

December 2014

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Garden Views



Who is this Mystery Woman?

By Janet Hartin

Dear Riverside County Master Gardeners,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new UCCE Program Director for the Riverside County Master Gardener program. In this role, I will be providing horticulture subject matter expertise, supervising the new MG Coordinator (who will be replacing Stephanie Pocock after the first of the year), and providing overall administrative leadership and guidance to the MG program.



I began my career as a UCCE horticulture advisor in San Bernardino County in 1984 after receiving both undergraduate and graduate degrees from University of Minnesota. In the late 1990's I was also assigned to the UCCE team in Los Angeles County. My areas of expertise are in the areas of water use of ornamental plants, arboriculture, proper use of soil amendments and mulch, and preventive Integrated Pest Management (IPM). I love applied research and education and serve as the statewide Associate Editor of Horticulture for UCANR. I also serve on the statewide MG Steering Committee, the statewide Water Strategic Initiative committees, and as a UC ANR Environmental Horticulture Team Leader.

While the vast majority of my position involves conducting applied research and education programs for public and private

landscapers, arborists, parks and school district personnel, one of the most rewarding elements of my position is working directly with Master Gardeners. I have great respect for all of the Riverside County Master Gardeners and all of your accomplishments. You have a long history of success and a strong and capable advisory board, which are the main reasons I agreed to take on the challenge of Program Director. I have lived in the Palm Springs area for 26 years and am excited about officially being assigned to my home-town county!

My short term goals are to steadily post power point presentations for your use covering such topics as: sustainable landscaping; backyard food production; and the role of horticulture in shaping healthy communities. I also plan on teaching at beginning and advanced training sessions; posting regular administrative updates; continuing to work with Dona to expand the program in the desert and mountain areas; and getting to know all of you better. Longer term goals are to work closely with you to measure the impact of the program; to help ensure long-term county and state support; to identify new partners and resources within and external to UC; to strengthen and expand the program; to promote outreach into underserved communities; and to diversify both age and ethnicity of Master Gardeners.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at jshartin@ucanr.edu or 951.313.2023 any time.

Warm regards,

Janet Hartin, UCCE Horticulture Advisor and MG Program Director

Holiday Socials

There are two holiday socials planned in December.

Desert Area

December 11th - 12:00 p.m.

UC Cooperative Extension office in Indio

Please respond on VMS if you can attend and please tell us what you will bring - main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert.

Also if you are interested in the gift exchange, please bring a gardening related wrapped gift under \$ 10.

Riverside

December 14th - 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

UCR Botanic Garden Conference Room

Please bring an appetizer to share. Also we will do a plant exchange.

We are collecting Toys for Tots again this year - please bring an unwrapped toy worth \$ 10.00.

There will be someone at the gate to help you with your donation and appetizer.

Please RSVP on VMS or to Carol Haffter at haffter@verizon.net

Colorful Seasons Greetings from Kallisto

By Pat Robertson, Master Gardener

Once again, the folks at Kallisto Greenhouses in Fontana outdid themselves at their fourth annual open house. Many Master Gardeners attended and had a wonderful day. MGs wandered through the absolute maze of tens of thousands of red, white, and hot pink poinsettias while munching on complimentary tacos and delicious sweet confections. This year, Kallisto added more colorful bromeliad varieties and blooming peppers, succulents, and cacti. Thanks again to Tours Coordinator, Sheila James, for making this a special outing that really got everyone in the holiday mood!



Master Gardeners



Colorful Bromeliads



Breathtaking Poinsettias



Fun Projects for Kids of all Ages

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



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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

DECEMBER		
2nd, 16th	Moortens Gardens	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
3rd, 17th	Temecula Farmers Market	8:30 am - 1:00 pm
3rd, 10th, 17th	Desert Training Class	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
4th, 18th	Vegetable Gardening for Children	7:30 am - 11:30 am
4th, 18th	Riverside Training Class	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
6th, 13th, 20th	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
7th	"Leftover" California Native Plant Sale	10:00 am - 1:00pm
11th	Desert Area Committee Desert Holiday Potluck	10:00 am - 11:30 am 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
14th, 21st, 28th	La Quinta Farmers Market Riverside Holiday Social	7:45 am - 12:30 pm 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
17th	Advisory Board Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
December 22nd - January 2nd	UCCE Office Closed	All Day
17th, 24th, 31st	Palm Desert Farmers Market	7:45 am - 1:00 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

