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# Newsletter

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Volume 14	Issue 6	June 2010
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## “In This Issue”

Announcements	page 1
President’s Message	page 1
Calendar	page 2
Sunshine Gardener	page 2
Coordinator’s Corner	page 3, 4
Kids’ Day in the Garden	page 5
S.O.S.—Save Our Styrofoam	page 6

## Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held on Monday, June 7 – 1:00 p.m. at Toots’ house.

Master Gardeners in Schools will meet Tuesday, June 8, 5:00 p.m. at the Tuolumne Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road, Sonora.

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 8** - 6:00 p.m. at the Tuolumne Senior Center, 540 Greenley Rd. **Note: meeting rescheduled due to Memorial Day.**



## President’s Message

Wow, what a spring we've had, everything looks amazing! Even the leaves on the trees are looking nice and plump. I guess the saying, "Don't plant your garden 'til Mother's Day," didn't really work this year. Better stick with, "Don't plant your garden 'til the Buckeyes bloom."

With all this late spring rain the weeds have gone crazy. I've spent way too many hours

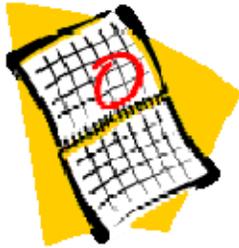
weed eating already, and will probably have to hit it one more time. Between the wild oats, vetch, and rose clover, it's pretty tuff to get thru it all. It is making for some awesome color though, combined with all the wildflowers blooming. With the spring being so cool, the flowers are really hanging on to their color a long time. I'm not sure I've ever seen my iris blooming this late. I had tulips blooming until just a week ago. Amazing!

Along with the flowers, I'm loving this weather! It can stay this way as long as it likes. Last year at this time we were cooking by now. If we're lucky enough, the temp won't go from 80 to 100 overnight!

**HEADS UP!** Even though we have had a good rain year, we are **not**—by any means—out of the woods. As most of you know, in the past I have been dealing with water issues. I had it under control last summer, all was going well. I started my drips going this year and **I came up short of water.** My water level in the well is lower than last year! Just because we had a good rain year doesn't mean we have an abundance of water to spare. It takes years of good rain to replenish the fractures that we use for our water sources. Just to drill a well it's about \$14.00 a foot, and the average well in our area is now to a depth of about 800 feet. So my message today is, "Don't abuse it, you might lose it!"

**Toots**

P.S. For everyone who went to the dinner after the Garden Tour, what were you supposed to do with the bacon in the glass? (Editor’s note: according to the servers, the bacon was an appetizer. Someone at our table asked. Maybe they had extra bacon from that morning’s wedding breakfast?)



## Calendar

### JUNE

- 5-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.  
**KIDS' DAY IN THE GARDEN**  
(see last page for details)  
(Cassina Demo Garden)
- 5-Earthfest 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.  
(Mountain Sage Nursery, Groveland)  
Volunteer MGs needed to staff info booth
- 7-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
(**Van Ruiten home**)
- 8-Master Gardeners in Schools 5:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)
- 8-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)
- 12-SOS--Save Our Styrofoam 9-3  
(Microtronics Way, Sonora)  
Volunteer MGs needed; sign up on VMS
- 13-SOS—Save Our Styrofoam 11-2  
(Microtronics Way, Sonora)  
Volunteer MGs needed; sign up on VMS
- 14-Pine Mountain Lake Garden Tour
- 21-Mother Lode Fair Entry Deadline

### JULY

- 9-12-Mother Lode Fair
- 10-Open Garden Day; 10-1  
[All about Water](#)  
(Demonstration Garden)
- 12-Board Meeting 1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 13-General Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)
- 17-Open Garden Day 10:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demo Garden)

### AUGUST

- 2-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 3-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)
- 7-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demo Garden)  
[Pruning and Staking Berries](#)  
[Garden Harvest Tasting](#)



### Spread a Little Sunshine

Best Wishes for a quick recovery to Jeanie Pierce after her recent accident. We missed you at the garden tour and dinner, Jeanie.

Cherrie Morgan recently had surgery. Feel free to send her a card and good wishes.

Hoping that both of these valued MG members will be back with us soon!

**Next Month's  
Newsletter  
Editor:**

**Stella Sauls**

**Deadline for  
submissions:  
June 15**

## Coordinator's Corner

From the WiserWatch Internet Humor Department:

### God's Thoughts on Lawns

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect, no maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But all I see are these green rectangles.

ST. FRANCIS: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers "weeds" and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees, only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it - sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bail it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS: No Sir. Just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. Plus, as they rot, the leaves form compost to enhance the soil. It's a natural circle of life.

ST. FRANCIS: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No. What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter and to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS: They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD: Enough. I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE: Dumb and Dumber, Lord.

GOD: Never mind, I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis

*WiserWatch is the monthly e-newsletter of Water Wiser and the AWWA Water Conservation Division. Submissions are always welcome. Please e-mail them to Peter Mayer - mayer@aquacraft.com.*

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## **Awesome Tuolumne County Master Gardeners**

In 2009, the UCCE Tuolumne County Master Gardener Program had a membership of 89 MGs who volunteered 4338 hours. Our Tuolumne County MGs volunteered more hours than Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Humboldt/Del Norte, Inyo-Mono, Lake, Madera, Mariposa, Mendocino, Merced, Placer, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Shasta, Solano, Sutter/Yuba or Tulare/Kings Counties and almost as many as San Bernardino County. For such a small county and for fewer than 100 volunteers....WE ARE AWESOME!!!!

### **Lawn Resources**

The UC IPM program has published new resource cards (called quick tips) for lawn care. Good for farmers' markets, information booths, public presentations and in answer to garden questions, here's the list of what's available in the MG office:

**Garden Chemicals & Water Quality**

**Landscape Design & Water Quality**

**Landscape Plants: Fertilizing & Watering**

**Lawn Insects**

**Lawn Watering**

**Weeds in Lawns**

Take a look at [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

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Come to the  
UCCE Tuolumne County Master  
Gardener Demonstration Garden  
251 S. Barretta St., Sonora



# Kids' Day in the Garden

## Saturday, June 5

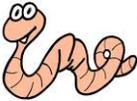
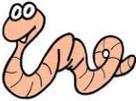
### 10:30 - 1:00

At Sonora High School's  
**Cassina Campus**

**Free!**

**Free!**

### Things to Do:

- CRAFTS TO MAKE
- WORM CUPCAKES 
- PLANTING SEEDS – CORN, PUMPKINS, GRASSES
- SUNFLOWERS  TO TAKE HOME
- CRICKET SPITTING 
- FACE PAINTING
- WORMS TO FEED 
- CREATE A ROCK GARDEN
- FLOWERS TO ARRANGE
- THREE SISTERS – STORIES & SEEDS
- SCAVENGER HUNT 



# SAVE OUR STYROFOAM! (S.O.S.)

UCCE Tuolumne County  
Master Gardeners

## **Styrofoam Collection Day**

*Drop off your clean, #6 Styrofoam*

*Remove tape, tags, labels, etc.*

**When:** Sat., June 12: 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.  
Sun. June 13: 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Waste Management, Inc.  
Microtronics Way  
Turn onto Camage Ave.  
Follow the Signs

