



## Events & Activities

MG Association Meeting, Wednesday, October 19 6:30pm, This month the meeting will be in Prescott.

Yavapai Rose Society - , 7:00 PM Prescott. For more information call Bob or Nancy at 771-9300,

Alta Vista Gardening Club, Prescott, fourth Tuesday of the month, 12:30pm. Call 928-443-0464 for location and information.

Prescott Area Gourd Society, third Tuesday of the month, 6:30 pm, at the Smoki Museum.

Pond Club -this is an informal group that meets every couple of months, usually the 3rd week. Email [aquaticgardens@esedona.net](mailto:aquaticgardens@esedona.net) for more information.

The Organic Gardening Club meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 10845 Cornville, Call 649-6099 for informaion.

Prescott Orchid Society, meets 3rd Sunday of the month, 2pm at the Prescott Library, call Cynthia for information. (928) 717-0623

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University of Arizona Yavapai County Cooperative Extension

# *Yavapai Gardens*

Master Gardener Newsletter

October 2005

## Master Gardeners Enjoy Picnic in Prescott

by Pam Bowman

About 50 Yavapai County Master Gardeners, their friends (including three dogs), families and one very surprised javelina celebrated another successful year on a warm Saturday in October at the annual picnic. Under a sunny sky, large ponderosa pines provided welcome shade in the Thumb Butte recreation area of the Prescott National



**Jeff, Mary Sarrentino & Lucy**

Forest where old friendships were renewed and new friendships begun. The food, as always, was tasty, varied and abundant with desserts outnumbering side dishes by almost 2 to 1. Following the feast, Yavapai County Agent Jeff Schalaus thanked all active master gardeners for their volunteer contributions. Congratulations to those receiving recognition for cumulative hours:



100 hours: Pam Bowman, Anita Fleming, Cathy Frei, Linda Heim, Christopher Hulse, Sandee Kinnen, Jim Kirkpatrick, Nancy Millet, Susan Moody, Paul Schnur, Vera Stewart, Joan Tyler

250 hours: Larry Anderson, Evelyn Becker, Elinor Benes, Jonella Blake, Bob Burke, Marti Dodd, Kathy Grant-Lilley, Jeannette Teets, Richard Wise

**Jeff & Bill Cart (500 Hours)**

500 hours: Bill Cart

1750 hours: Sal Sorrentino

750 hours: Art Filippino, Rosh Preuss, Linda Scheerer

2000 hours: Beverly Emerson

1000 hours: Bill Starkman, Orville Gilmore

Emeritus Status (10 years of continuous volunteer service): Sal Sorrentino. Mary Sorrentino and Sal's dog Lucy attended the picnic and accepted Sal's posthumous awards.

1250 hours: Mary Barnes

1500 hours: Phil Young



Following the awards presentations, Jeff led about 20 master gardeners and friends on an enjoyable and informative native plant walk. In addition to identifying shrubs, trees, flowers and some grasses, Jeff provided information on growing characteristics and water needs of specific species. It was a very pleasant way to learn more about the plants in our environment.

**Jeff, Kathy Grant-Lilley, Elinor Benes, Evelyn Becker, Jonella Blake (250 hours)**

We thank those responsible for another successful picnic: Picnic chairperson Eunice Ricklefs and her helpers Mary Barnes, Jonella Blake, Mary Perkins, Ron Ricklefs and Bev Turnbull. Not to be forgotten are those on the membership com-

mittee who worked on the awards presented at the recognition ceremony: Kathy Grant-Lilley, Larry Anderson and the “shopping crew”-- Jan Billiam, Jonella Blake and Janet Mansoldo.



**Mary Barnes & Jeff (1250 hours)**



**Art Filippino and his wife (750 hours)**



**Gardeners wanted! The Sixth Annual Arizona Highlands Garden Conference is Coming You do not have to be a Master Gardener to attend. Space still available!**

**Flagstaff Oct. 3 and 4.**

Gardening fans, get ready to be inspired! You're invited to join the region's top horticultural talent for two days of ideas, instruction, and insider gardening tips at the Sixth Arizona Highlands Garden Conference, coming October 3 and 4 to Flagstaff. The conference is planned and presented by University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners from Coconino, Gila, Navajo, and Yavapai counties. Whether you're a beginning gardener or a seasoned veteran, you'll discover new trends and fresh possibilities for your high country garden. Featured speakers include Forrest McDowell and Tricia Clark-McDowell, creators of the Cortesia Sanctuary Project and authors of the best selling *The Sanctuary Garden*, and Boulder landscape architect Jim Knopf, author of *The Xeriscape Flower Gardener* and *Waterwise Landscaping*. Choose from twenty-four seminars led by landscape design and gardening experts. Meet the authors of some of your favorite gardening books. Interact with plant aficionados and professionals. Take in a pre-conference garden tour. Visit information booths and exhibits where vendors will offer a bouquet of garden information and products.

