

# 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

Master Gardeners Make Music	1
A New Communication Strategy	2
VMS	2
MG Web	2
Newsletter	2
Social Media	2
Face Book	2
Twitter & Snap Chat	2
Email Blasts	2
California Garden Web	3
Habitat Gardening Supports Wildlife	5
Water Efficient Landscapes	6
May Ranch Elementary School in Perris Garden Project	6
Riverside Master Gardener Field Project	7
Social Media Report	7
Janet's Jottings	8
The Back Page	9



## Master Gardeners Make Music

Contributed by Jonie Kipling, Photos by Kelli Shaw

Jonie Kipling, Jim O'Brien and Kim Coons-Leonard conducted a workshop for fellow Master Gardener Kelli Shaw's class on 2/15/2019. They taught the students how to use common things from the garden to create musical instruments. Learn more about this active program at May Ranch Elementary School on page 6 of this issue.

# A New Communication Strategy

Dave Brandtman, MG WEB Coordinator

Communication is central to the mission of the MGP. How we communicate MG information has dramatically evolved on several fronts. In the beginning there was the written and the spoken word. The written word was initially a volume of information in the form of pamphlets and photocopies, even mimeographs. Volunteers spoke to the public at information tables, or would work the phoneline/walk-in crowd. With the introduction of Information Technology, we are now evolving into an environment where the how-to instructions have yet to be written: Email help requests, cell phone and text requests, a MG Web, social media

- How do we manage these lines of communication?
  - What are the maintenance requirements?
  - How do we know who does what?

The following is an overview of how these communication outlets interact for the benefit of the UC Master Gardener Program.

VMS

VMS is our core information source for all things Master Gardener. It should be the first place a UC Master Gardener looks. From the home page there are links to things for only RC MG's. It is not available to the public.

MG Web



The UC Master Gardener Program created a network of local county web sites designed to inform the public about local contacts and events. Each county was then

left to tailor their web site. The goal of the Communications Project is to make it easier to maintain the site, including a training guide for basic functions.

## Newsletter

The **Garden Views** was originally a monthly calendar of events and a collection of articles. It was a critical way to get out the message to members when many if not most MG's didn't own a computer. UC Master Gardeners receive copies via VMS, and will continue to

Newsletters				
Garden Views Newsletters				
<b>Garden Views</b> 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.				
Garden Views				
		<a href="#">Subscribe</a>		
Issues	Articles	Type	Date Added	
<a href="#">Garden Views June 2018 (4,004KB)</a>	III	PDF	12/30/18	
<a href="#">Garden Views May 2018 (2,330KB)</a>		PDF	12/30/18	
<a href="#">Garden Views April 2018 (2,270KB)</a>		PDF	12/30/18	
<a href="#">Garden Views Jan Feb Mar 2018 (2,774KB)</a>		PDF	12/30/18	

do so. The general public can now subscribe through the MG WEB site.

# Social Media

Beyond the content of an MG Web, new social media platforms offer communication links to both the public and MG volunteers. They are easily updated with a few clicks, compared to updating the MG



## Face Book

The informal nature of Face Book and its popularity makes this a valuable resource. New postings to FB are automatically linked to appear on the MG WEB. Users can follow link directly to our FB page.

Pam Clarke is our Face Book Editor. (Love the photos!)

# Twitter & Snap Chat

We have not kept a constant flow of content on our account. The tool is available, but content and volunteer staffing require further exploration.

# Email Blasts



The E-Blast is proving to be a useful tool for current events. It enables our organization to inform MG's and non-MG's alike in a quick assemblage of announcements.

Susan Cline is currently the E Blast Editor. (Keep up the good work!)

## California Garden Web

Contributed by Dave Brandtman, MG WEB Coordinator

The California Garden Web homepage features a large banner image at the top showing a variety of fresh vegetables, including carrots, radishes, and turnips, arranged in a colorful display. Below the banner, the website's logo and navigation links are visible.

Are you familiar with the [California Garden Web](#)? There are so many links found on both VMS and the MG WEB, that it is easy to overlook valuable tools at our disposal. Sometimes you can stumble on a web site that provides you with answers to the most common questions that Master Gardeners are asked. The California Garden Web is a product of the UC Master Garden Program,

which means we can (and should) tell the public how to find this internet resource.

