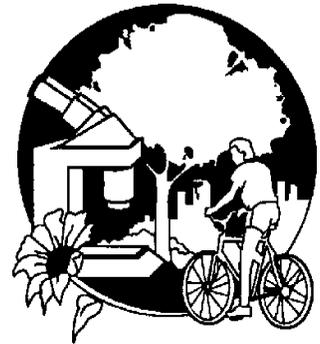


Department of Environmental Horticulture • University of California, Davis

GROWING Points

Master Gardeners "Harvest Knowledge" at Asilomar Conference *by Linda Dodge*



<http://envhort.ucdavis.edu>

The scenic Asilomar Conference Grounds on the Monterey Peninsula was the site for this year's California Master Gardener Conference in mid-October. This three-day series of educational seminars and general sessions attracted over 300 Master Gardeners and affiliates. The theme for the conference was "Harvesting Knowledge" and the organizers delivered a bumper crop. Impressively organized into seven concurrent sessions, forty-eight different seminars were presented over the course of the conference. Banquets and featured speakers highlighted the general sessions as well as the "Search for Excellence" competition among county Master Gardener groups to recognize outstanding activities and programs. In addition, pre-conference tours were offered to gardens, nurseries and wineries in the Santa Cruz, Watsonville and Carmel areas.

Asilomar, meaning "refuge by the sea", was the perfect setting for the conference with its historic buildings and beautiful ocean scenery. Originally a YWCA camp, Asilomar was built between 1913 and 1928 and the facilities were designed by the celebrated architect Julia Morgan. The original buildings reflect her Arts and Crafts style harmonized with the natural beauty of the surrounding native forest,

sand dunes and scenic coastline. Asilomar has been part of the California State Parks system since 1956 and all development since then has sought to preserve its original character. Conference attendees enjoyed the peaceful surroundings, excellent meals in the Crocker Dining Hall and the absence of televisions and telephones.

The majority of conference time was devoted to attending the educational seminars. Seven presentations occurred simultaneously in each of the seven concurrent sessions. Attendees chose a seminar to

attend in each session when registering for the conference. Topics were diverse, reflecting the wide range of expertise organizers had at their disposal. Basic information on integrated pest management, pesticide safety, selecting and pruning landscape trees, growing fruit and vegetables, and diagnosing plant problems was presented. Fun topics such as vernacular yard art, transforming recycled items into garden tools and garden photography were included. 4H youth advisors presented training information for conducting dynamic workshops and garden-based learning programs.

Seminars addressing current issues in California horticulture were well attended. The latest information on the Sudden Oak Death pathogen was presented by Matteo Garbelotto and Douglas McCreary, two experts on the forefront of this research. Joe DiTomaso, UCCE Weed Specialist, and Carl Bell, UCCE Regional Advisor (San Diego County), examined the impact of introduced invasive plants on California's wildlands. UCCE Vegetable Crops Specialist Trevor Suslow detailed practical methods for protecting home-

grown produce against microbial contamination. Allan Lochman, County Director for UCCE Contra Costa County, introduced issues concerning plant biotechnology for

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Master Gardeners attend a conference session in Asilomar's historic Merrill Hall, designed in 1928 by Julia Morgan.

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Loren Oki Named UCCE Assistant Specialist for Landscape Horticulture

As a second generation California native and a third generation nurseryman, Loren Oki has been involved in the California green industry since 1978. As a recent Ph.D. graduate from UC Davis with a desire to build a career in Cooperative Extension, he will now be able to fulfill his goal as the new Assistant Specialist for Landscape Horticulture. Based on the UC Davis campus with a split appointment of 80% in the Environmental Horticulture Department and 20% in the Landscape Architecture Program, Loren began work on October 1, 2002. Cooperative Extension personnel who know Loren view him as a welcome addition to their ranks whose background will enable him to serve the University and landscape industry extremely well.

Detailing aspects of Loren's background that make him qualified for his new position is a formidable task and begin as far back as 1897 when his grandfather, Magoichi Oki, emigrated from Japan to California and started a nursery producing fruit trees for the state's booming orchard plantings. In 1907, Mr. Oki founded Oki Nursery in Sacramento, an enterprise that would thrive for 86 years, and comprise nearly 300 acres of growing grounds and one million square feet of greenhouse space. The range of plants produced changed over the years from fruit trees and bedding plants to wholesale ornamentals and seasonal greenhouse container plants.

