



University of California Cooperative Extension - Riverside County

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

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

Website

www.ucanr.edu/sites/RiversideMG

Email

anrmgriverside@ucanr.edu

anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

UC Master Gardener Program Mission Statement

The purpose of the UC Master Gardener Program is to extend to the public research-based information verified by UC experts about home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape.

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Announcing Cathy Konyn Memorial Award Recipients!



(See story and photos page 2.)

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Cathy Konyn Memorial Award Recipients Announced!

The Cathy Konyn Memorial Award is very special because it honors our departed friend and former Advisory Board Chair who devoted herself to making the UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program a shining star.

**We are proud of and congratulate our
2021-2022 Recipients!**

**Marcia Stone, Desert UCCE Master
Gardener**



**Debbra Corbin-Euston, West County
UCCE Master Gardener**



(Full story in next *Garden Views*.)



Soboba Resource Garden Update

Contributed by Thurman Howard, UCCE Master Gardener



EST. JUNE 19, 1883

I was taught as a young man never to turn a project down no matter how big or small. On my first assessment of the Soboba Resource Garden three and a half years ago, I knew I was taking on a massive ordeal. My confidence was not deterred because I knew I had the backing of our Master Gardener Program; the question was whether I had the backing of the Soboba Reservation in San Jacinto.

Any time we work with a new organization, not only are we helping to grow crops, but we are also trying to cultivate a positive relationship. In working with the Sobobas, they have their traditions and their ways of doing things. Although many times the ways are similar, we need to respect their traditions.

The past four months, we have had bumper crops with significant yields. (See below.) We follow that wonderful phrase: feed the soil, and the soil will feed the plants. That has been our mission since taking on this project. After three and a half years of conditioning the soil, not only is our success being confirmed by bumper crops but also by the fact that the soil is decomposing and building a community of organisms.

By working with the tribal members on composting and vermiculture, the importance of drainage and proper watering became evident. By doing composting, they could see the pile of waste materials reducing in size. It became evident that

something was active and causing the reduction of the pile. Similarly, by doing vermiculture, they could easily see the worms processing the food, and increasing in numbers. Consequently, they realized that it takes water, oxygen, and regular care to maximize the quality of the soil. With this realization plus the high yield, they saw that feeding the soil meant the soil will feed the plants and thus feed the people.

To date, we added to the gardens over 100 tons of green compost, a ton of steer manure, worm castings, and bone meal. One of the things we did that you won't find in a textbook was that we grew daikon (a large radish with a white root also used as fodder) on a quarter acre where the drainage was slow, and the soil was compressed. This significantly loosened up the clay. Plus, we constantly survey the garden after every heavy rain to ensure proper drainage.

In September we continued to harvest bumper summer crops of tomatoes, eggplant, three types of squash, sweet watermelon, large pumpkins, beets, carrots, and onions with some sweet potatoes and yams waiting for later harvest.



This is when we prepped our soil for spring and started our seedlings for the winter garden. We added bone meal to our soil along with our composted steer manure and later included green compost. We did a soil test giving us very high marks in all areas. Testing tells us if our community of microbes are helping increase our

nutrients in the soil. Plus we continued to water as the soil rests after harvest.

Our summer bumper crop was still producing in late October, and our harvest delayed the topping of compost for our spring and summer garden. Eventually another twenty tons of compost was dropped off at the garden. A watering regimen was started to assure that our microbes are fed and watered.



We track our nitrogen level after each harvest. We measure the nitrogen days after harvest then again in three weeks before adding new compost. We then do a final reading three weeks after placing a new layer of compost. Our nitrogen count went up by one point during the first three weeks before placing the new layer. Our conclusion was that our soil was still decomposing at a very acceptable rate, so it will have a very favorable natural nitrogen level. I requested we apply bone meal to the soil in early December to increase calcium level.



In late fall we were still harvesting onions, eggplant, sweet potatoes, and yams. Our peppers were even producing. I advised the garden to harvest for the next two weeks and then remove all remaining vegetation to prepare for our spring and summer gardens.



The area we planned for our winter garden had been resting for six months. Micro level activity was very high as we continued to increase natural decomposition. The first week in December we planted three types of lettuce; the second week we planted broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, Swiss chard, and two types of cabbage, a red and a green. The third planting added three types of kale. Carrots and beets were planted the previous month from seeds. Early in January we added cabbage and another planting of kale along with continued monitoring of our recently planted crops.



