



The Greenleaf

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs

A member of National Garden Club and Pacific Region Garden Clubs



Summer is upon us....

and everything that has been said about our current pandemic situation has been said. I hope everyone is safe and well. Personally, I have had way too much time to work in my garden and enjoyed every minute. Several of us (Lucy Samuels, Linda Larson, Christine Morgan and myself) attended the Philadelphia Flower Show in early March. It had been on my Bucket List for a long time and never wanting to leave Arizona in March with our great weather had previously held me back. Road Scholar travel company offered a tour which also influenced my decision. I have traveled with Road Scholar many times. The Philadelphia Flower Show was amazing to say the least. We were

able to get into the show early with our tour and had a personal tour. Here is an overview from Road Scholar: The fabulous Philadelphia Flower Show, an internationally renowned treasure, is America's oldest and grandest indoor horticultural display. Explore breathtaking exhibits presenting the talents of designers and landscapers who "force" perennials, shrubs and trees into bloom to create full-scale gardens and floral displays. Plus, travel to the beautiful Brandywine Valley visiting the gardens of Longwood and Winterthur; visit the collections of the Barnes Foundation and for a finale, a performance by the Philadelphia Orchestra.

What's Inside

Page 1-3

Philadelphia Flower Show

Page 4

Perfect Vision

Page 5

Finger Limes

Page 6

Gilded Flicker

Page 7

Scholarships

Page 8

Cactus Wrangler

Page 10

MGM Garden Club

Page 11

Club Changes

Page 12-13

Magical!

Page 14

Online Events Calendar



Here are a few pictures which say a thousand words.

Here are some pictures of the various colors.

Judy Shelton
Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc.



(Photo credits: Judy Shelton)

(Photo by R. Cardillo for the Philadelphia Flower Show)





National Garden Clubs, Inc. presents



A Virtual Flower Show

Gay Austin, President
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

June 1-15, 2020: Flower Show entries accepted
June 16-30, 2020: Subdivision and Judging
July 2020: Winners posted on website and social media

For more information and a schedule, please go to:
<http://www.gardenclub.org/resources/2020-convention/NGC-Perfect-Vision-2020-Schedule.pdf>

The Tom Thumb of Citrus

**Karen Bowen,
AFGC Horticulture Chairman**

Small and tart, Australian Finger Limes gain in popularity



If you are tired of growing the same old lemon, orange and grapefruit trees, there is a new citrus for you to plant called the Australian Finger Lime, *Citrus australasica*. This interesting microcitrus is native to Australia.

Like other citrus, it belongs to the rue family, Rutaceae. For centuries, finger limes have been a common food of Australian aborigines. Recently, they have become a popular garnish for dishes served in high-end restaurants.

"The fruit is much smaller than other citrus and is about the size of your index finger. It looks like a small pickle and has an outer skin that is inedible. When cut in half and the end squeezed, tiny pearls of citrus pulp spill out," explained David Archer, owner of Bonita Creek Nursery, San Diego, CA. 3440 Proctor Valley Rd,

The pulp's unusual flavor is a cross between a lemon and lime with a hint of rosemary. Besides garnishing gourmet dishes, it is often added to cocktails for a "wow" factor. The lime's tiny pearls make a great addition to fruit or tossed salads where a sweet dressing balances the fruit's tartness.

"Specialty coffee and tea shops are beginning to purchase finger limes to garnish many of their menu items. For instance, they will put European cheese on crackers and top the cheese with a dollop of finger lime pearls," said Archer. "Since this interesting fruit is hard to find in grocery stores, the cost is quite high. It is much cheaper to grow your own fruit."

"A finger lime is just as easy to grow as other citrus and produces up to three harvests a year. The fruit is not as brightly colored during winter months and has a very tart flavor. Once the weather warms, its pearls turn pink or red and have a sweeter flavor."

A finger lime grows well in mild regions of California, Arizona, S. Texas, Louisiana and Florida. The best months to plant citrus are January, February or early March. Plant the tree in a sunny location that receives at least six hours of sun daily. Water well and let the soil dry before watering again. This tree is easily overwatered which causes the leaves to turn yellow.

Because of HLB disease, commonly called citrus greening, trees cannot be shipped into Arizona, California, Florida, Texas, Hawaii or Louisiana. You will have to find a nursery that carries one within Arizona.

If you are looking for an unusual citrus tree to plant, try an Australian finger lime.

