



GATHERINGS



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2009

Volunteers In The Garden

There will
not be a
VIG meeting
in December

*Allan Houser:
Tradition to
Abstraction*

Saturday, November 21,
2009 through Sunday,
May 30, 2010



Allan Houser, *Anasazi*, 1987, bronze. Photo by Gene Almendinger.

PRESIDENT'S MUSINGS

Have you ever been shopping for some wearable item and the label reads One Size Fits All? Sure, that might work for a straw hat or a big shirt to wear gardening, but it doesn't "fit" for being a volunteer!

Since September I have made an effort to attend the various "kick-off" meetings of the different volunteer departments. I have become acquainted with a delightful mixture of people. You know the phrase "it takes all kinds"? Well, it does! I have met People with Passions. Folks who love to educate, to sell memberships, to extol the virtues of our Garden. Volunteers who want to dig in the dirt, help water the plants or aid others to get their job done. I am fascinated and delighted by it but not really surprised. Think about it. With all that the Garden has to offer, it's not so unbelievable that it takes a Village to make a Garden!

Did you know that there are 17 different Chair positions making up the Board of the VIG or Volunteers in the Garden? They represent all the Volunteers. I'm going to name them for you. They are as follows: Ask a Gardener, Children's Programs, Docents, Envoy, Exhibits, Garden Outreach, Garden Shop, Gatherings Editor, Golf Tournament, Historian, Horticulture Aide, Instructor Aide, Music in the Garden, Nominating, Research/Library, School Guide, and Trips. That's a lot of different departments and I truly thank all these "Chairs" for their time and dedication. But do you see what I mean? We have to have come from all different walks of life to get the job done. And we do that very well!

Memories of the lazy summer are gone. We are in full swing in what we call our "Season". The Season then becomes the lazy summer again. It is the circle of life that is our time at the Garden. We all love it or we wouldn't be here. We all receive a satisfaction doing it or we wouldn't be here. We all are committed to excellence or we wouldn't be here. We are the Powers that be!

The Holidays are upon us. And with them so many different demands are made upon our time. Thank you so much for continuing to make the Garden a part of your life. It wouldn't be the enchanting place it is without that unique and wonderful you!

DAWN GOLDMAN

PRESIDENT, VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN



Opuntia engelmannii var. *lindheimeri*. Adam Rodriguez.

VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

EDITOR/LAYOUT	NANCY WALKER
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The Green Spot

This is the debut article of messages and encouragements from the Garden's Green Team. Made up of a member from every department, the Green Team is striving to make the Garden's footprint a smaller one. The team needs the help of everyone, staff, volunteers and visitors, to make that happen.



"Disposable" plastic bottles. Photo by Brandi Eide.

One of the first actions by the Team is to eliminate the use of disposable plastic water bottles by staff and volunteers. Think about it; we use those bottles once, and then we throw them away. Did you know that bottled water produces up to 1.5 million tons of plastic waste per year? Plus it takes an incredible amount of oil to produce, up to 47 million gallons per year! And don't get me started on the chemicals that are released during use. Forget that! Bring a cup from home and put your name on it. The refrigerators in the two kitchens of the education and horticulture buildings dispense filtered water. And we have fountains all around the Garden. Keep it on a shelf. Collectively we can make a difference.

Help us help our environment!

DAWN GOLDMAN

PRESIDENT, VOLUNTEERS IN THE GARDEN

Volunteer Info

There will be no December Monthly Meeting for the VIG due to *Luminaria* activities in Dorrance Hall.

The next VIG Monthly Meeting will be Monday, January 11, 2010 (Wow---2010 already!). It will feature WENDY HODGSON, Curator of the DBG Herbarium. She will speak on "Grand Canyon: Connecting People and Plants". As you know Wendy has spent many years hiking and researching the Grand Canyon. Much of what she has to say covers her work at this most unusual National Park.

Remember:

Social Hour: 9:30 a.m.

Business Meeting: follows at 10:00 a.m.

Wendy's presentation: 10:15 a.m.

Hope to see all of you there!

MIKE GILMAN

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR



Aloe. Photo by Renee Immel.

envoy kudos

When you volunteer or work in the Garden, you meet so many special people. I am honored to tell you about some of those people.

But first, a little background: The Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) is the professional association of individuals and organizations that generate philanthropic support for a wide variety of charitable institutions. Founded in 1960, AFP advances philanthropy through its more than 30,000 members in 206 chapters throughout the world.

