



# GARDEN VIEWS

UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program Newsletter

January–February–March 2018



University of California Cooperative  
Extension - Riverside County

21150 Box Springs Road, #202  
Moreno Valley, CA 92557-8781  
(951) 683-6491 x231

81077 Indio Blvd., Suite H  
Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-6437

Website  
[www.ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG](http://www.ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG)

Email  
[anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu)  
[anrmgindio@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgindio@ucanr.edu)

## In This Issue

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## Gold Badges Awarded

West-County Advisory Board (WAB) Chair, Betty Balo, presented Gold Badges to seasoned Veteran Master Gardeners, Sheila James and Helga Stafford. Both Sheila and Helga became Master Gardeners in 2010 and have contributed over one thousand (1,000) volunteer hours.

Helga is devoted to helping at the UCR Botanic Gardens Lath House. In this role, Helga helps tend the horticultural wonders to be found inside. She is seen at MG Socials and at the UCRBG Plant Sales. Her musical German accent makes conversation with her a pleasure. Ask her how to care for carrion plants.

Sheila served on the Advisory Board as the Coordinator for Tours for several years and continues on the WAB as the current Speakers Bureau Coordinator. While coordinating Tours, Sheila always found interesting, low and no cost venues to visit, taking MG's to apple orchards in the San Bernardino Mountains and wineries in Temecula. As the lady in charge of the Speakers Bureau, she has been performing Master Gardener presentations throughout the County. Sheila is best known for working with Highland Springs Resort and creating volunteer opportunities at their annual Lavender Festival.

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**Editor's Remarks**

*Dave Brandtman, Editor*

Procrastination can lead to Inspirations that pollinate the soul. Our job is to share what we know to sustain the verdant world of our dreams. In cooler climates, the winter creates a different environment, where shut-in gardeners cozy up on couches with their seed catalogs and planner pads. In Riverside County, we are pulling the weeds.



What was planned as a two-month January-February edition has now become our first and maybe only quarterly issue of the Garden Views. We will be returning to our regular monthly format in April. We have plant sales and a Desert Class Graduation to report, along with the many activities that fill our Spring.

See you on the Fun Way!

**Western Municipal Water District Update**

Contributed by Lisa Lemoine, WMWD Liaison

Let's talk veggies! Yvonne Savio, retired UC Cooperative Extension master garden volunteer training program coordinator, shared a lifetime of experience with 120 workshop attendees and 12 volunteer Master Gardeners on March 10th. Her vivid presentation reflected knowledge gained through the establishment of community, demonstration, and trial gardens throughout California over 40 years. The workshop

started a little late due to morning rains, and as Yvonne began her presentation, guests continued to arrive. If you missed this workshop, keep your eyes open for another of Yvonne's presentations in the future. Also, visit her website, [www.gardeninginla.net](http://www.gardeninginla.net), where Yvonne has posted her writings, resources, gardening articles A - Z, upcoming events, and teachings on sustainable vegetable gardening. Oh! And monthly tips!

## GARDEN VIEWS

January-February-March 2018

As our workshops gain in popularity, we are challenged to provide adequate seating for our growing audience at the Meridian Parkway facility. As a result, Western has electronically linked the Boardroom with the Training Room audio/visual equipment. We will now be able to offer approximately 150 seats for future events.

On that same rainy Saturday morning of March 10th, Committee members and volunteers staffed March Air Reserve Base Exchange's Garden Shop Grand Opening. Master Gardeners provided resources to shoppers from the information and Water Efficient Landscaping tables.

The SoCal Yard Transformation handbook was cheerfully provided to guests, and Pam Pavela gave a talk on the handbook chapters. While we had hoped for larger crowds, we are grateful for this opportunity to plant new seeds. We look forward to continued educational events with our veterans, retirees, and enlisted military staff.

The WMWD/MG Committee is open for new members, ideas, and involvement; please sign up for our next meeting April 2, 10 a.m. on VMS.

