



GARDEN VIEWS

A Master Gardener Newsletter



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April 2004

Are Your Garden Photos What You Want Them To Be?

By Mike Urquhart, MG

If not, here are some of my photography basics that might help with your garden photo needs. They say that with just a click you can save that garden bloom forever. However, many snapshots I see are not like those I see in the books.

There it is. You find that perfect bloom in your garden, you run in and get your camera, run out, and take a picture. After printing and seeing the picture, it does not look like the perfect specimen you remember.

Sometimes a series of annual ho-hum photos will fail to convey the contrasts in your garden from year to year, and they don't help motivate you and your friends to get planting.

The first two ingredients for taking your ideal shots are a camera and film. The other important element is light. Without it, there will be no photo, and remember there is bad, good, better, and best light for a good photograph.

Light will give the subject shape, color, depth, and help with focus. There is a different natural light during the changing times of the day, and your subject will change with the way the light hits it and the intensity of the light.

So here is a basic rule—Shoot your photos in the early morning or the late afternoon. These times provide “warmer light” and enrich the colors. The mid-day light is too direct and harsh and can wash out the photo. You have a great bloom. You've chosen great light, and now to present that bloom that says “WOW”, you'll need the right composition to give your bloom the uniqueness you want.

Composition Basics

Thirds—When looking through the viewfinder divide the area into thirds (or even sixths). Shift the subject right/left/top/bottom. Centering will make the photo static, but being off center will create tension, motion, and will draw the eye.

Eye-to Eye—If you are photographing a single bloom, seedpod, or other close up, do not stand over it, get down and dirty. Get down to be level with it or just under—up tight and close. Be intimate with that blooming flower.

Clutter—Look at what else is in the composition. What is behind and around your subject? Will it distract, will it compete with your subject? If so, eliminate it. No, not with the pruners. Try changing your position or adjusting the focus, or blur it, if your camera has the settings. If this does not work, now use your clippers.

Color is creative—Subjects with contrasting colors and striking differences will draw your eye to the photo. Light and dark contrasts also add interest as long as the colors are not bleached out, and the darks do not become opaque black.



(Photos continued on page 2)

In This Issue

Page

<i>Garden Photos</i>	1
<i>Plant of the Month - Oregon Grape</i>	3
<i>On a Personal Note</i>	3
<i>Hort Shorts</i>	4
<i>New Projects Opportunities</i>	5
<i>Learning to be Firewise</i>	5
<i>The French Revolution of Roses</i>	6
<i>Upcoming Speakers</i>	7
<i>Calendar</i>	8,9

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(Photos continued from page 1)

What About the Cameras and Equipment?

There are point-and-shoot cameras, single lens reflex (SLR) cameras at various levels, and digital cameras are increasing in popularity. Point-and-shoot cameras are small, light, and convenient. But, with the right combination, they can take a good photograph. Their viewfinders do not show what the lens sees, and it can be difficult to compose a picture. They often cannot focus closer than 4 feet, so getting intimate with the subject is not possible. Always know your camera's minimum focal distance.

SLR cameras are the photographer's choice. You actually look through the lens to see what the picture will look like. Exposure can be fine-tuned to blur a background, focus to infinity, stop motion, or blur motion by adjusting the aperture setting and shutter speed. Also, you can change lenses, for perspective, distance (close or far), wide or narrow; and special lenses such as fish-eye, telephoto, macro, wide-angle, or a combination lens are available.

~~SLR and point-and shoot cameras~~ need film. Digital cameras do not. Nevertheless, 35mm film is still the most popular choice of most photographers for the best photos. The resolution of film is still many times greater than digital at this time.

Film speed is determined by its sensitivity to light. The faster the film (the higher number from 200 to 1600), the less light required for a proper exposure. A downside to fast films is that they often sacrifice sharpness and color brilliance. Slower films are often preferred for the improved quality of the photos, but the exposure time is generally longer so you might want to use a tripod with slower film.

Start practicing with these basics and your garden photographs will begin to look fresh and as great as your garden really looks. Even the best photographers take extra shots and select the best of the bunch.

Digital Photos

Although they are smaller, lighter, and simpler to use than a film camera, digital cameras will not improve your photos if you do not follow the basics of good photography. Time and weather are still important for the right contrast and color. Keep away from the midday high-contrast and washed out colors of direct sun. A foggy day can be great for garden photo shooting.

