

BELLASERA

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Page 1 - Bellasera Sunset

Page 2 - Clubhouse Corner --
from Annette McCarthy
& Trudy Vinger

Page 3 - Bellasera Community
Events

Page 4 - Rear View

Page 5 - Bellasera Security

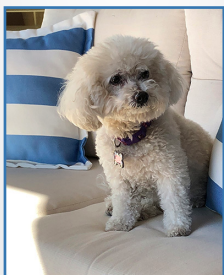
Page 6 - Notices & Weather

Page 7 - March Calendar

Page 8 - Classifieds

Page 9 - Ready for Pool Season?

Page 10 - 11 - It's a Dog's World

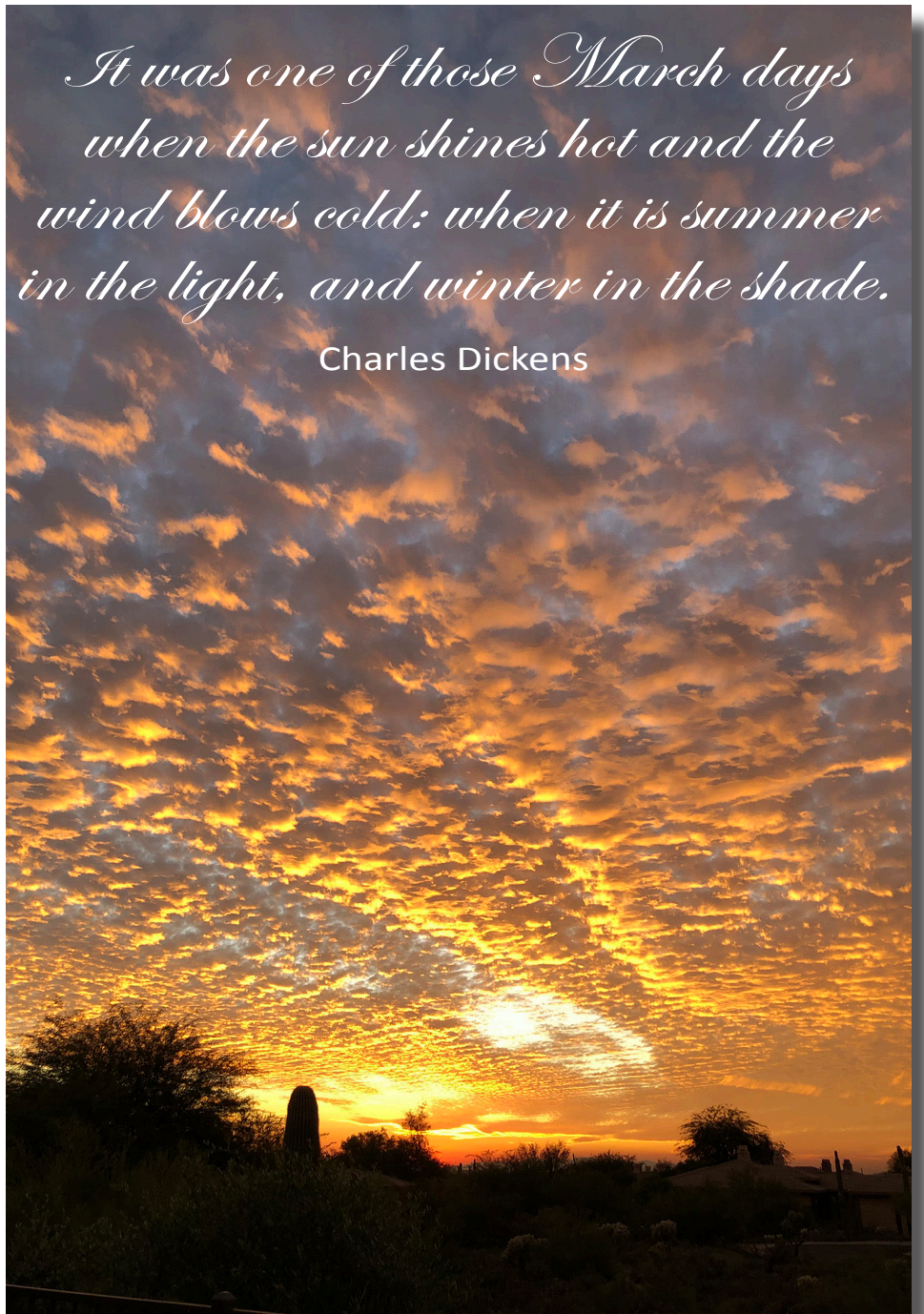


Page 12 - 14 - March in the
Garden

Page 15 - BCA Information

*It was one of those March days
when the sun shines hot and the
wind blows cold: when it is summer
in the light, and winter in the shade.*

Charles Dickens



March - 2020



Clubhouse Corner

by Annette McCarthy & Trudy Vinger

Weed Season:

Weeds, weeds everywhere!

