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Advice to Grow By ... Ask Us!

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UC Master Gardener Program Mission Statement

"To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives."

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Announcing the Cathy Konyn Memorial Award Recipients!



(See story and photos page 2.)

Garden Views is published bi-monthly by the Riverside County Master Gardener Program. In this issue:

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Cathy Konyn Memorial Award Recipients Announced!

Carolyn Daniels Desert UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener



Carolyn Daniels was a tireless worker for the Desert Master Gardener Program putting her knowledge and talents to work on a variety of projects. She was instrumental in getting the gardens installed at Coachella Valley Rescue Mission. She was quick to volunteer to teach Home Gardening Classes and kept the Desert Continuing Education program running. She was always on the lookout for new ideas for Master Gardeners to earn their CE credits. She mentored numerous new Master Gardeners on an unofficial basis. She always knew what was going on in our various projects and quick to come up with ideas to help. Carolyn's recent death last August is deeply felt by the Desert Master Gardeners.

Barbara Kay Levin praises Carolyn Daniels, "Carolyn had the heart of a volunteer; her first thought was always, 'How can I help?' When I first met Carolyn, she oversaw new Master Gardener projects, and I was just starting a program at the Braille Institute. She attended every meeting, walked me through each step, and even nudged me when needed. She visited the classes and supported every plant sale, talk and event we had."

Pam Clarke West County UCCE Riverside Master Gardener



Pam Clarke was on the WCAB advisory board, volunteered for many events, and is a Gold Badge Master Gardener. But most of all, she was at the helm of the Social Media activity for the past five years as Project Coordinator. She built the FaceBook page for the Riverside County Master Gardeners Program to what it is today and left a legacy for all of us to follow. She has been behind the scenes working very hard to make certain our events and activities are widely shared and publicized on several social media platforms. Last summer she stepped down wanting to have more time to volunteer for other favorite Master Gardener activities such as Farmers' Markets and Ask a Master Gardener tables.

Pam Elias, new Social Media Project Coordinator, shared, "I think she deserves to be recognized with this award for her efforts. She provided me information to take over the Social Media Project, and it has given me a wealth of information and a great base to go forward. She also was very friendly in providing me assistance when I was a trainee as to how to get information to her for the posts and when I was taking over for her role. I can see she really did a lot for the program to reach the public with educational material. This seems to be in line with the mission of the program. She also volunteered many hours (perhaps why she is now a Gold Badge holder)."

What is the Cathy Konyn Memorial Award?

The Cathy Konyn Memorial Award is an honorary Riverside County Master Gardener award presented annually to one or two members from each of Riverside Master Gardener areas, West County and Desert, who exemplify the best of what a Master Gardener can be. The Cathy Konyn Award was created to honor and preserve the memory of Cathy Konyn, a graduate of the MG Class of 2013. According to her husband, Sam, she had it in her mind for more than 20 years to become a Master Gardener when she retired. Cathy was truly loved by her fellow Master Gardeners. Her tireless efforts to make the UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener Program a shining star provided inspiration to all. Her sudden passing was a tremendous loss for Riverside County Master Gardeners.

The Cathy Konyn Award is given to individuals selected by the memberships of the Desert and West County each year for contributions to the program reflecting the dedication and inspiration that Cathy projected in her role as a Master Gardener. The names of the award recipients are added as an engraved leaf to the tree shaped memorial plaque housed at the UCCE Riverside County Office, and they receive specially engraved wood handled pruners.

We honor and celebrate present and past Cathy Konyn Memorial Award Recipients!

2021-2022 Carolyn Daniels Pam Clarke	2018-2019 Barbara Kay-Levin Linda Lane
2020-2021 Marcia Stone Debra Corbin-Euston	Thurman Howard Cindy Peterson
2019-2020 Mernell Wong Linda Powell	2017-2018 Maureen Austin Joan Kyle-Baerman Dave Brandtman Karen Fleisher
	2016-2017 Lucy Heyming

**Master Gardeners Celebrate
These New Riverside County
Recognition Awards!
November-December 2022**

1000 Hours Gold Badge

Betty Balo
Susan Cline
Janice Ponsor

750 Hours Pruner Pin

Lee Bayer
Adrian Ceja
Pam Elias

250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin

Jon Adams
Steven Moreno

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin

Susan Cook
James Huberty
John Shields
Linda Williams



Lunch (free) will be served, three different pasta dishes with one being meatless, plus salad, roll, desert, and beverages. Sign up on VMS Calendar!

