



GERMAN CLUB OF FOUNTAIN HILLS

DIETER HERMANS , PRESIDENT
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March 2010



Frühlingfest

PICNIC AT THE FOUNTAIN
Sunday March 21, 2010, 12 – 4 PM

Please join our
Barbecue at the Fountain Park in Fountain Hills. We will serve
Bratwürste, Potato Salad, Bread, and Soft Drinks/Bottled Water.
There is a charge of \$ 5. - per person for food and drinks. This event will be
organized by Erika and Adolf Schaefer who have already made reservations for
the Ramada east of the Fountain.

If you wish to participate call Irene Urban at 480-837-2908 or e-mail her
(iburban@cox.net) not later than March 15, 2010.

Happy Birthday

Klaus Schmechtig

We welcome our new members Judy Rice and Ellen Clinger

April Event

Mark your Calendar: On Friday April 9, 2010, we will organize a trip to the
“Boyce Thompson Arboretum”. Further details will be announced in our April
Newsletter.

The wildflowers may just be spectacular at this time!

March Ladies Day

***We will meet on the third Wednesday which is March 17. This time we will go for lunch at Urban Tea Loft in Chandler.
Detailed information will be sent to you by Hilde and she also would appreciate it if you would RSVP to her if you will attend or not.***



Boyce Thompson Arboretum

Imagine a place where a person could indulge their passion for plants, learn about the latest scientific breakthroughs in agriculture, study drought-tolerant landscape design and deepen their appreciation for all things botanical, all in one convenient location. Fortunately, such a place exists at the Boyce Thompson Arboretum, a quick one hour's drive east of Phoenix on U.S. Highway 60. With a primary emphasis on education for the general public, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum is one of the preeminent botanical campuses in the western United States.

A Colonel Found His Passion.

Rich with mining stock accumulated after World War I, William Boyce Thompson came to the Arizona desert in the early 1920s and through a 400 acre land swap with the United States Forest Service, was able to secure property among the Sonoran desert lowlands surrounding the town of Superior, Arizona. It was here the former ambassador to the Bolshevik empire found his greatest passion and began constructing a winter home, Picketpost House. Soon, the Arboretum was founded and construction began on the Smith Interpretative Center, an educational center built in 1925 from locally quarried stone. It was here visitors to the Arboretum were welcomed into a world of rare desert cacti, lovingly groomed roses and native arid landscape. Even though a new visitor's center was built many years later, the Smith Interpretative Center remains a centerpiece to the Arboretum and continues to showcase succulents from around the world in its two greenhouses.

The Arboretum itself consists of several geographic and botanical zones, each designed to highlight a different element in the plant world.

Eucalyptus Forest – boasting some of the oldest eucalyptus trees in the United States, the forest is found at the end of the trail leading from Magma Ridge, and lends diversity to the landscape matched only by the colorful blooms of the desert flowers against the red rocks and purple hue of the mountains that surround the Arboretum.

Demonstration Garden – perhaps the most unique of the distinct botanical zones, the Demonstration Garden brings together both landscape and hardscape into artful collections of patios, arbors, pathways, water elements and decorative rock formations. This concept garden displays the best of the desert plants in real life designs that can easily be recreated once visitors go back home. Guests can also learn about plant selection, how to design their own sites, and what to do when their desert soil appears inhospitable to even the most basic of plants. Whether backyard enthusiast or professional landscaper, a stop at the Demonstration Garden will inspire and excite your creative design senses.

Magma Ridge – A hike along the Queen Creek Canyon, Magma Ridge offers visitors spectacular views of the riparian rehabilitation area of Queen Creek, the deep and lush canyon beyond, as well as close up views of Picketpost House, the historic home of Colonel Thompson and his family.

Heritage Rose Garden – although found deep in the Sonoran desert, the Boyce Thompson Arboretum boasts one of the most beautiful collections of Heritage roses, Old Garden roses and Antique roses in the west. No matter which time of year you visit, the blooms fill the air with fragrant reminders of their resilience and beauty. If famous roses are your passion, the Heritage Rose Garden is also home to descendants of the original Tombstone Rose and the Yellow Rose of Texas.

Ayer Lake – this man-made reservoir is a botanical zone in itself, offering refuge to two endangered fish, the Gila Topminnow and the Desert Pupfish. In addition to supplying the Arboretum with all of its irrigation water, Ayer Lake also provides an aquatic oasis for many different migratory waterfowl, which can be observed from one of two ramadas gracing the shores of the lake.

Herb Garden – a culinary masterpiece, the Herb Garden displays several species of native herbs as well as the popular European plants. There are separate areas for the different types of herbs found there, such as herbs used in the healing arts, herbs dedicated to cooking and herbs that have repellent properties and can be used to combat an insect infestation.

Cactus Garden – of course no Arboretum in the desert of Arizona would be complete without a cactus garden and the garden at Boyce Thompson is no exception. It contains succulents from every region of the Western Hemisphere and contains several trails that wind across three scenic acres. Visitors can stroll the forest at their leisure, taking in the brilliant colors of the desert sky against a rich landscape of succulent blooms.

Impressions of our Karneval event 2010

We all enjoyed a spectacular view when Prince Richard I, Princess Brigitte I, their Hofmarschall, and the Elferrat and members of the German American Karneval Society marched in to the tune of the Narhalla March. Prince Richard I in his proclamation gave directives for the evening, and thereafter everybody enjoyed the food, the music, and the company of our members and guests. Our thanks go to all those members who worked hard to make this great evening possible, and also to Princess Brigitte I, and Prince Richard I, for their generosity, and to the President of the German American Karneval Society, Mike Lemonidis, for the spectacular appearance of his team.

