



University of California Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener Program of Riverside County

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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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Riverside County's Project on the Soboba Tribe's Cultural Garden Wins Grand Prize!

Search for Excellence Award (SFE)

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Riverside County's Project on the Soboba Tribe's Cultural Garden Wins Grand Prize!

UC Master Gardener Statewide Blog, by Skylar Peters, July 17, 2023

Congratulations to the UC Master Gardener Program of Riverside County on winning first place in the 2023 UC Master Gardener Search for Excellence competition. Their work within the Soboba Cultural Garden stood out as an extraordinary testament to the power of gardening in honoring cultural heritage and nurturing a vibrant community. The Search for Excellence competition takes place every three years and allows UC Master Gardeners to showcase their projects for a chance to win recognition and a cash prize. After careful consideration by the judges, three winners were selected with Riverside County taking the top prize, winning \$1500...SFE judges were wowed by the wonderful story behind the project "From an accidental meeting to a bountiful harvest both in the food and relationships built."

"Soboba Cultural Garden: Connecting the Past with the Future"

Search for Excellence Submission

Contributed by Georgia Renne, UCCE Master Gardener

Was the invitation a mistake or a promising connection? Riverside University Health System (RUHS) received a request from the Soboba Tribe of Luiseno Indians to assist with their Preschool Garden. They reached out to veteran Riverside County Master Gardeners to attend a meeting with Soboba. Once at this meeting the Master Gardeners realized their mistake: Soboba was expecting the 4H kids! Soboba then asked if the Master Gardeners would help with their Cultural Garden that was divided into native plants and vegetable gardens. Of course, they said yes, beginning a rewarding connection producing tons of vegetables annually for the tribe.

The Soboba website tells us, "The Soboba people farmed land that was irrigated with surface water from the San Jacinto River, two of

its tributary streams, Poppet and Indian Creeks, and from more than forty perennial springs. These water sources sustained gardens, animals and orchards." However, by 1899 the tribe's gravity-flow irrigation system became useless due to upstream diversions of the major tributaries by settlers. Consequently, their food production declined. Today their Cultural Garden supplies nutritious food for daily lunches for Preschool students and Elders.



Eloyd Rodriguez, Soboba Garden Specialist, installs the new tape irrigation system.

To make this project successful, we always remember we are guests and are treated with utmost respect and friendship. We began collaborating with Joseph Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, who invited our Master Gardener team to the Garden at that first meeting. Jessica Valdez, Tribal Archaeologist/Cultural Resource Specialist, and Eloyd Rodriguez, Cultural Garden Specialist joined our team. We incorporate cultural practices as part of our plan and show the latest sustainable techniques, ever mindful not to conflict with their traditions. We use weekly visits plus journals to track and analyze results for progress on soil preparation and planting goals for spring, summer, and winter plots with easy crops to ensure success.





Native trellises are used to support growing crops.

To achieve Soboba Cultural Garden’s goal to connect with past practices and provide food, we first needed to recondition the soil. Applying sustainable practices, we taught soil management using compost, green manure, vermiculture, pig and steer manure, and testing the soil for balance. Initially we bought 20 tons of compost knowing in the future they would produce their own. We explained composting using wood chips and other components found there. We sowed a third of the Garden plot with daikon radishes as a cover crop (green manure) to decompose, hydrate, and break up clay soil. Pig manure donated by the tribal high school gave us opportunity to teach students at the garden. We started a vermiculture project with donated worms to produce castings for the soil and added donated steer manure. We upgraded the irrigation system with a tape drip system. Adding two Master Gardener trainees to our team, we began testing to measure air and soil temperatures, moisture from each section, and amounts of Ph, N, P, and K, placing data on graphs to report to Soboba.



Thurman Howard, Master Gardener, discusses cover crop of daikon radishes with Joe Ontiveros, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer.

