

Yavapai Gardens

Master Gardener Newsletter

October 2008



Events & Activities

Arizona Highlands Gardening Conference, Oct 13, 14, Prescott. There is still time to register!

Our annual Recognition Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 26th. This is in lieu of an October MGA meeting. You and your families are welcome.

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.

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

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There are still a few days left to register for the Master Gardener Conference. Go to <http://ag.arizona.edu/yavapai/ahgc/index.html> or call the Prescott office for information.

Herb Vinegars

from Yavapai Gardens 1995

by Nora Graf



With winter coming on, now is the time to save the summer splendor of herbs, before the annuals die and the perennials hunker down for the winter. One way of saving the flavor of herbs is by infusing their flavor in oils and vinegars. Not only is this simple, but they can make wonderful gifts for housewarmings or holidays. They can be a mix of several herbs or just one. Pick your favorite combinations. Make sure you don't overwhelm milder herbs like basil, chives, tarragon and lemon thyme; It will take one to two weeks for the oil or vinegar to become flavored.

Herb vinegar: Place 2 cups packed fresh herbs into a hot, clean one quart jar. In a stainless steel saucepan, heat 2 cups wine vinegar (pick your favorite type—red, white or cider) until hot, but not boiling. Pour the hot vinegar into jars over the herbs. Cover loosely with lid until mixture cools, then cover tightly. Let stand in a cool, dark place for one week. Remove from jar. Transfer to clean 1 pint jar. (Remove herbs) Add a sprig of fresh herbs. Cover tightly. Store in a cool dark place up to three months. Makes 2 cups.

Herb Oils: Gently heat oil, (use your favorite, olive, canola, any vegetable oil,) till it warms, about 3 to 5 minutes, pour into glass jar which has a choice of herbs. Use about three 2-inch sprigs of herb for each cup of oil. Let cool, cover and store in cool, dark place for up to six months.

To use as gifts, find some decorative bottles, strain out the old herbs, add a sprig of fresh and fill bottles with the oil or vinegar. Seal with cork or screw top. You can add a decorative touch by dipping the tops in melted wax several times. It will make it easier to open by placing a colorful ribbon under the wax. By pulling up the ribbon, you will tear the wax. Tie on a gift card using the ribbon and instantly, you will have a beautiful gift for a friend or family.



October To-Do List

October is a busy month for gardeners. Below are just some of the tasks that should/could be done.

Attend Arizona Highlands Garden Conference Oct 13-14. It is not too late to register!!

The average killing frost date is mid to late October.

Rose care—In colder areas, start getting roses ready for winter, mulch but DON'T fertilize. New growth encouraged by fertilizer can be damaged by hard early frosts.

Plant new perennials or divide older ones such as day lilies and Shasta Daisies. Mulch Perennial to protect from cold and drying winds. Low humidity can be as dangerous as cold.

Plant wildflower seeds Perennial seeds can also be planted in the lower elevations. Winter color can be planted in some area. Plants like shirley poppies, snapdragons, pansies.

Don't forget to water your plants even when it turns cold. Winter deaths can be the result of poor watering practices and not cold.

In lower elevations plant ground covers; junipers can still be planted in higher elevations.

Cool season vegetables can still be planted: beets, cabbage, chard, carrots, collards, endive, garlic, kale, onions, peas, radishes, spinach and turnips.

Cool weather cover crops like barley, rye and wheat can also be planted.

Now is the time to work up your beds for spring, Add compost and manure.

Although this seems to have been a poor gardening year, if you have extra fruits and vegetables consider giving some to your local food bank.



The Glorious Beetle, *Plusiotis gloriosa* found in Jerome, Arizona this year.

Meet a Master Gardener: Herdis MacClellan

by Pam Bowman

Purchasing their Prescott “summer home” in late 2004, Herdis MacClellan and her husband Archie soon tired of maintaining two homes (the other in Phoenix) and moved permanently to the central highlands in late 2006. Always an English country gardener she claims ignorance about why some plants thrived while others died. Wanting more gardening knowledge, Herdis enrolled in the 2005 Master Gardener class and began her weekly commute from Phoenix. These days she is visible as the Social/ Picnic Chair who organizes meeting refreshments and the all-important, annual recognition picnic. Perhaps unknown to most, Herdis helps staff the Master Gardener desk in Prescott, helps weed and prune the rose garden at the Sharlot Hall Museum and helps teachers in 3 local schools. Many of you will remember the “Worm Lady” from her presentation at the first Master Gardener social and many will see Herdis at the Arizona Highlands Garden Conference registration table. As a Master Gardener, she finds projects that include meeting and helping people the most enjoyable. And yes, she also feels more confident in the garden thanks to all she has learned and continues to learn.