# Santolina chamaecyparissus

## Cotton Lavender

by Nora Graf

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Santolina is a commonly used dwarf shrub that you see



more commonly down in the Phoenix area than here, but it can make a nice addition to a border or as part of a low-water-use garden. Santolina chamaecyparissus is the species you usually see. It's also known as

cotton lavender. It is aromatic, hardy and forms nice mounds up to 20 inches tall. Native to the Mediterranean, it gradually spread to England, transitioning from a medicinal plant to an ornamental because the English discovered the plant could be pruned into low hedges and used it create the twists and turns of knot gardens.

The foliage is a wonderful gray-green with very tiny leaves that have a white wooly hair on them. It puts out bright yellow button flowers starting in early June. The foliage is aromatic, but the smell isn't to everyone's taste.

It was once used for medical purposes, but today it is rarely used as anything more than an ornamental. It is known as a stimulant but also used as an antiseptic. Taken internally, it was used to rid the body of intestinal worms. It was also used as a moth repellent in linens. The dried flowers and leaves were powdered and applied to insect bites to reduce pain. The Arabs used it in a lotion to soothe the eyes.

Santolina is one of those simple plants to grow. It likes sandy or well-drained soil and full sun. It will tolerate temperatures to 0°F. The plant can be pruned down to about a foot to make it look fuller. Plant three feet apart when used as a ground cover, eighteen inches when used as edging. The downside is that the plant starts to look a bit ragged after a few years and may need to be replaced. Propagation can be through seeds, layering, divisions or cuttings taken in the spring. Shear after flowering to maintain shape.

Another species is *S. rosmarinifolia*, with green aromatic leaves. It can be treated the same as above. It also has flowers, but is often sheared to keep it low. In the landscape mix, with dwarf mugo pines and ornamental grasses or as a foil for colorful annuals or perennials.

Santolina is easily dried to use in craft arrange-

ments. Harvest the flowers when in full bloom, cutting the stem six inches long. To dry the foliage, wait until late summer and trim the top 8 to 10 inches. It can also be used as a dye plant, yielding gold and yellow colors.



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## Blooming!

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The colors of flowers can be variable. What you see in the catalog or even in the nursery may not be what you get when you grow the plant in your yard. A variety of factors can influence flower color.

**Age:** Some flowers will change color as they age. This is one of the most common changes. I've seen flowers change color from lavender to white as they age; I'm sure you can think of other examples.

**Soil:** Hydrangeas are the plants that leap to mind when you are talking about colors dependent on soil ph. In acid soils the blooms are blue; in alkaline soils the blooms are pink.

**Temperature:** Tropicals seem to be most affected by temperatures. Some flowers will have brighter colors in warm temperatures (passion flowers) and duller colors in cool weather and vice versa.

**Light:** Oftentimes, in indoor plants the color of your flower differs with the type of light bulb you have. Cool white bulbs tend to intensify blue, yellow and oranges while warm white bulbs enhance yellow and orange and fade blue, green and red.

**Sports:** Every once in awhile you will get a stem that spontaneously changes color. This is a change in the genes of the plants. Some varieties of popular plants came about because someone propagated a sport. The nectarine came about as a "sport" of peaches, I believe.

**Diseases:** Various viruses can change flower colors. The famous tulip craze was in part fueled by tulips which were actually infected with a virus that caused unusual color breaks. A disease problem usually shows up as mottled flowers.

**Genetics:** Genetics, even with the best laid plans, can sometimes surprise you, which is why you can get a surprise when you plant seeds. Ever ended up with one white flower in a sea of purple and you know you only had one seed packet? Nature can bring unexpected results.

# Yarrow

## *Achillea* spp.

by Nora Graf

My first experience with yarrow was with the wild variety. Not much of a plant—just a few lacy leaves with small white flowers. Wasn't really much, I suppose, but there was something that I really liked about the neat little flowers. It wasn't until many years later that I became acquainted with the bright bold colors of the garden perennial.

Yarrow has been known as a medicinal plant for centuries. In fact its Latin name—*Achillea*—refers to Achilles, who supposedly used the plant to stanch the bleeding of his wounded soldiers. The plant was used for a variety of medicinal purposes, including stomach cramp: it's an anti-inflammatory, antispasmodic, it was used to treat lung and kidney hemorrhage, a cure for piles, sores, ulcers, bruises, acne and toothache.

Today we mostly just grow it for its beautiful flower and foliage. The plants range from 2 to 4 feet tall with the flower stalks rising well above the foliage. The blooms are tiny but are part of an umbel, so the numerous blooms form a lovely plate of flowers floating on a thin stem. The plant is very hardy, tolerating a variety of conditions. It likes full sun but will tolerate some shade. It is drought tolerant. It needs little to no fertilizer and except for trimming the spent blooms needs almost no maintenance. Insects pay it little mind except to exploit its flowers, in fact it is known to attract a good number of beneficial insects. The plant spreads and can be easily divided in the spring or fall. It will sometimes rebloom if you remove the old blossoms. The one downside is that it will spread. The good news is that it is easy to control and probably will not run roughshod over your other plants. If we lived in a snowy climate, you might want to leave the flower heads in place for an attractive highlight in the snow but since, thank goodness, snow

isn't a factor here (most years anyway) you might want to deadhead the blooms.

