



December, 2011

Dr. Rod Wing, University of Arizona Plant Science Department and Arizona Genomics Institute, the UA PLant Science Department and I would like to invite you to participate in a very exciting and important event – **Math Science and Technology FUNFEST takes place in the TCC in February 16-17, 2012.** The event is an outstanding combination of public outreach education and community relations for your department.

This year, there will be an amazing focus on the **WONDERFUL and WONDER FULL WORLD of PLANTS and PLANT SCIENCES!**

Our **Funfest Plant Sciences educational area will include-** agriculture, plant growth and development, nutrition, soil analysis, interactions with animals, genetics, data analysis, ecosystems, weather/climate, native and invasive plants, ethnobotany, dendrochronology, farming, scientific tools used in plant sciences, organic and community gardens, and..... more!

Math, Science, and Technology FUNFEST (MSTFF) is a science extravaganza now in its 9th year, the **FUNFEST** (as it is commonly called) introduces 4th – 8th graders to diverse math, science, and engineering principles and content. Professional scientists and experts use a variety of interactive and hands-on workshops to engage and stimulate the students' inquisitive nature.

The MSTFF is a collaborative effort between Raytheon, the University of Arizona, IBM, Honeywell, US Expo, SciEnTeK-12, and now **AGI** showing students a real-life perspective of many sciences and for us, the multitude of connections to plant sciences. Over the 2 days, we are expecting a diverse group of over 6000+ students and teachers from across Tucson and southern Arizona. In addition to "free admission" for all students/schools, funding to cover the cost of bussing is provided by our sponsors. What a gift and what an opportunity for our Tucson students. **Your participation will enrich and enhance the experiences for all.**



**MSTFF** dates align with the state-wide math and science outreach activities as a part of a consortium of events across the state to celebrate **Arizona's Centennial in February 2012.** The dates/times/place of MSTFF are February 16-17, 2012 from 9 am – 1 pm both days at the Tucson Convention Center.

We encourage your department to participate along with 100 other professional scientists and experts as we educate and inspire "scientific thinking" for thousands of young people. To read more about FUNFEST or to see photos of the event in action, go to <http://www.mathsciencefunfest.org>

**Registration is now open for the 2012 Centennial Funfest. If you have questions, or need clarifications before you sign-up, please contact Caryl Jones at 299-6813 or [cjones@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:cjones@cals.arizona.edu).** By all means, spread the word about this fabulous event to your colleagues and friends. Our Tucson community is rich with incredible scientists and experts that can be a part of this community event.



As an added bonus for this FUNFEST Centennial Celebration, we are developing an area specifically designed to focus and bring attention to the **WORLD of PLANTS and PLANT SCIENCES**. Mark your calendars, register soon, and plan on bringing your particular expertise and interest in plant sciences to life for the Southern Arizona community.

**A few more facts:** MSTFF limits the number of attendees in order to provide a quality experience to all participants – including you, our science, math and technology professionals. At FUNFEST, groups of 6-8 students (with an adult volunteer) rotate through the hands-on activities of choice. Your booth will be provided power, tables, chairs and divider curtains to help limit distractions and “focus” the learning. Groups stay as long as your activity requires... usually 10-20 minutes.

The MSTFF is a truly unique opportunity for the next generation of scientists, mathematicians and high-tech engineers to learn, explore and dream. Again, our primary purpose is to expose kids to many, many different types of math and science in such a way that they can understand the real life applications and set their inquisitive minds ablaze with questions, speculation and wonder. MSTFF provides students an opportunity to interact with real life scientists, mathematicians and engineers from diverse science and math related disciplines. **We are hoping you will join our area in the WONDERFUL and WONDER FULL of PLANT SCIENCES.**

Do you have an idea for your center – however, you need some assistance guiding the planning? Do you have questions about the MSTFF in general or specific? Do you have special space or equipment needs? Do you have science/scientific tools (technology) that students can learn to operate? Do you have complex thinking skills that you are sure kids will enjoy learning? **What is your expertise—please share it with our kids!**

To read more about FUNFEST go to <http://www.mathsciencefunfest.org>

**Ready to register NOW for this exciting opportunity!** <https://www.regonline.com/register/checkin.aspx?MethodId=0&eventsessionId=40d26af5fa95400a9893a29ccaf8efda&eventID=1024048>

To see the fun in action..... <http://gallery.me.com/caryljoness13#101515> (thank you Jason Talag)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, Caryl Jones at (520) 299-6813 or via email to [cjones@cals.arizona.edu](mailto:cjones@cals.arizona.edu).

Sharon Oneal, director of MSTFF is also available at (520) 388-0801 (cell) or via email to [mathsciencefunfest@comcast.net](mailto:mathsciencefunfest@comcast.net).

Dr. Wing, Sharon Oneal and I look forward to hearing from you!

*Caryl Jones*

Math Science and Technology Funfest Planning Committee Coordinator/Member  
Senior Program Coordinator for Plants Sciences at University of Arizona

