

The University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens UCRBG Newsletter

Volume 37, Number 1, Spring 2017

44TH ANNUAL U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

SPRING PLANT SALE NEWS

Friends Preview Sale: Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Public Sale: Saturday, April 1, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

and Sunday, April 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

You may have already heard that our Plant Sales will undergo some changes in the future. It's not a rumor; for many reasons we are rethinking the way we run them and it will start this spring. Over many years due to the popularity and growth of Plant Sales more and more of the plants we sell have been purchased from outside nurseries. Visitors have enjoyed the selection of plants we can get from far off nurseries and this scenario has remained basically unchanged for 43 years. When Dr. Jodie Holt came on board as our new Director, she was eager to look at the Plant Sales



Photo 1. *Acacia cognata* 'Cousin Itt'

with a fresh outlook, analytical mind, and vision for creating an even better visitor experience. The biggest change you will see is that we have engaged vendors to bring plants that are difficult for us to grow, and we have also started ramping up our ability to propagate plants right here at the UCR Botanic Gardens.

Why the change?

Over time the Botanic Gardens has increasingly functioned as a re-seller of plants, with about 80% of the plants that were sold recently being from outside while only about 20% being propagated here on site.

Since the last Plant Sale, we have cleaned up the lath house to make room for more propagating and we are in the process of building and installing a new mist bench in the lath house so we are better equipped to produce more high quality plants. We will never have the labor or space to produce enough plants for the Plant Sales, so to make up the difference we will bring in a variety of vendors, some of whom are high-



Photo 3. Resendez Brothers Wreath



Photo 2. Resendez Brothers Arrangement

lighted below. This way we are partnering with the community and you will have new plant selections and a more enjoyable Plant Sale experience. This seemed like the perfect time to make the change since we have a new director and curator.

What will be different?

As you walk into the Botanic Gardens you won't see all the registers on the driveway so you will not have to maneuver your way to the plant area as you pass by the crowds checking out at the registers. We will be moving the registers to the Conference Room patio area. The register lines will be along the base of the hill on the lawn. Since writing tally sheets worked so well at the last sale we will be repeating that again. All of the Botanic Gardens' plants will be to the south of the dry creek bed and all the vendors and societies will be to the north. You will not be able to leave the BG area without paying for your plants. The exit will be the second bridge which is right by the patio. There will be two entrances further down.

If you purchase plants from the other vendors before you enter the Botanic Garden area you will need to leave your plants at one of our holding areas. We will have them well staffed and you will receive a ticket to identify you as the owner. If you don't feel comfortable doing that then I would suggest purchasing your Botanic Gardens plants

first. We will still provide boxes and as many wagons and wheelbarrows as we have, but if you have one of those portable ones then you should bring it as always.



Photo 5. *Protea* 'Nitida'

We will still take checks, cash, and credit but some of the vendors will be cash only. We will also continue to have demonstrations/classes both on Saturday and Sunday as well as a food booth and t-shirts. The Entomology Department will be selling their t-shirts and for the first time, the Art Department will be selling their handmade pottery.

What vendors will be there?

Here in Southern California we have a Mediterranean climate along with



Photo 4. *Protea* 'Ceres'

four other locations around the world: the Mediterranean region, the Western Cape of South Africa, central Chile, and parts of West and

South Australia. They are characterized by warm to hot, dry summers and mild, moderately wet winters. Several of our vendors specialize in plants that are from these locations, so although they are not Califor-

nia native plants, they are climate appropriate. Each vendor will be able to help you find plants that will fit your specific location.

As of the writing of this article these are the vendors but there may be more.

