



UCRBG Newsletter

36TH ANNUAL U.C. RIVERSIDE BOTANIC GARDENS

FALL GARDEN MARKET & PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 20, 2018

Friends Preview Sale: 8 am to 10 am Public Sale: 10 am to 4 pm

By Theresa McLemore

The fall season brings cooler evening and day temperatures, and this change provides the opportune time to refresh our gardens after a long and scorching summer. The UCRBG Fall Garden Market and Plant Sale is the perfect place to fuel your inspiration for fall planting. In Southern California and the Inland Empire fall is the best season to plant perennials, including many California natives. Planting in the fall gives many plants several cooler and hopefully rainy months to become established and develop healthy root systems. When the warmer temperatures arrive the following spring, plants are established and better equipped to deal with hot weather.



Our Garden Market and Plant Sale has much to offer, and the response from our customers to this new format has been very positive. Having multiple vendors in one setting provides abundant variety to choose from, and most of the vendors can be visited throughout the year to extend the garden shopping season. There are plants for the most avid gardeners and those with less experience. The Garden Market is a great opportunity to talk with experts, exchange information with fellow gardeners, and spend the day with others that share a passion for plants. The Fall Garden

Market and Plant Sale will be a one-day sale so take advantage of your member benefit and shop between 8:00 and 10:00am when the selections are best. There will be food and snacks available for purchase, and if you do not have a UCRBG T-shirt stop by our swag table to purchase yours. We are hoping to have a few other garden related items for sale as well.

The vendor line-up is sure to provide something for all interests. Blossoms of Aloha, High Noon Creations, Hula Tropicals, Orchids by Zeny, Paradise Garden Center, PIEP, Resendiz Brothers, Rob Roy's Plants, Stumps & Trunks, & Wild Birds Unlimited will be there offering a wide array of plants and garden related items. The UCCE Master Gardeners will also be present with an array of winter vegetables and various flowers and herbs for sale.

Our campus and community section is growing. This year we will have Cal-IPC (CA Invasive Plant Council), Gardeners Floral & Arrangement Guild, CA Rare Fruit Growers, Master Gardeners, and the Riverside County Department of Waste Resources. Participating UCR programs include the Departments of Entomology and Microbiology & Plant Pathology, GCAP (Green Campus Action Plan Committee), CALPIRG Students (CA Public Interest Research Group) and Camp Highlander. *continued on page 3*

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Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



Welcome to the fall issue of the UCRBG Newsletter, our first using a new platform. We are grateful to Katherine Kendrick for serving as the Newsletter Co-editor for five years, during which she volunteered her time to design, edit, and assemble our newsletter. When Katherine decided to step down we were fortunate that the CNAS Director of Communications was available to help us learn a new platform and develop the template.

The platform is new but we have retained the elements of our newsletter that are so appreciated by our members—beautiful photos, Gardens updates, feature articles, and calendar of events.

One of the highlights of my summer occurred in June when I attended the annual meeting of the American Public Gardens Association, of which we are now an institutional member. APGA is the leading professional organization for public horticulture and has more than 600 institutional members in 50 states, DC, and 25 countries. Its mission is to serve public gardens and advance them as leaders, advocates, and innovators to achieve its vision of a world where public gardens are indispensable. The APGA meeting was one of the most informative, rewarding, and collegial that I've ever attended and it was thrilling to meet directors, curators, managers, and other staff of botanic gardens and arboreta throughout North America.

I returned from the meeting with renewed enthusiasm for my work at the Gardens. Two big ideas stood out among the many things I learned. First, public gardens are a powerful force for the public good. In 2016-17 alone over 121 million people visited public gardens, which is nearly as many as attended all pro sporting events combined (NFL + NBA + NHL + MLB received 134 million visitors). Once again I feel a bit like Dorothy who just learned the power of the ruby slippers; I feel immense pride in the UCR Botanic Gardens and enthusiastic about our mission of *servicing as UCR's focal point for campus and community engagement in the science of nature, gardens, and conservation.*

Second, regardless of acreage, operating budget, or numbers of staff, volunteers, members, and visitors, public gardens and arboreta have similar aspirations (greater impact!), challenges (bathrooms and parking!) and concerns (budget!). Thus, we are in very good company and have tremendous help and resources available to us as we work to achieve our vision of the UCRBG as *a living museum, curated to inspire and facilitate education, research, and interpretation of the natural world.* As we plan our strategy and goals for the year ahead you'll hear more about APGA and how we stack up among other public gardens.

