Buddleja (or Buddleia)  
Butterfly Bush  
by Nora Graf

This plant is not called butterfly bush for any reason but that it's a butterfly magnet. Starting in early summer, its blooms attract them like bees to honey. If you like butterflies, make room for this plant. That's something I plan to do this spring. I'm going to rip out that straggly Russian sage that never seems to look good and replace it with one of the Buddleja species.

Buddleja is a genus that shows up in a variety of places of the world—Asia, North and South America and Africa. From these a number of selections have been made over time to create a wide variety of bloom color, from deep dark purples to white to yellow and dwarf varieties and varieties that are hardy in colder climates. Most need plenty of room, though. The largest can get to 15 feet tall and wide. In some places like New Zealand some species have become invasive weeds, but it doesn't seem to be a problem in Arizona. Riparian areas are most affected by them, but the only area in Arizona it has been found is along the Gila River.

Some varieties to look at:

Orange-Eye Butterfly bush—the flowers of this variety have bright orange eyes, adding nice contrast in the flowers. Black Knight is my favorite, as it is a dark violet-red. It grows to 10 feet tall with flower panicles 8 inches long. There is also one called White Profusion; Dubonnet has 12-14 inch long clusters of violet purple flowers. Pink Delight is fragrant with true-pink flowers and is a bit more compact plant. Petite Plum is only 6 feet tall with light purple flowers. Moonshadow has lavender flowers and is a small plant growing to only 3/12 feet tall. This variety has hardy roots but the tops may
freeze back. (That is if we really get a winter.) They can be cut back to the ground every year.

**Fountain Butterfly Bush**—This is an intriguing variety with long droopy stems covered in flowers. They can even be trained as trees, giving you a weeping willow look, covered in a profusion of blooms. These are the hardiest of the varieties. They can grow 12 feet tall and bloom the earliest of any of the varieties, in late spring, which would be pretty early for us. Once the blooms fade, prune.

**Hybrid varieties**—These are crosses of different species. One of the crosses resulted in bright yellow flowers that are globe-shaped, spaced out along the stem. Honeycomb, Sungold, and Moonlight are three varieties available. Honeycomb can grow to 10 to 15 feet while the other two stay around the 10 foot mark. They bloom a bit later than the orange-eye varieties.

Butterfly bush loves hot, dry weather, so would fit in a variety of gardens. The plant itself has soft green leaves and a somewhat loose growing habit. Many have a fragrance, so placing it near where you walk would be a nice idea. The long stems wave in the breeze, creating some interesting movement in the garden. Make sure you put it in an area that is well-drained, and it doesn’t seem to mind alkaline soil. During the summer, water a couple of times a month, deep-watering the plant. If the plant is yellowing, you might apply a small amount of 5-10-10 fertilizer, but do it lightly. Over-fertilizing weakens the plant. It needs full sun—too much shade and it will not flower well or at all. Butterfly bush can be pruned to keep it from too big. Some species can be cut back to the ground in winter. Other species will need to be pruned after blooming. Other than that give it space and let it do its thing. It’s not really suited to a formal trained garden. Except (and there’s always an exception) the Fountain type like I mentioned can be trained as a standard (like a tree.) It blooms on old wood (vs. new spring growth) so you can thin it out and create a single trunk with beautiful long stems of blooms. On all Butterfly bushes you should deadhead the blooms. This will cause more blooms to form and help keep the plant under control.

There are not too many problems with pests and diseases, although spider mites seem to like it during dry weather. Simply use a hose to wash off the mites. Spray at night and you won’t harm the butterflies that visit it during the day.

Other varieties you may come across:

**African Queen**—When established the shrub reached a height of 6‘ tall and 6‘ wide. The growth habit is vigorous, dense, uniform, tidy and compact early in the growing season. Later in the growing season, the habit became more open and sprawling. Stems have an attractive purple color. Leaves are green with silver undersides. Flowering begins in late June and usually finish by mid-September. Inflorescence length was 8” to 10” and a nice, rich, dark purple. Seed heads are also a nice purple, maroon, attractive and have good contrast with the foliage.

