



University of California Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

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Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!
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UC Master Gardener Program Mission Statement

"To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives."

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2024 Master Gardeners

(List of Graduates Page 14)

Garden Views is published bi-monthly by
Riverside County UC Master Gardeners.

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Graduation for Master Gardener Trainees!

Contributed by Skylar McDonald, UCCE Master Gardener



Joining the Master Gardeners has been an absolute joy. Not only have I enhanced my horticultural and agricultural knowledge, but also, I have met so many like-minded individuals who share my passion for gardening and community service.

On Sunday, May 19, the forty-three 2023-2024 Master Gardener Trainees graduated among family, friends, and veteran Master Gardeners to celebrate their achievements at the graduation ceremony. The graduation ceremony was graciously hosted by the newly appointed Master Gardener, Dell Jean Van Fossen. Thank you so much for opening your home for this celebration; your garden is beautiful, and we are so grateful for your hospitality.

Thank you also to Rosa Olaiz, Master Gardener Volunteer Coordinator, Yvonne Wilczynski, Social Coordinator, the graduation committee, and everyone who helped put this event together. Your combined efforts made the graduation ceremony a day to remember.



Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Coordinator, presents award to Antonia Quezada, graduate.

Thank you to our keynote speaker, Janet Hartin, Area Environmental Horticulture Advisor. Your words provided everyone with a renewed energy, inspiring the graduates to stay involved in the program and to volunteer as much as possible.



Lastly, thank you to our class coordinators, Jill Hishmeh and Brad Hardison. (Photo left) Your hard work and guidance made our training an enjoyable and memorable

experience, and we greatly appreciate all that you have done for us trainees.

Throughout the year, the Master Gardener Trainees have received ample support and encouragement from the Veteran Master Gardeners. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and welcoming us to the program. With your help we have learned so much, and we will continue to grow with your support, just like our gardens. Now that our official training is over, we will continue to learn and serve our community as official Master Gardeners. Congratulations Graduates!

UC Master Gardener of Riverside County Program Adviser Janet Hartin to Retire

Hartin has seen the program grow and blossom over her tenure and is excited for what's next!

When Janet Hartin looks back at her time overseeing the UC Master Gardener Program for Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, the thing she will remember most fondly is the volunteers.

“They all come together across all kinds of backgrounds, all kinds of interests, due to their

love of horticulture and more so their love of helping people,” Hartin said. “That’s been inspirational to me.”

Hartin, who worked more than 40 years as an Environmental Horticultural Advisor for the University of California Division of Agriculture



Janet Hartin at recent Graduation for 2024 Trainees

and Natural Resources will hang up her hat at the end of June to enjoy a much-deserved retirement, and that will mean taking a step back from providing academic oversight to the Inland Master

Gardener programs. She leaves behind a legacy of inspiring Master Gardeners to share their knowledge and engage in projects to bolster the health and longevity of their communities.

While Hartin started her position (which primarily focuses on conducting and extending research-based information to the green industry workforce in San Bernardino, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties), she was asked to provide academic oversight to the UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County in 2015. She relishes the program, which was already an established institution for decades that she describes as a “well-oiled machine boasting roughly 400 members.”

Hartin said it was exciting to have her colleagues and herself share their knowledge in the training class on topics ranging from irrigation to landscaping and then see how Master Gardeners could serve as a conduit to get that information to the public.

Hartin said the Riverside County program has been great at reaching its audience both online

and in person. She said the program not only has a fantastic presence on social media, but that Riverside County Master Gardeners are very effective at scheduling and promoting events.

In preparation for a recent talk for UCCE Riverside County staff, Hartin began doing some research online and was thrilled by the number of items related to the presence of Riverside County Master Gardeners in county communities just from searching “Riverside County” and “school garden.”

“In all the best ways Master Gardeners have pretty much permeated the educational zone and I think people are finding out about you,” she said.

One of the projects that Hartin has been instrumental in getting started – and which Master Gardeners have been invaluable in providing information for – is the Trees for Tomorrow program. It started in 2019 with the UC Master Gardener Program of San Bernardino County. The Riverside County program became involved last year in both West and East Valley areas.

More than 2,000 climate-ready shade trees have been given to people in the Inland Empire along with tips for their care in the hopes of increasing tree canopy in low shade neighborhoods and reducing the risk of heat-related and respiratory and cardiovascular diseases.

