



# UCRBG Newsletter

## ONLINE FALL PLANT SALE

Friends Sale: Saturday, Oct. 9, Public Sale: Sunday, Oct. 10

By Janine Almanzor

While we had hoped to welcome you to an in-person Fall Plant Sale, we are grateful for campus support that makes it possible to continue to hold online Plant Sales when we are unable to have them in the Gardens. Members only will be able to purchase plants on Saturday, October 9th and the sale will be opened to the public as well on Sunday, October 10th. The sale will run on both days from 6 am to midnight (no more early mornings!) and pickup days will be October 19th and 21st. We are pleased to offer for sale a variety of shrubs, trees, vines, shade plants, cacti/succulents, house/patio plants and California native plants. Note that our house plant selection is limited this time due to the greenhouse being under construction for the new Conservatory. A plant list with descriptions will be available on our website one to two weeks prior to the sale, and the order form will again have photos of all selections.



*Aristolochia californica*,  
California pipevine

As you have probably heard many times, fall is the best time to plant in Southern California. This schedule gives plants time to get established before they face our brutal summer heat. Our mild winters also help with this planting time by allowing for slow growth even over winter. This planting schedule holds true especially for plants native to California's Mediterranean climate, which don't require summer water.

UCRBG Horticulturist Lois Whyde and her team of volunteers have had several good months of propagating for this Plant Sale and have had some success with California native plants, which aren't easy to propagate. Here are a few natives we will have for sale.

**California pipevine** (*Aristolochia californica*) - This plant is for the butterfly enthusiast because it is the only host plant for the Pipevine Swallowtail butterfly. It naturally grows in moist woods or by streams in central and northern California. In Riverside it will need some shade and regular water to get established. It can be a groundcover or trained to grow as a vine.

In winter and spring the 1-inch flowers are cream colored with purple stripes and looks like a pipe. Another common name is Dutchman's pipe.

**Black sage** (*Salvia mellifera*) - Black sage is a local native, evergreen shrub. It grows to 3 to 6 feet tall with dark green, extremely aromatic leaves and tall, "shish-kabob" spikes of small, pale-blue flowers in early summer. We will also have the cultivar 'Terra Seca,' which grows to about 1 foot tall by 6 feet wide and has white flowers. Both plants need good drainage and are drought tolerant.



*Salvia mellifera*, black sage

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## Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



The phrase “two steps forward, one step back” describes much in our lives these days. Anticipating a decline in the threat of Covid led many of us to begin gathering with vaccinated friends, venturing out more, and embarking on long-awaited travel. In the Gardens we began permitting docent led tours, scheduling Meeting Room rentals, and planning some in-person activities for the fall. Sadly, with the resurgence of Covid and reinstatement of restrictions, many of those plans are once again placed on hold.

Even with this disappointing scenario for the foreseeable future, our staff, volunteers, and visitors continue to appreciate the beautiful outdoor environment of the Botanic Gardens where work, learning, and enjoyment of nature can continue safely. If you have not done so, please make time to visit the Gardens on one of our open 1st and 3rd Sundays, when Master Gardener Docents are available in the Butterfly Garden to answer questions about butterflies and plants that attract them. Janine’s team is in the process of labeling the plants and creating a map and key to their names to enhance learning during your visit.

Despite overwhelming heat this summer, Miguel’s team has made progress on several fronts, including the Turtle Pond, which has now been refilled and the fish and turtles returned. The crawfish discovered during excavation remain elusive but if you are vigilant, they can occasionally be seen. Our upper restrooms have been renovated for ADA accessibility, repainted in colors that match our lower restrooms, and will soon be reopened. While rentals are on hold, we’re working with Facilities Services on termite abatement and repair of the Meeting Room, anticipating the time when we can resume in-person events and rentals.

Despite restrictions on indoor activities, our outdoor environment remains safe and we have enjoyed the return of seasoned volunteers and welcomed many new volunteers. We are especially pleased to see so many UCR students express interest in volunteering. To augment our online volunteer program, Pam’s team produced a new Volunteer Brochure that is available at the entrance. While working remotely she also partnered with our BEES team and UCR Business & Financial Services to commission more UCRBG branded merchandise and launch online merchandise sales with in-person pickups.

Despite many “steps back” we continue to step forward on our projects, launch new programs, and plan for the return of more normalcy. We are very fortunate that the UCR Botanic Gardens continue to provide a safe, welcoming, enriching environment during troubled times, and encourage all to visit and experience the healing effect of simply taking a walk outdoors. We hope you will stay connected through our website, eNews, and social media, and send your thoughts and feedback to me at [bgdirector@ucr.edu](mailto:bgdirector@ucr.edu) or 951-827-7095.