JANUARY		
1st, 2nd, 19th	UCCE Office Closed	All Day
3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
4th, 11th, 18th, 25th	La Quinta Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
5th	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
7th, 21st	Desert Training Class	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
7th	Temecula Farmers Market	8:30 am - 1:00 pm
7th	Gates Cactus & Succulent Society Monthly Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
8th	Desert Area Committee	10:00 am - 11:30 am
9th, 22nd	Vegetable Gardening with Children	7:30 am - 11:00 am
13th	UCR Botanic Gardens Volunteer Orientation	9:00 am - 11:00 am
15th, 29th	Riverside Training Class	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
21st	Advisory Board Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
22nd	Gold Miner Committee Meeting	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
23rd	Water Conservation Gardening	10:30 am - 11:30 am
24th	Roses - Woodcrest Library	10:30 am - 12:00 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

Pomegranates

By Beverley Scray, Master Gardener

Their botanical name of the Pomegranate is *Punica granatum* which is derived from the French “pomme garnete” meaning “seeded apple”. Some people think that Eve tempted Adam with a pomegranate and not an apple or an apricot in the Garden of Eden. Pomegranates are symbolic of abundance and prosperity in every civilization. Growers often called this fruit “The Jewel of Autumn” for many reasons such as their distinctive crown, their juices, the ruby red arils, and their many health benefits just for starters.

Lucky for us in Riverside, this small tree/shrub was brought to California and Arizona by the Spanish settlers in the late 1700's. Pomegranates prefer a semi-arid to subtropical mild temperature. Humidity is no friend of this tree. They like cool winters and hot summers. The fruit is native to Persia (Iran). It is cultivated and naturalized throughout India, the drier parts of Asia, and tropical Africa. It spread over the Mediterranean areas thousands of years ago.

The Pomegranate tree usually grows 12 to 16 feet tall. Dwarf varieties are great for backyards. Pomegranates are long-lived, with some in Europe being over 200 years old. Their vigor declines after about 15 years, however. Their flowers are very attractive, red and fleshy with a tubular calyx which stays on the fruit to form its crown. Some are single flowers others are in clusters of two or three at the ends of branches. These trees are self-pollinated and cross-pollinated by insects which increases fruit production. Under good growing conditions, the fruit matures within 5 to 7 months.

Because of its smallish size, it is a good landscape tree. It is deciduous with a strong tendency to sucker from the base. Keep cutting these suckers back below the soil level. An annual mulch of rotted manure or compost is recommended for fertilizer. Of interest to those who like to experiment, cuttings root easily and plants from them can bear fruit in three years; 12” to 20” cuttings taken in winter from one year old wood is recommended. Add rooting hormone and bury up to two-thirds of the cutting in soil.

Harvest the fruit when the skin is bright red and before the skin starts to crack. You can store the pomegranates up to 7 months in your fridge. This actually increases the juices and the flavor. Many cultivars have been developed at UC Davis. It seems best to check with a knowledgeable nursery person before selecting a tree for your yard. Spending time Googling this fruit will increase your appetite for juices, jams, and other recipes. The pictures on the web are beautiful and enticing.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE DECEMBER AND JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!!

December
Sheilah Bellew
Janis Binam
Karen Bradford
Dori Breshers
Larry Browning
Beverly Buckley
Elaine Byrd
Marcille Christian
Janis Collis
Deni Curtis
Lou Fawley
Larry Fechter
Bill Gayk
Cathy Godfrey
Lana Hapeman
Janet Hough
Cathleen Konyn
Barbara Lauck
Kathy Miller

Pam Morris
Sandra Norton
Cindy Peterson
Dolores Purther
Bill Reid
Ron Routon
Marjorie Robinson
Beverley Scray
Jonathan Simper-Turney
Rita Skwara
Marie Strom
Linda Sun-Kilfeather
Chad Young

January
Laura Afansev
Ruben Arias
Linda Shuler
Mary Caldwell
Andy Cannella

Carmen Castillo
Terry Chassagne
Shelley Craig
John Ernsberger
Angele Fite
Jorge Gamboa
John Kaczmarek
Julie Kretz
Rebecca Levers
Eben Longfellow
Audry McDonald
Lisa Nagurski
Richard Priebe
Carol Rochlin
Bette Rowe
Kevin Russell
Tom Vineski
Jacob Vogenberg
Bruce Wilson
Ruth Wilson

Seasons Greetings from my family to yours.



My niece Sarah, myself, and sister Sandra.

'Tis the Season...