Loren's father, George, and uncle, Richard, were involved in the business since 1947. Loren began work at the nursery in 1978 as manager of the tissue culture laboratory after attaining his Bachelor of Science Degree in Ornamental Horticulture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and his Master's Degree at UC Riverside, studying under the legendary Toshio Murashige. Loren soon worked his way up to greenhouse production manager, and when his father retired in 1988, Loren and his brother, George Samuel, ran the family business. Loren served as

president of the company for five years.

During his nursery career, Loren participated extensively in trade groups and community organizations and his dedication to these groups continues to the present. He has been a member of the California Association of Nurserymen (CAN) since 1978 and has served on the Research Advisory, Plant Protection Issues, Career and Education, and Legislative and Regulatory committees. He served as president, vice president, and secretary of CAN's Superior Chapter, made up of nursery professionals from northern California. He was named CAN's Young Nurseryman of the Year in 1986. The International Plant Propagators' Society (IPPS) has also benefited from Loren's energy and expertise. He has been a member since 1979 and served as president and vice president of the IPPS Western Region. Loren has also been a member of the Western Region Board of Directors and Grants Committee. He served on the Horticulture Commodity Advisory Committee of the California Farm Bureau Federation, the Horticulture Curriculum Advisory Committee of American River College in Sacramento, UC's Agricultural Issues Committee, and was a member of the USDA Convocation for Horticultural Research in 1992.

In 1994, Loren set his sights on a doctoral program at UC Davis, working with Dr. Heiner Lieth in the Environmental Horticulture Department. Research for his dissertation, "Effects of Substrate Salinity on Rose Stem Elongation", led to the development of a device for continuous measurement of substrate moisture electrical conductivity. Loren collaborated with Dr. Lieth and others in his research group on numerous publications and participated as a teaching assistant in several classes taught in the Environmental Horticulture Department. He was the lead instructor for Analysis of Horticultural Problems, Spring Quarter 2002. Loren has participated several times as an instructor for University Extension in classes on greenhouse management and plant propagation. While a graduate student, Loren served on numerous academic committees. He also participated in the ANR workgroups for Landscape Horticulture and Floriculture and Nursery.

In his new position as landscape horticulture specialist, Loren has already identified several areas of focus for his research and extension programs. The issue of pesticide and fertilizer runoff contaminating urban streams and watersheds is of prime importance to Loren and is a problem he dealt with as president of Oki Nursery. With faculty members of the Landscape Architecture Program, he has proposed a research study to characterize runoff in numerous urban areas in California, enlisting the aid of Master Gardeners for sampling affected water bodies. Loren has already participated in the Master Gardener training program, leading several sessions on plant propagation and will serve as an academic resource for the program. Loren is excited about the current effort to establish a Center for Urban Horticulture at UC Davis and plans to assist in integrating the expertise of the Environmental Horticulture Department, Landscape Architecture Program, Davis Arboretum, and Center for Urban Forest Research for delivery of current research-based information in this area to the general public. Restoration horticulture has become an important aspect of the California green industry and Loren will seek to contribute to the growing body of knowledge concerning propagation of native plants, especially site-specific plant material. As California continues to develop its urban areas, the interface between these areas and agricultural and natural lands becomes more fragile and easily disrupted. Loren plans to address this issue through innovative research and collaboration among University of California experts and stakeholders. He is also interested in the selection and evaluation of California native plants as new ornamental plants with the help of the Davis Arboretum. Propagation and production methods of the selected plants would also be developed.

Although the job ahead seems daunting, particularly now that budget constraints make acquisition of extramural funds essential, Loren is up to the task and can draw on his horticultural expertise and knowledge of the industry to develop sound research and extension programs to address problems in California landscape horticulture. **GP**

Redwood and Douglas Fir Confirmed as Hosts for Sudden Oak Death Pathogen (*Phytophthora ramorum*)

In September, researchers at UC Berkeley and UC Davis announced findings that demonstrated the pathogen responsible for Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in California, *Phytophthora ramorum*, is capable of infecting two of the state's most valuable landscape and timber trees, coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). These findings may have profound implications for those in California's horticulture and forestry indus-



tries from collectors, propagators and nurserymen to Christmas tree growers and container mix manufacturers.

