

May 2015

University of California
Cooperative Extension
Riverside County

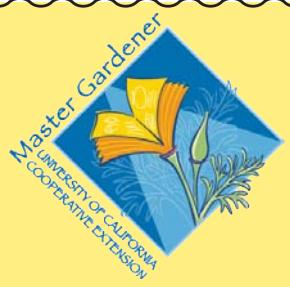
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In This Issue	Page
Desert Beauty	1
Benefits of Trees	2
Janet's Jottings	3
EPCOT Center	4-5
Notes from Rosa	6
Calendar of Events	7 & 9
Amaryllis or Hippeastrum?	8
WMWD Workshops	10



Garden Views



Desert Beauty

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Drought conditions may leave this city dweller with a parched - looking yard for awhile, so I decided to embrace the desert scenery. A brief trip to Anza - Borrego State Park restored my appreciation for the beauty of the desert landscape. The Park straddles both Riverside and Imperial Counties with the majority in San Diego County. Although most of the hundreds of species of spring wildflowers were gone, a few hardy specimens remained. A very magical place, I think.

Check out this site for stunning photos: <http://www.abdnha.org/pages/03flora/reports/current.htm>



Even a spent
Yucca blossom
has beauty



Anza Borrego Vista

Benefits of Trees

By Frank Heyming, Master Gardener

Talking about the benefits of trees is like preaching to the choir when talking to master gardeners. You may be asking yourself how the new state requirements to achieve 25% urban water conservation will affect our trees. In hot climates (like inland Southern California) the state is encouraging Californians to “keep trees alive and letting turf go brown.” So even in spite of our drought the state is aware of the benefits of trees. I was easily able to handle the watering of the remaining trees when I took out a section of grass. I simply capped all but one sprinkler – then converted that pvc sprinkler connection to a drip line. Then I ran the drip line to each of the trees. The International Society for Arboriculture has put out a nice information sheet on the benefits of trees. They include the following:

Social Benefits

We feel serene, peaceful, restful and tranquil in a grove of trees. The calming effect of urban greening can reduce workplace stress levels and fatigue, calm traffic and reduce crime. The strong tie between people and trees is often evident when community residents speak out against the removal of trees to widen streets or to save a particularly large or historic tree.

Community Benefits

Even when on private property, the benefits provided by trees can reach well out into the surrounding community. Trees often serve several architectural and engineering functions. They provide privacy, emphasize views, or screen objectionable views. They reduce glare and reflection. They provide background to soften, complement or enhance architecture.

Environmental Benefits

Trees alter the environment in which we live by moderating climate, improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff (a problem we wish we had more of), and harbor wildlife. Our climate is moderated from extreme sun, wind and sometimes rain. The larger the tree the greater the cooling effect. Trees can moderate the heat-island effect caused by pavement and buildings in commercial areas, and trees can provide an effective windbreak.

Air quality is improved through the use of trees, and shrubs. Leaves filter the air we breathe by removing dust and other particulates. Leaves absorb the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and store carbon as growth. Leaves also absorb other air pollutants – such as ozone, carbon monoxide, and sulfur dioxide – and they release oxygen.

By planting trees and shrubs, we create an environment that is attractive to birds and wildlife. Ecological cycles of plant growth, reproduction and decomposition are present, both above and below ground. Natural harmony is introduced to the urban environment.

Economic Benefits

Property values of landscaped homes are 5 to 20 % higher than those of non-landscaped homes. In addition to beauty, direct economic benefit of trees is associated with energy cost. Air conditioning costs are lower in a tree-shaded home, and heating or air conditioning costs are reduced when a home has a windbreak. The indirect economic benefits of trees include the reduced need to burn fossil fuel to produce electricity, plus decreasing the financial and health costs associated with air pollution.

Regular tree watering (not overwatering) will keep your trees healthy so that we can all of us continue to reap the social, community, environmental and economic benefits of our trees.

Janet's Jottings

April has been an exciting month! There are so many Master Gardener activities occurring each week throughout the County and it wouldn't happen without the combined talents of all of you. There are openings on the Riverside County Advisory Board that chairman David Brandtman is posting and we hope you will apply for one of the openings!



Your talents are needed!

