



GARDEN VIEWS

UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program Newsletter

March 2017

University of California Cooperative Extension
Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road, #202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781
(951) 683-6491 X231
(760) 342-6437

81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. H,
Indio, CA 92201
(760)342-6437

Website

www.ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG

Email

anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu

anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

In This Issue

Speakers Bureau Begins IPM Less Toxic Pesticides Classes	1
Grow Lab Report	2
WMWD Garden Committee:	3
Speakers Bureau	3
Desert Area Committee	5
UCR Botanic Gardens	6
Master Gardeners at the Braille Institute	6
Rosa's Report	8
Message from Statewide Office:	9
Janet's Jottings	9



Speakers Bureau Begins IPM Less Toxic Pesticides Classes

Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Thurman Howard, is beginning a series of classes on how to read labels and identify less toxic pesticides for home gardens and landscapes. The first two hour class was presented by Dave Brandtman in the *big red barn* at Grow Lab on Saturday, 2/25/2017, with credit going to Lucy Heyming for coordinating the event. It was attended by both current Trainees and seasoned Veterans.

This class was designed by the statewide Master Gardener Program to help MG Volunteers understand and share with the general public what pesticides really are, how they are safely used and how to read the labels of individual products. It includes a well-designed informative Power Point presentation and, most importantly, a hands-on team exercise with real product containers and labels.

Events are to be announced for the months of March and April.

Grow Lab Report

Contributed by Debra Corbin-Euston

LEARN IT. DO IT. TEACH IT

Propagation will be our thing for a couple more months until after the sales. Everything is going as well as can be expected and there are some really great people helping out at Grow Lab these days Learning, Doing and Teaching.

We will be there most Saturdays – weather permitting of course, but in light rain we can still work under cover of a pop-up! We will also be there on some weekdays – specifically Thursdays to capture a few trainees who may want to hop on over and plant a few flats or clear up a garden or two or both.

Garden adoptions are doing well. We have 9 gardens spoken for so far. A big THANK YOU goes out again to Terry Brennan (MG R17) for building us all those raised beds! It makes finding someone to adopt a garden much easier.

Cathy's Celebration Garden

Heart shaped and heart made. Some turtles have moved in and there is a big pot with turtles walking all around it. More to come. It'll be fun to see how it evolves over time.



Doing our best to get these babies to germinate and keep them warm and alive. THIS WEATHER!! Hot. Hot and cold. Days of rain. Winds. Yikes. Winds over there are not good for the little guys. We run around playing tag at Grow Lab to uncover and back again later to recover and so on and so on. No sitting on our laurels around here!



WMWD Garden Committee:

Contributed by Karen Fleischer

Our February workshop “The Beauty and Relevance of the Well-Chosen Southern California Garden” presented by Nan Simonsen was held on a damp rain-threatening day, Saturday, February 11, but was attended by over 40 hardy gardening enthusiasts. Many thanks to Nan for another interesting talk on creating a landscape which invites nature in and has a positive effect on the environment, as well as to Janis Binam who arranges the workshops and to Lou Fawley and her “Garden Fairies” who help set up for the workshops

and provide information to the garden visitors. Thurman Howard was available to answer questions about the citrus psyllid and HLB disease at the workshop.

The amazing WMWD Garden committee has begun planning “Ask the Experts – A Gardening Expo” which will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Speakers Bureau

Contributed by Thurman Howard

Perris Green City Garden/ May Ranch Elementary

We started the new year with 7 Master Gardeners presenting throughout the month of January. We also appeared at two information tables with very good results. We ended the month at the new season kick off at the **Perris Green City Garden**, with Thurman Howard and Marilyn Cerone filling in for Christine Lampe. We had a nice turn out, and we were very happy to see several children attending around the ages of 9 to 12, along with their parents.



On the February 15, **Christine Lampe** will be putting on a workshop for a group of 11 **AmeriCorps students** from the East Coast, who are here on a 12-week grant. We will give them a 2-hour PowerPoint presentation, and a tour of the Perris Green City garden. The topic will be **Organic Gardening**.

Another derivative that is growing from the Perris Green Garden, is the opportunity to speak at the



May Ranch Elementary school.

I turned this project over to **Marilyn Cerone**. She has contacted, **Ms. Hague** and is working

on a presentation to

three of her classes in late February or early March. We will also be exploring the possibility of having their own garden at the school. Once we have that in play we will refer this to Cindy Peterson.