Paradise Garden Center

Not only are they a vendor but also a sponsor of the Plant Sale. They are located on Dufferin and Washington right here in Riverside and cover about 40 acres. Their specialty is desert specimen trees and succulents but they also have exotic palms and grow hundreds of varieties of shrubs, perennials, and California natives. They will be bringing a truckload of plants and since they're so close they can restock for Sunday! Some noteworthy plants they'll be bringing include about 8 different colors of the *Buddleia* 'Buzz' series which are a compact hybrid of the butterfly bush. They'll also bring a variety of salvias, *Leucophyllum* (Texas ranger), *Leucadendron*, *Leucospermum* and much, much more. One of my favorites he's bringing is *Acacia cognata* 'Cousin Itt' which doesn't require much water and looks beautiful all year (See photo 1).



Photo 6. *Leucospermum* 'Red Rocket'

Resendez Brothers Protea Growers LLC

If you came to last year's Spring talk or outing or read the Summer Newsletter then you know who the Resendez Brothers are. They are a 100-acre flower farm located in Fallbrook, CA. They began in 1995 with proteas and over the years have expanded to include other exotic flowers mainly from South Africa and Australia, including *Pteroccephalus* (pincushions), *Banksia*, *Anigozanthos* (kangaroo paws), *Leucadendron*, filler flowers and foliage. If you are looking for unusual plants that provide excellent cut flowers, you'll want to stop by their booth. We have never offered the genus *Protea* before, so it's a real treat to have them as a vendor. They will also be bringing a variety of cut flowers to purchase. (See photos 2-6)



Photo 8. Stumps & Trunks



Photo 7. High Noon Creations.

High Noon Creations

Vicki Perez does an outstanding job of creating succulent arrangements in a variety of containers. She can recycle anything from bicycle wheels to old toy trucks and make them into beautiful succulent arrangements.

ments. (See photo 7)

Stumps & Trunks

Francisco and Ardythe Rodriguez have been very creative in re-utilizing tree trunks. They have hollowed out trunks and planted them with a variety of flowers or succulents to create eye-catching pieces. They have a variety of sizes so whether you want a focal point or accent piece they have it all. (See photo 8)

CH Plants

Chase Howell is one of our part-time employees at the UCR Botanic Gardens and he also owns a plant business. His expertise is in desert plants so he will be bringing a variety of succulents including agaves and aloes, and a large variety of cacti. He will have many of the smaller ones that are so popular at our Plant Sales as well as larger specimens.

John & Bob's Smart Soil Solutions

I was first introduced to John and Bob's at a Rose Society meeting

where their products were convincingly presented. I purchased the whole regimen and went home and applied it to all of my roses. I saw a huge improvement in the health of my roses because this product focuses on the health of the soil. It is not a chemical fertilizer that can build up salts in your soil but organic matter to enrich it.

Australian Outback Plants

As the name indicates, this vendor specializes in cold hardy, heat tolerant Australian native plants & trees.

They are located on 50 acres in Arizona and everything they grow is water wise. We can expect them to bring favorites like *Anigozanthos*, *Eremophila*, *Callistemon*, *Dianella*, *Grevillea*, *Alyogyne*, *Acacia*, *Melaleuca*, and *Eucalyptus*. They also have potted bonsai with a variety of these plants. (See photo 9)



Photo 9. *Eremophila maculata* 'Valentine'

Blossoms of Aloha

Mike Monroe turned his love for Plumerias into a business while holding another full time job. He has a large selection of both rare and familiar Plumerias in many colors as well as Hawaiian Ginger. All of his plants are grown locally and outdoors so they're already acclimated. Stop by his booth and catch a scent of these beautiful flowers and learn how easy they are to grow.

UCCE Master Gardeners

The Master Gardeners of Riverside County will be bringing a large selection of summer vegetables,

herbs, and flowers as usual. They will be located in the Botanic Gardens area on the south side of the dry creek bed and you will purchase them along with your Botanic Gardens purchases.

