

# UCRBG Newsletter

## BUTTERFLY CORNER - THE PROPERTIUS DUSKYWING

Article and photos by Ann Platzer

The Propertius Duskywing is a Spread-wing Skipper because it usually holds its wings out flat when perched. Only occasionally are the wings folded to show a ventral view. Skippers are separated from other butterflies by the fact that the clubbed antennae are hooked. Also, they have large eyes, stocky bodies, and powerful flight muscles.



Dorsal view

Propertius Duskywing, *Erynnis propertius*, family HesperIIDae, is the largest of the six Southern California duskywings with a wingspan of 1¼ to 1¾ inches. It is covered with long elevated hairs, giving the adult a hairy appearance. Although they are a fast-flying skipper, they do sit for awhile, especially when sipping moisture.

From a quick glance they just appear as a brownish butterfly. But with closer observation one sees that their dorsal forewings are darker than their lighter brown hind wings that have light tan spots. Also, the dorsal forewings have large translucent (hyaline) spots often lying within prominent dark-brown patches (see photo). These hyaline spots are larger in the female than in the male butterfly. Both fore- and hindwings have fringes. The prominent hindwing fringes are darkish not white as in other large Duskywing species.

The female lays eggs singly on the leaves of oaks, such as coast live oak, *Quercus agrifolia*, and the eggs hatch after a week. The larvae live in rolled-up-leaf nests. They hide in their leaf shelter during the day and feed on the oak leaves at night. During summer, the fully-grown larvae become dormant inside their silky shelters. Then in autumn, the oak leaves with shelters and larvae still attached fall to the ground. Early next spring the larvae “wake up” in their leaf shelters, pupate and adults emerge a few weeks later. Unfortunately, many larvae perish when leaf litter is removed under oak trees.

This species occurs throughout California. Their range is from southern British Columbia, south along the Pacific Slope to Baja California Norte. In Southern California the flight period is one brood, and adults fly from about mid March through July, although flight periods vary with altitude and latitude.

These butterflies are common and very widespread in their habitat of open oak woodlands, forest openings, meadows and fields, but are absent in the deserts or the hot central valleys. A hint to finding the Propertius Duskywing is to look for moisture crossing a dirt road. They are attracted to moisture, especially the males. We were fortunate to see them during early May

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## Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



As a public university botanic garden our mission is to provide a curated, living plant collection for research, education, and enjoyment. Over the past few years our staff and volunteers have made renewed efforts to update the collection database, augment the collection with new plantings, enhance the educational value

of our collection and gardens through signage and interactive GIS Story Maps, and beautify the planted beds for greater impact and enjoyment by all.

Of course, without visitors a botanic garden would not serve its purpose of engaging the public. Most well-established gardens have dedicated staff to ensure a positive and rewarding visitor experience, from the moment one steps into the garden to the time one leaves. In our case, if you have been a member, volunteer, visitor, or participant in our events you know that we have been able to manage visitors, programs, and events only by dispersing responsibilities over several staff members and recruiting volunteers to assist.

That is why I am pleased to announce that with careful planning and budgeting we have just hired our very first part-time Visitor Services Coordinator! Nancy Cullen is a long-time Friends member and volunteer with a background in landscape development, engineering, education, design, and customer service. She has already begun scheduling volunteer gate Stewards, reaching out to new prospective volunteers, and helping organize events. Over time we will create additional activities for Nancy to enhance the visitor experience.

When you visit you might see another new hire, Nikki van de Klundert, who has joined us as a part-time Nursery Technician. We plan to recruit another full time Nursery Technician during the summer to add needed capacity to our Gardens workforce. Our hardworking horticultural volunteers continue to make essential contributions to the upkeep of the Gardens by pruning, weeding, and cleaning up, effectively expanding our workforce beyond what our budget allows.

During this time of turnover, CNAS lost several development staff to retirement or recruitment by other institutions, which impacted us since the team has been crucial to our ability to host *Primavera in the Gardens* and other events over the past few years. I am pleased to announce that Robyn Martinelli has joined CNAS as the new Assistant Dean for Development and has already begun collaborating with us on new initiatives, donor relations, and future events.

Returning to a new normal after the past few years has been challenging; however, with new staff on board we are excited to be planning for a bright future for the Gardens. As always, please 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

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College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences



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through June sipping moisture on a dirt road at Cleghorn, elevation about 4,000 feet. In addition to being avid puddlers, the adults visit many flowers including vetches, blue dicks, phacelia, fiddleneck, yerba santa, and California buckwheat.

