

March
April
2025

Garden Views Newsletter



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program
Riverside County

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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anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

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."

The May-June issue of *Garden Views* will feature the new format from Constant Contact that will allow more accessibility for readers. The newsletter will still feature articles about and written by Master Gardeners of Riverside County as well as information about special events in our area.

If you have an idea for an article, please contact:

Georgia Renne, Editor,
grenne@earthlink.net



Spring is on the way!

Garden Views is published bi-monthly by the
UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County.

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UC Master Gardener Reorganization Project Update 2025

Contributed by Georgia Renne, UC Master Gardener

The Reorganization Team met recently and continued their work assessing how the Master Gardener Program of Riverside County functions and how best to provide members easy access for support with activities wherever they live. Team members represent our Program from across the county and include Deborah Anderson, Stephen Crouse, Thurman Howard, Jim Huberty, Melody Knox, Eben Longfellow, Patricia Malone, and Georgia Renne. We met with Rosa Olaiz, Volunteer Services Coordinator, and Robin Russell, our consultant. Upcoming meetings in April and May are planned to carry on this work.

As we continue to develop an efficient organizational structure for the Master Gardener Program of Riverside County, we will discuss and define:

- A current vision statement that is supported by objectives that are measures of our success and strategies for how we will realize our vision.
- All projects listed on VMS to determine how each fits the three statewide Master Gardener impact areas, Sustainable Landscaping Practices, Food Gardening, and Community Wellbeing.
- Input from Master Gardeners in the desert to understand and address their concerns.
- Possible organizational structures to support our vision and current needs throughout the County.



Team meeting at Cabazon Library

Master Gardener Recognition with Soup and Salad

Contributed by Pam Elias, UC Master Gardener



The UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County gathered for the Master Gardener Social Recognition Program on Sunday, March 9, to celebrate and recognize our dedicated volunteers.



Coordinator Rosa Olaiz expressed gratitude for the hard work and commitment of our Master Gardeners. Several volunteers reached significant milestones and recently received recognition pins for their service hours.

Adrian Ceja earned his gold badge for 1,000 hours of volunteer service.



Jane Payne was honored with her Cathy Konyin Award gift. Congratulations all!



Thank you to all of our volunteers!

A special thank you to everyone who contributed delicious soups and salads—we truly have a community that nurtures both gardens and friendships!



Photo credits: Yvonne Wilczynski and Pam Elias

Monthly Meeting Brings Together Master Gardeners from All Over the State

Contributed by Alex Groves, UC Master Gardener

With such different climates and growing seasons, what would UC Master Gardeners from Riverside and Tulare Counties have in common? A lot, it turns out.

Master Gardeners from all over the state have been gathering for meetings online at noon

every second Wednesday of the month to discuss everything from how they put together school gardens to how they reach gardeners through social media. They've been meeting as part of the newly formed Southern California Master Gardeners Connect group.

UC Master Gardener, Melody Knox, represents the Riverside County Program at the meetings and says she is enjoying meeting new Master Gardeners and learning from them.

Knox said the group had its start in October 2023 during the State Master Gardener Conference at the Granlibakken Lodge in Lake Tahoe. A Master Gardener from the San Diego area began collecting people's contact information so they could stay in touch with each other, and the meetings grew out of that.

The meetings allow sharing of resources.

For example, when Riverside County Program Master Gardener, Rebecca Levers, did a presentation on firescaping, Master Gardeners from other counties were able to take that information and use it as a base for their own presentations.

"They didn't have to go through and rebuild everything, or do all this research, because she had everything pretty much there," Knox said.

Participants have come to the meetings from San Bernardino, Imperial, San Diego and Orange Counties and even as far away as Tulare County in central California.

Knox said another meeting benefit is the information Master Gardeners take away on climate or conditions in other counties – and that's knowledge they can pass on.

She noted that it's not uncommon for visitors from out of county to show up at the Ask a Master Gardener Information Tables. While normally it might be hard for a Riverside County

Master Gardener to give an out-of-county person advice, they might just know the answer from attending the Connect meetings, or they can refer the person to a specific Master Gardener from their same county.

Knox said the meetings aren't limited to longtime program participants with thousands of hours. Newer Master Gardeners can also attend the meetings.