Photo by Karen Bowen

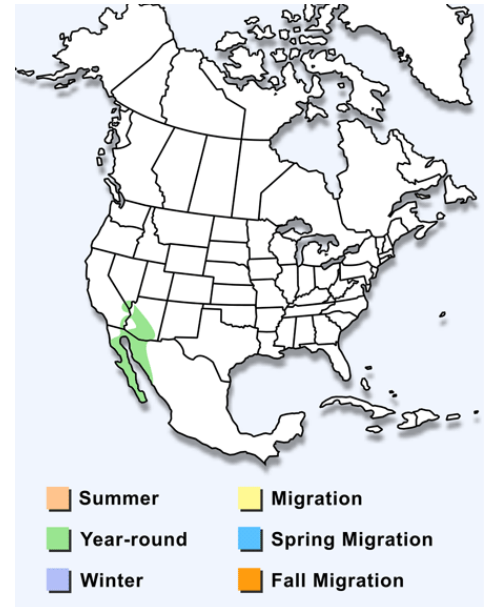
#1 An Australian finger lime is a small-sized tree that produces an abundant crop of finger-sized fruit three times a year.

#2 Depending upon the time of year, the Australian finger lime's "pearls" of pulp will range from green to pink. The sweetest fruit have the pink color and are the summer crop.



Know Your Arizona Birds

Karen Bowen,
Birds, Bees & Butterflies Chairman



Bird Photos: d.a.anderson and picfair.com
Map: whatbird.org

Gilded Flicker

Scientific Name: Colaptes chrysoides
Population: 600,000
Trend: Declining

Identification: Males have a red mark below their eyes and a black bib which females do not have. Both have a brown crown, spotted breast and barred wings. Golden-yellow underwings distinguishes them from Northern Flickers.

Length: 11 inches

Diet: Eats mostly ants and other insects. Eats fruits, seeds and berries, if available.

Range: Lives in lowlands of the southwest – mainly in the Sonoran Desert where it nests in holes in giant saguaro cacti. Also found in Baja, CA. Lives in cottonwood groves and other trees along rivers at low elevations.

Behavior: One brood a year with 4-5 eggs. Both parents feed young by regurgitation. They work together to carve out a cavity inside a saguaro cactus, tree or post for their nest. The cavity is 6-10' above the ground.

Interesting Facts:

*Gilded Flickers and Starlings compete for empty cavities in saguaros for their nests.

* The cactus defends itself against water loss into the cavity that is hollowed out by the flickers by secreting sap that hardens into a waterproof structure known as a "saguaro boot".



Scholarships

Linda Larson, Chairman

It's time for some good news, and the scholarship winners for this year are just that. We have helped four students further their studies, and their career goals should make us all optimistic about the future.

The scholarship committee reviewed two applicants for the state scholarship award. Both candidates were graduate students, and both were excellent candidates.

Paige Antony was awarded a \$5000 scholarship. Her application was submitted for the National Scholarship competition and the Pacific Region scholarship. Paige subsequently won the Pacific Region \$1000 scholarship and a National AFGC Scholarship in the amount of \$4000. She is as she responded to the new "Over the moon" in winning these scholarships to help her further her studies. Paige is a Landscape Architecture & Planning graduate student at the University of Arizona. Her passion is to work in parks and recreation, providing a vital asset for community health.

Since both candidates were excellent, Linda Larson, with the encouragement of President Judy Shelton, approached the Finance Committee with a proposal to award an additional scholarship. After discussion and financial analysis, an additional \$3000 was made available to award to Kathryn Cooney.

Kathryn is a Master's degree student at Northern Arizona University studying Biology, specifically in analyzing emergent diseases in frog populations. Her goal is to work in field research for at-risk wildlife populations. How vital this work is as we live through a time of diseases and viruses in our lives.

The Claypool Scholarship, managed by the ASU Foundation, sent the committee seven excellent and exciting applicants for the committee's consideration. Two candidates were awarded as follows.

Annie Bryant was awarded a \$5000 scholarship, and she is majoring in Botany. She writes in her application, "I would like to focus on plant reproduction and germination, as I have a fascination for pollination, flowers, fruits, and seeds.....I want to continue to work and research within the realm of the botanical sciences."

Rebecca Klein majoring in Conservation Biology & Ecology, was awarded \$3000. She writes in her application, "I intend to change the way we handle agriculture, attempting to find solutions that can be applied to a multitude of other countries, that not only provides an ample food resource for our global population."

Members of the committee include Linda Larson, Chair. Judy Shelton, Judy Tolbert, Carol Mossholder and Sharon Davis.

Cactus Wrangler

Linda Larson,
A Traveling Gardener

Wandering, Wondering, Noticing. . . .



For over 40 years, a grand saguaro cactus lived two doors down from my home. When it first went in, it stood about 9ft high, a singular specimen soaking in the sun. Over the years I watched it grow taller, adding multiple arms, providing a home to cactus wrens, flickers, and doves. In the spring, it bloomed great white flowers and transformed spent blooms into deep purple tunas enjoyed by the birds.

