



2019 Camp GRIT Counselors



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Cooperative Extension  
Maricopa County

# Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

## Sept./Oct. 2019

IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY

IN THIS ISSUE

### 4-H on Mingus Mountain

By Caroline Werkhoven

4-H Camp G.R.I.T. (Growing, Reaching, Impacting, Tomorrow) kicked off June 17th, 2019 at James 4-H Camp on Mingus Mountain near Jerome. Sixty-five campers joined staff and counselors for a 5-day, 4-night camp adventure and disconnected from the day-to-day media driven world, and instead connected with nature and the outdoors.

4-H Campers enjoyed their choice of several camp activities each day including archery, canoeing, swimming, GPS navigation, hiking, cooking, and arts and crafts. Guests from around the state came and joined us for a day and put on workshops from STEM, Project WET and Biology.

Camp night activities, planned by our teen counselors, included campfires, team Olympics, and a talent show. The counselors worked hard not only on their forty plus hours of training to become a camp counselor, but they also worked in teams to organize each evening's programming.

A local caterer, Goods from the Garden Out of Prescott, provided delicious home cooked meals and were able to accommodate the palate challenges of campers, counselors, guests, and staff. 'Mop' and 'Glow' paid us daily visits during lunch and rewarded campers on the cleanliness of their dorms and bathrooms!

However, Camp G.R.I.T. saved the best for last with the bus trip home. Heading south on the I-17 we only got as far as Sunset Point because the road was closed due a wildfire. After an hour plus of wait time, and watching the firefighting efforts, we were turned around for a long and torturous journey back to Phoenix via Camp Verde, the 260 and Payson, stopping only to pick up 60 chicken McNuggets meals, along with gas for the buses and a further delay due to an accident outside of Payson. Parents, campers and staff were happy to say their goodbyes when we reached the Extension Office at 2:30am!!

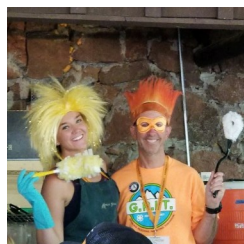
Until next year!



Julie Knapp



Camp G.R.I.T.



Community Gardens



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
Cooperative Extension  
Maricopa County

# Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course

## Summer/Fall 2019

By Michael Chamberland

Twice per year a 17-week Training Course is offered to initiate new Master Gardeners. The second of our 2019 Courses began in July and will run through early November. Trainees receive instruction on plant and garden topics including composting and soils; vegetables, turf, citrus and cacti; insects, pest management and disease diagnosis; landscape design, maintenance and pruning.

The Master Gardener Volunteer Training Course utilizes a textbook, the Arizona Master Gardener Manual. The Manual was written by Horticulture Agents and Extension Faculty from Counties throughout Arizona. Our Summer/Fall Course debuts with the second printing of the Manual, as Extension works to refine and improve its content.

In addition to the Manual, Master Gardner Trainees are instructed in the use of Extension publications and other science-based sources for gardening information. As certified Master Gardeners, each will take this information to the public to assist with their garden questions and needs. Most Extension publications are available for free on the web.

In this session we are utilizing on-line quizzes built in D2L (Desire 2 Learn). Thanks go to Master Gardener, Julie Knapp, for leading the effort to expand Master Gardener Training into the digital classroom. As we trial this technology we explore the possibility for online Master Gardener Training in Maricopa County. This is also a subject of study by Coconino County Extension Director, Hattie Braun. Online Training promises to help bridge the distances across Arizona's largest County.

A huge thanks go to our Master Gardener Lead Mentors, Ray Jess, Julie Knapp and Piper Thomas, together with our Room Monitors and Class Mentors for helping us launch our latest session of Master Gardener Volunteer Training!