Take advantage of your Friends membership and come to the Plant Sale from 8 to 11 am on Saturday. You can renew your membership ahead of time on our website at www.gardens.ucr.edu. A plant list will be available on our website but it will only include the UCR Botanic Gardens plants, not the vendors' lists. 🌿JJA

**Spring Field Trip
to Visit
Oak Glen Preserve
of the
Wildlands Conservancy**

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Join us to celebrate Earth Day with a Docent Tour of the beautiful Oak Glen Preserve, a part of the Wildlands Conservancy. This preserve has more than 2000 acres of natural California landscape and includes a Southern California Montane Botanic Garden and a Children's Discovery Center. We will have the opportunity to tour the "Artist's Palette" Garden, featuring Native Spring Wildflowers. You will not want to miss this! Check our website for details of this trip.

Spotlight On... The Library

By Janine Almanzor

Did you know that the UCR Botanic Gardens has a library? It is housed in beautiful wood cabinets on the upper floor of Schneider House, our Administrative Office. Our new Director, Dr. Jodie Holt, would like to open it up to the Friends, volunteers, and staff of the Botanic Gardens.

The library began at the birth of the Botanic Gardens with a few books and has been growing ever since. In 2002 the first cabinets were installed and at the same time our dedicated volunteer, Bernie Tank, with the aid of Jean Weiss, assigned call numbers to the collection. Jean has worked in the UCR Biological Sciences Library for 35 years. The UCR BG library is currently managed by Karen Fleisher who has done a great job cleaning it up with the help of Janice Ponsor. The library was overflowing into two

other rooms that were needed for office space, so Karen and Janice spent the summer pulling duplicates and non-plant related books and working with Jean Weiss to determine what can be deselected. Many of the books were sold at the Fall Plant Sale and we'll have a few more at the Spring Plant Sale. There are still over 2,000 books about plants from all over the world in our BG library. Some titles include: *Aloes of South Africa*, *Designing with Succulents*, *Villas and Gardens of Tuscany*, and *Introduction to California Soils and Plants*.

If you would like to check out books, they can be on loan for 4 weeks. The library is open from 8:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. You should call first (951-784-6962) to make sure we're not at lunch or having a meeting in that room. The library also doubles as a nice meeting room.





Director's Report

Dr. Jodie Holt

you can use to change the world.” Most of us can probably recall a seminal moment in our own education and awareness of nature, one that altered our view of the world around us forever.

For many years the UCR Botanic Gardens has had an active outdoor education program geared towards K-12 students, particularly elementary school age children. Led by our Curator, Friends of the Botanic Gardens, and dedicated Docents, busloads of school children as well as groups of adults visit the Gardens throughout the year for tours, activities, and exposure to nature. School visits are coordinated with the state-wide school curriculum for maximum educational benefit. Other programs for children in the Botanic Gardens include story time events, scavenger hunts, and special activities held during the spring and fall plant sales. The national early childhood education group Tinkergarten also holds regular classes in the Botanic Gardens. We are fortunate to have this opportunity to provide transformative experiences in nature for so many children and adults, as well.

To further this mission, we have recently joined the Environmental Education Collaborative, a group of 37 other organizations that work to develop funding, policy, and program resources to support environmental education programs in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. This group is part of a larger statewide program, the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC), a

communication network supporting the environmental literacy of California's students by providing teachers with access to high quality environmental education resources. Through our involvement in the EE Collaborative we look forward to sharing ideas and strengthening our ability to deliver environmental education in a fun, enriching, and beautiful outdoor environment at the UCR Botanic Gardens.

Activities and projects underway:

• With our bigger staff many maintenance projects are underway, including weeding, pruning, tree care, structural repairs, road and trail improvement, and general cleanup. You might have noticed that we no longer need a volunteer “Keep our Garden Clean and Beautiful” day; our dedicated staff have made this event unnecessary!

• As you walk through the upper trails in the Gardens you will notice numbered posts that will correspond to numbered points on our new map. Until we add additional signage these practical waypoints will assist you in exploring the Botanic Gardens without getting lost.

• Our signage project is well underway and our first permanent garden sign has been installed. See if you can find it on your next visit; others will be added soon.

