



# Master Gardeners of Tuolumne County UC Cooperative Extension Newsletter



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Washington Sonora

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## Announcements

The next *Master Gardener Board Meeting* will be held on Monday, Jan 3 at 1 p.m. at the UCCE office.

The next *Master Gardener General Meeting* will be a held on Tuesday, Jan 4 at 2:00 P.M at the Veteran’s Hall.

## President’s Message

The beginning of a New Year. And how exciting this 2005 appears to be shaping up. With so many activities to choose from, I don’t know how you all will decide to spend your time....maybe an hour or two on every one of them!!

We start off in January and February with rose and fruit tree pruning clinics in our demonstration garden....just working on cleaning up the garden is exciting!

Then in March we have the Home and Garden Show...two days of demonstrations and getting our message out to so many neighbors.

April will not only bring showers, we hope, but the Downtown Spring Fling where we can offer our homegrown plants for sale.

Then in May we have the Agstravaganza and our wonderful Garden Tour with some really beautiful gardens, including Master Gardener Deana Corsa’s garden.

And then there will be water conservation workshops, compost clinics, elementary school projects, working at the fair triangle, Veterans garden, library and insect committees, and the Farmers Market to offer your help.

Wherever you choose to spend your volunteer hours, just know that every minute is appreciated not only by Becky and the Board, but by the community as well.

Welcome to 2005!

*Carolee*

## Date Change for Home and Garden Show

It appears that the date for the Home and Garden Show that has been published in the calendar handouts is incorrect. After checking with the Fairgrounds it was learned that the correct dates are March 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendars, as many hands are needed for this two-day event

## Free Offer

Ulysses Verceles announced at the last meeting that he would be happy to fix any broken or loose tool handles that any Master Gardener might have. So check your shovels, hoes, and rakes—both big and small—and if you have any in need of repair, give Ulysses a call. Thank you, Ulysses for offering such a nice service.

## Cassina Garden Work Schedule

Work has begun on the Cassina Garden and it is beginning to take shape. At the last workday, compost bins were installed, berry bushes cut back, and a lot of old growth weeds and plants were pulled up. There is still much that needs to be done before we hold any public clinics there, so we hope to have a good turn out of Master Gardeners at next month's workdays. The schedule for January and February are as follows:

### January:

**Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

### February:

**Wednesday the 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.**

**Saturday – TBA**

Please mark your calendars to work one or more of these days. We hope to schedule the fruit tree pruning clinic and a rose pruning clinic sometime in February and would like the public to see the changes in the garden. We also hope to get the greenhouse installed within the next few months, so getting the pad ready is going to be a big job. We look forward to seeing every Master Gardener putting some work time into this garden.

## Sonora Bypass Plantings

*By Vera Strader*

Do you wonder about the jillions of plants that have appeared along the new Sonora Bypass? Caltrans has placed over 10,000 plants along this route according to Jim von Dohlen, the specifying Landscape Architect for the project. Mr. Von Dohlen graciously provided details as follows

Caltrans must secure environmental permits from the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Corps of Engineers to ensure addressing a project's environmental impacts. Depending on historical rates of survival, these permitting agencies require the replacement of existing flora in ratios of three to five to one replacement plants for each removed plant.

Native plants are of greater concern than ornamental, though they must all be accounted for. Replacement of rare, threatened, and endangered plants and those species that are host to endangered and protected insects and animals must also be factored in. Other considerations include availability of replacement plants and timelines for project implementation.

Plants for the Bypass project were purchased from Cornflower Farms of Elk Grove and are irrigated with a temporary watering system. Watering will be reduced annually during a three-year period to allow plants to adapt to "independent living." Those not surviving during this period are to be replaced by the project's landscaping contractor who also maintains, weeds, prunes, and fertilizes as needed.

The California natives included are:

### Common Name/Botanical Name

California Buckeye

*Aesculus californica*

White Alder

*Alnus rhombifolia*

Blue Oak

*Quercus douglasii*

Black Oak *Quercus kelloggii*

Valley Oak

*Quercus lobata*

Interior Live Oak

*Quercus wislizenii*

- Incense Cedar  
*Calocedrus decurrens*
- Toyon  
*Heteromeles arbutifolia*
- Elderberry  
*Sambucus spp.*
- Weeping Willow  
*Salix babylonica*
- Ponderosa Pine  
*Pinus ponderosa*
- Coulter Pine  
*Pinus coulteri*
- Foothill Pine  
*Pinus sabiniana*

Mr. von Dohlen notes that his “Readers Digest summary,” which I have even further condensed, is but the tip of the details iceberg involved in the Bypass landscaping approval, construction, planting, and maintenance process. Ultimately, however, it is Mother Nature who will dictate the long-term survivability of these fledgling plants.

## Becky’s Report

**Grant Opportunity** – Master Gardeners have applied for a Sierra Nevada Alliance grant for protecting watersheds and creeks. If funded, this project, in collaboration with TUD, the Phoenix Basin Watershed Group, and Jamestown Elementary School After-school Program would pay for an additional booth at the Home and Garden Show. Volunteers from the TUD Board of Directors and the Phoenix Basin Watershed Group have already agreed to staff it. The Master Gardener message will be that activities in your own backyard—fertilizers, pesticides, erosion, etc.—affect the quality of water that you drink. I’ll keep you posted on the status of this project.

**Gardening Workshop**— Carolee already mentioned water conservation workshops, but the plan has changed. Instead of two water conservation workshops in the spring, we will host a one-day workshop about “Managing Your Foothill Garden,” to be held on a Friday in April. We will be inviting home gardeners, professional landscapers and foresters, pest control businesses, and local developers. The workshop will offer hands-on demonstrations, speakers, vendors, and presentations about water conservation, pest control, appropriate plantings, etc. If you want to see a similar idea already in place, look at Sacramento County’s workshop at <http://www.ecolandscaping.org/>

**OSH Bare Root Clinic**—In need of hours? Orchard Supply is holding a bare root clinic on Saturday, January 22. Sue LaFollette has lots of things that Master Gardeners can do to help. If you’d like to help out and earn some hours, contact Sue at OSH at 533-3060 or at home at 785-7788.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL OF US IN  
THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY U.C.  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION OFFICE!**

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