Thank you!
from Nora Graf

This is the time of year I like to thank the Master Gardeners who have helped with various projects through the year.

First on my list is always the people who help me with the newsletter. Marilyn Perkins and Paul Diemer have, for years, been my editors. Without their help, you would have to endure misspellings, unrestrained comma use and a variety of other grammatical faux pas. So thanks for all your help.

Jack Krivdo has been there from the beginning of this newsletter. Every month he comes in and helps fold, staple, label and just handle the process of getting the newsletter ready for mailing. It has been my pleasure to be able to work with Jack all these years.

Thanks to the staff of Cooperative Extension. Over the years they have always been there to help me master the mysteries of each new copy machine (I’ve worn out two; we’re on the third one now.) They have taught me all the arcane postal rules to do a bulk mailing and answered my questions and put up with my wandering through the office while I’m waiting for the copy machine to churn out more newsletters out. Thanks for everything!!

Special thanks to Bev Emerson for taking on the task of keeping us all organized. Over the last two years, Bev has put in an incredible number of hours and improved the Master Gardener Program immeasurably. She has also become a friend.

From Bev Emerson

The Holiday Season is fast approaching and this seems like the time to give a special thank you to our volunteers who have really put a lot of effort into making the Master Gardener Program such a success. I think we have had a
very fruitful year of endeavors. Here are just a few: Cindi Shaffer started the Youth Garden at Abia Judd Elementary School in Prescott. The garden is named the “Secret Garden.” Cindi has received a grant from the U. Of A for this project. Connie Loving has been assisting her in part of this project, and Ann Long donated plants, also. Cindi’s goal is to provide the children “with a window to the natural world around them.” Approximately 400 children have experienced some part of the program since Spring and it has been a very rewarding experience for Cindi.

Eunice Ricklefs and Jonella Blake have been responsible for the Farmers Market in Prescott, which operates during the summer months and has been a major success. Doug McMillan and Charlotte Ewalt put in countless hours on the Margaret T. Morris Center, landscaping with ongoing maintenance, a two-year commitment. Doug McMillan also helped develop the xeriscape brochure for Verde Valley that first became available at the Verde River Days 2002.

Karen Barrow has been heading up the school garden project at the Daniel Bright School in Cottonwood for a few years and always has some new project under way.

A special thank you to all of the officers of the Master Gardener Association who agreed to serve for the fiscal year 2002-2003 and the committee chairpersons and their committees. Their efforts are an ongoing process; developing educational programs for all of us, overseeing volunteer projects, overseeing the recognition program and social events.

Our annual Master Gardener Picnic was hosted by Gey & Bob Gilbert in Camp Verde and we could not have had a greater setting for that event. We want to thank them again for all of their efforts and all of the committee members who pitched in and helped make that event such a success.

Phil Young has given his gardening expertise to the Veterans Hospital for a number of years. We certainly appreciate such dedicated efforts on his part and thank him for the many contributions that he has made to the Master Gardener library in our Prescott office.

Thanks to Jane Davie and Larry Anderson for their great support in the efforts of fundraising and door prizes for this year’s Conference.

We all need to thank Nora Graf for the great job that she does in editing our Yavapai Gardens; she has taken on this responsibility for the past 8 years. What dedication! She does such a great job of keeping all of us in touch with major events and timely articles on gardening. What would we do without her.

What would we do without our Master Gardeners who handle the phone calls for both the Prescott and Cottonwood offices. Some of them have been providing their expertise and knowledge to the public for years. Where would we be without their help.

There is such a great need for the Master Gardener help in our communities. As you can see, we have some major successes this year and more to come. If you haven’t been involved in the past, please step up to the plate and give us a hand. Your community needs you.

We also want to thank Jeff Schalau for his ongoing support and knowledge. It is his support that keeps the program growing.

