



# GATHERINGS



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009

## Volunteers In The Garden

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2009**  
**DORRANCE HALL**

9:30 a.m. - Social Hour  
10 a.m. - Business Meeting  
10:15 a.m. - Program

**CHRIS N. PARISH**

BIOLOGIST FOR ARIZONA FISH AND GAME  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF THE PEREGRINE FUND

PRESENTS

**"California Condor Reintroduction Project  
in the Vermilion Cliffs -  
Where it all began and  
Are we making any progress?"**



# PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

"Success is in the details." I'm not sure who coined that phrase but I think he/she was on to something!

I think of this quote every time I attend a meeting for the Berlin Agave/Yucca Forest exhibit. I'm part of the team of department representatives who contribute to this project. We all understand the big picture. When you start looking at the layering of components that create this picture, the details are staggering! The construction documents alone are 16 huge sheets with a myriad of information: planting design, irrigation requirements, electrical elements, hard scape, water feature, structural design... they go on. Attention to the details is constant; otherwise mistakes can be made causing delay or additional expenditure. Each member of the team monitors these details keeping the project on track to create success.

Volunteering at the Garden is also about attention to the details. It's ensuring that the information delivered to the visitors on a docent tour is accurate. It's the attention to detail that guarantees that a plant is mounted onto an herbarium sheet properly. It's the authenticity of our passions as we represent the Garden at outside events.

Our success? It's everywhere! You can see it on the faces of visitors as they wander through our beautiful Garden marveling at amazing cacti. You can see it in the thousands of children with whom we share our knowledge and love of the Sonoran Desert. It's how you feel when you walk along a path and know that you've helped, directly or indirectly, to create what you see before you. Our success is monumental!

It is really interesting to watch an exhibit grow from a rough sketch into the construction phase. Grading, placement of boulders, and the creation of the water feature have already been completed. Planting of major specimens will be happening soon. I flip through those construction documents, soaking up the details (not that I understand it all). I ask a lot of questions; I want to be sure to get it right. 'Cause I know that success is in the details!

**DAWN GOLDMAN**

PRESIDENT, VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN



## CONT. EDUCATION

The October 12 VIG meeting will feature Chris N. Parish, Biologist for Arizona Fish and Game, and Program Director of the Peregrine Fund. He will present "California Condor Reintroduction Project in the Vermilion Cliffs---Where it all began, and are we making any progress". From an all time low of 22 individual condors, there are now over 300. Seventy or more are flying free in the Canyon country of Arizona and Utah. Nine wild-hatched young have been produced and currently there are five active nests.

Following Chris's presentation you will have an opportunity to meet with JUDY BATES, LARRIE BATES, and me to learn about our experience at the APGA World Wide Meeting in St. Louis, MO. This is all about the future of botanical gardens world wide, including DBG.

Social hour begins at 9:30 a.m.; The business meeting will follow at 10 a.m. The keynote speaker will present at 10:15 a.m., and the discussion table will follow the main presentation. See all of you at the Meeting!

**MIKE GILMAN**

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

### VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	DAWN GOLDMAN
VICE PRESIDENT	MIKE GILMAN
SECRETARY	MARILYN WOLFE
TREASURER	JUDY THOMPSON

A monthly newsletter for and by the  
Volunteers of the Desert Botanical Garden

EDITOR/LAYOUT	NANCY WALKER
PROOFING EDITOR	ELAINE GRUBER
STAFF LIAISON	PAM LEVIN

# seedlings

## SEEDLINGS FOLLOW IN FIRST LADY'S FOOTSTEPS—AND LEARN ABOUT COMPOSTING

When the new Seedlings classes walk outside Wells Fargo Classroom A this fall, they'll see the compost pile in the back. They'll learn about the value of using compost to help plants grow, and they have a wonderful role model—First Lady Michelle Obama.

Compost has played an important role in the First Lady's White House chemical-free vegetable plot, according to a June 16 article in the US News & World Report ([www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com)). The 'secret ingredient' that helped this year's White House garden produce an abundance of crops was the compost donated by a New York celebrity chef. To keep things growing well in next year's garden, the White House plans to build three kitchen-waste compost piles.