The wonderful soaking raindrops have brought on the dreaded weed season!

Our landscaping staff is working diligently to remove weeds in the common areas and pool area. We appreciate your patience as this process takes time. The areas have been treated, you may not notice results for a few weeks.

Please be vigilant of weeds on your property and take appropriate action when necessary. We all want to ensure our community looks the best that it can.

Ongoing - View Fence Painting Began on February 17th:

We anticipate this project will go smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation during this time. If you have any questions, please contact **Trudy, 480-488-0400**.

CC&R'S Refresher Course:

We have many new owners and folks leasing in our lovely community. Please ensure that you are aware of the Community Guidelines and what is and is not considered a violation of the CC&R'S.

It is your responsibility as an owner to abide by the rules and, for those owners with tenants, it is up to you to ensure that your tenants are aware of the rules as well.

We receive many calls about cars being parked on the street overnight – which is a no-no. Recently we've received calls about workmen taking "breaks" in our NAOS which is also a no-no.

Our CC&R'S are located on the Bellasera website, **azbellasera.org**, and I encourage all new owners and tenants to please review them so that you are familiar with the rules here at Bellasera.

Recycle Tips: While out conducting recycling bin inspections, I find that most of our residents are placing the correct items into their bins. Excellent job everyone! However, I do find that some of our residents continue to bag their recyclables prior to placing them into their bin. It may seem like the right thing to do, but the truth is, it's not. What happens to bagged recyclables you may ask? It gets treated like garbage, literally! Personnel that work at the sorting facility hand sort through 20+ tons of material an hour. Because of this high volume of material and the limited amount of time they have to sort through it, bagged recyclables will get tossed into the garbage chute and then landfilled. So please, give your recyclables a fighting chance, deposit them loosely into your bin!

REMINDER: The only exception to this rule would be for shredded paper. Please contain all shredded paper in a transparent plastic bag so it can be identified and removed from the sorting line during the sorting process.

Help us spread the word. If you see a neighbor who is bagging their recycling, kindly remind them of this message. --**John Stumbaugh, City of Scottsdale Solid Waste Dept.**

Bellasera Community Events

Bellasera Book Club will meet on **Wednesday, March 25** in the clubhouse at noon to discuss *"Island of Sea Women"* by **Lisa See**. Any questions contact **Karen Moore, kk-moore40@yahoo.com**.

The Annual Meeting of the Bellasera Community Association will be on **Sunday, April 19**, at 2 p.m. An information packet has been mailed to all homeowners, including a Board candidate application and Questionnaire. The Board Application form must be received no later than **Wednesday, March 11**. Three of the five Board member positions are open for election this year.

"Mangia" Bellasera. I'd like to do a cooking demo for anyone who is interested in learning some new techniques. I'm looking to do this on a Thursday night in April. The demo will be on Italian Specialties. Whatever we cook that evening we will eat. If we have a small group we can meet in my home: if it's a larger group we can use the clubhouse. Text or call me if you think you would enjoy this: **rsugarrae@aol.com 516-987-2897**. Looking forward to cooking with you. --**Rae Culotta**

Bellasera Hikers: On **Tuesday, March 10**, at **8 a.m.** meet in the clubhouse parking lot for the hike described below. Hike leader is **Ellen Roach, 602-882-4415**. Looking forward to seeing all those interested. Please be sure to wear appropriate clothing and shoes, bring a snack, sunscreen, water and a hat. Even though it's early in the year, our AZ sun can be brutal.

Apache Wash Loop Trail, 5.6 Miles Round Trip, 640 ft gain, Loop Trail

Explore the rugged desert while exploring the Phoenix Sonoran Preserve. This hike begins at the Apache Wash Trail-head where you will find restrooms and a covered rest area. This loop is simple to follow and offers various shortcuts along with an access to an optional summit climb.

The loop begins from the northeast end of the parking lot near the restrooms. Turn left onto the Ocotillo trail, the trail's marked to allow for easy navigation. After 0.35 miles, stay left at the junction with the Apache Wash Trail. Continue for an additional 0.3 miles and then turn right onto the marked junction for the Ridgeback trail. The trail begins to gain elevation at this point where you will start to appreciate beautiful views of the northern valley. Upon reaching the top of Ridgeback overlook, turn right to take the Sidewinder trail as you head east. After another 0.7 miles, you'll reach another trail junction but continue on Sidewinder trail which will take you to the Apache Wash Junction. Backtracking to the Apache Wash Trail, turn right and hike the remaining 0.8 miles back to the trail-head.