As we built soil, increased hydro percolation, and used integrated IPM practices, we reduced plant pests, bringing natural predators, lady beetles, syrphid flies, and lace wings. We researched and instigated better trapping methods for gophers, rabbits, and ground squirrels, encouraging natural predators, garden snakes, coyotes, owls, and hawks. All these practices established a way for now and the future.



Marilyn Howard, Master Gardener, teaches Eloyd Rodriguez what to look for in new crop of lettuce.

Overall, the greatest visible impact was Soboba’s celebration of their first winter harvest: cabbage, lettuces, onions, broccoli, peas, kale, garlic, carrots and beets. Wanting to continue learning and building the yield of their yearlong garden, they went from one summer planting to three a year with substantially increased annual yield.



Vegetable harvest from Cultural Garden ready for delivery by Eloyd Rodriguez to Preschool Chefs for lunches for students and Elders.

Each year they harvest over a ton of produce to feed the tribe, positively impacting their economy. Establishing our IPM program as standard practice to produce bountiful harvests reinforces their organic traditions and connects them to their ancestral ways, a major part of the Garden's mission. When we asked Joe Ontiveros, Garden Administrator, about the impact of the Master Gardeners' support, he replied, "The technical assistance, and guidance they give is the best."

Important to continue the Garden's success is the pride and full support evident by the respected Soboba Elders. What they support is followed by their constituents. Elders praise the quality and freshness of the Garden's produce, even requesting additional vegetables. They encourage all to visit for tips on their own gardens, sending students to visit and learn. The Master Gardener team led by Thurman Howard echoes this pride in the success of Soboba's Cultural Garden. He related, "When I walked into that first meeting with Soboba, I had 250 Master Gardener experts behind me to make certain we were on the right track."

From Missy Gable, UC Statewide Master Gardener Director

Congratulations to all the volunteers involved in this fantastic project! The Soboba Cultural Garden is an inspiring partnership that represents the type of co-developed extension work we hope to see throughout the UC Master Gardener Program. Thank you so much for sharing this project with all of us, I look forward to learning more and supporting your efforts to continue the partnership and share your model!

Soboba Team Recognized at Event

Contributed by Pam Elias, UCCE Master Gardener

Riverside County was selected by UCANR as the **FIRST PLACE WINNER** of the 2023 UCCE Master Gardener Search for Excellence award!

The team that worked on the project under Thurman Howard were honored at the West

County Recognition event in Riverside on Sunday, June 25, 2023. This team is: Thurman Howard, Marilyn Howard, Georgia Renne, Joyce Allen, Christal Ferlisi, Dave Frelinger, Brenda Kooiman, Marta Nguyen, Vilma Raettig, and Thomas Vineski.



Vilma Raettig, Joyce Allen, Christal Ferlisi, Marilyn Howard, and Dave Frelinger receive congratulations from Rosa Olaiz at recognition event. (Photo by Pam Elias)

The Search for Excellence award is a triennial Statewide competition for UC Master Gardeners to showcase their talents and present their project including outreach and impact to local communities. This year the project for Riverside County was the *Soboba Cultural Garden: Connecting the Past with the Future*. This project focused on educating and assisting the establishment of Soboba Cultural Gardens as successful and sustainable food gardens

They will also be recognized in October at the UC Master Gardener Conference in Tahoe where they will present their project at a workshop.

Update: New Palm Desert Grow Lab

Contributed by Susan Krings, UCCE Master Gardener

The new Desert Grow Lab is centrally located in the Coachella Valley on the UCR Palm Desert campus. It is a place where UCCE Master Gardeners get together to share ideas, learn

from each other, and teach the public research-based gardening techniques through our community garden courses, workshops, lectures, and regular public events. Our Grow Lab is a welcoming and nurturing place where we strengthen our community and develop friendships while we learn how to use horticultural best practices for environmental restoration and climate resilience.

Five UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside County, Cynthia Morris-Sotello, Jim Thompson, Ralph Thompson, Susan Krings, David Lahti, and one UC Naturalist, Susan Forgrave, met on the UCR Palm Desert campus on May 4th to flag the area where we will be building the Grow Lab. UCR Design and Construction will be excavating the site and building a retaining wall, so we have a flat area to place our high tunnel. We are waiting to hear when they will break ground.



