

November 2014

University of California
Cooperative Extension
Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road #202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781

Phone (951) 683-6491 X228

Fax (951) 788-2615

TDD (951) 276-9539

Website:

ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG

Email: anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu

anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

In This Issue	Page
Gold Mners Win Search for Excellence Contest	1-2
Apple Picking Time	3
Announcements	4
Events Calendar	5
Lavender Propagation	6-7
A Tour to Satisfy Your Sweet Sweet Tooth	8-9



Garden Views



Gold Miners Win Search For Excellence Contest

By Lucy Heyming, Master Gardener

From the wonderful welcome reception hosted by the Fresno Master Gardeners on Wednesday evening, to the Friday morning awards presentations, over 600 master gardeners from all over California had the opportunity to learn about gardening topics important to them and meet great like-minded people from all over our golden state. Riverside County Master Gardeners were well represented at the conference, which was held at the Tenaya Lodge near Yosemite. It was a beautiful setting. Nine Riverside County master gardeners enjoyed the three day event with classes on topics like: propagation techniques, succulents, native bees, composting, heirloom seeds, edible landscape design, butterflies, seed saving, native plants, backyard chickens and many more. At the "Market Place", attendees could buy neat gardening items, books, handmade items, jewelry, and much more (I got a wooden snail motel to put in my vegetable garden. I am looking forward to catching snails in an environmentally safe way and feed them to my chickens).



MGs Lucy Heyming and Frank Heyming

On Friday morning the Search for Excellence winners gave presentations to highlight their projects. For the first time at a State Conference, Riverside County Master Gardeners submitted two projects and two posters; one for our docent and workshop project with WMWD, and the other for our Gold

Miner project. As you know, Riverside County Master Gardeners were awarded FIRST Place for the Gold Miner project. We will receive \$ 500.00 for this award. The presentation I gave outlining this project was well received by the conference attendees. The winners of second and third place were also wonderful projects. Santa Clara County's project was a community garden that their master gardeners began and now operate at a local hospital. The Orange County Master Gardeners developed a series of videos that teach composting and are available on YouTube. Posters from all the applications were set up around the room for us to view.

The Statewide Master Gardener Conference is held every three years. The next one, in 2017, is promised to be held in southern California. That will allow more master gardeners from our area to take part in this wonderful opportunity to learn and share.

The photos are of the Riverside County attendees and some of their spouses at the Thursday evening dinner.



From left to right: MG Cindy Peterson, Dave Peterson (husband of Cindy), MG Laura Afansev and her husband Bob.



From left to right: MGs Karen Fleischer, Sandy Starkey, Michelle Harding, Nancy Johnson (new MG who just graduated in June!)



Hal Pedigo (husband of Pauline) and MG Pauline Pedigo.



Mike Jenkins (husband of Dona) and MG Dona Jenkins.

Apple Picking Time, A Labor of Love!

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Oak Glen's apple season arrived early this year because of a phenomenal crop. Riley's opened for picking in September and I took advantage of that. Not only did we pick apples, but pears were available and beautiful zinnias were ready for cutting by the stem. A fun day.



Western Municipal Water District

WMWD Landscapes Southern California Style
450 E. Alessandro Blvd.
Riverside, CA 92508

November 8, 2014..... 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Go Native! Gardening with California Native Plants

Want to attract songbirds, butterflies and hummingbirds to your yard? Go natives! Want to decrease the use of water, pesticides, herbicides and amendments? Go natives! Ellen Mackey, our speaker, is a staff ecologist with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and co-author of "Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens." Fall and early Winter are the best planting times for California native plants. Attend the workshop and then visit the parking lot for live examples of native plants. The California Native Plant Society will hold a sale of plants in the lot from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Eta Takele - County Director
(951) 683-6491 X221

Chair	David Brandtman
Chair Elect	Cathy Konyon
Secretary	Sandy Starkey
Fiscal Officer	Susan Kitchens
Past-Chair	Lucy Heyming

Gold Miners	Lucy Heyming
Grow Lab	Marco Baldi
JMDC	Dona Jenkins
IT Team	Bill Reid
Membership Coordinator	
Mentoring Program	Carol Haffter
Newsletter Editor	Donna King
Phone Squad	Pauline Pedigo
Properties	Rhonda Alexander
Public Relations	Sean Nealon
Recognition/Awards	Cathy Godfrey
School & Comm Programs	Cindy Peterson
Riverside Training Class Rep	Vacant
Social Programs	Vacant
Speakers Bureau	Sandi Norton
Tours	Sheila James
UCRBG Representative	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Karen Fleisher

Desert Area Coordinators:

Chair	Larry Fechter
Co-Chair	Tom Stansbury
Secretary	Marie Strom
2014-15 Trainee Class	Joan Kyle-Baerman
Agua Caliente School Garden	Cathy Liss
Mentor	Joan Kyle
Phone Squad	Ellyn Smith & Sue Mills
Communication	Marge Robinson
Outreach and Education	Suzanne Jarvinen
Speakers Bureau	Angela Fasano
New Projects/Events	Angela Fasano
Social Programs	Kathy Miller
UCR Palm Desert Garden	Janna Calkins

Garden Views: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>
Facebook: Google UCCE Riverside Master Gardeners

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL THOSE
WHO HAVE NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS!!

Katherine Botts
Vivian Caldwell
Larry Dodson
Ginger Dwyer
Segolene Gille-Martin
Barbara Hays
Buck Hemenway
Donna King
Diana McCambridge
Trey Pitruzzello
Richard Rodriguez
Mark Seavey
JoBeth White
Lori Robin Wilson

Become a MG Blogger!!

Contact Dona Jenkins for more information.

The Garden Views newsletter is published monthly, October through October, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

Editor: Donna King -- jaszyking@gmail.com

Marco Baldi
Beatrice Etchison
Cathy Godfrey
Mike Henry
Janet K. Hough
Frank Heyming
Lucy Heyming
Pauline Pedigo
Pat Robertson
Marge Robinson
Beverley Scray

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public

1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th	Palm Springs Farmers Market "ask the gardener" table	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
1st	WMWD Docent Fall Seminar Grapevine Pruning Health Fair - Spanish info table	8:45 am - 3:00 pm 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 2:00 - 5:00 pm
2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th	La Quinta Farmers Market "ask the gardener" table	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
3rd	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	3:00 - 4:15 pm
5th	Temecula Farmers Market Desert Training Class - Orientation Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Monthly Meeting	8:30 am - 1:00 pm 9:00 am - 12:30 pm 7:00 - 9:00 pm
5th, 12th, 19th, 26th	Palm Desert Farmers Market	7:45 am - 1:00 pm
6th	Riverside Training Class - Plant Propagation	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
8th	CA Native Plant Society - Plant Sale WMWD Docent Day WMWD Workshop: Go Native! Gardening with California Plants	9:00 am - 3:00 pm 9:30 am - 2:30 pm 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
9th	Art in the Gardens at UCR Botanic Gardens	10:00 am - 3:00 pm
11th, 27th, 28th	Veterans Day - UCCE Office Closed Thanksgiving - UCCE Office Closed	All Day
11th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation Desert Welcome Back Potluck	9:00 - 11:00 am 12:30 - 2:30 pm
13th	Desert Area Committee	10:00 - 11:30 am
15th	Winter Care for Roses	10:00 - 11:00 am
18th	What's Bugging You? IUFC Workshop	9:00 am - 4:15 pm
19th	Desert Training Class Advisory Board Meeting	9:00 am - 12:30 pm 7:00 - 9:00 pm
20th	Gold Miner Committee Meeting	1:00 - 3:00 pm
22nd	UCR Botanic Gardens Keep Our Gardens Clean and Beautiful Children and Youth Gardens	8:15 - 11:30 am 10:30 am - 12:00 pm
23rd	JMDC Orientation	2:00 - 3:00 pm
Ongoing	Grow Lab - Watering and Work Days	7:00 am - 5:00 pm
Ongoing	Phone Squad for Trainees/Telephone Hotline	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Ongoing	JMDC Propagation and Watering Days	Various

Lavender Propagation at the 123 Farm in Beaumont

By GJ dePillis, Master Gardener

Learning about propagation at an Organic lavender farm was an enlightening experience. Heavy mist clung to the lavender bushes out in Beaumont creating a pleasant break from the 100F plus Inland Empire heat wave we've been having. Tina Kummerle, President at Highland Springs (10600 Highland Springs Ave. Cherry Valley, CA 92223 Phone: 951-845-1151) welcomed the Master Gardeners in participating in the preparation for the Lavender Festival, set to take place next summer.

HISTORY - This property, called the 123Farm, used to be called the Highland Springs Resort and was established back in 1884. This was where the first cherry trees were planted and is home to a 1,100 year old Oak Tree. Back in the 1880's the property was considered a key stage-coach stop since it was along the postal route from Southern California to the Eastern part of the nation. This was also Riverside County's very first historical landmark. Famous guests here include Albert Einstein, Elizabeth Taylor, Bob Hope, Roy Rodgers, Earnest Hemmingway, Wyatt Earp and Lassie the dog. The property was nicknamed "the last resort" because it focused on growing healthy chemical-free food as a way of obtain the optimum state of health.