Jodie

### UCR Botanic Gardens Staff

Jodie Holt, Director  
 Janine Almanzor, Curator/Education Coordinator  
 Miguel Estrada, Manager  
 Pam Ferre, Program Coordinator  
 Jorge Fregoso, Nursery Technician  
 Pam Roose, Nursery Technician  
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 DuBron Rabb, Director of Development  
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 Abraham Juliot, Receiving/Web Assistant  
 Amber Rhemrev, Financial Services Supervisor  
 TBD, Financial Analyst/UCRBG Head Cashier  
 Carlos Moran, Travel & Purchasing Assistant  
 RC Sutton, Financial Operations Manager

### Editors

Jodie Holt, Director  
 Janine Almanzor, Curator/Education Coordinator  
 Pam Ferre, Program Coordinator  
 The UCR Botanic Gardens Newsletter is a quarterly magazine published by the UCRBG staff, 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521.

### Contact Information

Mailing Address: UCR Botanic Gardens  
 900 University Avenue  
 Riverside, CA 92521  
 Physical Address: Schneider House  
 4391 Picacho Drive  
 Riverside, CA 92507

Phone: 951-827-7090 Email: [ucrbg@ucr.edu](mailto:ucrbg@ucr.edu)  
 Website: [gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)



College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences

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*Ceanothus 'Ray Hartman',*  
California lilac

to 5-inch spike like clusters of medium blue flowers. Both do well in inland gardens.

#### California lilac (*Ceanothus*)

Two of the easier to grow *Ceanothus* selections we will offer are 'Yankee Point' and 'Ray Hartman'. 'Yankee Point' grows 2 to 3 feet high and about 6 feet wide and has 1-inch clusters of medium blue flowers. 'Ray Hartman' grows much larger to about 15 feet by 10 feet and has 3

#### Island snapdragon (*Gambelia speciosa* formerly *Galvezia*)

Native to the Channel Islands, this spreading, evergreen shrub grows to 3 feet high and 10 feet wide. It has 1-inch, light green leaves and 1-inch, tubular, scarlet flowers which blooms heavily in the spring and intermittently during the year. It attracts butterflies and a variety of birds including hummingbirds.

One last non-native plant to highlight is a new autumn sage selected by Dr. Giles Waines. This pastel orange sage is named after our long-time, dedicated volunteer Karen Fleisher. You can read more about Karen in the Winter 2020 Newsletter.



*Gambelia speciosa*, island snapdragon



*Salvia x jamensis 'Karen Fleisher',* autumn sage

## A Tour for Nurses in the Gardens

By Nancy Cullen

I have had the pleasure and honor to work with some of the finest nurses from across the country as part of the staff at the Moreno Valley Mall Vaccination Clinic since January of this year. These nurses travel from home and family to work here for months at a time. As a resident of Riverside, I wanted to share with them one of my happiest places on Earth, the UCR Botanic Gardens.

On a classic So-Cal summer day, I greeted a small group of nurses from our clinic for a private tour with docents Becky Levers and April Wilson. With a bit of history of the University and the Gardens, we set out uphill along the western perimeter to the Baja California area to view the Bell Tower and the native shrubs at their best.

The tour continued past the Ficus Grove to the pond and then to the Butterfly Garden; I had guaranteed butterflies and I did not disappoint. We spotted a Monarch caterpillar on the milkweed while bees, Monarchs and Cloudless Sulphur butterflies danced among the visitors. The Herb and Native American Gardens were interesting with all the scented plants with medicinal uses. We then took a break to "stop and smell, and smell, and smell the roses"- literally! Wow! The Rose Garden was in full bloom- a real crowd pleaser!



We all had a wonderful day and a great time exploring. Several nurses from the East and South were so impressed at the natural beauty of our desert climate and enjoyed the views from the hills of the highest UC campus in California.

## Butterfly Corner

### Wright's Metalmark

Article and photos by Ann Platzer



Photo 1: Dorsal view

The butterflies of the metalmark family, Riodinidae, are named for the metallic markings that are often found on their wings such as in the species Wright's Metalmark, *Calephelis wrighti*. Although it is a small butterfly with a wingspan only about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches, it is striking and lives up to its name, especially in recently emerged adults. The dorsal wing surface is a uniform bright reddish-brown color with a fairly delicate smoky-white sheen with two outer rows of shimmering silver metallic markings and inner black markings. The wing fringes are conspicuously checkered with shimmering white. The large eyes are lime green and the antennae are long, striped and frequently held together (photo 1).

