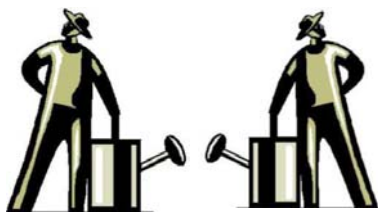


University of California  
Cooperative Extension

# Master Gardener News

## Amador County

FEBRUARY 2005



### Your Co-Pres' Speak

I want to start my report with very special congratulations to our first two "Lifetime Master Gardeners"- Marie Loretta and Polly Chapman. This is a really big accomplishment that takes dedication and a lot of hard work. To achieve this recognition a MG must put in 1000 volunteer hours. The January meeting featured awards to MGs for their work and updated volunteer hours stars for their badges. Thanks Marie and Scott for handling the recognition awards. Donna Hirschfelt, our former MG Advisor was presented with a gift and our thanks for her leadership and support of the Master Gardener Program. Good luck Donna.

It looks like 2005 will be a great year for the MG program. We have a very active schedule of events planed. In February we will have three training classes and more being scheduled for the remainder of the year. It is great to have Dennis as a Co-President and I am sure that he too is excited about this year. For those of us suffering from "cabin fever" due to the cold, wet weather, keep this in mind - "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant" Anne Bradstreet

Co-president Jack Lyall

Co-President Dennis is either buried under the great workload he has right now remodeling his house or he is off duck hunting on a rare moment of relaxation. His words of wisdom will appear starting next month.

### FEBRUARY CALENDAR

February 3 – MG Training Class, 8:30am-12:30, **Vegetative & Seed Propagation, Grafting & Budding.**

February 10 – MG Training Class, 8:30 am-12: 30, **Vertebrate Pest Control.**

February 12 – **"Pruning & Caring For Fruit Trees"**, 1pm-3pm, Sutter Creek. Details inside.

February 15 – **MG Monthly Meeting, Note the time change, 1:00 pm** at the Ag office. Speaker will be Elsin Dean, a consulting Rosarian, on **Pruning Roses.** Board meeting at **12:00 noon.**

February 17 – MG Training Class, 8:30 am-12: 30, **Planting & Care of Landscape Trees.**

February 19 – **"Pruning Roses"**, 10am-12 noon, Jackson. Details inside.

February 24 – MG Training Class, 8:30am-12: 30, **Home Orchard Management & Growing Grapes in Foothills.**

February 26 – **"Pruning Grapes"**, 10am-12 noon, Plymouth. Details inside.

# Secretary's Notes

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**JANUARY 18, 2005**

Jack Lyall opened the meeting at 1:35 PM.

Scott Oneto discussed the field trip to Front Yard Nursery January 21. Also the February 18<sup>th</sup> trip scheduled to the Lava Cap Winery. There will be a one and one half hour tour with wine tasting at the end. The tour will begin at 10:30 AM. Those planning on attending need to contact Clare of the El Dorado Master Gardeners (530) 676-2700 by February 14.

Scott announced there have been policy changes regarding the MG name badges. New badges will have the A&R logo on them and meet the new State standards for uniformity. If you'd like to order a new badge there will be a sign-up sheet circulated, cost will be about \$3.00. Scott also sent around the draft 2005 Master Gardener Directory and asked that everyone check that their information is correct. He discussed new additions to the office library such as a book titled Container Gardening by Jim Wilson. If you have any suggestions for books you think would be of value, contact Scott

Larry Jones will be having the ornamental tree pruning demonstration at the Kennedy Mine on February 3 at 1:30 PM. Jack Lyall said the tree pruning at the Ag office site had to be postponed. New date and time of the demonstration will be announced.

Jackie Tarchala has a tentative list of speakers. Elsin Dean, a Rosarian, will speak about pruning roses in February. A representative from Kellogs soil products will discuss the importance of mycorrhizae at the March meeting. Cut flowers will be the subject for May's meeting and Jackie is working on having Dave Wilson come to give a presentation on fruit trees.