Always practice the basics of good composition and take advantage of a great digital feature—the almost countless number of exposures you can take. Film is costly to buy and develop and therefore restrictive in your quest to get that great picture. With a digital camera, you can explore, take risks, and delete what you don't like. Experiment and get results you never expected. Take many photos and select the best. Practice and develop your eye for design, composition, and site selection.

Select the digital camera with the features you want for the type of photos you want to reproduce. There are many new features coming available for SLR cameras. If possible, get a macro, telephoto, and wide-angle lens. You might want a tripod and a remote cable to click the shutter. With a remote cable, I once caught a hummingbird hovering above a zinnia from below. I don't think it would have happened without the cable to push the button.

Most of all enjoy and have fun. 📷



Celebrate Gardening

Gardening has so many benefits, it's no wonder it is one of the top leisure pastimes. To help promote gardening, the National Gardening Association has designated April as National Garden Month for 2004. To learn more about how you can celebrate and promote the joys of gardening, go to www.nationalgardening.org.



The first veteran's class that ran concurrently with a training class, brought out many familiar faces.

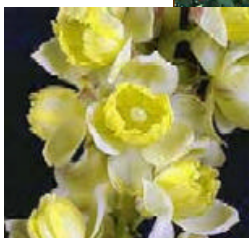
Plant of the Month—Oregon Grape

By Alison Shilling, MG

The scientific name of this useful shrub is *Mahonia aquifolium*, also called *Berberis aquifolium*, from the family *Berberidaceae* to which it belongs. It is native to northern California as well as, obviously, to Oregon, the state's flower.

It is erect, 4 ft. to 6 ft. in height, with beautiful, glossy somewhat spiny leaves. It spreads by underground stems but for me it is not aggressive—mine has only doubled in width in about five years. In spring it has bright yellow flowers in clusters, replaced by edible purple, grey-bloomed berries, which are a bird magnet. Because it is a native of cooler climates, it flourishes in the shade—its flowers are right now lighting up the deep shade beneath one of my juniper trees. However, it will also take the sun, and while the specimens I have seen in full Inland sun (for example, at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens) seem less lush than mine, they have more of the very attractive reddish leaves, that appear both on young growth and in the fall.

Though naturally open, it takes radical pruning for size and shape. If tall stems are cut to the ground new growth will come back quickly. It would make an attractive barrier, or enhance a woodland effect. The variety I have, 'Golden Abundance' really lives up to its name. There is also a shorter variety 'Compacta' which reaches about 2 ft.



On A Personal Note

By Cindy McCabe, MG

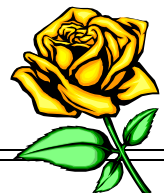
The limited availability of the small handful of Portland roses has not been a problem, thanks to the Internet. The stature of the Portlands is often described as short and wide, but I've found that this rule varies. 'Duchess of Portland' and 'Jacques Cartier' both remain low and are not reliable repeat-bloomers in my garden.

My favorite Portland is 'Comte de Chambord', introduced in 1860. The Comte is upright in its habit—so much so that I have trained the canes to an approximate height of 9 ft. This rose needs no pruning—only judicious shaping and dead-heading. Unfortunately, Portland stems are short and normally not suitable for a vase display. I situated 'Comte de Chambord' near my front entrance where visitors can admire the strong damask perfume and cupped pink blooms, which repeat throughout the summer.

I have enjoyed growing members of the Hybrid Perpetual rose class for more than a decade. Our Southern California climate is perfect for extending their blooming period. Most members of this class are white, pink, or purple and can suffer somewhat from thrips damage. If the weather in early spring is cloudy and damp, mildew may also present a problem, albeit only a cosmetic one.

'Paul Neyron' is one representative of the Hybrid Perpetuals that I cannot recommend. It's true 'Paul Neyron' has enormous perfumed flowers; but it tends to mildew, does not repeat as profusely as his peers, and his canes grow stiffly upright and are too short to be easily trained. My pick of the Hybrid Perpetual litter is 'Baronne Prevost', one of the earliest members of that class. I have trained the Baronne in innumerable shapes over the years. Her canes range from 8 to 12 ft. in length, and are flexible enough for self-pegging. The Baronne's spring flush is the best, but she produces a number of comely pink blossoms throughout the year.

'Baronne Prevost' is also very disease-resistant, widely available, and is a vigorous shrub. The Baronne was introduced in 1842 by the French hybridizer Desprez. He named this cultivar for a friend's sister, who was renowned as a Dahlia breeder. In general, the Hybrid Perpetuals are one of the largest groups of old roses in commerce today. This class is easy to collect, as both a learning tool and a shameless foray into rose nostalgia.



