



**May 2012  
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**May BIRTHDAYS**



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- Diane Mathis-King
- Debbie Harrison
- Duke Peterson
- Jeri Kuoppamaki
- Karen Fleisher
- Sandy Millar
- Sally Beaty

<b>In This Issue</b>	<b>Page</b>
Visit to Maderia	1
New Sunset Book	2
Create a Garden for Wildlife	2
UC Botanic Garden At Berkeley	9

# GARDEN VIEWS



## A Visit to Madeira Island

By Beatrice Etchison, Master Gardener

The discovery of a small group trekking trip to the Island of Madeira peaked my interest. After checking my world atlas, I discovered it as a tiny spec in the Atlantic Ocean off of the coast of North Africa and near the larger islands of the Grand Canaries. The decision to participate on an eight-day trekking trip came easily when I got word that my hiking brother also was interested in exploring this faraway place.

As our party of sixteen approached the final landing pattern to the island, I couldn't imagine our commercial plane landing on what appeared to me to be a tiny landing strip on an otherwise good-sized island.

After meeting our Austrian tour guide, we were introduced to some of the basic local customs and the Portuguese language. We also got the lay of the land and the upcoming hiking schedule. Even though it was the beginning of November, the air was pleasant, mild, and fragrant and the slight breeze rustled the huge fronds of the many different types of palms that grew on the island.

To my amazement, I discovered that many of the flowering plants in this resort are also prevalent in Southern California. As we hiked each day on a different trail, I discovered from our tour guide, that many species of plants were introduced to the island by the early settlers who came from various parts of Europe. Much more information about Madeira is available on their website: [www.maderia-web.com](http://www.maderia-web.com).

The water and irrigation systems known as levadas, are famous in Madeira. Hundreds of miles of levadas or narrow waterways along the steep mountains bring precious fresh water to the island inhabitants. We followed miles and miles of such trails, up and down and sideways along very old established water routes. Sometimes they were hidden in a mossy undergrowth, at times they were flanked by huge, gnarly century old *Erica* species bushes, or sometimes they just gurgled along in open plains bordered by local tall grasses. Thanks to our local guide, we were privileged to follow a levada unknown to most tourists; it was well hidden among tall chaparral. Little did we know though that this particular excursion would lead us through a favorite hunting area and rabbit hunting season had just begun. Shots could be heard from all directions. Even though hunters were all around us, it didn't occur to me that we might be in danger.



*A levada*

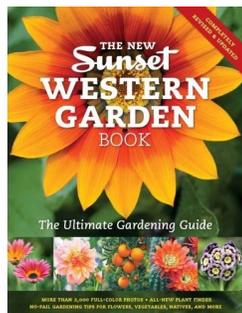
It is easy to see why Madeira is called the Garden Island. On all our treks at the lower elevations we saw the local residents planting vegetables on carefully groomed, very steep plots. The plots were deep green and healthy with all sorts of vegetables. We also saw many banana plantations.

With the mild climate this seems like a gardener's paradise. The bay leaf tree is very popular on this island and large forests of these trees accompanied us for miles. A rather prevalent small green plant along many of the trails and highways fascinated me. Although few were in bloom, I suddenly realized they were *Agapanthus*, although they were a deeper blue than what I am used to and grew on a somewhat shorter stem. Also abundant along our trek were bird of paradise plants; they were huge and healthy looking with magnificent tall stemmed flowers. They could be found all along the island's coast region.

[CONTINUED TO PAGE 9]



## THE NEW SUNSET WESTERN GARDEN BOOK



By Beverley Scray, Master Gardener

Sunset recently published the 9<sup>th</sup> edition of its Western Garden Book, which has been the region's essential guide for over 80 years. The panel to revise and update the current book included landscape architects, horticulture educators from UC Berkeley, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, nursery people, and recent college graduates.