There are three chapters in Arizona, one of which is the Greater Arizona Chapter which has over 300 members and is affiliated with the Association of Fundraising Professionals (previously The National Association of Fundraising Professionals.)

Each year, the AFP gives six Leadership awards in the following categories:

- Outstanding Philanthropist
- Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser
- Outstanding Corporation
- Outstanding Media Organization
- Outstanding Fundraising Executive
- Spirit of Philanthropy

Several people from the Garden have been recipients of these awards. In 2001, SHERRY NEW, the Director of Development at that time, received the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award. In 2008, CAROL SCHILLING received the Outstanding Philanthropist Award and OONAGH BOPPART and HAZEL HARE received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Award.

On Wednesday, November 18, 2009 when the AFP hosted their 25th Anniversary Philanthropy Leadership Awards Dinner, our Director of Development, BEVERLY DUZIK received the Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award.



Beverly Duzik. Photo by Allison Brown.

Beverly has been with the Garden since 2000 and a member of the AFP since 1996. When asked about the challenges of her position, she modestly talks about how she matches what people care about with the Garden. Clearly, it is something Beverly does very well. Her nomination for the award was authored by KEN SCHULTZ and BECKIE MAYBERRY, and was supported by eight additional letters from members of the Garden.

Other kudos: each year, several nonprofit organizations select recipients for The Spirit of Philanthropy Award. This year, the Garden has selected JAN and TOM LEWIS to receive that award. We are fortunate to have such exceptional people here at the Garden. Congratulations and a hearty thank you to all.

ALLISON BROWN
ENVOY CHAIR

IN LANDSCAPING - SIZE MATTERS

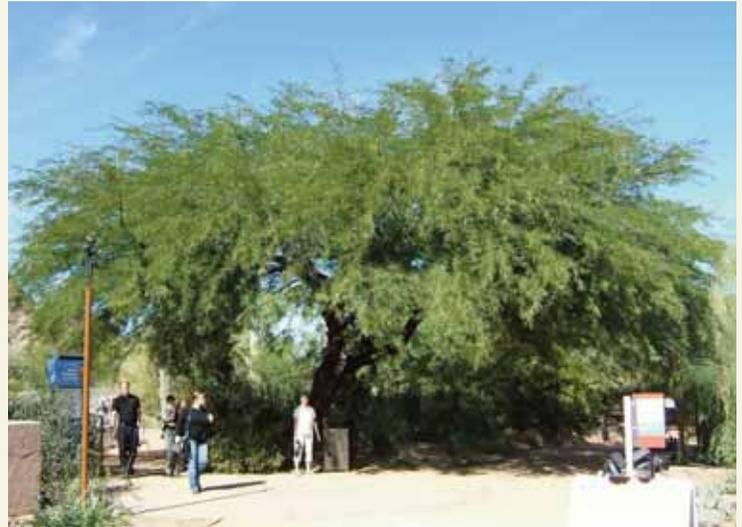
As careful home landscapers we research the eventual size of the plants we are installing to avoid future headaches (and back aches) so that plants don't outgrow the areas in which we place them. We hope to avoid eventual removal or constant editing.

When I started my landscaping adventures here about 20 years ago, I pored over the various growing guides with an almost religious fervor to make sure my one-gallon treasures would not exceed the allotted space in which I carefully placed them. Imagine my frustration when some of the shrubs that the nursery labels predicted to reach a size of "3 feet high by 3 feet wide" quickly grew beyond that size and an Argentine mesquite tree (*Prosopis alba*) predicted to reach "30 feet tall by 30 feet wide" is now 50 feet wide and beating up the stucco on our house. What happened? Certainly the nurseries wouldn't intentionally play down the ultimate size of these plants to give the impression that they would fit in an average backyard or entryway.

Many of these cultivars are fairly new in the trade and the nurseries may not yet have a good handle on the eventual size of many of them. We are learning together. Valentine bush™ (*Eremophila maculata* var. *brevifolia*) is just one example. When first released here it was expected to only reach 4 feet high by 4 feet wide, seemingly perfect for those narrow planting beds around our homes. A few years later the predicted size was increased to 4 feet by 6 feet wide. Now the website for the University of Arizona Yuma County Cooperative Extension Service tells us to expect an eventual size of 5 feet tall by up to 10 feet wide. Yikes!

