

Sun Lakes Garden Club

March 2024 newsletter

"Cultivating gardens and friendships"



We are pleased to welcome back Tony Sarah, who developed an award-winning organic nutrient blend for our Arizona plants. (See his Bio on page 2) He'll be the featured speaker at our March 19th meeting at the Chapel Center in Sun Lakes (9230 E. Sun Lakes Blvd. N, Sun Lakes)

Meeting starts at 9:30 AM

Finally Available for Consumers:



Buy Now



The **FIRST NUMBER** is the amount of **NITROGEN** which helps the **TOP** of the **PLANT GROW STRONG** and **HEALTHY**

The **SECOND NUMBER** is **PHOSPHORUS** which helps build **STRONGER ROOTS** and **FLOWERS**

The **THIRD NUMBER** is **POTASSIUM** which helps create **STRONG STEMS**, **GROWTH** and helps plants **RESIST HEAT, DROUGHT** and **DISEASE**

Our members may remember when Tony Sarah brought his pickup filled with his award winning “Tony’s Magic Organic Planting Mix” early last year. He parked behind the Chapel Center and members were eager to purchase bags from him after he finished his presentation. Tony has a huge fan base on his facebook page sharing photos of their healthy harvests.

We are fortunate to have him coming back. Tony was injured in a serious vehicle accident and was hospitalized and couldn’t work for 8 months. He’s finally up and around and we’ll look forward to seeing him.

YOU MAY WANT TO BRING SOME CASH OR YOUR CHECK-BOOK TO BUY A BAG OR 2 OF TONY’S MAGIC GARDEN MIX!





Anthony Sarah of Earth's Original Organics has been working in the garden and landscape industry in Arizona since January of 1981. He will be speaking to the Sun Lakes Garden Club on March 19th, about the best techniques for successful container gardens.

Mr. Sarah received his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from the University of Arizona, making the Dean's List. He is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Southern Arizona Arborist Group, and he has led the Rare Fruit Growers of Tucson and Southern Arizona meetings on topics of all edible fruit crops and how to grow them outside their normal growing environments.

He led a salvage operation to identify, harvest and relocate over five thousand protected native cacti for a new housing development on one hundred acres, and conducted fertilizer trial studies on over two hundred native trees in the Phoenix area during a salvage operation involving over seven hundred trees in total. He also volunteered on a project to build nesting sites for native burrowing owls.

He was the co-developer of an organic potting soil and formulated Earth's Original Organics fertilizers—Tony's Magic Mix and Tony's Magic Flower, voted 2022 Best of the Valley by Phoenix Magazine. He spent a couple of years formulating the Earth's Original Organic fertilizer by experimenting with different ingredients at different ratios at the garden center he managed, mixing them by hand in a five-gallon bucket before developing the final formula. Customer response was such that the local Facebook gardening group members referred to the fertilizer as Tony's Magic Mix, or Tony's Magic Dust and still do so to today. They stayed with this naming the second formula Tony's Magic Flower. The fertilizer was formulated with the idea of not only providing all the required plant nutrients in one product, but more importantly to bring the soil health back to life. The fertilizer is a unique blend of nutrients with bat guano as the base that supply all of the required plant nutrients as well as promoting healthy soil microbial life essential to promoting a healthy plant.

Earth's Original Organics was designed to be used with edible crops and only has two fertilizers, one for promoting growth and the other for promoting root growth, flowers, and fruit set. The unique formula of the fertilizer has shown its ability to be highly beneficial to all manner of plants from edibles, houseplants, general landscape plants, plumeria, adeniums, roses even potted cacti and succulents.

Sun Lakes Garden Club Annual Garden Tour

& Patio Pizza Party 9:30 AM-1:30 PM Tuesday April 2nd, 2024

Tickets \$15: Cash, Checks or

Zelle us at SunLakesGardenClub@gmail.com



1. Gather at our usual carpool location at the Sun Lakes Medical Center parking lot in the corner (Riggs Rd. & Alma School.)



