



Newsletter

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Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held Monday, January 4, 1:00 p.m. at the UCCE Office, 52 North Washington Street, Sonora.

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 5, 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora.

No *Master Gardeners in Schools* meeting this month.

President’s Message



Snow Day in Jamestown! What a fun day I had. I’m sure you all know what day I’m referring to. I couldn’t wait to call Deb and see if she could come out and play! It didn’t take long until we had enough snow to walk in. It was gorgeous. Of course the bad thing about getting snow this low is

that the poor live oaks don’t hold up too well. They just can’t stand that weight. While on our walk you could hear limbs snapping off everywhere. Needless to say we were careful not to walk under those limbs! I guess it’s just nature’s way of keeping them trimmed. More fire wood for those that need it. But for the most part, the day was awesome. It’s always so quiet when it snows, it’s like no one else is around. Probably because no one else was crazy enough to be out there walking, but that’s O.K. because we had a great time. I have to say that that is the best snow we’ve had in a long time. Maybe you brought it with you, Becky!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Toots



Calendar

JANUARY

- 1-UCCE offices closed; New Year's holiday
- 4-Board Meeting-1 p.m. (UCCE Office)
- 5-General Meeting-6:00 p.m. (Senior Center)
- 13-Demo Garden Team Leaders, 9:00 a.m. (UCCE Office)
- 16-S.O.S. Styrofoam Collection
- 17-S.O.S. Styrofoam Collection

FEBRUARY

- 1-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m. (UCCE Office)
- 2-School Gardening Meeting-5 p.m. (Senior Center)

2-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
6-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)

MARCH

1-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
2-School Gardening Meeting-5-p.m.
(Senior Center)
2-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
6-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)

Demonstration Garden Update

Wow!!! What a wonderful day in the garden we had on December 5th. Over 40 adults and 18 children came to learn how to make a potato wreath and to make swags, pinecone bird feeders, and painted gourd ornaments.

Many folks came just to tour the garden and chat with the Master Gardeners on hand. But the fun was watching both adults and children getting into the holiday spirit, picking out greens, berries, cones and gourds to make just the right combination for their project.

Gary, Al and Jack did a wonderful job providing us with greens [redwood, sequoia, cedar and fir]. There were also cones from each of those trees as well as large sugar pine cones. Gary also provided pyracantha berries and English holly to add color and texture to the greens. Gary had labeled each so that our guests knew exactly what they were using.

Becky had to make a run to the grocery store to get more peanut butter for the bird feeders as the adults were enjoying making them as much as the kids. Toots oversaw the decorating of the gourds which got pretty creative! It was interesting to watch the children come up with some very inventive designs. Carolee had kids, moms and dads making swags using a metal hanger as the

form. Some families went home with two and three swags their children had created.

However, the stars of the day were Jack and Gary as Jack decided he wanted to make a wreath. Gary had some heavy duty wire in his truck {he has everything in his truck!!}, which they formed into a “large” circle and proceeded to wire greens, berries, holly and cones to it. It was so much fun watching these two men make decisions as to the placement of the various materials. They were overheard to say, “I think it should go like this,” and “No, I think it would be better if we put it here.” The end result was a beautiful wreath that Jack took home with pride!

And so with the end of this great day, we bring to a close the last of our Open Garden Days for 2009. We have seen over 400 members of the community come to our garden demonstrations in the past year. Over 300 have signed up for our Master Gardener E-News. The team leaders should be very proud of this accomplishment.

It is our hope that in 2010 more Master Gardeners will join garden teams. Be a part of the experience. And come out to Open Garden Days to chat with our fellow gardeners.

The garden will be resting until February when pruning demonstrations will open another year of fabulous times in the garden. Hope to see you in 2010.

The Garden Reporter

Condolences

Our condolences go out to our Past-President Debbie and all the Clinite family upon the passing of her mother.



Library News

For Master Gardeners interested in making their property more productive with less work, the MG Library has a great resource. It is the book

Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture, Second Edition” by Toby Hemenway. Gaia's Garden is a garden manual with three parts. The first part explores the garden as an ecosystem. The second provides information on how to apply concepts of ecology to make yards work more like nature. And the last describes the design process and techniques to create an ecological garden that supports humans and animals while being more earth-friendly.

The book amplifies the concepts and practices described by Sean Kriletich at the November Master Gardener general meeting. It provides detailed information on how to improve soil, create plant communities and guilds that mimic nature, and how to grow a food forest for wildlife and humans.