When you check the links on this web site, you will find current information on topics ranging from Gardening Basics to finding your Climate Zone. The Glossary is full of all those words you forgot from class, along with terms that you encounter in your current research.

There are sections

devoted to Berries, Grapes, Trees, Nuts and Vegetables.

There is also an extensive section about Indoor Plants, a subject often overlooked in the Trainee Classes but often asked about at our Information Tables. Master Gardeners should familiarize themselves with all the topics covered and how to tell the public where to find them.

<a href="#">Home</a>
<a href="#">Drought</a>
<a href="#">Flowers</a>
<a href="#">Gardening Basics</a>
<a href="#">Gardening Classes &amp; Events</a>
<a href="#">Glossary: A - M</a>
<a href="#">Glossary: N-Z</a>
<a href="#">Growing Berries in Your Backyard</a>
<a href="#">Growing Grapes (table, wine, raisins) in Your Backyard</a>
<a href="#">Indoor Plants</a>
<a href="#">Landscape Trees, Shrubs, &amp; Vines</a>
<a href="#">Lawns</a>
<a href="#">Links</a>
<a href="#">Nut &amp; Fruit Trees &amp; Vines</a>
<a href="#">Poisonous Plants</a>
<a href="#">Vegetables</a>
<a href="#">What is my climate zone?</a>

### Blogs Anyone?

The California Garden Web has a Blog on the Home Page with current information about the many projects headed by the University of California and its sub-entities.

#### [Researcher invites public to visit San Joaquin Valley soil health demonstration site in Five Points](#)

Added February 4, 2019



UC Cooperative Extension cropping systems specialist Jeff Mitchell is issuing a standing invitation to the public to visit the site of an ongoing conservation agriculture research project and see for themselves the results of long-term soil-building...

#### [UC Cooperative Extension ramps up its climate change response](#)

Added January 30, 2019



While scientific reports continue to mount confirming that global climate change is increasing temperatures, causing more frequent weather extremes and raising the sea level in California, UC Cooperative Extension is working to ensure the worst...

#### [Because the Praying Mantis Didn't Eat All Her Dinner](#)

Added February 4, 2019



It all happened because a praying mantis at the Bohart Museum of Entomology declined to eat all her dinner. She just wasn't that hungry. To take it from the top: The family craft activity at the...

[Show More](#)

## Garden Views

### Poisonous Plants

The screenshot shows the homepage of the "Safe and Poisonous Garden Plants" website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links like "SKIP TO CONTENT", "SITE MAP", and a search bar. Below the header is a large image of a garden with various flowers. To the left is a sidebar with links to "Home", "About Us", "Safe Plants (by common name)", "Safe Plants (by scientific name)", "Toxic Plants (by common name)", "Toxic Plants (by scientific name)", "Hay Fever", "Herbal Medicines", "Mushrooms", "Pesticides", "Preventing Poisoning Exposures", "Treatment for Exposures", and "Plants Toxic to Animals". A logo for "CALIFORNIA POISON CONTROL" with the phone number "1-800-222-1222" is prominently displayed. The main content area is titled "Safe and Poisonous Garden Plants" and includes a "Did You Know?" section with bullet points about plant toxicity. It also features a link to a PDF version of the content and a note about visiting the California Poison Control System's "Know Your Plants" web page.

From the Poisonous Plants page of the California Garden Web, you can link to the [Safe & Poisonous Plants](#) web site created by the University of California. Long lists of Safe plants by both common and scientific name make it easy to answer the question: Is it safe? Likewise, you can look up Poisonous Plants the same way. There is even a PDF download covering the content of the entire site which is 31 pages long.

### California Backyard Orchard

Thinking about a Backyard Orchard, or at least a few trees to produce fruit for family and friends to share? You will find the link to this fact filled web site, designed by UC for Master Gardeners and the Public, on the MG WEB

This web site is designed to provide:

- An organized and user-friendly format for accessing UC fact sheets and other UC publications relating to fruits and nuts grown in the backyard.
- Information for backyard gardeners and consumers about UC research, contacts, courses, publications, news, and events related to backyard and consumer fruit and nut crop issues.
- Worthwhile links to organizations and industries which complement UC to provide a complete resource for backyard gardeners.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the "The California Backyard Orchard" website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "UC Master Gardener Program" and "UC ANR Home". Below the header is a large image of a fruit tree. To the left is a sidebar with links to "Home", "Why Have an Orchard?", "The Big Picture", "Fruits & Nuts", "UC Master Gardeners", "Calendars", "Glossary", "Links", "About this site", "Site Map", and "Guestbook". The main content area is titled "Why Have a Backyard Orchard?" and discusses the benefits of having fruit trees in one's backyard. It includes several small images illustrating different aspects of orchard life, such as a bug, a flower, and people at a conference.

