



**June 2013
University of
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Cooperative
Extension
Riverside County**

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How many
MGs have this
sign posted in
their yards?



GARDEN VIEWS



Notes from the Chair...

By Lucy Heyming, Master Gardener

As the Master Gardener year comes to an end, I would like to thank the many wonderful people who have helped create and maintain our Riverside County Master Gardener program this past year. It has been an exciting year because of the growth and changes that have taken place. I am in awe of the support I have received from so many of you that helped make the year successful.



There is so much that goes on behind the scenes. I wish you could all know the great work, dedication and many hours that each of the master gardener volunteers did that made our program function- the team of MGs in Riverside and the Desert Areas who created and managed the two Master Gardener Training classes- both in-class and online, the wonderful IT committee that helped us record classes and manage the online class, the Gold Miners in 8 areas of Riverside who helped build the program throughout the county, the WMWD Committee, the JMDC committee, the Mentors, the team who worked on Grow Lab propagation, the butterfly garden, the medicinal garden, the culinary herb garden, the team that wrote the newsletters-monthly and annual, the help to community, school and youth gardens, the committee that helped us look great in our MG attire, the team that created a new and vibrant Speakers Bureau, the creation of great tours, getting great programming for our Veterans and Lunch and Learn meetings, the phone squad team, the many volunteers who work at the UCR Botanic Gardens and Western Municipal Water District, the teams that put on two graduation events, and the social committee who put on three outstanding potlucks.

We can feel proud that we have done our job to bring sustainable gardening practices to the citizens of Riverside County.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank all of you who have helped with all aspects of our program this year and look forward to working with you next year as past-chair.



The Goldspotted Oak Borer

(Agrilus auroguttatus) Schaeffer

(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

Overview from UC Riverside, Center for Invasive Species

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) is a buprestid beetle which is native to oak forests of Southeastern Arizona. A closely related species (*Agrilus coxalis*), almost identical in appearance, is found in Central Mexico, and Northern Guatemala. Since 2002, GSOB has contributed to the mortality of more than 80,000 trees over approximately 4,900 km², and this infested area continues to increase as the GSOB population grows and spreads. In its native range, GSOB is not a pest.

The goldspotted oak borer (GSOB), *Agrilus auroguttatus*, has killed more than 24,000 oak trees in San Diego County since its arrival, probably in the late 1990s. In 2012, it was detected in Riverside County and it is expected to spread northward in the state.

The most seriously damaged oaks are those in the red oak group including coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, and black oak, *Q. kelloggi*. It also infests canyon live oak, *Q. chrysolepis* but has not been found to kill the other native oak species in the area, the Englemann oak, *Q. engelmanni*. So far losses have been most serious in parks and forested areas, but landscape trees are also being killed.

A new *Pest Note* from the UC IPM program outlines management guidelines for this serious pest. Flatheaded borers such as GSOB are difficult to manage and seriously infested trees cannot be saved. The primary way GSOB spreads into new areas is through the movement of infested wood and the authors recommend leaving infested wood on site for 2 years. If wood is to be moved, the *Pest Note* provides guidelines for treating it through containment, grinding, and debarking. Guidelines for replanting infested areas include: less susceptible oak species; biological control and insecticide applications. Developing GSOB management plans are also described.

Many other borers attack oaks but do not kill trees. GSOB infested trees can be distinguished by the characteristic D-shaped emergence holes it leaves behind. A special feature of the *Pest Note* is a [table](#) illustrating the emergence holes of borer species on southern California oaks. Many photos are also included.

The information in this *Pest Note: Goldspotted Oak Borer* is based primarily on research studies by the authors: Mary Louise Flint (UCIPM and Entomology/UC Davis), Tom Coleman and Steve Seybold (USDA/US Forest Service), and Mike Jones (Entomology/UC Davis). Find it at <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn74163.html>



Life states of the goldspotted oak borer. From left: fourth-instar larva, fourth instar larva in a hairpin configuration and in a constricted form, pupa and adult. Photo by Mike I. Jones

THE BUSHWHACK OF THE GUERILLA TOMATO

By Linda Sun Kilfeather, Master Gardener



Really tasty tomatoes used to be camouflaged, like a guerilla uniform. They were dark green at the top (stem) end and a mix of greens and reds below that. Nothing was wrong with Nature's design, but people weren't always sure when the tomato was ripe because the top used to ripen first. We loved them though, and a person could sit right on the courthouse steps with tomato juice running down his/her arm, eating a warm tomato with a look of pure bliss on his/her juicy face.

