

A Brief History of the Gardeners of Green Valley (formerly The Men's Garden Club of Green Valley) 1980 to 2003

Compiled by George Gries and updated by Ken Bichl

1979

It had its roots in an informal conversation between Louis Zale and Allen Ogden in **1979**. Both were gardeners and the possibility of forming a Men's Garden Club was discussed. They resolved to recruit other enthusiasts among their circle of friends.

1980

Their efforts paid off and on January 31, **1980** 40 men attended an open meeting to discuss the possibility of founding a club affiliated with the "Men's Garden Clubs of America". Ogden was elected President and took the lead in preparing an application with help from several members of the Tucson Club. Winston Mani headed up the development of by-laws and articles of incorporation. Meetings were held throughout the year and a seminar program initiated in October with the help of George Brookbank, U of A/Pima County Urban Horticulturist. The seminars were held for several years on the sidewalk in front of Pats Place (not "Mesquite Willies") in Continental Plaza. Attendees had to bring their own chairs.

Charter Night was held on November 13, 1980 with approximately ninety persons in attendance: 42 charter members, their spouses, George and Rose Brookbank and several members of the Tucson Club. The Charter was presented by Jeff Collier, President-elect of the "Men's Garden Clubs of America" and the following officers were installed: Allen Ogden, President; Louis Zale, Vice President; Ken Stuhmer, Secretary and John King, Treasurer. Board members were Gordon Betts, Norman Gibson, Winston Mani, George Merton, Vernon Seely and Alvin Vande Ven. Jim Michael was editor of "*Sand 'n' Seeds*".

1981

With high enthusiasm and boundless energy the officers and members set a pace during the first official year of the Club's operation that has been difficult to match in succeeding years. Among the projects and activities initiated were the first Annual

Garden and Patio Tour (George Merten, Chairman), La Canada Beautification Project (Peter Chase, Chairman), Youth Gardening at Continental School (Dent Caton, Chairman), Wildflower Slide Series (Leroy Czerwinski, Chairman, Arizona Regional meeting (Al Vande Ven, Chairman), Senior Now Program (Ken Strang and Dick Harshman, Co-chairmen), Plant Sales (Sam Steele, Chairman and the Reid Park Propagation Booth (Lou Zale, Chairman). Most of these projects have continued on in succeeding years but space limitations preclude their mention in detail in this chronological presentation except where major changes in program occurred.

The Garden and Patio Tour on April 7, 1981 was a huge success with over 300 people visiting the ten sites. The elation of the Club was short-lived and turned to grief by the death of George Merten within a week following the Tour he had staged. By unanimous action at the next meeting the Club resolved that all future Garden and Patio Tours would carry the name of George Merten.

During the year, Winston Mani replaced Ken Stuhmer as Secretary. With the summer over, the Club set its attention to planning the development of a botanical garden in the proposed Kiwanis Park which was to be located between la Huerta and the Santa Cruz River. Approximately one year later the County disapproved the plan because the site was in the flood plain.

AWARDS and RECOGNITION: At the fall meeting of the MCGA Region, the Green Bronze Award was presented to Allen Ogden for his leadership in the formation of the third club in Arizona. The Green Valley Club recognized the efforts of Dent Caton and Louis Zale with Bronze Medal Awards.

1982

The pace of activity did not slow appreciably this year. Lou Zale and later Win Mani served as president. Brad Johnson and then Olie Ohman filled the Treasurers position, Ganson Byers was Secretary and John King replaced Jim Michael as editor of *Sand 'n' Seeds*. Beginning in September the seminars moved indoors at the Federal Savings and Loan Building (now 99 West). Club meetings were held in the Southwest Savings club room.

Two highly significant events occurred during the year. On April 24, a very successful Garden and Patio tour (Homer Munger, Chairman) was held and a movement to form a Women's Auxiliary was spearheaded by Dalton Brown, Kay Kenehan and Elizabeth Betz. Their first formal meeting was held on October 4 with Martha Comfort as speaker. Thus was born the first Women's Auxiliary of any men's Garden Club in the U.S. and which served as a model for many others until the later 90's when the Auxiliary set up its own existence with no ties to the Men's Garden Club.

Over 1000 people attended the Second Annual George Merten Garden and Patio Tour (Al Ogden, Chairman) which featured 13 sites. Discussions were held during the year on the possibility of forming a Rose Study group within the Garden Club and of building a greenhouse for Club use at the West Center. Both ideas were later abandoned.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS: Jim Michael was presented the award for Achievement in Horticultural Journalism at the Regional meeting. Winston Mani and Homer Munger were awarded the Bronze Award by the Local Club. Certificates of Honor were presented to George Baldwin, Dalton Brown, Lisalotte Schauman, Herb Holy, Lee Lambert, Ken Strang and Leroy Czerwinski. Herb Holly was the recipient of the Founders Award at the Garden Show. George Brookbank was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime member.

1983

Membership reached 100 for the first time under the presidency of Dent Caton. Other officers were: 2nd Vice President, Larry Jaskoviak; 3rd Vice President, Leroy Czerwinski; Secretary, Tom Harper; Treasurer, Olie Ohman and Editor John King. Win Mani accepted the Editor's duties in March and was in turn succeeded by Elmer Beamer in September. No one would accept the position of 1st Vice President. Dalton Brown was president of the Auxiliary.

Beginning with the December meeting, the monthly club meetings were moved to Pima Savings and Loan (now Bank One). The by-laws were revised to reflect the operational procedures of the Club. A Sweet Pea show (Al Ogden, Chairman) was held April 3. Agreements were made for the Club to undertake the landscaping around the Government Center and the area around the office of Friends-in-Deed at East Center. A decision was made to accept the offer of Neil Johnson of Sahuarita for a parcel of land on which to develop a community garden. Ned Netherton chaired a successful George Merten Patio and Garden Tour involving nine gardens in April. In May the Club hosted the Regional Meeting which included a field trip to Tumacacori and Tubac. Club members pitched in to assist the Tucson Club as they hosted the MGCA National Convention. Al Ogden chaired the Program Committee for the event for which he received a National Certificate of Appreciation.

Serious work was undertaken on the medians of La Canada Drive by assigning different sections of the street between the Villas and Continental Road to different members. A group chaired by Win Mani built cofferdams in the center of Continental Road and Camino del Sol. (Work on both La Canada and Continental was discontinued after La Canada was graded with new culverts, widened and paved – a direct response to the flood of 1983 at which time Pima County accepted responsibility for their maintenance).

Awards and Recognitions: At the fall Regional Meeting, Larry Jaskoviak was elected Regional Director for the MGCA. At the November Awards Banquet of the Local Club,

the Bronze Medal was awarded to Dalton Brown and Leroy Czerwinski. Al Ogden received the Arizona Award and Certificates of Appreciation and honors were given to Larry Jaskoviak, Frank Tregler, Homer and Florence Munger, Keene Armstrong, Elizabeth Betz, Harry and Anne Frye, George Gries, Neil and Lori Johnson, John Locke, Brenda Mignon and Ned Netherton. Jim Michael qualified as a Master Gardener by completing the first course for such designation offered by the U of A/Pima County Cooperative Extension Services.

1984

Officers for the year included John Locke, President; Ned Netherton, Vice President and Olie Ohman, Treasurer. Elmer Beamer was the Editor of *Sand 'n' Seeds*. Helen Corbett was elected President of the Auxiliary. The established activities were continued with one exception. Because of a full spring schedule, the Board voted to eliminate formal shows. This move did not receive 100% support from the membership. The George Merten Patio and Garden Tour were chaired by Dalton Brown and Alan Young and featured 14 outstanding sites. Serious work got underway on the community garden under the chairmanship of tip Wheeler. Elmer Beamer spearheaded the successful effort to obtain tax exempt status for the Club. Seminars were held at Our lady of the Valley Church.

