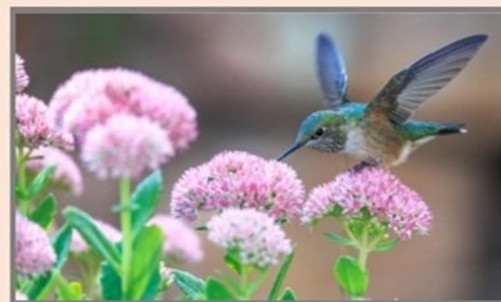


Sun Lakes Garden Club

December 2023 Newsletter

"Cultivating gardens and friendships"



The speaker at the January 16th meeting will be Steve Sheard, Master Rosarian and Master Gardener. He attended the world famous Chelsea Flower Show in London last year. It's been held every year since 1913. He'll take the members on a photo tour and share his insights, of this international event. (More Info. Next Month.)



IN THIS ISSUE: November meeting highlights with Lori Regni as our featured speaker.

Highlights from our November Field Trip to Shamrock Dairy and brunch at Southern Dunes.

Upcoming Field trip to St. Anthony's Greek Monastery in Florence AZ.

Welcome our New Members

Hawaiian Holiday Party Pictures.

Our Field Trip Coordinators, Pat McClintic and Debbie Amato announced a change in the field trip schedule. The Wrigley Mansion Tour needed to be moved to later in the year. (more about that later)



The **January 23rd Field Trip** will be to St. Anthony's Greek Monastery in Florence AZ.



It is a working monastery with beautiful landscaping and fountains and Byzantine Chapels on the grounds. Visitors are allowed to wander around the gardens and gift shop (honey and olive oil for sale) but must be totally covered.

No open-toed shoes or sandals are allowed. Long elastic-waist skirts are provided to cover any jeans or slacks. No shorts or sandals for men. Donations are accepted but there is no fee.



We'll gather at our carpool location in the corner of the parking lot at the corner of Alma School and Riggs Road at the Sun Lakes Medical Center. 8:45 AM, with a 9 AM sharp departure.

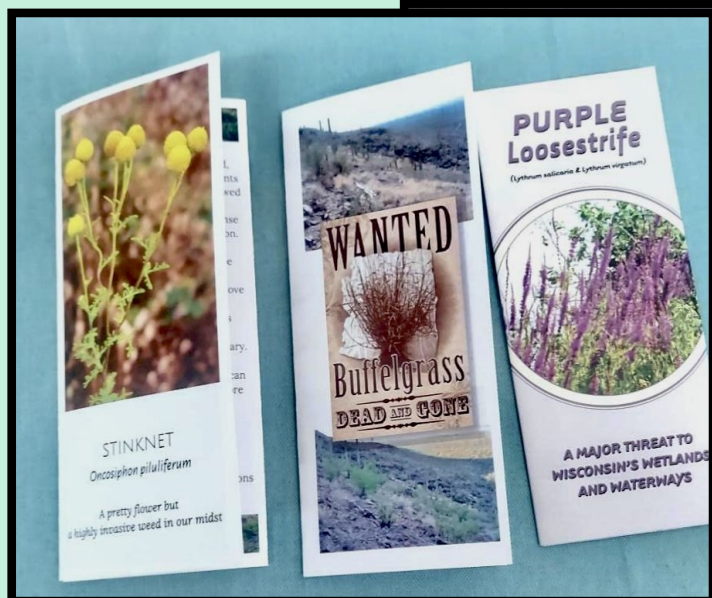


Lunch will follow at noon at Mt. Athos Greek Restaurant in old downtown Florence.



Our very own member, Lori Regni, was our featured presenter for our November meeting. She was well-prepared with information that was new to most of us. Her expertise about invasive plants that should be eradicated was impressive. She provided brochures with pictures of these plants to our members and also printed several handouts.

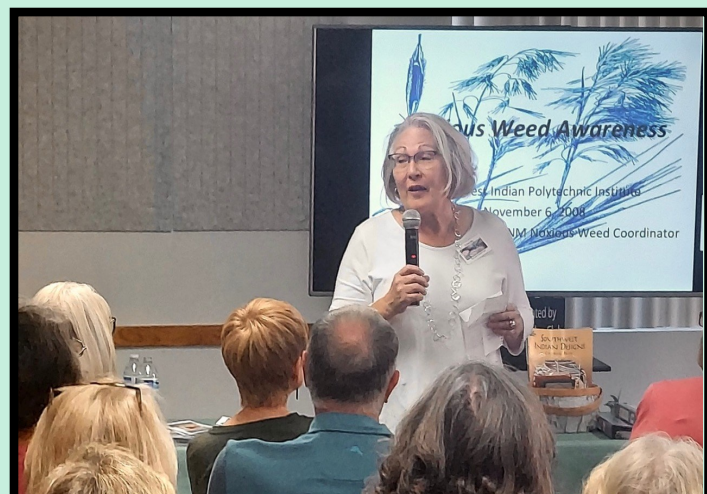
Lori also created a



permanent **BINDER** of this information and donated it to our club Library to check-out to members.