Ralph Thompson (left) and David Lahti (right) flagging the area for construction.

So far, we have ten UCCE Master Gardeners signed up for this project and four more expressing interest. Please visit the project page on VMS and sign up for the Grow Lab-Palm Desert. It is project number 27. Susan Krings is the Project Coordinator. She will be holding Zoom meetings over the summer to get our project off the ground. We have plans to begin propagating plants for the UCR Palm Desert Permaculture Demonstration Site, Prescott Preserve, and future plant sales. Since we are still planning and developing our new physical grow lab, we will be using space at College of the Desert's green house to begin propagating by June (photo above right).



College of the Desert's green house

Riverside County Master Gardeners Celebrate and Congratulate Our Volunteers! 2022-2023

Registered Master Gardeners	261
MGs with Volunteer Hours	208
Volunteer Hours Per MG	84
MGs with CE Hours	199
CE Hours Per MG	18

Volunteer Hours: 21,818
390% Increase Over Last Year

Continued Education Hours: 4,820
352% Increase Over Last Year

59 MGs with 100 volunteer hours or more generated 73% of total hours!

Compiled by Cynthia Morris-Sotelo, DAB Membership Coordinator.



The goal of the AVS Project is to assist and link different MG groups/projects together so that high quality videos are produced, and resources are efficiently spent. Besides producing engaging educational videos, the AVS group will also provide live video streams of MG workshops and events. A hotspot is available to live stream from any location without internet access.

The AVS Group has gotten off to a strong start. All video equipment is now purchased and received with members being trained in the use of equipment (Photo). Video segments have been taped at the Growth Lab for use in future MG training classes. In addition, team members Kim Coon-Leonard, Gail Bell, and Laurie Allen have started filming a MG cooking series.

The AVS Group is currently composed of fourteen members: Mike Horak (Coordinator), Laurie Allen, Gail Bell, Linda Carpenter, Adrian Ceja, Lynn Coffman, Kim Coons- Leonard, Brenda Kooiman, Steven Moreno, Jim O'Brien, Georgia Renne, Ron Routon, Heather Vuyancih, and Vernon Shattuck. If you have questions on how the AVG group can help you or your project please contact the AVS coordinator, Mike Horak.

Audio Video Streaming Project

Contributed by Vernon Shattuck UCCE Master Gardener

The increase in popularity of online videos from the late 1990's onward was aided by advancements in computer technology and the growth of social media. Today people can easily create and share online digitized videos. For some time, Mike Horak has had a strong desire to assemble a group of MG (Master Gardener) volunteers to promote and help the MG program with video technology. This year he received good news from the West County Advisory Board to pursue his vision and start an AVS (Audio, Visual, Streaming) Project.



Mike Horak (right) and Steven Moreno discuss creative filming using our Canon Vixia HF-G50 Video Camera.

**Master Gardeners Celebrate
These New Riverside County
Recognition Awards!
May-June 2023**

1000 Hours Gold Badge

**Adrian Ceja
Cynthia Morris-Sotelo
Gail Nottberg
Jim Thompson**

**750 Hours Pruner Pin
Linda Carpenter**

**500 Hours Watering Can Pin
Patricia Claves
Mike Hammond
Debby Leur
Deborah Lewis
Marsha McNamara
Clifford Morrison
Vivian Yturalde**

**250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin
Jon Adams
Judi Newby
Jasmine Ocegueda
Janette Proof
Juanita Wielenga**

Volunteer Kudos



Volunteer: Lupe Marie DiFusco
Project: West County MG Office/Projects
Contributed by MG Elected Officer,
Melody Knox

I would like to Nominate Lupe Marie DiFusco (Class of 2017) for outstanding volunteer.

