

Transcription of Episode 360: Desert Gardeners Club

SPEAKERS

Kathy Schreiber, Bob Firing, Terry Bolen

Note: This transcription was computer-generated and may contain typographical errors.

Bob Firing 00:09

Good afternoon, Shadow Hills. Well, I am back with the Desert Gardeners Club today. To tell you all about it, the president of the club is my guest today and her name is Terry Bolen, Terry, welcome to the podcast.

Terry Bolen 00:23

Thank you.

Bob Firing 00:24

So, tell us about the Desert Gardeners Club.

Terry Bolen 00:27

All right, so we are a garden club here in the desert, we meet monthly. I think the reason why most people that I've met have joined the club is because they're from different areas not used to gardening in the desert. So, I'm from Canada, my vice president is from New York, we have people come over and we move here and we have no idea how to look after these plants that grow in our yard. So, we meet, and we have Master Gardeners from the area teaching us how to make our yards more beautiful. We do field trips on a monthly basis. We've been to date farms, organic vegetable farms, we try to see a lot of the different local gardeners and farmers and just get out and enjoy the area that we live in.

Bob Firing 01:17

How many members do we have?

Terry Bolen 01:18

We have about 120 Members right now.

Bob Firing 01:20

Okay, plenty of room for more.

Terry Bolen 01:22

We are definitely welcoming new members. We've been growing since the beginning of the club. And, yes, we always welcome.

Bob Firing 01:30

Do you meet 12 months of the year or only in the winter.

Terry Bolen 01:33

We don't. We're just in the winter. So, from November to April, and then we're quieter.

Bob Firing 01:38

Okay. And I understand you've got a special event coming up?

Terry Bolen 01:42

We do. We had a great idea brought forward at the end of last year by the Vice President Kathy Schreiber. And I'll let her tell you about this amazing new event we're featuring this year.

Bob Firing 01:57

Okay, Kathy, the stage is yours. Tell us about it.

Kathy Schreiber 02:01

Well, we have a very prolific grapefruit tree, and no matter how many I would give away and how many we would eat. We still had many, many last year at the end of April. So, I called the local food bank, ask them if they would be willing to take our extra and they were thrilled to get it. So as we met as a garden club, thinking about what could we do next year, I said, why don't we all try to do some kind of a roundup of citrus, all the people's excess citrus. And our club really liked that. And so, we started the wheels moving to put this event together.

Bob Firing 02:39

Okay. And so, when is it going to be?

Kathy Schreiber 02:43

It's going to be Monday, March the 6.

Bob Firing 02:47

Okay, and what should people do who want to participate?

Kathy Schreiber 02:51

Well, Terry, would you like to talk about Sure.

Bob Firing 02:53

Great. Great. Okay, so March 6 is the date and show up and have a good time.

Terry Bolen 02:53

It is going to be from 10am to 2pm. On March 6, as Kathy said, what we're asking residents to do is to bring any excess fruit that they have from their yards, so citrus, so oranges, limes, grapefruits, lemons, we'll take it all, and they would bring it to the Montecito parking lot. We're going to have a type of a drive thru event, you'll see a large portable tent set up with a big orange banner with citrus fruits on it. And there'll be desert gardener members there that will help people to unload the fruit from their cars so they can bring it any way they like whether it's bags, boxes, whatever they want, and then we will

unload it. We will be cleaning it and sorting it and putting it into bags, so that when we donate it, each family that would hopefully get a couple of grapefruits, maybe an orange, a lemon, a lime, all done up in a bag for them.

Kathy Schreiber 03:01

It is. I wanted to tell you a little bit about where we're donating it. We are we're working with St. Margaret's church in Palm Desert. They have a neighbor for neighbor program. And they are they serve over 500 families every week giving them food that they are one of the Find Food Banks distribution sites. And they've been doing this program for I think since the '90s. That's just a beehive of activity over there. So, they were thrilled that we were going to bring them fresh citrus. So, if people leave their citrus on their trees, pick it Sunday, pick it Monday, we're going to deliver it and they will get it into families hands on Tuesday.

Bob Firing 04:42

Great. Great. Okay, well thank you for coming by and telling us about it. And so, I interviewed the Desert Gardener years ago when it was a much different configuration and for the other club presidents who are out there. There has been a tremendous turnover in the community. And I know that you talk about your club in The View magazine every month, but if you'd like to come in and promote what you're doing, I think that the enthusiasm that you bring to your club doesn't go unnoticed by the new residents. And so with that, thank you, Terry and Kathy, and we'll see you on March 6. And until then, bye-bye.