

Garden Views

Riverside County Master Gardener Newsletter

University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources
UCCE Master Gardener Program



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In This Issue

Shows and Tours Season	1
Cracked Pot	4
Maureen Austin's Memorial	4
South Coast Spring Garden Show	5
WMWD Award	6
WMWD Committee	7
Gold Miners	7
Janet's Jottings	9
The Back Page	10



Shows and Tours Season

Photographs contributed by Paula Munoz

Riverside County Master Gardeners have a long tradition of participating in the many local tours and shows throughout our region. This year was a first time for the Women's Improvement Club of Corona: "Blooming and Growing on Main Street" was their first Home Garden Tour of gardens in the Corona/Norco area. Paula Munoz, MG was Chair of the event and the first garden on the tour. MG's like Darrilyn Erickson (pictured above) were central to their success.

The following MG's were also on hand as docents:

Lori Briscoe, Elaine Byrd, Ned Chassagne, Terry Chassagne, Cindy Peterson, Amelda Ratcliffe, Phuong Schmit-Kallas, Beverley Scray, Sandy Starkey and Susan Wright.

Cindy Peterson is the Gold Miner for Corona.

See photo spread on pages 2 and 3.



Susan Wright relaxing on the job.



Guests at Lucy Silva Garden



Cindy Peterson greets guests at Peace Lutheran
Community Garden



MG's Ned and Terry Chassagne



Peace Garden



Lori Briscoe and Phuong Schmit-Kallas

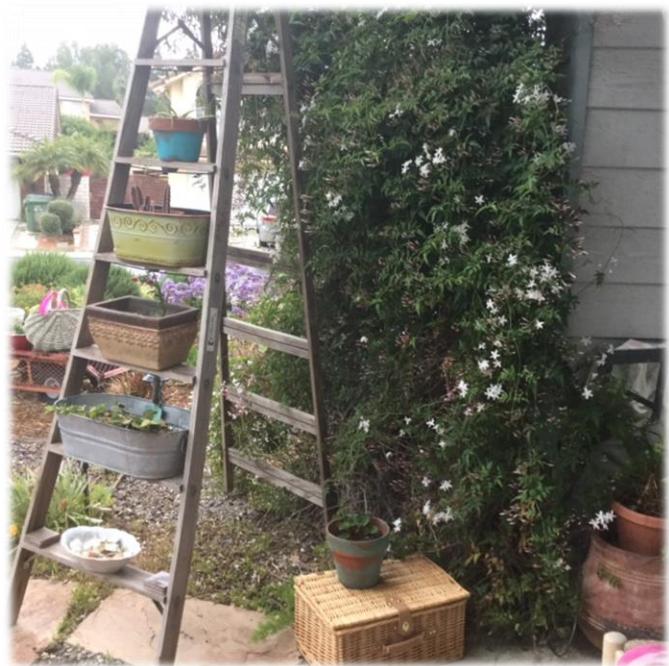
Garden Views



May 2018



Paula Munoz's own Garden



Stepping up with more a Paula's Garden

Cracked Pot

Contributed by Betty Balo

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, and while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years, this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water in his master's house. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you". The bearer asked, "Why? What are you ashamed of?" The Pot replied, "For these past two years I am able to deliver only half of my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you don't get full value for your efforts".

The water bearer felt sorry for the old cracked pot, and in his compassion, he said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." As they went up the hill, the

old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it somewhat. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way, you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

Moral: Each of us has our own unique flaws. We're all cracked pots. In this world, nothing goes to waste. You may think like the cracked pot that you are inefficient or useless in certain areas of your life, but somehow these flaws can turn out to be a blessing in disguise."

As I hand over the role of Chair to Linda, I hope my flaws have somehow turned into something meaningful for our MG program. I know I am a cracked pot - wouldn't have it any other way!

Betty

Maureen Austin's Memorial

Contributed by Barbara Kay-Levin



A Celebration of Desert Master Gardener Maureen Austin's Life will be held on June 3rd in Manhattan Beach.

"The world just became a little dimmer without her bright light shining. I will always think of Maureen whenever I see a butterfly fluttering about. May we all find

solace in sweet memories and the gift of knowing her."

- Ron Jemmerson – Desert Advisory Board Chair

"Maureen loved the Master Gardeners and learning what survives/ thrives in the desert. It was a totally new

experience for her and she was truly happy gardening here, though she did miss real dirt!