At the Tucson MGC Garden Show, the Green Valley Club won 12 blue ribbons and took 3 top show awards. Herb Holly received the award for Achievement in Horticulture – a national award. Helen Corbett and Dent Caton chaired the project on the planting of Northern Arizona cypress on the lawn of the Social Center East as a memorial to deceased members of the Club including the Auxiliary. It is used as a focal point for the Annual Arbor Day Memorial Service. The Club purchased a large supply of steer manure for the Community Garden. This was sold to Club Members for 50 cents a five gallon bucket. This practice was continued for a couple of years until the manure started disappearing by the pickup load without remuneration.

Awards and Recognitions: Larry Jaskoviak was named National Director of the year by MGCA. At the Regional meeting, Al Ogden received the award for Horticultural Achievement, Herb Holly received the Gardener Award and Win Mani received the Certificate of Honor. At the Local Awards Banquet, Larry Jaskoviak and Helen Corbett received the Bronze Medal and Herb Holly the Arizona Award.

1985

Ned Netherton served effectively as President. John Locke served as Editor. Because of decreasing attendance at the monthly meetings of the Club, a decision was made to combine the membership meetings with one of the seminars each month. Unfortunately attendance did not show great improvement.

Highlights of the year included a Flower Judging course offered in Green Valley by Dr. Ray Allen of the Tucson Club, the taking of the Master Gardener's Course by approximately 20 members of the Club, an increased level of activity at the Los Ninos del Valle preschool, the landscaping of the Rectory/Office Building at Our lady of the Valley Catholic Church which made its facilities available for the weekly seminars and the signing of an agreement with Fairfield for use of an area adjacent to Desert Hills I for the development of an Arid Land Plant Garden.

Awards and Recognitions: Larry Jaskoviak was elected third Vice President of MGCA. Allen Ogden was appointed to the National Strategic Planning Committee. Locally, Olie Ohman and Harry and Anne Frye received the Bronze Award and Alan Young the Arizona Award. Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Liz Betz, Howard Klopf and Walter Hinz. Neil Johnson, Ade and Joy Abbott and the Greenbelt Nursery received Certificates of Honor. Neil Johnson was named an Honorary Life Member of the club.

1986

During Alan Young's presidency work began in earnest on the Arid Land Plane Garden under the supervision of Helen Corbett. Dan Morris was Treasurer and John Locke Editor of *Sand 'n' Seeds*. Mary Jean Taylor was the '87 – '87 President of the Auxiliary. The Women's Auxiliary joined the men in monthly membership meetings and while membership rose there was sufficient interest for separate meetings that the practice was not continued. The Gardening from the Heart Committee (Ed Belton, Chairman) expanded projects at the Santa Rita Nursing Home, Continental School, Los Ninos del Valle, and the House of Samuel. Membership hit an all-time high mainly due to the work of Larry Jaskoviak as membership Chairman.

A new lecture series on "Gardening in the Southwest" cosponsored by GVR was initiated and although the programs were outstanding, attendance was disappointing. The Master Gardener members of the Club held a plant clinic at each of the meetings. The lecture series was discontinued at the end of the year. The Club assisted the newly formed Rose Society of Green Valley both financially and with moral support.

Awards and Recognitions: The Club received a National Award for Spadesmanship as a result of the membership increase. At the Regional Meeting, Harry Frye received the Gardener Award and John Locke the Award for Horticultural Journalism. Larry Jaskoviak served as Third Vice President of the MGCA.

1987

This year started off without officers and was held together with an ad hoc committee. With no chairman for the George Merten Patio and Garden Tour, the Rose Society was offered the leadership role for the event. As a result of our failure to sponsor this event, the Club's financial standing suffered. As an emergency measure, the Club's program

year was changed to a May to May operation so that officers would have the summer months in which to plan a year's programs and activities. John Locke was persuaded to serve again as Club President until May 1988. George Gries was Vice President, Howard Klopf and Norbert Bollenbach shared duties as Secretary and Dan Morris continued as Treasurer. Ridgely Scammon served as '87-'88 President of the Auxiliary.

A decline in membership occurred triggered at least in part by the increase in MGCA dues. During the year, the GFTH Committee planted three Christmas trees at Los Niño's del Valle in addition to its ongoing activities conjointly with the Auxiliary. Because of the late start and in belief that a Spring Awards Banquet might attract many of our winter members to attend, the banquet was postponed from November to March. Unfortunately, this did not prove to be a wise move because of the busy social season in the spring.

Awards and Recognitions: Larry Jaskoviak advanced to the Second Vice Presidency of the MGCA. At the Regional meeting, Ed Belton received the Gardener Award and George Gries the Award for Horticultural Achievement. For local Awards see 1988.

1988

John Locke continued as President through May and was succeeded by George Gries. Other officers included Warner (Olie) Ohman, vice President; Howard Klopf and William Knapp, Co-Secretaries; Dick Stevens, Treasurer and John Locke, Editor. Ridgely Scammon continued as President of the Auxiliary.

Terry O'Regan chaired a highly successful George Merten Garden and Patio Tour involving nine sites. The Arid Land Plant Garden was finally put into shape so that it could be included as a stop on the tour. Ed Belton and Bob Meyer stated a special propagation workshop at the ramada at the Green Valley Baptist Church which was acclaimed by attendees as a great success.

A three year study of the daily minimum temperatures at a variety of sites in Green Valley was initiated. An index with descriptions of the more than 200 species of plants in the Arid Land Plant Garden was started.

During the spring, a nine person long range planning committee camp up with numerous suggestions on ways to rejuvenate the club. This led to modification of the by-laws, development of new promotional literature and applications, separation of the club meetings from seminars and the arrangements for members to buy special sport shirts bearing the club logo. Seminars and Club meetings were held at the Our Lady of the Valley Church and Pima Savings (now Bank One).

Awards and Recognitions: Gene Nathan was awarded a *Sand 'n' Seeds* shirt for naming our happy little gardener mascot "Pete Moss". Larry Jaskoviak served as First Vice

President of MGCA. Olie Ohman received the Gardener Award from the Region. At the local Awards banquet, Liz Betz and Phil Mangini received the Arizona Award and Edward Watts, Rose Richards, Floyd Gundy and Gene Nathan were awarded Certificates of Appreciation.

1989

George Gries completed his term in May and turned over the gavel to Olie Ohman. Other officers were: John Volpe, Vice President; Karl Leebrick, Secretary and Him Acuff, Treasurer. John Locke continued as Editor until February 1990 when Linc Page stepped into the position of Editor and Historian. B.J. Sullivan chaired the George Merten Garden and Patio Tour of 8 sites. In the fall an effort was made to reintroduce field trips into the meeting schedule. Although the visit to Tohono Chul Park proved to be outstanding, the attendance was disappointing. Upon the recommendation of the Board, the Club voted to open membership to women.

As a result of the building program at the Our Lady of the Valley Church, the Club had to find a new meeting place for seminars. Bob Meyer was able to secure excellent space in the Green Valley Baptist Church where the Club, in conjunction with Cooperative Extension, is still (as of 1/90) still operating this series of activities. Club meetings continued at Pima Saving and loan (now Bank One).

Awards and Recognitions: Larry Jaskoviak served as President of MGCA. During his tenure membership in the MGCA was opened to women. George Gries was elected Vice President of the AZ/NM Region but served as acting President following resignation of the President. Dent Caton received the Green Bronze Award and Helen Corbett the Gardener Award at the Regional Meeting. Al Vande Ven and Dan and Evelyn Morris were presented with the Arizona Award at the Local Awards Banquet. Jim Acuff, Mac Jones, Ann parish and Ridge Scammon were given Certificates of Appreciation.

