

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener News

Amador County

February 2007



Your Co-Pres' Speak



First, let me thank all of you for your confidence in accepting me (John), for Co-President this year. Marie and Jerry have done such a wonderful job together, and I hope not to disappoint any of you. This year looks to be even more fun,

productive and educational than ever, with a great roster of Chairpersons and Coordinators. We really want everyone to feel connected because all the Master Gardeners make up the cambium layer of the organization. Without any one of you, we are weakened.

Our January "Planning Meeting" was very productive as we strive to be the best MG group possible. Some of the major items of focus were: We hope to have more evening meetings for those of you that have not been able to make Tuesday afternoons. We hope to have more classes that you have requested (fill out the preference forms Janice Johnson has provided). We hope to thoroughly screen requests for new programs so that we maximize our volunteer resources. We hope to clarify and simplify phone clinic procedures so that everyone feels comfortable, since each of us is responsible to give phone clinic time.

Thanks to Peggy Sullivan, Marie Loretta and others, this year the mentoring efforts will be very active and have the added benefit of a "Handbook" for guidance. This "Handbook" will be out in early February and Mentors have already been assigned. This year we have ten (10) new trainees who are taking classes in Placerville and San Andreas. We want to support, encourage and keep them excited during and after their training. Do you remember how excited you felt after completion of your training classes? I do.

Because your volunteer efforts have been so successful, the organization is fiscally sound. Principally, the Spring and Fall Expo's, plus the great calendars, have more than covered our expenses. We have spent some of that money! You should look over the new books we acquired. They are listed in the January newsletter. Stop by and read a few. Better yet, sign up for phone clinic with someone else so that each of you may have some time to read/research. We were also able to assist a number of MG's in attending the 2006 statewide conference. We will also be assisting Jim Switzer in attending the International MG Conference this year.

The January 13th "Fruit Tree Pruning" class at Avio winery was excellent. More than 40 people attended, with some from outside Amador Co. The Avio hosts were very appreciative. Hack Severson and Larry Jones did such an excellent job that I reevaluated how to prune my own Bartlett pear and Fuji apple. Maybe next year they will bear more fruit (if they thaw out). Attendance at programs like these really lets you know how the public appreciates our MG organization. Aren't our Public Education classes "awesome"? Looking forward to warmer, wet weather. John & Jerry Co Pres'

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 3 – Grafting Class at the Ag Office, 10 am – 12 noon. Larry, Dennis, Jill, Dave Taylor and John Nolan. Spectacular class!

Feb 8 Gardeners in Training (GIT) Class, UpCountry Community Center, 2-3 pm. Helpers welcome.

February 17 – Rose Pruning Class at Grace Fellowship Church, 8040 S. Hwy 49 (just south of Jackson.) 10 am -12 noon. Dennis, Marie and others.

February 20 – Monthly Meeting, 1 pm at the Ag Office. Board Meeting at 12. Office Procedures/UC Info. Very important meeting. Please attend.

February 21 – Evening Meeting, 6 pm. See Announcements

Secretary's Notes

JANUARY 16, 2007

The meeting was opened on January 16, 2007 by President Jerry Trottier. Judie Marks, Volunteer Recognition Chairperson presented the following Master Gardeners for recognition of their volunteer contribution during 2006:

Jerry Trottier, Marie Loretta, Larry Jones, Bernice Honeychurch, Donna England, Leora Smith, Jack Lyall, Diane Ferrell, Rita Martin, Penny Smith, Cathy Koos Breazeal, Dave Andrews, Ann Schieding, Peggy Sullivan, Valerie Bonkowski, Robin Ivanoff, John Otto, Lucy Martin, Robert Allen, Janice Johnson, Emmi Feldberg, Jackie Dahlberg, Joe Matthews, Emily Beals, Steve Collins, Patti Stalder, Sue Harrington, Jim Switzer, Crystal Rosson, Jackie Schatz, Jackie Tarchala, Jim Harrington, Jill North. In addition, the following individuals received pins for achieving the following volunteer milestones: 125 Hours: Jerry Trottier, Penny Smith 250 Hours: Chris Taylor, 750 Hours: Jack Lyall, Cathy Koos Breazeal, Jill North, 1000 Hours: Bernice Honeychurch. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL! YOU ARE THE HEARTBEAT!