In comparing both the new and previous editions, I was quite pleased to see some of the changes. The new edition is easier to use and provides you with current information for your own garden needs. The "Table of Contents" is a good example of the streamlined presentation that appears throughout the new edition. "Let's look at Tomorrow's Garden", is the first entry in this table. The six themes describe today's western garden with an eye toward the future. They are "Smart", "Savvy", "Surprising", "Small", "Edible", and "Regional". I'm happy to have discovered that Jeri Kuoppamaki's recent article about vertical gardening and Lucy Heymings' presentation about beneficial insects fit perfectly into these themes.

The "Plant Finder" section categorizes plants by the three roles they play in your garden: Problem-solver, Earth-friendly, and Special Effects. A table of contents for each of the three roles is right there on the page—easy to understand and easy to find what you are looking for. The largest section of the book is similar to the last edition—The West's Best Plants from A to Z with two helpful additions. There are two-color coded inserts: one is bright green giving valuable information about your plant choices, such as 'Can shade trees near your house save you money?' The other is a bright gold giving you valuable HOW-TO INFORMATION such as How to Grow Gladiolus: Planting Time; Planting; and Post Bloom Care.

The "Garden, Start to Finish" replaces "A Practical Guide to Gardening" section in the previous edition facilitates the search process for any gardener. "Encourage Natural Controls", includes a more organic approach with information about beneficial insects. It states that the avoidance of chemical sprays is possible, and an awareness that even sprays made from natural ingredients can harm helpful creatures as well as pests leaving the garden vulnerable to new attacks.

I am not donating the former edition as I once did. Through experience I learned that no one edition can possibly cover every garden issue. I am holding on to the older edition to keep my notes and the informative sections that were not repeated in the new edition.

Perhaps the biggest update is not on the page but on your smart phone. Sunset's new mobile site allows you to access Sunset's plant database and search by name, climate zone, or sun and water requirements. Log onto [sunset.com/plantfinder](http://sunset.com/plantfinder).

Happy researching the New 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of Sunset Western Garden Book.

## Create a Garden for Wildlife

by Lynn Bailey, Master Gardener



Whether you have a large garden or just a few containers on a patio, you can help the National Wildlife Federation celebrate Garden for Wildlife Month in May. If you have ever seen a garden designated as certified wildlife habitat and felt a twinge of envy, it will please you to know that the process to certify your yard or garden is quite simple. The main criteria is to provide an area that is a haven for wildlife. This can be accomplished with providing food, water features, hiding places for nests, and a place for wildlife. Tidy lawns are not a requirement - just places of refuge and food or water. The website for information is [www.nwf.org/nwfgarden](http://www.nwf.org/nwfgarden).

For those who prefer to use the telephone, the number for information is 1-800-822-9919. I certified our yard a few years ago, and found some surprising advantages. First and foremost, whenever my yard looks a bit "rustic" or unkept, I never feel negligent or lazy now that I have the wildlife sign posted. I have noticed a greater variety of bird species visiting the feeders and birdbaths seasonally.

The most pleasant surprise has been the addition of a wild peahen (a girl peacock) to our yard. This is her second year living in our backyard, and that is her to the left of my sign in the photograph taken today. I encourage you to look into certifying your yard or container garden. The process is quick and easy (it can be done in under 15 minutes), and encourages the support of sustainable habitats for the wildlife most gardeners enjoy.

## That's a Good Question!

By Pauline Pedigo, MG

**Question:** Something is making small holes in the double trunks of my tree. The damage is from the lower part of the tree upwards from 15 to 18 feet up. Sap is coming down on all trunks. I also saw a few of the birds in my pecan and walnut trees. What is causing this?

**Answer:** Sue Simms, at the Simms Tree Learning Center, says that "the damage was likely caused by the yellow-bellied sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*.) They are stealthy and quiet. They hitch around the tree to run from you, girdling the tree as they do this." It's hard to tell if the tree will come back as the trunks are terribly damaged with sap coming down on all trunks."

Sapsuckers often select trees that are wounded or weakened, such as from insects, disease, lightning or wind. The reason for this may be because the sap of trees in poor health contains higher levels of amino acids and protein. Sapsuckers are known to feed on as many as 1,000 different species of trees, although they show a preference for certain species within a given area. Burch, sugar maples, and scotch pines are a few common favorites.

