

**May
June
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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**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 July 15, 2025, 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 UC Master Gardeners 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



UC Master Gardener Reappointment Time!

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

In this issue:

~Rosa Olaiz shares how to complete Reappointment for the UC Master Gardener Program.

~Pam Elias describes our Giving Day event and its success.

~Betty Ingalls informs us about ground nesting and crevice nesting bees.

~Pam Elias and Thurman Howard give an update for the Reorganization Team.

~Check out the new tour committee, The Happy Wanderers.

~Susan Krings reveals the progress on the Palm Desert Grow Lab.

~Roxana Scott shares how we support the Liberty Housing Vets.

~Celebrate our MGs with Recognition Volunteer Hours.

~Check out the information on the new UC Master Gardener Training Class.

Welcome to the May/June Newsletter!

Rosa Olaiz,
Volunteer Services Coordinator



With longer days and warmer weather, summer is the perfect time to get involved, stay active in the garden, and connect with our community through exciting volunteer opportunities. Whether it's helping at farmers' markets, supporting school gardens, or participating in summer festivals like the Lavender Festival, there are plenty of ways to stay involved.

Time to Recommit to the Master Gardener Program!

Reappointment for the new fiscal year begins **June 1**. All UC Master Gardeners are required to complete the **three reappointment forms** to continue active status in the program: Annual Volunteer Agreement and Request for Reappointment, Code of Conduct/Responsibilities and Rights, and Proof of CA Driver's License and Automobile Liability Insurance. The forms are on your VMS Home Page and must be completed in order to continue in the Master Gardener Program for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. To be eligible to continue in the program you must have the minimum of 25 volunteer hours and 12 hours of continuing education. If you are short on volunteer hours check out the VMS Calendar for upcoming events.

Continuing Education (CE) hours are available through June. Recordings of past continuing education meetings can be found on the Home Page News, and Western Water has recent recordings for the second Saturday workshops on their website, westernwaterca.gov.

Annual Fee Payment Information

The Annual Fee is due once the new fiscal year begins on July 1, 2025. An email will be sent on July 1 with payment instructions. It will include:

- Link for online payment (preferred method of payment)
- Instructions for mailing a check to the UCCE office.

UC ANR Giving Day Success – Thank You!

The UC ANR Giving Day online fundraiser was held on May 15–16, 2025, and it was a great success! Thanks to the generosity of UC Master Gardeners and community members, we raised \$2935.95 during the 24-hour campaign. We're also excited to share that Riverside County won the "Greatest Number of Unique Donors" challenge, earning an additional \$500!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated and helped spread the word!

A special shout-out to Master Gardener Pam Elias for her incredible work coordinating the Giving Day Fundraiser and Continuing Education Event. Pam was instrumental in organizing event logistics, coordinating speakers, donating opportunity drawing items, and promoting the fundraiser through her dedicated efforts on social media.

Thank you, Pam, for your hard work and commitment. It truly made a difference!

I look forward to a year filled with new opportunities and exciting experiences!

Thank You for Making UC Giving Day a Success!

Contributed by Pam Elias, UC Master Gardener of Riverside County

We're thrilled to share that our UC Giving Day Celebration on Friday, May 16 was a blooming success. Thanks to our incredible community!

- Official total raised: \$2935.95
- Number of donations: 36

- We received a bonus of \$500 for the “greatest number challenge” for \$500 donations. We were the 4th highest in the State.
- Media Success: 14 Facebook posts and 13 Instagram posts

Generous donors and along with sponsors gave \$75,288 to UC Cooperative Extension and the statewide programs, institutes, and research.

Our event featured four fascinating presentations by our UC Master Gardeners, each sharing their wisdom and passion:

- Edible Flowers, Culinary Color – Jean Weiss (below)



- Pretty But Deadly: Poisonous Plants in Your Garden – Laura Simpson (below)



- Medicinal Plants Used by Native Tribes of Southern California – Shirley Mirch
- Fruit Tree Guilds – Christine Lampe (below)



We also had opportunity drawings, plenty of snacks, and a whole lot of garden-loving fun! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us in person and to all who donated—we couldn't do it without you.

