



# Alta Vista Garden Connection

## Thinking Spring!

October & November - It's time to plant Spring Bulbs



Article & Photos:  
*Cynthe Brush*

spring & summer blooming bulbs: crocus, grape and Dutch hyacinths, daffodils and narcissus of all kinds, tulips, alliums and lilies, along with half-hardy annuals like violas and pansies.

Days shorten quickly following September's autumn solstice. Birds gorge busily at seed feeders fattening up for winter. Our gardens start changing, too. Then autumn frosts strike - withering tender rose tips, turning petals to grayed crepe, blackening vegetables and dahlias, shriveling leaves on once vibrant shrubs while painting aspens, cottonwoods, honey locusts, and maples in brilliant hues...

Meanwhile, gardeners, irrepressible optimists and dreamers, think of spring. October and November are THE time to plant

In the quad-city area we quickly learn wildlife enjoy many of these bulbs as much as we do, but to eat! Daffodils & narcissus, foul-tasting and toxic, are the most reliable plantings. All other bulbs will need protection in root cages, fencing, planted in metal livestock troughs or on your deck in an inaccessible-to-wild critters location.

The extra effort in planning is well worth it come March and April when we're tired of cold and dreary landscapes. Hours spent browsing

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### October 2019

AVGC Newsletter Team

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### AUTUMN'S ARRIVED (CONT. PG.10)



October is a time of transition, when the changing seasons become undeniable. Growth in our gardens slows, flowering shrubs have their last hurrah, while deciduous trees paint themselves in those wonderful golds, russets, scarlet, and burgundy before shedding their foliage in a heap.

Article: *Cynthe Brush* | Photos: *AVGC Members*

This is a good time to assess where you would enjoy more autumn color in your landscape. Visit local nurseries to see which trees' and shrubs' leaves are looking particularly vibrant. Consider natives as well as popular named hybrids. Don't forget conifers! Evergreens function as visual anchors in

(CONT. ON PAGE 8)



## Letter from President Nicki

*Autumn is tip-toeing in*

American Honey Bee  
*Apis mellifera*



Fall is sneaking up on us here in Bedrock. I returned from a couple of days in Phoenix to a house that was 66 degrees inside. What the...? The next morning the interior had dropped to 64 and I was debating turning on the heater. I confess, Garden Clubbers, that I'm a "hothouse flower" and do not flourish at temps below 70 (or above 80).

Fall brings with it more than just the turning of the leaves and a bit of "brr" weather. According to the local gardener's column in the newspaper, it is time to fertilize with a 7-4-4 to see our gardens through the winter. However, I am having reservations about doing this for all my natives. Given that they are habituated to a cool weather period without much in the way of nurture by Mother Nature, I am concerned about killing them with kindness.

As most of you know, my porch is flanked by two large *Salvia gregii* plants which are very attractive to bees. I have certainly noticed that probably due to erratic weather patterns, these two plants have had blooming spurts which seems to have thrown the bees off their schedules. Consequently, I have not seen the large numbers of honeybees this year that I have seen in the past. In addition, the building which has gone on in recent years in this area has probably decreased the number of hives. Nature lovers the world over are very concerned about the loss of honeybees and about the increasingly wide-spread colony collapse affecting bees which is stumping experts as to the exact cause—disease, insecticides, loss of habitat, destruction of hives due to natural disasters (climate change?) or maybe a terrible congregation of all of them. Not just honeybees are declining in numbers. Because of their huge economic impact of pollinating, honey and beeswax production, they are the most visible.

Solitary bees also play a large role in plant pollination and are declining in numbers. So important are bees to humanity that it has been speculated the human race would not survive without bees. While we might survive, life would be sorely restricted given that 70% of the plants upon which humans rely for food, fodder, textiles, and for fuel are pollinated by bees. Just think, we might all have to wear nothing but polyester and eat grass-hoppers (assuming grass-hoppers don't go extinct because *their* food is lost). So be kind to bees. Build bee hotels, have bee watering stations, don't allow hives to be destroyed, become bee keepers if you are so inclined, and spread the word about the value of bees and other pollinators. In the meantime I am hoping "my bees" settle in for the winter with plenty of honey and plenty of workers to huddle up and keep the hives warm, and next spring come back in droves (or should I say "swarms"?)



See you at the meeting.

# General Meeting Minutes

September 24, 2019

**Call to Order:** Nicki Elms, President, called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

**Approval of Minutes:** Karen Crossley noted she is not in charge of the October potluck (as reported in the August minutes). Carol Westfall is. After this was acknowledged, the minutes were approved as submitted.