Sapsuckers are usually migratory and more common in the northeast as they move from Canada to Chile.

After decades of experiments and observations, researchers still do not know how sapsuckers manage to overcome a tree's defenses and get the sap to flow so copiously. Insects are the main part of a sapsucker diet as they are attracted to the flowing sap.

**Control:** Wrap hardware cloth or burlap around the area being tapped or smear a sticky repellent material, such as bird tangle-foot, on the bark to discourage sapsuckers from feeding on a favorite shade tree. "Hanging CDs on trees can also be quite effective, as well as putting wet peat moss on tree trunks" suggests Sue Simms.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Federal regulations prohibit shooting of sapsuckers.



## Warm Winter Brings a Proliferation of Pests

By Jeri Kuoppamaki, Master Gardener



What a beautiful, warm and sunny winter we have been having! In fact, this year, almost every state in the union has had a warmer than usual winter. However, the mild winter we have been experiencing has some unexpected consequences.

Typically, cold weather kills many of the pests that farmers have to contend with every year. Normally there is a respite, and farmers can begin the spring planting season with a fresh start. This year will be a challenge because many of the agricultural pests that would have been killed by the cold weather have survived and will soon proliferate.

Conversely, some insects may be threatened by a lack of snow. The drought conditions may prevent the natural forage that many insects depend on from emerging early in the year. As a result, they will die if food fails to emerge in a timely manner. In addition, insects that pass the winter in dormancy above ground could die of dehydration or starvation without the insulating cover of snow.



There is a fine balance between agricultural pests and the predator species that help keep things in control. Climatic conditions can throw things out of whack. With these changes, farmers may find they must use insecticides much earlier and more aggressively than normal. Also, with increased insect populations, the risk of insect-borne disease increases. But with the increased use of pesticides to control those insects, the risk of pesticide poisoning increases also.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and researchers at Johns Hopkins University, also predicted that insecticide use to prevent the spread of disease by ticks, mosquitoes, and other biting insects would also increase in response to weather-related effects on insect proliferation. If you're concerned about health, this is a double dose of bad news.



A HEADS UP FOR YOUR JUNE CALENDAR

### A Picnic & Pool Party Scheduled for June 30, 2012

Sally and Charles Beaty's Home near Mt. Rubidoux.

They have an acre of land to wander about and enjoy

Time 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

More details will be forthcoming

**Carol Haffter is looking for other MGs willing to open their homes / yards for lunch or dinner gatherings throughout the year. Please call or email her if you are interested in hosting a future event: 951-924-1095 or [haffter@verizon.net](mailto:haffter@verizon.net) .**

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Volunteer **Stephanie Pocock**  
Coordinator

*Garden Views*

The *Garden Views* newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by UC Cooperative Extension, Riverside County, Master Gardeners. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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**Pat Robertson**

**Moving?**

Please let us know when you change your address, phone number or email. Contact Stephanie Pocock, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 951.683.6491 x 230 or sapocock@ucdavis.edu. She will make sure the information gets changed on the membership roster so you will not miss out on newsletters and emails. Thanks!

To simplify information, trade names have been used. No endorsements of name products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.



**Stephanie's  
Corner**

May brings my graduation from Cal Baptist with a Master of Counseling Psychology degree. I sometimes wondered if the day would ever come and now it is nearly here!!

May also brings many Master Gardener activities including twenty-nine volunteer opportunities. It seems each month brings more activities to keep all our Master Gardener volunteers busy.

The UCRBG spring plant sale was a rousing success. I never seem to work as many hours as I plan to, but I managed to help move plants grown at the Grow Lab into trucks to travel to the plant sale. I only got to the sale in time to see a few plants left on Sunday afternoon. This truly was a job well done on everyone's part.

The 2012-13 Master Gardener volunteer training class is forming and of course it will soon be decision time, as it looks like we will receive more applicants than we can take, I really have a hard time saying no to a possible volunteer though!!!