By Karen Bradford, Master Gardener

I may have sensory overload by the time December 25th comes around - I was in a store the week before Thanksgiving and heard Christmas carols playing over the speakers! I've seen Christmas decorations displayed for several weeks, which I accepted, but Christmas carols before Thanksgiving is just plain wrong! I can avert my eyes from inflated reindeer and giant snow globes but I can't avert my ears.

So as the weather chills, I have a blanket over my lap with a portable heater blasting next to me and I've been thinking about the holiday plants that go with this time of year. Maybe I do feel a little Christmas coming on!

So what are my favorite plants to give and receive during the holidays? Here's a little cheat-sheet if you are taking a plant as a hostess gift when you go "a-wassailing" closer to Christmas or New Year's parties.

Amaryllis bulbs: With their big and showy flowers, just one amaryllis in a pretty pot can make quite a decorating statement. The variety "Candy Cane" is just the right plant to put on a Christmas table.

Christmas cactus: Also known as Schlumbergera, these look like branches of plump, spreading leaves with delicate pink, purple, red or white flowers at the end. The plant is quite easy to grow indoors or out and can be multiplied by pinching off the "leaf" to root in potting soil. I've seen a new variety with bright red and white flowers on the same plant.

Poinsettia: In my opinion, these are the classic Christmas plant, in my opinion. In the past, my mother-in-law bought dozens of these to line her walkway. When I was a child, I remember seeing enormous poinsettia fields between Orange County and San Diego, blooming for sale before Christmas. Poinsettias are native to Mexico and were first introduced into the United States by Joel Robert Poinsett, who was sent there in 1825 as the first U.S. ambassador. Poinsett was an enthusiastic amateur botanist and shipped plants back to his home in South Carolina. By 1836 the plant, *Euphorbia pulcherrima*, was widely known as the "poinsettia."



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Topiary Christmas trees: You will easily find potted baby trees of Monterey, Aleppo and stone pine, as well as culinary rosemary nicely shaped for decorating. I've bought a number of these and now they're planted outside and happily thriving. (Watch the after-holiday sales for heavily discounted seasonal plants: I planted at least seven "Christmas tree" rosemary on our back slope where they can thrive with minimal water and care. Since the slope adjoins our corral, Rosemary's pungent odor and taste has the added benefit as something that Edward R. Burro, our pet donkey, would not chew to a nubbin!)

These plants have several attributes in common: They can live longer than a couple of days indoors without looking punky; they bring a sense of cheerfulness when the weather outside is cold or gray; and they are easy to grow in our climate. After being indoors for several weeks though, they will benefit by



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relocation to outdoors for their natural environment.

IMPORTANT NOTE: A number of the most popular holiday plants may be irritating or poisonous to small children or pets, so please watch for:

- Poinsettia - Its sap may cause skin and mouth irritation or vomiting.
- To treat, wash the area immediately with soap and water.
- Mistletoe - Poisoning may result from ingestion of the berries, so remove them if feasible. Symptoms of poisoning include vomiting, diarrhea, increased heart and respiratory rate.
- Holly - This also features attractive but potentially poisonous red berries.
- Christmas trees – They are considered to be mildly toxic because tree oils can irritate the mouth and stomach.

If you want to make your house safer for both your children and pets, try using artificial plants instead of the real stuff. (Please don't take away my master gardener name badge for suggesting that!)

Just in case: If your pet eats any of the above, the closest 24-hour vet clinics we've used are VCA Aacacia Animal Hospital, 939 West 6th Street, Corona, 92882, (951) 371-1002, and Animal Emergency Clinic, 12022 La Crosse Ave, Grand Terrace, 92313, (909) 653-2314.

For we two-leggeds, the California Poison Control System provides "immediate, free and expert treatment advice and referral over the telephone in case of exposure to poisonous or toxic substances." Pharmacists, physicians, nurses and poison information providers staff the hotline at (800) 222-1222: always good information to have on hand!

Another information source is the UC IPM website: http://ucanr.edu/sites/poisonous_safe_plants/files/154528.pdf.

WMWD Winter Workshop

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

Rainwater Harvesting with DIY Rain Barrels

Saturday, January 10, 2015

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Did you know Did you know that one inch of rain coming off a 1,000 square foot roof can yield 400 gallons of water? Join us for a workshop by Christine Lampe, UCCE Master Gardener. Learn how to make your own rain barrels. You will save water for your landscape, lower your water bill and make a positive impact on your environment.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS -- SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!!



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