



DESERT GARDEN CLUB



April 2021 NEWSLETTER

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Please note that we are now back at the Lecture Hall going forward

Tuesday, April 6th at 10:00am, Lecture Hall, RH Johnson Rec Center

Project Manager Mike Anderson and Karl Wilhelm, Facilities Project Superintendent for SCW will share the plans for our replacement greenhouse.

Tuesday, May 4th, at 10:00 am, Lecture Hall, RH Johnson Rec Center

The speaker is Olivia Bogues from the Phoenix Herpetological Sanctuary giving a presentation on Desert Wildlife and Safety.

UPDATE – GREENHOUSE APPROVAL PROCESS

Our April 6th Membership, in person meeting, will be devoted to a discussion about the progress made in getting the long-awaited new greenhouse. Project Manager Mike Anderson and Karl Wilhelm, Facilities Project Superintendent for SCW will share the plans for our replacement greenhouse. This will be a very informative meeting for everyone.



You can see from these pictures that there is limited workspace, the floor has no drainage and the roof leaks during rainstorms. The climate control system is very primitive as well.

PLANT SALES HAVE RESUMED

We are now selling our desert plants to both SCW residents and the general public! We have the greenhouse open from 9:00 am to noon Monday - Friday. We intend to have one Saturday sale each month as well.

Sales so far have been fantastic! Because of the positive reaction to our plant sales, we could use more help in planting and selling – contact Lisa Sailing at Lisasspt@gmail.com to get more details.

PLANT HARVESTING

We are officially open again and are now harvesting to support our sales. With our club looking to expand this year into a new greenhouse, we are working to raise money towards our goal. So, if you have any pups and overgrown plants we can harvest, let us know, and we will come over and pick them up.

Please talk to your friends and neighbors about this program. We can often save a homeowner money by cutting back their plants, so they do not have to hire a landscaper to do it.



Mike Anderson loads a tub of Beavertail cactus cuttings into his van. The president of an HOA near Echo Mesa Golf Course invited our harvesting crew to salvage several cuttings including some Blue Steel Agave pups and several pieces of Eve's Needle.

MASTER GARDENERS

We would like to know who in our club are Master Gardeners. If you have completed the Master Gardner program, we would like you to join a committee to answer questions that come up from members from time to time. Please reach out to Dave Wiegand at davidwieg@aol.com if you would be willing to occasionally share your expertise.

GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS

With the relaxation of many COVID restrictions, the greenhouse has seen a marked increase in daily visitors and plant sales. The word is getting around that we are open every weekday morning and we are hearing lots of positive feedback about our marvelous plant displays. Our Beardsley site is a great place to learn more about desert plants from your fellow members.

As snowbird members begin to depart for the season, we still need 2-3 people every day to staff the monitor positions and handle plant sales through the end of May. Orientation sessions for anyone who is new to monitoring are being held from 9-12 each day during the week of April 5-9th. Contact Lisa Sailing to schedule at Lisasspt@gmail.com (608-695-9417).

Our summer operations are limited to twice weekly watering during the months of June, July, and August. Contact Glenn and Suzy Landis at intunetoa@gmail.com (610-858-4823) to volunteer for watering.

Please help if you can. Experience is not required - only a willingness to actively support our club.

Newsletter submitted by Bob Buerrosse on behalf of the Board