Welcome to Recharge! This is the first seasonal newsletter for the Arizona Master Watershed Steward program. Volunteers, partners, and supporters will receive a copy four times a year. Recharge is designed to give you, the volunteers, a chance to learn about happenings around the state, as well as about volunteer projects and the diversity of people involved in our fledgling organization. If you are an active volunteer with the program, I hope that you will use this to inspire your continued hard work for the watersheds of Arizona.

Let me introduce you to a few of the features you’ll see regularly. First, each edition will have space for you to write about what you or others might be doing in your watershed. Please feel free to submit something (500 words or less) to our editor—Meghan Maloney (maloneym@cals.arizona.edu) or by mail using the return address on the back of this newsletter.

There will also be space each month devoted to exceptional volunteers (and that means all of you) around Arizona. In this edition, the “Volunteer Spotlight” features the first Master Watershed Steward, Dan Black. I hope that you will think big and aim to find yourselves in the “Spotlight” someday.

Another important feature is called “Wanted Dead,” a monthly highlight on an invasive exotic species that is impacting Arizona. We will feature both plants and animals, along with suggestions on what to do about them.

Lastly, I encourage you to take ownership of Recharge. As always, this newsletter is for your benefit—please feel free to give us feedback.

P.S. I send out a special thank you to Peace Corps Fellow Meghan Maloney, who put in many hours on the newsletter. Thanks also to our contributors this edition. Until next time,

No matter how big and powerful government gets, and the many services it provides, it can never take the place of volunteers. --Ronald Reagan
Meetings Dates & Times

**Maricopa:** 3rd Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm, Maricopa County Coop Extension Office, Phoenix. For details, please contact Robert Emanuel (520) 621-1268 or emanuel@ag.arizona.edu

**Pima:** 3rd Wednesday of each month, 6:30-8:00pm, Location TBD. For details, please contact Robert Emanuel. (520) 621-1268 or emanuel@ag.arizona.edu

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Description:
A native of North Africa and the Middle East, fountain grass is an attractive perennial grass with a densely clumped growth form and erect stems that grow 2 to 3 feet high. The plant produces showy inflorescences followed by fluffy seed heads. Unfortunately, this has made fountain grass an appealing plant for Arizona gardeners below 4,000 feet in elevation.

Threat: Fountain grass is a highly aggressive, fire-adapted colonizer that out-competes native plants. Fountain grass raises fuel loads, which increases the intensity and spread of a fire, and results in severe damage to less-fire adapted native species as well as human communities.

Spread: Fountain grass is a perennial plant with wind-dispersed seeds that may remain viable in the soil for six years or longer. Its seeds may be dispersed greater distances by water, vehicles, livestock and humans.

Management: The long-lived seeds make control difficult. Uproot small infestations by hand and destroy the inflorescences. Revisit and repeat this several times a year. Large infestations of fountain grass may be best controlled with the help of systemic herbicides.

The most important step is to encourage home and business owners to replace this weed with native grasses for their landscapes!
In the Next Issue

- Look for the next MWS newsletter this summer!
- If you enjoy writing, have a great idea for the next issue, or just want to get involved with the newsletter, please contact Meghan at maloneym@ag.arizona.edu or (520) 621-7205 to get involved.
- Volunteers will receive volunteer hours for working on the newsletter.

MWS Technology

Stay connected to MWS activities through the new blog site, log on to the site at: http://blog.ltc.arizona.edu/masterwatershedstewards/

OR through the MWS website at: http://ag.arizona.edu/watershedsteward

You can subscribe to the site to receive email updates of MWS activities, announcements, and events. You can also request information to be posted by sending an email to Rob Emanuel or Meghan Maloney. Please allow 24 hours for your information to be posted.