



UCRBG Newsletter

Online Fall Plant Sale

Members - Saturday, October 5, 6 am - midnight

Public - Saturday, October 6, 6 am - midnight

By Catherine Shannon

Our Fall Plant Sale is just around the corner, and with it, we are offering a few species that are not your typical finds that we haven't offered for a while. Along with these plants, we have a large selection of plants available including trees, vines, shrubs, herbaceous plants, cacti, succulents, house/patio plants, and California native plants. Here are a few of our unusual and rare species to consider when purchasing your plants:

Narrow-leaved milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*) A rarely offered California native perennial with slender stems, narrow leaves, and rounded clusters of white, crown-shaped flowers in summer. These are the host plant for Monarch butterfly larvae, and when ready to seed, explode with silky, white plumes that carry the seeds in the wind. A favorite for any and all butterfly lovers, grab them while we have them!

Wild mock orange (*Philadelphus lewisii*) This stand-alone California native offers all the benefits of a typical orange tree without having to deal with the fruit. In the early summer, it produces large white flower clusters, which have a strong, sweet scent, reminiscent of orange blossoms. The bark is a handsome red, fading and flaking off as it ages. It attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds.



Cork oak (*Quercus suber*) The cork oak is recognized for the commercial use of its bark for products like cork stoppers and cork boards. These oaks are large, evergreen, and drought tolerant. They are characterized by the fissured, corky, rubbery bark, and their toothed leaves. An amazing find for anyone looking to establish a large shade tree in their yard that will last for many decades to come.

Rose apple (*Syzygium jambos*) The tropical rose apple is a rarely-cultivated evergreen fruit tree. Its shiny, red and green leaves offer an ornamental look, and its yellow, fragrant fruit is sweet, crisp, and reminiscent of rose-water. We have two trees growing in our subtropical fruit orchard and with regular watering, they do just fine in our climate. This tree is a winner in our book!



Voodoo lily (*Amorphophallus* 'Konjac') This is a unique and easy-to-grow house/patio plant that grows from a corm, which produces a single new leaf every spring and remains dormant in the winter. After a few years, the baseball-sized corm will produce a large, purple, bracted spike of flowers that emits a strong, pungent odor. It can be planted directly into an understory area in your garden, or kept potted in the house or patio. It is not commonly found commercially in California, and definitely a conversation starter, especially since it's related to the corpse flower (*A. titanum*)!

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Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



In the university environment, fall is the time to plan for a new academic year, and in southern California it is also time to look forward to cooler weather. Extreme summer heat has been challenging for our plants and people, and we look forward to working soon in a more comfortable outdoor environment. Despite the heat, we have enjoyed a steady

stream of visitors over the summer and excellent attendance at our Docent Sundays in the Butterfly Garden, Friends Annual Meeting, and Twilight Tours. We continue to recruit volunteers and train new docents, and the popularity of our guided school and adult tours has outpaced our ability to accommodate them all.

One of the best indicators of the impact of the Botanic Gardens on the campus and community is engagement with our website and social media platforms. While our impact has steadily increased, engagement with and awareness of the Gardens made a significant leap when our Gate Steward Emily took over our social media program. With her background in communications Emily has brought many new eyes to our sites, resulting in an increase in first-time visitors to the Gardens and participants in our activities.

As our visibility and popularity have grown, we have appreciated our expanded staffing in communications, events, and volunteer recruitment previously managed by our team with the help of dedicated volunteers. That cobbled-together approach is workable for an emerging botanic garden but insufficient to manage the demands of a comprehensive and growing garden like ours. We also recruited a new Nursery Technician last year to better support the demands of maintaining new gardens, our renovated Subtropical Fruit Orchard, and the Frost Court plant nursery. As I write we are finalizing the recruitment of a Nursery Technician to fill the position vacated when Lois Whyde retired earlier this year.

As I noted in the last issue, expanded staffing and programming, changing demographic of our constituents, and the current economy necessitated that we again reconsider our operations so we can continue to advance our mission while operating sustainably. For this reason, we are working with our BEES administrative team to implement admission fees starting in late fall or early winter. Students, children, and Friends members will receive free admission, so please consider joining so you can enjoy this new benefit along with many others.