**Nanho Purple** (this is common in local nurseries and is an excellent choice.) This cultivar is a result of a cross between *Buddleja davidii* var. nanhoensis and *Buddleja davidii* ‘Royal Red’ and then back-crossed with the latter. When established and pruned back every spring, the plant reached a height of 6‘ tall and a width of 6‘. The growth habit is very full, dense, upright, round, vigorous and very nice. The new stem growth had an attractive purple color. However, stems became woody and exfoliating with age. Leaves were 4” long and dark green with silver undersides. Flowers are a rich, dark purple. The flowers began blooming in early July and continued into October. The inflorescence was 6” in length. Flowers were purple with orange throats. The flower color was darker than ‘Dubonnet’. Seed heads are numerous and at-
tractive when deep maroon and mature in the fall.

Fascination (Pink)—When established and cut back annually, this cultivar reached a size of 7’ tall and 7’ wide. The growth habit is full, dense, round at the base and opening up towards the top of the shrub. It was also described as one of the largest and having a better habit than ‘Dubonnet’. The flower color is light pink to lavender. The flowers began to open in early July and continued into early October. The inflorescence were long and very pointed. Seed heads are brown to chartreuse and noted as being graceful, weeping and very long.

Ellen’s Blue—This variety has an attractive tight form which is compact. The size reached was 6’ tall and 6’ wide. Young stems were white. The foliage was gray-green with silver to white undersides, had a nice texture and a narrow lanceolate shape. Evaluators noted this plant to be the best of the blue flowering cultivars as it had attractive blue-lavender colored blooms on short but prolific inflorescence. Blooming began in early July and continued into mid-September.

Monite (white)—When established and pruned back in the spring, this white-flowering cultivar reached a height of 5’ tall. The habit is dense, round and full. The stems were pale brown. Leaves are medium green with silvery cast. The fragrant, pure white flowers were displayed on inflorescence 1’ long from late July, slightly after many other cultivars have begun to bloom, through September.

You can find Buddleja in most nurseries in the spring, although they don’t always have much choice in varieties, with usually Nanho Purple, Black Knight and maybe a red one available. If you are looking for a specific variety there are some online sources or ask your favorite nursery if they can order.

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Gourd Crafting Class

I will be having a gourd crafting class for Master Gardeners on Sunday March 12, 9am - 3pm, at the Prescott Extension Office. The cost will be $40. It will include everything you need to complete a gourd project. This class will take you through the basics of cleaning the gourd inside and out. Then we will go on to the decoration which could include leather dyes, paint, beads and other embellishments. You will also learn how to do a simple weaving technique to complete the edge of the gourd. Class size is limited, you must make a reservation. The class is for Master Gardeners, if you have someone who would like to take the class who is not an MG, I will put them on a waiting list. If the class doesn’t fill, I will take others, but they will have to pay my regular fee of $55.

Call or email me:
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Tree Pruning Workshop

The second demonstration will be held at 4693 W. Home Stretch in Chino Valley on Saturday March 18 starting at 10 AM. Directions: from Hwy 89 in Chino Valley, go West on Road 3 North, right on Yuma Dr, left on Pheasant Pl, left on Cherokee Dr(at stop sign), right on Morgan Trail (unpaved road), left on Blue Star Rd, right on Home Stretch - 2nd driveway on left.

Signs will be posted prior to the workshops to help participants find the locations. Carpooling is encouraged as parking may be limited. Maps to workshop locations are available on the Yavapai County Cooperative Extension web site: cal.s.arizona.edu/yavapai/.
Congratulations to Larry Anderson, who is our new MGA President for 2006. One of our association’s original founders, Larry was born in Grand Forks, ND, and grew up in the small town of Crookston, MN, where his family has farmed since 1876. One of his brothers and a cousin still farm the property.