David Rizzo, associate professor of plant pathology at UC Davis, and Matteo Garbelotto, adjunct assistant professor of ecosystem science and UCCE extension specialist at UC Berkeley, have taken the lead in research efforts to determine the cause of the disease that has devastated forests in twelve coastal counties of California since 1995. The addition of these two new hosts brings the total of species susceptible to *P. ramorum* to sixteen, including three kinds of oak, tanoak, California bay, madrone, big leaf maple and several shrubs common to coastal woodlands.

Rizzo, Garbelotto and their colleagues began noticing disease symptoms on coast redwood and Douglas fir nearly a year ago and found DNA of *P. ramorum* in infected trees. Recently, they were able to isolate and grow living cultures of *P. ramorum* from trees showing symptoms, thereby confirming the SOD pathogen as the cause of infection in these species.

Symptoms on young trees only

On redwood saplings, symptoms of infection by the SOD pathogen appear as browning and death of needles, and cankers on small twigs. Sprouts at the base of some mature trees have been shown to harbor the pathogen. Because the presence of water is necessary for infection, the flat shape of redwood needles may encourage water accumulation and subsequent infection.

Symptoms of SOD infection on Douglas fir appear as wilting and death of branch tips on young trees five to seven feet tall. On smaller saplings, infection has caused death of the leader and top branches. Water does not accumulate easily on needles of this species so infection is more difficult and has been seen only in places where an overstory of infected California bay trees (*Umbellularia californica*) is present.

For the present, it should be emphasized that there is no evidence implicating SOD in the death of mature trees.

Implications for the timber industry

Because redwood and Douglas fir comprise more than 50% of the annual \$3 billion worth of wood harvested in the state, the implications of SOD infection for California's timber industry are significant. In addition, 95% of harvested redwood and 45% of harvested Douglas fir come from the 12 counties officially labeled as the "zone of infestation" for SOD. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has quickly imposed restrictions on the movement of redwood and Douglas fir products from these counties. State officials have requested \$10 million in federal aid and \$2 million of that is currently available to fight the disease.

Because there is no current evidence of SOD infection on commercial timberland, those involved in California's forest products industry remain hopeful that the disease can be managed or eliminated.

Effects on horticulture industries

On some of the known SOD host species, production of air-borne infective spores occurs on leaf surfaces, especially under cool and wet conditions. Leaves of California bay and rhododendron are known to support significant spore production. There is potential for long distance movement of the pathogen with transportation of nursery plants, now including redwood and Douglas fir. Such movement of host plants from infected counties is regulated as is transport of propagative material.

Nursery personnel are encouraged to become familiar with SOD symptoms on various host species and inspect plants often. Nurseries in infected areas may reduce the chances of infecting their plants if they reduce wetting of foliage and encourage rapid drying of foliage, particularly during cool and wet winter months. Because streams in infected counties may be contaminated with the spores of *P. ramorum*, nurseries should avoid using them as irrigation sources especially if overhead sprinklers are used.

Other horticultural products containing redwood and Douglas fir may now come under transport regulation for curbing the spread of SOD. Container mix manufacturers use these species as components of their products and may have to conform to quarantine regulations. The movement of redwood and Douglas fir Christmas trees, cut



boughs and wreaths from SOD-infected counties is regulated by CDFA. Greenwaste from these host species is also regulated but sawdust from lumber mills is not. GP

Autumn Tour of China

Here are a few photos of horticultural interest from my recent trip to China.
-Linda Dodge



Knot Garden, The Great Wall at Badaling, near Beijing



Floral display for West Lake Festival, Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province



Cascades of chrysanthemums, Humble Administrator's Garden, Suzhou, Jiangsu Province



600-year-old Ginkgo biloba tree, Peace of the Mind Garden, Wuxi, Jiangsu Province



Penjing (bonsai) garden, Tiger Hill, Suzhou



Lake with lotus plants, Black Bamboo Park, Beijing



I would be remiss in not commenting on the budget crisis that affects the entire university. As this goes to press, we have been informed of “midyear” cuts which need to be made. The first round of cuts was aimed (by the legislature) at “university research” (a.k.a. Agricultural Experiment Station) and “university outreach”. We are doing what we can to implement the wishes of the legislature but face the hurdle that tenured faculty cannot be cut and outreach (such as this publication) is our information pipeline to you.