"When we lived in Alpine Maureen and I, (mostly Maureen), planted our property-over 1 1/4 acre, to attract butterflies and humming birds. Maureen invited the Chamber of Commerce over for a business pow-wow and they got excited about all the wildlife in our yard. Maureen convinced them of the importance of non-pesticide use in the gardens if they wanted wildlife and showed them what to plant to attract it/ or repel bad insects.

"We opened a gift shop in Alpine, got community support, and registered over 200 personal gardens with

Garden Views

the NWF backyard habitat program. Then Maureen got all the schools to plant BF gardens. Several businesses along the main boulevard followed suit in 1998 the NWF recognized Alpine, Ca as the 1st Community Wildlife Habitat in America. Maureen and I went to Houston Tx and she received an award in the field of education from the NWF at their national convention. One of thirteen awards given worldwide in various areas. The NWF President told me that Alpine was actually the 1st Community Wildlife Habitat in the entire world. Maureen started a worldwide movement!

"We built a walk-through butterfly exhibit and raised hundreds of thousands of butterflies over next 18 years for the exhibit, massive butterfly releases in Alpine, San Diego and elsewhere.

"We always had a large community butterfly release every year on the first weekend in May. The tradition continued even after we left Alpine. Our friends in

South Coast Spring Garden Show

Contributed by Beverley Scray

This is year 29 for this annual event at the South Coast Plaza. Landscape designers have partnered with a host of fun retail stores nearby to present workshops, tours, and lots of cooking classes. Many presentations are free and educational. Some projects include family events and are pricey. There's something for everyone from the beginner to the gardener who is thinking about getting rid of the grass and going drought tolerant. Orange County Master gardeners, California Native Plant Society, and venders selling everything from Japanese Maple trees to many succulents and cacti present their plants indoors on two levels "across the bridge" from Macy's from April 26 to 29th. Information about this annual event is in local newspapers, LA Times, on line, and magazines.

Direcories, concierges, salespeople, and security people are available to help the first timer. The handout includes all events with a brief explanation, costs, locations, and times. This is also available online and if you plan to go next year, it would be worth your while to plan ahead of time and make the most of your trip into Orange County.

I bought two plants from the California Native Plant Society. One is a Cleveland sage and the second is a non-native showy milkweed plant. Coming from the

May 2018

Alpine have been growing or buying butterflies for release every year. Yep, twenty years of tradition Maureen started, because she really loved gardening, and wildlife.

"Maureen left us at almost the same time the butterflies were released in Alpine-Saturday, May 5th! Truly a God thing that He set in motion twenty years ago. Perfect timing!

"I told Maureen, before she got really sick, to come back and visit me as a Swallowtail butterfly because with all of the citrus trees in the desert, and citrus being a host plant for swallowtails- there should be millions of swallowtails. Haven't seen any! Therefore, if I see one, it has to be Maureen."

Wally Austin

Midwest years ago, I wanted to reproduce the plant thirsty but beautiful irises, roses, hydrangea, and you name it for years. Now I am a true believer in water efficient native plants from the Mediterranean climates around the world as well as cacti from several continents. And they work.

Cleveland sage is a cousin of culinary sage. It can be used instead of culinary sage and goes well with flavoring butternut squash soup very well. Drying and preserving the leaves is easy. In the summer cut off a twig or two and let the leaves dry indoors. Store in a jar for future use. The fragrance lasts for years afterward. As the accompanying picture shows, it can grow pretty big. This sage is at the Science Museum in Los Angeles. Before I even saw the plant, I smelled its wonderful aroma.

Many of the homes on both the Riverside and the Corona Garden tours this year have butterfly and hummingbird friendly sections in their gardens. Home owners spoke of the pleasure and peacefulness they have experienced by seeing these creatures stop and collect nectar and gently move from one plant to another. Both native and non-native milkweed plants filled these gardens.

WMWD Award

Contributed by Pam Clarke

On May 16th at WMWD, the Board of Directors presented a plaque to the UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County for their volunteer efforts in water efficiency and native landscapes.



Back Row, left to right: Tim Barr, Thomas P. Evans, Susan Cline, Cindy Peterson, Laura Simpson, Linda Powell, Jess Graffell, Pam Pavela, Pam Clarke, Lucy Heyming, Larry Browning, Craig Miller

Front Row, left to right: Marcille Christian, Debra Corbin-Euston, Lou Fawley, Jean Wagner, Lisa Lemoine, Eta Takele, Brenda Dennstedt, Rosa Olaiz, Yolan Browning, Janis Binam



WMWD Committee

Contributed by Lisa Lemoine
WMWD Liaison

The WMWD/MG Committee's last workshop before summer break, "The Hunt for Water Savings", was well attended by 52 guests who enjoyed Anita Matlock's thorough hands-on irrigation system introduction. Anita walked us through the water wasters that plague our systems yet can be easily avoided, repaired, and maintained with her trouble-shooting tips included in her handout/presentation.