While effecting change is always hard, I am excited by the approach of cooler weather, a new school year, and greater financial security for the Gardens. As always, I welcome your insight, suggestions, and support through another round of constant change. Please continue to follow us through our website, Newsletter, eNews, and social media, and send your thoughts and feedback to me at bgdirector@ucr.edu or 951-827-7095.

Jodie

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College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences

Plant Sale continued from page 1

Poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Eckespoint') Not to be compared to your common holiday poinsettia, the 'Eckespoint' grows happily in full sun with regular water. This hard-to-find, spectacular, tall, deciduous shrub produces red, bracted flower heads over the winter season and well into spring, and attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. An excellent addition to any garden.



Celebes pepper (*Piper ornatum*) Truly a rare and fantastic find and a personal favorite, this vining houseplant grows shiny, olive-green leaves that are handsomely veined with metallic pinks and reds. It thrives in the heat as long as you keep it in filtered sunlight and water regularly. For anyone looking to add a well sought-after plant to their collection, look here!

Begonia (*Begonia dregei*) A small, attractive begonia species with a thick, tuber-like caudex, presenting as the perfect subject for bonsai enthusiasts. It has small, maple-like, green leaves that are adorned with silver markings, and produces clusters of white flowers with yellow centers. This unique and eye-catching begonia does best in filtered light and regular watering.



Split-leafed philodendron (*Monstera deliciosa* 'Variegata') This tropical vine caused quite the flurry a few years back, presenting its long-stalked variegated leaves and consistent fenestrations to the delight of seasoned and novel collectors. Producing white, calla-like flowers that produce edible fragrant fruit, the monstera adds splashes of white amongst a sea of green. Our plants are well established, with multiple consistently variegated leaves and over a foot of stem length, making this plant a great deal.

Regrettably, this sale will mark the last of our large online plant sales for the foreseeable future. There are many reasons why we have made this decision, the most important of which is reducing the cost and impact of sales on staff and volunteer time and as a result, Gardens maintenance. Going forward we will be experimenting with smaller Pop-Up Shop plant sales that will be held at the entrance in conjunction with other events, such as Art in the Gardens on November 2nd and a holiday Pop-Up Shop on December 14th. For our long-term plan, we hope to hold sales in our new nursery area on a regular basis, which we are still working on making more accessible. We hope you will continue to support us at our Pop-Up plant sales while we work towards a sustainable model for the future.

Sculpture Reveal

By Jodie Holt

On July 25th we were delighted to host a gathering of Gardens and arts supporters for the unveiling of a new sculpture in the Botanic Gardens, "Fine Vine." This lovely sculpture, constructed of Corten or weathered steel, was conceived, created, and installed by long time supporter of the Gardens, Frank Heyming, a local sculptor with a strong philanthropic record of creating sculptures for local universities and colleges.

"Fine Vine" blends well into its new home between the Colonial Herb Garden and the Native American Garden, creating a natural connection between these two contrasting views of early uses of plants in America. Following a welcome and introduction by Gardens Director Holt, Frank described his background, inspiration, and process for sculpting this unique piece. Following the unveiling, guests returned to the Meeting Room for a catered reception, courtesy of our CNAS Development partners.

The Gardens is also home to two other sculptures installed ten years ago. Along the roadway just inside the entrance sits a sculpture created by Paulden Evans in memory of Lynne Seymour, late Riverside artist. Funds to support this installation



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Butterfly Corner

Gold-hunter's Hairstreak

Article and photo by Ann Platzer



Ventral view

Gold-hunter's Hairstreak, *Satyrium auretorum*, is a member of the Gossamer-winged Lycaenidae family. Its size is only 1 to 1 1/4 inches. (Photo: Ventral view of adult taking nectar from yerba santa [*Eriodictyon trichocalyx*]).

Ventrally, the wings of both sexes are a pale-brown or fawn color with rows of vague darker bars very faintly edged outwardly with white. Each hind wing has a short tail. A small orange and larger blue patch are seen near the short tail. The fore wings are moderately pointed while the hind wings are rounded.

