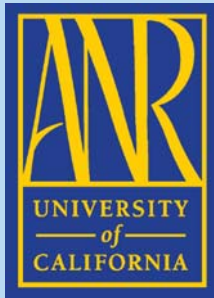


September 2006



University of California

Cooperative Extension

Riverside County

# GARDEN VIEWS

A Master Gardener Newsletter



## Notes From the Chair ...

Hello Master Gardeners,

Summer has come to an end. Fall begins classes for the Master Gardeners. This is a veteran year, which simply means this is not a training year for master gardeners and that classes are for veterans only. So to all the MG graduates of 2006 and veterans, please mark your calendars now for class on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7 pm until 9 pm.



Our advisor, Mike Henry, has arranged for all of our classes to meet at the UC extension office, 21150 Box Springs Rd. Moreno Valley, 92557. Bruce Reynolds, chair elect

has recruited speakers who will present some great subjects. Remember there is plenty of parking at the UC extension office, and with comfortable seating it will be a perfect meeting place to learn more about our favorite subject, gardening!

Many of us look forward to the UCR Botanic garden fall plant sale. Volunteer help is always needed this time of year to help groom plants and prepare for the upcoming sale. Maybe you would like to participate. Volunteers are always welcome; see calendar on page 9 for information.

Speaking of calendars, you can get further information about volunteer events, tours, classes and special conferences for Master Gardeners from the newsletter, the MG website, or you can call me at home. Let's make this a fun year. Remember it is up to you to choose to participate. Make an effort and schedule time for this terrific program and volunteer opportunities.

**Carole Harris, MG chair**

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## Ready, Set, Go VG!

By Pat Robertson, MG

In our inland area, September is not the first month of cooler fall weather. September is one of the



hottest months of the year. After suffering July and August indoors, there is still no relief from high temperatures and Santa Ana winds lurking about. We're cooked.

Tired of hibernating? Guilty of neglecting the garden for the past two months? Not to worry. It's time to go virtual gardening (VG) in September.

VG requires that you sit in a big comfy chair, feet up, and have a cool drink. Put on some soothing music and start singing September Morn. Next, open up your tablet, sharpen your pencil and get ready to go. Go where, you say? To your brain and your imagination.

Start by making a simple sketch of your yard or patio areas that give you pleasure throughout the year. Write down what you have in the ground or containers. Include trees, shrubs, weeds, turf, perennials, vines, weeds, annuals, grasses, weeds, raised flower/vegetable beds, and weeds.

Think critically and ask yourself what works well in the garden, what's bombed, and what's up with your water bills? Is there a new project or planting you would like to do? Make a detailed list.

Continue sipping your drink and visualize garden activities to accomplish in September to prepare yourself for the Inland gardener's goddess month, October. Contemplate:

- Dividing plants like iris, lambs ears, and primroses.
- Fertilizing roses and trees.
- Digging up vegetable beds. It's too early to plant most winter vegetables, but use VG in September to plan for the next few months.

(But you say, "I still have a million tomatoes or eggplant on the vines". That's OK. Just trim up or dig out lanky out of control vines. Don't get sentimental. Be disciplined and pull the things out. You are going to put them in your compost pile, right?)

- Watering turf, trees, roses and other plants. It's still summer here in the inland area even though the days are shorter. So don't cut back watering yet. Trees will need a once a week deep soak.

Now that your thirst is quenched and you are relaxed, get out of your chair and walk out to your garden and reflect on its condition. Next, visit your local nursery. Although there's nothing much new in early September, about mid - month, bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers will arrive. To get the best selections, buy them now, but don't put them in the ground. Keep them in a cool dry place until the ground is sufficiently cool. (If you plant them now they will go into a torpid stupor and shrivel!) And remember, it's too early for cool weather flowers like pansies, snap dragons, Iceland poppies out here.

If you read/consult garden books published to serve the entire US, you'll get bad advice about September gardening. Always use gardening books or websites exclusively written for our area. Here are some appropriate links: The Home and Garden Television website at <http://www.hgtv.com>, the Digital Gardener website at <http://www.digitalseed.com>, the Southern California Horticultural Society at <http://www.socahort.org>. And certainly have a copy of author Pat Welsh's book *Southern California Gardening*.

The early 20th century artist Maxfield Parrish painted a variety of works that always remind me of September. So, don't be a couch potato this month. Enjoy your tasks and your garden will reward you soon. ☞



## Garden Tour of the Month

### Lotusland A Garden Gem

By Yvonne Hemenway, MG

A visit to Lotusland is like visiting garden heaven—it is a remarkable example of what artistic vision, coupled with unlimited funds, can create. This 37-acre estate is tucked away in the small suburb of Montecito, just east of Santa Barbara. The responsibility for its transformation to the exquisite gardens of today belongs to Madame Ganna Walska, a Polish opera singer, who owned the estate from 1941 until her death in 1984. The story of Madame Walska makes for very interesting reading and you can learn more on the Lotusland website ([www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)).

