



Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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Featured Article

"Thar She Blows (How I spent My Holiday Weekend)"
by
Bill Stillman, Master Gardener Emeritus

Ok, we had a little storm blow through the Colorado River communities and now what? Back what seems like a very long time ago (September 5) and without much warning, a "weather event" took place up and down the Colorado River. Some reports say the winds reached 85 miles per hour with gusts. Power poles were snapped off like toothpicks and uprooted, roof shingles flew about the neighborhood, awnings ripped off of mobile homes, trees toppled, walls blew down, you get the picture. **(Photo 1; local power pole)**



Power at our residence went out about 6pm that Sunday evening. Outside, the wind was blowing a hurricane (literally). We had already placed our trash containers at the curb ready for the morning pick up. Normally, our cans are full to the brim. I watched in amazement as the containers blew sideways down the street and went into recovery mode. I had a difficult time just walking down to the containers, let alone bringing the containers up the driveway to the front porch. I watched our 45-year old olive tree (single trunk) bend in the wind. SNAP-- I hear a large branch from the olive tree crack in the wind.

Our electrical service provider is MEC (Mohave Electric Corporation). According to some news articles, some 38,000 residents and businesses were without power for more than 24 hours. Our residence was without power for 2-1/2 days. Ever watch your ice maker run water onto the floor? We did. The first night without electricity was not so bad; the house did not heat up much at all. We had battery operated fans and portable lanterns just for this occasion. We also had a container full of new batteries, just in case. My battery back up for the entertainment system (TIVOS) failed, as did my back up for my PC and modem. I guess I will be purchasing new back up equipment soon. Telephone (both cell and landline) communication failed along with the power.

Now for the article. Trees and more trees along the Colorado River valley were damaged during this storm. My desert landscape and fruit trees did not go unscathed. My green house doors were ripped off and materials in it blew away. I lost shrubs and two large trees. Of the two large trees, my 15 year old Palo Verde was split in half and the Sweet



Acacia was uprooted and placed on its side. Roots the size of my hand were pulled out of the ground some 20 feet away. The Palo Verde was a multi trunk tree with two leaders. I know, not a good thing most of the time having codominant stems. The tree failed on the left side leader when the Acacia toppled over onto the Palo Verde Branches. The earth was heaved at least one foot, tipping major branches down onto the pathway.



Now the fun begins! I, along with hundreds, maybe thousands, of others need a tree service. This damage was too much for my small chain saw and chipper. A bucket truck most likely is required and, for the Acacia, a tractor would be needed to remove the trunk and root system. I started calling licensed contractors. At the RV park at Ramar, I saw two guys working on their trees and got them to come over to look at my trees and give me an estimate. Gulp - wow -\$2,500. After discussing the strategy, I asked about a chipper and equipment to remove the Acacia trunk and roots. No on both accounts. I then asked the big question, “are you insured?” “No” on this question as well. “I will get back to you” I said (like the other tree trimmers I’d called had said to me. It is a phrase they totally understand). I had already contacted a tree trimming service I had used in the past. They were insured and had the skills and knowledge needed. We were able to meet on Monday (Labor Day) and decided to keep the right side of the Palo Verde with a crown reduction and lower branch removal. I still wasn’t sure, however.

These two trees were planted in 2007 as part of a desert landscape project. They would shade other landscape plants, a row of grapes and several rows of pomegranates. Additionally, they would help protect some citrus planted in 2006 which were



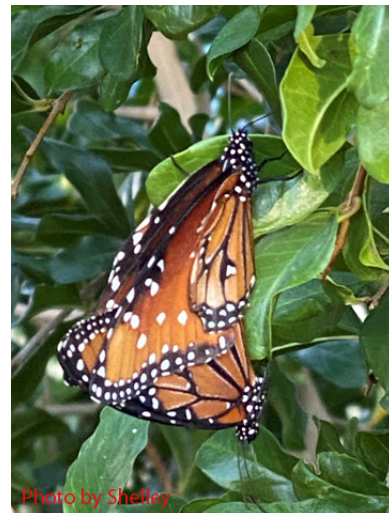
getting beat up by wind and afternoon sun. The Sweet Acacia has to be removed. Whether to keep the remaining healthy half of the Palo Verde was the question. Bob Morris was in town to speak at our September library event ten days later. He looked at the trees and agreed with me that the right side of the Palo Verde, which still provides shade and visual appeal, would probably survive. It will remain, and my fingers are crossed.

