



UCRBG Newsletter

Butterfly Corner

Reakirt's Blue

Article and photos by Ann Platzer

While visiting Big Morongo Canyon Preserve in June 2023, Ed and I observed the Reakirt's Blue, *Echinargus isola* (Lycaenidae family), a small butterfly with a wingspan of approximately one inch.

The ventral side of the forewing has a postmedian row of prominent large round black spots circled with white (5 seen in ventral view {photo 1} and 6 seen in partial dorsal view {photo 2}). Note that this partial dorsal view is light blue with dark veins. Whitish fringed margins are evident in both photos.

The Reakirt's Blue females lay eggs singly during midday on the buds and flowers of many legumes (*Fabaceae*) and the caterpillars especially like the tender seedpods of honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*).

Caterpillars have glands that release pheromones to attract ants and have a nectary organ that secretes a sweet solution to feed the ants. In return the ants tend caterpillars and defend them against parasitic wasps and flies.

Adult butterflies feed on flower nectar of buckwheat, clover, and other herbs.

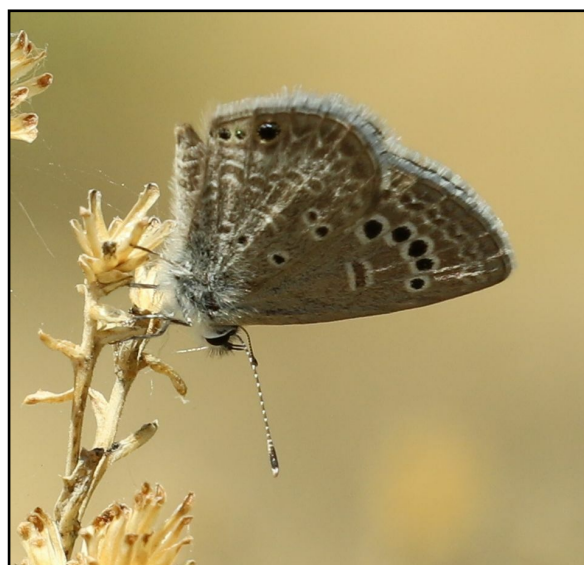


Photo 1: Ventral view



Photo 2: Partial dorsal view

The Reakirt's Blue ranges in the southwest from southern California to Texas and through Central America to Costa Rica. It is a common blue butterfly of many southwestern habitats, establishing temporary colonies to the north and east. In the Southwest it is more at home at higher elevations. The Reakirt's Blue flies all year in the south with three or more broods from spring to autumn.

During May and June, Big Morongo Canyon Preserve is an excellent site to observe the Reakirt's Blue and many other butterflies

such as the California Patch, Lorquin's Admiral, Mylitta Crescent, Queen, Satyr Comma, and Western Pygmy Blue.

HAPPY BUTTERFLY GARDENING!

AP

Thank you to Edward Platzer for editing this article.

In This Issue

- P. 1 Butterfly Corner - Reakirt's Blue
- P. 2 Director's Report
- P. 3 In Memoriam - Jo Ann Anderson
- P. 4 Wildlife of the Gardens - Allen's Hummingbird
- P. 5-7 Around the Gardens
- P. 8 Project Updates
- P. 9 Spotlight On Douglas Holt
- P. 10 In the Works
- P. 11 2024 Donor Honor Roll

Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



When I walk through the Gardens in winter, visitors often ask “what is the best season to visit?” usually meaning “when is everything in bloom?” My first answer is always “anytime,” and I direct them to our desert gardens, which have lovely color in winter. Then I always follow by telling them when the recently pruned roses will be in full bloom, as well as many trees, shrubs, and bulbs throughout the Gardens.

Another frequent question is “when will you replace the dome?” As I have written before, after 40+ years this beloved and functional lath structure has degraded beyond any possibility of repair. Because it was custom installed from a unique Buckminster Fuller geodesic dome design in the 1980s (see the Winter 2019, Vol. 29. No. 4 issue of this Newsletter on our website under the News tab), replacing it in kind is not possible. Much research and searching convinced us that replacing it with a domed structure is not feasible due to modern structural requirements, the excessive cost of custom designing curved walls, and the lack of any commercial businesses that construct domed lath houses.

