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Newsletter

2 S. Green St.
52 N. Washington St. Sonora,
CA 95370

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Announcements

Master Gardener Board Meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 2, 1:00 p.m. at the UCCE Office, 52 North Washington Street, Sonora.

Master Gardener School Gardeners Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 5:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - 540 Greenley Rd, Sonora.

Master Gardener General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center - 540 Greenley Rd.

November Program, Sean Kriletich, the Amador County Master Gardener Coordinator will be speaking on the Philosophy and Practice of Permaculture.

Gardening Books Needed for December Book Sale. Bring your used Gardening Books to the November Meeting.

Free Drip Irrigation Tubing; 500 feet of ¼” drip irrigation with emitters every 18”. Pick up in Strawberry. If interested, contact Becky in the Master Gardener office at 533-5696 for details.

President’s Message

Wow! What a great start to our rainy season. It's been a long time since the wind blew that hard during a storm. My neighbor has lived here for thirty years and he can't remember it ever blowing like that!

I think I'm glad it doesn't always do that; it took me two days to clean up the mess. The oak trees really shouldn't have anything left in them because it sure looked like most of the leaves were on the ground.

I ended up getting 3.4 inches of rain from the storm and now just a few days later I see this bright green carpet covering the ground. Yeah! My goats are so happy. The ground was pretty thirsty though, I didn't see much water running. Maybe next time!

Yesterday, Deb and I, her husband Chuck, and a couple of their friends went up the hill for a hike.



It was beautiful! We hiked in to Sword Lake, off of Clarks Fork Road, and then on to Lost Lake. We were so close we went a little farther and hiked up to where we were overlooking Spicer Reservoir. You really can see forever up there. We are so lucky to live so close to such beauty.

The day was perfect. Light breeze, so the aspens were fluttering in the wind, the air was clean after the rain, and the sky was a gorgeous blue. We ate our lunch sitting on a huge slab of granite staring at the lake. How can it get any better than that! It was a Great day. The only bad thing, it sure seemed like it was uphill both ways.

Toots

Calendar



NOVEMBER

- 2-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 3-School Gardeners Mtg.-5:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 3-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 7-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demo Garden)
- 11-Veterans' Day- UCCE Office closed
- 13-Workshop: Balancing Wildlife, Forests &
Wildfire-8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. (Striker Court
Ambulance Ctr.)
- 18-Team Leader Meeting-9:00 a.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 30-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 30-Workshop: Managing Your Forest Property-
11 a.m.-2:00 p.m. (Mi-Wuk Ranger District)

DECEMBER

- 1-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center) – Potluck Dinner
- 5-Open Garden Day-10:00 a.m.
(Cassina Demo Garden)

JANUARY

- 4-Board Meeting-1:00 p.m.
(UCCE Office)
- 5-School Gardeners Mtg.-5:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)
- 5-General Meeting-6:00 p.m.
(Senior Center)

Demonstration Garden Update

Well, Jack and Gary did it again! They held an audience of over 30 people spellbound with their winter vegetable talk and planting demonstration on October 3rd. Folks listened and laughed, then watched in the raised bed area as they each shared techniques for starting winter veggies. These two Master Gardeners really know how to please a crowd!

Toots gathered people to the table to discuss and demonstrate dividing iris and other perennials. Gardeners really appreciated the opportunity to practice “hands-on.”

Carolee demonstrated making fall garden décor, starting with three little girls who had come to the garden for this demo. The girls did such a good job making wreaths that, after seeing their results, several ladies stopped by to make swags and wreaths of their own. Thanks to Al, Jack, Toots and Fran for corn stalks, grape vines, dried yarrow and gourds, along with grass stalks and decorative weeds.

It appeared that everyone went home very satisfied with their morning in our garden.

On November 7th, we will be planting natives, transplanting the Matilija Poppy, demonstrating how to establish a rock garden and discussing fire safe hardscapes and materials for walkways. Sure would be nice to see more Master Gardeners attending these great Saturday mornings. You can sign up to volunteer in the calendar section of the on-line VMS system at <https://ucanr.org/mg/users/index.cfm>

The Garden Reporter

Library News

TOP TEN REASONS TO READ California Plant Families by Glenn Keator

10. It is an expensive book (\$27.50). Feel thrifty by checking it out of your Master Gardener library. (But you will probably want to buy it).
9. All of us (except one or two—you know who you are) need to improve our plant identification skills, especially for our native and naturalized species.
8. Learning to identify plants by family will make you the most sought after Master Gardener on the Garden Tour plant ID day.
7. Plant family names look hard to pronounce but are actually quite easy. You just put the “ay-see-ay” at the end. So ACERACEAE is simply pronounced “ay-ser-ay-see-ay”. Makes you feel like a better gardener already, doesn’t it?
6. Did you know that the combination of square stems, opposite leaves, and strong fragrance is usually a tip off for a member of the family LAMIACEAE? Salvias, agastache, monardella, as well as many culinary herbs like rosemary, thyme, lavender, basil and mint are members of this family. (Note: they are all that easy).
5. The book has a simplified identification key designed to work, as the author says, “most of the time.” If you can’t remember much from your training about keying, at least give this one a try. The more you practice, the better you will get and there are fewer extremely technical traps to make you fail. The book’s Glossary will help you interpret the vocabulary of plant anatomy.
4. You will REALLY make an impression on the next home visit when you tell the homeowners that they have a lovely assortment of plants from the family ASTERACEAE.

