



THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

UCRBG Newsletter

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 2 • SUMMER 2012

Spring Plant Sale Blossoms Forth With Over 50 First-Time Members! *Terrific New Friends' Benefit Credited*

Why did so many people become new Friends at the spring plant sale? Simple. Our beloved UCR Botanic Gardens was admitted to the Reciprocal Admission Program (RAP) of the American Horticultural Society. Friends now have free admission to over 270 botanic gardens, arboreta, and conservatories. Friends' access to RAP has been a goal of your board for nearly a decade.

The mission of RAP is to promote horticulture by encouraging people to visit gardens while traveling. The program's intent is "to make America a Nation of Gardeners, a Land of Gardens". Established in 1990, RAP represents over 270 organizations in 45 states, plus Canada, the Cayman Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

For example, as a Friend, just show your card to gain free entry to all UC Botanic Gardens and Arboretums as well as to Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Descanso Gardens, the LA County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, and twenty-two additional gardens around the state.*

Brief descriptions and photographs of a few of the many gardens awaiting your visit accompany this article. To see a list, go to the American Horticultural Society site at www.ahs.org. From there, you can explore at your leisure.

The photos included here remind us that public gardens are treasures. Share the UCR Botanic Gardens by giving Friends memberships as gifts, particularly to those with children. Children love coming to the Gardens. Remember, they are the Friends of tomorrow!

While memberships are not available online yet, they will be. Meanwhile,

**Sorry, The Huntington is not a participant in the program at this time. Gardens within 90 miles of your home garden have the right to exclude reciprocal memberships.*



The Enid A. Haupt Garden, part of the Smithsonian Gardens.

Photo courtesy of <http://www.gardens.si.edu/our-gardens>

email the Gardens at ucrbg@ucr.edu or call 951.784.6962, and express your interest.

Washington, DC – The Smithsonian Gardens, located around museums throughout the National Mall, are open year-round, seven days a week, with something to see in every season. www.gardens.si.edu/our-gardens

The National Herb Garden, a gift of The Herb Society of America (in Kirkland, Ohio), is also located in D.C. Find a link at their site: herbsociety.org.

Kauai, Hawaii – The Na Aina Kai ("Lands by the Sea") Botanic Gardens has it all – flora, fauna, land, water, and climate. The gardens is also the site of over 60 bronze sculptures and a hardwood plantation. www.naainakai.org

Glencoe, Illinois – The Chicago Botanic Garden has a major collection of

more than 2.4 million plants (9,084 different taxa). These are displayed in a landscaped manner, showing ways they can be used in the visitors' own gardens. (Fabulous garden, no room for photo.) <http://www.chicagobotanic.org/explore/>.



The Na Aina Kai Botanic Gardens and Hardwood Plantation.

Photo courtesy www.naainakai.org

Phoenix, Arizona – **The Desert Botanical Garden** dates back 70 years. Its mission is to teach and inspire visitors to protect and preserve the desert's natural beauty. The 145 acre Garden boasts 1,140 volunteers 104 staff members, and 26,065 member households! <http://www.dbg.org/>



The Desert Botanical Garden. Photo courtesy www.dbg.org

Asheville, North Carolina – **The North Carolina Arboretum**,

an affiliate of UNC, is located in one of the most botanically diverse and beautiful natural settings in America. It offers 434-acres with 65 acres of cultivated gardens, 10 miles of hiking and biking trails, and “one of the finest, most unique bonsai collections in the United States”. Terrifically picturesque, check it out online. <http://www.ncarboretum.org>

Anchorage, Alaska – **The Alaska Botanical Garden** is a wonderful place for evidence of glacial activity and views of the Chugach Mountain Range. In summer, the Garden is great for bird watching, walking, hiking, photography, painting, or reading. In winter, take a quiet walk or ski through the forest. <http://www.alaskabg.org/Visit/visit.html>



The Alaska Botanical Garden
Photo courtesy www.alaskabg.org

Vail, Colorado – **The Betty Ford Alpine Gardens**, at 8,250 feet above sea level, is the highest botanical garden in the US. The foremost Rocky Mountains authority on high-altitude plants in natural and cultivated landscapes, the Gardens provides an environment for imperiled alpine wildflowers and plants.