Jack announced possible field trip to the San Francisco Flower Show is still not finalized.

Marie Loretta spoke about the 2005-planning meeting. Marie is in charge of Public Education for 2005. If you have any ideas for

a class or would like to teach, contact Marie. She also said that Cathy Coos-Brazeal is still looking for someone to work with her Boy Scout troop on plant propagation. Contact Cathy if you're interested in helping.

Jim Switzer continues to be the MG presence on local television TSPN. Jim's next presentation will be on Climatic Zonation.

Steve Collins talked about the Food Bank vegetable garden. It's a slow part of the growing season but the weeds still need to be dealt with. A work party date was scheduled to clean up the area.

Dennis Miller spoke about the fruit tree pruning class that will be held on Saturday February 12. Details will be announced in the newsletter.

Joe Matthews didn't have a current balance due to recent expenditures. He did reiterate he needs more scripts for the MG Minutes radio program. He has received 4 new scripts and will need 48 more.

Jackie Tarchala discussed the requirements for the MG Minutes scripts. The program is formatted as question and answer. Each script is approximately 150 words and should consist of seasonally appropriate topics.

Jack Lyall announced that the Board approved the purchase of Filemaker Pro database program. Also approved, the purchase of \$55 worth of tomato seeds. The evening meetings for those MG who are unable to attend afternoon meetings will continue. Format of the monthly meetings will be changed on a trial basis. Board meetings will be held at 12:00 PM and the regular meeting will begin at 1:00 PM. The speaker will be the first person on the agenda followed by a break and business meeting that will begin at 2:30 PM. This new format will only work if everyone makes a commitment to stay for the business portion of the meeting. Allowing the speakers to be first is a courtesy so they are not required to sit through the business meeting

Cheryl Allen needs more volunteers to mentor the trainees. This is a program vital in keeping them in the program long term. Please contact Cheryl and offer to help.

Jill North spoke about a program by the American Cancer Society. The proceeds will help keep the vans that bring Amador County residents down to the Valley for their life saving treatments. On Thursday, February 10 the volunteers will deliver lunches that are ordered in advance directly to a site. Jill wondered if the trainees would be interested in having lunch delivered to the Ag Office on that day.

Donna Hirshfelt was invited to attend the January meeting to be presented with a gift for all her valuable contributions to the Amador County Master Gardener over the past years. Marie Loretta presented her with a beautiful concrete garden bench and thanked her for all her hard work to revitalize and continue the MG program. Donna was very delighted and surprised. She's in the middle of a garden renovation at her home and knows that the bench will find a special spot. Donna wondered how she was going to get it home and unloaded but Marie assured her that Scott would find a way to get it to her. Donna reminisced about old times and thanked everyone for their support during her years in Amador County. She reminded us that she will always be available to help us in any way she can and will come back for training and if we ever need her specific expertise. Donna also had a gift to present. She read the quote from Eleanor Roosevelt that is affixed to the beautiful plaque that will either hang in Scott's office or the MG office. Make a point to find the plaque and read it when you are in the office.

After refreshment break Marie began the 2004 Volunteer Recognition Awards presentation. Awards were given to all the officers and committee chairpersons for the 2004 calendar year. Gold stars for MG nametags were given to those volunteers who had reached certain hour milestones in hours of service. Awards were also presented to those who undertook special assignments during the year. Although officially MG trainees, Steve Collins, Jim and Diane Ferrell and Peggy Sullivan also

received awards for the special projects they had undertaken. The grand prizewinners were **Marie Loretta** and **Polly Chapman** who each reached the **1000 volunteer hour** status last year. Scott Oneto acknowledged their outstanding contributions to the Amador County MG program through the years and announced their names will be engraved on the beautiful wooden plaque with brass nameplates that he displayed. This perpetual plaque will be proudly exhibited in the Ag Office lobby area to commemorate the remarkable achievements of these two exceptional women.

