

Tucson Garden Club
Club Report for October 2024

Tucson Garden Club starts off this club season with 18 members and plans for 6 educational programs. We will continue to hold monthly meetings in the City of Tucson's El Rio Neighborhood Center on the third Wednesday of each month from October through May; except a Holiday Lunch in December and an End-of-Year lunch in May which will occur on the first Wednesday of the month.

Tucson GC celebrates its 90th Anniversary in 2025. We will invite all garden clubs to share in fun and cake at the Southern District Meeting on February 27th at Scordato's Pizzeria.

Our membership goal continues as one of growth. Tucson GC received 15 email inquiries over the summer through NGC, AFGC and TGC websites. Each new contact was engaged through email correspondence and a few through lunches. At last March's flower show, we recruited our first male member, which we are very excited about. We have 3 new transplants who moved here from other states, including Texas, Florida and Colorado. We will continue to reach out to those inquirers who are new to the area and new to garden club with hopes of capturing new membership.

This club season includes 6 educational programs. We have invited speakers from City of Tucson's "Storm to Shade" program on "Greenwater Infrastructure" and from Pima County Natural Resources' Environmental Education on "Wildlife of the Sonoran Desert". Our member Rosemary Wade will present about the "Chapel Gardens of Peppi's House" with a garden tour to follow. Our member Cece Delf will hold a 2-hour, hands-on floral design workshop for all attendees. Our member Mimi Salber will present on Arbor Day and tree planting project. In April, our members will enjoy an outdoor meeting and docent-led garden tour at Mission Gardens.

During last club season, we authored a strategic plan for growth, entitled "5 Year Garden Path." We are following through on some first action items by adopting 3 new projects. First, the Tucson GC will register with TREX Recycling Challenge to donate plastics towards the goal of earning a free park bench; we have named new member Kate O'Driscoll as chairman. Second, we are working with City of Tucson's "Storm to Shade" coordinator to design botanical signage for newly installed trees and shrubs. Third, we are working with Pima County's El Rio Library to design and install a pollinator garden for educating their youth program.

Tucson GC will continue to support a local scholarship at community colleges and donations to local gardens and the community food bank. We support the AFGC President's project, especially the website maintenance and development. We will continue to donate to the "Plant A Tree" and to purchase the NGC's "Vision of Beauty" calendars. We continue to seek a viable location for a Gold Star Memorial installation.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jennifer Moreland, Club President