The meetings are not the only source of cross-country information sharing. Knox also recommends that Master Gardeners subscribe to some of the newsletters put out by the other county programs.

Knox said she's learned more about some of the other newsletters since joining the Connect group. She said they're not only a good resource for people to familiarize themselves with other counties, but also for them to learn something new that could benefit them in their own gardens.

Knox looks forward to continuing collaboration between the different county programs and looks forward to them finding new ways to assist each other. "We should have a better connection with one another since we're pretty much doing the same thing," she said.

For more information on Southern California Masters Gardeners Connect, Knox can be emailed at jaelknox@gmail.com.



Children's Discovery Museum Garden

Contributed by Peggy Bakke, UC Master Gardener



The Children's Discovery Museum of the Desert Garden is alive and well. Located in Rancho Mirage, the six-and-a-half-acre site of the Museum was donated by The Honorable Walter Annenberg and the Annenberg Foundation with facilities built through the donation of public and private funds. Its proximity to Interstate 10 provides excellent access for the Valley's more than 70,000 schoolchildren.

The Riverside County Master Gardeners in the Desert welcome children and their parents to this garden created at the Museum with tours to share the five beds and all that grows within them.



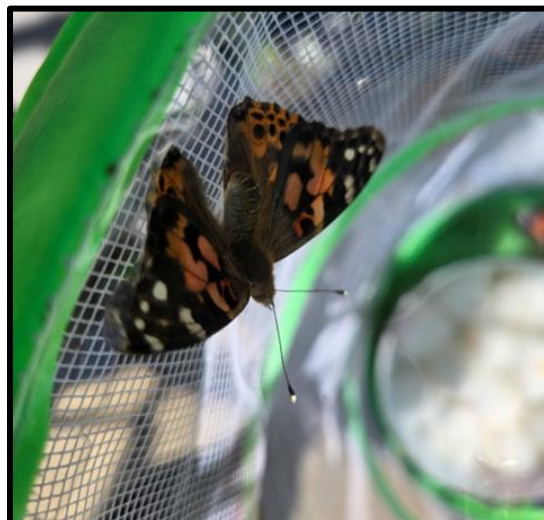
We have a pollinator bed, an herb bed, a vegetable bed with tomato, lettuce, and other veggies, a fruit bed with strawberries and a red seedless grape vine, and a bulb bed where we also plant our watermelon and pumpkin seeds. Thank you, Thurman Howard for donating cabbage seedlings for this bed. Some children planted Sunflower seeds, some watermelon seeds, and some pumpkin seeds.



To locals we give each child a tomato and/or a lavender seedling and a Sunflower seed to take home. Our out of state & Canadian visitors have to settle for a sunflower seed as they cannot take a plant on the airplane. But when they see the mammoth sunflower we grew from seed, they are happy!



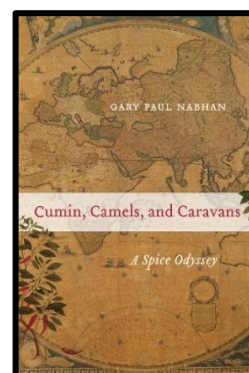
Today we shared our Butterflies, which are ready to be released soon. AND the children loved handling the Ladybugs!



A big thank you to all our Master Gardener Volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

Photos credit: Peggy Bakke

Cumin, Camels and Caravans: A Spice Odyssey by Gary Paul Nabhan
Contributed by Ken Niemeyer, UC Master Gardener



The Master Gardener desert book club (Book Thyme) has read several of Gary Paul Nabhan books which focus on the Sonoran and Mojave Deserts. However, this book takes the reader on a vivid and far-ranging journey across time and space in the fascinating look at the relationship between the spice trade and culinary imperialism.

Drawing on his own family's history as spice traders, as well as travel narratives, historical accounts and his expertise as an ethnobotanist, Nabhan describes the critical roles Semitic peoples and desert floras had in setting the stage for globalized spice trade.