But back in the early 1960's a mutant tomato was discovered by a breeder and it was crossed with a normal tomato and before you knew it, all these ambushed tomatoes carried the defect. Back then (with genetics in its infancy) nobody knew these tomatoes were defective; they could see that the mutation slowed down the ripening time and that the dark green became a lighter green and after that a tomato became red all over. The farmers liked that effect for uniform harvesting. Nowadays we call this the "uniform ripening mutation" because all tomatoes become evenly red.

It turns out that tomatoes are different from most crops because their chloroplasts are not located only in the tomato's leaves. The fruit itself performs additional photosynthesis (in pre-1960 tomatoes) and this gives each tomato an extra 20% sugar and 20 to 30% more lycopene (the bright red carotenoid pigment that we call a strong antioxidant). Some scientists say that this lycopene is also involved with flavor and aroma and that those attributes are lessened as well. Being a Vitamin A precursor, it seems that only lower levels of lycopene can be manufactured when the disabled gene exists and what about the loss of Vitamin C content? Having the wrong version of this ripening gene, modern fruits can't make as many chloroplasts as they ripen and the chloroplasts that they do produce in the fruit are smaller than before.

The exciting story of the researchers was published on June 29, 2012 in the journal, "*Science*" about the unraveling of the mystery. See <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/29/science/flavor-is-the-price-of-tomatoes-scarlet-hue> At last we knew why our once luscious tomatoes now taste like wet cardboard. I had long since given up eating tomatoes and growing them seemed pointless because almost every seed catalog specified "low acid" while I was looking for higher acid content, thinking it would give me that wonderful old taste.



Finally I decided to grow heirloom tomatoes (the only ones left which do not have the sabotaged gene) and start hybridizing from those, even though I knew it would be a long, laborious enterprise. Surprise, surprise, some growers have been busy figuring out the answer to our prayers and have just now introduced grafted tomatoes using extremely disease-resistant rootstock with heirloom varieties grafted on top. Instant gratification: old-fashioned flavor and aroma on top of super-healthy roots. The tomatoes are already on the market, only 10 months after the researchers' announcement. The only difference in growing the grafted tomatoes is that you should not bury the graft because that defeats the purpose.

Don't refrigerate these "real" tomatoes (which are tropical fruit) or expose them to temperatures lower than 55° F because that degrades their flavor. Maybe the honey bees will return to the blossoms of the tomato bush.

**UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENER
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Garden View

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG/>

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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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Lynn Bailey **Yvonne Hemenway** **Jonathan Simper**
Beatrice Etchison **Pat Robertson** **Linda Sun**
Frank Heyming **Stephanie Pocock**

Moving?

When you change your address, phone number or email please make the changes to your page in the VMS too. Also contact Stephanie Pocock, Volunteer Services Coordinator, at 951.683.6491 x 230 or sapocock@ucanr.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.



I know that reappointment came as a surprise to most of you. It really is an easy process, just two steps.

If you completed the forms recently (prior to May 15) you need to go through the process again. This is for the 2013-14 year. They began charging all volunteers for insurance last year and we incorporated the cost by raising our fees.

This year you have the choice to click on the ink and pay with a credit or you may mail a check made out to UC Regents for \$6 and mail it to UCCE Riverside, ATTN: MG Insurance, 21150 Box Springs Road, Suite 202, Moreno Valley, CA 92557.

The Appointment Process: Completed in Two Steps

Step 1:

ALL active, limited-active, active, trainee, gold and platinum badge MG's are required to complete the reappointment paperwork located on the VMS. Beginning May 15, when you log in to the VMS, there will be a yellow box at the top of the main page stating that your MG volunteer agreement is no longer valid.

Click on the "Complete Agreement Now" link. On the next page there will be three links. Click on each link to complete the three parts of the agreement:

1. Annual Volunteer Agreement and Request for Reappointment
2. Code of Conduct/Responsibilities and Rights
3. Proof of CA Driver's License and Automotive Liability Insurance

Step 2:

For the 2013-2014 MGP year, there is a mandatory \$6.00 to cover accident and injury insurance. All active, limited-active, and first year MGs may pay UCCE MG Insurance fee by credit card by following the link below.

<http://ucanr.org/ucmgpay>

For More on the Hartford Insurance Program: http://ucanr.edu/sites/risk/Insurance/Hartford_Volunteer_Insurance/

You will receive a separate billing for Riverside fees but should pay for the insurance directly using the above link. Please email me if you have any questions or concerns about the process and relax we got through May!!

