



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES  
**Cooperative Extension**  
Maricopa County

# Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

## January 2017

MCCE employees dressed up as superheroes for the Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center 7th annual Winter Festival.

### IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Super Heroes Descend on Roosevelt Family Resource Center!

By Erin Kirkpatrick & Elisabeth Williams

KA-POW! BAM! SPLAT!

The Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center (FRC) hosted its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Festival on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Forty-five neighborhood families (118 children and 68 adults) converged on the FRC for a Superhero-themed evening of games, food, and activities focused on children ages 0-5. Participants were encouraged to come in costume and many tiny mutant ninja turtles and super-babies rose to the challenge. Children used their strong muscles for the “Splat, Pow, Bam Bean Bag Toss;” wound, wrapped, and

tied their parents in crepe paper for a “Capture the Villain” contest; and designed their very own Superhero using a variety of craft materials. Participants of all ages were shocked and awed when they created their own Lightning Bolt with the power of static electricity, and gleefully jumped, slithered, and spun through a ribbon “Spider Web” maze. Two sensory boxes filled with colorful yarn snippings and feathers provided an out of this world experience for older babies and toddlers, as did a table full of fluffy shaving cream clouds for squishing and smearing. Several times throughout the evening, children listened to a read-aloud Story Time featuring Super Hero books donated by Changing Hands Bookstore in Tempe. Program Coordinator Gina Nieves painted a life-sized mural of Super Heroes in action for a family-friendly photo-op! Last but not least, a delicious dinner was catered by Poncho’s Mexican Food.

Thanks you to all the staff and volunteers who made this event one for the record books!



Erin Kirkpatrick interacts with children at the FRC Winter Festival.

Contact Information:

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(602) 980-3692



## Landscape to Living Classroom



## Program Spotlight: Beginning Farmer Program



## Volunteer Spotlight: Katy Holditch

# Landscape to Living Classroom Project

By Rebecca Senior,

## Landscape to Living Classroom Project

Director Ed Martin tasked Rebecca Senior with turning the landscape at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Office into a living classroom. The goal was to create a place for citizens of Maricopa County to be inspired, informed, and supported so they may create more sustainable and livable homes and communities in the low desert.



*Master Gardener Volunteer Bill Guina(left) & Jeff Oesterle(right) from Oest Metalworks install the new path.*

The office landscape is being transformed into an educational resource for homeowners, students, and professionals, said Senior. Drawing inspiration from the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension tag line, "Improving Lives, Communities, and the Economy" (<https://extension.arizona.edu>).

### Focal areas

- Expand entrance and street presence
- Renovate and expand the Desert Trail using the <https://AMWUA.org/landscape> plant list
- Create demonstration areas for homeowners including a residential life area of turf, citrus patio entertaining, roses, and low water use perennial beds
- Make a *Classroom Under the Trees* with seating for 30
- Clear the southwest corner for an Agro-Urban Experimental Station with a hoop house and row cover

### Current status

These images show a few of the wonderful Master Gardener Volunteers working and learning together. They pruned plants, sculpted soil for rainwater capture, and shoveled and hauled tons of rock and granite. They also helped install steel yucca sculptures, blue mosaic



*Master Gardener Volunteers (L to R )Lynn Palmer & June Lundy create mosaic water using pottery chards donated by The Plant Stand. Thank you plantstandaz.com.*

"water," and the first section of our new desert trail that is attractive and wheelchair accessible.

### Next steps

We are expanding the front section along Broadway. There is a job for everyone in this important project. Exciting things to come include designing, installing, and interpreting the plant material. Come see our progress and join in the fun!

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# A Fond Farewell & Best Wishes

By Ed Martin

Bryan Chadd, 4-H faculty at the Maricopa County office, will retire as of January 31, 2017. He served over 32 years with Arizona Cooperative Extension. Bryan started his career as an Arizona 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent in 1984. He has provided leadership and support for many program in the county and state including Teen Leadership, Community Service, Science & Technology, Large Animals, Equine, Volunteer Development, Club Management, Challenge Programs, and J.O.L.T. Bryan has worked nationally and internationally too, helping 4H programs in Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, England, Korea, and Japan. There are literally thousands of youth whose lives have been positively impacted by Bryan's programs and his personal commitment to the kids in his programs. He has sacrificed many hours and weekends assuring that the youth in his programs receive the greatest benefit and he has tirelessly devoted much of his personal time to help make 4-H all that it can be. Bryan will be missed by the kids, the parents, and the volunteers of 4-H as well as the office faculty and staff here at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension - we wish him all our best!





