



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Cooperative Extension  
Maricopa County

# Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

## May/June 2019



Friends and family gather for fun activities at the 3rd Annual Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Spring Fiesta

IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

## 2019 Spring Fiesta

By Ed Martin

On March 23, MCCE held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Fiesta. The Fiesta is event where we showcase our programs and invite our neighbors to visit the office and see what Cooperative Extension has to offer.

This year, our Fiesta offered a little bit of everything. Our agriculture/Integrated Pest Management team had a live bee hive on site to allow participants to see the hive up close and learn about the importance of pollinators like bees to our agricultural production as well as our landscape plants. Our SNAP-Ed team had the now infamous blender bike, where you can ride a bike and make a nutritious smoothie at the same time.

The 4-H entrepreneurs were in attendance, testing their skills at sales and our Master Gardeners were out in full force, giving garden tours and answering everyone's garden-related questions.

The staff from the Family Resource Center was in attendance too, with ideas of how parents can engage their children 0-5 years old and help get them ready for school. The turfgrass science team was present showing some interesting ground cover alternatives to grass.



AZ Project WET had a booth helping people understand the importance of water and where our water comes from here in the Valley of the Sun. A big thanks to our 4-H

Clogging Club that came out and performed for everyone – these young adults are amazing! Also, many thanks to Laura Ward for bringing out her Clydesdales, Dante and Echo; thank you to Carol Diemer's family for bringing the rabbit and chickens, and finally a big thanks to Brittany Alger for the cute pigmy goats!

Also, thank you to Traci Armstrong Florian and her SNAP-Ed and EFNEP teams for taking the lead on this annual event. We'll be back next year – we hope you will too!



## Interpretive Trail Progress



Jeannette Fish



2019 MCCE Spring Fiesta

# A Changing Landscape at Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

By Rebecca Senior

What does it take to change the 57,902 square feet of landscape at MCCE? It requires a lot of resources like time, money, equipment and labor but it starts with a vision. When one or more people imagine something, a vision is created. Maricopa County Director of Extension Ed Martin had an idea, he could see the landscape as a living classroom and assigned the project to Assistant in Extension Rebecca Senior.

After planning and design, construction began on the first 16,000 square foot section in the front. Renovation of the Master Gardener Demonstration Trail, designed and installed in 1998, was the first job tackled. This area required several months of demolition and plant removal all done by exceptional Master Gardener/Intern Volunteers. They have serious sweat equity in this section!

The landscape had water movement problems. Rainwater collected at the foundation or another low spot the path. Master Gardener Volunteers moved 13.5 tons of rip rap stone from the foundation before regrading to move rainwater into channels, under bridges and dropped into depressions. All this new soil work had to be carved into the flat landscape one wheel barrel at a time. Thanks to Master Gardener/Intern Volunteers now in a ½" rain we capture 1,744 gallons of rainwater from the roof and move it out to the plants. The vision of a living classroom really moved closer to reality when industry partners stepped in to help with their expertise

and donations. The 1998 polytube drip irrigation system poured water in all the wrong places. Thanks to Trini at Stillwater Landscape Mgt. and owner Rick Robinson who kindly agreed to install 3,144 feet of PVC pipe, 21 new valves, and 302 multi-port emitters we are now putting water in all the right places. The generosity of Ewing Irrigation and their irrigation expert Doug Donahue helped make our new irrigation system a reality. Thank you, Ewing Irrigation. Doug connected us to the most generous and best irrigation manufacturers who donated valves, irrigation boxes, emitters, controllers and more. Thank you: Trae Sadler from Hunter Industries, Paul Tammelleo from Irritrol/Toro and Robert Logan who was at Rain Bird.

Thank you metal artist Jeff Oesterle who again and again has donated and installed functional and beautiful landscape elements; we love our yucca light sculptures at the entrance, steel path edging and two bridges that make rainwater harvesting and walking the path so fun-ctional. Paul Chambers owner of Australian Outback Plants Nursery donated beautiful shrubs, perennials and ground covers that complement our huge Australian trees that he donated some 30 years ago, thanks again Paul!