As always, I welcome your feedback and input; contact me at bgdirector@ucr.edu or 951-784-6962. Thank you for your ongoing support of the UCR Botanic Gardens!

Jodie

UCR Botanic Gardens Staff

Jodie Holt, Director
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 Theresa McLemore, Manager
 Pam Ferre, Administrative Assistant
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 Pam Roose, Nursery Technician
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 Chuk Nnadi, Student Worker
 Nathan Weik, Student Worker

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 Brianna Barrett-Wrightsmann, Dir. of Development
 Emelyn Lutzker, Human Resources
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 The UCR Botanic Gardens Newsletter is a quarterly magazine published by the UCRBG staff, 900 University Avenue, Riverside, CA 92521, and is one of the benefits of membership in the Friends of UCRBG

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The Master Gardeners will be expanding their presence this fall with a demonstration table where Master Gardener Michael Fisher will be doing demonstrations on Hydroponic Gardening. Be sure to stop by their tables with all your gardening questions. We will also offer two classes. The morning class will feature gardening to attract butterflies, presented by butterfly expert and Master Gardener Christine Lampe. In the afternoon UCRBG volunteer Jane Evans will be leading a t-shirt painting class for children. There will be a small fee to cover the cost of the t-shirts.

Plants to look for

Succulents are drought tolerant and perform particularly well in southern California where they don't seem fazed by the heat. In addition to potted succulents, we will offer for sale mixed plantings of succulents planted in boxes that were constructed by staff and volunteers. The wood for the boxes was repurposed from an arbor in the Gardens that was rebuilt, and the succulents were propagated from our collection. You

may even notice some graffiti on the wood. When you purchase one of these beautiful boxes you are truly taking home a piece of the Botanic Gardens. Below are more plants for sale that can tolerate our inland heat.



Brillantaisia, giant salvia



Justicia carnea, Brazilian plume



Salvia cacaliifolia,
Guatemalan sage



Senecio confusus, Mexican flame vine



Justicia spicigera,
Mexican honeysuckle



Pyrostegia venusta,
Brazilian flame



Hypoestes aristata,
ribbon bush

DOCENT TRAINING CLASS!

A six week Docent Training Class will be held this winter. If you are interested in leading tours for children and adults please contact the office at ucrbg@ucr.edu or call 951-784-6962.

Spotlight On The Greenhouse

By Jodie Holt

If you've been to the Gardens lately you surely noticed a big change in our greenhouse. Through the generosity of anonymous donors and the College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences we were finally able to replace the degraded roof and siding. The new polycarbonate material will allow better light diffusion throughout the greenhouse, reflect harmful UV radiation, and provide better insulation. To further improve the indoor environment the oldest two coolers have been replaced, increasing air exchanges and cooling efficiency.

Our vision for the revamped greenhouse is a functional and impactful space to grow, propagate, and display plants. To this end we have developed a plan and purpose for each section that will greatly enhance our outreach, conservation, and teaching missions.

Section 1—Conservatory

We will create a conservatory in the first section to display some of our most unique and interesting plants. The display will be arranged phylogenetically to showcase the major plant taxa and demonstrate evolution of plants. This area will be open to the general public, school groups, and campus and will be designed to facilitate visitor flow as well as special events.

Section 2—Collection and Conservation

The second section will house plants with a focus on collection and conservation. Plants in this section are part of our accessioned collection but require shadier conditions than those planted out in the Gardens. This section will also house special plants that warrant conservation efforts and will support academic research and teaching at UCR.

Section 3—Propagation

The last section will focus on propagation and cultivation of plant material to maintain and augment our collection as well as to offer for sale to members and visitors at plant sales. When this renovation and reorganization are complete we will seek

volunteers to help with cultivation and propagation of plants in this section of the greenhouse.

This project represents a major effort by Gardens staff, campus

partners, and volunteers, many of whom worked tirelessly to move plants, benches, and bricks as each section was roofed and then again once roofing was complete. Theresa coordinated the moves to stay ahead of the contractor's crew and is overseeing the reorganization of each section. Lois is managing the facility and horticultural needs, Jorge is taking care of coolers and irrigation equipment, and Pam Roose is helping identify, name, and select plants to display. Along with Janine's management of the collection and database, this team will ensure that we create a truly inspiring visitor experience. Special thanks to Kim Steiner and Steve Morgan for their assistance with identifying plants.

Join our Conservatory Challenge Fundraiser!

