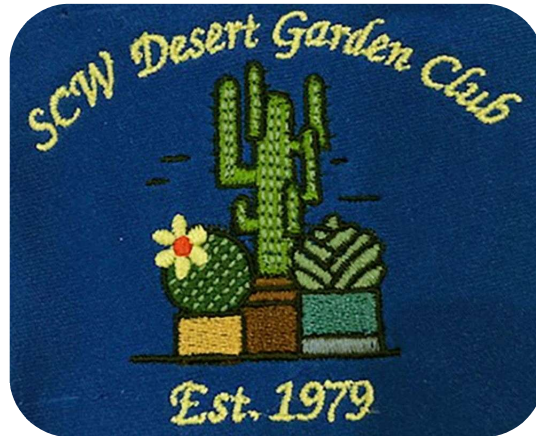


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DESERT GARDEN CLUB

of Sun City West

“Open to Club Members and their Accompanied Guests”

April 2024

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

SCW Desert Garden Club’s mission is to promote, nurture and sustain interest in desert plants through education and charitable service to the SCW community, and to provide social activities for members.

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

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

Tuesday April 9 8:30-10:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Social Hall East

Featured speaker: Connie Moore, Master Beekeeper with Honey Hive Farms

Topic: Helping Honey Bees

Connie will share her knowledge of the different types of honey bees within a colony and their various roles, why they are important to our world, and how we can help them. She will also have live honey bees in an observation hive for up-close viewing and local honey varieties for tasting and purchasing. [Click here to learn more about Honey Hive Farms.](#)

Tuesday May 14 8:30-10:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Social Hall East

Featured speaker: Kelsie Hughes-McSparran, Certified Master Gardener & Desert Garden Club New Member

Topic: Stamping Out Stinknet!

Kelsie is bringing Stinknet specimens and discussing all phases of the plant. She also is teaching us a little about site searches on University of Arizona Cooperative Extension's website. BONUS: She's a keeper of 2 somewhat behaved Sulcata tortoises!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

Tuesday April 23 10:00-11:30 a.m. R.H. Johnson Social Hall East

Final Workshop Until September!

Topic: How to Protect Plants When Extreme Heat Occurs

Presenter: Ben McGonigle, Certified Arborist and Owner of Design Tree Maintenance

Extreme heat...

-Slows and damages the growth of roots.

-Decreases the ability of the plants to make food and breath.

-Increases the water stress on the plant by the loss of water vapor through its leaves.

Note: This workshop also is open to all Sun City West rec card holders! Invite friends and neighbors to attend!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Monday April 15 7:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (est.) Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Bus trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum in Superior, AZ

The bus has filled. If you would like to be added to the waiting list, contact Sandy Warmuth at azrose66@gmail.com or 319-429-0234.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We have 7 new members in the Desert Garden Club!

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

Linda Geringer * Donald Husley * John Payne * Christine Wieland

Sharon Coppock * Carol Key * Joe Warmuth

February Spring Social

The 2024 Desert Garden Club Spring Luncheon was held at RH Johnson Social Hall East on February 22, with approximately 83 people in attendance. To read highlights, including grateful

thank-yous and additional photos, click here: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/02/2024-February-Spring-Social-Event.pdf>.





February Workshop Highlights

37 members enjoyed the Propagating Desert Plants Workshop on February 28, held in the Agave Room at Beardsley Rec Center. Mike Anderson gave a detailed presentation on how to harvest various types of plants and the tools he uses. He stressed safety as well as when and where to cut the plants. Sandy Warmuth, greenhouse potting crew co-leader, and Jan Cartozian, greenhouse watering crew co-leader and also potting crew co-leader, demonstrated how, after harvesting, plants are potted and watered. They gave details on type of soil necessary, size of hole to dig, how to determine which plants need to dry or to scab before planting, as well as when and how much water to use. The importance of using a water meter (or a screwdriver) to test soil for moisture was explained.

Click on this link to view additional photos: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/03/1111aaa-template.pdf>.





Annual Garden Tour Event

The 2024 Annual Garden Walk on March 18 featured seven home gardens and was an inspiring success! About a third of our membership, club cards in hand, was treated to an impressive array of fellow members' desert gardens and saw many fantastic plantings. Garden owners and volunteers participated in a pre-tour on March 11, so as not to miss out on the enjoyment. Desert Garden Club officers and board members want to say a special thank-you to those gardeners who opened up their yards for this activity:

Bill Ravert Mary & Dennis Madill Jan Cartozian Dodie Weiland
Kathy Loun Don and Kathy Blomberg Joleen Peer

They also wish to thank Karen and Larry Plitt who, with assistance from Linda Wagner and Sandy Warmuth, did another outstanding job of managing all Garden Tour details and, together with the garden owners and event volunteers, made the event a great success.

Click here to view additional photos: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/03/2024-march-Garden-Walk-1.pdf>.







Volunteer Opportunities - We Need You!

