

Master Gardener News

Amador County

JUNE 2006



Your Co-Pres' Speak

Hi Everyone! Holy Cow – It is almost the end of May. I don't know about you, but I feel like life is passing me by. Between making Power Point Presentations, working in the yard, preparing for upcoming MG activities and traveling here and there, my head is spinning. My trip to the Great Smoky National Park was special as I met up with some of my eastern aunts and uncles. We hiked every day and I saw many wildflowers and other plants new to me. On Mother's Day I got to go into Yosemite and see water falling at full flow on Yosemite Falls and Bridalveil. What a month!!!!



Upcoming events are plentiful. Be sure to check the schedules on the MG site and/or talk with the coordinators for the Phone Clinics, Nursery Clinics, Farmer's Market, Fair, Daylily Days. Wow, busy time of the year. For the Farmer's Markets, no special preparation needs to be made. We are going to hand out our bookmarks at both visits. On June 17, Bernice will be there with all of our hand-outs on WEEDS and she needs a few partners. On July 15, we will take all of the PEST NOTES and chat with folks about using the least toxic method of control on our bugs. We need a few volunteers for this date.

The Public Education programs are a good venue for Master Gardeners to share their knowledge with both the public and other MGs. It is good to support the members who give these classes, with the possibility of

teaching the class yourself at a future date or creating a new class that will educate the public on some aspect of gardening.

Our Beginning Computer class went very well with Jerry and me helping Jim Harrington instill knowledge. We ran out of time and will schedule a follow up class in the fall. The focus will be on the internet and the UC Davis web site. Publisher is coming up on June 21. Plan to come even if you cannot attend the entire class.

We need to be proactive in increasing our members. With two Master Gardener training sites next year, Placerville and San Andreas, it is a good opportunity for the training of new Amador County MGs. At Public Education events or any other occasion, if someone expresses interest in joining MGs please get their name and contact information so we can follow up in the fall.

Enjoy the Sun, **Marie & Jerry**

JUNE CALENDAR

6/10 – Sat. – **“Weed ID and IPM”**, 10am-noon at the Ag office.

6/15 – Thur. – **“Ornamental Grasses”**, 6:30pm-8:00pm at the Ag office.

6/20 – Tue. – **MG Monthly Meeting**, 1:00pm at the Ag office. Speaker is Sandy Hendrick on **Landscape Design Principles**.

6/21 – Wed. – **Publisher Class**, 9:30 am at the Ag office.

Secretary's Notes

MAY 16, 2006

Jerry Trottier opened the meeting at 1:07 PM. He introduced the speaker, Dixie Norkoli of Red Rock Herbs & Gifts in Columbia.

Dixie is a third generation herbalist and she likes to talk about what she loves: herbs. Dixie has been a floral designer, a florist and has also been a Master Gardener in Tuolumne and Nevada counties. Now she teaches people about herbs. She holds classes in Murphys, Copperopolis and Columbia.

In her personal life Dixie uses herbs for both cooking and medicinal purposes. She proudly announced that she has not been ill or seen a regular medical doctor in over 31 years. Dixie attributes her good health and that of her 72-year-old husband to the use of herbs. She said that she mixes herbs in soups and stews but cautions moderation when adding some of the more pungent varieties.

Herbs have a venerable history and have been used for medicinal purposes and to season foods through out history. Dixie spoke about an ancient gravesite that was unearthed in Iraq that contained 10 separate herbs and pollens.

Herbs are commonly grown outdoors but some can also be successfully grown indoors. You can bring some herbs inside to over winter so that you will have fresh herbs available year round.

Herbs can be preserved in a variety of ways. The simplest way to preserve herbs is through the drying method. You can harvest the herbs; turn them upside down; use a rubber band to bind them and hang them in a darkened dry spot to dehydrate. Some herbs, such as basil can be placed between layers of paper towels to dry and this will preserve the volatile oils that add so much to the flavor of the plant. Dryers can also be used to preserve herbs. Dixie cautioned against the

use of microwave ovens to dry herbs as they evaporate many of the volatile oils and thus the flavor of the plants. Herbs can be frozen in water, oil or even butter. You can make various types of pesto sauces with herbs and freeze them as well.

