

Yavapai Gardens

Master Gardener Newsletter

December 2007



Events & Activities

MG Association Meeting, The next meeting will be Jan. 16, Cottonwood.

Yavapai Rose Society - Their next meeting will be Feb. 18. For more 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.

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

Prescott Area Iris Society call 928-445-8132 for date and place information.

Verde Valley Iris Society, call Linda at 928-567-7470. Next Meeting Jan.

Table of Contents

Thank yous . . .	1
Meet a MG-Richard Wise . . .	2
But First Syndrome . . .	3
Carrots . . .	4
MG Assoc. News . . .	6 & 7

A Year's Worth of Thank You's!



Thank You for Your Leadership!

As the year ends, we want to acknowledge those Master Gardeners who chaired projects in 2007 that required significant coordination and scheduling efforts with multiple volunteers. These people stepped up to help further the mission of the Yavapai County Master Gardener Association which is to provide the citizens of our communities with research based horticultural information on gardening, food production, landscaping, environmental stewardship and other related issues. Solid leadership helps our organization be what it is today and their skills are very much appreciated.

Special Thanks From the Editor

I personally would like to thank those people who have helped me with the newsletter. First my editors, Marilyn Perkins, Paul Diemer and Melina Theisen who point out when I don't make sense and gently remind me about the placement of commas, semi-colons and various other punctuation issues.

This year I have had more people contribute articles than ever before. Soemtimes I've even had problems getting it all in. It's nice to know that people not only enjoy the newsletter but want to contribute to it. So thanks to all the writers who added their "Two Cents!"

Thanks to the staff at the Cooperative Extension Office who are always helpful and patient. Tammy Keirnen in the Cottonwood Office, Karen Pizzuto and Leslie Lutey in the Prescott Office. Thanks to Jeff Schalau, fearless leader, who always is supportive and has a kind word. Couldn't have done it without all of you.

Last to all the people who enjoy the newsletter and contribute to our success as Master Gardeners.

Meet a Master Gardener—Richard Wise

by Pam Bowman

Having purchased a cabin in Ponderosa Park in 1991, Richard Wise and his wife Randi moved to Prescott permanently when he retired in 2001. Building a new log house on the property and volunteering at Sharlot Hall kept him busy, but he did find time to become a Master Gardener in 2003. Even though the log home is finished and most of the “heavy” work in his garden is complete, Richard continues to stay busy working at Sharlot Hall and volunteering in a number of Master Gardener activities. Many know him for his annual rose-pruning help request where fellow Master Gardeners reduce the task of pruning 260 roses to hours rather than days. You may also find Richard volunteering at the Prescott Farmers Market, Yavapai County Fair and Highlands Center native plant sales. He also helped with the Miller Valley School Memorial Garden and the Sedona Garden tour. These days he gives presentations on gardening with perennials and grasses in Yavapai County, serves as a mentor for two members of the 2007 class and helps Gene Twaronite with firewise landscaping sessions. Educating people in firewise landscaping and maintaining the Sharlot Hall gardens are Richard’s favorite MG activities because he enjoys helping people and working outside.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Richard joined the U.S. Army soon after graduating from high school. As a Green Beret in the Vietnam theatre, he was a radio code operator and made 35 parachute jumps out of “anything that flew” until he contracted malaria and was eventually shipped home. Richard and Randi settled in Torrance (southwestern LA) where they started a family (two daughters) and he became a member of Los Angeles County Fire Department in 1969. He began as a structural fireman, although he would fight brush fires too. In 1972, Richard was trained as a paramedic and served in this capacity for six years. When their second daughter began suffering from severe allergies, the Wise family moved to Temecula, a small town southeast of Los Angeles. Richard worked at a Brush Station as a fire-

man and patrolman who made brush inspections for 17 years. In 1998 he became a hydraulic engineer (pump operator), a position he filled until retirement.

Richard says he became interested in gardening when he was working as a paramedic in Torrance.



After days as a paramedic, he found working around plants in his yard very relaxing. He also found it profitable—he raised fuchsias and geraniums and when he sold them it paid for the family move to Temecula. Working with 3/4 acre in Temecula, Richard installed his first xeriscape garden and putting green. In his spare time Richard began a fence-building business that evolved into a landscaping business where he designed, installed and maintained gardens, sometimes for new housing developments. He also raised plumeria and cycads, which he later sold to pay for the moving truck to Prescott.

Richard terraced the sloping 1/2 acre of Ponderosa forest around his log home to create his newest garden. Visitors enter through a vine-covered archway and walk along meandering paths to view numerous perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees among large granite boulders. Richard uses gray water and harvested rain water to hand water and has built a greenhouse for future gardening ventures. He plans to build a bridge down to another area of the property which he will also cultivate.

