



Mohave County Master Gardener Program

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Bullhead City Master Gardeners

Well, November has come and gone and we are looking at the end of year 2023. We had our Home Garden Day events with fairly good attendance. Community residents brought lots of questions about gardening in our area. The Home Garden Day is an informal gathering for the public to bring in plant samples, photographs and questions about plant problems and share their successes as well.

Our October workshop coincided with a local utility company’s annual tree sale. During the workshop on “Tree Planting, Native and Non-Native Trees,” Bill Stillman and Leroy Jackson demonstrated the “how to’s” of planting - including how to remove a plant from its nursery container, opening up the plant’s root system and dealing with encircled roots, and how to stake the tree. The presentation also included tree planting and how to care for and irrigate trees properly. (See photo #1, photo #2, and photo #3)



Bullhead City Master Gardeners



The November workshop was very well attended and focused on “How to Care for and Maintain Potted Plants.” Dennis Lesowsky mainly discussed house plants and how to maintain them. He performed a demonstration on how to repot a plant, how to care for overgrown root systems, and how to amend the potting soil. (See photo #4, photo #5). He also discussed how to split a larger plant into several individual plants which could then be separately planted.



Mohave Electric Cooperative (MEC) had their annual “Operation Cool Shade” tree dispersal at the Anderson Field House in early November. Many of our Master Gardeners volunteered with the tree distribution - handing out flyers of upcoming events and “How to Plant Your Cool Shade Tree”.

The norm for many years now has been to have a Christmas dinner in place of our December Master Gardener meeting. In the distant past, it was held at one of the Master Gardener’s homes. With our growing group, the location has been changed to a local restaurant in Bullhead City. It was a fun way to celebrate the year and welcome the holidays.

Our garden workshop calendar has a full schedule of interesting topics and guest speakers on tap for early 2024. At each of our workshops, we hand



(BHC continued from page 2)

out event evaluations, and we have been receiving some pretty good feedback from our community members of what type of gardening workshops they'd like us to do. We are making a list so that we can incorporate these requests into our future workshops. This month's December workshop topic is "Moved Here, Now What? Tips on Desert Gardening" presented by several different Master Gardeners.

Many of us traveled up to Kingman for the recent Recognition Luncheon. Master Gardeners from

all three areas were on hand, and it's always fun to be with our fellow Mohave County MGs. Awards for the Bullhead Master Gardeners were as follows: Becky Leisle and Naomi Jack each hit the 250 hours mark. Mary Johnson hit the 750 hour mark, Leroy Jackson made it to 2,000 hours, and Bill Stillman hit the 5,000 hour mark. Debbie Miller was given her Emeritus certificate as well during the event.

Happy holidays and happy new year to all!

Kingman, Manzanita Elementary Winter Garden



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Lake Havasu City Master Gardeners

Sharon Gomez, Coordinator

Can you believe this wonderful weather we're having? Plants are loving it and beginning to show signs of recovery from the long, hot summer. For the past few weeks, my air conditioner has finally given me a reprieve and stayed off – at last my electric bill will be more reasonable!

Home Garden Days have been well attended, even with the hot weather. Of course, most of the questions asked have been, "Why are my plants dying?" But not just the hot weather has contributed to the deaths. As usual, irrigation continues to be an issue with many residents. With this in mind, we will be planning an irrigation workshop in the coming year to try again to impart the correct method for irrigating all plants in the low desert. Unfortunately, we find we give out the information – including printed material to take home – but the residents don't always make a change and their problems continue. Part of being a Master Gardener is having the patience and fortitude to continue to give out the best information as possible and hope, hope, hope the residents will put that information to good use!

Our phone and email hotline contacts have slowed somewhat. We only had two home visits. One in September regarding a couple of failing saguaros and then one in October about a mesquite that had been improperly pruned and was having dieback. We've had a number of calls this year regarding failing mesquites.