To a transplanted Georgian, winter and spring in the Botanic Gardens are the most enchanting time to visit when they are reminiscent of eastern forests and landscapes. Our many winter deciduous trees are leafless and permit expansive views of bright green landscapes responding to all the heavy rains we've had this year. Buds and new leaves are just starting to break and lovely fragrances from flowering bulbs are wafting in the breeze. Be sure to come visit before this lovely season moves on. This is the wettest winter we've had in many years so keep your eyes open for abundant growth and unexpected flora and fauna sightings.

Although the outdoors and Botanic Gardens beckon, it's hard to overlook the tumultuous times in which we live. I continually find myself wondering how we can make a difference in protecting our environment and improving the lives of our visitors through our work at the UCR Botanic Gardens. I was encouraged when I came across a quote by Nelson Mandela, which is as relevant now as it was when he said it decades ago: “Education is the most powerful weapon which

Director's Report, continued from page 5

🌿 We recently applied for and received word that the UCR Botanic Gardens has now been recognized as a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat. This achievement recognizes our commitment to sustainability and provision of essential elements of wildlife habitat—food, water, cover, and places to raise young.

🌿 We recently solicited a safety tour of the Botanic Gardens with

CNAS facilities staff and a campus police officer. Many of their recommendations have been instituted for greater safety and comfort of our staff and visitors, including perimeter lighting, more staff walkie-talkies, and soon, uniform vests to identify staff and volunteers on site.

🌿 Our lath house is being upgraded with new facilities for increased and improved plant propagation.

🌿 In addition to our Botanic Gardens map, our brochures and trail guides are all being revised and updated.



Please be sure to come visit the Botanic Gardens during this wonderful weather and consider becoming a volunteer to help us continue the momentum. I hope to see you all at the upcoming Plant Sale too. 🌿 JH

Note From The President



Hello Friends!

We have many exciting events scheduled through March, April and May. I hope to see you at one or all of these activities. We will be sending out more news about the Spring Field Trip (April 22nd), but just so you know it is going to be a great day visiting the Oak Glen Wildlands Conservancy. Check our webpage for more details of the Garden Walks, Garden Talks, Birdwalks and of course the Plant Sale! This is sure to be a great Spring for the Friends and The Gardens!

~ Amber Jones

What to See in the Gardens by Theresa McLemore

Some people use calendars and mark them with notes to signify an upcoming event. In the years I have managed the UCR Botanic Gardens I have learned to recognize the changing of the seasons in another way.

There is nothing more delightful than to walk up verdant Alder Canyon to see the *Magnolia x solangeana*, or Saucer Magnolia. The petals are a white with a soft blush of pink and the light filters through them softly. Its petals fall on to the bright green turf, and the contrast is breathtaking.

At the top of the pathway that leads through our North Coast garden there is a *Cercis occidentalis* 'Dark Lake County Strain' or Western Redbud. Its swelling buds will soon open and signal that spring is just around the corner. The flowers are tiny fuchsia pink jewels that decorate the leafless tree.

At the pond the changing light and temperatures are signaling our turtles to emerge and bask on

the log, enjoying the sun after a long winters rest. The weeping form of *Taxodium mucronatum* or Montezuma cypress branches have a fluid weeping form that reflect on the surface of the pond.

Every turn at the Botanic Gardens reveals yet another beautiful sight. Mark your calendar with a stroll through our pathways to find your sign of spring.

🌿 TM



Photo by Rachael Harms Mahlandt

Around the Gardens

Rose Pruning Demonstration

With all the rain we've had this winter it wasn't certain that we could find a clear day to hold the Rose Pruning Demonstration, but we had a beautiful sunny day for the popular event. Nearly 80 people came out to either learn or demonstrate how to prune roses properly. Master Gardeners, the Mountain View Rose Society, and UCR volunteers and staff all participated in sharing their rose pruning techniques with the visitors. Many people learned that it isn't as difficult as they expected, as they heard and observed the experienced rosarians. They were eager to go home and try out their newly acquired knowledge and tools they won in the drawing. We would like to thank the very generous donors who donated various tools, fertilizers, and other rose related items: Corona Tools, Louie's Nursery, Parkview Nursery, Moon Valley Nursery, Cherry Valley Nursery, Mountain View Rose Society, Sunshine Nursery, and Gail Watson.

