

Yavapai Gardens

Master Gardener Newsletter

April 2008



Events & Activities

MG Association Meeting, Wednesday, April 16 6:30pm, Prescott. See page 8 for map. Our speaker will be John Paustian on roses.

Yavapai Rose Society - 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 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 Smith at 928-567-7470

Table of Contents

Summer Bulbs . . .	1
Garlic Pepper Spray . . .	3
Onions, Shallots, Garlic . . .	4
Meet a Master Gardener, Lynn Hazlewood . . .	5
MG News . . .	6-7
April Speaker . . .	8

Summer Blooming Bulbs

by Nora Graf



Last October a friend gave me a bunch of bulbs of Crocosmia which were threatening to overrun her garden. Now, she lives in Oregon so I wasn't worried about them being too invasive here, in fact, I wasn't even sure they would grow. Some actually sent out leaves last fall after I planted them—most never did anything at all. But the other day I noticed little sprouts of leaves, so they had just hunkered down and waited until they liked the conditions.

I had lots of them so I planted them in various locations to see how they will do. I will keep you posted but it did bring to mind the use of summer blooming bulbs. Everyone thinks about those early spring tulips and daffodils but there are a lot of bulbs that give summer bloom that would be terrific in the garden. Some you may be familiar with, others maybe not, so experiment.

Gladiolus have been a favorite of gardeners for years. You often see them in florists bouquets as they make a great and dramatic cut flower. They grow well in Arizona. I have had success with them in Camp Verde. Some people may consider these flowers out of fashion, not something that has ever bothered me, but if you have avoided them in the past you might want to look again. There is a range of colors available now that might surprise you. Most grow quite tall and will probably need support although I have grown them without it and they have done fine. There are miniature varieties available also. *Gladiolus* originally came from Africa. There are about 260 species. There is a cold-hardy variety (*Nanus*), which I haven't tried, with a slightly different looking flower. I've had them come up a second year, but I would plan on replanting each year. By the way, they aren't bulbs, they are corms.

Lilies—Well, not that hot house Easter Lily they flood the stores with each spring, but



these are hardy, showy plants that can come back year after year. With lots of color variations to choose from they could add a bold statement to any garden or, with soft pastels, complement other perennials. There are several different forms, including but not limited to, trumpet, oriental, martagon and Asiatic. I'm going to leave it to you to investigate them but I'd suggest looking into them. These are summer bloomers and may even multiply in



your garden.

Crocosmia or montbretia—

These produce a spray of yellow, red or orange flowers. Native to South Africa,

they have proven to be invasive in some areas and hard to get rid of. I figure if they can out-compete bermuda grass they can't be all bad so I'm giving them a try. They form a chain of bulbs which can break apart easily, so once established it's hard to find all the little bulbs. The oldest bulb is the one that is the deepest in the soil and it has contractile roots which pull the bulb deeper in the soil if conditions permit. Flowers bloom summer into fall and form on an arched spike. The name crocosmia come from the Greek krokos (saffron) and osme (smell). The dried flowers when dipped in water have a saffron-like fragrance.

Gloriosa is a vine that I would really like to try one of these days. If you have had any experience with this plant let me know. Gloriosa is a tender, tuberous, deciduous perennial that needs summer rainfall and a dormant dry season. It is a vine that climbs using tendrils at the ends of its leaves. It can grow 10 feet and produces a very showy flower with recurved petals that can be greenish yellow through yellow, orange red and sometimes pinkish red with recurved long stamens. There are several species that originated in Africa and Asia. One of the drawbacks



of this plant is that the entire plant is toxic and can cause skin irritation in some people.



Agapanthus (Nile lily or Lily of the Nile) is a favorite of mine and, while I wouldn't plant it in the yard, it makes a great potted plant. I had one that bloomed reliably and profusely for many years in a pot until I forgot to bring it

inside soon enough and a cold night killed it. It comes from South Africa originally. Today you can find white and blue/purple varieties. It doesn't come from bulbs either but a fleshy rhizome. There is both a deciduous species and an evergreen species but it is unlikely you will find the deciduous species around. It likes to be left alone so only divide when you absolutely have to, splitting it in the spring. Don't count on flowers after that for a year or two.

Tigridia (Mexican Shell Flowers) is another plant I plan to try out one of these days.