The eggs are laid singly on the stem of a variety of species of oak, *Quercus*, such as blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), and interior live oak, (*Quercus wislizeni*). The eggs overwinter in a dormant state and then hatch in spring and caterpillars feed on the tender young shoots of oak leaves.

The adults take nectar from many plants such as California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.), dogbane (*Apocynum cannabinum*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), and yerba santa (*Eriodictyon trichocalyx*).

There is only one brood per year that is on the wing from May to mid-July. Their range is from northern California to the south in the Coast Ranges and the western Sierra Nevada to southwest California and into Baja California Norte. Habitat includes oak hillsides and lowland chaparral.

This butterfly was formerly present on the Sacramento Valley floor but now is extinct at both north Sacramento and Rancho Cordova. Unfortunately, like many other butterflies the Gold-hunter's Hairstreak is highly localized and threatened by urbanization in southern California. Please plant California native and butterfly friendly plants in your garden to help restore a habitat for butterflies.

HAPPY BUTTERFLY GARDENING!

AP

Thanks to Dr. Gordon Pratt for verifying the identification of this butterfly and to Edward Platzer for editing the article.

Sculpture Reveal continued from page 3

were raised by the Friends of the UCRBG assisted by long-time Gardens volunteer Karen Fleisher. The other sculpture, "Drawing on Air," was created by Adam Leventhal and donated by Virginia Minot in memory of her husband Stephen, late Creative Writing Professor at UCR. This one is somewhat hidden from the public since it resides just outside our Schneider House Office surrounded by a planting of *Salvia* from our collection.



Jodie Holt revealing Fine Vine



Frank (right) sharing his inspiration



Frank & Lucy Heyming with Fine Vine

Wildlife of the Gardens

Granite Spiny Lizard

By Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

As you enjoy a walk along a pathway of the Botanic Gardens and hear the flurry of happy bird songs, a colorful creature on a rock draws your attention with its tiny push-up behavior. You may be observing a granite spiny lizard (*Sceloporus orcutti*), one of the several species of lizards that call the Gardens home.

Habitat/Diet: This colorful lizard is primarily found in the western half of Riverside County and down into Baja California. The granite spiny lizard lives up to its name and prefers living in rocky areas of various vegetation types. The lizard is found from sea level up to at least 7,000 feet, though some have been spotted as high as 8,200 feet in elevation. With range of elevation, the vegetation of its habitat can vary, but locally they tend to prefer chaparral with lots of rocky kingdoms to rule over. Rocks and crevices provide shelter, basking spots, and are great places to spy food. This lizard's favorite meals include small lizards and invertebrates of all sorts. Occasionally, they tap into their inner vegetarian and snack on flowers or fruits. Their rocky perches also provide a great vantage point for sighting a potential mate and rivals.

Breeding: The cold of winter will keep these lizards tucked away under their rocks or crevices, but the warmth of spring is the signal to begin the push-up battles. Granite spiny lizards are one of several species of lizard that use the push-up behavior to communicate. It will begin with a head bob and a push-up. These first movements tell the other lizard that their presence has been acknowledged. A few things can happen after this first hello. If the other lizard is a male, it could retreat or respond with its own push-ups. If the response is push-ups, then a battle could ensue. Similar sized males will do aggressive push-up behavior showing off their size and might to the other. A physical fight or chase could be the result. If the other lizard is a female, she can retreat to show her lack of interest or move in for a closer look. A male with an interested female will do rapid push-ups and raise his legs to reveal his brightly colored undersides. The male will also use pheromones that are excreted from his femoral pores near the hind legs. After mating, the female will lay a clutch of eggs sometime between May and July. The young will hatch in summer or early fall and be totally independent from day one.



Ventral view of male (Photo by Lee Reeder)



Dorsal view of female basking in the sun with a juvenile

Identification: Granite spiny lizard colors allow them to blend in perfectly with their rocky habitat. Their scales are keeled and pointed, giving them a rough appearance. Topside, they are a combination of rusty brown, black and very dark green. Outside of mating season, they will be in their dark phase, and can appear almost completely black from a distance. Black striping is present in both males and females. Males also have a thick, brownish to almost purple, dorsal stripe down the middle of their back. Females also have a stripe but it is not as distinctive as the males. During mating season, the male's colors really shine with almost iridescent hues of greens, blues, yellows and oranges. These bright colors are generally reserved for the sides and underside of the lizard. This allows them to display brightly to females while blending into their environment to avoid predators. This lizard will proudly hold its ground for some time until you are too close for

comfort, and then they quickly retreat using speed and extreme climbing ability. They are beautiful to behold so observe from a distance and do not try to capture them, as they will readily bite.

