



AVGC Club President Report 2025

- **Membership** – We have been able to maintain our roster at 36, having added 15 new members over the past 3 years, now including Active (34) and Associate members (2), plus 6 amazing Honorary Members. *Next up: We are in the process of reviewing the # of members needed for each of our working committees, with an aim to reduce member workload expectations to foster both recruitment and retention.*
- **Prescott Garden Tour and Gardens of Merit** – AVGC hosted our Garden Tour on June 21st, featuring five diverse examples of gardening in our high-desert landscape. This tour is the largest event that the Club sponsors and provides attendees an understanding of elevation on the selection of plants and trees, the potential for xeriscaping, and introducing personal taste to create unique designs. The weather was lovely and, with an attendance of over 700 (including our AFGC senior leadership!), the Club netted \$14,780 to support our work, local education, conservation, beautification, and philanthropy. This year we included local musicians and artists to enhance the experience. In addition, we highlight and publish one special Garden of Merit quarterly. *See Newsletters attached.*
- **Beautification and Philanthropy (B&P)** – The Club fulfilled its philanthropic and beautification goals by supporting Slow Foods Prescott, Grow Food in your Backyard, the Taylor Hicks Schoolyard Habitat, the grounds of the Sharlot Hall Museum, and contributing to improving the Granite Creek area and mural. We have continued our ongoing support to the Highlands Center Juniper Program, including scholarship support for young campers, and beautification support for the Pioneer Home Rose Garden, and the Firehouse Station 1 Hotshot Memorial, among others. We recently updated our Blue Star Memorial. *Next up: Updating our process to identify B&P opportunities and Club prioritization.*
- **Learning and Social Connections** – Our 2025 meeting Program Committee has put forth a variety of interesting and interactive meeting topics (e.g., being Water Smart, art workshop with lavender, separating iris, daylilies and more). We have continued our monthly Gardeners Day Out experiences (e.g., hiking the Black Canyon City Trail, shopping at Verde River Growers, visiting the American west Phippen Museum). And as new offerings in 2025, we have implemented “Meet and Greets” for pure social outings to build connectedness as well as the very popular “Pop Up Garden Tours” where members do a flash outreach to come visit their gardens in bloom. We also publish our Newsletter quarterly which includes many further learning, tips, and outreach opportunities with our partners in the community. *See Newsletters attached.*
- **Leadership and Governance** – With the stepping down of our elected President, current Vice President Helen Macfie has now been installed as President to seamlessly fulfill the remainder of the term and then the one she was elected to through 2029. We were also fortunate to have a visit from Jenn Moreland and Kim Rosenlof to our September Club meeting to share the vision of AFGC and plans for the next year. *Next up: we are updating our Bylaws and a Strategic Plan to help guide our Executive Board in supporting the Club for 2025-2027.*

Submitted by Helen Macfie, AVGC President