## Free Master Gardener Workshop!

Contributed by Karen Fleisher



### THE IMPORTANCE OF CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS IN YOUR LANDSCAPE

This program will be presented by Lisa Novick, director of outreach and K-12 education of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wildflowers and Native Plants, and one of the authors of *SoCal Yard Transformation*. Lisa will showcase the beauty and ecological importance of California native plants and how their use in the garden conserves water and energy. Learn to garden for support of plant-animal relationships, biodiversity, ecosystem services and our natural heritage.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 14, 2018, 10 a.m. – Noon

**WHERE:** Western Municipal Water District

14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside, CA 92518



*Just off the 215 Freeway at Alessandro Blvd.,  
between Alessandro and Cactus Ave.*

Presented by WMWD & UCCE Riverside  
County Master Gardeners

**Follow the Master Gardeners on Facebook!**

## West County Public Relations Coordinator Report- March 2018

Contributed by Bill Floyd, Public Relations Coordinator

EBLASTS- The March e-blast was successfully delivered to 662 members of the public through our FREE Mailchimp account. We still have a significant “bounced” rate (undeliverable due to incorrect address), but this is inevitable given that some of those that sign up for the e-blast have indecipherable handwriting. Our “unsubscribed” rate is minuscule (1 or 2 subscribers per month), which suggests that our audience does not view the e-blasts as a nuisance. By the time recently received addresses are added to the mailing list, the April e-blast will be mailed to almost 700 people. At the same time, it is sent to MGs. The winter has been kind of slow in terms of public events, but we are heading into the busy time of the year for MGs. If a coordinator has an event coming up that could benefit from e-blast coverage, please let me know no

later than 7 days before the end of the month. Otherwise, I rely on info on VMS and input from Betty, Rosa, Thurman, and the Desert area PR coordinator for e-blast content.

SOCIAL MEDIA- Frequent postings to our social media pages continue to be made, and the Facebook Events calendar is regularly updated. I encourage our coordinators to send after-event pics and info for posting on social media. They are quite popular. I also encourage coordinators to send information, pictures, posters, etc. in advance of events you would like me to help promote.

As always, your feedback, ideas, and suggestions are welcome.

## Committee Volunteer Opportunities

Contributed by Dave Brandtman

What does it mean to be a Master Gardener? For each of us the answer is a bit different. The UCCE Master Gardener Program was originally created to educate the Volunteers and for the Volunteers to educate the general public. How we make that happen depends on individuals who want to make a positive difference in this world.

Working locally on projects and events that further our mission to serve the residents of Riverside County is what we do. What projects or committees offer the best opportunity for you to offer your talents?

Front line roles like public speaking are essential to our success. Committee leadership and active participation are equally important. Simply showing up is sometimes enough, but having a personal plan and signing up on VMS is the best way to go.

What special needs do we, the Master Gardeners of Riverside County, have?

### Speakers Bureau

Public Speakers are always needed. They are our messengers to audiences both large and small. The volunteers who give them support are equally valuable. Working through the Speakers Bureau to present Master Gardener information is how we assure that events are tracked and results are measured. Special training classes are offered to help new MG Speakers to develop new presentations for a variety of venues. As always, we learn from each other.

### Information Tables

For those who prefer one-on-one contact, our Information Tables provide the general public with a reliable source of information and direction. Master Gardeners know that finding answers begins with asking the right questions. We know that the science-based information we give to our fellow Riverside County residents can lead to a safer environment. Being the friendly face that greets gardeners at the entrance to a Master Gardener event is priceless.

### **School Gardens**

The learning possibilities are endless for young people in the garden. Here is where the love of teaching young minds can be fulfilled. Whether you choose to adopt a school program or make the speakers circuit on special topics for schools, this project is a highly visible way to fulfill the Master Gardener Mission in Riverside County.

### **Grow Lab**

*Learn it, do it, teach it.* The Grow Lab is where we teach MG's to plant and propagate plants for both sale and demonstration. Master Gardeners who devote themselves to this important project help to create a positive learning environment for trainees. There is a great sense of accomplishment in seeing the fruits of labor and learning take form.

### **Tours**

Tours are a great way to come together at both new venues and old standards. If you have contacts to help secure new tours to attend, this may be your way to earn those extra volunteer hours. Working with the Tours Coordinator and Rosa to create these happenings is an important contribution. It's all in the planning.

### **WMWD Events**

We have a very special relationship with the people at Western Municipal Water District, beginning with the wonderful training room we use for MG Training Classes. By teaming up with WMWD to organize educational events for the general public, the Master Gardeners gain great visibility for the work we do. Many current and prospective Master Gardeners attend these events.