To fully realize our vision for the greenhouse we seek funds for these items:

- Coolers and installation—4 @ \$5,000
- Heaters and installation—2 @ \$3,000
- Fertilizer injector—\$3,000
- Interpretive signage—\$2,000
- Irrigation systems—3 @ \$1,200
- Outside fire doors—2 @ \$1,000
- Nursery carts—3 @ \$400
- Large pots—25 @ \$30-\$60

Contact us to find out how to help.



Greenhouse exterior

There are many ways to support the UCR Botanic Gardens

To donate online

Donations may be made with a secure credit card payment process by searching *Botanic Gardens* at <https://myadv.ucr.edu>

To donate by check

Make your check payable to "UCR Foundation" memo: Botanic Gardens and send to

UCR Foundation, Attn: Botanic Gardens
PO Box 112
Riverside, CA 92502-0112

Butterfly Corner

Great Purple Hairstreak

Article and Photos by Ann Platzer

Great Purple Hairstreaks are people friendly and renowned for being easily approachable. If you slowly put your finger under one, as Ed did, it may climb aboard (Photo 1: adult sitting on Ed's finger). They are one of our most spectacular hairstreaks and shaped like a large black triangle.



Photo 1: Adult

The Great Purple Hairstreak, *Atlides halesus*, family Lycaenidae, is the largest of our Southern California hairstreaks with a wingspan one and a quarter to two inches. It is a neo tropical butterfly; the North American range includes warm temperate and subtropical parts of North America and extends as far south as Guatemala.

The dorsal surface of the butterfly is black with brilliant metallic blue (not purple as the name implies; in fact, some lepidopterists refer to it as the Great Blue Hairstreak). The male displays more blue. However, since the butterfly rarely lands with its wings spread open this color is only seen when it is in flight. Below, the wings are light-bluish black with iridescent blue markings near the tail. Note that the undersides of both the fore and hind wings have large red spots near the attachment to the abdomen. In addition, the abdomen is brilliant red-orange below. Both are diagnostic characteristics. You already know that the hairstreaks (remember the Gray

Hairstreak) are named for the hair-like projections from the back end of the hind wings, called false antennae, designed to lure predators into biting at the hind wings instead of the vulnerable head, thus allowing the hairstreak to escape.

The host plant is mistletoe, *Phoradendron* spp., of which three species occur in this area. Look for this butterfly where the mistletoe host plants, the cottonwood and sycamore, are abundant. For example, the big leaf mistletoe, *Phoradendron macrophyllum*, (Photo 2: sycamore tree with clumps of mistletoe) is found growing way, way up high on enormous sycamore trees on La Cadena Dr. near Rancho Ave., Riverside in addition to the Santa Ana River in Riverside County, and also on Laguna Canyon Road.

The female lays **eggs** singly on mistletoe. The **larva**, which eats flowers and leaves of the mistletoe, is basically green with a dense covering of short orange hairs, so it blends in with the leaves of the host plant. When fully grown the larva journeys to crevices under bark or at the base of the host tree when it can safely pupate and remain throughout the winter. The **pupa** is brown, heavily mottled, short and plump. Unfortunately, predators such as parasitoid wasps and Tachinid flies are common problems for pupal survival. In Southern California there are a number of broods and flights, especially from late March to early October. Sometimes the Great Purple Hairstreak may fly year round. Mistletoe is considered a symbol of love and romance and for this Great Purple Hairstreak it also symbolizes new life.



Photo 2: Sycamore tree with mistletoe

Twilight Tours

Every year it seems that the Twilight Tours get more popular and this year was no exception. People from all over the Inland Empire came to enjoy the beauty of the UCR Botanic Gardens in the cool hours of dusk. We had 78 attend in July and 91 in August and all of them considered it an evening well spent. Six tour groups ventured out throughout the Gardens for about 90 minutes, stopping at various locations to talk about the plants and enjoy the views and the sunset. At the close of the tours everyone met at the conference room patio for refreshments and cold drinks. Some participants love it so much they come to every Twilight Tour we have.

Dennis Ponsor leading a Twilight Tour



In The Works

By Jodie Holt

Summer is a good time to catch up on projects and tasks; here are some of our accomplishments over the past three months.