As a former Green Beret and fireman, Richard admits to being an adrenalin junkie. Prior to recent back surgery, he was still white-water rafting and rollercoaster riding. His more sedentary activities now include working on the Ponderosa Park Water Board, giving tours to his neighbors and friends to educate them on firewise landscaping in a Ponderosa forest, continuing his education on gardening and watching any and all ice hockey games as an “avid” fan. He claims hockey and gardening work well together because as one ends, the other begins.

Fortunately for the MG Association, Richard’s desire to share his knowledge knows no season. He volunteers for myriad activities and helps those within and outside the Association. And he readily shares his plants with fellow gardeners. Thank you Richard.

But First Syndrome

by Cheri Melton from the December 2002
Cochise County Master Gardener Newsletter

(Ed. Note: While browsing for something to write about, I found this article. Since it seems to totally explain my life the last few years, I couldn't resist. Hope you enjoy it as well.)

I have a condition often found in the Green Thumb Club. The horticulture world is frantically searching for a cure. This is an ailment many of us suffer from and may not as yet have been diagnosed.

However, now you may be able to discuss it with your loved ones and try to explain what really happened to you all those times you tried so hard to accomplish something and didn't.

It's called the "BUTFIRST Syndrome."

It's like when I decide to weed the garden—I start down the beds and notice the penstemons need pruning. Okay, I'm going to do the weeding—BUTFIRST I'm going to prune the penstemons and the salvias. After that I notice the desert willow tree needs a drink of water. Okay, I'll just finish pruning, BUTFIRST I'll get the hose and water the tree. Now where's the spray nozzle? OOPS! There's the wheelbarrow full of veggie trimmings from last year in the side yard. I'm going to look for that spray nozzle, BUTFIRST I need to put the wheelbarrow of veggie trimmings into the compost pile.

I head for the compost pile, look out over the veggie garden, notice my shade cloth has blown off the lettuce bed. I put the wheelbarrow next to the garage, and darn it, there's the pitchfork for moving the manure pile against the garage.

What's it doing here? I'll just put it away, BUTFIRST I need to fix the shade cloth. Head for garden gate and Ack! I stepped on the dog. The dog

needs to be fed. Okay, I'll put that pitchfork away and fix the shade cloth. BUTFIRST I need to feed the dog.

At the end of the day:

The shrubs are half pruned . . .

The tree never gets watered . . .

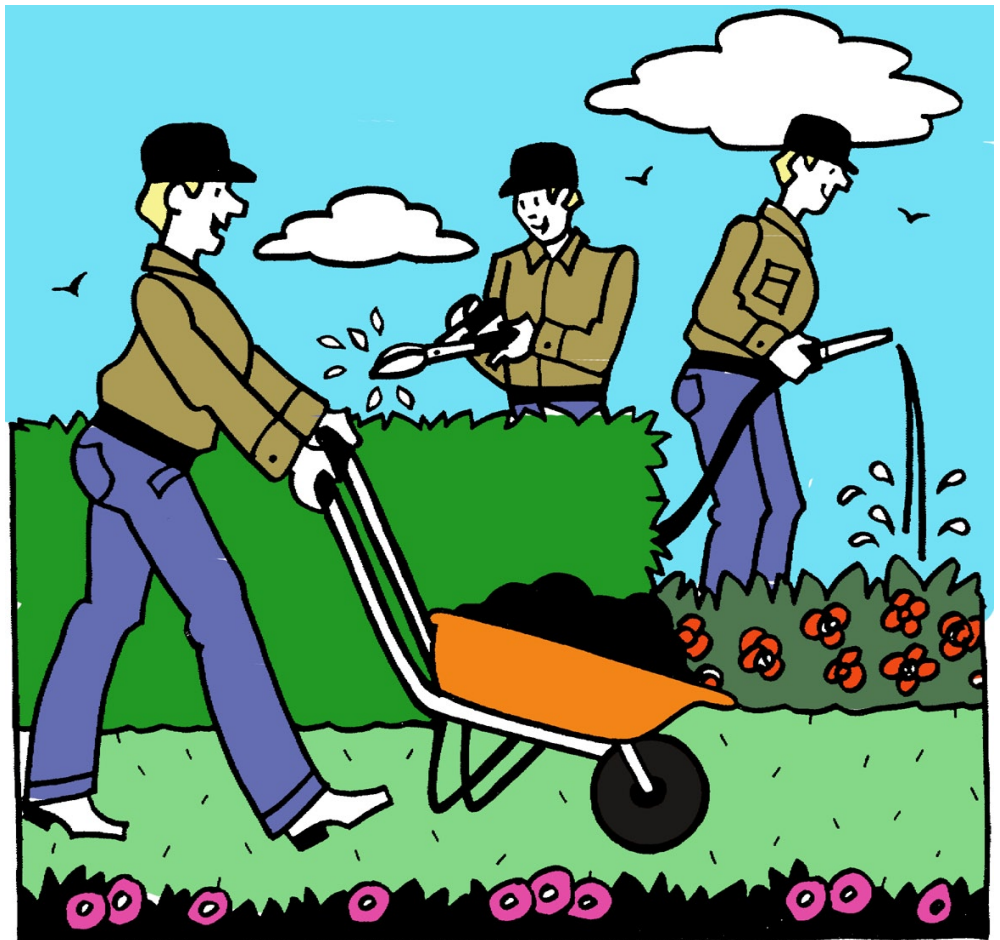
Veggie trimmings never make it to the compost pile . . .