Jackie Tarchala brought three shade loving plants that provide winter bloom in the garden. *Daphne odora* 'Marginata' (Winter Daphne) is a deer resistant plant that grows about 4 feet high and 4 to 6 feet wide. It demands excellent drainage and porous soil. It has white margins on the leaves and fragrant pink flowers. *Osmanthus heterophyllus* 'Variegatus' (Holly-Leaf Osmanthus) is a slow-growing 4 to 5 foot plant. It has white edged leaf margins and fragrant flowers. Deer haven't yet feasted on Jackie's plants. *Sarcococca ruscifolia* is a slow grower and reaches 4 to 6 feet high and 3 to 7 foot wide. It will naturally espalier against a wall. It has small, very fragrant flowers followed by red fruit. Another plant to consider is *Pieris* (Lily of the Valley Bush) that is deer resistant and has fragrant winter flowers.

Steve Collins suggested that the MG program sponsor a blood drive at the Civic Center. It would give the MG Program a high profile method of promoting increased name recognition. If the Board shows an interest, Steve has already volunteered to spearhead the blood drive.

Janice Johnson pointed out there is a clear plastic box in the MG office earmarked for interesting samples of plant diseases, insects, etc. If you run across something that might be of interest to the group, just put it in the sample box along with any information you may obtain on the specimen.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:25PM

# Announcements

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## FEBRUARY PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASSES

### What: Pruning and Caring for Fruit Trees

When: February 12, 2005 Time: 1pm-3pm  
Time: 1pm-3pm  
Where: 12095 Colt Drive  
Colt is the first road on the right off Running Gold.

Master Gardeners will prune an apple and a peach tree to demonstrate the proper techniques for each type of tree. For practice, participants will use ribbon to mark where they would make cuts and an assistant will critique their choices. A presentation will also be made on the proper care of fruit trees with regard to planting, fertilization, spraying and watering.

Please call Carolyn at the office, 223-6482, for directions or information



### What: Pruning Roses

When: February 19, 2005  
Time: 10am-12 noon  
Where: Future home of Grace Community Church

This will be a hands-on class. Pruning equipment and techniques will be explained and demonstrated. There are several different types of roses available to practice on. Bring your hand by-pass pruners.

Please call Carolyn at the office, 223-6482, for directions or information

### What: Pruning Grapes

When: February 26  
Time: 10am-12pm  
Where: 10730 Valley Drive  
Take Highway 49 to Plymouth. Turn right on Shenandoah Valley Road (east 16). Being careful not to head up hill to Fiddletown. Stay on east 16 until Bell Road. Turn left on Bell then left on Valley Drive.

This will be a hands-on class. Pruning equipment and techniques will be explained and demonstrated. There are several different types of grapes available to practice on. Bring your hand by-pass pruners, small loppers or another favorite tool. Donna Hirschfeldt, our local UC grape expert will be teaching the class.

Please call Carolyn at the office, 223-6482, for directions or information

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### ITEMS IN STORAGE

All signs, tents, posters etc (the bulky stuff) has been moved to the storage facility next door. Please allow a week before an event to get this stuff out. Maybe we could put it in the lobby of the conference room until the day of the event???

Marie Loretta

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### NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES

[thehomeplace@net-venture.com](mailto:thehomeplace@net-venture.com) Sharon Kennedy's new e-mail address

Thala Wolin is: [thalaw@jacksonca.net](mailto:thalaw@jacksonca.net)

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### SHADE PLANTS NEEDED

The 4-H Shade garden at fairgrounds had plants stolen. They are in need of shade plant donations. If you have any plants you can share please contact Cathy Koos-Brazeal at 295-5811 or [brazeal@goldrush.com](mailto:brazeal@goldrush.com).