Threats: This species is not currently listed at the state or federal level, but like other species of lizards, faces threats from habitat loss, vehicle collision, and predation. Lizards and lizard eggs are on the menu for a variety of animals. When threatened, like many other lizard species, they will drop their tails. The dropped tail will continue to wiggle, providing a distraction for the predator while the lizard slips away. The tail will grow back but will appear stubby and consist of only cartilage.

State of the Gardens

By Jodie Holt

On June 20, 2024, we held our Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens, where members heard the State of the Gardens Address followed by a reception catered by UCR Citrus Grove outside on the patio and lawn. The past year's newsletters describe our 2023-24 accomplishments, which were not reiterated; instead, the address focused on the impact of our activities and our goals and plans, which are summarized here.

2023-24 Year in Review

The year 2023-24 was tumultuous. In 2023 we worked through the disruption of having our buildings treated for termites then repaired, re-roofed, and repainted. We started the academic year in July with a major break-in and theft of two vehicles and many power and hand tools. Repairs and added security were done quickly, but it took a year to replace vehicles and tools, required before an insurance claim could be submitted. In October we held our first In-person Plant Sale at our new nursery, which still needs improvements to be ready for regular use. Also impacting our capacity to hold plant sales was the retirement of Lois Whyde, who managed our propagation program. The past year has proved again that there really is no "normal" year in the Botanic Gardens!

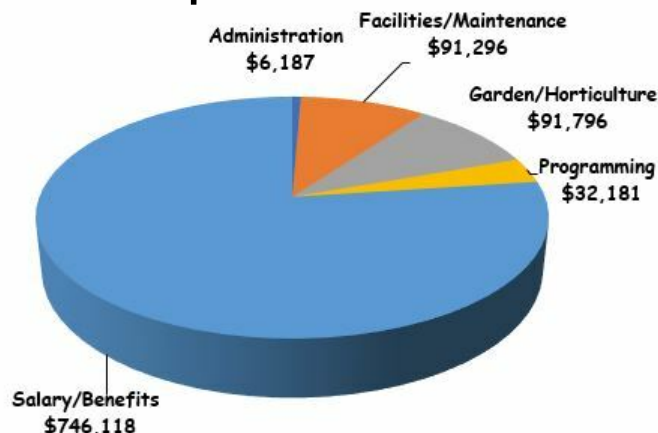
2023-24 Financial Review

We started 2023-24 with a large carry-forward of legacy gifts like past years. To honor donor wishes we continue to invest in the Gardens. We spent ~\$90,000 on deferred maintenance and recruited a third Nursery Technician to expand our workforce. Overall, annual income was \$673,816, down ~\$62,000 from 2022-23, and expenses were \$934,541, up ~\$250,000 from 2022-23, leaving a deficit for the first time in four years. This deficit was covered by the prior year's carry forward, leaving a June 2024 balance of ~\$500,000. Our challenge is to balance the recurring expense of salaries and benefits with an income stream

2023-24 Income



2023-24 Expenses



that relies largely on nonrecurring funds. Thankfully, CNAS funding has remained steady with slight increases over the years and covers some staff salaries and benefits. Unexpectedly (but deservedly), the UC raised salaries for most staff, adding to our recurring expenses going forward. We continue to work towards achieving a sustainable annual budget that reserves carry-forward funds for one-time expenses and projects.

2023-24 Impacts and Goals for the Future

Administration

Our team now numbers 10 staff including a part-time Director, six full-time staff (Curator, Manager, Program Coordinator, three Nursery Technicians), and three part-time staff (Botanist, Engagement Coordinator, Visitor Services Steward). In 2023-24 we had 11 student workers including six in plant and related sciences and five campus Climate Action Interns. We receive generous administrative support from the BEES team and CNAS Dean's Office. We are grateful for the dedicated work of dozens of volunteers who make our gardens and programs possible.