We will install fifteen hydro sections in our garden to monitor the amount of moisture during 2022. Our January meeting with management will set up our plan for charting the moisture levels on specific days of the week/month and hopefully involve our MG trainees to assist with this project.

After several visits to the Soboba Resource Garden, the Cahuilla Band of Mission Indians from their reservation in Anza saw that they all shared many of the same issues with their gardens. They reached out to Soboba for information on how to reach the Master Gardener Program and then asked us to visit their garden. We plan to meet with them soon.

We are very close to having this garden become a teaching station for Master Gardeners to learn from the Soboba experience and hopefully contribute to its further success. The greatest reward I receive from this project is the respect they have for me as their teacher.



Thurman Howard

Guide Dogs of the Desert Ask for Master Gardener Assistance

Contributed by Mary Ann Egan, UC Master Gardener

Guide Dogs of the Desert recently asked the Master Gardeners for some guidance in selecting plants for the organization’s campus near Whitewater. A small group of Master Gardeners visited the site in early December to offer suggestions about choosing suitable plants and locating them in appropriate places.

Guide Dogs of the Desert was founded in 1972 by Mr. Lafayette “Bud” Maynard with the goal to provide quality guide dogs to the blind and the multi-handicapped blind. By 1975, the demand for guide dogs outgrew Mr. Maynard’s capacity to

train from his home. At that time, Guide Dogs of the Desert leased a two-bedroom house with a detached garage located on the current school property and eventually purchased six additional acres in 1982 to expand the kennels and dormitory, thanks to donations from local businesses and a grant from the Lions Club. Since 1972, Guide Dogs of the Desert has been making a difference in blind and visually impaired individuals' lives by graduating more than 800 student /Guide Dog teams.

When Dr. Jonathan Yorba, the Guide Dogs executive director, initially contacted the Master Gardeners at the MG information table at the Palm Springs Farmers Market, he had some specific goals in mind, a herb garden and removal of a palm tree toxic to dogs were high on the list of gardening goals. The 8-acre Guide Dogs campus is located on a dry, windy hillside near Whitewater. The site has impressive views of the eastern Coachella Valley and is home to rabbits with impressive appetites for edible plants.



The buildings of this state-of-the-art training facility form a semi-protected courtyard with planting areas next to the buildings. More exposed and larger planting areas are located on the outer perimeter of the buildings. As Dr. Yorba and other staff members walked with the MG group around the site, the MGs made plant suggestions and pointed out various orientation aspects of the site which would influence plant selection and location.

The troublesome palm, which is toxic to dogs and people, is a large Sago palm now fenced off to prevent harm to the dogs. The MGs suggested that the palm's sunny spot within the rabbit-discouraging courtyard could be a good location for the desired herb garden after the palm is removed. The Master Gardeners followed up by sending some additional plant information to Dr. Yorba after the visit concluded.

An important note: The initial contact by the Guide Dog organization was made at one of the MG information tables at a farmer's market in Palm Springs. That contact is a concrete reminder of how these information tables serve as a valuable resource for the community.

Master Gardeners Partner with CalFresh

Contributed by Kim Coons-Leonard, UCCE Master Gardener

Cooperation. That word is at the heart of the University of California Cooperative Extension. Exemplifying this is the ongoing partnership between the CalFresh Healthy Living, UCCE Riverside County and our Master Gardener Children's, Youth and School Project.

CalFresh Healthy Living (CFHL) Program is a federally funded nutrition education program for individuals and families participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Their mission is clear: "To inspire and empower under-served Californians to improve their health by promoting awareness, education, and community change through diverse partnerships, resulting in healthy eating and active living."



What better way to learn about healthy eating and active living than to work in a garden learning to grow, harvest and prepare fresh produce? To this end CalFresh and the Master Gardener School Project partner to provide educational support to families and youth in schools with more than 50% student participation in the Free/Reduced Meals Program. Countywide. This partnership serves Alford Unified, Banning Unified, Coachella Valley Unified and Desert Sands Unified Early Childhood Education (ECE).

These are districts that CalFresh had initial access to with sustained partnerships to provide healthy living education. With that access to administrators, teachers, and students CalFresh in turn reaches out to our School Project for collaboration opportunities.



What does this partnership look like?

Planning and development of a school garden:

CalFresh works with schools to help them plan and budget for a garden. This has opened the door to many campuses for Master Gardeners with requests for consultation services to support this process.