Story Time in the Gardens

Once a month, rain or shine, children of all ages are welcome to join the Story Time in the Gardens. If it is cold or rainy we hold it in the Conference Room; otherwise it is held outdoors on the lawn. In February Leah Sotelo read *Norman the Doorman* by Don Freeman, a book about a mouse who is a secret doorman at a museum. Then the children made and decorated a mouse out of paper and enjoyed eating cheese crackers. They all loved it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

A California Native Plant Walk and Talk

March 11, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Please join native plant enthusiast George Spiliotis for a practical discussion of native plants, followed by a walk through the Botanic Gardens to experience the unique beauty of California natives. This program emphasizes the successful selection, planting, and growing of native plants and their use in the domestic landscape and focuses especially on plants well suited for cultivation in the Inland Empire.

George Spiliotis is a Docent at the University of California Botanic Gardens where he shares his enthusiasm and knowledge of native plants and the Botanic Gardens with both adults and children. A self-taught expert with years of hands-on experience, George came to appreciate the beauty and tenacity of native plants after landscaping his garden over thirty years ago. As an inefficient irrigation system and family and career responsibilities crowded out landscape maintenance, he noticed that among the few plants to survive was a very healthy looking stand of manzanita. And so began his journey into native plants, with visits to botanic gardens and nurseries, reading books about native plants, and the replanting of his yard relying primarily on natives. Through trial and error he developed a profound respect and appreciation for these inhabitants of our unique climate.

The cost of the program is \$25 for

the general public and \$20 for Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens members. A continental breakfast is included. Attendance is limited. Please wear footwear appropriate for a walk through the Gardens.

Reservations may be made by calling 951-784-6962 or emailing ucrbg@ucr.edu. Please make check payable to UC Regents, memo note "3/11 Walk & Talk," and mail to: UC Riverside- BEES Admin Unit, 2460 Geology, Riverside, CA 92521.

Creating a Backyard Wildlife Habitat

March 18, 10:00 a.m.

Join butterfly and native plant expert Ann Platzer for this presentation. Ann will demonstrate how homeowners can attract birds, butterflies and other wildlife to their back yards by landscaping with native and drought tolerant plants. Her talk will conclude with a tour of her Official Backyard Wildlife Habitat, which includes a Monarch Butterfly Waystation and more than six hundred species of plants, including cacti, succulents, California poppies, and lupine. The habitat was created from a barren lot over many years by Ann and her husband Ed. A biologist by training, Ann has been a gardener since she was ten, a Master Gardener since 2006 and a UCR Botanic Garden volunteer for over twenty-five years. She is a frequent speaker on butterflies and writes "The Butterfly Corner" for the UCR Botanic Gardens Newsletter. In 2007, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens

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Around the Gardens

UPCOMING EVENTS

continued

recognized Ann's accomplishments by making her an Honorary Friend for Life. One of the accomplishments of which she is most proud is the establishment of a Butterfly Garden at the UCR Botanic Gardens. "With Riverside's dwindling natural habitats, what better way is there to encourage children and adults alike to consider adding butterfly friendly plants to their own home landscape?" she asks.

The cost of the program is \$25 for the general public and \$20 for Friends of the UCR Botanic Garden members. A continental breakfast is included. Attendance is limited.

Reservations may be made by calling 951-784-6962 or emailing ucrbg@ucr.edu. Please make check payable to UC Regents, memo note "3/18 Lecture & Tour," and mail to: UC Riverside- BEES Admin Unit, 2460 Geology, Riverside, CA 92521.