Lupe Marie does a lot behind the scenes. She completes a lot of tasks that many people would consider to be insignificant but are so necessary. She assists the Master Gardener office tremendously with her wonderful administrative and communication skills. Wherever there's a need, Lupe is always there to fill it. You will encounter her almost everywhere, UCR Botanic Garden, Flower Show, and information booths as well as assembling the Home Gardening Class binders for our community classes. She is not afraid to get involved and contribute her time. Lupe Marie is a pleasant person to talk with and has a genuine smile for all that the people she meets.



Prescott Preserve – New Palm Springs Project

Contributed by David Lahti, UCCE Master Gardener

Prescott Preserve is a developing project in Palm Springs. It was named for Brad Prescott, whose foundation purchased the former Mesquite Golf Course in July 2022. The foundation immediately donated the former golf course to Oswit Land Trust (OLT), a 501c3 non-profit land trust that purchases/holds property for conservation.



At 120 acres, Prescott Preserve includes over a mile of the Tahquitz Creek Wash that runs from the San Jacinto & Santa Rosa National Monument to the Palm Canyon Wash. As of this writing in May 2023, the wash is still flowing heavily from winter snow melt and is part of a critical wildlife corridor that includes coyotes and bobcats, ground squirrels and bunnies, and hosts over 140 species of birds, not to mention innumerable insects, pollinators, moths, and bats. When the golf course was created back in the 1980s, most native plants were eliminated from the landscape. Therefore, once native plants are re-introduced to the Preserve, we're optimistic that our bird count will climb much higher!



A bird-watching group met along with several Master Gardeners look at the linkage between trees and birds in May. For example, there's an insect that likes sucking sugar out of Eucalyptus leaves, leaving a residue on the leaves. Fly catchers and other birds flock to the Eucalyptus to eat the secretion. Fascinating.. (Photo left)

In September 2022, OLT hired LSA and BrightView to develop the master plan for both the golf course restoration and landscape design with the goals to:

- Restore the central part along the wash to a nature preserve.
- Enhance the perimeter along condominiums, homes, and major streets with “curb appeal” containing native pollinating plants and trees.

This plan was just completed in May 2023.

OLT is in the process of hiring a new manager who will oversee the restoration project expected to be completed in 2025. Prescott Preserve will remain open to the public during the restoration except for periodic trail closures.

There are multiple areas where our Master Gardeners will be able to volunteer time to help fellow gardeners understand and practice safe, sustainable horticultural techniques.

- The Nature Center at Prescott Preserve has already been used to host continuing education events related to summer tree trimming in the desert. Similar events are planned for next fall.
- Prescott Preserve is partnering with Desert Compost to turn excessive organic debris into soil, and there will be many ways to include the community into this partnership.
- Unfortunately, there are multiple opportunities to educate the public about the dangers on non-native, invasive species as there are currently bumper crops of Sahara Mustard and Stinknet to remove.
- MGs will be able to serve as docents for plant identification and their uses by indigenous people as well as by insects, birds/bats, and animals, once we have restored native plants across the preserve.

- Prescott Preserve is also close to several schools and could serve as an educational resource for those schools with facilitation by master gardeners.

In addition to Prescott Preserve, OLT also has acquired many other properties protecting thousands of wildlife species on over 5,000 acres of land in Southern California. For more information, go to their website, www.OswitLandTrust.org.



Meet the Reptiles of Southern California

Saturday, August 5, 2023
10 - 11 am • Bldg F • Free






Join us for a hands-on introduction to some of our native reptile species. Misunderstood and often feared, you'll learn to identify several of our animal ambassadors, understand what makes these creatures so amazing, and learn how you can help protect them.

Barbara Croonquist worked on the Angeles National Forest for the U.S. Forest Service for over 30 years. She served in a variety of positions, including Interpretive Specialist and later worked for the Bureau of Land Management. She was named Ranger of the Year by the National Forest Recreation Association in 2007 and holds a Bachelor of Science in Range and Wildlands Science from UC Davis.



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District
4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, CA 92501
www.rccrd.org
Open Daily, 8 am to 4 pm
For more information: llc@rccrd.org or (951) 683-7691 ext. 207.








UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Riverside County

UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County Announces Home Gardening Basics 101 Series 2023 For All Home Gardeners!

HOME GARDENING 101: The Basics

Home Gardening 101: The Basics is offered in three sessions on Saturdays in October 2023 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm in person in Riverside.

- Cost for the 3 sessions is \$50* including all materials.
- Class size is limited to 25.
- **Registration Deadline: Saturday, October 7, 2023.**
- For more information or to register, contact: Georgia Renne, HGB Coordinator, at grennemg@gmail.com.

HOME GARDENING 101: The Basics

Session 1: Saturday, October 14, 2023

- The Basics: Soils, Mulches, Water, Irrigation, Tools, Safety

Session 2: Saturday, October 21, 2023

- What to Plant: Drought-Tolerant Plants, California Native Plants, Veggies, Herbs, Trees

Session 3: Saturday, October 28, 2023

- What Else: Wildfire Season, Garden Pests, Garden Design, Tips and Hints

(*The tuition covers expenses and supports the UCCE Master Gardener Program. UCCE Master Gardeners are volunteers and are not paid for their time.)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

2023 UC Master Gardener Conference

October 2-6, 2023

| Granlibakken | Lake Tahoe, CA

This year we are inviting you to join us in the stunning setting of Lake Tahoe, Calif., from Oct. 2-6, 2023, at the Granlibakken Tahoe.

For more information, visit the conference website:
ucanr.edu/sites/23MGConference

Early registration is encouraged. Secure your spot today!

Riverside Help Line Tidbits

Contributed by Jane Payne, UCCE Master Gardener


We had a great 2022-2023 and want to share some interesting tidbits.

- Our number of inquiries grew to 404, and we also received and referred 82 emails to the desert, other counties, and other Master Gardener programs.
- Many inquiries ask more than one question. In fact, 51 people asked multiple questions with one person asking 16 questions throughout the year!
- We received the most questions about trees, and fruit trees were the leading type (I would have guessed citrus, which was second).
- Due to the drought, we received a lot of questions on turf, turf alternatives, native plants, and landscape design options. Fortunately, we have many excellent resources on replacing turf with water wise options.
- The remote Help Line shifts on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays allowed us to respond quickly to emails and voicemails. However, we had 3% that hides from us in the spam folder, so that gives us something to work on for next year!
- We were very dependent on three volunteers last year, but this year we are less dependent as other volunteers increased their participation.
- Volunteers change as they find different opportunities, and we are always looking for new volunteers. Working the Help Line isn't for everyone, but this year 8 new volunteers tried it. We started the year with 12 volunteers and ended with 18.
- The procedures were simplified so volunteers spend their time on serving the resident rather than paperwork.

- We participated in an in-person Help Line Table at the Spring Grow Lab Plant Sale. So, I was able to email most of the inquiries the requested information hopefully before they got home.
- We moved the office to Riverside and are continuing to look for a volunteer to work in the office. If interested, please let me know. janepayne3@verizon.net



Riverside Help Line Desk



Butterfly Surveys at the Greenbelt Monarch Habitat

8:00 am • July 1, 15 & 29, August 4 & 19


Interested in helping conserve the Western Monarch butterfly? The butterflies are in decline due to a loss of habitat, specifically native milkweed. Come be a community scientist and gather data on eggs, caterpillars and butterflies. Training will be provided.

Things to bring:

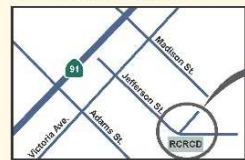
- Water
- Smart phone with iNaturalist app
- Hat
- Kneeling pad (recommended)
- Sunscreen
- Sturdy shoes

Surveys involve stooping, bending and kneeling on the ground. Ability to use a smart phone with the iNaturalist app is helpful but not required.

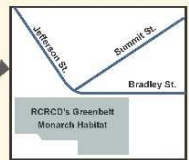
For more information about Monarchs:




To register:
email Felix-Derbarmdiker@rcrcd.org
or call (951) 683-7691 x218
Please register by the by 3 pm the prior day.