Hartin said she’s excited for the reach Trees for Tomorrow could continue to have, particularly as Master Gardeners have become representatives for neighborhoods the program didn’t have much presence in before.

Now that Hartin is retiring, she says she plans to work in her garden, contribute to community greening needs, travel and spend time with family (her husband retired from his academic position in 2023). She has her daughter, son-in-

law and two grandchildren living close by in the Coachella Valley and family in Boston who she plans to visit. But she will probably be doing a thing or two in the background to help the Master Gardener program when she can.

She recently applied for emeritus status for her area environmental horticultural role and if approved she will continue to provide some teaching, oversight and will bridge the gap for the Trees for Tomorrow and academic elements of her program.

Hartin said that one of the things that she looks forward to as she keeps tabs on the program is continuing to see Master Gardeners being the eyes and ears of communities they serve.

She said that as important as it is for academics to share their research for Master Gardeners to take into the communities, it is equally as important for Master Gardeners to report back what needs their communities may have – and to try to come up with an appropriate level of educational services to meet those needs.

“Master Gardeners, whether it’s in a school or a community garden or a farmers market, they’re always witnessing needs,” Hartin said.

(You can read more about Janet’s plans and observations in her column on page 11.)



Almost the End...But Really the Beginning!

Contributed by Debbie O’Brien, UCCE Master Gardener Trainee (until May 19th)

When I started writing this, I was a Trainee, but when I will read this in the newsletter, I’ll be a Master Gardener.

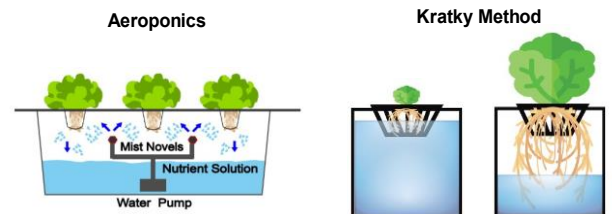
Forty-three trainees concluded this year’s training class with two weeks of presentations on a variety of topics: Composting, Garden Design, Pollinator Gardens, Hydroponics, Irrigation, Citrus, Edible Flowers, Garden Pests, Native Plants and Gardening on a Budget to name a few. About 18 veteran Master Gardeners also listened in. It was nice to have their support during our presentations!

Alex Kagdis started us off with an interesting presentation on Insect Pests of the Garden. He included pictures and descriptions of several pests to keep an eye out for.

Chris Gentile and Thomas Wiedemann presented two different aspects of small space landscaping. Chris focused on a courtyard redesign that included both landscaping and plant design. His design took a boring, blah courtyard and turned it into a peaceful, visually appealing sanctuary. Thomas focused on creating a food garden with monarch support in his yard. In 2016, while living in Charleston, SC, Thomas transformed his yard into a pollinator friendly garden. Now that he is living in the Coachella Valley, he is recreating a “desert friendly” version in his current back yard. This is an ongoing project that will have a food garden as well as a pollinator/monarch friendly garden with plants such as Lantana and Desert Milkweed.

Nick Koranda and John Warren presented two types of Hydroponic systems, Aeroponics and the Kratky Method, which are illustrated below.

We Explored Two Hydroponic Systems



Aeroponic systems use a mist/sprinkler system to deliver water to the roots whereas, with the Kratky method, the plants are semi-submerged in nutrient water and as the plants grow the water level drops giving the roots more oxygen.

They did an experiment using both types and had a control group that was planted in soil. After several weeks of growth, the plants from the Aeroponics method were significantly larger than the plants from the other two methods.

Eloyd Rodriguez talked about seed banks, what they are, and the vital role they play in ensuring plant availability for future generations. I was surprised to learn that over 40% of the global plant species are vulnerable to extinction. That to me is a scary statistic! The world's largest seed bank, the Svalbard Global seed vault located in Norway, wasn't established until 2008. The US has about 20 seed banks, and the largest is located at Colorado State University. I lived next door to CSU for over 5 years and never knew about this!

Nancy Stewart and Joshua Holguin talked about creating a low-budget garden and maximizing greenery without breaking the bank! They gave great tips on assessing available space, establishing a budget, and repurposing buckets, barrels and old tires for plant containers. They also provided several tips on starting seeds and propagation.