His first “green thumb moment” came at age 4 or 5 when he was at a neighbor’s house for Oreos and milk, and watched her planting bachelor buttons in her garden. He was amazed that the small plant she was putting in the ground would grow to be the large plant he saw close by. He offered to help dig and plant and soon got the neighbor kids involved in a vegetable garden. His family had a 2-acre vegetable garden on their very large farm, and his grandmother canned everything they raised. He recalls that their farm was self-sustaining for the family, and the only needed to shop for dry staples. Today Larry gardens in five 8’ x 8’ raised beds and cans everything he grows. He makes his own spaghetti sauce and salsa, pickles watermelon rinds, and harvests pineapple sage for jam and mint for jellies. He even harvests and cans wild elderberries from the Kaibab Plateau in the Grand Canyon.

Along the way he came to the conclusion that he didn’t want to be a full-time farmer and found the weather in Minnesota to be too cold for his liking, so moved to Los Angeles. There he was a lighting salesman, traveling the western states for a company that provided lighting to major home builders. After working in that high-stress job for 25 years, he decided he wanted to live a simpler life in a slower-paced area. He and his older sister were touring Sedona in 1993, were captivated by the beautiful surroundings, and, after four days, never left.

Larry needed to make some money but without the added stress, so he went door-to-door at all the businesses in uptown Sedona, finally landing a salesperson job at Walgreens. Soon wanting more of a challenge, he started working at Babbitt’s Home Center (now Lumbermen’s) in 1995 in the garden center. He barely had time to smell the flowers when they decided he was needed inside the store, and then in the lumber area. It wasn’t until 1999 that he was able to get out to the garden center again and started managing a short time later. Frustrated that he couldn’t answer the myriad of questions that customers had about plants, he put together a “landscape assessment” of the plants in the center, outlining how to plant, where to plant, how often to water and fertilize. Still feeling he didn’t know enough, he told his manager he wanted to take the Master Gardener Class in 2000, and they arranged his days off so he could attend. After graduation he helped start the MG Association. He had a friend who had taken the class in San Diego, used him as his mentor and the San Diego group’s by-laws and structure to help get the Yavapai County MGA off the ground. Right after completing the 2000 MGA class, he felt he still needed additional advanced education, so completed a class in the evenings to become a Certified Professional Nurseryman and is a member of the Arizona Professional Nurseryman Association.

Larry formed Anderson Landscaping Consulting when he got, not only questions from customers about how to care for plants but requests for a personal assessment of their gardens as well as hands-on help. He does consulting and planting in his spare time, charging $20/hr (which he acknowledges is probably too low,) and his schedule is booked into March. In the rest of his spare time, Larry adopts greyhound rescue dogs and loves hiking and hanging out with his current companions, boy Duggie (1) and girl Erin (3).

Since the unfortunate fire that burned down the Sedona Lumbermen’s many months ago, Larry has been working at the Cottonwood Lumbermen’s. Since that store doesn’t have a garden center and caters more,
to the contractor trade, Larry is missing what he loves most - plants and working with gardeners. He feels he’s at a crossroads, needing to make some important decisions, and envisions opening a retail garden center, if at all possible. In the meantime Larry appreciates that Lumbermen’s has been very good to him both from the standpoint of transferring him to another store to keep him employed and providing very good benefits.

Larry is looking forward to his year as MGA President. He plans to concentrate on building the association membership and encouraging members and graduates of the May, 2006, MG Class to commit themselves to more volunteer participation in educating their communities and working on volunteer projects. We look forward to working with Larry and wish him the best as our President and also in his career.

Plants on the Move
by Nora Graf

Many of our favorite garden plants have become world travelers. From their original homes they have been carried far and wide, and along the way gardeners and scientists have made interesting (not always!) changes in them. I won’t get on my soapbox about one of my favorite complaints; how turning all those single flowers into doubles makes them all look alike, oftentimes like a crumpled bunch of tissue paper. I’ll save that for another time....

Here’s a brief chronology of just one family, the pinks.

