

[View this email in your browser](#)



# DESERT GARDEN CLUB

## of Sun City West

**“Open to Club Members and their Accompanied Guests”**

---

May 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

#### **FINAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING UNTIL SEPTEMBER:**

**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 is a keeper of 2 somewhat behaved Sulcata tortoises!

BRING YOUR QUESTIONS, BRING YOUR OWN YARD SPECIMENS YOU'D LIKE IDENTIFIED, AND BRING YOUR CELL PHONE/IPAD TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH KELSIE.

---

### **A Note From Julia....**

It has been a wonderful winter & spring in the garden!

**I want to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "Thank you"**. Many, many thanks to our many volunteers that have made this a VERY productive season for the club. As you know, we have \$15,000 to donate to Sun City West charitable organizations. More on that soon!

*Thank you to those who have harvested, planted, worked with mixing the soil, washed pots that have been donated, marked plants for sale, worked the sale days too - answering questions and assisting with purchases, putting out signs, setting up for the sale, and all the beautiful work being done in the "north and south" gardens! You make Sun City West beautiful.*

*Thank you to our committee members and board members too! Your work to educate and inform members and residents does not go unseen or unappreciated. **Thank you!***

**If you have not gotten involved, please do! Reach out today!**

We are in NEED of a Treasurer for next year. If you have bookkeeping experience or a financial background, let's chat! WE can train you, too. Karen Anderson has been the club treasurer for 3 years now and will help you learn the role. Email me -

[Julia.DesertGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.DesertGardenClub@gmail.com).

Julia Miller  
President of the Board  
SCW Desert Garden Club

---

### **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:

Joyce Auer   Judy Brooks   Deborah Coker   Carrie Enroth  
Kerry Hutson   Colleen Saeger   Linda Swift

---

### **UNCLAIMED NAMETAGS & MEMBERSHIP CARDS:**

If you have not yet picked up your club membership card or the nametag you ordered, please do so at the greenhouse on one of these days:

Tuesday, April 30 8 a.m.-10 a.m.

Thursday, May 2 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, May 4 8 a.m.-noon

You'll find them hanging from a yellow clip on a blue cabinet & inside a blue cabinet drawer.

Unfortunately, postal costs prohibit mailing them. Any questions, contact Jackie at 701-373-1820 or 210871jmkj9@gmail.com. Thank you!



---

### **March Workshop: Irrigation**

The workshop on March 28 focused on irrigating different plants with different watering needs with one valve. It was open to all SCW rec card holders. Approximately 78 were in attendance. The presenter was Jonathan Manning, ISA Certified Arborist since 2008 and Elgin Nursery Manager. Jonathan gave tips on how to use varying drip heads with different water flows (gph) to meet the individual plant's need but all being sourced from a 1 valve system. He also showed hose head nozzles to replace or augment the system, with and without timers. He stayed and answered many individual questions.

Click here to view more workshop photos: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-March-Irrigation-Workshop.pdf>.

# Watering Trees and Shrubs With Only One Valve

Presented by: Jonathan Manning  
Email-jmplants45@gmail.com





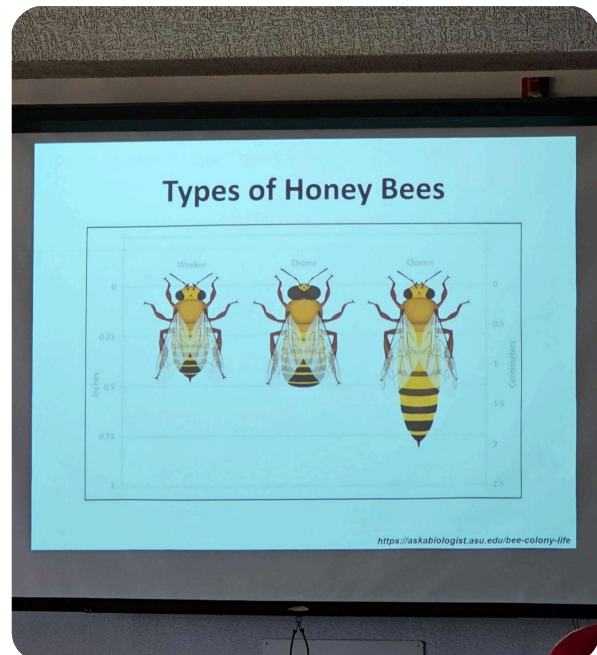
## **April Membership Meeting Highlights**