What's next? The 35,000 square feet in the back half!



## DIG Summer Schedule



## Program Spotlight: Desert Institute of Gardening

By Yvonne Cooper

The Desert Institute of Gardening (DIG) Grows Roots

The DIG program, designed and managed by the Maricopa County Master Gardeners, continues to grow as it better promotes itself and welcomes more classes and attendees in 2019.

The Desert Institute of Gardening was reinvented in 2016 and really grew roots as a result of a managing committee, chaired by Master Gardener Sue Lanker, was formed in 2017. Thanks to MG committee members, Julie Knapp, Debbie Wolfe, Bill Felton, Marquita Porter and Susan Mitchell who have dedicated many volunteer hours to managing and growing this educational program since the committee's inception on January 12, 2017. The committee has most recently welcomed MG Bonnie Hochuli.

In keeping with the educational mission of the Master Gardener program, the Desert Institute of Gardening offered 10 classes in 2016, 12 in 2017, and a total of 16 classes in 2018 with an increase of 10% of attendees per class held in 2018. The growth of DIG is important to the Master Gardener program and the patrons of Maricopa County alike. It is in this educational venue that Master Gardeners share their knowledge of efficient low desert gardening practices with the homeowners of Maricopa County and it is here that the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension reaches the community that it supports.

The 2019 class schedule is robust with 18 classes that are carefully planned, timely and with relevant gardening topics, for the growing season in which they are taught. Class fees are \$20.00 for public members, \$10.00 for Active Master Gardeners, and often free of charge for those students currently enrolled in the MG Volunteer Training Course. Attendees are encouraged to pre-register online. All class details and registration information is found at: <https://extension.arizona.edu/maricopamg>.

All classes are currently held at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension (MCCE), 4341 E Broadway Road, Phoenix, Arizona, but it is the goal of the DIG program to begin offering classes in other locations throughout the valley – if you have a suggested site for this educational opportunity we would love to hear from you! We hope to see you in a DIG class soon.

WED  
MAY  
22

### Olla- Alternative Watering

Unglazed...Watering with Ollas!

Presented by Julie Knapp

6:15-8:45 pm Palo Verde Cost \$20

SUN  
JUN  
9

### Art in the Garden

Create beauty in the garden.

Presented by Linda Larson

2-4 pm Palo Verde Cost \$20

THU  
AUG  
22

### Cacti & Succulents

Low water beauty in the landscape

Presented by Michael Chamberland

6-8 pm Palo Verde Cost \$20

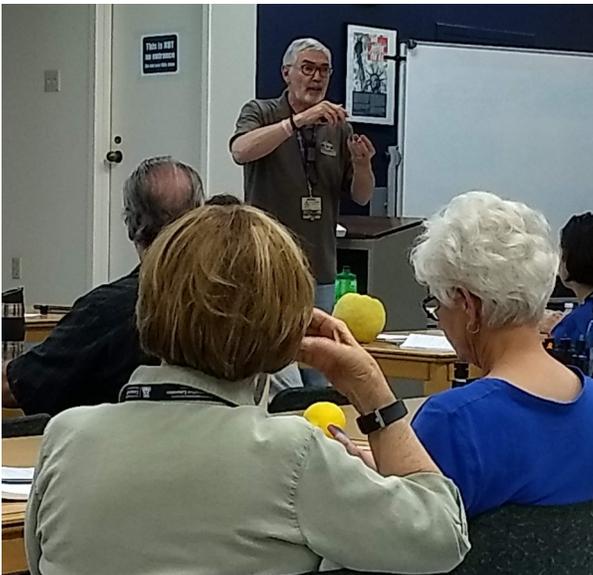
THU  
SEP  
19

### Trees

Tree selection, placement and care

Presented by Katie Coates

6-8 pm Palo Verde Cost \$20



# Volunteer Spotlight:

## Jeannette Fish

By Brandon Moak

During National Volunteer month, we honor those who give their time and talents helping communities and individuals around them. No volunteer in the Agricultural Literacy Program gives more than Jeannette Fish. Her passion for agriculture began on her parents' small Washington farm and grandparents' Montana ranch.