## MCCE Welcome's Jennifer Weber

By Ed Martin

We want to welcome Jennifer Weber, Assistant in Extension, to the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension (MCCE) team. Jennifer started on July 1 and will work on the Pesticide Safety Education Program (PSEP). The program is designed to offer educational workshops and seminars on the safe use of pesticides both around the home and in agricultural fields. The classes mostly target applicators and are a great resource for professionals looking to apply for licensing or for those who are already licensed and seeking Continuing Education Units (CEUs) to keep their certification up to date. Jennifer previously worked for the Arizona Department of Agriculture (ADA), working on pesticide safety and worker protection. Her position at the UA is jointly funded by the ADA and UA Cooperative Extension. She has statewide responsibilities and will be working closely with County Extension staff along with UA Specialists and industry leaders to address the issues surrounding safe pesticide application.

We are excited to have her on board as part of the MCCE family. Welcome Jennifer!



# Program Spotlight: Community Garden Leader Training

By Jane Toomey

All over Maricopa County there are areas deemed low income and low access to food by Census Tract. To combat these food deserts, The University of Arizona and Valley of the Sun United Way have teamed up to offer free community gardening classes. Participants go through nine weeks of gardening instruction covering topics such as soils, watering, planting basics, and community resources.

Instructors for the classes are Maricopa County Master Gardeners, and they are armed with knowledge on different gardening topics. The classes are geared toward people working in school and community gardens. Along with classes, participants are provided with numerous books, tools, and other free resources to help their gardens succeed. The overarching goals of these classes is to enable and encourage people to grow food in communities, and to increase access to fresh food in areas where access is limited.

Class evaluations are filled with notes of gratitude and excitement to implement new strategies into community gardens. Many participants live or work in the communities where classes are held. By the end of nine weeks they are trading ideas and finding ways to help each other. It is incredible to watch relationships form over the course of the nine weeks. Some Master Gardener instructors and volunteers have ended up going back to the class sites to work in the community garden. They are able to share their passions and knowledge with the community. These classes bring together gardeners of all backgrounds and skill levels to enhance community and school gardens.

Classes are held three times a year and move to different parts of Maricopa County each time. The University of Arizona and Valley of the Sun United Way are both proud of the impact this program is making in different communities.



## Volunteer Spotlight: Julie Knapp

By Marc Allen Fleischer

The July Master Gardener Volunteer of the Month is so well known, she could go by the nickname of Register Now! And really, who doesn't know her? She is the contact person we all use to sign up for the Desert Institute of Gardening (DIG) classes. With an amazing resume, Julie Knapp has gone beyond being a Master Gardener.

She is a certified Agriscape (edible landscape) designer, a member of the DIG committee, and a Smartscape irrigation design graduate. She designed a Native American demonstration garden for Cloud Song, a Native American community center at Scottsdale Community College, and she is currently teaching gardening at a local retirement community. Julie studied journalism in college and was a university professor for 30 years teaching mass media. It makes perfect sense that she also writes for so many publications, including her own blog, The Transplanted Gardener.

When I mentioned that everyone knows her because of all the roles she has in the MG program, she humbly said it's because, "When Yvonne Cooper trusts you, she turns to you – and when she asks me for my help, I say yes!" Julie specializes in Southwest vegetables and fruit gardens and her entire backyard is edible. She has created her own design circle and as she puts it, "You just lean back and build a salad." She grows so many fruits and vegetables that she must give them away. She especially loves Super Sweet 100 tomatoes, Armenian cucumber, and the Sequoia strawberry.

Many Master Gardeners are familiar with Julie Knapp's alternative watering techniques class where she teaches how to reduce garden watering consumption by using ollas, wicking beds, sub-irrigated pipes, and watering stakes. Her class is considered an absolute must because she pre-tests everything and uses each of the systems demonstrated in the class.



I asked Julie how she acquired her farming spirit. "It was my grandfather. I grew up in Minnesota, and because of our Midwest values, he made us work in the garden. My neighbors call me 'Chicken Mama' for the eight chickens I keep in a co-op condo and I live on a fifth of an acre. What I really want is more land and I am looking for more than an acre," she said. "I am now working some undeveloped land around Queen Creek with a group of friends."

Julie loves to hike Lost Dutchman Trail in the Superstition Mountains at the Lost Dutchman State Park and is an avid photographer. She opines that there are two kinds of gardeners, the nurturers that specialize in one or two things, and the developers – that like to experiment. I think this superstar Master Gardener of the Month may be both.