PolliNATION Festival

There is an event on June 10 called the **PolliNATION Festival**, at the Chino Basin Water Conservation District, in Montclair. This is a great example of Riverside and San Bernardino Master



Gardeners working together. Many of the workshops, will be held in Riverside, with

the culmination in Montclair. I have signed off on this as a Speakers Bureau event.



Christine Lampe is the head of the Butterfly Team for this event. She announced it during the Veterans' Meeting. She was also asking if people would like to volunteer and be involved. Lucy Heyming and Ann Platzer are already helping her so far in various capacities.

Riverside University Health System

During the month of January, we could move forward, with a few projects that were lying in wait. We spoke again to the **Riverside University Health System**, to include the **Master Gardener Program** into uncharted waters. We were asked if we wanted to participate with an information table at an event that would bring together all the farmers that grow produce for the farmers' markets in Riverside. Also, attending this event would be the managers of the farmer markets.



By meeting the managers of these market places, we can be considering areas that we lack presence. It would also help realign some of the venues that are not

showing good numbers. Since this event is being held in Jurupa, I brought Larry Browning into the conversation and had a discussion at the last gold miners meeting. For the most part we felt that gold miners should be present at this information table. I would also like to talk to the Market Managers about selling Citrus trees without proper tags.



Starting on the 28th we will kick off our Master Gardener program. We will give a two-hour class on preparing your garden for spring planting, along with irrigation. Then one

Saturday a month we will have **Ask the Master Gardener Day**, from 10am to 12 noon. Nanci Nelson, will be there to answer questions about their gardens. I will be working with Aisha Wilson to have this published in their newsletter, and up on their marquee in front of the Senior Center.

City of Riverside Commission on Aging



On the 26th of January, Rosa and I met with Sandy Tarmo, Chairman for the Commission on Aging for the Mayor of Riverside, along with fellow Commissioner, Julie Brown Tartaglino (currently in the Master Gardener Training Program). We explored the possibility of how our program could work with Mayor Rusty Bailey's Commission on Aging.

On the 14th of March, I will be speaking on the values of the Master Gardeners Program and what it means to the Community as a whole. Councilman Paul Davis will be in attendance, and we are hoping with the Councilman's help, we can move forward with more gardens and garden presentations with in the City through the senior's centers.



We are still working on our IPM project and will be bringing the Citrus Psyllid project to a close.

I enjoyed working with the Master Gardeners at the **WMWD**, and was asked if I can return. I will do the Psyllid this month. In march I will have a display on Herbicides and Pesticides. I have some ideas that I will be talking to Karen about as a fixture for this event.

Over all we should have a good February, with not only speaking engagements but, following up on opportunities from our past work. information tables.

Desert Area Committee

Contributed by Joan Kyle-Baerman, DAC Coordinator

The Riverside Fair and Date Festival begins next Friday (Feb 17th) for 10 days. We have a booth and speakers set for each day.

The Rotary Club in Desert Hot Springs has requested MG speakers and help for their school garden. It is set up but they would like a speaker each week for 6 weeks on timely garden topics. Next year they would like MG involvement weekly for guidance and also to hold classes for the public. They are also going to start a community garden there.

A request from La Palmitas School (Thermal) was received to create a school garden. This will be investigated to ensure there are parents and teachers fully involved.

Emma Sandoval from UC CalFresh may contact us about MG's assisting her with a garden at the Indio Boys and Girls Club.

There are a lot of upcoming events and two workshops:

Wildflower Festival - March 4

Desert Hot Springs Yard Beautification & Dedication Event - March 11

Coachella Valley Heritage Festival - March 18

Living Desert Water-Wise Workshop – March 18

Desert Horticultural Society Garden Tour (Palm Springs) - March 26

UCR-PD Workshop (set up by Janet Hartin) – April 15

Whitewater Preserve Water Festival - May 13

World Environment Day - June 5

The Desert Class Graduation Committee is looking at having a potluck event at Moorten's Gardens. Tentatively they have set the date for Wednesday, April 5.

Techie Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Volunteers are sought to help with the development and maintenance of our public facing web site and the VMS Riverside Home Page. This is a great opportunity to share your skills and knowledge, while keeping your hands clean. 😊

If you have experience with web site software, you can earn volunteer hours putting those skills to good use. Cathy Konyn previously posted updates for Riverside County and we need to fill the void. It's a wonderful way to honor Cathy.