1990

Olie Ohman completed his elected term in May but since no one could be found to succeed him, he agreed to continue through the calendar year. The other officers and committee chairs willingly continued their responsibilities. The Club decided to return to the calendar year as the basis for its business activities, officer terms and programs. John Locke produced the first edition of *Sand 'n' Seeds* but found he had to relinquish the post. Linc Page took over and did an outstanding job. Jerry Stahmer chaired the George Merten Garden and Patio Tour of 8 sites. A committee consisting of Alan Young, Helen Corbett, Dora McIlhenny and Noel Isaacson was appointed to develop a master plan for the Arid Land Plant Garden. While certain elements of the Plan have been incorporated, lack of labor, finances and time have prevented other aspects from being adopted. George Gries served as Secretary Treasurer of the AZ/NM Region.

The Women's Auxiliary started pressing flowers to make cards, bookmarks etc. A brief history of the first 10 years of the Club's existence was circulated as part of the membership directory.

Awards and Recognitions: Ed Belton received the AZ/NM Regions Horticultural Achievement Award and Bill Wyckoff the Gardener Award. The Club received the Regional Environment and Conservation Achievement Award. Local club awards presented were the Bronze Award to George Brookbank and George Gries, the Arizona Award to Elmer Beamer and Brad Pratt, Civic Beautification to the Rose Society. Certificates of Honor of Appreciation were awarded to Dent Caton, Carl Dahlgaard, Donna Leftwich, Barbara Newell, Henry Shropshire, B.J. Sullivan, Fairfield Green Valley, Green Valley News and Green Valley Recreation. George Gries served as Secretary Treasurer of the AZ/NM Region.

1991

Dent Caton, George Gries and Olie Ohman served as co-presidents for the year. Bob Meyer was elected to a new position of President Elect. Roland Wilkinson was Vice President, Will Holloman, Secretary and Jim Acuff Treasurer. Mary Allmart was President of the Auxiliary for 1991-92.

Bill Wyckoff chaired a successful Patio and Garden Tour. Larry Jaskoviak, having completed his term as National President of MGCA, returned to Membership Chair.

Awards and Recognitions: Elfi Canann received the Regional Gardeners Award. The following citations were made at the Club Charter Night: Jim Acuff, Bill Wyckoff and the Woman's Auxiliary received the Bronze Award; Olie Ohman and Leroy Czerwinski received the Arizona Award; Jim Saylor received the Civic Beautification Award and the following received Certificates of Honor of Appreciation: Mary Allmart, Ken Bichl, Harry Edmark, Karl Leebrick, Homer Munger, Linc Page, Chuck Stedman, Amado Plumbing, Great American Bank, Green Valley Baptist Church and the Sheriff Auxiliary Volunteers.

1992

Bob Meyer served as President, Ken Bichl as President Elect, David Lusby as Vice President, Harold Turner as Secretary and Jim Acuff as treasurer. Linc Page continued as Editor. Marcia Parker and Ridge Scammon were the Auxiliary's Presidents.

Dora McIlhenny chaired a highly successful Garden and Patio Tour. A scholarship program was developed for Sahuarita High School graduates but no one applied over the next 3 years. The Civic Beautification Committee landscaped the area around the Avenue of Flags Memorial Stone. The GFTH/Youth Committee, assisted by students developed raised beds for gardening construction at Continental School and presented 29 Certificates of Achievement to students at the end of the school year. A revised

edition of the directory of plants at the Arid Land Plant Garden was issued. The Club hosted the Fall Regional meeting at the Cow Palace in Amado.

Awards and Recognitions: Jim Acuff was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the AZ/NM Region. The Civic Beautification Committee (Olie Ohman, chairman) was honored by SAV for its work in beautifying the Government Center and environs. George Gries was presented an Award of Honor by the AZ/NM Region. At the Club's Founders' Day Banquet, Dora McIlhenny received the Bronze Award and Harry Kuesel the Arizona Award. Certificates of Appreciation or Honor were presented to Bernard and Edith Jaffe, John Kin, Barbara Salazar, Gregg Starr, Bill Voorhees, Avenue of Flags Committee, Continental Plaza and the Green Valley Mall. Shirley Hutchison was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime Member. The Club was awarded the President's Environmental and Conservation Award by MGCA/TGOA President Jim Tracy.

1993

Officers for the year: Ken Bichi President; David Lusby, President-elect; Jim Acuff, Vice President; Harold Turner, Secretary; Sherman Ruesch, Treasurer. Linc Page continued as Editor. Marcia Parker was President of the Auxiliary.

The Civic Beautification Committee (Olie Ohman Chairman) undertook the landscaping of the SAV building. The GFTH/Youth Committee (Dent Caton, Chairman) helped students from the 7th grade grow plants in 5 gallon pails. The club committed itself to assist in the landscaping at the Casa de Esperanza complex near La Posada which will become the Adult Day Care Program and Los Niños del Valle. Javelinas became an increasing major problem at the Arid Land Plant Garden. The very successful Garden and Patio Tour was chaired by Dora McIlhenny and Jeanne Acuff.

The Spring Regional meeting was held at Central Arizona College and the fall meeting in Payson where 10 members attended.

Awards and Recognitions: Jim Acuff served a second term as Secretary-Treasurer for the AZ/NM Region. Awards from the Region went to Dent Caton (Excellence in Horticulture); Hank Shropshire (Award of Honor) and Linc Page (Gardener). Locally Marsha Parker and Jeanne Acuff were presented Bronze Awards; Ray Hile the Arizona Award and Richard Armstrong, Stan Booth, Leroy Czerwinski, George Fielder and Al Ross received Certificates of Appreciation.

1994

David Lusby served as President; Jim Acuff as President Elect; Jeanne Acuff as Vice President; Harold Turner as Secretary; James Tyrer as Treasurer and Linc Page as Editor. Elfi Canann was President of the Auxiliary. Spring Regional Meeting was held at Davis

Monthan AFB after first meeting and touring Tucson Botanical Garden. The fall meeting was held in Mesa.

Jeanne and Jim Acuff were chairpersons for another successful Garden and Patio Tour. In response to a request for help from the Sahuarita High School Student Council, the Civic Beautification Committee (Olie Ohman, Chairman) planted a number of planters on the school grounds with shrubs and small trees. The Arid Land Plant garden learned that Fairfield was going to develop further housing in Desert Hills 1 and found it necessary to move many plants in an area they considered "safe". Civic Beautification Committee accepted the challenge of upgrading and maintaining the landscaping at the new Government Building. Jim Campbell assumed responsibility for this work. The GVTH/Youth Committee (Dent Caton Chairman) had a busy year constructing planters for the horticultural therapy program at the Casa de Esperanza at the new Community Service Center near La Posada. They introduced the students at Continental School to hydroponics and assisted them in carrying out projects. They also helped students experiment with the use of clear plastic as a means of raising soil temperatures for earlier spring planting.

A major discussion was held on the desirability of a name change for the Men's Garden Club to reflect that it wasn't an all-male association. Even after a vote showed a slight preference for a change, there seemed to be no groundswell of interest for such action. The Board voted to retain the present name until there was more compelling interest in a change.

Awards and Recognitions: Jim Acuff was elected National Director for the AZ/NM Region. Regional Awards to Club members were: Green Bronze Award to Olie Ohman; Horticultural Journalism Award to Ken Bichi and the Gardener Award to James Tyrer. Local Awards were as follows: Ken Bichi and Dave Lusby the Bronze Award; Harry Frye the Arizona Award. Jim Campbell, Ted Garhart, Noel Isaacson, Larry Kirchgessner, Chuck Stedman and the Woodward Construction Company received Certificates of Appreciation of Honor. The Civic Beautification Award was presented to Bob Meyer of Casa Paloma II. Donna Leftwich was inducted as an Honorary Lifetime member.