The June 7th graduation is fast approaching. Congratulations to the Master Gardener class of 2015! The planning committee has worked hard to put together a wonderful ceremony at Cal Baptist University and I look forward to attending and congratulating all of you. We hope that you will find the Master Gardener program something that you'll want to continue participating in. Your many efforts and talents are much appreciated!

Rosa and the Riverside and desert advisory boards/committees respectively are working hard preparing for next year's classes to be conducted in both Riverside and Palm Desert. Applications will be posted on the UCCE Riverside County website by May 1 and we hope you will help us spread the word!

Have a great May!

Janet

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE MAY BIRTHDAYS!!

Sally Beaty	Diane Mathis-King
Lani Britain	Jeri Kuoppamaki
Susan Cadiz	Sandy Millar
Richard Crohn	Marilyn Morris
Karen Fleisher	Jerry Paumier
Allan Freetage	Duke Peterson
Christine Furlong	Trudy Philpot
Debbie Harrison	Peter Stocks
Nick Heyming	Jean Wagner
Dona Jenkins	



EPCOT Center, Here I Come!!

By Janet Hough, Master Gardener

I received some exciting news recently that I get to go to Orlando, Florida in March! What a thrill on several levels. I will be “nanny-sitting” my 19-month old granddaughter and traveling with my daughter who currently works for the Disney Company. We will be staying near the Disney EPCOT Center for a week of bonding. All this plus the opportunity to visit the EPCOT International Flower and Garden Festival . Truly a grand slam for me.

I had seen the EPCOT Festival several times on TV and had wanted to visit. The last time I was in Orlando (1971), I visited the Disney property as a fledgling ad assistant for the Los Angeles-based advertising agency of the Disney Company. At that time all that was in place was a lot of dug-up dirt and Mr. Walt Disney's vision of what was to be.

Did you know that EPCOT is an acronym for Experimental Prototype Community of the Future? It is the second of four theme parks built at Walt Disney World in Bay Lake, Florida (near Orlando). EPCOT Center officially opened October 1, 1982 and encompasses 300 acres. It is dedicated to the celebration of human achievement, namely technological innovation and international culture.



Here is Mater from the Cars movie. He is located at the Test Track Walkway. I wish I could show more detail of the plants utilized in each of the displays. The tires, and shadings on Mater are so awesome; all created by the use of a variety of plants. The tires are made from leaves and ferns.

see if we could find and photograph each one in a day. I quickly discovered that the displays were only part of the International Festival experience, as we traveled through the 11 World Showcase

The International Flower and Garden Festival was inaugurated in 1993, and uses specially-themed floral displays throughout the park, including topiary sculptures of Disney characters. The 18th Annual Event runs from March 4 through May 17, 2015. I am told that each annual event takes more than 6 months to plan and over 20,000 hours to complete.

I prepared a list of the twentytwo (22) displays at the festival this year, and we set off early to



At the entrance to the World Showcase of countries is a large lake that was surrounded by huge flower displays. Notice what looks like floating baskets in the lake; they are actually permanent pillars in the lake that must be tended via gardeners in boats. Where do I sign up?



Janet Hough and her family.

Pavilions and 4 theme parks. There were multiple special garden areas that highlighted beneficial bugs and medicinal plants. In addition there were organic garden eateries that provided the makings for a luscious lunch break.

I am sure you are all familiar with the picture of the Spaceship Earth. It is the geodesic sphere that marks the entry to EPCOT. It also houses an event ride at the park. Us California travelers got our picture taken at EPCOT. (note Spaceship Earth in the background). I carried my Master Gardener shoulder bag, but forgot to display it in the picture. Sorry about that!



Monster stars – Mike and Sully were a popular stopping place for visitors on their way to Imagination Walkway.

At the United Kingdom Pavilion displays of numerous tea plants were highlighted in large tea cups. Special displays walked us through the tea making process and dried leaves were available for purchase in the local tea shoppe.

Besides all the special character displays, there were numerous garden displays throughout the park. Some showed edible gardens, some included drought tolerant cactus and succulents, etc. Several farm food gardens sold their organic produce to guests. You could choose to take it home or have it prepared on site for a special lunch treat.

