



## Who's Lurking in the Forest?

Janice Johnson

UCCE Master Gardener of Amador County and CA Naturalist

Have you seen a pair of eyes or heard an unusual noise at night and wondered who is lurking in the forest? I did until several years ago when I bought my first trail camera and now know. I live upcountry above Buckhorn and I'm off the beaten path and there is a lot of wildlife activity here. During the day I get pictures of the usual suspects: Deer, squirrels, birds, and occasionally a neighbor's dog. At night it is more interesting with skunks, foxes, ringtail cats, bobcats, mountain lions, and bears. I'm hooked and am still thrilled when I get a good picture or video on my trail camera. The picture at the top of this page, of the three lions, is from my trail camera a couple of weeks ago. See videos of this at the Master Gardeners' Facebook site <https://www.facebook.com/UCCEAmadorMG?ref=profile>. The Master Gardener Facebook site also has lots of interesting garden information so it's worth being our Facebook "friend".

So, even if you aren't as remote as I am, you'll enjoy seeing who is lurking in your yard. A trail camera will answer who is eating the apples on your tree or whether there is a raccoon in your pond. You can get a good trail camera for under \$200 and mine gives me hours of entertainment.

If you want to learn more about the wildlife that share the forest with you and how to live in harmony with them, join me Saturday September 19th, 9 am to noon at the GSA Building 12200-B Airport Road, Martell. Anne Heissenbuttal, a registered forester and Master Gardener, will also be there. We will teach you how to be a good steward of your property by keeping your forest healthy.

Learn why you should clear brush and thin trees, and how to recognize some common pests and diseases of conifers and oaks.

UCCE Master Gardeners of Amador County are here to answer your gardening questions!

Office hours: 10-Noon, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Walk-ins welcome: 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson, CA 95642

Phone: 209-223-6838

Email: [mgamador@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mgamador@ucdavis.edu)