Birdwalk and Breakfast

March 25, 7:00-10:00 a.m.

Join Norm Ellstrand, UCR expert birdwatcher, for a guided birdwalk tour in the Botanic Gardens. We anticipate to view up to 50 different bird species on this birdwalk. The birdwalk will be followed by a wrap-up session and continental-style breakfast. Comfortable shoes

and hat are a must, binoculars are a good idea. Be prepared for uphill paths and unpaved surfaces.

The cost of the program is \$20 for the general public and \$15 for Friends of the UCR Botanic Garden members. Attendance is limited.

Reservations may be made by calling 951-784-6962 or emailing ucrbg@ucr.edu. Please make check payable to UC Regents, memo note "3/25 Birdwalk," and mail to: UC Riverside- BEES Admin Unit, 2460 Geology, Riverside, CA 92521.



The Friends lost two longtime supporters recently.

Mary Brinkerhoff

passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 93 in November. Mary and her husband Dericksen came to Riverside in 1965 when Dericksen became an Art History faculty member. Their wide circle of friends and family was nurtured by many convivial gatherings at their home dinners and parties, University club, several wine societies, and of course the Friends of the Botanic Garden events. Mary's wit, ready laugh, and focused listening made those around her feel loved and valued.

Three of their four children attended UCR, further strengthening ties to the campus. Their eldest son Derick was awarded the UCR distinguished alumnus award in 2005.



As recently as May 2015 Mary was happily dispensing Hart Family wines at Primavera in the Gardens, along with Dericksen, as they had done together for so many years. She was a very spunky lady!! Grandson Tim Petersen and his wife Jill intend to carry on this family tradition of partnering with

Hart at Primavera.

Mary, according to her wishes, will be remembered with a bench in her name located in the UCR Botanic Gardens. Contributions to the bench can be sent to: "UC Regents," specify Brinkerhoff BG Bench, UCR, BEES Admin, 2460 Geology, 900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521.

🌿 *Claire Thomas Federici*

Photos by Rachael Harms Mahlandt

Patrick Duffy

We are also sad to report that we lost Patrick Duffy in November, at the age of 62. Patrick had been a Riverside resident since 1972. After serving in the USMC, Patrick received his B.A. degree in Theatre Arts from UC Santa Barbara. Patrick co-owned and operated, along with his wife Cheryl, Jammin' Bread Bakery/Cafe, where his artistic touch is evident. Patrick and Cheryl have been loyal supporters of the Gardens for at least ten years, providing their delicious culinary offerings at our Primavera in the Gardens fundraiser, and offering their help in other numerous ways.



Volunteer News

UCR Botanic Gardens

Tour Docents -

Gardens Educators

By Karen Fleisher

An important feature of the UCR Botanic Gardens' educational program are docent-led tours for student groups from elementary school through the college level, as well as garden and other community groups. The history of the docent program goes back to 1982 when Dennis Kucera, then Gardens Manager, and Dr. Rich Adams noted an increase in requests for school tours which the limited Gardens staff could not handle along with their other duties. A volunteer docent-training class was started that year with four volunteers. Over the past 25 years, approximately six docent-training classes have been held. In 2016, the docents led 82 school tours, 15 community tours, as well as two twilight tours, hosting a total of 3665 tour visitors. The Gardens' docents also host Martin

Luther King High School biology students each spring and assist them with a plant identification project. This dedicated group of volunteer docents is coordinated by volunteer and Friends Board Member, Elinor Pond, who does an amazing job of scheduling the groups and docents. The current docents included **Teri Basso, Sally Beaty, Debbie Cochran, Karen Fleisher, Barbara Gable, Sharon Goldstein, Monika Ittig, Debra Jensen, Amber Jones, Lauretta Kyle, Rebecca Levers, Cindy McCabe, Nanci Nelson, Steven Orr, Elinor Pond, Dennis**

Ponsor, Janice Ponsor, Dolores Purther, George Spiliotis, Jean Weiss, and April Wilson.