Traveling along the four prominent trade routes - the Silk Road, the Frankincense Trail, the Spice Route, and the Camino Real (for chiles and chocolate) - Nabhan follows the caravans of itinerant spice merchants. The author travels from frankincense gathering grounds and ancient harbors of the Arabian Peninsula to the port of Zayton on the China Sea to the desert of Santa Fe in Southwest United States. His stories, recipes, and linguistic analysis of cultural diffusion routes reveal the extent to which aromatics such as cumin, cinnamon, saffron, and peppers became adopted worldwide as signature ingredients of diverse cuisines.

This history of exploration and circumnavigation of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres prior to Columbus is mind expanding and a read very worthwhile.



Celebrate!
Riverside County Master Gardener
Recognition Awards
February-March

1,000 Hours Gold Badge

Peggy Bakke

Lee Bayer

Susan Krings

750 Hours Pruner Pin

Darrilyn Erickson

Cyndi Yancu

500 Hours Watering Can Pin

Vilma Raettig

Steven Schott

250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin

Linda Cummings

Norma Larson

Bernice Rummonds

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin

Stephen Crouse

Daniel Garrow

Carl Norlen

Desert Compost Update

Contributed by Dan Garrow, UC Master Gardener

Desert area UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County support the "Milk & Honey" Compost/Garden project originally started by Desert Compost in 2023.

This project resides on the grounds of the United Methodist Church of Palm Springs (UMCPS) in a formerly unused outdoor space. The UMCPS has a weekly food ministry that serves over 600 meals per week. Post-meal food scraps from that ministry are saved to then be composted by the Milk & Honey team. Those scraps provide the bulk of the material that is composted weekly.

Local businesses such as a juice shop and coffee shop plus area residents also provide compostable food scraps. An average of 700 pounds of food waste that would otherwise end up in a landfill is composted weekly by the Milk & Honey team.

Master Gardeners support the project on Wednesday mornings (bright and early!) completing the necessary tasks for a great compost product. They first record the weight of food scraps and build new compost piles from those fresh scraps using a 'brown' to 'green' formula. They record the internal temperature of existing compost piles. Then turn over and move those existing compost piles. Finally, five to six months later they sift the finished product of mature piles into buckets for free distribution to anyone in the community.

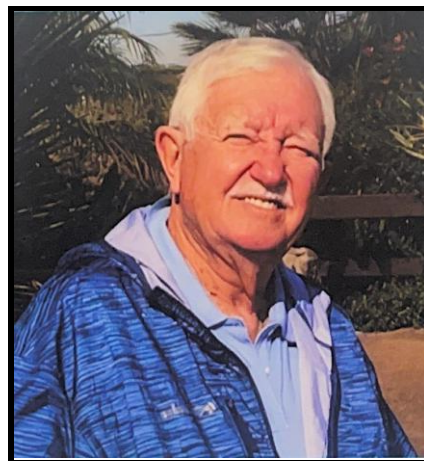


Dan Garrow turns new compost.



Dan Garrow and volunteer show compost ready to give away.

In Memory



Harold Kund was a dedicated Master Gardener who trained in 2019. His commitment to the program was evident, as he didn't hesitate to drive to the Palm Desert class when he couldn't attend the Riverside class, ensuring he never missed a session. Harold was passionate about gardening and always willing to lend a helping hand. Although physical limitations prevented him from actively gardening, Harold found ways to remain involved in the program. He played an important role in the *Rooted* project, where he mentored new trainees, guiding them through their educational journey and helping them complete the program. Harold passed away on March 8, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, dedication, and a positive contribution for the Master Gardener program.

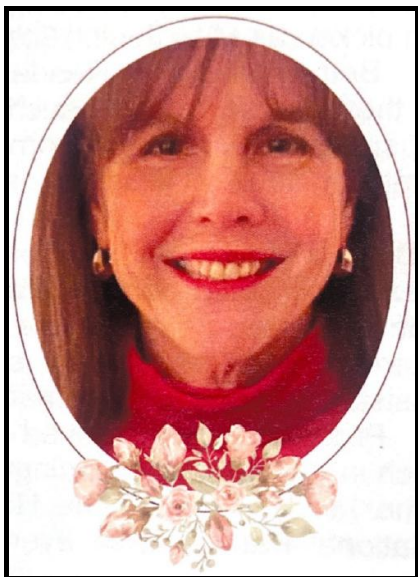
Time Heals

Author Unknown

*White rose petals fall and blossoms fade,
Memories linger yet,
Recollections of happier times,
You never will forget.*