The female lays eggs singly on the stem joints of the host plant sweetbush, *Bebbia juncea*, in the sunflower family Asteraceae. This is a very diffuse shrub, two to three feet high with small leaves, or leafless and possessing small yellow flowers (photo 2). The larva feeds on the outer

green covering (epidermis) of the stems. The plant is common in the deserts, otherwise it is quite rare. Fortunately, there are many large, well-established sweetbush shrubs along the lower section of Two Trees Trail in the Box Springs Mountains, which is a good place to look for the Wright's Metalmark.

The butterflies are avid nectar seekers including in the flowers of their host plant. They will stay at a flower for quite some time with their wings open which, when noticed, makes them easy to observe and identify.

The Wright's Metalmark's range is the Colorado Desert, Southern California, northern Baja California, Mexico and southwestern Arizona. The adults are common and fly from about February to October, but timing and abundance of summer and fall broods are determined by rainfall.



Photo 2: *Bebbia juncea*, sweetbush

Their habitat is the lower Sonoran Desert near moisture in oases, washes and canyons. Again, Two Trees Reserve with a permanent stream flowing down the canyon is an excellent place to find the host plant, sweetbush, and the Wright's Metalmark.

Happy Butterfly Gardening!

AP

Thanks to Edward Platzer for reviewing this article.

Now you can purchase UCRBG branded merchandise at  
our online Gift Shop!

[gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)



HATS, T-SHIRTS, TOTES, COASTERS, JOURNALS, WATER BOTTLES, KNEELING PADS,  
MOUSE PADS, CLEANING CLOTHS, & MUGS

## Wildlife of the Gardens

### California Towhee

By Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

While strolling along you hear the rustling of dry leaves. The sound grows louder and more constant. You may begin to wonder if some large mystery animal is about to burst out from the brush and steel yourself for the encounter. Alas, from that ruckus hops out a small bird, who, upon seeing your surprised face, hops right back into the safety of the brush. All that noise and your surprise came from a common resident bird of the west, the California Towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*).

#### Habitat/Diet

The California Towhee is a common bird of brushy habitats from Southern Oregon to Baja California. It can be found in a variety of habitat types, including chaparral, coastal sage scrub, edges of oak woodlands, pinyon-juniper woodlands and well-vegetated urban neighborhoods or parks. These brushy habitats provide excellent cover for foraging and nesting. It is common to see this species moving amongst the lower branches of shrubs and foraging on the ground. Native shrubs such as elderberry and poison oak provide the occasional summer berry snack but they primarily rely on the winter seeds of grasses and herbs. During the nesting season, insects are added to the menu, thanks to their characteristic double scratch forage dance move. This maneuver involves hopping forward then backward while scratching the ground with both feet. This allows the bird to grab any dazed insects hiding amongst the leaf litter. Urbanized Towhees have also been observed grabbing a bite to eat from fruit and vegetable gardens.

#### Breeding

California Towhees are the romantic type and can mate for life. They will establish a breeding territory, which the male will staunchly defend. This dedication drives them to attack their own reflections in windows and car doors. While the male is busy in his territorial activities, the female will construct a loose cup nest made of plant matter lined with downy seeds or animal fur. The nest is typically low in a dense shrub or tree. If these birds frequent your yard, be mindful when trimming back trees and shrubs. It is in the best interest of birds to prune during the colder months, after nesting season ends.



The mating pair can have 2-3 broods a year, with 3-4 pale blueish white eggs spotted with brown coloring. Both parents will incubate the eggs and raise the chicks but their parenting duties are relatively short. The chicks will emerge after less than two weeks of incubation and can leave the nest at just over a week old. Mom and dad will continue to care for them until they can fly properly.

#### Identification

This species is relatively easy to identify between its habits, coloring and calls. Males and females are the same matte brown color with rust coloring under the tail and around their beaks. The California Towhee is slightly larger than a sparrow with rounded wings, thick beak and long tail. Only males sing the towhee song and will sing profusely with a chorus of accelerating metallic chirps ending in a trill. The female will join in during calls, which reinforces their bond. Their calls are similar in sound to a ground squirrel.

#### Threats

California Towhee's populations are considered stable but could be locally declining. This is primarily due to loss of habitat near the coast. Their preferred habitats are a favorite of developers. In addition to habitat loss, they face threats from increased wildfire frequency and heat waves due to climate change. According to the Audubon Climate Vulnerability tool, an increase of 3 °C could result in a 24% loss in range in summer season and a 77% loss in winter.