Please plant California native and butterfly friendly plants in your garden to help restore our native habitat.

Happy Butterfly Gardening! ~ AP

Thanks to Edward Platzer for proofing this article

## Spring Garden Tour



There couldn't have been a more perfect day in April to visit the beautiful garden of George and Elaine Spiliotis, longtime Friends members and dedicated volunteer (George). There were flowers in bloom everywhere you looked with birds and butterflies enjoying the environment as much as the human visitors did. The landscape was lush and full like an English garden but was made water wise by using California native plants. The tour began at 10 am with refreshments and a greeting from Director Jodie Holt followed by a presentation by George explaining how he learned along the way as he created his native garden. The group was then split in two groups and Karen Fleisher led the tour of the large front garden with half of the group, while George led the tour of the expansive back garden with the other half. Then the groups switched to allow equal time in both gardens. This was repeated at 1 pm with another sold-out tour. Every visitor was impressed with the beauty and creativity of George's garden and learned from his expertise.

A special thank you goes to Karen Fleisher for thinking of and organizing this wonderful event. We hope to have more such tours in the future.

## Online Spring Plant Sale

Online Plant Sales continue to be popular events for Friends members and the public. This April 2nd and 3rd we had 165 customers purchase over 1,600 plants, with sales totaling \$12,386. Though our best sellers tend to be California native plants, customers appreciate the variety of plants we offer from around the world, propagated from the Botanic Gardens' collection. Horticulturist Lois Whyde and her team of dedicated volunteers continue to do an excellent job of producing top quality plants for the sales. It's a pleasure to see all the happy and thankful customers as we load their plants into their cars during in-person pickups.

By next spring we are planning to have a plant nursery on-site where we can once again host in-person sales. Most importantly, with an on-site nursery we can sell plants without having to transport thousands of pots and set everything up in the Alder Canyon lawn, which proved to be prohibitively time consuming and financially unsustainable. In the meantime, we are hoping to offer additional smaller online sales to members during the year, and will host the large Online Fall Plant Sale for members and the public on October 8th and 9th, 2022.



Plants all ready for pickup!

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## Spotlight On Carson Brown

### Working at the UCRBG Changed Former Student's Life

By Lois Whyde



The Gardens have been fortunate over the years to have countless student employees. Occasionally we hear back from them, and recently Carson Brown called me out of the blue to tell me how much he appreciated and loved the Gardens. The following story is from that call.

Little did Carson Brown know that working at the UCR Botanic Gardens would mean so much to him. After four years of working 19 hours a week and three more months working full time after graduation, Carson says the Gardens changed the trajectory of his life.

Carson, 24, entered UCR in 2015 as an Environmental Sciences major. Always preferring to be outside hiking, Carson was impressed when he visited the Gardens for the first time. So impressed in fact that he “cold called” Theresa McLemore, former Gardens Manager, to ask for an interview, and ended up getting the job. He was impressed with Theresa’s knowledge of plants and soon became interested in California natives. Over time he developed a love for botany, horticulture, and landscape management. “It was an opportunity I couldn’t pass up,” Carson said. “Working there solidified the desire in me to do something outside with plants. I gained a whole new perspective.” He now works for New View Landscape in Calabasas, which deals strictly with large estate installations.

The Gardens also helped Carson through tough times and dark family issues and became a healing place for him. Instead of being stuck in a dorm room or an apartment, he was able to pick fruit in the orchard or watch butterflies with the Box Springs Mountains in the background. With the stress and pressures of college, the Gardens soon became a retreat from the world. Every activity was a lesson in Zen. He loved the watering, the

weed whacking, all of it. You could give him anything—cleaning spider webs or even plunging toilets—and he did it with a cheerful, positive outlook. “The Gardens felt like one big companion, a brother or grandfather,” Carson said. “When in the Gardens, I felt safe from the world.”

Working at the Gardens also taught Carson how to interact with the public. Before that he had worked at mechanical jobs but never with the public. With his new knowledge of plants Carson would tell our Gardens visitors about the popcorn senna or about willows, the precursor to aspirin. He was not the only student worker to appreciate the Gardens. During his four years working here, Carson became fast and lifelong friends with other UCR student workers, including Ryan Klachko and Doug Castro, both currently working on PhDs at different colleges in Colorado. Carson attributes his lifelong friendship with them to the hard work they performed at the Gardens. “The best way to get to know someone is to do manual labor with them, like digging a hole or moving debris,” he added. In the age of the iPhone, iPad, and Netflix where one often sits all day, working at the Gardens was an opportunity to get outside and flex his muscles.

