



## University of California Cooperative Extension - Riverside County

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

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

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

UCANR E-mail addresses:  
[anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu)  
[anrmgindio@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgindio@ucanr.edu)

## Master Gardeners in the Age of COVID-19



Desert Master Gardeners meet via Zoom in May.

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## Master Gardeners are Zooming!

*Contributed by Georgia Renne, West County UCCE Master Gardener*

Due to social isolation, Master Gardeners in Riverside County now appreciate a new meaning of "Zoom." We are all learning this new technology to communicate with each other during this quarantine whether for family celebrations, social gatherings, or learning opportunities thanks to Zoom. Both West County and Desert Master Gardeners are using the power of Zoom to continue our programs and our education, to fulfill our commitment to promote garden education, and invest in horticultural sustainability.



West County began their Zoom adventure on April 23 with a "Lunch and Learn" featuring Dr. Monique Rivera, UCR, who gave 53 participants an ACP/HLB (Asian Citrus Psyllid/Huanglongbing) Update through her PowerPoint presentation with questions and answers. The response to this first Zoom was most positive with MGs saying they liked how well they could easily see the slides on their own computers showing this insect's dynamics up close. Thankfully, Rosa Olaiz has facilitated use of Zoom and gave instructions. We all had challenges in how to position our faces with the web camera for video and to set the volume for audio as well as how to use mute/unmute, Q and A, or Chat

features. I really enjoyed seeing on my computer MG friends I was missing. The remaining West County "Lunch and Learns" and Veterans' Meetings usually held at WMWD were rescheduled to a Zoom format. Recently, we "Zoomed" with Lucy Heyming to learn her recipe for "Lasagna Mulching," Mike Horak for "Orchard Basics" outside in his orchard, and Barbara Kay-Levin for learning "How to Zoom." Laura Simpson, "Growing to Preserve," and Christine Lampe, "Growing Your Veggie Garden from Seeds," will round out our series of Zoom Continuing Education events in June. The dates and times are posted on the home page of VMS.

Our 2020 MG Trainees were caught in the COVID-19 cancellation of events with classes moved to the Zoom format. West County Trainees received information through Zoom classes on entomology, avocado orchards, and "Tying It Altogether" with Janet Hartin. Kudos to the Trainees who then used Zoom to do their group presentations with their PowerPoints, handouts, and demonstrations. Trainees needing orientation on the Speakers' Bureau also received it through Zoom. Desert Trainees had completed coursework when classes were cancelled at UCR Palm Desert. PowerPoints of their would-have-been in-class presentations are posted on VMS.

Desert MGs have also found productive uses for Zoom. Barbara Kay-Levin, Past Chair, used it in a recent "Lunch and Learn" and reports using it for her presentation on growing herbs to a community center in Highland Springs where most participants responded to the questions and comments at the end. She also successfully used Zoom for video conferencing with the planning group for their Coachella Valley Rescue Mission project. The Desert Advisory Board used Zoom for their meetings in both April and May. "Lunch and Learns" are being set up for the rest of the summer. Check VMS for details.



Finally, a number of Riverside County MGs are individually using Zoom to extend their own gardening knowledge with various online learning opportunities through UCCE ANR/MG, various garden societies and nurseries, and even Face Book. Once we are able to be together again in person for MG events and meetings, many of us will still turn to Zoom. Zoom does provide a new venue for Robert's Rules of Order!

Even in this era of social distancing, MGs continue a number of projects. The Gold Miners project continues on the Soboba Reservation with crops soon ready for harvesting. The Grow Lab employs a few volunteers to maintain plants for sale, continue projects like building planters, begin new projects like redoing the butterfly and herb gardens, and hosting three successful curbside plant sales through online orders ready for pickup. School gardens, along with community gardens, are being tended by teachers, family, and volunteers. Thanks to great publicity on Face Book, the MG News and Views, and E-Blast. The Help Line activities continue even stronger through volunteers in both the Desert and West County remotely answering questions through e-mail and by telephone.

Once again MGs prove their flexibility to survive and grow even stronger by adapting to the changing social situation! We've learned much from our plants.