2. Valerie Bishop's home is at 6053 S. Bedford Place, Chandler (Springfield Community near Riggs Rd. & McQueen)



3. Teddi Holzemer's home is at 2411 S. Lakeway Circle, Sun Lakes (West side of Oakwood) Gated

Last day to buy Pizza Party tickets is March 21st. at midnight. Zelle or mail \$15 to SL Garden Club to Ginger Voltmer 6780 S. Calloway Dr. Chandler AZ 85249



4. Lori Regni's home is at 10937 East Minnesota Ave. Sun Lakes (Palo Verde) Gated



5. Patrice Reis's home is 25825 S. Howard Dr. Sun Lakes (Cottonwood)



6. Sonja Walker invited us to dine on her patio after the tour at 10505 E. Watford Way, SL. Members and guests may tour at no cost, but we need payments in advance for "Pizza Partiers." It includes a variety of pizzas including Gluten Free, three salad choices, dessert, water and iced tea. (Tipping Sonja for set-up and clean-up is a nice gesture)



19250 S. Ellsworth Rd.
Queen Creek



We're heading to DESERT HORIZON NURSERY, in Queen Creek, on Tuesday, March 26th, 2024.

We'll gather at 9:15 am at our carpool location at the corner of the parking lot at the Sun Lakes Medical Center (Alma School & Riggs Rd.) Departure time is

9:30 AM sharp.

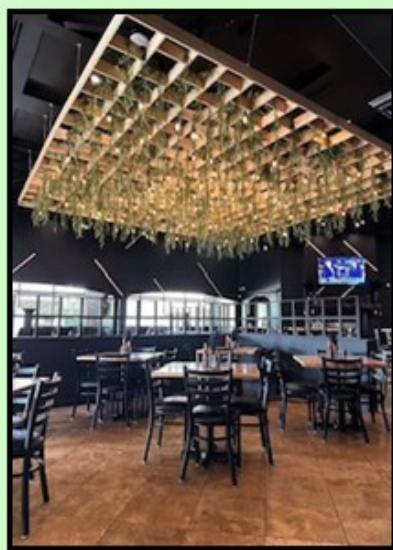
Chuck will take us on a walking tour of the beautiful, "Award-Winning" nursery. After the tour, you'll have

time to browse and shop before we go to

lunch.

They have a clean restroom building and there are benches

and tables "for sale" to sit and wait for others. **We'll gather for lunch around noon at "SAGE & BARREL Craft Eatery."**



**“ I can help you renew
your dues for 2024.”**

Ginger Voltmer

(Your Treasurer)

**Dues are \$25 for the year and 2 members in the
same household is \$40.**



**RENEW BEFORE MARCH
31st, SO YOU WON'T BE
REMOVED AS A MEMBER.**

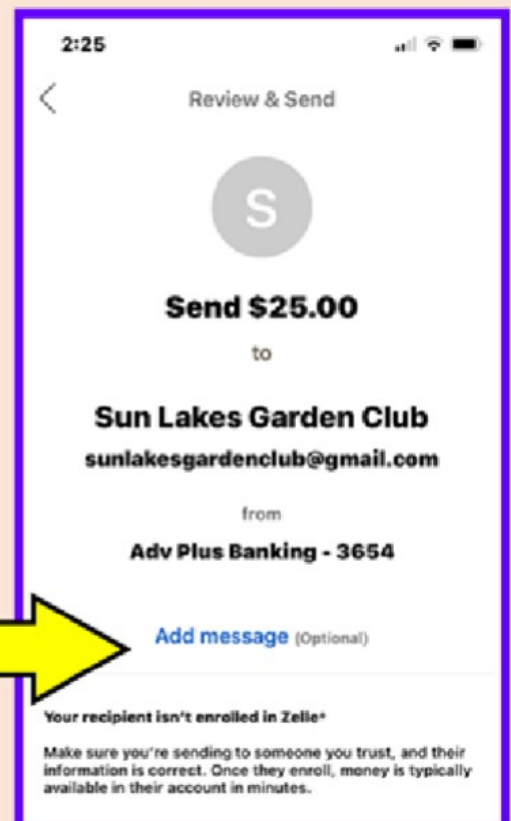
NO APRIL FOOLS JOKE!

We have 4 options:

- 1. Bring a check to a meeting written to “Sun Lakes Garden Club.”**
- 2. Mail a check to Ginger Voltmer at 6780 S. Callaway Dr., Chandler 85249.**
- 3. Bring Exact Cash (\$25) to the meeting.**
- 4. Use the Zelle banking App for an immediate cash transfer to our Zelle club email account at:**

SunLakesGardenClub@gmail.com.

