



COORDINATOR

news

Winter 2018

| Issue 1



SPOTLIGHT STORY

Volunteer Management System (VMS) Resources and Launch

Since 2013, improvements and updates to the Volunteer Management System have been on-going. While the process to update and launch VMS has been a long road, we're so close to the finish line! The result is an incredible volunteer management software that is catered to the needs of the UC Master Gardener Program and its volunteers.

One of the final steps before launching the VMS system was for a small group of testers (*both coordinators and volunteers*) to

explore the system looking for errors and bugs. UC ANR's Communication Services & Information Technology (CSIT) is actively working on fixing bugs and making recommended changes before the roll-out taking place the end of April.

VMS 3.1 Launching in April

VMS 3.1 will go live for all counties and its UC Master Gardener volunteers the end of April. This announcement provides you with important

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LETTER FROM MISSY

Dear UC Master Gardener Coordinators, Advisors and County Directors,
Happy New Year everyone! We're no longer looking ahead to 2018, we're in full 'go mode' here at the statewide office as I know each of you are at the county offices.

I've been hearing amazing details about the new crop of trainees many of you are working with. Thank you for your efforts (*and those of your volunteers*) to provide a rich and engaging training experience to these folks!

If you'd like support from the statewide office (e.g., in-person presentation, presentation template, video welcome, etc.) please reach out to any of us and let us know.

In addition to a great new crop of volunteers, here are some of the exciting things you can expect in 2018:

- New and improved VMS (so important this got front page status!)
- County-specific evaluation data
- Fund development support and strategies

I really look forward to hearing how you will use evaluation data to support the UC Master Gardener Program in your county. UC has been asking us for impact data since 2011 and I'm thrilled that our program will be delivering information that clearly communicates the amazing work that is taking place. The data shows our work improving the environment, conserving precious resources and supporting communities to thrive.

Our new Major Gifts Officer, Kelly Scott, is also excited about the evaluation data. *Kelly picked us* to work with when he started his new position at UC ANR in late 2017. He's excited about our program mission and looking for opportunities to garner financial support at all levels of our organization. Kelly and I are working closely together to identify potential funding that will support coordinator salaries.

I've heard 2018 referred to as '20 great-teen'. That just might be the case for us - it certainly feels like there are huge milestones ahead and I'm excited to be a part of it with all of you.

Sincerely,



Director

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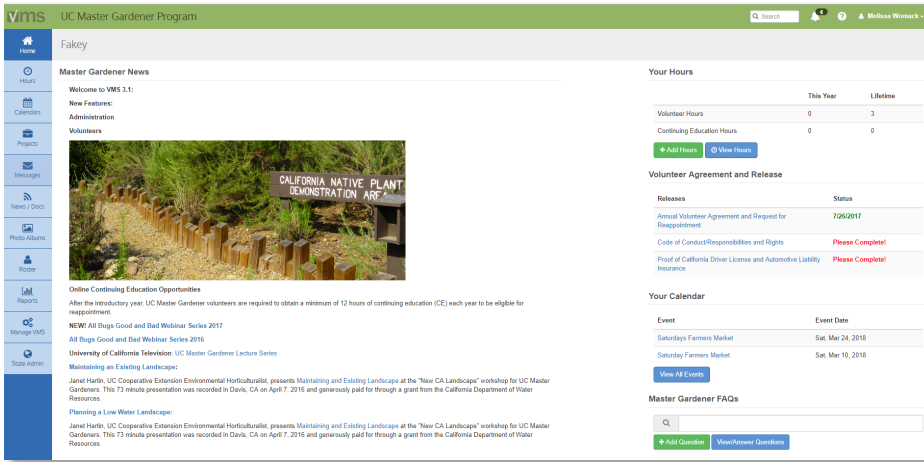
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VMS 3.1 LAUNCH



Join us for a training at UC ANR's Statewide Conference for an ancillary meeting focused on the new VMS system.

Wednesday, April 11
1:30- 3 PM

Web: <http://bit.ly/2ohvrJ9>

Meeting Description: The UC Master Gardener and Master Food Preserver Programs are launching a new and improved version of the Volunteer Management System (VMS) software this spring. Anyone with administrative responsibilities in VMS (may include CES, academic advisors, county directors and office administrators) are welcome to attend.

The first hour will include a walk-through of the new VMS system and all associated help tools/documentation and training materials.

The remaining half hour will be a facilitated discussion where participants will share VMS adoption strategies, VMS administration and VMS training that has been effective in their county.

(Continued from page 1)

information to help you prepare for the new release!

Help and Training Resources

Help documentation and training resources are currently being developed to make the transition to the new system as smooth as possible. Here is a list of resources that will be available before launch:

- PowerPoints for volunteers and system admins.

