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Featured Article

by

Debbie Miller, Bullhead City Master Gardener

QUERCUS SUBER

In November the Bullhead City Master Gardeners did a presentation for the public on “Wreaths and Holiday Projects made from Plants and/or Natural Materials”. For us, this was an entirely new type of program as part of the monthly Bullhead City Area Library Series. Though it seemed from the title to be more of an arts and crafts program (think Martha Stewart) there was a lot of excellent horticultural information offered as well.

A case in point relates to the wreaths and trivets I made from wine corks. The wine itself, of course, comes from grapes. Two wineries in the Kingman area are now selling wines produced from their own local vineyards. Cella Winery offers Cabernet, Malbec, Zinfandel, Grenache, Merlot and Chardonnay from their Mohave County vines. They recently planted Sangiovese as well, but those vines are still too young for commercial production. Stetson Winery also offers wines made from their own 100% Kingman-grown Cabernet, Zinfandel, Merlot and Chardonnay grapes. Many home gardeners successfully grow table grapes in Kingman and the River cities of Bullhead, Fort Mohave and Mohave Valley. We often get questions in our “Home Garden Day” meetings about growing grapes in this

climate. It is a crop which seems to be becoming more common to this area, though more often the Thompson seedless or Concord varieties than the types used for winemaking.

Learning about the production of the corks however, was something new, at least for me. Though screw tops and synthetic corks made from polyethylene are becoming more common, it is estimated that 70-80% of wine producers are still using natural cork. One of the supposed reasons the Australians started using screw tops in their wine industry is that Portugal purposely sent them inferior corks that allowed too much air to get into the bottles and spoiled the Australian wine made from most of their 1972 harvest, thus reducing competition from the cheaper Australian wine for that year. They promptly switched to screw tops! Portugal, of course, denies this.

Corks come from the bark of the *Quercus suber*, or Cork Oak, tree which is grown commercially for its cork in Portugal, Spain and other Mediterranean countries including Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria. There are also many areas of California, from San Diego to Napa, where cork oaks can also be found. Climate wise, it is a tree that is perfectly suited to our area as well, though the alkalinity of our soil may cause the leaves to be more yellow than those trees grown in more acid type soils. It is a long-lived tree (over 125 years), is evergreen, and like most oaks, provides wonderful dappled shade. It uses very little water once established, and tolerates poor soil.

A tree must be over 25 years old before the harvesting of its bark should be done, and the first and second harvests do not produce top quality cork. Those initial harvests are generally used for composite or agglomerated corks. The outer layer



(Featured Article -continued from page 1)

of the cork tree cambium tissue is carefully stripped from the tree forming “planks” of cork. This is done in the summer months and each tree can be harvested only every 9 years. This harvesting does not damage the tree since the bark regenerates. What is being stripped is the lateral meristem tissue. The botanical information gets fairly scientific and complex, but is fascinating. Harvesting the bark requires great skill so as not to damage the deeper tissue. The cork is processed into many commercial products, including flooring. The Library of Congress in Washington DC has a cork floor that has been in place since the building opened in 1897.

In the most expensive wines, solid corks cut from single planks are used. The process is much like cutting biscuits out of biscuit dough, and the thickness of the cork plank they are using determines the length of the corks produced. These can cost up to a Euro (about \$1.20 today) each, but generally are around 50 cents. Aggregate corks (called agglomerated corks in the industry), made from shredded cork pieces glued together, are cheaper to buy and are used more commonly.

Cork is light, buoyant, withstands heat, vibration, and sound. The waxy substance it contains, suberin, makes it impermeable to gas and liquids; thus making it ideal for wine. If too much air gets into a wine bottle left on the shelf to age, it can quickly turn to vinegar - so the importance of the quality of cork used is paramount. Those 50-year or 100-year red wines sold at auction for thousands of dollars each year will be only as good as the cork that was used in the bottling process, presuming that the grapes that were used in the first place were picked at the proper time and handled appropriately for the variety of wine being made!

Andrew's Corner

Reading through the updates since our last Wind & Weeds, I have to say I'm extremely proud and impressed with the work our Master Gardeners do. New school gardening programs have been started or are continuing with record harvests in other areas. Workshops and other programs have been reporting record attendance at some of their more annual events. I'm excited for what the New Year will bring to our Mohave County Master Gardener Program.

I'm excited to introduce Amy Nickel, our Master Gardener Instructional Specialist. Amy comes to us from Lake Havasu High School where she has a background in teaching High School Science. She will begin after the New Year after she fulfills her teaching obligations at LHHS. A big thank you to Linda Reddick and Debbie Miller for joining us on the Hiring Committee.