You can view the gardens on a docent-led tour that takes two hours. That is barely enough time to take it all in, so be prepared to make return trips.



Everyone has their favorite garden. I went on the tour with a group of ‘cactophiles’ from the Gates Cactus and Succulent Society and we were overwhelmed by the mass plantings of succulents and the recently installed

cactus garden. But then there was the Japanese garden, and the Bromeliad garden, and the Cycad garden, and the Lotus pools, and the Begonia and Fern garden, and well, you get the idea. There are fifteen distinctly different gardens to tour, each with its own unique appeal. Photo opportunities abound



Riverside Master Gardener

Kick-off Potluck

September 23, 4 pm

Sims Tree Learning Center  
6111 Appaloosa Avenue, Pedley

- Bring your favorite dish to share. Plates, cups and utensils will be provided.
- Come early to tour the gardens and the new formal English Garden.
- Wear Comfortable shoes.
- **Directions:** Take Van Buren to Limonite, go west on Limonite to Bain, right on Bain to 60th, right on 60th, and right on Appaloosa Avenue. Parking will be available off Appaloosa Avenue in Pedley just before Sims Tree Learning Center entrance.
- *For more information call Shelly Wardrop at 951.334.8602.*

so make sure you have plenty of film or disc space.

In addition to being a display garden, Lotusland has also developed a sustainable gardening program to ensure the continued health of the gardens. Some of the strategies are green waste recycling, insectary areas to attract beneficial insects, use of beneficial organisms to control pests and soil pathogens, earthworm management, weed control by mulching and mechanical methods (i.e. pulling the darn things up), and non-toxic pest management for snails and gophers. Click on **Horticulture** at the Lotusland website to learn more.

Lotusland is open Wednesday through Saturday between mid-February and mid-November. The docent-led tours are scheduled at 10:00 am and 1:30 pm. Admission is \$20.00 and advance reservations are required. You can make reservations by calling Visitor Services at 805.969.9990 between 9:00 am and noon, Monday through Friday. ☞

## MOVING?

Please let us know when you change your address, phone number or email. Contact **Buck Hemenway**, Membership Coordinator, at a meeting or call him at 951-360-8802. He will make sure the information gets changed on the membership roster so you will not miss out on newsletters and emails. Thanks!

### UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENERS Advisory Board Members and Coordinators July 2006 - June 2007

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### Garden Views

The *Garden Views* newsletter is published monthly, September through June, by the U.C. Master Gardeners, Cooperative Extension, University of California, Riverside County. All reporters are Master Gardeners or Master Gardeners-in-training.

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<b>Jeri Kuoppamaki</b>	<b>Donna Claypool</b>
<b>Pat Romberg</b>	

To simplify information, trade names have been used. No endorsements of name products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products which are not mentioned.

## Plant of the Month Snowberry

By Donna Claypool, MG

Snowberries seem to be neglected in gardening literature; at least they are neglected in my reference books. So, I will take this article from the *Sunset Western Garden Book* and *Growing California Native Plants* by Marjorie G. Schmidt, 1980.

Snowberries are North American native plants that are useful for erosion control on slopes and as general filler plants. Plants are deciduous shrubs that grow from two to six feet high and as wide. They have small pink or white flowers and berrylike fruit,



© J.S. Peterson

which attract birds. The branches are attractive in winter flower arrangements. It is best with annual pruning to remove dead stems. Propagate it by removing rooted sections.

The genus is *Symphoricarpos* and the family is

Caprifoliaceae. Caprifoliaceae is the honeysuckle family of shrubs and vines. Capri is from the Latin for goat and folium is, of course, leaf or foliage. Symphoniacus is Latin for musical or harmony and carpo is Latin for "to pluck" or gather. Three varieties to consider are:

- *S. albus* (*S. racemosus*) – Common Snowberry

This one can be planted in Sunset Zones A3; 1-11, 14-21. Leaves are up to two inches long and dull green. It has pink flowers and white fruit. It is best in full sun but can take some shade. It is not a great shrub but it is useful because it tolerates poor soil, lower light and neglect. Lewis and Clark described this plant in their journal from their famous overland expedition from 1804 to 1806. Lewis described it as "a kind of honeysuckle which bears a white bury [*sic*]."