MOVING?

Please let us know when you change your address or phone number. Contact **Buck Hemenway**, Membership Coordinator, at a meeting or call him at (909) 360-8802. He will make sure the information gets changed on the membership roster so you will not miss out on newsletters and phone calls. Thanks!

**UCCE Riverside County MASTER GARDENERS
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July 2003 - June 2004**

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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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Sounding Off...



We like to get mail, and it doesn't matter if it's email or USPS mail. Let us know what's on your mind. If one of our stories prompts you to share something please do. If you'd like other MGs opinions, just ask. We'd like to make this section of the newsletter your place to sound off with whatever's on your mind. Write or email to Nancy Sappington, 66780 Yucca Drive, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240 nsappington@esri.com.

Hort Shorts

Compiled by **Nancy Sappington, MG**

The January–March 2004 edition of California Agriculture reports a major lecture series at UC Davis, “The Science of Sustainable Agriculture - Measuring the Immeasurable,” which included 17 internationally recognized experts on sustainability in relation to agriculture, the environment, and society, is available online.

Sustainable agriculture has stimulated public debate about where food comes from and the interplay of food production, food security, and the protection of human and natural resources.

The series began last April and continued every Friday afternoon through the fall. Speakers included experts in nutrition, biodiversity, climate change, and organic farming from around the nation and world. For more information, go to: www.sarep.ucdavis.edu/seminar/.

Cacti With Edible Fruit

The February 2004 edition of *HortIdeas* carries a discussion on fruiting cacti. Cacti offer a lot of advantages as fruit-bearing plants, including their minimal water needs, pest and disease resistance, and their usefulness as ornamental landscape plants. One of the drawbacks of some cacti is that they won't bloom until they've reached a considerable age and size.

The *Stenocereus* genus of Mexico, which consists of columnar cacti, will begin blooming at an early stage. Several *Stenocereus* species, if planted together can provide a near continuous supply of fruit from May through October. The *Opuntia* cacti have already undergone significant selection to for seed reduction and superior fruit. Another Mexican cactus, *Myrtillocactus geometrizans*, flowers and fruits at an early stage and is cold hardy to the mid-20s.

New Projects Offer MGs New Volunteer Opportunities

By Nancy Sappington, MG

Just like the spring wildflowers, new MG volunteer opportunities are popping up everywhere. Since last fall, the New Projects committee has worked slowly, but steadily to implement some new projects for the Riverside County Master Gardeners.

Veteran's Classes

In February, we offered the first veteran's class that ran concurrently with the regularly scheduled training class. The fact that it was so well attended and by many MGs whom we haven't seen in awhile, tells us we're on the right track. We hope to offer a veteran's class each month. Is there a topic you'd like to learn more about? Do you know a horticultural expert who would come share his knowledge with us? As always, we need your feedback. Contact Yvonne Hemenway with your ideas.

A Riverside MG Calendar

After several months of careful research, MG Mike Urquhart calendar committee is moving forward with a good plan. The target year to release the calendar is 2006. Mike needs lots of help, and he is actively seeking volunteers for five subcommittees—photo, editorial, events, marketing/sales/accounting, and production. If you are looking for a volunteer opportunity with flexible hours, varied tasks, and a chance to network with other MGs, here's your chance. Please contact Mike.


Workshop Development

Part of our mission on the New Projects committee is to develop new projects that will help spread the word about the joys of gardening and provide the skills to do so. Several members of the committee recently attended a workshop devoted to the care and planting of trees. We'd like to build on that information and develop a workshop that we can hold for the public at various locations around the county. If you are a good planner and organizer, please consider helping us. There's a tremendous amount of preliminary administrative work that has to be done before one can successfully launch a one or two hour workshop. Buck Hemenway has agreed to work with several MGs to develop an outline of action. Please contact him.

Staying in Touch Electronically

We have persistently bugged you for your email addresses, and last month we sent out our first email alert. Sending emails is an inexpensive and fast way to get in touch with you to let you know about volunteer opportunities or class changes. We promise we won't spam you. If you aren't participating, please consider doing so. Would you rather receive Garden Views electronically, and view our photos in living color? Let us know. We'll add you to the list. Please contact Buck Hemenway.