Butterfly Corner: Western Pygmy Blue

Ann Platzer, UCCE Master Gardener

I am sure that you have all seen the Giant Swallowtail, the largest butterfly in North America. But have you seen the smallest butterfly? It is a gossamer-winged butterfly from the *Family Lycaenidae*, called Western Pygmy Blue.

For many years, Ed, my husband, and I take morning walks around a field off Big Springs Road at the foot of the Box Springs Mountains. Early in December 2016, we first observed two tiny butterflies flying about, close to the ground and landing on Russian thistle (tumbleweed). Happily, I had my iPhone with me and managed to take a photo. Later we identified this little insect as the Western Pygmy Blue butterfly, *Brephidium exile*, currently recognized as the smallest butterfly in North America and possibly in the world! This aptly named Pygmy Blue has a wingspan of only ½ inch (12 mm). Can you imagine?

Although the Western Pygmy Blue is fairly common, most people walk right by these delicate insects. Why? Not only are they very small, but they also fly close to the ground, below our normal visibility. Their favorite habitats are alkaline areas such as salt marshes where Saltbush grows. If you go out early for a walk in these habitats, you might find them snoozing among the sharp spines of dead Russian thistle.

Dorsally (photo 1 below: dorsal, back view) the Western Pygmy Blue is copper colored.



Ventrally (photo 2 below) ventral, underneath view on tumbleweed) it has four bold hind wing marginal eyespots with iridescent highlights and three small black spots near the base.



The ventral forewing is strongly two-toned, pale gray basally and copper-colored distally. The margins are fringed with white. These butterflies are most abundant from late summer through early winter. Photo 1 was taken December 2021, their peak breeding activity. We even have seen them during January 2022. The butterflies produce two to four broods and are present all year in Southern California.

Although I haven't had the opportunity to observe the developmental stages, the female Pygmy Blue lays blue-green eggs singly that turn white and hatch into light green caterpillars. Host plants are numerous and include native species from the Goosefoot Family, Chenopodiaceae, such as Pickleweed (*Salicornia* spp.), California Saltbush (*Atriplex californica*), and Lamb's Quarters (*Chenopodium album*). The pupae, which are light yellow brown, hibernate over winter.

Since these dainty Pygmy Blues abound in winter, they are drawn to the nectar of the native Rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*). They have a short proboscis so prefer small nectar flowers. Since they are weak fliers, they are not found far from their host and nectar plants. They are only found in North America but range down to Mexico and Venezuela. With global warming, these tiny butterflies are now extent as far north as Oregon.

**Riverside County UCCE Master Gardener
Volunteer Report July-December 2022**

Number of Registered Master Gardeners	270
Master Gardeners with Volunteer Hours	192
Volunteer Hours Average/Master Gardener	46
Master Gardeners with Volunteer Hours < 25	94
Master Gardeners with CE Hours	162
CE Hours Average/Master Gardener	8
Master Gardeners with CE Hours <12	38
Total Volunteer Hours	8864
Total Continuing Ed Hours	1410

*Provided by Cynthia Morris-Sotelo, DAB
Membership Project Coordinator*

The larvae have honeydew glands, and honeydew attracts ants. Because this is a favorite food source for the ants, they swarm over anything that might harm the Pygmy Blue caterpillars, thus protecting the butterflies. This phenomenon is called *myrmecophily* and is fairly common in the insect world. Many butterflies and true bugs are able to corral ants into protecting them by providing the yummy honeydew. However, the Western Pygmy Blue butterfly goes a step further. When a larva senses danger, it produces an analog of ant pheromone (a chemical used by ants to communicate). This substance puts the ants on high alert, and they become agitated, attacking whatever they sense might be hostile to them or to the Pygmy Blue larva, which they relate to as their own offspring.