Carson remembers with fondness retrieving a duck from the Turtle Pond and driving it to another location to set it free. Then the next day he was weed whacking and came across a snake, which he also relocated. Or the time when it was over 95°F and he and another student stacked blocks. But he loved it! He gained pride in gaining callouses as he learned how to use a shovel without gloves. The work was very satisfying, and each day was a new experience. “It was not easy work,” Carson added. “It is not for everybody. It is not for the faint of anything, but when times get tough you either get tough or you quit.”

As for the future of the Gardens, Carson would like to see more money invested in new cultivars, a new and bigger dome, and increased funding for the Gardens. “As you can tell by now, I love the UCR



Botanic Gardens,” Carson said. “Working there was the best thing I did in college. It was the best job ever.”

*Lois Whyde is a UCRBG Nursery Technician with over 45 years of horticultural experience in addition to 18 years’ experience as a part time newspaper journalist.*



## Butterfly Garden

The Master Gardener/UCRBG Docents are back at the Butterfly Garden on the first and third Sundays from 9 am till 12 pm. They answer questions about gardening for butterflies, point out eggs and larvae, and hand out resources. They recently spoke with 85 visitors and handed out numerous, well received popcorn senna plants.

A beautiful new plaque has been installed on a rock as you enter the Butterfly Garden to honor Ann and Ed Platzer for their contribution to the Butterfly Garden. The wording says,

**This Butterfly Garden made possible by the generous support of Ann & Ed Platzer Longtime Friends, volunteers, supporters.**



The UCRBG is an institutional member of the American Horticultural Society. A Friends membership entitles you to the benefits of participating in the AHS Reciprocal Admissions Program, which gives you free or discounted admission and other discounts at gardens and arboreta throughout North America. The AHS RAP Directory can be viewed and downloaded at their website at: [ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap](http://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap).

## Twilight Tours are back!

**Saturday, July 16, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm**

**Saturday, August 13, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Enjoy a guided tour of the Gardens in the cool of the evening. Light refreshments served after the tour.

You must RSVP and pay in advance at [gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu), click PAY ONLINE, Twilight Tour, select July or August.



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## Wildlife of the Gardens

### Japanese Koi

by Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

They grace the water of many aquariums, backyard ponds and even lakes. As you stroll past the pond at the UCR Botanic Gardens, look closely and you may catch a glimpse of a Japanese Koi (*Cyprinus rubrofuscus*). If you take the time to admire their beauty and elegant swimming, you will quickly realize why they have been the symbol of strength, perseverance, love, bravery, and dedication in Japanese and Chinese culture.

#### Habitat/Diet

Koi are the ornamental variation of a carp species that naturally occurs in the fresh water habitats surrounding the Aral, Caspian and Black Seas. In those habitats, they happily live an omnivorous life, consuming insects, algae and other plants. It is believed that Chinese rice farmers began domesticating these carp around the 4th century. The fish served as a source of food for the farmers. The practice spread to Japan where the farmers noticed the intense color variations that can exist in the species. In the 19th century, Japanese farmers began breeding the fish exclusively for color variation. Soon the fish became a prized possession and were often passed down as family heirlooms.

#### Breeding

Male Koi reach sexual maturity at 3-5 years old, while females are able to reproduce at 4-6 years old. In the wild, the species can swim great distances to reach the flooded meadows and marshes that will serve as their breeding grounds. Sexually mature Koi will make this journey once a year. Females lay their eggs on submerged vegetation and the larvae will remain in the area until they mature and are large enough to brave open waters.

#### Identification

Koi come in a variety of color variations. Most come in



Photo taken at the Huntington Botanical Gardens

some combination of orange, red, yellow, white and black. Some are specifically bred to be a single color. Color combination often determines the price tag of the fish. No matter the coloring, this fish is considered quite intelligent and will often form bonds with their human caretakers. It is not unheard of to have a Koi eat out of the hands of their caretaker. Having this bond can be very important since Koi can live 40-50 years, or longer. One legendary Koi named Hanako was born in 1751 and passed away in 1977. Koi can be aged by examining their scales, which grow like tree rings.