## "Active" Herd Immunity in Plants

*Contributed by Ron Jemmerson, Desert UCCE Master Gardener*

We often hear the term "herd immunity" these days in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. The principle of herd immunity is that the probability of a previously uninfected individual catching an infectious disease decreases as the number of individuals in the community who are immune to the disease increases. In animals, herd immunity occurs when 50% or more of the population has been vaccinated against a particular pathogen and/or have been infected and survive with immune status, with 60-70% immunity among the population generally providing effective protection. Herd immunity in animals is passive.

As a retired scientist specializing in the field of immunology, I suggest that plants have a form of immunity that could be called "active" herd immunity. When insects damage the leaves of a plant, for example, the plant releases volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) as gases that affect the physiology of other parts of the same plant, as well as nearby plants, thus inducing immunity in the localized population (reviewed in *Frontiers in Plant Science*, March 19, 2019).

There is a large number of VOCs that are responsible for the smells we associate with plants such as smells of flowers, newly cut grass, or a pine forest. VOCs play a variety of roles such as attracting pollinators, directly protecting plants against infection by a microbe or attack by an insect, and causing changes in gene expression in the plants that enhance wound healing. There is even a "stress memory" in response to VOCs that allow primed plants to react faster and more strongly when encountering the pathogen, similar to immunological memory in animals, but less specific than an antibody response that scientists believe will eventually provide immunity to COVID-19.

## Honoring Our Platinum Master Gardeners—A Profile of West County Master Gardener Thurman Howard

*Contributed by Vern Shattuck, West County UCCE MG Trainee*

If you ask people to describe Thurman Howard, you would likely obtain varied responses. “He is a self-motivated person who loves challenges and setting goals to open up new possibilities.” “He is a person whose current life is deeply entrenched in the Master Gardener (MG) program.” “He is a person who tells it like it is and isn’t afraid to ruffle a few feathers along the way to accomplish an important task.” “He is a person who goes that extra mile to make things happen.” “He is a person who believes that the MG community is his extended family.” “He is a person who believes it is not only about becoming a Master Gardener but also about what one can offer to make the MG program better”. All of these features help define our Platinum Badge member and Konyn Award recipient Thurman Howard.

Thurman was born in the territory of Hawaii on Oahu (Hawaii became a state in 1959). Thurman’s path to gardening started at an early age. Both of his parents were avid gardeners who supported his young horticultural curiosity. While growing up in Hawaii he enjoyed growing both mainland and tropical types of gardens. Thurman served in Vietnam as a LRRP combat Ranger with the 2nd Battalion of the 27th Regiment (Wolfhounds), 25th Infantry, and later with the newly created 75th Ranger Regiment. After service Thurman returned home and embarked on a long and successful career as a business owner and management consultant. Today he is happily married to Marilyn Howard (gold badge member). They live in a large lot above Cherry Valley with two dogs and a cat, surrounded by trillions of soil microorganisms.

After retiring Thurman realized that he had to keep busy. He entered the Master Gardener program and graduated from the Desert Training



Class in 2015. During the past five years he has logged over 6100 volunteer service hours. If you do the math, per week you will find that he has kept amazingly busy. During this time, he served on the Riverside MG Advisory Board and was the coordinator of both the Speakers Bureau and the Gold Miners Program. Using his business knowledge, leadership skills, and enjoyment for interacting with the public he refocused and expanded the Gold Miners program. Today the program consists of four vibrant and successful sub-programs: Special Events; MG information tables at garden outlets, public events, and other venues; MG information tables at farmers’ markets; and the WIC program, which Thurman started and developed. Thurman has just taken over the position of Community Gardens Coordinator from Cindy Peterson. He has coordinated MG activities at the Soboba Reservation producing fresh vegetables for reservation families.

I caught up with Thurman at the MG booth at the Riverside Farmers’ Market in January to ask him a few questions for this *Garden Views* profile. As usual he was engaged in a number of activities at the booth.

*Hello Thurman. Time for a few questions?*

Thurman: Sure, go ahead – shoot.

