

University of California
Cooperative Extension

Master Gardener News

Amador County

JANUARY 2006



Hi Everyone! For you who could attend, we had outstanding 12/20. The food magnificent. You out on adding your our planning for MG activities in 2006. If you have any thoughts you would like to express, e-mail Marie (loretta@volcano.net). And Scott did a great presentation on a new MG website with many options such as entering your hours right on the computer instead of handing them to Scott, a directory of all of our members and their e-mail addresses and many other great options. Your password should have arrived so write it down or change it.



those of not another Potluck on was also missed thoughts to

I would like to make a few comments on suggestions made at the meeting for 2006. First, it is very difficult to find speakers on topics such as diseases and insects and it is a long drive to Amador County for a 1 hour meeting. Since we don't pay for mileage, perhaps this is something that needs a lot of thought and should be a 3 or 4 hour workshop. We haven't been doing Nursery Clinics at Amador Flower Farm because we are already present there 6 days a year for full days at special events. That's more time than we spend anywhere else. Bernice has provided materials for a specific topic at all AFF events. We have tried to get folks to work up demos for the Nursery Clinics for years. All we need to accomplish that are the volunteers. Bernice, Emmi and I did one on Fall Vegetable Gardening last October at Amador Nursery. Jack and I did one there on Container Gardens last spring. We seem to have enough people show up with problems to solve at Ridge Road that a demo hasn't been needed. If the growers up at the old mill ever

get ready for visitors, perhaps someone there can talk to us about hydroponics. Otherwise, does anyone know of a speaker source? Several groups suggested more meetings at member's homes. This has always been fun but there are many things to consider – weather, seating area, chairs, public address system, etc. Retaining MGs is a problem throughout the program all around the state. It is also a problem in many other organizations. There were some sessions at the last MG State Conference and I'll submit the suggestion for this upcoming conference. So now that you've given us all of this food for thought, you might **plan to attend the Planning Meeting on January 10 from 9:30 to Noon at the Ag Office**. Your suggestions were plentiful and we will have fun working on them!

Jerry Trottier and I are scheduled to be your Co-Presidents for 2006. Actually, Jerry will be the lead guy and I will be his assistant/support person. We are looking forward to an outstanding year.

Happy New Year – Marie and Jerry

JANUARY CALENDAR

Jan. 10 - Tuesday – **MG Planning Meeting**, 9:30am-12:30 at the Ag office.

Jan. 14 – Saturday – **“Fruit Tree Pruning Class”** by Dennis Miller. 10:00 am-noon, Plymouth. Call MG office for location and directions.

Jan. 17 – Tuesday – **MG Monthly Meeting**, **“Volunteer Recognition”**, 1:00 pm at the Ag office. Board meeting at noon.

Secretary's Notes

DECEMBER 20, 2005

The annual Master Gardener Holiday Pot Luck luncheon began at approximately 12:00 PM. The meeting room was filled with tantalizing aromas and the groaning boards tempted with a plethora of salads, main dishes of all kinds and an amazing table filled with luscious desserts. The willing and eager diners filled their plates and sat down to a delectable repast and even managed to engage in convivial conversation between bites. The cooking talents of the Master Gardeners must certainly rival their gardening abilities and the dishes prepared for the potluck were a tasty testament to both their imaginations and skills.

Jack Lyall convened an abbreviated December meeting at approximately 1:00 PM. The nominations for the 2006 Master Gardener Board were voted on and approved.

Dennis Miller said that an ideal site in Plymouth had been found for the January 14, 2006 Winter Orchard Pruning class. It is an old apple and peach orchard with an ample flat area available for parking. If the ground is wet, Dennis advises attendees to wear boots. Dennis also discussed a workshop that he attended for pruning that was geared to commercial orchard pruning techniques. He found the ideas very interesting and the focus of the pruning is obviously greater production as opposed to aesthetic considerations.

Emily Beals announced that Master Gardeners are invited to sit in on certain horticulture classes at UC Davis. Contact Emily directly for further information.

Larry Jones thanked everyone for their good thoughts and prayers for his injured daughter. She has very limited mobility and recently has been reclassified as an incomplete quadriplegic. Larry also said that when he went to add his daughter to his Cingular phone plan he was wearing a Master

Gardener jacket and was offered a discount for being affiliated with UC Extension.

Jack Lyall graciously thanked all the cooks for the tasty food. He asked for suggestions for subjects that might be of interest for future Master Gardener conferences.

