

2018 4-H Camp G.R.I.T.



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

**Maricopa
County
Cooperative
Extension**
September 2018

IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

4-H Camp G.R.I.T.

By Arman Ghazi

When 72 youth got on the buses to head to 4-H Camp G.R.I.T. earlier this summer, many of them might have thought they were just on their way to another regular sleep away camp. Little did they know they were about to embark on a four-day long action, packed experience of a life time.

Sometimes, the idea of going to a sleep away camp can be daunting to some youth. Many are nervous at first, or unsure if they'll enjoy it at all. However, once everyone arrived at our facility nestled in the lush pine forests of Mingus Mountains, and had the chance to meet the friendly staff and their fellow campers, all of that concern went out the window. Campers were accompanied by highly-trained counselors that had been planning the camp for six months, and soon the youth were given the chance to choose between a wide variety of activities to get involved in.

These activities, or "camptivities" as we called them, included some practical ones, such as a hands on lesson on wind energy generation, where youth got to build their own functional turbine, learning how to make healthy snacks at home, and gaining real life survival skills. There were recreational camptivities that build on an appreciation for the natural beauty of the



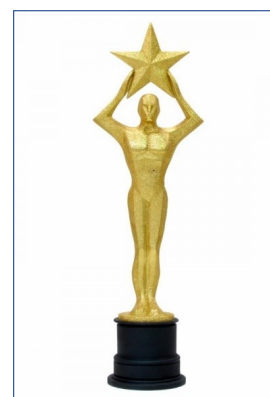
outdoors, like canoeing, teambuilding, and nature hiking.

So what does G.R.I.T. mean? G.R.I.T. represents the values that guide everything we do at a 4-H camp. Growing, Reaching, and Impacting, Tomorrow. The camp is about far more than just the week itself. It's about the memories made, friendships built and skills learned that will last a whole lifetime rather than a few short days. If there was unlimited space I could say so much more, but overall this year was a resounding success! When campers were asked what they would tell their friends about their camp experience, they said, "It's one of the best things I've done in my life," and "You should go." I can't imagine a clearer recommendation.

If you are interested in what we're doing for camp next year, stay tuned for more updates at our website! <https://extension.arizona.edu/4-h-camp-grit>



4-H Camp G.R.I.T.



And The Award Goes To:



Meet Arizona Project WET

Kyle Harrington

By Ed Martin

Kyle Harrington, Program Coordinator, Field Crops IPM Program and graduate student, Entomology and Insect Science Program; and Dr. Ayman Mostafa, Area Programmatic Agent and Regional Specialist, Forage and small grains IPM, work closely with the growers of Central Arizona helping assure our agricultural industry is kept informed of the latest science. The two participated at the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference (NAAIC) in Logan, UT, this past June. At the NAAIC, Dr. Mostafa was invited to present on his two USDA-NIFA-Alfalfa and Forage Research Program (AFRP) grant projects titled: *Overhauling Alfalfa Weevil Management in Irrigated Southwest Desert Alfalfa* and *Re-Establishing IPM Recommendations for Aphids in Alfalfa Hay in the Low Desert*. Additionally, he attended an "AFRP Round Table Listening Session" with USDA-NIFA leaders and other AFRP Project Directors to discuss AFRP, ask questions and provide input.

However, the highlight of the conference came when Kyle was awarded the 2018 NAAIC Student Award. He was presented with the award plaque during the awards luncheon on June 5, 2018. A student and co-worker of Dr. Mostafa, Kyle has been excelling in his work in the field, in the office, and in the classroom. All of us at MCCE are proud of his accomplishment and congratulate him on a job well done.

Congratulations, Kyle!



Kai Umeda

By Ed Martin



Kai Umeda, Turfgrass Area Agent serving Maricopa, Pinal, and Yavapai counties, has been inducted as a Fellow by the Western Society of Weed Science. Kai has been an area extension agent for Turfgrass science since 2003, working with golf course superintendents, sports turf managers, and commercial landscapers. His work has impacted thousands of acres of turf across the state, helping reduce the amount of water used by turf and reducing the number of chemical sprays by encouraging the applications of Integrated Pest Management into the turf management industry.

His Turfgrass extension program areas of emphasis are in weed science and pest management. He began his career with Cooperative Extension in 1994 working in vegetable crops and has always worked closely with University research and extension faculty, as well as collaborating with private and public researchers. All of us at MCCE are proud of his accomplishments.