(Continued on page 5)

## That's a Good Question!

By Linda Sun, MG

The Master Gardener Hotline supplies information and encouragement to home gardeners, but often the calls are about plant emergencies or troubles of one kind or another. People in these crises still manage to have a sense of humor and an artful way of putting things. For instance, recently John from Hemet called with a question about dodder (*Cuscuta subinclusa*), one of the worst parasites around. It had been growing on his beautiful purple-flowered bush and sending out strings of pale grape-like threads which eat the flowers and leaves.

Dodder, a California native, is an annual parasitic vine that looks like long, skinny spaghetti with little globs of grapes. I sympathized with the poor guy because this poisonous plant also sends out hundreds of seeds every year and the books said that there was no way to get rid of it other than by a flame thrower or by spraying it with acid. We talked about carefully painting the dodder with strong white vinegar, but he really loved the purple bush into which it had intertwined itself and did not want to kill the bush. "I feel" he said, "Like I'm polishing brass on a sinking ship".

Jerry called from Perris about her apricot tree, which was nearing the end of its lifespan (25 to 35 years). It was mostly brown and she thought she might have to cut it down. It had only 5 to 6 fruit last year and very few buds this year. She had cut into the trunk to look for life signs and said that

the branches snap off at the ends and it had "dead ends". I asked her if she had tried bending or snapping off some limbs closer into the trunk, but she had not. "So," I quipped, "it seems that although your HAIR looks great, your apricot has dead ends?" She told me that had made her day.



In June, a fellow from Moreno Valley also asked about saving a plum tree which in this case was occupied by termites. I suggested that the tree needed a professional's help. He replied, "Well, you know how it is, there are termite inspectors and then there are termite inspectors." I asked him how long he had grown the tree. The tree was planted prior to 1978 and still had good fruit. He needed a tree specialist, but wondered if the fruit would be edible after treating the tree (it isn't). I had just been looking through the insect books and was curious to know if the insect tomes might have that answer.

After checking under "termites" and finding entries recommending sprays of DDT, chlordane, etc., I mumbled, "Wow, these are old books", but he replied, "That's OK, I have an old tree." ☞



(Continued from page 4)

A good variety is *S. albus* var. *laevigatus* 'Tilden Park'.

- *S. x chenaultii*

This one can be planted in Sunset Zones 1-11, 14-21. It is a hybrid of *S. orbiculatus*. It has larger leaves, greenish white flowers, and red fruit lightly spotted with white. It can take full sun in cooler climates, but needs partial or full shade in hot areas. 'Hancock' is a foot-high dwarf valued

as a woodland ground or bank cover.

- *S. mollis* – Creeping Snowberry

This one can be planted in Sunset Zones 2-10, 14-24. It is like *S. albus*, but less than one and one-half feet high, with earlier, sparser blooms and smaller fruit. It spreads like a ground cover, with its trailing branches rooting where they touch soil. It takes partial shade and is irresistible to bees. ☞

# Avocados, Wonderful Avocados!

By Jeri Kuoppamaki, MG

*This is Part 1 of a four part series on Avocados*

The California avocado is a Native American plant with an interesting history. The avocado (*Persea americana*) originated in south central Mexico, sometime between 7,000 and 5,000 B.C. However, it was several millennia before this wild variety was cultivated. Archaeologists in Peru have found domesticated avocado seeds buried with Inca mummies dating back



to 750 B.C., and there is evidence that avocados were cultivated in Mexico as early as 500 B.C. The Spanish conquistadors loved the fruit but had difficulty pronouncing its name, “ahuacate”, and changed the Aztec word to the more manageable “aquacate”.


In 1871, Judge R. B. Ord of Santa Barbara successfully introduced avocados to the United States from Mexico. By the early 1900s, growers were seeing the avocado’s commercial potential. In 1914, hotels in Los Angeles and San Francisco were ordering as many of the fruits as they could, and paying as much as \$12.00 for a dozen! But there was a significant marketing problem. The word, ahuacate, was difficult for Americans to pronounce, and even worse, it was the Aztec word for testicle. There was also another unappealing name: “alligator pear”. So the farmers decided to come up with a new name, avocado, and named their own group the California Avocado Association.

The combination of a wonderful and unique fruit with a more appealing name vaulted avocados into becoming a popular commodity. Today, California is the leading producer of domestic avocados, and

home to about 90% of the nation’s crop. About 6,800 growers harvest most California avocados on 60,000 acres between San Luis Obispo and the Mexican border. San Diego County, which produces 60% of all California avocados, is the acknowledged avocado capital of the nation.

