

March 2015

University of California
Cooperative Extension
Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road #202
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781

Phone (951) 683-6491 X228

Fax (951) 788-2615

TDD (951) 276-9539

Website:

ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG

Email: anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu

anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

In This Issue	Page
Welcome Rosa	1
A Book Review	2
Dreary CA Winters	3
Events Calendar	5
Note from Janet Hartin	6
Announcements	7
Volunteer at Grow Lab	8



Garden Views



Introducing Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Services Coordinator

I have been on the job for one week and it has been a week full of new information. One of my first encounters with MG volunteers was at the Advisory meeting last Wednesday. I sat there amazed at all of the time and effort each of you put into the program. I am really excited to be part of such a great program, with a fabulous group of volunteers!

My number one goal at this time is to learn how this program works, so I can assist the volunteers that have taken on so much work, while this position was vacant. As I get to know each of you I will learn of your needs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions (not gardening questions, for now). You can reach me at rmolaiz@ucdavis.edu or 951-683-6491, ext. 230.

A little about me: I was born in Mexico, raised in Orange County and have lived in Riverside for the last 25 years. I am married and have two adult children and one granddaughter. My background in volunteer management includes working with youth offenders in Orange County. When I moved to Riverside I worked at Riverside Hospice recruiting training and managing patient care volunteers. Later, I worked for the HICAP, a Medicare Advocacy Program, again recruiting, training and managing volunteers. During my time working with The Pink Ribbon Place (a breast cancer resource center) we had volunteers working with breast cancer patients in different areas, from the breast cancer walk, to the support groups. In my last position I worked for a Covered California project out of Los Angeles. While this was a great experience, I am thrilled to be working close to home and serving my community.

I believe in giving back to the community in which I live. Therefore, I have volunteered in numerous organizations such as my church, my children's school, the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, YWCA of Riverside County and of course I was a soccer team mom and a girl scout leader.

I look forward to meeting each of you in the coming weeks, and am thrilled to be part of this program!

Rosa Olaiz

Welcome Rosa

A Book Review - Baker Creek Heirlooms

Their trial gardens are in Mansfield, Missouri. Their website is www.rareseeds.com. Jere and Emilee Gettle have made this edition of The Whole Seed Catalog their 18th. The "Whole", speaks to an ecosystem ever so slowly returning to gardens and homesteads of diverse heirloom plants and flowers, pollinated by bees and butterflies. No pesticides will harm these pollinators and none will seep into their food supply. No GMO seeds will be grown anywhere.

Baker Creek offers one of the largest selection of heirloom vegetable and flower seeds as well as live plants from more than 70 countries. Their current catalog offers 1750 seeds with 350 new this year.

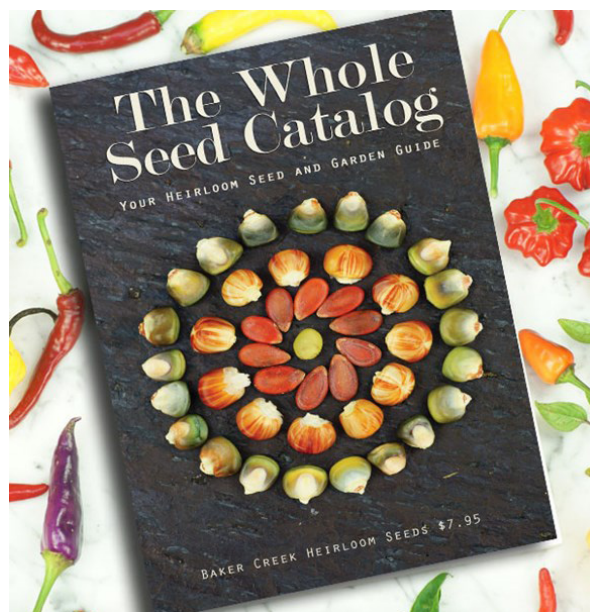
This book costs less than \$ 10.00 and is well worth it to me. The first section contains stories of the founders, their general philosophy of protecting the earth, the advantages of heirloom seeds, the people working in this company, their research around the world to discover new heirlooms, and many resources to check on line.