Raking brown and green materials. Photo by Mary Versosky

"I don't formally introduce the concept to the preschoolers," Shannon Wheeler, Early Childhood Program Manager, explained. "It happens if they take interest in it. For example if I'm outside, and children start to stir the compost," she said, "I join them in mixing it. As we're mixing, we talk about what we see in the pile, that we need to stir it, and

add water. I ask them questions about what they think will happen with this pile or what will happen to the carrot we see on top. Over the next few weeks when they come back," she continued, "we'll look at the pile and talk about any changes we've observed."

Another way Seedlings see compost happening is through worm-composting in the classroom. Students will bring in watermelon or banana scraps and watch the changes that occur over the next week or two, due to the worms eating the food scraps.

Soon after Shannon joined the Garden staff in 2007, she wrote a Gatherings article ("Compost Happens...", Oct., 2007) encouraging readers to contribute to the compost pile. Interested Seedling parents and staff members also contribute to the compost pile. All volunteers are welcome to contribute green and brown materials such as dry leaves, straw, herbs, flowers and food scraps (coffee grounds, tea bags, fruit and vegetable scraps--no animal products). Please don't bring plants that were diseased or infected with insects, poisonous and invasive plants and leaves from eucalyptus, bay laurel, walnut, juniper, acacia and cypress.

Composting saves money by reducing the personal volume of trash, conserving water, increasing plant growth, and replacing the need for harsh chemical fertilizers and pesticides.

Though Michelle Obama's gardening assistants, 5th graders from a nearby school, are older than the 3 to 5-year-old Seedlings, both groups of children are getting a wonderful education in organic gardening. A thorough knowledge of composting takes lots of study, but the Seedlings will have the basics and also the enthusiasm to continue to learn as they grow up, whether or not they garden on the South Lawn of the White House.

### DIANA DECKER

#### SEEDLINGS VOLUNTEER

##### References:

[www.usnews.com/blogs/washingtonwhisper/06/20/michelle-obamas-first-harvest-gets-an-a-plus.html](http://www.usnews.com/blogs/washingtonwhisper/06/20/michelle-obamas-first-harvest-gets-an-a-plus.html)

Roulac, John W., *Backyard Composting*. California: Harmonious Technologies, 1992.

Squire, David, *The Compost Specialist*. London: New Holland Publishers, 2009

# INTRODUCING THE DIOON EDULE

Have you ever wondered what that short palm-like plant is that resides in the Cactus and Succulent house? It is a *Dioon edule*. All *Dioon* species, except one, come from Mexico and belong to that ancient group of gymnosperms known as cycads (sago palms). We also have a cycad native to Florida. It, however, belongs to the genus *Zamia* and became the center of the large sago starch industry. These cycads were harvested by the millions in Florida until their numbers became so reduced that the industry finally collapsed.

*Dioon* species make great landscape plants and can make a nice addition to the xeriscape. They grow slowly, putting out a new flush of leaves every year. When the plants mature both male and female plants produce large fleshy cones. Their cones can be quite a conversation piece for months in the garden before they begin to break apart. Another nice feature is that many of the *Dioons* can be grown in full sun here in the Phoenix area. Try this with the much used *Cycas revolute* (king sago) and you get a badly sun burned plant.

Cycads come from a very ancient group of plants, the seed ferns, which flourished during the Carboniferous times in the late Paleozoic. By the time the Jurassic began, cycads were distributed almost from pole to pole. For most of the Jurassic, Pangaea (the theoretical "supercontinent" made up of all present-day continents) was intact. It is believed by many that the dinosaurs may have had a great deal to do with cycad distribution. The dinosaurs had almost all of Pangaea to roam around in and could disperse seeds far and wide. While browsing, a herbivorous dinosaur could munch on the large brilliantly colored cones containing hundreds of seeds each. The seeds would be gulped down whole and their tasty soft outer covering would be digested away. A few days later, the hard nut of the seed would be deposited with its packet of fertilizer a good distance away from the mother plant.

As the age of dinosaurs came to an end, so too did the age of cycads. These magnificent plants have continuously lost ground and are now confined to relic populations in tropical and subtropical areas. Some species are confined to only a single hill with numbers you can count on both hands. In recent years, many populations have become extinct or greatly reduced.

This is due to several factors: climate change, land clearing, and poaching.