Sometimes the published growing guides and websites just can't keep up with the plants that keep growing. A popular (and otherwise very helpful) city-sponsored low-water-use plant pamphlet available in the Valley underestimates the full sizes in many of the plant descriptions, wishfully stating for example that the palo brea will only grow to be 25 feet wide (many reach 35 feet wide; one old specimen at the Garden is over 50 feet wide), the Texas Ranger will stay a tidy 6 by 6 feet (they can get up to 10 by 10 feet), the smooth Desert Spoon will not exceed 5 feet wide (one of my specimens is now over 9 feet wide) and the oleander will only grow to be 6 feet tall by 4 feet wide (some varieties get 16 feet tall by 10 feet wide).

Also, new releases from wild-collected seed only have the wild parent plants on which to base eventual size predictions. Trees that struggle to reach 25 feet in height after many years under harsh desert conditions may really take off in our landscapes with all that extra food and water and exceed that size in half the time.



Sunday docent Shirley Kafton (5 feet, 5 inches tall, in white) stands under this South American mesquite tree (likely *Prosopis alba*) at the entrance to the Garden's Wildflower Trail. This species was advertised to reach only 30 feet tall by 30 feet wide but now spreads to 50 feet and it's still growing. Photo by Tom Gatz.

So what is the take-home message? Don't take the size stated on the container or in the literature as gospel, but rather as a guideline, especially on new releases. To be safe, add an extra foot or two to any advertised shrub sizes and at least 10 feet on trees when positioning your plants. Take a tape measure and visit established landscapes such as the Garden, Boyce Thompson Arboretum, the ASU campus and the main Glendale Library demonstration garden to see what these plants will really look like after many years in the ground, so as not to be too quickly seduced by those perfectly sized plants in their five gallon buckets at the nurseries. Measure twice, plant once and prune less often.

Thanks to BRANDI EIDE, ANGELICA ELLIOTT, KIRTI MATHURA, JANET RADEMACHER and GREG STARR for reviewing earlier drafts of this article.

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's bulletin board in the Nina Pulliam Horticulture Building's break room.

No December potluck or field trip will be held.

January 12 – Field Trip (possibly Wallace Gardens)

February 10 – Potluck in Webster, 10 a. m. – speaker to be announced

March 12 – Field Trip (possibly to the Olive Mill or a trip to the Tucson nurseries)

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

AS THE YEAR DRAWS TO A CLOSE. . . .

Season's Greetings and Happy Holidays to all the Horticulture Department Volunteers! It's hard to believe I'm already writing an article for the December *Gatherings* when it seems like summer temperatures are still hanging on. Thanks to all of you for bringing food to the November VIG meeting. The spread was great and I know everyone in attendance really enjoyed the goodies.

By now we have helped complete the work on the Berlin Agave Yucca Forest and the Grand Opening has happened. The planting was difficult, due to soil compaction and the usual rocks that had to be removed, but with the help of a jackhammer to dig out large holes for the bigger specimens, the work was completed and the exhibit looks beautiful. It is another well-planned and executed addition to the DBG.

LUMI should be in full swing and I always marvel at how stunning the Garden looks with all of the luminarias lit and the other lights and decorations in place. I know the public appreciates the DBG going the "extra mile" to put on a spectacular holiday show that all can enjoy.

Remind all of your friends and families to order their tickets before their choice of nights is sold out and try to sign up for an extra volunteer position or two during this popular event. You are needed!

The new year is almost upon us and promises to be as challenging and exciting as the last one. We need every one of you to return after the holidays - to work and have fun in 2010. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication in 2009! I wonder what's next?

LARRIE BATES
HORTICULTURE AIDE CHAIR

SAVE OUR WORLD - RECYCLE!

On August 15th, a group of TEENs went to the Hassayampa River Preserve to take a plant survey and to ponder the layout of the soon-to-be park. While walking through the thick trees and the river bed itself I couldn't help but notice the vast amount of trash; in fact it was startling. The distressing part of the trash was not the oven and toilet that were just sitting there intertwined with brush - it was that most of the trash was recyclable!

Earlier in the summer, the TEENs also went on another field trip to the Phoenix Recycling Center. Phoenix has an amazing recycling program, saving 300 tons of trash a day from going into landfills. Instead it goes to other plants and companies to become something completely new.

As I walked through the river preserve seeing the recyclable trash, I wondered, do people not know about the harm of littering? Or are they just too lazy to take time to find a trash can or a recycling container? I don't know what the problem is, but I can help by passing along information about littering and recycling with hope that maybe one person takes it to heart.