Please help me distribute the information for our UHHC so we can continue to grow our program. The Master Gardener Urban Home Horticulture Course provides research-based horticulture information you will use as a Master Gardener volunteer educator for the Mohave County Cooperative Extension. Topics include: soils, basic botany, irrigation and landscape design, composting, plant propagation, basic ecology, vegetables, stake and prune trees/shrubs, fruit trees, native plants, entomology, pest management, and plant diseases.

The 13-week course runs from January 18, 2018 to April 19, 2018 and will be held on Thursday mornings from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. Classes will be held at Mohave Community College, Bullhead City Campus, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314. Registration and additional information is available at our website extension.arizona.edu/Mohave (click on Master Gardeners > News) or you can contact Andrew Brischke at (928) 753-3788 or brischke@email.arizona.edu.



Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Debbie Miller, Coordinator
Leroy Jackson, Co-coordinator
Bonnie Muir, Secretary
Bill Stillman, Scribe

One of my favorite quotes from the 1956 UCLA yearbook was from a fraternity who posted in their "Activities" section, "We did the usual." Fall 2017 Bullhead City Area Master Gardeners also "did the usual" - Home Garden Day and monthly programming at the Library, assisting with the Laughlin Home Garden Day, hotline calls, assisting at the County Fair, Cool Shade and a new activity assisting monthly with the Fox Creek Middle School Garden Club.

Cool Shade, a program of the Mohave Electric Cooperative with which we assist every year, was once again a great success. MEC customers are given the opportunity to purchase shade trees in September. The cost this year was \$9 per tree, which included an energy-saving light bulb with each purchase. The trees for this year included Vitex, Indian Rosewood, Shoestring Acacia and Willow Acacia. 1800 trees were available for purchase and, as usual, they were distributed at the pickup event on November 18. The Kingman Master Gardeners helped out on this very cold morning and we thank them for their continued support. We love getting together with them and renewing friendships while we hand out planting information to the steady stream of buyers as they load their trees in their vehicles. Our October Library presentation, "Planting and Caring for Your Desert Tree" had a record audience of over 70 residents, and we again demonstrated proper techniques by planting a tree at the Bullhead City library. On the humorous side of things, the people digging the hole had to be reminded not to dig it too deep, and to back fill it prior to the planting.



Our Home Garden Day programs, held the second Thursday of each month, also continue to grow as our emailing, newspaper coverage, and word of mouth communications improve. In the past, most of the attendees were repeats. This year we have added many new participants to our attendees list. At our home garden days, the participants are coming in with their questions, photographs and plant samples. It is up to the Master Gardeners to try and help answer the questions, but sometimes our plant knowledge is not much help when someone brings in a dead lifeless branch and asks "what happened?" For those questions we can help with (mesquite large branch problem, lime tree leaf turning brown, insect damage, etc.) we have the answers to help the client out.

Some of the topic questions we have covered over the past few months include Irrigation (how much is needed, how often, how to set up an irrigation system), Vegetables (what grows here successfully), how to plant a tree, how to prune a Texas Ranger, Pomegranate fruit not ripe and some rotten (picked too early). For the pomegranate fruit being rotten issue, Alternaria fungus was part of this topic. We reminded the client to look out for leaf footed insects. Leaf



footed insects are hard to see (sneaky) and pierce the fruit leading to fruit damage.

Palm tree questions (what kind, how much water they use and when to prune, and yellowing fronds). Cactus issues (Cochineal scale and how to get rid of the insect), hibiscus yellowing, and sooty canker on a Meyer lemon tree rounded out the diverse topics recently.

We are finding most of the repeat attendees have actually put some of the suggestions and information gathered at our workshops to use. We still get those who irrigate their desert landscape, citrus and palms daily. From their questions we keep discussing how to use a soil probe but we also remind them, if you make a drastic change to the established watering routine, the plant might not survive those changes.

In November we added a new program to our usual Library presentations repertoire - "Wreaths and Projects made from Plants and/or Natural Materials". It was a chance for all our members to show and talk about the homemade decorative items they make for the holidays or other uses. Dried flower note cards, cork, weed and cactus wreaths, pinecone decorations and fire starters, pine needle baskets, herbal vinegars and herbs planted in kitchen jars, painted rocks, Ukrainian painted eggs and jewelry made from locally sourced stones were among the items discussed and demonstrated. A couple of our audience members also brought in some items for demonstration and discussion (polished wood and a Christmas tree made from wire coat hangers). This program was fun to do and allowed everyone to get in front of an audience. This may also lead to some workshops in the Spring on specific items. Special thanks to Sarah, Dennis, Maria, Mary, Leroy, Pat and Sally for making this program so much fun!