The Committee members and volunteers who were able to devote time on a Mother's Day weekend, certainly gained valuable irrigation knowledge to pass

Gold Miners

Contributed by Thurman Howard
Gold Miner Coordinator



We are approaching the upcoming Lavender Festival, with great anticipation. This year's event is larger than ever. With our concept of topics of engagements that was presented at last year's event, the Lavender Farm has asked us to not only repeat what we did but, expand it.

We learned from last year's event, and were able to make recommendations to the farm, which they were in favor of. We have increased our area space, giving us more room to promote our Riverside County Master Gardener Program.

Our committee, made up of Marilyn Howard, Connie Metler, Sheila James, and from the desert Joyce Haraughty, and Kathy Miller, have been meeting

along at our info and Water Efficient Landscape tables. Thank you all for taking precious time out to support the workshop.

Our next adventure will take us to the Fullerton Arboretum for a tour on May 23. Sandy Starkey is coordinating this event and recommends carpooling.

The Lavender Festival is on our calendar two weekends in June where the Water Efficient Landscape table will be staffed by committee members and volunteers. We will display a variety of drought-tolerant and native plants along with related information. Please stop by to say hello.

Our June meeting will focus on fall 2018 workshop planning, with potential topics such as detoxing the home with houseplants, vegetable gardening and preservation, an entomology update; returning to the prior schedule of 11 a.m.–noon. September will kick off the first in the series and we hope to see you there.

regularly, with me. I have also reached out to Bob Adamson for some display help.

The following are the topic of engagements for this year's **Lavender Festival**, that have been approved by the farm.

1. Lavender (all 8 days)

Ask the Master Gardener: We will have knowledgeable Master Gardeners to answer questions and talk about the propagation, care, and growing of lavender in our climate.



2. Butterfly Display (all 8 days)

Real live butterflies, in all different stages, with information on how to attract them to your garden. Come by and visit our beautiful pollinators.



Garden Views

3. Gardening with Ollas (all 8 days)

We will display how we took an ancient irrigation concept. used for thousands of years and reintroduced into today's garden to provide water conservation that brings stability to your garden.



4. Fairy Gardens (all 8 days)

Gardening starts with imagination, what a wonderful way to introduce children to gardening. Our Master Gardeners have put together several Fairy gardens for display.



5. Hydroponic (all 8 days)

This form of raising crops goes back to the Aztecs. Modern technology has enhanced it to provide better yield.

6. Water Wise Landscaping (8 days)

Our Master Gardeners, along with the Western Municipal Water District, will provide information on this very current topic. We will provide handouts and they will be giving away a book called SO CAL YARD TRANSFORMATION, while supplies last.



7. HLB Greening disease (5 days)

We will bring awareness to the disease that is plaguing our Citrus in Riverside and the state of California. Our information will help the back-yard gardener understand what they need to do to protect their trees and become part of the state-wide efforts.

8. Bees (3 days) 10,16 & 17 10 am to 5 pm

There will be a display with live bees behind a glass case. This interesting display will also educate people on the importance bees in our food production.



May 2018

9. Bugs (4 days) June 9,10,16 &17 10 am to 5 pm

The University of California Entomology Department will bring a very popular display of bug's and talk to people about good bugs versus bad bugs.

10. Desert Master Gardeners

We will have a table from our desert Master Gardener Program, to help answer questions on how to grow plants in the desert. They will have displays of desert lavender and other interesting tips on how to make things grow in the extreme heat.

WIC is moving right along with better than projected numbers. We are on our last month of the Hydroponic, and will be moving on the butterfly gardens, in small spaces using Ollas.



The Gold Miners will add another person to our committee to control our growing inventory, Steve Lee has accepted the challenge, and will be working with Rosa, and myself. At our next meeting, we will go over some solutions for warehousing our inventory. Joyce Allen has accepted my request to become the secretary for our committee starting in May.

Upon his appointment, Michel Fisher will become the Gold Miner for Riverside proper. I still have the Moreno Valley/Perris area open, along with South County. I hope to have these areas filled by July.

