

4-H Celebrates!



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



IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

4-H Achievement Night

By Arman Ghazi,
4-H AmeriCorps Volunteer

Every year, 4-H'ers across the county turn in record books which document all of the accomplishments, challenges, and experiences they've learned from throughout their time in 4-H. Those record books are then judged by a collective effort of local volunteers from around the neighborhood based on leadership skills, community service efforts, and progress in their respective projects.

Once the hundreds of record books that come in are graded and processed, Maricopa County 4-H holds an annual awards ceremony, where 4-H'ers get recognized for their projects and events they've taken part in. It's a wonderful event where hundreds of members, families, and neighbors get to hear about all the interesting and important things other 4-H'ers are doing every day in our community.

However, this year was a little different. This time around, we had a star-studded Hollywood awards show themed event! Everyone was invited to dress up in their favorite formal attire, and the whole venue was elaborately decorated with red carpets, gold Oscar statues, and a

totally life-like recreation of the Hollywood sign. There was also food and snacks for attendees to enjoy, and a photo booth for the stars of 4-H to get their photo professionally taken.

Members received awards for outstanding record books, helping plan camps like G.R.I.T. and JOLT, and supporters of the 4-H program at the county and state levels were recognized. Ashley Gabrielson, one of the youth emcees hosting the event said, "It was such an honor to be there. I really enjoyed getting to see all the effort that was put in to planning this event."

After the main program was completed, there was a dance along with more opportunities to talk to and get to know other 4-H'ers from across the county. It was wonderful to see all the determination and hard work that the members have put in to their projects being recognized that night. Overall, the event was a success, and we can't wait to see it grow even more next year!

For information on how get involved with 4-H in Maricopa County, go to: <https://extension.arizona.edu/4h/getting-started>



Connect2STEM



Monica Pastor



**Master Gardener
Citrus Clinic**

Goodbye and Best Wishes Monica!

By Ed Martin

Monica Kilcullen Pastor retired on January 12, 2018. Her work in Agricultural Literacy and Cooperative Extension has had a significant impact on the youth and people in Maricopa County and beyond. Monica started with Arizona Farm Bureau as a "field man" straight out of college and stayed with them until 1985. She was hired to be Executive Director of the Maricopa County Farm Bureau by its Board of Directors in June 1985, where she served for 12 years and worked with several board presidents during that time. She worked with a committee to establish the Summer Ag Institute in 1991, which takes 30 teachers on a 5-day educational tour of agriculture in Arizona. That successful program just celebrated its 27th anniversary. Because of her sound guidance and inclusion of other ag organizations, the SAI program will continue even after Monica retires. Monica was hired as a Program Coordinator to start the Ag. Literacy program at UA Maricopa County Cooperative Extension in Sept 1997. She earned her M Ed in December 2000 and became an Extension Agent in 2001. During her tenure at the UA, she served as County Extension Director at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension from 2007–2012. From 2013–2017, along with a myriad of University responsibilities, Monica served as the Director of Project CENTRL giving guidance to help CENTRL continue its legacy as the premier rural leadership program in Arizona. As stated at her retirement celebration, "Few people are given the opportunity to positively impact so many people's lives, and even fewer take advantage of that opportunity." Monica is one of the few. We will miss her dearly at Extension and wish her well!



Connect2STEM - 2018 AZ SciTECH Festival Event

By Ed Martin



Over 7,500 people came to the 2018 Connect2STEM event at the University of Arizona's Phoenix Biomedical Campus on January 27, 2018, and Maricopa County Cooperative Extension was there to represent the Science of Extension. With help from our fellow faculty and staff at the Maricopa Agricultural Center, we had several displays, booths, and activities. Arizona Project WET was present, showing kids the "Incredible Journey" that water takes through our ecosystem. Master Gardeners were there, too, displaying some Sonoran desert plants, answering questions, and teaching youth about the importance of clay in our soils. Our 4-H Youth development staff was on-hand giving out a string necklace with a small zip lock bag, a seed, and some moistened raw cotton inside. This activity allowed the kids to watch the roots start to sprout and grow in a few days. The staff from the Roosevelt Early

Childhood Family Resource Center were there with their books and educational materials for all to enjoy. Our colleagues from the Maricopa Agricultural Center were there, too, with their insect displays – yes live bugs – and information about how each insect plays a role in our ecosystem. Finally, the staff from the SNAP-Ed program were there with the Blender Bike, teaching youth and adults alike about the importance of nutrition while serving healthy and tasty fruit smoothies with compliments of the riders on our Blender Bike. Every year this event grows as people realize the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math in our daily lives. Mark your calendars now for January 26, 2019; I assure you, you won't be disappointed.

Program Spotlight:

Maricopa County Master Gardener Citrus Clinics

By Yvonne Cooper

CITRUS – A gardener’s favorite of Arizona’s founding “Five C’s.” The Maricopa County Master Gardeners welcomed the year with not one, but two Citrus Clinics. The Citrus Clinics are a day that highlights everything about citrus and are fittingly held in citrus groves. It is a day of learning and nearly 500 homeowners from all over Maricopa County came to enjoy the 8 learning stations that teach everything from how to fertilize citrus to proper pruning to the ever-famous citrus tasting. The University of Arizona faculty and local citrus professionals volunteer their time and expertise to best advise homeowners on how to best care for their citrus and deciduous fruit trees. Five, 30 minute sessions, are held at each station so that many can enjoy each learning station during the day. The learning stations are set up throughout the grove paths with sunshine and citrus as a learning pallet.