Ana Carazo, Glenda LaCroix and Alvaro Rubio gave an informative presentation on a type of raised bed gardening, new to me. H \ddot{u} gelkultur, pronounced "hoo-gull-kul-toor," is a raised garden bed where wood is covered with compost and soil that are formed into a mound. They provided the step-by-step process they used to create the bed illustrated below. If you happen to be at the Riverside Master Gardener Grow Lab, stop by and see it!

Steps to Create a H \ddot{u} gelkultur Bed

- Select a site
- Gathering materials
- Building a mound
- **Planting and maintenance**



Casey Escutia gave a presentation on edible flowers and included some yummy looking recipes! Casey discussed types of edible flowers and health benefits as well as safety tips to consider for edible flowers.

Ann Moore and Lisa Hammons shared an informative presentation on the Benefits of a Pollinator Garden.

Audrey Rowland and Skylar McDonald talked about Growing Citrus in the Inland Empire. In addition to providing a history of citrus, they discussed the citrus breeding process as well as several propagation techniques and included both explanations and illustrations.

Joyce Mochizuki and Shelly Westebbe discussed the benefits of composting. They discussed climate change and how composting can help combat the climate crisis. They also shared an example of providing community outreach by talking about a composting project at Desert Mirage High School in Thermal, CA.

Sam Martin and Debbie O'Brien discussed Right Plant, Right Place with a landscaping redesign for one of Debbie's neighbors. The goal was to mitigate a flooding issue and add a pollinator garden to add an aesthetic appeal.

Dell Jean Van Fossen discussed Deep Pipe Irrigation. She presented the step-by-step process and included pictures that showed each step she used to create a deep pipe irrigation system in her garden. She then discussed her experience growing several varieties of plants such as tomatoes, peppers, pole beans and eggplant. In addition to Dell Jean, Sydnee Adcock, Carlos Valdes, Natalie Meyerhoff, and Dan Garrow did other presentations on Garden Irrigation.

Angie Ralston discussed Citrus Tree Pests and Problems. She provided photo examples of several pests such as Citrus Leaf Miner and Citrus Red Mite along with information about the pest Life Cycle, Impact and Pest Management.

Stephen Crouse and Uriel Esparza-Gonzalez gave an informative presentation about Replacing Lawns, the Good, the Bad, the

Alternatives and Why. They made good arguments both for and against lawns.

Zoe Dagan and Xochitl Pena did an excellent presentation on getting started with Native Plant Gardening in the Coachella Valley and surrounding regions. They developed a flyer called Nifty Natives. The flyer lists several Coachella Valley demonstrations gardens as well as several area nurseries that sell native plants. The guide is complete with QR codes referencing other resources to help you learn about and choose plants that work well in the desert environment. To view the guide, [Nifty-Natives-Demo-Garden-Resource.pdf](#)

Linda Valdez, Elizabeth Sanchez, Rika Kanaoka, Patty Walker, Valerie Doyle and Toni Quezada, Tonisha Oliver, Sam Hally, Alex Groves, Margaret Parascand, Jane Hooper, Agnes Morant and Theresa Bortles shared various presentations on Olla Irrigation, Edible Mushrooms, Herbs and Their Uses, Backyard Food Gardening that supports pollinators, Gardening with Less and From Here to There: Taking What You Have and Turning It into What You Want.

Overall, I feel it was a great finish to our year as trainees! I look forward to seeing the newly minted Master Gardeners at future events. All presentations that were in Collaborative Tools are now posted to VMS under News/Docs, Documents/Presentations, Trainee Presentations 2023-2024.

Credits:

Hydroponic slide courtesy of Nick Koranda and John Warren.

Hügelkultur slide courtesy of Ana Carazo, Glenda LaCroix and Alvaro Rubio.

Nifty Natives flyer courtesy of Xochitl Pena and Zoe Dagan.

(Disclaimer: I apologize if I left anyone out. That was not my intention! Some of the presentations were not posted.)



At First Blush

Contributed by Janet A. Seaman, UCCE Master Gardener, Project Lead

The beginning of the landscape revitalization project at the Palm Springs Animal Shelter (PSAS) resembled entering a desert forest...if there is such a thing! It was badly overgrown and consisted of 3+ acres of desert plants (propagating at will), weeds (blown in from adjoining properties), and nests of very dense Encelia, California brittlebush, (providing shelter for un-housed members of our community). After working most of the winter of 2020, we were able to get the “lay of the land” and start creating a revitalization plan.