The current Master Gardener volunteer training class is populated by some super stars who already have more than the required fifty hours recorded. Trust me their names will be made public at graduation!! I may have said this before, but gardeners really are some of the nicest people you can be with, you are all superstars!!

The desert area is growing by leaps and bounds and the Master Gardener Information Hot Line should be already up and running. Congratulations to Jackie Smith and her helpers. We will end up with a training class in the desert sooner rather than later. That is progress!

The Master Gardener year is winding down but there will be volunteer opportunities and educational opportunities all summer. Before we know it the new class will be underway.

Happy Gardening,  
Stephanie



## MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

V = Volunteer Hours

CE = Continuing Education hours

### MAY

Date	Event	Time	Type
2	Cleanup Day at JMDC Demonstration Garden, Granite Hill Drive, Riverside	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
3	MG Trainee Class, WMWD - "Avocados/ Sub-tropicals" by Tom Shea	6:30 pm - 10:00 PM	CE
5	MG Tour - Temecula Olive Oil Company, Aguanga	10:00 am - 11:30 pm	CE
5	Riverside County Regional Medical Center Garden Tour,	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
5	Corona Vintage Home Tour, MG Information Table, East Olive Street, Corona	1:00 pm - 4:30 pm	V
5	Coachella Valley Poultry Seminar, MG Informtion Table, Riverside County Fairgrounds	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	V
8	Fusarium Dieback/Tea Shot Hole Borer Workshop, LA County Dept. of Agriculture, South Gate	10:00 am - 3:00 pm	CE
9	MG Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
9	Heritage House Work Day, Riverside	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
10	MG Veterans Meeting, WMWD - TBA	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	CE
11	Riverside Home & Backyard Show, MG Information Table, Riverside Convention Center	12:00 noon - 7:00 pm	V
12	WMWD Garden Docent Day	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
12	WMWD Garden Workshop: Free Vericomposting Workshop	11:00 - 12 noon	CE
12	Riverside Home & Backyard Show, MG Information Table, Riverside Convention Center	10:00 am - 7:00 pm	V
12	Backyard Composting Workshop, City of Murrieta Public Library	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
12	Garden Tour of MB Barbara Lauck's Iris and Rose beds, Banning	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	CE
13	Riverside Home & Backyard Show, MG Information Table, Riverside Convention Center	10:00 am - 7:00 pm	V
17	MG Trainee Class, WMWD - "Edible Plants & Garden Tour"	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm	CE
18	Green Faire, Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, MG Information Table, Granite Hill Drive, Riverside	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
19	Heritage House Work Day, Riverside	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
19	Home Depot-Inland Empire-MG Information Table, Collier Road, Lake Elsinore	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	V
19	Green Faire, Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, MG Information Table, Granite Hill Drive, Riverside	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
20	Primavera in the Gardens, UCR Botanic Gardens	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	V
24	Veterans Lunch 'n Learn Meeting. Bring your own lunch, WMWD	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	CE
31	MG TRAINEE EXAM PREPARATION	6:30 pm - 10:00 pm	CE

## MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

V = Volunteer Hours

CE = Continuing Education hours

### JUNE

Date	Event	Time	Type
2	MG Tour - Edible/Vertical Landscape [Simpson Home], Winchester	10:45 am - 12:30 pm	CE
2	Home Depot-Garden Friendly Plant Sale, MG Information Table, Perris Blvd., Moreno Valley	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	V
2	Home Depot-Garden Friendly Plant Sale, Case Road, Perris	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	V
2	Backyard Composting Workshop, City of Wildomar Council Chambers	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
2	Corona Antique & Collectables Faire, MG Information Table, Corona Heritage Park	8:00 am - 2:15 pm	V
9	UCR Botanic Gardens, "Children's Adventure in the Garden"	9:00 am - 11:00 am	CE
9	WMWD Garden Docent Day	10:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
9	WMWD Free Workshop: "Desert Oasis - Landscaping with Succulents" by Buck Hemenway	11:00 am - 12 noon	CE
9	WMWD Free Workshop: "Creating Succulent Container Gardens"	12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	CE
9	Home Depot-Garden Friendly Sale, McKinley Street, Corona	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	V
9	Backyard Composting Workshop-Temescal Valley, Lee Lake Water District	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
12	Corona Senior Center, MG Information Table, S. Belle Avenue, Corona	12:00 noon - 3:00 pm	V
13	MG Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
14	MG TRAINEE FINAL EXAM	6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	CE
14	MG Veterans Meeting, WMWD - to be announced	6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	CE
16	Home Depot-Garden Friendly Plant Sale, Case Road, Perris	8:00 am - 3:00 pm	V
16	Backyard Composting Workshop, Idyllwild Nature Center	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
23	Lavender Festival, MG Information Table, Highland Springs Resort, Cherry Valley	9:30 am - 6:15 pm	V
23	Home Depot-Garden Friendly Plant Sale, MG Information Table, Hamner Avenue, Eastvale	9:00 am - 2:00 pm	V
23	Backyard Composting Workshop-Jurupa Valley Community Service District, Harrel St., Mira Loma	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
24	Lavender Festival, MG Information Table, Highland Springs Resort, Cherry Valley	9:30 am - 6:15 pm	V
28	Veteran's Lunch 'n Learn Meeting. Bring your own lunch, WMWD	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	CE
30	Lavender Festival, MG Information Table, Highland Springs Resort, Cherry Valley	9:30 am - 6:15 pm	V



## Cooking Corner

By Jonathan Simper-Turney, Master Gardener

Some of you may be familiar with Anthony Bourdain from his show on the Travel Channel called 'No Reservations'. A smaller number will know the work that put him on the map, his memoir of years as a working cook titled Kitchen Confidential. Brash, foul mouthed, and always honest, he has a loyal following and equally devoted detractors.

Anthony Bourdain's Les Halles Cookbook: Strategies, Recipes, and Techniques of Classic Bistro Cooking may sound like a textbook from a cooking school in purgatory, but it is actually a wild ride through dishes guaranteed to make you some serious punk rock points. The dust-jacket is rough and unbleached with the writer staring forward unapologetically, arms folded in front; the pages are packed with classics, the occasional grainy photo from the inside of his working kitchen.

Inside are equal parts manifesto, essential secrets of the trade, and obscure french bistro classics I may never be bold enough to attempt. The menu is undoubtedly meat-centric. With chapter headings like Veal & Lamb, Pig, and Blood & Guts, there will not be much inside for the devoted vegetarian. Some of the ingredients listed will require creative searching in ethnic supermarkets or specialty gourmet food shops and will occasionally be unfamiliar altogether. This is not a book you read to feel safe and good about your talents, but rather to inspire you to try something you previously thought yourself incapable of.

In all honesty, I have tried few of the challenges in these pages, preferring to read and fantasize rather than take on the risk of failure. But there are some basic skills described in the book that once mastered will improve your execution in the kitchen. One of the easier classics I have fallen in love with from the book is for *rillettes* on page 86. It is a kind of potted meat that is spread on toast as a hearty snack or appetizer for a casual meal.

### Rillettes

2 lb pork belly, cut into 2 inch cubes	4 cups water
1 lb pork shoulder, cut into 2 inch cubes	bouquet garnish (parsley, thyme, bay leaf)
1 tsp salt	pinch black pepper
1 lb pork fat, cut into thin slices	

Place pork belly and shoulder in a heavy bottomed pot with water, bouquet garnish and bring to a bare simmer over low heat for 6 hours. Turn off the heat, remove the bouquet and stir in the salt and pepper. Let the meat cool down a bit and shred coarsely with two forks. Transfer to several ceramic or glass ramekins, cover with pork fat, and wrap with plastic. Let sit in the fridge for at least 3 days or up to a month. To serve, scoop onto a plate and eat with a baguette, cornichons, and add a nice glass of wine if desired.