Collection and Curation

Curating a collection is why we are a botanic garden not a park. Curator Janine's team has been busy over the past year, adding 80 new species and 200 plants to the Gardens. Over 700 records were updated in the collections database, 140 plants in the Subtropical Fruit Orchard were mapped and labeled, and one new GIS Story Map was produced. Curation goals include continuing to update the database for eventual transition to a garden-specific records program such as IrisBG. The team is also creating an evolution-themed display in the greenhouse to be followed by construction of planters and a water feature. Planning is also underway to augment garden beds and refresh older beds near the entrance with new specimens from the collection.



Docent,
Teresa
Wassman
leading an
adult tour

Education and Research

Public botanic gardens provide experiences and learning from their collections and gardens. Our greatest impact is through our visitor education program, managed by Janine and aided by volunteers. In 2023-24, 88 K-12 school tours were held, most docent-guided, for over 3,700 students (underestimated since not all report numbers). Docents guided 24 adult tours for 487 adults. Over 54 college field trips brought 551 students (also underestimated) and nine UCR research projects were conducted in-part in the Gardens. We continue to host Camp Highlander, a UCR Recreation camp for children aged 5-15. Our annual Rose Pruning Demonstration drew 100 attendees, Bird Walk and Twilight Tours drew 200, and Art in the Gardens drew 475. With increasing demand for education and outreach programming, our immediate goal is to recruit and train more docents. Longer term we will install interpretive signage to explain and engage visitors with our collections and story.

Horticulture and Landscape

Many visitors come to the Gardens simply to walk around and experience nature. Manager Miguel's team maintains over 40 acres, beautifying the grounds and prioritizing safety with trail improvement, stabilization, and water diversion. The team restored the Orchard and established a new plant nursery, which still needs work to be safe and accessible. They are close to completing the new Native Bee Forage Ground that should yield a wildflower bloom next spring. They also began renovating 8,300 square feet of Alder Canyon lawn for replacement with more water-efficient turfgrass. Our aged irrigation system is being revamped and automated to reduce water use and staff time needed to drag hoses and set sprinklers. The team is implementing a restoration plan for our trees, many of which are reaching their natural life span and need improved care.

Programming and Engagement

We engage people in the Gardens through our programming. In the past year we sold over 2,500 Gardens-grown plants, hosted 58 Meeting Room rentals and 133 photo shoots, in addition to educational impacts reported above. We have 328 Friends member households with ~400 members. Our 151 active volunteers reported over

2,000 hours worked in ~800 shifts of two or more hours. Engagement with the Gardens is enhanced through our PR and communications programs. Over the past year our website was viewed ~99,000 times by over 44,000 viewers. In social media, ~65,000 accounts were reached over a 90-day period, 115,000 people viewed our profile, and we have over 9,400 followers. We reach thousands of constituents with our eNews and Newsletter and our branded merchandise spreads awareness well beyond the Gardens. We continue to increase our volunteer corps, especially gate stewards to staff the entrance during open hours and are planning more family-friendly and student-centered events. We just installed a new people-counter at the entrance to document visitor numbers so we can better demonstrate our impact to campus leadership.

Development

The generosity of donors is essential to botanic garden operations. In 2023-24 over 356 donor households gave \$50 or more to the Gardens, including some gifts over \$10,000. Our endowments, currently ~\$3.5 million, are small and we will work with Development to build them for greater financial security. We continue to work with campus architects on an affordable concept to replace the dome. Membership programs also contribute to financial and constituent support. The Friends of the Botanic Gardens are UCR's oldest support group; fees support the Gardens and members enjoy an array of benefits while promoting the Gardens. We are planning a membership drive highlighting new benefits, including members-only Open Saturdays, exclusive first-peeks at new projects, and more.

Challenges, Opportunities, and the Future

As 2023-24 ends, our budget is sound, and we are fiscally responsible. Nevertheless, it is essential to work towards a budget model with income and expenses balanced annually. Strategically, increasing numbers of visitors, members, donors, and volunteers, and improving labor efficiency, will increase income and reduce costs. To this end we plan to implement admission in the fall or early winter to stabilize recurring income (members, students, and children will be free). Most gardens face this decision, but in fact more visitors now enter expecting to pay, knowing what it takes to operate a botanic garden. Please watch for notices about this and our other exciting new ventures for 2024-25!