All in all I took over 200 pictures of the sights at EPCOT Center. And yes, we did see and photograph all 22 topiary displays plus the special gardens throughout the park.



This is how we all felt after a long but wonderful day at EPCOT Center and the International Flower and Garden Festival 2015. My one and only complaint was that each display did not give some details about the variety of plants used. I got to make that suggestion to Disney staff. Perhaps next year?



UCCE Riverside County MASTER
GARDENER
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Eta Takele - County Director
(951) 683-6491 X221

Chair	David Brandtman
Chair Elect	Cathy Konyn
Secretary	Christine Lampe
Fiscal Officer	Karen Brandtman
Past-Chair	Lucy Heyming
Gold Miners	Lucy Heyming
Grow Lab	Marco Baldi
IT Team	Bill Reid
Membership Coordinator	
Mentoring Program	Carol Haffter
Newsletter Editor	Donna King
Phone Squad	Pauline Pedigo
Properties	Rhonda Alexander
Public Relations	Sean Nealon
Recognition/Awards	Cathy Godfrey
School & Comm Prog	Cindy Peterson
Riverside Trng Class Rep	Cyndi Hake-Castro
Social Programs	Yolan Browning
Speakers Bureau	Sandi Norton
Tours	Sheila James
UCRBG Representative	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Grdn	Karen Fleisher

Desert Area Coordinators:

Chair	Larry Fechter
Co-Chair	Tom Stansbury
Secretary	Marie Strom
Trainee Class	Larry Fechter
Agua Caliente School Grdn	Cathy Liss
Mentor	Joan Kyle
Phone Squad	Ellyn Smith & Sue Mills
Communication	
Outreach and Education	Suzanne Jarvinen
Speakers Bureau	Angela Fasano
New Projects/Events	Angela Fasano
Social Programs	Kathy Miller
UCR Palm Desert Garden	Janna Calkins

Garden Views: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>
Facebook: Google UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners

The Garden Views newsletter publishes nine editions per year, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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Beatrice Etchison

Cathy Godfrey

Janet K. Hough

Frank Heyming

Lucy Heyming

Pauline Pedigo

Pat Robertson

Beverley Scray

Note from Rosa



We are coming to the end of the fiscal year this month. I will be taking a look at the VMS volunteer and continuing education hours. This is a good time to record your hours. If you still need to volunteer there are opportunities during May and June. Take a look at the VMS calendar and sign up. We are also in need of Phone Squad volunteers. If you are interested in helping even one day a month, contact Pauline Pedigo or myself.

If you are short on continuing education, you can take advantage of the upcoming Veteran and Lunch & Learn meetings. Remember, the Veteran Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 6:30-8:30 pm, and the Lunch & Learn is on the 4th Thursday of the month 11-1 pm. Another opportunity for continuing education is the "Strategies for Water Efficient Landscapes" workshop, on May 13th and 14th in San Diego. Take a look at VMS for more information on these workshops. Please contact me if you are interested in carpooling and I can connect you with other MGs that are planning to attend.

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public

May		
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
4th	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
6th	Temecula Farmers Market	8:30 am - 1:00 pm
6th	Palm Desert Farmers Market	3:45 pm - 8:00 pm
6th	Growing Tomatoes in "HOT" Climate	11:00 am - 11:45 am
7th	Riverside Training Class - Diagnosing Plant Problems	9:00 am
9th	Information Table - Temecula Valley Garden Club & Flower Show	8:30 am - 4:00 pm
9th	29th Temecula Valley Garden Club Flower Show	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
9th	Victoria Avenue Workday	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
9th	Europa Winery Tour	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
9th	WMWD Docent Day	8:30 am - 12:00 pm & 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
9th	WMWD - Gophers and Squirrels and Moles... Oh My!!	11:00 am - 12:00 pm
10th, 24th	La Quinta Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
12th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation	9:00 am - 11:00 am
12th	What's Bugging Your Plants?	9:30 am - 10:30 am
13th, 14th	Water Smart Workshops	8:00 am - 4:00 pm
13th	Coachella Valley Farmers Meeting	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
14th	Desert Area Committee Meeting	10:00 am - 11:30 am
14th	Bagrada Bugs - Calimesa Community Garden	6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
15th	Gates Succulent Society Sale	9:00 am - 4:00 pm
16th	Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Moreno Valley	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
16th	Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Riverside	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
16th	Hemet Farmers Market	8:30 am - 12:30 pm
16th	Temescal Valley Community Faire	11:00 am - 4:00 pm
20th	Container Gardening - Palm Springs	5:45 pm - 7:45 pm
20th	Advisory Board Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
21st	Riverside Training Class - Student Presentations	9:00 am
23rd, 24th	Idyllwild Wildflower & Art Festival	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
23rd	Beneficial Insects - Corona Community Garden at Peace	2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
25th	UCCE Office Closed - Memorial Day	all day
27th	Water-wise Gardening & Drought Tolerant Plants	12:00 pm - 12:45 pm
27th	Gold Miner Committee Meeting	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
30th	Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale at Home Depot - Perris	8:00 am - 12:00 pm
Daily	Indio Call Center	
Daily	Phone Squad - Riverside	
Saturdays	Grow Lab	