One of the science teachers at Fox Creek Middle School in Bullhead City has started a Garden Club after school on Thursdays. We have agreed to participate once a month, and helped the students clear out their raised beds and plant some winter vegetable seeds in November. Our December program with them will be to check out how those seeds are doing, then go inside and plant paperwhite bulbs for them to take home. As we see how this is going we may add a second Thursday each month, providing our small group can provide the necessary volunteers to work with the 30 or so students.

Hotline calls have been relatively light this Fall. Two calls regarding bacterial necrosis on saguaros were made and, in both cases, the cacti had to be removed before they fell and damaged people, houses or vehicles. A call on a grapefruit tree in stress resulted in a soil sample being sent to Yuma Agriculture Center, since Phytophthora was the suspected cause. That same homeowner had other citrus being improperly irrigated and pruned, so correct information on both subject were provided. The last call pertained to bubbles on the bark of mesquite trees. Bill, Leroy and Dennis continue to be our "A Team" on client calls, with Debbie helping out on cactus.



Kingman Master Gardeners

School Gardens Growing Summer & Winter Vegetables at One Time.

Is it really late fall/winter? How can it be when the temperature reaches up into the 80's? With the temperature in the 80's the tomatoes, peppers, eggplant and zucchini are in full bloom and going gangbusters. Not to mention the watermelons. All of the students at Desert Willow, Cerbat and Mt. Tipton have already planted their winter vegetables. What an amazing sight - going to the garden, you will find watermelons, eggplant, tomatoes, zucchini, bok choy and broccoli all ready to pick and enjoy. What an amazing gardening year we are having!

This is anything but textbook learning for all of the students. Now is the time to try and learn lessons from mother nature. Textbooks teach growing vegetables by seasons, but it seems like temperature is playing a bigger role than the season.

Cerbat Elementary has bok choy, watermelons and tomatoes ready to pick, and has already harvested their first broccoli.



November 21st we picked two 18 to 20 pound watermelons at Desert Willow with four more on the vines. Since this group of students meets at 8:00 am, they had watermelon for breakfast. The Desert Willow students have already harvested bok Choy and the broccoli will be ready to harvest by the end of November.



Mt Tipton has to have the largest single eggplant I have ever seen, 7', that's seven feet wide! They have lost count on the number off eggplant that has been harvested. Their zucchini has produced an abundance, over 100 pounds. Yea, you guessed it, almost everyone in Dolan Springs has been eating eggplant and zucchini in the last couple of months. Of course, their broccoli and bok choy is ready to harvest as well.



Needless to say the students are loving every minute of the time they spend in the garden areas, but most of all they are excited about harvesting and eating what they have grown.

Thank you to Extension Agents Andrew and Jerry as well as Master Gardeners Bob and Izzy for all of your support and involvement in the school gardening program.

Let's just keep it growing!!!

The pictures do not have all of the students pictured as some do not have photo release.

Linda L Reddick
Master Gardener



Kingman Master Gardeners

Linda Reddick, Kingman Coordinator

Finally winter is in the air, what a crazy fall this has been. Many of us have been picking tomatoes and broccoli in the same day. It is Strange how the plants seem to adapt easier than humans. No matter the conditions, Kingman Master Gardeners have stayed with their program.

In October several master gardeners spent time at the Farmers Market meeting new people and answering questions. Bob Clotworthy gave an integrated pest management talk to the folks at the community garden. Outstanding job Bob.

In November Nancy, Cindy, and Bob gave a workshop in Valley Vista. Well done team! A group of Master Gardeners from Kingman went over to Bullhead City to help them with Operation Cool Shade. Now that was a windy, cool day, but it all went well.

December, there was a deciduous tree pruning workshop. It was a beautiful day for that workshop, all in attendance enjoyed the presentation as well as the weather.

Then it's party time, we are having our Christmas pot luck at Sandy Hampson's

I would like to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and looking forward to a successful New Year.

Regards
Linda L. Reddick
Kingman Coordinator



Winter 2018 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley, Master Gardener

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Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Dan Alberts, Coordinator

Sharon Gomez, Co-coordinator

Hello and Holiday Greetings from the Master Gardeners of Lake Havasu City. Hope this finds all of you well and enthusiastic in your winter gardening projects. As we close this year out and prepare for the New Year and new gardening projects, I am starting my to-do list. I know that for me, I will be looking at 1. what needs to be done? and 2. what would I like to change in my landscape? Hopefully, I can accomplish my goals, along with enjoying the time spent working outside in nature.