Beginning Farmer Program



**SNAP Benefits**

People can use their SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits to purchase produce, vegetable seeds, and transplants at farmer’s markets.



**No License Needed**

You don’t need a special license or certificate to sell produce at a farmer’s market. Even backyard gardeners can sell through an organization called Community Exchange.

FUN FACTS

**61 Years Old**

The average age of the Arizona farmer is 61, three years older than the US average of 58.

**Year-Round**

Maricopa County has a year-round farming climate. Something can be planted and harvested every day of the year.

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**Program Spotlight:  
 Beginning Farmer Program**



The Beginning Farmer Program in Maricopa County started in 2011 at the suggestion of local farmer, Frank Martin of Crooked Sky Farms. It began with a two-day workshop called *Turning Dreams Into Reality: Starting a farm in Arizona*, which has been repeated annually ever since. At the workshop, participants visit a variety of farms and markets in the Phoenix area, and learn from industry and university experts about what it takes to get started farming. In 2012, with funding from a USDA Beginning Farmer Rancher Development Program Grant awarded to Colorado State University’s Building Farmers in the West program, our farm business training course was launched and is held each fall. This training teaches beginning farmers the fundamentals of agricultural business record keeping, marketing, food safety, and business plan development. Every spring since 2013, we host a sustainable crop production series to help new growers get the most from the desert farming environment. University experts discuss crop biology, soils, irrigation, pest management, season extension, and crop rotation in this five-part series.

The program is led by Kelly Murray Young, Horticulture/Agroecology Extension Agent ([kyoung@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kyoung@cals.arizona.edu)), Angela Entzel, Local Food Access Program Coordinator ([aentzel@email.arizona.edu](mailto:aentzel@email.arizona.edu)), and Karen Salem, Program Aide ([kmsalem@email.arizona.edu](mailto:kmsalem@email.arizona.edu)). Please send one of us an email if you would like to be added to our email list to hear about upcoming events and other opportunities. We are proud to help grow a new generation of Arizona farmers and make more local, fresh food available in Maricopa County.





## Volunteer Spotlight: Katy Holditch

*The goal of the Volunteer Spotlight article is to recognize the exemplary volunteers who demonstrate the values and mission of Maricopa County Cooperative Extension in the community in which they live.*



*Gift Wrapping & Bazaar - A Collective Business by the Buena Vista Mavericks Biz Kid\$  
L-R Katy Holditch, Project Leader, Linda Lee, Asst. Leader, Robin Lee, Carys  
McQueen, Maddie Gonzalez, Emily Brzezinski, Chloe McQueen, Heather Patterson, Lucy  
Armstrong, Davis Cottrell, Yula Armstrong, Madeline Cottrell.*

Katy Holditch is an outstanding 4-H club leader and this month's volunteer spotlight. Mrs. Holditch grew up in 4-H in Yuma County. She will tell you 4-H was so profound in her youth, that she wanted her daughter Sarah to be in 4-H, so she helped orchestrate the development of the Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H club in Tempe. For nine years, Mrs. Holditch co-lead the Buena Vista Mavericks 4-H club doing projects such as horse, sheep, and poultry. Eventually, her daughter aged out and headed off to college, prompting Mrs. Holditch to retire from 4-H. However three years ago as Mrs. Holditch was ready to retire, she was approached by a 4-H teen horse club member. The member expressed an interest in taking on Entrepreneurship as a secondary project. Unable to resist, Mrs. Holditch agreed, but insisted it would be very low key. After all, Mrs. Holditch was powering down from years of intense horse riding meetings, shows, camps, and competitions now that her daughter was off to college. Mrs. Holditch asked for any other 4-H members interested - thinking that there might be 3 or 4.

