Munger is a tremendous asset to the University of Arizona and exemplifies the Heart of Extension.

Cathy Munger. One of the many qualities Cathy Munger has is her patience with people that are not tech-savvy. She will sit and take home. Departments within Maricopa County Cooperative Extension have been working to connect with their clientele through various avenues. As Covid-19 spread, our team is no different. We continue to deliver Extension programs to communities and residents in Maricopa County and conduct in-person programming. However, we will look for ways to allow those who cannot or should not come to the office in small groups to work on our landscape and earn their required volunteer hours. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed and we are grateful for their continued partner engagement.

TAMARA FLOYD
Assistant Director
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

As we continue to review the data, we are hopeful to move through the Phased Operational Plan to get back to a more “normal” operation. However, one thing that has been made clear is that Zoom, Teams, Blackboard, and other digital platforms are here to stay. These tools will continue to be used to provide education and connect with people.

As the temperature slowly begins to lower, and I do mean slowly, we are approaching the end of the fall semester. Arizona is home to the sunniest states in the nation and we are blessed to spend the fall months outdoors. However, as winter begins to approach, we are reminded of the importance of staying warm and healthy.

Since March, the changes that have occurred are unlike any we’ve seen in such a short amount of time. We have experienced extreme temperature swings, floods, and wildfires. In addition, we have also seen economic disruption, social distancing, and school closures. It is crucial that those who are self-employed and semi-retired take a moment to re-evaluate their financial situations.

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The Arizona Master Gardener Program: A Community of Caring

In 2020, 101 Master Gardener volunteers have contributed to providing answers to all who seek advice on gardening. As of this writing, we have received 5,763 inquiries. 2020 has been a year of learning and growth for all of us. Our world has changed and so has our programming.

The extension of the Arizona Master Gardener Program has continued to offer the Master Gardener Program and to share our expertise with the residents of Maricopa County. We are proud to be a part of the University of Arizona Cooperative Extension and to the University of Arizona is unequaled. If anyone deserves to be thanked, it is our Master Gardener volunteers. They have been wonderful and continue to provide outstanding work.

In addition, four MCCE staff were awarded the coveted Employee of the Year Award. Congratulations to all of our outstanding employees.

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The Arizona Master Gardener Program: A Community of Caring

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to adapt our programming to continue to serve our community. We implemented training programs for employees and the public. In 2005, he became a Certified Desert Gardener.

Arizona Master Gardener

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By Armstrong Florian, MS, RDN

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The Arizona Master Gardener Program: A Community of Caring

The Arizona Master Gardener Program is a great opportunity that EE providers have to drive science learning as prescribed by the new Arizona Science Standards, by collaborating with teachers.

In over 5,000 schools, thousands of educators attending from 50 countries. Our sessions (with links to recordings) are free and are a great way to continue learning and thinking about our connection to agriculture and the commodities produced on Arizona’s lands.

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