Getting there: 1600 E. Sonoran Desert Drive, Phoenix. From Loop 101 in north Phoenix, take Cave Creek Road (Exit 28) and go 4.5 miles north to Sonoran Desert Drive. Turn left (west) and go 3.5 miles to the trail-head on the right.

Web Site Search: Bellasera's web site, **azbellasera.org**, has a wealth of information about our community. It's easy to search for whatever you're looking for by doing a Google (or equivalent) search as follows. To find everything on the site about the word "rain", enter the following: **azbellasera.org:rain** After the colon, enter any topic you wish to search for.



Rear View - A History of Bellasera

March 2010: Per the Design Guidelines, this is a reminder to submit all exterior changes to the Modification Committee prior to commencing the work. The Modifications Committee has been established to monitor, review and control the development of Bellasera. The Modifications Committee has exclusive jurisdiction over original construction, initial landscape installation, modifications, additions, and alterations made to lots, to structures and landscaping on lots. After a lot and its structures and landscaping have been completed according to approved plans, the Modifications Committee must review all proposed changes to the exterior of the structure and the lot. This includes additions, removal and placement of landscape items.

The City of Scottsdale Fire Department will be conducting a training session on how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) at the Bellasera clubhouse on Tuesday, March 16, at 6:00 p.m. Bellasera recently purchased the defibrillator to have available at the clubhouse in case of an emergency. CPR training will be included in the session.

There are many Bellasera residents who walk the community's streets, but probably not many with the regularity of Tom & Virginia Wheeler. You've probably all seen them, usually together, but not always, Virginia has always been walking as part of her exercise program. Tom was a runner until he injured his knee and had to stop. He focused more on his job, and as a result his weight increased significantly. After moving to Bellasera, Tom decided to lose the weight and finally get in shape. Virginia suggested walking as a way to start exercising, so Tom joined her and he continues doing so to this day. It has also been a wonderful way for the couple to meet many new neighbors and friends.

The Social Committee welcomes new committee members Myrna Levin, Denise Attard, Cindy Schubert, Carolyn Passero and Marcia Lefkowitz. We have the most wonderful, enthusiastic and dedicated committee. Thank you to our new members and to Jo Ann Seres, Cheryl Renaud, Darlene Locke, Marci Sheer and Vicki Snyder for your outstanding contributions in bringing entertaining and memorable events to our community.

March 2015: Bellasera Board President Richard Hoffman cuts the ribbon, officially opening the community's new hiking trail on the western slopes of Lone Mountain on Saturday, February 9. Richard paid tribute to several residents who worked many hours to make this newest addition to our community's trails happen. Some useless trivia: The summit of Lone Mountain is 2,664 feet Above Sea Level (ASL). The trailhead at the north end of Balao Drive is 2,290 feet ASL. That makes the hike from the trailhead to the top= 374 feet. More useless trivia: for comparison, (all in feet ASL) Brown's Mountain summit, a couple miles east of Bellasera is 3,253 feet. Further south, in the McDowell Mountains, McDowell Peak is 3,995; Thompson Peak 3,969; Drinkwater Peak 3,910.

For the last 15+ years Keven Peterson has been a welcoming presence at Bellasera's main gate. He's well-known to all residents, visitors and vendors for a consistently upbeat & friendly personality. His last day here was February 19. Securitas, the company that provides our gate security, has recognized his excellent work habits by awarding him several performance awards over the years. Keven moves on to a new management opportunity with a local machine shop firm. We all wish him nothing but the best.

The Board has approved the replacement of all four existing treadmills with new updated treadmills from LifeFitness. It will take about four-six weeks for the new treadmills to be delivered and installed. Funds for the cost of the new treadmills were previously set aside in our replacement reserve accounts. The Board will also be looking at replacing the three existing exercise bikes in the work-out area with new updated models. We expect to make a decision and an announcement after the next regular Board meeting.

Bellasera Security

There have been concerns expressed, notably on our Facebook page, about individuals following residents through the back gate. This has been a subject of discussion for some time. After a security review which included benchmarking with surrounding communities, cameras and signage were added at the back gate. Consideration was given to adding ‘barrier gates’ which close rapidly and prevent tailgating. These gates are expensive to install and subject to excessive continuing maintenance as the arms are frequently broken off. They were not viewed as an effective mitigation measure.