Caesar Augustus (43 BC-AD 14) in Rome was told that in Hispania (Spain) locals flavored their wine by dipping clove-scented carnations (Dianthus carophyllus) in it. The plant grew wild in southern Europe, but it was the wine dunking that spread its fame. Soon afterward, double varieties came on the scene. These were carried to the north of Europe, and in France and England this plant still lives in the walls of Norman castles. This dianthus acquired other nicknames through time, including gillyflower. This word stems from the Arabic, quaranful, a clove, which became karyophillon in Greek, carophyllus in Latin, garofolo in Italian and girflee in French—gillyflower to the English. The word “carnation” first appears in 1538. While its history is vague, it may relate to coronation or crown, for it was once used in ceremonial crowns in ancient Greece. Diosanthos translates to “Flowers of Zeus.” Half of the wild varieties occur in Greece.

It was an extremely popular plant in Europe during the Middle Ages and named cultivars began to show up. John Parkinson, apothecary to King James I, grew around 50 varieties that are all extinct today. In the mid 1700’s, larger flower types became popular to grow under glass, mainly to protect the large blooms from the weather.

The Chinese come into the picture in the 1800’s when hybridization with Dianthus chinensis led to large flowers used for cutting, leading to the carnation on the lapel for weddings and other important events. The plant prior to then was cultivated in China, even before it was introduced in Europe. Seeds were sent to Abbe Bignon, librarian to the French king, Louis XIV, and grown in Paris. While short-lived, the flowers became popular and double flowers appeared in 1719.

Japan steps in with improved strains with compact growth. These still form the basis for a large number of modern bedding plants. They also brought to the plant the dark-colored eye in the flower. Unfortunately, the changes in the plant lead to the loss of fragrance.

Pinks are derived from D. plumarius from central Europe. The name comes from older words for a small or twinkling eye. In the early 1700’s, the flower gave its name in English to the color pink and later to the scissors “pinking shears” for the flowers ragged edge. The 1700’s also produced smooth-edged, round flowers with strong color contrasts.

Sweet William, D. barbatus, is from southern Europe from the Pyrenees to the Balkans. Monks began cultivating it in the 1100’s and it was common by 1533. Oddly enough, the origin of the name is lost to history but some think it might relate to William of Aquitaine. In the 18th & 19th centuries, florists began to experiment with it. Thomas Fairchild (1667-1729,) an English nurseryman, (in spite of religious issues about the morality of mixing the genetics of plants) created the first real hybrid by crossing Sweet William with carnations.

Boy, do I miss the scent in carnations!

From “The Gardeners Atlas” by Dr. John Grimshaw
Maximilian Sunflower
*Helianthus maximiliani*
by Nora Graf

Looking for some bright summer color later in the season? Need a large plant to hide some unsightly fence? How about a plant that is good for birds? Then the Maximilian sunflower might work for you. This large plant can grow four to eight feet tall and between three to six feet across. Flowers line the upper third of the stems, creating a brilliant display. The seed heads that form attract small finches and other songbirds.

This plant is large and rangy and easy to grow, so make sure you find the right place for it. It can’t be constrained easily and can take over a well-watered flower bed. It forms dense mats of rhizomes and deep roots—not something you want in a bed filled with other perennials or spring bulbs.

Maximillian sunflowers are very hardy plants that can grow anyplace from about 8000 feet to mid to low desert. It is a native of the American plains. It’s interesting that what appears to be the same plant has differences in bloom time and cold and heat tolerances. Mine tends to bloom mid summer versus late. Generally, it can tolerate temperatures to -20°F and, on the other end, can tolerant hot temperatures as long as it gets extra water.

It prefers full sun but will still bloom in some afternoon shade. Not enough sun will cause it to grow long and somewhat spindly. Water deeply about every two weeks during the hottest part of the summer and once a month during the winter. Mine actually doesn’t get that good of care and it still grows and blooms. Like most plants, if you meet their needs they will grow well and if not, they may grow but not put on their best performance. They may need to be staked. The tall stems will tilt over and heavy winds can knock them down.