This 2nd edition also has a chapter on challenges and opportunities for permaculture practices in the city and other smaller spaces. It provides a focus on home-scale permaculture with a convincing rationale as to why homeowners should consider a more multi-purpose use of their land. This book effectively translates vague or unfamiliar concepts into practices that Master Gardeners can use in their own gardens. It's an excellent resource for site visits.

Marlys Bell
Library Committee

Recommend a Book

The MG Library Committee is currently considering the purchase of additional books for our library. If you know of books that would be useful or have identified an area or topic that is not adequately covered by our existing resources, please let one of the library committee know by the next MG meeting in January. Members of the committee are Patti Hohne, Val Myrick, Julie Segerstrom and Marlys Bell

Meet Your Fellow MG

Wishing you all a very bright, happy and productive 2010. Continuing in our series to get to know one another, I have chosen to interview a mystery Master Gardener. His favorite color is

purple, his favorite tree is the Bailey Acacia and he learned to prune at the age of eight. I may have just given it away, so I will tell you...I interviewed Gary Fowler.

I am sure many of you have heard his name mentioned in our meetings and many of you have attended his workshops. If so, you know that Gary is one of those rare jewels that makes us all richer because he is a part of our organization. If you attended our December meeting you were fortunate to have tasted his homemade berry ice creams and lemon sorbet.

Gary was born in Santa Cruz in 1938. His parents inherited a share of his grandparent's 60-acre property where they built a cabin after WWII. There was no truck to help with the pouring, so the cement was carried by buckets! His parents farmed boysenberries, young berries, peaches and plums, which were sold to local farmers' markets.

Gary began his 'job' as a youngster, carrying twigs away during pruning season. Around the age of eight or nine, he was shown how to prune and was "trusted with his own performance on that."

Gary's father worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and was stationed as camp boss in summer camps in the Jawbone watershed. Much to the delight of Gary and his younger sister, they accompanied their parents to the mountains in the summers.

Raised in Oakland and Santa Cruz, Gary attended three different grammar schools and three different high schools. He graduated from Sonora High in 1956 with 120 other students. Gary continued his education at UC Berkeley majoring in Forestry & Civil Engineering. His summers were spent as an engineering aide surveying timber access roads near Cottonwood Road and, for one summer, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

After acquiring a Masters degree in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Forestry at UC Berkeley, Gary's career began at the University at Michigan where he taught for 30 years.

Gary's father, upon retirement, built a 2nd career with his wife growing Christmas trees on the family farm in Santa Cruz. Gary's favorite tree (acacia) is taken from a slip from that ranch. Some of the roots grow horizontally so the shoots

can be harvested. The tree grows proudly in his front yard garden. The ranch will continue to be woven into Gary's life as he travels there once a month to check on things and hopes to one day move there to continue farming.

Gary was introduced to his wife, Susan, through their parents who played bridge together. Gary took his new acquaintance to the American River for a swim. She was annoyed because she wanted to stay behind and play bridge instead! Things worked out nicely, though, because they were married for 40 years. They were blessed with one son and one daughter, who come to visit from Michigan and Chicago, enjoying fishing and hiking in the summers.

Susan was diagnosed with a brain tumor and underwent experimental treatment at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Southern California after they moved back to California to retire. She acquired lung cancer in 2002. Gary walked and talked with her during those dark days and has lost a much loved partner and friend. Gary will tell you that the Master Gardener program was a real comfort and motivation for him after his wife's death.

He served on our MG Board as treasurer and has lavished his time on the Cassina garden, proudly working alongside Jack Bennett and Al Dahlstrand in the raised beds and the fruit production area.

Gary tends his own fruit orchard and is busy with his grapes and berries making jam, canning or freezing his harvest. If you visit him, you will not leave with arms empty. He is quick to dig into a recent harvest to share with you. If you have the pleasure of a garden tour, you will have a real treat. He has a showplace with vegetables tucked into neat beds and fruit trees growing in their straight rows overlooking the views commanded by his homestead outside Sonora. You will hear many references to his roots and to his sister, whom he loves, when he talks. You can tell his heart is being pulled back to those roots from where he came.

Gary has taught a multitude of courses for our MG program. He has the expertise to have offered classes in landscape measuring, cool season and warm season vegetables, pruning berries, grapes and fruit trees, often taught in his

own yard or in the demonstration garden. Gary says he enjoys phone calls asking for gardening advice and eagerly volunteers for site visits from the public. If you have not met Gary, please ask him about his hiking exploits, including the Upper Yosemite Falls Trail and his favorite scenic hike to Vernal Falls.