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**Cooperative Extension**

Maricopa County

## The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin



I was hoping to talk about all the rain we received during the recent monsoons, but our monsoon rains were not as great as most of us hoped for. Sure, we got some wind and even lost some trees on the property. However, the rainfall amounts were not that significant. As we head in the Fall schedule, we see many new faces in the office as changes have occurred recently. We have lost some very valuable people in our Master Gardener program, our SNAP-Ed program, and most recently, we found out we are losing our 4-H Agent, Kim Christman.

Kim is taking advantage of new opportunities and challenges, and we wish her all the best. Our Fields Crops/IPM program is beginning to wrap up the summer season and going full steam looking at challenges for our Fall and Winter crops. Our Turfgrass Science program will be shifting gears from keeping Bermuda grass green to over-seeding option for a green winter turf. Our Family Resource Center has been busy working with families, getting their kids ready for preschool and our nutrition program is working with schools scheduling nutrition assemblies, classroom visits, and workshops for parents. Our Master Gardener program started a new intern class and our Smartscape Program celebrated 25 years of educating landscape professionals. The 4-H program has been working on enrollment and record books and our new Ag. STEM agent, Gigette Webb, is busy making new connections to STEM teachers throughout the state. Please stop by and see what's new at the office. We just completed our pathway through the North Shore garden area. As always, thanks to everyone for their continued support of Maricopa County Cooperative Extension!

### CONTACT INFORMATION

- Traci Armstrong Florian ..... Nutrition/SNAP-Ed/EFNEP  
(602) 827-8237 [tarmstro@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:tarmstro@cals.arizona.edu)
- Kim Christman..... 4-H Youth Development  
(602) 827-8291 [kchristman@email.arizona.edu](mailto:kchristman@email.arizona.edu)
- Scott Koenig..... Project CENTRL  
(602) 827-8227 [skoenig@email.arizona.edu](mailto:skoenig@email.arizona.edu)
- Ed Martin ..... County Director/ANR/Water Resources  
(602) 827-8200 [ecmartin@email.arizona.edu](mailto:ecmartin@email.arizona.edu)
- Patty Merk ..... Family and Youth  
(602) 827-8257 [pmerk@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:pmerk@cals.arizona.edu)
- Ayman Mostafa ..... Agriculture  
(602) 827-8213 [ayman@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:ayman@cals.arizona.edu)
- Rebecca Senior ..... Horticulture  
(602) 827-8276 [rsenior@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:rsenior@cals.arizona.edu)
- Kai Umeda ..... Turfgrass Science  
(602) 827-8214 [kumeda@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:kumeda@cals.arizona.edu)
- Michael Chamberland.....Horticulture  
(602) 827-8219 [mchamb@email.arizona.edu](mailto:mchamb@email.arizona.edu)

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jeffrey C. Silvertooth, Associate Dean & Director, Extension & Economic Development, College of Agriculture Life Sciences, The University of Arizona.

The University of Arizona is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution. The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation in its programs and activities.

### 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>

#### Desert Institute of Gardening - Desert Trees

**When:** Sep 19 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-09-19/dig-trees>

#### Desert Institute of Gardening - Vegetables

**When:** Sep 26 6:00pm - 8:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-09-26/dig-vegetables>

#### Arizona Runs on Water

**When:** Oct 17 6:00pm - 7:30pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-10-17/arizona-runs-water>

#### Desert Institute of Gardening - Bulbs

**When:** Oct 20 2:00pm - 4:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-10-20/dig-bulbs>

#### AZ Agricultural Literacy Days - What's Buzzin'

**When:** Oct 21 - Dec 20  
**Where:** An Elementary School Near You  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-10-21/az-agricultural-literacy-days-whats-buzzin>

#### 2019 Fall Garden Festival

**When:** Oct 26 8:00am - 1:00pm  
**Where:** Maricopa County Cooperative Extension  
**More Information:**  
<https://extension.arizona.edu/events/2019-10-26/2019-fall-garden-festival>

#### Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

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



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

**Edited By:**  
 Edward Martin  
 Sheri Semones  
 Amber Jones  
 Mary Conner