### **Mentoring**

The friendly encouragement of a Mentor is a valuable component of the Riverside County Master Gardener Program. Whether it is a helpful lesson on how to enter hours in VMS, or a welcoming invitation to attend an event and earn volunteer hours, the role of the Mentor in our training program can be especially rewarding. You can take pride in seeing your Mentee graduate and receive a well-earned badge.

### **Garden Views**

The Newsletter Editor plays a critical role in gathering content and transforming it into a magazine of interest primarily to Master Gardeners, as well as to the general public. Contributing writers for the newsletter come with diverse backgrounds and interests. Some may write a single article for the year, while others draft a monthly column about a project or committee.

### **Gold Miners**

The Gold Miners are our ambassadors to Riverside County. They orchestrate the activities within their geographic districts to secure new venues and to make sure there are volunteers available for scheduled events. Being a Gold Miner puts you in the spotlight and gives you a loud voice about where we devote our resources in fulfillment of the Master Gardener Mission.

### **Docents**

Docents can use their Master Gardener knowledge to enhance the experience for people who attend public gardens and home garden tours. Some venues require extra training, but all offer the opportunity to meet people and answer their gardening questions.

### **Help Line**

The roles and responsibilities of working the *Phone Squad* are ever-evolving. Where once we were only a place for walk-ins and phone calls, we are now answering an increasing number of email questions from the public. This means we need volunteers who can work remotely to research issues. We also need people with computer and general office skills to help keep everything organized for rapid reference.

### **Information Technology**

Contributing to the IT skills of the volunteers who post media on the several platforms is where we will always need volunteers. Creating and updating web pages and Face Book pages is a great way to put your talents to use, while gaining the recognition for your efforts.

### **Community Gardens**

Educating folks who want to create community gardens is a rewarding way to spread the Master Gardener message and fulfill its mission. The Committee Coordinator can play a central role in this increasingly important community activity.

## Garden Views Photo Contest Winners

The following pages are devoted to the winners of Part Two of the first Garden Views Photo Contest.

Cactus and Succulent First Place

**Britney Judge**



Cactus and Succulent Second Place  
**Ron Jemmerson**



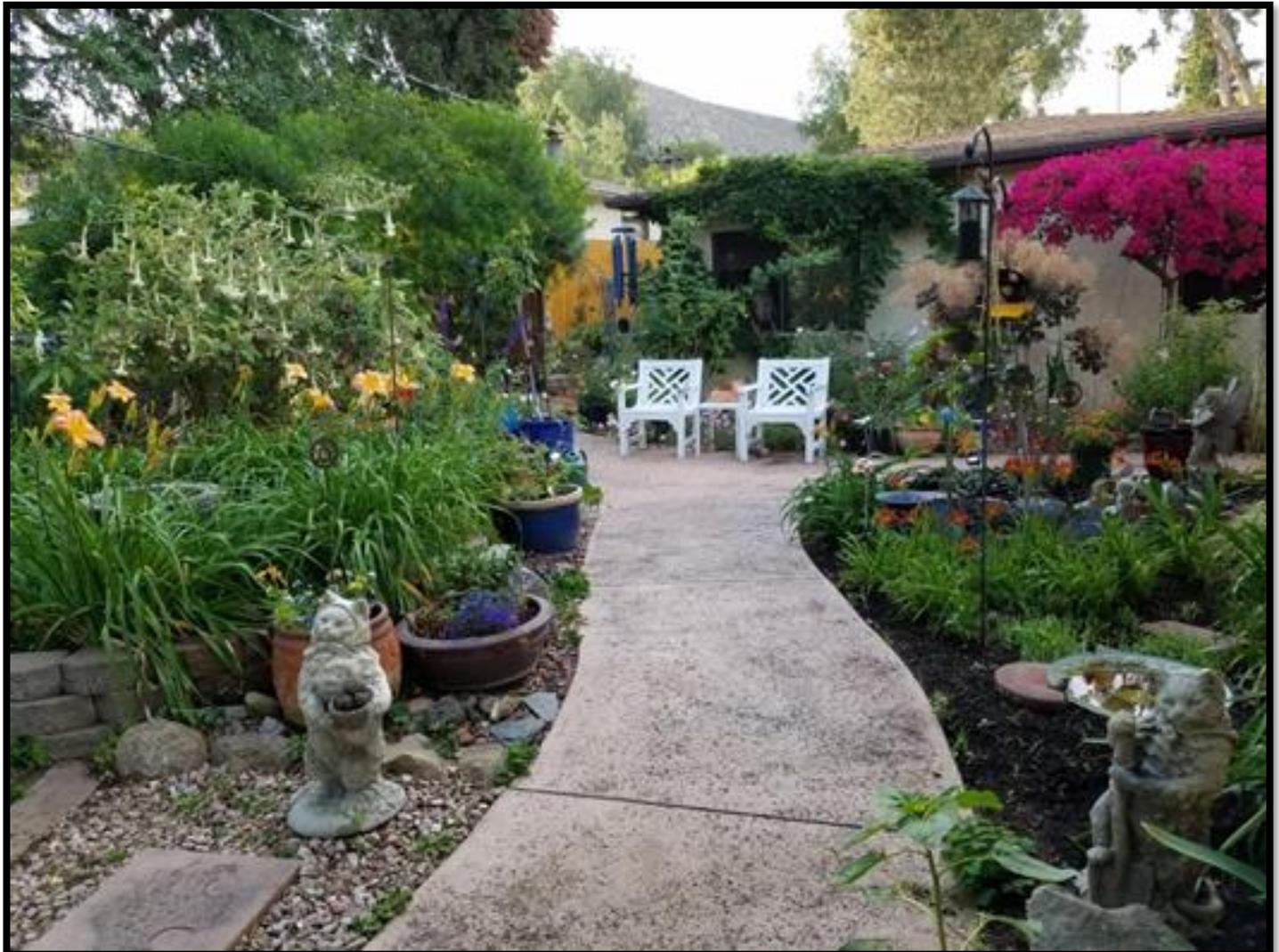
Seriously Cereus Cactus First Place  
Shivaun Manley Hinman