Maintaining a school garden: Master Gardeners work with CalFresh, teachers and students to maintain, and/or expand school gardens. We work side by side to guide students in planting, weeding, identifying insects as pests or beneficials, and in harvesting their crops.

Engaging students in garden-based learning:

CalFresh uses UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' (ANR) Teams with Intergenerational Support (TWIGS) curriculum which focuses on both nutrition and gardening. Intergenerational collaboration has the potential to unite and improve communities through authentic engagement between youth, adults, and older

adults. Intergenerational activities further promote healthy lifestyle messaging across generations. These lessons are shared with the Master Gardener School Project to support and coordinate with the work being done in the school garden.

Master Gardeners School Project has developed an online horticulture curriculum for grades TK-12 aligned to state educational standards. This serves as a supplemental resource enabling teachers to link gardening with required curriculum. Supporting CalFresh's nutritional focus, the School Project has also developed fact sheets that include nutritional information and recipes for fruits and vegetable grown in school gardens.

Even during the pandemic, this partnership has flourished. CalFresh worked with Master Gardeners to coordinate the presentation of both CalFresh and Master Gardener lessons online. This included lessons to elementary and middle school students, and a Family Night Gardening series.

And, as schools begin to reopen to visitors, CalFresh and the Master Gardener School Project are once again able to collaborate in-person to "inspire and empower" students to improve their health through gardening and healthy eating.



CalFresh Program Supervisor Claudia Carlos (left) and Master Gardener Kim Coons-Leonard (right) collaborate with Loma Vista Middle School science teacher Regina Linton (center) to present a lesson on testing the pH level of soil.

There's An Oasis in Our Desert!

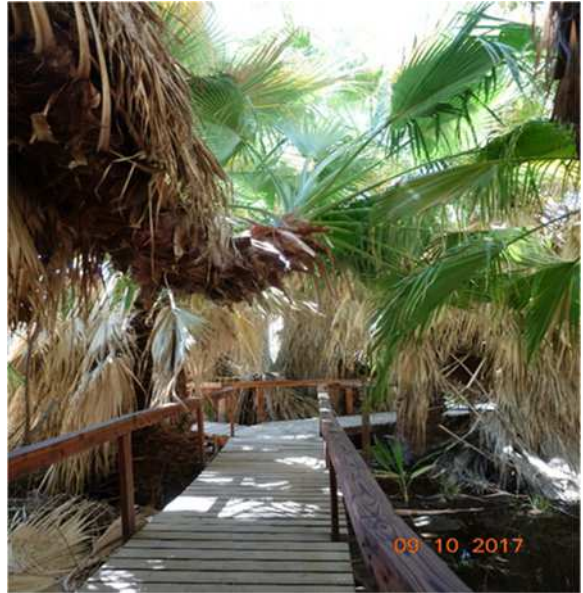
Contributed by Marcia Stone, UCCE Master Gardener

The Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve, part of the larger Coachella Valley Preserve, gives visitors the impression of a mirage. This part of the Colorado Desert is defined by the San Andreas fault that runs through the preserve and brings water toward the Earth's surface. This is the ideal spot for the California Fan Palm or *Washingtonia filifera* to thrive as well as many other native plant species.

The Thousand Palms Oasis is managed by the Center for Natural Land Management (CNLM). CNLM protects and manages preserves in the states of California and Washington. All the preserves provide refuge for threatened or endangered species or protect rare and sensitive habitat such as wetlands. The Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve is both the home of wetlands and the endangered Coachella Valley Fringed-toed Lizard. It is thanks to this fact that the nearly 80 acres of the Thousand Palms Oasis is preserved and protected by CNLM.

Riverside Master Gardener Project at the Thousand Palms Oasis, Coachella Valley Preserve

provides veteran Master Gardeners and trainees with an opportunity to experience this unusual desert environment which contains wetlands, desert washes and canyons. Visitors can hike more than 25 miles of trails, observe desert habitat, relax in the coolness of the *Washingtonia filifera*, and enjoy breath-taking vistas.



A board walk leads visitors through the wetlands at the Thousand Palms Oasis where the *Washingtonia filifera* thrives on water, sun, and desert warmth. The presence of the San Andreas provides a high-water table and seeps and springs throughout the preserve



For the past few years, the public, Master Gardener veterans and trainees have experienced native plant identification hikes led by Master Gardener, Marcia Stone. The hike, an easy couple of miles, includes the Smoke Tree Ranch Trail and part of the McCallum Trail. Trainees and members of the public often note with surprise the impact of slowing down. Slowing down and observing encourages one to see what is often missed. Being out on the trail with a docent is an opportunity to reflect on the peace of being with nature, the beauty of the desert, and a connection to the land that was first made by the Cahuilla, the Indigenous people of the Coachella Valley.

