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West County Graduation 2019



Twenty-two individuals recently completed the Master Gardener Training Course offered in West Riverside County. The Trainees celebrated graduation at the California Citrus State Historical Park in Riverside with a keynote address about Eliza Tibbets, a local historical figure in the citrus industry.

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What's Bloomin', written this month by Marcia Stone, features the Coachella Valley Preserve, page 7.

Pat Kircher gives an update on activities at the Grow Lab in Riverside on page 8.

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The expansion of MG participation at Children's, Youth, and School Gardens throughout Riverside County is described by Jonie Kipling, Brad Hardison, and Barbara Kay-Levin on pages 11 through 13.

News from the administration by Rosa Olaiz appears on page 13.

In "Janet's Jottings" on page 14, Janet Hartin warns about invasive plant species.

Volunteerism and leadership in the UCCE Master Gardener Program are celebrated on page 15.

“SMALL BUT MIGHTY,” Class of 2019 West County Graduation

Contributed by Patti Bonawitz, photos by Harold Kund, West County UCCE Master Gardeners

Excitement and fragrance of citrus blossoms filled the air, as twenty-two Trainees, beaming from ear-to-ear, filled the Sunkist Room at the California Citrus State Historical Park on May 16. They entered the room as Trainees, soon to graduate and become Master Gardeners.

Georgia Renne led the Graduation Committee that included Kim Coons-Leonard, Jill Hishmeh, Laurie Allen, Harold Kund, and Morgan Tsai. Jaxen Nobriga designed the invitation and program cover (see page 4). There were over 90 attendees.



Melody Knox, Assistant Training Class Coordinator, was the emcee for the evening's program. Janet Hartin, MG Program Director; Eta Takele, County UCCE Director; and Linda Powell, West Advisory Board Chair, delivered well wishes. Fellow Master Gardener, Celeste Cantú (photo below), delivered the keynote speech. Her topic was “Eliza Tibbets” who is known for successfully growing the first hybrid Washington

navel orange trees in California. It was a fitting topic considering the venue.



Patti Bonawitz, West County Class Coordinator, and Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Services Coordinator, shown below with Trainee Kim Coons-Leonard handed out the certificates.



Those completing the course included: Laurie Allen, Gail Bell, Kim Coons-Leonard, Linda Glaccum, Jill Hishmeh, Mike Horak, Harold Kund, Richard Lackie, Ramona Loynd, Arthur Mach, Mickalene McRay, Jaxen Nobriga, Georgia Renne, Janice Rosner, Tatiana Ross, Lois Schneider, Richard Shepler, Thatsanary Soubannarath, Anne Thompson, Michael Troyer, Chih-Cheng (Morgan) Tsai, and Mary Ann Van Stockum.



Training Class Coordinator, Patti Bonawitz, remarked “...during the class, I frequently challenged the trainees to go ‘above and beyond’ and encouraged them to take a fellow classmate’s challenge to get 100-hours of volunteer time. So that challenge became known in our class as the ‘100-hour challenge’. And yes, and I think the Trainees will agree, I bugged the class quite often about their participation in this challenge. I think that they often thought ‘I was a few plants short of a full flat.’”

“Actually, this is the smallest class we have ever had in the MG program; but I knew they were mighty. Much to my amazement, many did accept this challenge. So, it seemed only fitting on their graduation night to recognize their efforts. We are so proud of what this ‘small but mighty’ class accomplished in terms of volunteer effort!

Although 50 hours of volunteering by a Trainee is required for certification as a Master Gardener, most of the trainees committed many more. Five Trainees committed more than 100 hours (the Club 100+): Kim Coons-Leonard, Janice Rosner, Georgia Renne, Gail Bell, and Mike Horak (shown in the photo to the right, in order from left to right). Three trainees committed over 70 volunteer hours (the Green Thumb Club): Linda Glaccum, Morgan Tsai, and Ramona Loynd. Twelve Trainees committed a minimum of 50 volunteer hours (the Thyme and Oak Clubs): Tatiana Ross, Richard Shepler, Jill Hishmeh, Anne Thompson, Thatsanary

Soubannarath, Richard Lackie, Lois Schneider, Mary Ann Van Stockum, Arthur Mach, Harold Kund, Mickalene McRay, and Michael Troyer.