With that information we approached the architects at UCR's PD&C (Planning, Design, and Construction) to help us develop a concept design for a replacement lath house that would serve our needs for shade-requiring prehistoric plants and maintain the rustic nature of the dome. The first design presented to us was dramatic and aspirational but would cost far beyond our capacity or that of our donors. We and PD&C did not give up, and I am now pleased to announce that we have approved a new concept design for the replacement with a functional yet rustic Plant Pavilion, which will have more capacity for plants and people as well as shaded outside seating. PD&C has also retained a local architect who is excited to work on this project and sensitive to our budgetary limitations.

Our earlier appeal for support for replacing the dome raised sufficient funds to pay for further developing the concept design, producing working blueprints, and obtaining all required permits, work that is now underway. We are so grateful for that first round of support and pleased that we can finally announce that the project is moving forward! Once we have more information, we will work with our CNAS Development team to roll out an official fund-raising campaign to cover the total cost, which is required before the project can begin.

Please stay tuned for updates on these projects and continue to follow us through our website, Newsletter, eNews, and social media. As always, I welcome your feedback to me at 951-827-7095 or bgddirector@ucr.edu.

Jodie

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In Memoriam ~ Jo Ann D. Anderson

by Jodie Holt

In December Jo Ann Anderson, our beloved friend, mentor, and author of articles in this Newsletter on the role plants play in human history, passed away after under- going treatment for pancreatic cancer. Some of you might remember Jo Ann as CNAS Senior Director of Development before she retired in 2017 and eventually moved to Poulsbo, Washington to be near her sister.

Jo Ann was born in Montana on June 2, 1939, and enjoyed telling of her life in the remote area where running water and electricity were scarce. Her father was a member of the Gros Ventre tribe, and her Native American heritage was a lifelong source of pride. Jo Ann's family moved to Libby, MT, where her sister Deanna was born. Jo Ann attended school and graduated from Libby Senior High in 1957.

While part of her heart would always remain in Montana, Jo Ann set out as a young woman for San Diego, California, where she spent the defining years of her life and built an impressive career of over 50 years in business administration and major gift fundraising. She was Vice President of Development at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla and held senior appointments at both UC San Diego and UC Riverside as well as with private organizations including the Neurosciences Institute in La Jolla and the Alzheimer's Association. Believing strongly in community service, Jo Ann was Founding Executive Director of The San Diego River Park Foundation and a member of its Board for many years; she also served on the Board of the San Diego Zoo and as a court-appointed juvenile advocate. In Washington she volunteered with Second Season and Fishline in Poulsbo, serving on its Board of Directors through 2024.



Jo Ann and Robert Frost

Jo Ann was a seasoned traveler, exploring exotic cultural destinations and many of the world's great cities. She continued to travel in retirement but also enjoyed the quieter life at her bayside home, where she wrote, gardened, painted, created pottery and glass art pieces, and spent time with her two Pekingese dogs. At the time of her death, she was working on a book explaining fundraising principles to young academics and continuing a series of articles for the UCR Botanic Gardens illustrating the impacts of plants on human affairs and civilization.

Jo Ann touched many hearts during her remarkable life and will be dearly missed by family and friends alike.

Support the Botanic Gardens

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Wildlife of the Gardens

Allen's Hummingbird

By Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

Some critters pack a whole bunch of attitude into a tiny body. That can definitely be said about the Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). While there are other hummingbirds with more attitude, this little bird can still hold its own when it comes to defending its favorite flower or feeder. While some Allen's Hummingbirds currently spend their winter in Mexico, others remain in our area year around. As we approach the nesting season and winter rains cause our native plants to produce nectar rich blooms, it is a great time to see them around your yard or local botanic garden.