1995

Officers were President, Jim Acuff; President-elect Jeanne Acuff; Vice President, Ted Garhart; Secretary, Harold Turner; Treasurer, James Tyrer. Linc Page continued as Editor and Elfi Canann served another term as President of the Auxiliary.

Edith and Bernard Jaffe served as Co-Chairpersons for the Garden and Patio Tour which was the most successful in recent years. The GFTH/Youth Committee (Dent Caton chairman) with the help of many community organizations began the construction of a 17' x 30' greenhouse for the Continental School. Financial assistance came from the Club and many civic organizations and churches. The Woodward Construction Company

assisted in many ways. The Arid Land Plant Garden Committee (George Gries, Chairman) had to forsake its composting program and arrange new facilities for storing supplies. An expansion program was started in a new area northwest of the main garden. Use agreements were signed with Desert Hills Homeowners Association and Fairfield for the ALPG, The Civic Beautification Committee (Olie Ohman, Chairman) continued its development work at Sahuarita High School and the Government Center.

The Fall Regional meeting was sponsored by Green Valley and was held in Tubac with 76 attendees. The featured speakers were National Director Albert Wilson from Menlo Park, CA, George Brookbank and Henry Yglesias.

Awards and Recognitions: Jim Acuff served as National Director for the AZ/NM Region and Dave Lusby served as 2nd Vice President. George Gries was awarded the Johnny Appleseed Award for 1995 by the Gardeners of America. Alan Ogden received the Regional Award of Honor and George Gries the Gardener Award. Edith and Bernard Jaffe and Jim Campbell received the Bronze Award; Helen Corbett the Arizona Award; Roy B. Johnson of Casa Paloma I the Beautification Award; Donna Leftwich the award for Horticultural Journalism and Presidents Awards were presented to George Brookbank and Harold Turner.

1996

Officers elected for the year were Jeanne Acuff, President; Ted Garhart, President elect (he was replaced by Ken Bichi when Ted had to resign because of other pressing commitments); Harold Turner, Secretary and James Tyrer, Treasurer. Jim Acuff continued as National Director for the AZ/NM Region. Dave Lusby served as 1st Vice President of the Region and George Gries was appointed to the National Awards Committee. The Continental School green house was named the "Dent Caton Greenhouse" at an Awards Ceremony on May 21. Helen Corbett served as Vice President for the year 1996. Bettie served as President of the Auxiliary.

1997

Officers elected for the year were Ken Bichi President, Vice President Mac Jones; Secretary Harold Turner; Treasurer Dave Lusby. Directors were Jim Acuff, Ted Garhart, Bill Wyckoff, B.J. Sullivan, Harry Vere and Past President Jeanne Acuff. The *Sand 'n' Seeds* Editor was Linc Page. Club membership was 83.

The Club agreed to hold two plant sales each year, one in the fall and another in the spring. Seminars were held at the Green Valley Baptist Church. Dave Lusby, a member of the Club and also the Church, was coordinator.

A change in the bylaws was made. In the future members would elect one third of the directors each year. The Board of Directors would then elect Club officers from the

Board. The club donated \$100 to help sustain the Payson, Arizona garden club, a National affiliate. A membership meeting was held at La Posada, but most of the meetings were held at Friends in Deed. Average attendance at these meetings was 21. The Women's Auxiliary left the Men's Garden Club to start their own separate organization. The Annual Banquet was held at the elks Club at a cost of \$12.50 a plate.

1998

The year's Co-Presidents were Jim Acuff and Ken Bichl. No Vice-President was chosen. The Secretary was Harold Turner and Treasurer, Dave Lusby. The Board of Directors included Dora McIlhenney, Linc Page, Harry Vere (later replaced by Jeanne Acuff), Dick Feeney and Frank Swift. *Sand 'n' Seeds* Editor was Linc page for the first few months, but he resigned and Jim Acuff was editor until March. Liz Byerly then volunteered to be editor assisted by her sister, Lil Byerly. Ken Bichl became the Second Vice-President of the Region. Club dues were \$20 and the bank balance was \$5,822. The Bronze award was presented to Patsy Heacox; Gardner of the Year, Mary Lu Caton; and the Arizona Award to Liz Byerly. The Annual Garden and Patio Tour profit was \$2,164. For a short while, about six weeks, the Club and Pima County Extension Service were not co-sponsors of the weekly gardening seminars. The University of Arizona/Pima County Extension Service wanted to control the selection of seminar speakers. Particularly, George Brookbank would not be allowed to speak at the seminars. Brookbank had done much for the Club and as the Club had always done the ground work for the seminars-promoted the presentations, selected the site and introduced the speakers – the Board of Directors voted not to relinquish control. As a result, the Extension Service would no longer sanction the seminars...but later relented. Projects in 1998 included the Arid Land Plant Garden, Casa de Esperanza (Gardening from the Heart), Youth Mentor Gardening, Continental School Kindergarten, Government Center Landscaping, the Garden Tour and two Plant Sales.

1999

President was Ken Bichl; (no Vice-President); Secretary, Harold Turner; Treasurer, Dave Lusby. *Sand 'n' Seeds* Editors were Liz and Lil Byerly. Board of Directors included Patsy Heacox, Al Horne, Dora McIlhenney, Linc Page, Frank Swift, Al Ogden and Past President Jim Acuff. First Vice-President of the Arizona Region was Ken Bichl.

The change of the Club name again surfaced at a Board meeting. Patsy Heacox related how it was difficult to explain to people that "she and many other women were members of the Men's Garden Club". Rod Stebbins spoke about the inequity of naming a coed club a men's organization. By a favorable vote of the Board and a concurrent vote of the membership - 69 to 2 – the name was changed to Green Valley Gardeners of America.

A cultivator was donated by Marcia and Bob Parker to the Club for use at the Community Garden.

Annual Banquet awards went to Virginia White and Judy Ramseyer for their contribution to the Youth Gardening program at continental School; Bronze Award to Bettye Jo Preis for chairing the Garden Tour; and to George Fielder for his dedication to the Community Garden. Liz Byerly was presented with a Journalism Honorable Achievement award from National. The Fall Plant Sale showed a profit of \$700. Club membership reached 199. A book featuring desert plants by noted authority Greg Starr was purchased. The book includes color photos as well as complete descriptions. Additional plant information will be purchased on an annual basis. The book is on file at the Pima County Extension Service office in Sahuarita.

2000

The year's officers were President Rod Stebbins; Vice-President, Bettye Jo Preis; Secretary, Harold Turner, Treasurer, Dave Lusby. On the Board of Directors were Patsy Heacox, Al Ogden, Dora McIlhenney, Frank Swift and Mary Kidnocker. They were installed at the Annual Banquet which became a luncheon for the first time and was held at the San Ignacio Country Club. Guest speaker was Mary Sisson, president of Tucson Organic Gardeners, who gave an entertaining program about herbs. Patsy Heacox and Mary Kidnocker were co-chairmen. After lunch everyone was invited to stop by Allen Ogden's home to "mingle with his Mums".

Liz and Lil Byerly continued as *Sand 'n' Seeds* Editors.

The Civic Beautification project ended due to limited labor support and the maintenance now performed by the Groundskeeper.

Georg Gries resigned as the Arid Land Plant Garden chairman after years of dedicated work saying that he "wants to cut back on his work and desires to rest and finally retire." Russ Symes accepted the position as Coordinator of the Garden on an interim basis stating that "if the Club is unable to find sufficient labor to maintain and upgrade the garden that it should return the garden to the Desert Hills I Homeowners Association". Residents next to the Garden observed several uninvited guests...12 javelina and one bobcat touring the grounds.

Four-hundred attended the Annual Garden Tour that netted \$, 2820 for the Club. It was chaired for the second consecutive year by Bettye Jo Preis.

