**Events & Activities**

MG Association Meeting, Wednesday, 6:30pm, Prescott, the topic is Insect Identification.

Yavapai Rose Society - October 15, 11:00 AM, luncheon. This will be a social event. The last regular meeting of the year will be November 19, at First Christian Church, 1230 Willow Creek Rd., Prescott, at 2:00 PM.

Alta Vista Gardening Club, Prescott, fourth Tuesday of the month, 12:30pm. Call 928-443-0464 .

Prescott Area Gourd Society, third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the Smoki Museum.

Pond Club - Email aquaticgardens@esedona. net for more information.

Prescott Orchid Society, 3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm at the Prescott Library, call Cynthia. (928) 717-0623

Prescott Area Iris Society call 928-445-8132 for date and place information.


**Table of Contents**

Elephant Garlic . . . 1
Arboretum Field Trip . . . 2
MG Garden Tour . . . 3
Growing Some Knowledge, Plant Terminology . . . 5
MG News . . . 6-7

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Elephant Garlic

by Nora Graf

from the September 1998 Yavapai Gardens

Giant cloves of garlic are truly wondrous, but think again, it really garlic? In reality elephant garlic is more closely related to the leek. Allium ampleprasum is its official name. It comes from two Greek words. Ampelos meaning a vine and prason meaning leek. The plant is native to northern Africa, Asia, southern Europe and parts of Russia. In other parts of the world it has naturalized after escaping from gardens.

Elephant garlic does not seem to have the same health benefits as other types of garlic, but is high in vitamins A, C and E.

While growing garlic is a huge industry, elephant garlic is still mainly grown in home gardens. There are records that go back to early Christian sites in England where monks probably cultivated it. John Tradescant the Younger (1608-62) grew it. Tradescant was the botanist and gardener for Charles I of England.

Large blue-green leaves are the visible part of the plant, while underground a bulb up to 4 inches in diameter (5-6 cloves) is forming. While the plant forms large cloves, small bulblets of one to twenty in number also form.

Like garlic the larger the clove planted the better next years crop. Planting smaller symmetrical cloves, called rounds, (formed instead of several cloves) often ends in the development of several cloves and a flower stalk. Plants grown from a smaller clove or bulblet often produce a round and no flower stalk. It tends to alternate between cloves and rounds and goes to seed every second year. A well established clump can have rounds, cloves and bulblets in it. Removing the flower stalk does not improve the size of the cloves. If you grow the small bulblets formed on the stalk it will take several years for it to produce a bulb with large cloves.

The flower stalks form in the spring and summer. They
look like the typical onion type flower. Irregular watering can cause the flower stalks to form unusual loops and twists. The flower stalk will droop in times of low water, but perk up when watering improves. This forms twist in the stalk that never come back to a fully upright position.

Cultivation is similar to garlic. Plant in the fall with the bulbs about two inches below the soil surface. This is a hardy plant and may take the heat better than smaller garlic. Because of the formation of the small bulblets, you can keep them growing without replanting every year, even if you don’t want them.

While elephant garlic is often substituted for regular garlic, it doesn’t have the same pungency. It tends to be milder and sweeter. Use raw in salads, or steamed and boiled as a vegetable. Use in stews, casseroles or roasted, just don’t expect that tangy garlic flavor.

An interesting relative to elephant garlic is “pearlzwibel.” This plant produces clusters of solid spherical white bulbs or rounds and never produce cloves. They look similar to onions, but have a solid interior, rather than a layered one. They are also called pearl onions, multiplier leeks, potato onion and Argentine garlic to confuse the issue. They are usually pickled in the same way as onions but they are sweeter and crisper.