On December 2, we held a workshop on vegetable gardening in the low desert for our annual Meet the Master Gardeners. The event was well attended with a total of 81 in attendance! We concentrated on raised bed gardens versus inground gardens. The soil is just too difficult to work with and gardeners can better concentrate on their plants when grown in raised beds. The workshop highlighted all the

varieties of containers that can be used for raised bed gardening including in-depth information on soils, amendments, irrigation, and pests and insects. In-ground gardening was somewhat covered just to not totally discourage those gardeners who wish to tackle our dirt! We showed slides highlighting Dottie Holman and Shirley Costner's inground gardens.

As we continue into our winter season, our busy time of the year begins with the return of our winter visitors and all of the activities that go along with their return. Bob Morris will be speaking in January on desert plants and irrigation for water efficiency. Then our group, along with a 3-man crew from the city's Public Works Landscape Division, will be giving a workshop on tree and shrub pruning in the spring. This event is always well attended with demonstrations on actual tree pruning and then a slide presentation on the dos and don'ts of pruning trees, shrubs and palms.

The first weekend of February is the annual Winterfest street fair. Master Gardeners has a booth for the visitors to stop by and ask questions and pick up flyers on various subjects. We also try to have a few succulents to hand out if our gardens have cooperated. If you have a chance, this is always a fun and interesting street fair with vendors from all over the U.S.

Then, on February 10, Glenn Wright will conduct a workshop on growing citrus in the low desert. Lake Havasu has quite a few citrus growers or wanna-bes, so this workshop is always well attended and well received.

Well, the Christmas decorations are up and it's time to sit back and enjoy the display with a nice, fat eggnog! Wishing all of you Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a new year filled with lots of gardening opportunities!





Mohave County Master Gardener Winter 2024 Calendar

January

- 1/2/24, LHC Home Garden Day, Library 11am-1pm
- 1/9/24, BHC Bullhead Master Gardener Meeting, 3 pm-4:45 pm, MCC Room #201
- 1/11/24, BHC Home Garden Days 10am-12pm @ MCC Room #600
- 1/16/24, LHC Business Meeting, Library, 4 pm
- 1/18/24, BHC Pruning in your Landscape & Rose Care 2pm-4 pm @ MCC Room #403 2pm- 4pm
- 1/20/24, LHC Bob Morris speaks on Native Plants and Irrigation, Library 10-11 am
- 1/23&25/24, LHC TBD, Pruning Workshop, Aquatic Center, 10am
- 1/27/24, KNG Seed Starting Workshop 1pm, Ext

February

- 2/3&4/24, LHC WinterFest, Downtown Lake Havasu, 9am-5pm
- 2/6/24, LHC Home Garden Day, Library, 11-1pm
- 2/8/24, BHC Home Garden Days 10am-12pm @ MCC Room #600
- 2/10/24, LHC Glenn Wright Workshop on Citrus, Library 2pm
- 2/13/24, BHC Bullhead Master Gardener Meeting 3pm 4:45pm, MCC Room #201
- 2/15/24, BHC All About Citrus and Other Fruit Trees For This Area. MCC, Room #403, 2pm- 4pm
- 2/20/24, LHC Business Meeting, Library. 4pm
- 2/23/24, KNG Monthly Meeting, 1pm Ext Office
- 2/24/24, KNG Rose Pruning Workshop, 1pm Ext Office

March

- 3/5/24, LHC Home Garden Day, Library, 11am-1pm
- 3/12/24 BHC Bullhead Master Gardener Meeting 3pm- 4:45pm, MCC Room #201
- 3/14/24 BHC Home Garden Days 10am-12pm @ MCC Room #600
- 3/19/24, LHC Tuesday, March 19, Business Meeting, Library, 4pm
- 3/21/24 BHC All About Irrigation For This Area. MCC, Room #403 2 PM to 4 PM
- 3/22/24, KNG Monthly Meeting, 1pm Ext Office
- 3/23/24, KNG Transplanting Workshop and tomato plant giveaway, 1pm, Ext Office

Winter 2024 Wind & Weeds Assembled by Shelley Lossing, Master Gardener

