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Newsletter

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Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held Monday, February 1 – 1:00 p.m. at the UCCE Office.

Master Gardeners in Schools will meet at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 2, at the **TUD board room**, 18885 Nugget Blvd. **Mike Miller, 3rd grade teacher at Sonora Elementary School will speak to us about his class garden.**

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 2 - 6:00 p.m. at the **TUD board room on Nugget Blvd., just off Tuolumne Road in East Sonora. Continuing education speaker/topic: Regina Hurst of Mountain Sage Nursery in Groveland is trained in permaculture. She will present her perspective on both the philosophical theory and sustainable practical techniques.**

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR THIS MONTH’S MEETING. We will meet in the TUD BOARD ROOM at their facilities on Nugget Blvd in the Tuolumne Road industrial park.

Seed Inspiration. I was inspired by the article by Vera Strader about people's favorite seed-grown plants and wondered if we could get interesting seeds from other Master Gardeners for this year's MG Demonstration Garden summer vegetable garden.

If you have a favorite vegetable seed that you would like to donate to the demonstration garden, please bring your seeds to the February or March Master Gardener meeting.

I am just about to buy seed and I think this might yield some interesting plants we have not grown before.

Thank you!

Jack



President’s Message

As I was walking this morning I couldn't help but notice that pretty much all the berries were gone from the toyon. I knew the robins were around because they have been having a feast on my pyracantha bushes. Well, they didn't stop there because other than the berries that were no good, the toyons are stripped of berries. The busy little birds flew in about two weeks ago and they didn't stop feeding the whole time. First thing in the morning they would be sitting in the trees warming up and then helping themselves to the buffet line all day. Didn't see any get too crazy from eating the berries but they may have had a little headache in the morning, possibly why they were sitting in the trees for awhile! Anyway, no berries left and no robins!

Toots



Calendar

FEBRUARY

- 1-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 2-School Garden Meeting 5:00 p.m.
(TUD boardroom)
- 2-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.
(TUD boardroom)
- 6-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demo Garden)
- 9-Hotline Meeting 3:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 10-Demonstration Garden Team Leaders
9:00 a.m. (UCCE Office)
- 24-Sustainable Landscaping “Train the Trainer”
- 25- “ “ “ (San Joaquin CE Office)

MARCH

- 1-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 2-School Gardening Meeting 5:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 2-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 6-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 19-Home & Garden Show Set-Up 8:00 a.m.
(Mother Lode Fairgrounds)
- 20-Home & Garden Show 9:00 a.m.
(Mother Lode Fairgrounds)
- 21-Home & Garden Show 9:00 a.m.
(Mother Lode Fairgrounds)

APRIL

- 5-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 6-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 10-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demo Garden)
- 17-CNPS Native Plant Sale 9:00 a.m.
(Rocca Park, Jamestown)
- 17-Foothill-Friendly Gardening Seminar
10:30 a.m. (Jamestown Community Hall)

Meet Your Fellow MG “Linda”

Comfortable with home visits, has a National Wildlife Habitat designation, loves native plants and has removed her lawn. Does this sound like a Master Gardener? Well, it’s all true and it’s all about Linda.

Linda was raised in foggy San Francisco near the Candlestick Park area. She went to Nursing School at UCSF where she met her husband John who, coincidentally, graduated with Gary Fowler at Sonora High. Linda has always worked in home health and hospice services. She says that is why home visits are so comfortable for her. She has been doing them for quite awhile, just for different reasons now.



Linda and John moved to this area to be closer to John’s brother and family. The move has been full of adjustments considering the climate and soils they moved from. They fell in love with the property that was not shaped square and has sections that will always remain wild.

They spent several years on weekends clearing the blackberry and poison oak along the seasonal creek running through their property. The bridge that now goes over it ends in a park-like setting where the grandchildren like to play.

Most of the plantings are nearest the house as they have chosen to let the outer areas be natural. Linda has fruit trees, raised vegetable beds and plenty of natives. Lately the heirloom tomatoes are her favorite vegetable to grow. Her favorite plant family is Lamiaceae, which includes the sages and agastaches.

In the fall, she plans to travel to her favorite nursery, Yerba Buena, in Woodside, to stock up. She does admit it’s hard to control her spending at a nursery!

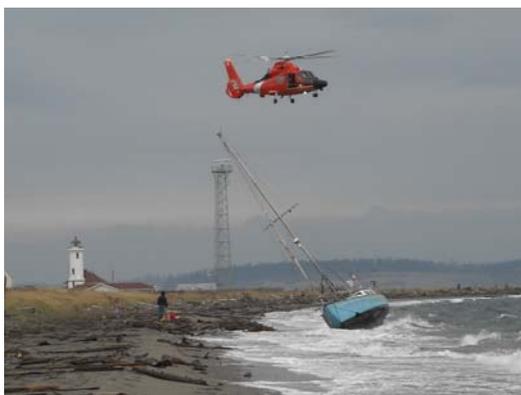
Linda is glad to be free of pesticides. She plants to attract bees and birds with her lavenders, rosemary, agastaches and sages.

In the past Linda worked as Garden Tour co-chair for two years and has enjoyed working at the demonstration garden. This year Linda will be helping Fran with the Home and Garden Show. Lately her most gardening fun comes from the MG Hotline. She loves the chance to look up the answers to questions, share information and is very impressed with how positively the public responds. Thank you, Linda, for how much you give to our MG program.



Master Gardeners on the Road: Washington State

Remember our cliff-hanger ending last month? No? Well, let me remind you....Brenda and Gator were camped on Puget Sound and a storm came through with 58 mph winds....and the next morning there was a mast sticking up out of the sand dune.



Ok, on we go with the story....

We laced up our kicks, pulled on a jacket and walked over to it. There it was. A sailboat had shipwrecked in the storm. Its sea anchor had come loose, forcing its owner to abandon ship in a

little dinghy (why does “a little dinghy” make me think of Gator and giggle?). Anyway, while we were on the beach, the Coasties came flying over in their chopper to check it out. We exchanged a wave as they were off. Explained the presence of the Border Patrol (the sailor was Canadian, eh) and the ambulance (precautionary). That was one lucky guy, all things considered.

We did make it to the rain forest....the Olympic Rainforest. They get between 12 and 14 FEET of rain every year. The forest had such a diversity of plant life. The deciduous trees were changing colors and had the most blinding yellow. They appeared to be enormous torches lighting the way inside the dense growth of the forest beckoning you in.

I did my best to hold back from my compulsion to wander aimlessly inside its boundaries. You may know that the “Twilight” series takes place in the area and, without my trusty garlic, I’m not taking any chances on the vampires.

All in all, Washington was a gem. If I had to pick just one thing that fascinated me most about the plant life here, I’d have to say the mushrooms. In some state parks you can gather them, but in others, it’s strictly taboo. The colors, sizes and shapes seem endless.



My favorite was one that was about the size and shape of a hamburger bun. It was an orangish color with a “sesame seed” looking growth on top. Now, a truly knowledgeable aficionado probably knows them all—not only by common name, but the Latin one also. Me? You could tell me I could pick only one and I guarantee that someone would end up in the

hospital after dinner...well, I guess given my stellar culinary abilities that's pretty much a given anyway. Oh, well.

O.K., so the fact is, the only "fun-guy" I can identify in the forest is Gator. I think I'll go hunt him up now and we'll figure out where we're headed next!

**Next Month's
Newsletter**

Editor:

Stella Sauls

**Deadline for
submissions:**

Feb.15

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