

2024 Spring Report to the Arizona Federation of Garden Clubs
Gold Canyon Garden Club

The Gold Canyon Garden Club has stayed busy this year with several one-time and ongoing projects in the Gold Canyon area.

In November, the GCGC hosted the 2023 Fall Eastern/Central District Meeting. Our Theme was Demystifying Orchids. We had a wonderful guest speaker, a massive gift basket raffle, and an Orchid centerpiece raffle. We are grateful to all of the Clubs in the Districts for their beautiful gift basket donations, and to our orchid lady for helping coordinate the event and provide the orchids.

The Club has held two Fundraisers and Plant Sales, in November and March. A variety of plants, as well as other rummage sale items, were sold, and the Club did very well. Proceeds benefit our Butterfly Garden at Dinosaur Park, as well as other civic beautification projects in the area. The Club also assisted a solar-farm planned development company with the Relocation of several Saguaros to locations at the Superstition Mountain Museum and Silly Mountain.

Gold Canyon Garden Club is very proud of the Butterfly Garden being certified as both a Monarch Waystation by the Monarch Watch organization, as well as a certified Wildlife Habit by the National Wildlife Federation. These certifications are a result of our fabulous Butterfly Garden volunteers, whose conscientious planning and landscaping of the area provides surrounding wildlife with quality habitat, food, water, cover, and places to raise their young.

The Club also enjoyed assisting with the NGC Small Standard Flower Show hosted by the Desert Designers at Boyce Thompson in February, which was very well attended. Several club members submitted entries in the Horticulture division, as well as helped with set-up and as greeters.

Membership meets the second Tuesday of each month September through May. In-Person meetings are located at the Gold Canyon Mission Center, which is also the location of this year's Civic Beautification project. We recently enjoyed a field trip to the home of former Club members / Master Gardeners, and current AZ Cactus & Succulent Society members, who have hundreds of unique rare agaves, aloes, and haworthias in their yard. It was a beautiful spring day to be in the garden!

This past year our meeting programs have included:

- Spice Up Your Life – Growing Herbs & Spices
- Pallet Planters / Container Gardening
- Gardening for the Birds
- Cactus and Succulents, with a Hands-On workshop making terrariums
- Holiday Floral Design Hands-on Workshop

Community service projects include:

- Ongoing care and maintenance of the Butterfly Garden at Dinosaur Park in Gold Canyon
- Ongoing care and maintenance of the landscaped areas surrounding our two (2) GCGC Blue Star Memorial Marker, with plans for a 3rd Blue Star Marker in the works.
- Monthly collection for the National Garden Club's Penny Pines project

The Gold Canyon Garden Club Facebook page continues to attract attention, with over 540 followers from all over the world. Articles are submitted monthly to the Superstition Living Magazine, and Club brochures have been placed at community centers. As a result, Gold Canyon Garden Club is excited to welcome several brand-new members this year, who learned of the Club and its activities through ongoing publicity efforts, various community projects, and word of mouth!

Submitted this 11th day of April, 2024

Tricia Schaeffer, President
Gold Canyon Garden Club