*Then as time gently passes by,
And comfort soothes your sorrow,
Like flowers you'll find, new memories bloom,
To brighten your tomorrow.*

In Memory



Elizabeth Reade began her Master Gardener training in 2020, during a time when classes were held online due to the pandemic. Despite the challenges of remote learning, Elizabeth quickly became an active participant and found ways to engage with the community. She was particularly passionate about volunteering at the Information Tables. Her most cherished volunteer experience was at the Riverside Farmers Market, where she had the opportunity to share her knowledge and connect with local gardeners. Elizabeth passed away on February 26, 2025, and will be remembered for her warmth and commitment to the Master Gardener program.



Rosa Olaiz
Volunteer
Services
Coordinator

Our first Open House/Meeting in the desert was a great success bringing together 17 Master Gardeners to reconnect and

share updates on their various projects. The meeting fostered an atmosphere of

collaboration and enthusiasm with everyone actively engaged in discussing their projects and exchanging ideas. Overall, it was a positive and productive meeting, and we're excited to continue building on this momentum in the future.

The following project coordinators provided updates on their current active projects:

- Stephen Crouse, **Trees For Tomorrow, Start Today**: The next event will be in Lake Elsinore on March 8, with discussions underway about the next tree giveaway in Desert Hot Springs.
- Jax Patterson, Butt Boss (**Boys & Girls Club**), and Peggy Bakke, (**Children's Discovery Museum**): They shared updates on the many School Garden projects.
- Susan Krings and Sam Martin, **Grow Lab**: They provided insight into their ongoing work.
- Dan Garrow stepped in to support Dee Kongsli with **Desert Compost**.
- Ruben Arias is working with the **Historical Museum** in Indio.
- David Lahti announced that he has settled at the **Prescott Preserve**, and the docent project is coming soon.
- Linda Williams is a roving docent at the **Coachella Valley Preserve** volunteering every Sunday.

There are several areas in the desert that require support for ongoing projects. If you're interested in joining a team to help restart these initiatives, please reach out to me to find out how you can get involved.

Events – both small and large
 Look for **Farmers Markets** in other areas
Home Gardening Classes
Communications
Volunteer Training Classes
IT – support with technology

Upcoming events:

Wild West Days – May 3 & 4, Banning*
Lavender Festival – May 23 to July 20
 (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays), Beaumont*
Trees for Tomorrow Start Today - May 3,
 Coachella Library

Trees for Tomorrow Start Today – Desert
 Hot Springs – Date TBA*

* Not on the VMS calendar at this time.

The idea of returning to monthly meetings was well received, and it was decided to hold these gatherings regularly. Meetings will be scheduled for the second Thursday of each month to provide project updates and foster collaboration. The next meeting will take place on **April 10, from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM**. The location is TBD.

I look forward to our future meetings.



Free Workshop

Right Tree, Right Space

Saturday, April 5, 2025 • 10 a.m.



Selecting the right fruit tree for your space is an important first step; then learn about backyard orchards and how to maintain them.

Kathy Swanson is a veteran UCCE Riverside County Master Gardener. Jake Vogenberg is a science educator. Both are Permaculture Design Course instructors.



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

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







Open Daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501

For more information, please contact us at
 (951) 683-7691 ext. 207 or llc@RCRCD.org.



Explore the beauty and importance of creating a habitat for our vital pollinators.

This session will focus on native California plants that are not only drought-tolerant but also attract bees, butterflies, and other essential pollinators. Whether you're new to gardening or have a green thumb, this workshop will provide practical tips and insights on selecting the right plants and designing a pollinator-friendly garden.

Discover how to cultivate a vibrant, sustainable space that supports local wildlife while thriving in California's unique climate.

Join us!

Sign up at WesternWaterCA.gov/MasterGardener



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10 a.m.
 Topic and Speaker TBD



Butterfly Surveys
 at the
Greenbelt Monarch Habitat

9:00 am • March 29, April 10 & 26, May 2, 16 & 31
 June 14 & 21, 2025

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

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.

RCRCD
 Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Greenbelt Monarch Habitat Riverside

A Western Monarch caterpillar eating a native California milkweed, *Asclepias californica*.

