



Events & Activities

MG Association Appreciation Picnic,
Saturday, Oct. 21 11:30am-2pm, Je-
rome State Historic Park, See pg 4

Yavapai Rose Society - October 16, 11 AM,
luncheon at First Christian Church, 1230 Wil-
low Creek Rd., Prescott, AZ, at 2:00 PM. here
is no charge, guests welcome. For information
call 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
for more information.

The Organic Gardening Club meets the 2nd
Saturday of the month, 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 2006

Chrysanthemums

by Nora Graf



Can you believe it's October? It seems like just yesterday I was sipping champagne and greeting the new year. Well, actually I was drinking diet coke and was in bed by ten, but hey, it's October! My favorite month to travel, even though I won't be going anywhere this year. This is the time of year that the garden is fading, but you can brighten

it up with chrysanthemums.

But first a little history. Chrysanthemums were first cultivated in China starting in the 15th century BC. The Chinese believed they had the power of life. The boiled roots were used to treat headaches, young sprouts and petals were eaten in salads and leaves were brewed into a tea for a festive drink. Even a city was named after them, Chu-Hsien (Chu meaning chrysanthemum,) so—the Chrysanthemum City. In the 8th century AD, the flower arrived in Japan. They adopted the single-flowered variety as the crest and official seal of the Emperor. The Order of the Chrysanthemum was the highest order of chivalry. They also celebrate a Chrysanthemum Day.

It arrived in the West during the 17th century. The botanist Linnaeus named it “chryso,” meaning gold, and “antheon,” meaning flower. This earliest species was probably just a small yellow daisy-like flower. Today the flower encompasses hundreds, probably thousands, of colors and shapes. They even have a classification system for them. There is the irregular incurve, reflex, pompon, spider, spoon, quill and anemone among them. Chrysanthemum flowers are actually made up of two different florets. Ray florets and disk florets, with the disk florets rarely visible. These different types are easiest to see in the common sunflower. The outer petals are ray florets, each individual petal is actually a flower. The center is made up of disk florets. If you look closely you can see the individual flowers. Chrysanthemums have gone from that simple structure, with the help of modern science, into an explosion of colors and types. Today, chrysanthemums are the largest commercially produced 1

flower. It is easy to cultivate and there is a large variety of types and they produce quality blooms. They are even used in bonsai.

Pyrethrum is an insecticide that comes from chrysanthemums. *Chrysanthemum cnerariaefolium*, the Dalmatian Chrysanthemum, has white daisy-like flowers. The flowers contain pyrethrins which are known to kill some insects. In spite of the fact it is considered “natural”, it is still a poison and is especially harmful to fish. The upside is that it does biodegrade quickly in sunlight. Today there are synthetic insecticides based



on pyrethrin. With all such insecticides—natural or not—read the label and follow it!

Chrysanthemum are the flowers most closely associated with fall, football games and proms. (Remember those huge corsages?!) In Europe, though,

they are most closely associated with death, as they are the flower that is used for memorials on graves. They don't know what they are missing in their gardens!

Chrysanthemums bloom in the fall. When the days start to shorten, the plant starts to put out buds. In fact, this habit makes it easy to regulate the time of bloom in a commercial greenhouse. Lately I've noticed that they have them available for spring planting and not just in the fall. It's best to plant in the spring, even if the plant is thoroughly confused by being forced to bloom then by a commercial grower. Plant them in an area where they don't have to compete with stronger plants, 18 to 24 inches apart. Add a good dose of compost to the soil. The soil needs to drain well. Wet feet will cause the roots to rot. They do like full sun. Even moisture is important; they won't do well in a xeriscape garden. Mulching will help to keep them comfortable. With older varieties you will need to pinch the plant back when it gets to about 6 inches tall. Keep doing this once a month until July, then stop. This encourages them to bush out and produce more blooms. Newer varieties are naturally bushy and don't need this care. Fertilize occasionally with a complete fertilizer (5-10-5, 10.-20-10); slow-release fertilizers work well with chrysanthemums.