Today, in the lobby, there is a map which looks as if it was printed in the 1950's. It shows where baseball could be played, where drive-in movies could be viewed, where horse trails were in relation to the old 1800's covered wagon routes. Most of the same activities can be enjoyed at Highland Springs 123 Farm today.

MODERN DAY - Highland Springs resort (www.hsresort.com) is still a hidden get-away treasure where you can play volleyball, splash in the pool, and sing around a campfire. You can also stay at one of the on-site cabins or rooms after you dine at the delicious "farm to table" steakhouse restaurant. Not only does this property host the lavender festival, but it also promotes a Farm Camp (www.123Farm.com/school), Farm to Table workshops, Sausage and Beer Festivals, sheep shearing, and heirloom plant sales, as well as the Olive and Wine festival.

When you walk into the lobby, you will notice their gift shop is filled with edible products as well as bath gifts which the company manufactures in conjunction with other local farms and businesses.

In the open fields one sees more than the majestic, fragrant rows of lavender. You become part of a different world. For example, some bushes were home to the friendly orb weaver spider. It is said that golden orb weavers build a new web every night and prefer tall grasses in open fields. They generally wait in the middle of their circular web, facing head down. They help lower the mosquito population and generally hunt at night.



THE ART OF LAVENDER PROPAGATION - At the 123 Farm (www.123farm.com) one learns that organic lavender propagation is a simple process once you understand it. During the orientation, some tips were shared which you can use in your own backyard. Not all recommendations are used on this farm due to the size and scale of the property.

Lavender Continued...

SOIL & MOISTURE - The soil mix used for cultivating the cuttings of lavender was $\frac{1}{4}$ Vermiculite and $\frac{3}{4}$ Peat moss. The Vermiculite will speed up germination in seeds and create a welcoming environment for root growth with cuttings. The Peat moss allows for moisture retention. Water your soil first to make sure it is moist all the way through.

CUTTINGS - When selecting lavender for cuttings, try to cut at the "join" or "shoulder". It should be a single segment without any branching. Aim to cut between one inch and three inches in length.

After you cut with a sharp clean blade, bring your cutting back to your work area. In our case, we worked at a long log table outdoors.

Here is where you will clean up your cuttings and make sure you are working with clean, sharp clippers. Cut the base on an angle and then strip off the leaves from the base to the top leaving only about four or five needles at the top. This amount will be just enough to collect energy and direct it right to the base to encourage root growth. Too many leaves means that the energy will go into trying to keep those leaves alive and not enough energy will be directed to the roots. Too few leaves means the cutting could die.

PROMOTE ROOT GROWTH - At the 123 Farm (www.123Farm.com) several "tricks" were shared to help promote root growth. One idea was to take willow bark and simmer (do not boil) it for about an hour. The heat will release essential oils from the bark into the water. After about an hour, cover the mixture and store for a month with the bark chips still in the water. After a month of soaking, strain out the willow bark, and pour the mixture over the lavender cuttings, which are in the soil. It is thought this method will encourage root growth.

Another tip shared was to bury each plant with a single raw egg. Do not crack the egg. Perhaps the slow release of nutrients at the root level will also help encourage root growth. If you do transplant a cutting to a larger container once roots have been established, we were advised to move the egg whole with it. Do not break the egg during transport.

Once you have placed your new cuttings into their new small homes waiting to sprout roots, you want to take care to mist your cuttings. If it is really hot and dry outside, you may need to mist about three times a day. If it is cool outside, misting about once a day is sufficient. Wrapping a tray in clear plastic bags at night to maintain the moisture is also a good way to prevent the cuttings from drying out before they can produce roots. The transparency of a clear plastic bag will still allow light in. Lightly wrapping the tray will still allow oxygen in.

Only water the cuttings when the soil is completely dry to the touch. You can check about once a week to determine if the soil moisture level is dry enough to warrant a light watering. Keep misting daily to keep the leaves moist.



A Tour to Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth

By Marge Robinson, Master Gardener

Master Gardeners recently had the opportunity to tour the UC Riverside Agricultural Experiment Station and Citrus Research Station near Thermal. The Station covers approximately 580 acres with a majority of it being used to test and develop better strains of dates, citrus, grapes and vegetables. Vince Samons guided us through the various projects that are currently in the works. Vince is the Principal Superintendent of Agriculture at the site. While many are convinced that the only thing that grows in the desert is cactus, Vince proved otherwise.