Roger Tansey, at that time a member of the PSAS board and a Master Gardner trainee 2022, provided inspiration with his class project to develop a certified Monarch Butterfly Waystation, using part of the property. (Photo left).

An enthusiastic approval from the board launched the planning phase in 2022. Linda Williams was our designer, and Roger began propagating several varieties of milk weed—the main source of nutrition for the butterflies.



We used a variety of cacti around the borders of the garden to prevent trail cutting, agave for resting places for the butterflies, plus hosts for their larvae, and boulders collected from the property.

Queen Butterfly, *Danaus gilippus*

The cactus and agave were donated by Moorten’s Botanical Garden and Master Gardeners. They were nurtured through the summer in our Grow Center at the Shelter. Native nectar plants were purchased by the Shelter or donated by Master Gardeners from their personal nurseries to add a source of energy for the butterflies and other pollinators to the garden. A plant list can be obtained at kimnlinda@gmail.com.

past president of the Board of Directors of Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter, and Jeffery Bernstein, Mayor of Palm Springs.



Desert Spiny Lizard, resident



Nuttall's Woodpecker, resident

Our “Grand Opening” and dedication of the garden was held on April 18th—a day when we went beyond first blush to full bloom. The garden was beautiful, and the guests were lavish in their praise of our work. Remarks were made by Dan Rossi, Executive Director of the Shelter, Tamara Hedges, super supporter and



The Grand Opening

We are now on the maiden voyage of protecting the most vulnerable plants from the extreme rays of the summer sun. Linda and Susan Cook are fashioning custom shade structures for selected plants; Bob Freel is heading up the irrigation adjustments needed throughout the summer; and we have a brigade of “monitors who will check the plants once or twice each week to make sure the irrigation is sufficient with the shade in the right place. It’s hard to know how plants that survive the summer in someone’s backyard will do on a hillside with direct Western exposure throughout the summer.

Wish us well!!

Butterfly Corner: Satyr Comma

Contributed by Ann Platzer, UCCE Master Gardener

During a visit to Oak Glen with the California Native Plant Society, several years ago, we enjoyed a wonderful tour with Dr. Tim Kranz, a noted expert on the flora of the San Bernardino Mountains. There was a wonderful display of native plants and an abundance of butterfly species.

Of special note was the Satyr Comma, *Polygona satyrus*, which flashed bright orange

and black upper wings with naturally scalloped wing margins (Photo 1: Adult, dorsal view).



**Satyr Comma,
Photo 1
(Adult, dorsal
view)**

The underside is brown toned like a dead leaf with a white comma-like mark (Photo 2: arrow) hence its name (Photo 2: Adult, ventral view).



**Satyr Comma,
Photo 2
(arrow: white
comma-like
mark, Adult,
ventral view)**

This is another bright colored butterfly that all but disappears from view when it lands with closed wings. This is a medium sized butterfly with wingspan 25-28mm (1 3/4-2 1/2 inches). It is a rather swift flyer but rarely flies any great distance before landing, making it easy to photograph.

The Satyr Comma prefers moist woodlands and along streambeds especially where its host plant nettle, such as stinging nettle, *Urtica dioica*, grows in abundance. Oak Glen and also Two Trees Trail in the Box Spring Reserve are ideal searching areas. It is rare in the desert.

The female lays pale green eggs singly, in stacks, or in groups on the lower side of nettle leaves. The caterpillars eat leaves and are said to make a shelter for protection, by pulling down and fastening the edges of a leaf with silk. When searching for a larva, look for a "hanging tent," but remember stinging nettle really STINGS. So be careful!

These butterflies live for almost a year, and adults overwinter in cold areas by crawling into narrow cavities such as trees. In early spring, February or March, they start flying again. Progeny from eggs laid by this brood emerge in June, July, and August. There are two to three broods in Southern California. Adults rarely nectar on flowers but rather take sap from trees, congregate at rotting fruit, and even take nutrients from animal scat or carrion. Range is from Southern Yukon and Northwest Territories; south through Western Canada and Western United States to Baja California, Southern Arizona and Southwest New Mexico; east across the Great Lakes states to Northern New England, and Nova Scotia.

Thanks to Ed Platzer for editing this article.
Happy Butterfly Gardening! AP

Master Gardener Helpline

Get help and advice for your garden!

Master Gardeners are here to answer your plant, tree, and gardening questions throughout East County Desert areas and West County Inland Empire areas.