The preserve is home to numerous native plants that are found in the Coachella Valley. Many of these native plants provided food, shelter, medicine, tools and so much more to the Cahuilla people. Blending the identification of native plants with ethnobotany emphasizes a meaningful connection that exists between native plants and the original inhabitants of the valley and the Thousand Palms Oasis Preserve.



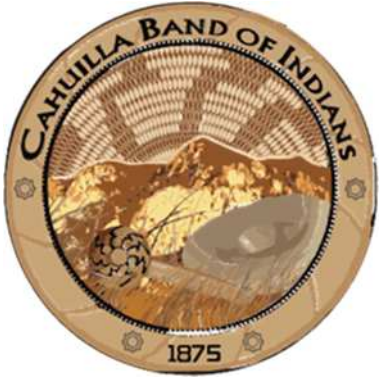
Western Honey Mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*) with early summer pods developing from the Spring catkins. Honey Mesquite, a staple in the Cahuilla diet provides a high level of nutrients. An extremely deep tap root makes this a dependable desert shrub and tree.



Arrow Weed (*Pluchea sericea*) branches supplied the early Cahuilla with arrow shafts and building materials while the roots of young Arrow Weed plants provided food when roasted. Rhizomes provide an abundance of new plants nurtured by the high-water table. The Arrow Weed has pinkish-lavender flowers in the Spring.

Master Gardener volunteer, Brad Hardison, volunteers as a Roving Docent venturing on numerous trails and working at Simone Pond. Brad is an excellent resource on the trails regarding native plants, pond restoration (habitat restoration), and trail guidance. Master Gardeners who are interested in volunteering at the Thousand Palms Oasis and Coachella Valley Preserve must apply, interview, and upon acceptance, train, commit to volunteering and support the mission of the preserve and that of the Master Gardener Program. The preserve manager, Ginny Short, is employed by the CNLM. All other support is through volunteerism. Making and fulfilling a commitment to the preserve is a key element to a volunteer's success.

The preserve is currently open Wednesday through Sunday, 7 AM to 5 PM. Docents provide a variety of experiences sharing hiking information, bird walks, geology talks, plant strolls, and an oasis chat. All of this is free to the public. Donations gratefully received.





As we work together to rebuild our Master Gardener community emerging from our isolation and transition to more normalcy, please practice these Principles of Community shared by Missy Gable, Director UCCE Master Gardener Program.

Our Principles of Community

- **Ensure open communication**
- **Work together to achieve common goals and mutual understandings**
- **Value the contribution and worth of all members**
- **Appreciate and celebrate differences and diversity**
- **Foster a sense of belonging and emotional safety**
- **Practice mutual respect**
- **Demonstrate ethics and integrity**
- **Invest in all members**
- **Recognize that all members are important**

Monarch Habitat Planted in Riverside

Contributed by Linda Powell, UCCE Master Gardener

In December 2013, Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) purchased property from a commercial nursery. These 10.85 acres were originally intended to expand their native fish breeding program as well as establish a satellite office with space to educate future farmers and have a nursery. The official title of the property is the RCRCD Greenbelt Aquatics Facility.

This design was amended once RCRCD was given a grant to build a monarch habitat on two acres of the property. While the money continues until February 2022, RCRCD committed to maintain the habitat until at least 2029. Once the habitat is established the site will be open to groups i.e. boy and girl scouts, school classes, environmentalists, etc. Events in the future will include a speaker's bureau and information tables all focusing on everything monarch.

This newest project at the Greenbelt Facility, the monarch habitat, carries the hope that if it is successful, it will become a permanent aspect of the facility. The current goal is to establish the two acres as a Western Monarch breeding and foraging habitat. Our Master Gardeners assisted in clearing the site and planting over 1,400 milkweed plants and 900 native nectar plants from July through December. During this time a total of 55 Master Gardeners participated in various activities to build the monarch habitat.