For the current fiscal crisis I have been able to bring research projects into the department that replace unfunded elements (i.e. things we need to cut) with work that is funded. Thus I expect to avoid staff lay-offs this year. Two major projects of this type are (1) testing efficacy and phytotoxicity of agricultural chemicals for the floriculture and nursery industry (IR4 center) and (2) development of field trials and demonstration gardens to compare and highlight plant materials for use in urban horticulture in the Central Valley. Thus we hope to weather this year’s crisis without the doom and gloom that most other University departments face.

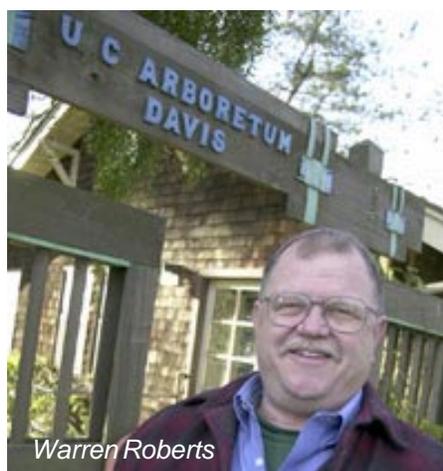
Two EH Alumni Receive College Awards

Congratulations go to **Warren Roberts** (M.S. 1969), superintendent of the UC Davis Arboretum, and **Tim Metcalf** (M.S. 1980), curator of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, who each received an Award of Distinction from the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at this year’s College Celebration. This award is “the highest recognition presented by the college to individuals whose contributions and achievements enrich the image and reputation of the college and enhance its ability to provide

Notes From the Chair... by Heiner Lieth

public service”.

Warren Roberts has been superintendent of the UC Davis Arboretum since 1972 and a major contributor to the field of horticulture in California and worldwide. He is proud of his heritage as a native Californian and never misses a chance to credit his Kern County ancestors with instilling in him a lifelong love of plants. Warren has contributed his expertise in botanical nomenclature to such publications as *The Sunset Western Garden Book* and many professional organizations including the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta and the International Plant Propagators’ Society. Warren is also a long-standing member of the Research Advisory Committee for the



Warren Roberts

Elvenia J. Slosson Research Endowment.

Tim Metcalf manages the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory to meet the diverse needs of research, teaching and outreach for the college. The 3,600 square-foot facility houses over 3,000 plant species in more than 150 families. Highlights of the conservatory include the Rainforest Room and the South African Desert Room. Tim’s expertise in managing plant collections from such different climates has made the conservatory a major attraction for Picnic Day. Tim and his staff conduct countless tours of the conservatory for college classes, visiting high school students, garden groups, alumni and other avid plant lovers. Visit the conservatory’s web site at:

<http://greenhouse.ucdavis.edu/conservatory.htm>

Faculty Activities

Richard Evans received a grant award of \$131,052 from CDFA-FREP for “Determination of nursery crops yields, nutrient content, and water use for improvement of water and fertilizer use efficiency”. Evans also received a grant of \$101,948, with **Wes Hackett** and **Ken Giles**, from UC-DANR for “Improvement of methods for vegetative propagation of California native plants”.

Loren Oki has joined the faculty of the Environmental Horticulture and Landscape Architecture departments as UCCE Assistant Specialist for Landscape Horticulture. For more information, read the article about Loren on page 2.

Greg McPherson was an invited plenary speaker at the IUFRO European Regional Conference “Forestry Serving Urbanized Societies” held in Copenhagen, Denmark August 27-30. His paper was entitled “Municipal forestry benefit-cost analysis: a comparison of Modesto and Santa Monica, California.” Also, Greg attended the first editorial board meeting for *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, a new refereed, international journal.

