22 bands, great extravaganzas and fireworks!! Whoops, sorry this is a garden lollapalooza, but it’s no less exciting. Well we don’t have fireworks—but we have 22 programs that will change life as we know it. Well—maybe not life as we know it, but certainly your garden or how you view your garden! We have enough rainwater catchment speakers to keep everyone happy. We have speakers on creating landscapes and we have a speaker on bonsai, from the big picture to the little. You will learn how to create habitats, how to improve your soil. Some of you will learn how to photograph your creation and others will learn how to create hummingbird gardens, butterfly gardens and gardens for birds. You can listen to one man’s journey from a Bermuda lawn to a desert landscape that became a haven for hummingbirds and insects. Want something new for your yard? We have a speaker to help with that, plus some new bulbs for your garden. You will learn about climate issues and water issues and, when it gets to be all too much, there will be “Junque Gardens” and peace in our time—fung shui in the garden.

The planning committee for the Arizona Highlands Garden Conference has put together a group of speakers most of whom have never been to one of our conferences, so no one can say they’ve heard it all before. Here’s a quick view of the gardening lollapalooza:

Michael Crimmins runs the Climate Science Applications Program for Uof A Cooperative Extension. He is an applied climatologist whose interest is the application of climate science in ecology and natural resource management.

Trevor Hill is involved in water reclamation on a large scale and has some unusual and cutting edge ideas on the subject that should be of interest to everyone living in Arizona.

Ever grumbled about how poorly some bulbs do here? Chris Wiesinger of Southern Bulbs in Texas might have some ideas for you. He collects naturalized bulbs throughout the South and propagates them. This means if it can grow without much human intervention in the South, some of them, anyway should grow well here. The bonus—he’s bringing bulbs that he thinks will do well here to sell.

Scott Calhoun of Zona Gardens in Tucson could have spo-
ken on a number of topics but we went for something fun—using interesting junk in your yard to spice things up. He is also the author of several books on southwestern gardens and wildflowers and will have his books for sale.

Bonsai is the art of growing trees in containers. This isn’t just sticking the tree in a larger container every year until you can no longer move it. This is the fine art of pruning and trimming and repotting to keep the tree looking like a full grown version but in a diminutive size. Dr. Ken Roberts will get us started in this interesting hobby.

Dr. John Alcock took his suburban lawn in Tempe and removed it (which is a lot harder than that implies) and replaced it with native desert plants. His enlightened and humorous approach to landscaping gave him a landscape that was wildlife friendly and a living laboratory for his passion in insect behavior.

Three, (yes three!) programs on rainwater harvesting. This wasn’t the original plan but sometimes you just have to go with the way things turn out. However, if anyone walks away from this conference without learning something about rainwater harvesting, shame on them! Two of the programs will feature modern ways to do it. The third program will focus on the historic aspects of the practice. Russ Buhrow from Tohono Chul Botanical Garden in Tucson will talk about the Singua Indians who used the technique.

Hummingbirds, butterflies and all the other birds are covered this year. Russ Hawkins from the Hummingbird Society will be bringing those wonderful creatures to a session. Adrian Grimaldi will talk about attracting butterflies and Eric Moore from Jay’s Bird Barn in Prescott will be there to help us improve our gardens to attract birds.

Steve Morgan and Barnabas Kane, landscape designers from Prescott are doing a program on Creating Habitats and Mr. Kane will also be talking about Rainwater Harvesting.

Chris Cline from Boyce Thompson Arboretum is going to help you identify wildflowers while Terry

Don’t forget Monsoon Madness, see last page!
Meet a Master Gardener: Jay Fleishman
by Pam Bowman

Leaving Tucson for Prescott in 1985, Dr. Jay Fleishman moved to the more temperate climes of the Verde Valley in 1989 where he says, “It’s not too cold and it’s not too hot.” As a member of the 2007 Master Gardener class, he promptly volunteered in a variety of activities. The class of 2008 will recognize Jay as the class aid who was present for every class. He chairs the Master Gardener Association By-Laws Committee and co-chairs the Public Relations Committee where he brings new ideas to the committee and writes many articles. Jay also tests soils for pH at the Verde Valley office, gives presentations as a member of the speakers bureau and will be chief cashier at Monsoon Madness. He finds being a MG fun because he likes learning new and interesting things about gardening and botany, trying different ways to grow plants, figuring out scientifically why plants don’t grow as they should, educating people about the drought and water harvesting and helping other gardeners.

Born in Chicago, Jay spent a few years in Detroit before moving with his family to Akron, Ohio where he grew up. Work in a hospital clinical laboratory during high school sparked his interest in pathology—the study and diagnosis of the origin, nature and course of diseases. Jay earned two degrees at the University of Akron and completed medical school at Indiana University. After finishing a residency in Pathology in Muncie, Indiana, he joined the U.S. Air Force and was stationed in Rantoul, Il., and Fort Wayne, In.

