



University of Nevada  
Cooperative Extension



# COMMUNITY CONNECTION

**October 2010**

The Southwest has been hit harder than any other area of the nation by the economic downturn. But we are already starting to rebound. Will you be ready? Learn how to be!

For the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row, the Desert Green Foundation is pleased to offer quality education at an affordable price to Green Industry professionals in the arid Southwest.



The premier turf and landscape event for professionals in the Southwest—Desert Green—will be held on October 21-22, 2010. Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall is the venue for the event. "Alternative Landscapes—The New Horizon" features two days of four concurrent seminar tracks, table top displays and a green industry mixer.

Everyone's a winner at Desert Green! Highlights for this year's event include tree worker training in English and in Spanish; two advanced arboriculture sessions for professionals who want more; expanded book sales and book signing during Green Industry Mixer and more. Continuing Education Units (CEU's) will be offered for Certified Arborists of all types.

Along with University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, other sponsors include Southwest Trees & Turf, Southern Nevada Golf Course Superintendents Association, Southern Nevada Arborist Group, Nevada Chapter--American Society of Landscape Architects, Southern Nevada Water Authority,

Nevada Landscape Association and Nevada Shade Tree Council.

For more information, or to register, please contact M.L. Robinson at 702-257-5529, email [robinsonm@unce.unr.edu](mailto:robinsonm@unce.unr.edu), Helen at [Helen@desert-green.org](mailto:Helen@desert-green.org), or register on-line at <http://www.desert-green.org>.



# NEVADA NATURALISTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

## Collecting Seeds in Laughlin, Nevada



The Nevada Naturalist Program is an adult environmental education program sponsored by Cooperative Extension in partnership with various federal and state agencies.

The focus of the program is to give a broad understanding of nature to participants interested in learning, volunteering and participating in conservation projects locally.

Over the summer Nevada Naturalists, in partnership with the National Park Service, collected seeds in Grapevine Canyon near Laughlin, NV.

Nevada Naturalists served as “Volunteers-in-Parks” and collected seeds from the following plants:

Creosote Bush (*Larrea tridentata*), Sweet bush (*Bebbia juncea*), Monkey flower (*Mimulus*), Chia (*Salvia hispanica*) and Fiddleneck (*Amsinckia*). All of these plants are native to the Laughlin and Bullhead City area.



The collected seeds will be used to augment the landscaping of the new Laughlin Regional Heritage Greenway Trail south of Davis Dam along the west bank of the Colorado River. This is a multi-phase effort. The collected seeds will be mixed with soil to make “mud balls.” Nevada

Naturalists will work with the park service this fall to create and disperse the “mud balls” along the new trail. Nevada Naturalists were the only group from Las Vegas to participate in this seed collecting event!

For additional information, contact Denise Parsons, Nevada Naturalist Program Officer, at 702-948-5906 or email [parsonsd@unce.unr.edu](mailto:parsonsd@unce.unr.edu).



The University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's (UNCE) mission is to discover, develop, disseminate, preserve and use knowledge to strengthen the social, economic, and environmental well-being of people. UNCE is an outreach arm of the University that extends unbiased, research-based knowledge from the University of Nevada and other land grant universities to local communities.



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# ENTER TO WIN—National Radon Poster Contest!

The 2011 Radon Poster Contest ends on October 15, 2010.

## The Cause: Radon



Radon is a colorless, odorless and tasteless gas that can kill. The Surgeon General lists it as the second leading cause of lung cancer in the United States. This radioactive element moves through the ground to the surface and can easily enter homes and buildings. There is no way to detect the amount of radon present unless it is tested.

## The Goal: Raise Awareness

Harmful effects of elevated levels of indoor radon gas are a problem. The solution is to reduce the number of homes with elevated levels of radon. This contest is designed to raise awareness for radon testing and inform people of the danger of radon in their homes.

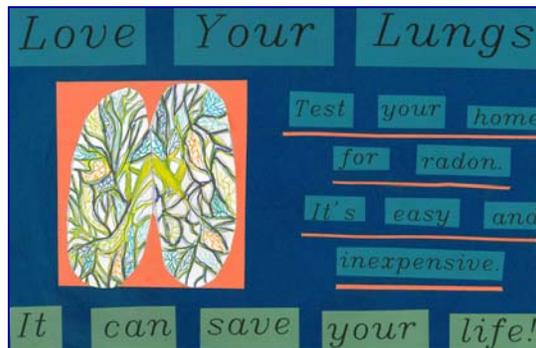
## National Poster Contest: top 3 Nevada posters

Youth, ages 9-14, can enter. Schools from all 50 states, U.S. territories, tribal nations and the Department of Defense will be participating in the national contest. The top three Nevada posters will be sent to the national contest. Judges will select winners and runners-up in each category.

The Nevada Radon Program Team would like to have a national winning poster. That person will travel to Washington, DC in January! Incentive prizes include one \$50 prize and two \$25 prizes.

For poster tips and all the entry details, visit:  
<http://www.unce.unr.edu/programs/sites/radon>.

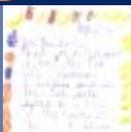
Last year's winner, Paige Thompson, with Laura Au-Yeung, Cooperative Extension's Radon Program Coordinator.





Each month, Cooperative Extension offers classes throughout the community. To view the listing of these classes, log on to: [www.unce.unr.edu/areas/southern](http://www.unce.unr.edu/areas/southern).

If you have a question regarding a class listing, please do not hesitate to call (702) 222-3130. Thank you.



## *What are Pumpkins? Pumpkins are fruit.*

A pumpkin is a type of squash and is a member of the gourd family (Cucurbitaceae) which also includes squash, cucumbers, gherkins and melons.

- The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in 2005 and weighed 2,020 pounds.
- Pumpkins have been grown in North America for five thousand years. They are indigenous to the western hemisphere.
- In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons." The name was translated into English as "pompions," which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin."
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein and iron.
- The largest pumpkin ever grown was 1,689 pounds. It was grown by Joe Jutras of North Scituate, Rhode Island.
- Pumpkin seeds should be planted between the last week of May and the middle of June. They take between 90 and 120 days to grow and are picked in October when they are bright orange in color. Their seeds can be saved to grow new pumpkins the next year.

For more information on growing pumpkins in southern Nevada, visit <http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2007/sp0705.pdf>.

*The History Channel website. Retrieved 5:00, August 6, 2010, from <http://www.history.com/topics/halloween-pumpkin-trivia>.*



University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Southern Area has offices and offers programming in Clark, Lincoln and Southern Nye counties. Office locations and phone number are:

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P.O. Box 126, 89021

**Las Vegas 702-222-3130**

8050 Paradise Road, 89123

**Pahrump 775-727-5532**

1651 E. Calvada Blvd., 89048

**Laughlin 702-420-4119**

55 Civic Way, 89029

For more information on University of Nevada Cooperative Extension Southern Area programming, please call (702) 222-3130 or visit the website at [www.unce.unr.edu/areas/southern](http://www.unce.unr.edu/areas/southern).