This opportunity is available to both Trainees and Veterans who are willing to devote a few hours each month to post monthly updates. Expansion of the public facing may be addressed as a short term project or two

Calling All Veterans 🇺🇸

Veteran Master Gardeners are encouraged to sign up for our increasing number of **Information Tables**. These events are an excellent opportunity to meet the gardening public while mentoring trainees and first year MG's. We really need Veterans to sign up, because our Trainees need your help in earning hours and learning how to do it right. Setting up and picking up the MG EZ Ups is essential to keeping our folks in shade.

Help Line needs more Veterans to sign up. Share your knowledge and learn even more as you answer questions phoned or emailed to the UCCE offices in Riverside and Indio. We are expanding the ability to answer email questions remotely. This may be the perfect opportunity to *work from home*. 😊

UCR Botanic Gardens

Contributed by Nancy Johnson

Building the Board

Due to more programs and greater responsibilities, the Botanic Gardens Board is soliciting new members. Master Gardeners who would like to serve on the Board should make their interest known to me.

Revision of Giving Levels/Membership Brochure.

Designated members of the Board are meeting with a veteran UCR fundraiser to improve and update the Friend's membership brochure and make giving levels consistent with the levels of UCR's annual giving program.

Safety and Security

- ♣ Many visitors do not realize that the Botanic Gardens are part of the UCR Campus. Signage is being developed to identify the Gardens as UCR property.

- ♣ Safety signage is needed in certain areas of the Gardens (i.e., "Slippery when wet")
- ♣ Taxi yellow vests have been ordered for staff and volunteers. The public needs to quickly recognize "responsible people" when they visit the Gardens.

Future Programs and Events

- ♣ February 26 – Friends' Winter Luncheon
- ♣ March 11 – California Native Plant Walk and Lecture (George Spiliotis)
- ♣ March 18 - Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat (Ann Platzer)
- ♣ March 25 – Birdwalk/Breakfast
- ♣ April 1-2 - Spring Plant Sale
- ♣ April 22 – Friends Spring Outing (Oak Glen)
- ♣ May 21 – Primavera in the Garden Fundraiser

Master Gardeners at the Braille Institute

Contributed by Mary Ann Egan



Those "Ask the Gardener" tables which Desert Area Master Gardeners set up at various locations

around the Coachella Valley certainly proved their worth and importance last summer. When Jilka Chandrasena, a counselor and clinical therapist at the local Braille Institute Center, stopped by a table at the Palm Springs farmers market, a new community connection was made which has blossomed into a warm and rewarding experience for all concerned. The combination of an under-utilized greenhouse at the Braille Institute in Rancho Mirage and the Master Gardeners' mission of sharing their gardening knowledge and experience with others resulted in a new horticultural class project at the Institute.



The Braille Institute strives to provide hope, encouragement and support to people with no or low vision, and the Master Gardeners keep that goal solidly in mind. Before starting work with the students, all Master Gardener volunteers

and trainees are required to attend an orientation session where they learn some of the basic techniques which enable the volunteers to assist people with low or no vision.

The coordinator for the Master Gardeners project is MG Barbara Kay-Levin, who was also one of the guiding forces in starting the project. Her enthusiasm and dedication to the project is contagious. At the beginning of each series of classes, Barbara prepares a schedule of the topics for the weekly classes. The schedule is flexible and the topics will vary with the needs or desires expressed by the students. The students in the classes range in age from about 30 to over 90, and students' sight abilities go from none at all to some very limited vision.

This is definitely a hands-on experience for both students and volunteers. There are some sessions where MGs come in and talk about various gardening issues, but the project is designed to get the students working with seeds, plants and soil on a hands-on basis. The classes cover basic gardening skills: preparing the soil, planting seeds, growing vegetables and herbs, irrigation and seedling care, and transplanting. Other classes

highlight growing houseplants which clean the air, plants with fragrance, or plants with bright colors which can be seen by students with low vision.



The project has evidently been very well received by the students at the Braille Institute. The Institute offers a wide variety of services and classes, and the students' attendance at any of the classes is totally voluntary. Since the MG horticultural project started in

September of 2016, the attendance for the classes has steadily increased from 2 students at the very first class to now, when the classes are almost always at the capacity of 14 students. The Master Gardeners provide enough volunteers for each class so there is one volunteer for every 2 or 3 students.