Her love of the land, coupled with a college degree in broadcast journalism, set the stage for a lifetime of providing accurate information about agriculture. The opportunity to more directly share her love of agriculture came while working for a county seat newspaper in Ohio editing its farm page, which led to a career in Farm Bureau (first in Ohio, and then 21 years in Arizona) until she retired in 2015. But Jeannette didn't stop there! Her drive to dispel myths about agriculture keeps her actively involved in the community.

Whether it has been reaching out to local elementary school teachers to teach students where their food comes from (part of the UA Cooperative Extension [AZ Ag Lit Days](#)), imparting factual information to a bus full of teachers during their five-day tour of Arizona farms and ranches (part of UA Cooperative Extension [Summer Ag Institute, SAI](#)), or working tirelessly behind the scenes chairing the [Arizona Foundation for Ag Literacy](#) (the funding source for SAI), Jeannette has been dynamically involved every step of the way.

From all of us here at the Agricultural Literacy Program, we wholeheartedly express our gratitude for Jeannette and hope that others follow her lead, exemplifying the words of author J.R. Miller, "Nothing else in all life is such a maker of joy and cheer as the privilege of doing good."



## The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin



The past two months have seemed to just fly by. The office has been buzzing with activity with Smartscape classes, Master Gardener classes, and a whole host of activities. We've been working hard on implementing our Living Classroom. There has been quite a bite of remodeling, replanting, and new infrastructure being put in place. April was volunteer appreciation month and, although I may be biased, I believe we have some of the best volunteers in the county! We had our Annual Spring Fiesta on March 23. It was a great time

for our neighbors to stop by and see what Extension is about. The Fiesta was also a great time for the entire office to come together and work on a common event. So often, we are too busy working within our own program areas to appreciate the depth and breathe of Extension. Our Annual Spring Fiesta helps everyone better understand our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Extension. Finally, we had our Staff Appreciation Annual burrito breakfast on April 17. All the faculty chipped in and bought, and prepared, a burrito breakfast for all the great staff we have working at MCCE. Did you know we have over 60 staff working out of this office? Each of them contributes to the success of their program and our office. I want to thank all the faculty who helped, especially Kai Umeda, Ayman Mostafa, Rebecca Senior, and Traci Armstrong Florian who all took turns cooking. Oh, and a special thanks to Rebecca for her potatoes and Patty Merk for bringing some wonderful homemade cinnamon and pecan rolls. It is at times such as this that I am truly humbled by the generosity of our faculty and staff. I know I don't say it enough but thank you all for all you do!

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### ABOUT TOWN

#### Master Gardener Plant Clinic

(3rd Wednesday of Every Month)  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-03-20/maricopa-county-plant-clinic>

#### Spanish Smartscape

**When:** May 7 - June 6 3:00pm - 6:00pm  
 (Tuesdays & Thursdays)  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-05-07/spanish-smartscape>

#### Turfgrass Field Day

**When:** May 16 7:30am - 12:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-05-16/turfgrass-field-day>

#### DIG - Olla: Alternative Watering

**When:** May 22 6:15pm - 8:45pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-05-22/dig-olla-alternative-watering>

#### DIG - Art in the Garden

**When:** June 9 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-06-09/dig-art-garden>

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

**When:** June 17 - June 21  
**Where:** James 4-H Camp  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-06-17/2019-maricopa-county-4-h-camp-grit>

#### Fall Master Gardener Intern Training

**Class Date:** July 16 - Nov 5 10:00am - 1:00pm  
**Application Deadline: May 14**  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/maricopa-county-master-gardener-training-fall-2019>

#### Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

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



**Check us out at:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/MaricopaCountyCooperativeExtension>

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