




# Chronology of the Growth of the Yavapai County Master Gardener Program

2/11/2023

1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carlton Camp – first Extension Agent in Yavapai. Prescott Cooperative Extension office opened in 1970; Verde Valley office opened in the early 1980s.</li> <li>• Carlton started Master Gardener program to help him with horticultural duties. Without a textbook, he started training 2 to 3 students at a time and mainly answered their questions on various issues such as water use, soil enhancement, and insect control.</li> <li>• Carlton retired in 1988.</li> </ul>	
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deborah Young replaced Carlton Camp in June 1990. Deborah earned a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Spanish from Indiana University and Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City. She also has an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, both from the University of Arizona. She was an Extension Agent in Cochise County, Arizona, prior to being the County Extension Director in Yavapai County.</li> <li>• Deborah continued to formalize and expand the Master Gardener training. At least 1 Master Gardener class was held per year (January – April) with 20 to 30 students per class.</li> <li>• In 1997 she left Yavapai County for the position of U of A Associate Director of statewide programs.</li> </ul>	
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Master Gardener class held in Coffee Pot Restaurant building (now part of Wyndham Resort in Sedona); class conducted by Deborah Young and Tom DeGomez; fee was \$25; 36 hours of training included soils, pruning, fruit trees, berries, pests and diseases, companion vegetable planting, fertilizing, composting, and grasses. 21 people completed the class.</li> </ul>	
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 960 cumulative Volunteer hours accrued since the inception of the Master Gardener Program.</li> <li>• Started maintaining annual records - 34 Master Gardeners reported a total of 158.5 volunteer hours for 1992.</li> </ul>	