Several Trainees were recognized for individual awards. Kim Coons-Leonard (left in the photo above), who committed 200 volunteer hours, received the “Spirit of the Master Gardener Award.” Janice Rosner (second from left in the above photo) received the “Outstanding Trainee Award.” For her role as Graduation Committee Chair, Georgia Renne (center in the above photo) received the “Leadership Award.” Three Trainees were acknowledged for a perfect score on the Final Exam: Linda Glaccum, Richard Lackie, and Anne Thompson.

The “Most Creative Award” acknowledging the most creative in-class presentation by a Trainee went to Kim Coons-Leonard, Laurie Allen, and Gail Bell (left to right in the photo on the next page, top left). For kicking off their dreams, “... in the Kitchen with a Master Gardener”, their first video debuted on “You Tube” in April 2019. They also taught the other Trainees how to make their own videos and outlined a future series of “In the kitchen with a Master Gardener” videos. Their sample tastings were a big hit in class, too. Stay tuned for more to come from this dynamic trio!



Our mentors played a very important role in supporting the trainees throughout the year. The following were recognized for their on-going commitment and dedication: Becky Levers, (Coordinator), Joyce Allen, Betty Balo, Susan Bookman, Pam Clarke, Debra Corbin-Euston, Dee Hydinger, Steven Lee, Sandra Leoni, Sue Nesbitt, Sandy Starkey, Jeri Vanderveen, and Juanita Wielanga.

Patti Bonawitz concluded the evening's awards presentation by reciting a short poem:

Your mind is a garden.
 Your thoughts are the seeds.
 You can grow flowers
 Or you can grow weeds.



Nothing is too great for the newest members of our Master Gardener family to go and do on behalf of the UCCE Master Gardener Program.

(Handmade paper flowers for a photo 'op' display, shown above, were provided by West County MGs Joyce Allen and Debra Corbin-Euston.)



Administrators, Eta Takele and Janet Hartin, welcome the attendees.

Reflections of the WAB Chair

Contributed by Linda Powell, West County UCCE Master Gardener

As my term as Chair of the West Advisory Board nears its conclusion, I find myself reflecting on the past and excited about the future. The year 2018-2019 saw many advances in MG projects and it is enjoyable to reminisce.

As Chair I was able to see many project coordinators successfully develop ideas into reality. We now have a cold frame at Grow Lab. The concept began many years ago and through trials and tribulations it now stands erect and ready for use.

Our School & Youth Gardens Project has blossomed. It has spread across the West County, involving children, parents, teachers and community members.

The Master Gardener Website, Marketing and Public Relations Committees have updated and reformulated our outreach processes and now enjoy many "hits", with some coming as far away as Japan and Australia.

Our Goldminer Committee has added new locations for information tables and expanded our presence at a key event, the Lavender Festival. The WIC Program (Women, Infants, & Children USDA Supplemental Nutrition Program), introduced less than two years ago, has grown. Our work with an unserved demographic has been noticed and Thurman Howard was asked to address the WIC convention in San Diego about what we Master Gardeners have created to help the community.

A new project, suggested by Janet Hartin and supported by Rosa Olaiz, began this year. The Home Gardening Basics series of classes (4) were held twice: one day class (Temecula) and

one evening class (Riverside). The purpose was to teach the community basic garden knowledge using the principals of sustainability. The classes were very successful based on participation. Two more series of classes are planned next year. In September the class will be in the Lake Elsinore/Corona area and in March it will be in the Perris/Menifee area.

All of the project coordinators have contributed many hours and efforts to the program. They make up a strong team, giving of themselves to further our mission. I am proud to be associated with them.

Serving as Chair has given me an even greater appreciation and love of the Master Gardener Program. In the coming year it will be my privilege as Past Chair to assist Debra Corbin-Euston as Chair. Debra has organizational and management skills, as well as a deep love and appreciation of gardening. She also will bring fresh ideas and a "can do" attitude.

It has been my honor to serve as Chair. I will see you in a garden soon.



2018-2019 WAB Officers: Betty Balo, Past Chair; Debra Corbin-Euston, Chair-Elect; Amelda Ratcliffe, Treasurer; Karen Fleisher, Recording Secretary; and Linda Powell, Chair.
Photo by Pam Clarke, West County UC

Reflections of the DAB Chair

Contributed by Barbara Kay-Levin, Desert UCCE Master Gardener

When I was asked to be Chair-Elect of the Desert Advisory Board I was very hesitant. I'd been a Master Gardener for only one year. I tried to get a friend to share the job or wait until later. I am so glad that I jumped in; it's been a great year and I couldn't be more proud of our volunteers.