Ask us about saving water in your landscape, what's damaging your plants, how to make and use compost in your own backyard, what's ailing your trees, or any gardening-related question. We're here to help!

Email or leave a message anytime.

[Helplines ...](#)

West County (Inland Empire):

- Call 951-955-2647
- Email your question (preferred):
anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu
Include as much detail as possible and any photos that illustrate your problem/question.

East County (Desert Areas):

- Email your question:
anrmgindio@ucanr.edu
Include as much detail as possible and any photos that illustrate your problem/question.

**Celebrate
These New Riverside County
Recognition Awards
April-May**

**1000 Hours Gold Badge
George Spiliotis**

**750 Hours Pruner Pin
Jill Hishmeh
Susan Krings
Clifford Morrison
Jaz Patterson**

**500 Hours Watering Can Pin
Linda Glaccum
Karen Samson Runion**

**250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin
Alba Good
Freddie Hooper
Gwen Kibbe
Brenda Kooiman
Toni Patalano**

**100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin
Rika Kanoaka
Skylar McDonald
Joyce Mochizuki
Margaret Parascand
Thomas Wiedemann**

**Temecula Valley Garden Club
Donates \$1,000**

*Contributed by Pam Elias and Jane Payne,
UCCE Master Gardeners*

We're thrilled to share some heartwarming news from our recent Master Gardener Spring Fiesta Recognition event!

The Temecula Valley Garden Club (TVGC) graciously donated \$1,000 to support our UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County for our School Gardening Initiative. This generous contribution is a tribute to the memory of Janice Rosner, a beloved member of both TVGC and our Master Gardener community, known for her passion for School and Youth Gardening.



Presentation of \$1,000 donation: Susan Corey, Jane Payne, Kim Coons-Leonard, Ed Rose.

The TVGC finished their 39th year as a member of the NGA, CGCI, and the Palomar District. Their membership ranges between 100 and 140 members and supports: Civic Beautification, Community Service, Conservation, and Education.

During the event, Janice's family joined us to honor her legacy. Her husband, Ed Rose, shared touching words about Janice's dedication to the program. Also present to honor Janice were Jane Payne (Master Gardener) and Susan Corey, Co-Presidents of TVGC; Trisha Charrette, Janice's daughter; Morgan Charrette, Janice's Granddaughter; Donna Rosner and Linda Powell (Master Gardener), Janice's sisters; Kristie Powell, Linda's daughter and Janice's niece.





Janice and Ed in Roatan, Honduras

Kim Coons-Leonard, our UCCE MG Project Coordinator for School Gardens, gratefully accepted the donation and spoke about Janice's lasting impact on all of us. Kim shared:

Janice Rosner was an active volunteer at all our partner school gardens in south county. She joyfully worked with teachers, students and parents on planning, planting, and maintaining their gardens, and she often lamented the funding needed to improve some of these gardens.

Most funding the School Project has received is designed to target low-income schools in the desert and west county. This generous \$1,000 donation from the Temecula Valley Garden Club allows us to also target much needed-garden support in the south county area and carries on Janice's legacy of improving and expanding school garden programs.

Jane Payne shared how Janice left a huge hole in the garden club. She joined the Temecula Valley Garden Club in 2015 and was active in so many projects including: Cultivating Inclusion Gardens, writing the shrub and tree booklets, Co-Chair of Scholarships, Facebook Administrator, Maintaining the Calendar, Co-Chair of the Educational workshops, 2nd Vice President of Programs, and Co-President with Debra Jones in 2016-18.

We all extend our deepest condolences to the Rosner family and express immense gratitude to TVGC for their support, which significantly will benefit our school gardening initiatives.

GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES

UC RIVERSIDE Botanic Gardens

UC RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS Est. 1963

APRIL-OCTOBER

UC Master Gardener docents are available in the Butterfly Garden on the first and third Sunday of every month, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, to answer questions about **Gardening for Butterflies** including the life cycle of butterflies and what to plant to attract butterflies. Stop in anytime between 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

Gulf Fritillary

Monarch

Buckeye

1 Botanic Gardens Drive
Riverside, CA 92507
gardens.ucr.edu

Butterfly Surveys at the Greenbelt Monarch Habitat

9:00 am • April 5, April 27, May 11 & 24, June 1, 14 & 29, 2024

Interested in helping conserve the Western Monarch butterfly? The butterflies are in decline due to a loss of habitat, specifically native milkweed. Come be a community scientist and gather data on eggs, caterpillars and butterflies. Training will be provided.