Along with gathering our email list, we have been working on developing a Web presence. Thanks to Shelley Wardrop, we will soon be posting Garden Views and MG calendar items online. This is a great opportunity for us to spread the information in Garden Views to not only MGs but also the public. When the launch is complete, we'll be publicizing the Web address. If you are Web savvy and need a few more volunteer hours, please contact Shelley.

We hope you're pleased with our progress, but either way, please let us know! 

Learning to Be Firewise

By Alison Shilling, MG

On March 1, I attended a workshop on the management of the wildland-urban interface to reduce fire danger. There seemed to be about 80 attendees, mainly agency and utility officials with a few MGs from other areas.

One lecture stood out as being on a well-defined topic different from the others: Laura Merrill gave a detailed analysis, backed up by a data sheet and references, on the different types of bark beetle, the various ways and extent to which they damage conifers, and the species attacked. It is obvious that to analyze thoroughly the likelihood of a particular conifer dying, one needs to know the type of beetle that would attack that species, the specific signs of that insect's presence, and the extent of the damage. However, certain generalizations are helpful: 1) the application of the appropriate pesticide is only useful *prior* to beetle attack; 2) if the crown of the tree is not normal green, or if 'frass' (the dust from borers) is found around more than a third of the base of the tree, the tree is doomed; 3) white fir, incense cedar, four-

(Firewise continued on page 6)


(**Firewise** continued from page 5)

leaved pinyon, and hardwoods are not killed by beetles.

The other lectures had overlapping content, (Although I did not mind having much of the material repeated, it became somewhat confusing. Since the only handouts were lists of references, I also found myself scabbling to write down some very interesting material on the screen, and missing the thread of the talk.) Tom Scott of UCR gave a very coherent explanation of why we are in such danger of fire, apart from the obvious dry climate (in the fires last year, humidity was too low to measure). There are 1,200 miles of interface where housing is up against wildland in Southern California. In more humid climates the dead biomass rots; here it remains on the surface and has to burn.

The scrublands are adapted to a seven- to 10-year fire cycle and usually grow on gentle slopes. Chaparral may not burn for forty years, but grows on steeper slopes that facilitate the faster spread of fire. In natural conditions (such as northern Mexico where there is little fire control) forest stands are open. The underbrush burns perhaps every 10 years, the crowns perhaps every 50. Here we have altered these regimes in two ways. First, we have introduced alien grasses and weeds such as mustard, so that there is more dead material on the ground, increasing the ease with which fire spreads. Second, we have suppressed fire in the forest so that the trees are growing unnaturally close together. This provides more 'fuel ladders' from ground to crown, and weakens the trees through competition for water.

Scott and other lecturers gave important details on types of construction ranked for fire safety, also on the effectiveness of forest thinning versus the costs of different methods of doing it. They were unanimous in saying that most reseeded is not only ineffective, but in many cases promotes fire sooner in that area. The roots of many shrubs remain alive and will re-sprout, meanwhile holding soil together, and in any case it is rare that annual grasses will prevent erosion on the steep slopes usually affected.

A house can have tall trees or groups of shrubs nearby if there is easy access for fire equipment and an area of low vegetation is maintained near the structure. Groups of taller vegetation should be kept separate from each other with the lower branches pruned up to destroy continuity with the ground cover. In the wildlands we should let natural fires occur in summer, do small controlled burns, and try to manage the forest so that it gradually reverts to a natural, more open state. 

The French Revolution of Roses


By **Cindy McCabe, MG**

At the beginning of the 19th century, Europeans embraced gardens in general and roses in particular, thanks to the efforts of one woman, Josephine Bonaparte. Although she was married to Napoleon for a mere 13 years, Josephine set the style for everything from furniture to flowers.

Josephine's massive collection of roses at her country residence, Chateau de la Malmaison, was the envy of her peers. The greatest flower painter of the times, Pierre Joseph Redouté was in her employ. Her Malmaison garden amassed a most impressive collection of about 260 roses during her short residence there. The Portland class of roses was born at Malmaison when the head gardener, André Dupont, used the pollen from a shared rose (now known as 'Duchess of Portland') to breed a number of hybrids. Only a small number of Portlands remain in commerce today, but all are delightful thanks to their intense damask fragrance. One of the most prominent distinguishing characteristics of the Portland class is the abundance of foliage that is tightly stuffed under the blooms - reminiscent of a tussie-mussie. Graham Stuart-Thomas coined the phrase "a shoulder of leaves" to describe the foliage of the Portlands.