*Were there any special people who helped you*

*along initially in the MG program?*

Thurman: A couple of people come to mind. Joan Kyle-Baerman was my class coordinator. She was a no-nonsense person and when she spoke you paid attention. Within a week after graduation she gave me my first assignment on a topic I knew nothing about. She looked at me with that familiar smile and told me like only Joan could "You will sink or swim." Another person was Cathy Konyn. I really respected her as a leader and mentor. She was also a dear friend. After graduation I had no intentions of taking on any leadership or management responsibilities in the MG program. However, Cathy reached out for my help with the Speaker's Bureau. Two years later I became coordinator of the Gold Miners. We both knew at the time the award-winning Gold Miners program needed support. I was glad to take on this leadership role. In essence Cathy helped me get solidly involved in the MG program. Another person who has helped me over the years is Rosa Olaiz. Rosa has also had an impact in making our program very successful in recent years. I enjoy working with Rosa very much and respect the trust she has in my endeavors as a Master Gardener. It should be noted that none of my MG activities would have been successful without the support and encouragement of my wife Marilyn.

*You are doing some productive consulting work with the Native Americans at the Soboba Reservation. Could you tell us about this?*

Thurman: The Soboba Reservation in San Jacinto started a community garden many years ago. It is about a half-acre in size and consists of a sustainable regular garden and a native plant garden. The native garden showcases traditional plants utilized by the Native Americans for both food and medicine. The goal of the garden is to teach the Soboba community, both young and old, about growing plants and to motivate the Soboba members to start their own backyard gardens. Last year I visited their garden at least once a week and helped them overcome various horticultural problems such as irrigation,

building up the soil fertility, and identifying pests and diseases. Last year for the first time in 35 years they harvested a sizable crop on the reservation. It was very satisfying for me to witness their success. We recently planted a winter community garden and it is doing well.

*How exactly has the Gold Miner program in recent years expanded under your leadership?*

Thurman: As you know the Gold Miners are the ambassadors of the Riverside County Master Gardener program. The success of the program has been a combined effort of many outstanding people. We must not forget that the foundation of this program started with the idea of Lucy Heyming and her first group of Master Gardeners. They built the initial path for us to follow. All we did was clear more of the path and extend it. We started setting up information tables at various businesses such as tractor supply outlets, Lowe's Home Improvement, and other venues to increase our public exposure and attract attention to sustainable horticulture. We have increased the number of Farmers' Markets we attend each month from three to nine. We started a new program to attend special events and to enhance our presence at these events. These special events include the Lavender Festival, Olive Festival, and the Southern California Fair in Perris. We have a special event committee that designs and constructs the displays that we use at each special event. This committee also negotiates for the location and space of our booth. We reached out to WIC several years ago in order to assist their members in our diverse community. WIC is the California Woman, Infant, and Children Program which is administered by the California Department of Public Health. The goal of the California WIC program is to enhance the health and wellness of families in California. Through our Master Gardener displays, information, demonstrations, and hands-on activities at WIC meetings we show families how to produce and prepare healthy foods with minimum economic inputs. I am very proud of the

success we have had with our WIC program. I believe that our Riverside County MG program is the only MG program in California that is seriously involved with the WIC program.

*Do you have any hobbies that you would like to share with our members?*

Thurman: I play poker, I enjoy my home garden, and I talk to my plants. I have a conversation with them most mornings. (Yes, they do speak to me). When I was a young boy growing up in Hawaii I planted a mango tree. It is now about forty feet high and sixty years old. Watching it grow and develop was inspiring. I ran my business thinking of this mango tree. I thought if I could manage my business like the mango tree manages itself then I would be successful. Each year I plant a garden. It is a rejuvenating thing for me. I learn something new each year. I'm still learning. Right now my winter vegetables of broccoli, cabbage, onions, and carrots are doing well.

*Thank you, Thurman, for the insight on you and your projects. We wish you continued success on your next exciting 6,000 hours of MG service.*

### Photo Contest: Ornamental Category Honorable Mention



Photo by Smoky Zeidel  
Night-blooming *Cereus Peruvianus* with fragrant flowers is sometimes called "Queen of the Night." A bout of insomnia helped to capture this image.

## West County School Gardens Update

*Contributed by Jonie Kipling, Christine Curtis, and Kim Coons-Leonard, West County UCCE Master Gardeners*

With closings for the spring semester due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it is a challenge for schools to maintain their fruit, herb, and vegetable gardens. Master Gardeners, led by Debbra Corbin-Euston, donated spring vegetable and flower starts to the schools. Students at Barnett Elementary, Loma Vista Middle, and Wells Middle Schools planted spring starts prior to the school closures in March. This was before the rains, so the plants are doing well as MG Chris Curtis shows below.



