



GARDEN VIEWS

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Advisory Board

Contributed by Rosa Olaiz

I am happy to announce the nominees for office submitted to you on May 1, 2017, was unanimously approved.

The following Master Gardeners will assume their new positions on the UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County Advisory Board on July 1, 2017:

- Betty Balo – Chair (past Chair Elect automatically ascends to the Chair position)
- Linda Powell - Chair Elect
- Karen Brandtman - Fiscal Officer
- Jean Texera - Recording Secretary
- Eben Longfellow will remain on the board as Past Chair

A special thanks to David Brandtman for stepping in as past chair, Eben Longfellow for a great job leading and supporting the mission of the program, Betty, Linda, Karen, and Jean for volunteering their time and talents to ensure the continued success of the UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County.

*Pictured above from left to right:
Eben Longfellow, Joan Kyle-Baerman,
Sheila James, Thurman Howard, Karen
Brandtman, Jean Texera, Cindy
Peterson, Betty Balo, Karen Fleischer*



Desert Class Graduates

Contributed by Joan Kyle-Baerman, DAC Coordinator

April 5th was the Desert MG graduation. All 33 graduated, 13 were certified, and the remaining 20 are actively volunteering and most should complete their hours by month the end May.

The anonymous exit interview and the personal exit interview went very well. The classes were well liked and most felt they were up to their expectations. The interviews were collated and sent to the Desert Area Committee (DAC) and also to each Coordinator so they knew who expressed interest in their areas

On April 11th new graduates and veterans met to plan for succession and express ideas for the next year. We were very pleased that many signed up for administrative positions, including a new recording secretary, membership help, assistants to speakers and events bureau, and project leads. These positions will be solidified and formal committees established. A new list of contacts will be completed by June.

Desert Area Committee

Contributed by Joan Kyle-Baerman, DAC Coordinator

All projects are continuing through the summer. The Palm Springs Farmers' Market (Info table) has moved inside for the summer. After one more formal class this next Thursday and then the classes and speakers will be finished for the summer.

Several committee coordinators have changed. The listing on VMS will reflect this by June. As we continually emphasize public education, we encourage the project coordinator to have those working on projects to give demos at info tables, establish presentations for the speakers bureau, and hold classes on what is learned at the projects. Classes could include propagation, succulent gardens, the importance of wildlife in the gardens, etc.

WMWD Garden Committee

Contributed by Karen Fleischer

Twenty-three people attended the Composting 101 workshop on Saturday, April 8, in spite of the early rain and cool temperatures.

Sandy Starkey planned the annual WMWD garden volunteers spring outing. On May 3, we met at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont for a behind-the-scenes tour of their nursery, seed bank and garden. There was time for shopping at their Grow Native Nursery and their gift shop.

The May 13 workshop "**Sassy Succulents Contained**" presented by UCCE Riverside County Master Gardeners, Karen Fleischer and Linda Powell, received "rave"

Patricia Daniells, Helpline Coordinator, will have two classes on the new Helpline concept of going remote. This is through a Collaborative Website already used in Orange County. As our Helpline is often closed on Mondays due to holidays. The remote concept will allow the Helpline to service customers each day instead of only when the office is open.

We are under budget to date. We will be purchasing the new banners, table runners, and a sign. The costs for recent purchases of tables, canopy, and chairs for the info tables has not yet hit the books.

Our June meeting will be to establish next years' goals, and to establish the budget for July 1st – June 30th 2018.

reviews from the 75 attendees. Many thanks to Linda Powell for her very fun and informative presentation of succulents in interesting containers.

"Ask the Experts" Gardening Expo 2017 which will be held June 17th is in the final planning stages with over 20 exhibitors confirmed. There will be a talk on converting sprinklers to drip by Ewing Irrigation at 10:30 and 11:30, plus free opportunity drawings at 11 and 12:30. We are hoping to see master gardeners along with their friends and neighbors on June 17 between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the WMWD water efficient garden.

The Indio Help Line is going remote this year!

Starting in the fall, you could be doing volunteer work for the Help Line from anywhere, with research materials at your fingertips and a whole community of Master Gardeners to support you.

