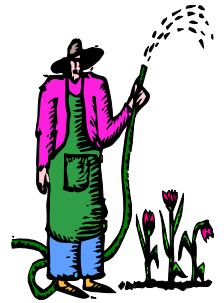


University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener News

Amador County

JANUARY 2007



Your Co-Pres' Speak



Happy 2007!

This is Marie's last Co-Pres message for our MG troops. It has been a pleasure working

with Jerry to keep things running relatively smoothly this year. Many of us have entirely new jobs for the coming year and I hope we all enjoy those new responsibilities. Many great things happened in the MG program this year. Scott Oneto has moved forward in his career and Andrew Kramer is settling into being the new Program Representative and being back in the USA-challenges for sure.

INPUT: If you were not at the December Potluck (yummy), and have input for the 2007 planning meeting, please let Jerry Trottier know of any ideas you have for improving the Amador Master Gardener program. If you were at the meeting and have thought of something, that input would also be appreciated. We need all of this information from you before the planning meeting on January 9, 2007. Once again we welcome your ideas.

One item on the planning agenda will be improvements and changes to the Mentor program. The Mentor program is a very important part of having active trainees and retaining them for the long term. We have 10 new trainees. Eight are going to the Calaveras class and two to the El Dorado class. If you have any interest in being a mentor, contact Peggy Sullivan.

Some words from Jerry: I want to thank Marie for all the help and patience with me for the last year. The Master Gardener program is one of continuing growth. I believe that I have grown in both gardening knowledge and as a person because of my involvement with the program. In order to get the most from the program, active involvement is necessary and I encourage everyone to be as involved as possible. I am impressed with the breadth of experience within the group, and their willingness and ability to share with others

I am looking forward to working with John Otto as co-president in 2007 as well as all the other Master Gardeners.

Happy New Year
Marie, Jerry & John

Monthly Calendar

January 9 - Planning Meeting at Ag Office, 9am.

January 11-Gardeners in Training (GIT) Class
UpCountry Community Center 2-3 pm

January 13 -Fruit Tree Pruning class at Avio
Vineyards, 10 - 12.

January 16 - Board Meeting at Ag. Office, 12 pm.
Monthly Meeting at AG Office: MG
Appreciation, Install New Officers, 1 pm.

February 3 - Grafting class at Ag Office, 10-12.

Secretary's Notes

December 19, 2006

Submitted by Donna England

Jerry Trottier opened the December meeting at approximately 12:00 PM. After a brief discussion, it was decided that the Pot Luck lunch would be held before the formal meeting began.

The tables in the meeting room were piled high with scrumptious food and the Amador Master Gardener's reputation as excellent cooks was again affirmed. There were a plethora of delicious dishes available and the plates of members and their spouses were heaped high with a variety of selections. The crisp salads, various hot and cold entrees, breads and complement of delicious desserts dwindled as the participants consumed a bit of this and a bit of that.

At approximately 1:00 PM Jerry called the formal portion of the meeting to order. He handed out copies of the questionnaires that will be utilized in the January 9th planning meeting. The Master Gardeners in attendance were asked to break off into groups and fill in the questionnaires until 1:30 PM. Jerry stressed that these questionnaires will be used to plan the activities for the 2007 Amador Master Gardener program.

At 1:30 Bernice Honeychurch began her informal presentation about her experience at the 2006 Statewide Master Gardener Conference in October. Bernice stated that she believes that one of the most important aspects of these conferences is that attendees can interact with Master Gardeners from other areas of the state to find out what they are doing and how they are doing it.

Bernice was most impressed with the class she attended at the Conference that related to planting sustainable landscapes. The teacher stressed that many leaves are picked up and placed in the trash. The obvious alternative to this is to compost the leaves and grass clippings.

Waste removal is expensive and energy intensive while composting costs nothing but a bit of time and ultimately helps to invigorate the soil.