It may ask you to create a “New Recipient” since this is a new email for the club. (Put your name in the Zelle “Add message” box, so we’ll know it’s from you.)



Highlights from our February Meeting:

Francesca Claverie drove 2 hours from Tonopah AZ,

with her dog Josephine, to share her passion for preserving natural plants.



This organization works on both sides of the Mexican-American border cataloging seeds plants, wildflowers and trees needed to replenish the desert areas that may be destroyed after natural disasters. **Go to BorderlandsPlants.org to learn more about the amazing work they're doing.** She brought a truck-

load of plants that members and guests had pre-ordered.

“Thank you” to our VP and Speaker Coordinator, Barbara Kiley, for introducing us to Francesca Claverie! She was great!



The Comedy Team, Lou and Abbott Costello, seemed to be trying to keep track

Who's on 1st?

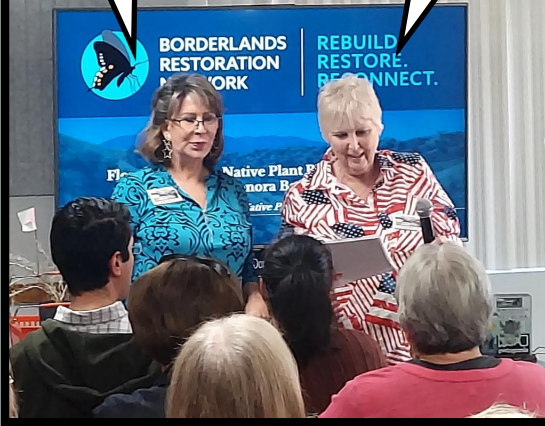
No.
Who's on 2nd.

of 92 attendees!

(An all-time record!) We had members, guests and 8 more members joined at the

meeting..

We were lucky that it was a beautiful 70 degree morning because we opened the sliding door near the raffle table in the back and about 10 people sat out on the covered patio, when the room filled up.



"Thank you" to those members that bought one or more \$5 Raffle Tickets. It helps us pay the \$100 donation to our professional speakers.

We also thank those members who donate quality items for us to create fun gift baskets. We need a few more items.



Our club photographer, Sonja Walcker, had a challenging time finding the raffle winners among the crowd of 92 attendees. She ended up taking some outside.

"Raffle Queens", and sisters, Valerie Bishop & Ginger Voltmer



**And the raffle winners Are:
Denese Anderson, new member Judy Davis, Corrine Gresen, & Kim Rector.**

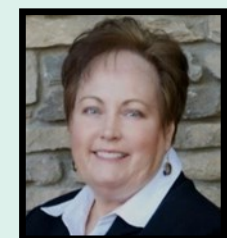
“Thank You” to all of the volunteers that brought refreshments for our February Meeting. We took the photo of the table before all of the food arrive. We had plenty of food for the 92 attendees!



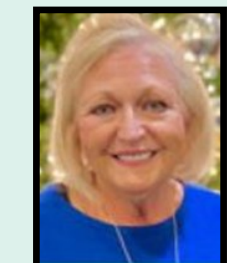
Don and Vanessa Crookson brought a big Mardi Gras cake with a toy baby baked inside. (Who got the baby?)



Renee' Simpson made Deviled Eggs. (A protein dish is always appreciated)



Sheryl Hand made Southern Banana Nut Bundt Cake with pecans, pineapple and cream cheese glaze.



Alice Traeger baked a big breakfast casserole with eggs and sausage.



Starla Kramer brought a platter with two olives varieties, three cheeses, two meats and crackers.

Helen Harrold baked a loaf of Olive Bread but she's camera shy.



Lelia Hall is our wonderful Refreshment Coordinator and she also baked Lemon Tarts.



Everyone is invited to meet for lunch after each monthly meeting. Members have been meeting at the Cottonwood Grill at the Cottonwood Clubhouse.

Everyone had a fun time. The service and food was very good and friendships were made.



Welcome New Members



Judy Davis

Judy doesn't know a lot about gardening but she wants to learn. She loves to play trivia and enjoys Bingo and swimming. She says "I'm eager to meet new friends in Sun Lakes."