It is certainly not desirable for unauthorized entry through a gate intended for “residents only”. However the actual threat posed is judged to be minimal. Most of the “intrusions” are vendors mistakenly directed to the back gate or authorized service providers looking for easier access. As a result of community input, Google has corrected their mapping instructions. Hopefully this will help address those directed to the back gate as a result of a “google map search.”

In a number of instances, residents have been observed facilitating their service providers entry through the back gate. This is an ongoing issue which is being addressed on a case by case basis.

Bellasera is a safe place to reside. The only reported residential burglary in the last two or three years was most likely perpetrated by a vendor. There have been no robberies and reported incidences of petty theft are very rare. Solicitations have been reported but those have proven to be vendors cleared to be in the community seeking additional clients. The Board security advisor reviews incident reports provided by our security providers, responds to resident concerns and monitors surrounding communities looking for threat data that might be applicable to Bellasera. The Scottsdale Police Department newsletter is reviewed for information that reflects current crime data.

The Board is not comfortable with residents confronting those individuals perceived to have violated back gate entry. Instead, it is suggested that, if you observe a violation note the date and time of entry and if possible obtain a vehicle license number. The event is captured on the back gate camera. If you are comfortable doing so, see where the vehicle goes. Report the information to the community manager and follow-up action will occur. We have dealt with vendors who don’t observe our procedures. Please be reminded that residents are ultimately responsible for ensuring that their vendors comply with community policies and procedures.

Meeting Notices

Board of Directors will meet on **Wednesday, March 25** at **1 p.m.**

Budget & Finance Committee will meet on **Tuesday, March 24** at **1 p.m.**

Building & Grounds Committee will meet on **Tuesday, March 10** at **10 a.m.**

Communications Committee will meet on **Wednesday, March 18** at **8:30 a.m.**

Modifications Committee will meet on **Tuesday, March 10** at **noon**. Applications must be received in the Community Manager's office no later than **Thursday, March 5** at **12 noon**.

February Weather in Bellasera

(February 1 - February 29)

Highest Temperature: **77**

Lowest temperature: **26**

Rainfall: **2.31** inch

Rainfall this year: **2.48** inch

Bellasera weather 24/7/365: weather.azbellasera.org

Bellasera Weather at a Touch: A free app for your iPhone, iPad only. Provides instant Bellasera weather information at a touch. This app is only available in the Apple App Store. In the App Store, search for "PWS Monitor" (no quotation marks). Install the free app.

Touch the gear icon at the lower left of your display.

The Settings screen will appear. Touch "Enter A Known Station ID"

Enter "KAZSCOTT79"

Touch OK.

That's it. More information, if required, is available by e-mail, editor@azbellasera.org

Newsletter Copy Deadline

If you have classified ads, meeting dates, or articles for publication, please e-mail to editor@azbellasera.org, or turn them in to the Association office no later than the **20th** of the month. The monthly newsletter is produced by the Communications Committee. The editor is **Keith Christian, 480-382-9310**.

Neither the Bellasera Community Association nor its Board of Directors provides any warranty, express or implied, as to the accuracy, timeliness, completeness, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose, of any information contained in this newsletter in any form or manner whatsoever.

Photographs used in this newsletter are provided by residents of Bellasera or obtained from social media. Name of the photographer is included if available. If you have photographs that you would like to see used in this publication, please forward them to editor@azbellasera.org

City of Scottsdale Brush & Bulk Collection

The City of Scottsdale will pick up brush and bulk items in the Bellasera community during the week of **Monday, March 23**, with the next pickup the week of **Monday, April 20**. Brush and bulk items to be picked up should be at curbside by 5 a.m. at the start of the week. It will be removed during the week. **Remember, here in Bellasera, items cannot be put out prior to Friday of the previous week.** For more information, contact Solid Waste Management, **480-312-5600**.

MARCH 2020

Bellasera Community Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	3 Poker - 7 pm	4 Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball-2 pm	5 Yoga - 8:00 am	6 Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	7 Pickelball-10 am
8	9 Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	10 Hike - 8 am Building & Grounds - 10 am Modifications - noon Poker - 7 pm	11 Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball-2 pm	12 Yoga - 8:00 am	13 Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	14 Pickelball-10 am
15	16 Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	17 Poker - 7 pm 	18 Communica-tions - 8:30 am Water Aerobics - 10 am Pickelball-2 pm	19 Yoga - 8:00 am	20 Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm	21 Pickelball-10 am <u>Special Event at Clubhouse 7 am to 10 pm</u>
22 Brush & Bulk Pick-up	23 Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	24 Budget & Finance - 1 pm Poker - 7 pm	25 Board Meeting - 1 pm Water Aerobics - 10 am Book Club - Noon Pickelball-2 pm	26 Yoga - 8:00 am	27 Water Aerobics - 10 am Bridge - 1 pm Wine Party - 5-7 pm	28 Pickelball-10 am
29	30 Yoga - 8:45 am Water Aerobics - 10 am	31 Poker - 7 pm				