Habitat/Diet

The males and females of this species differ in habitat preference. The males tend to prefer open wooded areas while the females prefer thickly wooded areas with plenty of cover. Overall, it is easiest to find them in chaparral, coastal forests, and other brushy low elevation habitats. They are also at home in lush gardens, parks, or urban yards where they sip from any tubular shaped flowers in bloom as well as from hummingbird feeders. Males and females will aggressively defend their patch of flowers or feeders and for good reason. Hummingbirds will die from low blood sugar if they go more than twenty-four hours without nectar. However, they are not fueled by sugar alone. Hummingbirds need protein, and small insects provide that source of protein. They are known to consume ants, flies, gnats, wasps, beetles, fruit flies, mosquitoes, aphids, bees, and larvae. Insects are plucked from vegetation, caught in flight, or even stolen from the webs of spiders.

Breeding

Hummingbirds are early nesters compared to other birds. Depending on breeding location, the season can start as early as January, but it is more common to see Allen's Hummingbirds begin breeding between mid-February and March. Migrating males will arrive first and establish a territory. Males will perform two types of courtship displays, the shuffle and the pendulum. Both displays involve showing off impressive flight skills, magnificent colors, and sounds produced by lightning-fast feathers.

The female will create a small cup nest. The inner nest is lined with downy plant materials while the outer layers are shaped with leaves and grass blades. Everything is held together with spider webs and camouflaged with lichens and moss. Spider webs allow the nest to be strong but stretchy to accommodate growing chicks. The female will lay two white eggs, which she will incubate for around twenty days. After about twenty-five days the chicks are ready to fledge. The males play no part in rearing.

Identification

This is a small bird with an overall size of three and a half inches with a less than five-inch wingspan. The main colors consist of white, green, and coppery orange. The adult males boast the most colors with the most noticeable feature being their orange gorget (throat feathers). Both have green and orangey bronze on their backs, but the females and immatures have spots along the throat rather than a colorful gorget. Allen's can be easily confused with Rufous Hummingbirds. Generally, the Allen's will have a green and copper back while the Rufous has an orange back and rump but some Rufous can have green on the back like an Allen's. The only way to tell the two apart is the shape of the outer tail feathers. This sighting is usually only accomplished with a quick camera and steady hand.

Threats

The preferred habitat of Allen's Hummingbird is under increasing threat of development and frequent fires. They have seen a steady population decline since the 1960s. Additional threats include window strikes, illness caused by dirty feeders, climate change, exposure to pesticides, and domestic cats. Window strikes can be avoided with window clings or other deterrents. Feeders should be cleaned regularly, especially in hot weather and filled with a simple sugar solution of four cups of water to one cup of sugar. Avoid red dyed feeder solutions, organic sugar, sugar substitutes, and honey, which can be harmful to hummingbirds.



Photo credit: Lee Reeder

Around the Gardens

Rose Pruning Demonstration

By Nancy Cullen

Our Rose Pruning Demonstration this year was held on January 5th from 1 - 3 pm. We had great weather with around 100 people in attendance. We want to thank the Master Gardeners, Raincross Rose Society, and our special Gardens' volunteers we affectionately call the "Rosebuds" for sharing their skills and passion for roses. Visitors learned how to prune hybrid tea, floribunda, grandiflora, miniature, and even climbing roses. We also had a successful Pop-Up-Shop with native plants, shrubs and a few miniature roses. We concluded the event with raffle prizes donated this year by Kellogg Garden Products, Parkview Nursery (on Jackson St.), Parkview Nursery (on Chicago Ave.), Karen Fleisher, Janine Almanzor, Nancy Cullen, and the Botanic Gardens. A big "Thank you" to all our participating rose pruners and supporting donors of this popular event.