Cycads are unique plants with an ancient lineage. They make great landscape plants and many can be beautifully grown here in the Valley of the Sun. *Dioon edule* is just one example among many that can be grown here in full sun or semi-shade.

For some great information on cycads from many experts, visit The Cycad Society's web site at: [www.cycad.org](http://www.cycad.org). Be sure to browse the photo gallery and enjoy many great cycad photos. Better yet, why not join the Cycad Society?

FRED JAEGGI

SEED ROOM VOLUNTEER



*Dioon edule*. Photo by Fred Jaeggi



Kirti Mathura accepting  
The Helen de Conway Little Medal of Honor

Larrie and I attended the Herb Society's Conference this summer, of particular interest because esteemed Arizona Herb Association member, and Horticulture staff member of the DBG, our own KIRTI MATHURA, was to receive the Society's highest honor.

It was a hot summer morning in August when I took my first walk through the Garden since May. I had expectations of how different the Garden would look without Chihuly. I had been so used to seeing the exhibit with visiting crowds. Now, in the blazing heat, the Garden felt strangely empty. As I walked from the parking lot by Webster through the Herb Garden and up the Desert Discovery Trail toward Admissions, it seemed like the people working on the grounds outnumbered the visitors.

Challenges of the coming year came rushing into my head. I was eager to see how the entrance looked without the large *Envoy* Kiosk, but I was compelled to stop and take pictures of Ottosen Entry Gallery without the Sun. As I walked through the Admissions, the beauty and serenity of the entrance overwhelmed me. Not surprisingly, the area where the kiosk stood for most of last year was perfectly raked and manicured as though the Kiosk had never been there. The Palo Verde trees provided a cooling shade.

As I looked toward the entrance path, I saw the three Chihuly sculptures in all their grandeur. My perspective of the Garden suddenly flipped and again the focus of the Garden became ever so clear - *the Garden IS the attraction!* With all of its events and exhibits, it is truly a magnificent place to enjoy, learn and have fun. As I write this, the "stage" continues to be set for a wonderful and exciting new year. I know the crowds will be back and the *Envoys* will be there to greet them!

I am honored to be a part of the *Envoys* this year. We all worked so hard (!) last year to take membership to its height of 25,000 strong and I look forward to another successful year. To prospective *Envoys* and the current 50 members - WELCOME BACK!!!

ALLISON BROWN  
ENVOY CHAIR



We arrived in Grand Rapids on Wednesday, preparing to attend a tour on Thursday. The tours are always terrific and ours included 5 award-winning gardens on the Michigan State campus in Lansing, a luncheon at an herb farm in Battle Creek and a stop at the Michigan State Extension Office, in Grand Rapids, which has a gorgeous garden where Master Gardeners volunteer.

The Annual Awards Dinner and Awards Recognition Program was delightful and we were very proud of Kirti as she graciously accepted her medal. From the Awards program:

*"Kirti Mathura was very involved in planning the 2007 HSA Educational Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona, and was also a speaker, as well as being a tour guide at the Desert Botanical Garden. This involvement is only the tip of the iceberg of Kirti's devotion to herbs. She is highly respected for her knowledge of herbs and native plants. She generously shares her time and knowledge, volunteering for many organizations, including Master Gardeners, Arizona Native Plant Society, Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society, Arizona Herb Association, and of course The Herb Society of America. Kirti works as a horticulturist at the Desert Botanical Garden and is responsible for designing, planting and maintaining the delightful new herb garden. She is the author of a book, The Arizona Low Desert Flower. Her lectures are considered a very real learning experience and her leadership in the herb/plant world is unparalleled!"*

On Sunday, we three attended another tour titled, "The Gardens of Western Michigan". Please ask us about the places we saw, the numerous photos we took and the things we learned from this conference.

JUDY BATES  
DBG HISTORIAN

# AGAVE BULBILS ~ THE REST OF THE STORY

As docents, we eagerly tell Garden visitors about the three agave reproduction strategies- seeds, pups, and bulbils. In hot, dry climates, the chances of a seed germinating are slim, so the production of agave “pups” around the base of the parent agave or tiny agaves (called bulbils) developing near the unfertilized, aborted flowers certainly helps ensure the agave’s genetic future. But why do some, but not all, agaves produce bulbils that, like pups, are genetically identical clones of the parent plant? I always assumed it was just characteristic of some species, especially those that have been cultivated for a long time such as *Agave murpheyi*, *A. angustifolia*, and *A. sisalana*, among others, or was perhaps an adaptation for survival in cliff-dwelling agaves like the octopus agave (*A. vilmoriniana*) which produce lots of bulbils in our backyards and neighborhoods.

