



The WV STEM Club is a social organization which meets monthly for lunch with a speaker on a topic of interest. Short field trips are occasionally scheduled. Membership is open to anyone who has worked in or has an interest in Engineering, Science or Technology. Meetings are held at 11:30am on the first Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted), October through June, at Grandview Terrace, in the fourth-floor ballroom, at 14515 W. Granite Valley Drive, Sun City West, AZ. **Guests and visitors are always welcome.** Contact Phil Main: maintwin3@gmail.com, 623-826-0101 (cell).

MAY 1 PROGRAM

Mosquitos and Monitoring in Maricopa County

Conni Griffith

Educational Outreach Specialist, Maricopa County Environmental Services Vector Control



Conni Griffith is the Educational Outreach Specialist for Maricopa County Environmental Services Vector Control. She began her career with Maricopa County in 2017 as part of the Vector Control Division. In 2022, she transitioned to the Water and Waste Management Department as a Maricopa County Environmental Health Specialist, working within the Swimming Pools Program. In 2023, she returned to Vector Control to develop and lead a dedicated outreach program focused on community education and engagement.

Before joining Maricopa County, Conni worked in Vector Control in both Klamath County and Jackson County in Oregon. Her background also includes a strong foundation in informal science education, with experience at zoos and aquariums in Santa Barbara, California, and Phoenix, Arizona. She previously served as a coordinator for the Chemistry Outreach Program at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she supported hands-on science education for the community.

Conni's combined experience in vector control, environmental health, and public education informs her work in developing accessible, science-based outreach that helps residents better understand mosquitoes, surveillance, and prevention strategies across Maricopa County.

Mosquitos and Monitoring in Maricopa County: Join us for an engaging presentation on how to protect your home, family, and community from mosquitoes. Maricopa County Environmental Services Vector Control will share information about the mosquito life cycle, talk about what attracts mosquitoes, and how to eliminate breeding sites. You will also learn about the county's year-round surveillance, testing,

and control measures that help keep neighborhoods safer from mosquito transmitted illnesses. Come learn more about mosquitoes so together we can Fight the Bite!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Gary Graunke

This month we will learn about mosquito prevention in our county. The topic brings back a not-so-fond memory of a trip through California one summer. It was a busy travel day, and all our usual hotels were booked. But I called the corporate number, and they were able to book me at a one-star hotel in the central valley. Most of the other clients were fire fighters on the move to fight wildfires.

Apparently the area was behind on their mosquito control. In the morning, as we opened the door and began to load the car, we were accosted by very aggressive mosquitos. They bit and quickly flew off before we could have a chance to swat them. They followed us into our car and stayed there as we drove off. When we did manage to kill them, they were full of blood. Eventually, further down the road, we were able to swat the last one. We later read that *Aedes Aegypti* was emerging in the central valley.

These mosquitoes are not vegetarians! They only live near people and only need a bottle cap of water to breed. The females also bite during the day, as we experienced.

In the past, brave army doctors (one was my neighbor's grandfather) exposed themselves to these mosquitoes in Cuba and Panama, and proved that they were the carriers of yellow fever. This saved countless lives and enabled us to build the Panama Canal when earlier efforts by the French were abandoned.

Our final spring board meeting will be Monday, May 18, at 9:30 at the Grandview Terrace Café meeting room. All members are welcome to volunteer for the board. Help us continue to provide presentations that help us to become better informed and prepared citizens.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 1, June 5

2026 OFFICERS

President	Gary Graunke
Vice President	Bob Parizek
Secretary	Marilyn Dumond
Treasurer	Carol Mungus
Asst. Treas.	Dave Campbell

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	Jim Schlenvogt/ Peter Rauen/ Rick Cecil
Membership	Steve Sumner
Reservations	Philip Main/ Maggie Williamson
Luncheons	Jim Schlenvogt
Scholarship	Jim Schlenvogt
Member at Large	Betty Goldberg
Newsletter	Dave and Karen Campbell
Website	Gary Graunke
Event Audio/Computer	Paul Scherer
Publicity	Lance Berglund
Field Trips	Bob Parizek
Past President	Jim Schlenvogt

Email the Board at: js3820@msn.com

TREASURER'S REPORT APRIL 2026

Gross General Fund Balance	\$16,088
Net Fund Balance (after payment of obligations)	\$7,216.
Membership	109

The 50/50 was won by Tom Francis who donated it to the Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your support!

APRIL 1 PROGRAM

Colorado River Update and the Law of the River

Lindsay Capito Ph.D.

Hydrologist, Colorado River Management
Water Planning and Permitting Division
Arizona Department of Water Resources



JUNE 5 PROGRAM

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport current Capital Improvement

Jason Gitkin

Community Outreach and Events Manager
City of Phoenix Aviation



Jason Gitkin is the Community Outreach and Events Manager for the City of Phoenix Aviation Department. Jason has worked in the Public Relations Division since 2010 and is responsible for organizing various events, such as the Aviation Academy, PHX AERO Club, and Wings for Autism. Additionally, he oversees airport tours, events, sponsorships, volunteer program, the division budget, and contracts along with aviation speaking engagements.

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Before joining the Aviation Department, Jason worked for more than 20 years in the Parks and Recreation field, focusing on special events as well as youth and adult programs.

Jason has a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Phoenix and a Bachelor of Science in Recreation and Tourism Management from Arizona State University West. He is also a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional from the National Parks and Recreation Association and a Certified Public Manager from Arizona State University.

Come learn about Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport current Capital Improvement Projects, new west terminal, construction of Taxiway U, Air Service Development and passenger amenities.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT KATERI SPENCER



Attending our meeting this month is scholarship recipient, Kateri Spencer. Kateri is graduating from GCC this spring and will be attending Northern Arizona University in the fall, majoring in Biological Sciences. Congratulations to Kateri!