Detailed information about the particular needs of the most commonly planted fruit trees are but a click away. Each page has additional links for in-depth research.

### Fruits & Nuts

- [Almond](#)
- [Apple](#)
- [Apricot](#)
- [Avocado](#)
- [Berries](#) (Includes blackberry, blueberry, raspberry, and strawberry)
- [Cherries](#)
- [Chestnut](#)
- [Citrus](#) (Includes grapefruit, lemon, mandarin, and orange)
- [Fig](#)
- [Filbert](#)
- [Grapes](#)
- [Kiwifruit](#)
- [Loquat](#)
- [Nectarine](#)
- [Olive](#)
- [Peach](#)
- [Pear](#)
- [Pecan](#)
- [Persimmon](#)
- [Pistachio](#)
- [Plum and Prune](#)
- [Pomegranate](#)
- [Quince](#)
- [Walnut](#)

### Keep Exploring

Master Gardeners are by nature curious people who like to share what they learn. As the current MG WEB Coordinator, my job includes testing the links on the MG WEB to know if they work and if it is good information. The California Garden Web, Safe & Poisonous Plants and California Backyard Orchard are three UC Web Sites linked to the MG WEB that you should explore and recommend to others for authoritative and comprehensive answers to their questions.

DB

## Habitat Gardening Supports Wildlife

Contributed by Ed Harrison, Master Gardener Trainee

Habitat gardening is more than just a water efficient landscape, and it is more than just planting some California native plants. Habitat gardening is about supporting local wildlife by planting the right types of plants to provide the correct sources of food, water, shelter and space for wild creatures to raise their families.

While many good-hearted gardeners have planted some individual native plants, deeply supporting the local wildlife requires some research about which critters might call our yards home.

One of the best resources for a complete local inventory is courtesy of the California Environmental Quality Act, or CEQA (<http://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>). Under this law, before granting approval for any large construction project, an assessment must be made upon the potential environmental impacts of the project. Unless there is obviously no additional impact, CEQA requires the completion of an, "Environmental Impact Report" which contains in-depth studies of potential impacts, measures to reduce or avoid those impacts, and an analysis of alternatives to the project. Copies of this analysis, the EIR, are provided at City Halls and libraries for public inspection. Often, these reports can be found online as well.

Checking for projects in my neighborhood, I discovered the US Army Corps of Engineers is constructing a dike behind the Prado Dam, less than a mile from my home (<https://www.coronaca.gov/Home/Components/News/News/3434/17>).

Reading through the report, I quickly learned that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife designates my area as "Southern Riparian Scrub." It has been designated as a Sensitive habitat by the CDFW. Threatened and sensitive species seen in the area include the California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat & southwestern willow flycatcher. The western spadefoot toad is a frequent visitor to our garden, and a CDFW species of special concern.

More than 200 species of birds can be seen in the area. The most common are mourning dove, towhee, crow, raven, lesser goldfinch, song sparrow, house finch,

bushtit & black phoebe. Area raptors include turkey vultures, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, northern harrier & white-tailed kites.

Area reptiles personally seen by my family, and reported in the EIR, include the Western pond turtle, Western fence lizard, Side-blotched lizard, gopher snake, kingsnake, garter snake and the western rattlesnake. Mammals reported include the California ground squirrel, racoon, bobcat, coyote and feral pigs (we have frequent opossum visitors too).

The EIR describes the "weedy" plants as bromes, barley and fescue with some horehound, filaree and doveweed. They report that the habitat should support the sensitive plant species chaparral sand verbena and Matilija poppy (both of which I planted this fall).

The EIR confirms our soil is alluvial sandy loam, changing to a 5' layer of clayey sand, 16' under the surface. Their survey reports the water table below us is at approximately 533' above sea level and since my garden is at 561', the groundwater is just 28' below the surface.



This wealth of information is a great resource as I nurture my habitat garden. It is important that my plant choices and gardening practices support the local critters trying to eke out a living in our suburban neighborhood. In a future article, this species inventory will be used to look at the specific needs of these animals and identify how a habitat garden can support them.