Due to the Western Pygmy Blue’s diminutive size and its ground cruising habit, it may be difficult to spot. Be diligent and your efforts will be rewarded. Good luck!

Update: Are We Meeting Our Master Gardener Mission?

Contributed by Georgia Renne, Garden Views Editor

When I recently received the Master Gardener Volunteer Report shown above right, I first thought am I volunteering enough? My second thought was how am I encouraging my fellow Master Gardeners to both volunteer and attend events for Continuing Ed hours? I wondered how we all can connect with and encourage the 78 Master Gardeners who have not volunteer this year and the 108 who have no Continuing Ed hours. Yes, I realize we are in winter when weather and number of opportunities diminish. I also realize many of us, myself included, are very hesitant to venture out in public where our health could be endangered. Do I foresee these numbers increasing as the weather warms and the virus dangers lessen? I truly hope so!

We all need to use this Spring to feed our passion for being Master Gardeners. We can check in with our Master Gardener friends we have not seen at events or Zooms. Inviting them to attend an event is just the way to ignite our own commitment to our Program and mission plus refreshing that of a colleague.

Please also consider attending the Growing Master Gardeners monthly sessions where we enjoy hearing new project updates from Desert and West County coordinators and valuable tech lessons to better manipulate VMS!



Are You Attending “Growing Master Gardeners?”

This year the UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County are enhancing their skills by attending “**Growing Master Gardeners.**” All Master Gardeners are welcome to attend. The goal of this new Membership Initiative is to inform and inspire Master Gardeners about the UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County and its mission of “extending to the public research-based information verified by UC experts about home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape.”



The UC Master Gardener Program focuses on serving the public. Sessions will deepen our training to better understand our various projects, become more informed users of our technology, and connect with our Project coordinators. Zoom sessions for all Master Gardeners are held on the **first Monday of the month from 9:00-12:00** with sign-ups on VMS and hours counting for continuing education.

Please also look for your monthly issue of **Sprouts**, a two-page newsletter just for our Master Gardeners. Each month the newsletter will share key happenings from the Advisory Boards, program news from the Volunteer Services Coordinator, and highlight a few volunteer and education opportunities. *Sprouts* arrives on the fifteenth of the month to all Master Gardeners as an attachment to an email from Jim Thompson, DAB Chair.

Gardening and Successful Aging

Contributed by Jane Payne, UCCE Master Gardener

The Help Line receives a variety of questions such as “what is killing my plant.” Occasionally we get heartwarming stories of gardening with family.

It was delightful to hear from a grandmother looking to create a winter vegetable garden with her grandson. She wanted guidance on what to plant and should they be starting from seeds or seedlings? Another interesting inquiry was from a couple who are getting back to basics and started growing cotton five years ago and now had a pest problem. They shared that the wife is spinning the cotton to make dish towels, and the husband is making wooden tools for the weaving equipment. We also hear from residents who get a plant from a friend/neighbor and are not sure how to take care of it. So, they reach out to the Help Line for advice.

All of these inquires have one thing in common – the social connection between people. It makes me think of the role of plants play in my life, starting when I was young helping my aunt in her flower garden. I’m sure most of us look at a flower and are reminded of a special person in their life.

I also remember moving into a home which had beautiful rose bushes. Never having roses before, my young son and I went to a local nursery for a free class on rose pruning, and together we pruned our roses. Today, my son continues to garden in his yard.

Now that I’m retired, I’ve become a UCCE Master Gardener and joined two garden clubs where I’m meeting many new friends. As gardeners, we instinctively enjoy the social benefits of talking about our gardens, sharing advice, giving plant clippings, etc. We probably even take it for granted.

How are my new retirement activities related to improving my well-being? To find out, I investigated The Center for Successful Aging at Cal State Fullerton that bases their program around a whole-person wellness model. One’s

Free Workshop
How to Control Tree Pests
with Kevin Sims
Sims Tree Health Specialists
Saturday, February 4, 2023 • 10 am



Observing, Identifying, and Managing Common Tree Pests

Kevin Sims is a Certified Arborist, Tree Risk Assessor, and Qualified Applicator.