(It seems that she must have spent her speaker fee for all of her printing expenses) "Thank You Lori."

She answered many questions from the members and some members had experiences with some of these plants.



Our VP and Speaker Coordinator, Barbara Kiley, introducing Lori and sharing a preview of our upcoming speaker for January 16th 2024, Steve Sheard.

Don't forget to check out our "FREE STUFF" table during our 30 minute social time before we call the meeting to order at 10 AM.

Someone captured a picture of our CLUB PHOTOGRAPHER, Sonja, at our Lending Library Table.



Past President, Marge Mogelnicki, donating herbs from her garden to our FREE STUFF table.



George and Vince "Chillin" near the hot coffee and food table! It's a favorite spot for many of our members.



We had a great crowd in November. We had to find more chairs!

Butch Hall does so much for our club all year. He makes our coffee, sets up the microphone and tables and chairs and puts on our tablecloths. These things are not in his job description as the Facilities Manager!

We presented him with \$100 in his Christmas card with a "Thank You" for making our lives easier.



We've enjoyed selling the raffle tickets and creating gift baskets for the last 2 years. We're retiring now, so our new "Raffle Queens" Ginger and her sister Valerie can have some fun, starting in the new year.

Thanks for all of your support!



Nancy Lupo & Christa Carey

Raffle Winners: Lynn Kauer, Gail Erickson, Patrice Reis, Lynn Casey, & Pat Burroughs. Lynn Kauer was kind enough to donate the Rosemary Christmas Tree won by Gail Erickson. Thanks Lynn!

Lori Regni presented our returning Winter Librarian, Barb Kull, with a Reference Binder of her presentation as a donation to our library.



For our new members, that may not know, we have an outstanding library of gardening books for our Arizona Climate.

Members are encouraged to check out books at the monthly meeting and return them the following month. The Library table is set up at 9:30 AM and you just sign your name on the clipboard. A list of our book titles is on our website at SunLakesGardenClub.com under the RESOURCES



Marjorie Wright did an outstanding job of filling in as our summer librarian. She and Diane Beatty sorted each book and donated some that were not the best for desert gardening.



“Thank You” to our wonderful volunteers and our Refreshment Coordinators for offering a plentiful bounty of foods for our social time between 9:30 am-10Am at our November meeting.



About 22 members met at Cottonwood in November for lunch after the meeting. The kitchen remodel is completed at Sun Lakes Country Club and the Sunset Grill is open again. We'll go back there after our January 16th meeting as our cars are already there in the parking lot across from the Chapel Center.

Welcome New Members



John Holzemer

John has retired from Northwest Airlines as a 747 Captain for 29 years. He and his wife Teddi moved to New Zealand for 4 years to build a 70 ton steel Trawler boat named Teddi Bear, which they lived aboard until 2019. They have gone “ From Air.. to Sea.. to the Desert!” His Mantra is “ELTIAR”



Teddi Holzemer

Enjoy life, this is not a rehearsal.



Jeanine Granstrom

“I’m so excited to be living in Sun Lakes! I have gardened off and on for the last 20 years in the Pacific Northwest. I also enjoy decorating, amateur flower arranging, cooking and pickleball.”



Lillian Goldsmith

“We just moved here from New York. I want to learn about desert gardening and meet new people and learn new things.

I had hoped to join everyone at the Hawaiian Holiday party, as it sounded like lots of fun, but I had

another commitment.”



Our November Field Trip started with brunch on the patio overlooking the Southern Dunes Golf Resort in Maricopa.

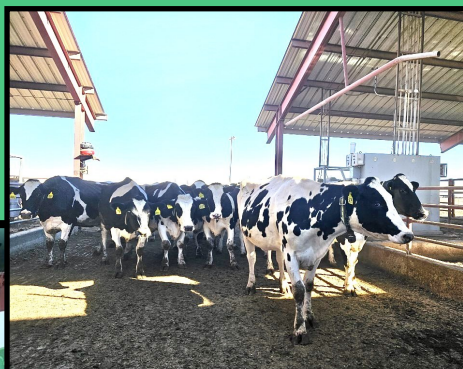


The view, food and the service was good.



(One wild and wayward carpool of ladies ended up on the way to CA but still met us at the Dairy.)