Master Gardeners Honors Two  
By: Lucy Martin and Scott Oneto

The Amador County Master Gardeners honored Marie Loretta and Polly Chapman, two of its most productive members this month with a Lifetime Achievement Award. Each of these ladies has volunteered more than 1000 hours of service to the community through the Master Gardener organization.

Polly Chapman, a Master Gardener since 1992 and a resident of Amador County since 1990 is well known and respected in the community. Polly is best recognized for her contributions to the Amador Ledger Dispatch. Her articles on gardening, pest management, soil science, landscaping and many other topics are thoroughly researched, completely informative and most interesting. Polly is an alumna of California State University Hayward where she majored in chemistry. She is exceptionally knowledgeable about soils, chemicals, weather conditions, water and other elements related to plant development. She has written numerous articles relating to the interaction of these elements required for good plant growth and successful gardening. She is generous with her knowledge and has contributed many hours to presentations at other community organizations. She is also an active member of the Sierra Madre Garden Club. For many years she has handled the publicity for their May Flower Show and has won many awards for her African violets.

Marie Loretta, a Master Gardener since 1996 moved to Amador County in 1992. Marie is best known for her tireless energy and enthusiasm. Her contributions to the organization have been varied and numerous. She is an avid contributor to the Master Gardener monthly newsletter and has worked tirelessly for 5 years to produce it. She has served as president twice and her leadership, organization and communication skills are exceptional. Over the past 8 years, Marie has done extensive research on drought and deer tolerant plants for the area and has also helped grow many of the plants that are sold at Master Gardener events. Marie is a retired teacher and is especially

gifted in relating to others. In addition to being a Master Gardener, Marie is a very active member of the Foothill Garden Club. Marie is well known throughout the county for her many presentations and demonstrations that she continually gives to groups, clubs and organizations.

A Master Gardener is a non-paid staff member of the University of California Cooperative Extension who is trained in the areas of horticulture, gardening and general related areas. They have acquired the knowledge to answer questions, diagnose plant problems and give horticulture assistance to the public. As a continuing Master Gardener, one is required to volunteer 25 hours to various projects and acquire 12 hours of continuing education per year. The minimal hourly requirements accentuate the magnitude of the contributions that these two ladies have made to the program during their rather brief period of involvement. It is with great pride and inspiration that we congratulate these two outstanding members!

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## APHIDS

Question and answer newspaper article submitted by Jill North.

**Q.** If I just hose aphids off won't that spread them or other plants?

**A.** Not if you use a strong stream of water. Aphids are soft-bodied, so the blast of water from the hose can be enough to cause those in the direct line of fire, as it were, great bodily harm. Second, aphids have sucking mouthparts that they insert into plant tissues to extract the juices within. Aphids knocked off a plant usually leave those mouthparts stuck in the plant tissue, rendering them incapable of feeding. Third, aphids on the ground are much more susceptible to being eaten by spiders and other predators, and those predators aren't being killed by insecticide. With the hose approach there is nothing to measure, no complicated equipment to use, no toxins wafting into your neighbors' yards, and the plants love it.

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU...By Lucy Martin**

Cheryl Allen, a child member amongst us more “mature” adults. She is a delightful person, vivacious, interesting and interested. She has a beautiful captivating smile that draws you to her. A straw-blond with hazel eyes, slender and tanned from being outdoors; she presents a very wholesome appearance and has a most congenial personality. She is married to Phil who is a fireman/engineer with the Sacramento Metro Fire Department. She and Phil live on Warner Road in Pine Grove. They have four children, Justin who lives in Boston, Gwyne who is married to Ivan; they live in Santa Monica, Chad is a sophomore at UC San Diego and Paul who is still at home is a senior at Amador HS. No grandchildren yet!

Cheryl and Phil met while in high school and married shortly after graduation. She is a most unusual person in today’s competitive world in that she chose to be a stay-at-home mom until all her children are gone. She home-schooled two of her children during their elementary years. She basks in the close bond of her family knowing that her dedication to her children has been a reinforcing and positive influence. During this time she did pursue higher education by earning an AA degree in Liberal Studies at Sacramento State University. And now after 29 years of marriage, she is ready to begin the next phase of her life. To rediscover herself and to pursue those dreams that were put aside. She is young and there is still “...lots of time”.

