



2011 Docent Training Schedule

All classes are held from 1:30-3:30 pm in the Horticulture Center classroom unless indicated otherwise. Please contact Rachel Edelstein if you have any schedule conflicts or questions at (928) 774-1442, ext.110 or Rachel.Edelstein@nau.edu.

March 1 Come to an **Introductory Session** for prospective docents. Executive Director Steve Yoder and Director of Public Programs Rachel Edelstein will provide an overview of the roles of a docent and the benefits of volunteering at The Arboretum. Learn about The Arboretum's mission and current programs for 2010. At 2:30 p.m. all docents and staff members are invited to join us for refreshments and socializing. *Program will be held in the Walter Reichardt House Living Room.*

March 3 **The Ideal Tour**—Director of Public Programs Rachel Edelstein will cover basic touring techniques, provide an outline for a general tour and present “The Top 20 Plants” of The Arboretum. Please come prepared to share a story about a favorite tour with the group.

March 8 **Botany Basics I**—Research Botanist Sheila Murray will introduce the class to some key concepts of botany such as classification systems, floral anatomy, tree anatomy, and a discussion of what is a native plant.

March 10 **Botany Basics II**— Research Botanist Sheila Murray will conduct some hands-on plant identification activities to help docents learn about specific characteristics of native plants.

March 15 **Field Trip**— The Desert Botanical Garden in Phoenix. We will meet at the Wal-Mart parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and travel in rental vehicles to Phoenix. Please bring water, a hat, and sunscreen. Lunches are available for purchase at the garden. Pam Levin of the DBG Education Department will meet with our group and we will have the chance to experience a docent-led tour of the gardens as well. We plan to return to Flagstaff by 5:30 p.m.

March 17 **SPRING BREAK** – *No class scheduled*

March 22 **Research Programs** - Join Arboretum Research Scientist, Kristin Haskins for an overview of past and current research efforts at The Arboretum.

March 24 **Invasive Weeds** – Dr. Kristin Haskins will help to familiarize docents with invasive, noxious weeds that are a grave threat to native species. Learn which ones are the greatest threat and how to get rid of them.

March 29 **Natural History** Gwen Waring will share information that she has compiled in her upcoming book about the natural history of the Colorado Plateau. We will learn about the geology, flora, and fauna that make our region unique.

March 31 **Horticulture Department**–Director of Horticulture Mark Jarecki will discuss the main theme in each of the gardens. Weather permitting; he will take the group outside. **Greenhouse Tour and Propagation Demo**– Horticulturist Whitney Rooney will explain how the passive solar and fully automated greenhouses function. We will learn about the business of plant propagation and get the chance to do a small horticulture project as well.

April 5 **Aspen Health**– Find out from Mary Lou Fairweather of the Forest Service what is happening to our local stands of Aspen.

April 7 **Conifer Health** -- Tom DeGomez of the County Cooperative Extension will share information about ponderosa pine, pinyon pine and juniper forest health.

April 12 **Tour Shadowing w/Rachel Edelstein**– Join staff and volunteers for a model tour. You will have an opportunity to ask questions and research topics of interest following the tour. Docents in training will conduct practice tours with peers following the staff-led tours.

April 14 **Tour Shadowing w/Steve Yoder & Practice Tours**

April 19 **Tour Shadowing w/Loni Shapiro & Practice Tours**

April 21 **Docent Graduation and Golf Cart Training**- We will meet in the courtyard to practice driving the golf cart and learn the approved route that should be taken when doing golf cart tours. Afterward we will celebrate graduation in the Walter Reichardt Living Room. Past docents and staff are invited to join us for the festivities.

In case of inclement weather, please listen to the local radio stations for school closures. If schools are cancelled due to snow, docent training will also be cancelled and rescheduled. Late snow days should not affect the docent-training schedule. When in doubt call Rachel's voice mail for a special message to docents 774-1442, ext.110.