



Eighteen volunteers were recognized at the MCCE first annual Volunteer Appreciation and Open House.

IMPROVING THE LIVES, COMMUNITIES, AND ECONOMY IN MARICOPA COUNTY



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE & LIFE SCIENCES
Cooperative Extension
 Maricopa County

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

November 2015

IN THIS ISSUE

Volunteer Appreciation and Open House

By Ed Martin

On October 12, 2015, Maricopa County Cooperative Extension (MCCE) got a chance to say thank you to a few of the thousands of volunteers who have given their expertise, time, and enthusiasm to helping us deliver quality education and engaging experiences to the great people of Maricopa County. Our first Volunteer Appreciation and Open House event was a great success, with over 130 people attending the event and celebrating the great programs and people here at MCCE.



Arrangement by Liz Schnoll

During the event, we were entertained by the 4-H Cloggers. The dance club put on a dynamite show and even got some audience participation in one of the performances. Many thanks to those talented youth and their club leaders. The event was an opportunity for those of us that work at MCCE to thank those who volunteer at the office. Eighteen volunteers were recognized for their contributions to MCCE and all volunteers that attended received UA drawstring bags with lots of treasures inside. The 18 volunteers recognized were: Dru Alberti, Jan Baltzer, Myrna Flores, Mary Glover, Elizabeth Hernandez, Tracy Johnson, Lynette Kaspur, Bev Lonchar, Donna Lorch, Bonnie Newhoff, Andre Nillo, Erin Robinson, Esmeralda Romero, Christine Rudolfo, Don Sutton, Linda Thieken, Terri Verason, and Erin Wilkinson. Congratulations to each of them and thank you to all our volunteers for the great work you do. Last year, our volunteers gave over 88,000 hours of their own time, which translates to almost \$2 million in donated wages. Their contributions help extend our reach throughout the county, helping Maricopa County Cooperative Extension improve people's lives, communities, and the economy.



Photo by Shujuan Li

Ditch the Itch



Photo by M. Crimmins

El Niño 2015–2016



Master Gardener

**Program Spotlight:
 Master Gardener Program**

Ditch the Itch

By Shujuan (Lucy) Li, Dawn H. Gouge,
Shaku Nair, Al Fournier and Mike Wierda

Head lice can infest people of all ages, but children are more prone to infestations due to their play activity and close physical contact. According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](http://www.cdc.gov), “an estimated 6 million to 12 million infestations occur each year in the United States among children 3 to 11 years of age.”

This human ectoparasite (a parasite that lives on the surface of its host) causes scalp itching, sleepless nights, and scratching that can lead to secondary skin infections. But more significant is the amount of stress, school days missed by students, and workdays missed by parents and guardians.

According to a new paper delivered at the American Chemical Society, head lice are now tougher to control than ever. In 25 states head lice have become highly resistant to the most commonly used over-the-counter lice shampoo treatments, including pyrethrins and the pyrethroid insecticide permethrin ([Yoon et al. 2015](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4511111/)).

DON'T PANIC! YOU CAN STILL DITCH THE ITCH!!! It's more important than ever to use an integrated pest management (IPM) strategy to battle this “lousy” pest. Using multiple complementary tactics and paying careful attention to results is critical. Relying on a one-step/one-tactic “fix” has little chance of success.

Include in your management strategy: on-going head lice monitoring of family members, laundering of bedding and clothing, nit-combing, dry-hair brushing, use of hair conditioners and hair-dryers, along with prescription treatments.

If you would like to know more, please view:

<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/public-health-IPM#lice>

<http://cals.arizona.edu/apmc/docs/Head-Lice-vF.pdf>

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Photo by Shujuan Li

El Niño 2015-2016: What Might It Mean for Arizona?

By Jeremy Weiss & Michael Crimmins

El Niño conditions have developed in the tropical Pacific Ocean and current forecasts are calling for this event to continue through next spring and reach a strength not seen since the winter of 1997-1998. What might this mean for Arizona weather during the coming months?

Changes brought about by an El Niño event can shift the storm track southward such that it passes through the Southwest more frequently. This can lead to a higher number of storms that pass through the region, some of which can bring considerable moisture. These circumstances increase the odds for cooler temperatures and above-average precipitation in Arizona during fall, winter, and spring months.