**Roll Call:** Dianne Murphy conducted roll call, asking each member to name their "happy flower." We received many interesting replies from the 29 members in attendance.

**Guests:** Guest Karin Luedke mentored by Patti Schiffrin.

**Birthdays:** Happy October birthday wishes were extended to Holly Bosch, Robin Borok, Cheryl Booth, Dede Erceg, Donna Meyer and Carol Westfall.

**Refreshment Coordinator:** Linda Smith thanked Karen Crossley and Dede Erceg for providing the drinks and Donna Meyer, Robyn Grant and Mary Ann Mira for providing the snacks. There will be a potluck at the October meeting as well as a craft. Members are also asked to bring cans or other nonperishable food to this meeting which will be donated to the food bank.

**Corresponding Secretary:** Toni Ristich reported she has received letters of resignation from Sheron Vandetti and Linda Williams. Toni also reported she sent a birthday card to honorary member, Lucille Hurst, who celebrated her 106th birthday.

**50/50 & Purple Box Raffles:** Cheryl Booth conducted the raffle which resulted in Nancy Stelow winning \$16. Nancy promptly donated the \$16 to Penny Pines. Nancy also won the purple box which contained a tin of tea and a zippered bag. This definitely was Nancy's lucky day!

**Penny Pines:** Linda Smith reported \$33.35 was collected last month. Added to the 25 cents on hand resulted in total funds of \$33.60.

**Garden Gertie:** Diane Benjamin gave a talk on backyard composting. It is not difficult and results in rich compost for your garden.

**Committee Reports:** GARDEN TOUR - Robin Borok reported the tour planning is moving ahead. She needs members for positions on a number of committees,

*Pale golden iris  
a rebloomer in  
Stephen's garden*



especially publicity and program, a good opportunity for new members to get involved. GARDEN of the MONTH - Nicki Elms reported coverage in *The Daily Courier* has not been consistent. Coming up with four great gardens each summer is also challenging. One garden selected in spring was not suitable for honoring by late summer. It was recommended that the name of the committee be changed to "*Garden of Merit*." This would provide the committee more flexibility and relieve the pressure to highlight a garden every month during the summer. This recommendation has already been approved by the board. The GOM committee will meet to consider this change well as other changes to the committee. The GOM sign was displayed. The committee is looking for suggestions on changing/improving the sign.

**Old Business:** Congratulations were extended to Barb Samuels on her new status of Honorary Member.

**New Business:** STOCKING STUFFER BAZAAR - Julie Lessard asked whether members were interested in participating in this event. The club has had a booth the past two years. Cost of a double booth is \$80. AVGC netted a \$900 profit last year. Most of items sold were garden related. Some were crafts created by members, including painted bird houses, painted rocks and pre-made ribbons for gifts. The maximum we can charge for items is about \$10. We need at least 4 or 5 members to organize this event. Please let Julie know if you are interested in either making crafts or helping with organization and planning.

**Committee meetings:** Nicki announced that each committee should have an initial meeting, probably in June or July (beginning of the club year). This initial meeting would allow committee members to get to know one another, acquaint all members with the mission of the committee, and also familiarize everyone with the committee's budget.

**Meeting start time:** Changing the club meeting starting time from 1:30 to 1:15 was discussed. The meeting would still last one hour, but an earlier time would allow for the speaker to start earlier (after a 15 minute break). Karen Crossley made a motion to change the meeting start time to 1:15 (from 1:30). The motion was seconded by Robin

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### GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

(CONT. FROM PG. 3)

Borok and approved by membership vote. The new meeting schedule will be 1:15-2:15 business meeting, 2:15-2:30 break, 2:30 speaker.

**Announcements:** GDO - Cherie Gossett was thanked for hosting the “Gardener’s Day Out” at her home on September 18th. Cherie said it was fun. The next GDO is the Northern District meeting on Monday October 28, in Sedona. The \$30 fee includes lunch. The speaker is Jeff Schalau from the University of Arizona’s Extension office in Prescott. Nicki encouraged members to attend.

**Thank you:** Karen thanked members for the donation of rose petals.

Next meeting: The October club meeting will be a potluck luncheon starting at 12:30. Please bring your food by 12:00.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Benjamin, Recording Secretary

# What's Next?

## *Gardening Events & Classes for the Next Month*

OCTOBER 22nd: NOON **Alta Vista Garden Club** - Harvest Potluck & Crafts Project (Last 2019 meeting.)