They have interesting and unusual flowers. This plant came from Mexico and South America originally. The flower only lasts



a day but the quantity of blooms makes up for the length of bloom. You can plant them successively to spread the bloom out over a longer season. They come in a variety

of colors from whites to yellows to reds, maroons to purples and all have a speckled throat. They need conditions similar to gladiolus and, by the way, they are corms also.



of colors from whites to yellows to reds, maroons to purples and all have a speckled throat. They need conditions similar to gladiolus and, by the way, they are corms also.

Alstoemeria (Peruvian lily) are probably familiar to you as they appear as a cut flower in florist bouquets. Native to South America this group has about 50 species, some which are winter-growing plants and some which are summer-growing. All are long-lived perennials except for one species found in the Atacama Desert in Chile. It is actually a rhizome and not a true bulb and resembles a dahlia. An interesting fact I found out is that the leaves twist so that what we see as the upper surface is really the lower surface. Another botanical oddity!



Alstoemeria have very showy flowers that come in a variety of colors, including white, yellow, orange, apricot, pink, red, purple and lavender.

Eucomis (Pineapple Lily) are interesting looking plants that would do well in a container. The flowers are white through yellow-green to pink (Plants Delight Nursery has

an incredible purple variety) but it's the interesting way they grow that makes the plant unusual (see picture) as it does kind of look like pineapple. The bloom will continue for a long time, also. They don't like the cold so you will have to bring them inside for the winter. It is a South African plant that includes ten species. It is found in areas with summer rainfall. Some sources say this is an incredibly easy species to grow.

Ixia (Corn lily or Corn flower) is another South Africa plant with about 50 species. In our area they may be able to stay in the soil year round but they like it dry, so they couldn't go into a bed that is watered regularly after they go dormant. These are actually late spring bloomers in a variety of colors including cream, purple, rose and yellow flowers. It is semi-hardy so wouldn't survive in the ground below 28 degrees.



Garlic Pepper Spray



We are in the season of insect invasions. Before you visit the hardware store to buy some type of insecticide, why not try an organic solution that you can make yourself? It is supposed to be good on a variety of insects.

2 lbs ripe tomatoes (do not have to be blemish free!)

1 large onion

2 cloves garlic

Chop vegetables and place in blender or food processor and blend until liquified.

Add:

1 c. vinegar

1/2 teaspoon pepper

Strain the mixture through several layers of cheesecloth or a disposable coffee filter. Pour the strained liquid into a pump spray bottle. Spray directly on pests.

Yields: 3 cups

Be careful: This is really potent stuff; keep it away from your eyes and mouth and wear gloves when spraying.



Grow Some Knowledge

Onions, Garlic, Shallots

by Jean O'Laughlin

Onions

Onions can be grown from seed, young plants purchased at a nursery, or sets. Sets are small onions ready for planting and are available as red, white or yellow types. Onions



like fertile, well-drained, loose soil. Seeds or sets can be planted in October and will grow by spring, maturing in the summer.

Planting can also be done in late winter/early spring.

To plant onion sets in either a row or an area, place the little onion with pointed end up about two inches into the soil. In loose soil, just push it down with a finger tip. Cover and keep it watered, but not soaking wet. If you buy a pack of little plants, carefully pull them apart and plant about one to one and a half inches deep, spreading the roots and covering carefully. If you plan to use them as scallions, they can be planted an inch apart. Pull when the tops are several inches high to use as scallions and leave some plants about three inches apart for larger bulbs. The plants will start to dry back about mid summer. When tops have dried, pull or dig the onions up and dry, or cure, them in a shady place for a week or two. You can cut the top off leaving an inch or two or you can braid and hang them to keep.

If any of the plants send up a thick stalk, it will be a flower stalk. You do not want these so bend them over as soon as you see one starting. A flower stalk will take the energy keeping the bulb from developing properly. Also, that onion will not keep as well so use those first.

If you plant seed, follow package directions. Remember – October. Thin them in spring by using some as scallions.

Onions are very sensitive to the number of hours of daylight and are labeled “L” for long day (15-16 hours) or ‘S’ for short day (12 hours). Arizona calls for short day varieties.

Red, white and yellow onion varieties are either sweet

or sulfurous. Sweet varieties do not keep as well as the sharper tasting sulfurous varieties. For information on varieties, see your local nursery or search the internet on “onion gardening”.

Shallots

Shallots are an *Allium*, as are onions, but are more mild. Treat like onions and plant shallot bulbs in October with the bulb tip just below the soil surface. They grow into clumps of roughly ten bulbs so place them about 8 inches apart. Harvest in summer when the tops die back. They keep very well. Pull some good bulbs off and save to plant again in October.