Since 1950, rain and snow totals in Arizona were higher than normal in five of the seven El Niño events categorized as strong. The most recent strong events in 1982-1983 and 1997-1998 resulted in above-normal precipitation across the state, particularly in the southern and central parts. In both of these cases, Maricopa County received close to double its average October-March precipitation.

Cooler temperatures and above-average precipitation that might result from the 2015-2016 El Niño event could lead to a

mix of related hazards and favorable circumstances that are relevant to agriculture, forestry and wildland fire management, human health and safety, property, ranching, and water resources. For example, El Niño events can lead to an increased average and higher variability in streamflow and flood size due to increased precipitation.

For more information:

<http://www.climas.arizona.edu/sw-climate/el-nino-southern-oscillation>

www.climate.gov/news-features/department/enso-blog

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Photo by M. Crimmins



Photo by M. Crimmins

Master Gardener Program Education



Citrus Clinic

Nearly 300 people attended the 2014 Citrus Clinics. The clinics include excellent presentations on citrus, dates, and deciduous nuts. A demonstration table with more than 100 varieties on display.

The upcoming Citrus Clinic will be held on **January 23, 2016** at the Greenfield Citrus Nursery located at 2558 E. Lehi Rd. in Mesa.

DIG-Desert Institute of Gardening

The Fall series of 6 classes included topics such as Fall Vegetable Gardening, Growing Great Roses, and Crazy for Compost. The DIG mission is to provide desert gardening methods and science to the public. Over 200 master gardeners and community members attended the Fall session. Look for the upcoming Spring session at www.MaricopaMasterGardener.com

Master Gardener Training

Annually the Master Gardener Program trains approximately 120 new volunteers. Master Gardener Volunteers teach others to select, place, and care for plants in an environmentally responsible manner based on research specific to the low desert.

The upcoming Master Gardener training begins:

January 12 - May 3, 2016 (Tuesdays)
9:30am - 12:30pm

Maricopa County Cooperative Extension

Contact Information:

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**Master Gardeners
Celebrate a Growing Holiday Season**

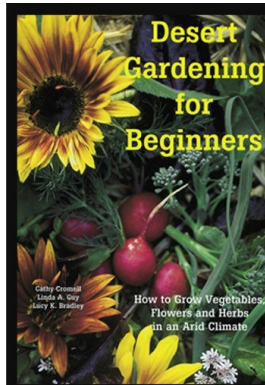
Summer has finally faded and a new growing season is upon us. Gardens are changing their flowering colors and vegetable beds are being planted with the cool season collection of greens. Summer squash, cucumbers, and melons are making way for the leafy winter lettuce, spinach, and cabbages to name a few. The Maricopa County Master Gardeners' planting calendar for Annual Fruits and Vegetables is one of our favorite tools to share with our community patrons. The planting guide is available online as a free publication at www.cals.arizona.edu/maricopa/garden/pubs.htm. This valuable calendar is also printed and laminated for the "wipe and clean" gardener's delight, and is available for sale at the Cooperative Extension office and most Master Gardener events.

The Master Gardener Office is happy to share other Holiday shopping ideas for the gardening family member, neighbor, and friend on your holiday



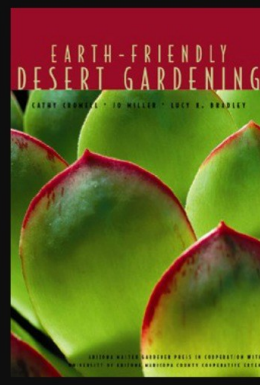
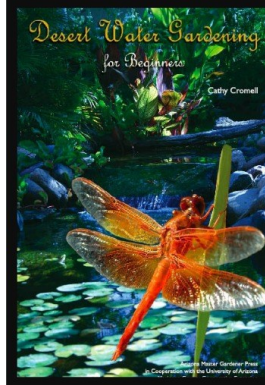
shopping list. Four books, written and published by Master Gardeners, proudly top the list of resources to share with our low desert community. A must have for all our desert gardeners – these books are written specifically for our unique desert soils, climate, and growing seasons. These books are also available at all program events. Our signature Master Gardener Event will be held in March as the 14th Annual Real Gardens for Real People Garden Tour takes place in NE Phoenix. Tickets information for this event can be found at www.realgardensforrealpeople.com.