I had an opportunity to visit one of the classes at the end of January. When I arrived there were still a few students and MG volunteers in the greenhouse where the students had been transplanting succulents, and other students were back in the classroom enjoying a snack and social hour. The classroom was abuzz with conversations between the students. Volunteers were helping the students package up a succulent or two for them to take home and care for. Before the class ended, some of the students went outside to the raised vegetable beds and, with some assistance, harvested some lettuce, spinach, and kale that they had grown to take home.



When I asked some of the students for some feedback about the classes, the common response-- "I'm learning a lot!" One student told me that when she was told that she would be losing her sight, she was afraid

that she would not be able to do anything or grow anything. She said that she had a "brown thumb" at first and killed everything. But now, she said with a grin, her

neighbor complimented her on the fact that her tomato plants were "still breathing."

The horticultural project was designed to benefit the students at the Braille Institute, but Master Gardeners may find they have been equally enriched by the experience after working with the students. The enthusiasm and smiles of the MG volunteers are unmistakable. Perhaps those smiles come from the pleasure of being able to make a difference in the lives of some people who can use a little help learning a new skill, or maybe it comes from just being able to introduce someone to the rewards that gardeners everywhere share.

When I stopped by the front desk to pick up some material about the Braille Institute, administrative assistant Amy Sand told me that the horticultural class is "fabulous!" I think the Master Gardeners would agree.

Rosa's Report

Contributed by Rosa Olaiz

I hope you enjoyed the rain these past few weeks. I certainly have!

We have many projects and events blooming throughout the county, and I hope you take advantage of the volunteer and educational opportunities. We have passed the half way point on our way to reappointment; now is the time to check the VMS calendar to sign up for events.

We have many excited MG trainees eager to learn from veterans. I invite you to come and experience the Helpline, Farmers Markets, or "Ask the Master Gardener" information tables. We need your expertise in these projects. Step out of your comfort zone and try something new this spring!

There are a number of Master Gardeners that have not volunteered this year, and there are several others that have volunteered but have not recorded their hours. This is the only way the state knows how hard you work educating the community. Take some time now to record your hours.

We are in desperate need of veteran Master Gardeners at the Riverside Help Line. If you can volunteer once a month, go on the Help Line calendar and sign up. I want to thank Tom Miller and Bette Rowe who answered my request for the Help Line, and, of course, Pauline Pedigo and Nanci Nelson for their continued support of the Help Line!

I look forward to an amazing rest of the year!

Message from Statewide Office:

Prop 64 – Marijuana will be legal for recreational use in California

Marijuana use on UC property prohibited

Recreational marijuana is now legal in California but it is still prohibited at the University of California. UC prohibits the use, possession and sale of marijuana – in any form – on all university property, including university-owned and leased buildings, housing and parking lots. Marijuana is also not permitted at university events or while conducting university business.

California voters on Tuesday, Nov. 8 passed proposition 64 legalizing the use of recreational marijuana among people over the age of 21. Prop. 64 does not change UC policy.

Using and possessing marijuana is still illegal under federal law. The federal Drug Free Schools and

Communities Act and the Drug Free Workplace Act require that UC, which receives federal funding have policies that prohibit marijuana use, possession and distribution on campus and in the workplace.

UC students, employees and agents of the university who violate the university's policy may face discipline, with a maximum penalty of dismissal.

Research or advising on cannabis violates UC policy.

Staff and volunteers with the UC Master Gardener Program cannot provide advice or research supporting Cannabis growers.

Questions, contact Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Services Coordinator



Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin

Ugly fruit and vegetables? You bet! You may have noticed this growing trend (bad pun intended) in local grocery stores. More and more US residents are joining much of the rest of the world recognizing the great taste and nutritional value in growing, purchasing, and consuming less than 'model' produce. Yes, these once shunned yet healthy fruit and veggies are certainly gaining a bevy of admirers. As many of you know, I have been fascinated by this topic since graduate school

when we conducted a study at the Minnesota Arboretum. While the local apples bred at University of Minnesota were preferred in a taste test panel by a 10:1 ratio over shipped-in Washington Delicious apples (both served in one inch cubes with toothpicks) they were later passed over by the same consumers for the Red Delicious apples once presented in all their 'ugliness' side by side in bushel baskets.



Until recently, about 50% of commercially-grown produce in the USA was discarded including over six billion pounds of produce rejected due to poor appearance by grocery stores (all while about 15% of Americans are chronically hungry).