What is it? Amaryllis or Hippeastrum?

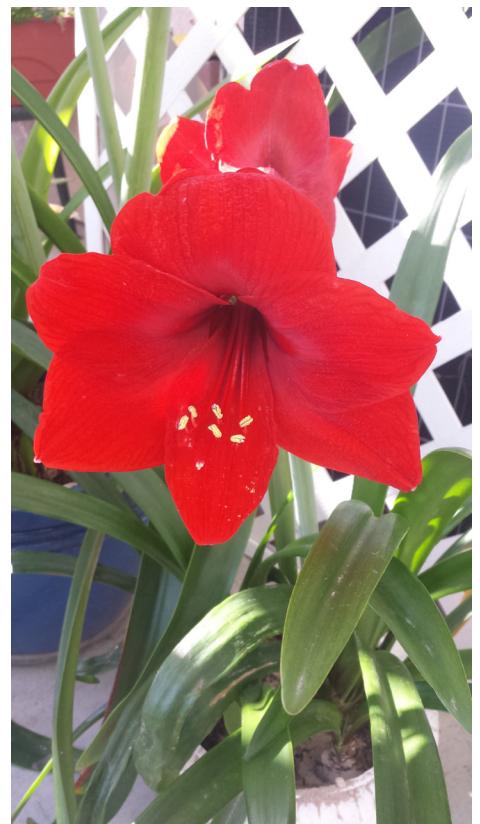
The Amaryllis or Hippeastrum bulbs that are producing these spectacular flowers in pots in my yard were all in the ground at one time or another. Since the plants are tall, it is suggested to plant the bulbs in the back of the flower bed, not a very convenient place to check out in my yard. Once in a while I would get a flower only to have it be consumed by snails shortly after blooming. I tried different locations and spread pet safe snail bait with no better success. Out of desperation, I potted the bulbs. For at least a year or two afterwards I watered leaves. About three years ago I had one or two stems blossoming and felt very good about that. This year, I have 8 stems with promising buds ready to open in one pot. This is three or four more stems than last year. A smaller pot has three bulbs, two of which just went in this spring, but the older bulb has bloomed for the first time. I am thrilled, to say the least.

Wanting to share these beauties with you, I did some research and came away very confused. The final word is that both amaryllis and hippeastrum genera are in the family Amaryllidaceae. So I will continue to call them amaryllis although looking up amaryllis in the latest edition of Sunset Western Garden Book, it suggests "...not to be confused with its relative Hippeastrum which is popular during the Christmas season." The amaryllis belladonna blooms in fall on leafless stems and is native to South Africa. Hippeastrum is native to South America especially parts of Peru, Argentina, Bolivia, and Brazil.



Here are a few growing tips that may be useful. Amaryllis like filtered sun in our area. Mine are on a patio with a slatted covering. Snails don't bother them there. Amaryllis like to be crowded. If you want to try just one bulb buy one during the Christmas season when in bloom. Put it in a pot just a little bigger than the bulb which can be 6 inches or more at its widest part. Plant the bulb with most of its neck above the soil; the roots are located at the bottom of the bulb. Use the best potting soil you can afford. Use a liquid fertilizer once a week. They love bonemeal and superphosphate. They go into a somewhat dormant stage after blooming when watering is limited. Growth starts again around February. I water them almost all year except maybe during the Christmas season when I am busy doing other things. Spring is the natural time for amaryllis to bloom. The beautiful ones you see in the nursery are forced for the holiday season.

