



## UC MASTER GARDENERS OF BUTTE COUNTY

# SPRING 2026 WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOPS ARE FREE—REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED  
Register at our website: [link.ucanr.edu/buttemg-workshops](https://link.ucanr.edu/buttemg-workshops)

## FEBRUARY

### Seed Starting

Tuesday, February 3, 10–11:30 am  
Pat's Barn, 30 people

Would you like to plant different varieties of summer vegetables than those that are available at the big box stores as starts? Learn to start your own plants from seed, and you can choose any variety you'd like! Our focus will be tomatoes and peppers. You say you don't have a heated greenhouse? Not to worry, as this workshop will also explore options for starting seeds indoors, including the proper lighting and temperature control.

### Choosing and Preparing your Flower Garden **NEW**

Wednesday, February 11, 11:30 am–1:30 pm  
Pat's Barn, 30 people

This workshop will help you get started with the flower garden of your dreams or sharpen and hone the flower gardening skills you already have. From the fundamentals of flower garden planning through site selection and preparation, seed starting, propagating, and the basics of garden design—we've got it all covered.



### Plant Selection and Planting Techniques **NEW**

Wednesday, February 18, 11:30 am–1:30 pm  
Pat's Barn, 30 people

This class will cover what to plant in various

situations, such as raised beds, pots, grow bags, and in the ground. We will discuss planting methods like square foot gardening and lasagna gardening, and explain different techniques for growing plants, such as seed starting, winter sowing in jugs, and soil blocking. Finally, we will consider such factors as budget, available space, and seasonal timing that can determine what to plant and how to plant it.

### Native Plants

Saturday, February 21, 11am–12:30pm  
Bradley 2 at The Social, 50 people  
Offered in partnership with OLLI

By using native plants, you can transform your garden into a more natural habitat that is not only beautiful, but also supports local ecosystems, conserves water, and reduces maintenance. In this workshop, you will learn some basic principles about gardening with natives and be introduced to some natives that do well in garden settings. Emphasis is on specific gardening practices that increase biodiversity and ecosystem function. Our local California Native Plant Society Garden Ambassador will provide a resource list and planting guide as part of this workshop.

### Care and Maintenance: Considerations in Garden Planning **NEW**

Wednesday, February 25, 11:30 am–1:30 pm  
Pat's Barn, 30 people

In this workshop, we look at how maintenance requirements may factor into your garden choices. Flower growth habits, longevity,

irrigation, sun and soil needs—these considerations and more make a difference in how much time you devote to your plants. We identify and address issues such as: How long will the site be a garden? How might you want it to change or grow over time? What are the relevant seasonal considerations? Delving into these questions can help you design a garden that best fits your needs.

## MARCH



### Pollinator Gardens **NEW**

Monday, March 9, 1–2:30 pm  
Terry Ashe Recreation Center, 50 people

Create and conserve habitat for our all-important pollinators! Because of their critical contribution to plant reproduction and diversity, pollinating species (insects and other invertebrates) are considered keystone indicators of environmental health. Join a local expert from the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation to learn how to attract and retain pollinators such as bumble bees, native bees, and Monarch butterflies to your garden.

### Vegetable Gardening **NEW**

Thursday, March 12, 10 am–noon  
Demonstration Garden, 20 people

Growing your own food is satisfying, healthy, and delicious! This workshop focuses on selecting the best available site in your garden for growing vegetables; determining whether to plant in the ground or in raised beds; preparing

### ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

- *Workshops and talks are free—registration is required* for all workshops and talks.
- Registration is on a first come, first served basis.
- Space is limited. Please check workshop descriptions for details.
- Heavy rain cancels outdoor workshops (unless noted); cancelled workshops will be rescheduled.

### WORKSHOP LOCATIONS

- *Demonstration Garden and Pat's Barn:* Patrick Ranch, 10381 Midway, between Chico and Durham
- *Bradley 2 at The Social:* 1400 W. 3rd St., Chico
- *Chapman Park Teaching Garden at the Dorothy F. Johnson Center,* 775 E 16th Street, Chico
- *Terry Ashe Recreation Center:* 6626 Skyway, Paradise

### QUESTIONS?

Need to cancel? Want to get on a Workshop Waiting List? Please email us at: [anrmgbutte@ucanr.edu](mailto:anrmgbutte@ucanr.edu)

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the site; irrigation requirements; garden planning; and, finally, planting and maintenance of the garden.

### **Firewise Land Stewardship** NEW

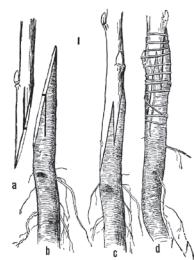
**Saturday March 21, 10 am–noon**  
**Bradley 2 at The Social, 50 people**  
**Offered in partnership with OLLI**

This presentation will cover fire behavior, State guidelines for defensible space, and how to create and maintain a defensible space around your home through a lens of land stewardship. We will walk through a mock home fire-safety assessment and the three zones of defensible space, discussing how to obtain personalized landowner objectives, while considering both fire safety and ecosystem health. We'll discuss plant selection, plant spacing, land stewardship techniques and methods, and local resources for people to tap into.