#### Threats

Japanese Koi are a domesticated version of carp and therefore do not face the same threats that many of our native species face. The Eurasian Carp, the species from which Koi originated from, is considered vulnerable to extinction within its native range. In other parts of the world, it is considered a non-native invasive species. The International Union for Conservation of Nature actually considers the species one of top 100 most destructive invasive species.

*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.*

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#### Benefits of Membership

- **Early plant sale shopping; members-only plant sales**
- **Quarterly Newsletter in digital or print format**
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## What to See in the Gardens

Article and photos by Miguel Estrada

Throughout the Gardens the spring flowers are starting to fade and it won't be long before we come under the warmer days of summer. Fortunately, not all plants have finished blooming and in the case of my first recommendation, some have yet to flower. Keep an eye out for the **California fuchsia** in our North Coast planters. We originally planted several different ***Epilobium canum*** cultivars and over the years they have hybridized and two predominate. You can find them nestled between the sharp bends of the switchbacks. The original planting of *Epilobium canum* 'Route 66' is by the second bend down



*Epilobium canum* 'Route 66'



Glaucous leaves of hybrid *Epilobium*

from the Lower Rose Garden and another cultivar/hybrid covers a larger area near the third bend. You will notice that the leaves of *E. canum* 'Route 66' are larger and greener than those of the other one, which is glaucous and has more delicate leaves. Some *Epilobium* species are native to California, and this second cultivar/hybrid has done well with the little water we provide. It also spreads quickly and can carpet a hillside in a few years. On occasion, we prune the plant a few inches from the soil. They become spindly if they are not cut back since most of the lush foliage is concentrated on the new growth. Both of these plants are some of the few plants in bloom during the peak of summer. For us, it means an extended period for flowers, but more importantly, these two will provide sustenance for hummingbirds when other plants have stopped producing.

***Adenostoma fasciculatum***, or **chamise**, is another plant that can extend its bloom period into summer. Unlike the *Epilobium*, with its noticeable crimson flower, chamise has a smaller white flower that on its own may not be impressive but when seen from afar, is beautiful. As a California native, chamise has adaptations to deal with dry arid summers, one of which is producing smaller leaves and even smaller flowers under tough conditions. You can see for yourself on the plants located across the



road from the Native American Garden. All the shrubs have survived with the rainfall that we get throughout the year and no supplemental irrigation, which is a remarkable feat considering what little water we get and high temperatures we experience at

the Gardens. Before looking to add this plant to your own landscape, keep in mind that chamise is highly combustible. Even in this trait, however, *Adenostoma fasciculatum* is adaptable and will quickly generate new growth from the devastating effects of a wildfire. In nature, chamise can be found in chaparral communities where it grows well on slopes and ridges. In fact, they are great plants for soil stabilization. They also serve as resources for insects and opportunistic birds looking to pick off an unsuspecting arthropod. All in all, this shrub is impressive and I hope you add this to your must-see list next time you are in the Gardens.



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for more information.

## Plants & Human Affairs Series

### The Ginkgo Tree

By Jo Ann Anderson

There is among us a form of life whose ancestry traces back nearly 300 million years. This is the ginkgo tree, *Ginkgo biloba*, whose closest relatives also have ancient heritage. Although it has broad leaves like angiosperms, ginkgo is a gymnosperm, closely related to cycads and conifers, because it produces “naked seeds” on its branches rather than seeds enclosed in flowers and fruit. Its broad leaves also differ from angiosperms in having the ancient form of dichotomous venation rather than



parallel (as in monocots) or netted (as in dicots). The ginkgo tree has sometimes been called “maidenhair fern tree” because of the resemblance of its leaves to those of the maidenhair fern, another early-evolved plant.

The unusual leaf form of the ginkgo was the inspiration for a love poem by the poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a literary, scientific, and political giant whose works have been considered the greatest in the German language and resonate to this day. Along with his prodigious intellection output, Goethe was a romantic, and addressed his love poem to the young wife of a friend. Using the symbolism of duality, he strikes a chord of “two as one”, as seen in the shape of the “Ginkgo” leaf.