Josephine divorced Napoleon in 1809 and lived at Malmaison until her death in 1814. Her legacy continued, however, when Alexandre Hardy succeeded Dupont as the head gardener at Josephine's Luxembourg palace. Hardy bred many roses of note, including 'Madame Hardy' and 'Safrano'. A young apprentice named Jacques-Jules Margottin worked for Hardy before founding his own legendary rose nursery.

Josephine began a trend that inspired hybridizers of the mid-19th century. Rose breeders struck pay dirt when they crossed the lackluster first generation hybrids with their China parents. They created more than 3,000 cultivars of the Hybrid Perpetual class during a 60-year period. Though many Hybrid Perpetuals were remontant and vigorous, some were not, and Hybrid Teas gained favor near the beginning of the 20th century.

Many of the men who worked at Malmaison became famous rose hybridizers and established the foundation of the modern French rose-breeding industry. Josephine Bonaparte's love of roses influenced generations of gardeners, and for that I must say, "Merci beaucoup!" 

Preview of Upcoming Speakers

By **Jeri Kuoppamaki, MG**

Mike Henry will replace Dennis Pittenger at the April 21 class. A scheduling miscommunication made it necessary for Mike to step in for Dennis. His topic will be "Ornamental Plant Section". Mike will discuss considerations in the selection of quality trees at a nursery and tips and strategies for their planting and management. His presentation will supplement the chapter 13 material in the Master Gardener Handbook, "Woody Landscape Plants".

" I plan to cover UC research on staking young trees conducted by Dr. Richard Harris, one of my professors at UC Davis back in the early 70's. Surprisingly, this information is still very current and useful" Henry commented. In addition he will present brand new research on covering a established trees with soil and discuss selected tree species and their inherent problems.

Mike has been with UC Cooperative Extension for 28 years and prior to that managed a retirement community landscape (500 acres) in Carmel Valley, CA. He has first hand woody plant tree experience in the logging industry, retail nursery trade and from research in graduate school at UC Davis while working on his Master degree.

Mike has worked with the landscape industry in southern California and provided tree care and woody plant pest management help to Disneyland, Knott's Berry Farm, nearly every City in Orange County and Riverside County along with private landscapes such as the Fluor Corporation and the Annenburg Estate (in Rancho Mirage, CA), the State Parks system, and the Irvine Company.

Recently Mike co-authored a "best selling" University of California publication, *Abiotic Disorders of Landscape Plants: A Diagnostic Guide*, writing the sections on Air Pollution, Wind and Light as well as contributing to the overall publication. His related research includes discovery of the Oleander Leaf Scorch disease, Studies on the Eucalyptus Long-horned Borer, Establishment of Native Oaks on Grazing Lands, and Eriophid Mites on Palo Verde Trees in the Coachella Valley.

Susan Sims will present the final class on May 5 on entomology. Susan will give us a comprehensive review of the material on Entomology in the *Master Gardener Handbook*. She plans to focus on information that is appropriate for the plants found locally and will bring slides and her personal collection of specimens for the class to view firsthand. She states she will also address life cycles, and how the insects look in both their immature and mature stages.

Susan has a long history in horticulture. She met her husband Gary many years ago. She not only fell in love with him, but also with his interest in horticulture. Following their marriage, she attended Cal Poly and earned her B.S., with a major in Agricultural Biology and a minor in Plant Pathology and Ornamental Horticulture. She almost completed another minor in Soil Science. Susan and her husband are now the owners of a business called Sims Tree Health Specialists, which they started in 1972. They provide consulting services, diagnosis of diseases, treatment for tree problems, preservation studies, and insurance work. Their job primarily involves the treatment of the symptoms of tree problems and efforts to rectify the etiology of the problem.

Eight years ago, Susan and Gary Sims bought 6 and a half acres of land in the Pedley area, where they developed the Sims Tree Learning Center. It houses their office and their home, but more than that, it has become an opportunity for the Sims to give back to the community.

They provide classes each year, available to the public for five dollars. This includes a class from 9 am to 3 pm, coffee, donuts, and lunch. Every January they have a Deciduous Tree Workshop, a Rose Workshop, and a Fruit Tree Workshop. In April, they provide a Subtropical Fruit Tree Workshop. There are classes for various groups held during the year, including Arborist Training for Ted Stamen's students. Scouts and schools come through on tours. The Inland Empire Urban Forest Council meets there each year in April, and there is a Street Tree Seminar held there in April. Starting May 1, the Sims Tree Learning Center officially opens it's gardens to the public. For those of you who would like to visit, the address is 6111 Appaloosa, off Limonite, in Pedley. There is parking available in an adjacent field. And, for all of you Master Gardeners and those in training, the Tree Learning Center has many opportunities for volunteer hours. Just call 685.6662, and they'll be glad to put you to work.