<http://www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org/mtn-med.php>



The Betty Ford Alpine Gardens Photo courtesy www.bettyfordalpinegardens.org

The Butterfly Corner: *Attracting The Gulf Fritillary*

by Ann Platzer

THE GULF FRITILLARY (*Agraulis vanillae*) is a large, 2 1/2 inch bright orange butterfly (photo #1) with large silver spots on its under-wings. From a distance the Gulf Fritillary may be mistaken for a Monarch. But unlike the latter's leisurely, gliding flight, the Gulf Fritillary's flight is fast. It is seen throughout the year in Southern California, except during winter cold snaps. This spectacular species is easily reared, making it practical for classroom demonstration of the insect life cycle.

The female lays 1 mm, pale-yellow, ribbed **eggs** singly on leaves, stems, buds, and tendrils of the host plant. In about 5-7 days, the larva hatches by chewing a hole in the egg case with its huge mandibles. After eating the egg case, it munches voraciously on its host plant. The **larva** has four longitudinal bright orange stripes and many long, black branching spines. There are many legs for locomotion and holdfast: three pairs of true legs in the thoracic region and five pairs of fleshy false legs. The latter disappear in adulthood. Just before pupation, the larva assumes a “J” position, signaling the beginning of the transformation process. It then uses a silk holdfast at its tail end to secure itself, and is more muted in color. The light brown quiescent **pupa** evades predators by resembling a piece of stick or dead leaf.

The **passion vine** (*Passiflora*) is the host plant which contains alkaloids that are ingested by the larvae. This makes them distasteful to predatory birds. If a bird swallows its victim, it regurgitates a short time later. This experience is evidently memorable since the bird won't return for more. In our garden, we have a number of passion vines, including *Passiflora citrina*, *Passiflora* 'Witchcraft', and *Passiflora* 'Coral Glow', planted in sunny locations. Our favorite is 'Coral Glow', which blooms most of the year. Our vines guarantee that the spectacular Gulf Fritillary is with us all year too.

Our daughter and son-in-law, Linda, and Marco, who live nearby, have the



Gulf Fritillary. Photo by Ann Platzer

blue passion vine, (*Passiflora caerulea*). It is very robust and has completely covered 25 feet of their chain link fence. Another robust host plant is *Passiflora alatacaerulea*. If you have an ugly fence, why not cover it with passion vines? The Gulf Fritillaries will reward you with their presence.

Incidentally, this Lepidopteran is native to Mexico and the South Eastern United States, where its host plant is native. Gulf Fritillaries followed the introduction of hybrid passion vines into Southern California. **Please note:** Not all passion vines host the Gulf Fritillary,

especially the edible-fruited *Passiflora edulis*.

Before closing one day, Nanci Nelson and I were talking about butterflies. She asked me to recommend some books that would assist her in using her binoculars to identify butterflies. Here are two:

- Glassberg, Jeffery (2001). *Butterflies Through Binoculars: The West*. Oxford University Press, 374pp.
- Heath, Fred (2004). *An Introduction to Southern California Butterflies*. Mountain Press Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 280pp.

Happy Butterfly Gardening!



State of the Gardens

PLANTS TO SEE: There are still plants flowering in the California desert section while Baja California receives monsoon rainfall in summer time. Looking at the upper trail from the gate house, on the left side of the entrance gate, there is our iconic *Chitalpa tasbkentensis*. A branch of the chitalpa broke recently, revealing more of the beautiful, slow-growing Mexican blue palm (*Brabea armata*).