When the Acacia fell, it took out my butterfly garden, bear grass, and other plant materials under its path. Irrigation piping had been ripped out of the soil, and the Acacia tree irrigation had to be dug up and capped. This tree, as others, is each on its own valve; so I disconnected the wiring from the landscape timer. **(See Photo 5)**



Moral of the story: We can do everything right, but Mother Nature may have other ideas!

William Stillman
Master Gardener, Emeritus



Savannah's Corner

I would like to start off with a huge thank you and great job to all those who volunteered their time at the county fair. The Master Gardener booth looked amazing. Several items were loaned or donated to help decorate the booth. I especially liked the old wheelbarrow and tire filled with plants, the insect displays, and the Route 66 photographs. We gave away tons of seed packets! So many so, we are now looking for donations to replenish our seed bank.

We have had a decent monsoon season for our area, receiving almost regular rainfall for a few weeks in August-September. While temperatures remained high in the 90s, the abundant cloud coverage seemed to give us a little relief from the sun's scorching heat. Hopefully, the rain we received will prove to be of benefit to our gardens as we begin fall planting soon. As people start to get back to their gardens, I anticipate our hotline and Home & Garden Days will be busy; but I have full faith that our amazing Master Gardeners will be ready for the challenge! Master Gardeners

are equipped to provide science based horticultural advice to the public, in part because they receive their initial training through a 13-week training course. The next 13-week Master Gardener Training Class is scheduled to begin in January 2023 and will be held in Kingman. We will send out registration information at the end of the year.

With the fall planting season nearing, I want to remind everyone to visit our free seed library, located at the Mohave County Cooperative Extension office in Kingman. We have packets of vegetable, herb, and flower seeds, along with a wide variety of gardening books available at no cost to both Master Gardeners and the general public. Stop in during normal business hours, Monday – Friday from 9 am – 4 pm, and see what you can find.

We are planning to have our Volunteer Recognition Luncheon in November. A date and location have yet to be determined, but an announcement will be sent out with those details soon. I look forward to a great fall season of learning and growing.

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Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Dennis Lesowsky – Coordinator

Debbie Miller – Co-Coordinator

Bill Stillman - Scribe

Here it is, the fall equinox. Temperatures are on the way down, and fall gardening is on the daily menu. There is action again as the Bullhead Master Gardeners resume meetings after taking our usual summer break. Home visits and client calls were answered all summer long. Most had to do with improper planting and over or under watering. The home building industry has created a watering crisis by limiting most new home builds to only provide one watering source to cover all plantings. Some provide two, one for the front of house and one for the rear of house, but still one cycle for all. This leaves trees, shrubs, and flower beds - all with differing needs - on one circuit. My question is, how do we change this practice?

The county fair has just ended, and BHC Master Gardeners sent volunteers on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday to help man the Master Gardener booth. Many people with gardening questions stopped by for some advice or free seed packs. The booth was nicely appointed with two walls of handouts and a great display of local insects and beetles. It drew the attention of a lot of people, because everyone wants to know what that huge bug they saw on their property really was. I think the booth was a great statement as to what the Master Gardeners really are all about. There were lots of people signing up for the mailing list and the next Master Gardener classes in January 2023. Compliments to the Kingman Master Gardeners for their work in designing and setting up the display booth.



Photo #3



Photo #2

We are now gearing up to participate in the Mohave Electric Corporation Operation Cool Shade with a tree planting seminar in October and the actual tree hand out in November. If anyone from Kingman or Lake Havasu wants to participate, please let me know at dlesowsky@msn.com. The date is November 12, 2022 at 6am or 9am for a three-hour shift.



Library Presentation:

As part of our commitment to educate the community in the horticulture fields, our Bullhead Master Gardeners hold about nine horticulture topics at the County Library. The September topic was “All About Vegetables.” The presenter on this topic was Bob Morris, Horticulture Expert and Professor Emeritus of the University of Nevada. Bob started out as his usual humorous self discussing irrigation, one of the most important topics to growing vegetables in the desert. As the class progressed, he moved the discussion from irrigation to selection of plant materials and fertilizers. The class was scheduled for two hours but ran longer than planned as a result of answering questions from the audience.

Home Garden days:



This was our 1st home garden day since our summer hiatus. We had an attendance of about twenty people, which was considered good since the snow birds had not yet returned from their summer retreat. There were multiple questions on irrigation, plant life and death, and wind damage that many of the people attending suffered.



Bullhead City Community Garden Progress

by

Debbie Miller, Master Gardener Emeritus

The wheels of government move slowly, but progress is being made on the creation of a community garden in Bullhead City. Although the city is not going to operate the garden, it is an important partner in providing the land; and personnel from the City Manager's office are guiding the committee through the process of getting it from an idea to reality.