The history of *Ginkgo biloba* among humankind stretches back as far as recorded history and beyond. An early ginkgo was identified in fossils from the Jurassic period, (200+ million years ago) and there are fossil leaves very similar to those today in rocks of the Eocene epoch (56 million years ago to 34 million years ago). Like many of its close relatives, ginkgo has survived millennia by having a deep taproot and the ability to withstand poor soils, air pollution, heat, and drought. With the expansion of angiosperms during the Eocene, native populations of



One of the two mature trees (~ 60 years old)

ginkgo were thought to shrink until only a small number of trees remained in China. It is from this stock that ginkgo trees were cultivated; today they are often planted as unique ornamentals in gardens and landscapes. The seeds of the female tree have an undesirable odor so male trees are preferred; unfortunately, the gender of the trees cannot be determined until they are mature, which is often too late!

Ginkgo extract was at one time considered an aphrodisiac, and it was also believed to protect and improve memory. Although today’s medical supplement shelves are stocked with various forms of *Ginkgo biloba*, there is no clear scientific evidence of its medicinal effects except for some toxicity if consumed in large quantities.

We are left today with simply a beautiful tree, and one symbolic in the past of romantic love. Its delicate foliage is a delight to see, and especially when it turns a brilliant yellow in autumn. It has been cultivated in many aristocratic gardens, including that of Goethe himself. It is especially revered for its longevity, with some trees dating back at least 1,000



years, and for its capacity to survive and prosper in adverse conditions. The Botanic Gardens has two mature trees along the main drive in the Temperate Deciduous Forest area and a lovely young specimen near the upper restroom.



## Birding in the Gardens

On Saturday, April 4 we were pleased once again to host a sold-out Bird Walk & Breakfast. A total of 23 enthusiastic new and returning birders, our two UCR birding experts, Norm Ellstrand and David Rankin, plus hosts Jodie and Doug Holt, convened at 6:45 a.m. in the Gardens Meeting Room for a welcome and introduction before embarking on the walk. While the guides and guests went birding, the hosts set out a continental breakfast for after the walk.

After about 2.5 hours of birding, the group reconvened to enjoy their self-serve breakfast complete with fresh pastries from Baguette Bakery and Café on Blaine Street. Norm and David went over the checklist provided and discussed with the group the day's sightings of resident and migrating birds. A total of 34 species were recorded, with the birders especially pleased about spotting a Phainopepla, Spotted Towhee, and Hooded Oriole. Other notable sightings were a Northern Flicker, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, and Townsend's Warbler.

UCR and the UCR Botanic Gardens are recognized bird hotspots that are included in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird, <https://ebird.org/home>, "...the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year by eBirders around the world." This database can be searched for bird records by location, year, month, or date range. Prior to each Bird Walk, and whenever you want to narrow down the list of birds you are likely to see in the Gardens, you can use this site to produce a Field Checklist of birds seen during the month of your visit over the past 10 years. This list also helps identify the birds we see on the Bird Walks.



Hooded Oriole (photo by Lee Reeder)



Ruby-crowned Kinglet (photo by Lee Reeder)

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## In the Works

### By Botanic Gardens Staff

During a mild-weather spring, our staff and volunteers have been busy with Gardens projects and activities, which are summarized below.

#### Gardens and Grounds:

- ▶ Tree pruning was contracted to remove two broken branches and three dead trees, improving safety in highly visited areas of the Gardens.
- ▶ A comprehensive safety audit was conducted in the Gardens by UCR's Safety Engineer, and we are pleased to report that there were no significant findings.
- ▶ As a result of our annual fire safety inspection, the area surrounding Schneider House has been cleared of debris and trees have been pruned.
- ▶ Drainage work is in progress on the south-facing side of the greenhouse to eliminate standing water used by mosquitos and facilitate rainwater drainage during winter.
- ▶ The irrigation system in the Butterfly Garden was retrofit for improved coverage.
- ▶ Mulch has been added to the Rose Gardens, Herb Garden, Butterfly Garden, and more.
- ▶ The grass area under the mulberry tree in Alder Canyon is now open after a few months of closure during the reseedling process.
- ▶ St. Augustine grass was renovated by removing thatch and transplanting in new grass.
- ▶ All drip emitters in the Rose Gardens and Chaparral area were inspected and changed to the smallest flow of 0.5 gph to reduce water runoff.
- ▶ A new shade structure was constructed in the Subtropical Fruit Orchard to provide better growing conditions during summer for potted plants slated for sale.
- ▶ More succulents were added to the rock garden by the entrance steps.
- ▶ A new planting of *Aloe plicatilis* was installed in the South Africa Garden.