First, littering is harmful to the animals that share our environment. When people litter they may think that someone else will pick it up but that usually isn't the case. Usually it flies around and around, not only making the landscapes of the world look bad, but also harming the animals. When an animal comes across a

piece of trash, that animal doesn't know it is trash. For all they know it could be food so they may eat it, which then hurts the animal and it may end up dying. An animal dying because of humans' laziness is a horrible way for a species to become extinct, but sadly it happens every day, because of our not caring about our world.

Next, recycle! Recycling is a great way to help the planet, little by little. Not recycling may not harm you and your kids but it will probably harm generations after your children. What happens when the world becomes too populated and all the landfills are full? There will be serious problems associated with that. Recycling helps; every piece of recyclable trash is another step towards a greener and more sustainable planet.

The next time you think about littering, please think about the animals that will probably eat that piece of trash and also think of what will happen if everyone just throws recyclables away without thinking about the impact on the next generation. Reconsider what you will do. Find a trash can or recycling container. Help our planet, our animals, our environment, and the people who will live in the world when you are gone.

MATT BABASICK
TEEN VOLUNTEER



DOCENT UPDATES

DOCENT DAYS AT TALIESIN WEST

After a great time at our October potluck at Scott McMahon's house in October and an informative



Hort Aides at McMahon potluck.

presentation on Alan Houser in November, we are planning our Docent continuing Education programs for 2010. To begin the year, we are offering two special tours of Taliesin West on Tuesday, January 12, and Wednesday, January 20 at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday Docent ANNA COOR has set these days up for us and will be leading a tour of the buildings and giving us her own unique personal insights from years of living there. After a short break for refreshments, a tour guide and former student will lead us on a tour of a few of the shelters students have built in the desert. The trails through the desert are narrow and sort of rough in places, so close-toed shoes with tread are advisable, and you might want to bring a walking stick.

There will be a strict limit of 15 participants on each day, and registration will be on a first come, first served basis. Cost will be \$15 per person, payable in cash or by a check made out to ANNA COOR; please register through the volunteer office (See IRENE DOODY) and specify which day you would prefer to attend. Since there should be heavy demand for these tours, we are limiting them to docents only and ask that spouses who are not docents not be included. We will provide directions and other needed information after you register.

Check out the January Docent article for information on the February outing. And be sure to put March 25 at 10:00 a.m. on your calendar for the Brunch at the Heard Museum with their docents and docents from Phoenix Art Museum.

In the meantime, enjoy the Alan Houser exhibit and if you missed the Houser presentation, be sure to see information in the Docent headquarters that will help you in giving background on his life and works.

Enjoy *Lumi* and maybe sign up for additional shifts. As we keep telling you, Docents are really the ideal path guides – because you guide along those paths all the time. Thanks for being there for our visitors all through the year.

ED AND BEV JONES
DOCENT CO-CHAIRS



Volunteer DATELINE

WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES

Mondays, 8:00 a.m.

Bird walks - Meet at Admissions

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 p.m.

Yoga classes, Classroom A, Weisz Learning Center

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 21 through Sunday, May 30

Allan Houser: Tradition to Abstraction

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

DECEMBER

Thursday through Sunday, December 3, 4, 5, 6

Members Only *Luminaria*, 5:30 p.m. - 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.

JANUARY

Sundays, January 10 through February 21, Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Music in the Garden/Winter Concert Series, Ullman Terrace

Monday, January 11, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers in the Garden Meeting, Dorrance Hall

Monday, January 11

Deadline for submitting articles for February *Gatherings*

Tuesday, January 12

Hort Aide Field Trip (possibly Wallace Gardens)

Tuesday, January 12, 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday, January 20, 9:00 a.m.

Docent Field Trip to Taliesen West

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 8, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers in the Garden Meeting, Dorrance Hall

Wednesday, February 10, 10:00 a.m.

Hort Aide Potluck, Webster Auditorium

Friday, February 12

Romance in the Garden, featuring Dennis Rowland

MARCH

Monday, March 8, 9:30 a.m.

Volunteers in the Garden Meeting, Dorrance Hall

Friday, March 12

Hort Aide Field Trip (possibly to the Olive Mill or Tucson nurseries)

Thursday, March 25, 10:00 a.m.

Docent Brunch at Heard Museum