The committee has met twice a month since last spring. There are many of our local Master Gardeners serving on this organizational body. One of our Associates, Chelsi Kelly, is currently serving as Chairman. Others include Associates Andrea Mooney, Bea Munoz, Joan Meis-Wilson and Marla Wynn, along with veterans Bill Stillman, Leroy Jackson, Naomi Jack, and Debbie Miller. Some of our other Associates and veterans have sat in on a meeting or two or are serving on the Rules subcommittee or the upcoming Bylaws committee. In addition, various community members, including former City Council member Waheed Zehri (who was the primary force in getting the idea off the ground) are also active in the project. It is an impressive group of local movers and shakers!

One of our next steps is forming the Board of Directors to manage the garden, and we are seeking volunteers from across the community to serve on this group.

We received our IRS and Arizona 501(c)(3) status in record time with the help of a local CPA and are currently working on final designs for the garden itself and our logo. We are also currently discussing our social media presence, with the help

of Kingman Dig-It Garden volunteer Ron Tanner, and are anxiously awaiting to begin publicizing the garden with the help of our local newspaper.

Our current plan is to have over 200 garden beds on the nearly 2-acre site near City Hall. Bill Stillman created a timeline on the dozens of steps that need to be completed before the first 50 or so beds can be constructed. An actual survey, followed by grading, followed by fencing and planning and installing irrigation must be completed before the first above-ground planting bed can be constructed!

Fund-raising will also be a next step, since this is a very ambitious project and will be far more expensive than first estimated. Inflation the past few months has affected not only our gasoline and food prices, but also concrete block, piping and every aspect of building!

We are eagerly awaiting the time when we can stop having planning meetings and actually get out to the site and start laying things out! The Master Gardeners will be serving in an advisory capacity. We are looking forward to giving classes at the garden and helping a broad segment of the community learn about how many things can be grown in our challenging desert climate.



Kingman Master Gardeners

Nancy Sandy – Coordinator

Kingman Master Gardeners Are Keeping Busy!

The Kingman Master Gardeners' 2022-2023 year is off to a roaring start! We were happy to welcome five new associates at the end of the Horticulture Class this spring. Each one of them brings their own special talents and interests that will breathe new life into our programs. We are delighted to have them on board.

July's "Ask a Master Gardener" workshop was very well attended by the public with many Master Gardeners on hand to answer questions on a variety of topics. August took us to Dig-It Community Garden on the 6th to talk about how and what fruits and vegetables to enter in the County Fair. On the 20th, we hosted a workshop on soils at the Kingman Library. People were encouraged to bring in jars of soil filled with water to see the basic characteristics of their garden soil. It was an extremely popular event and we had a full house for it.

September has been all about preparing for and attending the Mohave County Fair. This year's theme was "Let the Good Times Roll," and our Master Gardener booth was decorated accordingly. The Bullhead City Master Gardeners joined us in talking to over 1300 people who stopped by with



questions, to pick up information handouts, or to just say "hi." Mohave County 4-H loaned us a set of insect collections that were done ten years or more ago. They turned out to be the high point of our booth and a big draw with the kids!

Moving into October, we are busy getting ready for our 1st annual Tomato Quest Festival. There will be contests for best cultivar, best tasting tomato, and the people's choice award. Many local service and non-profit groups will be setting up information booths and there will be games for kids all day. The Dig-It Community Garden will host an open house that day to add to the fun!

Our October workshop will be about fall garden clean-up and vegetables that can be grown in the winter here in Kingman on October 15th. Then, we will have a workshop on Poisonous Plants on November 5th. We are all looking forward to a productive and fun year as Kingman Master Gardeners.

Nancy Lea Sandy, Kingman Area Master Gardener Coordinator



Cerbat Elementary



Hualapai Elementary



Manzanita Elementary



Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Sharon Gomez, Coordinator

The Summer of 2022 started off with a BIG BANG! June's Home Garden Day was super busy with residents lined up to have their gardening questions or problems answered. We've had a few new residents come in with no idea how to tackle low desert gardening, and more and more residents are attempting to veggie garden and need LOTS of help. We've seen some die off of various plants, palms, mesquites, agaves that have finally succumbed to the heat from the summers of 2020 and 2021. But, oh WOW! Have you been loving the cooler weather that came in during August? Plus, the wonderful monsoon rains that finally gave us some more relief! We continue to stress water conservation to all residents and the need to adjust irrigation schedules when we do receive the monsoon rains. Our water supply is looking gloomier every day.