Members of the Raincross Rose Society
Front (left to right): Pat Mazzulli, Gary Wagner, Ted Hammond,
Back: Janine Almanzor, Kim Mazzulli, Deborah Lewis, Anna
O'Connell, and Kay Sarring



Visitors eager for Nancy to call their number
to win a prize

Weekend Docents

By Botanic Gardens Staff

We are thankful for the many Docents that donate their time at the Botanic Gardens. They are helping us fulfill one of our missions by educating the public. Since January Karen Fleisher, George Spiliotis, and Teresa Wassman have been volunteering on Sundays as roaming docents. They generally stay in the North Coast area by the coast redwood trees to greet visitors, answer questions, or talk about various plants. They also walk around and give mini tours as needed. The visitors have found them to be very helpful and the docents enjoy meeting the visitors and sharing information about the Gardens and some interesting places and plants to see. Our plan is to possibly expand the hours and add a few more docents.

From April through October the Master Gardener Docents will resume their popular information table in the Butterfly Garden. They point out where the butterfly larvae and eggs are hiding and answer questions visitors have about butterflies and growing plants to attract butterflies.

This May we plan to bring back our Story Time in the Gardens event since many of our visitors are families with young children. On the first Sunday of the month, Docent Teresa Wassman will be reading children's books for our younger visitors (approximately 3 to 6 years of age). Teresa has been exploring some fun garden-related storybooks to share. This event will be outdoors on the lawn under the shade of the trees in the Deciduous Forest near the entrance. Please check our website calendar and social media to confirm dates and times. We look forward to seeing you and your children there!

Orchid Talk and Pop-Up-Shop

By Janine Almanzor

On Sunday, February 2nd we were fortunate to have Don DeLano give a presentation on orchids in the Botanic Gardens Meeting Room, accompanied by a Pop-Up-Shop outside. Nearly 600 visitors came to the Gardens that day and enjoyed the presentation, shopping, and touring the Gardens.

Don's horticulture experience is quite extensive. He managed the landscape of the 487-acre Pomona Fairplex property for over 30 years, during which time he oversaw the development of The Farm at Fairplex. Prior to that he was a horticulture instructor at his alma mater, Cal Poly Pomona. His knowledge and love for plants, and particularly orchids, was very evident in his presentation.

Don gave a very instructive lesson on many aspects of orchids and how to care for them. For example, he explained that the growth habit of orchids can generally be divided into two main groups, monopodial (i.e. phalaenopsis, paphiopedilum, and vanda) and sympodial (i.e. cattleya, cymbidium, dendrobium, and oncidium). Monopodial orchids grow upright, and sympodial orchids spread horizontally from rhizomes. Sympodial orchids have pseudobulbs that store water and nutrients; therefore, they don't need to be watered as often as monopodial orchids. Attendees at Don's presentation came away with an abundance of new knowledge to help them care for their orchids.

The Pop-Up-Shop plant and merchandise sale was well received by many visitors. Our epidendrum orchids were a big hit, especially after the orchid talk. We also sold some California native plants, shrubs, trees, succulents, and house plants. We plan to have many more similar sales throughout the year so please check our website for updates. Our next sale is planned for Sunday, May 4th, just in time for Mother's Day.



One of two tables displaying various orchids



Kay Force (left) assisting at the Pop-Up-Shop



Michelle Lofquist instructing visitors how to make an origami orchid at the Pop-Up-Shop



Garden Stewards

By Botanic Gardens Staff



Emily and her husband Mitchell riding camels in Oman

If you have visited the Botanic Gardens in the past couple of years (and we hope you have!), it's likely that you encountered Emily Masterson at the entrance. Emily was the friendly face at our entrance steward table greeting you with her British accent. Emily came from England in 2021 with her husband, who was a post-doctoral researcher on campus, and she immediately started volunteering at the Botanic Gardens. In 2023 we hired her as a part-time Garden Steward, and once we learned that she had a background in communications she began managing our social media program.

Emily's creativity and expertise came out in everything that she did. In December 2024 Emily and her husband moved back to England but plan to travel for a couple of months before settling down in England. Although Emily is irreplaceable, we recently hired two UCR students as our new staff Garden Stewards. We welcome Julia Mathews and Auggie Martinez to the Botanic Gardens and look forward to your meeting them at our entrance. Our wonderful volunteer Stewards will continue to fill in the other open hours. Our goal is to always have a Steward at the entrance to enhance the visitor experience.