It has been really rewarding this year to see the involvement of so many of our new Master Gardeners from the 2002 class in a variety of Volunteer efforts. Keep up the great work. Always, in an effort to recognize all of the year’s accomplishments, we unfortunately miss some of the great efforts. Whoever you are, whatever you did for the M/G program was definitely appreciated. Congratulations and keep digging.
Javelina Candy
by Nora Graf

No doubt most of you have planted javelina candy and didn’t even realize it. Javelina are spreading in Arizona and, in my completely unprofessional opinion, humans, in spite of our antipathy toward them, attract them by continuing to plant the choicest morsels for them to feast on. But javelina aren’t the only ones that love these plants—humans have gone completely bonkers over them. The only difference is that humans don’t eat them. The name of this wonderful plant is the tulip.

Tulips have a long and extraordinary history. They are native to central Asia. Native species are shorter with narrower petals and were found in a few colors, predominately red. The Turks seemed to be the first people to cultivate tulips. By 1050 in Persia, tulips appear in gardens and literature. Omar Khayyam used the tulip as a metaphor for female beauty. Other poets used it as a symbol of perfection.

The history of the tulip’s journey is murky, with several stories of questionable virtue being spread, but the most creditable is that of Ogier Ghislain de Busbecq, ambassador for Ferdinand I of Spain to the Ottoman Empire under Sulemain the Magnificent. While traveling through Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1554 he came upon the flowers in Turkish gardens. Then a language misunderstanding gave us the name they are known by today. The word for the flower in Turkish was “lal’e,” but Busbecq took the word they used to describe them, “dulban,” meaning turban, for the name. Eventually it became Tulip. Busbecq besides being an ambassador, was a gardener. He collected and sent bulbs and seeds to Vienna. The new plants quickly attracted attention and were spread through Europe, including the Netherlands.

While it is the Dutch who are famous for their tulips, it was a Frenchman who made them popular. Carolus Clusius was known for creating the Imperial Garden in Vienna where he worked. It was there he began to grow tulips from seeds. Tulips from seeds can take up to 10 years to bloom. Clusius moved to the Netherlands in 1593 where he created the first botanical garden that focused on ornamental plants versus medicinal plants. It was there that the craze started. His tulips were superior to the ones already being grown in the Netherlands and he was loath to part with them, so he started charging high prices for them. Unfortunately for him, rather then selling any, many were stolen from the garden, creating the beginnings of tulip gardens elsewhere.

By the first part of the 1600’s people were beginning to spend increasingly high prices for unusual tulip varieties. The highest sums were paid for the forms where the colors were “broken.” This is where color streaks or speckles the petals, so you might have a red tulip with white streaks. This unusual streaking was caused by a virus, so each flower was different. The desire for these “broken” tulips began to skyrocket. Exorbitant prices were paid for unusual color patterns. Prices escalated as bulbs changed hands, sometimes without the actual tulip bulb ever leaving the garden. In 1683, a thousand gilders bought...
“Semper Augustus,” (just a little less than an average merchant made in a year.) Bulbs were bought with cash or traded for commodities. One, “Viceroy,” sold for “2 loads of wheat, 4 loads of rye, 8 fat pigs, 12 fat sheep, 2 hogshead of wine, 4 barrels of beer, 2 barrels of butter, 1000 pounds of cheese, a complete bed, a suit of clothes and a silver beaker.” Everyone wanted in on the boom in tulips; people sold their life’s business and belongings for a shot at fortune. People sold their houses for one tulip. In February, 1637, disaster struck when the tulip frenzy abated. Suddenly there were more sellers than buyers and in a few days it was over. Some effort was made to minimize losses but it was ineffective. It was a financial disaster for many.

The madness over tulips wasn’t over, though; it just moved back to the Turks in 1703 when Ahmed III came to the throne of the Ottoman Empire. His love of the tulip was so obsessive that the era in which he reigned is sometimes called the “lale devri, the Tulip Era” by historians. (A bizarre side note: his gardeners also served as executioners.) He held tulip festivals in Spring where the guests had to make sure their clothing harmonized with the tulips. New varieties were immortalized in poems. The number of new varieties increased. The emperor controlled the selling of tulips but purchased many more from the Netherlands. By this time, the emperor was now in charge of a failing empire. All the festivals in the world could not stop the empire from collapsing. Persia was revolting, taxation to support the emperor’s lifestyle was destroying the economy and then his own people revolted. The tulip frenzy was finally over. Tulips almost vanished from the public eye.

