

June 2015

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Garden Views



Spring Splendor

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Cathy Konyn, Riverside County Master Gardener Chair Elect, spent a blissful day as an MG docent at an exquisite garden during the 2015 Riverside Flower Show and Garden Tours. Notice the stunning drought tolerant Tea Tree (*Leptospermum*) behind Cathy.

Visitors to the garden were treated to a rare event. A baby hummingbird nesting in a patio light fixture took its first flight out of the nest that day! At three weeks, fledglings are well-feathered and beat their wings while holding on to the nest so they don't lift off. At about 4-6 weeks, the baby will usually fly off the nest and explore the world a little!



Here's a link to a good video of fledgling development.
<https://www.youtube.com/>

WMWD Docent Field Trip to the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants

By Lucy Heyming, Master Gardener

Eleven Master Gardeners and two trainees who are WMWD Docents were treated to a wonderful and educational field trip to the Theodore Payne Foundation (TPF) for Wild Flowers and Native Plants on Saturday May 16. What better way to learn about native plants than from Lisa Novick, the Director of Outreach and K-12 Education at TPF. Her enthusiasm and passion for native plants was catching. Lisa began the tour by emphasizing the need and importance of having native plants in our gardens to attract native pollinators. She said that since the 1970s, 52% of native vertebrate animals have become extinct, and that slowing down the extinction process was of upmost importance. (More information about these statistics can be found at: <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/living-planet-report-2014>.) She linked this to the importance of using native plants in our gardens, because 96% of birds feed insects to their young, and 90% of all insect species that eat leaves, can eat ONLY native plants. She said that people need birds and pollinators for their well-being.

Lisa had many suggestions for creating a successful native garden. One of my favorites was the use of a “nurse rock”. This involves placing a rock on the south west side of native plant near their roots to help them get off to a good start. She also suggested the use of swales to capture as much rain water as possible for the plants.

When starting a native garden she suggests creating a moat around a one gallon plant and putting three gallons of water on it once a week if you have fast draining soil. If you have slow draining do this every 10 days. You would use more water for larger plants and less for smaller. This should be done for one year including



Pictured here from left to right (front row): Cathy Godfrey, Laura Afansev, Linda Powell, Lori Briscoe, Cathy Konyn, Janice Binam. Back row: David Peel, Lisa Novick, Cindy Peterson, Karen Fleisher, Susan Cline, Lauretta Kyle, Lucy Heyming. Not pictured: Sandy Starkey.

two summers. After that she says your native plant should need very little water. Another watering suggestion was to check the plant before watering it using your finger. If the soil is dry and warm, water it. If it is cool and moist, do not water it.

Native plants have many uses besides beautifying our gardens. One example brought up by Lisa was the use of Mugwort (*Artemisia Vulgaris*) as an antidote for poison oak. She explained that if you are infected by poison oak, you can take a couple of leaves from the plant, crush them in your hand for several minutes to get some moisture, and then apply this to the infected areas. Mugwort is often found near poison oak on trails.



Lisa Novick explains how to use Mugwort to cure poison oak.

The TPF “is dedicated to the understanding, preservation and use of California native flora.” It is located in the northeast corner of the San Fernando Valley on 22 acres of canyon land. Besides a full-service native plant nursery, there is a seed room, book store, art gallery, demonstration gardens and hiking trails that are open to the public year round. Classes are offered for adults and families, as well as field trips and in-classroom programs for children. Friendly on-leash dogs are welcome. There is no admission charge. It is open Tuesday – Saturday from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Closed Sunday – Monday.

Janet's Jottings

Hello UCCE Riverside County Master Gardeners,

Congratulations on the new graduates! I am excited about the upcoming June 7th graduation and look forward to seeing you there – from near and far! You have all worked hard to attend 50 hours of classes, participate in class discussions, and complete your written exams. Many of you already have all or most of your hours in as well.