The fall Plant Sale showed a profit of \$435, and the Spring Plant Sale profit was \$454. Eleven gardening plots were in use at the Community Garden.

Two members, Ron Bell and Mary Kidnocker, graduated from the Master Gardener course.

Virginia White died and in her will gave \$1,000 to be used for the Kindergarten at Continental School and another \$1,000 to be used for landscaping at the Conrad-Joyner library.

The Club was host for the Arizona Regional membership luncheon at the Rex Ranch. Ken Bichl, Regional President, presided. Attending were members from the two Phoenix area clubs and the one in Tucson.

A Certificate of Service was awarded to the Green Valley Gardeners of American by the Gardeners of America for 20 years of affiliation.

2001

Officers for 2001 were President, Rod Stebbins; Vice-President, Bettye Jo Preis; Secretary, Dick Alt and treasurer, Dave Lusby. Directors included Patsy Heacox, Al Ogden, Mary Kidnocker, Sandy Yahn, Byron Webster, Jerry Mortaloni and Ken Bichl. *Sand 'n' Seeds* editors were Liz and Lil Byerly. Ken Bichl continued as the Arizona Regional President.

The Spring Plant sale income was over \$569. The sale was in front of the Safeway store in the Continental Plaza.

Name badges were ordered for the membership.

The greenhouse at Continental School, out of commission for several years, was cleaned and revamped and placed back in operation.

Membership meetings were held each month at Friends in Deed; Board of Directors met prior to seminars at the Baptist Church.

About 20 Club members toured the Forever Yong (spelling is correct) Farm off Arivaca Road. Another tour to the Mesquite Valley Nursery was attended by nine.

2002

In 2002 the President was Bettye Jo Preis; Vice-President, Patsy Heacox; Secretary, Byron Webster, Treasurer, Dave Lusby, and after his retirement, Mary Kidnocker. Board of Directors were Dick Alt, Jerry Crosser, Jerry Mortaloni, Rod Stebbins and Russ Symes. *Sand 'n' Seeds* Editor was Betty Bichl and after her resignation Bill Preis.

Arrangements were concluded with GVT to use the East Center as our Seminar headquarters but since it was being remodeled the seminars were held at the Canoa Hills Social Center. The agreement with Green Valley Recreation provided for the use of the Social Centers at no charge, with equipment including microphone, projector and screen, chair set-up and coffee. In order to obtain an open day for the use of the GVR facility, it was necessary to change the seminars from Tuesdays to Thursdays. The spring Seminars averaged 68 in attendance. By fall the average rose to 108. Coffee and light snacks were enjoyed. When Al Bernardi appeared at his fall Seminar on produce, there was standing room only as 275 people attended to learn how to select and keep vegetables and fruit. Thus, a new attendance record was set. Patsy Heacox and Mary Kidnocker again chaired the annual Garden Tour which netted \$2,782.

Master Gardener and Club member, David Lugers, spoke on Citrus to a crowd of 206 at the weekly Seminar.

Net income for the Fall Plant Sale was \$958. Chairmen Bill and Bettye Jo Preis changed the appearance of the sale using shelves to build up the display of plants which were purchased from the new Civano Nursery. A 50% discount was given to the Club by Civano.

An agreement was made with the Tucson Botanical Gardens wherein Club members would become TBG affiliates and receive four passes a year, the use of their library and receive their newsletter at a cost to the Club of \$10 a year per member. This membership was paid by the Club for each member.

An outdoor picnic style Club luncheon was then held at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Sue Brogdon, TBG Executive Director, welcomed the Green Valley Gardeners of America into this unique program. New members, Ken and Donna Taylor, who volunteered to be co-membership chairs, were in charge of the luncheon.

On August 7 a second meeting was held between the Board of Directors and Jim Acuff, Ken Bichl and Allen Ogden discussing disaffiliation from Gardeners of America. Since an opinion poll sent to all members indicated their agreement with disaffiliation, October 18 was set for a general meeting at which a vote would be taken.

Members voted October 18, 2002 to withdraw from the affiliation with the Gardeners of America.

A Change of Direction – The Club Leaves National

Leaving the National organization – The Men's Garden Club/Gardeners of America – was not a hasty decision, but was approached with forethought and caution.

When the Club was established in 1980, National was a foundation on which to lean. The Tucson Men's Garden Club, a National affiliate and a helping hand, had steered us down the road to Johnston, Iowa, home of National. It was a well-paved highway leading, at the time, to avenues of helpful information.

The Green Valley Club used National for organizational support. It was a phone call away and it published informative literature along with a newsletter and magazine. A part of their package included awards given to clubs and individuals.

As the Club gained in experience, prospered and became solvent, some members had questions. Belonging to National was costly. Was it worth it? Was it a necessary expense? Out of the individual membership fee of twenty-five dollars, twenty-one dollars was given to National and one dollar to the Region. Eight-six percent of each member's dues were used to maintain the affiliation!

Beginning in late 2001 and throughout 2002, the Board of Directors met and discussed breaking off from the parent organization. Pros and cons were thoroughly discussed. While the magazine was very well done, it contained much information that could not be applied to desert gardening. The dues structure was at a crossroads...if Club dues had to cover the expense of affiliation with National as well as support the various projects, they would have to be raised.

National and Regional officers were invited and came to a Board meeting to state their case against disaffiliation. Yes, National did have merit; there was a library available offering gardening books and tapes, Club project ideas were offered, along with instructional information for Club officers, and there were the annual conventions and annual awards of recognition.

Several long-term Club leaders had become devoted to national. Understandably, they did not wish to disaffiliate. They worked on National committees, took positions of leadership, attended the conventions and received recognition awards. One former club member, Larry Jaskoviak, had been the National president in 1989.

But in reality only a very small percentage of the Club's membership used National. Only a very few had attended the 2002 National Convention when it was just a few miles away in Tucson. Within the Board of Directors' nine members, only one was not in favor of leaving. And, now the Club had an agreement with the Tucson Botanical Gardens for a supporting membership wherein Club members would receive four passes a year to visit TBG, receive the newsletter and have the use of their extensive research library. The cost to the Club was \$10 a year per member.

An unofficial Club opinion poll was conducted by mail and the ballots returned indicated a large majority – 75 to 19 – favored retiring from National. It became time for the final vote.

On October 18, 2002 a large membership assembled at the East Center for the ultimate vote. Both points of view were given ample time to present their opinions. It was an orderly gathering presided over by President Bettye Jo Preis with the help of Loren Thorson, well known Parliamentarian in Green Valley. In a business like way and without hostility, eight members voted to stay and forty-eight voted to disaffiliate and leave National. A giant step had been taken.

On November 23 the Annual Meeting was held at the new Desert Diamond Casino, north of Green Valley. John Begeman, Pima County Horticultural Agent, was the featured speaker and former President, Rod Stebbins, was the Master of Ceremonies. Old-timers Hank Shropshire and George Greis were honored guest at the speaker's table and Allen Ogden was given the floral centerpiece of orchids and roses in tribute for his continuing vital Club participation.

Ken and Donna Taylor were awarded the plaque for Rookies of The Year and Jerry Mortaloni was presented the Gardener of the Year Award.

2003

Elected were President. Bettye Jo Preis; Vice-President, Patsy Heacox; Secretary, Rod Stebbins; Treasure Mary Kidnocker. The Board of Directors included Dick Alt, Jerry Crosser, Jerry Mortaloni, Russ Symes and Byron Webster.

A Club field trip visited the unusual cactus garden of Club Member, Angelo La Scala in Sahuarita; another membership journey was to the Tucson Botanical Gardens; and a third to the Buenos Aires Nature Walk in Arivaca. Average attendance was 15. The membership excursions were arranged by Mary Braswell, Club Activity Chair.