Shade cloth is still flapping in the wind . . .

Spray nozzle is still missing . . .

The dog ate the lettuce . . .

AND, when I try to figure out how come nothing got done all day, I'm baffled, because I KNOW I WAS BUSY ALL DAY! I realize this condition is serious . . . and I should get help, BUTFIRST I think I'll read my seed catalogs.



Carrots

by Nora Graf

I was really short of time this month and did some desperate thinking on what I should write about. Salvation came in the form of a website—The Museum of Online Museums (you should go there, it has some really bizarre but interesting places to go—how about the pocket protector museum, really!.) Anyway I came across The Carrot Museum—you really must visit it. More later on that, but the idea stirred—carrots, I haven't written about carrots. Now I could say just toss the seeds on ground, apply water and wow! there are carrots. That doesn't take up enough space, unfortunately, and I'd just have to come up with another idea for an article and there is no time. So here goes—more than you've ever wanted to know about carrots:

The carrot—*Daucus carota subsp. sativus*. For those that may have never seen a carrot, they are a root vegetable and until recently you never saw any color but orange. Today you can find them in a variety of colors and, if you believe some stories, they will cure everything. The orange color is from Beta carotene which the body converts to vitamin A. Carrots are linked to good eyesight. In W.W.II the story was spread around that British soldiers were so good at shooting down German planes because of their superior eyesight from eating carrots. The story played in with some German mythology and was used to hide the discovery of radar technology.

Too many carrots and your skin can turn orange.

Historically carrots were used to treat digestive problems, intestinal parasites and tonsillitis. *D. carota* is the wild carrot; all the carrots we eat today are the result of selective breeding of this plant. Parsley, parsnips and hemlock are close relatives. Carrots are found through-

out Europe, in Asia, China and the Mediterranean. The first cultivated varieties probably came from the Mediterranean, possibly grown by the Romans. Modern carrots showed up in Europe in the 8th century and appear to have been available in both red and yellow. Orange carrots made their entrance in the Netherlands in the 17th century.

The World's largest carrot was 18.985 lb. grown in 1998 by John Evans of Alaska



Carrots are divided on “geographical” lines, eastern and western. Eastern carrots come from central Asia and were purple and yellow and had branched roots. The western carrots are the orange variety grown in the Netherlands. Oddly enough, they were popular because orange represented the House of Orange and Netherlands Independence. Western carrots can also be white, yellow, red or purple. Modern cultivars are distinguished by their shapes.

Chantenay are short and fat with broad shoulders and tapers to a blunt round tip—usually diced for canned or prepared foods.

Danvers are conical with well-defined shoulders tapering to a point. They are shorter than Emperor types but tolerant of heavy soils—often used pureed in baby food.

Imperator are the variety we see most often in stores. They have long slender tapers.

Nantes are cylindrical, blunt and rounder at both ends and are generally the sweetest variety.

Carrots are biennials, meaning they grow the first year and flower the second, although my experience shows that with our long warm summers they will flower the first year. I've grown both Danvers and Nantes and had exceptional luck with both. In my garden, carrots have not been hard to grow. I meant it when I said toss the seeds out and water. One thing you can do, though, is

to make sure they have a loose soil. This helps keep the roots from splitting. Carrots are cool-weather growers that can be planted in the spring and the fall. Plant at the same time as you plant lettuce. Sow the seed directly in the garden. After the seed has sprouted, thin to 2 inches. This can be a tedious job and it is better if you snip off the tops with a tiny pair of scissors then just pull. You're likely to pull out ones you want to save otherwise. Thinning is important; if you don't do it, you might have some wimpy carrots. Harvesting, is easy; when you can see the upper end of the carrot is about 3/4 inch, its time.

