

Hello school IPMers and interested others,

Arizona's October monthly update is as follows:



A MASS OF BATS...

What: The Arizona Game and Fish Department invites you to attend a free bat workshop to learn more about these shy, misunderstood creatures. The workshop will provide an opportunity for the public and educators to watch an amazing site as **more than 2,700 Mexican free-tail bats** exit their roost for the evening at Phoenix's largest bat colony (near the Biltmore area). The evening workshop will begin with a talk by bat biologists, with a chance to see live bats up close. Participants will then watch the mass exodus using special night vision and ultrasonic sound equipment to hear the bat's inaudible echolocation sounds.

When: Wednesday, Oct. 10, 2007 6 p.m.

Where to meet: Shuttles will run every 10 minutes from the Squaw Peak school parking lot, with the last shuttle leaving for the viewing site at 5:40 p.m.

Squaw Peak School
4601 N. 34th St., just north of Campbell Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona

~Please confirm attendance. Contact AZ Game & Fish Public Information Officer Lynda Lambert at (602) 789-3203.~



COMPOST EFFORTS...A PEST MAGNET?

Composting on school grounds is all too often an IPM Specialists worst scenario, with large piles of steaming organic debris on the ground serving as a "vacancy" sign to every other filth fly around... But there are options. Let your faculty know about the variety of **Compost tumbler bins**, available at most home and garden stores and from a number of online sellers.

Compost tumblers help keep compost:

- Well-aerated, without use of garden tools
- Moistened in dry weather and protected from downpours
- Decay smells from permeating environment

~Compost tumbler bins are also a lot easier, safer and healthier for children~



WEST NILE VIRUS (WNV) UPDATE...

Stats. for Arizona as of September 30, 2007:

Total human cases = 57

- Coconino Co. (1)
- Graham Co. (1)
- Maricopa Co. (47)
- Pima Co. (4)
- Pinal Co. (4)

At least 30 cases (53%) are neuroinvasive infections (meningitis &/or encephalitis). Fourteen cases are classified as West Nile fever, but with varying degrees of severity.

About 20% of those who contract WNV will develop "West Nile fever"; the other 80% show no, or only mild, symptoms of the virus. And only one in 150 cases of WNV typically becomes a neuroinvasive infection. Thus, the majority of people with WNV do not realize they have contracted the virus unless it develops into the more symptomatic WN fever or the more serious neuroinvasive condition. Given that there are 30 neuroinvasive cases in Arizona to date, the total number of reported WNV cases (57) is likely to be significantly under representative of the *actual* number of WNV cases. The majority of mosquitoes in our arid climate are generated from backyard water sources and unkept (green) swimming pools. For more information on preventing WNV and reducing mosquito habitat in your backyard, visit the Department of Health website: <http://www.westnileaz.com/>.

 **WEED MANAGEMENT...**

A couple resources for those of you preparing your turf for fall:

- Our colleagues at Texas A&M university recently put out some information on weed management for late summer/early fall (thanks Janet Hurley!). **See attachment.** Texas and Arizona climates are similar, so this will likely be of use to many of you. Good weed management plays an important role in good pest (especially ant) management!
- A complete online edition to the printed guide [An Illustrated Guide to Arizona Weeds](#), by Kittie F. Parker (The University of Arizona Press, Tucson), can be found at:
<http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/onlinebks/weeds/titlweed.htm>.

 **ARIZONA CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COALITION WORKSHOP...IT'S SET!**

From AZ school IPM program Director, Dawn Gouge:

1. **Legislation** was passed this year which added "feral bee hives" to the list of Public Health Nuisances under ARS 36-601. This legislation goes into effect this month.

2. ACE Health Coalition Workshop: We will be conducting a workshop on Africanized honey bees which will include information about bee biology & behavior, public perception of “killer bees,” health/medical risks, assessing bee hives (differentiating swarms from hives), protective equipment and safety, and options for mitigating bee problems. A separate topic, bats, will also address building inspection techniques for detection and exclusion of wild bats, what to do if a bat is found, and the role of our Game and Fish Department. We will have a guest speaker, bat biologist Nancy Renison, AZ Game and Fish Dept.

- **When/where:** The workshop will be held Thursday, November 8th from 10 AM – 3 PM at the Maricopa County Cooperative Extension Service Office – Palo Verde Room. Location is 4341 East Broadway Road, Phoenix, AZ 85040 (cross-roads are 48th Street & Broadway). We will be limited to 100 attendees so please RSVP to Dawn Gouge – dhgouge@ag.arizona.edu.

 **FACILITIES TRAINING ONLINE – GREEN YOUR BUILDING**

Interested in reducing the carbon footprint of your buildings? You can save time and money by learning right from your desktop with the **Carbon Reduction Webinar Series**. “Foundations I: Climate Change 101” workshop is held online on Oct. 10th followed on Oct. 24th by “Foundations II: Carbon Reduction and Inventory Process”. Participants will learn about:

- Defining climate change and its scientific impacts
- Describing the relative impacts of individuals, organizations, communities, and buildings on carbon emissions
- Recognizing your power to reduce the carbon footprint of your buildings
- Understanding the importance of developing a carbon baseline
- Using carbon calculators
- Identifying key emissions contributors
- Employing the Plan/Develop/Manage model to create a carbon baseline/inventory

~For more information on the Carbon Reduction Webinar Series, see the US Green Building Council’s webpage for online workshops:
<http://www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1449&~>

Thanks all,

Jennifer

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