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DESERT GARDEN CLUB

of Sun City West

“Open to Club Members and their Accompanied Guests!”

August 2023

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/>

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

CLUB MEETINGS BEGIN WITH AN 8:30 A.M. SOCIAL,
FOLLOWED BY THE 9:00 A.M. MEETING WITH DOOR PRIZE

Tuesday September 12 8:30-10:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Rec Center Social Hall East

Speaker: Ben McGonigle, Certified Arborist from Design Tree Maintenance

Tuesday October 10 8:30-10:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Rec Center Social Hall East

Speaker: Scott McMahon, Manager of the Cactus Collection at the Desert Botanical Garden from 2006 to 2020. Topic: Echinocereus (Hedgehog) Cactus

November: No regular Membership Meeting

Due to the Fall Social scheduled November 10

Tuesday December 12 8:30-10:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Rec Center Social Hall East

Election of 2024 Officers

Speaker and Topic to be announced

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday October 20 3:00-6:00 p.m. Beardsley Rec Center Courtyard

Botanical Garden Dedication

Friday November 10 5:30-7:30 p.m. R.H. Johnson Social Hall WEST

Club Fall Social

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have two new members in the Desert Garden Club!

Please welcome them when you see them at our meetings and events:

Paul Curtis

Shannon Jefferson

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS – TOPICS TO BE ANNOUNCED

Wednesday September 27 9:00-10:00 a.m. Beardsley Rec Center Agave Room

Wednesday October 25 *10:00-11:00 a.m.* Beardsley Rec Center Agave Room

Wednesday November 15 9:00-10:00 a.m. Beardsley Rec Center Agave Room

December: No Workshop scheduled.

*Please note time change

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Our club will be part of the Rec Center's Happy Camp in March 2024. We will host kids at the greenhouse several times to acquaint them with succulents. We'll be looking for members to help.

WORK CONTINUES IN SUMMER HEAT

While the club does not have meetings or regular plant sales during the summer, activity continues in the greenhouse and the Botanical Garden. The additions of shade cloth on the west and south walls, plus an improved water wall, keep temperatures in the greenhouse much lower than last summer. To see more photos, complete with descriptions, go to the website at

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2023/07/2023-Work-continues-in-Summer-Heat.pdf>.



GREENHOUSE OPERATIONS

OUR SINCERE THANKS to those members who volunteered their time during the months of May, June, and July to water our plants! This summer's watering crew has endured EXTREME temperatures and we are grateful for their service. Currently, volunteers are coming in Monday and Thursday mornings, starting between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

WATERING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Watering of plants continues through summer months - EARLY mornings to avoid intense heat! There are open time slots on the crew for August and September, *especially on Thursdays*. Please go to the club website to volunteer to help out, if you can. Training will take place upon arrival, if you are new to watering, and most all watering is done under the shade cloth area. Signup can be done at <https://garden.scwclubs.com/sign-up-for-club-activities-2/> and the password is **cactus**. Or, email Jan Cartozian at janmc65@gmail.com or Louise Mozealous at glnl@netzero.com.

SUMMER PLANT SALES

A reminder that “casual” plant purchases can be made if someone is in the greenhouse when you stop by – best time will be 8:00 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cash or checks ONLY accepted for “casual” sales.

MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Vice President Jan Cartozian conducted the May Membership Meeting. The first agenda item was the presentation of four \$500 donations to Cindy Saverino, Vice President of Planning and Program Development for The Doves Program; Brian Bell, Executive Director for Northwest Valley Connect; Tracy Skousen, Library Director of R.H. Johnson Library; and John Christian, President of SCW's Broadcast Club's KSCW radio program. Later, membership approved two additional donations: \$500 to the Valley View Food Bank and \$3,000 to the SCW Posse. The featured speaker was long-time club member Jim Consolloy, who presented “Birding in Your Backyard.” The meeting closed with giving out door prizes. Check out the photos on the website at <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2023/05/2023-May-Member-meeting.pdf>.

CLEANING THE WATER WALL

On the last Friday in April, Mike Anderson led a crew of six members in opening up the water wall for a thorough cleaning. The top cover was removed, along with the nearly 40 feet of paper honeycomb sections. Then, the bottom metal drip trays were removed, to give access to the large plastic pipe running along the bottom. After only about six months of operation in the cooler winter months, a good deal of sludge had accumulated in the pipe, as the dust in the outside air was drawn through the water wall to cool the building via evaporation. Most of the mineral deposits were scraped off the metal sections with elbow grease and putty knives. The paper honeycombs were pounded on the table, vacuumed, and brushed to get rid of as much of the mineral deposits as possible. It was a dusty process that called for face masks like the ones used during the pandemic. The whole process was completed and all the pieces put back in place in under three hours!



CLUB WEBSITE

Photographs sent in by members show beautiful cactus blooms here in our community. See them at <https://garden.scwclubs.com/members-desert-plant-photos/>. Feel free to continue submitting photos to Dave davidwieg@aol.com as you find more beautiful cactus flowers in our local community. If possible, please include the identity of the desert garden plant(s) in the photo.

Submitted by Bob Buerrosse, Sher Clark and Jackie Jabens, Publicity Co-Chairs, on behalf of the SCW Desert Garden Club Board



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