As to the myth of baby carrots; baby carrots are not babies. They were invented as a way for carrot farmers to use misshapen and odd sized carrots that couldn't be sold in the super market. They are simply peeled and cut into small shapes.

Today the traditional orange carrot is getting some competition from other colors. While you don't see them in the stores, there are now seeds available for a whole range of different colors. Try something new this spring!

Now, about the Carrot Museum:(www.carrot-museum.co.uk) It's all you've ever wanted to know about carrots.

The longest carrot was grown in 1996 and was 16 feet 10 1/2 inches long.

***Daucus carrota* means orange.**

You will consume approximately 10,866 carrots in your lifetime.

Carrots were the first vegetable to be canned commercially.

The Anglo-Saxons included carrots as an ingredient in a medicinal drink against the devil and insanity.

Greek soldiers who hid in the Trojan Horse were said to have consumed ample quantities of raw carrots to inactivate their bowels.



See, I knew you wanted to learn more about carrots.

Carrots have some unexpected uses, like musical instruments. Who would have thought?

And if you are really bored you can play Mr. Carrot Head on their web site. Life is fun. Have a carrot!

In the spirit of the holiday season when family and friends gather together for food and fun, here is a recipe

that is a variation of that midwestern treat of the carrot and raisin salad. Had that a lot as a kid and still like it, but this cooked variation sounds good.

Carrots with Cranberries from the Victory Garden Cookbook

- 1 apple
- 1 cup cranberries
- 4 cups grated carrots
- 4 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 cup apple cider
- 2 tablespoons butter

Grate the apple and wash the cranberries. Combine with the carrots, sugar, salt and cider. Place in a buttered casserole and dot with the butter. Cover and bake in a



preheated oven, 350°F, for 40 minutes, stirring once.

For a fun unique look at carrots go to <http://uncyclopedia.org/wiki/Carrots>.

Be prepared for the horrifying truth about carrots!

MG Association News

Volunteer Opportunities

1. The Pecan and Wine Festival will be held in Camp Verde in February (Judging on Feb 8th, Staff table on Feb 9th and 10th. We need volunteers to help with the pecan judging and to staff the Master Gardener table. Judging contact: Nora Graf, mesquite2@hotmail.com; Staff MG table contact: Lynn Hazlewood, klwoodz@cableone.net We'd like to get a co-chair from the Verde area to assist with the set-up.

2. Sharlot Hall Museum needs volunteers to assist with the gardens on a regular basis. This is a good opportunity for those looking for hands-on projects. These positions do count as volunteer time,



as the gardens are public, and provide education to the public. If you are interested, go to Sharlot Hall Museum any weekday morning and ask for Steve Whitney, Grounds Supervisor.

3. The Smoki Museum in Prescott is also looking for volunteers. I don't have contact information for them.

4. Nora Graf is Chairing the Highlands Garden Conference committee that obtains conference speakers. If you would like to work on that committee, and/or have ideas on speakers, please contact her mesquite2@hotmail.com. The speakers may be from outside Arizona.

Speakers Bureau Workshops

2 workshops will be held at the Sedona Public Library for Verde areas MGs. A full workshop (including Powerpoint tutorial) will be held on December 1st, 10am – 2pm. A second workshop (without Powerpoint tutorial) will be held on December 10th, 5pm – 7pm. The next workshop scheduled for Prescott will be held on December 6th, 6:30-8:30pm, at the Prescott Extension Office. Please contact Janie Agyagos if you plan to attend jagyagos@fs.fed.us.

You may or may not be aware of a relatively new quarterly publication titled: "Backyards & Beyond – Rural Living in Arizona". It contains lots of wonderful information regarding plants, wildlife, water, weeds, composting, etc., etc. It is published by U of A, and Jeff Schalau is one of the key contributors. A subscription is \$10 per year.

It is intended for owners of rural property, small ranchettes, etc. We need to let the intended audience know about the availability of this great publication. One avenue is Realtors who are selling such properties. So, we are looking for volunteers (in the Prescott and Verde areas) to create a list of the appropriate Real Estate companies so some copies of the publication may be sent to them. If you are interested in doing this research, please let me know. Note: I'm out of town and not checking e-mail from Nov 29th through Dec 5th. mcbar1@cableone.net

2008 MGA Meeting Schedule

Note: All meetings begin at 6:30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July & December)
Prescott meeting facility: Extension Office - 840 Rodeo Dr., Bldg. C

Cottonwood meeting facility: County Supervisor's Office - 10 S. 6th St.