**Seriously Cereus Cactus Second Place**  
**Cindy Peterson**



Front/Back Yard First Place  
Karen Brandtman



**Congratulations to all of the Garden Views Photo Contest Winners.**

*A special thanks to everyone who contributed photos and voted for your favorites.*

*The photos reflect both the art of the photographer and the art of garden.*

*Thanks for sharing your vision of the world, up close and personal.*



*(Shall we do it again?)*

Front/Back Yard Second Place  
Shivaun Manley Hinman



## Community Gardens

Contributed by Cindy Peterson

The City of Lake Elsinore has named their garden Rosetta Canyon Community Garden. It is located in the Rosetta Canyon public park, in a housing community of the same name. The monthly planning meeting was held at the garden location so that all could relate to what was already in place and ideas proposed to date. An Elsinore School District representative and a Women's Club representative joined the growing collaborative group at this meeting. A start up plan included a 'Clean Up' Day planned for March 3 to fill the beds with soil and other tasks. Public Works will remove old soil and create/supply a locking system for the storage bin and entry gates. A brochure has been created as well as applications for individuals and for group gardeners, both of which are available on line and at their facilities.

Tequesquite CG hosted a "Citrus Greening Disease: What Gardeners Need to Know" presentation by MG Laura Simpson at their garden in Bonamino Park and a spruce up day and pot luck day on 2/10.

The Riverside Community Garden Council continues to evolve into a more formal organization. Anyone can join

## Spotlight on the Gold Miners

*Editor's Note: The Gold Miners are a team of Master Gardeners who seek out new venues and community partners in the furtherance of the Master Gardener Mission. From its inception as an award-winning idea in the mind of Lucy Heyming, to the full throttle enthusiasm of Thurman Howard and his team of volunteers, Gold Miners continue to be the backbone of the UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program.*

Contributed by Thurman Howard

The month of February was as active as January for events, however it's been a month of building bridges, readjusting and reinforcing our Gold Miner program. We are making innovative adjustments as to how we plan each event and how sometimes less is better. Over the next couple of months, we will be looking for lighter EZ ups, compact and smaller EZ ups, signs and ways to attract attention.

their communications group, even if not immediately interested in joining the actual group, by request via their email at [RiversideGardenCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:RiversideGardenCouncil@gmail.com).

The "Healthy Corona" group has/encourages a community garden and a gardening component. I anticipate this group will provide us with more opportunities for community involvement/representation, as the Riverside's Fit Fresh Fun group has.