Club President Julia Miller began the April 9 meeting by recognizing all of the work done by so many of the club's members. From harvesting to sales, she pointed out the many volunteer hours spent making our organization a success. She then called on Sandy Warmuth, Mary Beth Kunze, and Mike Anderson to report on social activities, educational events, and greenhouse operations. A proposal to donate \$15,000 to 501(c)(3) charities serving the Sun City West community was unanimously approved.

Jeanette Johnson introduced this month's featured speaker, Master Beekeeper Connie Moore, owner of Honey Hive Farms. Her presentation, Helping Honey Bees, was lively as well as informative. Her love of bees was obvious, as she explained many aspects of getting honey to market, along with the roles each type of bee takes on in the hive. She brought a case with live bees, including a queen, giving members a chance to get close to the action without fear of being stung. With her son's assistance, Connie offered free tastes of a variety of her bees' honey products and sold several bottles.

The meeting ended with four people winning door prizes.

Click here to view additional meeting photos: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-Membership-Meeting.pdf>.





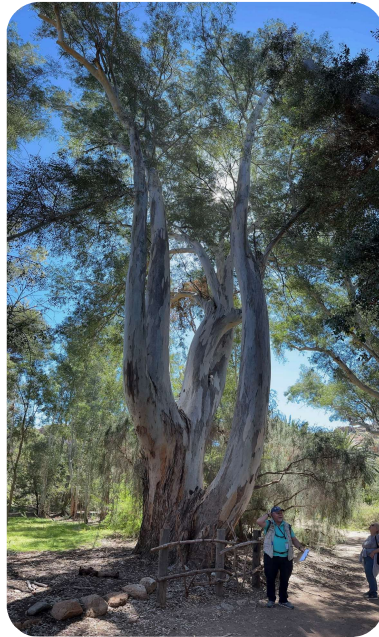
---

### **Bus Trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum**

The DGC's annual fieldtrip, this year to Boyce Thompson Arboretum near Superior, Arizona, was on April 15 and attended by 58 members. Bus Trip Bingo was played along the way, and a wildflower scavenger hunt was created to guide members through the garden in search of wildflowers. Tour guides assigned to small groups walked the main trail to instruct about plants and the history of the arboretum. The guides were extremely knowledgeable, making the tours fun and very educational.

When the tours were over, club members were free to explore on their own and enjoy the lunches they brought with them. It was an educational trip for all.

Many thanks to Sandy Warmuth, Vicki Crites and Julia Miller for organizing and facilitating the trip. Please click here to view more fun fieldtrip photos! <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-Fieldtrip-3.pdf>.





---

### **April Workshop: Helping Plants Survive Extreme Heat**

The Sun City West Desert Garden Club hosted a workshop on April 23 from 10:00-11:00 am at the R.H. Johnson Social Hall West and invited all SCW rec card holders to attend. Approximately 210 were in attendance. The topic was Helping Your Plants Survive If Another Extreme Heat Summer Occurs. Presenter Ben McGonigle, owner of Design Tree Maintenance, explained how extreme heat slows and damages the growth of roots, decreases the ability of plants to make food and breathe, and increases water stress on plants by the loss of water vapor through their leaves. He explained how asphalt, rocks, stucco fences, etc. increase temperatures, how consistent watering schedules are beneficial, the reasons to water at the drip line of the tree, rather than the base, and, if feasible, to spray plants off after dusk to cool them, in addition to providing shade for plants if needed during the extreme heat.

Ben graciously stayed after the presentation to answer many questions.

Click here to view additional photos: <https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-Workshop.pdf>.