Cheryl was a “navy brat” and she with her family moved about fairly often. She recalls living in Texas, Florida, Virginia, Rhode Island and California. She embraces a most poignant memory of her father. It was 1972, her father, a pilot with the U.S. Navy had come home from tour. He wanted to buy flowers for her mother. He asked Cheryl, the oldest of five children to go with him to pick them out. She said that she, “...will always be grateful for this special time...” since it was shortly after this that his plane was shot down during a mission in Viet Nam. It was not until 1991 that his remains were returned to the family; it helped to ease the pain of this most heartbreaking episode. Her mother

moved with her children to Sacramento to be near other family. Cheryl graduated from JFK High School.

In 1989 she and Phil decided to leave Sacramento for a quieter life style, a more rural area for their children and to build their dream home near the mountains. They bought two acres; Cheryl designed the house and they, including the children did about 95% of the construction. She particularly enjoys various reading spots that she has created within and about their home; quiet areas complete with a chair, a table, a lamp and reading glasses. She will have a book conveniently placed and she will pick it up and submerge herself into her favorite pastime.

Cheryl became a Master Gardener in 2002. She worked at Ridge Road Garden Center for a couple of summers. She gives credit to Jackie Tarchala for introducing her to the MG program. She has been a very active member and loves and uses the “hands-on” approach to learning. She supervised the flowers section of the Demonstration Garden at the Food Bank and volunteered to help with the garden at the county fair. She often participates in home visits as well as many other projects. She is a member of the Mother Lode Rose Society and volunteers for the, On A Mission Thrift Store that donates 100% of its profit to youth programs. She cooks one day a week at a local B&B; this, she said, “... is more fun than work”! She is active in her church and loves Bible Study. She has a very spiritual philosophy; she said, “ God is the Creator, and when I am in the garden I learn more about the amazing creation he has given us to enjoy and to take care of”. She loves flowers and would love to create an English cutting garden. She coyly admits to having a huge lawn but she does plan to pare it down and replant with drought tolerant native plants. She describes her garden as “...organized chaos” with flowers and compost heap and in the near future will add a few fruit trees and vegetable garden.

Cheryl would like to share this with fellow Master Gardeners, “I remember my father telling us kids to always try and do a little more than our share. I have adopted this philosophy in my life. I firmly believe that one should treat others the way that they want to be treated. This simple truth is rarely seen today. Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself. I challenge myself to live this truth.”

# ***Yard Calendar – February***

## **PLANT SEED:**

Greenhouse or Cold Frame:

Summer/fall blooming annuals/perennials.

Start tuberous begonias in moist peat moss indoors.

Wildflower seed. And cool loving flowers such as poppies and alyssum.

Consider starting seed and buying plants that attract good bugs and birds to your yard.

Heavy pollen and nectar producers are favored. Diverse planting is also beneficial.

## **SET OUT PLANTS:**

Bare-root roses, shrubs (lilac, forsythia, etc), trees.

Early spring blooming shrubs and vines: azaleas, camellias, Carolina jasmine, daphne, flowering quince (white, pink, orange, deep red), forsythia.

Plant several kinds of flowering cherry trees. There are varieties for early, mid & late bloom.

Plant spring blooming annuals and perennials such as alstromeria, bergenia, bleeding heart, calendula, campanula, candytuft, catmint, columbine, coral bells, delphinium, dianthus, foxglove, pansy, poppy snapdragon, stock and violet.

Plant gladiolas in 20 day intervals. Other summer/fall flowering bulbs/corms include callas, cannas, dahlias, trigidias. Wait until March at higher elevations.

## **FERTILIZE:**

Spring blooming plants after bloom. Fall planted annuals and perennials.