*Michele is a UCR graduate who worked as a field biologist for six years throughout Riverside County and is currently a naturalist for Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District.*

## Become a Friend

Join or renew your Friends membership before the Fall Online Plant Sale at [gardens.ucr.edu/friends](https://gardens.ucr.edu/friends)

## State of the Gardens

By Jodie Holt

Since March of 2020 the UCR Botanic Gardens has operated under UCR and California Covid guidelines. Following a 3.5-month closure and careful planning, the Gardens were permitted to reopen to the public with a new operational model, revamped volunteer program, gate attendants, and virtual programming. This article reviews 2020-21 and summarizes our budget, accomplishments, and goals for a more open and in-person year ahead.

### But First, Covid

UCR and the Botanic Gardens closed on March 16, 2020, and all research, instruction, and administration were replaced with remote activities. For the Gardens all events, programs, tours, rentals, and fundraising were cancelled, and for a brief time, staff stayed home. Of course, weeds, wildlife, and even trespassers did not stay home, so with support from campus and CNAS, UCR's Covid team, and APGA (American Public Gardens Association), we developed an approved Return to Work Plan and brought back essential staff. By May 2020 we were able to bring back student workers and trusted volunteers, and on June 29 we reopened to the public. Our hours are currently limited by availability of staff and volunteer Stewards to welcome visitors at the gate, answer questions, and enforce our policies and safety measures.

### 2020-21 Accomplishments

#### Administration and Management

Our staff includes the part-time Director and five full-time, one part-time, and eight student workers. This past year most of our student workers graduated or moved on to other jobs and we have recently hired five new UCR students. We appreciate receiving administrative support from our BEES Administrative team and CNAS Dean's Office, including Development, Communications, and Human Resources, all of whom are listed on the inside front cover of each Newsletter.

We are extremely grateful for the hard work of dozens of volunteers who give thousands of hours to the Gardens each year. We also appreciate our Friends, UCR's oldest support group, who provide revenue through annual dues and enjoy many benefits of membership. Since their founding in 1980 many Friends have also been active volunteers, and we gratefully acknowledge all those who contribute their time, talent, and financial support for the

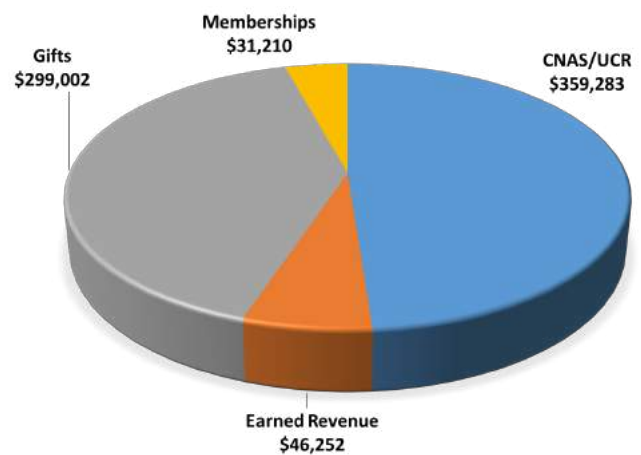
betterment of the UCR Botanic Gardens.

### Budget overview

Like most university gardens, the UCRBG receives campus support, in our case some salaries and benefits. As shown on the chart, our 2020-21 income included CNAS funds (salaries and benefits), some earned revenue, gifts and endowment payouts, and memberships; total income was \$735,746. We received a generous planned gift from the estate of Ruth Yoder and Barbara Carlson, which made possible continued staff support, overdue maintenance projects, and even new initiatives during a year when revenue was severely reduced by the pandemic. Annual expenses in 2020-21 included salaries/benefits, facilities/maintenance, gardens/horticulture, programming, and administration. Our expenses for 2020-21 totaled \$672,067, resulting in a balance of +\$63,680, a surplus made possible by the generous estate gift.

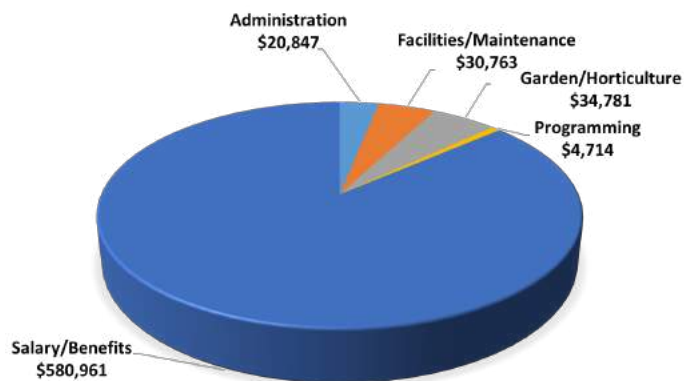
Since 2016 we have benefited from a corpus of non-recurring, non-interest-earning gift funds received over past decades, which have been used to augment staffing and initiate new projects. This carry-forward has decreased over time as we have invested donor funds in the Gardens and totaled \$300,825 on 6/30/21; this corpus would largely have been extinguished in 2020-21 had we not received a generous planned gift.