The pork belly can be difficult to source, though I have found it in Mexican grocery stores where they still break down whole hogs. Good quality bacon can be substituted in a pinch and sometimes I use melted bacon fat to cap the meat instead of the slices of fat. Easy to make, this recipe is for the unashamed pig-eater, and can become addictive at the expense of your waistline. Consume with care. This will give you a great opportunity to harvest herbs from your garden.

**'Reappointment' !** Are you getting the notice that is telling you that you need to do your annual volunteer agreement and reappointment? What is that? Each year we need to fill out our paper work to be reappointed as MGs. We attest that we have done our volunteer and continuing education hours and that we have a valid drivers license and car insurance. This fulfills the UCCE Master Gardener Program requirements and makes sure that we are current with all our information.

It is easy to do now (much easier than in the past) because we can do this online through VMS- saving a lot of paperwork and headache. So just follow the links and do each of the three options: the Annual Volunteer Agreement and Request for Reappointment, the Code of Conduct/ Responsibilities Rights link and the Proof of Driver's License and Automotive Liability Insurance link. But be aware that all of the counties in the state Master Gardener program will be changing to a fiscal year in 2012, so we will need to do this again in June.

## Meet Cindy Peterson, Coordinator of School & Community Programs

Hello, I'm Cindy Peterson - the Cindy with the longer, mostly grey hair of the four current local 'Cindy Master Gardeners', three other Cindy-s who volunteer at the Heritage House and two other Cindy-s in a Corona fitness class. I grew up 'way back when' in Riverside a block from the Parent Navel Orange tree and have lived in Corona for the past 41 years with my wonderful husband of 43 years, Dave. We have two married sons who live in the local area and enjoy spoiling our two grandsons when we have the opportunity.



I have been a "Friend of the UCR Botanic Gardens" since the early 1980s, learned about the Master Gardener Program (MGP) at their plant sales and quickly put it on the top of my retirement 'to do' list. I've always enjoyed 'playing in the dirt – oops - soil', finding pleasure, relaxation and a sense of accomplishment in the garden. After a successful, yet very demanding and time consuming career in public transit (responsible for on street service delivery via big buses and para-transit vans) – I applied and was accepted to enter the 2005/2006 MG class.

As a gardener I might be noted as a generalist, interested in and enjoying most types of plants and many garden related activities. In my small, relaxed garden I have at least a 'token' specimen of many categories of plants and more than a few varieties of succulents, mostly in pots. If anything, my expertise may be in hand weeding - most anywhere, anytime - few complaints, little competition, good exercise and great job security! I truly appreciate Felder Rushing's advice to "not easily suffer plant snobs" but try to exhibit patience with those who shoot 'that look' when others are not overwhelmed with enthusiasm by their preferred plants or garden activity.

I enjoy volunteering for many different MG activities – Public Information tables; workshops and demonstrations; various tasks at the UCR Botanic Garden, the Riverside Heritage House and WMWD gardens, the Grow Lab and occasionally the JMDC; Mentoring; "Gold Mining" (looking for MG volunteer opportunities in my local area); Plant Right Surveys; occasional administrative projects/assistance for the Advisory Board and Stephanie and participating on the Advisory Board as Coordinator for our youth and community garden support. I am a member of the Corona Heritage Garden Society, volunteer at the Corona Heritage Park gardens and help with garden/landscape maintenance at my church.

Our "School Garden" program was resurrected in summer 2008 after a period of little, if any, activity as our current Youth/School/Children's and Community Gardens program (many children's and youth gardens/activities are not at schools). Our approach is to respond to inquiries and requests and contact organizers and interested individuals we become aware of rather than attempting to convince schools or others to create a new garden,

Rather than attempting to reinvent the wheel and create new "Start Up" and "How To" publications, we have created web-based resource listings (including many free complete MG books as PDFs on line) that are provided to individuals and groups interested in creating and/or sustaining such gardens we also offer on-site/hands on advise, demonstration, training and support (within MG guidelines) when requested and reasonably possible.