Marie Loretta asked that everyone break into small groups and participate in a group planning session for the Amador County MG program for 2006. She distributed outlines and asked that everyone spend a few moments on each section to help formulate the plans for the programs for next year. These suggestions will assist the newly elected President, Jerry Trottier, and the Board during the yearly planning session that will be held on Tuesday, January 10. All Master Gardeners are invited to attend the yearly planning meeting.

Scott Oneto gave a presentation about the new Master Gardener Website. He showed the site and discussed the various functions of this new interactive tool. Using this site will enable you to look at the Directory of Master Gardeners; track and record volunteer hours; look at the calendar of events, sign up for events or activities, share information, ideas and files, contact other Master Gardeners, find MGs by interests, download the monthly newsletter, download forms, and link to other information. You can access the site at <http://ucce.ucdavis.edu/mg>. There are information sheets regarding the site in the MG office and Scott is sending out passwords for each of the Master Gardeners. Scott encourages everyone to give the site a try and let him know how you like it.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Announcements

THANKS TO ALL

Your out-going co-presidents hope that you enjoyed the best ever Holiday Season. Thank each and every one of you for making our term in office such an enjoyable experience. We know that President Jerry will receive the same enthusiastic support we enjoyed and that 2006 will be a great year for the Amador Master Gardeners.

Dennis and Jack

WINTER FRUIT TREE PRUNING

The Amador County Master Gardeners will be offering a free class to teach the proper techniques for pruning specific types of home gardeners' (not commercial) fruit trees on Saturday, January 14, from 10 AM to noon. Whether you already have fruit trees or are interested in planting one or more, there is always much to learn in order to maximize fruit quality and quantity.

This free class will provide instruction and hands-on practice in exactly how and where to make correct pruning cuts. Valuable information will be provided on the proper care of trees, including planting, fertilizing, spraying and watering. (It's advisable to wear boots or other appropriate outdoor shoes, especially if the weather has been wet.)

For directions to the location of the class in Plymouth, please call the Master Gardeners Office at (209) 223-6838 Tuesday through Friday, 10 AM to Noon or email the office at mgamador@ucdavis.edu.

Be sure to watch for information about our classes in February: Grafting of Fruit Trees on Feb. 4; Rose Pruning on Feb. 18; and Grape Vine Pruning on Feb. 25.

Patti Stalder

2006 MG TRAINING

MG training classes will start on January 26th. They will be held on Thursdays; 8:30 – 12:30 at the Elks Lodge, 100 Elk Drive, Sonora. See enclosed schedule.

FUNDRAISER

The Library Improvement & Funding Taskforce (LIFT) is very excited about hosting an exceptional jazz concert on Saturday, January 28, 2006, 2:00 pm, at Calvary Chapel on Ridge Road in Pine Grove. We are very fortunate to have the Brubeck Institute Jazz Quintet from University of the Pacific and a local group, The Main Street Jazz Company, performing for this concert. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and will be sold in the near future through High Sierra Tickets online and over the phone. All proceeds from the concert will help fund LIFT's efforts to acquire state and other outside funding to build a new main library for Amador County. For tickets contact Bernice Honeychurch 245-3608.

GARDENING ADVICE

Hello all! I am putting together a collection of 'Garden Advice' quotes and stories. If you would like to contribute, I would appreciate your input. What I am looking for is the single best garden advice you have received, or have been given. If you were allowed to provide a person with only one bit of garden advice, what would it be?

Stories and comments (true, false, funny, sarcastic, or otherwise) are also welcome; make sure you label them as such!

Thank you for your input! Have a wonderful holiday and joyous new year!

Dave Andrews

2006 Master Gardener Training Schedule
University of California Cooperative Extension
Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, and El Dorado Counties
January 26th through April 27th, 2006

Class Schedule:	Daytime Thursday, 8:30 – 12:30	Evening Friday, 3:00 – 7:00
Location:	Sonora Elks Lodge 100 Elk Drive Sonora, CA 95370	Farm Advisor's Office 52 N. Washington St. Sonora, CA 95370
1/26/05	<p><i>Outside Assignment: Reading</i> <i>California Master Gardener Handbook ("Handbook")</i> <i>Ch. 1 Overview of the California Master Gardener Program</i> <i>Ch. 2 Introduction to Horticulture</i></p> <p>Welcome: Introduction to Master Gardeners and UCCE Becky Miller-Cripps, UCCE Tuolumne Co. Master Gardener Coordinator/Program Rep</p> <p>Introduction to Horticulture/Botany for Gardeners Scott Oneto, UCCE Amador Co. Master Gardener Coordinator/Program Rep</p>	
2/02/06	<p><i>Outside Assignment: Reading</i> <i>Handbook, Ch. 3 Soil and Fertilizer Management</i></p> <p>Soil and Fertilizer Management/ Soil Testing Jay Norton, UCCE Tuolumne Co. Farm Advisor</p> <p>Composting and Vermicomposting Becky Miller-Cripps and UCCE Tuolumne Cty. MGs</p>	
2/09/06	<p>Entomology Karen Robb, UCCE Mariposa County Farm Advisor</p>	
2/16/06	<p>Water Management/Irrigation Larry Schwankl, UCCE</p>	
2/23/06	<p>Integrated Pest Management Mary Louise Flint, UCCE</p>	

