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Newsletter

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Projects

Are you in need of hours? The end of the fiscal year is fast approaching (June 30) and most Master Gardeners need to have 25 volunteer hours on record to maintain active certification. New Master Gardeners must have completed 50 hours of volunteer time to become a certified Master Gardener. Following is a list of projects in which Tuolumne County Master Gardeners are involved. See anything that interests you?

- 15th Annual Spring Garden Tour
- Information Booths – OSH & Wal-Mart
- Presentations to Service Groups & Clubs
- Farmers’ Markets
- Community Garden Start-Ups
- High School Senior Project Garden Start-Ups
- Cassina Demonstration Garden

- Open Garden Days
- School Gardens
- Insect Committee
- Library Working Group
- Soil Testing
- Garden Articles for the Union Democrat & MyMotherLode.com
- Garden Enhancement for Avalon Care Center
- Sonora Regional Medical Center “Live Well, Be Well” Garden
- Info Booths at Earth Day Celebrations and Earth Fests
- “Sharing the Knowledge” Garden Book, 2nd Edition
- Hotline
- Home Garden Consultations
- Fair Triangle Demonstration Area
- S.O.S. – Save Our Styrofoam
- Scholarship Award
- Presentation of Local Workshops & Seminars
- Home & Garden Show
- Stream Team Water Quality Sampling
- Advisory Board of Directors
- Stream Rehabilitation Project
- Great Sierra River Clean-Up
- Mother Lode Fair Booth
- Farms of Tuolumne County Farm Tour
- Statewide IPM and Sustainability Training
- Preparation of Gardening Brochures, “Foothill-Friendly Gardening” and “Save Water in Your Garden”
- Presentations to other UCCE Master Gardener Programs

What an amazing list of accomplishments! Thank you, every one, for your involvement.

Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held on Monday, May 3, 1:00 p.m. at Sandy Smith's home, 12662 Yankee Hill Rd., Columbia.

Master Gardeners in Schools Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 5:00 p.m. at the Tuolumne County Senior Center – 540 Greenley Road, Sonora.

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 6:00 p.m. at the Tuolumne County Senior Center – 540 Greenley Road, Sonora. We will spend the meeting making final arrangements for the 15th Annual Spring Garden Tour.

Master Gardener Office will be closed Thursday, May 6, for the Arboretum All-Stars Field Trip.



President's Message

After our recent late snow, I remembered a story Jim told me that happened during a similar spring. Pretty sure he said it was in the 90's.

Anyway, spring was going right along with plenty of grass for the cows to eat and then we had a late snow. Must have gotten a pretty substantial snowfall because the cows couldn't get to the grass. At the same time, the oak trees were pushing new leaves and the snow caused a lot of them to fall off the trees.

Well, if they had fallen off when there was grass on the ground, the cows would have left the new oak leaves alone. But because there was so much snow on the ground and the cows couldn't get to the grass, they ate the new leaves that had fallen and it killed them.

One friend of his up in Red Bluff lost around 361 head of cattle. He was just one of many that suffered the casualties of that late snow.

Must be something pretty toxic in those first leaves.

Just to let you know, I ended up with a set of triplets and four sets of twins. We'll keep our fingers crossed the predators stay away. I am supplementing two bottles a day for one of the triplets. Always last to the chow line! Such is the life of a "Goat Roper."

Toots

Editor's Note: "Googling" the poisonous substances in young oak leaves—tannins and phenols—brought up this interesting article from the U.C. Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. It talks about livestock poisoning from eating oaks, and refers to the incident Toots described:

http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/vetext/INF-BE_cca/INF-BE_cca01/INF-BE_cca0101.html

Here's another interesting article about dogs and oaks.
http://dog-care.suite101.com/article.cfm/dangers_of_dogs_eating_acorns

Calendar



May

- 1-Open Garden Day-10 a.m.
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 3-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
(12662 Yankee Hill Rd., Columbia)
- 4-School Garden Meeting-5 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 4-General Meeting-6 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 6-UC Davis Arboretum Field Trip
"Tour & Shop" the Arboretum All-Stars
Note: Master Gardener office closed
- 12-Team Leader Meeting-9 a.m.
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 16-15th Annual Spring Garden Tour

June

5-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.