DGC Plant Sales Crew is still looking for volunteers to help at upcoming Plant Sales. There are openings for both cashiers and sales crew. Don't worry if you have never worked at a plant sale, as there are always other members around to help answer questions. As a reminder, please use the SCW Desert Garden Club website by clicking here:

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/sign-up-for-club-activities-2/> (Password: cactus). Select the Plant Sales Crew box and it will take you to the SignUpGenius website. You can look at upcoming sale dates to see where volunteers are needed for either cashier or sales crew.

OUR NEXT BIG PLANT SALE is scheduled on Saturday, April 6 from 8:00 a.m.-NOON at the Beardsley Rec Center Greenhouse. **Weekday sales** are scheduled on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, please let me know. We look forward to working with you and thanks for your support!

Teri Klyzek
Sales Crew Co-Leader
teri.dgc.sales@gmail.com

Happy Camp Results in Happy Kids and Happy Volunteers

Happy Camp 2024 is now just a fond memory for the SCW Desert Garden Club!

We hosted 14 kids and at least that many adults! A wonderful tour of the SCW Botanical Garden was led by Pat Wanta, our landscape designer. She showed dried plant parts of different cacti to the amazed learners. The jumping cholla was nothing to fear unless you brushed against one! Several information sheets were given out and a guided wildflower hunt took place.

After the tour and hunt, Jim Consolloy, our botanist, shared many unique qualities of our collection of cacti and succulents. Campers were able to use a high-powered microscope to see parts of plants and even a cochineal bug used in red dyes.

Camp time wound down with every child choosing a flower pot and planting elephant food to take home. Each of the pots sported a miniature Arizona state flag. Finally, the kids were treated to bread shaped like saguaro cactus with prickly pear jelly for a topping! We thank our planning team of Jeanette Johnson, Jackie Jabens, and Mary Beth Kunze. Bob Buerrosse was there to capture the fun with his photos, and Jim Vanderpoel was a great volunteer too. View additional photos by clicking here: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/03/2024-happy-Camp-for-kids-1.pdf>.







WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE GARDEN

The Sun City West Botanical Garden continues to expand. This past month, we have added many more desert-adaptable plants into well-designed beds and borders in our North Garden along Beardsley Road, just outside of the north courtyard entrance gate.

Thanks to the SCW Landscape Department, we now have additional large boulders, berms of good topsoil and 4 new trees. Live oaks, formally *Quercus virginiana*, and *Dalbergia sissoos*, also known as Indian rosewood, will provide additional shade in the future.

We welcome all volunteers into the garden! Members old and new who checked Plant Care on our survey are especially invited to spend a couple hours a week on Tuesday and/or Thursday mornings. We have so many gardening ideas to share with you and it is by far the best activity to improve your mind, body and spirit.

Our next venture will be the creation of a new pollinator plant garden section, installing plants obtained through a grant from the Monarch Society and grown by Scottsdale Community College students.

Our plants would love to share your CO₂, and have fun talking to them!!

Submitted by Botanical Garden Chair and Botanist Jim Consolloy



Plant of the Month: Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*) is one of the most common Sonoran Desert plants. It grows on dry, rocky slopes with bright yellow flowers resembling miniature sunflowers. It got its common name because its stems are very brittle. Spanish missionaries called it Incienso because they used its sap for incense.

Early indigenous peoples used the gummy sap for glue, as well as for the fragrance of its leaves. Up close, the leaves are covered with fine, silvery hairs and given the species name *farinosa*, in Latin meaning mealy or powdery looking.

It is planted in front of our greenhouse, up against the garden wall in the native plant section, requiring minimum watering and surviving our winter frosts. Its plentiful tiny brown seeds are the main source of food for our desert sparrows and towhees.

Brittlebush in bloom...



Brittlebush flower closeup...

Brittlebush leaf structures...



Brittlebush plants at Jim Consolloy's home garden entrance:



Recent Harvest of a Compass Barrel Cactus

On March 19, 4 club members harvested a large Compass Barrel Cactus that was replanted in the North Garden at Beardsley Recreation Center. Rob Baty, Jim Vanderpoel, Randy Rubattino, and Dave Wiegand had all they could muster to lift the 300 to 400 pound plant into the back of Rob's truck. With help from Pat Wanta and Jim Consolloy, Rob and Jim planted it in the newly incorporated section of the club's botanical garden. View additional photos of the process by clicking here: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/03/2024-March-harvesting-a-Large-Cactus-1.pdf>.





DGC Member Discount Now Available at Green Spot Nursery!

- 20% discount
- Present your SCW DGC card to be eligible
- Please ask for details on the discount at the nursery

To learn more about Green Spot Nursery and Landscaping, click here:

<https://greenspotnurseryaz.com/>

Would you like to share this newsletter with a friend? Click here:

Forward to a Friend

Submitted by Sherry Clark, Jackie Jabens and Laura Webb, Publicity Co-Chairs, on behalf of the SCW Desert Garden Club Board

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