He will discuss pest biology, recent pest arrivals to southern California, and the control methods for them.

Stop by the Master Gardener booth to have all your gardening questions answered. First Saturdays from 9 - noon.



RCRCD
 Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District



Land Use Learning Center
 Open Daily, 8 am to 4 pm
 4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501
 For more information, please contact Erin Snyder at (951) 683-7691 ext. 207 or snyder@RCRCD.org.

wellness is broken down into six essential dimensions: emotional, intellectual, physical, social, spiritual and vocational/occupational.

In addition to gardening benefitting our social needs, it additionally helps us on each of the other elements

Emotional: Spending time in my garden always boosts my mood. A study in the Netherlands tested the hypothesis of gardening as a stress reducer. In the study, people who were experiencing stress either did 30 minutes of quiet reading indoors or gardening outside. Levels of cortisol, a hormone released during times of stress, were significantly lower for those who gardened than for those who read. The surprise finding was that gardening not only reduced stress but improved mood.

Intellectual: There is a lot to learn about gardening, and I am learning something new every day. The UCCE Master Gardener program challenges us and helps us expand our horticultural knowledge. Working on the Help Line has dramatically increased my gardening knowledge.

Physical: Some of the physical benefits of gardening presented by Janet Hartin during my Master Gardener training class include improved immune response, decreased stress and heart rate, improved overall physical health and improved fine and gross motor skills, and eye-hand coordination. After a day working in my garden, I may feel tired, but I also feel like I did something good for my body.

Spiritual: According to Fran Sorin in *Garden Musings*, "Gardening is a way of making meaning out of our lives. Being in the garden and feeling a profound connection to the land affords us the opportunity to focus on beauty and inspires us to experience feelings of awe, gratitude, and abundance." I know I feel closer to my spiritual beliefs as I spend time in nature and enjoy my backyard wildlife habitat.

Vocational/Occupational: I think that we can all agree that gardening brings us a wonderful sense of accomplishment. Even if you are not a gardener, according to the World Health

Organization, "Growing a few plants could boost your self-esteem and make you feel good to accomplish a new task and have a greater sense of accomplishment."

Gardening is helping us to not only build our social connections but also age successfully. Volunteering on the Help Line is a great way to help me connect with residents and grow my horticultural knowledge taking care of two of those successful aging elements.

So here's to our love of gardening as we successfully age!



West County Help Line Moves to Riverside

Contributed by Jane Payne, UCCE Master Gardener

The West County office of the Master Gardener Program of Riverside completed the move from Moreno Valley to a spacious building in a quiet residential area of Riverside. The new office address is 2980 Washington Street, Riverside, CA 92504-4647, and it is just south of the 91 freeway. As I write this in December, I'm not sure what the Help Line phone number will be and when our new phone system will be installed but confident it will be done in January.

It will be a beautiful place to work, and we look forward to having a volunteer work one day a week in the office. We would like to have a set time every week when residents can come into the office to meet with a Master Gardener or phone in and directly talk with someone. Having that service for residents would take our mission to the community to the next level.

Our volunteers like working the Help Line because they learn so much, increase their horticultural knowledge, improve their research skills, and serve the community. We will continue the remote Help Line so resident inquiries will be responded to quickly. Not to mention, our current volunteers enjoy the convenience and flexibility of working from home!

We are looking for Master Gardeners to volunteer to work in the office and more volunteers to work remotely. If you are interested or would like more information about the opportunities, the training and support, please give me a call 909-455-2253 or email janepayne3@verizon.net.



Help Line New Main Workstation



Help Line New Second Workstation



Training Class Is Back!

Contributed by Jill Hishmeh, UCCE Master Gardener

It's back! Tell all your friends and family. The UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County is offering a new volunteer training class for 2023-2024. Applications are due June 2023. (See the flyer below for specific dates that are different for the Desert and West County.) Please tell interested persons they must attend an information session online or in person.

This year's classes will be held at night, 6:00 pm-9:30 pm, to meet the needs of those unable to attend daytime classes. Most of the classes will be held via Zoom with a couple of in-person classes targeted to the needs of the Desert and West County. The in-person classes will meet at specified Desert and West County locations.