Some people may have problems getting the plants to bloom. One of the problems could be light. They really need the shortening days to initiate bloom-

ing. Streetlights or security lights, even porch lights may confuse them into thinking the days are still long. Shut off any lights if possible in their area. Sometimes the summer heat can delay blooming. Generally poor care, not enough sun, not enough fertilizer and poor watering practices can compromise blooming. Different varieties bloom at different times. Make sure it's the plant and not your expectations that's the problem.

They are fairly hardy and don't need a lot of babying if you get them in the right location. The one concern for colder areas is that the plants will freeze. In our climate, including Prescott, I think that if you gave them a good mulch after they die back it should protect them if you have some really cold weather. You could also bring them in for the winter.

Most mums are available in the fall. Don't worry about them, but enjoy them inside for awhile and then go ahead and plant them outside. Our weather is generally warm enough for them to settle into the soil and get ready for their spring growth.

There are a number of diseases and insects that will bother the plants. There are rusts, blights, blisters, molds and powdery mildews. Fortunately, our dry weather eliminates some of these threats. Mites, aphids and leaf miners can also afflict them but are easily controlled if you keep an eye on the plants and treat the problem before it gets severe.

Indulge; they're cheap, easy to find, come in great colors and shapes and simple to grow. Give them as gifts, cover your front porch with them. Brighten up your life.

Interested in having a look at some interesting varieties check out Kings Mums, www.kingsmums.com

National Chrysanthemum Society

www.mums.org

Phoenix Chrysanthemum Society

Bert Konzal, President

623-930-7040

konzal@juno.com

Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of month at 7:30 pm

Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Ave,

Annual Show November 18 - 19, 2006

Beatitudes Campus

1620 W. Glendale Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85021



MEET A MASTER GARDENER - Joan Tyler

by Jeannette Teets

Joan Tyler's life has had a definite international flair. Born in Kolar, India to missionary parents, she lived in India for seven years before returning to the U.S. to the Spokane area. When she was 12 her family moved to the Philippines and their house was on one of the Del Monte pineapple plantations. Two years later they moved to Tucson where she attended high school and college. She met her future husband, Jess, at the U of A and they were married two years later. He took a job as an engineer with Procter & Gamble in Long Beach, CA, and over the years they made sixteen moves, including a two-year assignment in Mexico, three years in Belgium and two years in Venezuela.

Joan's first green moment came in the early 70's in Sacramento where they rented a small house on two acres. While attending nursing school, she planted a garden and enjoyed working with the existing plants and trees on the property. Her parents and grandparents were avid gardeners, so she thinks it must run in the family. At the same time her photography hobby also took root, and she enjoys that to this day. Along the way, their two children, Robert and Jenni, were born. Robert is a psychologist in Tucson and Jenni is a newlywed and a loss-prevention manager at Kohl's in Cincinnati.

Nursing was a part of Joan's life during all their U.S. moves, her specialty being private duty oncology. When she couldn't work as a nurse because of licensing issues in international locations, she spent her time volunteering. For instance, in Mexico City she was tour chairman of the American Women's Club "Newcomers Club," a group of English-speaking international women. She planned and led tours to well-known and not-so-well-known locations in Mexico. In Europe she was a Girl Scout leader.

In 1996 while on a solo driving trip across the U.S. starting in Cincinnati, she was driving through

northern Arizona and decided to take I-17 south rather than the usual I-40 route toward the west, and found herself in Cottonwood. She loved the weather, the topography and the native vegetation. She thought this would be a great area to retire to one day and visited with a real estate agent right away. Jess knew this part of the country well, since he's a native Arizonan from Winslow, but he wasn't convinced until he flew out to meet her and agreed. Within a month they had purchased a piece of property and five years later retired, bought a house and moved to Cottonwood to start their dream house design

process. In 2004 they found an even better, larger piece of property, and now their house is within a few months of completion. Because the decision-making process is in high gear right now and Joan's time is limited for an interview, I met and followed her to the property which is up, up, up, way up Mingus Mountain at an elevation of 4,200 feet with a 360o view. The hot day in the Verde Valley was considerably cooler at that elevation with a breathtaking view of the San Francisco Peaks to the north, Sedona and Camp Verde to the

south and the mountain area behind to the west.

