

February 2019

UC Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra News

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Serving Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado & Tuolumne counties

## Your monthly news & event announcements

Join our mailing list.



### Greetings,

Rain, rain, rain. We need more rain!

Hope you are all weathering through the winter. It is almost time to start those spring chores of out with the old and in with the new. Spring cleaning, spring planting... We have classes, workshops, and other events happening throughout the year that may give you some new ideas. Please take a moment to find out what's going on with our programs.

JoLynn Miller

Visit our Website

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Central Sierra on Facebook



## We would like to introduce our new CES 2: Michelle McLean in South Lake Tahoe

Michelle McLean has been a Garden Science Educator since 2014. As a passionate teacher, she has helped lead projects that have enhanced nutrition and garden education programming throughout South Lake Tahoe. She looks forward to new challenges in her role as a Community Education Specialist, and is excited to connect teens with their community through nutrition education. You can reach her at [mimclean@ucanr.edu](mailto:mimclean@ucanr.edu).



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## Join us in Davis for the 2019 California Small Farm Conference

The 2019 California Small Farm Conference will be February 22 and 23, in Davis. Many of your favorite conference elements like on-farm tours and workshops featuring innovative farmers and farmers' market managers are planned for the two-day conference

The conference is developed in partnership with [Community Alliance with Family Farmers \(CAFF\)](#) and [the Farmers Guild](#) which is adding exciting new elements to the conference like the [Ag Policy Forum](#) and the [Agrarian Lovers Ball](#).

[More about the conference.](#)

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## Grapevine Production Short Course

**February 12-15, 2019**

Springhill Suites Napa, CA and Oakville Experimental Vineyard, Oakville, CA - UC Davis

Plan to join us for this integrated vineyard management short course featuring UC faculty, Cooperative Extension specialists and farm advisors, and USDA researchers who will provide an in-depth, comprehensive study of all phases of grapevine culture and production.

The program is based on the latest information and research and will cover the fundamental principles that form the basis for practical decisions and include Q&A for each session, quality time with instructors and networking opportunities.

**Who should attend:** New and experienced growers as well as other industry members interested in commercial grape production.

[More information...](#)

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## SWEEP Grant Opportunity Workshop

February 19, 2019, Placerville, CA

**Why:** Apply for CDFA funding- State Water efficiency and Enhancement Program (SWEEP). Receive up to \$100,000 in grant funding to improve your on-farm water and energy efficiency through the SWEEP grant funding program. During the workshop irrigation specialists will:

- Provide a comprehensive review of SWEEP and summary of other CDFA Climate Smart Grant programs
- Guide you through the required water savings and greenhouse gas reduction calculations
- Show you how to assemble a strong grant proposal



**When:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019, 10:00 AM- Noon - Workshop in English

**Where:** Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building, 311 Fair Lane, Placerville, CA 95667

**Presenters:**

- Khaled Bali, Irrigation Specialist, UC Kearney Ag. Research and Extension Center
- Daniele Zaccaria, Agricultural Water Management Specialist, UC Davis

**Registration:** Register online at <http://ucanr.edu/sweep-grant-opp> or call Robin at 530-621-5528.

**Questions:** Contact Lynn Wunderlich, 530-621-5505 or [lrwunderlich@ucanr.edu](mailto:lrwunderlich@ucanr.edu).

**Grant info.:** Applications are due March 8, 2019 online at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/sweep/>

The SWEEP provides financial assistance in the form of grants to implement irrigation systems that reduce greenhouse gases and save water on California agricultural operations. Eligible system components include (among others) soil moisture monitoring, drip systems, switching to low pressure irrigation systems, pump retrofits, variable frequency drives and installation of renewable energy to reduce on-farm water use and energy.

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## Project Learning Tree Facilitator Training

**Location:** USBR New Melones Lake Visitor Center, 6850 Studhorse Flat Road in Sonora, Ca

**Day and Time:** Friday, March 8, 2019, 10 am to 4 pm at New Melones Visitor Center

Optional Night Hike exploration and overnight camping

Optional Day 2 Educator Workshop to refresh your naturalist teaching skills using PLT!

**Cost: \$ 20.00 1 Day registration fee includes:**

- Full day PLT Facilitator Training and online access to Facilitator resources
- Healthy lunch, Pizza dinner, and trail snacks
- Optional Friday night hike exploring Norwegian Gulch Pond
- Optional overnight camping space at Fiddleneck on Friday night
- Optional Saturday Educator workshop for two days of PLT fun!