Things to bring:

- Water
- Hat
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes
- Smart phone with iNaturalist app
- Kneeling pad (recommended)

Surveys involve stooping, bending and kneeling on the ground. Ability to use a smart phone with the iNaturalist app is helpful but not required.

For more information about Monarchs:



To register:
email Felix-Derbarndiker@rcrcd.org or call (951) 683-7691 x218
Please register by the 3 pm the prior day.

RCRCD
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Greenbelt Monarch Habitat

A Western Monarch caterpillar eating a native California milkweed, *Asclepias californica*.

MASTER COMPOSTER TRAINING PROGRAM

This hands-on course provides:

- Education on the science and benefits of traditional composting and composting with worms (vermicomposting)
- Hands-on experience building and maintaining compost piles
- The necessary skills needed to teach composting to others
- Students will receive a certificate upon course completion

FREE to Riverside County residents

Register by scanning the QR code, complete the application under the Master Composter Training tab, and choose "Master Composter - In Person, Live" option.



Registration required!

2024 In Person Training Sessions:
Participants **MUST** attend all 4 consecutive Saturday classes within their training session.

- 📅 March 9, 16, 23, 30
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 St. Margaret's Episcopal Church
47535 CA-74, Palm Desert, CA 92260
- 📅 July 13, 20, 27, August 10
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 Riverside County Department of Waste Resources
14310 Frederick Street, Moreno Valley, CA 92553
- 📅 September 7, 14, 21, 28
🕒 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM
📍 Kay Ceniceros Senior Center
29995 Evans Road, Menifee, CA 92586

Special thanks to host organizations:



951-486-3200
waste-volunteer@rivco.org
14310 Frederick St. Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Janet's Jottings

Janet Hartin



Dear UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County,

I'm feeling a lot of nostalgia lately and even more gratitude. Due to my June 27 retirement,

this is the last column I'll be writing for your *Garden Views* newsletter. When I began my UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Environmental Horticulture Advisor position in 1984, straight out of graduate school, I could hardly wait to start my career, and, being from the Midwest, I loved the idea of heading west!



Janet Hartin in fields of mums, 1984.

Forty years later here's what I've learned.

Although providing academic oversight for two Master Gardener programs is "on paper" only 10% of my job, it's a cherished role that I treasure and care about deeply. Why? You, as Master Gardeners, are often the first (and only!) connection a county resident has with any UC personnel or program, and the research-based information you provide helps them grow their own food and green their communities with impacts for generations to come.

The late David Gibby was smart to have had the foresight to establish the first Master Gardener

California Native Plants: Welcoming Nature to your Garden

Saturday, June 22, 2024
Free • 10 am



Join us for a practical introduction to using our unique and diverse native plants in our landscapes. Topics will include: reasons for planting native species, things to know and do before you plant, basic planning and design considerations and planting and maintenance requirements.

George Spiliotis is a Master Gardener, a docent at the UC Riverside Botanic Gardens, and serves on the board of the Rivers and Lands Conservancy. George hosted a series of short videos about California native plants and works to support the conservation of our natural landscapes and habitats.



RRCCD
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District



**11875 Indian Truck Trail
Temescal Valley, 92883**

For more information call (951) 683-7691 ext. 218 or email scic@rrccd.org

program in 1973. He knew, as a Washington State University Extension Agent (what my colleagues are referred to in other states), that he could not adequately address the growing number of questions from residents of the county he served, since the vast majority of his time was supposed to be spent working with the horticulture industry. In California, UCCE Advisors are expected to provide this “green industry” training and also to conduct research relevant to industry needs, further reducing time available to address the needs of the gardening public. David’s idea to train county residents with a passion for both gardening and volunteering to take on the role of providing research-based information to the gardening public proved extremely successful and led to Master Gardener programs being implemented in all 50 states.

What is the most important thing I’ve learned? In the end, relationship building, making connections, and listening to and believing in others is more important than providing horticulture advice. And, voila! As a result, more people choose to grow food in school, community and home gardens, cool urban heat islands with trees, landscape more sustainably, and unify their communities.



Janet Hartin taking the temperature in an urban heat island.

