

Quarterly News & Events **March 2023**

San Mateo and San Francisco Counties



Spring is in the air...

and with the incredible rain, warming weather, and longer days (hurray!) one can expect plenty of tender new plant growth, an abundance of flowers, some pesky weeds, and all the associated critters which are sometimes not so beneficial to your home and landscape. Fear not...**UC ANR's Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** easy to access online tools can help you identify and manage many of these issues. Check out the following useful sites!

- **UC IPM Plant Problem Diagnostic Tool**
- **Wildlife Pest Identification**
- **Seasonal Landscape Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Checklist**

HUMAN-WILDLIFE INTERACTIONS



Human-Wildlife Interactions Advisor, Dr. Carolyn Whitesell, is thrilled to announce the launch of the Bay Area Carnivore-Livestock Interactions Project (BACLIP for short). This project is the result of a collaboration between her research program, **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** (who generously provided the project funding), **Panthera** (an NGO focused on conservation of wild felids), Colorado State University, **UC Santa Cruz Puma Project**, and others. Through it, we will be testing nonlethal deterrents for protecting

livestock from mountain lions and coyotes on rangeland in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties. [Read More...](#)

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



Winter Craft Fair - Dec. 2022

4-H Winter Craft Fair

San Mateo County 4-Hers came together in December for the first ever Winter Craft Fair, selling handmade goods by 4-Hers as a fundraiser for their clubs. Youth made ornaments, crafts, soaps, jewelry, baked goods, artwork and much more. Visitors to the Fair were also able to participate in a wreath making workshop, explore a Fairy House and learn to wrap gifts.

4-H Presentation Day

Presentation Day is a fun opportunity for 4-H members to showcase their knowledge in a subject of their choosing. 4-H'ers prepare a presentation that is judged on subject knowledge, presentation, organization, voice, manner and appearance, clarity, and the ability to answer questions. More than twenty youth participated in this year's Presentation Day, held at the College of San Mateo in February. Presenters talked about subjects ranging from making waffles to sewing ballet shoes and caring for special needs chickens!



Presentation Day Participants - Feb. 2023

Nutrition



Bulk Milk Comes to RWC School District!

UCCE is supporting an exciting pilot project in Redwood City: the rollout of a bulk milk dispenser! The dispenser premiered on January 27th at McKinley Institute of Technology / North Star Academy. UCCE is supporting the rollout and evaluating its impact on milk consumption and waste. School meals community educator Angelina Gutierrez provided on-site support to school food service staff and showed students how to use the new milk dispenser. The dispenser was immediately a huge hit: one side of the milk dispenser completely ran out due to popularity among the students on its first two days in service. In the fall, our nutrition team collected data to measure the amount of milk waste and solid waste that came from using milk cartons in the school cafeteria. In the coming weeks, we'll be back for follow up data collection to see the effect the bulk milk dispenser has on milk consumption and solid waste.



For more information visit our Nutrition Program's **Universal Meals Resource Hub**

Master Gardeners



Spring Garden Market Preparation

Our Master Gardeners are in high gear as they prepare for the 14th annual **Spring Garden Market and Educational Fair** on **April 15** at the **San Mateo County Event Center**. Thousands of plants are being propagated for the sale including 24 different tomato varieties, herbs, squash, peppers, pollinators, succulents and more.

The event is the culmination of months of careful research and testing of soil blends, fertilizers, seeding and potting techniques for all plants offered for sale to the public.

The Educational Fair which was introduced last year proved to be a huge success with “standing room only” crowds attending the day’s line up of expert presentations. This year, the program will be expanded to include more presentations and information tables.

Spring Garden Market flyers have been created in three languages- English, Spanish and Chinese- to promote the event and are being posted in strategic locations throughout San Francisco and San Mateo Counties.



MGs & seedling preparation in the greenhouses.

Master Food Preservers



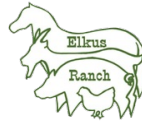
MFP Virtual Workshops Are Back!