While busy with the house and nurturing the native plants on their property, Joan also sings with the Verde Valley Voices, and both Joan and Jess are active with Stewards of Public Lands, which he helped found. They do major clean-up projects in the Verde Valley with the aim of keeping our public lands clean and natural for all to enjoy. Joan's gardening plans for the future include becoming an expert on xeriscape and water harvesting and storage.

International travel still calls to Joan and Jess and they would like to travel to places such as the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Greece, and her birthplace of India. In the meantime, they'll be watching the world go by from their perch on the side of the mountain!



MG Association News

OCTOBER VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION POTLUCK- October 21st

Fun, frolic and fantastic volunteers!! Be sure to mark your calendar for the annual Master Gardener potluck to be held at the Jerome State Historical Park in Jerome on Saturday, October 21 from 11:30 – 2 pm. Sign up soon! The main dish and beverages and table service will be provided so – just bring yourself and guests. If you would like to sign up, and were unable to attend the meetings please contact Paula Stuart(paula@esedona.net) or Eunice Ricklefs(Eunice@commspeed.net). Don't miss this opportunity to enjoy lunch with your gardening friends and family.

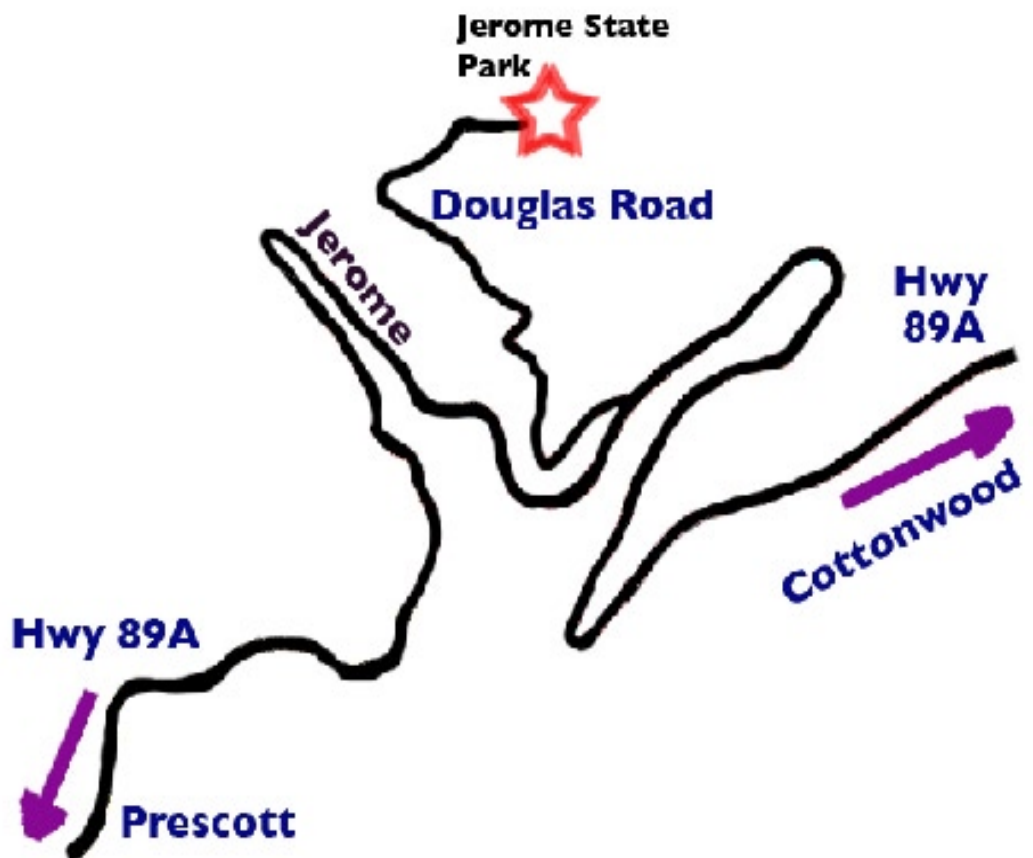
Master Gardeners will enjoy sweeping views of Mingus Mountain, the entire Verde Valley and Sedona's red rock country from a lovely picnic grounds at the Jerome State Historical Park, with some trees. Although there isn't huge shade available, Jerome is generally cooler than the valley or Prescott.