I've found its easy to start from seed but most times you will find it in a container at the nursery. With its many colors it will fit into a variety of landscapes. One more thing—they make great dried flowers.

Yellow is the most common color. Popular varieties are Coronation Gold. It has a very long season of bloom. Moonshine is similar to Coronation Gold but is shorter and the flowers are more a buttery yellow vs. the bright yellow of Coronation Gold. The variety *Anthea* has lemon colored flowers with a beautiful silver foliage. If you deadhead, the plant will continue to bloom through the summer and its flower stems are thick, so the flowers remain upright rather than tilting over.

There are some beautiful red and orange flowers, also. For some reason the reds don't seem to like the summer heat and will become somewhat dormant for awhile. The varieties *Fireland* and *Paprika* are two of the most popular. *Fireland* fades from bright red to pink and to gold. *Paprika* produces a mix of reds and yellows. The *Beacon* has deep red blooms and *Terra cotta* has flowers of a copper-orange color.

*Apple Blossom* and *Heidi* are two popular pinks-to-purple flowers. Varieties of pinks range from bright rosy purples like *Royal Tapestry* to pale pink-whites, like *Stephanie Cohen*.

Of course, I can't forget the whites (the ones I started with,) but these whites are big and luxurious. *Great Expectations* is a yellow white, *Snow Sport* and *White Beauty* are a pure white. The white flowers tend to get kind of ugly as they dry, so pair them with something else that will distract or keep them deadheaded.

There is also a strain of pastels, called *Summer Pastels* that produce pink, rose, lavender, salmon, orange and yellow blooms. Another called *Colorado* produces darker hues of reds, pinks, apricots, yellow and beige. Generally these will flower from seed the first year.



# Meet a Master Gardener

by Pam Bowman

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Moving to Prescott in 2001 with her husband Ralph, Bev Turnbull brought her love of gardening and experiences as a Master Gardener volunteer in Denver with her. She promptly enrolled in the 2002 MG class even though it included a weekly drive to Cottonwood. Because she had enjoyed her hours as a phone volunteer in Denver, she soon became the coordinator for the Prescott phone volunteers. She finds answering questions from the public satisfying because she likes people and learning “so much stuff” herself. She frequently volunteers for one-shot projects, such as helping Jeff with town meetings on beetle infestations, educating Highlands Center members on firewise landscaping and helping clean up the Sorrentino garden. And whatever she is doing, Bev is always smiling.

Born on Coronado Island in San Diego (her father was in the Navy), Bev and her family returned to Phoenix where she grew up surrounded by a family of avid gardeners. She cannot remember a time when she was not “digging in the dirt doing stuff.” She remembers making mudpies with strawberry filling at her grandmother’s home in Prescott and growing columbine from seed in Phoenix. Growing up in Phoenix, Bev earned a degree in Mathematics at Arizona State University. Upon graduation, she began a 30-year career with IBM as a systems engineer. Growing with the young computer industry, Bev’s job involved designing and installing computer systems, helping customers, answering questions and teaching programming classes. After working five years in Phoenix, Bev moved to Denver where she and her husband continued in the respective careers and raised two sons. She always liked working in the garden, but much of her time was filled with other activities.



Upon retirement, Bev and Ralph returned to Arizona and bought a home in Prescott. Because she finally had the time to dig in the dirt, the steep slopes around her first home here made gardening difficult. She and Ralph finally found a home with Juniper, Pinyon, large boulders and enough flat ground in which to play. Bev says she is not a landscaper and her garden is not “tidy.” Instead, she enjoys trying different plants in a number of nooks and crannies. Currently, she is collecting the seeds of wildflowers she likes which she hopes to plant in a wash on the property. She estimates she will be able to dig in the dirt for 20 to 30 years, at which time no one will be able to walk in her yard full of trees, shrubs and flowers.

In addition to gardening and MG activities, Bev has joined her husband in a volunteer program at the Grand Canyon. As members of Preventive Search and Rescue, they hike the canyon trails educating those going into the Canyon about hazards and helping those climbing out of the Canyon with Gatorade and Saltines. To prepare for the rigors of this activity, they both exercise regularly at the Y. Bev is also in the “early stages” of gourd decorating and looks forward to continuing this new hobby. When asked, she admits, “I am most interested in whatever I am doing at the moment.”

With a ready smile, Bev has helped improve the organization of the information available to the Prescott phone volunteers. This, in turn, improves their ability to answer questions from the growing public. Thanks to Bev for sharing her smile and time with her fellow Master Gardeners.

# MG Assciation News

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Nicole Trushell of the Highlands Center in Prescott will be presenting the program at the next meeting.

There are still committees that need volunteers. If you are interested please sign up at the next meeting or give Mary Barnes a call!

Elections for new officers will be in November. If anyone is interested in running for office, please speak up as nominations have to be finalized in Ocotober.



**FROM THE EDITOR:** Please send or email articles and announcements to the address below. Long articles will go in as soon as possible, announcements must be in by the 15th of the month to be included.

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MG NEWSLETTER



MG Association Meeting  
October 19, 6:30pm,  
Prescott, Nicole Trushell  
of the Highland Center will  
be the presenter.