

## Speaker Biographies



**Dr. Deborah Golino** *Keynote Speaker*

Dr. Golino is the Director of Foundation Plant Services at UC Davis. Foundation Plant Services distributes disease-tested, true-to-identity grapes, strawberries, fruit and nut trees, sweet potatoes, and roses produced by UC researchers or improved by technology developed by UC researchers. Dr. Golino is also a UCCE specialist in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis where she directs a research and extension program focused on controlling the virus and virus-like diseases of grapevines. She is an author of over 100 scientific publications in plant pathology. Since 2005 she has served as Director for the Viticulture Consortium West (VCW) and the California Competitive Grants Program for Viticulture and Enology (CCGPVE).



**Missy Gable** *Keynote Speaker*

Missy Gable is the Director of the California Statewide Master Gardener Program since 2013. In her previous position as Program Manager of the California Center for Urban Horticulture, a University of California Davis organization, founded in 2006. Missy was dedicated to enhancing urban living through horticulture. Missy received her Master's degree in Horticulture in 2007 and is very passionate about getting people outdoors to appreciate nature.

**Karen Basso** became a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, in 2003. She actively works at the Garden of the Sun and is interested in herbs, container gardening, perennial gardening and annuals. She graduated from Fresno State with a BS in nursing and has practiced as a Registered Nurse for over 30 years. She has two sons and two grandchildren. She has one crazy Samoyed, but has gardened over the years with many family dogs including 'grand-dogs'.

**Jackie Bradley** has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 1993. She has lectured on a variety of topics, including composting, wildlife gardens, seasonal color, sustainable landscapes and pest management. She has had an article published on "Gardening for the Birds," and has given seasonal landscaping tips to *Granville Lifestyle Magazine*.

**Carole Chavin** became a UCCE Master Gardener, Madera County, in 1995. She is a lifelong dirt-under-her-fingernails home gardener. She was introduced to roses when she assisted with a UCCE Master Gardener Adult Education Class.

**Maggie Courtis** has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2005. She is a frequent presenter on topics of edibles, IPM--integrated pest management, design, and sustainability. She and her husband have an extensive organic fruit and vegetable garden and enjoy growing most of their own produce year-round.

**Robbie Cranch** has been an avid gardener since she pulled up her first radish seedling at age four to see how the roots were getting along. A UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, for 20 years, her gardening motto is "When you're done learning, you're done." She prefers most dogs to most people, but plants and fellow gardeners tie for second place. She is interested in edible landscaping, herbs, community gardens and the folklore of gardening.

**Michael Eggers** is a retired teacher and part-time farmer. He has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2011, and a blueberry farmer since 2007.

**Michael Harman** has had a long interest in gardening but was unable to become a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, until retirement. Completing the program in 2007, he has taught composting, rose care, and olive curing as well as chairing several committees at the Garden of the Sun.

**Valerie Kissler**, a teacher for 40 years, became a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, in 2005. Originally from the East Coast, she finds the Central Valley the place to be for gardening! She is carrying on the tradition of gardening that she learned from her grandfather.

**Michelle Le Strange** has been a CE Tulare/Kings County Turf & Landscape Farm Advisor for more than 25 years. Her specialties are commercial vegetable crop production, turf grass, landscape ornamentals and weed management. In 1996, she started the UCCE Master Gardener Program in Tulare and Kings Counties and became much more involved with home landscaping issues and concerns. One of her favorite hobbies is tending to the gardening chores in her own yard.

**Russ Lindquist**, a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2007, has also been a woodworker and general contractor. He taught high school cabinet making and construction classes and currently teaches an Outdoor Building Projects class for adults at Clovis West High School.

**Charlene Novack** joined the UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, program in 2009. She is a Certified Speaker/Teacher for the Square Foot Garden Foundation. Desiring a garden with more vegetables and less work, she became interested in the Square Foot Garden method and will share her ideas with you today.

**Jody Palmer** has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, for 20 years. She is a professional garden designer specializing in natural and beautiful water-wise landscapes. Her garden designs have won City of Fresno Smart Gardening awards.

**Rose Pipkin** has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 1997. Her work at the Garden of the Sun includes Youth Gardening, the vegetable garden--especially tomatoes, and the iris garden. She has been a middle school teacher and retired from the IRS.

**Sharon Rossi** became a UCCE Master Gardener through the Monterey County and Fresno County programs. She retired as owner/operator of the residential garden design service, "*A Little Creative Help, Please!*" Sharon now helps homeowners create sustainable personal outdoor spaces that meet the clients' need for rest, recreation and beauty.

**Ruth Saludes** became a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, in 2011. She has been a speaker at the annual Home & Garden Show, lectured on sustainability and made presentations to Adult Education Classes. She is an active member of Clovis Botanical Garden and the Fresno Cactus & Succulent Society. In June of 2011 her home garden was selected for an insert in *Sunset* Magazine and in 2012 her garden was selected for the annual Master Gardener Spring Garden Tour.

**Melanie Sarkisian** joined the UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, program after her retirement in 2009. She received certification as a Square Foot Garden Instructor in early 2013. This program stimulated her keen interest in growing vegetables and flowers from seed.

**Norm Smith** received his Masters and Ph.D. degrees in Entomology at UC Davis. He was the CE Fresno County Entomologist for 30 years. He retired in September 2009 and became a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, in 2011.

**Tim Sullivan**, a retired agricultural appraiser, has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2011. He currently manages the irrigation at the Garden of the Sun.

**Beth Teviotdale** has a B.A. in Botany from Pomona College, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Pathology from UC Davis. She is a retired CE Plant Pathologist from UC Davis. She has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2001.

**Becky Thompson** has been a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, since 2001. She has been a backyard beekeeper since 2009. Her primary gardening interest is 12-month vegetable gardening.

**Carolyn Unruh**, a UCCE Master Gardener, Fresno County, for over 20 years, has a wide variety of horticultural interests. In addition to gardening, she enjoys playing with her grandchildren, travel, hiking, family history and time spent enjoying good friends and good food.

**Lance Walheim** is a horticulturist and citrus grower. He is the author of several books on citrus and is a Senior Editor of a *Sunset Western Garden Book*. He is the owner of California Citrus Specialties.