I want to thank the UCCE Riverside County Advisory Board for all they have done to invigorate the program, upgrade the hotline office, and the support all of the valuable volunteer activities you all undertake. It has been a true pleasure for me to get to know them and work together. I know Cathy Konyn and the new additions to the Board will continue the hard work growing the program after Chair David Brandtman's term ends June 30th. Thanks everyone for a job superbly done!

Drought toolkits are updated and are housed in VMS under documents. These include PowerPoints, handouts, and suggested hands-on activities for public education use. There are separate toolkits for inland and desert usage. Feel free to make the PowerPoints 'your own' by adapting them to your own style. New handouts include an updated 'Keeping Plants Alive under Drought or Water Restrictions' and an expanded Graywater Use publication.

On the next page are upcoming continuing education classes I've put together for veteran Master Gardeners. All classes will be held at Western Municipal Water District. Please sign up in VMS so we know how many to plan for!

Have a safe, relaxing, and wonderful summer!

May - September 2015 Veteran UCCE Master Gardener Classes

- June 11 (Thursday), 6:30-8:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Update on Foamy Canker and Phytophthora spp. diseases affecting Oaks and other Important Tree Species
- June 25 (Thursday), 11:30-1:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Meet the New Board
- July 9 (Thursday), 6:30-8:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Update on Biocontrol of Insects in the Garden and Landscape (Dr. Mark Hoddle's Graduate Students)
- July 23 (Thursday), 11:30-1:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: UC IPM Materials for MG Use (Karey Wimbal – Director, IPM for Urban Horticulture, UC ANR Davis)
- August 13 (Thursday), 6:30-8:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Toolkit Rollout for MGs on Growing Food (Vegetable Gardens, Edible Landscapes, and Community and School Gardens)
- August 27 (Thursday), 11:30-1:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Preventing Invasive Plants in Urban Landscapes (Travis Bean, UC Riverside Weed Ecologist)
- September 10, 2015 (Thursday), 6:30-8:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Statewide MG Program Update (Missy Gable, Statewide MG Program Director) and Strategic Planning for the Future at the Local Level (Riverside MG Program Coordinator and Advisory Board representatives and MG Program Director Janet Hartin)
- September 24, 2015 (Thursday), 11:30-1:30pm at WMWD in Riverside: Strategic Planning for the Future (MG Program Coordinator Rosa Olaiz, Riverside County, MG Board Representatives, and MG Program Director Janet Hartin)

Experts in the Garden

By Linda Powell, Master Gardener

Western Municipal Water District and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Riverside County Master Gardener Program are coordinating a free gardening event that will feature dozens of gardening experts Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the water district's Landscapes Southern California Style garden in Riverside.

The "Experts in the Garden – Have Your Gardening Questions Answered" event, which is for novice and experienced gardeners, is designed to be a "stop and learn" experience. Twenty tables will be set up throughout the grounds of the waterwise gardens. Each table will have experts sharing their knowledge about a particular garden subject. In addition, docents will be available to answer any questions about the waterwise gardens.

The event will include representatives from the Rose Society, Iris Society, California Native Plant Society, Gates Cactus and Succulent Society and Rare Fruit Growers. Also:

- Riverside County master composters will be demonstrating composting techniques.
- Bonnett Irrigation representatives will talk about improving watering systems.
- Kellogg Garden Products employees will help with any soil issues.
- Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District and the Inland Urban Forest Council representatives will answer conservation and development questions.
- Sims Tree Learning Center officials will cover pest management problems.
- Wild Birds Unlimited employees will be able to talk about attracting native songbirds to a backyard.
- Western Municipal Water District will have a number of brochures and flyers to encourage less water usage and advice on how to begin conserving water in your outdoor landscape.

In addition, a number of other experts will be at the event to answer questions related to topics including butterfly gardening, bats and bat houses, beneficial insects, citrus and avocado growing, vegetable gardens and Mediterranean climate gardening.

A number of University of California Cooperative Extension master gardeners from Riverside County will be present. One of them, Katherine Botts, who is also a landscape designer, will give a workshop entitled, "How to Remove Your Lawn" at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Western Municipal Water District's Landscape Southern California Style garden is located at 450 E. Alessandro Blvd. (corner of Alessandro and Mission Grove) in Riverside.