Two large US-based food chains (Wal-Mart and Whole Foods) have officially joined the cause. Walmart stocks 'weather dented' apples at certain piloted stores in the Southeast. These once considered wallflowers are popular and moving well! "We're excited to announce that after months of discussion, we're selling a brand of apples from Washington state, called "I'm Perfect," blogged Shawn Baldwin, senior vice president for global food sourcing, produce and floral for Wal-Mart U.S. He added: "We're proud to be the first retailer to bring these apples to you." The apples are being sold in 2- and 5-pound bags, he says. (My

editorial comment is 'great, but buy or grow local whenever you can as well.')

Some folks consider this trend part of the newer and cooler "No Waste" food movement while others have embraced eating imperfect looking produce for decades, knowing the health and environmental benefits of eating less than beautiful produce. And, research has shown repeatedly that we're much more likely to eat what we grow rather than toss it into the compost pile, aiding the cause.

Recent figures confirm the popularity of growing food at home with about 33 percent of households reporting growing at least one food type at home. Home gardeners are definitely part of the solution as we move into the future, from the perspective of solving major social and environmental issues related to food waste and negative impacts on food security, transport, and water.

What do our Cooperative Extension neighbors have to say on the subject? Check out the winner of the Ugly Fruit Contest submitted by Sue Hochstein of Boothbay Harbor, Maine in the University of Maine Cooperative Extension contest in Cumberland County (tomato on right). Read more here: <https://extension.umaine.edu/cumberland/blog/2016/10/27/ugly-fruit-vegetable-photo-contest-winner/>

I know I'm singing to the choir but please help spread the word!

Master Gardeners

are invited to give presentations at Veteran and L&L Meetings.

CE Hours earned by attendees.

Volunteer Hours for *Speakers* and *Helpers*.

Mission Statement

Master Gardener Volunteers are trained by the UCCE Advisors, Specialists and other qualified instructors to provide the gardeners of Riverside County with research-based information to promote environmentally responsible and sustainable horticultural practices. Activities of volunteers are solely educational - without inclusion of any purpose or intention of carrying on a business, trade, avocation or profession for profit.



University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources ■ UCCE Master Gardener Program

UCCE Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road, #202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781
81077 Indio Blvd., Ste. H,
Indio, CA 92201



Customer Address Label



Riverside County Master Gardener Program

UCCE Riverside County Director Eta Takele
UCCE MG Program Director Janet Hartin
Volunteer Services Coordinator Rosa Olaiz

Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Chair Eben Longfellow
Chair Elect Betty Balo
Fiscal Officer Karen Brandtman
Recording Secretary Jean Texera
Past Chair Dave Brandtman

Advisory Board Member Coordinators

Desert Area Committee Joan Kyle-Baerman
Grow Lab Coordinators Debra Corbin-Euston
Newsletter Editor Dave Brandtman
Phone Squad Coordinator Nanci Nelson
Information Technology
School/Community Gardens Cindy Peterson
Speaker's Bureau Thurman Howard
Training Class Rep
UCR Botanic Gardens Nancy Johnson
Liaison
WMWD Landscape Garden Karen Fleisher
Gold Miner Committee
Mentoring Program Becky Levers
Clothing Sale Coordinator Jean Wagner
Public Relations Sean Nealon
Social Programs Yolán Browning
Tours Sheila James

The **Garden Views** newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

ANR NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The University of California prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment application for membership, performance of service, application for service, or obligation for service in the uniformed services).

University policy also prohibits retaliation against any employee or person seeking employment for making a complaint of discrimination or harassment pursuant to this policy. This policy also prohibits retaliation against a person who assists someone with a complaint of discrimination or harassment, or participates in any manner in an investigation or resolution of a complaint of discrimination or harassment. Retaliation includes threats, intimidation, reprisals, and/or adverse actions related to employment.

The University is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. The University undertakes affirmative action to assure equal employment opportunity for minorities and women, for persons with disabilities, and for covered veterans (including veterans with disabilities, recently separated veterans, Vietnam era veterans, veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Military, Ground, Naval or Air Service during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized, or Armed Forces service medal veterans). University policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws.

Inquiries regarding the University's equal employment opportunity policies may be directed to Linda Marie Manton, Affirmative Action Contact, University of California, Davis, Agriculture and Natural Resources, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 752-0495. with the University on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy (which includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth), physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), genetic information (including family medical history), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or service in the uniformed services (as defined by the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994: service in the uniformed services includes membership,