Joan Kyle-Baerman, our Past Chair, started the profitable Home Garden (HG) Class in the Desert, offered both in Sept. and Jan. We had a waiting list of over 20. Next year three classes are planned, two HG classes and one advanced class.

Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert asked for our help in their raised bed gardens that had been abandoned due to water issues. We now have "Little Scientists in the Garden," described in this issue. Donors who had given funds to build the garden came by for a visit and were so impressed they gave another large donation.

At the Braille Institute where I coordinate a class and "play" in the greenhouse, students call Mondays "happy class" as it starts the week off in a positive vein. Once we went on a field trip to Sunnylands with the help of over 20 MGs who impressed me with their garden descriptions. One of the students had lost her last sliver of vision and was very depressed. She was paired with a Trainee who became a hero. He guided her through the gardens, sat with her by a fountain, and completely renewed her spirit. The entire class felt her joy!

We have docents at both Moortens Botanical Garden and the Coachella Valley Preserve (CVP) who continue to teach the public about native plants. CVP was busy this year due to rains that washed out other preserves and hiking areas.

The Coordinator of our Children's, Youth and School Gardens has been expanding the MG role in those areas (see the article in this issue). Speakers' Bureau and Events continue busily with lectures and "Ask the Master Gardener" tables all over the Desert, including the three Farmers' Markets, which have been a great resource for recruiting trainees.

Two veteran MGs coordinated the Helpline this year and attracted several volunteers including two new Coordinators for next year. The Publicity Team has been promoting our Program with the NextDoor app and radio interviews. Who know people still listened to the radio?

Mike Reandeau takes over as Chair in July and I couldn't be happier. Mike was the Training Class Coordinator last year, as well as Chair-Elect. He will be an excellent leader and I look forward to being there for him, as Joan was for me.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Chair this year and will now enjoy a little more time in my own garden.



2018-2019 DAB Officers: Mike Reandeau, Chair-Elect; Barbara McClue, Recording Secretary; Joan Kyle-Baerman, Past Chair; Bruce Wilcox, Fiscal Officer; and Barbara Kay-Levin, Chair. *Photo by Desert UCCE MG Kathy Miller.*

What's Bloomin' at the Coachella Valley Preserve?

Contributed by Marcia Stone, Desert UCCE Master Gardener

This season at the Coachella Valley Preserve (CVP) in Thousand Palms, just north of I-10 off the Bob Hope exit in Rancho Mirage, record rains awakened the seed bank producing ephemerals in the form of what seemed like a never-ending super bloom (shown below). This, along with closure of other area tourist attractions due to flooding, led to record attendance.

A number of Master Gardener volunteers provided instrumental support in meeting the challenges of flood-damaged trails and the increased attendance. The number of vetted docents and hike leaders who are Master Gardeners increased dramatically this year to 7, while 3 soon-to-be Master Gardeners wait for training in the 2019-2020 season.



As the temperature in the valley moves upward, the volunteer activity at the CVP is winding down. The end of April marked the official closing of the Palm House, the official visitors' center at the 1000 Palms Oasis in the CVP. The parking area is still open to guests who wish to meander the trails on their own. Early morning hiking is recommended and, if you visit, please bring plenty of water. Although ephemerals are no longer blooming, the arrow-weed shown below was beautiful in late April/early May and the smoke trees will soon be showing their incredible purple bloom.



This is also the perfect time to contact the project coordinator to learn about becoming a docent at the 1000 Palms Oasis at the CVP. Volunteer information and applications are available from Marcia Stone. Please send an e-mail to me at: mjstone.cal@gmail.com.

“Ephemeral” is a botanical term describing any short-lived plant that grows only during favorable periods and passes unfavorable periods in the form of seeds. The seed coats of some species contain a growth inhibitor that can only be removed with lots of water, thus preventing germination after only a brief shower and supporting species' survival in the harsh desert climate.

What's Happening at the Grow Lab?

Contributed by Pat Kircher, West County UCCE Master Gardener

We just finished a spectacular year at the Grow Lab thanks to the hard work and guidance of our coordinator, Linda Zummo. Under Linda's focused direction, the long-anticipated cold frame (shown below) became a reality. Thanks to many folks for making this dream come true—especially Ed Harrison, whose knowledge, experience, and hands-on labor were indispensable in finalizing this project.