Additionally, you can tour the Douglas mansion, built in 1916 to accommodate the mining family. Large selection of photos illustrate Jerome's rich mining history. The library, billiard room and marbled bathroom remain unchanged to show family life. You can experience the Jerome mine labyrinth through a miniature model of the extensive Little Daisy Mine. Nora Graf, a notable MG is on staff there too. If you are confused about where the park is located call 928-634-5381 for directions.

Watch for a large sign at Douglas Road and 89a.

Arizona Highlands Garden Conference 2006, October 13 & 14

It's time to register for this years conference. It is being held at the Hon-Dah Resort & Conference Center in Pinetop, Arizona. This is a great opportunity to learn new information on gardening and meet some wonderful people. Some of the speakers this year include, David Salman of Santa Fe Greenhouses, High Country Gardens Catalog. One of my favorite speakers, Carl Olsen will talk on Insects in the Garden. Other programs will be on seed-saving mulching, cactus and succulents, pruning and two gourd workshops by yours truly. Registration materials are available at the extension offices and at the website: www.cals.arizona.edu/navajo/2006_highlands_conference.pdf The cost for both days is \$80.00



October

from the “The Gardener’s Bed-book”

by Richardson Wright



Harvest. Among the serenities that no money or honor or acclaim can ever bring is one that defies the worries of the world. It is to sit in front of your own fireplace of an Autumn night and, before going up to bed, to eat apples from trees that you

have planted with your own hands, you yourself have pruned and sprayed, you yourself watched grow from mere sticks to fruitful abundance. And if a wife be by your side (and not talking too much) and a dog at your feet (a dog not too intent on fleas!) you may dismiss all else with the ease and inconsequential gesture with which you fling the cores into the embers.

Persistent Bloomers. Some flowers, like steadfast friends, stay with us to the end, and to these we cling when the less robust and more showy have gone down the Autumn wind. One year, under the shelter of the Top Garden wall, a line of Pansies continued their unceasing

bloom from mid-April until almost the first of the New Year. I picked flowers three inches wide from that bed on the fifth of December. Verbena will do that sometimes, too, and, in a sheltered spot, Phlox subulata goes on cheerfully throwing a flower—the same Phlox that threw flowers abundantly in Spring. I have even had a Sweet Pea, planted at the same time as the others, give me bloom in late October. For such vagaries may



Heaven be praised.

Planting the Tides. Bulbs should be naturalized in grass

the way tides creep up a sandy beach—irregularly, in soft curves, with the crowded waves at a distance. Mere careless flinging about of Narcissi and planting them where they fall only makes for a spotty effect when the bulbs are flowering. Like any other planting, the area intended for naturalizing should be studied, its irregularities marked, its hills and dales noted, its background taken into account and the trees and shrubs that break its surface turned to good advantage. Watch the tide creeping around the buttress of a bridge—that is the way to have bulbs swirl around shrubbery. Let them break in waves against the hill crests and go spilling in broad drifts down the dales and yonder where a wall or fence or massed shrubbery afford background; mass the bulbs as breakers mass. However poetical this analogy may seem, it is eminently practical and it applies equally to Narcissi, Grape Hyacinths, Snowdrops and the other bulbs that lend themselves to naturalizing.



October is a good time to plant garlic, onions, chives and all of the various salad greens. Divide perennials now, along with planting bulbs. Shrubs and trees can also be planted. Flowers like pansies, snapdragons, stock, chrysanthemums love this weather. The weather is also perfect to be outside and do those chores you put off because it was too hot.

Tomato bounty

by Nora Graf

Do you have tomatoes rolling out of your ears. Tired of the heat and don't want to can anymore? How about a cool Gazpacho. Simple to make and serve cold.

4 large ripe tomatoes
2 1/2 cucumbers
1 large green pepper
10-12 scallions
1-2 cloves of garlic
salt
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/3 cup olive oil
3 cups tomato juice
1-1 1/2 cups beef broth or water
Hot pepper sauce
Worcestershire sauce
fresh ground pepper
croutons

Peel, seed and chop in 1/4 inch dice the tomatoes and cucumbers. Wash and trim pepper and scallions and chop into 1/4 inch dice. In a mortar, mash garlic and 1 teaspoon salt. Beat in the vinegar and oil. Combine this dressing with the chopped vegetables and stir in the tomato juice. Add broth or water to the consistency you prefer. Season with a dash of hot pepper sauce, Worcestershire, salt and pepper. Chill. Slice 1/2 cucumber into paper-thin slices. Serve in chilled bowls topped with cucumber slices and croutons on the side.