Swag

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T-Shirt, Tan	20.00
T-Shirt, Green	20.00
T-Shirt, Grey, V-Neck	20.00
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Flower Pot Mug	12.00
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BG Entrance
Thursdays 9am-12pm
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Butterfly Garden





Docents available in the Butterfly Garden
1st & 3rd Sundays,
9am-12pm, April-October

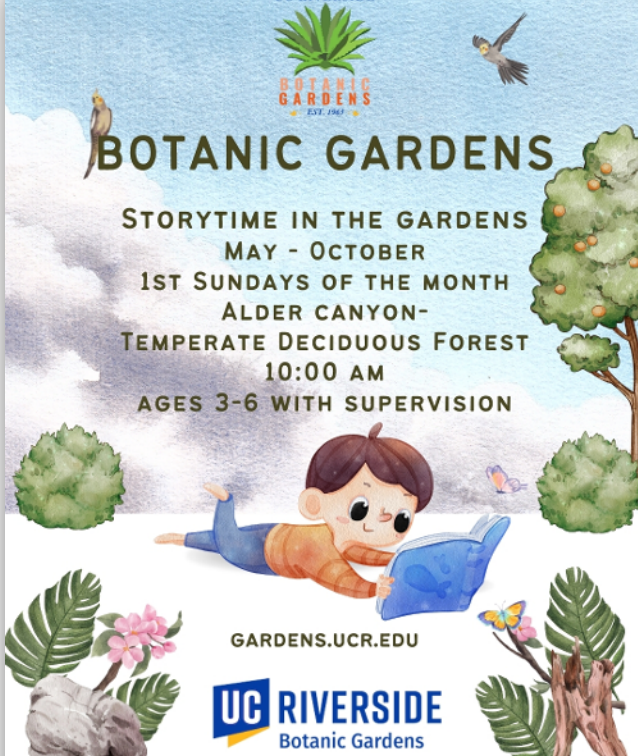
[GARDENS.UCR.EDU](https://gardens.ucr.edu)





BOTANIC GARDENS

STORYTIME IN THE GARDENS
MAY - OCTOBER
1ST SUNDAYS OF THE MONTH
ALDER CANYON-
TEMPERATE DECIDUOUS FOREST
10:00 AM
AGES 3-6 WITH SUPERVISION



[GARDENS.UCR.EDU](https://gardens.ucr.edu)



Project Updates

Article and photos by Miguel Estrada

A couple of months ago we stopped all work on garden bed clean-up to focus our efforts on creating a safer pass by Bobcat Rocks. The goal was simple but the execution proved to be more time-consuming than first imagined. Our goal was to create a leveled area wide enough for a cart to pass through, which required cutting into the hillside. With no power source we had to chip away at the compacted soil with picks and shovels. The task was made even more difficult by the contours of the land and the need to make it wider (approximately 8 ft.) than what is required for hikers to pass unencumbered. The added width of the treadway required us to use a hybrid technique of cutting into the hillside but also constructing two small support systems on which to build up the soil. The support systems also play a duo role in delineating the trail to keep people closer to the middle of the treadway. It may be unknown to many, but one of the main reasons for foot traffic erosion is people walking along the edges of stabilized trails. The new fence-like structures were built with material incompatible with the natural look of the area, so as a final touch we put great effort into concealing as much of the metal as possible by using wood sourced from the Gardens.



Two small support systems just above Bobcat Rocks

While we were working on creating a safe path by Bobcat Rocks, we took advantage of the period when we were not working in the Australian section to focus on two other trails. Over the years, two unofficial trails have been etched into the hillside between Ficus Grove and Bobcat Rocks. With slightly over one hundred feet in length and six feet in width on a pitch over 25%, these two trails created a thoroughfare for water to race down the steep slope and contribute to soil erosion. We decided to finally close them down and encourage the growth of the local vegetation to break the energy of any water that may flow in that area. To accomplish this goal we erected bamboo barriers, picked the soil, and started watering the loosened soil on a regular schedule. The area is slowly filling in with vegetation, but we are confident that by year's end the area will be indistinguishable from the surrounding planter.