The UCR Botanic Gardens is extremely grateful to our dedicated docents who so generously share their knowledge and energy with the many students and community groups who visit the Gardens. As you can see from the



Tours led by docents Steve Orr, above on the left, and Monika Ittig, on the left side of the lower photo.



above numbers, our volunteer docents had a very busy 2016 which prompted Curator Janine Almanzor to schedule a Volunteer Docent-Training Class which began February 7 with 11 enthusiastic volunteers. They will undergo six weeks of training which will include a history of the UCR Botanic Gardens, botany, Native American uses of plants, California

native plants, the Desert Gardens, Herb Garden, greenhouse plants, trees, plant communities, and wildlife. We look forward to seeing the new docents in the Gardens!

If you are interested in finding out about other volunteer opportunities in the UCR Botanic Gardens, please join us at one of our Volunteer Orientations. For more information, please contact the Gardens office at 951-784-6962 or ucrbg@ucr.edu.

 KF

*Thank you to our
Plant Sale Sponsor!*

Fax (951) 789-1093

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Paradise
Garden Center

Christian Fessler

7109 Dufferin Avenue • Riverside, CA 92504
ParadiseGC@aol.com • Lic. 759946
ParadiseGardenCenterRiverside.com

Butterfly Corner

How To Control Aphids On Milkweeds

Article and Photos by Ann Platzer

The bright yellow aphid, the oleander aphid, *Aphis neri*, found on milkweed plants is a destructive, non-native pest (Photo 1: Aphids on milkweed). It is thought to have been introduced from the Mediterranean region. Interestingly, aphids are parthenogenetic. This means ALL ADULTS are FEMALES or, better put, bear live young.

Like the monarch butterfly, this aphid ingests the milkweed's toxic cardiac glycosides with no ill effect. The bright yellow color of the aphid warns predators, "Don't eat me, I am poisonous". The oleander aphid damages the plant by sucking on its liquids. This stresses the plant and may kill it when infestations are high.

Aphid elimination is simple but persistence is necessary no matter what the infestation level. Use a

g a r d e n
hose with
moderate
pressure to
r e m o v e
a p h i d s .
H o l d t h e
p l a n t
(stems/leaves/flowers)
with one
hand as you
spray all
sides to
r e m o v e
a p h i d s



Photo 4. Ladybird beetle nymph eating aphid.

(Photo 2: Spraying aphids). Not all the aphids will come off with the first spraying. Again, be persistent, and be sure to check that aphids are not hiding on the underside of



Photos: 1. Aphids on milkweed; 2. Spraying aphids; 3. Monarch egg persists after spraying.

leaves. Early intervention is your best chance for defeating these sap sucking pests.

Don't worry about monarch eggs, they attach tightly to the leaves, flower buds, or stems so you can spray without removing monarch eggs (photo 3: Monarch egg). To test how tenaciously the monarch egg attaches to the milkweed plants, I conducted a mini-experiment during the hot days of July 2014. I sprayed the following three native species* of milkweed plants growing in our garden: showy milkweed

(*Asclepias speciosa**), rush milkweed (*Asclepias subulata**), and narrow-leaf milkweed (*Asclepias fascicula**). I also sprayed two non-natives: blood flower milkweed (*Asclepias curassavica*, both the red flower and silky gold) and swan plant milkweed (*Asclepias fruticosa*).

All the plants were nurturing monarch eggs. The positions of 20 monarch eggs were marked.



Photo 5: Hoverfly larva and victims.

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Butterflies, continued

The plants were sprayed on four consecutive days. My result showed that all the monarch eggs persisted and all aphids were removed. After one month, all the monarch eggs hatched and no aphids had reappeared. Yea! 100% success!