NOVEMBER 2nd: Highlands\* Holiday Bazar - Saturday from 10am - 3pm at **Highlands Center**  
All Program & Event Details: [HighlandsCenter.org](http://HighlandsCenter.org)

DECEMBER 3rd (Tuesday): **AVGC's Annual Holiday Buffet** at NOON  
**Remember!!** If you plan to attend, please bring \$20 cash / check to October's Meeting. If you will not be at Tuesday's meeting, pop a check in the mail to Karen Crossley 5590 W. Ho Gon Way, Prescott, 86305. Please get your payment to her by November 8th, so we can give the restaurant our final figure.



## Christmas Luncheon

Centennial Room at Antelope Hills  
1989 Clubhouse Drive, Prescott, AZ

- Gift Exchange** - Bring a gift to share valued around \$10.
- Cash Bar** - Wine, Champagne. Please drink responsibly.
- Food Bank** - Bring donations for our canned goods food drive.
- Sock Box** - Donate socks. Warm hearts, warm feet.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.  
Enjoying good company and good cheer.

Wishing you and yours a

### Joyous Holiday Season!!



### *Stuff To Know*

NEED TO MISS A MEETING?

Let us know by email or phone:

**Cynthe Brush:**

[mudwoman@greyvisual.com](mailto:mudwoman@greyvisual.com)

**Kathy Madede:**

[kbmadede@msn.com](mailto:kbmadede@msn.com)

AVGC is a member of the **Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs** & the **National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

Our monthly newsletter is published by AVGC, Prescott Arizona USA  
Circulation: 52

**THINKING SPRING!** (CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

through bulb catalogs, contemplating vibrant or delicate color combinations, new introductions and old favorites, is a pleasure I anticipate eagerly every autumn.

Living in a four season climate also means many of these winter chill requiring bulbs will perform much better, returning each springtime, in our high elevations gardens than in warmer locales.

Check local nurseries and garden departments to see what they are offering or browse specialty bulb catalogs that may have arrived in the mail...get your orders in ASAP before customer favorites and yours are sold out!



*All photos are from Cynthe's spring gardens.*

*Particularly enthusiastic this year, she's ordered 700 bulbs to add to the landscape!*



**“GARDEN GERTIE”** SEPTEMBER TIP OF THE MONTH

**Diane Benjamin** shared composting tips, quickly explaining the differences between the 'browns' & 'greens' of our biodegradable garden & household waste. She prepared two handouts: 1) *Composting Basics* and 2) *Simple Compost Teas*. If you would like a copy of the handouts she shared, please contact Diane.

SEPTEMBER GDO: A BOTANICAL ARTIST'S STUDIO & GARDEN

Article: Robin Borok

For our September Gardner's Day Out (the 18th), we spent a lovely afternoon at **Cherie Gossett's** home and studio, learning about botanical art and seeing a variety of Cherie's works.

Cherie, an internationally renowned botanical artist, calls a watercolor study of 6 different succulents, her "career maker." The painting was accepted into the Hunt Institute of Botanical Documentation at Carnegie Mellon in 2013. The original print hangs in the entry way to Cherie's house and it is stunning!

We were treated to a discussion/demonstration of the artistic process: selecting a plant subject, researching the plant's characteristics, through production of the piece - drawing the blossoms and leaves, and watercoloring the design with Cherie's custom mixed tints.

We had a tour of Cherie's desert garden, featuring colorful native and javelina resistant (so they say) plants. After enjoying the gorgeous weather outdoors, we returned to the kitchen for snacks, drinks and conversation, admiring several of Cherie's framed masterpieces hung throughout the house. We came away with a more thorough understanding of the complexity and detail of botanical art, sincerely awed by Cherie's unequalled talent.



PHOTOS: Carol Westfall



*Diane, Nancy & Robin learn about Cherie's tools & techniques involved in her artistic craft.*



*PHOTOS: Carol Westfall*



*Cherie demonstrates her process for developing a subject of botanical art.*



**AUTUMN'S ARRIVED** (CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE)

Article: *Cynthe Brush* | Photos: *AVGC Members*

your garden offering structural 'bones' - vertical or horizontal form - and greenery during cold winter months of a subdued landscape.

Don't miss this chance to enjoy autumn's last hurrah, before we hunker down for the long, cold months ahead.



# Ireland!

Article & Photos: *Kathy Madeda*

## *Adventures in Ireland*

Kathy Madeda and her husband Terry traveled to Ireland for a two week guided tour in late August & early September. Here are Kathy's photos of flowers and castles.