Debbra and her team provided additional spring vegetable starts in early April that were distributed to schools in Riverside, Temecula, and Perris, as well as the Cultivating Inclusion Community Garden in Murrieta.

Barnett Elementary School has allowed two teachers to perform maintenance and prepare for the Fall. The teachers and volunteers are continuing to work in the school garden during the break, planting spring vegetables, weeding, planting trees, and finishing projects, including

repairing the green house, replacing picnic tables, and building a deck and outdoor kitchen. These projects are funded with school appropriations and grants. The volunteers have harvested vegetables and herbs and made them available to neighbors in the area.



Teachers at both Loma Vista and Wells Middle Schools have had access to their gardens to check on water systems and the progress of the spring starts planted in March. At Loma Vista, teacher Gina Linton was able to hang tennis screen material purchased in early spring onto the garden's fence to buffer winds and prevent the surrounding lawn sprinkler system from flooding the garden. Wells teacher Janet Fedenuick has declared her school garden "a beautiful wild."



Kelli Hague, a Master Gardener and teacher in Perris, has been incorporating lessons from the garden into her online classes. She writes "As the school was dismissed March 13, teachers had no idea what was in store for the future of the school, never mind gardening. After some bumps in communication via Zoom, teachers are finding their own pace and spreading their wings in new ways. With shelter in place, I didn't want my students to try to retrieve the supplies from a store, or even purchase anything. Hence my idea was born! I came up with the idea of repurposing household items for new gardening opportunities. My first gardening opportunity via Zoom with the kids was about using paper towel rolls and creating newspaper pots for all the seeds I sent previously to my students. The next gardening class, albeit virtual, was about a hydroponic wick system with differently sized yogurt containers, glass jars, coffee filters, seeds, and soil. I am now planning to extend my gardening class to other students from other classes at our school site. Our next class is about saving seeds!" Kelli was asked to record videos for a gardening online program for the district.

During the first half of March, Master Gardeners were active with school gardens at: Riverside (Arizona, Loma Vista, and Wells Middle Schools), Murrieta (Curran Elementary), and Temecula (Barnett, La Vorgna, and Red Hawk Elementary Schools).

MGs will be working with these schools this summer to assess their support needs for the fall semester. We may be able to help resolve problems with restarting gardens, especially those that have not been maintained during the long break (weeding, solarization, irrigation, soil testing, and additives, etc.). Each school will likely have to re-evaluate the types of educational programs they can provide in the gardens based on restrictions imposed due to the virus pandemic. We will be there to help and encourage MG volunteers to look for opportunities once the school year begins.

## Survivors in the Desert

*Contributed by Mary Ann Egan, Desert UCCE Master Gardener*

Many of the trees and shrubs that do well in our Coachella Valley landscapes develop pods after flowering. Even after I became a Master Gardener and became more attuned to plants native to the area, a reason why so many pod-forming plants could be successful here was not readily apparent to me.

Mesquite trees and palo verde trees abound in the notoriously poor soils of the Coachella Valley. Native varieties of these trees have been around for a long time. Seed pods of honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), screwbean mesquite (*Prosopis pubescens*), and blue palo verde (*Parkinsonia florida*) trees were important food sources for the Cahuilla Indians.

To try to find an answer, I started with a tree which survives in one of the toughest environments that the desert offers. The native desert smoketree (*Psoralea argophylla* or *Dalea spinosa*) is barely noticeable in the Coachella Valley's desert landscape most of the year. In spite of reaching a height of 15 feet with a width of equal size, the smoketree's gray-green color and ghost-like appearance make it fade into the visual background. It is only when the tree blooms in the early summer that it becomes a magnificent specimen of vibrant desert color. The small purplish blooms soon fall onto the desert floor, leaving pollinated flowers that produce pods which hold a bean-shaped seed. Smoketrees can be seen in their natural habitat along the desert dry washes of the Coachella Valley, where they lack water most of the year but are subject to periodic severe flooding.