Dixie encourages experimentation in the use of herbs in cooking. For example she uses Lemon verbena in scones. You could also use Lemon Balm, Lemon Thyme and Lemon Grass in cooking. Add just a bit of the herb and then taste until you reach a flavor that is pleasing to you. You can always add more but if you add too much right away there is no way to dilute the flavor.

Dixie strongly advises people to cultivate their own supply of herbs. That way you will always know how fresh they are and how the plants were grown. If you do buy herbs you should smell them, as this is a way to judge how fresh they are.

As part of her presentation, Dixie passed around fresh herbs from her garden for everyone to taste. She wanted everyone to know how fresh herbs taste. She cautioned that when heated many of the herbal flavors will "explode". When cooking with herbs Dixie sometimes adds the stronger herbs to soups/stews during the cooking process. The more delicately flavored herbs are added just before the dish is ready to serve.

Dixie describes herself as earth centered and grows herbs and edible flowers organically. She recommends the Old English type fragrant roses and adds the petals of these flowers to butters, and fine sugars. The fragrance of the flowers is the key to their taste but the color is not a factor. The taste of flowers varies and in some cases, such as with daylilies, the lighter colored flowers do tend to have more flavor.

Dixie took an herbal tour of Tuscany where she was served a delicious deep fried sage dish. During that trip she traveled with a

group of 25 and she prepared Eggplant Parmesan for the entire group.

Dixie uses herbs for both their medicinal qualities and their culinary uses. She grows her plants organically and tries to buy them locally if possible. She grows many plants from seeds and recommends both Johnny's Seeds and Morning Sun as sources.

Dixie recommends The Complete Book of Herbs as a comprehensive source of information on cultivating, drying and cooking with herbs.

Dixie's handout contained information on the use and storage of herbs, a listing of a variety of herbs and their uses. Her materials also included an assortment of her interesting recipes that utilize herbs.

After a brief refreshment break Jerry Trottier resumed the meeting at 2:10 PM. He handed out the sign up sheets for the phone clinics and various other volunteer activities.

Steve Collins reported that he'd spoken with the Store Manager at Lowe's and was told that Lowe's policy is to only utilize its own employees to hold demonstrations and provide information. Steve will follow up with the Store Manager but didn't feel hopeful about a change in company policy.

Bernice Honeychurch spoke about the Daylily Days event at the Amador Flower Farm and the Amador County Fair. Sign up sheets for both events were circulated. There will be a demonstration held during the afternoon session of the Fair and also at Flower Farm.

Janice Johnson spoke about her Tomato Growing class. She said the class was a modest size but the plant sales were very brisk. Janice surmised that almost everyone who is interested in growing tomatoes in Amador County has already attended her classes in the past and that now some of those people come just to purchase the plants. The remaining tomato plants were available for sale at the meeting.

Jerry Trottier reported that the Master Gardeners have been invited to participate in the Sutter Creek Farmer's Market. It was decided that there would be a booth with information on Weed ID and IPM a few times during the season. The details will be announced at a later date.

Jackie Tarchala and Robin Ivanoff will have a presentation about Ornamental Grasses on June 15 at 6:30 PM.

Jerry Trottier encouraged all the Master Gardeners to step up and either offer to present a class or assist at a class. He reminded everyone that although it may seem intimidating, the process of assisting is part of the learning process. Nobody can answer all the questions regarding any subject and other Master Gardeners are always there to offer assistance. Rita Martin added that teaching classes is fun and the people here in Amador County are nice.

Janice Johnson's Master Gardener training on Publisher has been moved to June 21 at 9:30 AM because of a conflict with a field trip on the earlier date.

Bob Allen said that the field trip to Duarte Nursery was a resounding success and the nineteen or twenty people who attended had an interesting and enjoyable day. The only problem that arose was where to find ice cream on the trip back to Amador County.

Janice Johnson still needs more photos of wildflowers for the 2007 Master Gardener Calendar. Please contact Janice directly if you have a photo to contribute.

Jerry Trottier stated that the Board has approved a change in reporting MG volunteer hours. From now on travel time to an off site projects such as field trips, the County Fair, nursery clinics and home visits will be included in the reported time. The volunteer hours will include the time from door-to-door.