*Queen's College, Belfast, statue and flowers.*



*Daisies and shamrocks growing together*



*Peace Flame Garden*



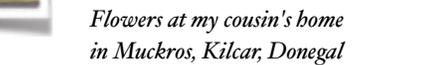
*Riotous Road Side Garden*



*Lush green under drizzly skies*



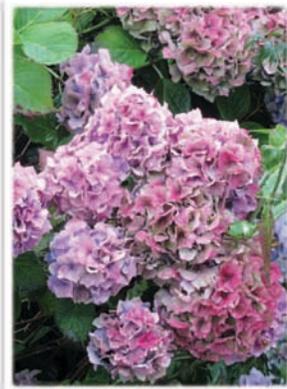
*Flowers at Beleck porcelain factory and showroom*



*Flowers at my cousin's home in Muckros, Kilcar, Donegal*



*Cousin's Misty Atlantic Ocean Vista - Donegal*



*Cousin's Hydrangeas*



*Gravestone WBYeats*



*Kylemore Abbey and gardens, once owned by private family, given to religious order, hence the name "Abbey"*



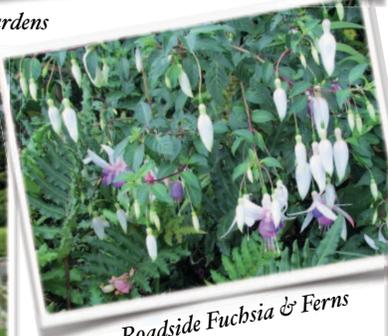
*Kylemore Abbey Gardens*



*Galway - Street Planting*



*Muckross House - Rose Garden - Killarney*



*Roadside Fuchsia & Ferns*



*Kilkenny - Street Planting*



*Terry Madeda with a Cooper's Hawk*



*Kathy Madeda with an Owl*



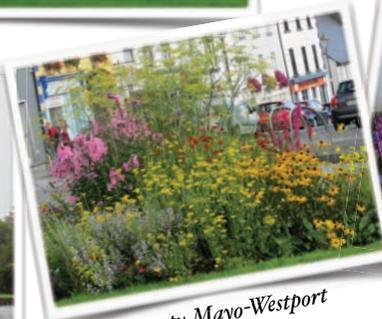
*Falcons - The highlight of our trip!  
Look at this Cooper's Hawk, similar to  
ones found in Arizona*



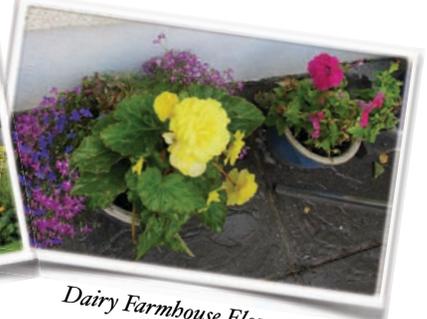
*Ashford Castle Garden Fountain*



*County Mayo-Ashford Castle*



*County Mayo-Westport  
Street Planting*



*Dairy Farmhouse Flowers*

# Habitat For Humanity Report

Ruth Lysak,  
Chairperson

## Maple tree planting in Chino Valley

October 12th

AVGC Members of our Habitat for Humanity committee planted a 12-foot tall *Celebration* Maple in the backyard of a Chino Valley 'Habitat for Humanity' family. It was already providing a little shade on the patio after planting. Thank-you! Committee.



PHOTOS: Holly Bosch



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Happy  
November



- 
- 

Happy  
January

SOUTHWEST FRANCE: IN SEARCH OF CRO-MAGNON PAINTINGS,  
DELIGHTED BY FLOWERS & HOTAIR BALLOONS

Article & Photos:  
*Ruth Lysak*

My September trip to southwest France was not intended to be a gardening adventure. But, we know gardeners are always on the lookout for flora when we travel, whether native or cultivated.

So here I am in the old historic district of Bordeaux, surrounded by restaurants and upscale shops, when I trip across the Notre Dame church's cloister garden just around the corner from my hotel. In this sheltered little square were these little stilllifes using plants to paint pictures. Inside was a small exhibit of floral arrangements. What a nice surprise in the midst of medieval churches and cobblestones!

Traveling through the countryside, not much was blooming; early fall was still hot and dry in France. Very good for the vineyards, though.

In one little town I found an ingenious geranium "tree," comprised of wire rings holding pots and pots of geraniums. Clever idea!

In another small town, Sarlat-la-Caneda, we got to spend time in a marvelous outdoor market of hundreds of vendors selling their farm products.

How many kinds of foie gras can you imagine? And, of course, there was a flower booth as well. I thought of all the clever arrangements our Club members have composed.

In another medieval town set on a steep hillside, we were treated to a balloon festival. What a treat to see these colorful, blooming balloons rising up from the valley floor among the 14th century buildings.

Oh yeah, the purpose of my trip — was to visit a number of limestone caves with Cro-Magnon paintings 17,000 to 27,000 years old. They were magnificent and definitely worth the trip! But no flowers.