UCRBG Income 2020-21



Since 2016 we have continued to reduce expenses and increase income to achieve financial sustainability without relying on carry-forward funds. A priority in 2020-21 has been staff support and investments in maintenance and security to reduce trespassing and vandalism, while also improving the Gardens. We have also responded to the cancellation of events and loss of income by launching new online and virtual programs as well as safe outdoor activities.

### UCRBG Expenses 2020-21



#### **Development and fundraising**

While all in-person events and gatherings are still discouraged, we continue to work virtually with Amanda Gomes and the CNAS Development team. This year we updated our Friends Membership and Memorial brochures and produced a new membership card with our agave brand. We also launched discounted memberships for UCR staff and faculty and a gift membership option. Amanda's team created beautiful materials for a membership drive and a Giving Tuesday campaign focused on fundraising to replace the dome. We continue to work with the CNAS development team and the UCR Foundation to steward our donors, engage our members, and raise funds for new initiatives.

#### **Collection**

Under Curator Janine's direction the database continues to be updated, new plant and bed labels have been installed, and new plantings were made. While the popular January Rose Pruning Workshop was cancelled, a loyal group of volunteers pruned over 600 roses. Janine's team has continued to add plants to our interactive GIS app and launch interactive GIS Story Maps of the Gardens that can be viewed on our website or on a smart phone.

The Butterfly Garden received considerable attention by Janine's team this year. Numbers were installed by the plants and a map and key will be produced with plant names, descriptions, and butterflies that visit each one. On open Sundays, Master Gardener docents set up a station outside the Butterfly Garden to identify butterflies, explain life cycles, and answer questions of the many visitors to this popular spot. A Story Map containing all this and more information is nearly complete.

Janine's team is also producing plant labels for the Native American Plants Garden that include Cahuilla names and

uses of the plants. While docent-led tours were on hold, she and volunteers produced a series of 33 California Native Plant Videos, which were posted on the CNAS YouTube page and are available on our webpage Tours link. An additional instructional video on how to prune roses was added to the collection as well.

#### **Horticulture and facilities**

Manager Miguel and his staff and volunteers continue to make great progress cleaning up gardens, removing weeds, and clearing and repairing trails. A major safety project underway is the repair of deeply rutted stretches of our perimeter trail along the western fence. Using a mix of fill dirt and cement, the team has smoothed the worst ruts and continues to work their way downhill to create a flat and more walkable surface.

The Turtle Pond received a major makeover to remove several feet of silt that had settled in it and reduced water depth to an unhealthy level. The turtles were moved to a temporary enclosed pond, the fish were fostered, and the pond was dug by hand to over 3-feet in depth. Once the collection of sunglasses, toy cars, keys, etc., was removed, the pond was refilled and animals returned, to the delight of our younger visitors.

Taking advantage of the absence of in-person events, Miguel has undertaken the renovation of Alder Canyon lawn and redesign of its irrigation. Large patches have been restored to lush green turfgrass, which is ideal for strolling, relaxing, and picnicking.

#### **Education and research**

In a typical year, docents lead guided tours for dozens of school and adult groups reaching thousands of visitors. School tours deliver environmental education consistent with statewide curricular requirements. While this program remains curtailed, we continue to produce educational content through interactive Story Maps including Deserts of the Southwest, Plant Ecology, Plant Diversity, and the new California Native Plant Video series. UCR student and faculty researchers continue to use the Gardens for their projects.

#### **Engagement**

Engagement activities were also curtailed this past year, so we focused on online and virtual programming to reach our constituents. Program Coordinator Pam continues to update our website and keep it current with hours, UCR Covid policies, and a Featured News section. Working with

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## Plants & Human Affairs Series

### Coffee

By Jo Ann Anderson



Now that we've imagined a world without chocolate or vanilla, (see my article in Vol. 41, No. 2), let's imagine a world without coffee. The place of coffee is writ large in the social, economic, political and ecological fabric of our society. *Coffea arabica*, the subject of today's story, arrived in Europe sometime around the sixteenth century, carried on the trade routes coming out of Africa and Asia. Its origin as a stimulant drink is shrouded in legend but the very name Arabica reveals its Arabian origins. In fact, the first known brewing of coffee as we know it now came out of Yemen.