Garlic likes the same soil conditions as onions. Again, plant the cloves in October. There are several varieties besides the one you buy at the grocery. The cloves should be planted the same day you pull them from the bulb.



The pointy end needs to be up and one to two inches deep. Water well. When tops start drying in summer, quit watering. Harvest and cure like onions.

If a flower stalk forms, take it off unless you want to use the little bulbets that will form at the top to plant. They will form a clove in one year and a bulb in two years.

Elephant garlic is not a true garlic. It forms big cloves and is very mild. Plant cloves with tops two inches deep.

Meet a Master Gardener

Lynn Hazlewood

by Pam Bowman

After visiting and loving Prescott in 2002 and no longer having any family ties in the East, Lynn Hazlewood and her husband Ken decided to move closer to Ken's mother, who lives in Dewey. Soon after their arrival in January 2004, Lynn's mother-in-law told her about the Master Gardener Program. Recognizing her lack of experience in "desert gardening," Lynn joined the class of 2005. Following graduation, she signed up for the Volunteer Committee and a brief stint staffing telephones in the Prescott office. She has enjoyed working at the Yavapai County Fair, where she checks in produce and delights in the children who proudly display their vegetables. Lynn also contributed to the newly-initiated Mentor Program by extensively researching similar programs.

These days she organizes a number of events for the Master Gardener Association. Lynn takes the lead at the Pecan, Wine and Antique Festival in Camp Verde, Mortimer's Fall Festival in Prescott and the spring and fall plant sales held by the Highlands Center for Natural History (HCNH). When asked she promptly responds that working with the HCNH is her favorite activity. Getting to know other volunteers, meeting new people from the community, working in a beautiful setting and making a difference in how people in the community view gardening with native plants are but a few of her reasons.

Born in Frankfurt, Germany Lynn was adopted by a "6th generation German American Jewish" couple. Her future mother stayed in Germany for 6 months while her future father worked to have the German government release Lynn for travel to the United States. With the help of then Secretary of State Adlai Stevenson, who procured a temporary American passport for Lynn, the young family was reunited in New York City on June 4, 1954. Living and attending public schools in the New York City borough of Manhattan, she admits to being a bit of a daydreamer who managed to get good

grades. Upon graduation from high school, Lynn headed west to the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley where she majored in the fine arts.

Graduating in 4 years, Lynn remained in the West with her new husband working as a waitress.

As a graphic artist, talented photographer and silk screener; Lynn continued her artistic pursuits. She sold her work in galleries and organized art shows with fellow artists.

With the death of her husband, Lynn returned to NYC to live with her mother. It wasn't long before she met Ken and they married and moved to Chelsea, an artistic community in Manhattan. The couple remained in the same apartment and Lynn worked in publishing for the next 19 years, where she polished her organizational skills by planning 12 conferences annually.

In 2000 Lynn and Ken moved to Long Island to care for her aging mother and stepfather. Lynn currently works about 9 hours a day for the Hassayampa Inn, where she uses her organizational skills and artistic talents.

Lynn's first green experience occurred when she sowed seeds in the large yard she and her first husband enjoyed in Colorado. She was excited about the new vegetable seedlings and soon ventured into flowers. In her NYC apartment, she lovingly tended the flowers in what her husband called her 6-inch garden (flower boxes). Lynn's current garden now covers close to an acre. She describes it as "very native" where she has also established a vegetable garden, perennial pockets and a small orchard. Lynn finds gardening very relaxing and has always tended her gardens before and after work.

Lynn's other interests include her husband, her dogs, photography, cooking and visiting museums. She loves to be inspired by what she experiences and art continues to be an important element in her life. Fortunately, Lynn includes gardening and the Master Gardener Association among her interests. Her ability to organize events with enthusiasm and a ready smile make her a valuable member of our organization.



MG Association Volunteer Opportunities

Congratulations

New Master Gardeners

By completing 50 volunteer hours, the following Associate Master Gardeners received certificates and nametags (signifying certification) at the February Master Gardener Meeting:

Bobbie Jo Gooslin

Ken Earls



Bee Pollination Study

Here is information about a nationwide study on bees. If you participate, it does count as volunteer time.