Climbing around the chitalpa on the upper trail, behind the restrooms, is the Texas olive or anacahuia (*Cordia boissieri*) a shrub with 2.5 inch white flowers. Native to New Mexico, Texas, and Mexico, it blooms from spring to fall. On either side of the Dugger Ramada, notice the tall *Yucca valida* with cream flowers from southern Baja. Trailing over the ramada is the flowering yellow orchid vine or gallineta (*Mascagnia macroptera*) with its unusual lime green, winged fruits. The back fence sports a coral vine from Mexico (*Antigonon leptopus*). These vines flower in the hottest time of the year with minimal water.

Farther along the upper trail, the Arizona rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*), with its white flowers forms an ever-green shrub similar to oleander. This is followed by an ocotillo relative called palo Adan (*Fouquieria diguetii*) and boojum trees with white flowers (*F. columnaris*) from Baja. Also on the cactus knoll is a coral flowered yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*) from southwest Texas, and Mexican palo verde tree (*Parkinsonia aculeata*) with bright yellow and orange flowers. Rose-colored blooms of rose cactus (*Pereskia*



grandifolia) camouflage this primitive cactus with persistent leaves, which hides large spines among its green foliage.

At the top end of the Lilac Loop, one sees scarlet berries of the endangered Nevin's barberry, adding color to the grey green leaves. Close by are flowers of western mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) with four white petals. (Modern hybrid mock oranges with larger white petals are planted near the azalea bed in Alder Canyon.) At the top of the north coast trail, the Rancho Rose Garden displays modern All-American rose cultivars. On the north side of the Greenhouse, the Formal Rose Garden is being tended by student assistants as part of their summer work. In the streambed between the two rose gar-

dens, the native California rose (*Rosa californica*) displays its profuse pink blossoms.

The Greenhouse door is adorned on either side by dwarf magnolia trees (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem') displaying large white blossoms. Across the drive, we see the new Butterfly Garden. This is discussed briefly below and will be featured in the Fall Newsletter. Early summer in the Herb Garden features many mint family relatives in bloom. South African jasmine (*Jasminum angulare*) covers the belvedere there, perfuming the air on a still day. In the developing Medicinal Plant Garden surrounding the upper restrooms, caper (*Capparis spinosa*), another spectacular Mediterranean plant with white petals and purple stamens, is in bloom under the Albizia tree. Across the arroyo, the Cape chestnut (*Calodendrum capense*), a citrus relative, shows off its large pink flowers.

Be sure to take your younger family members to see the turtles and mosquito fish in the pond. At the far end of which is a green-spathed form of calla lily, 'Green Goddess'. The arbor steps are cool in summer with a covering of native grape (*Vitis girdiana*). Along the path in Alder Canyon, on the way back to the entrance, there are several cultivars of oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) from the Southeast. These have large, conical flower heads in summer months.



BUTTERFLY GARDEN: Theresa Arial reports the Butterfly Garden is almost complete. Many different plants supporting the four life stages of butterflies have been planted. Paradise

Garden Center installed the decomposed granite pads. Two memorial benches for Dr. Betty C. Moore and Dr. Kristine M. Scarano have been shipped and bronze dedication plaques will be attached. Abe Köksal has already installed the bench pads. We are adding a second green metal fence on the east side of this garden (not in the original plan) to deter folks from cutting through the slow growing *Viburnum* hedge. Many plants in the Butterfly Garden are in bloom, presenting a riot of color for winged and non-winged visitors. **Butterfly Garden major donors Ann and Ed Platzer** celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary this June. We have received several donations from their friends who wish to contribute to the Botanic Gardens Endowment Fund, pay-out from which will help maintain the Butterfly Garden in perpetuity.

PLANT SALE AND PRIMAVERA:

I wish to thank all the volunteers and staff who helped with the plant sale in late March and with Primavera in May. Since the Botanic Gardens presently receives only \$4,700 a year from the campus to maintain the 40 acre property and to pay for temporary workers and student assistants, the net proceeds from the spring plant sale are used to augment this amount. The proceeds from Primavera are used to finance the Friends nature-education programs for school children and students. Thank you volunteers, sponsors, and donors.