When I looked at the scientific classification of the smoketree, I found one possible answer. The tree is a member of the *Fabaceae* or legume family. As we know, legumes are commonly referred to as

“nitrogen-fixing plants.” They cannot use the nitrogen in the air directly but can form relationships with certain bacteria (*Rhizobia* spp.) in the soil which can convert atmospheric nitrogen (N<sub>2</sub>) to ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) or ammonium ions (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>). The bacteria live in nodules of the roots of legume plants and provide nitrogen to the plant, and the bacteria in return receive carbohydrates produced by the plant during photosynthesis. The ability of legumes to form these beneficial relationships gives them a built-in source for nitrogen, an essential nutrient for the plant's growth and survival and a nutrient that is in short supply in desert soils.



Other trees which are the “workhorses” of our desert landscapes—desert ironwood trees, *Lysiloma* trees, Texas ebony trees, acacia trees, and mimosa trees—are all members of the *Fabaceae* family, as are mesquite trees and palo verde trees. Many of the “go-to” shrubs prevalent throughout the Coachella Valley are members of the legume family, including the *Calliandra* varieties, the *Senna* varieties, the *Dalea* varieties and the *Caesalpinia* varieties. The lupine which grows wild on the hills above the valley floor is also a member of the legume family. Maybe it isn't too surprising that there are so many legume

plants around. The *Fabaceae* family is huge, consisting of over 16,000 known species.

The lesson we Desert gardeners can take from the smoketree is this: Many plants of the legume family have a built-in ability to capture nitrogen. If a tree or shrub is producing pods with seeds in them, it may be worth the time to check to see if it is a nitrogen-fixing legume. We should think twice before providing a nitrogen-rich fertilizer to these trees and shrubs. They probably won't need it.

[Resources used for this article: *Temalpakh*, Cahuilla Indian knowledge and usage of plants; Las Pilitas Nursery's fact sheet on California native plant species that fix nitrogen; Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum article entitled "Fabaceae (legume family)" by Mark A. Dimmit; Article entitled "Smoketree Photos: The Ghosts of the North American Desert" by Linda and Dr. Dick Buscher found in website "[livescience.com](http://livescience.com);" *Lush and Efficient* handbook from Coachella Valley Water District.]

### Photo Contest: Whimsical Category Honorable Mention



Photo by Jan Seaman

The Phoenix Botanical Garden is open in the evenings for light shows that change annually. These glass yuccas are one of several features last year.

## West County Helpline Query

*Contributed by Susan Bookman, West County UCCE Master Gardener*

The following questions were received by the West County MG Helpline and the response sent:

Q: Should landscape fabric be used in our garden? Does it really stop weed growth and allow water through to the plants? Is landscape fabric bad for the soil? Is there a place or reason for a home garden to use the fabric?

A: Landscape fabric is typically used as a synthetic mulch to control weeds. The *California Master Gardener Handbook, Second Edition*, states: "Inorganic mulches include commercial weed mats (weed block, weed barrier, or landscape fabrics) as well as polyethylene black plastic. Weed mats may be made of polyester, polypropylene, or a mixture of peat moss and cellulose. They can be expensive, but will provide several years of weed control in a landscape bed." Organic mulches are also effective and are more environmentally friendly. Plastic sheeting used as a mulch does not allow water to penetrate the soil, so drip or other irrigation must be installed below the plastic sheeting. Landscape fabrics tend to allow water to penetrate through the fabric, but that fact should be confirmed at purchase. Below is a link to the UC IPM website where weed control is discussed, including organic and inorganic mulches. We urge you to review this material before making a decision on which mulch to use.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/PESTNOTES/pn7441.html>

### MG photo contest by the numbers:

31 MGs/Trainees submitted photos.

58 MGs/Trainees voted.

350 MGs/Trainees are on the county roster.

20 per cent of contestants in each category are recognized in this Newsletter.

## Meet Janet Hartin

*Contributed by Mary Ann Egan, Desert UCCE Master Gardener*

Janet Hartin comes to us from Wichita, Kansas. The vast open plains of the American Midwest must have had Janet's parents looking for some geographical variety when vacation time rolled around. By the time Janet was 10 years old, she had vacationed in almost every national park. Although Janet had always been fascinated by plants, it was these visits to the national parks which stirred her interest in botany and horticulture, leading her to work in nurseries and garden centers since she was 16.