Jill North spoke briefly about the "Committee for the Preservation of Historic Jackson". She had a petition for anyone who was interested in keeping Big Box stores out of

the historic Jackson corridor. Jill also spoke about a Pay Pal scam that is currently being circulated. Pay Pal would like anyone who receives one of the bogus requests to forward them to Spoof@Paypal.

Larry Jones spoke about the request from the Kennedy Mine Foundation regarding landscaping assistance. Larry is working on a plan for the work and will follow up with the Board to seek approval for the project.

Bernice Honeychurch and Jackie Tarchala are contacting the Jackson Head Start staff to see what kind of assistance they require to plant a garden with the children enrolled in the program.

Bob Allen noted that some of his non-native Maple trees are dying. He's noticed that other Maple trees in the area are suffering a similar fate. Bob surmises that these non-native trees are out of their element and often don't thrive in the climate and soils that prevail in Amador County.

Marie Loretta reminded everyone to please carefully follow the written Office Procedures when working at the Phone Clinics. It saves everyone time and wasted effort when the procedures are followed and tasks such as erasing phone messages only take a minute or two to complete.

Jerry Trottier adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.

Donna

Announcements

PUBLIC EDUCATION CLASSES

WEED ID AND IPM MANAGEMENT

Master Gardeners will be offering a free class on weed identification and control on Saturday, June 10, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon at the Ag/UCCE office in Martell.

As homeowners and gardeners are well aware, weeds are popping up very vigorously this year. Don't miss this class! Participants will develop an understanding of basic weed identification and classification to enable them to choose strategies effective for the specific weeds they want to control. Information will be given regarding research-tested weed management strategies known as Integrated Pest Management. IPM is the use of all suitable pest control methods that minimizes adverse effects to the environment.

GARDENING WITH ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

Master Gardeners will be offering a free class on gardening with ornamental grasses on Thursday, June 15 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at the Ag/UCCE office in Martell.

This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how to use many varieties of ornamental grasses in your landscaping. Information will be provided regarding how to select grasses which are best suited to the Amador County area. Participants will learn how to care for grasses for many years of enjoyment.

Patti Stalder

DIRECTORY CHANGE

New mailing address for Leora Smith is P. O. Box 807, Pine Grove 95665.

JUNE SPEAKER

The speaker for the June meeting will be Sandy Hendrick from Sandy Hendrick's Landscape Design. She will do a Power Point presentation on "Landscape Design Principles and Dealing with Slopes". Sandy has been in the nursery and landscape business for 30 years in the Placerville area.

SPRING EXPO PLANT SALE

The Plant Sale was a great success despite the weeks of bad weather preceding the event. People were lined up at 8am as we were getting set up! As usual we learned a lot about merchandising. Mature plants look better and sell for more. People choose the gallon can and quart sizes first, then 4". Perceived value, perhaps, although most real gardeners I know buy 4" pots. So, you can start growing for the fall plant sale NOW in smaller containers so that the plants will be large enough to transplant into gallon pots a month before the sale (I'll help transplant). Agapanthus and edible strawberries were popular bare root. People who went home with a bag of plants felt they were really getting a deal.

They asked for ornamental grasses. House plant went extremely well. Bear's breech (acanthus), pelargonium, scented geraniums, penstemon, gaillardia, day lilies and garlic chives went immediately, so we'll need more of those.

Bernice

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

All gardens are a form of autobiography.
Robert Dash

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

Jackie

MASTER GARDENER CONFERENCE "GROWING YOUR GARDEN OF KNOWLEDGE"

The Master Gardeners in California will have a statewide conference on October 5-6, 2006 at the Dolce Hayes Mansion in San Jose. The conference will include four primary topics:

- Sustainable Landscape Practices.
- IPM: Pest, Problems and Solutions.
- School and Youth Gardens.
- Innovative Outreach: Examples and Evaluation
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This conference will provide Master Gardeners with excellent, current information, the opportunity to network with each other, and a chance to celebrate 25 years of the Master Gardener Program in California.

