



Allan Houser, *Morning Solitude*, 1989. Bronze, 75" x 38" x 48", ed. of 6. @ Chiinde, LLC. Photo: Peter Vitale

GATHERINGS



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2009

Volunteers In The Garden

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2009
DORRANCE HALL

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

MICHAEL F. ANDERSON

Grand Canyon Researcher, Historian, Teacher
and Guide for Grand Canyon Institute,
GCNP Trails Archeologist and
Cultural Resource Specialist

PRESENTS

"People Who Have Lived at the
Grand Canyon National Park"

Prehistory and Current History of the Canyon
*Region Inhabitants: First People through
Modern Native Americans, through
European-American Settlers*



PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

It's considered one of the seven Natural Wonders of the World. To those who spend a great deal of time there, it's affectionately known as the "Big Ditch". It is a place that draws people from all over the world to gaze in awe at its temples, buttes and ribbon of river. It is the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River and it is the focus of several of our future VIG programs.

Though the Canyon is over 200 miles away from the Garden, what occurs there is of great importance to us. It is home to nearly half the species of plants in Arizona. WENDY HODGSON, DBG Research Botanist and Grand Canyon flora expert, tells me that it nurtures flora from four of the five major North American deserts: Mohave, Painted Desert/Navajoan, Great Basin and some Sonoran. It acts as a corridor for the exchange of genetic material between plants that normally would not occur. It's a treasure trove for our scientists. It's a playground for many of our volunteers.

The Grand Canyon can be a tough place to hike. There are huge elevation gains and losses, few places to get water (a problem I have encountered), sharp rocks that are just waiting to rip your clothing (I have patches on my pants to prove it) and ravens that are looking to steal your food and gear (I had one unzip the top of my pack and eat my trail mix). You should prepare both physically and mentally before you embark into this hostile, complex, yet gorgeous environment.

Hey, we should even prepare to be Garden volunteers! Because I'm a Hort Aide, I keep in shape so I don't throw my back out when I dig up a tree stump - or try to! We also have to be alert, be gracious to visitors and be able to whip up a potluck contribution at a moment's notice. Plus we sometimes need to deal with visitors who are unprepared for our environment. We are more useful when we are at our best!

Try to make it to the monthly VIG Meetings. You can learn about upcoming speakers in *Gatherings*. You'll be hearing some intriguing stuff about the Canyon including its use by prehistoric people, the occurrence of rare and endangered plants, and more. Oh, yes - the socializing is wonderful too. I promise you'll have a Grand time!

DAWN GOLDMAN

PRESIDENT, VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN

JUST AROUND THE CORNER!

The *Luminarias* will soon be casting a warm glow throughout the Garden. Now is the time to be supportive and sign up for a volunteer shift. The Lumi Sign-Up Book is located in the Marley Building hallway or you can contact PAMELA LEVIN at 480-481-8166 or plevin@dbg.org. We need lots of Path Guides and just a few ticket takers.



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
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ALLAN HOUSER: TRADITION TO ABSTRACTION



Allan Houser, *Morning Solitude*, 1989
Bronze Photo: Peter Vitale

The Desert Botanical Garden and the Heard Museum present a major exhibition of the works of Apache master sculptor Allan Houser – November 21, 2009 – May 30, 2010.

November 21st marks the beginning of a collaborative exhibition of the artwork of Allan Houser at the Desert Botanical Garden and the Heard Museum. The Garden exhibition, located along the trails, will contain eighteen life-size bronze sculptures that unite both Native American subject matter and the modernist influences from which Houser drew his inspiration. The exhibition at the Heard Museum will feature Houser's paintings, sketches and small-scale sculptures from their collection.

Allan Houser, who lived from 1914 to 1994, was one of the best-known and celebrated American Indian artists of the 20th century. Known worldwide as a sculptor, painter and teacher, his work can be found in museums and collections around the world. You can read more about Allan Houser in the upcoming *Sonoran Quarterly*. Don't forget to stop by Volunteer Headquarters to see the Allan Houser display board. It's a great way to learn more about the artwork that will be on exhibit.