I met with the Pastor and a very enthusiastic Parishioner (familiar with the UCR Community Garden) at St. Anthony and St. Abanoub Coptic Orthodox Church in Norco to tour their very large property and provide some observations about suitability for various gardens. I provided them with quite a bit of information and we discussed some garden related projects they are interested in including a community garden, a youth group herb garden and some additional landscaping in front of the church. They are interested in getting their youth/young adult groups involved in all of these projects. A follow up meeting and more info TBD.





We have taken steps to make sure that we as Gold Miners comply with these simple award-winning concepts. We will stress this on our agendas prior to our meeting and at every meeting remind ourselves why we chose to take on this very important volunteer position.

All multiple day events will automatically become a special event. All events taking place in an area that we do not have a Gold Miner will also fall under this category. Gold Miner Deborah Anderson will monitor VMS when we have a special event. We want to make sure that we have the right mix of Master Gardeners to Trainees.



**Lake Elsinore** has been very active with the Master Gardener Program this month. With the Help of Cindy Peterson, Community Garden Coordinator, the Rosetta Community

garden is entering its final stages.

The City has posted to the public that plots will be available to them in a few weeks. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March the city scheduled a work day, taking soil from existing beds and replacing it with new soil. Tom Vineski UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener was there as an adviser to the project.

We are in discussions with Lake Elsinore Unified School District, utilizing the Rosetta community garden as a focal point to bring schools to the Master Gardeners. I spoke with Joni Kiplinger about this after working with her on other projects. I like her concept of having stations where each class is broken down into small groups and each group spends 10 minutes at each station. Rosetta would be a good location for this type of project.



We are currently working with **Eastern Municipal Water District**, UCCE Riverside County Master Gardeners and the City of Menifee to set up a venue for talks on the topic of research gardening.

The water district will provide awareness of our events

through their mailing and billing. They will also participate alongside our information table at the event, handing out their brochures relating to their current project. The city of Menifee will provide advertisement of the event through their newsletter and city magazine. They will also provide the room, tables, and chairs needed. We have two rooms available to this project, one seating 40, and the other seating 100. The Master Gardeners will provide an information table and speakers on a topic to be picked later. We plan to do this on a Thursday evening. We will have the room from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. We are awaiting EMWD's response.

Sue Hill to joined the Gold Miner team to coordinate this project. Sue worked with the WIC program through the County and knows many of the managers and personnel. Sue will work with the Gold Miners in their respective areas and rely on their support to help with filling volunteer hours need for this project.



The **City of Perris**, continues to bring more leads to our program. We are looking at a project for a community garden in the city of Menifee that was brought to us via Perris.

We are beginning our series on Starting Your Spring Garden with Christine Lampe doing the English version and Larry Dotson doing the Spanish version. We continue to support the city with its Healthiest Cities and County Challenge Community Partnership Meeting. It will be held at May Ranch Elementary School February 28<sup>th</sup>.



The WIC Wellness Fair project is well on its way after a few minor changes. We will start our first full month of fairs in April. For the next 3 months April, May, and June we will be showing off our

new propagation ideas. If you are near a WIC office this may be a very good Volunteer opportunity for you. Meeting your Mission as a Master Gardener and helping reach a very diversified segment of our Riverside County population.

It's been six months of testing, learning and applying our concept of container gardening in small spaces using Ollas. We started with four locations, with a very warm reception. It was a big hit and, their program director, Perveen Ali, wants us to come up with more ideas to enhance their health and wellness fair held in seven locations throughout west Riverside County.



*Michael Fisher 2018 and Sue Hill 1999 making a difference in the Community.*



*Michael Fisher & Jonie Kipling*

Our plan for this year was enthusiastically received by the WIC Panel.

- We start in March with a display of Hydroponic gardening, using unique ideas on growing edible plants in jars by using different methods. I have asked 2018 class member, Michel Fisher, to be a part of our team as well. His knowledge on this topic is not only outside the box, but way beyond the box. We will be using this at our information tables as a topic of engagement.
- After the first three months, we will offer the program, Butterfly Gardening in containers to bring beneficials to the garden. Nectar plants

and Ollas will be used. We will also use a concept of composting that the county is promoting and show the participants how to use compost to enhance the soil in their pots.