- ▶ Our collection is being enhanced by Janine and her volunteers who are verifying and updating plant names and accession numbers, installing new official labels, and mapping and digitizing all roses in the Rose Gardens.
- ▶ Theresa, Lois, Jorge and the rest of the crew have done a fabulous job of cleaning up and augmenting our Australia eco-geographical garden and Jorge is busy installing drip irrigation there.
- ▶ During the extreme heat of the summer many of our trees experienced limb drop, creating hazardous situations throughout the Gardens. We have obtained several quotes from certified arborists and chosen one to do the debris removal and cleanup. In addition, we will work with them to develop and initiate an overall tree maintenance plan to insure the safety of our staff and visitors and health of our collection.
- ▶ On the positive side, one of our compromised trees, an Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) native to the Mediterranean region, is still very much alive and we are excited to be joining the “Cavity Conservation Initiative” (www.cavityconservation.com) by saving the snag and mounting our first owl box on it!
- ▶ All of our beautiful redwood garden signs, hand crafted by Special Projects Volunteer Doug Holt, have now been installed, including three for gardens that are “in progress.” Our numbered waypoints along the trails are so popular with visitors that they are being replaced with permanent hand crafted redwood signs, as well.
- ▶ Our greenhouse roofing project is now complete and the internal light environment is ideal for the diverse collection housed there. Unfortunately, when you fix one problem you usually reveal another, so we have replaced two of the six coolers and are in the process of developing a maintenance plan for the rest with the assistance of Special Projects Volunteer Rob Lennox. Lois, Pam, and the crew are doing a great job of redesigning the interior layout for maximum efficiency and display impact.
- ▶ Like our greenhouse coolers, all our vehicles are very old, and all are either in the shop or slated to go in for repairs, tires, and the like. We are searching for donors or sponsors to help us acquire new vehicles!
- ▶ The UCRBG GIS app has been augmented with more plants from the eco-geographical gardens, and our GIS Consultant Mike Cohen has worked with experts to gather images of the Gardens from drone flyovers; these will be added soon so be sure to check the app from home or using your smart phone as you tour the Gardens.
- ▶ We are always looking for new volunteers to help us advance our mission; to that end a new fillable Volunteer Interest Form was added to our website so we can capture interest in over 30 areas of need. If you are interested in volunteering in the BG please check it out!



Owl box



Doug Holt making garden signs



Theresa McLemore in the greenhouse

IF YOU HAVE
EMPTY POTS WE
WILL GLADLY
TAKE THEM!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Complete the online
volunteer interest form on the
UCRBG website

<http://gardens.ucr.edu/involved/volunteer.html>.

Friends Member Update

By Jodie Holt

Since 1980 when it was established, the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens has been an officially recognized UC Support Group, whose purpose is to “Provide assistance through fundraising, public outreach, and other support for the University’s mission.” At the time the Friends were first recognized by UCR there were few staff and much work to be done to establish the Gardens. For many years the Friends Board, operating under a set of Bylaws, created, organized, and managed events including the first ever Plant Sales and Primavera in the Gardens. Indeed, the UCR Botanic Gardens would not be what it is today without the legacy of the Friends, the leadership of many Boards, support from hundreds of Friends members, and the strong spirit of volunteerism that still characterizes our membership.

In recent decades, UC and UCR policies have changed considerably, particularly in the realm of finance and administration, rendering the Friends Bylaws non-compliant with policies governing volunteer support groups. While support from Friends and volunteers is critical, the Director and staff of the Gardens are charged with managing facilities, events and activities, and the Gardens receives administrative and financial support from our CNAS administrative unit BEES (who manages the Botanic Gardens, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, and Student Affairs). These changes have replaced the essential role played by the Friends Board in its early years since UC Support Groups may no longer manage units, handle funds, or perform other functions now under the jurisdiction of staff.

For the past year staff from the Gardens, BEES, CNAS and UCR have been working with the Friends Board of Directors to reconsider their role and ensure that they function in compliance with UC and UCR policies. During our deliberations we learned that several campus units have membership groups (e.g., UCR Arts, UCR Palm Desert) but

none are official UC Support Groups. This formal status requires board structure, bylaws, and annual reporting, and is optional as per current UC and UCR policies. Subsequently, in March when the annual recognition of the Friends as an official UC Support Group expired, the Friends Board decided not to seek renewal, rather to function as the UCRBG membership group. While no longer serving on a board, the directors are all active BG volunteers and have continued their valuable work alongside our staff and other volunteers, and we continue to rely on their input and leadership.

We value the Friends’ status as UCR’s oldest membership and support group and will continue to offer membership in the Friends of the UCRBG. Currently we are working with our CNAS Director of Development, Brianna Wrightsman, to develop new membership levels, enhanced benefits, and a new membership brochure. We appreciate so much the dedication and hard work of the Friends Board over this past year and for their patience as we have navigated this administrative challenge. I look forward to continuing our work together in the years ahead to advance the vision of the UCRBG and steward our hundreds of Friends, donors, and volunteers into an exciting future.