Photo credit: Pam Elias and Yvonne Wilczynski

Ground Nesting Bees and Crevice Nesting Bees

Contributed by Betty Ingalls, UC Master Gardener, Riverside County

When we think of bees, we automatically think of honeybees. However, did you know there are 20,000 species of bees throughout the world? In the United States we have 4,000, and in California we have 1600 species.

Of these thousands of native species 90% are solitary. Being solitary, they do not build a hive but live alone in the ground or in deadwood, hollow stems, and even crevices. They do not make honey; their sole function is to pollinate. They are non-aggressive, even friendly, pollinating 75% of the plants. They range in size from smaller than a grain of rice to the size of a woman's thumb.

Crevice nesting bees find a narrow opening in a block wall, a piece of dead wood, or even a hollow stem. They create a “brood chamber” starting at the back of the tunnel working their way forward. Female eggs are laid at the back of the tunnel with male eggs near the entrance to the tunnel. The larvae are furnished “bee bread,” a concoction of pollen and nectar as their feed. Then each egg chamber is sealed with mud. The male bees hatch first and wait for the females to hatch. Then bees breed together,

and the males die. The females live on and continue the cycle.



The photo (above left) shows a cross-section of a hollow reed used by cavity nesting carpenter bees. (Photo: Katharina Ullman). Right - a mason bee seals a piece of bamboo with mud in a "bee hotel". (Photo: Justin Wheeler).

Ground nesting bees form tunnels in the ground. They emerge in early spring and mate. The males die, and each female will find a suitable place to dig her nest, a tunnel. These bees prefer loose, sandy or sandy-loam soils. She will hollow out tunnels on the sides called brood chambers for the next generation. Then she gathers pollen and nectar forming it into a ball, called bee bread. The female bee will lay its egg on top of each ball. This will feed the young larva as it matures into a pupa and then an adult. Each egg will be sealed off with mud that she makes with a substance from a gland in her abdomen. Thus, each egg will have its own "room."

Most ground nesting bees live only a few weeks as adults. In that time, females mate, dig a nest, lay eggs, provide food for its offspring, and then die while the males are busy pollinating. Thus begins the life cycle with the eggs developing underground.



Pictured is an aptly named mining bee (*Andrena* sp.). (Photo: Whitney Cranshaw, Colorado State University / Bugwood.org)

Photos: Xerces

Resources:

<https://xerces.org/blog/remember-ground-nesting-bees-when-you-make-your-patch-of-land-pollinator-friendly>

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/all-in-wisconsin/story/uw-la-crosse-research-bees-that-nest-in-the-ground/>

<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/blog/beyond-honey-bee-learn-more-about-california-native-bees>

<https://ucanr.edu/site/uc-master-gardeners-san-luis-obispo-county-serving-our-community-1996/native-solitary-bees>

Behind the Scenes!

Contributed by Pam Elias and Thurman Howard UC Master Gardeners of Riverside County

On Thursday, May 8, 2025, a dedicated group of UC Master Gardeners gathered for the **Reorganization Team Meeting** to present their thoughtful recommendations for the future of our program in Riverside County.

A big shoutout to our committed team members: Melody Knox, Eben Longfellow, Deborah Anderson, Georgia Renne, Thurman Howard, Rosa Olaiz, Patricia Malone, Stephen Crouse, and James Huberty. Your hard work and

collaboration are paving the way for exciting changes ahead!

Next up: refining these recommendations to ensure they meet the needs of our volunteers and the communities we serve at our June meetings.

Master Gardeners across Riverside County are eager to hear what's in store! Thank you to the reorganization team for your dedication and vision.

Photos: Thurman Howard, the Team working at Cabazon Library.



Here We Grow Again!

In keeping up with our ever-evolving Master Gardener Program of Riverside County, we have formed a committee to help bring field trips and tours to our volunteers on a more consistent basis. We have seen some great tours come to us in the last several months, and we are dedicated to keeping that going.

The Happy Wanderers Tour Committee members are:

Deby Anderson, Jonathan Crook, Dan Garrow, Sheila James, Deborah Lewis, Carol Rochlin, Mona Swinehart

Please share with us any ideas for future tours that you'd like to see. We welcome all suggestions. Contact Deby Anderson, dander75@att.net

Keep a look out on VMS and email updates for exciting trips to come!