Judy Rogers

"I love being outside and getting my hands dirty whenever time permits. I also enjoy walking the greenbelts in the morning. When it's too hot go outside, I love to do jigsaw puzzles. However, my favorite pastime is spending time with my 6 grand-kids."



Linda Osborne She's from California but raised in Dallas Texas. She says, "Roses are my favorites, but I also enjoy African violets and other indoor plants. I love birdwatching, wildflowers, patio plants and vines. I'm eagerly waiting for my Daffodils, Freesia, and other bulbs to bloom. I moved from CA to AZ in 2019. I enjoy decorating for the holidays and I hosted lots of tea parties in CA and enjoy antiques.



Sue Berger "I enjoy my herb garden and I use the herbs for cooking. I belong to a 'GOURD PATCH' group and I'm learning so many things you can do to decorate a gourd, such as carving, painting and adding elements."

New Members Continued



Carrie Grochowski “My husband Ron (joined in 2023) and I have been loving our time here since moving from northern Illinois in 2016. My favorite pastime is hiking in nature, which is abundant in Arizona. Now that I have retired, we are also planning to travel to interesting places soon!



Louann Savolt

“I enjoy reading, and volunteering as a Precinct Committeewoman for my neighborhood in Ironwood.” (Louann also makes the BEST varieties of homemade soups, enjoyed by her friend, Starla Kramer.)



Marlene Tiede Marlene was a member in 2022 and lives in Ahwatukee. Marlene joined an Ahwatukee garden club but came back to us, because she said we have more fun. We’re so happy to have her back.



Cinda Sue Thorhauer “I love herb gardening. I always stop to smell any flowers I see along my walks with my dog.”



Member Submission from Madonna Aubrey:

Madonna “winters” with her son in Sun Lakes and they have been doing some “Grocery Store Gardening.” She recalled Debra Thurkhill, (ASU Horticultural Professor) speaking to our club about this topic via Zoom, during Covid in 2020. Debra shared a vid-

eo of her trip to the Asian Market in Tempe and another video in her home garden.

Madonna and her son have a covered garden patch that is 10 inches tall. They



ate some nice salads and then planted the root ends

of the romaine into the rich soil and they now have fresh romaine growing out of the center of the stem end!

So they planted a few baby round potatoes next to the lettuce and now they have a healthy potato bush growing. They did the same thing with green onions and Cilantro. And it’s all organic with no pesticides!



Cilantro



Potato Bush

Rita Bricker is a member, and also a Master Gardener. She invited our members to visit the U of A Maricopa Agricultural Center as our February Field Trip.



 University of Arizona
Maricopa Agricultural Center



For some reason the GPS sent us in several directions, through a scenic route, but once we all found the farm, it was very interesting! We were welcomed under the cabana with a talk about the farm and then we were loaded onto 2 large tractor-driven people-movers to several locations for more guided tours.





Above Right. This thermal camera rolls on these tall wheels over the crops to measure the temperatures of the air, crops, and moisture in this lettuce field.

They invited us to walk in among the lettuce.

Sharra, Paula & Sonja did just that!



Photos submitted by Sonja Walker, our official photographer, and Lori Regni.





LEFT: After a delicious gourmet lunch near the Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino (347 Grill Restaurant) we realized that it was Pat Burrough's Birthday. So we joined in singing her the "Happy Birthday" song!

ABOVE RIGHT: Nancy Sjolin, Diane Beatty and Rita Bricker in shadows.

Nine of us decide to take a 2nd trip to St. Anthony's Monastery.



Janet Miller turned 91 March 14th, so we surprised her with a card and a "Happy Birthday" song. Her hamburger was bigger than she is!



If you don't have a fun time hanging out with our club photographer Sonja...