# What Happened Last Summer To the Trees and Saguaros?

By: Ben McGonigle / Certified Arborist





## **Greenhouse Activities Need Volunteers**

**OUR PLANT SALES CREW** is still looking for volunteers to help at our last two plant sales. There are openings for both cashiers and sales helpers, especially as some of our regular volunteers will be unavailable. Don't worry if you have never worked at a plant sale, as there are always other members around to help answer questions. Please use the SCW Desert Garden Club website to sign up to help by clicking here:

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/sign-up-for-club-activities-2/>. Password is **cactus**. Select the Plant Sales Crew box and it will take you to the SignUpGenius website.

**OUR LAST BIG PLANT SALE UNTIL OCTOBER** is Saturday, May 4 from 8:00 a.m.-NOON at the Beardsley Rec Center Greenhouse.

**OUR LAST WEEKDAY SALE UNTIL OCTOBER** is Thursday, May 2 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the same location.

**\*We will be offering \$10 off of each \$50 spent on plants at both sales - May 2nd and May 4th!\***

**REGARDING SUMMER "CASUAL" SALES:** After May 4 and until October, there will be casual sales only if someone is at the greenhouse when you stop by. There are not scheduled times for the greenhouse to be open but the best days might be Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:00 a.m. If it is your lucky day and someone is there to sell a plant, it will be CASH OR CHECK ONLY, no credit cards.

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

**WATERING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** for early morning watering during the summer months. To avoid the heat of the day, we water at 7:00 a.m. There are a number of open time slots to choose from; however, we especially need help on Thursdays! Training is available upon arrival if you are new to watering, and most all watering is done under the shade cloth area. Anyone interested in helping, please email Jan Cartozian at [janmc65@gmail.com](mailto:janmc65@gmail.com) or Louise Mozealous at [glnl@netzero.com](mailto:glnl@netzero.com). Sign-up can also be done at <https://garden.scwclubs.com/sign-up-for-club-activities-2/>. Password is **cactus**.

---

### **NEW CLUB TREASURER NEEDED**

Our Desert Garden Club is in need of a Treasurer, effective January 1, 2024.

The majority of the club's treasury work takes place October through May.

If you have bookkeeping experience or a financial background, let's chat!

We can train you, too. Karen Anderson, who has been club treasurer for 3 years, is retiring as of December 31. She will help you learn the role and has offered to be available for complete support. Email Club President Julia Miller to learn more:

[Julia.DesertGardenClub@gmail.com](mailto:Julia.DesertGardenClub@gmail.com).

---

### **WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE GARDEN**

**Plant of the Month:** Red Yucca is one of the most popular and dependable landscape plants in the Beardsley Botanical Garden. It is not a Yucca but in the Agave Family, with its own genus called Hesperaloe, with the specific name *parvifolia* and in many texts called Red Hesperaloe. Named because it was/is found in the west = hesper, and it's flowers and stalks resemble aloes. There are several varieties available now with flower spikes ranging from yellow, orange and red to bright reds. Featured in Mary Irish's book called *Arizona Gardeners Guide* (2003). She states "Hesperaloe *tenuifolia* has deep, pink flowers, and leaves so fine they resemble grass". A closely related species called Hesperaloe *funifera*, "has large stiff leaves and a massive, branched flower stalk with night opening, white flowers".



Yellow Flowering Hesperaloe parviflora.



Dark Red Flowering Hesperaloe.



---

**South American Night-blooming Easter Lily Cactus - *Echinopsis oxygona*:** Its growth habit is very similar to that of the Argentine Giant Cactus, *Echinopsis candicans*.



---

**DGC Member 20% Discount at Green Spot Nursery**

Present your SCW DGC membership card to be eligible.

Ask for details on the discount at the nursery.