Membership Information

- Memberships may be renewed on the UCRBG website: www.gardens.ucr.edu
- Early entry to the Garden Market & Plant Sales
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Reduced price for select UCRBG events
- 10% discount at local businesses:
 - Bonnett Irrigation
 - Louie's Nursery
 - Paradise Garden Center
 - Parkview Nurseries
- Discounts or free entry to 320 gardens, arboreta & conservatories in the U.S.
www.ahsgardening.org



Amber Jones

Thank you to our past Friend's President, Amber Jones, for all her hard work over the years. She will be greatly missed and we wish her the best in her new home in Nebraska.

Birds of the Gardens

The Rock Wren

By Chris Swarth

The Rock Wren dwells in habitats shunned by most other birds: dry, rocky, barren slopes often devoid of much vegetation. Yet among this hard scrabble terrain this spirited, insect-eating songbird has found a niche that supplies all it needs in life. As you gaze up at the austere Box Spring Mountains behind campus you're looking at ideal Rock Wren habitat!

To see, or more likely hear, the small, brownish Rock Wren at the Botanic Gardens, you'll need to ascend the upper slopes to the rounded rocky outcrops well above the formal garden beds. Once there, listen for the ringing song or calls given by a solitary bird perched conspicuously atop its granite platform. The song is a series of repeated trills, described by Ralph Hoffmann in *Birds of the Pacific States* (1927) as "Flee, flee, flee or cheep-oo, cheep-oo, cheep-oo, each strain definite, and succeeded by another quite distinct with a change in pitch." William L. Dawson (1923) described the song as "The sprightliest, most musical, and resonant to be heard in the entire West."

If you're fortunate to see the songster you might get to watch it bob energetically up and down while looking left, then right. This somewhat comical behavioral trait makes it easy to confirm the identify of this otherwise drab bird, even from some distance away. When alighting on a perch watch as it spreads its tail revealing distinctive pale buffy or orangish tips to the tail feathers.

The nest is a loose cup of grass, moss or hair, hidden up to a quarter meter within a cavity or crevice in the rocks, out of sight and safe from predators. The Rock Wren, presumably the male, exhibits the unusual habit of landscaping its abode by



Rock Wren; Photo by Ninad Thakoor

collecting and placing flat pebbles or other objects atop a "walkway" that leads to the nest. One super-energetic wren nesting on the rocky, barren Farallon Islands in 1904 lined its path with 1,665 objects, including 492 small stones, 1 safety pin, 2 pieces of wire, 2 pieces of scissors, 10 pieces of battery zinc, 2 fishhooks, 2 pieces of glass, 1 piece of leather, 4 copper tacks, 2 pieces of limestone, 4 pieces of plaster, 12 pieces of shingles, 9 bits of abalone shells, 20 bits of mussel shells, 106 nails, 227 bits of flat iron, and 769 pieces of rabbit, fish, and bird bones. This habit is similar to the storied behavior of the bowerbirds of Australia and may serve the same purpose. Or the loose pebbles could act as a burglar alarm alerting a parent bird to an intruder, as one author suggests.

For 23 years Chris Swarth was director of a wetland sanctuary and field station on the Chesapeake Bay. From 2013 to 2016, he was director of the Vernal Pool Natural Reserve at UC Merced. Currently he is assisting California Audubon and the Western Riverside County Biological Monitoring Program with studies of the endangered Tricolored Blackbird.

Plant Sale Volunteers Needed

We can always use more volunteers and pick-up trucks for moving plants before and after the **Garden Market & Plant Sale**. Contact ucrbg@ucr.edu.

Set-up day - Wednesday, October 17th at 9 am.

Clean-up day - Monday, October 22nd at 9 am.

What to See in the Gardens

By Theresa McLemore

After the color and warmth of summer passes we enter my favorite season, fall. The plants in our garden work hard to put on a show of color, fragrance, and foliage in the summer months. They struggle through the heat, humid conditions, and sometimes wind. It is almost a relief to see these plants transition into fall for rest and rejuvenation. It is in fall that we begin to see the backbone of the garden in the form of a tree and its network of branches or a shrub and its beautiful bark that is normally hidden by leaves and bright flowers. It is also a time to enjoy the pink, white, and burgundy blooms of the *Lagerstroemia indica*, crape myrtle, along the driveway, and the glorious yellow blooms of the *Cassia excelsa*, crown of gold, that light up the slope near the *Ficus* grove. It's not always about color, as there are many sights that delight one's senses. The leaves from our deciduous trees form a beautiful patchwork of colors and textures throughout our temperate deciduous forest. Our most popular vine is the *Aristolochia gigantea*, Brazilian Dutchman's pipe, which covers a