Sound good? It is.... *I've seen it work!* **Please sign up on VMS under Desert Volunteer Events.**

Speakers Bureau

Contributed by Thurman Howard

March

March was a very busy month for the Speakers Bureau, we spoke at 25 venues, did 10 hours of Demo talks, and our speakers volunteered their time and talent at the grow lab for 8 hours, toward continuing education.



Perris

Christine Lampe completed our series of work shop classes at the **City of Perris Green Garden Project**. We are currently waiting for approval to move forward with plans discussed at our last meeting with the city. The city is very interested in starting a certified gardening class, along with having a Master Gardener in the garden, to answer questions from the public.



We did two classroom presentations in Perris. The first at **May Ranch School** and the second at **Avalon Elementary School**. Marilyn Cerone and Anna Beatty from the desert worked with the students. The teacher and the city's representative were very impressed by the way they handled the students, and how the students responded to them.

Menifee

Our senior project with the city of Menifee is moving along in the right direction. We had a few hiccups along the way, due to class room availability. Because of the high interest for a garden club, we have worked out a



comfortable arrangement to comply with both our schedules. We will meet twice a month in the afternoon at 12:30 and will have a range of topics. We have completed our first phase of starting a raised bed garden and preparing our soil for planting. The City has given us a plot for the garden club under the Master Gardener supervision.

We have given the classroom lessons and then gone out to apply them to the garden.



We also introduced the Olla to the Garden Club and are using it in this garden.

April

For the month of April, we did 18 speaking events, and 14 hours of demos at Information Tables.



Our demos at the information tables, are starting to find their place as a unique tool. A very good example is that for the past 2 years we were asked to speak at the Santa Rosa

plateau, with a total attendance of 8 for both years. This year using the demo technique of speaking one on one as people walk by, changed things around with a count of 40 visitors. Marilyn Cerone got visitors' attention with two topics:--the *ollas*, and posters on herbicide and pesticides. At the Temecula Garden Show on the same day, I helped bring up the count by 38 by giving the Asian Psyllid presentation. I see this type of Demo, working well at Fairs and other county events.

Lavender Festival

Master Gardeners were included into the program and advertising. We will have 14 Master Gardeners speaking at this year's event, along with 12 demos given at our speaker's booth. We plan to have an array of different,



exhibits at the booth. This will give us an opportunity to

showcase some of the many topics that we speak about throughout the county.

We will be using 15 Master Gardeners a day, and the Speakers Bureau along with the Gold Miner Connie Mettler to fill these slots. Connie will be reaching out to San Bernardino and the Desert area for help at the info table.



The pictures show the corner area we that gave us great exposure. The Farm is expecting 18,000 people this year.

In the pictures; the Information Table will be where the van is and our demo spot is under the trees to the left of the van

Riverside Training Class

Contributed by Linda Powell

Plans are under way for an exciting graduation of this year's Riverside training class.

The event will take place on June 11th from 12:00 to 3:00 at California Baptist University (Innovators Room - Business Building). Tickets are \$30.00 An Italian buffet will be served.

We have a very enthusiastic graduation committee that is working to make this a memorable event for the trainees and their families. Payment should be made to Rosa by May 18th.

Reappointment is Coming!

UC Master Gardener volunteers will be notified to reappoint automatically when you log in VMS starting on June 1.

Reappointment runs from June 1- July 31, 2017, any volunteer who has not completed the required on-line forms during the two-month reappointment timeframe, will be moved to inactive/resigned. It only takes a few clicks.

An on-line link for reappointment fees will be available beginning July 1.

On another note this year's class has been outstanding in their volunteer efforts. Several of the students already have over 100 volunteer hours and show no sign of slowing down. In addition, many students have made the effort to attend a number of the educational workshops that have been available this year. The workshops at Grow Lab and WMWD are been particular favorites.



Cahuilla Indians Earth Day

Submitted by Betty Balo



Master Gardeners Linda Carpenter and Betty Balo manned the MG table at Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians Earth Day. Linda's guest, Dennis, helped us with setting up and with the kids. The weather was off and on cool and then the sun would peek out. When the mist came

down from the mountain, the temps dropped and it was time to pack up.