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District



Greenbelt Monarch Habitat



A Western Monarch caterpillar eating a native narrowleaf milkweed, *Asclepias fascicularis*.



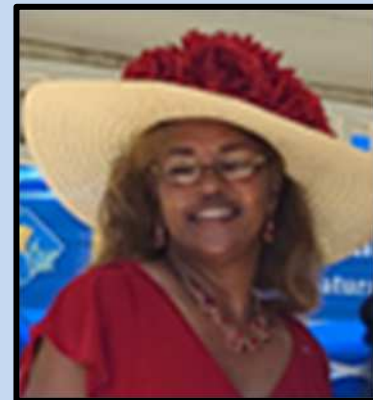
Welcome 2022-2023 Advisory Board Chairs!



**Dave Brandtman
West County Chair 2022-2023**



Desert, Brad Hardison



West County, Melody Knox



**Jim Thompson
Desert Chair 2022-2023**

Welcome Our New Elected Officers!

Desert

Dick Reed, Secretary

West County

Pam Elias, Chair Elect

Steven Moreno, Secretary

**Both These Incredible
Master Gardeners Unexpectedly
Stepped Up to
Serve Us.
Thank You!**

Riverside Master Gardener Presents in Tennessee

Contributed by Kim Coons-Leonard, UCCE Master Gardener



Kim Coons-Leonard is ready to present the Youth-School online TK-8 garden lessons in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Our Youth-School online TK-8 garden lessons were featured at the recent National Children & Youth Garden Symposium (NCYGS) held this July in Knoxville, Tennessee. This is an annual symposium sponsored by the American Horticultural Society. Its purpose: *“Reinvigorate your passion to educate a new generation about the importance of gardening.”*

Response to our lessons was very positive from teachers, school leaders, community and botanic garden leaders, and master gardeners who attended the one-hour presentation. One attendee from Palm Beach Unified School District followed up with a request for my presentation PowerPoint to share with her school garden teachers at an upcoming meeting. Another attendee, representing a

botanic garden, said she would be using the lessons and requested that we hurry and complete our in-progress TK-8 series on insects.

How did this opportunity to promote our educational resources arise? It was due to Cindy Peterson, former West County School Coordinator and active member of our school committee. She encouraged the school garden team to submit a proposal to present an overview of our digital lessons. Cindy attended an NCYGS symposium held in California and said the resources and multiple perspectives on youth gardening would be an invaluable learning experience and opportunity to promote our Master Gardener youth garden resources.

I am so grateful for Cindy’s encouragement! It gave me the opportunity to attend a conference that was both enriching and enlightening. It featured visits to Knoxville school gardens, tours of a variety of horticultural gardens including the Biltmore Estate, and most importantly, presentations by youth and community garden advocates and educators from around the country.

What did I learn from the presentations?

- Perspectives on therapy gardening include techniques for both youth and adults that integrate native plants and the traditions of indigenous people.
- From the Tennessee Farm Bureau, I learned that we need to take a much deeper dive into the amazing array of resources available through the Ag in the Classroom program. I also learned that Horticulturalist George Washington Carver was lamenting the disconnection between youth and gardening over 100 years ago!
- Thriving school gardens succeed because the greater community (including the Master Gardener program) becomes invested in the program. And never be deterred from gardening in a grassy area.

- Both educational connections AND whimsy are important in youth gardens.
- A garden leadership session revealed the greatest obstacle to establishing a school garden was consistently identified as getting support from a school district's facilities department.
- From the director of the Biltmore gardens, being true to the historical aspect of a garden is not always the best gardening practice.
- Youth and school garden advocates are the friendliest people. I have connected with several garden advocates, and we all plan to meet at an upcoming youth gardening conference scheduled for March 2024 in San Diego.

I look forward to sharing with you what I learn from this upcoming event!