Master Gardener Field Trip to the Flagstaff Arboretum 2007
by Pattie Conrad

It was a great trip as usual; however, there were fewer intrepid travelers than last time. For those of you who think, “Oh, I’ll go next year,” and then never get around to signing up, you are really missing out. I hope to extend a personal invitation to all the new Master Gardeners of 2008 class to be held in Cottonwood. Northern Arizona is so large and there are numerous possibilities out there to be explored by visiting places such as the Flagstaff Arboretum and the Museum of Northern Arizona’s nature trails, where a gardener can be inspired with ideas for sculpting nature vignettes in their own space. The variety of native plants to choose from at the Arboretum’s Plant Fair sale and at the other places which offer native plants for sale in Flagstaff is truly outstanding. It is always preferable to see a plant in person before purchase. Although I, too, have purchased perennials through mail-order companies, such as Bluestone out of Ohio, I always prefer to obtain my plants in person and from local vendors, if possible. You not only have the “rush” of actually finding your beloved whatsit, but then you also get to pick out “just the right one.” On our field trips, I am very often surprised by what I missed at first when another Master Gardner in our group comes up and says, “Hey! Did you see THIS?” It is always better to have multiple sets of eyes when searching for treasure. Many times these plant-stocks are also grown locally, and so are more acclimated to Northern Arizona and our weird weather patterns. So, for next year, always remember that the Field Trip to the Arboretum is on the Saturday before Father’s Day and mark your calendars on New Year’s Day of 2008. It is usually an all-day trip, but the day races by with so much to see and talk about with other Master Gardeners. Also remember that anyone is more than welcome to follow us or meet us there in their own car, especially if they cannot spend a whole day, or even if they want to stay overnight in Flagstaff and explore other wonders such as the Peaks, Walnut Canyon or Sunset Crater. So, I hope to see a whole bunch of Master Gardeners excited about the 2008 Field Trip to Flagstaff and the Arboretum next year. It’s more fun than finding a 6-pack of perennials!
It was a picture-perfect day in the Prescott area on July 28th for our first garden tour of Master Gardener’s gardens. After a week of much-needed rain, the weather cooperated for the tour with a cool, overcast day, which encouraged over 100 Master Gardeners and our families to attend. We met at Yavapai College’s Sculpture Garden for yummy baked goods and a self-guided tour of that garden, and then went on our own to four more gardens: those of Pam Bowman, Anita German, John Paustian and Richard Wise.

Our thanks and congratulations go to the Program Committee who put together the wonderful tour. That committee consisted of Missy Sandeen, Wendy Spring, Beverly Emerson, Bill Cart and Lesley Alward. And thanks also to John Emerson who made a wonderful video of the gardens and helped on the committee. And, of course, special thanks go to each of the Master Gardeners who offered their gardens for the tour. Congratulations on your hard work, vision, and love of gardening.

For those who attended, it was truly an inspiring, magical experience to see what others have done in four completely different settings. For those who were not able to attend, here are a few of the many photographs taken that day:
To answer the “Grow Some Knowledge” question from the Master Gardener Association meeting in June in Cottonwood, I presented the following at the August meeting. The basic question asked “What is an Annual?”, with further information sought on differences among tender annual, hardy and half-hardy annual. Botanically, an annual is any plant in which the seed germinates, the leaves and flowering parts develop, leading to development of the seed with the plant dying within less than one year. For tender or warm-season annuals, the seeds must be planted in the garden after the last frost in the spring. The plant will then grow, bloom, form seeds and be killed by the first hard frost of fall. Celosia (or Cockscomb) is a good example. In contrast, the hardy or cool-season annual, such as calendula, thrives during cooler weather. Half-hardy annuals vary in tolerances to cold and hot temperatures. Some can withstand late spring frosts so the seeds can be set out early. For others, one must wait till after the last killing spring frost before planting the seeds but the plant can survive at least the light frosts of fall. When it comes to gardening, these categories are not clear-cut, so I have added additional information to try to clear up the situation.

Besides annual life cycles, there are also the biennials. Biennials require two years to complete the life cycle from seed to blossom and fruit to death. Some may just form a rosette of leaves close to the ground the first year. The second year a stalk grows and this will bear the flowers and seeds after which the plant will die. Many of the plants we buy from the nursery are already past the first year. As a result, we tend to regard them as annuals since that is how they appear in the garden.

The last life cycle is the perennial, which includes all the plants which live in excess of two years whether they be short-lived or live for thousands of years, as do some trees. Most of our common garden perennials are herbaceous, which means that they have non-woody tissue. These plants die to the ground each winter only to re-grow their foliage and flowers the following spring. Bulbs, etc. are a variation of herbaceous perennials as are plants such as the Desert Four-O-Clock whose vegetation completely disappears over the winter. The perennial flowers we plant in the garden typically have one blooming season each year; however, many will continue to bloom if the dead blossoms are regularly removed (deadheading). Coreopsis is a good example of this.