If you would like to support the Botanic
Gardens, please visit
gardens.ucr.edu/giving

Project Updates

Article and photos by Miguel Estrada

The summer months have been challenging for the crew, especially with the retirement of one of our full-time staff. We have hired a new Nursery Technician and she will be on board by fall. Meanwhile, below is an update of our ongoing projects.

Bee Garden Forage Ground: We've hit some delays, but we have finally set the pipe, valves, and controllers in the ground for the new irrigation system. We only need to install a few lateral lines and sprinklers before we finally move on to the solarization phase of the project.



Water bars on the trail

Trail repair from the Oak Woodland to the Bee Garden Forage Ground: Anticipating greater traffic from visitors to the new Bee Garden and Forage Ground, we are improving the trail to the area from the Oak Woodland. We've broken up the soil and placed wooden water bars in their final location along the trail. We are hoping to secure the water bars and grade the trail in the next couple of months to be ready for increased traffic when the weather cools.



Future Bee Garden Forage Ground

Irrigation in the Gardens: Currently the Gardens are irrigated by a tank-fed looped water system with points of connections set every 100 ft. These connections are where we draw water from with the use of hose bibbs and long hoses. With such a tank system it's important to note that our water flow and pressure vary at different elevations. Most of our watering is manually turned on and off as it has been for the past 61 years. We have some newer drip line systems, but most of our water delivery method is done with overhead irrigation (fixed sprays and rotors). This means that we must position the sprinkler platform, adjust the throw and radius, adjust the flow, and repeat the process many times throughout the day.

This method of watering has many problems associated with it, most critically, we must water plants based on coverage vs. needs of the species being watered. To limit our time moving sprinkler platforms, we try to set large pattern sprinklers to cover the most ground. Since we activate hose bibbs by hand, we tend to follow the same watering routine until we are in the coldest months. Moving the platform is also time consuming and disruptive to maintenance operations. With our new goal of conserving water and sparing labor, we started several years ago to find a way to automate irrigation at the Gardens. The best option right now is to install a 2-wire system, which will allow us to run 15,000 ft. of wire per run, greatly reducing the number of controllers. Such a system can manage flow, which for our tank-fed system is vital especially during the summer months. It can also turn on up to 30 irrigation zones simultaneously, which is necessary to get all the watering done. The best part of a 2-wire system is that the controller will be able to irrigate based on water loss and plant needs. I am excited to get this massive project under way. We will be building the system in phases; our goal is to install the controller and start zoning in the first few months of 2025.

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

Even in this summer heat, these areas are spectacular!

Rose Gardens, Butterfly Garden, Baja California, and Herb Garden



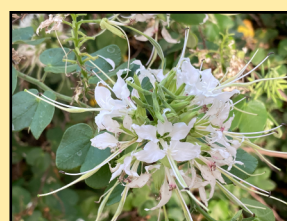
Senna didymobotrya



Passiflora 'Incense'



Roses



Bauhinia divaricata



Chilopsis linearis 'Bubba'

Spotlight On Jean Gress

By Janine Almanzor



Jean is one of our “Rose Buds” and is one of our most dedicated volunteers at the Botanic Gardens. When she is in town, she volunteers in the Rose Gardens nearly every weekday and has for the past 20 years. During rose pruning time in January and February, Jean does most of the pruning of our 600 roses. Her time has been split between Riverside and Springfield, Massachusetts where she owns a ten-room Victorian home and plays the violin with the Springfield Symphony. We are so fortunate to have Jean on our team during the months she is in Riverside!

Jean was born and raised in Trotwood, a small farm town in Ohio. During her high school years she became proficient in numerous instruments: violin, viola, piano, French horn, trombone, trumpet, and flute. She studied music as an undergrad at The Ohio State University, and later received her Masters degree from the University of Massachusetts. Jean was also a figure skater in college and was the National Intercollegiate Pistol Champion! But it doesn't end there. Jean also speaks French, Spanish, German, Italian, and Norwegian!