Janet left Kansas when she got married, moved to Hawaii to work on an anthurium farm for a year, and then returned to the Midwest for her Bachelor and Master degrees in horticulture from the University of Minnesota. In 1984 she accepted an offer from UC's Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR). Fortunately for the Master Gardener program, Janet has remained with UCANR since then.

Janet's husband, Joe, has also made teaching others his career. Joe has a background in helping children with chronic pain and he is now a psychology professor who also teaches statistics. Joe loves statistics, Janet says, and he makes learning statistics a fun experience. (I should take Joe's class!)

Janet's early interest in plants, nature and the outdoors has remained a fixture in her life. As an internationally recognized horticulture academician, Janet's professional life is devoted to researching plants and educating others about plants. The majority of her work as a UCCE advisor in Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles counties (yep, she works in 3 counties) is focused on sustainable landscape research and education. She reaches about 1500 arborists, landscapers and other "green" professionals per

year through various events, seminars and lectures. About 35% of her time is spent as the academic manager for the Master Gardener programs in Riverside and San Bernardino counties and as co-director of UCCE programs for San Bernardino County. She marvels at the dedication, passion, and knowledge of the Master Gardeners who she says are some of the nicest people she's ever met. Right now, Janet's main area of interest is sustainable landscapes and identifying urban trees that can withstand the impacts of climate change.

Nature and the outdoors call to Janet even when she is not working. When I asked about Janet's hobbies, the words "hiking, back-packing and camping" came back without a moment's hesitation. Her longest back-pack trip was nine days in Paria Canyon, a slot canyon of striking beauty on the Utah-Arizona border. The Bureau of Land Management website describes the canyon: "...Paria Canyon has towering walls streaked with desert varnish, huge red rock amphitheatres, sandstone arches, wooded terraces, and hanging gardens...." A pretty nice place to spend 9 days! After describing the narrowness of the canyon walls, the water and the springs in the canyon, and how the water filters made the water deliciously clean, Janet said that she couldn't wait to have a diet coke. (She has since given them up, in case you ever need to know.)



Janet is thrilled that daughter Stephanie and husband Mathew returned to the Desert after college allowing Janet to expand her botanical education efforts to include a special member of the very young generation. When Janet was on a walk recently with her 3-year old grandson, Grayson, who was carrying a toy drill, he kept touching the flowers with the point of the drill. When Janet asked, he said he was “pollinating the flowers.” One is never too young to learn botany basics! Right, Janet?

### Photo Contest: Whimsical Category Honorable Mention



Photo by Debbra Corbin-Euston  
The hobbit garden is one of many whimsical sightings in this MG's garden. Just around the corner is a fairy looking at a frog in a birdbath.

## Janet's Jottings

*Contributed by Janet Hartin, UCCE Master Gardener Program Director*

I hope that you and your families remain well and safe during these unprecedented times.



**Congratulations to all of our 2020 Master Gardener graduates!** I am so proud of all of you, especially under a necessary but compromised hybrid class that none of you originally signed up for. One silver lining is that an online learning module (in our case, Zoom) was available to

allow you to complete the class and graduate on schedule.

The COVID-19 crisis also stepped up the natural pace for getting **all** of us more familiar with online teaching and learning. I want to thank Rosa Olaiz and the class coordinators (Patti Bonawitz, Linda Delaney, Mary Ann Egan, Melody Knox, and Mike Reandeau) for providing leadership in the west and east valleys including Zoom tutorials, coordination, and execution near the end.

While I expect that, over time, more and more volunteer events and opportunities will reconvene much like before, I appreciate your adherence and support of UC, state, and county policies now and in the future. Rosa will keep you posted as steps are taken to resume volunteer activities that have been curtailed using a phased in approach and other modifications to ensure your safety and that of the public we serve.

Another silver lining of the pandemic is that interest in home gardening has greatly increased which I expect (and hope!) will continue. I am thankful that UCCE Master Gardeners are at the helm of providing credible information to home, school, and community gardeners and appreciate

school, and community gardeners and appreciate the added education and outreach via social media that many of you have been engaged in!