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS TO THE

SOUTH AFRICAN SLOPE: Preliminary work took place in April and May to continue construction of this pathway in the South African Garden. Funding was donated by Mrs. Dorothy Zentmyer and The Mildred and Bernard Tucker Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties while the major portion of the funding was contributed from the development fund of the Friends.

CONFERENCE ROOM REMODEL:

Generous donations from Botanic Gardens Friend Grace Pernette Lorenz and her son Gary Lamberson will allow the Conference Room to be reconfigured. The removal of the concertina wall and of the sink and counter (currently in the middle of the room) will allow space

for more seating and for the creation of both a kitchen area and storage at the west end of the building. The remodel is planned to start at the end of June. Once this is completed, the second part of the project begins. This is to build two additional ADA compliant restrooms, repurposing the gatehouse storage space.

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB:

I wish to thank the Temecula Valley Garden Club for their award in May to student assistant Michael Voeltz.

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN: I am sad to report the passing of Michael O'Halloran on March 24. Michael was a devoted Gardens volunteer. During many plant sales, once the plants were removed to the sale area, he made it his job to overhaul the emptied nursery spaces. Hardly stopping to eat, he would clean up and organize the areas, making them ready for the return of unsold plants after the sale. The last few years when Michael's health kept him from this job, several people have been needed to duplicate his work. His family invites those wishing to honor Mike to donate to the Botanic Gardens or to a charity that provides services to those in need.

DONATIONS: In addition to funds received in February 2012 and mentioned in the Spring Newsletter, I wish to thank the following donors:
Botanic Gardens General Fund: Ms. Dianne Allen-Willis, Mrs. Alice Auck, Drs. Steven & Rise Axelrod, Mr. David Blodgett, Ms. Melissa Bope, Ms. Barbara Bourgeois, Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Boutin, Ms. Barbara Boxold, Ms. Paula Bramlett, Mr. & Mrs. Tony Brandon, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Bustamante, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Carpenter, Ms. Elizabeth Casey, Mr. Ron Castro, Ms. Rita Chenoweth, Mr. & Mrs. James Crossfield, Dr. & Mrs. David Crowley, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Daries, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Dobrosky, Dr. Gerald & Mrs. Sandra Edwards, Mr. Bill Ellis, Mr. Leland Farley & Mrs. Mildred Garrison, Drs. Brian & Claire Federici, Dr. & Mrs. David Funder, Ms. Ruth Halman, Ms. Marilyn Harris, Pres. Gloria Harrison & Mr. William Harrison, Ms. Kathleen Haughton, Ms. Barbara Hayes, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Houser, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kataoka, Mr. David & Mrs. Lenitia Kellstrand, Ms. Dana Klatt, Ms. Barbel LaMar, Mr. & Mrs. Walter

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Botanic Gardens Memorial Fund: Mrs. Doris Rhine in memory of Betty Coleman, Mrs. Mary Ann Solorzano in memory of Catalina Ocan, Ms. Catherine Tiller in memory of Michael O' Halloran, Ms. Lisa Straitt in memory of Michael O'Halloran.

Botanic Gardens Wheelchair Pathway Fund: Ms. Gracie Avila, Mrs. Anita Berroteran, Mr. Dan Chesmore, Ms. Leni Espiritu, Mr. Kenneth Furuta, Dr. David Glidden & Ms. Susan Carpenter, Colonel & Mrs. James Jones, Ms. Judith Kahn, Ms. Valerie Littlehawk, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Losee, Ms. Tania Marien, Dr. David Oglesby & Mrs. Laura McGeehan, Ms. Janet Townsend.

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Friends of Botanic Gardens Projects Fund: Mr. Robert & Mrs. Caroline Larson, Ms. Beulah Smith, Mr. Van Stout.

Friends of the Botanic Gardens Endowment Fund: Ms. Bonnie Russell.

UCR Herbarium Fund: J.G. Waines.

Primavera In The Gardens

RIVERSIDE'S PREMIER FOOD AND WINE TASTING EVENT – the Best and Biggest Garden Party ever – was a great success this year! The music was wonderful; new restaurants and wineries joined the party; florists from around the City outdid themselves; there were over 60 entrants in the Silent Auction; 3 boutique shops added to our pleasure; and the plain air painters amazed us.