I will miss all of you but won’t be completely leaving the UC family until personnel are hired to expand the “Trees for Tomorrow Start Today” education/tree giveaway program (grants to hire a ½ time project coordinator have been applied for) and my academic position is filled (it’s been approved!).

Looking forward, I know that the UCCE Master Gardener program will continue to grow and thrive thanks to all of you and the thoughtful leadership of Rosa. Thank you so much for all you do and will continue to do!

I will retain my email address post-retirement (ishartin@ucanr.edu) and welcome hearing from you.



Special thanks to Janet Hartin for her 20 years of dedicated service and generous support to the Riverside County UC Master Gardener Program!

Notes from Rosa



Rosa Olaiz Volunteer Coordinator

Welcome to the May June newsletter!

I want to welcome the 43 First Year Master Gardeners who completed UC Master Gardener

Volunteer Program. They did a terrific job fulfilling the requirement to become Master Gardeners. If you didn't have a chance to view the class presentations, you can take a look at their PowerPoint Slides. As Debbie O'Brien mentioned in her article the slides are posted on VMS News/Docs. A big shout out to Brad Hardison and Jill Hishmeh, Class Coordinators, who did an exceptional job leading the training class and supporting them. Thank you to all the Mentor Coordinators and mentors who helped them throughout the training.

It is time to commit to another year with the Master Gardener Program. Reappointment began June 1. All Master Gardeners must complete the three-reappointment forms (Annual Volunteer Agreement and Request for Reappointment, Code of Conduct/Responsibilities and Rights, and Proof of CA Driver's License and Automobile Liability Insurance). The forms are on your VMS Home Page and must be completed in order to continue in the Master Gardener Program for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. To be eligible to continue in the program you must have the minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 12 hours of continuing education.

If you are short on volunteer hours, go to the VMS Calendar for opportunities. There are several volunteer opportunities throughout the

county including farmers' markets, school gardens, and the Lavender Festival.

Continuing Education (CE) hours are available through June. UC Riverside Advisors will present a virtual Field Day on June 15, and 4 CE Hours will be offered. Recordings of past continuing education meetings can be found on the Home Page News, and WMWD has recent recordings from the second Saturday workshops.

The Annual Fee is paid once the new fiscal year begins July 1. An e-mail message will be sent on July 1, 2024, with payment information. The e-mail will include the link to pay online and instructions on sending a check to the UCCE office.

UC ANR Giving Day online Fundraiser was held May 16 and 17, 2024. UC Master Gardeners and community members raised \$2,567.64 during the 24 hours with an additional \$318.65 trickling in through the weekend. Riverside County won one challenge, Greatest Number of Unique Donors which secured an additional \$500 for a total of \$3,386.29. Thank you for supporting the UC Master Gardener Program and to Pam Elias for her diligent work promoting the fundraiser through social media!

As this fiscal year ends, I look forward to the coming year with new opportunities. One of the projects we have been working on is restructuring the program. Robin Russell UC Master Gardener Orange County and Consultant agreed to work with us to create a structure that reaches all areas of the county. The goal is to ensure all Master Gardeners "feel individually and collectively valued, appreciated and acknowledged by the Master Gardener organization." An ad hoc committee will be created to begin the process of restructuring the program with input from Master Gardeners.

I look forward to an exciting year full of new opportunities and adventures!

Congratulations 2024 Master Gardeners!

Sydnee Adcock	Joyce Mochizuki
Theresa Bortles	Ann Molinaro Moore
Ana Lucia Carazo	Agnes Morant
Stephen Crouse	Debbie O'Brien
Zoe Dagan	Tonishia Oliver
Valerie A. Doyle	Margaret Parascand
Casey Q. Escutia	Xochitl Peña
Uriel Esparza-Gonzalez	Antonia Quezada
Daniel L. Garrow	Angelina Ralston
Christopher Gentile	Eloyd Rodriguez
Alexander Groves	Audrey Rowland
Samuel Hally	Alvaro Rubio
Lisa Hammons	Elizabeth Sanchez -Martínez
Joshua Holguin	Nancy Stewart
Jane Hooper	Carlos Valdes
Alex Kagdis	Linda Valdez
Rika Kanaoka	Dell Jean Van Fossen
Nick Koranda	Patty Walker
Glenda LaCroix	John Warren
Sam Martin	Shelly Westebbe
Skylar McDonald	Thomas Wiedemann
Natalie Meyerhoff	