Happy 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Riverside County Master Gardeners!

A subject matter topic that often comes up is what plants are invasive and should be removed (or, preferably, never planted!) and what alternative plants are better choices. Two credible search engines that I recommend that you share with the public to make wise choices and reduce the spread of invasive plants are the

Urban Forest Ecosystem Institute: <https://selectree.calpoly.edu> and California Native Plant Society: <http://www.calscape.org/>

### NEWS! from Rosa

*Contributed by Rosa Olaiz, UCCE Master Gardener Volunteer Services Coordinator*



I hope everyone is staying healthy and enjoying warm weather! With summer just around the corner, I am hoping we can begin to slowly and cautiously offer outreach activities in the near future. At this time, we

are taking direction for both the University and Riverside County. Before UCCE Riverside County can return to any in-person activities, the county director must present a safety plan to the UC ANR.

We have had several positive experiences with on-line Continuing Education. I hope you have had an opportunity to view one of the several “Lunch & Learn” or Veteran meetings offered in the past couple of months. There are several scheduled for the coming weeks. Check out the VMS calendar; “Lunch and Learn” meetings are offered on the third Thursday of the month, 12-1pm and fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30am-1:30pm, the Veteran meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.

On March 25, Missy Gable, Statewide Master Gardener Director sent an email explaining the changes for this year’s reappointment. She stated, “volunteers who choose to remain active and reappoint during the upcoming reappointment period, June 1 – July 31, will be approved, regardless of the number of volunteer or continuing education hours completed this year. Further, volunteers will not be responsible for making up any incomplete volunteer and continuing education hours in the following program year.

Reappointment begins on June 1; you will see the Annual Volunteer Agreement and Request for Reappointment, Code of Conduct/Responsibilities and Rights, and Proof of CA Driver’s

**Beautiful But Invasive!**  
Don't Plant These in California



**Beautiful and NOT Invasive!**  
A few examples



License and Automobile Liability Insurance forms on your VMS home page. You will need to complete all three forms by July 10.

The second part of reappointment is paying the annual dues. You will receive an e-mail message on July 1, 2020 with information about paying the annual dues. The e-mail will include the link to pay online through a survey or instructions on sending a check to the UCCE office.

A special congratulations to Riverside County Master Gardener Graduates. You are now First Year Master Gardeners. In the Desert 29 Trainees completed the training and in West County 26 Trainees did so (see the list below). We appreciate your patience as we navigate through this unprecedented time. UCCE Riverside County has been through difficult times in the last couple of years but this pandemic has certainly challenged us in ways we could not imagine. We recognize all the hard work and dedication you put into successfully completing the training program, a big thank you for hanging in!!!

Below is the link is to the video from the Master Gardener state office celebrating this year's graduates.

<https://youtu.be/fzAWSEhQlww>

**Save the Date!** The State UC Master Gardener Conference has been rescheduled to September 28 - October 1, 202. The location will be Granlibakken in Lake Tahoe. The Search for Excellence Award will move forward with some changes as to the presentation of the awards. The state office is planning online learning opportunities and online photo contest during the time of the original 2020 conference.

**Sabbatical Leave**—Effective May 22, 2020 Eta Takele, Riverside County Director has taken a Sabbatical to research the economics of the Citrus Industry. Jose Aguiar, UC ANR Farm Advisor will serve as acting County Director for UCCE Riverside County until June 30, 2020.

**Big Dig Fundraiser**—You should have received an e-mail message about the statewide UCANR giving day on June 5. See the link below:

<file:///C:/Users/Rosa%200/Downloads/MG1%20-%20Flyer%20BDD%202020.pdf>

### **New first year UCCE Master Gardeners:**

Desert Area—Cristina Acosta, Jeffrey Baumgartner, Linda Borlang, Ann Coulston, Dan Fast, Timothy Hassett, Freddie Hooper, Heather Keenan, Buddy Knoles, Rita Kraus, Jill Kroesen, Mary Loe, Cesar Rene Lopez Barreras, Joel Masotti, Rochelle McCune, Marsha McNamara, Cynthia Morris Sotelo, Susan Panitch, Sherry Parkos-Martinez, Ursula Penn, Alexander Quintana, Bruce Radler, Vilma Raettig, Virginia Roberts, Kristin Ryall, Paul Seelos, Jeffrey Wright, Cyndy Zaech, and Smoky Zeidel.