B e l l a s e r a C l a s s i f i e d s

Hoover Floormate...save your knees, back with this tool. Vacuums the dirt, lays down the floor cleaning solution, scrubs with 6 brushes, and vacuums the floor clean. Good condition, \$100. Dyson "Animal" Ball Vacuum. Excellent condition, powerful, efficient, with tools. \$160. **SgreenP@MSN.com**.

I love living in Bellasera! Did you know that real estate inventory levels in our community are very low? I have buyers who want homes in Bellasera. Have you been thinking about making a move? Now is a great time to sell. Contact me today for a market analysis: **Audrey Fischer, Realtor, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 480-740-4223 or audrey.fischer@azmoves.com**.

Massage is a potent medicine. There is no question that proper massage can relax tense muscles, and decrease pain. Relaxing therapeutic massage is available in the privacy of your home or at the clubhouse Massage Room. For an appointment or further information contact Bellasera resident **Jim Birkholz**, licensed Massage Therapist at **480-244-9567**. Gift Certificates available.

All about Cleaning *** Professional Window Cleaning. Inside-Outside-Tracks. Power Wash (After Monsoon season Must). Request an over the phone estimate or on-site free estimate. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237, www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaning Arizona.com**.

Cabin available for rent in Munds Park. enjoy fall foliage or plan ahead for snow adventures. 3 bedrooms, 2 sleeper sofas/2 baths; gas fireplace; fabulous deck; full kitchen; washer/dryer. \$300 weekend/\$500 for 3 night Holiday weekend. Cleaning fee negotiable. Call Bellasera resident **Marti Bening at 480-488-4297** for details.

Bellasera Residents: The Kiwanis Club of Carefree can pick up your unwanted furniture, clothing and household goods. All items will be sold in our Marketplace resale store in Cave Creek. Proceeds go to support kids in our local school district. Contributions may be tax deductible and a receipt will be provided. Call **480-488-8400** for information and to schedule an appointment. Thanks for your support.

All About Cleaning ***Regularly scheduled Home cleaning ***One Time Cleaning ***Move In/Out cleaning ***After Remodeling Cleaning. We have excellent references from long-time Bellasera Resident customers and surrounding areas. Call **Maria at 480-206-5237** (owner-operator, Bellasera resident for over 10 years). Licensed-Bonded-Insured. **www.AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**, e-mail: **Info@AllAboutCleaningArizona.com**.

Desert Dwellers Home Watching, LLC, a home watching service exclusively for Bellasera residents. Desert Dwellers is owned and operated by year-round Bellasera residents **Jennifer Brummet** and **Ross Strozewski**. We are dedicated to ensuring our neighbors have access to reliable and trustworthy home monitoring while away from their desert dwelling. We are licensed and insured and provide a variety of weekly, bi-monthly or monthly visits. We provide visual inspections of the interior and exterior of the home including, but not limited to, check of windows and doors for any potential problems, visual inspection of landscaping, run water in all sinks, bathtubs and showers (to keep traps from drying out and prevent sewer gases from entering your home), start and run vehicles, and post storm surveying. All visits include a comprehensive home watching report. For a complete list of services and to schedule a complimentary assessment contact us at **480-634-1452** or e-mail us at **ddhomewatch@gmail.com**.

*Classified Ads are only accepted from Bellasera homeowners. Real estate for sale, non-resident business or commercial ads are not accepted. Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad. Your ad will run for 3 months, and may be extended upon request. E-mail your ad to: **editor@azbellasera.org***

Ready for Pool Season? **WE ARE!**

Bring your favorite pool
party beverage and
appetizer to the
March Wine Party!