Early days

As the cactus added arms, it emerged as a smiling couple wrapped in a warm embrace. Once you saw the smiling face, you could never miss it, with one arm waving hello. It grew about 24ft tall.

A smiling embrace on top, notice the black segment of the trunk at the base I had this idea a saguaro stands for centuries, the emblem of timelessness in the Sonoran Desert. But no, this isn't a certainty. A gooey, sticky, icky black oil began dripping on both sides of this grand cactus trunk. It is such a lesson in observation, how could you miss this? I walk by regularly, my neighbor would back out of the garage daily, looking for traffic, and all seemed fine. It couldn't have occurred just overnight. The opportunity to treat a small patch of this bacterial infection would surely have been there if only we had noticed earlier. It took a sharp-eyed visitor to see it and ask, "What's going on with the cactus?" After the shock of discovery and consulting with AZ Cactus Sales, we sadly realized it was too late. It was also too dangerous to ignore. The bacteria decaying the cactus is believed to be caused by the bird feces in the nesting cavities.



Faced with this problem, "Who you gonna call?" Fortunately for us clueless homeowners living in the desert, there is Cal, Larry & Matt of Custom Cactus, who specialize in removing and relocating plants. Cal Hightower has been wrangling cactus since 1971, Larry has 19 years of experience, and Matt, his son, six years.

The team arrives

They have a truck with a hydraulically operated cradle lift designed to move cactus.

The cradle is moved into place

They have the skill to engineer that hydraulic lift into just the right position, the strategy to segment the arms, and the rope skill to lasso the cactus tying it tightly to the lift.

(Photo credits: Linda Larson)

Cal wrangles the cactus

Cal has the agility to climb up the built-in ladder and wedge himself around to saw off, section by section, the arms of the saguaro to begin removing this enormous cactus from the landscape.

As I joined my neighbors for a fascinating two-hour show, I watched a marvel of movements. The guys wore no special protective gear, no big leather gloves to protect their hands, no leather sleeves to shield their skin. They were careful and in control. Nothing was damaged, nothing fell uncontrolled.



Segmenting the cactus

This was a careful, quiet extraction of a giant saguaro thanks to their years of experience.

Extracting the main trunk

After the upper arms were cut away, it was time to extract the main trunk. This section would be left on the cradle and driven back to their business site where it would drop into a large dumpster for disposal. The cradle was lowered and backed – inch by inch- to the side of the cactus, a metal collar was roped around the base and tied tight. Additional ropes were added above to hold the cactus securely to the cradle. Nobody wants to see a flyaway cactus traveling down the highway. After digging the soil away from the base, Cal

bent down to use the chain saw cutting the cactus from the roots. Then his hands moved to the hydraulic levers and the huge main trunk lifted up. Gently the hydraulic power lowered it down on the bed of the truck.



Loaded for the drive with a few more adjustment to be made

The additional large arm segments are winched up onto the sides of the truck bed while the small pickup is filled with the smaller arms. The cactus carcass made a heavy load. Larry said the base could weigh as much as 100 lbs. per foot. Matt stabbed the smaller sections with a spade and hoisted them into the back of the pickup truck.

During the process, the morning exercise walkers came by, some stopped to chat, some to ask why? One woman shared a story and phone photos of how her neighbor's saguaro had leaned toward their house for years. Then one morning, she heard a strange noise, and when she went outside to check, there in the driveway was the cactus laying on top of her parked car, all a total loss. This story confirmed the need for the cactus to go, and that made us feel a little better. It is sad to lose such a great plant.

A spongy cactus slice,

Cal stays busy wrangling cactus. In neighborhoods all across the valley, many residential saguaros require removal due to the danger signs of leaning and leaking. He can also plant them for new cactus garden enthusiasts.

The hard work finally done, things were raked and tidied, and bleach was spread around the root area to help eradicate the bacteria. In time something new may be planted, but for now, the landscape is brightened by sunny yellow desert marigold flowers. We walk by, and all seems fine.



Just in case:

Custom Cactus Wholesale Native Plants,
Remove & Relocate Plants

Cal Hightower Customcactus@gmail.com 602-376-2795

Birds of a Feather

MGM Garden Club holds April meeting outdoors

**Karen Bowen,
Western District Director**

They say birds of a feather flock together and that is just what MGM Garden Club did for their April meeting. During a brief break from weeding in Moody Garden, members gathered six feet apart at picnic tables in the garden and had a short meeting to discuss fall plans for a Blue Star Memorial By-Way Marker dedication and to tie up any loose ends from the club's 2019-20 year.

It was a beautiful morning, with doves flying here and there. Catching up on each other's lives once the brief business meeting ended was great fun. Then, it was back to weeding.