Have a Happy Summer !!

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

V = Volunteer Hours

CE = Continuing Education Hours; CEmg=Master Gardeners ONLY

SE = Social Event

2013	JUNE		
1	Corona Antique/Collectables Faire, Information Table. Corona Heritage Park, 510 W. Foothill Blvd., Corona	8:00 am - 11:30 am; 11:15 am - 2:15 pm	V
1	Inland Empire Garden Friendly Sale, Home Depot, Perris, 3150 Case Road, Bldg. P, Perris. Information Table.	8:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
1	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
1	Backyard Composting, Lee Lake Water District, 22646 Temescal Canyon Rd., 92883	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
1	Beneficial Bug Workshop, Grow Lab, Lucy Heyming presenting	9:30 am - 11:30 am	CE
7	Riverside MG Class. FINAL EXAM DAY.	9:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
8	Backyard Composting, Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, 92549	10:00 am - 12:00noon	CE
8	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
8	WMWD Free Workshop, "Replacing Your Lawn", 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, 92508	11:00 am - 12:30 pm	CE
8	Master Gardener Home Tour. Brandtman Gardens, 12061 Knoefler Dr., Riverside, 92505	10:30 am - 2:00 pm	CE
12	Heritage House Garden Workday, 8193 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, 92504	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
12	Graduation Class of 2012-2013. Strawberry Creek Bed & Breakfast, 26370 Scenic Highway 243, Idyllwild, 92549. \$30 per person	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm	SE
13	MG Veterans Meeting, WMWD, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside. TBA	6:30 pm - 8:45 pm	CE
15	Backyard Composting-Moreno Valley. 14310 Frederick St., Moreno Valley, 92553	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
15	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
15	Lavender Festival, Information Table, Highland Springs Resort	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	V
16	Lavender Festival, Information Table, Highland Springs Resort	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	V
19	Advisory Board Meeting, UCR Extension Office	7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	V
22	Backyard Composting, Jurupa Community Services District, 11201 Harrel St., Mira Loma, 91752	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
22	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
22	Lavender Festival, Information Table, Highland Springs Resort	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	V
23	Lavender Festival, Highland Springs Resort. Information Table	8:00 am - 5:00 pm	V
23	Docent-let Tours of WMWD Garden, 450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside, 92508	10:00 am - 1:30 pm	CE
26	Heritage House Garden Workday, 8193 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, 92504	9:00 am - 12:00 noon	V
27	Lunch 'N Learn, WMWD. TBA	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	V
29	END OF YEAR MG PICNIC, UCR Botanic Garden	11:00 am - 1:30 pm	SE
29	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V

MASTER GARDENER EVENTS CALENDAR

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2013	JULY		
6	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
11	Veterans Meeting, Russ Levine - "Bees"	6:30 pm - 8:45 pm	CE
13	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
13	Idyllwild Lemon Lilly Festival, Information Table, Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, Idyllwild, 92549	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
13	Backyard Composting - City of Perris Senior Center, 100 North "D" Street, Perris, 92570	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
14	Idyllwild Lemon Lilly Festival, Information Table, Idyllwild Nature Center, 25225 Highway 243, Idyllwild, 92549	9:00 am - 4:00 pm	V
20	Backyard Composting - City of Wildomar Council Chambers, 23875 Clinton Keith Road, 92595	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
20	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V
27	Backyard Composting - Norco Library, 3954 Old Hamner Road, Norco, 92860	10:00 am - 12:00 noon	CE
27	Palm Springs Farmers Market, Information Table, 401 S. Pavilion Way, P.S., 92262	7:30 am - 12:30 pm	V

Beneficial Insect Workshop- Saturday June 1

9:30 am - 11:30 am

Grow Lab

Presenter- Lucy Heyming



Damsel Bugs

Beneficial insects are important part of Integrated Pest Management. At the workshop many photos of important beneficials will be shown and an introduction to the concepts of attracting and keeping them in your garden. There will also be time to go out into the insectary to observe the insects. Bring a handheld magnifying glass if you have one.

This class is open to non-master gardeners. There is NO COST, but please bring a snack to share. Sign-up on VMS (if you bring a friend, please make a note to Lucy on VMS so can enough handouts will be available).

