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## Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held on Monday, August 3 – 1:00 p.m. at the UCCE Office.

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held on Tuesday August 4 – 6:00 p.m. at the Tuolumne County Senior Center, 540 Greenley Road. Our continuing education program will be provided by a representative of FoCuS (Foothill Collaborative for Sustainability) discussing methods used by the group to help the public improve personal and community sustainability.



## President’s Message

Once again, I am running short of water. Every year it starts a little sooner. It used to happen in September. Now, since the first of July, I’ve been juggling timers to get by with the water I have.

The articles in the paper about water conservation came at about the same time. Needless to say, I have been mulching my little

heart out! I spent two days doing that and I think it has helped. I made it through a whole day without my well shutting down. Yeah! My plants are gonna have to get tough or they will be going to a new home.

I think the worst part is that my neighbor has drilled a new well at the same depth as mine, 650 feet, and they haven’t started using it yet. I’m keeping my fingers crossed that we aren’t gonna be pumping water from the same fracture source. I’ll keep you posted on that.

So in the mean time, I have all my watering times spaced out so it is less stress on the well. That includes doing laundry, showers, etc. Next idea is to use the gray water from the washer to do some of the watering. I hope the experts know what they are talking about and “El Nino” comes thru for us this winter! That would really help all of us.

## Toots



## Calendar

### AUGUST

- 1-Open Garden Day – 10:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 1-Farms of Tuolumne County Farm & Ranch Tour  
(Various Locations)
- 3-Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 4-Master Gardeners in Schools – 5:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)
- 4-General Meeting – 6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)

- 6-Writers' Meeting – 11:30 a.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 11-Fair Triangle Work Group – 8:00 a.m.  
(Fairgrounds)
- 12-Team Leader Meeting – 9:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 18-Pres's B-Day!
- 19-Hotline Training – 1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 19-Oak Hardwood Advisory Committee – 3:00  
p.m. (Location TBA)
- 26-Advanced IPM Training – 8:30 a.m.  
(U.C. Davis, MGs will carpool)
- 31-Board Meeting – 1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office) Sept. Meeting

## SEPTEMBER

- 1-General Meeting – 6:00 p.m.  
(Cassina Garden – Finger Food Potluck)
- 1-Master Gardeners in Schools – 5:00 p.m.  
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 12-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demonstration Garden)
- 15-Fair Triangle Work Group

## OCTOBER

- 3-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.  
(Cassina Demonstration High)
- 5-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.  
(UCCE Office)
- 6-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.  
(Senior Center)



### Library Update

The MG Library group has recently purchased several new books for the MG Library to fill in gaps and extend resources into new areas. The new books for the MG Library are:

\* Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture

\* Ceanothus

\* Grasses: Versatile Partners for Uncommon Design, and

\* California Plant Families West of the Sierra Crest and Desserts.

In addition to books for the MG Library, two ANR resource books were purchased for use by the newly-formed Master Gardener hotline. Those books are: Pests of Landscape Trees and Shrubs and Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants.

Several books representing some of the best resources for gardening in the foothills are being donated to the Tuolumne County Library to supplement and update their gardening related inventory. Knowing that these books are available for check out at the County Library makes it more feasible for MG Writers and Home Visitors to refer the public to some of our favorite resources. It helps assure that the public has access to the best, most authoritative books available. When we donate books to our County Library, each book has a special Master Gardener bookplate that notes the book has been donated by us and gives our contact info. Since the MG purpose is to provide information to the community, we feel this is a unique way to reach those in search of horticulture knowledge. The books being donated are:

\*Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants: A Diagnostic Guide

\*Cacti, Agave and Yuccas of California and Nevada

\*California Native Plants for the Garden

\*Home Orchard

\*Natural Enemies Handbook

\*Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates of the San Francisco Bay Region

If you're not familiar with any of these books, check them out of the MG Library. You'll find some of the latest ANR publications and other new resources that will help you be a more effective Master Gardener volunteer.

**Marlys Bell**



### **Spread a Little Sunshine**

For those of you who know recently-retired Master Gardener Vianne Meyerhoff, there's great news! Vianne's husband was being treated at Stanford and, due to medical advances, his prognosis is great. He expects to have many more years with us. Heartfelt congratulations to them both!

Dona King is being treated for pneumonia. We wish her a speedy and complete recovery.

Bette Axiak, who was fighting pneumonia last month, is off on a mission trip to Brazil. We wish her well.



### **On the Road with Master Gardeners**

Alright, I'll just say it. I'm an addict. If there were meetings, I'd have to go. Cruisers Anonymous. That's right, cruise ships. I love the look, the smell, the TASTE. It has caused me a physical affliction I will call cruiser's elbow. This terrible malady results in a lack of function in the

joint, thus preventing full range of motion. It prevents the ability to push away from the dining room table, the side effect of course, being ever increasing thighs. Tragic. The problem? (aside from the obvious), our little princess, Hailey the Frisbee wonder dog, FAILS to eat while at doggie camp. No more cruises.