Part of the class discussed invasive plants and one of Bernice's favorites, the Licorice plant, appeared on that list. Another point that was made is that we use approximately forty percent more water irrigating our landscapes than is necessary for plant health and survival. It was pointed out that Diazinon use results in water pollution and even though that chemical is no longer available for sale be aware of this fact if you still have some in stock at home.

A sad fact all over the state of California is that the boom in building subdivisions has taken over much of the habitat of native plants and animals too. If you have the opportunity it would be wise to utilize the native plants that are well adapted to your growing areas such as Toyon when landscaping homes and gardens. Native plants have superior disease resistance and many of them are not invasive. Planting trees native to the area and eliminating the planting of lawns wherever possible were also suggested practices.

Botanical gardens and demonstration gardens such as the UC Davis Botanical Garden are a good source of information on native plants. Some of these gardens even grow and sell plants that the public can purchase for a reasonable cost.

Bernice concluded her talk with the thought that she learns a bit from every class she attends.

Marie Loretta and Jim Switzer plan on attending the International Master Gardener Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas in 2007. If you are interested in going contact Marie or Jerry for information.

Andrew Kramer discussed the new format for the UCCE webpage. He also stated that the Master Gardener webpage is listed on the University of California Cooperative Extension, Amador County webpage. The MG webpage has been converted through the UC System and it has been strengthened and will be used to publicize the program.

Ways to update the Amador County MG mentoring program for 2007 are being reviewed. Each MG organization handles their mentoring differently and there is no statewide protocol for this program. Peggy Sullivan will be in charge of the mentoring program in 2007 and Marie Loretta will assist. Geography and gardening interests will play a part in assigning mentors to the trainees. In many of the mentoring programs in California the trainees are contacted by their mentors prior to the first class and the mentors continue to assist during the training and act as a support and information conduit throughout the entire first year of the program.

Sue Harrington said that 143 calendars have been sold to date but that there are more available.

Recertification forms are due by January 8th. Andrew said that of the 61 forms sent out to the current Master Gardeners, only 28 have been turned in. The Recertification Forms, Annual Volunteer Agreements and MG Volunteer and Educational Hours are mandatory if you wish to continue in the MG program. UCCE has very strict documentation requirements that must be met to continue to participate in the MG program. Please contact Andrew directly at 223-6837 if you have questions about recertification or concerns regarding meeting the requirements for 2006.

Jerry Trottier reported that 10 trainees were accepted for the 2007 MG training program. There will be 8 people attending the classes in San Andreas and 2 who will be participating in the Placerville classes. Remember that all continuing Master Gardeners are welcome to attend any of the classes as well, but you must notify Andrew in advance if you plan to attend a class due to the need to communicate anticipated attendance to the teachers.

Hack Severson and Larry Jones will be holding a fruit tree pruning class at Avio Vineyards on Ridge Road, January 13th. Details of the class are in the announcement section of the newsletter.

Lou Ohls will be in charge of the vegetable Demo Garden at the Food Bank in 2007. Lou said that the Food Bank needs vegetables that are prolific producers. In short, they want plants that produce poundage. Amador Flower Farm has donated some seeds and Lou is hoping that some of you may have seeds for hybrid tomatoes, any type of abundant zucchini, crookneck squash or radishes that you can share with him. Contact Lou directly and let him know about your proven producers.

On a personal note I was pleased to be able to meet and spend a few delightful moments speaking with Andrew Kramer's lovely wife, Estela, after the formal meeting was over. My Spanish is pitiful and limited to a very few words that include counting to from one to ten. Estela was very gracious and patiently spent a few minutes with me. She speaks English amazingly well and was forgiving of my lack of skill in her language. I'm not sure exactly how much she understood of what I said but she did perk up when I told her that I originally came from San Francisco. She was looking forward to going to San Francisco where I assured her there were many people from Mexico, Central and South America that speak her native language. Estela's lovely, open smile and sweet nature are certain to be a wonderful addition to our Amador County community.

Emily Beals will be taking over as the MG Secretary in 2007 and I know that she will be a fresh new voice in the monthly newsletter. Emily is an excellent writer and a keen observer and I will be eagerly looking forward to reading her column in the monthly newsletters.