**Participants will:**

- **Explore** the Oak Woodland community of **New Melones** with field naturalists.
- **Learn** about current field study projects focused on **Oak Woodland ecosystems**.
- **Join the network of CA PLT facilitators** and gain access to online resources.
- **Practice** how **Project Learning Tree** can engage students in outdoor field studies.
- **Create** NGSS Units of Study using **PLT** story lines
- **Become a Project Learning Facilitator** ready to host your own workshop!

**Day and Time:** Saturday, March 9, 2019, 8 am to 4 pm at New Melones Visitor Center

**Cost: \$ 20.00 registration fee includes:**

- Full day training and free Project Learning Tree K8 Guide (other PLT guides available)
- Lite breakfast and snacks for Saturday (BYO lunch for afternoon outdoors)
- Optional overnight camping space at Fiddleneck on Friday night
- Optional Friday night hike exploring Norwegian Gulch Pond

**Participants will:**

- **Receive a free Project Learning Tree K8 Guide with over 90 activities.**
- **Learn** how **Project Learning Tree** can engage students in outdoor field studies.
- **Explore** the Oak Woodland community of **New Melones** with field naturalists.
- **Create** NGSS Units of Study using **PLT** story lines
- **Be certified** as a **Project Learning Tree** educator and gain access to **online resources**.

*Questions or more information: [stderby@ucanr.edu](mailto:stderby@ucanr.edu)*

*Online registration open until March 4,  
2019 <http://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=25170>*

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## **Beginning Farming Academy - April 26th & 27th, 2019**

UC Cooperative Extension Placer/Nevada

This is a 2-day intensive introduction to starting a small commercial farm or ranch. If you are considering starting a small ag operation in the foothills, you should attend the Academy. Learn about assessing your resources and choosing products, the basics of market-driven farming, and economic tools. You will finish with an action plan for jump-starting your operation.

This workshop does not address production practices. It is focused on marketing, business, and economic planning for profitable small farms. Local expert farmers and ranchers and UCCE Farm Advisors will help you refine your plans for your farm or ranch.

The Academy runs from 8 AM to 8 PM on Friday, and 8 AM to 5 PM on Saturday. Meal cost for the two days is \$75.

The class is limited to 15 prospective producers. Applications will open in mid-February 2019.

For questions or more information, contact Cindy Fake, [cefake@ucanr.edu](mailto:cefake@ucanr.edu).

The Beginning Farming Academy is supported by the Western Extension Risk Management Education program.

[Registration will open mid-February 2019.](#)

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# Calaveras Big Trees State Park UC California Naturalist Certification Course May-June 2019

## Course Schedule:

Thursdays May 23 & 30, June 13 & 20 from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Fridays May 24 & 31, June 14 & 21 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

**Meeting Place:** Ralston Classroom at Calaveras Big Trees State Park

**Course Fee:** \$300 Students must purchase *The California Naturalist Handbook* (2013, UC Press) and bring a field notebook. Registration is limited to 24. **Please expect the commitment of a collegiate level class, including reading and required projects in addition to weekly class meetings.** A limited number of need-based, partial scholarships will be available.



## **Do you enjoy**

- Exploring and learning about our local ecology?
- Engaging in citizen science?
- Sharing your knowledge with others?

## **This is the program for you!**

The Mission of the California Naturalist Program is to foster a diverse community of naturalists and promote stewardship of California's natural resources through education and service.



## Course Benefits:

- Participate in this 40 hour course that combines UC science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips and project - based learning to explore the fascinating natural history of the central Sierra Nevada.
- UC California Naturalist Certification awarded upon completion of course requirements.
- Opportunities for volunteering and advanced learning across the state with participating organizations.
- Opportunity to receive UC academic credit
- 1 year membership to Calaveras Big Trees Association

**Register Online** beginning January 1, 2019 @[bigtrees.org](http://bigtrees.org)

Deadline is April 15, 2019.

**Scholarship application deadline:**

April 1, 2019 (see registration page for application)

**Attendance Policy:** Participants must attend all classes. One class session may be missed with prior approval of instructor.

**Refund Policy:** Full refunds, minus a \$50 processing fee, permitted until April 15. No refunds will be issued for any reason after April 15.



For more information:  
209 795-1196 or [cbta@bigtrees.org](mailto:cbta@bigtrees.org)  
CA Naturalist website: <http://calnat.ucanr.edu/>

## UCCE 4-H Youth Development

Enrollment is open for 2018-19 program year.