On Wednesday November 4 at 1:30 p.m. in Dorrance Hall, Gina Laszko and Diana Pardue from the Heard Museum will give a brief overview of Apache culture and a discussion on Allan Houser's career and artwork for the volunteers.

CRISTIN KRACHT

MANAGER OF TEMPORARY EXHIBITS

NIGHT TOURS

The sun flames out
behind the red Papagos;
smears their hot color
across the horizon to slow-fade
like cooling embers in a fire pit.

The torrid afternoon relaxes into evening
as sultry high-fevered air
stirs up wisps of breezes
that blow about to escape
the day's reflected heat.

Doves, cooing the late hour,
cue a cactus wren to flit its final round;
a desert spiny to hump a few last pushups
just off the trail;
a rabbit shadow to bounce into the underbrush
giving way to vibrations of nighthawks,
darting flutters of bats
and hopping toads that look
like live clumps of moving earth.

Perfumed cereus brides in luminous
white gowns unfold to await their night lovers.
Exclaimed ohs and ahs of discovery
accompany candescent flashlight beams
that leap, dance and hover
over a banded kingsnake easing itself
across the path of wary visitors,
and lift to catch, in the uppermost branches
of a tree, the outline of an owl.

Bright rays find the source
of bass drum frogs, of ancient food
and lore; then flicker out
as parting voices wane
leaving an empty hush
as the desert night rushes in
to reclaim its dark silence.

JUDY CURTIS

NIGHT CAPTAIN

This poem is dedicated to all those who helped make last summer's flashlight tour season so successful. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

The planning has begun for the annual Golfin' in the Desert Golf Tournament. The 2010 outing will be held on Saturday, May 8 at the ASU Karsten Golf Course.

As many of you know, the annual Golf Tournament is the only fund raiser sponsored by the VIG. The money that we raise from the Golf Tournament is used to provide transportation for Title I schools to bring their students to the Garden to participate in the educational programs offered. Last year, the \$13,000 that we raised enabled over 12,000 children to visit the Botanical Garden!

This year, the weak economy presents a difficult challenge for us as we reach out to the community for their financial support. Several companies that supported us in the past are no longer able to do so. Hopefully, by all working together, we can overcome this obstacle and continue our help for Title I schools.

EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PLAY GOLF YOU CAN HELP.

We need your support with the following areas.

Primary Event Sponsor Cost \$2,500

This is the main sponsor of our event. The Arizona Golf Association was the primary sponsor for the last two events. It does not appear that they will continue that sponsorship this year.

Hole Sponsors

Par 3 Holes (4) Cost \$700 each.

Par 4 and 5 (14) Cost \$500 each.

Raffle Prizes

Our goal: 35 prizes with minimum value of \$50.

And of course, we need **players**. Our goal is to sign up 100 golfers to join the fun at a cost of \$100 per player.

If you know of anyone, either individual or business, that may be able to fill one of these needs, please let us know. Encourage your friends to sign up to participate in the tournament for this worthy cause.

Please email me at cthompson57@cox.net or call me at 480-773-0222 with any questions you may have or to let us know of any help you can provide.

CHUCK THOMPSON

GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN

As you receive this Gatherings, staff and volunteers are hard at work finishing up the *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest*. The 11,000 square foot exhibit, located south of the Sybil B. Harrington Succulent Gallery, will bring dramatic new elements to the Garden. Large yuccas welcome visitors into the space as they step off the Desert Discovery Trail and onto Joy's Overlook. A gently sloping steel walkway traverses the natural wash with views of massed agaves, yucca and nolina, and leads into the Yucca Forest—an immersion experience among giant Joshua Trees.