Amaryllis and Caladium Bulb Co., is a gorgeous as well as a very informative website. They show large, miniature, double, dwarf, cybister, and South African Hadeco hybrids. This website is worth looking at just for its beauty, but a great place to shop as well.



Master Gardener Leadership Opportunities

It's that time of the year when Master Gardeners are invited to run for one of our elective offices and volunteer for one of our appointed Advisory Board positions. On July 1st, Dave Brandtman will pass the baton to Cathy Konyn, who has done a truly outstanding job as Chair-Elect this past year. The available opportunities are listed below.

Note: MG Program year runs from July 1st to June 30th.

Elected Officers for the Advisory Board

The following elective offices are open to all Master Gardener Volunteers for the 2015-2016 program year.

Chair Elect - We are seeking energetic MG Volunteers to run for this very important office. The Chair Elect's primary responsibility will be to conduct the bi-monthly classes in Riverside.

Recording Secretary - The election for 2015-2016 will be open to all MG's and we encourage additional candidates to apply. Christine Lampe was elected by Advisory Board action for the 2014-2015 term, due to a mid-term vacancy.

Fiscal Officer - The election for 2015-2016 will be open to all MG's and we encourage additional candidates to apply for this elected position. Karen Brandtman was also elected by Advisory Board action for the 2014-2015 term, due to a mid-term vacancy.

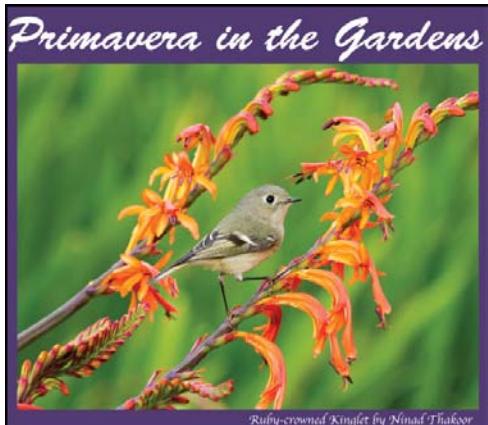
Appointed Positions

We are currently surveying our present appointed positions to determine the opportunities available to Master Gardeners who wish to serve in these leadership roles for the next program year. Karen Fleischer and Marco Baldi have already announced that they will be stepping down from their roles as WMWD and Grow Lab Coordinators. Other open positions will be identified in the near future. Additional information about these positions can be viewed on VMS (Bylaws & Administrative Guidelines).

How to apply

For anyone interested in taking on a leadership role with the Master Gardeners of Riverside County, Dave Brandtman would be happy to discuss the responsibilities or answer any questions.

Volunteer Services Coordinator, Rosa Olaiz will be coordinating the submission of candidates. If you are interested, please send her an email (rmolaiz@ucanr.edu) or give her a telephone call (951-683-6491 ext. 230).



17th Annual Primavera in the Gardens

Food & Wine Tasting Fundraiser

May 17th, 2015, 2:00 - 5:00 PM

Western Municipal Water District Workshops

Western Municipal Water District and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Riverside County Master Gardener Program have teamed up to hold two free gardening workshops in the coming months. The workshops will be presented on the second Saturday of each month in Western's water-efficiency garden, Landscapes Southern California Style, in Riverside. The garden is located at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd, at the corner of Mission Grove Parkway. It's open seven days a week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 11 a.m. to noon. "Gophers and Squirrels and Moles...Oh My!" National Public Gardens Day is May 8...continue with the celebration and knowledge-seeking by attending this helpful workshop. As much as gardeners encourage wildlife visitors to their yards, certain animals can cause severe damage to plants and crops. Susan Sims of the Sims Tree Learning Center will lead this workshop.

Saturday, June 13, 2015, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. "Experts in the Garden," a multitude of experts will be on hand throughout the water-wise grounds eager to share their knowledge about a particular gardening subject.

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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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