We offered new benefits to sponsors, including space in the newsletter. All in all, we had higher profits from the event than we have realized in a decade. Remember, monies from Primavera go to support the Friends' education outreach programs.



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^ 1. Janice Ponsor & Brightie Dunn



> 2. Nan Simonsen



^ 3. Harold Larson & Concha Rivera



^ 13. Silent Auction Team



^ 14. Happy guest



^ 15. Doris Rhine & friend



^ 4. Beverly Maloof, Jane Block & Hal Snyder



^ 5. Red Hat Ladies with friend



< 7. Hillary Brown



< 8. Rosalie Anderson



^ 9. David Trunnelle & Theresa Arial



^ 11. Garden Friends: Ann Platzer with Einar & Sally Gall



^ 12. Scarano Family: Vince, Jo, Kathryn & Robert



< 25. Dericksen & Mary Brinkerhoff
> 26. "See you at the 15th Annual Primavera in 2013!"



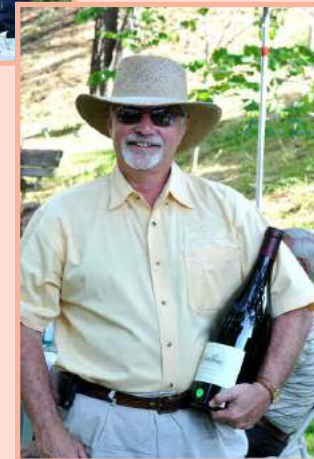
< 21. Robert Scarano



< 22. John Ernsberger, Committee Chair



^ 17. Joan Coffee



> 19. Big Winner & Silent Auction prize



^ 20. Siri Khalsa



^ 24. Pam & Mike Roos



^ 18. Chelsea Munson celebrates her 21st birthday with her mom, Debby.



> 16. Margo Chabot, Friends Board President



The 14th Annual

The Board of the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens sends its appreciation to all those whose generosity made this event possible, including the tireless work of the Primavera Committee, the Silent Auction Committee, the Floral Ambiance Committee, the many Primavera volunteers, the Gardens Staff and Student Helpers, and Teen Challenge of Riverside.

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UC Riverside Botanic Gardens

The UCR Botanic Gardens Newsletter is a quarterly journal published by the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens, UC Riverside Foundation, 900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521, and is one of the benefits of membership. Articles on various aspects of horticulture and its practice, history, or related subjects, especially as they apply to inland Southern California are welcomed. The selection of copy to print is at the discretion of the editors. Send copy to Steve Morgan, Botanic Gardens, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521, call 951.784.6962, e-mail smorgan@ucr.edu or visit our website at www.gardens.ucr.edu for information.

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THANK YOU, PRIMAVERA PHOTOGRAPHERS

This year we thank Katherine Kendrick, new Co-President of the Friends Board, and her creative daughter, Rachael Harms, for their photographic work. These talented women have captured Primavera events, emotions, and memories in a masterful way, especially for this Summer Quarterly. Credits follow. Katherine Kendrick: 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25. Rachael Harms: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 26.

Around the Gardens

MESSAGE FROM THE FRIENDS PRESIDENT:

Some people think only intellect counts: knowing how to solve problems, knowing how to get by, knowing how to identify an advantage and seize it. But the functions of intellect are insufficient without courage, love, friendship, compassion and empathy. - DEAN KOONTZ

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your President the past three years. I have met so many wonderful "Friends" along the way. Everyone that I have met and worked with has enriched my life. We all share the same passion and desire for the beautification and preservation of the UCR Botanic Gardens.

In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Waines, the Gardens Staff and the Friends Board for their support and dedication. We have accomplished so much together, and I am proud of the events we have created and the positive changes we have made.

My congratulations go to Amy Hao and Katherine Kendrick as the new board Co-Presidents. I am confident that with their leadership the "Friends" will continue to grow and flourish.