If gardenia or camellia have yellowing leaves, apply some chelated iron.

## **SPRAY:**

Ash and sycamore trees need a fungicide at first flush of growth to help prevent anthracnose.

Later this month, lawns need pre-emergent for crab grass at lower elevations.

Use pre-emergents to prevent germination of annual weeds. Be sure to apply before the soil warms up. There are liquid forms as well as granular. Inquire as to the proper type to use for different planting areas.

## **GARDEN MAINTENANCE:**

**CAUTION:** Do not till wet soil.

If rains have been light, deep water plants especially those newly planted and natives.

Divide over crowded perennials.

When camellias and azaleas are in flower, they are "sleeping". Transplant now.

Clean up dead/diseased leaves especially under azaleas and camellias and pick off faded flowers. This will cut down on the spread of petal blight.

Finish pruning jobs this month, except for roses and spring flowering shrubs (lilac, forsythia, etc.).

At lower elevations, roses can be pruned now. Upcountry wait until March. Strip all leaves off of roses to help prevent fungal development.

Prune deciduous trees during late dormancy, ornamental trees, roses and wisteria.

Cut back stems of woody plants close to the ground to prevent them from getting leggy (butterfly bush, artemesia, fuschia, etc).

Mulch 2 to 4" around shrubs and trees to discourage weeds. Keep mulch away from trunk.

Prune mistletoe.

Start on those weeds – hoe, hand pull and use pre-emergent.

## ***Veggie/Orchard Garden Calendar - February***

### **PLANT SEED:**

2000' or lower: Sweet peas, cool weather veggies like beets, carrots, peas spinach.

Greenhouse or Cold Frame:

Broccoli, cabbage, leaf lettuce and other cool season vegetables to set out in late February or March for higher elevations.

Lower elevations can sow seeds of cool weather veggies like beets, carrots, peas spinach.

### **SET OUT PLANTS:**

Artichokes, asparagus, chives, green onion, onion sets (Fiesta and Sweet Spanish are recommended at the lower elevations.), rhubarb.

Grapes and berries (blackberries, raspberries, strawberries).

Above 2500': peas

Below 2500': asparagus, shallots, leaf lettuce, parsley, cabbage family, rhubarb.

(Set out cool season crops while it is still cool to prevent bolting.)

### **FERTILIZE:**

Cane berries - split yearly recommended amount into three applications: just before new growth, midspring, midsummer.

### **SPRAY:**

Apply dormant oil sprays after completion of pruning. Complete coverage is essential for effective control of over-wintering scale, mealy bugs, whiteflies and mites. This month is your last chance to smother over-wintering insects and fungal disease.

Peaches and nectarines: if peach leaf curl has been a problem, spray for at first bud swell close to but before bud break. Use lime sulfur with a sticker spreader when no rain is due for 36 hours.

Stone fruit and almond growers who did not apply their dormant insecticides should now consider applying Bts during bloom (late Feb/early march) for control of peach twig borers. Usually 2 Bt applications are needed and can be combined with fungicide sprays.

Watch for cabbage worms – hand pick or use Bt immediately.

### **GARDEN MAINTENANCE:**

CAUTION: Do not till wet soil!

Above 2000': prune deciduous fruit trees

Below 2000': prune grapes. In frost prone areas, delay pruning grapes.

Paint trunks of bare-root and young fruit trees to prevent borers & protect from sunburn.

Mix equal parts of water and white interior latex paint.

When cleaning up in the yard, don't forget those fruit mummies and dead leaves. Apple scab fungus loves neglected areas.

Sharpen pruners, hoes, etc. Sand rough spots on handles and apply linseed oil.

### **PLANNING:**

When planning your vegetable garden, be sure to rotate your crop locations. Don't plant anything in the same area as the last 2 to 3 years.

Order seeds.

If you have lousy soil, consider construction raised beds. Use wire below to eliminate gophers.