As we go to print, the walkway has been constructed, the Joshua Trees installed, irrigation trenched and hundreds of agave, yucca, nolina, and cacti have been planted. Our dedicated volunteers have been hard at work installing irrigation and planting more than 600 plants in this new exhibit. That's a lot of digging!

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have helped transform this space into an amazing exhibit. Join us on November 21st, when the *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest* opens!

MELANIE DAY

EXHIBIT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER



THE GARDEN CORNER

SALVIA COCCINEA – A BIRD MAGNET

To be honest, I've had mixed luck growing salvias. Several species I've tried seem to last for a few seasons and then peter out. In her excellent book "Perennials for the Southwest" MARY IRISH cautions against becoming overly attached to any individual salvia, pointing out that in our hot climate, a lifespan of five to seven years is all that we should expect from them. When they begin to languish, she advises making cuttings or going shopping for a replacement.

However, one species that I have had excellent success with year after year is *Salvia coccinea*, sometimes sold as scarlet sage or red salvia. It comes in a variety of flower colors but the one most commonly sold here is a dark red variety. It does need supplemental water to thrive and appreciates some protection from full afternoon sun in the summertime. Other than that it is practically bombproof. It will flower off and on almost all year long in a protected area in moderate shade as well as in sunny areas. It may freeze back in cold winters, but quickly grows back. It can become rangy so it looks best in a mass planting or mixed with other plants.



A male lesser goldfinch (green-backed form) hangs upside down on a nyger seed feeder while waiting for the *Salvia coccinea* seed to ripen. Photo by Tom Gatz



The inch-long flowers of *Salvia coccinea* can be seen growing at the DBG at the Herb Garden in the Wildflower Garden bed ('Brenthurst' cultivar) and along "Hummingbird Alley" on the main path between Webster and the Nature Trail. Photo by Tom Gatz

I recommended it to a neighbor who was looking for a plant that would attract hummingbirds in an area just outside of her kitchen window that was mostly shaded by her house in the summer but was in full sun all winter. In addition to attracting hummingbirds, this plant is a magnet for the seed-eating lesser goldfinch, an increasingly common bird in the Valley. Once flowering is finished and the goldfinches have polished off the seeds, I cut mine back to the ground and they quickly sprout new flowering stalks. It is not invasive here in our desert climate and, although short-lived, it reseeds just enough to make sure you will always have it in your landscape. In her handy guide "The Arizona Low Desert Flower Garden", KIRTI MATHURA advises that it will do best in organically rich, well-draining soil (it likes to colonize my potted plants) but will tolerate poor soils as well. It is usually available at the DBG plant sales.

TOM GATZ

THE GARDEN CORNER

Hort Aide Cuttings

CONTINUING EDUCATION CALENDAR

All Garden volunteers are encouraged to participate in any or all of these functions. Details and sign-up sheets for the potlucks and field trips will be on the horticulture volunteer bulletin board in the Nina Pulliam Building's horticulture break room.

November 12 – Combined Potluck and Hike at the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

We will meet at the home of JUDY and LARRIE BATES to drop off potluck dishes at 10 a.m. We will then proceed three blocks to the Lost Dog Trailhead 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 potluck. 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 – Potluck in Webster – 10 a.m.

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

April 15 – Potluck at Scott McMahon's home, garden and greenhouse.

A SEASON FULL OF WORK AND FUN!

It's hard to believe that I'm already writing an article for the November issue of *Gatherings*. Soon our teams will be at full capacity with returning winter visitor volunteers and there is plenty of work to be accomplished. The heralded Monsoon Season was really a bust this year so we, who worked through the summer did not experience the hoped-for cloudy days and rain showers usually expected in July and August. Bummer!! We worked to the tune of the BIG MACHINES preparing the *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest* and our normally peaceful summer Garden experience was a bit different.

