



Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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Featured Article

*"Arbor Day, and More!" by
Bill Stillman, Bullhead City Master Gardener Emeritus*

Several Kingman organizations joined forces on Arbor Day, April 30, to present a special event to celebrate Arbor Day and educate the community on "Trees! We Love Trees!". Focused primarily on children, the event involved members of DIG-it Kingman Community Gardens, the Cerbat Garden Club, the Kingman Clean City Commission, Mohave Community College (MCC) and Mohave County Master Gardeners.

More than 40 guests in attendance at the day-long celebration enjoyed painting pictures of their favorite trees, a treasure hunt involving finding rocks with different colors painted on them, a story telling session, a history lesson about Arbor Day and a tree planting demonstration. The tree planting involved having the children in attendance assist Bullhead City Master Gardeners Bill Stillman and Leroy Jackson in actually digging the holes and planting the Silver Maple trees provided by MCC. After learning about the proper way to plant a tree and helping with the demonstration, the children involved were given the trees to take home and plant in their own yards.

The Arbor Day Celebration was the second in a 3-part horticulture series involving the Mohave Community College and Bill Stillman. These classes are being held in the Dig-it Community Garden and the involvement of many individuals helped make the Arbor Day celebration a rousing success. Included were Ron Tanner from DIG-it, Sandy Womack from Cerbat Garden Club, Sarah from the Kingman Clean City Commission, Lori Gunnette and Lauren Peterson from MCC and Bill and Leroy from the Master Gardeners. In addition, the Kingman Smith's store provided snacks for the event.

And More.....

After the successful Arbor Day event geared toward the kids, DIG-it and MCC followed up in May with a tree planting class for adults, also held at the DIG-it community garden in Kingman. Once again Bill Stillman and Leroy Jackson, this time assisted by Bullhead City Master Gardener Debbie Miller, taught the fine points of tree planting. How to properly remove the plant from the pot, how big to make the planting hole, using native soils for desert type plants, and how to stake the plant were discussed. In addition, longer discussions of proper irrigation, the importance of mulch and when and how to use fertilizer, if needed, were covered. A pomegranate plant was used in this demonstration, and was given away as a door prize at the end of the presentation.

See Photos on next page.





Andrew's Corner

I am delighted to report that Mohave County Cooperative Extension and the Mohave County Master Gardener Program are steadily transitioning back to “normal” operations. In-person area business meetings, library events, and a few workshops have been hosted over the past couple months. It is great to see us helping Mohave County with more in-person education and advice. As we transition, please be aware and patient with your fellow MGs and the public. It is going to take some time for each of us to get back into the swing of normal operations and for the public to gain awareness that we are resuming activities. We have anticipated across all program areas that attendance may be lower than we have been accustomed to for some while yet.

Some additional news and guidance on the C-19 front continues to evolve. In response to Governor Ducey’s Executive Order 2021-15 (Protecting Student Access to Higher Education), the University of Arizona has updated our C-19 protocols. Effective immediately, the use of face coverings is strongly encouraged, but not required at any of our activities whether they are indoor or outdoor. However, we will continue to adhere to the most restrictive policies of the hosting venue.

I would like to take the time to commend and thank our great Master Gardener Volunteers for your perseverance and compliance with our C-19 policies during a very difficult time. I also want to recognize and congratulate the collaborations

across areas that I have seen in the recent months. It was wonderful to see some of the Bullhead City MGs come over to Kingman to provide programming to not only our Kingman MGs, but other gardening groups like the Cerbat Gardening Club, Mohave Community College, and the Dig-it Community Garden among others. Our Lake Havasu City MGs regularly collaborate with ASU in their area. These collaborations are extremely important for all groups involved and I would like to encourage each of you to continue with these collaborations.

An additional thank you goes out to Debbie Miller, Area Co-Coordinator Bullhead City. Debbie has served as Area Co-Coordinator and will be retiring with leadership transitioning to Dennis Lesowsky. For years Debbie and Leroy Jackson were an enthusiastic and dynamic duo. I know I will miss their leadership but will continue to enjoy their continued involvement in the MG program. And thank you to Dennis for stepping into a leadership role for Bullhead City; I’m positive he will be great serving in that role.