You will notice that the training is being offered on two different days this year. On Thursday mornings the training will be held at the Elks Lodge and on Friday evenings the training will be at the UCCE office in Sonora. Existing Master Gardeners are encouraged to sit in on any of the classes, however they can only do so on the Thursday morning session. The Friday evening course is very limited on space and only trainees will be allowed to attend.

University of California Cooperative Extension proudly presents: The National Animal Identification System Workshop

Friday, February 10, 2006

Jackson Rancheria, Conference Center, Rain/Cloud Room, Jackson

- 12:30 PM** **Check-in and Refreshments**
- 1:00 PM** **Welcome**
Ken R. Churches, UC Cooperative Extension, Calaveras County
- 1:10 PM** **Premises Identification**, the first step toward a national animal identification system
Alison Van Eenennaam, Ph. D., Cooperative Extension Specialist
- 2:15 PM** **Break**
- 2:30 PM** **National Animal Identification System**
John Maas, Cooperative Extension Veterinarian
- 3:45 PM** **Discussion, questions, and safe trip home**

Why do we need animal identification?

A rational, cost-effective animal identification program will:

- Enhance foreign animal disease surveillance, control, and eradication
- Facilitate epidemiologic investigations
- Improve biosecurity protection of the national livestock population
- Distinguish animals vaccinated or tested under official U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disease-control or eradication programs from unvaccinated and untested herdsmates
- Furnish official identification for animals in interstate or international commerce
- Accurately identify blood and tissue specimens used for laboratory diagnostics
- Track the health certification status of herds, States, and regions
- Enable effective regionalization and risk assessment in support of international trade

Why do we need a national animal identification system (NAIS)?

The increasing number of animal disease outbreaks that have been reported around the globe over the past decade and the single cow that tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the United States in December 2003 have greatly intensified public interest in developing a national animal identification system for the purpose of protecting animal health. The European Union, Canada, and Australia already have animal identification systems in place. A strong U.S. identification system is in increasing demand as a necessary component of our Nation's agricultural infrastructure.

Registration

Cost of the program is \$5.00 per person and includes handouts and refreshments.

Advance registration is required and must be made no later than Tuesday, February 7, 2006. Please make check payable to UC Regents and mail to U.C. Cooperative Extension, 891 Mountain Ranch Road, San Andreas, CA 95249. For more information or if you require accommodations for any physical challenge, please call Ken R. Churches at 209 754-6477 or e-mail to cdcalaveras@ucdavis.edu.



JANUARY YARD CALENDAR

PLANTING:

Bulbs - It is not too late to plant spring flowering bulbs, although supplies may be low at the nurseries. Purchase new flowering bulbs for the summer while the selection is still good. Remember not to till wet soil.

Bare-root plants – Roses, vines, shrubs & shade trees are all available now for planting. Have your planting holes prepared before you buy so you can go home and plant immediately. If this is impossible, make plans to heel-in the bare-root plants to protect the roots.

Shop for azaleas and camellias that are still in bloom.

Now is the time to curl up and read seed catalogs and make plans for summer flowers.

PRUNING:

Attend a pruning demo.

Prune dormant, deciduous plants(flowering shrubs, vines and shade trees) DO NOT prune spring flowering plants such as lilacs or Japanese snowball.

Roses can be pruned now in the western end of the county around Lone, or on warm ridges such as Ridge Road. In cold low-lying ravines such as Fiddletown and Volcano, wait until March. Use dormant oil after pruning.

Cut back hydrangea stems that bloomed too 12". Also reduce the number of stems if you want larger flowers next spring.

SPRAY AND GARDEN CONTROL:

Trees/shrubs including roses: Apply dormant oil spray to kill over-wintering insects and control fungus.

Bait for gophers now when it is easier to locate their runways and before they have their babies. Prune perennials and clean up fallen leaves.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

Clean up fallen leaves.

