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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

COORDINATOR

news

Dear Colleague

I hesitate to say “welcome 2022” in light of the many changes and pivots all of you have already had to make this year. That said, we can celebrate the resilience of our program and the capacity that each of you and your volunteers have to make adjustments that prioritize health and education for our trainees, volunteers and communities. Thank you for everything you continue to do!

Please be sure to check out all the articles here, including Tamekia’s submission on our statewide impact in 2021 and Kelly’s submission on fundraising success. Kudos to all for your contributions and commitment. I’m looking forward to seeing folks online soon, between our upcoming media training and copyright webinar, and upcoming presentations to new trainee groups. If you would like support with a trainee presentation from the statewide team please do not hesitate to reach out.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jussy".



[2021-22 Volunteer Hours](#)

COVID-19 continues to impact our program and the ability to complete standard UC Master Gardener volunteer hour requirements. Based on feedback of program coordinators, adjustments to volunteer hour requirements are available for the 2021-22 program year (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022). This flexibility is intended to address ongoing challenges related to COVID-19 and is currently not approved beyond the 2021-22 program year. [View the entire article on 2021-22 UC Master Gardener volunteer hours.](#)

[In-Person Volunteer Activities](#)

Determining when to return to in-person activities is being managed at the local level with direction and support from County Directors. As Covid case rates fluctuate, the ANR Emergency Response Team recommends that all locations monitor their local conditions (new case rate and test positivity percentage) and public health guidance. Those locations where COVID case rates are higher than the state average or test positivity is higher than the state average or increasing should continue to exercise caution holding large meetings or public activities until further notice. [Continue reading about in-person volunteer activities.](#)



[National Volunteer Month & Gardeners with Heart](#)

In April, we celebrate National Volunteer Month, honoring all of the contributions that volunteers make in our communities. All month and during National Volunteer Week (April 17-23) the UC Master Gardener Program will feature stories of exceptional volunteers, or

Gardeners with Heart, making a difference in California's community, school, demonstration, and research gardens.

2022 Gardeners with Heart nomination categories:

- Community Connection Leaders
- Harvest Helpers
- Environmental Stewards

The Gardeners with Heart nomination form is now open. Please nominate a volunteer or volunteers in your county or program. The [Gardener with Heart nomination survey](#) will remain open until March 31.



[2021 Fundraising and Maintaining Donor Relationships](#)

Amongst the hustle and bustle of the holiday season donors to the UC Master Gardener Program came through with strong support of our programs. Across the state, we raised more than \$86,000 (cumulatively during Nov. and Dec.) for county programs. Giving Tuesday donations alone account for more than half of those funds (\$46,000). In looking at the year as a whole, 1,230 donors made 1,591 gifts which raised a total of over \$270,000.

It's with these numbers in mind that making sure our donors know how grateful and appreciative we are of their support is at the top of my list for 2022 goals. As we think about volunteer appreciation as a key component to maintaining participation in our program, donor stewardship is its equivalent in fundraising. [Read more on donor stewardship, retention and fundraising goals in 2022.](#)



[Program Evaluation Year End Reports](#)

The final statewide evaluation reports for the program year 2021 (PY21) were sent out in Dec. 2021. Because the reports are cumulative, this report represents total participation in the follow-up survey for your county for PY21. When sharing program impacts for your county for a given program year you should use the final reports. You are encouraged to share reports with volunteers which highlight their impact in their communities and, in turn, provide additional motivation for them to keep doing what they do to give back. You can also share the final report with your County Director and other stakeholders who have an influence on your county's program. [Learn about the year-end reports and local county data for program evaluation.](#)



*Photo above taken pre-Covid, Photo Credit: Bob Carey, Ventura County

[UC Master Gardener Training Recordings available on Extension Campus](#)

With the continued group size restrictions, social distancing and general uncertainty, some counties have adopted a hybrid UC Master Gardener training. There are currently 10 trainee-focused recordings and 25 continuing education opportunities located on Extension Campus to be used as needed to help build your master gardener training

program or as an offering as continuing education. Recordings, online resources, and quizzes for volunteers will continue to be posted in the course as they are submitted. [View the entire list of training available read the full blog article.](#)



Program Name Badges

New program name badges are coming soon! Design, materials and badge back options have been finalized and we are just waiting on purchasing approval from BOC. Once approved and ordering is open, counties can place an order for new name badges for all volunteers. Your program will be responsible for the initial payment and must submit for a recharge reimbursement from the statewide office. Magnetic backings (+\$0.95 each) can be included in the reimbursement amounts. [Updates will be posted on the Master Gardener Coordinator Collaborative Tools.](#)

Submit your preference for the platinum name badge lapel pin gemstone option: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=36721>



New Resources From UC IPM

UC IPM's popular [Meet the Beneficials: Natural Enemies of Garden Pests](#) poster is available to the UC Master Gardener Program for free! This helpful resource makes a great gift to new trainees or as a program incentive. Coordinators can request up to 50 copies of the poster using this [request form](#). Orders are filled on a first-come, first-served basis until we run out. [Continue reading about resources and updates from UC IPM.](#)

Upcoming Training & Webinars:

Web: mgcoord.ucanr.edu/Events

- **UC ANR Social Media Office Hours**

Every Wednesday, 12-1 pm

Doralicia Garay, Social Media Strategist

Zoom: [https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/91575159341?](https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/91575159341?pwd=aTVVbVpVK1NUdFpKT3hQNHdOcDE3UT09)

[pwd=aTVVbVpVK1NUdFpKT3hQNHdOcDE3UT09](https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/91575159341?pwd=aTVVbVpVK1NUdFpKT3hQNHdOcDE3UT09)

Meeting ID: 915 7515 9341

Passcode: SM593

- **Media Training for UC Master Gardener volunteers and staff - Session 1**

Thurs., Feb. 24, 12-1 pm

UC ANR Strategic Communications team, Pam Kan-Rice, Ricardo Vela and Michael Hsu

Register: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=36581>

- **Media Training for UC Master Gardener volunteers and staff - Session 2**

Thurs., March 24, 12-1 pm

UC ANR Strategic Communications team, Pam Kan-Rice, Ricardo Vela and Michael Hsu

Register: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=36582>

- **Copyright and Image Use for the UC Master Gardener Program**

Weds., March 30, 12-1 pm

Robin Sanchez, Administrative Policies & Business Contracts and Cynthia Kintigh,
Marketing Director/Permissions Officer

Zoom: <https://ucanr.zoom.us/j/94185031611>

Meeting ID: 941 8503 1611

- **National Extension Conference on Volunteerism**

April 24-28, 2022

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa, OK

This conference is for volunteer-focused professionals and staff who are serving within all areas of Extension programs. Visit the website to see the tentative schedule and accommodations. <https://extension.okstate.edu/events/national-extension-conference-on-volunteerism/index.html>

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Our Mission

Thanks for reading this month's issue! To submit questions, topic suggestions, a spotlight story, project feature, new staff feature, or feedback, email statewide Marketing Coordinator, Melissa Womack at mgwomack@ucanr.edu.

"To extend research based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California."

