Yearbooks next year while still meeting all the requirements for Award judging.

Judy Kennedy spoke on AFGC’s Annual Meeting and the next SGC Flower.

Sharon Davis shared her findings on the possibility of having our meetings at the Scottsdale Library.

It was decided to remain at McCormick Ranch for our 2024-2025 Scottsdale Garden Club season.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08.

Year End Report | Susan Salembier

June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024

Starting Balances (06/01/23)

Checking/Savings \$4,528.24 / \$6,875.15

INCOME

Dues	1,185.00
Dues New Members	15.00
Table Centerpieces	299.00
Calendars	46.02
Xmas Workshop Raffle	220.00
Penny Pines Collection	202.00
AFGC Special Refund	548.00
Plant/Seed Sale	66.00
Fundraiser (Net)	3,045.26
April Raffle	72.00
Name Tags	51.00
NSF Fees	24.00

Interest on Savings 3.86

TOTAL INCOME 5,773.28

EXPENSES

AFGC Dues	487.50
Memorial Donations	125.00
Arbor Day Tree	300.00
Central Dist Mtg	74.75
A/V Equipment	50.98
Penny Pines Donation	204.00
Name Tags	33.66
Valley Garden Ctr	20.00
Calendars	46.00
Website Fees	178.63
Year Book Printing	457.00
Speaker Lunches	273.00
Speaker Stipends	150.00
Membership	23.86
Corresponding Sec	44.58
Historian	218.72
Publicity	45.74
<u>NSF Fees</u>	<u>24.00</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 2,757.42

Prepaid Lunches 56.65

ENDING BALANCES \$7,600.75/ \$6,879.01



Gallery



Joan Yagoda found these peonies in a Paris Hotel Lobby



And these in an Aix en Provence flower market



Karon Quigg sent two bird pics

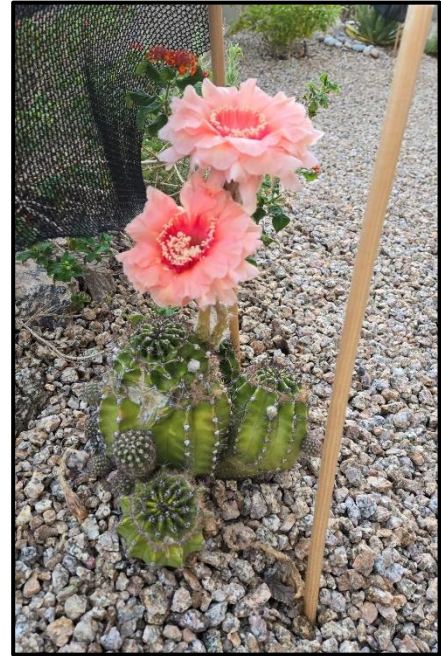


This bird swooped in just as the sun rose





A bird's eye view of Jo Waterman's hostas and clematis



Sherry Baer's little cactus produced two blooms this year



In June several members met for lunch!

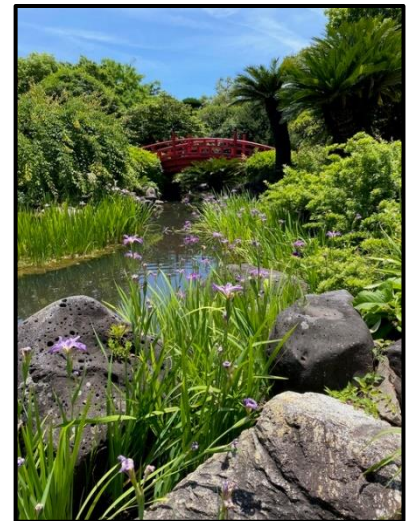




Cedar Breaks National Monument as seen from Carol Parrott's summer office.

And, Susan Salembier sent these pictures from her cruise around Japan and Korea.

Yeomiji Botanic Garden, Jeju Island, South Korea, features a 3-acre glass greenhouse with 5 themed gardens and a 120' observation tower, plus 24 acres of outdoor gardens variously themed.



Sengan-en in Kagoshima on the Island of Kyushu, Japan, uses the principle of borrowed scenery. The active volcano of Sakurajima looms in the background.



The Peace Statue in the City of Nagasaki dedicated as an appeal for lasting world peace and as a prayer that an atomic bombing would never be repeated.



Susan also visited shrines in lush forest settings, surrounded by city skyscrapers.