When: Friday, March 27th
Where: BellaSera Clubhouse
Time: 5-7pm

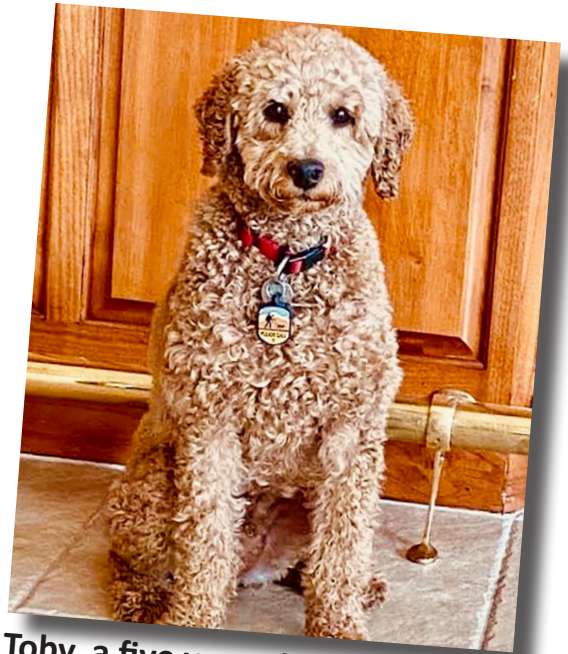
Hosted By: Kara McVey & April Salomon
RSVP: kmcvey33@mac.com or Sign Up in Clubhouse



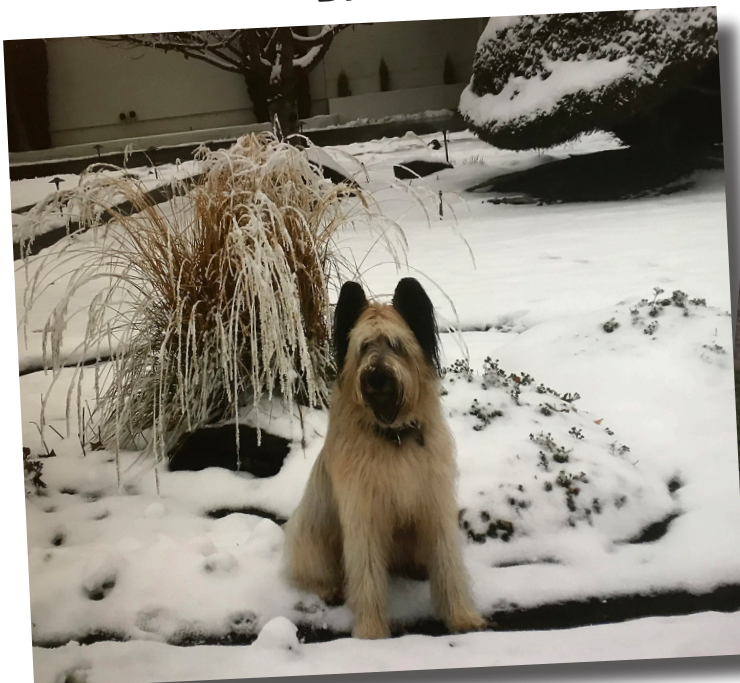
IT'S A DOG'S WORLD!



**Maggie Goodwin. Lives with
Cindy & Tom Goodwin on Pasaro
Drive**



**Toby, a five year old Labradoodle.
He loves treats, belly rubs and the
Dog Park. Shares space with John
and Mary Moore.**



Abelia. Larry & Patty Brader



**This is Jake's first time as a
Desert Dog, he loves going to
the Park! Jeri Laud**

IT'S A DOG'S WORLD!



**Snickers, a 10-year-old Beagle,
belonging to Bart & Linda Sotnick**



**Fred and Walter share space with
Joel & Peggy Holmes**

*A dog is the only thing on
earth that loves you more than he
loves himself.*



Share your canine companion with our community next month.
Send your image and caption to editor@azbellasera.org



March In the Garden

by Joe McDade

Get Ready For Spring!

For the previous two years, February had tightened its winter grip in dramatic fashion. Temperatures were well below average, a legitimate freeze occurred and, last year, Bellasera was covered in snow for a few days! This February was much better as we had:

- *More than adequate rainfall.*
- *Seasonal temperatures, with some chilly days, but an overall pleasant month.*
- *No damaging frost (we did experience minimal frost one night).*

Your Garden Has Come Alive!

Take a look at any of your landscape plants and you'll see:

Minimal Frost Damage- Our landscape plants have experienced very little frost damage as evidenced by the flowering perennials such as bougainvillea, penstemon and honeysuckle which continue to sparkle.

New Growth- Your garden has come alive. Take a look at any of your landscape plants and you'll see plenty of new growth especially those with a southern exposure.

Mesquite Trees- We have a variety of mesquite here in Bellasera and they are quickly losing their leaves at various rates depending on species and exposure. You will find new leaf growth already on some, especially velvet mesquite.

Citrus- They will be loaded with buds and new leaf sprouts.

Plan Before Planting

March is normally a terrific month for adding most plant types to our low-desert landscapes as warming soil temperatures will enhance seed germination and root development before the arrival of summer's intense heat. Our winter rains have left our soil very moist and full of nutrients. So, whether you need to simply **add or replace a tree or shrub or renovate an area** of your landscape, it is the ideal time to tackle these projects.