Unfortunately, people did not learn from this experience; other plants had their own booms, although never on the scope of the tulip. Hyacinths, dahlias, gladioli, spider lilies all had their booms, with the spider lilies bringing even higher prices than tulips at their peak. Today, plants still bring exorbitant prices but the trade in them is small, although prices can still go very high.

The virus that created the boom, mosiac virus, has been virtually eliminated in the tulip business, but hybridizers have picked up the challenge by creating unusual and colorful varieties and we no longer have to sell our homes to buy them. We can have as beautiful a garden as Ahmed III without having to worry about a revolution.

Tulips are still big business in Holland. 1997 figures show that tulips are a 750 million dollar business in the Netherlands. Forty-four thousand acres produce approximately nine million bulbs, a third of which are tulips.

Now, back to those javelina. They know a good thing when they sniff it out. If you live in an area with hungry pigs, fence your tulips—otherwise expect company. Tulips aren’t really suited to Arizona unless you grow them as an annual. In most cases they will produce good blooms the first spring but rarely make it to a second one. Plant pre-chilled bulbs (we generally don’t have enough cold weather to initiate blooming) or put bulbs in your refrigerator for about 6 weeks before planting. Just make sure you have no ripening fruit nearby, the ethylene gas given off ripening fruit will kill the flower forming in the bulb. Plant eight inches deep in good garden soil. They look best (at least to me) in large banks of flowers. One lonely tulip every foot or so doesn’t have the attraction of a large mass of them. Most of the bulbs you see today are modern cultivars but some original species are available. Look around; there is something for everyone, including the javelinas, if you don’t protect the bulbs.

If you are interested in reading more about the tulip frenzy, you can read “Tulipomania” by Mike Dash.


MG Association News

Next Meeting

Mr. Bruce Day owner of Pro-Water Irrigation will be our guest speaker for the January 15th meeting. Mr. Day has been in the landscaping/irrigation field for the last ten years. He was involved in the design and installation of many Valley developments and the Hassayampa Golf Course here in Prescott. Pro-Water Irrigation Supply and Service has two outlets, one at 537 N. 6th Street, Prescott, AZ and the second at 6410 E. Hwy. 69, Prescott Valley, AZ. Mr. Day’s presentation will be on irrigation concepts and new products.

Report Hours !!!

Please report all of your hours for the year 2002 no later than January 10, 2003. If you have problems or questions regarding your hours, please contact me at 928-646-9113 and leave a message or 928-646-0379 or email at bemerson5@juno.com

Beverly Emerson, Master Gardener, Program Coordinator, Yavapai County

Job Announcement

The Master Gardener Program is in need of a volunteer who has journalistic skills and a public affairs background to handle meeting announcements and feature stories for the Prescott & Cottonwood area or better yet, a person from each of these areas with these qualifications. We need to let our communities know about our ongoing projects and to be able to enlist their support, financially & otherwise. Photography skills would also be helpful. What a fun way to earn some volunteer hours. If you are interested and have these qualifications, please leave a message at our Cottonwood office for me, 928 646-9113 or you can reach me at 646-0379, e-mail bemerson5@juno.com. Hope to hear from someone soon. Beverly Emerson, Master Gardener, Program Coordinator.

Comming events

We are looking forward to our next big program of 2003, our new class of Master Gardeners. Classes will begin January 29, 2003, in Prescott.

From the President:

Hi Everyone,

We have had a busy fall and now its holiday time, hope all of you have a good Thanksgiving and enjoy your family. I have been busy with work and getting things winterized here at home.

We have a lot to be proud of in our Master Gardener program as two schools in Arizona received grant money. Cindi Schaffer has done an excellent job at Abia Judd, with the garden and the kids. Way to go Cindi!