Janet's Jottings

Janet Hartin

Community Health and Safety Benefits of Gardening/Urban Greening

More and more studies are validating the many benefits of plants to humans and urban ecosystems. Due to our interest in this area, Rob Bennaton (former UCCE Urban Ag Advisor in San Francisco Bay) and I published a literature review of these benefits last January. In addition to physical, ecosystem, cognitive, mental health, medicinal, and spiritual benefits of plants, there are important community health and safety benefits as well. Below is an overview of that section of our publication.

Please find here the entire publication and view the references cited below: Benefits of Plants to Humans and Urban Ecosystems: anrcatalog.ucanr.edu/pdf/8726.pdf

I hope this helps you understand how important your volunteerism as UCCE Master Gardeners is in the communities you serve!

Community Health and Safety Benefits of Gardening/Urban Greening

Landscaping and gardening projects that remediate vacant land, landscape streets and neighborhoods, create community gardens, or improve the health of wetlands and undeveloped natural environments can build community cohesiveness, neighborhood bonding, and mutual community pride (Draper and Freedman 2010; Glover et al. 2005; Hartwig and Mason 2016; Kuo and Sullivan 2001; Moyer et al. 2019; Neo and Chua 2017; Saldivar-Tanaka and Krasny 2004). With unmaintained vacant lots comprising nearly 15 percent of the land area of U.S. cities (Branas et al. 2018), greening opportunities including planting and caring for edibles and landscape plants are substantial.



Brad Hardison, Master Gardener, teaches gardening lessons at Cielo Vista Charter School, Palm Springs.

Results indicate that people from different cultural and ethnic backgrounds unite in gardening and urban greening projects, enjoying growing and sharing produce special to them (Agustina and Beilin 2012; Baker 2004; Cruz-Piedrahita et al. 2020; Dyg et al. 2020; Hartwig and Mason 2016; Teig 2009). Building a sense of community through social engagement, celebrations, and communal meals has been perceived as beneficial by both gardeners and non-gardener participants (Allen and Alaimo 2008).



Soboba Cultural Garden: Native trellises support plants.

Well-designed and maintained urban green spaces not only bring people together, but also they can reduce crime and gun violence and enhance the safety and cohesiveness of urban neighborhoods, as summarized in several literature reviews (Bogar and Byer 2016; Mancus and Campbell 2018; Shepley et al. 2019). Some of the strongest links reported in the literature involve crime reduction in vegetated and well-maintained urban neighborhoods and walkways (Branas et al. 2018; Demotto and Davies 2006; Garvin et al. 2013; Locke et al. 2017) and a reduction in gun violence in neighborhoods with green spaces including trees (Branas et al. 2018; Kondo et al. 2017; Schertz et al. 2021; Wolfe et al. 2012). One study found that community greening projects that vegetated vacant lots was an effective strategy to improve neighborhood safety resulting in a nearly 40 percent decrease in violent crime (Heinze et al. 2018). However, other researchers (Groff and McCord 2012) found a greater incidence of opportunistic crime in areas with dense tree canopies, perhaps due to concealed illegal activities.



Ann Platzer, Master Gardener, teaches guests at the UCR Butterfly Garden.



Master Gardeners and community volunteers work at Tequesquite Community Garden, Riverside.

Another study found that participating in community greening projects from design through implementation and maintenance can result in a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction (Murphy-Dunning 2009). Neighbors caring for urban green spaces together also tend to spend more time conversing and building important social relationships than do nonparticipants (Peters et al. 2010).



News from Rosa!

Rosa Olaiz

Happy Summer and a heartfelt thank you for being a vital part of the UC Master Gardener Program! We are at the start of another fiscal year and have wonderful things in store for the coming year.

As we close out the 2022-2023 fiscal year, I want to thank the 2022-2023 Advisory Board Officers and Coordinators whose leadership and dedication made a positive change within the Master Gardener program and in our community. You were a great support to me personally but most importantly to the Master Gardener program. Master Gardeners who volunteered behind the scenes, my appreciation goes out to you. You make this program succeed, THANK YOU! To the incoming chairs, Melody Knox and Brad Hardison, I look forward to working with you and welcome your innovative ideas!