# October GDO

*'Autumn Joys' AFGC Northern District Gathering (Sedona)*

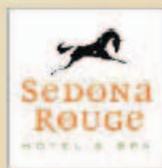


Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.  
Northern District Gathering

## Apples to Wine

*Autumn Joys of Northern Arizona*

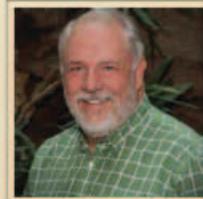
SEDONA Rouge Hotel & Spa  
2250 W Hwy 89A, Sedona, AZ  
928-203-4111



**Monday, October 28, 2019**

Gathering: 10:00 am  
Invocation: 12 noon  
Buffet Lunch  
Drawing  
Optional Tour: 2:00 pm  
Sedona Heritage Museum  
and Jordan Historical Park  
(suggested donation \$5)

**Speaker:**



Jeff Schalau  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Agent and  
County Extension Director for the University  
of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai  
County. (Interim Mojave County)

*Gifts and Raffles*  
Members and their guests are welcome

**Registration:**  
Please register with your Club President or Treasurer and provide your names, contact information and \$30 (per person) with checks payable to: Sedona Area Garden Club  
For more information: Marisa Wilson 928-202-2705

The SEDONA Rouge Hotel is offering special room rates on their website for autumn.  
Tour of Jordan Historical Park, home of the Sedona Historical Museum

AVGC MEETING PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER 24TH - NATIVE PLANTS

*Going native? Why not?* Doing so can save you lots of time, bother, water, and other garden resources. **Lesley Alward** was our September presenter with her discussion on finding, installing, and maintaining native, drought tolerant, hardy plants suitable for our local gardens.

An Arizona master gardener, a past garden consultant, and a current garden topic lecturer at local libraries, she has several decades of Southwest gardening experience.

Lesley discussed different categories of plants: trees, shrubs, herbs, and flowers, especially those that support our pollinators and birds. She mentioned matching garden placement to plants' natural habitats...deserts, riparian woodlands, alpine locations, etc. Choosing bolder hybrids of salvia and penstemon, grander versions of our native wildflowers, brings more color and drama to our landscapes without sacrificing successful plantings.

Our apologies to those of you who weren't able to hear Lesley's talk. We were so interested, we forgot to take photos of her presentation or more detailed notes to share.



*Lesley Alward  
Master Gardener*



PHOTOS: AVGC Members' Gardens

# Rufous Hummingbirds

Article: *Mary Ann Mira*

*Does this feisty long distance traveling hummer visit your feeders?*

Have you been refilling your hummingbird feeders a LOT in the last few weeks? I have. That is because many hummingbirds are migrating to warmer climates for the winter. One feisty, copper colored dynamo has been taking over my backyard for the last two weeks – the Rufous hummingbird! Rufous hummingbirds may take up residence (at least temporarily) in your garden if you grow hummingbird flowers or put out feeders. But beware! They may make life difficult for any other hummingbird species that visit your yard.

This bird outflies all other species, and usually gets its way at feeders at the expense of slower, less-maneuverable hummers. The Rufous has the longest migration route of all US hummingbirds. Their migration can be as much as 3,000-4,000 miles! The Rufous hummingbird must rapidly gain weight and keep it on, despite extraordinary physical exertion. Weighing in at a little more than a penny, it must double its body weight in order to fuel its migration from breeding grounds in the Pacific Northwest (Alaska to northern California) to wintering grounds in central Mexico.

So how does this hummingbird gain and maintain enough weight to sustain its long migratory flights? During the day, the hummingbird spends much of its time perched, standing guard over its favorite patch of flowers where it gets its boosts of energy-rich nectar. Hummingbirds fly as little as possible, mostly to feed and to chase off intruders. Their wings beat an amazing 62 times per second!!

Rufous hummingbirds seem to know just how many flowers they'll need to forage from in order to get enough food. They have excellent memories and often take the same route year after year, stopping at the same flowers and feeders along the way. This memory serves them well on their migration journey, as it is imperative that they find food sources throughout the day, and shelter at night.

If you have placed hummingbird feeders in your yard in years past, try to be consistent with putting them out in the same location. Once you have a Rufous visitor, you will likely have him or her for years to come!

So keep your eyes open for a speeding reddish-brown hummingbird chasing away all of your other hummers – it will be the visiting Rufous getting as much nutrition as it can to sustain it in its long migration!



'WHAT'S IN BLOOM' OCTOBER



PHOTOS: *AVGC Members' Gardens*

'WHAT'S IN BLOOM' OCTOBER



PHOTOS: AVGC Members' Gardens