We had a bumper crop of great looking vegetables and herbs this year (especially tomatoes, shown at right) that we sold at several plant sales. In addition to our long-time affiliation with the UCR Botanic Garden plant sale, we have participated with other community

organizations such as the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District, the Riverside Flower Show, the Temecula Valley Garden Club, and the Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center to get our name and our plants out there.



In September, we will begin our propagation and transplantation of fall vegetables. We would like to invite MG veterans and trainees throughout the County to come see how they can become involved in one of the Grow Lab's many specialty gardens. In addition to our vegetable and herb propagation activities, we have a butterfly garden, a cactus/succulent garden, and an area in the planning stages devoted to California native plants. Something for everyone!

The Grow Lab is a gardening plot in the City of Riverside. It occupies less than one acre on the property of West County Master Gardeners Lucy and Frank Heyming. They also kindly provide water and electricity. In addition to experimental gardens, tool sheds, and restrooms, there are vegetable, herb, and ornamental gardens for propagation of plants that are sold to the public at UCR plant sales.

Madame Ganna Walska's Top 10 Public Garden(s) in Montecito, CA

Contributed by Robert Musial and Tom Edwards, Desert UCCE Master Gardeners

Last year, Lotusland in Montecito, just a stone's throw south from Santa Barbara, celebrated 25 years as a public garden. If Ganna Walska, the most recent owner and ultimate landscaper, lived today no doubt she would be pleased that the garden escaped the January 2018 mudslide that devastated the area following a particularly intense fire season.

Madame, as she was affectionately known, was the head gardener and last designer of the present day 37-acre estate, 25 acres of which are manicured, not as just one garden, but several gardens with different themes based on the plantings. In 1941 Madame purchased the estate, for \$40,000. The mansion, outer garden walls, some of the garden paths, and the old swimming pool were already present. Two of her favorite additions, *Euphorbia ingens* (tall plants at the center) and *Echinocactus grusonii* (golden barrel cactus) are shown below next to the mansion.



Madame Walska retained the features she loved and imprinted her own vision upon the estate. She did not use sketches or scale drawings in her planning but filled scrapbooks with hundreds of pictures of garden features that she desired to incorporate. The archives contain many albums on garden mosaics, horticultural clocks, tiles, shells, fountains, and plants of every kind. Several gardens are reminiscent of classical English landscaping with gravel- or brick-covered paths lined with flowerbeds or grand trees leading to an appealing bench in the distance or passing by an ornate fountain. There is also a large Japanese garden, a citrus garden, and gardens of aloes, cycads, and cacti. The garden path leading from the road is lined on one side with euphorbia species (shown below) and on the other side with cacti.



Although many hands helped craft the gardens it was under the direction and vision and unconventional taste of Ganna Walska that Lotusland became one of the top ten public gardens in the world. Her exquisite taste is in evidence throughout the gardens. She was the self-described "enemy of the average" and was quoted as saying "For I loved Beauty, Beauty with a capital "B".

In the 1920's and 30's Madame was the toast of Paris society. Alma Mahler, a close friend and

widow of conductor Gustav Mahler once said, "Paris without Ganna is not Paris." She left Paris just before the German occupation in World War II. At the age of 55 Ganna found herself the owner of an estate originally named by her as "Tibetland" and later re-named "Lotusland" after the old swimming pool on the estate that holds a significant number of these unusual plants. Because of her love for jewelry design she lined the garden pathways with blue green slab glass and placed large pieces of amethyst, giant shells, coral, and statuary amidst the magnificent Chilean wine palms, aloes, bromeliads, and cacti and cycads (shown below).



All who live in Southern California and who love gardening should place a visit to Lotusland at the top of their bucket list. To visit the gardens go to www.Lotusland.org in order to arrange for a docent-led tour as it is the only way that the garden can be viewed. When in the area also visit the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden: www.sbbg.org.

Cycads—Of all the plant collections at Lotusland, perhaps the cycads are the most precious. A common example of a cycad is the Sago palm, incorrectly named because it is not a palm at all. Palms were among Madame Walska's favorite plants and she was drawn to include cycads as a separate garden on her estate (and the last addition) because of their palm-like appearance.