We are getting into the hot months and I know some groups are taking some time off as they usually do. Enjoy the time away from heat in some A/C if you can. I hope your plants and gardens survive what is shaping up to be another hot summer and maybe we can get some rain this year.

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, Division of Agriculture, Life and Veterinary Sciences, and Cooperative Extension, 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, sexual orientation, gender identity, or genetic information in its programs and activities. Persons with a disability may request reasonable accommodation, such as a sign language interpreter, by contacting the University of Arizona, Mohave County Cooperative Extension office at (928) 753-3788. Requests should be made as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation.



Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Debbi Miller, Coordinator

Dennis Lesowsky, Co-coordinator

Bonnie Muir, Secretary

Bill Stillman, Scribe

April saw the return of some normalcy to our lives as Covid restrictions eased and vaccines became

available. The Bullhead City Library reopened with reduced hours, and requiring masks and social distancing. With the reopening, the Bullhead City Master Gardeners were able to resume both Home Garden Day and other monthly programs.

We also held our first Master Gardener meeting in April after nearly a year of communicating via phone and email, and it was great to be able to get back together! Two days later we presented “Welcome Back to the Garden”. We presented many of the things we would normally have done with a full-blown PowerPoint program during the year. Irrigation, pruning and what vegetables and perennials could be planted were discussed and there was time for questions and answers. It was a cross between our second-Tuesday Home Garden Day and our third-Thursday more formal programs. The audience was smaller than what we’d had before the pandemic, but the Library and University of Arizona allowed limited numbers anyway, so it all worked out.

We got back to more regular programs in May and held both a Home Garden Day and topical program that month. The newspaper published an article the day of the program which helped bring in some new people and also did a follow up story on the program, including a picture.

The May presentation covered a wide range of topics, again playing “catch up” on providing education we’d been unable to offer in separate programs during the year. Leroy Jackson did soils and composting, Debbie Miller did fertilizer, Bill Stillman handled irrigation, palm tree pruning and “critter control” and Dennis Lesowsky covered warm season vegetables.

Special thanks to Kit Kudukis at the Kingman office for sending out great emails to our lengthy mailing list prior to all our programs this Spring. We had a limit of 50 people in the room, and we came close to filling it.

June was again a multi-topic program entitled “Planning

for Fall” and “Touring our Gardens”. Becky Leisle did a segment on seed starting; Geneva Carrion talked about some basic landscape things to think about. Naomi Jack did a presentation on colorful perennials that grow well in this area. Debbie Miller and Bill Stillman presented the successes and failures in their own gardens from original bare lots to today and Dennis Lesowsky showed his in-ground vegetable garden, along with some inspirational pictures from a garden tour in Prescott. This was the first formal presentation given by Becky, Geneva and Naomi, and each was received with enthusiasm and appreciation from the audience and the attending Master Gardeners.

Six of our members traveled up to Kingman to help out with the Master Gardener booth at the Home Show April 23 through 25. It was great to see our friends from Kingman again and their booth looked great. Thanks to Geneva, Leroy, Becky, Debbie, Bill and Susie White for helping out.

In May, Debbie presented a program at the Bullhead City Senior Center to their “Gardening” group. They are attempting to grow vegetables and herbs indoors in a portable raised bed and are struggling with sunlight and irrigation issues. Also in May, Bill Stillman presented the second of a series of programs sponsored by Mohave Community College at the Dig-It garden in Kingman. (See separate article on these presentations.)

July will see a transition in the Bullhead City Master Gardener group as Dennis Lesowsky becomes the coordinator and Debbie Miller retires. Debbie served as coordinator for six years and will remain as co-coordinator for the year. Bonnie Muir will continue as Secretary and Bill Stillman will continue to play an active role and will be handling time sheets, among other things. Geneva Carreon, Becky Leisle, Barbara Burns and Maria Waitas will all chair various activities and everyone looks forward to a very active 2021-2022 year.