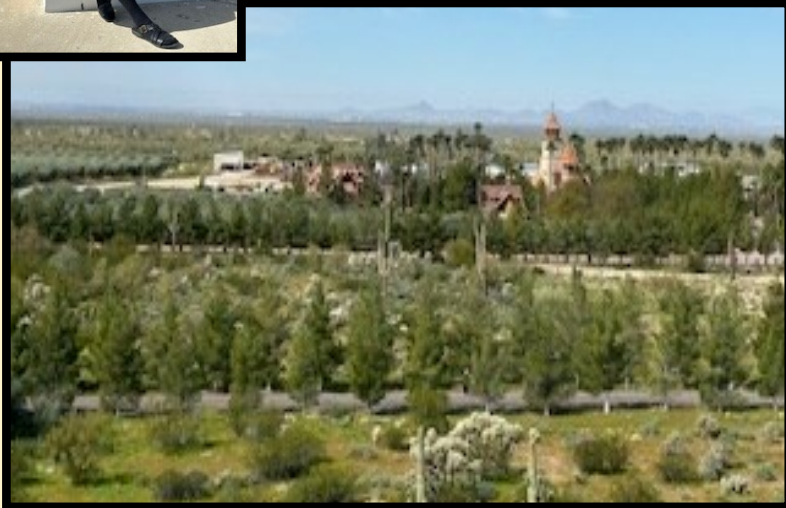
there's something wrong with you!



Lori Regni and Sonja Walcker went to the Monastery on our previous trip but there was so much to see and they wanted to return to hike up to the top of the hill to see the view of the desert from the tallest chapel.



Marge Mogelnicki is in the hiking club and she couldn't resist joining them. They shared some amazing photos. This Chapel looks



like Mykonos or Santorini in Greece.



Member Submission by Alice Traeger:

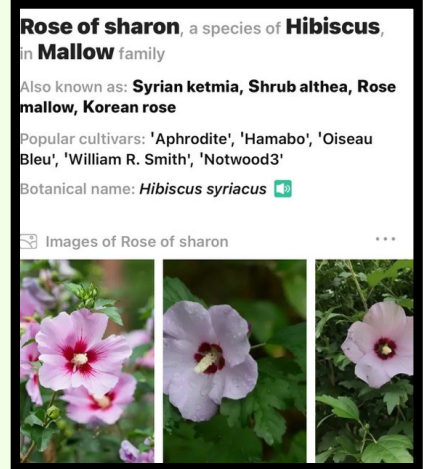


Blue Hibiscus

I have this planted in my front yard and I like it so much that I just planted a baby one in my backyard. The tag says “Blue Hibiscus”, even though it looks nothing like a Hibiscus. It’s in the mallow family.

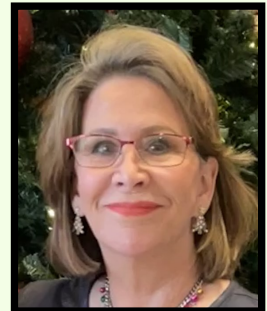


When Starla submitted this photograph onto the “PICTURE THIS” plant identifier APP on her phone it said “This Plant is Healthy!”



Member Submission by Starla Kramer:

This a ‘Blue Potato Bush” grown as a topiary tree in my front yard, near my rose trees. It forms a round topiary of small green leaves like a boxwood and it blooms a few times a



year. I had one in my backyard that grew to 6 feet tall with a ball about 3 ft. wide. Sadly, that tree died a couple of summers ago after surviving 5 previous summers. There may have been a drip-system issue. I planted this small tree this Fall.



NEED HELP? CONTACT A BOARD MEMBER



Starla Kramer
Pres. /Newsletter
(480) 540 8080



Diane Beatty
Past President
(480) 895 3687 Home



Barbara Kiley
Vice Pres./Speaker
Coordinator
(813) 390-2710



Ginger Voltmer
Treasurer
& Raffle Queen
(602) 369-2765



Bonnie Jandak
Secretary/ Party
Planner
(520) 247-0839



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



Barb Kull
Librarian
(845) 392-5933



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



Debbie Amato
Co Field Trip
Coordinator
(510) 390 1986



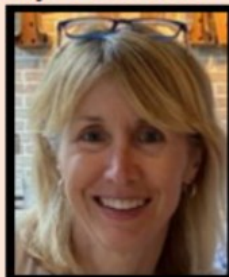
Valerie Bishop
Raffle Queen
(415) 606 7304



Lelia Hall
Refreshment
Coordinator
(941) 780-3576



Sonja Walcker
Photographer
& Name Badges
(303) 564 4118



Susan Toulson
Webmaster
(602) 622-0410



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"

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THE CLUB

MEMBERSHIP

CALENDAR

RESOURCES

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GALLERY

INFORMATION FOR SPEAKERS

CLUB ROSTER