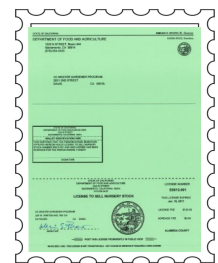
- Video tutorials for common tasks such as updating your profile, entering hours, and viewing your hours.
- Updated written VMS user's guide.
- One sheets with new features highlighted.

Questions? Contact:

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You've Got Mail

Attn: Program Coordinators
License to Sell Nursery Stock



A new 2018-19 License to Sell Nursery Stock from the CDFA was mailed to county offices the first week of February. If you did not receive a license for your county or multi-county partnership please contact the statewide office.

Don't forget to make a copy or copies of the original license and laminate it or posting at all plant sale activities! Information about the CDFA Nursery Program can be found online at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery. The current license expires on Jan. 15, 2019, the statewide office will work with the CFDA to obtain new licenses for all county-based programs. You do not need to complete an application for renewal in the upcoming year.

2018 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Extension Master Gardener Coordinator Conference 2018

Make plans to attend the 2018 Extension Master Gardener Coordinator (EMG) Conference, hosted by the University of Wisconsin-Extension Master Gardeners Aug. 6 – 9, 2018 in downtown Madison Wisconsin.

Connect with coordinators from across the United States not only at the conference but through the conference Facebook page before and after the conference. Invited guests speakers will explore the “different” while short “power-presentations” and posters from participants give a chance for participants to share their work and ideas with others.

Call for Presentations and Posters

The 2018 EMG Coordinator Conference is accepting proposals for posters and presentations until February 28th on the following:

- Themes of diversity and expanding access (getting new faces into the program)
- Program delivery (new ways of providing instruction)
- Program development (new research/models driving how you do your MG related work)
- “other” option

For more details on submitting a poster or proposing a presentation visit the EMG website.

Registration Details

Early bird registration before June 1, 2018: \$200 per person

June 1, 2018, and after: \$300 per person



Note: Registration includes Monday night reception, and breakfast/breaks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Lunch and dinner will be on your own on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Dr. David Gibby, who started Master Gardener in 1972, surrounded by coordinators from across the US at the 2016 EMG coordinator conference.



2018 Brown Bag Schedule:

bring your lunch...this is gonna be good!

Brown Bag Webinars are a way to bring short, relevant statewide trainings about program changes / updates, volunteer management and timely topics to coordinators throughout the year. We are kicking off 2018 with a great line up of webinars that you can add to your calendar by visiting the coordinator website [events calendar](#).

Event Name:	Date:
Conflict Resolution (Session 1)	3/6/2018
Conflict Resolution (Session 2)	3/7/2018
UC IPM Part II	3/27/2018
Program Evaluation Update- First Results	4/25/2018
VMS Reappointment FY 17/18	5/1/2018
How to Craft an Engaging Facebook Post	6/12/2018
#GivingTuesday	10/17/2018

Although the webinars are recorded and posted for later viewing it is great to have a live audience; I hope you will join us live for our webinar series. Find previous Brown Bag webinars on the coordinator website (Coord. Website >> Training >> Brown Bag Webinar). Brown Bag Webinars are open to anyone who helps with the management of the UC Master Gardener Program, feel free to share upcoming webinar links and recordings with volunteer leaders, office managers, advisors, or staff as appropriate.

Webinar event calendar: mgcoord.ucanr.edu/Events

Brown Bag webinar page: mgcoord.ucanr.edu/Training/Brown_Bag_Webinar

NEW! Brown Bag Webinars Available

Civil Rights Compliance and Outreach

John Sims
Affirmative Action Compliance and Title IX Officer
David White
Affirmative Action Analyst

Brown Bag Webinar Dec. 2017

Healthy Communities Healthy Food Systems Healthy Environments
University of California
Healthy Californians Agriculture and Natural Resources

Civil Rights Compliance and Outreach
(12/2017)

Featured Webinar Recording: Civil Rights Compliance and Outreach

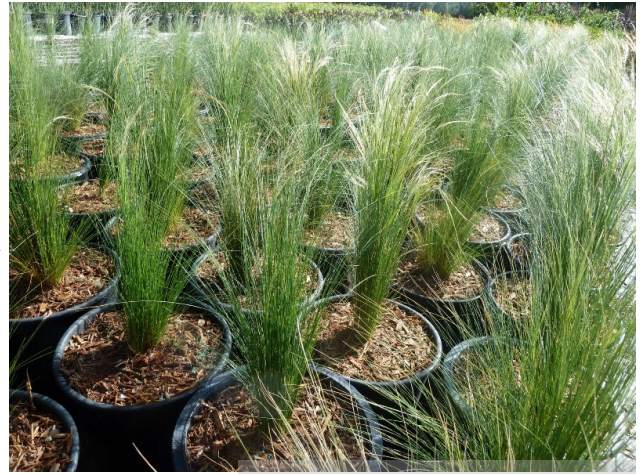
Presented by John Sims, UC ANR, Affirmative Action Compliance and title IX Officer.