3. The author Glenn Keator is a rock star in the California native plant world and every Master Gardener should read any book he writes.
2. Learning about 50 plant families which make up 85% of California’s flora is much less intimidating than remembering 5,800 species that can be found in our state.
1. The author does a great job of giving examples of non-natives in a particular family which is why learning plant families is so important. You will learn native and non-native plants simultaneously by looking for the important clues of identification.

Library Committee



Meet a Master Gardener

Patti Hohne (pronounced H-ah-n) became a Master Gardener in 2007 and is very involved in our organization. She admires the expertise of our superstar members and figures if they are such great role models she’d better live up to their standards!

Patti has raised three sons who are off to college; one is applying to Law School. Her daughter is a freshman at Sonora High School.

Patti was born in Stockton & moved to Twain Harte when she was four years old. She attended Summerville High School where she played tennis for four years and then left home for Fresno State where she studied accounting and met her husband.

They both worked for CPA firms in Fresno and then decided to hang out their own shingle in Twain Harte in 1984. Her husband now works for Front Porch while Patti remains in the accounting field.

The Hohne home burned to the ground in 2000. Every once in awhile she thinks about something she wishes she still had, but mostly

realizes the important things weren't lost as her family was untouched.

Patti has branched out from Master Gardeners to join the Native Plant Society and enjoys bird watching with her husband. They recently returned from a trip to the Bishop area to find new birds to watch. Both Patti and her husband swim with the Tuolumne County Aquatic Masters program (preferring to join groups that start with "master"!).

Patti is grateful that the 2007 MG training was held in the evening; otherwise she would not have been able to take the classes. She basically "ate everything up" in each session as it all fascinated her.

These days Patti is enjoying her smaller yard, having recently moved into the downtown area from Twain Harte. Patti is trying to landscape her new place with as many native plants as she can. She removes vinca "in a major way" and feels like she is winning the battle there.

She recently, and proudly, hung up her National Wildlife Federation Designation. She feels like she has created a finch haven in their yard and loves watching them. They particularly like to congregate on a birdbath she made from a terra cotta pot and saucer. Water drops from a drip line emitter and calls the birds every day.

Patti has been hard at work on our MG Library Committee with reorganization and book purchasing—always recommending good books she has spotted—and is very generous with her own books donated to our MG Library.

Patti has also joined the Native Plant team at the demonstration garden. You will also find Patti willingly volunteering on the new MG hotline.

Busy people amaze me with how they find time to be involved. Patti finds the MG program to be very rewarding; the community service she gives comes with a large share of fun.

Julie Segerstrom



Spread a Little Sunshine

Our condolences to Sharon Dunbar with the passing of her father-in-law.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to David Iserman, new Master Gardener graduate, after recent surgery.

Master Gardener Hotline

The new Master Gardener Hotline is a success!!!! To reach it, **phone 533.5912** or **email mgtuolumne@ucdavis.edu**. It's fun—and interesting! To volunteer, go to the calendar section of the VMS website **<https://ucanr.org/mg/users/index.cfm>**

Hotline Master Gardeners, if you are unable to volunteer during your scheduled time, please call a substitute to take your place. The Hotline is such a success that it makes it too hard for the person following you to catch up. Hotline volunteers and their contact information can be found on the VMS website, listed above.

**Next Month's
Newsletter
Editor
Kris Grayum**

**Submissions Due
November 15th**

Balancing Wildlife Needs, Forest Health and Fire Hazard Reduction in Mixed Conifer Forests

November 12th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

12200-B Airport Road, Jackson

November 13th, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

18440 Striker Court (off of Tuolumne Road), Sonora

Two workshops are being offered, each will cover the same material.

Workshop Objectives:

- ◇ Learn to acknowledge potential impacts on wildlife and their habitats
- ◇ Provide basic information on wildlife habitat requirements
- ◇ How to maintain habitat values while improving forest health and reducing fire hazard
- ◇ Design and implement practices that balance wildlife needs, forest health and fire hazard reduction



Sponsors:

UC Cooperative Extension and
UC Berkeley's Center for Forestry
CALFIRE Forest Stewardship Program
California Department of Fish and Game
and US Fish and Wildlife Service

Topics and Agenda

8:00	Registration and Introduction
8:30	Wildlife Management General Principles
9:15	Wildlife Habitat - Emphasis on Mixed Conifer
10:00	Break
10:15	Plant Identification and Sensitive Plants
11:00	Vegetation Management Prescriptions
11:45	Questions and Discussion with Presenters
1:00	Adjourn

For registration information,
contact: UCCE Tuolumne County
at (209) 533-5695

Registration Form

Balancing Wildlife Needs Workshops

The \$10 registration fee includes materials and refreshments. Register deadline is November 9th, 2009.

Register and pay online at: <http://cetuolumne.ucdavis.edu>

Workshop ___ November 12, Jackson ___ November 13, Sonora

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____

Daytime Phone _____

Make checks payable to UC Regents & return to:

UCCE Tuolumne County
Attention: Robin Blood
2 S. Green St.
Sonora, CA 95370