Local nurseries should be well stocked with fresh offerings for the spring planting season to satisfy your needs. Also, the **Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix has a Bi-Annual Plant Sale (March 21-22)** featuring the largest variety of arid-adapted plants available in one location with volunteers and staff available to offer advice, answer questions and assist in selections. Give it a try. Choose plants based on their mature height and width, matching their size to the space available in your landscape. This advance planning eliminates unnecessary pruning.

What To Plant.....Some Suggestions

Select plants with varied bloom seasons to provide nectar and seed sources for birds and other pollinators throughout the year. Limited space? Choose a few plants that will bloom almost year-round (if no freeze), such as: **Baja Red Fairy Duster, Mexican Honeysuckle** and **Orange Bells**.

Annual Flowers

Our weather has certainly cooperated in providing ideal conditions for our winter-growing annuals. However, by the end of the month, they will begin to decline at which time they should be removed and replaced with warm season annuals. Some suggestions:

- **Celosia** • **Gaillardia** • **Globe Amaranth** • **Portulaca**
- **Lisianthus** • **Madagascar Periwinkle** • **Marigold**

If you want to attract butterflies, consider:

- **Bee Balm** • **Cosmos** • **Mexican Sunflower** • **Sage**

- **Sunflower**
- **Verbena**
- **Yarrow**
- **Zinnia**

Fruit Trees

They grow well in the valley and our community is no exception. If you have none and want to give it a try, this is an ideal time as a wide variety is available in our local nurseries. You should be able to choose from:

- **Grapefruits**
- **Lemons/Limes**
- **Sweet oranges such as Mars, Trovita or Valencia.**
- **Pummelo(sweet mild grapefruit) hybrids such as Melogold or Oroblanco**

Dwarf varieties grow well here and take up less room in your yard while producing normal size fruit.

Remember, in Bellasera, only dwarf varieties are allowed and can only be planted in your backyard.

Cactus

You can plant all types of cacti and succulents this month. In addition to purchasing them from a nursery, they can be easily propagated from existing plants via cuttings or offshoots. Simply allow the cactus cuts to become dry and callous or hardened before planting. This usually takes two to three weeks. The exceptions to this are **agave, yucca** and **aloe** cuttings which should be planted immediately.

Herbs

How about an herb garden to perk up your cooking? Try favorites such as:

- Basil
- Chives
- Marjoram
- Mint
- Oregano
- Parsley
- Sage

Most of these can be purchased in the local grocery stores in small pots (for about \$6.00) and can be easily transplanted in the ground or a larger pot.

Vegetables (I covered these in detail last month)

Pruning

While March is traditionally an excellent month for planting, consider pruning and general upkeep before planting. In general, pruning should be done to maintain plant health (remove dead, damaged or diseased portions, cross branching, etc.), to highlight the “natural” shape of the plant, to train a young plant, and to eliminate hazards. Excessive or heavy pruning causes significant stress to trees and shrubs. The best practices are to prune the least amount necessary and prune for legitimate reasons. How much to prune depends on the size, species, age, as well as your intentions. A few good principles to remember--a tree or shrub can recover from several small pruning wounds faster than from a single large wound and never remove more than 25% of the canopy in a year. ***Some specific plants that should be considered for pruning:***

Summer and fall flowering shrubs including:

- Texas Sages
- Yellow Bells
- Lantana
- Turpentine Bush
- Mexican-honeysuckle
- Sky Flower
- Black Dalea

Tip: Most shrubs tolerate heavy spring pruning to reduce their size and encourage a flush of healthy, lush growth.

Warm-season herbaceous perennials, groundcovers and vines including:

- Chocolate Flower
- Plumbago
- Mexican Hat
- Gaura
- Mealy-cup Sage
- Passion Vines
- Rock Verbena
- Trailing Lantana
- Dyssodia
- Queen’s Wreath
- Yellow Orchid-vine

Miscellaneous Pruning Suggestions:

- Continue to deadhead annuals and herbaceous perennials to encourage continued flowering including Desert Marigold, Red Sage, Angelita-Daisy and Gaillardia.
- Wait to prune your prickly-pears and chollas until after flowering. Spent stalks of aloes, agaves and other succulents can be removed at this time.
- Citrus- Do not prune citrus except to remove dead or damaged wood.

Remember: Prune by cutting back to emerging growth or to the basal rosette (group of leaves arranged from a central point).