## Water Efficient Landscapes

Contributed by Lisa Lemoine, WMWD Liaison



The WEL Committee hosted the first of this year's workshops, "Caring for Trees in Drought Conditions." It was presented by Pam Pavela, Western Municipal

Water District's certified arborist. Pam expertly summarized the stress signs and appropriate treatments of our valuable trees for an audience of 97 guests sharing her profound knowledge in her usual friendly and engaging fashion. The one-hour session could easily have continued for much longer and we hope to offer related topics in the future.

Thank you to the Master Gardener volunteers who assisted in coordination and set up, and provided valuable information to our guests. The success of our educational programs can be measured in the increasing knowledge and enthusiasm of our gardening community—thanks for your dedication.

*Editor's Note: The WEL Committee was previously called the WMWD Committee. Our partnership with the folks at the Western Municipal Water District has expanded in scope to include the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD). Consequently, a name change was in order.*

## May Ranch Elementary School in Perris Garden Project

Contributed by Jonie Kipling, Schools Coordinator

Kelli Shaw is a teacher at May Ranch Elementary in Perris, and she is also a Master Gardener. Her love for gardening and nature infuse her work at May Ranch and encourages students and other teachers to pursue projects that use the garden as a way of teaching curriculum to help the children understand the world around them.



For one such project, Kelli, and two other teachers, had their students research ollas and how and why they are

used in a garden. Then they explored the process of making ollas. Finally, the children in all three classes made ollas from terra-cotta air-drying clay. While all of the olla pots didn't actually end up being water tight, it was a learning process, and all ollas that can hold water will be used in the school garden.

Another project students are working on is a garden passion projects in which students research and explore different things they can do in a garden besides just growing veggies. In Kelli's class, students have chosen to explore making musical instruments from materials found in a garden, making dyes from plants, making paper from plants, or learning about medicinal plants.

Finally, students in Kelli's class are learning how to grow carrots in an old aquarium with an olla!

*Editor's Note: Kelli was wonderful to have in the MG Class of 2018. It is even better to see the fruits of her labor after graduation. Keep up the good work!*

## Riverside Master Gardener Field Project

Contributed by Jonie Kipling and Christine Lampe

On August 3, 2018 our field project was approved by the West-County Advisory Board. Christine Lampe and I, Jonie Kipling, created this project to see if increasing organic matter in portions of two local school fields can regenerate the soil, increase root depth, reduce watering needs and improve the quality of the turf.

We first had the idea for this project while we were working at school gardens and noticed the fields close by were not in the best shape. We attended a conference in Irvine run by Beyond Pesticides, and visited Irvine's school fields to learn how their use of organic IPMs improved the quality of the soil and turf. By doing this they also reduced their watering schedule from 6 days to 2 days a week. In our area where drought is a way of life, we thought that we needed to see if we could use their methods to make turf care more efficient and cost effective.



UCCE Turf Specialist, Mike Henry, Farm Advisor, Emeritus agreed to be one of the advisors with our project. Mike taught the Turf Class for new MG's for many years. He was also the Academic Advisor for the Riverside County Master Garden Program, before retirement.

On August 14th we went to Columbia Elementary in Perris (Val Verde School District) and Barnett Elementary in Temecula (TVUSD) to collect soil samples,

to be tested at Soil Food Web New York and A & L Western Laboratories. While the soil was in better shape than we expected, it still lacked nitrogen and could use more organic matter. Both school districts agreed to aerate the soil for us before we would apply our amendments.

On November 13th, we went to Columbia Elementary to help the maintenance crew aerate the ground. We applied compost tea to the ground, seeded with annual rye seed and then covered the ground with compost we bought from Parkview Nursery.

The field at Barnett is much larger than at Columbia Elementary, so On Dec. 28th we met with the maintenance crew at the field and they cored the entire field, including the patch we would be working on.

On January 2nd, we met with Richard Sheplar and Mike Horak, both Master Gardener Trainees and Bruce Wilcox from the desert. They helped us collect compost from a company in Menifee (ASG) who donated around 9 yards of organic compost. Back at the field, we all sprayed the field with compost tea, seeded with annual rye, and covered our portion of the field with the compost. Having volunteers for this field was essential. We started at 8 AM and finished around 3:30 PM.

We will need to repeat the compost tea and seeding in March, but for now the grass is growing!