I learned the answer at the recent national meeting of the Cactus and Succulent Society of America (CSSA) held in Tucson this past spring. Experiments by Dr. Exequiel Ezcurra, a prominent ecologist from Mexico, and his students have shown that *A. macroacantha* produced bulbils only if their pollinators (for this species mainly bats but also moths) were not present or if these pollinators were prevented from accessing the agave flowers. It’s a default strategy to reproduce asexually, when sexual reproduction (the preferred strategy that results in a healthy mixing of genes) fails. After all, an agave parent may spend years or even decades (depending upon the species) building up its reserves for this one time, end of life event, and it would be all wasted if the year it flowers, its pollinators had a bad year and didn’t show up. Dr. Ezcurra mentioned that *A. angustifolia*, for example, is grown throughout the world, but usually only produces viable seeds in its native Mexican range where its bat pollinator lives and resorts to bulbil production elsewhere.

Some smart aleck in the audience (not me for a change) stood up and said “Wait just a minute, there are tons of bees visiting the octopus agave flowers in backyards all over Tucson and Phoenix and we rarely get viable seed set, only bulbils, even when there are octopus agaves flowering right next to one another. How do you explain that?” Dr. Leo Martin, CSSA board member and past president of the Central Arizona Cactus and Succulent Society stood up and suggested what may be going on. According to Leo, it turns out that most of the octopus agaves that we have in cultivation here are from just a



Octopus agave is infamous for producing a flowering stalk and dying within just a few years of being planted. Fortunately they also produce hundreds of replicas of themselves (bulbils pictured in inset) if you choose to continue having short-term relationships with individuals of this species.

few clones. And since many agave species are self-infertile (they can’t pollinate themselves), the bees are often futilely moving pollen among genetically identical agaves that respond the only way they can – by producing more genetically identical bulbil clones of themselves. Our Curator of Agaves and Succulents CHAD DAVIS, Tucson horticulturist Gene Joseph, and others have observed both bulbils and viable seeds being produced on the same plant; however, Gene found that most if not all seeds produced by octopus agaves here are the result of hybridization with other species of agave.

# THE AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## THE AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The APGA Annual Conference for 2009 took place in St. Louis, MO on June 23rd - June 27th. Representatives from the Garden VIG included Mike Gilman, VIG Vice-President, Larrie Bates, VIG Horticulture Chair and Judy Bates, VIG Historian. Three botanical gardens, located in three different parts of the world, are observing monumental anniversaries in 2009 and the APGA was lucky to have their Annual Conference hosted by one of them – the Missouri Botanical Garden, celebrating their 150th anniversary. The others are the Royal Botanical Garden, Kew – 250th and the Singapore Botanic Gardens – 150th. It made me stop and think what the DBG would be like 80 or 180 years from now!

Practically in the shadow of the St. Louis Arch, on the Mississippi River, Hyatt Regency St. Louis Riverfront Hotel was our home for 3 days. There were Keynote and Plenary sessions, 36 concurrent sessions, an Opening Reception, Awards Ceremony, host garden tours and meals, included in our registrations. The Keynote Address, on our first morning, was by Dr. Peter Raven, current President of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Handouts about the Conference described Peter as “an eminent scientist, respected world authority on biodiversity and plant conservation, and a passionate advocate for sustainable living”. His challenge to all of us, after a video presentation of the history of the MO Botanical Garden, was to help people become aware of the ways that plants and people interact and to realize how much we all depend on plants for our continued existence – needing to identify, protect and celebrate the world’s plants.