Although a number of cycads in the garden were lost during a beetle infestation, there are now over 900 specimens representing around 175 taxa. Loss of habitat and specific pollinators, along with over collection, has led to reduction of cycad numbers in the wild. They are now protected by the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species, another reason why Madame's collection is so precious.

Cycads are among the most ancient plants that likely exist in a form similar to their ancestors that were abundant during the Jurassic Period when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They were so plentiful at the time that the period is often referred to as the "Age of Cycads." Cycads are gymnosperms (cone-bearing plants with naked seeds). They are dioecious meaning that the male and female reproductive parts are present on separate plants. The cones can be quite large as seen on the cycad in the bottom photo at left. When the cone matures the large seeds are exposed. These are often brightly colored red, purple, or yellow.

Planting Seeds for Future Gardeners

Contributed by Jonie Kipling, West County UCCE Master Gardener and Brad Hardison & Barbara Kay-Levin, Desert UCCE Master Gardeners

Among the fastest growing Master Gardener Projects in the County are Children's, Youth, and School Gardens. MG volunteers have joined with teachers and parents to educate the next generation about basic gardening principles.

In the West County several school gardens are now functioning. In late April at May Ranch Elementary School in Perris, Christine Lampe, Jim O'Brien, and Jonie Kipling helped teach students from the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades about different things that can be done with items from a garden. Christine Lampe taught the students about herbal remedies such as how to make bath salts from lavender. Jim O'Brien helped the students make rain shakers and rhythm instruments from bamboo harvested locally. Jonie Kipling helped the students color fabrics employing dyes from plants collected in local gardens.



At Ysabel Barnet Elementary School in Temecula, Christine Curtis and Jonie Kipling assisted teachers and parents with instructing students to harvest peas, plant corn and pumpkins, and

paint wooden spoons for use as garden markers.



In early May at the Woodcrest Christian Day School in Riverside, Christine Lampe, one of our butterfly specialists, taught children from 1st to 6th grades about butterflies, as well as pests and beneficial insects.



At Dartmouth Middle School in Hemet, the students are running a lemonade stand so they can raise money to purchase soil for their school garden. The students are growing tomatoes, squash and pumpkins right now. Recently, they obtained clay pots to make into ollas so their beds will be ready for the summer heat. The pots are covered and sealed so water can only

An olla [pronounced "oi-yah"] is a water-permeable container, often a wide-bellied jug made of clay, that when embedded in the ground and filled with water serves to irrigate the soil.

escape through the porous clay when inverted in the ground. Below a student is shown placing them in the garden.



Huiras and Peggy Bakke, new MGs, will take over as coordinators of this project.



Desert MGs, under the direction of Cathy Liss, had for several years taught vegetable gardening to elementary school children at the Agua Caliente School in Cathedral City. Volunteering at the garden was a requirement of MG Trainees. This project was on hiatus during construction of a new school on the garden site. Now that the new school is complete it is hoped that this MG project will continue.

A year ago Ana Beatty and Barbara Kay-Levin initiated a program at the Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert in Rancho Mirage focusing on pre-schoolers between 2 and 4 years of age called "Little Scientists in the Garden." The tykes are invited one morning each week, along with an adult chaperone, to explore gardens for vegetables, herbs, and butterflies. In May volunteers put up shade covers to protect plants from the intense summer sun. In July Laurel Ann



Last Spring, MG Burt Boss assumed a leading role in the gardening project at the Cathedral City Boys and Girls Club where children from the community learn the principles of gardening after school for several hours one day a week. This year other MG volunteers have been participating.

At the Imagine School in Coachella, MG Chun Wong met with representatives from the school in April to discuss their keyhole vegetable garden and the materials they would need to proceed. The school has purchased the keyhole garden kit and Chun Wong has provided the

A keyhole garden is a raised bed garden with a significant indentation on one side that allows the gardener access to the middle.

school with a detailed list of materials to build the raised beds and install the irrigation system. At their last meeting, the brown and green materials to be collected for composting within the garden were discussed as well as the idea of vermicomposting (composting using worms).

Currently, a gardening project is being planned at the Cielo Vista Elementary School in Palm Springs. MG Brad Hardison is coordinating efforts for the MG Program. Funds are being raised for irrigation, hardscape, and a shade structure. Brad was honored in May along with other community volunteers by the Parent-Teacher Group at the School.