- The third item will be starting a winter garden, using cabbage, broccoli and turnips. Again, we will be using a container with an Olla.

### Gold Miners Hard at work

#### Riverside

Larry Browning announced that the Riverside Home and Garden Show will be 3 days long and they will need volunteers for 3 shifts on each of those days at two locations.

#### Corona

We will be following up on a request that we received from Tractor supply for an information table at the Norco location. We will consider doing the Corona framers market under special events a couple of times before May.



#### Menifee

Sandy Starkey attended the Menifee Community Partnership meeting recently and said it was successful and it is a good networking opportunity. The next meeting will be April 28 and Menifee's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be discussed.

#### Pass Area

Connie Metler announced that the MGs will be at Morongo Indian Reservation again this year on April 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Connie also mentioned that the Lavender farm has asked for volunteers to help learn and do propagation of Lavender plants for the Festival.

#### Hemet

Eben has been busy with helping with some of the school projects with Joni Kipling. He is also attending meetings, with local community groups working to beautify Hemet.

#### South County

We currently do not have a gold miner in this area, however we are monitoring it. We have our farmers market at Vail Ranch, and the Promenade Mall. We have the Temecula Garden Club Flower Show on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April, and Pechanga Earth Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

*Seen this little guy? The flatheaded tree borer is not limited to trees. The photos above show the grub that killed one of my prized tree roses. The adult beetles are often a shiny green color and lay their egg in the damaged portion of the wood. To learn more about this common garden pest, click on the following link to the IPM web site. DB*

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/GARDEN/PLANTS/INVERT/flatheaded.html>

# SAVE THE DATE

71st Annual Riverside Community



## FLOWER SHOW & GARDEN TOURS

### “Woodland Enchantment”

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Gardens 10 am - 4 pm • Show 1 - 6 pm

(Maps & Tickets available at Elks Lodge at 9 am Sat.

Flower Show opens at 1 pm)

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Gardens and Show 10 am - 4 pm

Flower Show at the Elks Lodge

6166 Brockton Ave. Riverside

plus 6 Private Gardens

PayPal



\$10 Presale or \$12 donation at the door

Children under 16 FREE with paying adult

Presale locations listed on the website

*It's Free  
to visit our  
Garden Fair!*

- Jewelry
- Handcrafts
- Plants
- Garden Art
- Food

FOR MORE INFO GO TO: [RiversideFlowerShow.info](http://RiversideFlowerShow.info) or  
[Facebook.com/Riversideflowershow](https://Facebook.com/Riversideflowershow) or call 951-850-8277

## Notes from the Desert:

### n Interview with Joan Kyle-Baerman

*Contributed by Mary Ann Egan*

When I sat down in January to talk with Joan Kyle-Baerman about her experience with the Master Gardener program, she said that one very best things is the diversity of people who become Master Gardeners. It turns out that Joan is a perfect case in point.

**The Diversity Evidence:** This gal from Montana worked on the Hubble telescope and the international space station. But Joan did not follow what one would call a direct path to an aerospace career. Not even close. Before heading to Everett, Washington in search of a different job, Joan worked with special needs children, as a cook on a ranch in Dillon, Montana and as a bookkeeper in Polson. In Everett she was a probation officer during the day while she got her master's degree in business at night. The stress of being a probation officer enticed her into looking for a more relaxing, financially rewarding line of work. Joan became a welder. The switch to blue-collar work took care of the high-pressure job and also enabled her to afford the luxury of getting tickets to the opera and symphony. And, her experience as a welder also served as a stepping stone to her next job: aerospace.

confident that Joan could work well with the shop guys who were fabricating and installing the parts that went into the interior of the plane. Five years later, when Lockheed was recruiting workers for its plant in Sunnyvale, California, Joan signed up to work as a program planner. She moved to San Jose in Santa Clara County in the Bay Area. Joan met her husband, a retired Navy guy, at Lockheed, and wound up working at Lockheed for 32 years. Her work there encompassed everything that wasn't engineering-- things like managing the planning and construction of electrical boxes for satellites. By the time she retired, Joan was the program plans manager for a satellite program at Lockheed Martin's facility in Sunnyvale.