A WOW WINTER GARDEN

By Beverley Scray, Master Gardener



Recently, I started counting all the flowers that have bloomed in my yard since last October. Maybe it was the cold winter we had, but the flower garden seemed to love what nature handed out to it this past winter. Starting in October as the soil cooled down, up came the paper whites. Paper whites have been planted anywhere in the flower bed big enough for a few bulbs. As a result, their season has been extended as the sun across the flowerbeds. Additional paper whites in pots opened up as the sun worked its way around them. They multiply readily and can be divided again and again, making paper whites an economical investment as well as a very fragrant long lasting bloom. Next in the bulb family comes the daffodils and leucojums, tiny bell-shaped white flowers with green trimmings on their edges. Freesia leaves sprouted in the flower bed before Christmas, but the first blooms opened in February. The more shaded ones planted on the edges of hydrangea pots on the patio bloomed in April.

All of these can be cut for indoor flower arrangements that add beauty and fragrance to your home.

The cactus and succulents are just as busy as the bulbs during our winter. The Christmas cactus, a tropical cactus called Schlumbergera, comes in a variety of shades ranging from light pink to magenta. Christmas cactus can put on such a display of color that many people add them to their holiday home decorations. It all starts as our nights get cooler in November. As the blooms open over a long time, the show can go on for a month or more.

Aloes, mostly from South Africa, can bloom year round, but the biggest show comes from mid-winter through summer. Flower spikes can be cream, yellow, orange or red. A common household aloe is the medicinal aloe vera which is great for healing burns. It sends up its orange spikes in early winter. Used as a specimen plant in its own pot or in a mixed flower bed, aloe needs little water and seems to grow where it is planted. Kalanchoe, like aloes, come in many varieties, but one of the hardiest and showiest is the common one found at your local nursery on a regular basis. Colors range from yellows to magenta. They can start blooming in January and continue for several months. Leaf propagation is an easy process.

Clivia miniata, a member of the amaryllis family from South Africa, is a spectacular perennial tuberous rhizome. The flowering period is from early winter to mid spring. There are many hybrids including those with variegated leaves. Colors range from creams to scarlet reds and brilliant oranges. They need a shady place as do azaleas and ferns. Clivia can be grown in pots as mine are. Potted clivia need regular fertilizing and crowded roots.

Nasturtiums like late winter and cool springs in our area. Seed are produced readily and any gardener can harvest enough to both use and to share with friends and neighbors. Colors range from cream to mahogany. Nasturtiums can be planted after the first of the year. Soon those in the sunniest spots will germinate and Flower. Those in more shaded places take a little longer and of course will be in bloom later in the season. The ones planted in the shade of fruit trees are still blooming whereas those in the full sun are finished for the year including dropping their seeds for next year. Hollyhocks are also self-seeders. They are old fashioned and fill in spaces in front of fences and hard to reach places in the flowerbeds. Mine are medium sized whites that are spreading a little every year. Each flower turns into a sheathed wheel of seeds that can be broadcast to other parts of the garden as well as shared with others.

Most of the flowers mentioned above are inexpensive and easy to grow with the exception of my clivia. It was more expensive because it came from the Huntington Gardens plant sale.

Of course there are hundreds of other flowers from which you can choose.

How did your garden grow this winter and early spring?



Green Faire Highlights

By Dona Jenkins, Master Gardener

The Green Faire was a great success! Thank you to all the Master Gardeners who helped to make the event a memorable one.

Our nursery sales were exceptional – we sold many apple trees and various other plants. Our volunteers at the “Ask the Master Gardener” table were helping the Faire attendees with their gardening questions. It’s great to see the camaraderie between our Master Gardeners.

Wonderful workshops! We were hoping for more of an attendance, but the presenters were happy to provide their workshops to the few attendees.

Kali Smith and Bill Floyd were our cart drivers. They hauled people from the Faire to the Water-Wise Garden for docent led tours. When they weren’t taking people to the Garden, they drove us around, sometimes just for fun!

Although we didn’t have as many visitors to the Water-Wise Garden as we would have liked, the docents kept busy weeding, planting yarrow (much to the delight of bunnies), documenting our plants at the Garden, and led tours. One of the docents saw a hummingbird nest right over her as she was sitting under the pines in the “meditation area”.

Again, thank you to all the Master Gardeners!



Hummingbird Nest found during Green Faire 2013



Kids workshop with Rosemary Ashcraft
JMDC Green Faire 2013



2012-13 was a very busy year for Master Gardeners!



This space dedicated to all who celebrate June-July-August Birth-days

Have a Happy Day !



Garden Views



Veteran MG Classes:

Evenings: 6:30 pm to 8:45 pm, WMWD

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

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