Announcements

Below is a list of upcoming training classes in Placerville and San Andreas. Please notify Andrew at 223-6837 if you plan on attending any of the classes.

Upcoming Training Classes-Placerville

All classes in Placerville run from 12:30-4:30 at the Veteran's Memorial Hall, 130 Placerville Dr.

1/16 Introduction to Horticulture
Scott Oneto, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tuolumne Co.

1/23 Home Vegetable Gardening
Robert Norris, Professor Emeritus, Plant Biology, U.C. Davis

1/30 Vegetative and Seed Propagation, Grafting and Budding
David Burger, Professor., Dept.of Horticulture, U.C. Davis

2/6 Intro to Entomology and Insect Taxonomy
Lynn Wunderlich, UCCE Farm Advisor, El Dorado Co.

Upcoming Training Classes-San Andreas

All classes in San Andreas run from 8:30-12:30 at the Central Library, Mountain Ranch Rd. and Gold Hunter Rd.

1/18 Introduction to Horticulture
Scott Oneto, UCCE Farm Advisor, Tuolumne Co.

1/25 Basics of Entomology
Karen Robb, UCCE Farm Advisor, Mariposa Co.

2/1 Soil Principles, Properties and Fertility
Stuart Pettygrove, UCCE Soils Specialist

2/8 Irrigation and Water Management
Loren Oki, UCCE Landscape Horticulture Specialist

GARDENERS IN TRAINING CLASS

Leora Smith will be leading the first Gardeners in Training (GIT) class for children grades K-6 at the UpCountry Community Center in PineGrove. Classes are the second Thursday of every month from 2-3 pm.

WINTER TREE PRUNING CLASS

The Amador County Master Gardeners will open the New Year with a free class on tree pruning to be held on Sat., 1/13, from 10 am to noon at Avio Vineyards, 14520 Ridge Road in Sutter Creek.

In this beautiful setting, participants will learn proper techniques for pruning specific types of fruit and ornamental trees. Hands-on practice in selecting the correct location of pruning cuts will be provided. The presentation will also include valuable information on the proper care of trees, including planting, fertilizing, spraying and watering in order to maximize the enjoyment of landscape trees and the quality and quantity of fruit production.

ROSE PRUNING CLASS

The roses at Grace Fellowship Church are once again available for a pruning class. The suggested date is Saturday February 17, 2007 at 10:00am. The rain date would be the 24th. The church address is 8040 South Highway 49, about 1.5 miles south of Jackson.

I have not lined up anyone to teach the class but I'm sure we can come up with the necessary talent to give the class.

Let me know if that date is OK, because we are a little flexible on the date.

Bob Allen

NEW BOOKS IN OFFICE

- Landscaping With Ornamental Grasses
Fiona Gilsonan, Paperback, \$10.91
- Taylor's Guide to Ornamental Grasses
More Than 165 of These Versatile, Low-Maintenance Plants, pictured in Color with Full Descriptions of How to Use Them
Roger Holmes, Paperback, \$16.33
- California Insects
Jerry A. Powell, Paperback, \$14.56
- Mediterranean Gardening: A Waterwise Approach
Heidi Gildemeister; Paperback, \$17.71
- Native Treasures: Gardening With the Plants of California (Phyllis M. Faber Books)"
Nevin Smith, Paperback, \$17.22
- McGee & Stuckey's Bountiful Container
Create Container Gardens of Vegetables, Herbs, Fruits, Edible Flowers
Rose Marie Nichols McGee, Paperback; \$12.03
- California Native Plants for the Garden
Carol Bornstein, Paperback, \$19.29
- Plant Identification Terminology: An Illustrated Glossary James G. Harris, Paperback, \$14.87
- Bugs of Northern California
John Acorn, Paperback, \$11.01
- Prune for a More Beautiful Garden
Cass Turnbull, Paperback, \$14.16
- Tough Plants for California Gardens:
Low/No Care, Tried/True Winners
Felder Rushing, Paperback, \$16.24
- Lasagna Gardening for Small Spaces:
A Layering System for Big Results in Small Gardens and Containers
(Rodale Organic Gardening Book)
Patricia Lanza, Paperback, \$11.32
- The Book of Garden Secrets
Dorothy Hinshaw Patent, Paperback, \$13.29
- [CD-ROM] Microsoft Picture It! \$24.99
- Spiders and Their Kin (Golden Nature Guide)
Herbert Levi, Lorna Levi, Herbert Zim and Nicholas Strekalovsky (Illustrator)
Paperback; \$6.00
- "The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California"
James C. Hickman; Hardcover; \$62.99