We have just launched The Great Sunflower Project, a community science project with the goal of increasing our understanding of where bees are doing poorly and how the pollination of our garden and wild plants are being affected. We're hoping you will join us by planting sunflowers in your garden. Community, demonstration, and school gardens are invited to participate.

We'll send you some free native sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) seed and twice a month, we'd like you to time how long it takes for 5 bees to visit one flower on that sunflower. This information will give us an index of pollination that we can compare across the United States. Once we know where bees are in trouble, we can start developing a plan to help them.

You can see the details about the project and register at www.greatsunflower.org or contact us at sfbee@sfsu.edu.

Do join us!

Thanks so much,
Gretchen LeBuhn



Keep Sedona Beautiful Native Plant Workshop

Keep Sedona Beautiful could use 5 MG volunteers on April 5 for their Native Plant Workshop.

Help is needed with registration, selling raffle tickets, helping with lunch, etc. They must also attend an orientation on Friday, April 4, 3:00 p.m. at the Sedona High School. If interested contact Carol Peterson at Carolyn@cjpeterson.com. This does count as Volunteer time.



Phone Volunteers for Prescott Extension Office

We have a couple open phone volunteer shifts in the Prescott Extension office. If you can work Friday mornings, or would like to job share a Thursday afternoon shift (i.e. work every other Thursday afternoon, or a similar schedule) please contact Mary Barnes, mcbarn1@cablone.net, 583-0889.

Pictures Needed

Richard Wise is giving a talk on Creating and Maintaining a Perennial Garden at Mortimer nursery on March 29th. If you have pictures of your perennial gardens, Richard would like to include them. You may bring prints to the February MGA meeting in Prescott, or you may send digital pictures to Laura Atwood (latwood@mortimer-nursery.com).

Calendar of Events

April 16, Prescott— John Paustian—“Roses”
April 26, 9:00am-2:00 pm, Highland Center Plant Sale and Educational Festival
May 21, Cottonwood—Social/Information Meeting with 2008 Master Gardener Class
June 14, Flagstaff Arboretum Field Trip—Sign up by calling Pattie Conrad (778-4810) in the evening
June 14, Prescott Garden Tour, 8:00 am-4:00 pm, Cost--\$10
June 18, Barry Golden—“Irisess”
July—No Meeting
August 20, Cottonwood—Don Troutman—“Ponds”
September 17, Prescott--Pattie Conrad—“Fall Gardening”
September 18-21--Yavapai County Fair
October 13 & 14—Arizona Highlands Garden Conference, Prescott Resort
October 25—Recognition Awards & Picnic—Verde Valley
November 19, Prescott—Elections; Panel--“The State of Organics in the Food Distribution Industry”
December—No Meeting

Volunteer Opportunity –

Sharlot Hall Museum in Prescott is looking for volunteers who can commit to a regular schedule of general gardening maintenance. This includes weeding gardens and keeping them tidy, raking leaves, etc. Contact Steve Whitley, 445-3122, ext 21 at the Museum.

The Highlands Center has requested Master Gardener help with bagging compost for their April 26th plant sale. The bagging days are April 9th and April 16th. Please contact Lynn Hazlewood if you can help klwoodz@cablone.net, 776-1018.

Farmer Markets:

The chairs are looking for more help to staff the Prescott and Camp Verde Farmers Market. Contact Mary Barnes for the Prescott market. The Prescott Chair is Sherry Morton. Contact Camp Verde Chairs = Kay Huff kayatmarykay@peoplepc.com, 567-0410 and Karen or Morris azkaren19@yahoo.com, 567-2804

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



Jeff Schalaus
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

MG Association Meeting, April 15.
6:30pm, Prescott

John Paustian

During 45 years as a research chemist, John Paustian came to recognize the value of research. Claiming this knowledge gives him “permission to be a little nerdy in his presentations,” John will be identifying and reviewing old garden roses in his presentation.

Upon moving here after 45 years of gardening in New Jersey where he struggled with aphids, Japanese beetle, black spot, fungus, high humidity and cement-grade clay, he swore he would never plant hybrid tea roses again. Recognizing that Arizona soils, climate and just about everything else is different, he enrolled in the Master Gardener classes, joined the local Rose Society and started reading about roses. He even admits to planting hybrid tea roses in more-or-less desert colors with greater success than in New Jersey.

With years of experience, John’s presentation will be valuable to all Master Gardeners, especially those growing roses. Hope you can attend the meeting and learn more about caring for roses in a high desert garden.