#### Activities and Events:

- ▶ Master Gardeners/UCRBG Docents have resumed their presence on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at the Butterfly Garden where they answer questions about gardening for butterflies and offer resources.
- ▶ The Butterfly Garden has an updated map reflecting the new plants added this winter and spring.
- ▶ A small online Plant Sale was offered to Friends members in early June.
- ▶ The Gardens has been bustling with activity from tours of all ages and many UCR classes have utilized the Gardens this spring for their first in-person labs in two years.
- ▶ After several years of working with campus architects, a new design to replace the Geodesic Dome has been approved and renderings will be produced to facilitate fundraising.
- ▶ We are pleased that the Cal Poly Pomona Department of Landscape Architecture has tentatively accepted two of our projects, a Children's Garden and an outdoor meeting area, for their senior thesis/design studio this coming fall.



Beau Attride & Jorge Fregoso working on drainage



New mulch in the Rose Gardens



New shade structure for potted plants



Ann Platzer (left) with visitors at the Butterfly Garden



## In Memoriam

### Dr. Frank Vasek, the First Director of the UCR Botanic Gardens

By Cheri Vasek, Cindy Engel and Maxine Vasek



The first director of the UCR Botanic Gardens, Frank C. Vasek passed away in Davis, California on January 11, 2022, at the age of 94. He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Maxine, daughters Cheri Vasek and Cindy Engel, son-in-law Tom Engel, grandchildren Clara and Katie Engel, and Frank's younger sister, Joan McCombs.

Frank was born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 9, 1927. Following high school he enlisted in the Marine Corps, after which he attended the University of Ohio, graduating in 1950. Frank attended graduate school at UCLA, pursuing a PhD in Botany with research emphasis in genetics and taxonomy. There he met fellow UCLA graduate student Maxine McClelen, who was majoring in plant anatomy. They were married in August of 1954. Frank and Maxine shared a love of plants, and together they created beautifully landscaped yards with flourishing native and drought tolerant species at their homes in Riverside, Valley Center, and Davis. He earned his PhD in Botany at UCLA in 1955 and soon after joined the faculty at the new UCR campus. Frank conducted research in ecology and systematics over a long and productive career. One of his most significant projects was discovering the desert creosote "King Clone" as the oldest living

organism on earth. Teaching and mentoring students was a particularly meaningful aspect of his academic career.

Soon after Frank's arrival he was appointed to play a key founding role in establishing the Herbarium and the new botanic garden on the young UCR campus. As the Botanic Gardens' first director, serving until 1967, Frank developed a budget, designed a plan emphasizing California native plants and select exotic plants, and made many physical improvements including an irrigation system, small lathhouse, perimeter fences, and roads.

Upon retiring from UCR after a 34-year career, Frank and Maxine moved to a 3-acre property in Valley Center, California, where they revitalized a fruit orchard and developed a mini botanic garden in their front yard. When they moved to Davis in 2000, they again pursued their passion for gardens, creating a beautiful garden in their suburban lot. Frank and Maxine moved to the University Retirement Community in Davis in 2013 and even there, Frank surreptitiously developed a lively garden in what had once been a neglected area and created an identification guide for the trees and shrubs on the grounds.

Frank was humble, patient, devoted, kind, and always optimistic, even in the face of major life challenges. One key to his optimism was his capacity to reflect thoughtfully and with gratitude. Whether those reflections were regarding circumstances, relationships, projects, tasks, or other challenges, it was the lens through which he saw the world. He always said that he never shied away from tackling difficult situations. Throughout his life, he exemplified a commitment to being present and engaged in the issue at hand to create positive outcomes. The UCR Botanic Gardens owes a huge debt of gratitude to the dedication, creativity, and passion of Frank Vasek, its founding Director.



(Left to Right) Dennis Kucera, Giles Waines, Andrew Sanders, Frank Vasek, and Oscar Clarke (seated)

Photo from the 2013 Friend's Luncheon when Dr. Vasek was the guest speaker.

## UCRBG Calendar of Events

June 4-5 **Online Excess Plant Sale- Friends Members' sale**, 6 am on  
6/4/22 through midnight on 6/5/22

June 8 & 10 **In-person, curbside plant pickup**

June 23 **Friends Members Annual Meeting**, 5:00 - 6:30 pm

July 16 **Twilight Tour**, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

August 13 **Twilight Tour**, 6:00 - 8:00 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 and the  
2nd & 4th Saturdays 8 am - 2 pm until further notice.

(Please check our website for closure dates)