West County Area—Darlene Butler, Lisa Casey, Adrian Ceja, Amy Clayton, Jonathan Crook, Linda Cummings, Christal Ferlisi, Kay Force, Renee Gissendanner, Alba Good, Lauralyn Hake, Betty Ingalls, Debby Leuer, Rebecca Mach, Kim Nielson, Jeremy Noye, Jane Payne, Joel Robles, Sharon Sharpe, Vernon Shattuck, George Spiliotis, Deborah Steward, Daniel Weatherford, Julie Weatherford, Margaret Whaley, and Marcelle Williams.

### **Upcoming Veterans Meeting on Zoom**

June 11, 6:30 p.m., Laura Simpson will present "Growing to Preserve."

### **Upcoming "Lunch and Learn" Events on Zoom**

June 18, noon, a representative from the Bighorn Institute will speak on "Bighorn Sheep."

June 25, 11:30 a.m., Christine Lampe will present "Growing Your Veggie Garden from Seeds."

July 16, noon, Suzanne Breshears will talk about "Houseplants."

**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	Debbra Corbin-Euston
Chair Elect	Georgia Renne
Past Chair	Linda Powell
Treasurer	
Recording Secretary	Karen Fleisher

**Desert Advisory Board Members**

Chair	Marcia Stone
Chair Elect	Marcia Stone
Past Chair	Barbara Kay-Levin
Fiscal Officer	Bruce Wilcox
Secretary	Curtis Beyer

**Committee & Project Coordinators**

Coachella Valley Preserve	Marcia Stone
West County Community Gardens	Cindy Peterson
Desert Events	Angela Johnson
Desert Farmers' Markets	Ron Jemmerson
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard
Grow Lab	Kathy Warner
Desert Help Line	Jim Thompson/ Ralph Thompson
West County Help Line	Susan Bookman
IT/Website	David Brandtman
Desert Membership	Jerry L'Hommedieu
West County Mentoring Program	Juanita Wielenga
Desert Mentoring Program	Curtis Beyer/ Ken Niemeyer
Moorthen's Botanic Garden-Docent -Propagation	Janet Seaman Brenda Costantino
Desert New Projects	Carolyn Daniels
West County Equip./Inventory	Steven Lee
West County Public Relations	Sue Cline/ Pam Clarke
Desert Public Relations	Donna Maul
West County School Gardens	Jonie Kipling
Desert School Gardens	Brad Hardison
West County Socials	Yvonne Wilczynski
Desert Socials	Kathy Miller
West County Speakers' Bureau	Mike Horak
Desert Speakers' Bureau	Gail Nottberg
West County Tours	Linda Carpenter
Desert Veterans Events	Carolyn Daniels
West County Training Class	Patti Bonowitz
Desert Training Class	Mike Reandean
UCR Botanic Gardens	Yvonne Wilczynski
WEL	
Desert Workshops	Mary Moses

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*

Neighbors call my backyard a sanctuary. Lately, it seems more like a den of terror. A roadrunner family has been wreaking havoc with the wildlife. In early March I was charmed by a pair of roadrunners carrying debris to build a nest in my ficus hedge. By late April I saw roadrunner chicks scattering about my yard. On a very hot day I found one of them dead. It was quite sad as the mother was bringing food to the toddler as I dug its grave. Two weeks later the whole family, parents and two nearly grown chicks, were within feet of my patio. I was amused by the young female who ruffled her feathers and stomped her feet in front of her mom with beak wide open begging for food. Songbirds have gone and the hummingbirds that frequented my patio have been shy coming to their feeders. Now I regret allowing the nest to be built. I did tear it down but only after it was vacated. When I see them nearby I chase them with a pole but they keep coming back. They seem to relish the chase as they sit on my patio furniture looking into the door. I got no help from on-line sources as it is considered a joke. How to get rid of roadrunners? "Get a coyote." We have seen the cartoon and know how it ends—for the coyote. By the way, roadrunners do not go "beep-beep." LOL