Learn more about Green Spot Nursery and Landscaping at:

<https://greenspotnurseryaz.com/> or call 928-684-1236

or visit the nursery at 50335 US Hwy 60/89, Wickenburg, AZ 85390

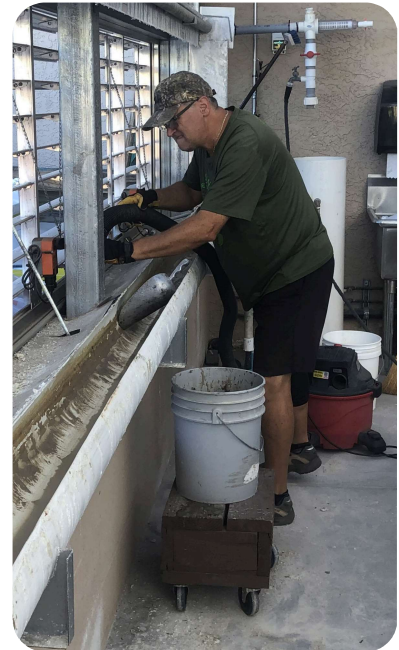


---

**CLUB MEMBERS KEEP BUSY!**

**Mechanicals Crew Leader Mike Anderson** would like to acknowledge the volunteers who recently made possible a highly successful morning of maintenance to the greenhouse water wall. Those present for the job on April 19 removed and disposed of the old filters, drained the system, cleaned the equipment thoroughly, then installed the new filters and, finally, added fresh water to the system. Many thanks to James Vanderpoel, Randy Rubattino and Dave Wiegand, as this was truly a team effort! Click here for the full story and additional photos of this experienced team at work:

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-activities-1.pdf>.



Above-James Vanderpoel. Right-Randy Rubattino.  
Photos-Dave Wiegand.

**Representing the Education Outreach Committee**, Mary Beth Kunze made a presentation on proper potting techniques to 11 guests at the R.H. Johnson Library on April 12. The library was sponsoring a plant exchange, and Mary Beth volunteered to share her gardening expertise as part of the event. She explained our club's mission, demonstrated cleaning harvested plants, using amended soil, choosing a pot and proper watering. She gave away 4 potted plants and 1 small dish garden. In addition, she passed out the club's information brochure, shared the times the greenhouse and botanical are open and watering information.

Click here to see additional photos of Mary Beth at work:

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-activities-1.pdf>.



**The Harvest Crew**, including Rob Baty, Randy Rubattino, Trisa Graves, Mike Anderson, Jim Vanderpoel, and Dave Wiegand recently filled a truck bed with Golden Barrel Cactus plants from a local residence. Two of the larger ones were added to the North Botanical Garden, under the direction of Pat Wanta and Diana Peppin. Kent Medrow and Tom Cavanagh helped move these heavy beasts into position. Click here to view additional photos of this process:

<https://garden.scwclubs.com/files/2024/04/2024-April-activities-1.pdf>



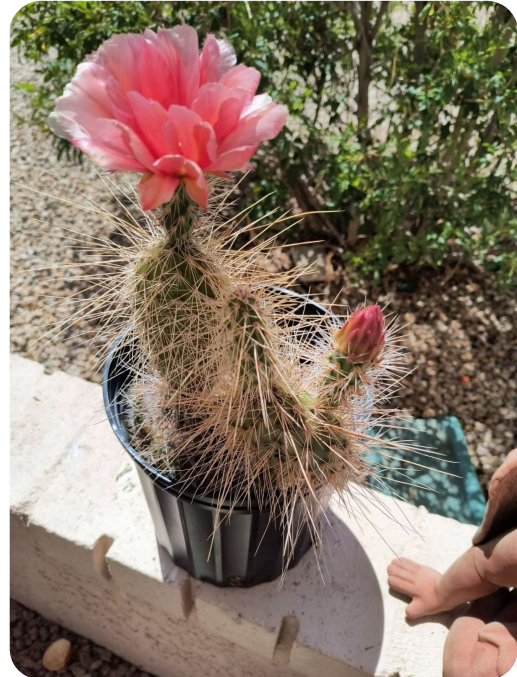
---

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



**ID:** *Opuntia polyacantha var. erinacea*    **AKA:** Grizzlybear Cactus    **Submitted by:** Sandy Warmuth



Our mailing address is:

Sun City West Desert Garden Club  
12755 W Beardsley Rd  
Beardsley Rec Center Courtyard  
Sun City West, AZ 85375-3328  
USA