Watering

Up until recently, cool temperatures and adequate rainfall have obviated the need for any watering. However, as our temperature rises and rainfall declines, it’s time to perform some annual maintenance on your drip system. Specifically:

- Test the timer to see if it is working properly.
- Check for leaks and clogged emitters and flush out the poly lines.
- Replace back-up batteries if necessary.

How often to water?

Background-Although desert plants have developed mechanisms for conserving and storing water, none have given up the need for water entirely. There are many variables that determine how much and how often plants need supplemental water such as:

- **Soil:** Soils with high clay content hold moisture well, too well for some desert plants, and could be amended with a small amount of organic matter and coarse sand. Rocky soils hold little moisture so plants growing in them require more frequent watering.
- **Temperature:** Most desert plants grow when it is warm. Active growth coupled with high evaporation rates means that more water is needed in warmer months.
- **Age and size:** All plants, even desert plants, need more water when they are young and when they have been recently transplanted

General Guidelines- Assumptions are mature plants and temperatures stay below 100 degrees:

- Every 3 to 4 weeks, at least 2 hours each watering.
- About every 5th watering, run system a few hours longer to leach out salts that have accumulated around plant.

Notes:

- All plants, even desert plants, need more water when they are young and when they have been recently transplanted.
- Adjust schedule to rainfall received.
- Mature trees need no watering during this time of year

Miscellaneous

Fertilization- Now is the time to fertilize your warm-season cacti, succulents, herbaceous and woody perennials, and annuals in containers. Periodic fertilization may be needed for plants in containers as nutrients will have diminished in the soil over time. Depending on the type of fertilizer used, follow directions on the label.

Continue to fertilize your vegetable and herb garden as needed. March is also a good time to apply a layer of composted mulch to your vegetable and herb beds.

Roses- Continue feeding roses every six weeks to prepare them for spring's peak bloom. Spread fresh mulch to maintain consistent soil moisture, making sure mulch does not touch their stems.

Rosemary- They are in a growth spurt and starting to bloom. Do not prune until they are finished blooming.

March is Wildflower Month

I realize that, to many, March does not conjure up thoughts of wildflowers. After all, we have **March Madness** (thank God after a slow month of sports), **Spring Training** (after getting off to a rocky start with our weather on opening day) along with **St. Patrick's Day** and **The Ides of March**. And, of course, we can't forget Arbor Day!

Other March Events

Worm Moon -Any full moon is dubbed a "supermoon" when it occurs at the same time the moon is within 90 percent of its perigee, the point in its orbit at which it is closest to the Earth, making it appear up to 14% larger and 30 % brighter than usual. If you missed the one in February, you'll get another opportunity this month, March 9. Native Americans called this last full moon of winter the "**Worm Moon**" after the worm trails that would appear in the newly thawed ground.

* * *

(If you have a gardening question, please contact the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service at 602- 827-8200)



Bellasera Community Association

**7350 E Ponte Bella Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85266-2701**

Office: **480-488-0400**

Security/Front Gate: **480-488-3663**

M-F: 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.: Sat: 6:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.: Sun: 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Web Site: **azbellasera.org**

Weather: **weather.azbellasera.org**

Community Directory: **directory.azbellasera.org**

Community Manager: **Annette McCarthy** (manager@azbellasera.org)
Resident Services Coordinator: **Trudy Vinger** (manager@azbellasera.org)

-Office Hours-

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Questions regarding your account?

Contact AAM, LLC: **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-354-0257**

AAM, LLC (after hours, emergency): **602-957-9191** or toll free, **866-553-8290**

Bellasera Community Volunteers

*Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless
Interested in volunteering? Go to azbellasera.org, "BCA Members" page*

Board of Directors

board@azbellasera.org

President - Dennis Carson

Vice President - Joe Carlon

Secretary - Dennis Soeffner

Treasurer - David Reid

Director - Carl Leroux

Committees

Budget & Finance - (bandf@azbellasera.org) Andrey Fischer, Mary Moore-Chair, Chuck Roach, Carlton Rooks, Charles Schroeder, Paul Snyder

Buildings & Grounds - (bandg@azbellasera.org) Bob Gromko, John Maddox, John Nielsen, Tom Saari-chair, Dennis Soeffner, Bruce Van Cleave, Jill Wyllie

Communications - (comm@azbellasera.org) Dennis Carson, Keith Christian-Chair, Joe McDade, Carol Padwe, Paul Rippens

Modifications - (mod@azbellasera.org) Stanley Green, David Hathaway, Craig Johnson, David Reid-Chair

Security Advisory - (sec@azbellasera.org) Joe Carlon

Wildfire Safety Advisor - Paul Rippens