Bamboo barrier on the trail between Ficus Grove and Bobcat Rocks

To see some of the plants in bloom please visit gardens.ucr.edu/information/bloom.

South Africa, the Native American Garden, and the Garage Office areas have many plants blooming this time of year.



Alstroemeria
"Peruvian lily"



Helleborus argutifolius
"Corsican hellebore"



Senna didymobotrya
"popcorn cassia"



Peritoma arborea
"bladderpod"



Sophora secundiflora
"Texas mountain laurel"

Spotlight On Douglas Holt

By Janine Almanzor



Jodie and Doug Holt in Glacier National Park

Douglas Holt is an invaluable Jack of all trades volunteer at the Botanic Gardens, but unlike the rest of the phrase 'Jack of all trades', he is the master of all! Doug is knowledgeable in everything from IT to woodworking to horticulture and then some. The title on his nametag says "Special Projects", which is his nickname at the Gardens.

Doug was born and raised in Redlands, CA and attended Crafton Hills Community College in Yucaipa. He then moved north to attend UC Davis, graduating as an Interpretive Naturalist in the Environmental Planning and Management Department. The many horticulture, ecology, and landscape architect classes prepared him not only for his career but also for his retirement as a volunteer at the Botanic Gardens. It was at UC Davis where he met Jodie, who was his TA for the class "Plant Communities of California." After graduating, Doug worked for the UC Berkeley Department of Forestry and then

the UC Davis Department of Botany, assisting in forest weed management research in the Sierras. When Jodie was nearly finished with her PhD, they married. The newlyweds moved south in 1982 when Jodie was hired at UC Riverside as an Assistant Professor in the Botany and Plant Sciences Department (B&PS).

Doug was soon hired as a Cooperative Extension Staff Research Associate to work on vegetable crops. It was here that his irrigation experience expanded. In the 90s he was recruited as the Teaching Lab Coordinator in B&PS. He managed the teaching plant collection in several greenhouses, set up teaching labs, and became the IT support expert for both B&PS and Genomics.

Doug was already helping in many ways at the Gardens before Jodie became Director in 2016, but when Jodie was hired, we were glad to get two-for-one with the added support of Doug. The list of jobs he has helped with is too long for this article. His handiwork is seen from the entrance all the way up to the Australian area because he made all the redwood signs with garden names burnt into the wood, other wood signs indicating locations and directions, and the numbered way posts along trails. He also repaired the wood on the entrance arbor and designed and made a beautiful, curved fence to replace the dilapidated gazebo by the Native American Garden. Doug's greenhouse experience has been very helpful to me. He is knowledgeable in all aspects of the greenhouse including plant care, irrigation, structural maintenance, water features, and even rodent control.

The area that we call on Doug the most is technology. He is always available to set up the projector when we host talks in the Meeting Room. He also seems to know everything about computers and can fix any problem, of which we have had many! He is so good at it that it seems like our computers sense his presence and start working properly as soon as he walks into the room. We so appreciate having this multi-talented volunteer on our team!



Nancy Cullen and her dog Arlo at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden



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In the Works

By Botanic Gardens Staff

As spring approaches, we are hoping the recent rains bring abundant growth and flowering (but not more weeds!). Here are some of the activities underway and continuing into spring:

Gardens and Grounds:

- ▶ A portion of the curb by the North American Desert has been removed and the soil built up to create a new trail that allows for easier transition into the area.
- ▶ The area just south of the garage office has been leveled to prepare the location for a new metal storage container.
- ▶ We completed leveling the trail just south of Bobcat Rocks to allow for safer passage for visitors and our carts.
- ▶ A trail by the conifer area close to the west fence has been cleaned up.
- ▶ New heating pads have been added to the mist bench in the lath house, and we reconfigured the irrigation of the misters, all of which will improve propagation success.
- ▶ Volunteer Helga Forester has been busy removing unwanted specimens and reducing the size of overgrown plants in the Herb Garden. A few new plants have been added, and more will be added soon.
- ▶ Ten of the most damaged hose bibs in the Gardens have been replaced, reducing leakage and water waste.
- ▶ A wide unofficial trail that cuts through two beds north of Bobcat Rocks has been blocked off. The barriers will remain until both beds are restored.
- ▶ A heavily oxidized pipe in the greenhouse has been replaced and we are in the process of other repairs in anticipation of completing our new Display House.
- ▶ The floors have been pressure washed and painted in the two restrooms at the entrance.
- ▶ Taking advantage of the softer soil after the rains, Janine and her crew have placed over 65 new plant labels in the Gardens.
- ▶ The Rose Gardens have been pruned in record time due to the contribution of many volunteers, and several new roses have been planted.