Born and raised in Jutland, Denmark (on the mainland), Herdis’ first experienced the pleasures of gardening in her father’s retail nursery. Because he grew and sold many vegetables and flowers, she was enlisted to help weed and pick produce and flowers. In her teens, Herdis traveled to England to learn the language. Back in Denmark, she trained as a nurse with hopes of traveling the world. After working for a time in Scotland, Herdis returned home to land a job as a nurse/stewardess on a cruise/freighter (a freighter with 20 paying passengers.) The ship sailed from Copenhagen, stopped in England, traveled through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal and visited many exotic ports including Singapore, Bangkok and the final port of Saigon.

After 8 months, Herdis decided it was time for dry land and moved to Scotland where, while on a hitchhiking trip with a girlfriend, she met Archie on the Isle of Skye. On the move again, she landed a job as a nurse in



the American Embassy in Paris. In the next 5 years, she and Archie were pen friends and met 4 times in different countries. The two married in Denmark and returned to Scotland, where she finally started her own English country garden. With each subsequent move (London, Bristol and Phoenix), Herdis worked as a nurse and played in her gardens. She does admit establishing an English country garden in Phoenix was difficult at best.

Herdis’ current garden is done in the country garden style using many native plants. She also has a thriving vegetable garden and an outdoor patio graced by numerous potted plants. Herdis helped one of her granddaughters establish her own garden complete with child-sized bench. And her worm farm remains an important part of her gardening efforts, turning kitchen scraps into great compost to use in the various gardens. When asked about the monumental task of watering and weeding the various gardens, Herdis proclaims “It keeps me active and alive.”

When not nurturing her worms, caring for her gardens and volunteering for many Master Gardener projects, Herdis is active in many other pursuits. She is the current Vice-President of the Alta Vista Garden Club. Herdis also serves as a docent in one of the houses on the grounds of Sharlot Hall Museum. She and Archie are avid dancers, be it English Country, Square Dancing, Contra or Country Western. They also hike (many times in the Grand Canyon), canoe the local lakes and travel to other countries annually. In addition, Herdis is an artist who designs and makes jewelry and quilts, paints with watercolors and is currently working on a knitting project she hopes to enter in the Yavapai County Fair.

As a former nurse, Herdis continues to enjoy meeting and helping people of all ages. Her upbeat attitude, endless energy and strong organizational skills make her an important member of the Master Gardener Association. We are fortunate that this world traveler now calls Prescott home.

Yavapai County Fair by Sherry Howard

Just a note of thanks for your volunteer work this year to make the County Fair a huge success. Most people don't know all the effort involved in produce check-in, judging, and then displaying all the produce. Without you, it couldn't have been done. You never know what to expect on the day of produce check-in, and this year was a reflection of the generous monsoon rains. However, to me, it's always exciting to see a little kid get his first ribbon. We had one little guy who was so proud of his large pumpkin when he brought it in, and his eyes were as big as saucers when he later saw he won a ribbon. His family and friends came several times to show off that prized pumpkin. His dad told me he really did nurture that pumpkin himself, picked off all the bugs, and watched it every day. Pretty sweet.

Did you know our Master Gardeners won several ribbons? Here's the list of our winners:





Cynthia Cartier-Roberts

- 1st place, eggplant
- 1st place, rhubarb
- 1st place, cantaloupe
- 2nd place, green beans, snap
- 2nd place, cucumbers, lemon
- 3rd place, small cherry tomatoes

Diane McKelvey

- 1st place, small cherry tomatoes
- 1st place, large cherry tomatoes

Robin Weesner

- 1st place, Jerusalem artichokes

Bev Emerson

- 1st place, Granny Smith

Bev Bostrom

- 2nd place, peaches, Alberta

Jean Norris

- 3rd place, acorn squash



While not gardening related, Herdis won a blue ribbon for her knitted sweater.