## Social Media Report

Contributed by Pam Clarke, Social Media Coordinator

*Pam has been our Social Media Coordinator for several months, posting to our FB Page and monitoring results. Here are some of the numbers.*

Followers are from Riverside, Corona, Moreno Valley, Temecula, Menifee, Los Angeles, Redlands, San Bernardino, Hemet and Murrieta

The Audience Insights breakdown on Facebook also shows that we have followers in South Africa, Mexico, Pakistan, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates and Afghanistan.

Title of FB Posts	Followers	Shared Other Groups
January	Reach	
Gardening Tips	923	19
WIC	776	8
Farmers Markets	1,178	20
WEL Committee	932	18
Home Garden Show	8,548	28
RCRCD	687	17
Treecare101	1,575	32
Farmers Markets	1,749	18

## Garden Views

January Total	15,500
Percent Increase	414%
# of Followers	1,197
Total Likes	1,172
Members Reached	8,677
Female	76%
Male	22%

How effective is Facebook in Spreading the Word about the UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County? Excellent!

Other groups that follow or share our Facebook post are as follows:

## Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin, Academic Advisor



### Valentine's Day Flowers

Why are red roses the most popular Valentine's Day flower to this day? In part, because the connection of red roses and love date way back to the 17th century and are linked to the belief that red roses were the favorite flower of Venus, the Roman Goddess of love and beauty.

What do the different colors of roses traditionally signify?

Red Roses, by far the most popular, are linked to enduring romantic love, passion, and Eros. But red roses can also signify a simple thank you or just a congratulations these days so don't jump to any conclusions (good or bad!) if you receive a bouquet of red roses out of the blue. White roses signify innocence, purity, and longing and are often delivered from afar to a missed loved one. They are also extremely popular for both memorial services and weddings. Yellow roses historically symbolized friendship or even a message that a breakup is looming. If your interest is winning over that special someone you might want to rethink a gift of yellow roses just to be safe! Giving a loved one pink roses historically has less of a single meaning and more of a caring or 'you are special' underpinning.

With that said, studies document that less than 25% of suitors correctly identified or attached any specific message to the color of any flowers they selected for

## February 2019

- Southern California Neighborhood Gardening
- San Bernardino's Gardening, Cooking, and Craft Showcase
- I Love Gardening in San Bernardino
- City of Moreno Valley
- Moreno Valley Home Gardeners
- Voices of the Inland Empire
- What is Going on in Riverside County
- San Jacinto Valley Gardeners
- Riverside County News Source
- What's Happening Coachella Valley
- Riverside Home Gardeners
- LaQuinta Buzz
- Riverside Women's Club
- Temecula Valley Garden Club

their love interest. Instead they chose types and colors they think their loved one would prefer, or (in 40% of the cases) a type and color they particularly liked.

For the record:

Teleflora's top five Valentine's flowers: red roses, carnations, lilies, alstroemeria, tulips.

Sendflowers.com's top four Valentine's flowers: red roses, red carnations, small rose bouquets, pink roses.

And, here's some sad news. The New England Confectionery Company (Necco) maker of 'Sweethearts' (the heart shaped multi-colored candy

with messages like 'kiss me,' and 'sweet talk' written on them) filed bankruptcy last year and was purchased by Spangler Candy Company. No announcement has been made regarding a return of the popular confection.

Final thought: If you have any leftovers from last year, they are bringing a pretty penny on Ebay!



**Riverside County Master Gardener Program**

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 Workshops (Desert) Mary Moses

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

Hello to all my Master Gardener Friends!

The Garden Views is back, but we need a new Newsletter Editor for the remainder of the 2018-2019 Program Year. We are returning to a monthly format, after experimenting with the possibility of publishing on a quarterly basis.

As editor, you will earn your volunteer hours as a member of the Advisory Board, where you will learn about happenings in their planning stage. You will meet MGP Leaders and report to the members about events, activities, research and experiences. Most importantly, you will produce a monthly newsletter that speaks with pride about the wonderful things our volunteers do.

What we need now is someone with the skills and desire to be a key voice for the Master Gardener Program. If this sounds like you, this is the time to step forward. Even if you just want to write a few articles, step forward now. The Garden Views is a great place to display your writing and software skills, while serving your fellow Master Gardeners and the Public.

Contact Rosa Olaiz if you are ready to take on the role of Newsletter Editor. You will be glad you did it.