The first meeting, had 12 members, revved up to earn some money with their skills and crafts. Most of the members, admittedly, were driven to make some money to support their horse addiction and a few others joined because it is a great way to join 4-H without taking on a project animal. The Entrepreneur project was renamed Maverick Biz Kid\$.

Never having run her own business, Mrs. Holditch did some research on entrepreneur curriculum, read some articles and made some phone calls. They started out with the members figuring out for themselves what they COULD do, WANTED to do, and WHY they wanted to do it. Then the members were challenged to put a name on their business and give themselves a title. Their sense of pride came when they became Owners, Operators, CEOs, and Proprietors, as well as Crafters, Designers, Photographers, and Purveyors.

All members are responsible for creating, developing, marketing, and running their own business. While house and pet sitting are the most common businesses, the Biz Kid\$ include pet groomers, horse trainers/exercisers, landscape/pool cleaners, technology consultants, tutors, jewelry designer & sales, bath and body product sales, hand-sewn greeting cards and paper crafting for décor/favors/gifts. A few members even teamed up to create a hospitality business, assisting with party & event set-up, serving, and clean up.

Maverick Biz Kid\$ are gearing up for their third year of "Learning & Earning by Doing" with 18 members on the roster. You can see all of the Buena Vista Mavericks Biz Kid\$ businesses and plans by going to the Biz Kid\$ Home page: <http://www.bvmavericks.org/maverick-biz-kid>.



# The Director’s Cut

By Ed Martin



It’s the first of the year and Maricopa County Cooperative Extension is looking forward to an exciting 2017. Winter has arrived and for the Sonoran Desert, that means some cold nights but usually some very beautiful days. Here at the office, we continue to work on the Living Classroom and we have been doing some painting in our large Palo Verde meeting room. For those that might have missed it, our Maricopa County 4-H Youth did very well at the State fair taking home quite a few awards and ribbons. Congratulations to all of them and their

families, especially the parents, that help support the youth and 4-H across the county. Our Beginning Farmer program concluded in late November and the activities at the Roosevelt Early Childhood Development Center – Family Resource Center continue with story time every Wednesday and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) workshops every Monday. On January 21st, we have our Citrus Clinic at Greenfield Nursery in Mesa. Here at the main office we are having the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Desert Turf School from January 9- 13 and two Brain Builder Workshops for early child care providers. In February, we start the next Smartscape 101 course. Smartscape is a program supported by the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association and the Arizona Department of Water Resources. Smartscape is a comprehensive, research-based, training program that educates Arizona’s green industry on landscape and water conservation in the Sonoran Desert. Finally, I want to say good bye and best wishes to Bryan Chadd, 4-H Agent, who is retiring as of January 31st, after over 32 years of service. We thank him for all he has done for the youth in Maricopa County and beyond, and wish him all our best.

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## ABOUT TOWN

### Family Resource Center - Parent-Child Interaction Classes

When: Visit website for class details  
Where: Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center  
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/roosevelt-early-childhood-family-resource-center>

### 11th Annual Desert Turf School

When: January 9 8:00am - 1:00pm  
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/11th-annual-desert-turf-school>

### 4-H Clogging Lessons

When: January 9 5:00pm - 9:00pm  
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/4-h-clogging-lessons>

### Maricopa Home & Garden Show

When: January 13 - 15  
Where: Arizona State Fairgrounds  
More Information: <http://maricopacountyhomeshows.com/>

### Brain Builders for Life Training

When: January 14th & 28th 8:00am - 5:00pm  
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/brain-builders-life-maricopa-county-january-14-2017>

### Citrus Clinic

When: January 21 8:30am - 12:00pm  
Where: Greenfield Citrus Nursery  
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/citrus-clinic-mesa-arizona>

### Smartscape 101 Training

When: February 13 3:30pm - 6:00pm  
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
More Information: <http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa-county-smartscape-training>

### Summer Agricultural Institute Application Deadline

When: March 1  
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/summer-agricultural-institute-early-application-deadline>

### Project CENTRL Class XXVI Application Deadline

When: March 1  
More Information: <https://extension.arizona.edu/project-centrl-class-xxvi>

### Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

<http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa>



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**Edited By:**  
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