Both Desert and West County students will join the same Zoom class sessions. Combining resources reduce the number of speakers and trainers needed to serve. Combining classes for students from both areas also opens the door for trainees to volunteer at a wider array of venues providing opportunities to know Master Gardeners from all Riverside County.

UCCE Master Gardener Program of Riverside County training program is coordinated by Master Gardener volunteers with direction and oversight from UCCE Riverside County staff and Riverside Master Gardener Advisory Boards. This year, the West County Training Class Coordinator is Jill Hishmeh, and the Mentor Coordinator is Alba Good. The Desert area still needs Master Gardener volunteers to serve as the Training Class Coordinator and Mentor Coordinator. All areas of the county will need mentors next year. Please consider volunteering for one of these important volunteer positions.

We also need Master Gardener Volunteers to help get the word out about the upcoming classes by delivering flyers to their favorite gardening stores and venues. Please email Rosa Olai, UCANR Volunteer Services Coordinator, rmolaiz@ucanr.edu, if you can help with the 2023-2024 training class.

Become a UC Master Gardener!

Riverside County Volunteer Training Class 2023-2024



Mission

"To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California and be guided by our core values and strategic initiatives."

For additional information about our program, general training information, and Volunteer Application visit: <https://tinyurl.com/2n55pcec>



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Information Sessions

Becoming a UC Master Gardener begins with a personal commitment to education and service to the community. You must be a Riverside County resident and attend an Information Session to learn about our program.

Information Sessions listed below are Tuesdays from 6pm-8pm.

- **April 4, 2023** - 75080 Frank Sinatra Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92211
- **April 18, 2023** - 2980 Washington St Riverside, CA 92504
- **May 2, 2023** - 75080 Frank Sinatra Dr, Palm Desert, CA 92211
- **May 16, 2023** - 2980 Washington St Riverside, CA 92504
- **May 30, 2023** - Register in advance for this Zoom meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/54nzz2jh>

Interviews

A selection committee of current UC Master Gardeners will review all applications, conduct in-person applicant interviews, and recommend acceptance to the UC Master Gardener volunteer training program.

A written application is due by June 2nd for Palm Desert interviews and June 22nd for Riverside interviews.

- **June 6, 7, 8, 2023** - Palm Desert
- **June 26, 27, 28, 2023** - Riverside

Training Class

The training course is a series of 18 classes that meet Tuesdays from 6pm-9:30pm. There is a \$225 class fee to cover textbooks and other expenses. Classes are scheduled to be held via Zoom with some select in-person sessions. Topics include soil, irrigation, plant pathology, weed management, vegetables, citrus, and much more. The classes are taught by agricultural experts and provide a basic introduction to horticulture and pest management.

Students must successfully complete the volunteer training course, complete required volunteer hours, and pass a final exam to be certified as a UC Master Gardener.

- **Sep 12 & 26, 2023**
- **Oct 10 & 24, 2023**
- **Nov 14 & 28, 2023**
- **Dec 5 & 12, 2023**
- **Jan 9 & 23, 2024**
- **Feb 6 & 20, 2024**
- **Mar 5 & 19, 2024**
- **Apr 2 & 16 & 30, 2024**
- **May 7, 2024**
- **May 19, 2024** - Graduation



Palm Springs School Garden Provides Great Venue for Lessons

Contributed by Brad Hardison, UCCE Master Gardener

As a Master Gardener, I have had an ongoing relationship with Cielo Vista Charter School that started with the planning of their school garden some years back. I was delighted to be asked to come into the school last fall to teach the students lessons on various topics including soil and composting.

The challenge was how to teach approximately 30 students during the 45-minute class session. I was to teach 5 classes in a single day ranging from TK to 5th grade. Fortunately, the lead 8th grade science teacher suggested we break each class of students into three groups that would rotate through three stations. I would teach a 15-minute lesson on soil and planting while 8th grade students would help with other stations on square foot planting in their raised beds and create garden signs.