John Sims focused the training around building a knowledge base around the importance of contact reporting.

Watch Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSY03ZWNggc&feature=youtu.be>

Run time: 35 mins





PlantRight's Spring Survey has been taking place since 2010, but will be taking a one year break to focus on outreach to landscape professionals

The UC Master Gardener Program and its volunteers have been a key partner in PlantRight's annual [Spring Nursery Survey](#) since its inception in 2010. Last year marked the 8th year of the Survey, and thanks to UC Master Gardener volunteers, it was a huge success!

According to [PlantRight's Spring Nursery Survey Fact Sheet](#), the rate of nurseries selling invasive plants continues to decline. In 2014, 44% of nurseries surveyed were selling locally invasive plants; this rate dropped to 35% in 2015, to 31% in 2016, and 29% in 2017.

Of the nurseries that were selling any invasive plants in 2017, only 8% had more than one species of invasive plant for sale. This is down from 2016, when 10% of stores (that sold any invasive plants) had more than one invasive plant for sale.

No Spring Nursery Survey in 2018

PlantRight will not be conducting the [Spring Nursery Survey](#) in 2018. This one year break from the survey allows PlantRight to make a more concerted statewide outreach effort to landscape professionals (e.g. architects, designers and contractors), and the most influential water districts promoting sustainable landscaping. Successfully engaging these professionals and districts will accelerate PlantRight's work to keep invasive plants off California wildlands and promote climate appropriate alternatives. That's

because these groups have significant influence on the nursery supply chain—what horticultural growers grow, what plants get specified in landscape design, and the plant material that contractors source. Engaging water districts is a cost effective way to educate members of the gardening public, especially those interested in replacing thirsty lawns with lovely looking, climate appropriate landscape plants.

Survey Pause is No Pause in Planting Right

This pause in surveying is in no way a pause in planting right. PlantRight.org remains a trusted resource for UC Master Gardener volunteers. Engage with PlantRight on social media, including: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), and [Instagram](#).

Let PlantRight know about any good works or upcoming events so that it can share your news and announcements on social media or in its email newsletter. You can support PlantRight's [Retail Nursery Partners](#) by shopping at their stores.

Volunteers interested in learning more about invasive ornamental plants in California can still earn continuing education hours by completing PlantRight's [Continuing Education Program](#). The online format makes it easy for anyone with an account to

participate. After completing the curriculum, participants can pass a 12-question quiz and earn a certificate of achievement.

PlantRight is committed to being UC Master Gardener volunteer's go-to resource for science-based information about horticultural invasive plants. UC Master Gardener volunteers and coordinators can contact PlantRight anytime with questions!



Questions? Contact:

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Conservation
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News from the Statewide UC IPM Program

Change is in the Air! You will soon notice some UC IPM resources and web pages look a little different. The UC IPM Program is adding some color differentiation to its materials to help audiences distinguish ag versus urban information. The UC IPM Urban and Community Program has started making these changes in several new or updated publications and tools. Some are available now and other changes are coming soon.

New Urban web page color change

New or updated urban pages on the UC IPM website will now have a distinctive green border across the top, such as our [Seasonal Landscape IPM Checklist \(SLIC\)](#) and [Plant Problem Diagnostic Tool](#) pages. Keep your eye out for more changes on our website in the future!



Pest Notes: New Design!

We've updated the look of our Pest Notes series! Going forward, newly published and updated publications will have the new look, and older versions will be redesigned as they get revised.

Updated and redesigned Pest Notes:

- Dandelion, January 2018 (revised)
- Redhumped Caterpillar, December 2017 (revised)
- Dyer's Woad, August 2017 (new)
- Invasive Plants, June 2017 (revised)

Quick Tips Get a New Look!

For years, the Quick Tips cards have had the blue banner across and gold subheadings. The new look is more modern, will have a photo on the front, and will match our new urban color scheme. The redesigned cards will soon be available to order. No need to throw away older copies though: just like the Pest Notes, the Quick Tips will be redesigned as they get updated.



Old Quick tip card (left) and the newly designed QuickTip cards (right).

Ant Bookmarks

Our Ant bookmarks have been redesigned with a new ant image and colors. They are now available to order. Did you know? Bookmarks and Quick Tips cards are available free to all county UCCE offices and UC Master Gardener programs. Designated representatives can order using the [online form](#). Materials ship within 10 business days.

Quick Tips Guessing Contest!

Are you a good guesser? UC IPM will soon produce three BRAND NEW Quick Tips titles. If you think you know what they are, you can provide your input into the [Guess the New Quick Tips](#) survey! Answers will be posted in a future article in this newsletter.