Moving to Tucson in 1976, Jay was the director of the clinical lab at Kino Community Hospital where he was president of the hospital medical staff for one year. Jay moved briefly to Phoenix and then to Prescott as the director of the VA Hospital clinical lab and finally to Cottonwood as the director of the Verde Valley Medical Center clinical lab until his retirement in 2005.

Although the backyard of the home where he grew up was small, Jay spent time identifying trees and watching birds and insects. His parents encouraged him to grow vegetables and he planted beans and tomatoes. While in Tucson, this busy doctor found time to tend a garden. He planted 40 oleanders and an herb garden with a few vegetables. He also tended citrus trees and started Palo Verde trees from seed. At his home in Cottonwood Jay has a greenhouse and maintains two vegetable gardens year round. He also nurtures small ornamentals and encourages native flowers and grasses. Currently, he is experimenting with hydroponics concepts because a plant grown using this method uses 1/10 the water used for the same plant out in the garden.

When not gardening Jay can be found reading about astronomy, anthropology, psychology, geology, geography and history; solving puzzles; playing word games; memorizing lists to keep his mind sharp or volunteering for numerous organizations. Always an active volunteer, he presently serves on the Verde Valley Medical Center’s ethics and library committees, on the Cottonwood Library Board and as a member of the of the Clarkdale-Verde Kiwanis Club and the Astronomers of the Verde Valley. Jay also created the Fleishman Foundation, a nonprofit organization that assists community college students obtain their certificates and degrees, because education is his passion. The foundation accepts donations and seeks grants to help working students.

Fortunately, Dr. Jay Fleishman’s passion for gardening and volunteering led him to the Master Gardener Association. He certainly brings many new ideas and lots of energy to the organization. Thanks Jay.
Backyards & Beyond is a terrific magazine! It is in need of subscriptions to keep it up and running. At $10 per year it’s a real bargain. Please help keep this wonderful resource alive and subscribe. In fact tell your friends about it. Read on to find out all about it.—Nora Graf

Backyards and Beyond is a new quarterly magazine started by the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension with assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. This magazine is designed for small-acre-age landowners, new rural residents, and backyard enthusiasts. Through this publication we aim to provide the education and guidance landowners need to successfully manage their resources and care for their property.

Backyards and Beyond is part of a larger Cooperative Extension effort to address current and future population growth trends in rural Arizona. This new growth trend is called “exurbanization.” Exurbanization can be broadly defined as large-scale permanent settlement by urban people in non-metropolitan areas beyond typical suburban commuting distances.

Exurban areas are the fastest growing type of residential development in the United States. Exurbanization often occurs in areas where large ranches and farms are being subdivided for residential development or lot splits that create “wildcat” subdivisions. In Yavapai County, exurban growth is occurring on private lands within commuting distance of larger communities where amenities are located. It is occurring across the Verde Valley as well as Chino Valley/ Paulden, Mayer, Dewey/Humboldt, Skull Valley/Kirkland, Williamson Valley, Ashfork, and Seligman.

Research indicates that many exurban residents share many demographic characteristics with suburban residents. However, Arizona exurbanites may not necessarily follow this trend. Cooperative Extension is currently conducting needs assessments and basic research to better define this group’s specific needs. Educational programs will be designed to address these identified needs. Meanwhile, we feel confident that exurbanites need science-based education about horse and livestock health, pasture management, water conservation, water well/septic system operation and maintenance, gardening and food production, wildlife conflicts, wildfire defensible space, and alternative energy.

As exurbanization occurs, we are beginning to realize some of the direct and indirect effects it will have on existing residents and services in these communities. Some of the direct effects will be wildlife habitat fragmentation, air quality degradation from additional dust, increased erosion from land clearing and confined livestock, domestic pets which may harass livestock and wildlife, introduction and spread of invasive species, negative impacts to water supplies (quality and quantity), and alteration of natural fire regimes.

Exurbanites will also increase the need for services such as health care, public utilities, law enforcement, and roads/infrastructure. These new residents will likely require high speed internet service with adequate bandwidth for current and future needs. They may also increase impacts to adjacent public lands through recreational use. All of these factors are anticipated and come with a cost, but what are the factors we have not anticipated?

While some new residents may not completely understand the ecological processes present in their new neighborhoods, most do value the resources that at-
This Arizona resident is always there, ready to turn your wonderful anticipation of beautiful blooms into despair. Thrips are the tiny insects that turn the edges of roses, iris and many other flowers brown and ugly. Most years you won’t even really see them as they burrow deep into the folds of the flowers. Other years there are so many the infestation looks like Phoenix at rush hour.