Thank you, everybody, for your courage, love, friendship, compassion and empathy.

Margo Chabot

President of the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens
July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012



Good-Byes & Hellos

Recently, I had the opportunity to interview the five women who have just completed their 4-year terms of service on the Friends Board: Margo Chabot, Sue Wallace, Janine Almanzor, Phyllis Franco, and Nanci Nelson. These women have made a difference to the Gardens. Luckily for us, they have favorite activities and intend to continue being involved. I asked them what they enjoyed about their service and what they brought to the board.

They were unanimous that what they enjoyed most was working with the other volunteers. One of them expressed it this way, "Gardeners are the best people."

MARGO CHABOT: Board president Margo was a terrific innovator, fundraiser, and all around "go-getter". She was intent on the university being more involved with the Gardens, taking the Gardens into the community, and obtaining credit card access for Gardens' activities and on the website. She restructured the board such that members came in suited to specific jobs. To read more about her presidency, see the write-up for her as Volunteer of the Month of June on page 11.

SUE WALLACE: Board vice president Sue wrote, "I enjoyed everything about being on the board, the people, the events and committees, etc. I really cannot single out a particular event. Margo was such a wonderful leader and I followed her lead. There were so many good people with so much knowledge. As time went on, I enjoyed getting to know so many who made such great and positive contributions. Those who serve on the board, past and present, have shown their passion for making these Gardens a standout at UC Riverside and in the Inland Empire!"

JANINE ALMANZOR: Serving on the first bulletin board committee (a job she wants to keep) was a favorite of Janine's. She said her major contributions came from taking on challenging jobs. After suggesting that we ask local florists to contribute bouquets to Primavera for the vendors' tables, she took on calling florists all over the City. (This has conserved money, saved volunteer hours, and added beautiful floral displays.) She has taken 100s of photos of the Gardens, and helped with numerous events.

PHYLLIS FRANCO: Remarking "It has been a dream to be on the board", Phyllis's life has been enriched by her involvement with the many Gardens' activities, especially Primavera. This year, she contributed by using the Excel spreadsheet program for Silent Auction items. She noted that during her tenure, she has fallen in love with plants and birds, and that, happily, her eyes have been opened to all of nature.

NANCI NELSON: One of Nanci's favorite aspects of being a board member has been working with others toward a common purpose. She noted that our Gardens is very people friendly, with its turtle pond, Butterfly Garden, and rustic beauty. For four years, Nanci has been the person who made travel arrangements for the Spring Outing and set out the enjoyable meal for Bird Walk & Breakfast participants.

YOUR NEW BOARD FOR 2012-2016

Officers: Co-Presidents, Amy Hao & Katherine Kendrick; Vice President, TBA; Treasurer, Dennis Ponsor; Secretary, Brenda Bowers.

New Members: Rob Lennox, Rosemary Neal, Julie Oppen, Debbie Pense, Angelica Regalado, Nan Simonsen. 🐦



Happenings Around The Gardens

SPRING PLANT SALE, March 31 & April 1.

We enjoyed a very successful plant sale this spring. The workshops were well attended and having Tomato Time! for the kids was very popular. You may not be aware that a large percentage of our profits go to Parking Services. Reducing this expense is a goal your board has been working toward for several years.

BIRD WALK & BREAKFAST,

April 7. Another great day of sighting birds in the Gardens was made even more special by the attendees. Several North High School students (and their families) participated in this walk. The students



were fulfilling a science project requirement. It was very rewarding to introduce these young people to the birdwatching and identification experience. A great time was had by all! 🌸 AJ

KOGCB DAY, April 14.

Keep Our Gardens Clean & Beautiful Day continues to be a big success -- and a huge boon to the Gardens. Young people from the community and the university have participated from the beginning. However, this year we were approached by Robin Treen, current president of the local Kiwanis. Robin provided young men and women helpers from Circle K. (Circle K International is a collegiate service organization that is a sponsored leadership program of Kiwanis International, promoting service, leadership, and fellowship. It has over 13,250 members.) Robin has requested that his group be given their own area to care for at each KOGCB Day, a very gratifying request. 🌸 SK



ADULT ED: BACK TO THE GARDEN TOUR, April 21.