BUSINESS: New trainees began their MG training today in Placerville and Thursday in San Andreas. The February Program will focus on "Improving Office and Phone Clinic Procedures," led by Marie, Jerry, Jack and Sue. There will be more evening meetings this year in addition to the day meetings. The first evening meeting will be February 21, 6:00 p.m. at the Ag. bldg. The first Public Educ. Workshop Jan. 13, at Avio Winery focused on fruit tree pruning. It was an excellent site with about 60 in attendance. The next Workshop will be a Grafting Class on Feb. 3, at the Ag Bldg with Dennis Miller. On February 8, from 2-3 p.m. Leora Smith will introduce elementary students to the wonderful world of gardening. She welcomes your assistance.

There was a Planning Meeting on January 9, with the following recommendations: Improve Contact Sheet procedures used primarily in Phone Clinics. Contact sheets will not be inputted into computer until further notice. February program will focus on this. Improve procedure for ensuring the Contact Sheet recap info. that goes into newsletter is accurate by est. a committee to review info. before publishing. It was suggested that we begin a Diagnostic Plant Clinic on a regular basis. The first one will be connected to the Spring Expo and evaluated as to where and when from there. It was decided not to do a 2008 Calendar because of the extreme amount of work involved. We will not participate in Dandelion Days 2007 because of lack of meaningful contact with the community. We will continue to participate in the 3 local Farmers' Markets and need volunteers to staff our booths. We will also continue the Nursery Clinics at the Amador Flower Farm and Ridge Road Nursery four months a year. Larry Jones will oversee Home Visits and has divided the county into "zones" with the intent of having representatives in each geographic area make the visits. This is an area that needs more support. A By-Law Revision Committee has been established to update our bylaws, something that has not been undertaken in 5 years. Janice Johnson needs our input on what public education classes we want to create this year. She will be surveying the MG body and it's important to give her our feedback on this important topic.

Andrew reminded us, yet again, that Recertification Forms (2) are due by the end of January. In order to continue as a Master Gardener for 2007, you need to 1) complete these forms and 2) make sure your hours are entered into the MG system. Contact Andrew.

Calendar Project: We have sold 150, have 300 yet to sell. Now reduced to \$5 apiece, make great gifts.

Give Dennis Miller & Jill North your ideas on "best field trips for 2007." They're planning new and unexplored destinations, limited only by our imaginations. Think outside the box!

A dinner/play "Greater Tuna" will be held Feb. 23 at the Sutter Creek Days Inn. Tickets avail. at Lizzie Ann's Bubble Gum Bookshop in Sutter Creek.

Program

The January Master Gardener Program presenter was Cynthia Weiland from UC Coop. Extension speaking on the topic, "Taking A Step To Health." Beginning a year ago, this Amador and Calaveras based program looks at ways Amador County can promote a healthier, nutritional lifestyle and works through about 20 service groups to support people who want to: 1) increase a healthy diet 2) increase exercise and 3) decrease smoking.

As we know, type II diabetes, heart disease and cancer are serious problems in our culture and this program focuses on reducing those risks by helping people change their lifestyle. This involves voluntarily signing a contract to do the following: 1) Increase daily physical activity by taking 10,000 steps a day 2) Achieve and maintain a healthy weight, including eating a good breakfast 3) Increase the consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains 4) Decrease the consumption of sugar and unhealthy fat and 5) Reduce or quit tobacco use.

Cynthia says the participants are urged to choose one goal at a time in order to ensure success. Be realistic about what you can do, realize that change takes time, win small victories, gain confidence and make consistent choices to support your goal. In the end, not only individuals win but the entire community benefits by achieving overall better health, increasing worker productivity and lowering insurance costs.

Each participant is given a tool kit which includes such items as a pedometer for measuring how much you walk. The money for the kits is provided by local businesses and the entire program is underwritten by a grant. Except for the director, it is staffed by volunteers. You can reach the "Take A Step To Health" Program by contacting Cynthia Weiland/Dorothy Smith at 891 Mtn. Ranch Rd. San Andreas, CA 95249. 209 754-6476, 209 223-6837, <http://groups.ucanr.org/takeastep>.