There is a pre conference bus tour that will feature a tour of Monterey Mushrooms' growing yard and Andy's Orchard in Morgan Hill. There is a post conference bus tour that will feature shopping at two of the South Bay's favorite nurseries and a tour of Elizabeth Gamble Gardens. These tours have separate registration and fees.

A complete conference package for one person if paid before August 1st is \$360. This includes conference fees, meals and snacks for Oct. 5 & 6 and lodging for Oct. 5.

There is a complete schedule of the conference including all the classes available as well as registrations forms on the following website:

<http://groups.ucanr.org/camqconf06/index.cfm>

Check out the website and all the great classes that are being offered. As a participant in the last MG conference I can tell you it is a great learning experience as well as great fun meeting fellow MGs from all over the state.

Rita

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CORNER

May 2006 By: Lucy Martin

Jackie Tarchala for teaching a class on "Container Gardening" at the Senior Center

Janice Johnson for teaching a "Tomato Class" for the public

Jim Harrington for teaching a "Computer Class" for Master Gardeners

Marie Loretta and Jerry Trottier for assisting Jim Harrington with the Computer Class.

All who assisted Janice with the Tomato Class ... set-up, sign-up, sales, etc.

Dennis Miller and Jackie Tarchala for their class "Building and Planting Window Boxes"

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 me know so that it can be acknowledged. This article appears monthly.

WHAT'S BLOOMING NOW?

Azalea, Armeria,
Atirrhinum (Snapdragon)
Alstromeria, Gaura
Matthiola (Stock)
Hemerocallis (Daylilies)
Erysimum, Gazania
Spiraea 'Limemound'
Euphorbia, Erigeron
Achillea (Yarrow)
Red Hot Poker, Coreopsis
Festuca glauca (Blue Festuca)
Campanula (Cup and Saucer)
Cerastium (Snow in Summer)
Delphinium, Dianthus
Digitalis (Foxglove), ROSES!
Salvia off. 'Tricolor'
Heuchera (Coral Bells)
Lamium, Lewisia
Lavender (Spanish and English)
Silene
And Much More!!

Jackie

SACRAMENTO'S 15 WETTEST YEARS

Rainfall year measured July 1-June 30)

Rank	Inches	Year
1	37.49	1982 - 83
2	36.35	1852 - 53
3	36.10	1861 - 62
4	36.00	1849 - 50
5	33.80	1889 - 90
6	32.79	1867 - 68
7	32.65	1981 - 82
8	32.27	1885 - 86
9	32.25	1997 - 98
10	31.94	1957 - 58
11	31.83	1940 - 41
12	31.77	1994 - 95
13	29.75	1985 - 86
14	27.74	1955 - 56
15	27.70	1992 - 93

Through May 16, 2006. Source: National Weather Service, Sacramento

Submitted by Marie

COMMENTS AND/OR CORRECTIONS TO LAST MONTHS CONTACT SHEETS

This will be a new feature of the newsletter. Sometimes gardening problems may have more than one answer. When you read Lucy's Problems and Solutions article and you have additional information you would like to share please submit it as a comment for the next newsletter.

From Marie: Regarding whiteflies, Yarrow and other plants attract good bugs that help kill the bad guy. Regarding Jackson being in Sunset Zone 9. Sunset changed from zone 7 to 9 about 5 years ago. She is not sure it was a good idea as they had snow just this year and it has happened before. Her advice is to protect any sensitive plants when real cold weather is expected except when planting something that will grow in zone 9 and not 7.

From Jackie: Regarding orchid problem. She has always been told that the plant needs divided if it no longer flowers. Also it might need to get more winter chill.

TEA FOR ROSE DISEASE

Article submitted by Jackie Tarchala from The Avant Gardener, May 2006

Useful results are reported from a test of organic disease control products conducted last year by the Institute of Ecosystem Studies (62 Manitou Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603) and described in AMERICAN ROSE (American Rose Society, Box 3000, Shreveport, LA 71130).

To test for blackspot control, the Institute planted plots of five roses – hybrid teas “Peace”, “Black Magic”, and “Diana, Princess of Wales”, floribunda “Simply Marvelous”, and Austin shrub “Emanuel”. To promote fungal diseases, the roses were set very close together and watered with a hose stream that splashed the leaves.