Student News

Tom Rambo was awarded a Student Scholarship to give a poster presentation of his dissertation research, entitled “Ecology of an Arboreal Forage Lichen” at the Sierra Nevada Science Symposium the week of October 7th. The symposium, held at Lake Tahoe’s North Tahoe Conference Center, focused on “Science for Management and Conservation” of Sierra Nevada resources.

In addition to his own dissertation research and studies as **Michael Barbour’s** and **Malcolm North’s** PhD student, Tom Rambo has begun moonlighting as a post-graduate researcher for **David Rizzo’s** lab. Tom’s expertise in working in forest canopies is being tapped to extend that lab group’s “sudden oak death” research into redwood forest canopy to address questions concerning the dispersal capabilities of the implicated pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*.

Visiting Scholars

Robert Savé and **Feli de Herralde**, from the Institut de Recerca i Tecnologia Agroalimentaries in Spain, visited EH in

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October to continue collaborative research on restoration horticulture with **Richard Evans, Truman Young, and Michael Barbour**. UC-DANR and the Catalonian government fund the project.

Staff Endeavors

Kacey Donovan, administrative assistant for **Michael Reid**, ANR's Program Leader for Agricultural Productivity, recently celebrated ten years of service with UC. During her career, Kacey has also worked as a Staff Research Associate in the Animal Science Department. Congratulations, Kacey!

Congratulations are also in order for **Jing Guo Chen**, principal agricultural technician for EH, who recently received his ten-year service award. Jing Guo came to UC Davis in 1989 as a visiting scholar, working with **Lin Wu**. He became a member of EH's greenhouse staff in 1994 and completed a



Linda and Tim with some of their 300 students at Liaoning Agricultural College, China

certificate in Computer Science in his spare time last year.

Staff Research Associate **Linda Dodge** and EH alum **Tim Lukaszewski** spent five weeks in China teaching English at an agricultural college in Liaoning Province. They also toured the garden cities of Suzhou, Hangzhou and Wuxi and saw the sights of Shanghai and Beijing. Be sure to check out her photos on page 4.

Winter Seminar Series at EH

Beginning in January 2003, EH will present another series of seminars given by faculty, visiting scholars and staff (see the schedule below). The seminars will be held on Mondays from 4:00 - 5:00 PM in Room 146 at the Environmental Horticulture complex. Students may enroll in the series as ENH 290 with CRN: 83324. The seminars are free and open to the public so please join us if you are in the area. GP

Environmental Horticulture Seminar Series

Mondays 4 pm to 5 pm

Winter Quarter 2003

EH Room 146

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Seminar Title</i>
<i>Jan 6</i>	<i>Ayzik Solomeshch</i>	<i>Unlocking the Mysterious Secret of California Grasslands: Reconstructing Pre-European Plant Communities</i>
<i>Jan 13</i>	<i>Linda Dodge</i>	<i>Touring Gardens in China</i>
<i>Jan 20</i>	<i>holiday</i>	<i>no seminar</i>
<i>Jan 27</i>	<i>Kat Andersen</i>	<i>The Ethnoecology of the Salinan Tribe of the Central Coast of California</i>
<i>Feb 3</i>	<i>Felicity Johnson</i>	<i>Studying Corolla Senescence in <i>Mirabilis jalapa</i></i>
<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>Jim Harding</i>	<i>Flower Production and Quality in Greenhouse Gerbera</i>
<i>Feb 17</i>	<i>holiday</i>	<i>no seminar</i>
<i>Feb 24</i>	<i>Don Durzan</i>	<i>Nitric oxide, Death, and Taxus</i>
<i>Mar 3</i>	<i>Malcolm North</i>	<i>The Influence of Fire, Light and El Nino on Sierra Nevada Forests</i>
<i>Mar 10</i>	<i>Lisa de Jong</i>	<i>Application of Urban Forestry to Fire Management at the Urban-Wildland Interface</i>

More Slosson Endowment Projects for 2002-2003 (Part Two)

The Elvenia J. Slosson Foundation has been funding UC research in ornamental horticulture since 1970. The Foundation awards nearly \$250,000 annually to UC academic and extension personnel for projects in keeping with Mrs. Slosson's wishes "for the advancement and promotion of the science and practice of horticulture". The projects recently awarded funding for the 2002-2003 academic year address current problems and issues facing California horticulturists.