UCCE Riverside County MASTER
GARDENER
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

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

Eta Takele - County Director
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The Garden Views newsletter publishes nine editions per year, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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| Moortens volunteer program | Janna Calkins |
| Living Desert program | Corky Stevens |
| Living Desert implementation and symposium | Janna Calkins |

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| UCR Palm Desert landscaping | Janna Calkins |
| Farmers market info tables | Ron Jemmerson |
| PS- | Ron Jemmerson, Tom Edwards, Bill Sleeper |
| PD- | open |
| LQ- | open |

Editor: Donna King -- jaszyking@gmail.com

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Lucy Heyming
Pauline Pedigo
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Note from Rosa

Reappointment begins this month. If you have not done so yet, now is the time to input your volunteer hours and continuing education hours in VMS.



I'll be contacting MGs that have less than the 25 volunteer hours and less than the 12 continuing education hours to discuss the options. Contact me if you have any questions or problems with the reappointment process.

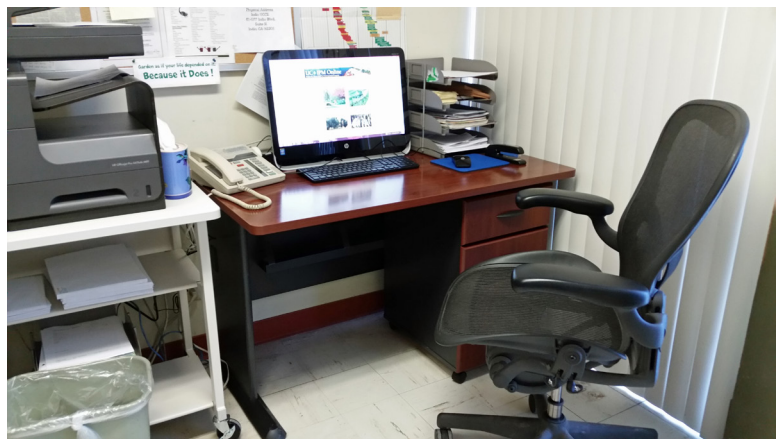
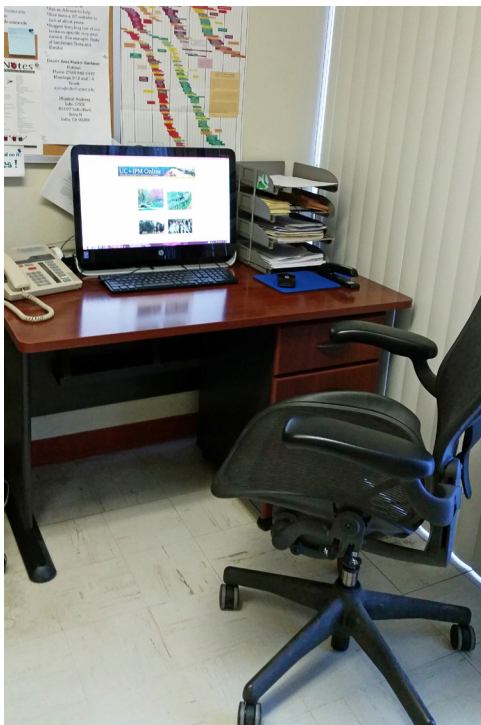
The Advisory Board approved offering the new Master Gardener Handbooks for those Master Gardeners in good standing (up-to-date on volunteer hours, continuing education, and paid yearly dues and liability insurance). I will be attending the Lunch & Learn and the Veteran meetings the next couple of months to distribute the new handbooks.

You will be able to pay the yearly dues at these meetings but the reappointment process can only be completed online.

New Phone Squad Hangout

Our Phone Squad office now has new furniture and computers, and great plans are in the works to modernize our communications. We went from old gray metal desks that really could protect you in a nuclear duck and cover drill, to modern desks designed for computer work. No longer is a crowbar needed to open a drawer. It is still a work in progress, and we need volunteers to help in several areas. Naturally, more regulars are needed to answer the phone, but we also need people to help us create a OneNote Database, coordinate email and inventory all of our physical publications. Sign up on VMS to volunteer for Phone Squad. You can help shape the future!!