By the time you are reading this note, another successful Plant Sale will have taken place with the help of many volunteers including all those from the horticulture department. Most of us really look forward to the Plant Sale and race to buy all of the best plants alongside the others who show up early on Friday morning. Also, the Berlin Agave and Yucca Forest will be close to completion and we will have done a lot of planting - at least that's what was promised! The "forest" looks very interesting and will be a great addition to the Garden. Then LUMI looms on the horizon and we all have our jobs to accomplish during the holiday season.

Enjoy yourself while doing duty at the Garden and be sure to note the changing seasons and different plants we can enjoy as winter approaches. Every season has its unique qualities.

LARRIE BATES
HORTICULTURE CHAIR



Echinopsis huascha Photo by Gene Almendinger

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD

We had an ambitious agenda for the September Board meeting. As a highlight, Trustee LOU COMUS reported that the Garden successfully completed the transfer of the Webster Trust to the custody of the Garden's Foundation from JP Morgan Chase Bank. The Trust was established by GERTRUDE DIVINE WEBSTER, under her will, for the benefit of the Garden, and this transfer represents a significant increase in the Garden's endowment.

Ken Schutz presented the Garden's budget for the 2009 – 2010 fiscal year which reflects our commitment to work to maintain the momentum from last year's Chihuly exhibit. We are enhancing our fall events in the hope that new friends we gained will return and that long-time Garden friends will continue to visit. Budgeting is a painstaking process that involves hard work and tough decisions, especially by senior staff, and the Garden continues its tradition of conservative budgeting and financial responsibility.

Ken also presented his goals for the new year; they include working closely with the Strategic Planning committee to sift through the many, many ideas that volunteers, staff, and Trustees contributed in discussions over the past several months. We have an exciting time ahead as we work to choose the very best ideas and to articulate goals that will guide the Garden into the future.

We heard a presentation by Drew Brown and Steve Matteucci of the Arizona Campaign for Arts and Culture: "Creative Economy – Creating Jobs for Arizona." They are spearheading a drive which, if successful, will enrich the arts and culture sector of the Arizona economy and enhance our ability to attract intellectual talent to our state. They hope to place an initiative on the Fall 2010 election ballot which would provide substantial funding to arts and culture organizations statewide. It's a very exciting prospect for the Garden, both in terms of providing funds to enrich our mission-driven programs, and in helping us to continue to attract top-flight talent to work at the Garden. I hope you'll tune in to presentations and conversations about this initiative, with an awareness of the enormous positive impact it could have on the Garden and on the culture and economy of the state of Arizona.

Following the meeting, we had a Hard Hat Tour of the *Berlin Agave Yucca Forest*. We are eagerly anticipating its opening in November!

LEE COHN
PRESIDENT, DBG BOARD OF TRUSTEES



ENVOYS WELCOME DBG VISITORS

CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE



Just as the Crested Saguaro stood welcoming visitors to the Garden, so do the *Envoys*. Our "new" booth is in the same place as last year and we look marvelous!

We started in full swing on October 1st with fourteen new *Envoys* and five new staff in Development.

Returning *Envoys* enjoyed a welcome back brunch September 22nd where they were brought up to speed for the year ahead. New Envoy training was held on September 30th and October 7th in the VIG head-quarters. Both new

and returning *Envoys* have been keeping current by taking Docent and Audio tours.

In case you did not know, *Envoys* sell memberships in different ways. We can help you: buy new or renew; buy a membership to give as a gift (what a great idea!!!); increase your membership level; or for only \$15.00, add a 3rd adult to your membership!!! We also have lots of great information to help people get to where they need to go. Need directions? We have maps. Need transportation? We can help you get a cab or give you Light Rail information. Need dining ideas outside of the Garden? We have that too!!!

In addition to the booth by admissions, where can you find an *Envoy*? You will find us at the Fall Plant sale, Pumpkin Festival, Music in the Garden, *Día de los Muertos*, Chiles and Chocolate, and *Luminaria*.

Wherever you find us, we are there for you, so please stop by and see us. We would love to help you!