With the coronavirus canceling regular garden club meetings for April, Facebook has become a great way to keep everyone in Western District informed about what is happening locally and at the state, Pacific Region and national levels.

"Western District Garden Clubs & Societies" is our Facebook page. As Western District Director, club presidents send me information and/or photos they wish posted. I also post interesting horticulture information and photos.

Using email, Facebook, cell phones, and picnic tables, Western District members have stayed in contact with each other throughout the coronavirus. Like the lady in the commercial who is looking in a store window and says, "Open, open, open", there will be celebrations of happiness when Arizona is finally "open, open, open".



MGM Garden Club held an outdoor meeting in April and kept a six-foot distance between each other.

How Has Your Club Changed?



**Elisabeth Samuels,
Greenleaf Editor**

With so many things happening this year, it's hard to know from one day to the next how things are going to change. One thing is for certain, change will happen.

As we all make our way through this year, let's hold onto the things that we can. **Each Other.** Many clubs have made the decision to "pause", others have adapted in their own ways; here are some suggestions for everyone.

Buddy-Up! Remember in elementary school, we were asked to find a buddy to stick close to? Now more than ever it's important to stay connected. Make a phone call, send a text, anything you can do to reach out helps. While so many of us are staying home, we can still get creative in how we connect with each other.

Share on social media what you are doing in your own backyard. What are you planting or tending to? The summer is upon us, so do you have a summer vegetable garden? Do you prefer container gardens? Has your club started any online meetings? Do you have questions on how to start one?

We would love to hear your stories and how we can support you!

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc. invite you
to their bi-annual fundraiser



“Magical”

Saturday, December 5, 2020

McCormick Ranch Golf Pavilion
7505 E. McCormick Parkway
Scottsdale, AZ

10 am to 2 pm



Join us for a “Magical” day of fun and festivities:

- * Lunch
 - * Basket Raffle
 - * Holiday Boutique
 - * Silent Auction
 - * 50/25/25 Raffle
 - * Floral Container Sale
 - * Style Show from Carene’s
- * Best of All - A visit from Mrs. Santa Claus



Bring your friends - We'll bring the “Magic”



Magical

An AFGC Fundraiser



RESERVATION

AFGC *Magical* Fundraiser



McCormick Ranch Golf Club Pavilion
7505 E. McCormick Pkwy, Scottsdale, AZ

Saturday, December 5, 2020 - 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

NAME _____

E-MAIL _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

CLUB _____

GUEST _____

GUEST _____

GUEST _____

GUEST _____

(Add additional guest names on back if needed)

Tables for 8 or 10 available

Deadline: December 1, 2020

Checks payable to:

Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs

\$45.00 per person

Total Reservations _____

Total Enclosed _____

Mail form and check to:

Josephine Vincze

2512 N. Central Drive

Chandler, AZ 85224-2341

*Morning snacks

*Entrée: Chicken Cordon Bleu

*Meal restrictions:

E-mail: jo-vincze@q.com

Telephone (480)917-4679



How to Get Your Garden Club Event on the Web

By Renee Waite

If your club is hosting a fundraising event, district meeting, or garden tour, I can post it to the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs website. Please contact me first with your proposed event dates so we can check for any potential date conflicts on the AFGC event calendar. After you confirm your event dates, I will post your event on the AFGC calendar. You can reach me on my cell phone, 732-740-0695, or my email flowershowcrazy@gmail.com.

Please provide the title and description of your garden club event, along with the address, times, contact person phone number and email. If you have a speaker bio, photos, forms or flyer, that would also be a plus for the AFGC website calendar. Here is a link to the current calendar on the website: <http://www.azgardenclubs.com/events/>

Also, if you will be inviting the AFGC President to your event, we'll need to allow time between dates so the president can attend. In addition to AFGC events, we are also posting the Pacific Region and National Garden Club events on our calendar.

Events that I post on the AFGC calendar will also be published in the Greenleaf newsletter. If you already have an event planned but don't see it on the website calendar, please let me know.

Renee Waite, Calendar Chairman
flowershowcrazy@gmail.com



2019-2021 Executive Board and Board Chairpersons

President:

Judy Shelton

1st Vice-President:

Sharon Davies

2nd Vice-President:

Janie Montgomery

Recording Secretary:

Mimi Salber

Treasurer:

Judy Kennedy

Assistant Treasurer:

Gretchen Biggs

Parliamentarian:

Diane Davis

Corresponding Secretary:

Buff Harrington

Finance Committee:

Josephine Vince

Historian:

Carol Mossholder

Newsletter Editor:

Elisabeth Samuels

Greenleaf: Summer Edition,
JUNE 2020

Please send all article
submissions to:

elisabeth.salterra@gmail.
com

Subject: Greenleaf

Our next deadline is:
AUGUST 17, 2020