Each month we have had several home visits to help residents with problems that can't be solved with a phone call or email. We are averaging

approximately 2-3 visits per month. Residents with problems with their palm, sissoo and mesquite trees all received home visits to help solve their problems.

August was much quieter than the two previous months. I think everyone was laying low to gather strength for the upcoming fall gardening season! Lake Havasu is looking forward to all of the city-wide activities coming back that kick off our busy season. Our Snow Birds and vacationing Master Gardeners will be back. The Community Garden wakes back up and Master Gardeners will be on hand to lend a hand, plus give some well-needed instructions in vegetable gardening in the desert. The semi-annual cleanup of the library landscaping will take place in October. Meet the Master Gardeners program, pruning seminars, Winter Fest and all the various activities will all mark a busy calendar for the upcoming season.

To Many Unwanted Guests



Photo by Sharon



Photo by Shelley



Photo by Sharon



Photo by Kiki



Photo by Shelley



Mohave County Master Gardener Fall 2022 Calendar

October

TBD

LHC Library Landscape Work Day, TBD

REPEAT NV: Every Tuesday, Laughlin Community Garden, 7am

- 2nd: LHC, New Horizons Community Garden Work Day, 9am
- 3rd: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 4th: LHC, Home Garden Day, Library 11am - 1pm
- 5th: NV, Nevada Master Gardeners Meeting on ZOOM 9am - 12pm
- 5th: BHC, National Night Out, BHC Police Station, 4pm set-up
- 8th: KNG, Tomato Quest Festival, Cecil Davis Park, Kingman 12pm – 4pm
- 10th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 11th: BHC, Master Gardener Meeting, BHC Library, 3pm - 4:45pm
- 13th: BHC, Bullhead City, Home Garden Days, 10am - 12pm
- 14th: BHC, Home Show Set up
- 15th: KNG, Fall Clean-up/Winter Vegetables Workshop; Dig It Community Garden, 1pm
- 15th – 16th: BHC, Home Show
- 18th: LHC, Business Meeting, Library, 4pm
- 20th: BHC, Bullhead Library Presentation “Planting Native & Non Native Trees”, 2pm - 4pm
- 24th: BHC, AOBI, 10am to 11am
- 26th: NV, Laughlin Ask the Master Gardener, 10:30am - 12:30pm
- 28th: KNG, Meeting, 1pm – 3pm
- 31st: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am

November

REPEAT NV: Every Tuesday, Laughlin Community Garden, 7am

- 1st: LHC, Home Garden Day, Library 11am – 1pm
- 2nd: NV, Nevada Master Gardeners Meeting on ZOOM ?
- 5th: KNG, “Poisonous Plants”, Mohave County Extension Office, 1pm
- 7th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 8th: BHC, Master Gardener Meeting, BHC Library, 3pm - 4:45pm
- 9th: BHC, Dig Community Garden. Beckie, Leroy, Debbie & Bill, IRRIGATION, 11am - 1pm
- 10th: BHC, Home Garden Days, 10am – 12pm
- 12th: BHC, Operation Cool Shade, Anderson Center, 6:30am – 1pm
- 14th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 15th: LHC, Business Meeting, Library 4pm
- 17th: BHC, Bullhead Library Presentation, “How to Care For and Maintain Potted Plants”, 2pm – 4pm
- 23rd: NV, Laughlin Ask the Master Gardener, 10:30am - 12:30pm
- 28th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am

December

TBD

LHC December, Holiday Party, TBD

REPEAT NV: Every Tuesday, Laughlin Community Garden, 7am

- 5th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 6th: LHC Tuesday, Home Garden Day, Library 11am – 1pm
- 7th: NV, Nevada Master Gardeners Meeting on ZOOM ?
- 8th: BHC, Home Garden Days, 10am - 12pm
- 9th: KNG, Kingman Master Gardeners’ Annual Party; Linda will be hosting
- 12th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am
- 13th: BHC, Master Gardener Meeting, BHC Library, 3 pm - 4:45pm
- 15th: BHC, Bullhead Library Presentation, “Moved Here, Now What? Tips on Desert Gardening”, 2pm – 4pm
- 19th: BHC, AOBI, 10am - 11am

January - 14th: Advanced Training for Master Gardeners; “Plant Pathology”; 1pm Mohave County Extension Office Pot Luck Lunch at 11:30am

Fall 2022 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley Lossing, Master Gardener