DBG representatives (staff and volunteers) then split up to attend different learning sessions, each choosing sessions we thought would give us new ideas to share on our return. My first session was “How of the WOWS!” which included presentations by the Chicago Botanical Garden, the New York Botanical Garden, Longwood Gardens and the Franklin Park Observatory and Gardens. Most of these garden’s “WOWS!” are big exhibitions (usually several per year) of wide swaths of groups of flowering plants, planted together in designed order. The exhibits last for several weeks or longer and staff and volunteers spend 16-20 hours each (maybe overnight) installing them. This has never been the DBG’s style, our new galleries having been

designed to be our way of presenting “WOWS!” for the public. Since the other type of exhibits do concern plants, I was thinking that perhaps one day we can have a big, special exhibit that features one or more of our special plants or one of the outstanding cactus or succulent scientists that we all admire and want the public to know about.



My 2nd session was “Stewards of the Global Garden: Botanical Gardens and Natural Areas”. It concerned gardens which manage “wild places” in addition to their core gardens. The idea of botanical gardens adopting “wild places” in their regions and using them to attract public attention and concern was explored. One quarter of the U.S. public gardens have done this and perhaps this is something that the DBG can explore in the future. We later visited the MO Botanical Garden’s “wild place”, 79 acres of magnificent gardens, greenhouses, and fountains plus more – impossible to experience completely in a few hours.

Day 2 included concurrent sessions 3 and 4. Three, for me, was “How Much Do Living Collections Really Aid Conservation” – covering evaluation of what is grown and using the evaluation to aid the world’s flora. Number 4, titled, “The Garden Stage: Real Experiences People Crave” and the speakers expressed the need to provide memorable events  
*(article continued on next page)*

to generate extra funds at public gardens. There is increasing competition for recreation dollars today and we must attract a wide spectrum of visitors in order to stay solvent. I believe the DBG provides many activities that earn extra dollars and could have been a presenter for this session! There was an Awards Luncheon on this day at noon.

Day 3 started with a Plenary Session, presenting, "Planting Villages: How Gardens Make Good Neighbors" by Roger Swain, recognized by millions as host of The Victory Garden. After his entertaining session, there was a business meeting and mention of "National Public Gardens Day" which was celebrated in 2009 on May 8th and will be celebrated in 2010 on May 7th. A video presentation about next year's APGA Conference in Atlanta made it sound exciting and fun.

Sessions 5 and 6 took place on day 3 – my first being, "Restorative Places in Public Gardens". This session stressed the importance of public gardens providing quiet areas for reflection. It suggested a place where the plants can be touched, such as the Herb Garden, at the DBG. Larrie and I attended the 6th session together which addressed, "The Horticulture Volunteer Workforce: Thinking Outside the Box". We learned that not one of the gardens presenting had volunteer organizations with officers and activities such as ours. Many of the gardens who do use horticulture volunteers use them only on an as-needed basis, periodically and the Volunteer Coordinator (if they have one) is not supported by management. We were proud of our VIG at the DBG and several in the audience mentioned they knew about us.

The last activity we all attended was a tour and dinner at the Shaw Nature Reserve on the afternoon and evening of the 3rd day. The Reserve is a 2,500 acre nature reserve in Gray Summit, MO, about 35 miles west of St. Louis. In 1925 the MO Botanical Garden purchased 5 adjoining farms to create a refuge for their plants, far from the cities pollution problems. This became unnecessary eventually and they purchased more land for the Nature Reserve. From their brochure, "Since the 1970s, the Reserve has become an area leader in restoration ecology, native plant horticulture and environmental education". We delighted in seeing the restored prairies, wetlands, glades, woodlands and the Whitmire Wildflower

Garden while we enjoyed a bluegrass band's music, refreshments and eventually an outstanding MO-style barbeque dinner.

We learned a lot at the Conference, had great exchanges with people from around the world and saw new beautiful and interesting places. If you have a chance to attend an APGA Annual Conference, be sure to go, enjoy it and bring home some new ideas for the DBG. Larrie and I are so appreciative of the chance to attend the 2009 Conference and we are ready to tell all of our experience – just ask us!

JUDY BATES

VIG HISTORIAN



## CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

November 12 - Combined Pot Luck and Hike at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

We will meet at the home of JUDY and LARRIE BATES to drop off Pot Luck dishes at 10 a.m. We will then proceed 3 blocks to the Lost Dog Trail Head where we will meet McDowell Sonoran Conservancy (MSC) volunteer stewards. We will hike on the least difficult trail for about an hour and then return to the Bates' home for our Pot Luck. Do not bring dishes that need to be refrigerated unless they are in coolers because there will not be room in the Bates' refrigerator for much. Judy and Larrie will provide drinks. This will be our only continuing education activity before the end of the year.