Monarch Butterfly on narrow leaf milkweed

Annually a survey will be conducted to assess the vegetative health of the habitat. Also, the milkweed will be tested for eggs, caterpillar, and adult monarchs. These observations will be logged into the Western Monarch Milkweed Mapper database. Master Gardeners will be asked to help/volunteer for this survey. Michele Feliz-Derbarndiker, naturalist and RCRCD monarch habitat coordinator, will be teaching a citizen training class in March with our first survey taking place in late March or early April. Michele and Ernesto Alvarado (native plant nursery assistant) plan to use the site in the future for native plant gardening classes, citizen science

trainings, and fundraising events such as native plant sales and painting classes.

As Master Gardeners it is a pleasure to assist development of such an educational, sustainable, and earth beneficial project!

What is the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD)?

Contributed by Georgia Renne, UCCE Master Gardener



Several years ago as a MG trainee, I attended the required orientation for one of our Master Gardener partners, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) located in downtown Riverside at 14th Street and Glenwood Drive, the base of Mt. Rubidoux. As a native Riversider living here all but six years of my life, I was surprised that I was not aware of its existence. I quickly learned RCRCD's history, its current mission, and explored its grounds. Beginning in 1952 with the petition by 126 farmers to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors to develop a Soil Conservation District to bring federal funds to local farmers, RCRCD works with private land users, nonprofit organizations and public entities to sustain natural resources within its boundaries. The RCRCD's main office, the Resource Conservation Center (RCC), is a re-purposed 9-acre campus located at an antiquated research facility, the former USDA's Soil Salinity Laboratory. To reuse the site the buildings were renovated for energy efficiency and handicapped accessibility. No wonder I did not know of its existence!



Its mission statement is totally in line with our MG Program. "The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) works to sustain natural resources and helps others conserve resources, so that high quality water, land, soil, wildlife, air and plant life will be abundant forever." Working with private land users, nonprofit organizations, and public entities to sustain natural resources within its boundaries, the District provides information about natural resources and their stewardship and management for each land use: native habitats, urban/suburban areas, and agriculture. The RCRCD conducts education and on-the-land conservation projects, such as habitat restoration (<https://www.rcrcd.org>) connecting to the Master Gardener Program.



My favorite exploration RCRCD was of the LandUse Learning Center (LLC), a three-acre demonstration garden depicting sustainable practices in local land use, native habitats, urban areas, and agriculture. As an educational tool it serves to empower southern Californians to practice natural resource stewardship at home, at work, and in the community. Each area includes labeled plants with accompanying plant lists. The three garden areas demonstrate ways that land management practices, wise land use planning, and retrofits can be used to create urban and agro-ecosystems that function more like healthy natural ecosystems.

The first garden, the Native Habitat Area demonstrates four important plant communities of inland Southern California: coastal sage scrub, chaparral, oak woodland and riparian. Plants include local native plant species. The second

garden, Sustainable Urban Areas, demonstrates four styles of water-wise yards and lawn alternatives and illustrate the multiple values of trees. The third garden, Agricultural Area, highlights crops that are adapted to the climate of Southern California including irrigation and pest management.

Actually, RCRCDC includes 200,000 acres or 312 square miles of land in Western Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Approximately 85,000 of these acres are urban areas serving the communities of Riverside, Corona, Norco, Woodcrest, Gavilan Hills, Temescal Canyon, Grand Terrace, Highgrove, and parts of Colton, Canyon Lake, and Reche Canyon. The RCRCDC's northwest boundary is the Santa Ana River. Principal tracts of public lands in or adjacent to the District include: the Cleveland National Forest, Lake Mathews, the Prado Flood Control Basin, and Riverside County Parks holdings.

Master Gardeners are so fortunate to partner with RCRCDC at the nine-acre Resource Conservation Center where starting in February Master Gardeners will be presenting workshops on the first Saturdays of the month. In addition to the new Monarch Habitat at the Greenbelt Aquatics Facility, another RCRCDC facility we love is used (prior to COVID) by MGs for Home Gardening Classes, the Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center, located in Temescal Valley on a 72-acre nature preserve.



As our weather warms and COVID stops surging, consider exploring the RCRCDC facility and the Land Use Center Demonstration Gardens! Check their website for current days and hours when they are open. (<https://www.rcrcd.org>)

CONGRATULATIONS MASTER GARDENERS!