Variations—add fresh herbs like basil to the garlic

Then there is the zucchini—too much of it. Here's something new to try:

Zucchini stuffed with corn & cheese

2 narrow 6-7 inch long zucchini or yellow squash
1 cup corn kernels
1-2 Tablespoons chopped chives (optional)
1/2-2/3 cup ricotta cheese (optional)
salt and pepper
3/4 cup grated cheddar cheese

Blanch zucchini in boiling salted water for 5 minutes. Place under cold water and drain. Halve and scoop out the seeds, forming cavities. Coarsely puree the corn and ricotta cheese in a food processor or food mill. Add chives and season with salt and pepper. Fill squash halves with

mixture, mounding slightly. Cover with grated cheese. Place in a buttered casserole and bake, covered in a pre-heated 350°F oven 20-25 minutes or longer, until squash is tender and the topping is browned.

from The Victory Garden Cookbook by Marian Morash



More MG Assoc. News

Master Gardener Handbooks

Karen Pizzuto will be ordering the California Master Gardener Handbook for the 2007 MG training class soon. Karen has offered to order additional copies for Master Gardeners. The books sell for \$35 plus S&H on Amazon; your price from Karen will be less than that – exact price will depend on how many copies she orders. Contact Karen if interested: kpizzuto@ag.arizona.edu, 445-6590, ext 223.

Volunteer Opportunity

There is a small planting area in front of the Cottonwood Extension Office. We are looking for a Master Gardener who would like to maintain that area. You should also know something about irrigation systems. Please contact Rosh Preuss, roshpreuss@yahoo.com, 282-9699.

Paid Positions in Cottonwood

The Cottonwood Extension Office is looking for 4 part time/on call receptionists – work is sporadic. These are paid positions (\$8.50 to \$10.00 per hour). You would be doing receptionist work, and not acting as a Master Gardener. Volunteer hours would not apply. You must have 6 months of telephone, clerical and or public contact experience. For application instructions and to apply for job #36096, visit www.uacareertrack.com.

More MG Assoc. News

October 21, Master Gardener Picnic, at Jerome State Park in Jerome, 11:30-2:00

October 13-14, Highland Garden Conference

*November 15, 6:30 (Prescott) MGA Meeting, Gary Young from Young's Farm in Dewey will be talking about the history and sale of the farm

*For Yavapai Master Gardeners Only

To suggest any additions to the calendar or to ask any questions, please email Melissa Sandeen at rksandeen@netzero.net. Thanks.

MG Survey

If you have not returned the MG Survey, please do so ASAP. Your input is important.

Committees

"We encourage each Master Gardener to be on a committee of your choice – this is your association and we need your ideas to make it a success. When the work is spread among many no-one gets tired and burned-out. Please contact me if you can participate." Eunice Ricklefs
Eunice@commspeed.net, 771-9559

Volunteer Opportunity – Narrow-Leaf Yuccas

There is a business that produces kits that are used to teach traditional pottery of New Mexico and Arizona. It includes the use of traditional yucca paintbrushes. The business has offered to pay our organization \$10/lb for gathering dry, clean, and non-mildewed narrowleaf yucca leaves. The proceeds could be used for our recognition program. I'm looking for a Master Gardener to coordinate this effort. Contact: Mary Barnes, mcbarn1@cableone.net, 583-0889. (If you are collecting anything for commercial purposes from public lands you may need a permit from the appropriate agency)

Russ Radden (Ext Office) needs empty gallon (or smaller) jugs for the Water Festival on Oct 6th. You can bring them to the Cottonwood or Prescott Ext offices. You can bring them to the MGA meeting tomorrow night if you'd like.

Also, the Water Festival still needs volunteers. I sent the details about this a while back; if you can help and need the info again, let me know. Contact Mary Barnes

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.

Nora Graf

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MG NEWSLETTER

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