I hope to see you next year, and many thanks again for you volunteering at the County Fair.

Sherry Howard



Annual Picnic

Our annual Recognition Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 26th. This is in lieu of an October MGA meeting. You and your families are welcome.

Date: October 26th

Time: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Place: Sedona Heritage Museum/Sedona Historical Society

Address: 735 Jordan Rd., Sedona, AZ

Please RVSP to Herdis MacLellan bessemor@peoplepc.com, 443-8906 with what you will bring: main dish, side dish, or dessert, and the number of people that will attend.

The museum will provide seating, tables, trash removal. The MGA will provide paper products and water. We will have lunch (provided by you) followed by a recognition of MGs who have reached milestone volunteer hours. The museum will give us a free tour and a historical speaker/tour director (our MG Linda Scheerer who does her volunteer time in their gardens).

Directions:

From the "Y intersection" (it's now a roundabout) of AZ Hwy. 179 and AZ 89 in Sedona, take AZ 89 northeast toward "uptown" Sedona. Turn left on Jordan Rd. (this is before you drive into the main tourist area). Continue north on Jordan Rd. until you see a sign on your left (just past a housing complex called The Orchards) saying Sedona Historical Society. Turn left and go all the way to the end of the road to park. Phone number at the museum is 928-282-7038.

MG News

Open MGA Leadership Positions

We still have several openings in key MGA roles for next year and the officers are anxious to fill them. The committees are the backbone of the MGA, and the more participants we have the less each person has to do. Several of those committees need leaders. While the responsibilities may look daunting, you are not expected to do all the work yourself – you can and should delegate work to your committee members. If you are thinking that the previous chair seemed to be doing a lot, it just might be that the chair had multiple roles within the organization. So, give it some thought – but don't take too long, and sign-up. It is a wonderful way to work with great people like yourself J, and you will have an opportunity to shape the direction for the organization. Here is a link to the list of responsibilities <http://ag.arizona.edu/yavapai/anr/hort/mastergardener/Assets/pdf%20files/MGAOfficerCommitteeResponsibilities2008.pdf> If you are on a committee this year, then you need to sign-up again for next year – we don't assume that you are a lifetime committee participant.

Openings

MGA Secretary

Membership Chair – Have enough committee members but need a Chair.

Program/Education – Need committee members and chairs in the Prescott and Verde areas.

Public Relations – Need a Chair, committee members, and someone to take over the Historian role.

Social/Picnic - Need co-Chair for the Verde area. The activities are outlined in the responsibility document; keep in mind most of them only need to be performed every other month when the meetings are in Cottonwood. If this position is not filled the Cottonwood MGA meetings will be moved to Prescott. This is not an idle threat.

Speakers Bureau – Need Chair and committee members.

Volunteer Projects – Need committee members.

Please contact Eunice Ricklefs, eunice@commspeed.net if you would like to sign-up.

Curly Top Virus Project:

If you are interested in a project that involves planting Curly Top Virus Resistant tomato seeds and tracking their progress contact Jeff, jschalau@ag.arizona.edu



2009 Garden Tour

Next year we will have a garden tour of Master Gardener's gardens. If you can participate on the planning committee please contact Bob Burke, bburke@commspeed.net. Planning begins in November. The tour date has not been set.

2009 Monsoon Madness Yard and Plant Sale

If you'd like to work on next year's Monsoon Madness planning committee please contact Missy Sandeen, rmsandeen@bullerinetworks.com or Sherry Howard, howardpena@cableone.net .



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.

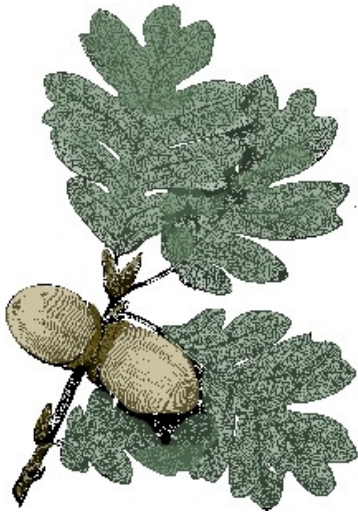
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MGNEWSLETTER

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Don't forget the annual picnic. See page 6 for details.