The next section of the book is their catalog which is free by going on line. The descriptions of each heirloom are generally interesting. For example, "Thomas Jefferson planted California black eyed peas in his Monticello estate in the 1770's. Dates when many heirlooms became available are often given as well as locations where they were found. This kind of information shows just how hard this company worked to find heirlooms for all growing regions of the United States. Eggplant varieties come from China, Japan, Taiwan, Puerto Rico, Syria, and France, just to name a few places. Sizes, shapes, ripening times, and colors are shown in beautiful photos for every climate. Their tomato section is divided into green, orange, pink, purple, black, and brown varieties. They come from Mexico, Russia, Siberia, Western Europe, West Virginia, Lebanon and so on.

Of course, all of their offerings are not suited for our climate in Riverside, thus the article about choosing varieties that grow in similar conditions to ours in Riverside. This company has a store in Petaluma, CA with a seed bank in a restored 1920 bank building. In September, 2015 there is an heirloom expo in Santa Rosa, CA for several days. Both cities aren't too far for an educational and enjoyable trip.

Here are a couple of observations noticed as I went through the catalog. This company is cause-driven. Their political bent is anti-GMO seeds. In the veggie section, I didn't see the weight or an approximate count of the seeds in the packets. On the plus side, their shipping rate of \$ 3.50 is better than most companies.

Here are some resources you may find interesting: www.rareseeds.com; www.theheirloomexpo.com; www.greenbetty.com; www.heirloomgirl.com; and the Petaluma Seed Bank.



Oh These Dreary California Winters!

By Karen Bradford, Master Gardener

Guess what? Our continued sunny weather allowed me to complete the turf-replacement water-wise renovation of my front yard! (Although when I was out planting flats of groundcover on New Year's Eve day during that awful cold front we had, two neighbors came over to look at me in short-sleeves and said, "You can't POSSIBLY be warm enough!" I reminded them that I've been to Mt. Everest base camp twice, Iceland, Mt. Whitney's summit and my grandparents are from Sweden, so perhaps there's some genetic advantage going there.)

The cold nipped a few of my succulent ground covers, and they currently look a little ratty (which I really don't like in a new landscape), but please remember this lesson: DON'T trim frost-damaged plants until spring! The damaged ends will help to protect the rest of each twig or growth. Mid-March is our historic 50/50 chance of a killing frost; and by mid-April, that chance goes down to 10 percent.

P.S. I *do* hope you are creating a compost pile . . . aren't you?

Let's plant for February: artichokes; asparagus; beets; broccoli; cabbage; carrots; cauliflower; celery; kale; kohlrabi; leeks; lettuces; onion; peas (next month will be your last month, so hurry by planting LOTS of Sugar Snap peas and invite me over!); potatoes; radishes (a year-around option, like Swiss chard and turnips); rhubarb (in a shady spot from summer's heat); spinach; Swiss chard; and turnips.

Tomato seedlings are now in the stores, and some of them are quite robust, but do not be fooled: They look nice, but tomatoes do not like chilly weather. Tomato fruit is what you want, not a pretty tomato plant. The optimum temperature range for a plant to set fruit is when its blossoms receive nighttime temps in the 60s.

Are our late nights and early mornings in the 60s? No-o-o-o-o-o-o, so don't expect any tomato production until they are. (Get it? Got it? Good!)

However, should you choose to plant tomatoes, peppers and other warm-weather lovers now, you can gamble on whether or not a frost will occur. There's a 50 percent chance of a killing frost for two more months, and it reduces to a 10 percent chance by mid-April; you decide. If you like, you can get a head start on summer veggies by planting seeds for indoor germination and later transplanting when warm weather is consistent.

P.S. Happy belated Valentine's Day . . . Don't be shy: be generous in letting people know that you care about them!



UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER
Advisory Board Members and Coordinators

Eta Takele - County Director
(951) 683-6491 X221

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Riverside Training Class Rep	Cyndi Hake-Castro
Social Programs	Yolan Browning
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UCRBG Representative	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Karen Fleisher

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Outreach and Education	Suzanne Jarvinen
Speakers Bureau	Angela Fasano
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Social Programs	Kathy Miller
UCR Palm Desert Garden	Janna Calkins

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.

Editor: Donna King -- jaszyking@gmail.com

Marco Baldi
Karen Bradford
Beatrice Etchison
Cathy Godfrey
Mike Henry
Janet K. Hough
Frank Heyming
Lucy Heyming
Pauline Pedigo
Pat Robertson
Beverley Scray



UCR Botanic Gardens 42nd Annual Spring Plant Sale!

Saturday, March 28, 2015, 11 am to 4 pm
Sunday, March 29, 2015, 9 am to 3 pm

THE INLAND AREA'S LARGEST PLANT SALE EVENT!

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public

MARCH		
1st	Spring Projects Meeting at Grow Lab	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
2nd	WMWD Garden Committee Meeting	3:00 pm - 4:15 pm
4th, 18th	Temecula Farmers Market	8:30 am - 1:00 pm
4th, 18th, 25th	Palm Desert Farmers Market	3:45 pm - 8:00 pm
4th	Desert Training Class - Citrus and Subtropicals	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
5th	Riverside Training Class - Entomology	9:00 am
5th, 19th	WMWD Basic Docent Training for WMWD Gardens	
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	Palm Springs Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
7th, 21st	Hemet Farmers Market	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
7th	Wildflower Festival	8:30 am - 4:30 pm
7th, 14th, 21st, 28th	Grow Lab Propagation	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
8th, 22nd	La Quinta Farmers Market	7:45 am - 12:30 pm
10th	Murrieta Garden Club - Info Table	9:00 am - 11:00 am
10th	UCR Gardens Volunteer Orientation	9:00 am - 11:00 am
10th	Gardening Tools - Care and Use - Murrieta Garden Club	9:30 am - 10:30 am
10th	Temecula Garden Club Presentation	9:30 am - 11:30 am
10th	Flowers that Attract Beneficial Insects	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
10th, 17th, 24th, 25th	Speakers Bureau Training Class	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
10th, 17th, 24th	Moorten Botanical Gardens	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
11th	Attracting Butterflies to Your Garden	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
11th	Desert Training Class - Diagnosing Plant Problems	9:00 am - 12:30 pm
11th	WMWD Garden Clean-Up Day	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
12th	Veterans Meeting - Kallisto Greenhouses	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
12th, 26th	Attracting Hummingbirds and Butterflies to Your Garden	10:00 am - 11:00 am and 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm
12th	Desert Area Committee	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
12th	Gold Miner Committee Meeting	1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
13th	Beneficial Insects	8:30 am - 10:30 am
14th	STEM	9:15 am - 1:00 pm/ and 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
14th	WMWD - Docent Day	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
14th	Grow Your Own Groceries! Warm Season Vegetable Gardening	11:00 am - 12:00 pm
16th	Vegetable Gardening in the Backyard	5:30 pm
18th	Spring Veggie Gardens - RCC Community Gardens	12:45 pm - 2:00 pm
18th	Advisory Board Meeting	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
18th	Riverside Training Class - Backyard Orchard Culture	9:00 am
18th	Selection and Care of Garden Tools	10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Dear UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County,

I am delighted to introduce Rosa Olaiz who started her new position as Volunteer Services Coordinator for the UCCE Master Gardener program in Riverside County last week. Rosa's email address is rmolaiz@ucanr.edu.

As she shared on page one, Rosa brings a wide breadth of experience to her new position. Rosa will be responsible for organizing, coordinating, and promoting volunteer services for the Riverside UCCE Master Gardener Program. Her major function is to provide direction and a leadership role in the planning, development, implementation, and evaluation of the MG program.

Welcome Rosa!