Gary says he can't work as hard as he used to, but that's still more than most. Meet Gary Fowler and meet a legend in our group. He would love to visit with you as he says we all learn from each other. Gary is eager to share with you about his experiences as a farmer. Thank you, Gary, for your many contributions to our Master Gardener program.

Julie Segerstrom



Coordinator's Corner

As we start a new year, I wish you all a peaceful, prosperous 2010. As a way of extending those wishes to our community, we can connect with our neighbors by providing helpful service. And we can enhance our local prosperity by not throwing away reusable materials.

On that note, our next Styrofoam collection event, S.O.S.—Save Our Styrofoam, is right around the corner. On the last page is a flier to print out, hang on your refrigerator or give to a friend. Let your neighbors know.

And be sure to sign up at the January Master Gardener meeting to staff the drop-off site. If you can't be at the meeting, please contact

Peggy Andrews at pmlandrews@att.net to let her know your availability.

A great way to earn MG hours, contribute to the community and publicize the Master Gardener program.

To contact UCCE Tuolumne County Master Gardeners:

Hotline: 209.533.5912
mgtuolumne@ucdavis.edu

UCCE office: 209.533.5695
MG office 209.533.5696

Addresses:
Physical 52 North Washington St.
Mailing 2 South Green St.
Sonora, CA 95370

Master Gardeners on the Road

Ya know, Gator and I chose to retire in Sonora for so many reasons. Yet, the travel bug has bitten by astronomical proportions. We HAVE to be on the move. As the holidays approached, there's a hint of crisp in the air, trees starting to show their changing plumage. I had to think (uh, oh)...where to go next? My mind wanders to the islands, beautiful rain forests. Capuchin monkeys high in the canopy of the trees. An iguana trots by with that wagging, disjointed gait. Gator screeches as my repti-phobe hubby sees the aforementioned, prehistoric demon.

But then, why can I see my breath? Guess we made a wrong turn. Let's see...to the coast, then left to Central America and right to the great Pacific Northwest. Yeah, we're at that second one.

Washington, what a beautiful place. Our first state park stop was just over the border from Oregon on the coast. Cape Disappointment. It wasn't! We fell in love with the place. Hardly a

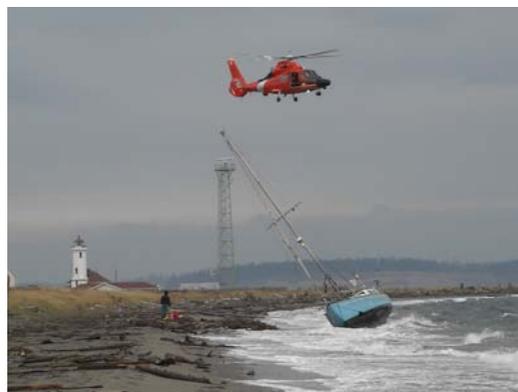
breath of wind on the beach when we were there. We were lucky, weeks later a storm blasted through with winds clocked at 98 m.p.h. Whooshie! The place got its name from the countless ship wrecks from the treacherous currents of the Columbia River that meet the Pacific there. The Coast Guard uses the area as a primary training ground.

Along the north of the state, we got to Port Townsend. It's off Puget Sound and a terrific place to visit. I dubbed it Berkeley North. It's eclectic, organic and a little left of center. Their farmer's market was a wondrous surprise of about all you can imagine, even in the rain. We supplied up.

The state park we stayed at was Fort Worden. Our site was about 100 yards from the beach. We could watch the crazy kite surfers skid at speed across the choppy waters. When they could hook the wind just right, they'd jump around 4 ft. up in the air. Nuts. It was F-F-F-F-F-Freezing.

From our rig, we could watch ferries, barges and huge freighters cross the sound. We even saw a nuclear sub go by. It had Coasties escorting it front and back and support vessels at its sides. Fantastic.

One morning after a storm had passed with 58 m.p.h. winds rocking our rig, I saw a mast at a 45 degree angle just on the other side of the dune from our camp site. I told Gator, "I'm pretty sure that ain't good!" To be continued ...





SAVE OUR STYROFOAM! (S.O.S.)

Tuolumne County
Master Gardeners
Styrofoam Collection Day

Drop off your clean, #6 Styrofoam

Remove tape, tags, labels, etc.

No packing peanuts or food containers please.

When: January 16th: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
January 17th: 10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Where: Waste Management
14959 Camage Ave., Sonora
Turn onto Camage & Follow the Signs

Keep Styrofoam Out of the Landfill!!

