



University of California

Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cooperative Extension Mariposa County

UCCE Mariposa County 2012 Annual Report

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The University of California, Mariposa
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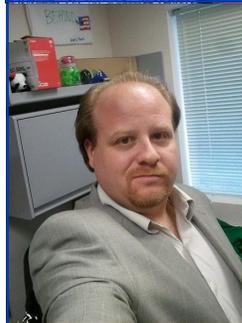
Visit our Website:

<http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu>

2012 was a fun year. As you can see from Kris and Donna's reports, those two programs were packed with activities that were fun, educational and, developed leadership. We sadly said goodbye to our Office Manager, Valarie Goodwin.



We warmly welcomed our new Office Manager, Debbie Wass. Please stop by and say hello to her.

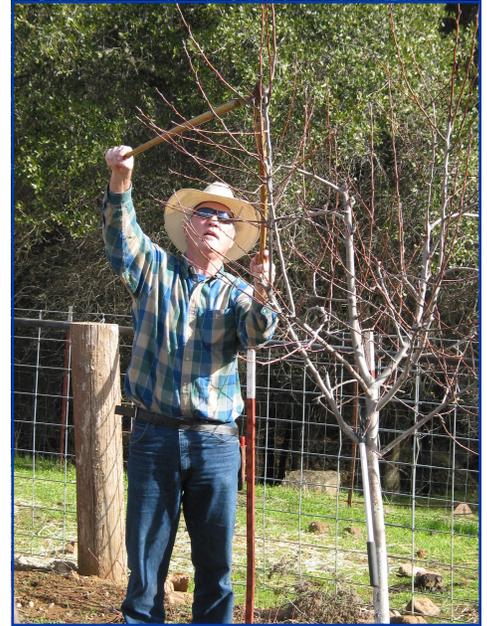


We also welcomed Russ Hill who will be the 4-H Advisor for Madera, Mariposa, Merced, and Stanislaus Counties. He will be working with Donna on improving and expanding 4-H programs.

I am excited about our new Livestock/Range Management Farm Advisor Fadzayi Mashiri. Fadzayi (pronounced **Fadzai**) will be starting the second week of February. She will be providing Farm Advisor services in her program area to Mariposa, Madera, and Merced Counties. Her home office will be here in Mariposa. I hope everyone will invite her out some time this spring to see your ranching operation and tell her about the challenges and what makes ranching unique in our region.

Maxwell Norton

The UCCE Mariposa office operates under a cooperative agreement with the University of California and the County of Mariposa to provide services to county residents. This arrangement assures programs are focused on local issues and at the same time utilizes the resources of the University of California, and through UC, the USDA. It provides teaching, research, and public service activities for the community, extending the University's great resources of research and knowledge.



Maxwell Norton demonstrating fruit tree pruning techniques near Coulterville.





4-H Youth Development Program

Some of the 4-H County Activities

for 2011-12 - Presentation/Favorite Foods day, Judging Day, County Winter Fun Day at Tenaya Lodge Ice Rink, Memorial Day Parade, County Summer Fun Day at the Sky Walk Trampoline Center, County BBQ day, Kid's Night, Teen Night, and Achievement Night.



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Visit our Website:

http://cemariposa.ucanr.edu/4-H_Program/

Here you will find detailed information on the programs that we offer and upcoming events.



Collaboration with other organizations are Mariposa County Farm Bureau, Tobacco Coalition Program, Tomato Festival Committee, ICES, and "Safe at Home".

4-H Highlights for 2012

Camp Tweety - this weekend camp is an outreach camp for 4-H members and non members. There were 45+ campers, our teen counselors, 10 chaperones, plus helpers. Workshops and activities were BB guns, archery, canoeing, swimming, crafts, tie-dyeing, campfire & more.

Mariposa County Pow Wow - 4-H Coordinator, Junior Master Gardener leader, and members had an informational booth with several different activities for the local youth. There was a ring toss game and the Junior Master Gardeners purchased flowers, soil and cups so the youth could make a Mother's Day bouquet for their mothers and/or grandmothers.



Children's Fair- A community outreach - 4-H Junior Master Gardeners had a booth sharing information on gardening and children were able to do a hands-on activity. An informational booth along with games such as a ring tosses & bean bag toss were available for children to play. 4-H enrollment forms, pencils, and prizes were handed out. There were approximately 130+ children that attended.

"Safe at Home" - A community service to promote a healthy and safe community

This free event is intended to link participants to services and opportunities that will support children in our community. 4-H Volunteer leaders had a booth with a craft activity and the children were shown how to plant seeds.

Tomato Festival - 4-H had an informational booth along with two hands-on activities; seed mosaic and gummy worm edible soil.

Mariposa County Fair - 4-H Coordinator had a 4-H outreach booth in the Junior Exhibit hall with a free activity for youth along with 4-H and Ag in the Classroom information.

Ironstone Concours d'Elegance - an Ironstone Foundation 4-H fundraiser where 4-Hers from the five foothill counties; Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Mariposa, and Tuolumne did presentations, impromptu speeches, had project displays, and handed out awards to the car winners. The 4-H members from the 5 counties also provided homemade cookies for the sponsors and car winners.

School Enrichment program; "Ag in the Classroom" - is a 4-H program coordinated with school personnel with use of selected 4-H learning materials as well as some California Ag in the Classroom curriculum as part of the school curriculum during school hours. They involve one or more sessions with activities led by 4-H Youth Development Program staff, volunteers, and teachers.

In 2011-12, over 1400 students were able to have a 'hands-on' learning experience with the following projects: Embryology, Butterfly Pavilions, Root-View Gardens, Ladybug Land, Praying Mantis, Silkworms, Mealworms, and more.