Reflecting on the last few months since the latest newsletter, the LHC Master Gardeners are back to full strength in that several of our snowbird members have returned. I extend a welcome back to your second home here.

Our hotline number has been somewhat quiet for this time of year, as calls have been sporadic. A couple that come to mind are a winter visitor from Canada had issues with the Saguaro's in their home landscape. This pertained to them being irrigated for 20 minutes each day. Apparently the irrigation timer malfunctioned as it was explained to us. The other irrigation issue that I remember pertained to a Jacaranda tree that was being irrigated on a daily basis. Overwatering is a common issue here in Havasu, and we as Master Gardeners are sharing our knowledge on this subject to educate the community.

As with many communities in the southwest, late autumn/early winter brings us an influx of winter visitors that maintain a second home in our area. Our group here has experienced this uptick in attendance at our recent events here in LHC. This was especially true at our annual 'Meet the Master Gardeners' open house held on November 11th at the Library here in town. Attendance was 90 plus people. We had our display area outdoors in the patio area of the Library, which was a perfect day in regard to the weather.

Many gardening questions were answered by the Master Gardeners. Inside, Doyle Wilson who is LHC's water expert, presented a power point program that captivated the audience. Doyle provided us with information as to what is currently happening, along with future projections of the Colorado River water allocations.



The Community Garden project is moving along, albeit on a slower pace than anticipated due to design challenges. The Master Gardeners along with other members of the community will be out in force on Saturday, December the 16th, to assist with site preparation and starting the raised planter bed installation.

Our annual Holiday Potluck and mixer will be held on Tuesday evening, December the 12th. Once again, Lois Frazier has agreed to host this event at her home in Lake Havasu City. Thanks once again, Lois.

Looking forward, there is another event that has become a tradition for us, the annual Winterfest Street Fair that will be held on February 10th and 11th in the downtown area of LHC. The Master Gardeners will be out in force to assist the community with answering gardening questions, and providing literature to those that will benefit from this knowledge. Please drop by our booth if you are in town that weekend.

In closing, Have a Great Holiday season.



Mohave County Master Gardener Calendar Winter 2018

January

- January 3rd: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: “Home Garden Day”, Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd, LHC
January 4th: 3p.m.: School Gardening, Fox Creek Middle School, Bullhead City
January 9th: 6:00 p.m.: Master Gardener Meeting, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
January 10th: 10a.m. (NV time): Home Garden Day, Laughlin Library, Laughlin, NV
January 11th: 2p.m.: Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, (note time change, this month only)
January 13th: 10a.m.:Saturday, Fruit Tree Pruning 3766 N Melody Time: (bad weather replacement date: February 3, 2018)
January 17th: 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.: Business Meeting Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd,LHC
January 18th: 2p.m.: “Pruning of Non-Citrus Trees/Plants; Roses”, Bullhead City Library, BHC
January 18th: UHHC Class, 9:30am to 1:00pm, “Introductions & Overview Of Master Gardener Program, Introduction To Soils”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314
January 25th: 6 p.m.-8 p.m.: Kingman Master Gardener meeting, MCCE office, 101 Beale St., Kingman
January 25th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Botany & Horticulture”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC

February

- February TBA: Kingman Rose Pruning workshop
February TBA: Kingman Grape Vine Pruning workshop
February 1st: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Irrigation & Landscape Design”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC
February 1st: 3p.m.: School Gardening, Fox Creek Middle School, BHC
February 5th: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Home Garden Day, Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd, LHC
February 8th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Fertilizing, Composting & Plant Propagation”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314
February 8th: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
February 10th-11th: All Day: Winterfest Booth, LHC
February 13th: 6:00 p.m.: Master Gardener Meeting, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
February 14th: 10a.m.(NV time): Home Garden Day, Laughlin Library, Laughlin, NV, BHC
February 15th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Ecology, Ecosystems, And Plant Adaptions”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314
February 15th: 2p.m.: “All About Citrus”, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
February 21st: 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.: Business Meeting Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd,LHC
February 22nd: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Vegetable & Herb Gardens, Annual & Bedding Plants”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC
February 22nd: 6 p.m.-8 p.m.: Kingman Master Gardener meeting, MCCE office, 101 Beale St., Kingman