Each group of roses was treated with one of the following: (1) a conventional pesticide/fungicide, Spectracide Immunox plus (Myclobutinol/permethrin)...(2) Messenger, the harpin protein which boosts plants' natural defenses...(3) Serenade Solutions, a biopesticide which employs a bacterium that competes with disease organisms and triggers defense responses...and (4) activated compost tea made with worm compost.

In as little as three weeks, the roses sprayed with compost tea showed noticeable improvement in growth and vigor, with lush green foliage. They bloomed heavily and the flowers were twice as large as the flowers on plants treated with the Immunox Plus.

Compost tea and Messenger suppressed blackspot equally well. However, the Messenger-treated plants continued making leaf and cane growth late in the season, which could die back if it did not mature properly before winter. And while the roses which received Serenade Solutions were only 25% defoliated by blackspot, the white residue this product left on the leaves was unsightly. Rose foliage sprayed with Immunox Plus became dry and leathery and dropped.

The Institute concluded that organic products work as well as conventional fungicides “and at times even perform better”. It recommends incorporating compost tea into garden practices.

GARDENING: WHY GETTING DOWN AND DIRTY FEELS SO GOOD

Excerpts from article by Anne Thompson On Health Central website submitted by Marie

You may not be able to tear your boss; hair out – but you can snatch the weeds from your flowerbeds.

You may not have the desire to schlep to your gym's power-lift class – but you can lug bags of soil and push your wheelbarrow around.

You may not be able to dictate what your office looks like, but you can have flowers and trees in your yard that directly reflect your personality.

And then there's the control – all those little plant lives are in your hands.

The most obvious benefit is exercise, said Dr. Julie Roth of the Wellness Institute at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. And anyone who has planted trees, created a flowerbed from bare lawn or hauled slate to design a walking path will tell you that dominating Mother Nature is hard work.

“It's going to give you a good way to burn calories that's an enjoyable activity for most people,” Roth said, adding that studies show that working in your yard or garden can burn between 250 calories and 500 calories an hour, depending on your level of activity.

And while some people just can't bring themselves to climb on a treadmill for an hour, it might help to know that when you “feel the burn” in your garden, you've actually produced something in the end – besides a toned backside.

CONTACT SHEETS – PROBLEMS AND RESOLUTIONS
BY: LUCY MARTIN

April 19 – May 24, 2006

Problem: Will cannas grow in heavy clay soil? Will cows eat cannas? Wants to plant along fence – cows on other side of fence.

Resolution: ...advised another plant. Cannas do not survive in dry poor soil. Do well in marshes and swamps or warm moist areas. Also will freeze ... Wyman's Garden Encyclopedia – Pg. 183. Suggested iris or daylilies.

Problem: Infestation of Bumble Bees in shed attached to house – possible nest.

Resolution: Researched on web – found info on Bumble Bees. Mailed info on bumblebees and carpenter bees. Suggested catching a bee and bringing to MG for identification. Created new folder "Bumble Bees".

Problem: What kind of ant is this – (see sample)

Resolution: Called 5/10 – left message that identification key for ants located at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/tools/antkey. See Pest Notes #7411.

Problem: Callas falling over. Wanted to know if they could prune (cut down). What is the cause? Plants are in full sun and receive regular water.

Resolution: Most likely too much fertilizer causing rapid growth. Clean them up and don't remove all of the leaves. Fertilize in late winter and again after bloom.

Problem: Peach Leaf Curl.

Resolution: Remove dead leaves – clean up around plant. Spray with copper based fungicide in November and February before bud swell. Gave handout Leaf Curl Pest Note.

Problem: Planted seed potatoes 3 weeks ago. No growth yet. Wanted culture info ... were bought at nursery.

Resolution: Dig one up and check for rotting. Keep soil moist but not overly wet. If potato looks ok give it some time and regular light watering.

Problem: Leaves wilting – Japanese Maple dying leaves had white tinge before husband washed off with liquid fertilizer. Tree is overshadowed by identical larger tree that is ok at this time.

Resolution: Possible cause powdery mildew. Called her and told client that it could be caused by powdery mildew. Client bought pesticide to control powdery mildew and it seems to have controlled the problem.