Thanks again to the Strzemiecznys, Al and Shirley, for hosting a tour of their beautiful and innovative garden. Attendees were able to see the wonderful uses made of recycled materials such as sinks from an old Subway restaurant and a table from Gottschalk's. Also designed with their young granddaughters in mind, their garden boasts collections of berry bushes, a large chess/checker board, and a slide between one level of the garden and another.

Having created and installed their garden themselves, Al and Shirley were able to discuss successes and failures,



sharing how the garden has evolved over the years. Attendees had a wonderful morning wandering the property, and appreciated the delicious refreshments provided by the hosts. 🌸 AH

SPRING OUTING TO DESCANSO GARDENS, May 6.

For the first time ever, participants had to take a raincheck for March 17. The trip finally took place on Sunday, May 6th. The slightly smaller attendance (40- 45) reflected our scheduling issues. It was a wonderful outing. After being greeted by an amiable docent, some participants opted for the tram tour (special for our group), and some for the walking tour. There were opportunities to see the historic Boddy House, and to wander among the still-blooming camellias. (Truly a forest!) The usual festivities were enjoyed on the return bus trip. 🌸 KK

PRIMAVERA IN THE GARDENS, May 20.

See complete coverage of this event on pages 5-8. Behind the scenes, Friends bought a new canopy for the entrance as well as twelve 60" round tables. (This equipment will also be used at other events and activities.) Prez Margo commented that with less people, there were more places to sit, more food, and we still generated the best profits in a decade. 🌸 MC

FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING, June 7

The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens went well. Our speaker, Brian Taylor, from the Citrus Research Board, spoke about the Asian Citrus Psyllid and related diseases. The real danger of the aphid-like insect is that it can carry a deadly, bacterial tree disease called Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as Citrus Greening Disease, one of the most devastating citrus diseases in the world. HLB poses a huge threat to backyard



trees and commercial citrus in southern states across the U.S.

During the meeting portion the board's new slate of officers was confirmed and new members of the board were introduced. (Listed on page 9.) It was announced that next year will be the 15th Annual Primavera and the 50th Anniversary of the Botanic Gardens! 🌸 SK

KIDS' ADVENTURE IN THE GARDENS, June 9.

At this exciting adventure, the Gardens played host to a new flock of Bird Watchers. Nineteen children, ranging in age from five to eleven, enjoyed a walk through the Southwest Desert area and Alder Canyon, discovering several bird nests along the way. They even found a Black Phoebe nest in the eaves behind the Conference Room! They used binoculars for close up viewing.

Later at the display tables, they were able to examine some nest exhibits from the Gardens and also to see different types of birdhouses. They learned about the kinds of foods birds like and how to make a bird habitat in their own yards. The kids decorated birdhouses with bird seed and dried fruit to take home. Treat bags held all kinds of bird information and tips. Refreshments were sesame seed candies and "hummingbird juice". 🌸 JP



Upcoming Events

“A TWILIGHT TOUR”, Friday, August 24.

The Gardens are both serene and mysterious in the evening. Plus, they provide relief from the heat of the day. Join us for a cool evening stroll. The tour will be lead by our docents, and lasts about 1.5 hours. It is followed by dessert/refreshments on the patio. The cost is \$6.00 for Friends members and \$8.00 for non-members, payable at the door. (There is an hourly charge for parking.) Reservations are required. Call 951.784.6962 or email ucrbg@ucr.edu.



ADULT ED: GARDENING BASICS, Saturday, September 8, 9:30-noon.

From soils, to water wise plant choices, to care, our presenter, Nan Simonsen, Master Gardener and award winning landscape designer, will cover it all – and answer your questions. \$20 for Friends; \$25 for non-members.

FALL DINNER, Sunday, October 7.