Palm Springs Grow Lab Update

Contributed by Susan Krings, UC Master Gardener of Riverside County

Things are starting to bloom at the Palm Springs Grow Lab! Thanks to the recent approval of our irrigation budget (woohoo!), Rosa Olaiz, our Volunteer Coordinator, is ordering the parts and supplies we need to get our system up and running. Stephen Crouse will be handling the setup and will give us a shout if he needs a hand. So, stay tuned!



Receiving irrigation materials: Stephen Crouse, Sam Martin, David Lahti, Margi Jacobsen, Ali Motani, Dan Garrow

We're also incredibly grateful to Mike Wong for his generous donation of pots, shelving, and potting mix from the backyard nursery built by our Master Gardener, Mernell who recently passed away. With that boost, our own nursery is slowly but surely taking shape. Thanks to Cynthia Morris-Sotelo, Gail Nottberg, and Barbara Kay-Levin for inviting me to the donation event and helping me deliver all donations to the Grow Lab.

Right now, we've got a solid crew—five Master Gardeners showing up regularly and five community volunteers who pitch in when they can. As we get more established, we're envisioning a beautiful space: a plumeria-native garden in the parking lot planter, a keyhole garden demo area, a small water feature, and loads of cheerful potted plants to greet everyone

Garden Views

who drops by, whether it's for a relaxing Friday or a future educational event.



We are growing in volunteers: Shelly Westebbe, Stephen Crouse, David Lahti, Saami Pedersen, Margi Jacobsen, Dan Garrow, Ali Motani

It's going to take around 500 collective hours to bring this vision to life and that's not counting all the time we'll need to propagate native plants for Prescott Preserve, grow veggies for school and community gardens, and prep drought-tolerant beauties for plant sales.

It's a lot of work, but it's the best kind of work: meaningful, grounding, and full of potential. Most Fridays, it's just a handful of us working, chatting, and enjoying the process. If we keep this up, by next year, we'll have a thriving garden and thousands of plants to share.



May-June 2025

Sifting Compost below left: John Shields, Kurt Von Hertsenberg, Donna Kraus, Sam Martin

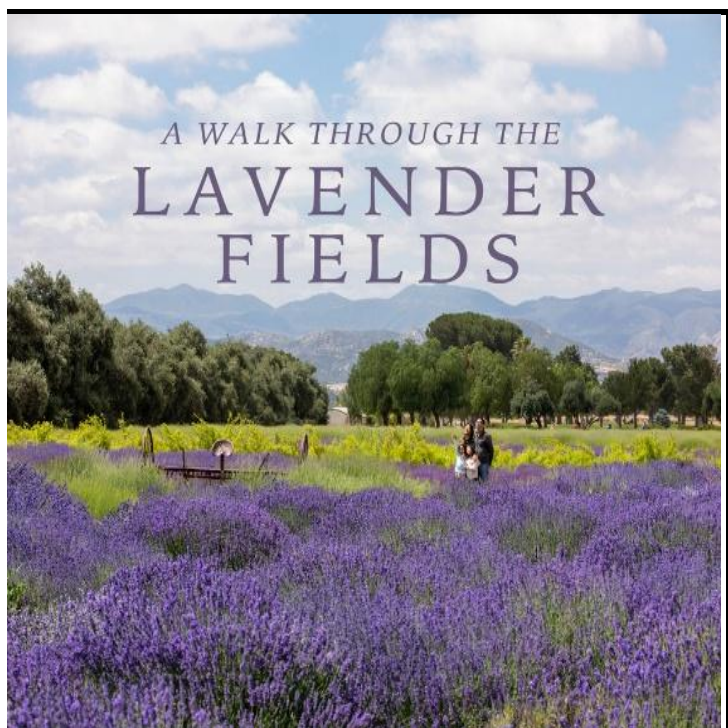
So come when you can. Do what makes you happy. We'd love to have you with us. See you Friday mornings from 9-11 at the Grow Lab located at Prescott Preserve, 1801 E. Sunny Dunes Rd., Palm Springs, CA, 92264!



Propagating Cacti: Bruce Radler.

Hanging shade cloth: Shelly Westebbe, Kurt Von Hertsenberg, John Shields, Sam Martin.