While Joan was in Santa Clara County, she got involved as a volunteer for PBS, local wineries and women sports, including World Cup Soccer. These activities would eventually dovetail nicely into the Master Gardener program's mission of spreading information through volunteers. When Joan re-landscaped her home in San Jose, her entomologist uncle recommended that she talk to the UCCE Master Gardener office for solutions to problems. This eventually turned out to be a lucky find for the Master Gardener program!

**The Call of Plants and the Desert:** Joan started working with plants after her husband passed away. Her interest in growing her own organic vegetables, especially native and heirloom tomatoes, led her to grow vegetables for her San Jose neighbors in a small 4' x 8' plot of land. In 2010 Joan applied for the Master Gardener training program in Santa Clara County. She graduated in 2011 and, not one to waste any time, she was named as both Master Gardener and Master Composter of the year in 2012. Joan found that she loved interacting with the public and being able to answer peoples' gardening questions.

In 2013 Joan's love of the desert pulled her to the Coachella Valley. She transferred her Master Gardener certification from Santa Clara to Riverside County. By



Boeing hired Joan as an interior planner for 747's. With her degree in business and her experience as a welder and blue-collar worker, the people at Boeing felt

2014, she was serving as class coordinator for the Desert Area's third Master Gardener training class at UCR Palm Desert. In 2015 she took over as chairman of the Desert Area's fledging MG group and served in that capacity for 2 years. Under Joan's guidance, the fledging group grew from 30 Master Gardeners to 70 Master Gardeners. Joan now serves a past chair on the Desert Advisory Board and is still actively involved in routine MG activities.

The Desert Area Master Gardener group is indebted to Joan for all the time, care and dedicated attention she has provided. Her background in dealing with a broad cross-section of trades and people, her aerospace-derived organizational and efficiency skills as a manager, and her intelligent and caring touch with people have proved invaluable to the success of the Master Gardener program in the Coachella Valley. Kudos and many thanks to Joan Kyle-Baerman!



## Opportunities Abound in April, May and June

Sign up on VMS to reserve your spot at one or more of the many events happening throughout Riverside County. No matter which side of the mountains you live, opportunities to have fun while earning your volunteer hours are plentiful.

Flower Shows, Tours, Docents and more are to be found on the VMS Calendar. This is another exciting year for the UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program and there are slots to be filled.

**Remember:** *Once you have signed up, be sure to show up. Life happens and if you can't make it, let the coordinator know in advance, because there may be someone waiting to take your place.*

Have Fun!

## Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin, Program Director

### Congratulations to MG Graduates

Hooray to the UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County's **Desert Class of 2018**. I thoroughly enjoyed mingling and cheering the desert graduates on Friday at Moorten's Botanical Garden in Palm Springs and am looking forward to doing the same at the June graduation in Riverside for the valley class. Kudos and thanks to one and all for your accomplishments providing credible gardening education to county residents. Thanks as well to the class leaders and to Rosa!

### Seed Banks: Libraries that help sustain biodiversity

Seed banks, also called gene banks, are 'libraries' where seeds, cuttings and other important genetic material from domesticated and wild crops are stored, catalogued and preserved. They are an important 'insurance policy' for plants, preventing the loss of entire lines of plants that often occurs under real world conditions, ensuring biodiversity. Imagine the devastation of losing an entire gene line from around the world representing important biodiversity if these 'libraries' didn't exist.

A recent 'good news' story exemplifies the importance of just such an instance. Nearly 40,000 seeds (barley, wheat, fava beans, chickpeas, and lentils) once stored in a vault tucked 400 feet into a mountainside within the Arctic Circle were purposefully relocated by researchers at Norway's Svalbard Seed Bank to Lebanon and Morocco. The back story: Nearly a decade ago, the seeds had been sent to Svalbard before rebels took over another seed bank in Aleppo during the Syrian Civil War. Now safe in Lebanon and Morocco, scientists may continue research that started in Aleppo to preserve valuable germplasm and develop new, hardier strains of crops that withstand climate change and are resistant to major pathogens.

Often, however, there is not such a positive outcome. Uncertain funding to continue maintaining the

seedbanks, key missing pieces of diversity, and communication issues between humans all contribute to losses. To protect seed banks, the Crop Trust helped establish Genesys, an online tool, in 2008. It is an open-source catalog with information shared among multiple gene banks. In April, Brazil – with an enviable amount of plant diversity - announced that it would contribute genetic material to Genesys, which will greatly expand the database.