The thrips are blessed with the ability to produce many generations in a year, with new ones appearing as often as every two to three weeks. In cold areas they overwinter in the egg stage, in warm areas they breed year round. Thrips suck juices from plant tissue. This is what causes the edges of the flowers to shrivel and brown. Adult thrips are very tiny, less than 1/20th inch. Depending on the species they can be a dark or light color but all have featherlike wings. Different species feed on different things. Some feed on other insects, most are plant feeders. Thrips originally were only a problem in the western US and Canada but today are spread across the United States and parts of Europe. The one that causes the damage in our flowers is the Western Flower Thrip. They can transmit tomato spotted wilt virus and impatiens necrotic spot virus. In some locations they can be a serious economic problem for flower growers and are the most damaging insect pest of greenhouse floral crops in the US. As adults they feed on pollen and flower petals but their nymphs feed on mites and the benefit of this sometimes outweighs the negative effects, especially if they are someone else’s flowers. In cotton they are considered a beneficial insect. Of course that likely doesn’t make you feel better when your roses are ruined.
New Master Gardeners

By completing 50 volunteer hours, the following Associate Master Gardener received her certificate and nametag (signifying certification) at the April Master Gardener Meeting:

Charlie Johnson
Mentor Vera Stewart

Congratulations!

Thrips cont. . . .

Thrips do affect other plants and will leave brown scars on leaves and leaves may be distorted. On vegetables there might be numerous black specks scattered over a damaged surface, (thrip feces). Scaring to fruit can occur and fruit can be deformed.

Thrips migrate in from weedy areas so it is difficult or impossible to avoid them. You can knock them off with a spray of water but they can hide deeply in flowers so you will never get rid of them all. Plants can outgrow the damage and you may have noticed that the first flowers of the season are damaged the worst but later in the season the flowers are fine. They seem to be attracted to lighter color flowers, whites, pale yellows and lighter shades of pink. I had a white rose that was a disaster every year because of the thrips but the other darker colored ones were rarely affected. I was grateful when the white rose died because it was pretty ugly every year. This year some of my really pale iris were thrip heaven but the others were fine.

There are almost no chemical controls for thrips. Finding plant varieties that they are less attracted to might be the best choice for minimizing the damage.

University of Arizona Still Has Water Testing Kits Available for Private Well Owners

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Office for Yavapai County still has water testing kits available.

The “basic” kit is a 5-parameter kit and it tests for pH, total alkalinity, total hardness, nitrite and nitrate and costs $8.00. The “arsenic” kit tests for arsenic and costs $24.00.

If you want your kit mailed to you please fill out the order form found at the following web site: http://cals.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/water/ and send it along with your check made payable to the University of Arizona to: U.A-Cooperative Extension-Yavapai County, Attn: Well Water Testing, 840 Rodeo Dr., Bldg C, Prescott, AZ 86305.

You may also pick up your test kit(s) in person at the Cooperative Extension Office located at the above location in Prescott between 8:00am and 5:00pm, Monday-Friday. The office is closed for lunch between 12:00pm and 1:00pm.

Monsoon Madness Yard and Plant Sale

July 12th, 8am to 3pm

Prescott Extension Office
840 Rodeo Drive, Prescott

Bring donations on Friday, July 11th, 8am to noon. If you can’t be there by noon please notify Sherry Morton in advance so we know to wait for you. sherrymorton@cableone.net, 776-4620.
**MG Calendar**

July 12—Moonlight Madness Yard & Plant Sale

August 16, Flower Arranging Workshop, 9-12:00 a.m., $25.00 charge—call Cynthia Cartier-Roberts to reserve your spot now—pay by July 26th, only certified Master Gardeners may attend

August 20, Cottonwood—Don Troutman—“Ponds”

September 13, Autumn Outreach Fair at Mortimer Nursery, showcases local non-profits dedicated to gardening and conservation

September 17, Prescott—Pattie Conrad—“Fall Gardening”

September 18-21—Yavapai County Fair

October 13 & 14—Arizona Highlands Garden Conference, Prescott Resort

October 26—Recognition Awards & Picnic—Verde Valley

November 19, Prescott—Elections; Panel—“The State of Organics in the Food Distribution Industry”

December—No Meeting

**Verde Valley Farmers Market, Camp Verde**

When: Saturdays, 8:00 am until 12:00 noon, June 14th through October 4th

Where: Eagle Scout Pavilion, located off Main Street on Hol-lamon, directly in front of Fort Verde State Park

Who: Market Manager, Jane Davie, 634-7077

This farmers market is really dedicated to local farmers. Craft sellers and and non-farm items are limited, so if you want farm items this is the place to go.

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.

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No Meeting for July but join in for Monsoon Madness

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