The Maricopa County Master Gardener volunteers have proudly hosted the Citrus Clinics for 15 years. The clinics are held annually in January. MANY volunteers rally to make this day great along with the generosity of the event hosts. This year, as in many years past, the East Valley Clinic was held at the Greenfield Citrus Nursery. Greenfield is located at 2558 E. Lehi Road, Mesa, Arizona and owners John Babiarz and Debbie Hodson have welcomed the Master Gardeners and Citrus Clinic patrons or many years.



The West Valley location was held at the Justice Brothers, U-Pick located at 18800 W Greenway Rd in Surprise, Arizona. New owner of this location, and friend to Cooperative Extension, Selwyn Justice was happy to have this event back on this location. A big thank you goes to our event hosts and those volunteers who organize and plan, market and advertise, pick and cut fruit, deliver and set up. The job list goes on and their dedication to this event and hard work is what makes the clinics great. Cooperative Extension is appreciative of all these volunteers!



Volunteer Spotlight: 4-H Youth Development Presents Volunteer of the Year Award



By Jen Wolf

Every year, Maricopa County 4-H Youth Development staff honors the importance of our volunteers at our yearly achievement night celebration. Our 4-H program depends on certified, caring, and knowledgeable volunteers to carry out our program in the local community. One of the awards that we present is for our Volunteer of the Year. The award winner is selected by reviewing the nomination forms sent in by adults and youth in the Maricopa County 4-H program. This award is given to a 4-H volunteer who has made an impact on our 4-H program and has positively affected the lives of youth and has created a standard of excellence that helps motivate and encourage others.

Our Volunteer of the year award recipient for the 2016-2017 club year was Shawn Wood. Looking over the nomination forms, it was easy to see why she was our award winner. She has been described as kind, helpful, and encouraging to everyone, an amazing leader in many ways. Her energy is contagious and inspiring. In fact, one parent put it best in her nomination form, she wrote...

“Shawn is constantly working to make the club and the children better. She is a leader who lets the kids run the meetings and still guides them to run the meeting in a correct manner getting motions approved and seconded. She is warm and kind and has the respect of the kids, even if there is an issue she needs to deal with. She holds the kids accountable for their actions and builds them up all at the same time. She is not afraid of hard work and the kids see this. As a leader she strives to help children improve in whatever area they are working on. She has a way with parents as well to let us know when to push and when to back off. She encourages the children to do their best each time they go in the ring, but more importantly she reminds them to learn something. She is genuine and a respected member of our community for who she is and all that she does.”

For this and many more reasons, **Shawn Wood** is our Maricopa County 4-H Volunteer of the Year.



The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin



Wow, 2018 has started with a bang here at MCCE! This year started with a new Master Gardener Class and our Annual Turfgrass School in January, and we haven't looked back since. Our 2018 Citrus Clinics were a great success with record attendance. A grateful thank you to our hosts, Selwyn Justice, and John P. Babiarz and Debra L. Hodson at Our 4-H program had its Achievement Awards Night at the Phoenix Zoo in January. The theme was based on the Academy Awards complete with a red carpet and

interviews. The star-studded event was a great success and everyone went home feeling like a winner. Our office also partnered with the UA Biomedical Campus in downtown Phoenix and participated in the Connect2STEM event. This year over 7,500 people attended the event. Our 4-H team, along with Master Gardeners, staff from the Roosevelt Early Childhood Family Resource Center, AZ Project WET, and our nutrition crew with the now infamous "Blender Bike" were all on hand to engage participants in the science of Extension. Finally, we celebrated the retirement of our Ag. Literacy Agent, Monica Pastor. It was a very emotional evening as we said good bye to one of our best. We will miss her contributions to the office, to Extension, and to the University. Looking forward, we have our Farm City Breakfasts coming up, co-sponsored with our friends at [Maricopa County Farm Bureau](http://www.maricopa-county.com) and the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. The breakfasts are a great way to meet your neighbors and your Supervisor. Check out our website <https://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa>, call us at 602-827-8200, or follow us on our [Facebook page](https://www.facebook.com/maricopa-county-cooperative-extension) for more information on programs and events.

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ABOUT TOWN

Compost Crazy!

When: April 5, 2018 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
More Information:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-04-05/dig-compost-crazy>

Advanced Smartscape

When: April 12, 2018 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
More Information:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-04-12/advanced-smartscape-2018>

First Arizona School IPM Conference

When: April 17, 2018
Where: Carl Hayden Community High School
More Information:
<http://turf.arizona.edu/events.htm>

Spanish Smartscape 101

When: May 1 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
More Information:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-05-01/spanish-smartscape-101>

Fall 2018 Master Gardener Training

When: July 17, 2018 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
More Information:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa-county-master-gardener-training-fall-2018-session>

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

(3rd Wed Every Month)
Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
More Information:
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-03-21/maricopa-county-plant-clinic>

Family Resource Center - Parent-Child Interaction Classes

Where: Roosevelt Family Resource Center
More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/roosevelt-early-childhood-family-resource-center>

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar
<http://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa>



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