All of the current resource listings (Expectations for MG Support, Community Gardens, Children's, Youth & School Garden Guides/Handbooks, Grants & Funding Opportunities, Curriculum & CA State Standards and Low Desert Resources) are posted as 'documents' in VMS.

It would be great if some of you would like to help create resource lists for additional general gardening topics, inventory existing gardens in your area or respond to requests for on-site assistance, demonstration or training in your local area. Just give me a call or email or 'volunteer', adding comments about what you would like to do for either 'project' on VMS.

I truly enjoy helping and interacting with other folks on many levels. When it relates to gardens, our Master Gardener activities provide lots of opportunities. Life is Good – and never boring with such a variety of activities!

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

[Funchal fruit] ...

Funchal is the capital of Madeira. Besides having an old and important harbor, a beautifully restored seafarer church, castle and government buildings, the town is a shopper's paradise. The local Farmer's Market, a huge three story building had to be my highlight. The whole basement offers seafood of every size, shape, and taste but the sight of meter-long thin, slippery eel made me hurry along to the first floor. The colors of the flowers and vegetables offered for sale were overwhelming. The vendors were eager to let the shoppers sample their ware. I accepted the word of my colleagues that the many unusual fruit tasted great although their appearance seemed otherwise. The third floor of the market, offered up souvenirs, household items, and many unusual trinkets. There was definitely not enough time allowed for this market experience, nor was there enough time for a leisure activity afterwards that included an informative winery visit with tasting privilege of the local Madeira wines.



Remaining time that afternoon was spent riding high in a cable car to explore Monte and then a short visit to the Botanic gardens which were beautifully laid out and carefully groomed. Even though a lot of plants were in bloom, it was easy to tell which ones needed a rest even from the mild climate.



... [Maderia Botanical Gardens]

The trail was at times very steep up and followed with very steep down; at times it took us through several narrow tunnels. However, the fog can creep in late in the day and shroud all possible views, or it can hang around all morning and keep trekkers away. The trail was at times beautifully laid with a native sort of a flagstone; and there is miles of it. We encountered many pretty common mountain flora along our trek but also varied succulents that clung to some of the moisture-laden vertical rocks. Some were blooming and it reminded me of the artistic work of succulent arrangements I had seen at County Fairs. They were quite a sight to see as they gingerly clung to the sheer walls.

[All pictures are the courtesy of the Maderia website.]

## UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

By Sara Simon, Master Gardener



The University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley is a delight. The huge redwoods and views of the bay are wonderful, but what makes it especially appealing for a Master Gardener is the information provided. Virtually every plant in the 32 acre garden is labeled. There are pamphlets for several self-guided tours and a wide variety of tours led by volunteers. With advance notice, they will tailor a tour to your interest. In addition there are 16 tours designed for children. The children's tour that sounded the most exciting to me was on plant travelers -

that is how different plants disseminate their seeds.

One of the self-guided tours I took was of the Chinese Medicinal Herb Garden. It was designed in 1987 by a professor from Guangzhou College in China. The herbs are arranged into 18 function groups. Examples of the function groups would be astringent herbs, herbs for removing congestion, or anti-cancer herbs. There is also an Arid House with plants from dry areas of the world, a Crops of the World Garden with food plants, a garden of old roses, and many more.

The garden is located on the east side of the Berkeley campus on Centennial Drive. It has reciprocity with the UCR botanical garden, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, and the LA arboretum so if you are a member of one of these the admission is free. Their website is <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu> for more information.

# Garden Views



## Veteran Classes:

Evenings: 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, WMWD

May 10, 2012 Topic TBA

Lunch n' Learn: 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, WMWD

May 24, 2012 Topic TBA

## Trainee Classes: 6:30 pm—10:00 pm, WMWD

May 3, 2012 Avocados / Subtropicals

May 17, 2012 Weed Control

May 31, 2012 Exam Preparation

June 14, 2012 MG Final Exam

University of California and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating.

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