A \$1,500 donation was received from the White Elephant to be used toward constructing a storage building at the Arid Land Plant Garden. Work proceeded at the Arid Land Plant Garden: Ken Taylor producing a computer data base for identification of plants and new name markers; Dwight Kidnocker doing a scale map of the garden; and Jerry Mortaloni mapping irrigation system. Seven master Gardeners from Tucson, including Horticulture Agent, John Begeman, did volunteer work at the Garden for several hours. They have attended this "work party" for the last three years.

An Arid Garden "help" committee was named and included Jim Campbell, Russ Symes, Jerry Mortaloni, Dwight and Mary Kidnocker, Angelo La Scala, Katherina Harder, Ken Taylor and Bettye Jo Preis. Their goals included increasing volunteers at the Garden; returning the Garden to Native plant selections; and making various organizational recommendations to the Board of Directors.

The Spring Plant Sale, chaired by Bill and Bettye Jo Preis, netted \$1,407, the most money earned at one sale. The dates were March 12, 13 and 14. The first day reported the highest sales volume with the cactus purchased by Mary Kidnocker leading the sales.

An Honorary Life-time membership was awarded to Dent Caton, who had moved to San Pablo, California. He was the leader in the construction of the Continental School greenhouse which was named in his honor. He was also a past President of the Club.

The weekly garden Seminars at the East Center, produced by Patsy Heacox continued to draw tremendous crowds. In the spring of 2003 there were 16 seminars with a total audience of 2,038.

New receipts from the annual Garden Tour were \$3,346. Approximately 380 people made the tour. Co-chairs Donna Moore and Donna Taylor did an excellent job of organizing the event.

Club membership reached 115 in April.

In May, Angelo La Scala donated four saguaros, three ocotillos and several other cacti to the Arid Garden.

Fourteen gardeners participated in planting vegetable plots at the Community Garden.

The gardening programs at Continental School continued with 180 students enrolled. The Arizona tax donation plan benefited the programs as \$4,340 was received and used for supplies and equipment, including an automatic misting system installed in the greenhouse. A donation of \$700 was received from the White Elephant to purchase a heater for the greenhouse. Allen Ogden, Ron Bell and Jerry Crosser contributed countless hours directing this valuable program.

At the Annual meeting luncheon at the Desert Diamond Casino, Donna Moore received the Rookie of The Year plaque for her tremendous efforts working on the Garden Tour and other endeavors to better the Club. Angelo La Scala was presented the Gardener of The Year honor. He has always been ready to show his unique cactus garden to others and it is truly a landmark garden to behold. Master of Ceremonies Dick Alt introduced a number of "old-timers" who shared the speaker's table; Tucson Botanical Garden Executive Director, Nancy Laney, was the featured speaker; and other humorous awards were presented by President Bettye Jo Preis.

A History of Green Valley Gardeners Formerly Men's Garden Club of Green

Valley and Green Valley Gardeners of America Volume II

Research and Authored by Bettye Jo Preis December, 2008

2004

A theme of optimism was noted in the January *Sand 'n' Seeds* as the editor wrote, "Living on earth is expensive but it does include a free trip around the Sun each year!" Members were happy to put the disaffiliation from National behind them and get on with moving the Club forward.

Officers in 2004 included Bettye Jo Preis, President; Mary Kidnocker, Vice President; Karen Webster, Secretary; and Dwight Kidnocker, Treasurer. Other members of the Board of Directors were Dick Alt, Jerry Crosser, Patsy Heacox, Angelo La Scala, Jerry Mortaloni and Gene Nathan.

In 2004 the "Garden Fair" was inaugurated to compliment the annual "Garden Tour." The thinking was that it might eventually take the place of the Tour if and when homeowners would no longer offer their gardens for privacy reasons. The first Fair offered booths for plant, food and various other vendors. The Club manned booths selling books, hot dogs and brats and a raffle. Strong windy conditions made it impossible to decorate the East Center as was planned but all the vendors survived, hot dogs were sold and the raffle took place. A small profit was made and it was decided to continue with the fundraiser another year. Chairmen for the event were Bill and BJ Preis and Bev Winchester. Garden Tour chairmen were Mary and Dwight Kidnocker. Tour ticket sales netted \$3,661; Fair netted \$1,134.

A general meeting of the membership was held in February at M&I Bank. It was attended by 55 members and was probably the most friendly, informative and fun meeting ever. There were many long-time members there to meet and greet the newcomers.

In March, 42 members attended the first educational trip of the year to the UA Environmental Research Center at Tucson International Airport. This was planned by Mary Kidnocker and Angelo La Scala who were able to secure a full four of the facility which is not open to the public.

Five Master Gardeners who were also Club members attended the Stonewall Series of lectures sponsored by the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Our partnership with the Gardens was a strong link at this time and the first of this series was a delicious luncheon at the

Arizona Inn featuring Nancy Brown speaking about "Contained Gardening." Attending were Mary Kidnocker, Rod Stebbins, Bettye Jo Preis, Patsy Heacox and Bev Winchester.

Weekly seminars planned by Patsy Heacox, were again immensely popular. We were introduced to notable speakers such as Mary Irish, Margaret West, Greg Corman, Scott Calhoun and Jack Kelly. Topics covered all aspects of gardening from "Edible Landscaping" to "Poisonous Critters". There were often 100 in attendance.

The Youth Gardening program at Continental School continues under the direction of Allen Ogden. Members gave money to the school's program through tax deductible donations in December. An open house displaying gardening skills was given by the students in April. It was rumored that there was \$7500 in the special "Garden" account.

An all-day coach trip to Boyce Thompson Arboretum was enjoyed by 35 members in November. The trip ran from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. with a gourmet box lunch served in the shady picnic area. Karen Webster and Mary Kidnocker planned the event.

Plant sales, next to Safeway, brought in \$3,171 for the year. Sales were chaired by Kathryn Haught and Bev Winchester with 35 members assisting.

Plant sales, next to Safeway, brought in \$3,171 for the year. Sales were chaired by Kathryn Haught and Bev Winchester with 35 members assisting.

The Arid Garden was the recipient of a \$1,500 grant from the White Elephant in 2003 to build a storage unit. That having been accomplished the Club grant writer, Bettye Jo Preis, prepared a request for help in updating the water system at the garden. In December we were awarded \$2500 for a new irrigation system start-up.

The Arid Garden crew decided to replace the plants in the raised bed with small cactus so that visitors could get a closer look. This required moving the perennials to various other locations, removing all the soil so that a cactus mix could be installed and then placing the cactus in the bed. This was accomplished with the help and advice of Joyce and Angelo La Scala, who also donated the cactus and minerals to dress up the bed.

The Annual Luncheon in November at the Desert Diamond Casino brought 53 members together to hear Greg Corman talk about "Unusual Plants." Awards were presented to Ann Ketterer, "Rookie Gardener of the Year" and to Carolyn Fowler, "Gardener of the Year." Recognition was also given to retiring Board Members Patsy Heacox, and Jerry Mortaloni. Bettye Jo Preis was presented with a bronze "Gardeners Bell" for her three years serving as President.

2005

This was the Club's 25th Anniversary in Green Valley! Starting as the Men's Garden Club of America, then Green Valley Gardeners of America and finally just Green Valley Gardeners – the Club had a strong presence in the Green Valley community.

Newly elected officers were Jerry Crosser, President; Kathryn Haught, Vice President, Bev Winchester, Treasure and Karen Webster Secretary.

The first "members only" trip of the year was in January to the Landscape Cacti Nursery belonging to Jon Weeks. His nursery is unusual in that he guarantees that the plants he sells will thrive under the environmental conditions that exist here in G.V.

In February, 14 Continental School Gardening students entertained 14 students from Mexico. The school bus picked up the visitors 30 miles south of the border and brought them to the school where a Spanish interpreter helped translate. Each child was given a set of hand tools and seeds. Carolyn Fowler reported that there was now \$8,000 in the school gardening account.