4-H Coordinator, a local teacher, and the Junior Master Gardener 4-H volunteer attended the Ag in the Classroom Conference in October 2012 to obtain new materials and ideas to share with local teachers and students.

This program has been sponsored by Mariposa County Farm Bureau and Mariposa County since 2001.

MS Bike-a-thon - The Catheys Valley 4-H Citizenship Project held this new event in April. They made over \$1700 to donate to the MS organization.



Donna Wice



Master Gardener Program

Master Gardener Program - 2012



The Mariposa County Master Gardener Program (MCMGP) got off to an exciting start in 2012 when we submitted a competitive bid in January to host the 2014 University of California Master Gardener (UCMG) Conference. We learned in March that Mariposa County MGs had won the bid and will host the conference at the Tenaya Lodge in Fish Camp in October 2014! The MCMGs are now in the early stages of conference planning and organization, with Fresno and Madera county MGs assisting as co-hosts, and arranging pre- and post-tours in Mariposa County for about 600 expected conference participants.



Fire-safe handouts available at all Mariposa County Master Gardener Program events:

The Mariposa County Master Gardeners offered, or were involved in, 14 public events in 2012. Half of these events were free educational workshops, with three of them focusing on fire-safe landscaping. In accordance with Title III funding requirements, we provided literature on fire-safety, as well as gardening issues important to local residents, at all events.

1. Determine your DEFENSIBLE SPACE.
2. Remove DEAD or DYING vegetation.
3. Break up CONTINUOUS vegetation.
4. Eliminate LADDER FUELS.
5. Make your defensible space green, with well spaced plants.
6. Keep up with regular MAINTENANCE.

Supporting tourism:

The 2014 UCMG Conference will further boost tourism to the county, extending our commitment to support and help promote initiatives to attract and educate visitors. We participated again in the Mariposa Agri-Nature Trail's annual Tomato Fest. Not only did we set up instructive booths on local gardening issues, but months earlier, in preparation for the fall event, we submitted monthly articles to local newspapers on how to grow and harvest tomatoes.



The MCMGs set up an informative booth at the annual John Muir Days Festival held in Coulterville each June.

Our California native plant demonstration garden at the Mariposa Creek Parkway has long been a popular site for both visitors and residents. In 2012 we produced an educational tri-fold brochure with a map of the garden to make available at the Visitor's Center, encouraging tourists to visit and enjoy the parkway self-guiding tour.

Kris Randal

Other popular MG efforts included the annual home garden tours, the plant and garden art sales, the weekly farmers market in summer and early fall, the county fair, library demonstration house plants, an informative print calendar and two hotline phone desks to answer property owners' questions about plants, pests, and gardening subjects.

Kris Randal

Master Gardener Coordinator

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As a result of all of these activities, our industrious MG volunteers contributed 3,780 hours of personal time in 2012, bringing the cumulative total, since 1995, to 32,000 hours of community service to Mariposa County. *Now that's dedication!*



The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project continues its 5th year of tracking the changes brought about by fuel reduction treatments in our local national forests, through a project located near Oakhurst, CA. Our University of California science teams are looking at the effects of these vegetation treatments on fire behavior, our water resources and the survival of a rare weasel called the Pacific fisher. With two years remaining in our study, our scientists are currently collecting post-treatment data in treated and untreated areas of the forest east of Oakhurst along the 41 highway. The Forest Service completed the fuel reduction treatments as part of their Sugar Pine project in December of 2012.



"Tracking" Demonstration at 4-H Camp.

UCCE outreach efforts to share SNAMP's work with the public continued in 2012 with a forest fieldtrip to discuss fisher denning habitat, a remote sensing workshop at a nearby high school and continued presentations to local groups.



Our overly successful sock drive.

A small request for spare socks from our wildlife team, to be used as bait socks in their fisher tracking, went viral and resulted in over 300 packages of socks from over 32 states and 3 countries being sent to us. Our requests to stop the flow of socks has not spread quite as quickly.

The recent discovery of fisher mortalities due to rodenticide poisoning has been of particular concern this year. We continue to share our story in newspaper articles, blogs and research papers and will produce a draft report for SNAMP by mid-2014, with our final report due by the end of 2014.

Anne Lombardo

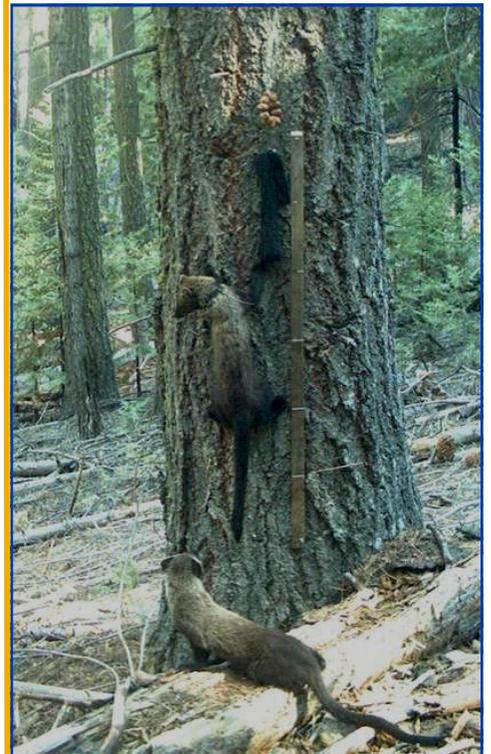
Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project SNAMP

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Two Pacific Fisher on a tree. Taken by the SNAMP wildlife team.