



Arizona Blooms

News from Scottsdale Garden Club

Member of Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs

Pacific Region Garden Clubs

National Garden Clubs

October 2026

Vol 5, No 1

President's Corner | Jeanne Isbell



Hello Garden Club Members,

Can you believe our recent wonderful rain and that the current temperature is 78 degrees?

I just had to start with that as we put the extreme heat behind us.

I sincerely hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to our garden club year. Your board has been busy preparing for our meetings at our new location.

We are also in the process of designing rack cards to promote our club. We'll use these at community events and other possible locations, which we hope will attract new members. A new club logo is in the works, as well as updating our by-laws and standing rules.

The summer lunches were well attended, with a fourth of our membership there to enjoy the camaraderie.

We are all so fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of our great country; let's all strive to do what we can to keep it that way.

NEW MEETING PLACE!!

**Fellowship Hall
of First Christian Church of Scottsdale**

**7405 E. McDonald Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85250**

**BRING A NON-PERISHABLE
CONTRIBUTION
FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES**

Looking forward to seeing you all on October 5th at the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church.

Fondly, Jeanne

Programs Planned for 2026-27

See all the programs planned for 2026-27 at our website: <https://scottsdalegc.org/programs>



October Program Preview |

DeAnna Twigg



Plant Jeopardy!

To kick off our new season, we will be playing a little Plant Jeopardy!

ELS Landscaping Plant Health Specialist **Robbie Cole** will lead us through a Jeopardy game that promises to test our plant knowledge as we learn more about the plants while playing the game.

Meeting Coordinator for October is **Chris Wolff**. **Jamie Dick** will deliver a Spotlight on Horticulture.

Dates to Remember

October 12 – 14, 2026
Pacific Region Garden Club Convention '26
Thousand Oaks, CA

October 22, 2026
AFGC Fall Member/BoD Meeting
Valley Garden Center
1809 N 15th Ave, Phoenix AZ 85007

April 5-7, 2027
Pacific Region Garden Club Convention '27
Portland, OR

April 26-28, 2027
AZ Federation of Garden Clubs Convention
Desert Diamond Casino Hotel
Tucson, AZ

Scottsdale Libraries Host FREE Gardening Classes

The Scottsdale Library System Calendar of Events includes free opportunities this Fall to broaden our understanding of what it takes to garden in the Arizona environment.

Mustang Library Branch at 10101 N 90th St is offering two sessions of “Ask, Learn, Grow with a Master Gardener”, a live Q&A with Master Gardeners. These will be held on Saturdays, 10/17/26 and 11/21/26, beginning at 11:00am.

Arabian Library Branch at 10215 E McDowell Mtn Ranch Rd will have a “Fall Garden Success Series”:

Tuesday, 10/20/26, Herbs Tips and Tricks
Tuesday, 11/17/26, Citrus Growing Workshop
All classes begin at 5:00pm.

The Arabian Branch is also holding a “Fall Plant and Seed Swap” on Thursday, 10/22/26, at 5:00pm.

Learn more about the classes by clicking [here](#).

Japanese Friendship Garden Field Trip Planned

The Japanese Friendship Garden, named Rohoen (鷺鳳園), is the destination for our first field trip this season on November 18th. We'll enjoy a private docent-led tour of this garden gem, a joint project of the City of Phoenix and its Sister City, Himeji, Japan.



The name Rohoen in Japanese means:
Ro – ‘heron’, the symbol of City of Himeji.
Ho – the mythical ‘Phoenix’ bird.
En – ‘garden’.

The Garden and teahouse were completed in 1996; it includes a stroll garden, tea garden, and dry garden. All the decorative features were given to the project by the City of Himeji, as well as thousands of hours of design and construction guidance.

As its website says, “Nature, people, and time are the three artists that have created Japanese gardens.”

Plan now to enjoy this truly unique Phoenix area garden. Learn more at www.japanesefriendshipgarden.org.

The garden is located at 1125 N. 3rd Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Cost to members will be \$20 for the private tour of the garden. An optional lunch at The Vig will follow the tour.

AFGC Scholarship Announced |



*Jamie Dick, AFGC
Scholarship Chairman*

We are thrilled to announce that **Chris Butkus**, an outstanding NAU student, is the recipient of the AFGC Scholarship Award for the 2026-2027 academic year. After careful review, **Chris** stood out for his exceptional dedication to the field of forestry, along with his remarkable commitment to conservation and

demonstrated leadership in community service.