Desert Master Gardeners

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin

Rita Kraus

250 Hours Garden Trowel Pin

Tamara Kozma

Jax Patterson

500 Hours Watering Can Pin

Mary Ann Egan

West County Master Gardeners

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin

Harold Kund

Marcelle Williams

250 Hours Garden Trowel Pin

Marianne Donley

Jolene Hancock

Sue Nesbitt

Ron Routon

June Scales

500 Hours Watering Can Pin

George Spiliotis

1000 Hours Gold Badge

Chris Curtis

Recognition in Statewide MG Announcement

We want to offer special recognition to the UC Master Gardener volunteers who have reached huge hour milestones during the past program year. Congratulations and thank you to the following volunteers for donating more than 5,000 hours with the UC Master Gardener Program:

7500 Hours

Thurman Howard

MG Behind the Scenes

Contributed by Debby Leuer, UCCE Master Gardener

My name is Debby Leuer, and I'm the Inventory Equipment Coordinator for the West County Advisory Board. I am a 2019-2020 Graduate of the Riverside Master Gardener class, which ended as the 1st Zoom class. It didn't take long for Thurman Howard to seek me out for chores to do,

and soon I found my role in Inventory. There were three reasons why I took on these duties. First, I was honored that Thurman Howard even knew my name, nonetheless that he would think of me for this task as I'm just a 1st year Master Gardener. Thurman taught me a lot during our Farmer's Market booth events before Covid. Second, the more questions that Thurman asked me in this "interview," the more I realized I have some computer skills that could bring the inventory into a more usable format. Third, I didn't think anyone ever told Thurman no!



Debby Leuer (center) at the Info Booth for RCRC with Deby Anderson

I took the position over from Steven Lee, who had started a list of equipment as a Word doc. Since Word docs are limited in their flexibility, I had to transfer the inventory into an Excel spreadsheet. This allows me the ability to sort the equipment lists for use of various programs and projects, so we can make sure their equipment is accounted for. It also allows us to identify where equipment is located, so we can shuffle resources where they are needed for public events on busy weekends. After the UCCE Riverside Office was flooded in August of 2021, I boxed up all the Quick Tips cards, some brochures, and supplies storing all at my home. We hope to have the UCCE Riverside Office restored and back in operation by March, when the supplies can return to the office.

I also am in charge of ordering new or replacement equipment needed to carry out our public service volunteer roles. Research is done, and new equipment is ordered, picked up, inventoried, and yes, paperwork is involved.

I guess you could describe my biggest job duty as "gopher." I shuffle around EZ UP Tents, chairs, tables, lattice wall displays, etc., to and from events as needed, bringing supplies, such as Quick Tip Cards and booklets from WMWD to events. These include Info Tables at all MG events, Farmer's Markets, Lavender Festival, Riverside Home and Garden Show, and Home Improvement Center booths as requested. This way supplies are always available for the public. It's a fun and rewarding behind the scenes role as part of the team of Master Gardeners.

My real gardening passions are my rose garden, citrus trees, my raised bed vegetable garden, making flower arrangements and wreaths, and of course, tending to drought tolerant plants. As a farmer's daughter, I've loved gardening since I was a small child and have always grown gardens to share produce. As with others, it's exciting to find new plants and discover what will grow in Riverside with its ever-changing climate. I also enjoy hiking with my Border Collie, Cookie. When my pup digs a hole, I know it's just a new opportunity to grow another plant!



Debby Leuer pruning citrus at the CA Citrus State Heritage Park



A Succulent Encounter at Sunnylands

Contributed by Mary Ann Egan, UCCE Master Gardener

Over three weeks during last November a group of Master Gardeners spent several days at Sunnylands Center and Gardens in Rancho Mirage getting some baby succulents out of the ground, putting them into pots, and getting them started on their new lives. The gardens on the nine-acre site at Sunnylands are both extensive and spectacular. Growing in the gardens are a wide variety of arid-adapted plants, just the thing to get a desert gardener's juices flowing.



Jim Huberty and Marilyn Blitz survey the Ghost aloe.

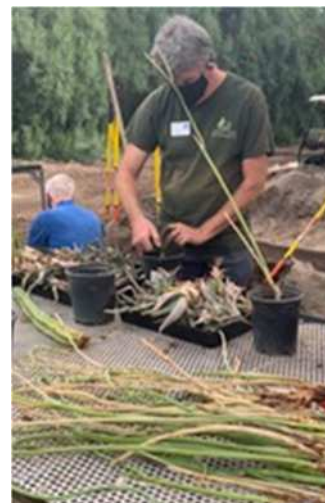
After an orientation session, the Assistant Superintendent Grounds at Sunnylands, Daisy Robles, welcomed the Master Gardeners by taking them to a garden planted with Ghost aloe (*Aloe striata* x *Ghost*) and handing out shovels and trowels. There is no time like the present to dig in, so the Master Gardeners did just that. A couple of hours later there were trays of baby aloe nestled side by side with their brethren of similar size.