Landscape Plant Management

As concern over air quality in California increases, efforts are being made to characterize pollutants and identify emission sources. Vegetation is recognized as a significant source of chemicals released into the air on a daily basis. Known as biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs), plants are known to give off isoprenes, monoterpenes and alcohols, to name a few. Landscape architects and city planners are demanding BVOC information on specific plant species in order to minimize this pollution source in large-scale landscape plantings. John Karlik of UC Cooperative Extension in Kern County has received Slosson funding to characterize and quantify the emissions from selected landscape plant species. He will use a new analytical technique, proton transfer mass spectrometry (PTR-MS), to measure these compounds with high precision and accuracy. The results of this project will provide knowledge regarding the role of ornamental plants in urban atmospheres and will provide immediate information useful for informed selection of species for large-scale plantings.

Disease and Pest Control

Raywood ash, extensively planted in Northern California as a landscape tree, has been suffering a decline of unknown origin for the past ten years. The primary symptom is unsightly branch dieback which has led to removal of affected trees. Plant pathologist Thomas Gordon of UC Davis will be investigating this problem to determine the causative agent and develop management recommendations. He will survey trees in selected cities to document the range of symptoms and monitor the progression of the decline. Samples will be taken from affected

trees and cultured to ascertain if pathogenic organisms are present. Planting site conditions of declining trees will also be documented to determine if abiotic factors contribute to the decline. Once the cause of Raywood ash decline has been established, recommendations for management and control will be made for cities and homeowners.

Root-knot nematodes (RKN) are pests of over 2000 plant species including ornamentals and vegetables grown in home gardens. They infest plant roots, compromising uptake of water and nutrients and allowing secondary microbe infections. Affected plants exhibit leaf chlorosis and stunted growth. RKN are difficult to control once



Damage to dahlia tuber caused by root knot nematodes.
<http://ucdnema.ucdavis.edu>

established due to their wide host range and high population growth potential. Infested areas must be planted to non-host plant species or resistant cultivars. Nematologist J. Ole Becker of UC Riverside has been investigating plant parasitic nematodes and their control for many years. Of particular interest to him are nematode-suppressive soils in which nematode populations remain low despite favorable host and soil conditions. In the first year of Becker's Slosson-funded project, he was able to isolate and identify nine strains of fungus from suppressive soils able to parasitize RKN at various life stages. The second year of his project will focus on developing the best strains of nematophagous fungi as biological control agents against RKN, including methods of application and evaluation of efficacy in garden and landscape settings. If successful, this research could generate an environmentally safe and effective tool for homeowners and landscapers to control RKN who previously had very few management alternatives for this pest.

Plant parasitic nematodes can also be

devastating pests of turfgrass and there are currently no control measures available to California homeowners. Nematologist Becky Westerdahl of UC Davis and Ali Harivandi of UC Cooperative Extension will investigate whether any of several treatments proven effective on other crops can be adapted for homeowner use on turf. The biological nematicide DiTera, developed from a fungal toxin and registered for use on a variety of crops will be tested on turf. Soil amendments such as neem cake and chitin will be applied and evaluated for reduction of nematode damage. Drenching turf with hot water (144°F) or acidified water (pH 3) will also be tested. The emphasis of this study is on developing natural products and cultural practices that will be readily available to homeowners for nematode control and maintenance of good turf quality.

Public Education

With partial funding from a previous Slosson Endowment grant, Ann King of UC Cooperative Extension in San Mateo/San Francisco Counties created a brochure titled *Know Your Plants...Safe or Poisonous?* to address the need for outreach information on potentially poisonous ornamental plants used in California homes and landscapes. The publication provides information on general plant safety, preventing poison exposures, herbal medicines, mushrooms and how to contact the California Poison Control System. An extensive list of plant species and their toxicity class is also included. This publication has been widely distributed by Cooperative Extension and is very popular with homeowners, Master Gardeners, school programs and nursery professionals. King's current Slosson-funded project is aimed at updating and expanding the publication to include more detailed information on symptoms, dosages and specific toxic parts for each plant species. In addition, King plans to develop a web site with the same information plus photographs of toxic plant species. These resources will be valuable to agencies, volunteer groups, educational institutions and the general public in California.