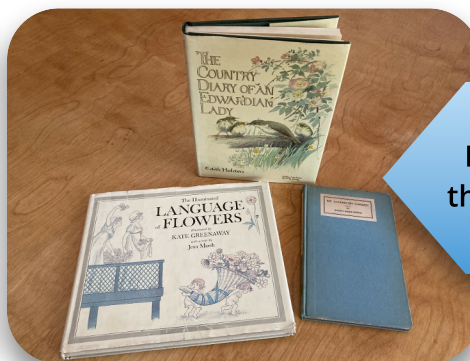
Jean was a public school music teacher for 30 years. She also traveled the world to play in orchestras in Italy, Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Puerto Rico, and Rhode Island, and studied Spanish violin music at the Andrés Segovia School of Music in Santiago, Spain. For 40 years Jean has played the violin for the Springfield Symphony where she is also the Symphony Librarian. In her spare time, Jean enjoys knitting, embroidery, sewing vintage dance costumes, downhill skiing, ice dancing, and reading a book a day - she reads 2,500 words per minute!

Jean's love of dancing is how she met her partner, Kris, 27 years ago, and that's what brought her to Riverside. Whenever she would come to visit him, she would volunteer in the Rose Gardens. She eventually moved to Riverside and spent more time here than in Springfield. I'm sorry to say that we will be losing Jean as a volunteer because she will be moving back to Springfield at the end of August. Jean has made many good friends at the Botanic Gardens and we will all miss her very much, including all the roses.



Volunteers welcomed!

Visit gardens.ucr.edu/volunteer for more information



Thank you to Glenn De Hart for donating these wonderful books for our library



Janine Almanzor at the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery



AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**RECIPROCAL
GARDEN NETWORK**

member garden

Become a Friend!

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 360+ gardens and arboreta throughout North America. The AHS RAP Directory can be viewed and downloaded at their website: ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap.

YOU CAN
GET IN FREE
TO OVER 360
GARDENS!

In the Works

By Botanic Gardens Staff

Our wet spring was followed by a blistering hot and dry summer, creating challenges for maintaining the gardens and landscape and enticing people out to our events. Nevertheless, we continue to make progress in many areas. Here are some of the activities underway as we head into a hopefully cooler fall:

Gardens and Grounds:

- ▶ The Gardens received a generous donation of a sculpture created and installed by Frank Heyming, long-time supporter of the Gardens. You can view it between the Herb and Native American Gardens.
- ▶ We recently installed a new people counter at the entrance so we can track the number of visitors and learn more about visitor patterns throughout the year.
- ▶ Two new Student Workers were added to Miguel's Horticulture team, Valentine Rios and Josina Montes, formerly our Climate Action Intern. One new Student Worker was added to Janine's Curation team, Bailey Vontoure. Welcome Valentine, Josina, and Bailey!
- ▶ Janine's team has rearranged the front section of the greenhouse to display the plants in evolutionary order. There is still more work to be done before we have it open to the public.
- ▶ When the weather is too hot to work outdoors, staff have been cleaning and organizing indoor spaces. A lath house shed was also cleaned.
- ▶ After a few months of delay, we finally started laying down pipe and sprinklers in the Bee Garden Forage Ground.
- ▶ We have cleared several large branch limbs that had fallen over onto trails, impacting safety for our staff, volunteers, and visitors.
- ▶ We continue to work on bed cleanup throughout the Gardens, focusing on cooler mornings to alleviate heat stress for our workers.
- ▶ The planter behind the garage office is being prepared for adding plants to improve the look of the walkway along that area.
- ▶ We have reached out to Hunter Industries to help us with the process of installing a 2-wire irrigation system near Alder Canyon to facilitate installation of remote-controlled automated irrigation in the Gardens, which will be a first for us.

Activities and Events:

- ▶ The Colonial Herb Garden booklet has been digitized into a GIS Story Map. There is a QR code at the Herb Garden for easy access. The link is also on our website.
- ▶ Our volunteer GIS Consultant, Mike Cohen, has made a wonderful video of our coast redwoods utilizing drone imagery. The link will be available on our website and GIS app.
- ▶ Two more volunteers, Scott Lofquist and Larissa Dobrzynetska, are being trained to be docents.
- ▶ Our Gate Steward Emily has taken over our social media program and her posts, stories, and reels are wildly popular.
- ▶ Master Gardener Docents have been speaking to many visitors in the Butterfly Garden on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and have seen up to 11 different butterfly species in one day.
- ▶ The "Rose Buds" are available the 1st Tuesdays of each month to demonstrate deadheading and answer questions from visitors.