Here is a heads-up for this annual event. Evening dining in the Gardens, chatting with friends, and listening to an interesting speaker are always enjoyable. More information forthcoming.

ADULT ED: GARDENING WITH CACTUS AND SUCCULENTS, Saturday, October 13, 9:30-noon.

Learn how to design a cactus and succulent garden; how to integrate these plants into your garden; how to create a container garden; and how to care for them all. Presenters Buck and Yvonne Hemenway, owners of The Prickly Palace nursery, are well-known experts and international plant finders. \$20 for Friends; \$25 for non-members.

FALL PLANT SALE, October 20 & 21.

ADULT ED: CREATING HOLIDAY WREATHS, Saturday, November 10, 9:30-noon. At this fun workshop, we will work with natural materials under the guidance of a local expert. Cost: TBA.

DATES FOR THE FOLLOWING

EVENTS TO BE ANNOUNCED: Bird Walk & Breakfast, Kids' Adventure, Keep Our Gardens Clean & Beautiful Day, Volunteer Orientation Day, and the Grand Opening of the Butterfly Garden with Theresa Arial and Ann Platzer.

Volunteer News

Are you interested in volunteering in the Gardens? To voice your interest or ask questions about volunteer opportunities, call Tandy Scott at 951.369.8933 or e-mail volunteerucrbg@gmail.com. The next formal Volunteer Orientation Day will be in October.

Volunteers of the Month

BY JANINE ALMANZOR

MAY – GAIL WATSON

If you have ever been to a plant sale then you have seen this joyful face. Gail has been volunteering in the Botanic Gardens since 1995. At every plant sale, she writes receipts; she has been a docent; and she has served on the board for a total of 14 years, including being secretary and vice president. And, that's not all! She comes regularly to propagate plants for the plant sales, and helps with the prep before the sales. She helps with Primavera set-up and has volunteered every January at the Rose Pruning Demo. She helps to organize the event as well as demonstrating how to prune the roses. On her own 3/4 acre property, she has over 60 roses, plus a large variety of other plants. (A third of an acre is devoted to drought tolerant plants, most purchased at the plant sales.) Her beautiful garden, which she designed, has been featured on garden tours. Gail has a wealth of gardening experience to share and she generously and joyfully shares it at the Botanic Gardens



Gail Watson

Gardens Clean & Beautiful, Kids' Adventure in the Gardens, Volunteer Appreciation, and Walk with the Mayor. She has also worked hard to promote awareness of the Botanic Gardens both on the campus and in the community. While president, she constantly worked at reducing spending and increasing funding. Margo is a go-

getter and her enthusiasm has inspired many others. She leaves behind very large shoes to fill. It never mattered that Margo didn't consider herself a "gardener". We all know there is more to do in the Gardens than gardening.

JULY – ELINOR POND

Five years ago, while working part time with avocado research on campus, Elinor began volunteering regularly at the Gardens. Now, she works mainly in the lath house with plant propagation. However, she is always available to do



Elinor Pond

whatever work is needed. For example, in preparation for plant sales Elinor works weeks beforehand, grooming and labeling the plants. Also you can find her writing receipts during the sales. She participates at Primavera, and pulls weeds at Keep Our Gardens Clean & Beautiful Day. She has a lovely home on four acres in the Lake Mathews area, traveling in regularly to help out. At home, she has her vegetable garden on stilts to keep the rabbits out. In addition, she grows a variety of citrus and fruit trees. When she's not here, Elinor stays busy tending to her garden, breeding dogs, playing tennis, and enjoying her grandchildren. She is an avid reader and even formed a book club, members of which just helped her celebrate its 25th anniversary. 🍷🐶 JA

JUNE – MARGO CHABOT

Four years ago, when she started volunteering at the Botanic Gardens, Margo did not consider herself a "gardener". Then she became a member



Margot Chabot

of the Friends Board of Directors. After a year on the board, she was voted president, and held that job until this June 30. Margo had large plans for the Gardens and began implementing them right away. During her presidency many new events were established including: Keep Our

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