**January 12 – Field Trip (possibly to the Wallace Gardens)**

**February 10 – Pot Luck in Webster – 10:00 a.m.**

**March 12 – Field Trip (possibly to the Olive Mill)**

**April 15 – Pot Luck at Scott McMahan's Home, Garden, and Greenhouse** (Details will follow in later *Gatherings*.)

LARRIE BATES

HORT AIDE CHAIR

# "Plant the Garden's Future" with a gift through your will or trust.

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Did you know that you can...

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- ✦ **Discover** how a charitable donation can provide current income
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- ✦ **Calculate** the benefits of different gift options

Information is available at your fingertips when you access the Desert Botanical Garden's interactive gift planning web site: <http://www.dbg.org> (support the garden/planned giving).



The interactive web site is **easy** to use, **informative** and **private**. Information is updated monthly.

Explore giving options that best fit your own financial and philanthropic goals.

Confirm bequest language and tax identification information.

Find contact information for the Garden's professional gift planning staff. Should you wish, we are happy to answer questions or provide personal assistance

**SUSAN SHATTUCK**  
GIFT PLANNING OFFICER

# SAD NEWS FROM THE GARDEN

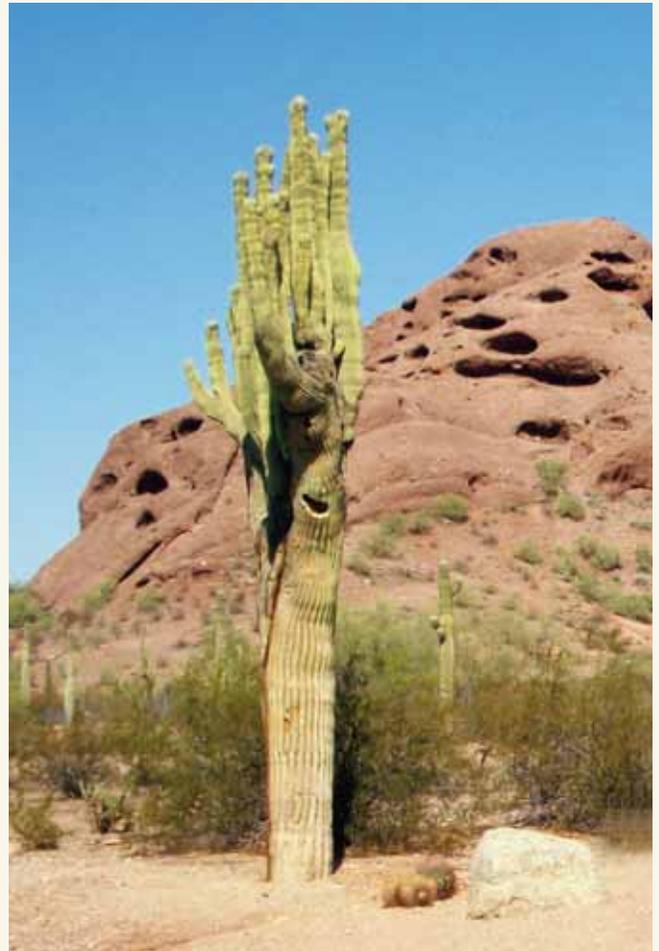
About four years ago we accepted a donation of a crested saguaro we dubbed "The Hand". There was much discussion about whether to take it or not because chances were slim that it would survive the transplant.

Because the entire operation from removal to replanting was also donated, we decided to receive the plant, knowing that if it didn't survive it would take several years to decline. We also vowed that if and when the saguaro began declining we would treat it with respect and not let it rot and fall apart for all the world to see.

Recently the plant was observed to be extremely shriveled indicating absolutely no water uptake plus it was oozing black down the stem. With the entrance drive being closed for construction, we decided it was the opportune time to knock the plant down and avoid any danger of it falling across the road. Facilities came out with their front-end loader and pushed the saguaro down. There were absolutely no roots and many areas of rot.

Unfortunately the cactus remains will need to be removed.