By E. Beals

Mentor and Trainee Assignments

Name	Town	Mentor	Interests of Trainees
Cathy Bigger-Smith	Pioneer	Janice Johnson	organic veggies, tomatoes, wine, flowers, composting
Katy Emmart	Mokelumne Hill	Jill North	propagation, pest control, soil care, all plants
Noreen Goff	Sutter Creek	John Otto	perennials, veggies, "white garden"
Richard Honey	Jackson	Larry Jones	vegetables, fruit & nut trees
Johanna Musgrove	Mt. Aukum	Bernice Honeychurch	veggies, flowers
Barbara Parolari	Ripon	Jackie Tarchala	roses, cactus and succulents,
Harvey Parolari	Ripon	Jackie Tarchala	roses, cactus & succulents,
Becky Schafer	Sutter Creek	Jack Lyall	flowers, fruit trees
Naomi Sjogren	Valley Springs	Rita Martin	ornamentals, veggies, soil
Michael Spinetta	Plymouth	Marie Loretta	grapes, xeriscapes, butterflies, Wildflowers

Announcements

FEBRUARY PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASSES

Dennis Miller will be leading two classes this month. The first one will be "Learn the Art of Fruit Tree Grafting" on Saturday, February 3, 2007, 10 AM to 12 noon, at the Ag/UCCE office. Grafting is the satisfying art of joining a piece of one plant to another plant so that they form a permanent union and grow as one plant.

This hands-on class will provide instruction on techniques for grafting different varieties of fruit trees: pit-to-pit for peach, nectarine, apricot, and plum, as well as seed-to-seed for apples. These procedures allow the creation of a variety of fruits that will mature at different times on the same tree and also provide for the necessary cross pollination of some trees, including cherry.

Instruction will be provided on the collection of scions during pruning in the dormant season and how to store the scions until grafting time. Informational materials will be provided and procedures will be demonstrated. Bud grafts will be discussed, and whip, tongue and cleft grafts will be demonstrated and practiced.

The second class will be "Time to Prune Roses" on Saturday February 17, 10 AM to noon, at the Grace Fellowship Church. The church is located at 8040 South Highway 49, about one mile south of Jackson. Instruction and demonstration of proper rose pruning techniques will be provided. Each participant will have ample opportunity to practice what has been learned under the guidance of a Master Gardener. Participants should bring their own hand by-pass pruners.

Plants For Expo!!

This is the time to be thinking about seeding and dividing for our Spring Expo. Take

advantage of this good weather. If you need help or have questions call Jackie or Marie.



Master Gardeners! Are you . . .

Not sure about how to fill out contact sheets?

Nervous about doing the phone clinic?



Unsure of how to enter your volunteer hours via the internet?

NEVER FEAR, THE FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING EDUCATION CLASS IS HERE!

A team of crack Master Gardeners have come together to refresh and retrain the entire group on phone clinic strategies and procedures, general office-use and location of resources, as well as policies and procedures of recording volunteer hours.

This continuing education class will be a part of the Feb. 20th afternoon meeting as well as the Feb. 21st evening meeting for those who can't make day meetings due to work.

It's important for the efficiency of the Master Gardener Program that everyone understands how to complete contact sheets, manage the office and input hours, so don't miss this opportunity!

Gardens are not made by singing
"Oh how beautiful," and sitting in the
shade. Rudyard Kipling

Script Appeal

Hey, Master Gardeners! How about getting a minute of fame and some volunteer hours?

The Home Town Radio Master Gardener Minute needs some new submissions for its weekly radio broadcast. If you have a favorite topic, or have been receiving questions from the public of late, why not write 100-150 words on that topic? Please send your contribution to Robin Ivanoff at volcanogirl@earthlink.net. Robin will work it into a script and have it approved by Andrew for airing on the radio. Your name, as the author of the topic, will be mentioned during the Master Gardener Minute, and you will receive volunteer credit for writing the radio spot. Thank you!

###

Fungus Gnats

(*Orfelia* spp. Or *Sciara* spp.)