OTHER NEW EQUIPMENT

HP Digital Camera (small, cheap). This camera was purchased to STAY in the MG office. It is for taking photos of samples brought in by the public so we can (a) share them with other MGs or (b) send them out to get help from other MGs. It is all set up and in the left office table drawer. We also have a sophisticated camera in Andrew's office that can be checked out for Home Visits, Field Trips etc.

PDF CONVERTER

This has not arrived yet. The program will convert from PDF and to PDF format. PDF format is needed when trying to communicate with other people on all types of computers. Our newsletter should be posted in PDF so all MGs can download it.

GRAPHICS PROGRAM

In addition to Publisher, we will now have Microsoft Picture It, a really easy program with many capabilities. This is not installed yet.

OFFICE ORGANIZATION

The office is being organized – still and yet again. Please put books back on the shelves from where you got them. Several heavy pieces of cardboard are going to be available so you can mark your spot.

The grey cabinet has been set up so that the doors actually close easily. Close the left door first, then the right and turn the handle. If you have a problem, something is probably sticking forward just enough to cause the door to jam.

Several people will be asked to help decide what really old stuff should be removed. If anyone is interested in landscaping, the top shelf is just inundated with info for this topic. Much of it has been given to us and could be too old.

If anyone has any more book suggestions, please let Marie know.

CONTACT SHEETS – PROBLEMS AND RESOLUTIONS

By: Lucia Martin

November 17, 2006 – December 20, 2006

Problem: I am pestered with wild turkeys ... they make a mess ... droppings everywhere ... dig up newly seeded areas ... mess areas that have bark placed on them.

Resolution: Mailed some information found on the Dept. of Fish and Game web site about controlling wild turkeys, “Feeding Wild Turkeys Will Bring Problems Home to Roost”.

Suggested: remove any bird feeders ... turkeys are ground feeders ... looking for insects and seed ... try spraying them with a stream of water from hose or better ... set up a motion detector on your sprinkler system.

Problem: Requested information on growing almonds in Amador and Calaveras counties -3 parcels, 190 acres - varying elevations.

Resolution: This is not a topic to be answered by a Master Gardener ... forwarded the information to Lynn Wunderlich.

Problem: Maple tree – burnt leaf – divided dry and green/red portions. Stand alone tree in field – not far from oaks. No bugs, honeydew, etc. Will check for scars. No oozing of any kind. Tree planted from fifteen gallon tub 5 years ago.

Resolution: Mystery – Scott could not ID problem. H2O – too much/too little – early dormancy? Master Gardeners – meeting 11/21 – could not ID to any certainty.

Problem: On Ponderosa Way, Pine Grove – (Sample) – What is this plant? Given to her. Did not do well in Linden – sun to partial shade.

Resolution: Identified as Golden Rain Tree.

Problem: Oak tree dying (Live Oak). Has earwigs.

Resolution: Called client and discussed the problem with him ... mailed “Living Among the Oaks” #21538.

Problem: Planting redwood tree and garden book (Sunset) calls for mixing iron sulfate with 2 cu ft of cow manure and mix with soil from

planting hole. Her question: “Is iron sulfate the same as ammonia sulfate?”. Got the tree from Master Gardeners at county fair.