With the purchase of our new and lighter weight equipment, and rethinking how we supply our events, I plan to make it easier for our Master Gardeners to attend information tables with less effort. I have a three-tier system which I hope to introduce to our Gold Miners in July. The goal for next year is to make the Gold Miners Ambassadors of their districts as opposed to equipment haulers. With this new lighter and smarter way of doing things we still need to share the work load; core building is still essential to make everything come together.

There are still spots to fill for the Lavender Festival.

Extra days to cover and extra fun for all.

Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin
Academic Advisor

Urban Agriculture – a movement that is here to stay!

Urban agriculture is a term that we all hear more and more often. In short, it is the producing, harvesting, and distribution of fresh produce in urban environments. It includes both small commercial ventures and community gardens as well as home vegetable gardens. Data confirm that the upward trajectory of the urban ag movement is not just a fad but a permanent fixture that improves health and quality of life at an individual and community level.

Urban gardens not only supply city-dwellers with fresh and nutrient-rich food but improve a neighborhood's cohesiveness and sense of empowerment. You, as UCCE Master Gardeners, play an extremely important role in providing objective information on growing food in backyard, community, and school gardens to county residents from all walks of life. In fact, you help 'connect the dots' ensuring that the 'campus to community' and 'community to campus' continuum which is the heart of Cooperative Extension works! You are increasingly helping underserved county residents living in 'food deserts' grow and/or have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

On a related note, I am very pleased to let you know that the proposed UCCE 'urban ag/small farms' advisor position based in San Bernardino (with a cross county assignment in Riverside County) that will develop and extend research-based information to growers of vegetables and specialty crops has been ranked as very important by my statewide county director peers and is moving to the next level of consideration for approval.

Small-scale production of vegetable and specialty crops is the most rapidly growing sector of the Southern California agricultural industry and an important element of the expanding local and regional food system, potentially serving over 18 million residents of the four-county greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Many traditional citrus and avocado are converting acreage to diversified, organic family farms to meet needs of a changing market. I will keep you posted when I hear more the end of Summer. The position responsibilities include a 20% commitment to provide training to new and recertifying Master Gardeners. You

will continue to be the first line of contact for the non-commercial sector.

PlantRight update

Many of you who have been very active in PlantRight's annual nursery survey conducted each Spring were concerned and disappointed about its hiatus this Spring. The reason for the downtime was to allow PlantRight to concentrate on educating landscape architects, designers, and contractors of the negative impacts of invasive plants and attractive and functional alternatives.

Thanks to your work in this area and that of your state-wide Master Gardener peers, PlantRight reports that the sales of invasive plants has drastically declines from 44% of surveyed nurseries selling at least one invasive species in 2014 to 29% in 2017. Only 8% of those still selling invasives in 2017 had more than one species.



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	Jerry L'Hommedieu
Desert Membership	Becky Levers
Mentoring Program	Dick & Patty Reed
Mentoring Program(Desert)	Janet Seaman
Moorten's Botanical Garden	Brenda Costantino
New Projects (Desert)	Carolyn Daniels
Newsletter Editor	Dave Brandtman
Projects DAB	Janna Calkins
Properties/ Merchandising	Jean Wagner
Public Relations (Desert)	Mary Ann Egan
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 Egan
Training Class Coord. WAB	Dave Brandtman
Training Class Coord. DAB	Brenda Costantino
Training Class Rep	
Training Class Rep	Nancy Johnson
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Lisa Lemoine
WMWD Landscape Garden	Mary Moses
Workshops (Desert)	

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.

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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The Back Page

Dave Brandtman
Newsletter Editor

The end of the 2017-2018 MGP Program Year is almost here. Riverside's Training classes have come to a close and we are already ramping up for even greater accomplishments. It's that time to point & click your way to reappointment on VMS, assuming you've already entered your Volunteer and Continuing Education Hours.

I look forward to giving special attention to the Riverside Graduation and the Lavender Festival in June. That will be my last issue as the Newsletter Editor for Garden Views. Send your photos and articles to me now and I will finally publish the newsletter on time. ☺

Kiandra Jimenez will become the new Garden Views Newsletter Editor following the June issue. A graduate of the Class of 2018 in Riverside, Kiandra has agreed to take responsibility for producing this September through June monthly publication. She will gather articles written by Committee Coordinators, Project Leaders, Advisory Board Officers and MG Freelancers. Send her an email and sign up on VMS for the Newsletter Committee, if you would like to be a reporter.

DB