The turnout was light due to several tribal funerals going on but all who attended had a nice time. One of the organizers, Ryan, commented that he felt it was successful because the kids learned some things!

The event started off with a tobacco blessing ceremony led by Kim Marcus. That was followed by native language chanting, bird singing and dancing by a handful of tribal members.

Last year when we did this event, we had a lot of children come by the MG table. This year we planned things for the kids.

We had 20 little succulents, cups and cactus soil for the kids to plant their own plant. The kids got to select the plant they wanted and we helped/ showed them how

to plant the plant. They were excited to be able to do that and happy they could take the plant home with them. They were given directions about how to care for their plant. All the plants were planted and taken home with the kids.



The kids loved the bugs! especially the frogs that jumped! The adults enjoyed the information.

Lunch was served and a raffle was held.

The event was fun!

Words from the Chair



Contributed by Eben Longfellow

It's been a long year serving as your Chair and yet it's gone by in a flash! Things have been busy & hectic and then more relaxed. At times it feels like nothing is going right and then things mesh together and we're clicking. Sometimes a part/parts of our organization are struggling and then someone steps forward and gets things working. Master Gardeners are such an organic dynamic group of people. Through volunteering we are brought together with the common goals/beliefs of growing things in sustainable & environmentally friendly ways ... and we learn to figure things out!

Yesterday I attended the first session of our Riverside Training Class student presentations and it renewed my energy about what we are doing. We are an organization, a team, with so many different moving parts. The diversity & enthusiasm shown with our new upcoming graduates will serve us well heading into the new fiscal year (July – June). I recently witnessed this same renewal when I attended the desert area graduation and many of our new graduates are already volunteering for leadership roles ... it's very powerful!

Notes from the Desert -- Really Great Pairings

Contributed by Mary Ann Egan

The warm, gorgeous days in the Coachella Valley during the month of March had the Desert Area Master Gardeners pairing up with other groups for some satisfyingly beneficial results.

The butterfly pairing.



The class presentations of the 2017 Desert Area trainee class were an impressive lot overall, and one of the presentations fits well within my theme of successful pairings. This first pairing is actually a 3-way

“pair.”

A class presentation, a speaker event at the Desert Hot Springs Middle School, and a propagation project at the Living Desert all are connected to milkweed plants and their namesake butterflies. Trainees Maureen and Wally Austin put together a class presentation entitled “Desert Royalty” about the Monarch and Queen caterpillars, later butterflies, which rely on milkweed for the toxin which



protects them from predators. Complete with funny props and fascinating details (did you know that a caterpillar kicks off its head and feet before forming a chrysalis?), the underlying message of the presentation was “Please plant milkweed!” They finished their presentation by handing out *Asclepias subulata* (desert milkweed) seeds to plant.

The show went on the road when our intrepid caterpillar wranglers teamed with Master Gardener Mernell Wong to make a presentation to a 7th-grade class at Desert Hot Springs Middle School. In preparation for the presentation, Wally transferred a Monarch chrysalis to a transportable branch and brought it to the middle school class. During the presentation before the 7th graders, a fully formed Monarch butterfly emerged from chrysalis-- no kidding! Result: a memorable caterpillar education and more desert milkweed seeds out in the community.





And the third leg of our “pairing” is the mutually beneficial Living Desert-Master Gardener relationship. Master Gardeners propagated 500 *Asclepias subulata* plants to give away at the Living Desert’s

Earth Day event coming up on April 22nd. The goal of keeping these “royalty” butterflies from going extinct from lack of food ties in nicely with gardeners’ use of milkweed plants in a desert landscape. *Asclepias subulata* is native to the Sonoran Desert, demands little water and puts up with reflected heat. The slender gray-green stems, which grow to 4’ high, make the plant an attractive and interesting landscape addition.

The docent pairing.

Master Gardeners had the opportunity to serve as volunteer docents for the annual garden tour conducted by the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley (DHSCV). The mission of DHSCV is to encourage the community to develop water-conserving landscapes. The privately-owned gardens selected to be on the tour are often exceptionally beautiful real-life illustrations of the use of native and desert-friendly plants in the landscape. DHSCV mission and the educational outreach aspect of the event was just up the Desert Area’s Master Gardener alley.

