



## Volunteer Spotlight for September

Susan Syfert became a Certified Master Gardener May of 2001. Although Susan had worked with old time roses in the past, it is surprising to find out that she had never planted a seed before moving to Safford about 2 1/2 years ago. Her sister Jean Reynolds talked her into taking the Gardening and Landscaping class that Cooperative Extension offers at EAC. Most of her life was spent in the Scottsdale area, but due to wanting better health her family moved to the Safford area. She has really enjoyed the slower pace of a small town. She loves the "old fashioned" life style which is obvious when you realize that she lives at the "Oleo Ranch - One of the Cheaper Spreads" in the valley. Canning garden goods, Needle crafts and Stained glass art are also within her talented skills. The Syfert Family are also raising their own beef along with their own veggies.

One would not classify Susan as having a pioneer lifestyle though, as that would eliminate her love for computers. Her Computer knowledge has been helpful for the Master Gardeners as Susan has been our contact person for the e-mail volunteer list.

Other areas of dedication for Susan are in the greenhouse category. She helps coordinate volunteers and plantings in the greenhouse at the Safford Agriculture Center. She is chairing the committee that is working with the City of Safford Recreation Special Interest Class on Greenhouse propagation.

Susan is the wife of Doug Syfert, and mother of three children Nathan, Deana, and Ian. Ian, the only child still at home, has even been known to be recruited into the greenhouse as part of his home schooling program. We thank her family for being understanding of the time she spend with her



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## A Greenhouse Vision

There's lots of news from the greenhouse this month: A visit from the UofA, a new course for the public, and a request for seeds. I know this isn't the time of year for greenhouses to be doing much, but it is a good time to prepare for the fall and winter plants and collect materials for the spring.

Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, the greenhouse was visited by the UofA hydroponics professors and staff. They were in town preparing for the **Greenhouse Seminar**, that the Graham County Cooperative Extension will be offering to the public **Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. As part of the planning session, they toured the greenhouse providing suggestions and compliments. We hope you will be able to join us for the workshop and get a chance to see the greenhouse that day.

Master Gardeners who volunteer at the greenhouse will be participating in the City of Safford Recreation Special Interest Classes' fall session with a course entitled Basic Greenhouse Propagation. It will be a hands-on course covering starts from seeds, cuttings, and bulbs and the greenhouse environment. This is geared to the novice gardener but we believe you'll find something new even if you've been gardening outdoors for years. Hopefully this will lead you right to our Greenhouse Seminar (and maybe the Master Gardener course at EAC!)

The Greenhouse Committee of the Master Gardeners is asking for you (our readers) to harvest seeds from your yards to donate to the Greenhouse Seed Exchange. We are just getting started and so far have only hollyhocks and 4 O'clocks. We know if they are growing in your yard we can count on them growing in other yards. This is the time to be harvesting summer seeds. Regretfully we missed out on requesting spring seeds, however if you harvested and want to donate some of your spring seed, we would be delighted to get them. We will also be requesting donations of plant cuttings (indoor and outdoor) and bulbs. Our local Master Gardener Organization is a non-profit group. Next month we will go more in depth into the vision for the seed exchange and how we will use them. We have four different projects in mind. They can be dropped off at the Safford Agriculture Center office or call Susan Syfert (428-7242) to arrange to have them picked up. Please call and let Susan know if you will be dropping off donations, so they will not go unattended.