Upcoming Training to Help you Present Effective Talks/demonstrations to the Gardening Public

MG Speaker's Bureau representatives and I enthusiastically invite you to attend one (or more!) of three upcoming workshops for inland and desert Master Gardeners interested in presenting talks and/or demonstrations to the public. Our goal is to familiarize you with resources we have available in UCCE to help you present effective and informative talks and to help alleviate your anxiety and or fear! We will discuss Power Points that are posted in VMS for your use (including several I recently posted under 'documents') as well as elements of effective presentations/demonstrations. All are welcome to attend even if you decide never to give a talk! Please sign up in VMS.

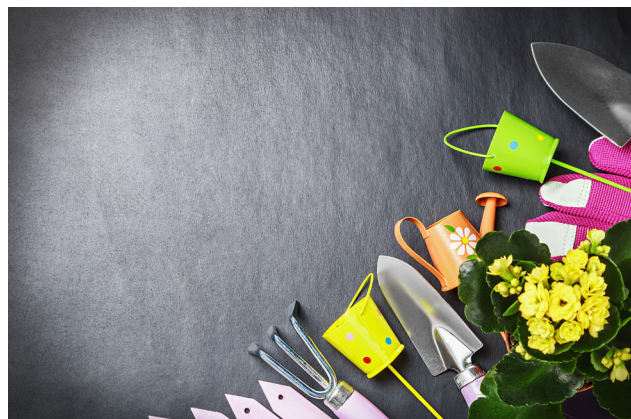
- March 3 (7-9pm) UCCE main office (general overview – meeting 1)
- March 21 (1-5pm) Western Municipal Water District, Riverside (topic: drought Power Points and training materials)
- March 25 (9-12noon) UCR Palm Desert (general overview)

Also, all are welcome to obtain volunteer hours at our April 18 drought workshop at the UCR Palm Desert auditorium. It will be open to the public. Sign up to help out or attend and earn CEUs.

Hope to see you soon!

Janet Hartin

UCCE Environmental Horticulturist, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties
MG Program Director, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties



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MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR - Not all events are open to the public

19th	Gubler's Orchid Nursery	10:00 am - 12:30 pm
19th	Riverside Training Class - Woody Landscape Plants	9:00 am
21st	Keeping Plants Alive During the Drought	1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
21st, 22nd	Lavender Project - Repotting	9:00 am - 3:00 pm
21st	Spring Floral Arranging Workshop - UCRBG	9:00 am - 12:00 pm
20th, 21st, 22nd	Botanical Illustrations Desert Field Workshop	Various times
26th, 27th, 30th	UCRBG - Moving Plants for Plant Sale	Various times
28th, 29th	UCR Botanic Gardens Plant Sale	Various times
28th	Vegetable Gardens - Woodcrest Library	10:30 am - 12:00 pm

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL WHO HAVE MARCH BIRTHDAYS!!

Lisha Astorga
Lynn Bailey
Theresa Basso
Maureen Brooks
Parvaneh Byrth
Gail Foyle
Denise Goglanian

Mary Hawkins
Silvia Lang
Bill Mason
Nanci Nelson
Gloria O'Hair
David Peel
Dennis Ponsor

Pat Robertson
Richard Skwara
Ellynn Smith
Charles Townsend
April Wilson

WMWD Winter Workshop

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

Grow Your Own Groceries! Warm-Season Vegetable Gardening

Saturday, March 14, 2015

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

You don't need a large plot of land, a lot of tools and equipment or hundreds of dollars to provide fresh, flavorful and healthy produce for your family. Whether you have acres or a small city plot you can raise vegetables that are better for you and taste great!!!

Christine Lampe, a UCCE Master Gardener, will conduct a workshop on vegetables that should be planted in the Spring. Learn what to plant as well as how to cultivate them then ... reap the rewards.

GROW LAB NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The Grow Lab is busy transplanting seedlings into larger pots. This is a slow process that requires a lot of hands in order to move some 10,000 plants from multi-trays to single containers ready to sell.

We need many volunteers for the next 2-3 weeks...

***** THREE WORKING WEEKS UNTIL THE SALE *****

PLEASE SIGN UP FOR SATURDAY WORKDAY SHIFTS - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Rd. Ste 202

Moreno Valley, CA 92557