Coffee, primarily the *C. arabica* variety, is now cultivated worldwide, preferring the higher elevation regions of tropical and subtropical zones. Its relative, *C. robusta*, is also cultivated, but from 60 to 80 percent of the world's consumption is of *C. arabica*. Sweeter, less bitter, lower in caffeine, and smoother than *C. robusta*, *C. arabica* is the preferred choice for most coffee drinkers.

The presence of caffeine in our coffee is an interesting feature of the plant itself. Caffeine in the leaves and fruit serves not only to deter pests but also to attract pollinators. Evolution of secondary compounds such as caffeine improves survival and reproduction in a plants' environment. The coffee fruit, which is often called a cherry, is actually a drupe (stone fruit) and the co-called beans are the coffee seeds.

One charming legend of the discovery of the stimulant properties of the coffee bean relates how a goatherd noticed that his flock became energized after chewing the red fruit of a certain bush. Another story has a trader arriving in Italy with unroasted beans taped to his chest in order to pass through inspections; fertile beans were carefully guarded to keep control over the crop. There are

probably many more stories about how this precious stimulant was discovered and ultimately disseminated throughout the world. Coffee finally came to the Americas with the migration of Europeans after the 1500s.

High on the volcanic slopes surrounding Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, I visited a coffee plantation. There I saw the native Mayans tending the coffee plants and managing the process of harvesting, drying and roasting the beans. Sadly, as is the case for so many of the world's commodities, very little of the enormous wealth produced by coffee crops comes back to enrich the workers' lives. Fair trade agreements have improved this scenario for some fortunate workers.

A beautiful plant with fragrant white flowers and bright red fruit (coffee cherries), it is hard to relate coffee to its huge economic and ecological impact. The world trade of coffee is



second only to that of oil, and its production is not without ecological consequences. As an example, Brazil, the world's largest producer of coffee, has cleared vast tracts of rainforest to make way for the coffee crop. The United States, with the largest per capital consumption of coffee in the world, is party to the damaging ecological effects of coffee production.

Coffee has been an important part of human affairs for at least the last 700 years, and perhaps longer. The next chapter in its history has yet to be written.

The Botanic Gardens has *Coffea arabica* plants in the greenhouse that will be on display when the Conservatory opens. *C. Arabica* plants are often available for purchase at Plant Sales, and with proper care this humidity-loving plant might even produce some fruit in our area.

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campus partners she launched a monthly eNews to supplement our quarterly Newsletter, and she works with campus communications teams to promote the Gardens. We are now active on social media through Instagram and Facebook. Pam spearheaded the production of new UCRBG branded merchandise, now available for online purchase with in-person pickups (shipping option in the works).

With a large plant inventory ready to be sold, we launched Online Plant Sales with in-person pickups, bringing in hundreds of shoppers and restoring some revenue during a year of continuing financial losses. Pam and volunteers also held a sold-out Virtual Succulent Wreath Workshop just in time for the holidays.

Volunteers continue to be an essential workforce in the Gardens. Onboarding, scheduling, and hours reporting are now all online. While we couldn't hold our annual luncheon, we held two safe Volunteer Appreciation events and handed out thank you bags with plants, pastries, and UCRBG branded gifts to all our wonderful volunteers. We also launched a

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## What to See in the Gardens

By Miguel Estrada

With the heat of summer fully upon us, we have a difficult time trying to move irrigation to cover all the plants in the Gardens. The truth is, we don't get to all the plants. Fortunately, a majority of the specimens are well adapted to survive in the dry hot weather that we experience in Southern California. This article is for the fall season, but I couldn't help but write about a few plants that took on the triple digit summer temperatures with little or no water.

### Desert Wild Grape (*Vitis girdiana*)

We have this species in two locations, one in Baja California by Pepper Tree Rocks and a better example growing on the slope by the steps that lead to the turtle pond. This area was planted with many specimens in the 1960's. The one by the steps has covered the arbor over the steps, providing nice shade. Other plants have taken over a large portion of the slope and have even begun to climb onto the nearby shrubs and trees. Wild grape spreads quickly but we do get a respite as this plant is winter deciduous. It is then that we usually prune about ten or more feet away from other plants to reduce the chance of its climbing over them. Once established this vine can handle low water, about once a month; however, it is equally likely to occur in wetlands as in non-wetlands. *Vitis girdiana* is part of coastal sage scrub, southern oak woodland, and wetland-riparian communities.