March

- March TBA: Kingman Spring Planting Workshop -
March 1st: 3p.m.: School Gardening, Fox Creek Middle School, BHC
March 1st: UHHC Class, 9:30am to 1:00pm, “How To Properly Select, Plant, Stake & Prune Trees And Shrubs”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC
March 7th: 11 a.m.-1 p.m.: Home Garden Day, Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd, LHC
March 8th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Fruit Trees In The Home Yard”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC
March 8th: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.: Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
March 13th: 6:00 p.m.: Master Gardener Meeting, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
March 14th: 10a.m.(NV time): Home Garden Day, Laughlin Library, Laughlin, NV, BHC
March 15th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Native Plants, Cacti & Succulents”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC
March 15th: 2 p.m.: “Irrigation”, Bullhead City Library, 1170 Hancock, Bullhead City
March 20th: **DEADLINE FOR FOR SPRING 2018 WIND & WEEDS ARTICLES**
March 21st: 6:30 p.m.-7:45 p.m.: Business Meeting Lake Havasu Library, 1770 McCulloch Blvd,LHC
March 22nd: 6 p.m.-8 p.m.: Kingman Master Gardener meeting, MCCE office, 101 Beale St., Kingman
March 23rd: Mohave Contractors Show, setup, 1 p.m., Riverview Mall, Bullhead City
March 24th: Mohave Contractors Show, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Riverview Mall, Bullhead City
March 25th: Mohave Contractors Show, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Riverview Mall, Bullhead City
March 29th: UHHC Class, 9:30am-1:00pm, “Entomology”, MCC, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314, BHC

KEY: Bullhead City (BHC) - Lake Havasu City (LHC) - Kingman (KNG) - All



The University of Arizona Mohave County Cooperative Extension

Urban Home Horticulture Course Schedule (Initial Training for Master Gardeners) January 18 - April 19, 2018

BULLHEAD CITY, Thursdays, 9:30am to 1:00pm
Mohave Community College, 3400 S. Hwy 95, Room 314

***Class instruction time is 3 ½ hours each week. Certified Master Gardeners will be available after class adjourns to answer specific questions.**

- January 18 **INTRODUCTIONS & OVERVIEW OF MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM, INTRODUCTION TO SOILS**
Andrew Brischke, Area Assistant Agent Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension & Amy Nickle, Master Gardener Instructional Specialist
- January 25 **BOTANY & HORTICULTURE**
Hattie Braun, Coconino County Director/Master Gardener Program Coordinator, University of Arizona, Coconino County Cooperative Extension
- February 1 **IRRIGATION & LANDSCAPE DESIGN**
Bob Morris, Horticulture Specialist Emeritus, University of Nevada; Consultant, RLLM & Associates
- February 8 **FERTILIZING, COMPOSTING & PLANT PROPAGATION**
Linda Reddick, Master Gardener Emeritus, Kingman Area, University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension & Andrew Brischke, Area Assistant Agent ANR, University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension
- February 15 **ECOLOGY, ECOSYSTEMS, AND PLANT ADAPTATIONS**
Andrew Brischke, Area Assistant Agent ANR, University of

Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension

- February 22 **VEGETABLE & HERB GARDENS, ANNUAL & BEDDING PLANTS**
Dennis Lesowsky, Master Gardener, Bullhead City Area,
University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension
- March 1 **HOW TO PROPERLY SELECT, PLANT, STAKE & PRUNE TREES AND SHRUBS**
Jeff Schalau, County Director/Agent Agriculture & Natural
Resources, Yavapai County; Interim County Director, Mohave
County, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- March 8 **FRUIT TREES IN THE HOME YARD**
Dr. Glenn Wright, Extension Specialist, Associate Research
Scientist, Citrus & Fruit, Plant Sciences Department
University of Arizona
- March 15 **NATIVE PLANTS, CACTI & SUCCULENTS**
ML Robinson, Specialist/Associate Professor, Water
/Environmental Horticulture, University of Nevada-Reno, Clark
County Cooperative Extension
- March 22 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS**
- March 29 **ENTOMOLOGY**
Gene Hall, Collections Manager and CALS Cooperative
Extension
- April 5 **INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)**
Jeff Schalau, County Director/Agent Agriculture & Natural
Resources, Yavapai County; Interim County Director, Mohave
County, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension
- April 12 **DIAGNOSING PLANT PROBLEMS/FINDING SOLUTIONS**
Dr. Mike Matheron, Extension Plant Pathologist & Professor,
Yuma Agricultural Center, University of Arizona

FINAL EXAM WILL BE HANDED OUT AT THIS CLASS

April 19

FINAL EXAM, GRADING & CLASS EVALUATION

Andrew Brischke, Area Assistant Agent ANR, University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension &
Amy Nickle, Master Gardner Instructional Specialist

MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM Q & A

Master Gardener Area Coordinators & Co-Coordinators:
Linda Reddick, Kingman
Debbie Miller & Leroy Jackson, Bullhead City
Dan Alberts & Lois Frazier, Lake Havasu City

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