Problem: Roses have aphids.

Resolution: Called and left message. Suggested Insecticidal Soap per label instructions and suggested calling back if they need additional info. Strong spray of water also works.

Problem: Problem with ants and wanted to have literature on how to control them

Resolution: Mailed copy of Ants pest note. Also suggested use of Windex to spray ant trails. Ammonia in Windex will disrupt their trail.

Problem: Landscape architect on development in Sutter Creek and wanted information on plants for that area.

Resolution: Mailed information on Drought Tolerant Landscape Shrubs for Amador County and ground covers, perennials and bulbs, landscape trees as well as list of fire retardant plants for Amador County.

Problem: Rose leaves have blackened areas on top of leaves and leaves are falling off plants ... (see sample). Moved in new house last October and roses looked healthy then. Was away till April when noticed the problem. Has not pruned her roses yet.

Resolution: Black Spot. Advised to take off all affected leaves and prune. Disinfect pruning shears often during this task (hands, too). ... Suggested non-synthetic treatment for fungus i.e. copper oil, soap, sulfur ... use as directed. Mailed her Pest Notes #'s 7465, 7463, 7466 and info sheets on pruning roses.

Problem: Planted various flower bulbs, "...a month or so ago". Tulips, daffodils are up now and look beautiful. Does not see any ranunculus. Planted them with little pointy things up – reference says to plant with points down.

Resolution: I left msg. Info from Sunset Garden Book (1). Tubers should be planted March (April) in her area. They need excellent drainage – may need to add organic matter or compost to soil or plant in containers to keep out of the rain. (2). Tubers are planted with prongs down. Recommended – dig up a few to see if tubers have rotted. If salvageable, dry them, keep in cool place – plant next spring.

Problem: Bees attacking cedar decking (shade underside) as weather warms +70. Actually "bore" into wood - leave sawdust. Bees about ½" long, very dark – buzz loudly. How to discourage? Would sound discourage the bees? If so, at what frequency?

Resolution: First suggestion was to try an electric fan. Also to bring in bee samples.

Problem: Black Spot on Roses

Resolution: Gave her copy of Pg. 28 of "Healthy Roses", "Black Spot of Roses" from the American Rose Society and "IPM Control Techniques for the Common Pest of Roses in No America". Suggested our UC Book titled "Healthy Roses" for purchase from MGs.

Problem: 4-5 year old Alberta Peach has peach leaf curl. Only sprayed once in January. Can he do anything now?

Resolution: No. Must spray at least twice starting after leaf drop in fall. Sent pest note on Leaf Curl.

Problem: 3-year-old wisteria that bloomed beautifully in 1st. year but no bloom last year and this year (just leaves). (Chinese Purple Wisteria).....

Resolution: Chinese wisteria is not quite as hardy as Japanese - flower buds can be killed during cold winter. Too much nitrogen can also be cause. Super phosphate in fall – good. Prune back vigorous shoots in summer. Do not prune off the short stems of last year – upper growth 8-10" long. Over-watering and fertilizer can cause growth – not bloom.

Problem: Sample of black beetle left for identification. Found in house – only at night.

Resolution: Soldier Beetle – Pg. 163 of "Peterson Field Guides – Insects". Common insect usually found on flowers or foliage. Many feed on pollen and nectar. Larvae live under bark or on the ground and feed on other insects. Not harmful. Suggest cleaning up wood or back near the house.

Problem: Client digging up roots and plants of poison oak ... wanted rec for spraying.

Resolution: Scott rec "Ortho Brush-B-Gon Concentrate" this time of the year. Notified client.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU By Lucy Martin

Patti Stalder is a very nice-looking lady, petite with medium brown hair and brown eyes. She has a calm demeanor and is a very friendly and pleasant person. And, she is thoroughly enjoying Master Gardeners since she joined us with the class of 2005. She is currently serving as Publicity Coordinator and is very efficient and conscientious at doing her job. She finds the learning and experiences of MGs interesting, challenging and fun.