FROM Horticulture Magazine Jan. 2007
Females lay up to 300 eggs on moist soil. Thread-like white maggots hatch in about four days and begin to feed on organic matter in the soil, including small plant roots. Larval stage lasts about two weeks. After pupating for five to six days, they emerge as winged adults. Adult life span is just over a week. All stages may be present at once, with overlapping broods. As long as adequate moisture and warmth exist, fungus gnats will continue to reproduce.

Plants, especially seedlings, may show yellowing, loss of vigor, weak foliage, and sometimes sudden wilting. The onset is not dramatic, and may be attributed to other causes. Tapping a plant to see if adult gnats fly out will aid in diagnosis. Alternatively, a sliced potato can be laid on the surface of the soil and left for a time to attract maggots. Fungus gnats favor soggy, peat-heavy mixes, so the simplest remedy is to be sure that the

media has adequate drainage and to let the surface dry out between waterings. Pyrethrin sprays can be used to kill adults, as can horticultural oil. There is also a product called Gnatrol that contains *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (Bti), a biological control.

Submitted by Jackie Tarchala

Tortellini, White Bean and Spinach Soup

1 t olive oil
2 C chopped onion
½ C chopped red bell pepper
1 t dried Italian seasoning
3 cloves garlic – minced
2 C coarsely chopped spinach
2/3 C water
16 oz canned navy beans, drained
14 ½ oz canned tomatoes – undrained and chopped
14 ½ oz vegetable both
14 oz artichoke hearts – drain and quarter
9 oz tortellini
1/4/C grated parmesan

Heat oil in a large Dutch oven over medium high heat. Add chopped onions, bell pepper, seasoning, and garlic; sauté 5 minutes or until tender. Add spinach and next 5 ingredients (spinach through artichokes); bring to a boil. Reduce heat, simmer 2 minutes. Add tortellini, cool until thoroughly heated. Sprinkle with cheese.

(I would use more vegetable broth and less tortellini.)

344 calories, 6g fat, 19g protein, 56g carbs – Cooking Light Magazine

Submitted by Marie Loretta

Year End Awards Officers

Jerry Trottier, Co-President

In addition to the **Tomato Tasting** and **Spring** and **Fall Expos**, Jerry also manned the booth at the **July Farmer's Market** and helped Larry Jones give a **class on ants**.

Marie Loretta, Co-President and Public Education

Marie helped with the **rose pruning** demonstration, taught a class on **planting and maintaining berries** and helped Valerie and Donna with a **container gardening** demonstration at Amador Flower Farm. She also worked hard on the **Fall Expo** and taught a class on **native plants**, worked on the **Plymouth Elementary School Garden**, planted roses and daylilies at the **Plymouth playground**, and worked at the **plant clinic** at Ridge Road Garden Center.

Larry Jones, Vice President and Fair coordinator

In addition to those duties, he and Hack put on the recent **tree pruning demonstration** at Avio Vineyards and he helped Jerry Trottier put on a **class on ants**. He gave a **gardening talk and demonstration on propagation**, helped plant roses and day lilies at the **Plymouth playground** and served on the **nominating committee** with Bernice and Marie. He also taught an important class on **ladder safety**.

Bernice Honeychurch, Vice President back up and fair coordinator backup (winning a first place for the **Master Gardeners garden**). In addition, Bernice also helped with the **rose pruning** demonstration and worked hard on the **Fall Expo**, repotted plants for the **Spring Expo** and worked on the **nominating committee** with Larry and Marie. She also worked the booth at the fair, as well as at the **Sutter Creek Farmers' Market** and worked on the **Plymouth Elementary School Garden**, planted roses and daylilies at the **Plymouth playground**, and hosted a public education class on **grapevine pruning**.

Donna England, Secretary

Donna also helped Marie and Valerie put on a container gardening demonstration at the Amador Flower Farm.

Leora Smith, Secretary

Leora gave a talk on California native oaks at the Sierra Madre Garden Club and another on "Different Kinds of Oak Trees" at the Foothill Garden Club, and worked on the Plymouth Elementary School Garden. She is also leading the Gardeners in Training class for children at the Upcountry Community Center in Pine Grove.

Jack Lyall, Accounting Manager

Jack also worked the booth at the Amador County Fair.

Chairpersons

Diane Ferrell, Mentor

Diane also spoke with Jackie Tarchala on "Challenges of Foothill Gardening" to the Newcomers Club.