Photos: Susan Kring



MASTER GARDENERS ARE AT THE LAVENDAR FESTIVAL!

Come see the INDIGENOUS GARDEN TOUR through July 20!

Saturdays & Sundays at 7:00 pm
The Master Gardeners will guide you through the 123 Farm's Indigenous Garden which showcases native culture and the edible and medicinal plants that grow wild in our area historically used by our local tribes. The tours take place on Saturday and Sunday at 7 pm. Please meet at the Master Gardeners' booth.

123 Farm, 10600 Highland Spring Avenue

Cherry Valley, CA 92223

www.123farm.com

**Master Gardeners can volunteer for
our information table by going to VMS.**

FIRST SUNDAYS IN THE GARDENS MAY - OCTOBER

Master Gardener
docents in the
Butterfly Garden
9:00 am - 12:00 pm
1st & 3rd Sundays

Story Time
Alder Canyon
10:00 - 10:30 am
1st Sundays

Learning origami
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
Alder Canyon
1st Sundays

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GARDENS

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For more Information visit:
gardens.ucr.edu



UCCE Master Gardeners of Riverside...

Riverside Master Gardener Volunteer Susan Krings & EFNEP Collaborate to Support Liberty Housing Veterans with UCANR Evidence-Based Information

*Contributed by Roxana Scott, EFNEP
Community Nutrition Education Educator*

At Liberty Housing in Riverside County a vibrant collaboration is blooming between UC Cooperative Extension programs and residents, particularly veterans, working to improve nutrition, health, and food sustainability. This initiative, supported by the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP), Master Gardeners, and dedicated community members, highlights the power of working together to uplift underserved communities.



EFNEP thrives on collaboration, and the Lincoln Housing VA site stands out as a shining example. Thanks to Yu Meng, Youth, Families, and Communities Advisor, an initial connection was established through sustainability programming. Following that, EFNEP educator Roxana Price delivered a series of engaging and practical nutrition workshops to the residents. Participation was strong, with many veterans completing the program and expressing interest in learning more.

This enthusiasm sparked the next phase of support, gardening education. To help residents put their new nutrition knowledge into action, UC Master Gardener Volunteer Susan Krings was invited to share practical gardening skills. She responded with both expertise and generosity. She visited the Lincoln Housing VA garden plot and brought along donated seedlings, including chiles, beans, and other plant starts, allowing the residents to plant and grow their own fresh produce.

These hands-on learning experiences help deepen the community's understanding of food systems and sustainability. By linking nutrition education with gardening, residents not only gain access to evidence-based information provided by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) but also learn how to apply it in daily life.





Such collaborations showcase the impact of interconnected programs and the commitment of local leaders and volunteers to empower communities, planting seeds for long-term health, knowledge, and growth.

If you or someone you know is interested in connecting EFNEP Expanded Food and Nutrition Education programming to low-income families in Riverside County, Reach out to Roxana Price roxprice@ucanr.edu, EFNEP Community Nutrition Education Educator. Kudos to Susan Krings for sharing her MG knowledge and being a champion in our Riverside Communities and empowering communities to thrive!

Photos: Roxana Scott



Free Workshop Water, Irrigation and Riverside County Saturday, June 7, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.



Learn about the sustainable use of water in Inland Southern California. Topics include drought, water efficient irrigation, climate appropriate plants and urban landscape design.

Lynn Coffman is an EPA certified Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper and is a UC Master Gardener of Riverside County. She began her horticultural career working in a wholesale/retail specialty nursery in San Diego County. She previously worked as a contract Water and Landscape Auditor for Inland Empire Waterkeepers.

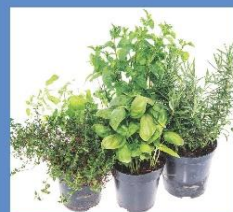


11875 Indian Truck Trail
Temescal Valley, 92883

For more information call (951) 683-7691 x218
or email scic@rcrcd.org.



Free Workshop *Herbs: How to Select, Grow and Enjoy* Saturday, June 7, 2025 • 10 a.m.



Herbs have many uses and are the multi-taskers in your garden! We will learn the definitions and uses of herbs and spices and how, when and where to plant. We will also learn of the types of herbs that will grow well in our Inland Empire climate.