Mary Kidnocker was appointed Garden Coordinator for the Arid Garden and announced an Open House would be held on March 12. Thirty members and friends attended.

The Spring Plant Sale netted \$1,615, the Garden Tour, \$3,799 and the Fair, \$2056. With great April weather, 600 visitors attended the Tour and Fair. In late April, after much work, the students and visitors at Continental School dedicated their Butterfly Garden to member, Ralph Steeves. Ralph spent many sunny afternoons with students laying the brick butterfly outline and moving many wheelbarrows of soil. Carolyn Fowler continues to direct the after-school program with the help of Allen Ogden.

Much to everyone's surprise and pleasure, it was announced that our Mary Kidnocker would be the new Garden columnist for the G. V. News. This was a happy event for the Club in that we could use a few good words now and then. Mary is also Coordinator of the Arid Garden.

A November outing was planned for members to visit the Pima County Extension offices in Tucson where there are extensive gardens maintained by the master Gardeners. Attending members had lunch at the Acacia restaurant following the tour.

The Fall plant sale netted \$1,953.

The major event of the year was our 25th Anniversary luncheon at Desert Diamond Casino. Preparations were extensive and turned out 70 people including charter members, Allen Ogden, Jim Michael and Winston Mani. Honored guest, charter members and past presidents and their guests were seated at one long table 25 – for the 25th.

The “Gardener of the Year” award was presented to Ralph Steeves for his work in producing the Butterfly Garden at the Continental School. “Outstanding Achievement” awards were presented to Jim and Jeanne Acuff, who are both past-presidents and authors of the Green Thumb column for many years; and to Bill and Bettye Jo Preis who edit the *Sand ‘n’ Seeds*, chair the Plant Sales and initiated the “Garden Fair” in April.

A final presentation was made to Allen Ogden. He was the first president of the club and is still very active at the Continental School and at our Community Garden in Sahuarita. President Jerry Crosser presented Allen with a new sign to be installed dedicating the Garden to Al as “The Allen J. Ogden Community Garden.”

Honored Guests included Dr. Ken Brown, Superintendent of Continental School; George Brookbank, former U of A Extension Director and early mentor of the Club; Helen Corbett who organized the Arid Land Plant Garden in 1989; and Past-presidents New Netherton, Ken Bichl, George Gries, and Bettye Jo Preis.

The first printing of “A History of Green Valley Gardeners” written by Rod Stebbins was presented to all guests and members and was well received. It included the years 1980 through 2003.

2006

All of the major officers were re-elected for 2006 – Jerry Crosser, President, Kathryn Haight, Vice President; Bev Winchester, Treasurer; and Karen Webster, Secretary. The number of active members varied from month to month between 100 and 110 and dues remained the same, \$25 for a single member, \$35 for a family.

The Member Activities committee, chaired by Betty Johnson, scheduled the first orientation program for new members. All officers and committee chairmen attended explaining their programs and answering questions. This was a successful event made even more so by host and hostess Buzz and June Weaver who have a garden railroad that all enjoyed.

The Arid Garden had two exciting events during December – the infamous “Guatemalan Raven” visited and generally harassed the crew and neighbors alike. After pulling out flowers, stealing paperwork, throwing himself at one of our volunteers and “talking nasty,” he left after a week. And then the garden saw its first wedding. Michelle Frazer and Terry Morrow of Kelowna, British Columbia, with immediate family present, were married near the sundial in the middle of our lovely garden.

The seminars still bounced back and forth between the East Center and Canoa Hills. It was unusual to have less than 100 attending. The most popular of the series was “Snakes, Snakes, Snakes,” given by Dennis Jex of Tubac. He brought many colorful

snakes (some of which the audience could handle) and used subdued lighting which made the snakes relax (as well as the participants).

Another generous grant from the White elephant made it possible for Community Gardeners to order and install a new TUF-SHED to take the place of the ailing 20-year-old structure on the premises. Gene Keene, chairman of the Community Garden group, elected to keep the old building and, with help, re-roofed it to double the storage area.

In April, members attended a private tour of the Arid Garden. The working crew acted as docents taking visitors around and answering questions about plants and future plans. And of course, in April the Garden Tour and Fair took place. Tour chairpersons Jane Cassidy and Ann Ketterer had lots of things going in their favor. The gardens were beautiful as well as the weather (the day before was hurricane prone). The “third” in the series of Garden Fairs was also successfully chaired by Bettye Jo and Bill Preis.

A check for \$600 was presented to the Youth Gardening program at Continental School by the AAUW. It was called the “Oneta Liter” award and was presented to Carolyn Fowler.

Members and guests toured the UA Arboretum in September. The entire landscape of the University is considered an “arboretum”. For over one hundred years trees have been donated by graduating classes and many rare plants have been brought from abroad by professors. Arboretum Director, Libby Davison, lead the one hour tour.

Sixty-five members plus guests greeted Mary and Gary Irish at the November Annual luncheon. Mary’s humor and easy-going talk (she overcame the mal-functioning mike by saying it sounded like the underwater talk of whales) put everyone in a good mood. She talked about her favorite perennials, shrubs and vines. Of course the food was great as it always is at the Desert Diamond Casino. The cactus centerpieces were created by Jeannine Graden and were raffled to happy guests.

Two more happy moments for the Club in December was gift of \$2,500 for the Arid Garden entrance-way project from the White Elephant and the announcement that the Fall Plant sale profit was \$2,480.

2007

Newly elected Board officers and members met for the first time on January 9, 2007. They were Mary Kidnocker, President; Karen Webster, Vice president; Bettye Jo Preis, Treasurer; and Rod Stebbins, Secretary. Other Board members included Betty Johnson, Jerry Crosser, Bev Winchester, Kathryn Haught and Angelo La Scala. Dues remained at \$25 and \$35 and the membership continued to grow – 149 including single and double memberships. The proposed 2007 budget was \$20,700.

The first “members only” event of the year was a tour of the wonderful home cactus garden of Joyce Abbott-Park and Angelo La Scala. The Member Activities committee that plans these events includes Betty Johnson, Jeannine Graden, Mary Maier, June Weaver, Peggy Cederstrom and Beryl Sumner.

Seminars started off with a bang featuring Al Bernardi, the produce guru, followed by John Begeman on Citrus, Marylee Pangman, Container Gardening and Jack Kelley, Pruning. Audiences continued at 100 plus. Kathryn Haught chaired the 2007 seminars with the help of Arra Bobenage as Hospitality chair.

February brought an unwelcome guest to the Arid Garden – a Dodge pickup which jumped through the wall, took out a small tree and other vegetation then smashed into the bride who had been recently installed. Repairs on the wall, bridge and garden were completed after insurance matters were settled. Members of the garden crew announced that they will take on the construction of the new entry-way designed by member, Bill Stenavich. A White Elephant grant will cover the cost.

The Club donated \$200 to the Kino Heritage fruit tree project in Tumacacori in March. The orchard of 50 trees will include fig, quince and pomegranate which replicate those which the padres planted there in 1695. We chose a pomegranate and received a certificate of appreciation with the location of our tree indicated.

At the April meeting of the Board of Directors it was decided to discontinue our mentoring garden program at the Continental School. Much of this decision was based on the resignation of chairman, Carolyn Fowler, who spoke at the February meeting about the lack of volunteers and the change in students’ attitudes towards gardening projects. The Club will maintain the Dent Caton Greenhouse as it has since 1995. Contributions to this program will no longer be promoted.

Profits from the two Plant Sales at Continental Mall reached a new high of \$7,720 making this our most profitable fund raiser. Angelo La Scala was our buyer of primarily cactus, agave and other succulents.