## APRIL

### **Grafting Fruit Trees** NEW

**Thursday, April 9, 10–11:30 am**  
**Pat's Barn, 30 people**



Grafting and budding are methods of plant propagation that join parts of different plants so that they will grow as one plant.

Nearly all fruit trees are grown on rootstocks that have been selected to overcome soil problems. The scion cultivar is typically

budded onto the rootstock. These techniques are used to propagate cultivars to improve tree survival and resistance to soil-borne diseases or pests. Budding or grafting can also be used to convert a cultivar to another cultivar or to have more than one cultivar growing on the same tree. After the lecture a hands-on demonstration of budding will take place in the demonstration fruit orchard.

### **Gophers Moles and Voles**

**Saturday, April 11, 10–11:30 am**  
**Demonstration Garden, 25 people**

There is nothing peskier than vertebrate pests in your garden. Join us to gain some knowledge about how to deal with these monsters that plague your yard. We will also have a Master Gardener available to show you exactly how to set gopher traps.

### **Year-Round Fruit Tree Care with Directional Pruning & Height Management**

**Saturday, April 18, 10–11:30 am**  
**Demonstration Garden, 12 people**

Tom Hansen will explain what to do

throughout the year to keep your fruit trees healthy and ensure the best crops. His talk will cover pruning, irrigation, fertilizers, and cultural practices. Learn about the different fruit tree bearing habits and how those habits guide pruning decisions for regular bearing and good fruit size. This workshop will take place in the Demonstration Garden orchard in order to demonstrate and discuss the best way to prune various fruit trees. There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.

## MAY

### **Irrigation**

**Saturday, May 2, 10–11:30 am**  
**Demonstration Garden, 25 people**

Drip irrigation is arguably the most efficient method of providing water to trees, crops, gardens, and landscapes. The surface drip irrigation system emitter was first developed in Israel, where the dry climate makes water conservation a necessity. This workshop will provide an overview of different options available for drip irrigation systems and how to install them. You will also learn how to troubleshoot and inspect your system, and how to make repairs when needed.

## SEASONAL GARDEN TALKS

In partnership with CARD, we are offering Seasonal Garden Talks four times a year at our Chapman Park Teaching Garden at the Dorothy F. Johnson Center.

### **Winter Garden Talks**

**Saturday, February 7, 9–10:50 am**  
There will be two sessions, with a choice between two topics for each session. The topics for Session One (from 9 to 9:50 am) are: *Using Our Three-Year Garden Guide and Journal*; and *Winter Planting and Seed Starting*. For Session Two (from 10 to 10:50 am) choose either *Composting or Growing Through Winter* and *Protecting Outdoor Plants and Trees*. For details about the talks and to register visit our website at [tinyurl.com/buttemg-seasonaltalks](http://tinyurl.com/buttemg-seasonaltalks).

### **Spring Talks**

**April 11, 2026, topics and time TBA**

### **Summer Talks**

**June 6, 2026, topics and time TBA**

### **Weed ID**

**Wednesday, May 6, 12–1:30 pm**  
**Demonstration Garden, 25 people**



This workshop explores the nature of weeds, and why it's important to correctly identify which weeds you are battling. We'll offer tools to help with this, including a hands-on practicum. Primary strategies

for weed control are Integrated Pest Management methods; we'll have a quick primer on chemical controls for when they are needed as a last resort.

### **Propagation**

**Thursday, May 7, 10–11:30 am**  
**Demonstration Garden, 25 people**

Learn the best time to propagate woody perennials and divide plants; how to select and make cuttings; the proper techniques for dividing plants; the best planting mediums to use; and how to plant cuttings and divided plants. Materials and techniques will be discussed and handouts will be provided.

### **Plant a Native Garden for the Birds**

**Monday, May 18, 10–11:30 am**  
**Pat's Barn, 30 people**

Don't just plant a native plant garden, create a habitat that supports birds throughout the year. In this workshop we will discuss the bird species you can expect to attract year-round; the best plants for them; and how to arrange different types and sizes of plants in order to provide food, shelter, protection, and nesting sites. Ideally, a bird-friendly garden will be attractive to humans too. This presentation provides plenty of photos of the birds and plants, and will introduce you to a great plant selection tool. We will mention plant suppliers and native plant gardens worth a tour in the Chico area. We'll also show examples of garden layouts pleasing to both birds and humans.

### **Bats**

**Friday, May 22, 10–12, 10 am–noon**  
**Pat's Barn, 30 people**

Bats! Learn everything you always wanted to know about these fascinating creatures from Dr. Shahroukh Mistry, an expert on bat biology. Dr. Mistry teaches in the biology department at Butte College, and his current research is on Acoustic Monitoring of Bat Diversity and Activity in Northern California, and Prehistoric Distribution of Extinct Vampire Bat Species. His great specialty, however, is making science, especially bat science, accessible, enjoyable, and fun.