Children’s Discovery Museum of the Desert

NEWS! from Rosa

Contributed by Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Services Coordinator

The 2018-2019 fiscal year ends June 30. Master Gardeners must reappoint by then. Go to VMS and open the box on the home page to complete the information requested. All volunteer and continuing education (CE) hours for the fiscal year ending must also be added on VMS.

To reappoint, the minimum number of volunteer hours required for the fiscal year are 25 with at least 12 CE hours for veteran MGs. There are still opportunities to complete the volunteer hours including Farmers’ Market “Ask the Master Gardener” tables, Helpline, and the Lavender Festival. If you have questions about CE hours there is a CE guidelines document on VMS to be found under “Documents/Presentations,” then, under #11 “Bylaws and Guidelines,” click on #4 Continuing Education Guidelines. If you are short on required hours, contact me as there are options we can discuss.

Information sessions for the West County MG training course continue June 6 and 20, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Western Municipal Water District, 14205 Meridian Parkway, Riverside.

On behalf of the UCCE Master Gardener Program, I congratulate the recent graduates and thank all the volunteers and, especially, those MGs who provided leadership as Officers of an Advisory Board or as Project and Committee Coordinators.



The UCCE MG budget is in jeopardy due to County cutbacks. See the 2017-2018 County UCCE Annual Report for funding details— <http://ceriverside.ucanr.edu/files/304418.pdf>

Janet's Jottings

Contributed by Janet Hartin, UCCE Master Gardener Program Director

As gardening season gears up, at least West of the San Jacinto Mountain, I wanted to mention a few good resources for helping the public prevent the spread of invasive species. This is particularly timely since the first week of June is the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's Invasive Species Action Week. Their goal is to "increase public awareness of invasive species issues and promote public participation in the fight against California's invasive species and their impacts on our natural resources."

Often, home landscapers want to plant species that establish and grow fast, which are indeed sound goals. That is, unless an invasive species is selected that will quickly outgrow its space and crowd out other species. In the process, they often take up large amounts of water and disrupt local plant and animal habitat, sometimes causing permanent damage. In most cases, invasive plants are non-natives that are particularly poor neighbors to native plants (for example, the green fountain grass between the two Washingtonia palms shown below).



PlantRight, a non-profit organization that works with Master Gardeners and other groups to educate nursery personnel about the dangers of selling invasive plants, offers some great suggestions to avoid introducing overly competitive invasive species into our landscapes.

1. Before buying or adopting a plant, check the website PlantRight.org for the organization's regional map to see if the plant is listed as a problem in your area.
2. Consult Plantright's list of alternatives for invasive garden plants that offer similar positive attributes without being invasive.
3. Control invasives as early as possible in cases where they are already planted. Remove any suspect species as soon as possible since they are much easier to control before they become established.
4. Eliminate bare soil by applying mulch and/or by planting ground-covers and other species. This prevents seeds from invasive plants to establish that blow in or are dropped by birds.

Happy Gardening!

Garden Views Article Submission

Articles and other features comparable in length to those appearing in this issue should be submitted to the Editor by e-mail at rjemmerson@roadrunner.com. Include good quality photographs as attachments. Items must be submitted by the 15th of the month prior to the date of intended publication. Unsolicited materials are welcomed. Feel free to contact the Editor for advice regarding a potential submission. Subject matter is not limited to the examples in this issue.

Riverside County Master Gardener Program

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The "Garden Views" Newsletter is published monthly, September through July, by Riverside County UCCE Master Gardeners. All contributors are UCCE Master Gardeners or UCCE 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

Contributed by Ron Jemmerson, Editor

As the 2018-2019 fiscal year comes to a close we celebrate the accomplishments of the Riverside County UCCE Master Gardener Program. The articles written by the two Advisory Board Chairs provide a fairly complete summary of our activities this past year. As they note, service to our mission is only possible with the many volunteer hours committed by our members and the leadership provided by the Committee and Project Coordinators, as well as by representatives on the Advisory Boards whose names are listed on the left of this page. Well done everyone!

To those who are stepping down from their current leadership positions we wish you well in your future endeavors in the MG Program and to those who will step into the vacated roles we wish you much joy, new friendships, and great fulfillment.

With the certification of recent Trainees, at least 50 new members will have been added to our MG family. Many of them, I am sure, will step up to leadership roles in coming years. Their fresh ideas and enthusiasm are vital to the continuing impact of our Master Gardener Program in the community!