KIDS' DAY IN THE GARDEN!

Fun, fun, fun!!!

(Cassina Demo Garden)

5-Earthfest 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

(Mountain Sage Nursery, Groveland)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
INFORMATION BOOTH**

7-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.

(UCCE Office)

8-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.

(Senior Center)

12-S.O.S. (Save Our Styrofoam)

14-Pine Mountain Lake Garden Tour

21-Mother Lode Fair Entry Deadline

July

9-12 Mother Lode Fair

12-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.

(UCCE Office)

13-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.

(Senior Center)

17-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.

(Cassina Demo Garden)

Farmers' Market Season Approaching!

The Sonora Farmers' Market will begin next month and continue through mid-October. The Master Gardeners will again have a booth thanks to Erin O'Hare, Master Gardener and Farmers' Market coordinator. Martha Stolp will arrange the MG volunteers each week. If you are in need of hours, the Farmers' Market is a fun way to obtain several in one morning. The Market runs from 7:30 to 11:30 AM each Saturday, but MG volunteers should plan on arriving early to help set up the booth. Early birds get first pick at the wonderful produce and pastries! Please contact Martha at mapstolp@gmail.com or 532-3113 if you are interested in volunteering and let her know what Saturday(s) you are available.

Editor's note: There are also farmers' markets in Twain Harte and Tuolumne; and it's been suggested by the Tuolumne County Grand Jury

that Master Gardeners might like to have a booth at farmers' markets in Lake Don Pedro and Groveland. If you're interested in volunteering at any of these locations, please call the Master Gardener office at 209.533.5696.

15th Annual Spring Master Gardener Garden Tour

Remember the Garden Tour, our big fundraising event of the year, is the third Sunday in May. This year that's May 16th. Make sure you have signed up to work the 3 required hours for the Garden Tour, either in pre-tour preparation or at one of our five garden sites on the day of the tour. You can contact Lori Daniels or Stella Sauls to sign up or you can sign up on-line on the calendar page of the VMS website. Sign up sheets will be at the May 4th meeting as well.

In addition, at the May 4th meeting please bring \$5/person "earnest money" for you and all guests for the post-Garden Tour celebration dinner. And be prepared to make your preferences known at the May 4th meeting regarding what kind of restaurant dinner you'd like for the celebration dinner....Mexican, Italian, Asian, American, etc.

See you at the meeting and see you on the Garden Tour.



Spread a Little Sunshine

We mourn the loss of former Master Gardener Jennifer Thurman, who passed away at Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto. Our condolences go out to her family.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Debbie Eslinger's mother and extend our heart felt condolences to Debbie and her family.

Francie McGowan is undergoing additional eye surgery. Please feel free to send her a message or card and let her know we are all thinking of her at this time.

GARDEN TOUR

PINE MOUNTAIN LAKE, GROVELAND

JUNE 14, 2010
\$20 (INCLUDES LUNCH)

*Call Sharon Hunt, 962-7707,
for info and reservations*

JOIN THE DISCUSSION: WHAT'S YOUR SPECIALTY???

Marian Chambers has agreed to take on the project of updating the Master Gardener Specialty list, last updated in 2007. Volunteers staffing the hotline find they need an accurate specialty list in order to refer clients to the most knowledgeable Master Gardener. Also, many of us have found ourselves asking, "Who knows about....." so it will be helpful to us all.

Marian will be using a new tool to create a discussion that everyone can join. To participate in the specialty discussion, go to the VMS website (where you log your hours) and click on "Discussion" on the left hand side of the screen. This will take you to a system on the U.C. website called "Collaborative Tools" which will allow you to communicate with others in the discussion.

In order to participate, you may need to go into your profile on the VMS website and click the box labeled "Discussion: Subscribe to Discussions."

Enjoy the new process and enjoy the increased communication.

**June's Newsletter Editor:
Kristine Grayum**

**Submission deadline:
May 15**

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