### Nevin's Barberry (*Berberis nevinii*)



We have many specimens that can take a summer beating but this one impressed me because it is surviving without any supplemental water. The specific *Berberis* I am referring to is on the trail between oak woodland and Australia. This plant is a small shrub, under 5 feet tall and has spiny serrated leaf margins. Its natural habitat includes foothill woodland, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral communities. This specimen is native and endemic to California and is federally and state listed as an endangered species.



Brittlebush in summer (left) and spring (right)

### Brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*)

With nearly two acres of concentrated stand and interspersed throughout the gardens, this species has definitely used its adaptive qualities to survive and proliferate. Commonly known as brittlebush, it is native to California and can also be found in other parts of western North America. This shrub can grow to about 3-4 feet tall and can survive the summer with little or no water; however, it will respond to the occasional summer watering. In fact, when our water tank shut-off sensor malfunctioned, it sent water streaming into the Gardens. The water made its way through hills filled with brittlebush and provided enough moisture for the plants to send out a flush of new leaves. After the rainy season, this plant puts on a grand show covering the slope with thousands of daisy-like, yellow blooms, typical of the sunflower family, Asteraceae.

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monthly Volunteer eNews to keep volunteers, especially gate Stewards, updated on what's new in the Gardens and new policies and guidelines.

### Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future

During a time of unprecedented loss for so many, we are fortunate to be able to steward a safe, welcoming, and beautiful outdoor setting for our campus and community. As the Covid situation improves we plan to bring back in-person events while retaining the creative new online and virtual activities launched when no other options were available. We are also working on raising funds to replace the dome, revamp our irrigation system throughout the Gardens, and develop plans for a rustic outdoor event space in the turnaround that would facilitate greater connections with campus and the community.

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Gardens

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## In The Works

### By Botanic Gardens Staff

Despite the summer heat and continuing and even increasing Covid restrictions, our staff and volunteers have made great progress on many Gardens projects, both on site and remotely. Here is a summary of some of our recent activities.

#### On-site:

- ▶ After several long weeks of work to dig out the layers of silt that had filled in the Turtle Pond, Miguel's team has now refilled it and the turtles and fish have been returned from their foster locations.
- ▶ Progress is slow but steady on the design of a display Conservatory in our greenhouse; currently Miguel is working with Facilities Services on installing a new heater and ductwork for more effective climate control.
- ▶ Taking advantage of the time remaining before UCR classes begin in the fall and our campus partners get very busy, we worked with PD&C (Planning, Design & Construction) on the renovation of our upper restrooms for ADA accessibility.
- ▶ In early August our Gardens vehicles were vandalized after hours, putting them out of commission and costing us considerable time and money. We are working with UCR ITS to add security cameras with direct communication to the UCRPD to help catch the vandals and prevent future occurrences.
- ▶ The plants in the Butterfly Garden have been labeled with numbers, and a map and plant list will be installed soon to provide information about the plants and butterflies that visit them.
- ▶ With the help of summer intern Ophelia Kimber, Janine produced an interactive GIS Story Map of the Butterfly Garden to enhance learning during your visit; once it is launched you will also be able to experience the Butterfly Garden from your home.
- ▶ In hopeful preparation for winter rain, the Gardens staff have been busy working on redirecting water flow to mitigate trail damage behind the greenhouse.

#### Remote work:

- ▶ Working with our talented student Michelle Yi, Pam produced a beautiful and eye-catching new Volunteer Brochure that is available at the entrance and upon request.
- ▶ Pam also worked with our BEES team and UCR Business & Financial Services to launch online sales of our UCRBG branded merchandise with in-person pickups. Shipping options will be added soon.
- ▶ To better manage crowds and unexpected groups and recover our costs for photo shoots, our Photography Policy has been revamped; by all accounts it is a big improvement and allows staff/Stewards to better manage and assist groups at the gate.
- ▶ The California Native Plants Video Series has been launched on the CNAS YouTube page. There are 33 short videos with helpful information about each plant, hosted by UCRBG Docent and Master Gardener George Spiliotis. You can access them through our website [gardens.ucr.edu/tours](http://gardens.ucr.edu/tours).



Spiderman looks on as Jorge & Miguel take a break from pond work



Restroom renovation completed



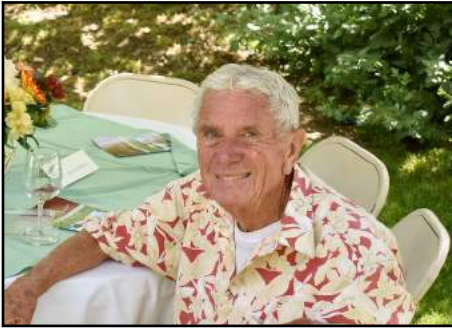
Some of the vandalism to our truck



Ophelia Kimber in the Butterfly Garden

## Spotlight On...Bill Kleese

By Giles Waines



Bill at Primavera

Bill Kleese has loved plants since childhood and has been a strong supporter of the Botanic Gardens for many years. He has been a Friend's Member since 1998, is a dedicated sponsor each year for Primavera, and has volunteered at numerous events over the years including many Plant Sales.