Alas...but, we have found a solution acceptable to all. The Florida Keys! We take her majesty in our fifth wheel RV. I have dubbed her Hailey the trailer sailor. She likes it. The waters are warm and that beautiful teal color. They lap up to shore gently, like a lakeshore campground, as the Atlantic floor shelves out gently (I've thought about walking over to Cuba, but I suspect at some point swimming might be involved).

There are four Florida State Parks in the Keys where camping is allowed. We've stayed at three so far and they are apples and oranges. Our far and away favorite is Long Key State Park. It has 60 sites, each one on the water. I don't mean, "Skippy, hand me the telescope, I can almost see the water," I mean, "turn the shrimp on the barbie, wriggle your toes in the sand and stick your foot in the Atlantic." Refill that frosty drink...heaven. Swim or snorkel right from your campsite (with hook-ups, by the way).

There is a small, secret gate to the rear of the park. Those of us, who know about it, tell the others and a magical event occurs each evening. We exit the gate and cross the one highway that connects the Keys...Highway One...go figure, all two lanes of it. On the other side is the Gulf Of Mexico. You can almost spit from sea to shining sea. So close together. The sunsets there are the thing that legends are made of. Stunning. Drivers pull over to watch the magic. Those driving by honk and wave. We meet good friends there we haven't met yet. It's an unobstructed, breathtaking view of this neon orb sinking into the Gulf. A religious experience for some.

During the day, a fun trip is a drive to Key West, the French Quarter on steroids. On my drive down Hwy 1, I think of Marian Chambers. If you recall, she gave us info on Japanese Dodder. It is a non-native invasive plant that is really hideous to

look at. It looks like burnt orange silly string covering the vegetation. In other areas of Florida, you can see the attempts at eradication, but in the Keys, I think they just cried uncle and gave up. Sad. Anyway, I collected some and am going to decorate Marian's pine trees for Christmas since it kind of looks like garland (ssssssh!.....it's a surprise!). She said she's going to retire in December and I know how active she is. I don't want her to get bored.

Since we're on the topic, I'll let you in on another secret. I'm Fed-Ex-ing her a case of Brazilian Pepper Trees. They're another non-native invasive in Florida and I know she's tired of looking at Tree of Heaven. Sharpen the ol' axe, Marian!

Now, just before you get to the main part of the island, there is a botanical garden called the Key West Botanical Society (had to get something in here to make Mz. Becks smile). It's a beautiful garden, with knowledgeable staff, that hosts school and group trips. It has a large tree at the entrance where they ENCOURAGE you to write on it. It reminded me of a great Magnolia, but with large, round, leathery leaves. They want you to write on the leaves as it was used in the old days as a kind of note pad. Bizarre. It's worth a look.

Continuing on, you get to Key West. It brags the southernmost point in the U.S. and home to Hemmingway. Take a tram tour and get an open air trip around the island complete with its history. Fun. There are lots of bars and tee-shirt shops and a kicked back lifestyle. In fact, that's how it is in all of the Keys...excuse me...the "Conch Republic" as they call themselves. If you're born there, you're a "saltwater conch".....moved there, but put in your residency, a "freshwater conch" and anyone else, you're a foreigner. If you hit Key West at the right time of year, you can attend the Fantasy Fest. It's a celebration complete with a parade and—"I warn ye, matey"—it's not for the faint of heart. The dress is ...well....paint. (YIKES). And no, I haven't been.

Key West is also a port for....sniff....cruise ships. I gazed lovingly from a distance and have to

admit, sometimes at night I long to see my towels twisted into exotic animals donning my sunglasses, a mint on my pillow, the smell of the midnight buffet.....o.k.....I'm still working on my addiction.....a Kleenex anyone???????

**Brenda**

## **Coordinators Corner: Endorsing Products**

Recently the Master Gardener office received an unsolicited package containing "plant booster" tablets with enclosed pamphlets describing the product in glowing terms. We've also recently received locally-developed products that we were encouraged to test.

From time to time we're given the opportunity to try new products, so please remember that, as Master Gardeners, we have agreed to disseminate research-based information to the public. Words like "natural," "organic," "certified," and "nutrient" can be interpreted in many different ways.

So, if you're encouraged to test a product, feel free to use it personally in your own garden, if you're so inclined. However, the demonstration garden is not designed as a scientific test plot, so we won't use untested products there. We also should be careful not to give the appearance of promoting untested products in our contacts with the public—whether being filmed, interviewed, giving a presentation to a group or hosting a demonstration at the garden. Promoting a specific product is beyond the scope of our activities as Master Gardeners.

**Becky**

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**September's  
Newsletter  
Editor:**

**Stella Sauls**

**Deadline for  
submissions:  
Aug. 15**

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