MGs Shar Gregory, Gail Nottberg, Patty Reed and Ken Neimeyer work with the ghost aloes.

In the following sessions, the assigned task changed from digging to potting. Once again the Master Gardeners put shovels to work, this time filling pots with soil to nurture the baby plants and then potting up the babies. At the end of a two-hour session, the nursery sported a new and impressive swath of potted Ghost aloes.

In a third session, the Master Gardeners had the opportunity to pot up variety of plant pups, including the euphorbia Candelilla (*Euphorbia antisiphilitical*) and a red yucca relative, the grassy yucca (*Hesperaloe tenifolia*).



Euphorbia pups wait their turn while Brad Hardison works on aloes.



Euphorbia Candelilla (*Euphorbia antisyphilitical*)

The project is scheduled to continue with MG trainees and other Master Gardeners during the spring of 2022. Unfortunately, the newest Covid variant temporarily closed Sunnylands and put the MG project there on hiatus for the month of January. But as soon as it is possible, the Master Gardeners will be ready with their gloves and enthusiasm to dig in and learn.



Note: Sunnylands emerged onto the world stage when the historic estate was completed in 1966. It has since welcomed eight U.S. presidents and world leaders, noted intellectuals, celebrities, and friends and family. For more than 40 years, Ambassadors Walter and Leonore Annenberg welcomed political, business, educational, and entertainment leaders to Sunnylands their 200-acre winter home. In 2001, the couple established The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands to preserve the estate as a place where world leaders could meet to discuss issues of national and international importance. Sunnylands Center & Gardens, a fifteen-acre site was opened to the public in March 2012. (<https://sunnylands.org/>)

Editor's Note

Sometimes when my son is on his travels he likes to play, "Ask the Master Gardener" or in this case "Stump the Master Gardener" by sending me photos of unique plants he does not recognize. Recently he was in Laguna Beach on PCH, spotted colorful berries on an unknown tree, and texted me photos for its identification.



Its interesting spike of purple/red berries and oval shaped hanging leaves were too unusual for me. Since it was thriving in Laguna Beach and unrecognizable to me, I surmised I had never seen it growing in Riverside County. That was often the case when I visited Laguna over the last 60+ years and sought to identify plants that were unfamiliar to me. (I admit I often bought plants in Laguna and were disappointed they did not flourish in Riverside's summers.)



When I received the photos from my son, I began to search the various tree identification platforms and collections of tree images. In vain I googled large tree with purple/red berries, etc. I tried using two tree identification platforms to no avail.

So, I ask for help from you far wiser Master Gardeners! Have you ever seen this beautiful tree that grows over twenty feet tall, has hanging leaves, and interesting dark purple/red spikes of berries? As you can see from the photos, it is growing in full sun in a parking lot within the sidewalk flower bed. I have included close-ups of its unique berry stalk plus photos that show its unusual pattern of hanging leaves.



Berry stalk circled

Please help this Master Gardener become unstumped! Send me your identification information to grenne@earthlink.net with the email title, "Tree ID." I'll post the correct identification in the next newsletter. Thank you!

Georgia Renne, Editor



Mystery tree berries

Janet's Jottings



Janet Hartin

Did you ever wonder the origins of why people often choose to give red flowers to their significant others for Valentine's Day?

The language of flowers became popular in the 17th and 18th centuries. Virtually every flower, even its color, had special significance during this period. Flowers even formed secret correspondence between men and women with bouquets being chosen carefully to convey sentiment.

Traditionally:

- red roses: love
- pink roses: complete happiness
- daffodils: regard
- daisies: loyalty
- gardenia: clandestine or secret love.



Flowers express traits of character, as well.

Here are some additional plants aptly named for feelings often accompanying Valentine’s Day sentiments: "Bleeding Heart" (Dicentra Spectabilis),"Love in Winter" (Chimaphila umbellata), "Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate" (Persicaria orientale), and "Love Lies Bleeding" (Amaranthus caudatus). Some, such as "Cupid Dart" (Catananche caerulea) were used in potions and other concoctions, in this case by ancient Greeks. And alas, the "All American Roses" of the year for 1980 were "Love", "Honor," and "Cherish".