If you would like a refresher on how to work the hotline, or would like a partner, please contact Rosa.



Hugh O'Brien, a recent addition to the Phone Squad.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT
THE SUMMER - CHECK VMS AND SIGN UP!!**

Desert Roses

By Mary Ann Egan, Master Gardener

One of the many pleasant surprises awaiting a gardener new to the desert is the adaptability and suitability of roses. According to fossil evidence the genus *Rosa* has been around for at least 35 million years, and roses have been cultivated in gardens for 5,000 years. Even the hot summer temperatures of the Coachella Valley do not seriously intimidate this rugged, durable plant.

The Desert Area Master Gardeners recently experienced first-hand the amazing beauty and adaptability of the genus *Rosa* when they got a private tour of Hal Reynolds' rose garden in Palm Desert. In his lush garden Hal grows roses for competition. And he is very good at it. A spectacularly-colored rose from Hal's garden was selected to grace the cover of a reference guide published by American Rose Society, the oldest single plant horticultural society in America. This reference guide, entitled "Official Registry and Checklist - *Rosa*," contains entries for more than 33,000 unique rose cultivars, along with a detailed description of a cultivar's growing habits and history.

As the Master Gardeners walked admiringly through Hal's flower-packed rose Eden, Hal dispensed information about rose pruning, dead-heading, de-budding, fertilizing and watering. He also pointed out competition-quality rose characteristics and unusual heritage species. The hybrid tea rose, which is familiar to rose lovers and is well represented in Hal's collection, is the oldest rose group classified as a modern rose and traces part of its lineage back to China. In the 1800's, the climate-tender China tea roses were cross-bred with more weather-resistant European roses to give us the hybrid tea rose. It is the hybrid tea, the standard rose of the floral industry, which is in those Valentine's Day bouquets of red roses.

Hal's garden put to rest any concerns about growing roses in containers. Many of Hal's 300 rose plants were growing in pots and he explained that he can keep better track of fertilizer and water needs in a container-grown plant. Roses need regular water and well-drained soil, but the warm temperatures of the desert are certainly not an impediment to a person's desire for a gorgeous garden area filled with fragrant roses.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!!

Bernard Mansell
Blanca Villaseñor-Russo
Christine Hammond
Curt Scott
Elizabeth Marrton
GJ dePillis
Jeff DeBeck
Judy Oliver
Kali Smith
Karen Samson Runion
Laura Simpson
Lynn Fumey
Michael Daniel
Nancy Westerholm
Rebecca Kallinger
Richard Renshaw
Sandra Starkey
Stephen McDaniel
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Tanya Malch
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Christine Sabin
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Jan Gold
Janice Ponsor
Jim Simpson
Kathy Cox
Lottie Fox
Lucy Heyming
Marjorie Graves
Marsha McDaniel
Molly LyleSanchez
Ozell Barksdale
Sara Simon
Vera Thaxton
Wayne Steffner
William Floyd
Yolan Browning
Cyndi Hake-Castro
Peggy Sepulveda
Susan Wright
Linda Zummo



Sad Farewell to Stephanie Pocock

It is with a sad and heavy heart I report that Stephanie Pocock passed away on May 26th. She struggled with ALS for 2 1/2 years.

Stephanie was the first Volunteer Services Coordinator for Riverside County Master Gardeners, joining the Master Gardener Program in early 2008. It was great to have her help us once Mike Henry, our advisor retired the next year. Stephanie guided our program through many changes and helped us grow into the great program that we have today. She was there at the start of JMDC, Grow Lab, Gold Miners, WMWD, the Desert MG class, and many Advanced Training classes. She was a kind and gentle soul and will be missed by many. No services are planned, but there will be a celebration of her life when the Pocock Brewing Company opens soon in Santa Clarita (by her children).



This is a great loss to her family and friends.

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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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