Bill was born in Los Angeles and lived there through the middle of high school. In 1948 the family, now including a sister, moved to Long Beach where Bill graduated from Wilson High School. Bill derived his interest in gardening from his grandfather and father. His grandfather selected beefsteak tomatoes weighing 1¼ to 1½ lbs. per fruit. The family lived in a duplex with a garden and Bill was in charge of weeding the vegetables.

After high school, Bill spent three years at Whittier College studying for a teaching degree. His first teaching job was in Pico Rivera. This was followed by two years teaching school for the US Army in Germany, where he travelled around Europe on vacations. On his return, Bill again taught in Pico Rivera, but soon gave that up to open his own business as a wool merchant trading weaving supplies in Seal Beach. Bill first met Hal Snyder, who was a demonstration teacher for Spanish books, at the school in Pico Rivera. The two lived five years in Seal Beach before moving to Riverside in 1974. This came about through a friend and a connection with the Edward-Dean Museum in Cherry Valley. Bill and Hal were invited out to Riverside to see a Victorian-Gothic-Tudor adobe house on Victoria Avenue. They fell in love with the property and ten days later the house was in escrow. Hal and Bill never regretted moving to Riverside. Both Hal and Bill developed the garden around the house. Hal soon became involved with Victoria Avenue Forever and saving the roses and trees along the avenue. Long-time UCRBG Friend Monika Ittig and Brian Mudd first met Bill, who used to walk the avenue on Sunday mornings picking up trash, looking like a bag-man. They were invited to see the new garden Hal and Bill had planted. Their house served as a meeting place for supporters of Proposition R, promoting open space and conservation, where I first met them. Hal was the main force for becoming involved with the UCR Botanic Gardens where he served on the board of the Friends for several years and was a lifetime member. Bill's favorite plants are tree peonies, many of which grow well in Riverside. His favorite colors are red and blue. The Botanic Gardens named an orange-red autumn sage after Hal Snyder, and Bill said he would like a lilac named for him.

## The Butterfly Garden is Alive with Activity

By Karen Fleisher

On the first and third Sundays of the month, you will find Master Gardener docents in the Butterfly Garden answering questions about gardening for butterflies and offering resources to help you choose plants that will attract butterflies to your garden. The plants in the Butterfly Garden are now numbered and there will soon be a map and plant list to help you identify the plants and the butterflies they attract.

The Butterfly Garden has been busy with visitors eager to learn about the fascinating life cycle (metamorphosis) of butterflies, and to observe the egg, caterpillar (larva), chrysalis (pupa) and finally the adult butterfly stages of the life cycle. Visitors also saw the beauty of many different butterflies and they enjoyed the sunshine and flowers. We even had a particularly accommodating Western Tiger Swallowtail who seemed to be posing on a *Buddleja* branch, allowing visitors to get some great photos!

Our docents, Ann Platzer, George Spiliotis, Janice Ponsor, Lee Bayer and myself have been kept busy identifying plants and pointing out the caterpillar and chrysalis exhibit provided by docents. We hope you join us on the first or third Sunday of each month through November to learn about the wonders of gardening for butterflies and have the same experience as a 6-year-old boy, who had spent about an hour there with his 4-year-old brother learning from George and Janice and said when leaving that he hoped everyone who came to visit the Butterfly Garden would have as much fun as he had!



George Spiliotis (right) talking with visitors

## UCRBG Calendar of Events

- Sept. 25 **Birdwalk & Breakfast**, 6:30 am - 9:30 am
- Oct. 9 **Members Online Fall Plant Sale**, 6:00 am - midnight
- Oct. 10 **Public Online Fall Plant Sale**, 6:00 am - midnight
- Oct. 19 **Plant Sale Pick Ups** (Gardens closed)
- Oct. 21 **Plant Sale Pick Ups** (Gardens closed)
- Nov. 13 **Succulent Pumpkin Centerpiece Class** 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please note: The UCRBG hours are Monday - Wednesday 9 am - 12 pm,  
Thursday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm, & the 1st & 3rd Sundays 8 am - 2 pm  
until further notice.

(Please check our website for closure dates)