Our tour guide was great and we rode a tram around the farm. The cows have 2 full time nutritionists and they add molasses to their food, to keep them happy.



We watched the cows being milked, followed by a movie about the production, from udder to dairy case. Then we all had ice cream and chocolate milk in the Welcome Center!



NEED HELP? CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER



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Diane Beatty
Past President
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Barbara Kiley
Vice Pres./Speaker
Coordinator
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Ginger Voltmer
Treasurer & Raffle
Queen
(602) 369-2765



Bonnie Jandak
Secretary/ Party
Planner



New Members Welcome Team
Karen Downing (909) 215-6270
Vanessa Crookston (425) 750-0806



Pat McClintic
Co Field Trip
Coordinator
(563) 212-7139



Debbie Amato
Co Field Trip
Coordinator
(510) 390 1986



Valeri Bishop
Raffle Queen
(415) 606 7304



Lelia Hall
Refreshment
Coordinator
(941) 780-3576



Sonja Walcker
Photographer
& Name Badges
(303) 564 4118



Susan Toulson
Webmaster
(602) 622-0410

Hawaiian Holiday Party 2023



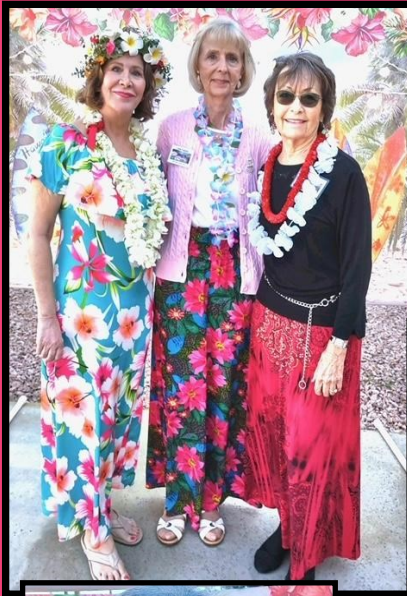
A Hula Dance Lesson! (Lovely Hula Hands)



Crazy Grass Skirt and Coconut Bra Relay.



The Photo Backdrop was popular with everyone looking very festive in their Hawaiian and Christmas attire.



Everyone got lei'd.

Thank you to everyone who shared photos this month. Gail, Marti, Sonja,



Karen and Stevie (and probably others that I've lost track of, since there was over 100 submitted!)





Members were trying to answer the Hawaiian Trivia Game and not 1 team got every question correct.



Relay race dressing in a grass skirt, coconut shell bra and a lei!



Thanking some of the many people that contributed to our success in 2023!

“Thank You” to our Secretary, Bonnie Jandak. She planned a wonderful Hawaiian party, with the help of the board and her husband Bob. She was in charge of the caterer, the decorating, and games. Bonnie came up with the Hawaiian Trivia game and the crazy ‘Grass Skirt’ relay.



We thank our VP Barbara Kiley for introducing us to interesting speakers all year.

We Thank our Treasurer Deena, who was replaced in July (So she can travel) by Ginger Voltmer. Ginger also volunteered to be our a RAFFLE QUEEN along with her sister Valerie Bishop. (Shown in pic with Lelia below)



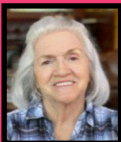
Left: We appreciate Debbie Amato and Pat McClintic for planning so many interesting field trips all year.

Our new member Lelia Hall has volunteered to start the new year as our Refreshment Coordinator.



Nancy Lupo and Christa Carey created beautiful gift baskets and were very successful RAFFLE RASCALS for 2 years. They'll be replaced by the 2 sisters Ginger and Valerie.

Valerie Bishop and Kathy Turner did an excellent job all year! No one went hungry!



Left: Sonja Walcker creates all of our Members' Name Badges and takes pictures for the newsletter. Below: Stevie Graves was in charge of Membership until May, when Karen & Vanessa took over. This is not an easy job and we appreciate all of them.





Be sure to forward this to your friends who may want to visit us or become a member. Members may join from any town.

We meet all year on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. We greet visitors and enjoy refreshments from 9:30am-10:00 am. We have a featured speaker and a club meeting until Noon. After the meeting, we invite everyone to join us for lunch (optional) at a selected restaurant nearby.

We meet in the Chapel Center at 9230 E. Sun Lakes Blvd. N., Sun Lakes, AZ 85248. It is next door to Sun Lakes All Faiths Church and across the Street from the Sun Lakes Country Club.

Go to SunLakesGardenClub.org for more information.

Sun Lakes Garden Club

"CULTIVATING GARDENS & FRIENDSHIPS"

HOME

THE CLUB

MEMBERSHIP

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RESOURCES

NEWSLETTERS

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INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS

CLUB ROSTER