Activities and Events:

- ▶ The Docents have been very busy this winter leading many tours.
- ▶ The Gardens continue to be utilized by campus for research. Insect monitoring, air quality, and seed collecting are a few projects underway.
- ▶ Many campus classes have been visiting the Gardens for teaching.
- ▶ Jodie Holt, Janine Almanzor, and Nancy Cullen have all given presentations about the Botanic Gardens to various groups on and off campus.
- ▶ In April the Master Gardener Docents will resume their popular event in the Butterfly Garden on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, answering questions about native plants and gardening for butterflies.
- ▶ From January through March Master Gardener Docents have been roaming docents on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.
- ▶ We held two Pop-Up-Shops this winter and will continue this model in lieu of online Plant Sales.



The new opening in the curb to access the Desert Garden



The location for the new storage bin



The Herb Garden



The pruned Rose Garden



2024 Donor Honor Roll

All of us at the UCR Botanic Gardens are deeply grateful to our donors whose gifts help us beautify, improve, and maintain the Gardens and facilities, support our staff and student workers, and launch new projects. The Honor Roll of Donors below reflects gifts made between January 1 and December 31, 2024.

We have worked hard with our CNAS Development team to ensure that we have listed all donors accurately. This list does not include our many Friends members whose dues provide ongoing support for the Gardens. Also not included are the many repeat donors and the many visitors who make a \$5 donation when they enter. Thank you all for your support!

Aguayo, Rocio '22 and De La Garza, Bernard
 Allen, Edith and Michael
 Almanzor, Michael and Janine
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 Barnett, Cheryl and Ronald
 Barnett, Hilary '90, '92
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Harley, Suzanne '79
 Harris, Mary '81
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 Heyming, Frank '73 and Lucy '76
 Higbee, Nancy and Lynn
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 Holt, Douglas and Jodie
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 Sorensen, Mary '07
 Stout, Van
 Taylor, John and Delia '77
 Temple, Patrick '82
 Trapani, William '69
 Traugh, Cecelia '65, '66 and Doan, Alexander
 Van de Ven, Mien and Ploeg, Antoon
 Van Hala, Ruth and E.
 Vander Pluym, Joseph '74, '75 and Charlann
 Vasantachart, Dale '88
 Waines, Giles '69
 Walt Disney Company
 Wang, Zhuangzhi '04, '07
 Wilson, April and Donald
 Willis, John '66
 Yin, Gui Zhen
 Yoshiyama, Ronald '72
 *deceased





900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521

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UCRBG Calendar of Events

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|-----------|--|
| Bimonthly | Volunteer Orientation , Entrance, 9:30 am (1 st Sunday & Tuesday) |
| Bimonthly | Roaming Docents , 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (1 st & 3 rd Sundays) |
| Bimonthly | Butterfly Garden Information Table , 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Beginning in April, 1 st & 3 rd Sundays) |
| Monthly | Walk & Learn at the Rose Garden , 8:00 - 10:00 am (1 st Tuesdays) |
| Monthly | Children's Story Time , 10:00 am, 1 st Sundays (Beginning in May) |
| April 6 | Bird Walk , 7:00 am |
| May 4 | Pop-Up-Shop , 9:00 am - 12:00 pm |

Please note: The UCRBG hours are Monday - Friday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm
and 1st and 3rd Sundays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm until further notice.
(Please check our website for closure dates)