One garden on this year’s tour is a particularly inspiring example of how desert-friendly plants can be used to create “come-hither” environments which invite us to step in and stay for more than a little while. In Colony 29 in Palm Springs there are 22 themed gardens on the 6 acres of land which comprise the property. The name is taken from the fact that the property was originally an art colony started in 1929. The owner, Dave Johnston, bought the property after it had fallen into serious disrepair, restored the buildings and went about creating enough gardens to scratch in a very serious way that gardening itch he said he had had since he was

a little kid. If any of us doubt that the use of plants in a landscape is an art form, this place should resolve that doubt. Master Gardeners were privileged to get an up-close and personal view of this very special garden.



Resource for milkweed information: [“Lush and Efficient” Desert-Friendly Landscaping in the Coachella Valley](#) published by Ironwood Press for Coachella Valley Water District.



Brandtman Gardens

Contributed by Sheila James, Tours Coordinator

The home garden of Dave and Karen Brandtman will be on display for all Master Gardeners to visit. **Saturday, June 3rd, From 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM**

*Through gates and arches, up ramps of stone,
Wander with a friend or peacefully alone.
Inhale the refreshment of fragrant blooms
And visit old friends in an outdoor room,
Immersed in sensations of floral pleasure,
Where each rose is a jewel and the garden
a treasure.*

*Join us and enjoy a day among roses
In a place that is perfect for selfie poses.*

-J D Brandtman



Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin

I wanted to share some key points from a statewide strategic communication ad hoc committee I participated in at Davis. UC ANR hired a San Francisco firm to help our ad hoc committee identify key principles that underscore the 'UC ANR brand' across all factions of UC ANR which includes UCCE's Master Gardener, 4-H and other programs.

During this process, the Master Gardener program was used as an example several times due to the fact that it is a thriving, well recognized UC program. We summarized the underlying principles that make the Master Gardener program unique and highly effective:

- Master Gardeners disseminate objective, research based information to the gardening public and are not selling any product
- Master Gardeners meet local needs in the areas of sustainable landscapes; growing food in home, community and school gardens; and encouraging healthy communities through spending time outdoors and enhancing the public's appreciation for nature
- Master Gardeners are often the first contact California residents have with UC and can be highly influential

To ensure that you are correctly recognized and acknowledged by the public for who you are (a UCCE certified Master Gardener) and the training you have, please wear your UCCE Master Gardener badge to all events you volunteer at and educational programs you attend or help out at. While the term 'Master Gardener' is not trademarked, the term 'UCCE Master Gardener' refers only to those volunteers trained and certified by UCCE. Sometimes inactive previously certified UCCE Master Gardeners either continue to wear their badges and/or use the 'UCCE Master Gardener' title which is against UCCE guidelines. Please notify Rosa if you have a question about whether a

person claiming to be a UCCE Master Gardener is still on the roster – or ever was! This will help keep the 'UC ANR brand truth' alive and well!

And, once again, congratulations to the desert graduates and the Riverside 'near graduates'! You are all deeply appreciated and I'm thankful for your talents, commitment to the program, and friendship.

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Just a reminder to sign up for the statewide Master Gardener conference to be held in Long Beach August 22-25, 2017. You may register on this website: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/2017MGConference/>. Time and time again I hear from attendees of previous conferences that the best part about the conference offered once every three years is the opportunity to meet and chat with fellow Master Gardeners from throughout the state. Sometimes an unexpected encounter in the hallway can turn into a new lifetime friendship!

Master Gardeners Needed

Two Events need Volunteers

Riverside Home and Garden Show

Riverside Convention Center

3637 Fifth Street, Riverside

June 9 - 12-7pm

June 10 - 10am-7pm

June 11 - 10-5pm

Less Water More Garden Fun!

2985 Madison Street, Riverside

June 3 - 9 am to 12pm

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.




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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	Debbra Corbin-Euston
Newsletter Editor	Dave Brandtman
Phone Squad Coordinator	Nanci Nelson
School/Community Gardens	Cindy Peterson
Speaker's Bureau	Thurman Howard
Training Class Rep	Katie Hughes
	Gary Westad
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Karen Fleisher

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