Congratulations to Kai on this prestigious honor!



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Cooperative Extension
Turfgrass Science

Program Spotlight: Arizona Project WET

Meet Arizona Project WET

By Pam Justice

How did you learn about water when you were in school? In Arizona, if you're lucky, you get to learn about water in fun ways with Arizona Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)! Our program teaches students AND their teachers about all aspects of water - tying it all together with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math).

How do we do it? We use three different pathways: teacher professional development, working directly with students, and training community volunteers to facilitate learning.

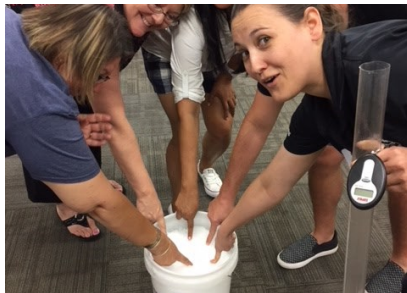
First, for teachers, we offer workshops that provide tools for activating learning about all aspects of water through STEM integration. Since our inception, more than 11,600 teachers attended workshops, impacting over 350,000 students!

Second, we engage students directly in the classroom and in the field which helps teachers meet their instructional objectives. Cities and water companies partner with us to design and deliver programs that are specific to their region. Current direct student programs are:

- The Arizona Water Festivals Program for 4th grade students, uses all three pathways to instill a deeper understanding of water in earth's system.
- The Aqua STEM Program engages 6th–12th grade students with challenging STEM education units including the Riparian Exploration, School Water Audit and Rainwater Harvesting Units.
- Water Scene Investigations Program inspires 6th grade students to adopt home water conservation practices through installation of water efficient technology.

And our third pathway is through community engagement with trained local volunteers. We couldn't reach the thousands of students each year with hands on water lessons without the help of our great volunteers!

Come volunteer with us to see some amazing students preparing for our water future, a very bright one at that!



The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin



The monsoon season has come to end in the Valley, and although I'm grateful for the rain, I could have done without all the wind. At the office, we lost a couple trees and even more limbs. However, it is the price we pay for our summer rains. In the office, every program seems to have kicked into high gear. Our SNAP-Ed (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – Education) and EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program) programs are back in the schools, educating youth and adults on nutrition, physical activity and gardening. Soon, the

agricultural programs will begin to focus on the cotton harvest and start planting fall crops. At the office, we have started to renovate our irrigation system for our new Living Classroom. We have installed over 3,000 ft. of PVC pipe, over 300 multi-port emitters, and 21 new valves. The new system will give us better control over the system and allow us flexibility as the landscape changes. This fall we will be working hard to replant the entire area which includes the North Shore (north of the building), the main entrance, and the Outback (our collection of Australian species located on the East side of the building). There were many volunteers and many companies that donated material that helped make all this happen. We will be having an official grand opening ceremony in early 2019 to thank everyone. Our Master Gardener intern class will be continuing throughout the fall. The Master Gardeners are also beginning work with Maricopa County Juvenile Detention to install raised bed gardens within the facility to help youth gain some life skills and learn responsibility through gardening. Finally, we had a very successful 4-H Camp G.R.I.T. in July. Seventy-two youth attended this year learning new skills, meeting new friends, and having fun. As always, check out our website, our Facebook page, or stop by and visit the office to find out what's new at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension.

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ABOUT TOWN

AZ Domestic Well Owner's Workshop

When: September 8th 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: North Valley Regional Library

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-09-08/well-owners-workshop>

Master Gardener Plant Clinic

(3rd Wednesday of Every Month)

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/809-master-gardener-monthly-plant-clinic>

DIG - Grow Organic Veggies Year-Round

When: Sep 13 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-09-13/dig-grow-organic-vegetables-year-round>

DIG - Fall Veggies

When: Sep 23 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-09-23/dig-fall-veggies>

24th Annual Maricopa County Short Course

When: Sep 28 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-09-28/24th-annual-maricopa-county-short-course>

DIG - Companion Planting & Herbs

When: Oct 14 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-10-14/dig-companion-planting-herbs>

AZ Agricultural Literacy Days

When: Oct 22 - Dec 21

Where: An Elementary School Near you

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-10-22/az-agricultural-literacy-days>

DIG - Compost Crazy

When: Oct 25 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

More Information:

<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2018-10-25/dig-compost-crazy>

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

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



Check us out at:

<https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyCooperativeExtension>

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

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