Questions? Contact:

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40% UC ANR Publications for UC Master Gardeners

The image shows a 'Master Gardener ORDER FORM' with fields for Name, Email, Address, City, State, Zip, and Phone. It also includes a table for listing items to be ordered, with columns for Item, Qty, Price, and Total. At the bottom, there are instructions for ordering and a section for 'Are there items for credit?'.

When ordering publications for the 40% discount from UC ANR Publications please complete and email the order form.

UC ANR Publications recently moved its warehouse to reduce costs and keep publications affordable. The dust from the move has finally settled and UC ANR Publications is ready to start processing orders for new UC Master Gardener training classes!

Many program coordinators previously e-mailed orders directly to the UC ANR Publications warehouse manager, this option is no longer possible. Please download and submit the UC

Master Gardener Order Form when submitting all bulk order requests. This process will help streamline the order process for the UC ANR Publications team.

Form link:
mgcoord.ucanr.edu/files/279109.pdf

A new promo code is available until April 7 (see below) for individual volunteer orders, promo codes will be released twice a year.

Promo Code for UC Master Gardener Volunteers

For a limited time only a special promo code will run from **Feb. 26—April 7** and reduces the price of UC ANR publications, including the California Master Gardener handbook. This discount is for UC Master Gardeners only.

Here's how it works:

1. Visit anrcatalog.ucanr.edu
2. Order the publications you would like to purchase, book or .epub version
 - The .epub version of the *Handbook*, which is for devices that use the iOS operating system and other compatible devices including iPad, Nook, and Kobo e-reader, is publication 9027.
 - The .mobi version, which is for Kindle devices, is publication 9028.
3. Create a customer account to check out – **do not check out as a guest** or you will not be able to access your electronic product after you have made payment.
4. Enter promo code **DIGDEEP** at checkout. Remember, this discount is for UC Master Gardeners only. Do not share the promotion code outside of the UC Master Gardener Program. UC ANR relies on the revenue generated by publication sales to extend programs and services across the state, and the discount is a thank you for our valued service.



Questions? Contact:
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Data, Data, Data: Evaluation Updates

The statewide UC Master Gardener Program evaluation has officially begun! We are currently nearing 50% county participation and several counties will be implementing this process in the coming months. We are looking forward to 100% county participation and powerful impact data for the UC Master Gardener Program.

Congratulations to Tracy Celio, Program Coordinator in El Dorado and Amador counties, for submitting our first contact sheets this past September! These counties, and others early adopters will be receiving quarterly reports this spring.

An early glimpse of the data:

Survey respondents in El Dorado County, are applying what they have learned from UC Master Gardener volunteers to home landscapes and to 495,330 square feet of home landscapes and 133,210 square feet of home food gardens.

We are excited to continue to learn more about how UC Master Gardener Programs are impacting local communities across the state of California.

El Dorado County Data Example:



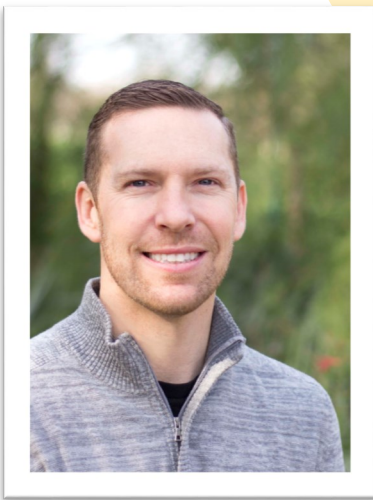
495,330 square feet
of home landscapes



133,210 square feet
of food gardens

Welcome! Major Gifts Officer

Kelly Scott, UC Agriculture & Natural Resources



Kelly Scott worked at UC Davis where he focused on fundraising, event planning, and alumni relations. He is enthusiastic about development opportunities for the UC Master Gardener Program.

With a new year comes new opportunities! Over the past 6 months UC Agriculture & Natural Resources has been expanding the Development Services (fundraising) unit to provide additional support to programs and initiatives throughout the organization.

We are pleased to announce that Kelly Scott, *Major Gifts Officer*, will be the UC Master Gardener Program's primary point of contact and is working closely with the entire statewide program team to help develop and coordinate fundraising strategies and outreach.

Kelly comes to us after 14 years at UC Davis where he worked in fundraising, event planning, and alumni/donor relations. We are thrilled to have Kelly's support and look forward to working together to strengthen our program at all levels: local, regional, & statewide.

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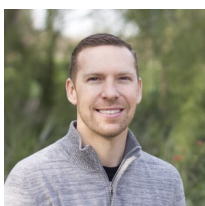
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Our Mission

“To extend research based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives.”

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