This plant looks well in long drifts by itself. It has bright yellow flowers around four inches across. They are a bit brighter than the common sunflowers. If planted in conjunction with other plants, make sure they can make a strong statement also as the size and color of the sunflowers will overpower them. It could work well with Russian sage, New Mexico olive or some other large shrubs. It will provide good summer color and can be used as a cut flower.

When planting, space the individual plants about three feet apart. They should fill in the spaces within one season. Plant three to six feet from other plants. Maximilian sunflower is eaten by livestock and wildlife, so don’t plant by the cow pasture or in an area where the deer and javelina visit. Cut the dry stalks back anytime after the first hard frost. The plant can sprout from the seeds, although I haven’t had much problem with it spreading. I limit the area I water and don’t water as much as it recommends. Maybe the birds manage to eat all the seeds; I don’t know. If you do have a problem with the plant sprouting from seed, just make sure you deadhead the plant after blooming. The plants can be started by cutting clumps of roots and moving. Divide in the spring.

The plant’s name came from its discoverer, a German nobleman/scientist, Prinz Maximilian von Wied-Neuwied who explored the Upper Missouri River between 1832 and 1834. He spent those years traveling with Swiss artist Karl Bodmer, exploring and collecting biological and anthropological material. His namesake plant was described for science in 1835 by German botanist, Professor Heinrich Schrader. Maximillian sunflowers are readily available but High Country Gardens has a new cultivar called “Santa Fe” that is paler in color and the tips of the petals are more a lemon yellow. You can check it out at www.highcountrygardens.com/
**2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

*March 15, 6:30 (Prescott) MGA Meeting, “Working with Bulbs” with Valerie Phipps from Mortimer’s Nursery
March 25, (Phoenix) 5th Annual Master Gardener Spring Garden Tour, call 602-470-1556, ext. 1017 or log on to http://cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden to sign up
*April 19, 6:30 (Cottonwood) MGA Meeting, April 29, 9-5:00, First Annual Native Plant Sale at the Highland Center for Natural History, Call (928-776-9550) or email (highlands@cableone.net) the Highland Center for more information. Their website is: highlandscenter.org.
April 29, Wildfire Expo at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds, Call the Prescott Extension office for more info
May 13, Sedona Garden Tour
May 13, Home and Garden Show at the Gateway Mall in Prescott
*May 17, 6:30 (Prescott) MGA Meeting, “Landscape Designing with Native Plants” by Steve Morgan **This meeting will take place at the Highland Center for Natural History June 10, Alta Vista Garden Tour, Contact Kathy Grant-Lilley for more information (445-7196)
June 17, Annual Arboretum Field Trip, Sign up by contacting Patti Conrad (in the evening) at 778-4810
*June 21, 6:30 (Cottonwood) MGA Meeting, July, (Saturday) Field Trip to Prescott Veteran’s Hospital to see their greenhouse and grounds and hear about their occupational therapy program.
*August 16, 6:30, (Cottonwood) MGA Meeting, August 26, V Bar V Ranch, Call Cottonwood office for more informa

*For Yavapai Master Gardeners Only

**Sharlot Hall Rose Pruning Day**

The roses at Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott will be pruned on March 14th. Richard Wise (Master Gardener) is looking for about 5 Master Gardeners to assist. If you are not an experienced rose pruner Richard will show what to do. Be there at 8am - with enough help it should not take too long. Bring drinking water, pruners, gloves, and whatever else you would use to prune in your own garden. Please let Richard know if you plan to be there so he can plan accordingly. ysacre24@earthlink.net

FROM THE EDITOR: Please send or email articles and announcements to the address below. Long articles will go in as soon as possible, announcements must be in by the 15th of the month to be included.

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MG Association Meeting

*March 15, 6:30
Prescott, Cooperative Extension Meeting Room.
“Working with Bulbs” with Valerie Phipps from Mortimer’s Nursery