Patti and her husband Tim live at the end of Lupe Road in Pine Grove. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. Michelle and her husband, Marty have two daughters and Anne is married to Paul and they a son and a daughter. Michelle and Marty had moved to Sacramento and they encouraged Patti and Tim to move to the area. Together they bought this gorgeous forty-acre site upon which Tim and Marty built two homes. It is the perfect arrangement for a very close-knit family. Anne and her family also live close by in Pine Grove. From this beautiful setting they have an unobstructed view of the valley and on a clear day they can see as far away as Mt Diablo and to the windmills at Altamont Pass! They have kept the land as natural as possible. They have cleaned out and cleared out a bit and Patti has planted small plants such as salvia, artemisia, lavender and rockrose that compliment the natural landscape. Patti does not have a favorite plant but greatly admires the madrones that are on their property ... for their character, depth of their color, the peeling bark that reveals shades of green and rusty reds, the way that the trunks and the branches twist and turn and that they also flower. They are gorgeous! They also have a tree on their property that they have named the "Grandma Tree" because it has a horizontal trunk on which the grandchildren and their parents can all sit together and one that is called the "Mountain Lion Tree" because one can envision a mountain lion stretched and lying in it.

Patti spent her early years in Brooklyn, New York. Then, her father grew tired of snow and took a transfer with McGraw-Hill Publishing Company to Altadena in Southern California. She graduated from high school in Sierra Madre. From there she went on to graduate from Mt. St. Mary's College in Los Angeles with a BA in sociology. She received her teaching credential at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. Her teaching career was interrupted when she opted to stay home to start her family and then to be home with her young daughters. She was able to return to teaching later and taught at Old Mission School in San Luis Obispo prior to moving to Amador County. She is totally content and being near her children and helping with the care of her grandchildren is very special to her.

Tim did the gardening in the past, but Patti has taken over at the new house. She and Michelle have four large raised beds that they have filled with tomatoes, radishes, zucchini, onions, peppers, lettuces and strawberries. It has been very inspiring and gratifying. She recalls attending a Master Gardener presentation on "Care of Trees" and while there learned about the program. It was Jack Lyall who offered her an application and encouraged her to apply. She and Tim love the rural life. Tim is employed with PG&E as a management consultant where he teaches leadership development. His job takes him from home often. Patti takes advantage of the solitude to read mystery novels and non-fiction books. She also knits but is now busy sewing sundresses for her granddaughters. Winter is her favorite season; it inspires her to cook large pots of soup; she is especially fond of a lentil soup and another favorite is split pea. She also bakes bread to accompany the soup. Baking scones is her new kitchen experiment. Patti is interested in politics and attends town meetings when she can. She has a profound concern for our environment and for those less fortunate. She cares deeply about the plight of the destitute and would like to do more to address this problem.

Travel is in their future plans; an RV trip to the east coast tops the dream. They have enjoyed spending time at Mono Lake and Bodega Bay. One of Patti's most special memories is ... when as a child her parents would take her and four siblings to Candlewood Lake in Connecticut. She recalls the cabin and the quiet evenings when her mother would read stories to the children. And they would all romp around and swim in the lake ... the warmth, the comfort; the harmony of family warms her still.

In the meantime she offers these words of encouragement that came from a discussion during our meeting, "You don't have to know all the answers ... but you can find out ...".



Master Gardener Volunteers

Events Calendar
June 2006

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sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

				1 -Phone Clinic J E Otto	2 -Phone Clinic C Rosson D Rosson	3
4	5	6 -Phone Clinic M Loretta	7 -Phone Clinic S Collins	8 -Phone Clinic S Collins	9 -Phone Clinic	10 -Weed Identification and Control
11	12	13 -Phone Clinic	14 -Phone Clinic L Martin	15 -Gardening with Ornamental Grasses -Phone Clinic B Honeychurch P Stalder	16 -Phone Clinic A Schieding	17
18	19	20 -Board Meeting -MG Monthly Meeting -Phone Clinic J Lyall	21 -Computer Class - Microsoft Publisher -Phone Clinic J Ferrell D Ferrell	22 -Phone Clinic	23 -Phone Clinic	24
25	26	27 -Phone Clinic	28 -Phone Clinic	29 -Phone Clinic L Breesch	30 -Phone Clinic E Felberg	