[Join Now](#)

### **Volunteer Training**

2-13: [New Adult Volunteer Orientation - Tuolumne County](#)

2-16: [4-H Shooting Sports Workshop -Rifle](#)

3-4: [35th Annual California 4-H \(Mail In\) Shooting Sports Match](#)

### **Amador**

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

### **Calaveras**

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

### **El Dorado**

Check their [Calendar & Events webpage](#).

### **Tuolumne**

Check their [Calendar of Events webpage](#).



## UCCE Master Food Preserver Training - Amador/Calaveras Counties

Click the flyer for details.



University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
**Master  
Food  
Preserver**

### *Come Preserve with Us!*

*Applications due February 10, 2019*

*Do you enjoy canning or drying food?*  
*Do you enjoy teaching?*  
*Do you want to meet new people who share your food passion?*

Become a volunteer for the UCCE Master Food Preservers of Amador/Calaveras County!



Photo by Melissa Wernick

**Learn It!**  
Attend the initial training series.

**Preserve It!**  
Make jams & jellies, pickled fruits and veggies, sauerkraut, jerky, soups, and much more.

**Teach It!**  
Educate your community at public classes and events.

Learn about the UCCE Master Food Preserver program, community involvement and participation requirements at one of our training information meetings.

Attend one of our training information meetings to learn about the Master Food Preserver Program and our volunteer training:

- Friday, February 1, 3:30 to 4:30 pm at the Calaveras Senior Center, 956 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas
- Monday, February 4, 12:00 to 1:00 pm at the Foothill Fire Protection District, 3255 Helisma Road, Burson
- [RSVP online](#) or by calling 530-621-5528 or email Robin at [rkleveland@ucanr.edu](mailto:rkleveland@ucanr.edu).

For more details: [2019 UCCE Master Food Preservers of Amador/Calaveras Training website](#)



University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
**Master  
Food  
Preserver**

### **Classes & Events Offered by UCCE Master Food Preservers**

**Amador/Calaveras**

- 2-1: [UCCE Master Food Preserver Program Training Information Meeting - San Andreas](#)
- 2-4: [UCCE Master Food Preserver Program Training Information Meeting - Burson](#)
- 2-9: [Citrus - Amador](#)

**El Dorado**

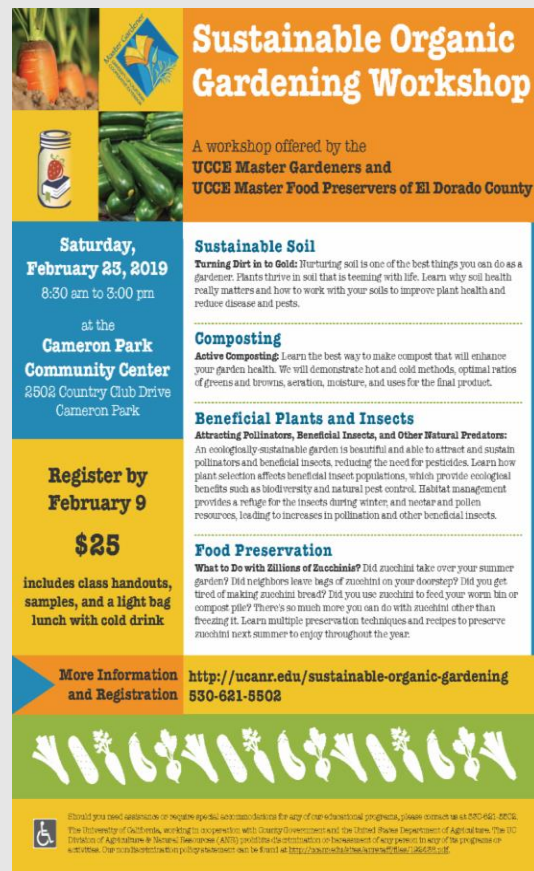
- 2-13: [Citrus: From Tree to Table \(Combo Class\)](#)
- 2-16: [Make & Take: Using Your Own Pressure Canner](#)
- 2-23: [Make & Take: Sauerkraut](#)
- 3-7: [Yes Your Can Can!](#)
- 4-6: [Jr's Jams & Jellies](#)

## Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop

On February 23, 2019, the UCCE Master Gardeners and Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County will present a low-cost workshop on **Sustainable Organic Gardening**. Our goal is to help attendees understand how easily they can create gardens that reduce food costs, improve nutrition, and enhance food security. The workshop provides a condensed version of several popular UCCE Public Education classes and is appropriate for teachers, students, scouts, church and community leaders, garden clubs, and anyone interested in growing healthy food. Our presentations are clear and accessible for beginning gardeners and informative for those who know something about organic gardening and want a stronger and more accurate scientific foundation.