Linda Powell is a UCCE Master Garden and project coordinator with the Master Gardener Home Gardening Basics series that teaches sustainable gardening skills to the home gardener. Herbs are her focus of interest.



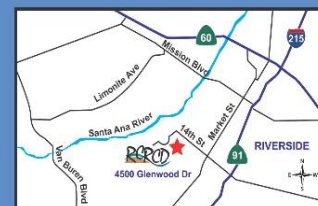
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

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 lic@RCRCD.org.



RCRCD Earns Unique Spot To Help Monarchs



RCRCD Naturalist Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker was one of only four people in California selected to be part of a permitted pilot program to collect, raise, test, tag and release Western Monarchs. Without a permit it is currently illegal in the state to handle, rear, tag or test monarchs.

Since being added to the permit in September, Felix-Derbarmdiker raised dozens of caterpillars, and tagged, tested for disease and released those that survived adulthood.



UC California Naturalist Certification Course

Sept. 25 - Dec. 4, 2025

Thursdays (except Thanksgiving) • 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

All day field trips Oct. 18 and Nov. 16



This in-person 40-hour course focused on Southern California combines a science curriculum with guest lecturers, field trips, and project-based learning.

- Certificate awarded upon completion
- Lifetime membership to the network of certified UC California Naturalists
- Optional 4 UC academic credits for an additional fee



\$435, plus cost of the California Naturalist Handbook

Register by Thursday, September 11

Felix-derbarmdiker@rcrcd.org or (951) 683-7691, ext. 218

<https://www.rcrcd.org/california-naturalist-program>

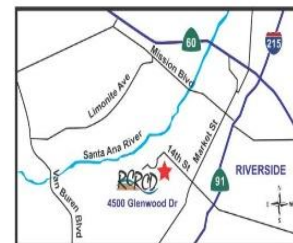



Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Open Daily, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

4500 Glenwood Dr., Riverside, 92501

For more information, please contact us at www.rcrcd.org





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.





Celebrate!

Riverside County Master Gardener Recognition Awards

April-May

1,000 Hours Gold Badge

Clifford Morrison

Jax Patterson

750 Hours Pruner Pin

Deborah Lewis

Kathy Miller

250 Hours Gardeners' Trowel Pin

Linda Cummings

Jim Huberty

Patricia Malone

Bruce Radler

100 Hours Bumble Bee Pin

Monique Gordon

Shirley Mirch

Carlos Valdes



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

UC Master Gardener Program

Become a UC Master Gardener!

Riverside County Volunteer Training Class 2025



Mission

"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."



Information Sessions

Becoming a UC Master Gardener begins with a personal commitment to education and service to the community. You must be a Riverside County resident and attend an Information Session to learn about our program.

Sessions listed below are Wednesdays from 10am-11:30am.

Registration Link:

<https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=46155>

▪ May 14, 2025 – 2980

Washington Street, Riverside, CA 92504 – **Past**

▪ May 21, 2025 – 75080 Frank

Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211 – **Past**

▪ May 28, 2025 – 2980

Washington Street, Riverside, CA 92504 – **Past**

▪ **June 4, 2025- 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92211**



Training Class

The training course is a series of 18 classes that meet Wednesday from 9am to 1pm. There is a \$225 class fee to cover textbooks and other expenses. Classes are scheduled to be held in person. Topics include soil, irrigation, plant pathology, weed management, vegetables, citrus, and much more.

The classes are taught by agricultural experts and provide a basic introduction to horticulture and pest management.

Students must successfully complete the volunteer training course, complete required volunteer hours, and pass a final exam to be certified as a UC Master Gardener.

Questions? Email Rosa Olaiz at rmolaiz@ucanr.edu

The University of California Division of Agriculture & Natural Resources (UCANR) is an equal opportunity provider. Complete nondiscrimination policy statement can be found at <https://ucanr.edu/sites/anrstaff/files/169224>.

Rosa Olaiz kicked off the process to recruit a new 2025-2026 Riverside County class of Master Gardener trainees by posting information notices on our website, FB, and sending over 150 emails to interested folks. She held three information sessions in May along with project coordinators and has one more on June 4 at the Palm Desert office at UCR PD. The classes will begin in mid-September.