The plants we know as trees and shrubs have woody tissue. Some retain their leaves all year and are appropriately called evergreens. Others lose leaves in the winter (or in the tropics during the dry season) and are called deciduous. Regardless, the terms “tender”, “hardy” and “half-hardy” can equally be applied. In the outside garden, it is the climatic conditions that largely determine the survival of any particular plant. This is why we must consider zones and microclimate in choosing the plants we wish to have, since this is what determines whether a plant is tender, hardy or half-hardy or even whether we use it as an annual despite its true life cycle.
The winner of the 2008 Membership Book cover design is Normalinda Zuni-ga (class of 2006). Congratulations Normalinda!

Glad so many of you were able to attend our picnic today. What a fun group of people, and what good food!!!! Thank you Herdis for coordinating this event.

1. There were some questions on how to report your time. The picnic replaces a regular MGA meeting, so your travel time and the picnic time count as Volunteer time. If you helped set-up or clean-up, that time also counts as volunteer time. If you went on Jeff’s plant id walk, that time counts as Continuing Education. If you don’t need CE hours, you may turn in Volunteer time for the plant id walk.

2. There have been questions on the location of the MGA meetings, when the last one was in Cottonwood. Very good question. When the meeting schedule is created each year there is an attempt to alternate the meetings between Cottonwood and Prescott. However, some meeting locations are dictated by the event that takes place.

   The May meeting needed to be in Prescott because the 2007 class was held in Prescott, and that was a welcome meeting for them.

   The September picnic (which replaces a meeting) needed to be held in Prescott because last year it was held in the Verde area.

   The meeting for October which should be in Cottonwood, will be in Prescott to accommodate a speaker.

   Logic would dictate that the November meeting would be held in Prescott, but it is also the election of officers, and that alternates between Cottonwood and Prescott, and last year it was held in Prescott.

   There is no meeting in December. Hope this is making sense.

3. To answer another question – the recognition awards are based on cumulative hours (from the time you attend the MGA class to June 30th of the year of recognition).

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FROM THE EDITOR: Please send or email articles and announcements to the address below. All articles must be in my hands by the 10th of the month. Short announcements (no more than 2 or 3 lines) will be accepted until the 25th.

Nora Graf
PO Box 3652
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
mesquite2@hotmail.com
(928) 567-6703

Volunteer Opportunity - Work Day at Yavapai Guidance Clinic in Prescott Saturday, Oct 13th, 505 S. Cortez, Prescott, Start 9:00am
Lesley Alward (MG) has been working on the design with them. It is now time to implement. The clinic is hosting a work day on Oct 13th, and Master Gardeners and other members of the community are being asked to participate. Lesley will be the overall supervisor that day, but she would love to have some Master Gardeners supervise the different volunteer workgroups – this is our chance to educate on planting, etc. Or, if you’d like to do some hands-on work, we welcome that as well. All time spent on this is Volunteer time. The tasks involve planting, mulching, etc.

Bring shovels, picks, bow rakes, wheelbarrows, hats, gloves, sunscreen and a willingness to work hard with a smile! The area is large, but there will be many people helping. Refreshments will be served. It will be fun and very rewarding to know you have helped a very good cause.

Contact Lesley Alward if you can participate, gardenmaker@cableone.net, 533-4229.

Coyote Springs Elementary School – Need another volunteer
A volunteer is needed ASAP to assist in the wildlife habitat garden at Coyote Springs school in Prescott Valley. Help is needed on Fridays, 1pm – 3pm, working with 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on maintenance (weeding, raking, pruning). Nancy Miller, Sue Smith, Debbi Wilson, Jeanne d’Heilly, and Janet Scheiber, your follow MGs, volunteer there and the coordinator says they are doing a fabulous job. I’m sure they can give you more input on what the job entails and how rewarding it is. Contact Mary Barnes, mcbarn1@cableone.net, 583-0889.

October 17, 6:30 (Prescott) MGA meeting, Insect Identification--William Currie, Entomologist from Ash Fork
November 14, 6:30 (Cottonwood) MGA meeting, Elections, Flora and Fauna in the Verde Valley--Janie Agyagos, District Wildlife Biologist, Red Rock Ranger District, Sedona and Master Gardener.
MG Association Meeting
October 17, 6:30pm, Prescott
(Not Cottonwood!!)

The speaker is -- William Currie, Entomologist who will speak on Insect Identification.