- Vegetables & Flowers
- Desert Soil
- Removing Bermuda
- Soil Preparation
- Compost
- Planting
- Watering
- Fertilizing
- Growing Seasons
- Planting Calendars
- \$10.00**



- Native Plants
- Plant Selection
- Watering
- Pruning
- Plant Problems & Pests
- Frost Protection
- Cacti & Succulents
- Wildflowers
- Roses & Citrus
- Turf
- \$17.00**

- Planning & Design
- Materials & Components
- Installing Your Pond
- Wildlife Habitat
- Balancing Pond Life
- Adding Plants & Fish
- Aquatic Plants
- Invasive Species
- Maintenance Calendars
- \$20.00**



- Site Assessment
- Landscape Design
- Plant Selection
- Plant Maintenance
- Pest Management
- Water Conservation
- Green Waste Reduction
- Water Quality
- Wildlife Habitats
- Edible Landscapes
- \$17.00**

The Director's Cut

By Ed Martin

The nights are finally starting to cool down and Fall has officially arrived. I want to thank everyone, including staff, faculty, volunteers, and friends that helped us celebrate our Volunteer Appreciation and Open House on October 12. We honored 18 volunteers that demonstrated outstanding service to Maricopa County Cooperative Extension. The evening was a great success and with all the great volunteers we have, I know we'll be making this an annual event. A big thank you to Mary Conner and Kim Christman in our office for all their hard work. Thanks to our friends at Metro Tech High School, where we had a very successful Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale on October 17. Many attendees went away with some truly wonderful plants to add to their landscapes and gardens. As a reminder, October 19th marked the beginning of the 10th year of AZ Agricultural Literacy Days, held every fall with emphasis on the three days before Thanksgiving. Please consider giving 30 minutes of your time by reading in an elementary classroom near you. Register at <http://cals.arizona.edu/agliteracy/AZ-Ag-Lit-Days>. Within 10 business days of registering, you will receive a copy of Arizona Agriculture: Bee's Amazing Adventure to read and give to each class that you have scheduled a visit; contact Brandon Moak (bmoak@cals.arizona.edu) with any questions. Since this is the last newsletter before the holiday season, I want to personally wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. From all your friends at MCCE, thank you for all your support and we look forward to an exciting 2016!



ABOUT TOWN

AZ Agriculture Literacy Day

When: Now through Dec. 18
 Coordinated between volunteer & teacher
 Where: At an elementary school near you
 Contact: AgLiteracy@cals.arizona.edu
 More Information:
<http://cals.arizona.edu/agliteracy/AZ-Ag-Lit-Days>

L TSAE Learning the Signs/Act Early Autism Training—For Child Care Professionals

When: Nov. 13 & Dec. 12 9:00am - 3:00pm
 Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/resources/LTSAE%202015-%20Application%20-%20Phoenix%20o.pdf>

Groundwater: Why Do We Care?

When: Nov. 21 8:30am - 3:00pm
 Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/groundwater-why-do-we-care>

T3 Train the Trainer

When: Nov. 30 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/t3-vision-screening-training-trainers-o>

Project CENTRL Leadership Luncheon

When: Dec 2 11:30am - 1:30pm
 Where: Double Tree by Hilton
 2100 S. Priest Dr., Tempe
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/project-centrl-leadership-luncheon>

T3 Train the Trainer

When: Dec. 11 9:00am - 4:00pm
 Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/t3-vision-screening-training-trainers-2>

Desert Turf School - 10th Anniversary

When: Jan. 4 - 8, 2016 8:00am - 5:00pm
 Where: Maricopa County Cooperative Extension
 More Information:
<http://extension.arizona.edu/10th-anniversary-desert-turf-school>
**Registration online or by mail. Due December 1.*


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Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Monthly Event Calendar

<http://extension.arizona.edu/calendar/month?ctid%5B%5D=16>

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

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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.

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