ALLISON BROWN
ENVOY CHAIR

The November 9, 2009 VIG Monthly Meeting will feature Dr. Michael F. Anderson who will present "People Who Have Lived at the Grand Canyon National Park". He will speak about the prehistory and current history of the Canyon; the first people (Paleolithic) to inhabit the region through the modern Native American Peoples; followed by European-American Settlers.

Mike Anderson earned his Ph.D. in History from Northern Arizona University in 1999. He has been a researcher and writer of Canyon history since 1990, a teacher and guide for the Grand Canyon Institute since 1993, and Grand Canyon National Park's trails archeologist and cultural resource specialist since 2001. He is the author of three books published by Grand Canyon Association

[Living at the Edge: Explorers, Exploiters, and Settlers of the Grand Canyon Region](#) (1998)

[Polishing the Jewel: An Administrative History of GCNP](#) (2000)

[Along the Rim: A Guide to Grand Canyon's South Rim from Hermits Rest to Desert View](#) (2001).

Dr. Anderson has run History Symposiums of the Canyon, retired from the National Park Service in 2007 and continues to write and perform contract history within the National Park Service System.

Remember the social hour begins at 9:30 a.m.; the business meeting will follow at 10:00 a.m. The keynote speaker is scheduled for 10:15 a.m.

Hope to see all of you at the Meeting!

MIKE GILMAN

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR



DOCENT UPDATES

IN THE BEGINNING

After the Day Captain meeting and seven days of Docent Kick-Off meetings with over 100 Docents in attendance, it was time for a “The Beginning” of the Docent Year on October 1st. As a Thursday Docent, I was part of that first day and was able to “inaugurate” one of our new Docent Positions – that of Greeter – a person to welcome and help the visitors know about our Garden, what’s in it, and how to get around in it.

It was probably one of the first cooler days of this fall, and it was a great place to be. In between talking to people, I watched a Cactus wren build a nest in the diamond-shaped pipe that protrudes between the two admission buildings. By the time you read this, the babies should be just fledging, and I hope they are healthy and happy.

At this time of year, the visitors’ questions emphasized the two Bs – “Where are the Butterflies” and “Where are the Bathrooms” – but it was fun to show them our new maps with color coding, to invite them to a docent led tour, to remind them of our great outdoor café and our wonderful plant shop, and to begin telling them about the different trails and the plants in the Garden. I had my basket with me to help answer questions, but from now on, I plan to also bring an interpretation item such as a cactus boot.

The other new position is someone to walk the trails early and list the special phenomena of the day so that we can share those items with the visitors. Some neat happenings on those first few days were wild monarchs

in the Herb Garden and near the Butterfly Pavilion; cactus and succulents blooming, especially along the Quail Run path; and queen and monarch caterpillars on desert milkweed (did you know that monarch caterpillars have 2 filaments and queens have 3?).



The other new happening for Docents is the “key” to lock the tour sign so that the correct time always shows. It took a while that first day to figure out where the key (really a tiny Allen Wrench) was and how to use it, but by now that operation should be running smoothly. In most cases, the Day Captain is in charge of the key.

We will soon have yet another new beginning – the installation of the Allan Houser Sculpture Exhibit. You (all volunteers, not just Docents) are invited to the Houser orientation on November 4 at 1:30 p.m. in Dorrance. See you there!

BEV JONES
DOCENT CO-CHAIR

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



OCTOBER

Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Dia de los Muertos Celebration

NOVEMBER

Monday, November 9
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 Concerts

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. - 3:00 p.m.
Chiles & Chocolate

Saturday, November 21, 2009 through Sunday, May 30, 2010
Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction (a major exhibiton of the works of Apache master sculptor, Allan Houser)

DECEMBER

Thurs. through Sun., Dec. 3, 4, 5, 6
Members Only *Luminaria*, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Monday, December 7
Deadline for submitting articles for January Gatherings

December 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30,
General Public - *Luminaria*, 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.