Many new selections of avocado were made in the industry’s infancy and over subsequent years. By the 1950’s around 25 different varieties of avocados were being commercially packed and shipped in California, with the Fuerte accounting for more than two-thirds of the production. It was not until large-scale industry expansion occurred in the late 1970s that Hass replaced Fuerte as the leading California variety. Today, there are more than 400 varieties of avocados, but the Hass remains the most popular.

California avocados are grown year-round. A single California avocado tree can produce up to 200 pounds of fresh fruit each year, approximately 500 avocados, although most average fewer. Like most fruit, the avocado ripens after it is picked from the tree. Its flesh is unlike any other fruit; it is not sweet, but rather has a rich, buttery consistency and a nutty, creamy flavor. It is firm enough when ripe to be sliced or diced, yet it is easily mashed into a soft spread, or guacamole blended with salt, lime, garlic, cilantro, tomatoes and chiles, according to individual preference.

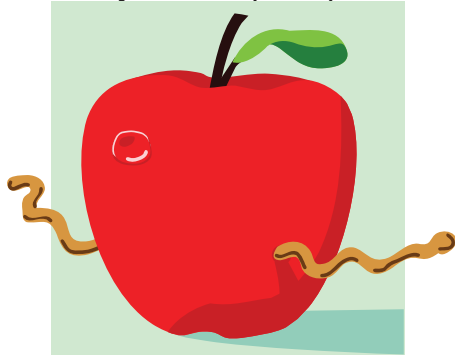
Avocados act as a “covalent bond” with other foods. Because of the creaminess of the fruit, it is able to convert disparate flavors into complementary ones. For example, a salsa of grilled corn kernels, diced red onions and mango contains competitive tastes until avocado is added. The chunks of avocado mediate and mellow the mix into a stable and tasty salsa. In addition, avocados add a rich, almost decadent taste in combination with other foods. For example, adding slices of avocado to an ordinary salad gives it added dimension and flavor. Avocados also make an ideal condiment and flavor conduit for nearly any meal. 

“Two avocado events listed on page 9.”

## DON'T CODDLE THESE MOTHS!

By Cindy McCabe, MG

The classic cartoon depicting a “worm in an apple” is actually the caterpillar phase of the destructive



codling moth which was introduced into this country by European settlers. These pests can be commonly found infest-

ing the fruit of apple, pear, quince, walnut, and plum trees.

Female moths lay scale-like eggs on individual developing fruit or nearby leaves or stems just at dusk each night during blooming season.

Once hatched, the larvae enter into the calyx end or side of the fruit, and then tunnel to the center where they feed and develop. Development takes about three to five weeks. The moth larva is pink or white in color with a brown head and can reach 3/4” long.

Once development is completed, the larvae exit the fruit by climbing down the trunk, or ride a windfall fruit to the ground. The larvae then pupate in a thick silken cocoon on the bark, in leaf clutter or in other protected areas. Infected fruit may drop prematurely, and any sign of brown frass near the calyx end of the developing fruit is a signature of this infestation.

Control of the codling moth is best managed by a combination of strategies, including ground cleanup of fallen fruit & leaves, application of sticky trunk wraps, biological countermeasures, and pheromone traps. Parasitoid wasps are examples of biological controls that kill caterpillars as they hatch.

Pheromone trapping uses chemical lures to attract male moths. These chemical lures are synthetic copies of the chemicals female moths use to attract males for mating. Treatment involves using a sufficient number of pheromone traps to capture all of the male moths before they can mate with females.

Traps should be put out at the pink stage of bud development. Every month, pheromone lures need to be replaced and each mature tree should have about 2 - 5 traps for proper coverage. Codling moths can be distinguished from other insects in these traps by their bronze wing tips. ☪

### Get WIRED with the Master Gardener Website!

The home page of the Riverside County Master Gardeners can be accessed at [ww.groups.ucanr.org/rivermg](http://ww.groups.ucanr.org/rivermg). In order to access the member's only section, you'll need to contact Shelley Wardrop at [master-gardener@earthlink.net](mailto:master-gardener@earthlink.net) to get a password. Then you'll have access to calendar of a calendar of events, meetings, speakers and volunteer opportunities. You can also log your volunteer and education hours on line as well as retrieve *Garden Views* in living color!

### Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next newsletter is October 16. The newsletter is always looking for interesting ideas for stories or information to print. Please contact the editor, Lucy Heyming, at [writeur@juno.com](mailto:writeur@juno.com) or 951.353.0119.



# California Statewide Master Gardeners Conference

October 5-6, 2006    Pre & Post Tours on Oct 4 & 7  
Dolce Hayes Mansion, San Jose, CA

**Conference Theme:** The Master Gardener University:  
"Growing Your Garden of Knowledge"

### Mini Themes:

Sustainable Landscape Practices  
School and Youth Gardens

IPM: Pests, Problems and Solutions  
Innovative Outreach: Examples and Evaluation

**We have a NEW WEBSITE:** <http://camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>  
Click on Statewide MG Conference for full details.



## MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

**Save That Date !**



### CLASSES

All classes are held on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm at the UC Cooperative Extension office at 21150 Box Springs Road, Suite 202, Moreno Valley.

- |                    |          |  |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| <b>October 4,</b>  | Program: | Fall Planting Basics and Gardening Tools         |
|                    | Speaker: | Paul Dennis, Master Nurseyman and Horticulturist |
| <b>October 18,</b> | Program: | Epiphyllum Culture and Propagation               |
|                    | Speaker: | Gerry Mattijetz                                  |

### MEETINGS

**The Advisory Board** meets once per month, on the second Wednesday at 6:30 pm at the UC Cooperative Extension Office, 21150 Box Springs Road, Moreno Valley. The next meeting will be September 13, and everyone is welcome to attend.

**Garden Views Staff Meeting** --The October 2 meeting will be at the home of Jeri Kuoppamaki, 2830 Anna Street, Riverside, 92506 at 1 pm. Contact Jeri for directions at 951.683.8559.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**September 16,** 10 am to 4 pm, Hertiage House Annual Plant Sale, 8193 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside. Master Gardener volunteers needed to staff our information table and to help with the sale. Contact Sherry Collins at 951.275.0190 or Alexis Danieri at 951.735.0890 for information.

**September 18 and 19,** 9 am, Sims Tree Learning Center, 6111 Appaloosa Avenue, Pedley. Master Gardener volunteers are needed to help install an English Formal Garden. Call Nan Simonsen at 951.218.1250 or email [nanatwoodcreek@aol.com](mailto:nanatwoodcreek@aol.com) to sign up or for further informaiton.

**September 25 and October 20**, (Monday to Friday) 8 am to 5 pm, UC Riverside Botanic Gardens, plant sale preparation. For more information on volunteering call Steve Morgan or Katie Shea at 951.784.6962

**October 21**, 9 am to 5 pm, and **October 22**, 9 am to 3 pm, UC Riverside Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale, Master Gardener volunteers are needed to staff our information table.

**Phone Squad:** Monday through Friday from 9 am to 12 noon. We are currently looking someone to fill Fridays. Call Phone Squad Coordinator Barbara Lauck to volunteer, 951-849-6265.

## GARDENING EVENTS and CONTINUING EDUCATION

**September 9**, 9:30 to noon, Adult Education Class at the Simonsen Garden, 3920 Ramona Drive, Riverside, *Basics of Creating a Garden*. Class fee is \$30 for Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens and \$35 for non-members. Call Nan Simonsen at 951.788.5996 or email [nanatwoodcreek@aol.com](mailto:nanatwoodcreek@aol.com) to register or for further information.

**September 9**, 7:30 am, 91st Annual California Avocado Society meeting and lectures at the Pechanga Resort and Casino in Temecula. Authentic pieces of the Mother Haas Tree will be available for sale. \$60.00 fee (extra \$20.00 if registering after September 4). Contact the CAS at [administration@californiaavocadosociety.org](mailto:administration@californiaavocadosociety.org) for more information.

**September 23**, 4 pm, Riverside Master Gardener Kick-off Potluck at Sims Tree Learning Center, 6111 Appaloosa Avenue, Pedley. Bring your favorite dish to share.

**October 6 - 8**, 20th Annual California Avocado Festival, downtown Carpinteria on Linden Avenue, Friday, 4 – 9 pm; Saturday, 10 am – 9 pm; Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm. Free. For more information go to the website: <http://www.avofest.com/index.html>, or call 805.684.0038.

**October 21 and 22**, UCR Botanic Garden Fall Plant Sale. Members only pre-sale on Saturday from 9 am to noon. Public sale Saturday from 12 noon to 5 pm and Sunday from 9 am to 3 pm.

## Backyard Composting Workshops Sponsored by Riverside County Waste Management Department

**September 9**, 10 pm, Norco Public Library, 3954 Old Hamner Road, Norco.

**September 16**, 9 am, City of Palm Springs Council Chambers, 3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs.

**October 7**, 10 am, Temecula Public Library, 41000 County Center Drive, Temecula. Workshops are free. Composting units available to Riverside County residents for \$35. For information, call 951.486.3200.

**4th Monday of each month** – Riverside County Begonia Society meets at 6:45 at the Janet Goeske Center, 5257 Sierra, Riverside. Call Ruth Wilson at 951.681.1115 for upcoming program information.



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