The next task was how to come up with content for a 15-minute lesson outdoors that I would repeat three times each class session. Fortunately, I was able to use the concepts and standards in our online lessons to gear the presentation to the different grade levels. I started with the online lessons we had already developed on soil and created an outline with the major concepts. That was the basis for my talking points with the students. I incorporated some visuals including some sample soil as well as a seedling, and I was good to go. It was a great success and I received positive feedback from the students and the teachers.

I returned to the school the following week and taught a lesson on composting. I was able to build upon the material I had covered in the soil lesson. We followed a similar format and students rotated among three stations. In addition to my lesson on composting, the students were able to start building their own compost bin with materials I had provided. Other stations had activities which included painting rocks, chalk art and a story time.

Finally, I returned in early December to teach a lesson on vermicomposting. I was again able to build upon my earlier lesson on composting and focus on this specific way of composting using worms. We followed the station format with the assistance of 8th grade students. I found some great online resources geared toward students on the parts and functions of a worm. I followed the lesson with a hands-on activity where the students transferred red wiggler worms into their new compost bin while we further discussed the benefits of composting with worms. The other stations included an art activity on leaf rubbings and a hands-on activity of turning and adding to their compost bin they had previously built.



Students use a green spacer to plant seeds in square foot gardening to maximize the amounts of plants in a small space.

Holding the lessons in the school garden was a great venue for learning for the students as it provided many opportunities for activities they could engage in with their hands as well as their minds. I look forward to being invited back to Cielo Vista Charter School in the future to teach more lessons.



Brad Hardison teaches Cielo Vista Charter School students about square foot gardening.

Free Workshop • Saturday, March 4, 2023

All About Avocados • 10 - 11:30 am



Join Linda Mullins, certified organic avocado farmer and UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener as she shares her vast knowledge about avocados and leads a walk through the demonstration grove. Learn how to choose the best avocados at the grocery store, and how to grow thriving avocado trees in your yard.



Scion Exchange • 12 pm

Join the California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) - Inland Empire Chapter for an avocado – subtropical scion exchange.

What is a scion? It's a cutting taken from a plant which can be used for grafting onto another plant. Everyone is welcome to participate (priority given to CRFG members, and those who bring cuttings).

Learn more about collecting scion wood: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAAU9rQvPw8>
 Learn more about grafting avocados: <https://gregalder.com/yardposts/grafting-avocados/>
 Learn more about the CRFG: <https://www.facebook.com/IECRFG/>



Ask a Master Gardener First Saturdays from 9 - noon.
 Stop by the Master Gardener booth to have all your gardening questions answered.




Open Daily, 8 am to 4 pm
 4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501
 For more information, please contact Erin Snyder at (951) 683-7691 ext. 207 or snyder@RCRCD.org.

their ability to camouflage themselves, you're right!

Plants have a will to live similar to humans and other animals. Besides changing colors, some plants have changed their shapes and patterns over many thousands of years to blend in with their environments.

What is a newly discovered twist is that researchers in China determined that humans have also influenced the camouflaging of plants. Yang Niu, Martin Stevens, and Hang Sun published a paper in *Current Biology* on this topic. They found that a highly sought-after plant (*Fritillaria devlavayi*) used for more than 2,000 years in traditional Chinese medicine costing over \$200 a pound can change color based on the location it is growing in. In the Hengduan Mountains near Yulong, China, you'll easily see it sporting green foliage while 65 miles away you may not even see it at all. There, it's an earth-tone brown hue hard to distinguish from its rocky background. Why? *Fritillaria* made this adaptation to protect it from extinction by "hunters" whose goal was to harvest it. Rocky areas are more porous and looser, lending themselves to easier plant collection. *Fritillaria* has no known natural enemies leading researchers to surmise that human harvesting resulted in the camouflaging adaptation.

Janet's Jottings



Janet Hartin



Can you spot the two colors of *Fritillaria*?
 (Photo credit: Yang Nui)

What do *Fritillaria* plants and chameleons have in common? Think evolution and ensuring their survival for years to come. If you thought about

This isn't an outrageous claim at all. Humans are known to have exerted strong selection pressure on some animal traits, resulting in unintentional evolutionary changes. Examples include bighorn sheep having smaller horns than they used to, keeping trophy hunters at bay allowing the bighorn sheep to survive.