Resolution: Told her to use iron sulfate.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CORNER

December

By: Lucy Martin

Thank you to Larry Jones and Bernice Honeychurch for their work on the Nominating Committee and to Marie Loretta for assisting them.

I apologize if I omitted mentioning anyone who contributed extra time. *If you make an extra contribution of your time and knowledge to or in behalf of Master Gardeners please let Judi Marks know so that it can be acknowledged. This article will appear monthly.

Plant of the Month Oak Trees

(From our MG Calendar)

*****RECIPES FROM THE*****

DECEMBER MEETING

ALMOND BARK Submitted by Chris Taylor
35 saltine crackers

1 c. butter

1 c. packed light brown sugar

½ tsp. almond extract-can use as much as 1 tsp

12 oz. pks. Choc. chips

Chopped almonds for the top

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Line 15” x 10” jelly roll pan with foil. Lightly spray with non-stick cooking spray. Place

saltines salty side up in pan. Boil butter and sugar for 3 min. stirring constantly. Remove

from heat and stir in almond extract. Pour mixture over crackers and bake 5 min. Top with

chocolate chips, spreading evenly as it melts.

Sprinkle with nuts. Cool completely before breaking into pieces.

KRAUT SALAD (Marie's Mom)

1 large can Sauerkraut, wash and drain well
1 C celery chopped fine
1 C green pepper chopped
(I used yellow and orange because I had them.)
1 C onions chopped
1 small can pimentos chopped
Dressing (blend well):
½ C vinegar
½ C oil (used canola)
1 C sugar (used Splenda)



Mix all together well and toss several times a day.
Serve after 2 days. Will keep in frig 2 weeks.

CHERRIES IN THE SNOW (Sue Harrington)

1 (8-ounce) tub fat-free cream cheese
1 cup sifted powdered sugar (I put the sugar through a simple sifter to make sure there were no lumps)
1 (12-ounce) carton frozen reduced-calorie whipped topping, thawed
8 cups (1-inch) cubed angel food cake (a 12 ounce cake was more than enough)
1 (20-ounce) can light cherry pie filling (I used an additional half can of filling on the top, so next time I would consider using a full can for each layer)
Beat cream cheese at medium speed of a mixer until smooth. Gradually add the sugar, beating until blended. Gently fold in whipped topping.
Place half of cake cubes in a large glass bowl; top with half of cheese mixture. Spread half of cherry filling over cheese mixture. Repeat layers with remaining cake cubes, cheese mixture, and cherry filling. Cover and chill.
Yield: 12 servings (serving size: 1 cup)
CALORIES 212 (17% from fat); **FAT 3.9g** (sat 2.5g, mono 0.0g, poly 1.3g); **PROTEIN 5.5g**; **CHOLESTEROL 4mg**; **CALCIUM 100mg**; **SODIUM 279mg**; **FIBER 0.0g**; **IRON 0.2mg**; **CARBOHYDRATE 39g**
Cooking Light, NOVEMBER 1997

PRUNE CAKE (Donna England)

Cake:
4 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 cup low fat buttermilk
2 cups all purpose flour
½ teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon each nutmeg, Cloves and cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 350F. Grease and flour a 10-inch tube pan.
2. Beat eggs in a medium bowl. Add sugar and beat well. Mix in oil. In a small bowl, dissolve baking soda in buttermilk. Sift flour, salt, nutmeg, cloves and cinnamon. Add flour mixture alternately with buttermilk mixture to egg mixture. Fold in prunes.
3. Pour batter into pan and bake about 1 hour or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
4. To prepare the frosting, combine sugar, baking soda, buttermilk, butter and salt in a medium saucepan. Bring to boil. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Poke holes in cake with a fork or long toothpick and pour frosting over cake while both are still warm.

Tips from the test kitchen:
Soak prunes briefly in boiling water so they can be chopped or torn apart easily by hand after they are drained and cooled. The baking powder causes the icing to foam while cooking.
From: AmericanProfile.com (click on Recipes)

Gardening Tip

Do you have a pest or herbicide label that you can no longer read? Go to cdms.net and find them all there!