The April Garden Tour and Fair was attended by about 700 happy visitors with perfect weather also attending also attending. Tour ticket sales brought in \$4,584 while Fair receipts totaled \$2,595. Once again, Mary Kidnocker and Karen Webster stepped up to plan and execute the tour while Bettye Jo and Bill Preis chaired the Fair.

In May the Board voted to give \$1,000 to the Allen Ogden Community Garden for the construction of a heavy-duty shade gazebo. Other “shared” devices have blown away during monsoon weather. Gene Keene and Angelo La Scala supervised the construction. Community gardeners have donated more than 1000 pounds of produce each summer to the local Food Bank.

Fall brought new seminars as well as a visit by members to the Mesquite Valley Growers in Tucson. This was followed by a luncheon at Mimi's Café.

In October four new Board members were introduced. They are Ralph Graden, Peggy Cederstrom, Ann Ketterer and Eugene Keene. Resignations were regretfully accepted from Kathryn Haught and John Welch (who had been appointed to replace Rod Stebbins.) Subsequently, Keene resigned and Jan Nash agreed to fill his term on the Board.

Our 27th Annual Luncheon took place at Quail Creek on a sunny Saturday, November 17. Fifty-four members and guests attended, including speaker Greg Starr and his wife Carol from Tucson. Awards of Appreciation were received by the seminars' gracious hostess Arra Bobenage and her partner Shirley Owens; to Jeannine Graden for her work on several important committees and her "crafty décor; and to Linda Gregory for her hard work at the Arid Garden, tour ticket design and production and for her upcoming "A Year in the Arid Garden" video.

All received beautiful, personalized hand-painted tiles done by clay artist and member Gail Brynildsen. Retiring Director Jerry Crosser was thanked for his nine years on the Board and three years as President and was presented with a colorful butterfly house.

Greg Starr spoke in his usual personable style about accent plants such as agave and companion plants painting a landscape picture. Nearly all of the vigorous plants Greg brought were sold to members and the servicing staff as well.

2008

This was rather a "fluid" year as far as Board personnel were concerned. Mary Kidnocker was re-elected President with Angelo La Scala, Vice President, Bettye Jo Preis, Treasurer and several members acting as Secretary. Those included Karen Webster, Ann Ketterer, Arra Bobenage, Peggy Cederstrom and Bettye Jo Preis. In February, Gene Keene resigned from the Board and was replaced by Jan Nash who became Membership chair.

The other Board members were Betty Johnson and Ralph Graden. The membership stayed at approximately 110 households (number of *Sand 'n' Seeds* mailed by Editor Bill Preis each month). Dues remained at \$25 and \$35.

January seminars got started with professional speakers Les Hayt, John Kelly, Marylou Pangman, John Begeman and Jon Weeks. Topics included pruning, citrus, container gardening and cactus.

Each brought a full house to the East Center. Peggy Cederstrom and her committee did an outstanding job of lining up speakers of interest. Later in the year we heard from a

new, active committee in Green Valley called "Median Green," which is a group trying to re-plant the medians throughout G.V. They are seeking funds and cooperation from Pima County and local businesses to make this a reality. Later in the year GVGT pledged \$5,000 toward this effort.

Once again there was a new member orientation at June and Buzz Weaver's home which features their outdoor train collection. Eleven new members heard from chairmen of the various fund raising events as well as membership activities. The committee planning membership events for 2008 included Betty Johnson, June Weaver, Peggy Cederstrom, Mary Maier, Jeannine Graden and Beryl Sumner.

The March Plant Sale at the Continental mall exceeded everyone's expectations with first day sales of \$5,229! That was more than we usually made for all three days. Total dollars taken in for these three days was \$9,292. We were so busy and crowded that the Mall management requested we move to a larger location in the Fall. We were assigned the area next to Bon Voyage Travel and Coldwell Banker. This location was quite spacious and we were able to increase our tables to eleven from the eight we usually put up. Even with a new banner and advertising, we did not do as well in this location – partly because of the economic slump and partly because we are off the "beaten track" here with little "impulse" buying by passersby. We did take in \$7,617 in the three days with a considerable amount of plants left over from the next sale.

The Plant Sale has become our largest money-making event with a total for 2008 of \$17,378. Much of this success belongs to the "savvy" buying of Angelo La Scala, who visits many cactus growers in the Tucson area placing orders prior to each sale. At least 40 members show up to price, transport, sell and store the plants.

In a membership survey done by the Member Activities committee, the greatest interest was in local activities with the Tucson Botanical Garden leading the way with 26 positives. Requests were also made for visits to local cactus nurseries as well as to the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum (behind the scenes).

During 2008 the Allen J. Ogden Community Garden "came of age." It gained gardeners for all the plots available, had a gazebo for shade, a new roto-tiller and many other tools plus a porta-potty. For the first time since its inception the garden has a professional look that we can be proud of. Gene and Alice Keene have done an outstanding job keeping the perimeter and interior free of weeds.

The gardeners grow vegetables in a fairly competitive way and donate many pounds of produce to the Food Bank since they raise more than their families can consume.

The 28th Garden Tour and Fair attracted over 700 visitors under sunny skies and breezy conditions. The Tour was coordinated by Bonnie Sondrol, Leanna Connelly and Nancy Riordan. The Fair, at the East Center, was staffed by Bill and Bettye Jo Preis, Joan

Opinante, Helen MacTaggart, Nancy Masanari, Jerry Crosser and Gene Keene. Receipts for the Tour totaled \$6,516, for the Fair \$2,909.

The Arid Garden was granted \$3,000 from the White Elephant for the construction of a fence to keep the javelina from rooting up the garden every week. The amount of dollars lost to torn up new plants made the decision a "must". However, Mary and Dwight Kidnocker have had to spend many hours planning a fence that was acceptable to the homeowners bordering the garden. By the end of 2008 it is hoped that a wrought-iron fence will be completed. The new entry-way designed by member Bill Stenavich and built by members has received many compliments from members and neighbors.

During the summer the Board had a first "retreat" luncheon and discussion to plan beyond 2008. Many new ideas came forth and it was announced by President Mary Kidnocker that our first "web" site is in place thanks to webmaster George Webb. It was also agreed that we would instigate a new group of members to help local gardeners with their garden problems...possibly to be called the "Green Thumb" group.

One suggestion, already implemented, was occasional visits to a member's garden after a Thursday seminar. The first of these found members visiting the garden of Chuck and Dana parsons which was so fantastic it became the first garden chosen for the 2009 tour!

New Board members were elected by acclamation in October. They were Jackie Garrison, Francis Howe and Bettye Jo Preis.

The last event of the year, The Annual luncheon, took place November 22 at the Desert Diamond Casino. Jon Weeks, owner of Landscape Cacti (which destination was an earlier field trip), was the speaker. He presented pictures of cacti and agave taken while living in Mexico for seven years when he was a research scientist for the UA. It was at this time that he developed a seawater irrigated crop, traveled extensively in the area, collected seed to grow in his nursery and took many photographs.

The Club honored member, Jim Campbell, for his untiring efforts in Green Valley transporting plants, working at the Arid Garden, weekly clean-up around the government center, landscaping the grounds of his church and always offering a helping hand.

New Board members Jackie Garrison and Francis Howe were introduced as were newly elected officers: Bettye Jo Preis, President, Peggy Cederstrom, Vick President; Ralph Graden, Treasurer and Ann Ketterer, Secretary.

Outgoing President, Mary Kidnocker, was presented with a ceramic tile painted by member Gail Brynildsen. It depicted a quiet scene of the Arid Garden.

The cactus centerpieces created by Jeannine Graden were then auctioned off to happy recipients and the pleasant Saturday ended with everyone taking home their serving of chocolate cake.

In December the Club was granted \$2,000 by the White Elephant for the purchase of benches for the Arid Garden.