CAUTION: DO NOT use Safer-Soap or soapy water. **BOTH ARE LETHAL TO MONARCH EGGS AND LARVAE.** Keep in mind that any pesticide left on milkweed plants may repel pests but will surely prevent monarch females from using the plant. Another benefit of water spraying is that you don't need to keep filling a container with soapy water, making this method faster. In addition, soapy water builds up a residue on the plants. Incidentally, I sprayed at all times of the day without ill effects.

FYI: I do use Safer-Soap to kill

Help the Botanic Gardens by Going Green. The UCR Botanic Gardens and Friends continue to seek ways to be good stewards of resources by reducing our carbon footprint, reducing water usage, and improving sustainability of our activities, actions which also adhere to UC President Janet Napolitano's Carbon Neutrality Global Initiative for all 10 UC campuses. We use various ways to keep you informed of the happenings in your Gardens, including on our website, by email, by regular post, on our facebook page, and by posted notices on our bulletin board. The cost involved in sending notices by regular post cuts into our very tight budget. We would like to use these funds to better care for our Gardens, and distribute more of our information

mealy bug infestations on cacti and aloes.

There are two natural aphid predators to assist you in your oleander aphid removal task. Ladybird beetle nymphs eat aphids (Photo 4: Nymph eating aphid) as do the enormous hoverfly larvae (Photo 5: Hoverfly larva and victims).

In conclusion, several dedicated monarch "breeders" have mentioned that their mature larvae disappear. This is what is happening: When monarch larvae (i.e., caterpillars) are ready to pupate they wander away from their host plant. These little pilgrims don't go just a couple of feet but sometimes more than 20 feet. I have found them pupating on the overhang of our house, under patio chairs, and on trashcans. Recently, I even found one on a reed at the edge of our water lily pond (photo 6: Monarch pupa). In that case, the closest milkweed was 22 feet away!! So

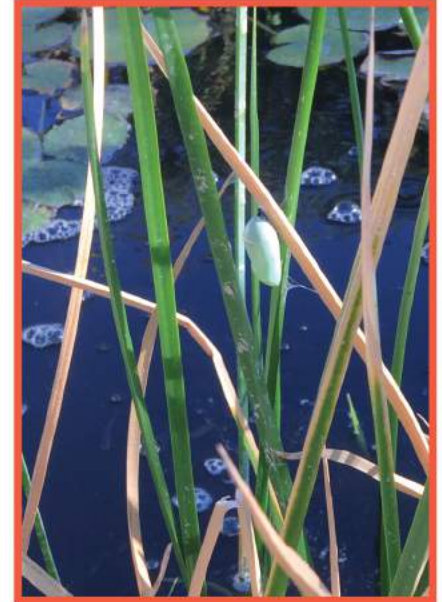


Photo 6: Monarch pupa.

don't worry about "disappearing" larvae, you may simply be underestimating the wandering ability of the monarch caterpillar.

Many thanks to Siri Dharma Khalsa and Edward Platzer for editing this article. Happy Butterfly Gardening!

🌸AP

via email. We understand that emails can get to be overwhelming sometimes, and we plan to minimize these to keep from bombarding your inbox. At our upcoming plant sale we will be collecting email addresses in order to replace

regular post as much as possible. Feel free to give us your ideas on this issue, what you think works well, what does not. Thank you so much for your help in keeping the Gardens beautiful.

U C Riverside Botanic Gardens

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

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University of California, Riverside
Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens
900 University Ave.
Riverside, CA 92521



Food! Wine! Music! Fun!

Come and Enjoy Riverside's Premier Food and Wine Tasting Event

Primavera in the Gardens is the major fundraiser for our Botanic Gardens. Proceeds from the event are used to further our children's education program. Please bring your friends for a lovely afternoon of music, delicious food from Riverside's best restaurants paired with wines from Temecula Valley, Cucamonga Valley, Central Coast and Northern California, as well as regional craft beers. Enjoy browsing the offerings of our Silent Auction- including contributions from many local artists and vendors. Great fun for a worthy cause!