2025 Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tour
 Celebrating our
Citrus Heritage with Zest!

Saturday & Sunday, April 26 & April 27
 Gardens 10 am - 5 pm • Show 9 am - 5 pm
FREE Flower Show & Seminars at the Elks Lodge
 6166 Brockton Ave., Riverside

Garden Tour \$10 • 6 Local Gardens
 Tickets available on our website (Children 16 and under Free)

Don't miss our Garden Fair at the Flower Show!

Submit an entry to our flower show for FREE!
 Accepting entries Friday, April 25 only • 4 to 8 pm

Flower Show Seminars Include:

Saturday, April 26	Sunday, April 27
9:30 am Backyard Citrus Care Lucy Heyming UCCE Master Gardener	9:30 am The Forever Wildfire Season Rebecca Levers UCCE Master Gardener
10:30 am Craft Demonstration: Dehydrated Citrus Peel Mushroom Garland Debbra Corbin-Euston, Patty Walker, and Susan Wright UCCE Master Gardeners	10:30 am Herbs: How to Select, Grow and Enjoy! Linda Powell UCCE Master Gardener

For ticket sales and further information go to:
RiversideFlowerShow.com
Facebook.com/Riversideflowershow

Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tours

RIVERSIDE INSECT FAIR

SAVE THE DATE | **APRIL 26, 2025**
 10 A.M. - 4 P.M. | **RIVERSIDE MAIN LIBRARY**
 3900 MISSION INN AVE.

Riverside Insect Fair

Get ready for a buzzing good time at the **Riverside Insect Fair** on Saturday, April 26th, 2025, from 10 AM to 4 PM at the **Main Library!** With over 50 vendors, cockroach races, and a swarm of fun activities, you'll be bugged out in the best way possible! Enjoy art from the Riverside Arts Council, Storytime with the Library, learn how to start your own bug collection, and explore a day in the life of UC Riverside's entomology grad students. It's sure to be a crawling good time—don't miss it!

Trees for Tomorrow Start Today

**Saturday,
May 3, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



Do you live in Coachella Valley?
Do you have space for a **FREE** shade tree?
Do you have transportation to bring a tree home?
Would you like a brief lesson on plant care from a Univ. of California Master Gardener volunteer?

If so please pre-register for a free tree using the link or QR code here:
<https://bit.ly/4la9ITO>



Coachella Library
1500 Sixth Street, Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398-5148 | www.rivlib.net

 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
 COACHELLA VALLEY
RESOURCE
 COACHELLA


Los árboles del mañana empiezan hoy

**Saturday, May 3, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**



¿Vives en el Valle de Coachella?
¿Tienes espacio para un árbol de sombra GRATIS?
¿Tienes transporte para llevar un árbol a casa?
¿Te gustaría una breve lección sobre el cuidado de las plantas impartida por un Maestro Jardinero Voluntario de la Universidad de California?
Si es así, por favor, preinscríbete para obtener un árbol gratis usando el enlace o el código QR aquí: <https://bit.ly/4la9ITO>



Coachella Library
1500 Sixth Street, Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398-5148 | www.rivlib.net

 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources
 COACHELLA VALLEY
RESOURCE
 COACHELLA


Spring Fling

at

**The Louis Robidoux Parkland
and Pecan Grove**

Visit <https://www.louisrobidouxparkland.org/>

Time:
1 pm - 4 pm

Date:
Saturday May 3, 2025

Location:
5370 Riverview Dr.
Jurupa Valley CA,
92509

Come and experience
Spring at LRPPG!
Enjoy the following:

- Garden Tours
- Bee Hotel
- Bird Blind
- Free Snacks
- Family Activities
- Jam Workshop



Aventura de Primavera

en

**El Louis Robidoux Parkland
and Pecan Grove**

Visita <https://www.louisrobidouxparkland.org/>

Tiempo:
1 pm - 4 pm

Fecha:
Sábado 3 de mayo de
2025

Ubicación:
5370 Riverview Dr.
Jurupa Valley CA,
92509

Ven y experimenta
la primavera en LRPPG!
Disfruta de lo siguiente:

- Visitas al jardín
- Hotel Abeja
- Estor para pájaros
- Bocadillos gratis
- Actividades familiares
- Taller de mermelada