- January 16 - Cottonwood
- February 20 - Prescott
- March 19 - Cottonwood
- April 16 - Prescott
- May 21 - Cottonwood - Social/Information Meeting with 2008 Master Gardener Class
- June 18 - Prescott
- July - No Meeting
- August 20 - Cottonwood
- September 17 - Prescott
- October - Recognition Awards & Picnic - Verde Valley
- November 19 - Prescott - Elections
- December - No Meeting

Congratulations!!! Thirty seven Associate Master Gardeners completed their first 50 hours in 2007.

From the 2006 class: Sue Bean, Tana Bourdage-Allman, Sam Braun, Sally Braun, Sharon Casmier, Barbara Creiger, Jack Burton, Lisa Gerber, Christine Graff, Terrilyn Green, Merle Herrick, Michele Herrick, Skip Larson, Jane McGraw, Steve Moody, Robin Ponvert, Jean Tierney. From the 2007 class: Debbie Allen, Julia Blines, John Doyle, Jay Fleishman, Kay Gaffney, Robert Heichelbech, Kathy MacCauley, Scotty Miller, Sherry Morton, Patricia Mueller, Jean O'Laughlin, Jackie Rizzo, Faith Roelofs, Suzette Russi, Janet Scheiber, Ginny Shugars, Sue Smith, Terry Stewart, Tom Watkins, Normalinda Zuniga.

2008 MG Class

We have not received as many applications for the 2008 MG class as expected. So, please let your friends know about the class. It will be held at the Public Safety Building in Cottonwood on Tuesday mornings, from Feb 5th to May 13, 9am, - 12:30pm. Cost: \$180. Background checks are now required, and the cost of that is included in the class fee. Applications should be postmarked by December 1st, and can be obtained on our website: <http://ag.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/mastergardener/training.htm> **ED. NOTE: I know this is after the deadline but, if you have someone that is interested check with Mary Barnes to see if there are still spaces available.**



FROM THE EDITOR: Please send or email articles and announcements to the address below. All articles must be in my hands by the 10th of the month. Short announcements (no more than 2 or 3 lines) will be accepted until the 25th.

Nora Graf
PO Box 3652
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
mesquite2@hotmail.com
(928) 567-6703

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Schalau". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jeff Schalau
County Director, Yavapai County Extension Agent,
Agriculture & Natural Resources
email: jschalau@ag.arizona.edu

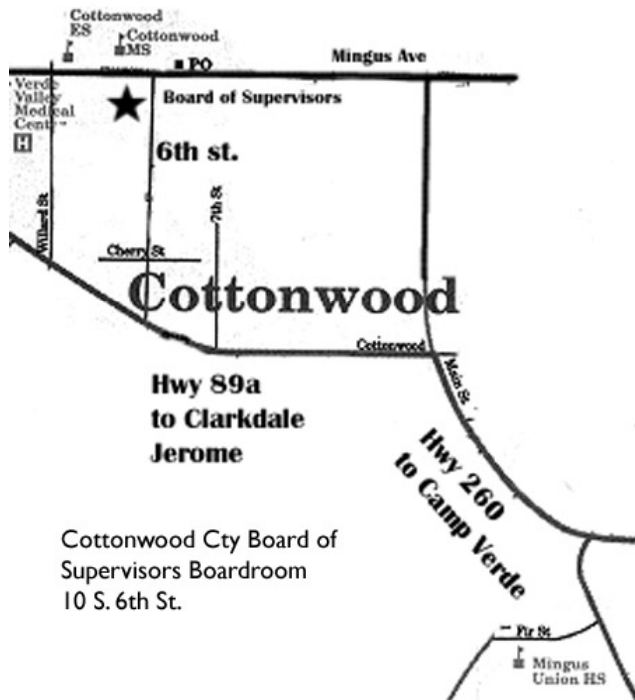
Prescott
840 Rodeo Dr.
Building C
Prescott, AZ 86305
(928) 445-6590
FAX: (928) 445-6593

Cottonwood
2657 Village Dr.
Cottonwood, AZ 86326
(928) 646-9113

Arizona Cooperative Extension
Yavapai County
840 Rodeo Dr. Building C
Prescott, AZ 86305



MG NEWSLETTER



Cottonwood Cty Board of
Supervisors Boardroom
10 S. 6th St.

MG Association Meeting
January 16, 6:30pm,
Cottonwood

**There is no newsletter in
January. The next news-
letter will be available by
February 1.**