We'll look at sustainability from four perspectives: how soil functions, how to create compost to improve your soil, how to choose beneficial plants that will help attract the insects you need for pollination and pest control, and how to preserve food so you can enjoy the fruits of your labor throughout the year.

[More details and registration information.](#)



**Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop**

A workshop offered by the  
**UCCE Master Gardeners and  
UCCE Master Food Preservers of El Dorado County**

**Saturday,  
February 23, 2019**  
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

at the  
**Cameron Park  
Community Center**  
2502 Country Club Drive  
Cameron Park

**Register by  
February 9**

**\$25**

includes class handouts,  
samples, and a light bag  
lunch with cold drink

**Sustainable Soil**  
**Turning Dirt in to Gold:** Turning soil is one of the best things you can do as a gardener. Plants thrive in soil that is teeming with life. Learn why soil health really matters and how to work with your soils to improve plant health and reduce disease and pests.

**Composting**  
**Active Composting:** Learn the best way to make compost that will enhance your garden health. We will demonstrate hot and cold methods, optimal ratios of greens and browns, aeration, moisture, and uses for the final product.

**Beneficial Plants and Insects**  
**Attracting Pollinators, Beneficial Insects, and Other Natural Predators:** An ecologically sustainable garden is beautiful and able to attract and sustain pollinators and beneficial insects, reducing the need for pesticides. Learn how plant selection affects beneficial insect populations, which provide ecological benefits such as biodiversity and natural pest control. Habitat management provides a refuge for the insects during winter, and nectar and pollen resources, leading to increases in pollination and other beneficial insects.

**Food Preservation**  
**What to Do with Billions of Zucchini?** Did zucchini take over your summer garden? Did neighbors have bags of zucchini on your doorstep? Did you get tired of making zucchini bread? Did you use zucchini to feed your worm bin or compost pile? There's so much more you can do with zucchini other than freezing it. Learn multiple preservation techniques and recipes to preserve zucchini next summer to enjoy throughout the year.

**More Information  
and Registration** <http://ucanr.edu/sustainable-organic-gardening>  
**530-621-5502**

Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 252-641-2832. The University of California, working in cooperation with County Government and the United States Department of Agriculture, The UC Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (ANR) provides accommodations to the maximum extent possible to any of the programs or activities. Our commitment to accessibility is detailed at <http://ucanr.edu/about/ucanr-accessibility>.

### Classes & Workshops Offered by UCCE Master Gardeners

#### Monthly Gardening Tips

##### Amador

2-16: Grafting Backyard Fruit Trees "Hands-on Class"

2-23: "Bloomin" in Amador County

3-2: Gardening for Great Eating

##### Calaveras

Check their [Classes & Events webpage](#).

##### El Dorado

2-2: Spring & Summer Vegetables

2-9: 2nd Saturdays Open Garden Day

2-13: Citrus: From Tree to Table (Combo Class)

2-23: Sustainable Organic Gardening Workshop \*Fee

3-2: Propagation from Seed

##### Lake Tahoe

Check their [Classes & Events webpage](#).

##### Tuolumne

2-2: Open Garden Day

2-5: Speaker Presentation by Cathy Scott of NRCS

2-23: 11th Annual Seed Share Event





Spinach is at its best during cool weather months. It's a good source of vitamins A, K, and C, as well as fiber. Fresh spinach is an adaptable ingredient that can be added to many recipes to increase nutrition, or used in [salads](#), [muffins](#), [smoothies](#), [soups](#), and [more](#). Learn about spinach and view its nutrition facts at [Harvest of the Month](#).



### Classes & Events Offered by [UC CalFresh](#)

- Amador**  
Please check back for events.
- Calaveras**  
Please check back for events.
- El Dorado**  
Please check back for events.
- Lake Tahoe**  
Please check back for events.
- Tuolumne**  
Please check back for events.

## UC IPM and more...

- [Plant problem diagnostic tool](#)
- [Natural Enemies Gallery](#)
- [Weed Identification and Photo Gallery](#)
- [Seasonal IPM](#)
- [Recent Updates at IPM](#)
- [UCIPM Weather Models & Degree Days webpage](#)

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Thank you for your continued interest in the UC Cooperative Extension Central Sierra's news, workshops, and events.

Sincerely,

JoLynn Miller  
University of California  
Cooperative Extension  
Central Sierra

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### Quick Links...

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[Events & Workshops](#)

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