In other research, a group of UC Santa Barbara scientists led by Dr. Scott Hodges, an ecology professor, hypothesized that columbine flower color has evolved in North America as a survival mechanism. While red columbines are pollinated by hummingbirds, white and yellow ones are pollinated by hawkmoths. Over time, this color change occurred five times. In this mutually beneficial arrangement, flora and fauna both stand to gain! Score one for natural selection.



See if you can spot the hidden plant (*Corydalis hemidicentra*).

The next time you're out in nature take a close look around you! You may see something you never noticed before in your own neighborhood.



Help! The stickly, salvia stinking slime is on my finger!

Editor's Note

In the last issue, fearing I might have poisoned myself, I pleaded for Master Gardener help to identify these white blobs that gave me sticky, salvia-stinking slime on my finger. They were on the leaves and stems of pink salvia by the entrance to the UCR Botanic Gardens. Thank you, David Frelinger, for telling me this was evidence of spittlebug. UCANR IPM states, "These sucking insects (family Cercopidae) can at least occasionally be found on almost any plant. They are also called froghoppers because adults rest with their head elevated. Only about one-half dozen species of spittlebug are known in California. Where spittlebug nymphs suck and feed on plant tissue (xylem fluid), they surround themselves with frothy white excrement beginning during the second instar." GR



UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County			
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	Dave Brandtman	Chair	Jim Thompson
Chair Elect	Melody Knox	Chair Elect	Brad Hardison
Past Chair	Darrilyn Erickson	Past Chair	Smoky Zeidel
Secretary	Judi Newby	Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Jonathan Crook	Treasurer	Jim Huberty
Community Gardens	Thurman Howard	Coachella Valley Preserve Docents	Marcia Stone
Diverse Community Projects	Thurman Howard	Coachella Valley Preserve Docents	David Lahti
Equipment & Inventory	Debbie Leuer	Composting	Rita Kraus
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard	Composting	Dee Kongsлие
Grow Lab	Adrian Ceja	Continuing Education	Pat Clayes
Grow Lab	Steven Moreno	CREATE	Barbara Kay Levin
Help Line	Jane Payne	CREATE	Vivian Yturalde
Home Gardening Class	Linda Powell	Desert Home Gardening Class	Smoky Zeidel
Home Gardening Class	Georgia Renne	Event Tables	Open
Mentoring Program	Alba Good	Farmers Markets	Open
Membership	Sharon Sharpe	Help Line	Ralph Thompson
MG Logo Merchandise	Jennifer Hopper	Job Descriptions	Patty Reed
Newsletter	Georgia Renne	Job Descriptions	Marcia Stone
Parliamentarian	Cindy Peterson	Membership	Cynthia Morris-Sotelo
Public Relations eBlast	Susan Cline	Moorten's Botanical Gardens Docents	Cesar Lopez Barreras
Public Relations Social Media	Pam Elias	Moorten's Botanical Gardens Propagation	Barbara Kay-Levin
RCRCD Monarch Habitat	Linda Powell	Parliamentarian	Brad Hardison
School Gardens	Kim Coons-Leonard	New Projects	Marcia Stone
School Gardens	Brad Hardison	Newsletter	Georgia Renne
School Gardens	Janice Rosner	Publicity-eBlast	Jim Thompson
Social Recognition	Yvonne Wilczynski	Publicity-Social Media	Jim Thompson
Speaker's Bureau	Lynn Coffman	Raices Cultura's Tierra de Raíces	Cesar Lopez Barreras
Tours	Linda Carpenter	School Gardens	Brad Hardison
Training Class	Jill Hishmeh	Social Events/Recognition	Kathy Miller
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Yvonne Wilczynski	Speaker's Bureau	Gail Nottberg
Website (Countywide)	Ralph Thompson	Website	Ralph Thompson
Parliamentarian	Cindy Peterson		
Public Relations eBlast	Susan Cline		
Public Relations Social Media	Pam Elias		
WEL Liaison	Janice Rosner		

Why couldn't the crocodile grow any plants? Because he's not a proper gator!