Visit the Slosson web site (<http://slosson.ucdavis.edu>) to monitor progress on these and future projects. **GP**

Continued from page 1

Master Gardeners fielding questions on this topic from the general public.

The keynote speaker for the general session on the first evening was Felder Rushing, horticulture author, lecturer and educator with Mississippi State University Extension Service (www.felderrushing.com). His hilarious and thought-provoking presentation on "passalong plants" and garden art struck a chord with many in the audience, including those of us with flocks of pink plastic flamingos proudly displayed among our roses and delphiniums. He demonstrated the proper technique for turning old tires into planters and convinced everyone that one washer in the front yard is "junk" but three can be "art". His definition of a weed as "a plant that has to deal with an angry human" will no doubt appear in numerous future Master Gardener newsletters. Felder also held a book signing for his popular book *Scarecrows and Other Yard Folk* and conducted a seminar on "vernacular yard art" during the conference educational sessions.

Conference attendees were treated to yet another amazing speaker during the general session on the following day. Elizabeth Murray is an artist, photographer and author who lives and gardens in Monterey (<http://sacredsites.com>). Her presentation entitled "Cultivating Sacred Space: Gardening for the Soul" took the audience on a stunning visual tour of gardens from Japan

and France to inner city Philadelphia to illustrate concepts of design, planting and ornamentation that give gardens a feeling of sacredness. Elizabeth featured Claude Monet's garden at Giverny, France, and recounted her experiences working on the garden's restoration in 1985. She has returned to photograph Giverny every year since and shared the visual transformation of the garden over time. Elizabeth detailed garden elements such as gates, water features, lanterns and paths that can enhance a sense of the garden as sanctuary. She also discussed Japanese aesthetic principles and the Chinese art of Feng Shui for bringing harmony and balance to the garden. Elizabeth conducted a seminar on garden photography during one of the educational sessions and critiqued photographs submitted by conference participants.

The "Search for Excellence" competition provided a showcase for Master Gardener projects from counties throughout California. Entries were judged on how they reflected the UCCE mission; the clarity, originality, simplicity and practicality of the project; and the opportunity for learning and contact with the general public fostered by the project. Each entry contributed a poster for display during the general sessions, allowing attendees to see the range of projects offered by county Master Gardener programs. Although the judges had a difficult task deciding among the excellent entries, first prize went to San Diego County for

their Spring and Fall Home Gardening Seminars. Nevada County Master Gardeners received second prize for their *Western Nevada County Gardening Guide*, developed for distribution to new residents of the area. San Diego won again, capturing third prize for their *Plant a Seed: Watch It Grow* school gardening guide, created for use in the San Diego school system.

All in attendance warmly thanked conference organizers for their successful and well-run meeting. The tireless efforts of many people throughout the state contributed to an enjoyable and educational experience for all. In particular, Vince Lazaneo, Horticulture Advisor in San Diego County, and Bethallyn Black-Rogers, Urban Horticulture/Master Gardener Program Coordinator in Contra Costa County were recognized for their excellent leadership. Rosemary Curto was applauded for organizing the general sessions. Mary Lu Burchard and the "lady bug" volunteers were thanked for their smooth running of the registration desk. The Urban Horticulture Workgroup of ANR oversees the Master Gardener program, and workgroup chair, Pam Geisel, Farm Advisor in Fresno County, was recognized for her guidance and presence in spirit. Michael Reid, ANR's Program Leader for Agricultural Productivity, addressed the general session, praising everyone for their efforts and reminding them of the importance of their outreach mission to the people of California.



For free subscription, contact Linda Dodge, Managing Editor
Environmental Horticulture Dept., University of California, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616
Phone: (530)752-8419; Fax: (530)752-1819; E-mail: growing@ucdavis.edu
Download back issues of Growing Points (PDF format): <http://envhort.ucdavis.edu>

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