**CATHY BABCOCK**  
DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE



## HORTICULTURAL MARKETING POSITIONS

We will be trying something new this year, at the Plant Sale. We want to have a team of Volunteers, familiar with desert adapted plants, working on the sales lot and advising buyers, helping them to make decisions.

By sharing their interest and knowledge, the volunteer teams can help visitors make better selections and, more importantly, purchase more plants than they might had they not been advised. The job may be challenging when people come with landscaping problems such as what to plant in front of a west facing wall that receives full sun and is quite narrow or what to plant on the north side of the house in deep shade.

We are looking for individuals who are experienced in Desert Horticulture and who like to talk with people. We need at least four people per shift and would have two shifts per day. If interested, please call PAM LEVIN at 480-481-8166 or email her at [plevin@dbg.org](mailto:plevin@dbg.org).

**TOM BEKEY**  
HORTICULTURE AIDE

# DOCENT UPDATES



## GREETING-GUIDING-GIVING

We've been to Kick-Off meetings; our baskets (or vest pockets) are filled with interesting materials to share, the discovery stations and baskets are stocked, our tours are rehearsed, and we're ready to meet the visitors on the trail for another year of doing what we do best – greeting, guiding, and giving answers and new knowledge.

We know it might be a little slow at the beginning, so let's take time to catch up with each other, to see what's new on the trail, to experience an audio tour, to sign up for any of the many Fab Fall volunteer opportunities, and to just be there for each other and the visitors.

There are new Continuing Education Opportunities too. For our first event we are doing something a little different: On Thursday, October 22nd at 11 a.m., we're having a Potluck at the home of SCOTT McMAHON, Curator of Cacti. We'll be able to tour his gardens and greenhouse and hear about his favorite plants. There will be a sign-up for Potluck dishes in Marley by October 1. Directions to Scott's house will be provided later in the month.

Our November Continuing Education will be an Introduction to the works of Alan Houser – held jointly with Docents from The Heard Museum. Mark your Calendar for Wednesday, November 4, 1:30 p.m. in Dorrance Hall. Information about 2010 Docent Continuing Education will be coming soon!

Happy Trails to You! We're looking forward to meeting and greeting you again.

**ED & BEV JONES**  
DOCENT CO-CHAIRS

# Volunteer DATELINE

## WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Friday nights, 7 - 9 p.m.

Music in the Garden, Ullman Terrace

Mondays, 8:00 a.m.

Bird walks - Meet at Admissions

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.

Yoga classes, Classroom A, Weisz Learning Center

## SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 26 through November 15

*Mariposa Monarca* Exhibit

## OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 1, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3, 10:00 a.m. - noon

Volunteer Instructor Aide Training, Volunteer Headquarters

Thursdays, October 1 through November 5, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

*Spiked!* (guests must be 21 or older to be admitted)

Fridays, October 2 through November 6, 7 to 9 p.m.

Music in the Garden fall concert series 2009

Monday, October 5

VIG Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Webster Auditorium

Deadline for submitting articles for November Gatherings

Wednesday, October 7, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

*Envoy* Training, Volunteer Headquarters

Monday, October 12, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers in the Garden Meeting, Dorrance Hall

Fri., Sat., & Sun., October 16 - 18, Fall Plant Sale Festival

Friday - Garden Members Preview, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday - Open to the General Public, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday - Open to General Public, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday, October 22, 11:00 a.m.

Docent Potluck at Scott McMahon's home

Thurs. thru Sun., October 22 - 25, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Great Pumpkin Festival

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

*Dia de los Muertos* Celebration

## NOVEMBER

Monday, November 2

VIG Executive Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m., Volunteer Headquarters

Deadline for submitting articles for December Gatherings

Wednesday, November 4, 1:30 p.m.

Introduction to Alan Houser works, Dorrance Hall

Saturday, November 7, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 8, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Native American Recognition Days Music Celebration

Monday, November 9, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers in the Garden Meeting, Dorrance Hall

Thursday, November 12

Hort Aide Hike at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve

Potluck at Bates home

Friday, November 13, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Corks and Cactus (Guests must be 21 or older to attend and must show proper identification to be admitted.)

Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 14 and 15, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Chiles & Chocolate

Saturday, November 21 through Sunday, May 30

*Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction*

(a major exhibition of the works of Apache master sculptor, Allan Houser)