Frank Heyming and "Fine Vine"



Steward, Yvonne Wilczynski by the new people counter



Display House



Fallen branch across the main drive

In Memoriam ~ Monika Ittig



Jodie Holt (L) & Monika (R) at Monika and Brian's bench.

Monika Ittig, our long-time Friend, volunteer, and supporter of the Botanic Gardens passed away peacefully in her own home on July 24th with her family by her side. We were honored this past spring to dedicate a beautiful curved teak bench and plaque to Monika and her late husband, Brian Mudd, who was a UCR faculty member prior to his death. Monika was a Friends Member since 1990 and was a Life Member since 2007. She also served many years on the Board of Directors as well as being a Docent and the Docent Coordinator. Monika would also volunteer at nearly all the Botanic Gardens events. She loved to hike and travel and visited all seven continents. We will always remember her wonderful smile and laugh, and we have a beautiful autumn sage named after her to remember her.



Salvia x jamensis
'Monika'

Around the Gardens

Twilight Tours

By Janine Almanzor

There's something special about being in the Botanic Gardens at twilight. The weather is cooling down, the lighting is magical, and the possibility of sighting wildlife is high. The Botanic Gardens holds three Twilight Tours each summer. The first one was held on Saturday, July 20th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm with 50 participants, the second on August 17th from 6:00 to 8:00 pm with 100 participants, and the members-only tour will be on September 7th from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

For the smaller July tour, we were able to have stations throughout the Gardens where docents who are experts in the specific area shared their expertise. The visitors were divided into three groups led by our trained docents April Wilson, Teresa Wassman, and Laura Simpson. They each led their tour groups through the Desert Gardens and up the switchbacks to the Rose Garden where they met volunteer Jean Gress, who spoke about the Rose Gardens for 5 to 10 minutes. The next station was the Display House section of the greenhouse where Curator Janine Almanzor was stationed. The plants have been arranged in evolutionary order, so it is now an educational experience. The visitors loved seeing the corpse plant (*Amorphophallus titanum*), the chocolate and vanilla display, and the coffee and tea plants.

The tour continued on to the Butterfly Garden where volunteer George Spiliotis spoke about the plants and how butterflies use them as a host or nectar plant. They saw Monarch eggs and caterpillars, and even tarantula hawks. The next station was the Herb Garden where volunteer Jean Weiss spoke about several different herbs and how they were used in the past and present. The groups enjoyed feeling and smelling many different plants. The final station was the Native American Garden where volunteer Karen Fleisher shared her knowledge of California native plants and how the American Indians have used them for generations.



In the Display House



Jean Weiss (right) in the Herb Garden



At the turtle pond

The tour groups continued down to the Turtle Pond to view the turtles, fish, and majestic Montezuma cypress trees (*Taxodium mucronatum*), then some groups went up to the Ficus Grove and beyond before proceeding down the steps, through Alder Canyon to the Meeting Room where refreshments and bats awaited them. The bats were outside and high overhead, of course. Everyone loved the tour and felt privileged to be the first to see the Display House.



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UCRBG Calendar of Events

A large, stylized green plant graphic, possibly a succulent or a similar leafy plant, is positioned in the background of the event list, extending from the middle of the page down to the bottom.

Bimonthly	Volunteer Orientation , Entrance, 9:30 am (2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays)
Monthly	Walk & Learn at the Rose Garden , 8:00 - 10:00 am (1 st Tuesdays)
Monthly	Members only Saturdays , 8:00 am - 2:00 pm (2 nd Saturdays)
September 7	Member Twilight Tour , 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
October 5	Member Online Plant Sale , 6:00 am - midnight
October 6	Public Online Plant Sale , 6:00 am - midnight
November 2	Art in the Gardens & Pop-Up Shop , 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
December 14	Craft Fair & Pop-Up Shop , 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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