Kathy Rose will treat Veteran Master Gardeners to an in-depth look at the importance of soils on April 21st. Kathy received a Ph.D. in soil and water sciences from UCR; an M.S. in Soil Science from UCR, and a B.S. in Soil Science from Cal Poly Pomona. Her main interests pertain to soil-plant-water relationships, and her dissertation research focused on determining differences in source water locations for pine and manzanita that grow on thin soils over weathered bedrock in Sequoia National Forest.

Kathy worked for 9 years at UCR managing a soils research lab for the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, where she worked on water quality issues for Newport Bay. She currently works for Albert A. Webb Associates helping clients with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance issues. In her spare time, Kathy loves tending a vegetable garden at home. She looks for any opportunity to get back to her "roots" and to teach people about the importance of soils.

MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR

CLASSES

April 7, 7:00 pm at EPS, 3117 Durahart - TRAINING CLASS

Backyard Vegetable Gardening Speaker: Jose Aguiar

April 21, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at EPS, 3117 Durahart - TRAINING CLASS

Ornamental Plant Selection Speaker: Mike Henry

April 21, 7:00 pm at EPS, 3117 Durahart - VETERANS CLASS

Plant-Soil Relationships Speaker: Kathy Rose

May 5, 7:00 pm at EPS, 3117 Durahart - TRAINING CLASS

Entomology Speaker: Susan Sims

MEETINGS

Garden Views Staff Meetings --

The *Garden Views* staff will meet April 5th at 7:00 pm at the home of Jeri Kuoppamaki.

April 14, 6:30 pm -- Advisory Board Meeting at Cooperative Extension Office

The Advisory Board meets once per month, on the second Wednesday. The meetings are held at the UC Cooperative Extension Riverside County Office, 21150 Box Springs Road, Moreno Valley beginning at 6:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Phone Squad: Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Call Phone Squad Coordinator Shelley Wardrop to volunteer, 909-788-8197.


MASTER GARDENER CALENDAR


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES Continued

Saturday, April 17 8:00 am to 3:00 pm -- WATERWISE PLANT SALE

Volunteers needed for the sale and grounds. Call Yvonne Hemenway 909-686-1070 days or 909-360-8802 eves.

Saturday & Sunday, April 17 and 18, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm) ORANGE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Volunteers needed for 3-hour shift for the Master Gardener Information Table. Call Carole Harris, 909-780-7851 to volunteer.

Saturday, April 24 and Sunday, April 25 -- Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tour

Volunteers are needed to docent at five gardens on both days. Saturday 1:00-3:30 and 3:30-6:00; Sunday 10:00-1:00 and 1:00-4:00. A pre-tour for all docents will take place on April 18 at 9:00 - bring lunch. Call Lois Bennett, 909-784-2428.

TOURS AND EVENTS
Master Gardener Tour - FULLERTON ARBORETUM - Saturday, April 17, 10:00 am

\$2.00 per person. The Fullerton Arboretum is located at California State University, Fullerton. Contact Caryn Marsella at 778-2628 for directions and information.

Master Gardener Tour - QUAIL GARDENS - Saturday, May 8, 10:30 am

The tour will take about 1-1/2 hours and the cost is \$8.00 per person. The Quail Botanic Gardens are located at 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA 92024. As a bonus, Quail Gardens is having their 2nd annual Chocolate Festival on May 8th. Contact Caryn Marsella at 778-2628 for directions and information.

Saturday, April 17, 1-5 pm -- Propagation of Native Plants from Cuttings

By Andrew Wyatt. \$52 for non-members. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, 909-625-8767, Ext. 224.

Saturday, April 17, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm -- Paper Making using Plant Fibers

By Alice Kotzen. \$47 for non-members. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, 909-625-8767, Ext. 224.

Sunday, April 18, 1-5 pm -- Demystifying Botanical Names

By Alison Schilling. \$30 for non-members. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, 909-625-8767, Ext. 224.

Saturday & Sunday, May 8 and 9, 8:30 am-5 pm -- The Grass Family: Identification and Ecology

By J. Travis Columbus. \$216 for non-members. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 North College Avenue, Claremont, 909-625-8767, Ext. 224.