The new group of very enthusiastic trainees will start the training program in September. If you are looking for an opportunity to volunteer remotely, think about mentoring a trainee. Contact Mentor Coordinators Alba Good or Barbara Kay Levin. A mentor training will be held August 29, 6-7pm.

Start the fiscal year on the right foot with more education. Look for Continuing Education opportunities on VMS. Lunch and Learn meetings are already on VMS as well as September's Veteran meeting with Janet Hartin who is presenting a new project, *Trees for Tomorrow*.

Statewide Photo Contest Have you submitted your photo to the state office? There is still time

to enter the contest. More than 520 photos have been submitted, and the images will be shared with counties for usage in program communications and materials. You can view submissions at:

<https://m.shortstack.page/nRCjrx>. The contest deadline is August 28. Interested in being a judge: contact Melissa Womack at mgwomack@ucanr.edu for details.

UC Master Gardener Conference Are you interested in attending the UC Master Gardener Conference? Scholarships are available through the State Office and UC Master Gardener program of Riverside County. Look for an informational email in the coming week.

***I do not eat food. But I do enjoy a light meal every day. What am I?**

***I am a seed with three letters in my name. Take away the last two and I still sound the same. What am I?**

***Your Dad gives you \$10 and tells you to buy - something for him to eat, something for him to drink, something to feed his cows, and something to plant in his garden. It can be only one single item that meets all these criteria. What do you buy?**



***A plant (photosynthesis).**

***Pea.**

***A watermelon.**

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	Melody Knox	Chair	Brad Hardison
Chair Elect	Pam Elias	Chair Elect	Open
Past Chair	Dave Brandtman	Past Chair	Jim Thompson
Secretary	Steven Moreno	Secretary	Dick Reed
Treasurer	Jonathan Crook	Treasurer	Jim Huberty
AVS Project	Mike Horak	Coachella Valley Preserve Docents	Marcia Stone
Community Gardens	Thurman Howard	Coachella Valley Preserve Docents	Linda Williams
Diverse Community Projects	Thurman Howard	Composting	Rita Kraus
Equipment & Inventory	Debbie Leuer	Composting	Dee Kongslie
Gold Miners	Thurman Howard	CREATE	Barbara Kay-Levin
Grow Lab	Adrian Ceja	CREATE	Vivian Yturralde
Grow Lab	Darrilyn Erickson	Desert Home Gardening Class	Smoky Zeidel
Help Line	Jane Payne	Event Tables	Open
Home Gardening Class	Georgia Renne	Farmers Markets	Gail Nottberg
Mentoring Program	Alba Good	Farmers Markets	Mike Richardson
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	Mentoring Program	Barbara Kay-Levin
Public Relations Social Media	Pam Elias	Moorsten's Botanical Gardens Docents	Cesar Lopez Barreras
RCRCD Liaison	Karen Fleisher	Moorsten's Botanical Gardens Propagation	Barbara Kay-Levin
RCRCD Monarch Habitat	Linda Powell	New Projects	Marcia Stone
School Gardens	Kim Coons-Leonard	Newsletter	Georgia Renne
School Gardens	Kathy Steckman	Palm Springs Animal Shelter	Jan Seaman
Social Recognition	Yvonne Wilczynski	Parliamentarian	Open
Speaker's Bureau	Heather Vuyancih	Publicity-eBlast	Jim Thompson
Tours	Susan Wright	Publicity-Social Media	Jim Thompson
Training Class	Jill Hishmeh	Raices Cultura's Tierra de Raíces	Cesar Lopez Barreras
UCR Botanic Gardens Liaison	Yvonne Wilczynski	School Gardens	Brad Hardison
Website (Countywide)	Ralph Thompson	School Gardens	Jax Patterson
		Social Events/Recognition	Kathy Miller
		Speaker's Bureau	Gail Nottberg
		Training Class	Jim Thompson
		Website	Ralph Thompson