The Master Food Preservers of San Mateo/San Francisco County are back at the library! Our new 2023 season of on-line workshops in collaboration with the San Mateo County Library System began February 16th. MFP Hima Sunkara guided over 140 attendees in the basics of fresh sausage making via a 1 hour zoom workshop. It was a mouthwatering and informative class!

Check out our **Upcoming Events** page for future workshops and lots of food safety and food preservation resources.



Photo Credit: Hima Sunkara



Storm Recovery at Elkus

For those who were not aware, Elkus Ranch suffered serious storm damage over New Year's weekend. Purisima Creek's flooding waters washed away our access bridge and water pumping station. The road to recovery has been slow (to say the least) due in part to insurance and UC contractual issues. Sadly, Elkus remains closed to the public with limited access via a gas powered man-lift which can carry 2 persons at a time, moving at a snails pace. Staff are on-site daily to care for the animals - who truly miss having visitors - and regular chores, including hand pumping water into a 500 gal. tank which is then transported up to our water treatment system for use. Lots of challenges but we look forward to the project's completion and resuming activities. We have every intention to host both Sheep to Shawl and Summer Camp and hope to see you then if not before! Thank you for your patience and support.



"Hey, where are all the kids?" (not the goat kind ;-)



View from Elkus across the creek to man-lift.



Staff crossing the creek in the man-lift machine.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

Succulents in Pots and in the Garden | March 12, 2023
San Francisco Public Library, Mission Bay Branch

Container Gardening with Succulents | March 13, 2023
Half Moon Bay Library

Unlocking the Magic of Native Plants in Your Garden | March 14, 2023
East Palo Alto Library

Master Gardener School Garden Leaders Workshop | March 18, 2023

Unlocking the Magic of Native Plants in Your Garden | March 18, 2023
San Mateo Public Library, Oak Room

MFP - Growing & Fermenting Garden Vegetables | March 18, 2023
via Zoom

Spring and Summer Vegetable Gardening | March 18, 2023
via Zoom

Bees and Butterflies in the Garden | March 20, 2023
Belmont Library, Taube Room

All About Herbs and Edible Flowers | March 24, 2023
Portola Valley Library

Vegetable Gardening in Containers | March 29, 2023
San Carlos Library

All About Herbs and Edible Flowers | March 29, 2023
Atherton Library

Master Gardener Plant Clinic at the San Mateo Arboretum | April 2, 2023
San Mateo Arboretum in Central Park

Organic Spring & Summer Vegetable Gardening | April 2, 2023
San Mateo Arboretum Society

Spiller-Thriller-Filler Container Gardening | April 2, 2023
San Francisco Public Library, Mission Bay Branch

Vegetable Gardening In Containers | April 8, 2023
San Francisco Public Library, Richmond Branch

Master Gardener Spring Garden Market & Educational Fair | April 15, 2023
Redwood Hall - San Mateo County Event Center

MFPs: How to Win a Blue Ribbon | April 15, 2023
via zoom

Learn to Grow (Almost) Anything in a Container | April 22, 2023
Woodside Library

Coastside Gives | May 4th, 2023
A Coastside Day of Giving: **Support Elkus Ranch!**

Secrets to a Successful Succulent Landscaping | May 17, 2023
via zoom

MFPs: Berry Bonanza | May 18th, 2023
via zoom

UC Cooperative Extension Offices San Mateo / San Francisco Counties

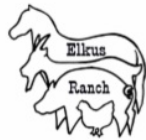
Main Office: (click for directions)
Located on-site at UC Elkus Ranch
1500 Purisima Creek Road
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
650-726-9059

Master Gardener Helpline:
Open for in-person, walk-in visits per
below. See our [website](https://ucanr.edu/mg_website) for more details or
submit any questions via the following:
https://ucanr.edu/mg_helpline

Email: cesanmateo@ucanr.edu

Website: <http://cesanmateo.ucanr.edu>

- Monday: 10am-1pm | **HMB**
- Tuesday: 10:30am-1:30pm | **SF**
- Thursday: 1pm-4pm | **RWC**



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