Thanks also to Dennis for serving as co-coordinator this year, and extra special thanks to Leroy Jackson for his **ten** years as co-coordinator working with both Bill Stillman and Debbie Miller. We’re not sure if we gave him a shout out last year when he retired from his long years of service, but he continues as one of the most active members of the group, as does Bill.



(Continued from page 3)



Kingman Master Gardeners

Linda L Reddick, Coordinator
Melissa Palmer, Co-Coordinator

Summer is here. We finally can see the light at the end of the tunnel, and life is getting back to something close to normal (if there is such a thing?). It's been a long stretch and many of us are a little slow in restarting our engines. But activities are revving up. We are now able to use the newly renovated Mohave County library facility which has a beautiful, large room allowing us to continue to follow all protocol. Irrigation was our first workshop presented by Bob Clotworthy. Attendance was a little sparse, mostly because we did not get half of the workshop notifications out in time. But, as I mentioned, everyone is a bit rusty. However, those who attended were very pleased with the information they received. We have another workshop scheduled for June 19th on composting, followed by a July workshop on herbs. It's great to be back in the flow of things.

We have received a steady influx of calls. People are asking about; tree care, watering/irrigation, native plants & cactus, soils & composting, raised beds & containers, insects/entomology, fertilizing and vegetables. Interestingly enough, we have given workshops on all these subjects at one time or another. Since there is an influx of new people to the Kingman area, repeating workshops has value. I am pretty sure this same scenario is true for Bullhead City and Lake Havasu City. As Master Gardeners from Mohave County I am also sure all of us will be diligent in providing the public with knowledgeable information on all gardening matters.

Have a great summer, stay hydrated, and enjoy your plants

Kingman Home and Garden Show



Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Sharon Gomez, Coordinator

Jamie Zimmerman, Co-coordinator

Well, dare I say summer is here?! As I sit here writing this, the temp in the shade of our patio is 112. All week is predicted to be 120 and above! UGHHH!! I think Kingman will be the only one with a little respite from the relentless heat – but not much. Hopefully, this week Mother Nature will get all of it out of her system and summer will settle down to something relatively normal.

Lake Havasu was finally able to hold our first Home Garden Day in May at the Library. We also held the event the first of June. Both days we had approximately 20 residents show up during the two hours were there asking questions about low desert gardening. Questions came up about irrigation, how to save sad-looking plants, bent-in-half saguaros, etc.

We continue to receive numerous hotline calls and emails asking for assistance. Most calls involve improper watering. Either too much or too little -- cacti/succulents, bougainvillea, citrus, and yellow bells. Also, improper pruning of palms and irrigating right next to the trunk. Unfortunately, some of the same people call asking for advice – and we're pretty sure they haven't followed the previous instructions! Oh well, we're here to serve.

A couple of interesting house calls occurred. One homeowner had lost numerous plants in last year's heat and needed to know what he was doing wrong. He is a snowbird so he isn't around during the heat of summer. He does have a neighbor check his plants occasionally. Many of his plants needed a good pruning, but cautioned him to wait until January/February. Of course, his irrigation was set at too many days and too short of a time.

Another resident had an older ocotillo that had lost one third to one half of its canes – fallen over. She didn't know what to do. Had called a gardener

who gave her two quotes to take away the dead portion or totally remove. Advised her how to try to save the remainder, but I think it came down to how costly it could be to save versus remove. We figured she would totally remove.

In Lake Havasu, as in Bullhead and Kingman, the advice from landscaper gardeners continues to mislead and misdirect residents. Maybe each of the three cities could hold a seminar in conjunction with the city's Public Works Dept. on the proper care and irrigation of low desert plants. With the drought, water saving instructions could be a big part of the seminar. Professional instructors could give their advice which would probably be better received than from Master Gardeners. Back around 2010, a class was held like this and was very well received. A few years back, Lake Havasu Public Works held a seminar for landscape gardeners on how to prune. It was taught by one of the City's staff arborists and seemed to be well received. Something for us to consider for future programs.