While you're reaching out to your significant others this Valentine's Day (or any day!) make memories last longer by adding the floral preservative that comes with most arrangements or can be purchased separately.

May your love be everlasting.....

Janet



"Bleeding Heart" (Dicentra Spectabilis)



**"Kiss Me Over the Garden Gate"
(Persicaria orientale)**

News from Rosa!



Rosa Olaiz

A big thank you to all Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Friends who donated during the Giving Tuesday fundraiser. During the 24-hour event, \$2,775 was raised and an additional \$1000 was awarded to the UCCE Riverside Master Gardener program for two challenges: \$500 for "In It to Win It" and \$500 for the "Donor Challenge," with a total of 27 donors from throughout the county.

After several months of negotiating, the Statewide Master Gardener Office selected a new badge vendor. The State Office will cover the cost of new badges for every Master Gardener. As soon as we get permission to proceed, look for an email with a link to enter your information such as name, graduation year, and type of backing so your new badge can be ordered correctly.

This is the time to log in your volunteer activities on VMS especially if you are close to receiving a new color of badge for a certain number of hours. Also, the State Master Gardener office collects data from VMS to report to funders and government agencies. Likewise, Riverside County requests volunteer and continuing education hour updates throughout the year. Enter your volunteer and continuing education hours on a regular basis. Do not wait until June; do it now!

Due to the limited number of Master Gardener activities and event cancelation, the state office has reinstated the COVID Exception Hours Project. **See the new 2021-2022 Document sent separately as an email from VMS.**

Riverside County UC Master Gardeners			
UCCE Riverside County Director		Rita Clemons	
UCCE Riverside MG Program Director		Janet Hartin	
Volunteer Services Coordinator		Rosa Olaiz	
West County Advisory Board		Desert Advisory Board	
Chair	Darrilyn Erickson	Chair	Smoky Zeidel
Chair Elect	Amy Clayton	Chair Elect	Jim Thompson
Past Chair	Georgia Renne	Past Chair	Marcia Stone
Secretary	Judi Newby	Secretary	Cesar Lopez Barreras
Treasurer	Jonathan Crook	Treasurer	Jim Huberty
Fiscal Officer	Jim Huberty	Fiscal Officer	Jim Huberty
Community Gardens	Thurman Howard	Class Coordinator (County)	Melody Knox
Diverse Community Projects	Thurman Howard	Class Coordinator (Desert)	
Equipment & Inventory	Debbie Leuer	Coachella Valley Preserve Docents	Marcia Stone
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard	Coachella Valley Rescue Mission	Ruben Arias
Grow Lab	Adrian Ceja	Continuing Education	Carolyn Daniels
Help Line	Susan Bookman	CREATE/Gardening Blind	Barbara Kay Levine
Home Gardening Class	Linda Powell	Events	Rita Kraus
IT/Website (Countywide)	Ralph Thompson	Farmers Markets	Gail Nottberg
Mentoring Program	Alba Good	Helpline	Ralph and Jim Thompson
Membership	Karen Fleisher	Home Gardening Class	Linda Borlaug
MG Logo Merchandise	Jennifer Hopper	Information Technology Team	Ralph Thompson
Newsletter	Georgia Renne	Job Descriptions	Patty Reed, Marcia Stone
Parliamentarian	Dave Brandtman	Member Engagement	Marsha McNamara
Parliamentarian	Cindy Peterson	Membership	Cynthia Morris-Sotelo
Public Relations eBlast	Susan Cline	Moorten's Gardens Docents	Smoky Zeidel
Public Relations Social Media	Pam Clarke	New Projects	Carolyn Daniels
RCRCD Liaison	Steve Orr	Propagation	Barbara Kay-Levin
Rooted	Patti Bonawitz	Publicity eBlast	Barbara Kay Levine
School Gardens	Kim Coons-Leonard	Publicity Social Media	Vivian Yturalde
School Gardens	Chris Curtis	Social Recognition	Kathy Miller
School Gardens	Brad Hardison	Speaker's Bureau	Pat Claves
Social Recognition	Yvonne Wilczynski	Sunnylands Special Events	Patty Reed
Speaker's Bureau	Lynn Coffman	WIC (Women Infants Children)	Vilma Raettig
Tours	Linda Carpenter		
Training Class (County)	Melody Knox		
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Yvonne Wilczynski		
WMWD Liaison	Janice Rosner		

“A flower is an educated weed.”

Luther Burbank