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Plant Germplasm System distributes 250,000 bits of genetic material (mostly seeds or 'accessions') annually. On a personal note, I spent my graduate days looking for accessions of garden pea (*Pisum sativum*), banking on the hypothesis that before peas were highly bred for increased yields they had their own weed control mechanisms. Alas! Out of over 300 accessions screened in petri dishes planted with monocot and dicot weed seeds, ten proved to have herbicidal properties, mostly in the form of phenolic acids. Roll forward 38 years later and we've got a dilemma. Up to 70% of these 'wild' undomesticated lines that are related to 81 species of important crops are underrepresented in world seed banks. In fact, 29% (313 species) are not represented at all.

**Want to learn more about genetics from a practical side?** Attend a free class at UC Riverside entitled "Gene Editing: Are We Playing God?" The lectures are sponsored by the UCR College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. If you're available come on out on April 12, 2018 from 6-7pm to the Humanities 400 classroom to hear Carolyn Rasmussen, Assistant Professor of Plant Cell Biology speak on "Feeding the World: From Mendel to CRISPR" and/or on April 19, 2018 from 6-7pm for: "LEGO, Language, and the Life of Bacteria," presented by Ansel Hsiao, Assistant Professor of Microbiology. No charge for parking lot 6. Go to <http://cnas.ucr.edu/sciencelectures/> to find out more.

**Riverside County Master Gardener Program**

UCCE Riverside County Director	Eta Takele
UCCE MG Program Director	Janet Hartin
Volunteer Services Coordinator	Rosa Olaiz

**West-County Advisory Board Members**

Chair	Betty Balo
Chair Elect	Linda Powell
Fiscal Officer	Karen Brandtman
Recording Secretary	Sheilah Bellew
Past Chair	Dave Brandtman

**Desert Advisory Board Members**

Chair	Ron Jemmerson
Chair Elect	Barbara Kay-Levin
Past Chair	Joan Kyle-Baerman
Treasurer	Gail Nottberg
Secretary	Barbara Wilkes-McClue

**Committee & Project Coordinators**

Coachella Valley Preserve	Marcia Stone
Community Gardens	Cindy Peterson
Events / Coachella Valley	Joyce Haraughty
Farmers Markets (Desert)	Gail Nottberg
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard
Grow Lab Coordinators	Linda Zummo
Help Line (Indio)	Patricia Daniels
Help Line (Moreno Valley)	Nanci Nelson
IT Tech	
Desert Membership	Jerry L'Hommedieu
Mentoring Program	Becky Levers
Mentoring Program(Desert)	Dick & Patty Reed
Moorten's Botanical Garden	Janet Seaman
	Brenda Costantino
New Projects (Desert)	Carolyn Daniels
Newsletter Editor	Dave Brandtman
Projects DAB	Janna Calkins
Properties/ Merchandising	Jean Wagner
Public Relations (Desert)	Maureen Austin
Public Relations (Facebook)	Bill Floyd
School Gardens	Jonie Kipling
School Gardens (Desert)	Kathy Liss
Social Programs	Yvonne Wilczynski
Social Programs	Kathy Miller
Speaker's Bureau	Sheila James
Speakers Bureau (Desert)	Mernell Wong
The Braille Institute (Desert)	Barbara Kay-Levin
The Living Desert (Desert)	Jerry L'Hommedieu
Tours	Linda Carpenter
Tours (Desert)	Mary Ann Eagan
Training Class Coord. WAB	Dave Brandtman
Training Class Coord. DAB	Brenda Costantino
Training Class Rep	
Training Class Rep	
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Nancy Johnson
WMWD Landscape Garden	Lisa Lemoine
Workshops (Desert)	Mary Moses

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Taking a well-deserved break at the UCRBG Plant Sale, Pauline Pedigo is a key figure in setting up the food and beverages for the Master Gardeners and Friends of the Gardens Volunteers.

**Mission Statement**

*Master Gardener Volunteers are trained by the UCCE Advisors, Specialists and other qualified instructors to provide the gardeners of Riverside County with research-based information to promote environmentally responsible and sustainable horticultural practices. Activities of volunteers are solely educational - without inclusion of any purpose or intention of carrying on a business, trade, avocation or profession for profit.*

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