

2021 Summer Gets Hot and Work Continues

Unlike 2020 when the club was locked out of the greenhouse area due to COVID-19, the summer of 2021 began with the Harvest Crew working overtime collecting plants from residents' yards. This led to a need for more people to pot up the cacti and agaves, and then to keep them watered. May ended with a series of 100+ degree days as a prelude to June's heat! As fall came along, the greenhouse needed to be emptied and the plant inventory reduced to make room for construction of the new greenhouse in 2022.



Even though he was new to the club this year, it did not take the head of the potting crew, Sandy Warmuth, to put Jim Hussey to work rummaging through the pot supply for ones to accommodate several newly harvested plants.



Mea Stees, Liz Baker, Sandy Warmuth and Mary Beth Kunze go through plants with a "rooting" label to see if they have produced roots. Those that showed sufficient root growth were then relabeled and possibly repotted.



Mea Stees, Bruce Campbell, and Jody Harcourt gather around a potting bench. They always covered the more sensitive plants with extra shade cloth to protect from the hot summer sun.



Why this picture? Because this is how great this area looks after Jim Hussey moved and stored all of the empty pots. And he did this when the temperature was over 100 degrees. Look at the photo above to see how many pots were moved.



With thousands of plants that are thirsty, this group, Jan Cartozian, Renee Osborne, Linda Bartelt, Pam Allen, and Kathryn Kendall, gather each Monday morning to give them a drink. Even cacti needed water in the summer heat.



Club Vice President Linda Hunter meets with the new watering directors Jan Cartozian, Liz Baker, and Marion Baty. Linda, along with Club Secretary Jeanette Johnson worked out the details for these three ladies to be in charge of the watering crew.



HOT! HOT! HOT! But Liz Baker gets to the greenhouse early to water the plants



Even though plant sales were suspended, Mea Stees makes sure the plants are watered during the extreme summer heat.



Lucille Hager donates several totem pole cuttings to the greenhouse. Tom Cavanagh and Mike Anderson harvested them during this very warm day in August.



To reduce inventory before the greenhouse is torn down to make way for the new greenhouse, plants sales are held for club members only. From 8 to 11 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, members took home hundreds of plants for as little as \$1 each.



A day after the October 13th Sun City West Newcomers Orientation, Linda Mandoske picked up her new dish garden that she won in a free drawing at the SCW Desert Garden Club table. Having moved into her new Sun City West home in January, Linda was one of many new residents who checked out the 100 plus clubs available in the community. She moved from Surprise and has been an Arizona resident for many years as her father was a pilot at the Luke Air Force Base.



At the October 13th Sun City West Newcomers Orientation, President Dave Wiegand hands a club brochure to a new resident. Many who recently moved to the area checked out the 100 plus clubs available.



The greenhouse crew created a beautiful dish garden that was given away through a free drawing. President Dave Wiegand and Vice President Linda Hunter answered many cactus questions and invited at least a hundred new residents to join the club.



Rhondi Johnson and Tom Cavanagh discuss what to pot and what to throw away. With the new greenhouse coming soon, the club needed to decrease the inventory before it all had to be moved.



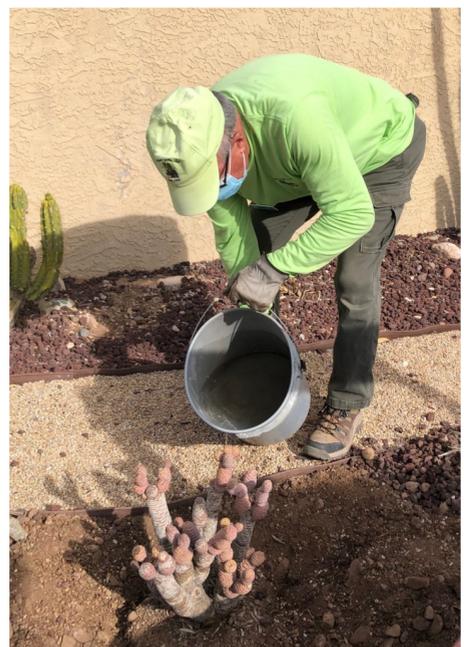
With the plant inventory shrinking, Jodie Busenitz moves some plants to empty a display rack.



Jim Consolloy and Pat Wanta dig up a paper-spined cholla. Many of the display plants had to be moved to make room for the new greenhouse.



Janice Schneikart and Diana Peppin sort and inventory the club's reference books before packing them into a plastic tub. The contents of the greenhouse had to be moved before the structure was torn down.



To make the dirt a bit easier to dig, Jim Consolloy pours water on a spruce cone prior to moving it away from the area where the new greenhouse will be built.



In preparation for moving all remaining plants and club equipment out of the area, Greenhouse Administrator Lisa Sailing checks out which benches and pots can be moved prior to the end of December when the primary evacuation was scheduled.



After a few weeks of selling plants to club members for as little as \$1 each, the large plant inventory was reduced even more by donating many specimens to the SCW Prides and the SCW Landscaping Department.