Rita Martin, Newsletter

Rita taught a class on weed identification and integrated pest management, worked on the Plymouth Elementary School Garden and manned the booth at the fair.

Penny Smith, Newsletter backup

Penny not only hosted the August meeting with a potluck dinner at her home and manned the booth at the fair and at the Sutter Creek Farmer's Market, she also hosted a grape grafting class for Master Gardeners.

Cathy Koos Breazeal, home visits

Cathy also co-taught, with Janice Johnson, a class on living in the forest and put on a class on "Organic Gardening 101" for the public.

Dave Andrews, home visit backup

Ann Schieding, Phone Clinic and calendar

Ann also worked on the Plymouth Elementary School Garden and planted roses and day lilies at the Plymouth playground.

Peggy Sullivan, phone clinic backup and calendar backup

Peggy also manned the booth at the June Farmer's Market.

Valerie Bonkowski, public education backup

Valerie spoke at the Sierra Madre Garden Club on fall gardening chores, manned the booth at the fair, and helped Marie and

Donna do a container gardening demonstration at Amador Flower Farm.

Robin Ivanoff, Speaker, Master Gardener Minute, Classes

Robin records the “Master Gardener Minute” for the local radio station and taught a class on cooking with flowers and herbs and, with Jackie Tarchala, taught another class on ornamental grasses, as well as manning the booth at the fair.

Coordinators

John Otto, Demonstration Garden (veggies)

John also manned the booth at the **July Farmer’s Market** and worked on the **Plymouth Elementary School Garden**, as well as assisting with the hands-on portion of the “**Square Foot Gardening**” class.

Lucy Martin, The flower portion of the Demonstration Garden and Volunteer Recognition

In addition to serving as my **mentor**, Lucy also manned the booth at the fair and worked at the **plant clinic** at Ridge Road Garden Center.

Robert Allen, Field Trips

Bob set up well-attended and popular trips to the **Morningsun Herb Farm** in Vacaville and the **Jepson Prairie Preserve** south of Dixon, one to the **Duarte Nursery**, and another to **King’s Mums** and the **Chocolate Factory**. He also gave a **presentation on asparagus** at the April meeting.

Janice Johnson, Field trips backup

Janice also headed up her famous **Tomato Tasting** and taught a standing-room-only class for the public on gourds. She also taught a **class on tomatoes**, where she offered her seedlings for sale to benefit the Master Gardeners. She also taught a class with Cathy Koos Breazeal on **Living in the Forest** and taught a class for Master Gardeners on **Publisher** as well as one for the public class on “**Square Foot Gardening**” as well as manning the **fair booth**.

Emmi Feldberg, Historian

Jackie Dahlberg, Librarian

Emily Beals, nursery clinics

Emily manned the booth at the fair and worked on the Plymouth Elementary School Garden.

Steve Collins, nursery clinic backup

Steve also manned the booth at the fair.

Patti Stalder, publicity

Patti also wrote a two-page handout on vermiculture.

Sue Harrington, publicity backup and calendar

Sue gracefully shepherded the 2007 Master Gardener calendar into existence – a job that took a LOT of time and patience.

Jim Switzer, publicity backup

Jim also manned the booth at the Amador County Fair.

Crystal Rosson, refreshments

Crystal also worked the booth at the Amador County Fair.

Jackie Schatz, refreshment backup

She also worked the booth at the Amador County Fair.

Jackie Tarchala, coordinator for social events and for speakers

Jackie also worked hard on the Fall Expo and taught a class on cooking with flowers and herbs, one on container gardening, another with Dennis Miller on building and planting window boxes and yet another on ornamental grasses (with Robin Ivanoff), as well as giving a class on “Everything You Wanted to Know About Herbs” for the public, and speaking (with Diane Ferrell) on “Challenges of Foothill Gardening” to the Newcomers Club. She also gave a presentation on geraniums for the Sierra Madre Garden Club, and manning the booth at the fair.

Jim Harrington, E-mail tree

Jim not only sent us all those colorful, animated e-mails that reminded us meeting time was coming up, he also taught a basic computer class computer for Master Gardeners.

Jill North, Phone tree

Jill also serves as a member of the California Native Plant Society, and manned the booth at the Amador County Fair.