We had an introduction to agriculture, desert style. Vince showed us different tools that are used to harvest dates and other produce. Dates palms have particularly nasty thorns that protect the fruit from predators and humans. The dates grow in bunches from the top centers of the palm. The trees and bunches of dates are tended several times throughout the growing season. The stalks of dates are wrapped with brown paper to keep the birds and elements from harming them. Bags are placed over them to help catch them during harvest. We were lucky enough to pick and taste several varieties of dates right off the tree. Talk about a sugar high!! Just delicious!!

Did you know that:

- Dates have more potassium than a banana.
- Currently, growers use the shoots from the base of the mother tree to identically reproduce the same fruit. The station is experimenting with using cell scrapings from the branch to get the same result.
- You can store dates in the freezer for a year or more and eat them immediately after you take them out of the freezer. Why, because the sugar content is so high that they don't actually freeze. Now you know what to do with all those gift boxes of dates that are so prevalent during the holidays.

The station also researches different varieties of citrus. We sampled cocktail grapefruit (smaller than regular grapefruit with loads of juice) and several pink grapefruit. The station is growing a variegated lemon that is not only good to eat but would make a lovely landscape addition since the leaves are also variegated. Orange tree varieties are also part of the research program.

Carmen Gispert, Ph.D, specializes in area viticulture. Her specialty is wine and table grapes. Now there's a dream job!! She has many varieties of grapes growing at the site. Carmen is part of the Cooperative Extension Riverside County in the Indio office and will be teaching a class on table grape culture to the Desert MGs next spring.



Left to Right: Vince Samons, Mike Henry (MG) and date samples.



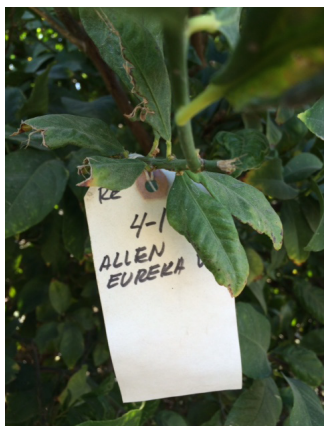
Dates grown at the Experimental Station.

Sweet Tooth Tour Continued...

Surprisingly, vegetables also do well in the desert. Most of the growing is done between September and May which works out perfectly since you can't grow veggies in the colder climates during those months. It is often possible to produce three crops in one season due to the mild climate. Vince is currently working with Del Monte Foods on a project to grow green beans. So far, the test results have been very promising due to the increased yields.



A portion of the 580 acres at the Experimental Station.



Tagged Eureka Lemon

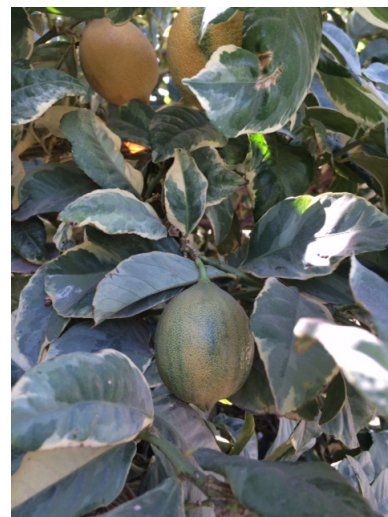
Vince ended our tour by treating us to homemade date shakes. He says his secret to their deliciousness is using, dates, ice cream, milk and a dash of nutmeg. Seconds anyone? We were each given a bag containing a variety of dates. Really, this is the sweetest tour to date (ha ha) of my MG career!



Dates ready for tasting and testing.



Bagged date bunches awaiting harvest.



Variegated Lemon Tree

**Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District**

4500 Glenwood Drive, Building F

Riverside, CA 92501

(310) 562-4904

Tuesday, November 18th - \$ 115

Register now at:

<http://eventbrite.com/e/whats-bugging-you-tickets-13427358591>

North America has hundreds of insects that attack woody ornamentals. Which ones are important? How do we identify them? Are you familiar with host range, life stages, biology, injury, damage, and control options? Are beneficial insects available option? Which new chemicals are available? What is available and what are the details?

University of California and U.S. Department of Agriculture

The University of California Prohibits discrimination against or harassment of any person employed by or seeking employment with the University on the basis of race, color national origin religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). University Policy is intended to be consistent with the provisions of applicable State and Federal laws. Inquiries regarding the University's nondiscrimination policies October be directed to the Affirmative Action/Staff Personnel Services Director, University of California, Agricultural and Natural Resources, 1111 Franklin, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA 94607-5200 (510) 987-0096.

UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Rd. Ste 202

Moreno Valley, CA 92557