Be on the lookout for frost and protect tender plants.

If rains have been light, water plants. Newly planted items and native plants need moisture now.

Additional notes:

Order summer-blooming bulbs.

Bare-root plants COST LESS AND ADAPT MORE QUICKLY than those you buy in containers.

DO NOT DIG WET SOIL: Soil texture should be crumbly not sticky before you dig.

Sharpen and oil garden tools – pruners, loppers, hoes and mower blades.

Sand handles and apply linseed oil.

Prune first then spray. Use a sticker-spreader and wait until there are 36 rainless hours available.

When pruning, use hand shears for small branches. Use a pruning saw for 1" or thicker and loppers for mid-size branches.

Fertilize amaryllis, azaleas, and cymbidiums after bloom. Move to a protected area outside and do not let plants dry out.

Consider a cold frame to get an early start with vegetable & flowers seeds.

Spread cow, chicken or horse manure so the rain will wash nutrients into the soil.

JANUARY VEGETABLE/ORCHARD CALENDAR

PLANTING:

Bare-root plants – Berries, artichokes, asparagus, grapes, strawberries and fruit trees are all available now for planting. Have your planting holes prepared before you buy so you can go home and plant immediately. If this is impossible, make plans to heel-in the bare-root plants to protect the roots.

Put in onion sets and seed potatoes. Wait until Feb to plant other cool-season vegetables.

Sow cool season veggies in doors to set out by the end of February. You can direct seed for beets, carrots, peas, radishes, shallots and onions.

Now is the time to curl up and read seed catalogs and make your plan for the summer garden. Order disease resistant varieties whenever possible.

PRUNING:

Prune dormant, deciduous plants including established fruit and nut trees. DO NOT cut off the spurs of the fruit trees as they sometimes bear fruit. If walnut trees are only 1 or 2 years old, it's best to wait to avoid winter kill of tender wood. Wait to prune evergreens such as citrus and olive trees. Established grape vines can be pruned now. However, if late spring frost occurs in your area, wait until growth begins.

After pruning, clean up dead leaves.

SPRAY AND GARDEN CONTROL:

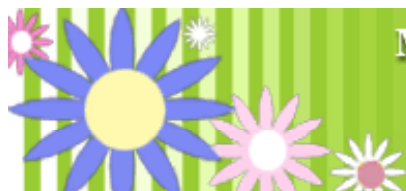
Peach leaf curl: Apply a dormant spray (lime sulfur/powdered copper) if you did not do so earlier. Be sure to add a sticker.

Spray all fruit and nut trees for scale insects, aphids, mite eggs, peach twig borers,

Remember apple scab fungus lives over the winter on dead leaves and fruit "mummies" of almonds, peaches and apples. To prevent reinfection, bury them in compost at least 12 inches deep or deposit in trash or dig a hole and bury them in the ground.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE:

Feed citrus 6 to 8 weeks before they bloom. The amount of N depends on the age of the tree. For a 2 year old, $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of N, 3 year olds need $\frac{1}{2}$ pound, use $\frac{3}{4}$ pound for 4 year old and one full pound for age 5. You can apply half of this amount now and the other half in February.



Master Gardener Volunteers Events Calendar January 2006

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sunday monday tuesday wednesday thursday friday saturday

1	2	3 -El Dorado County MG - Selecting & Planting Bare Root Trees -Phone Clinic D Rosson	4 -Phone Clinic A Schieding P Sullivan	5 -Phone Clinic V Bonkowski	6 -Phone Clinic J Schatz	7 -El Dorado County MG - Rose Selection & Care
8	9	10 -Phone Clinic M Loretta	11 -Phone Clinic J Otto S Collins	12 -Phone Clinic J Harrington S Harrington	13 -Phone Clinic L Martin	14 -Amador County MG - Winter Fruit Tree Pruning -El Dorado County MG - Fruit Tree Pruning and Training
15	16	17 -Phone Clinic J Lyall	18 -Phone Clinic A Schieding H Severson	19 -Phone Clinic J Tarchala B Honeychurch	20 -El Dorado County MG - Selecting & Planting Bare Root Trees -Phone Clinic J Trottier	21 -El Dorado County MG - Propagation
22	23	24 -Phone Clinic R Allen J North	25 -Phone Clinic C Taylor P Stalder	26 -Phone Clinic E Felberg	27 -Phone Clinic S Dowell J Tarchala	28 -El Dorado County MG - Landscape Design
29	30	31 -Phone Clinic V Tucker				