Many of our Master Gardeners have been working in their gardens to try to beat the coming summer heat. Many have spruced up or repaired the damage done from last summer. Gail K. had to replace and repair over 45 in-ground irrigation bubblers. Gail is a past Coordinator and has held Emeritus status for a number of years. Jamie Z. has continued to add to her year-old landscaping creating a haven for herself and the birds, bees, and butterflies. Steve G. and Judi C. have left for the cooler climates of Wyoming and New Jersey. Then remainder of us are at least taking some time off to escape the heat for a few days to visit family and friends in various states.

By the time of publication, Summer will officially be here. I'm hoping and praying for a less intense summer with (dare I hope?!) some monsoonal rain coming our way. See you on the other side of summer!



RAMBLINGS FROM A PART-TIME DESERT GARDENER

By Steve Gissendanner
Lake Havasu City

In 2016, I signed up for the Horticulture Class in Lake Havasu. I wasn't sure if I would be accepted since I spend only six months of the year in the city. I divide my time between my other home in Wyoming – so yes, I'm a Snowbird! I was told I was not the only person who was not local taking the classes.

I began my first year as an Associate with monthly business meetings, Winter Fest, and going on house calls to view various plant issues and how to solve plant problems. The Associates were able to work alongside Master Gardeners to learn the "ropes" and to begin to feel comfortable. There were some times the first few years that I questioned whether I had made the right decision.

Now I'm back in Wyoming where I live for the other six months of the year, and I am reflecting on my time as a Master Gardener in Lake Havasu, since 2017. Here I work in the very big Cheyenne Botanical Garden. I work in the Conservatory some days, in the greenhouse, and on the 14 acres of grounds. Rest assured this is not a desert environment. The Botanical Garden does have a

cacti section which I have been instrumental in establishing. The knowledge I have gained as a Mohave Master Gardener has been very rewarding and beneficial in working in this cacti section of the Botanical Garden.

What's funny is that I have really come to love the desert environment but don't miss the heat! And while I'm here in Wyoming, I miss my buddies in the Lake Havasu Master Gardeners. We've done everything together from house calls, to our business meeting, to Meet the Master Gardener events, to Winterfest, to our annual cookout, to working landscape cleanup at the library, and many other things. If you want to be part of the group, you have to get involved.

All I can tell you is I miss my friends in Havasu. I don't miss the heat. I look forward to being back in Havasu come October. Being a Master Gardener doesn't have to be defined by geographical boundaries. It all depends on the people who make up the group, and I'm really proud of the group we have.



Mohave County Master Gardener Summer 2021 Calendar

JULY

- July 6th: Lake Havasu Home Garden Day at the Mohave County Library, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
July 12th: Laughlin Master Gardeners Meeting, 1 p.m. Laughlin Library
July 17th: Kingman Herb Workshop, 1 p.m, Mohave County Library
July 23rd: Kingman Master Gardener Meeting, 1 p.m., Extension Office 101 Beale St., Kingman

August

- August 3: Lake Havasu Home Garden Day at the Mohave County Library, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
August 21st: Kingman Hydroponic Workshop, 1 p.m. Mohave County library
August 27th: Kingman Master Gardener meeting, 1 p.m., Extension Office 101 Beale St., Kingman

September

- September 7th: Lake Havasu Home Garden Day at the Mohave County Library, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.
September 8th: Laughlin "Ask a Master Gardener", Laughlin Library, 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
September 9th: Home Garden Day, Bullhead City Library, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
September 14th: BHC Master Gardener meeting, Bullhead City Library, 3 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.
September 15th: Mohave County Fair Intake and Judging fruits/vegetables
September 16th: BHC Library Presentation, Bullhead City Library, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.
September 16-19th: Mohave County Fair
September 21: Lake Havasu Business Meeting, 4 p.m.
September 24th: Master Gardener meeting, 1 p.m., Extension Office 101 Beale St., Kingman



Summer 2021 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley Lossing, Master Gardener