Again it was a great conference in Flagstaff and I encourage all of you to go to a conference if you can, its really worth the effort.

We can sure use someone to write newspaper articles and news releases for the Master Gardeners. (See job announcement)

A big thank you to Beverly Emerson as she stepped up to be the volunteer coordinator. This will sure help Jeff and everyone else too.

Russ Radden, County Coordinator for Natural Resources, talked about water conservation, very interesting and also frustrating.

Hope to see you at our January meeting.

Ann
Special News

Bev Emerson has agreed to be Program Coordinator for the Master Gardeners. She will be coordinating all events, projects and maintain volunteer hours. If you have a question, comment or idea get in touch with Bev. You can leave a message for her at the Cottonwood office or email her at bemerson5@juno.com

Newsletter Submissions

I seem to be getting more last minute items. For your information please read the following. I now have software so I can read most attachments that you send. So please!!! email me any items for the newsletter if at all possible. I will accept paper copies but then I have to retype them and that is very time consuming. Note: Please never send me anything electronically that is in all caps!

I print the newsletter on the last Friday of the month, unless the 1st falls on a Friday. Articles longer than a quarter page, need to arrive before the 10th of the month if they are to go into the upcoming issue. I've been kind up to this point and squeezed them in, but no more!! They must arrive at my house by the 10th. Any that arrive after the 10th, will ususally go in the following month's issue. Announcements of less than a quarter page I will accept up to the Friday before the newsletter goes out. Very short announcements, one or two sentences, I can accept up to the day before, usually. Keep in mind the sooner the better if you want it in.

Lastly, I will accept any items about plant sales, gardening events, gardening club announcements, any Master Gardening news, gardening articles (I have a loose interpretation of what that means) and any articles on your gardening experiences. If you have any questions about the items that go into the newsletter, please feel free to get in touch with me. I generally just check the articles for spelling and grammar but I may edit depending on the space available.

Nora Graf
P.O. Box 3652
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
mesquite2@hotmail.com
(928)567-6703-leave a message on my machine; I will get back to you, unless the cats have jumped on the answering machine and erased it.

NOTE: I take December off from writing the newsletter, so the next issue will come out the end of January.

Ouch, My Mistake

It seems that I made two mistakes in the newsletter last month. The first is the pizza dough. I make a lot of bread and pizza so it never crossed my mind that someone wouldn't know how to bake it—My apologies. Most pizzas are baked at between 400°F and 450°F, so anywhere in that range would work.

The second mistake was that I said to prune your grapes—please don’t do it until they have gone dormant for the winter.
December Delights

Looking for something different to spruce up the yard during the holidays? Try hanging large shiny globes on the limbs of your deciduous trees. This time of year you can find a variety of glass and plastic balls in the stores.

Create wreaths of rosemary and sage. Use chili peppers for accent.

Buy amaryllis. After they finish blooming, in the Verde Valley, you can plant them outside in a shady area and enjoy them for years to come.

Make a special gift for someone who doesn’t get many special gifts. Find a favorite recipe that can be easily reheated for a holiday meal. Try to find out whether there are special dietary concerns, likes or dislikes. Nothing worse than getting a gift of food only to discover you can’t eat it.

Start a bowl of paperwhite narcissis for a winter pick-me-up in anticipation of spring. Give another bowl to a friend or family member.

Be imaginative in wrapping gifts. Use natural materials like raffia, or something similar from your garden as ribbon. Use sprigs of evergreen plants or dried material to replace a bow.

Give a gardener friend a personal gift, paint a pot. Use a red clay pot and decorate with acrylic paints and create something whimsical or bold.

Use your favorite gardening picture and make a greeting card.

The "Arizona Master Gardener Manual" is now on-line. Check out http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/garden/mg/

NOTE FROM THE EDIT OR:
Let me know about your garden, the types of seeds you planted, interesting articles you found—anything of gardening interest. Send to:
Nora Graf
P.O. Box 3652
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

Jeff Schalau
County Director,
Yavapai County Extension Agent,
Agriculture & Natural Resources

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