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<p>1996 1997</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jeff Schalau was hired in 1996 as Program Coordinator, Natural Resources; he was the Extension water resource educator for 1.5 years. He replaced Deborah Young in November 1997 and has since held the dual position of Cooperative Extension Director and Ag &amp; Natural Resources Agent. As Extension Director Jeff further evolved the Master Gardener training to the 15-week course that included training on: basic botany; soils; water/irrigation; fruit trees; composting; Integrated Pest Management; pesticide safety; vegetable gardening; plant selection, staking, and pruning; native plants; defensible space; plant propagation; entomology; plant diseases; wildlife damage control. The size of the class has grown to the current 40 student capacity, with each year's class alternating between Cottonwood and Prescott.</li> </ul>	
<p>2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yavapai County Master Gardener Association started by a committee of Master Gardeners (Larry Anderson, Jonella Blake, Beverly Emerson, Nora Graf, Lucia Murphy, and Eunice Ricklefs).</li> <li>• First Arizona Highlands Garden Conference was held in Payson. Gila, Coconino, and Yavapai Counties began rotating the hosting of the conference each year. The conference is open to the public and features a variety of keynote speakers and break-out sessions on horticulture topics.</li> </ul>	
<p>2001</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Yavapai County Master Gardener Association by-laws ratified in November. Bi-monthly meetings started, alternating between Cottonwood and Prescott. The purpose of the Association is to support the Master Garden Program by sustaining the interests and enthusiasm of Master Gardeners through networking and continuing education activities.</li> </ul>	
<p>2002</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First Master Gardener Association officers were elected and committees were formed at the May meeting.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President – Anna Wilson</li> <li>President Elect – Lucia Murphy</li> <li>Secretary – Eunice Ricklefs</li> <li>Project Committee Chair - Ralph Young</li> <li>Program/Education Committee – Diana Keleher, Ann Long, John Paustian, Bernadette Selna, Sal Sorrentino</li> <li>Volunteer Projects Committee – Elinor Benes, Jonella Blake, Bill Cart, John Hassell, Jim Musgrove, Eunice Ricklefs, Ralph Young</li> <li>Membership Committee – Beverly Emerson, Larry Anderson, Jonella Blake, Nora Graf, Tacla Machesney, Sue Rogers, Cindi Shaffer</li> <li>Social Committee – Judie Bennett, CeCe Gilbert, Laura James</li> <li>By-Laws Committee – Charlotte Ewalt, Eunice Ricklefs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master Gardener Association switched from bi-monthly to monthly meetings</li> </ul>
2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started e-mail distribution to members to communicate announcements and volunteer and continuing education opportunities with Master Gardeners.</li> <li>Started Emeritus recognition for Master Gardeners who maintained an active status (i.e. submitted volunteer hours) for 10 consecutive years.</li> </ul>
2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Started Mentor program with 2007 Master Gardener class. Certified Master Gardeners volunteer to mentor individual class members through the 12 months following their Master Gardener training. Mentors answer administrative questions, provide assistance on finding volunteer opportunities, and in general communicate with mentee on a monthly basis to help them reach certification and to help them integrate into the organization.</li> </ul>
2008	<p>The first Monsoon Madness Plant &amp; Yard Sale was held Saturday July 12 in the Prescott Rodeo Grounds Parking lot. Purpose: to raise funds to support Arizona Highlands Garden Conference, as sponsorships were scarce due to downturn in the economy. The first planning meeting was held on May 15, giving the planning committee less than two months to organize, enlist volunteers, schedule tasks and timelines, receive and organize donated plants and items, and hold the sale. Bev Bostrom was the chairperson and Richard Wise co-chaired. Committee: Sherry Morton, Merchandising; Cynthia Cartier-Roberts, Logistics; Pam Bowman, Public Relations; Mary Barnes, Pricing; Anna Wilson, Outside Contacts and non-profit vendors; and Jeannette Teets, Musical Entertainment.</p>
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Program is sustained by 159 active Master Gardener volunteers who:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist the public by answering horticulture help lines in both Prescott and Cottonwood Cooperative Extension Offices</li> <li>Educate the public by staffing information tables at annual events such as: Farmers Markets; County Fairs and community festivals; giving talks to organizations, clubs, Homeowners associations; educational support for the landscaping of museums, schools, hospitals, and other non-profits; participate in a 4 county annual Arizona Highlands Garden Conference.</li> </ol> </li> <li>Master Gardeners reach initial certification by completing 50 Volunteer hours during the 13 months after their formal training. They maintain certification by completing a minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 6 continuing education hours each year.</li> <li>Master Gardeners who reach cumulative milestone hours are recognized annually.</li> </ul>
2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last Arizona Highlands Garden Conference (for Master Gardeners and the public) held at the Du Bois Center, NAU, Flagstaff</li> </ul>
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHGC replaced with Spring into Gardening, a day of continuing education for Yavapai and Coconino Master Gardeners, held at Yavapai College in Clarkdale</li> </ul>
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fall into Gardening, a day of continuing education for Yavapai and Coconino Master Gardeners, held at Trinity Heights Church in Flagstaff</li> </ul>
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Master Gardener Volunteer training switched from in-person to virtual (via Zoom) in March, due to COVID</li> </ul>

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2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Jeff Schalau, Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent and Extension Director, retired in July.</li><li>• Program has grown to 208 active Master Gardeners.</li><li>• Master Gardener Volunteer training was virtual via Zoom due to continuation of COVID pandemic.</li><li>• As a retiree, Jeff has Emeritus status. As an Emeritus volunteer, Jeff helped to update/reformat his Backyard Columns.</li></ul>	 A portrait of Jeff Schalau, a man with white hair and a beard, wearing a blue and white checkered shirt. He is smiling and looking directly at the camera. The background shows an indoor setting with a large letter 'H' on the wall.
2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Matthew Halldorson hired as County Extension Director and Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Agent as of July 25, 2022.</li><li>• No Master Gardener Volunteer training classes held in 2022 due to not having an ANR Agent for 1 year.</li></ul>	 A portrait of Matthew Halldorson, a man with a beard and mustache, wearing a blue and white plaid shirt. He is looking directly at the camera. The background shows an outdoor setting with a blue sky and some trees.
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In-person Master Gardener Volunteer training resumed in Prescott, beginning Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.</li></ul>	