Easing the financial burden of tuition, this scholarship will help **Chris** pursue his Forestry major and career goals focusing on forest health, native plant communities and long-term stewardship of natural landscapes in the Southwest.



We are incredibly proud to support **Chris's** educational journey and his demonstrated passion for our forest ecosystems. He exemplifies the goal AFGC strives for in environmental conservation and is an inspiration for us all!

Congratulations, **Chris**!

(Copied from AFGC's Blog page.)

Designer's Choice Winner!

SGC member **Chris Wolff** received the prestigious Designer's Choice Award last March at the “Spring Fever” Flower Show presented by the Desert Designers and Gold Canyon Garden Clubs at Boyce Thompson Arboretum.

Her design was an interpretive work in the “Art in Bloom” class in this National Garden Club Small Standard Flower Show.



The “Art in Bloom” class challenged designers to create living responses to a piece of visual art.

Chris’
winning
entry:



A Thought on Climate Change

“Indeed, if we don’t deploy the resources we now wield, many years into the future our story of failure will simply be this: We understood the threat, we were very smart and exceedingly capable. We had money and we had tools. And we chose not to act.”

-**Jon Gertner**, author of The Ice at the End of the World

October Birthdays

Best Wishes to:

Christine Morgan	October 6
Betty McMichael	October 12
Lenda Sundene	October 16
MJ Sobota	October 24
Judy Kennedy	October 26



Gnomes are where the heart is...

As the Philadelphia Flower Show is the top flower show in the United States, the Chelsea Flower Show, organized by the Royal Horticultural Society, is the United Kingdom’s most prestigious show.

In 2026, the Chelsea show welcomed a long-time uninvited guest: the garden gnome. Once banned, the little figurines were permitted on a one-time basis! **Clare Matterson**, RHS Director General, said the organization wanted “people to be playful with their gardening”, hence the Society lifted the gnome ban for celebrity gnomes only!



The gnomes were part of a fundraising effort to encourage an interest in gardening by children. Celebrities, from comedians (**Tom Allen**) to football stars (**Sir David Beckham**) to movie personalities (**Cate Blanchett**) and rock stars (**Sir Brian May**, lead guitarist in the rock group Queen), contributed the little creatures.

In fact, **Sir Brian’s** “Billy Bad-Axe” garnered a top bid of £3,700, almost \$5,000.

The RHS’s charity auction received a total of £20,352 for their celebrity gnomes.



Gardening Angels

Recently lost AFGC members were memorialized at the Spring AFGC meeting by SGC member **Jen Donovan**.

Several of these “gardening angels” were longtime SGC members **Marilyn Stone** and **Lucy Samuels**.



Newest SGC Member

Laura Eggink is the newest member of the Scottsdale Garden Club. SGC Membership Chair **Chris Wolff** presented her with a ‘Welcome’ plant at the May 2026 meeting. **Laura** is the daughter of SGC member **Laura Eggink**.



Chris, Laura & President Jeanne Isbell

Meeting Minutes | *Joan Yagoda*

McCormick Ranch Golf Club
May 4, 2026



Meeting called to order at noon
by President **Jeanne Isbell**.

Acknowledgement of birthdays: **Linda Eggink, Rea Heesh, Joan Yagoda**

Beautiful mini rose bush centerpieces in pastel pots were provided by **Amy Emary** and **Rea Heesh**.

Helen Griller emphasized Gratitude in the invocation.

April's minutes were presented and approved.

Treasurer **Susan Salembier** reported that next year's dues of \$40 were due today. SGC provided funds to plant a tree at Eldorado Park.

Laura Eggink became the newest member of SGC. Membership Chairperson **Christine Wolff** presented her with a plant.

Informal summer lunches will be held in the dining room at McCormick Ranch at noon, second Monday of each month throughout summer - June 8th, July 13th, August 10th, September 14th. All are encouraged to attend.

New location for SGC monthly meetings starting October will be at First Christian Church 7405 E. McDonald Dr. 85250. Entrance to our meeting room, Fellowship Hall, is accessed at rear parking lot.

There will be an open meeting (all are invited) at **Jeanne Isbell's** home Thursday May 7th 9:30



Gallery | *Photographs Contributed by Jamie Dick*



**Fellowship Hall at First Christian Church,
SGC's New Meeting Place**



**Pres. Jeanne Isbell (center) with May program
planners Amy Emary (left) and Rea Heesch**



May Tablescape



Some of the Many Entries in the May Show





More Entries



Then, the Voting for “Best in Class” Began...



And The Winners Were!



Jeanne Isbell



Aurien Preiss



Rea Heesch



Chris Wolff