Aristolochia gigantea, Brazilian Dutchman's pipe

considerable portion of the Gunther dome. Its unusual blooms are suspended above, and look like flowers from a Sci-Fi movie. The entrance of the dome is dotted with the pink flowers of the *Podranea ricosoliana*, pink trumpet vine. At every turn there is beauty to behold. I encourage you to embrace fall here in the BG and welcome this seasonal change. Please join us for a restorative walk and find yourself surrounded by this season's wonder and its many forms.

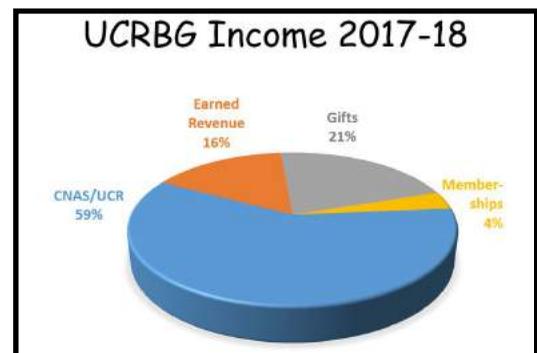
State of the Gardens

By Jodie Holt

We ended the academic year and welcomed the summer at our June Friends Annual Meeting, where I delivered my State of the Gardens address and we enjoyed wine, appetizers, and desserts. For those who did not attend, here is a brief summary of our budget, accomplishments, and goals for the coming year.

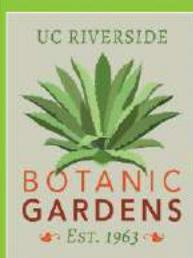
Budget Overview

The UCRBG budget includes income from several sources, including CNAS (some salary funding), earned revenue (plant sales, Primavera, conference room rentals), gifts and endowment payouts, and memberships. As reported last year, we still maintain a corpus of non-recurring, non-interest earning gift funds that are being used to augment staffing,



conduct deferred maintenance, and initiate new projects. Expenses are categorized into salaries and benefits (largest expense), facilities and maintenance, gardens and horticulture, programming, and administration (smallest expense).

Currently our operating budget is just over \$800,000 per year and our endowments total \$2.7 million, both of which are lower than the median for peer institutions (college/university gardens up to 200 acres). Fortunately, our expenses in several categories are lower than at peer institutions due to support we receive from UCR and CNAS in financial and administrative operations, development, and marketing. A major goal for the coming year is to grow our operating budget and endowments in order to maintain staffing levels and protect the Gardens against economic downturns. *continued on page 10*



UC RIVERSIDE
BOTANIC GARDENS
EST. 1963

Saturday, November 3, 2018
10:00am - 3:00pm

LOCAL ARTISTS!

Art in the Gardens

Free Entrance & Free Parking

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2017-2018 Accomplishments

Collection improvement and augmentation

One of our most exciting new projects was realized with the launch at Primavera in the Gardens of our new interactive GIS app that enables virtual or real-time tours through the Gardens. To date several hundred species in our collection have been included, as well as gardens, landmarks, and several 360 degree images. We are very appreciative of our GIS expert, consultant, and volunteer Mike Cohen for spearheading this project. In addition, Janine is updating and augmenting the collection database and replacing labels where needed. The rose collection was augmented with 70 Old Garden Roses and several Rosie the Riveter floribunda roses, 31 new *Salvia* species were planted, and new lilacs were added to Lilac Lane over the past year. Work is also underway to catalog and organize the collection housed in the greenhouse.

Gardens and facilities

Deferred maintenance continued last year with significant work going into renovation of the Heritage Rose Garden and the eco-geographical Australia Garden. Several vendors at our Garden Markets kindly donated plants to augment the Australia Garden, and Jorge is adding drip irrigation systems to Australia and other gardens as they are renovated. Lois spearheaded the reorganization of our propagation space and facilities in the lath house, and Theresa is implementing a new organizational concept for the collection housed in the greenhouse, including creation of a new conservatory. See "Spotlight On" for more information on the greenhouse renovation underway.



Greenhouse interior

Education and outreach

Our most well-recognized educational program is the docent-led school tour program, which educates hundreds of K-12 and college age students each year. Focusing on adults, we held several sold-out Bird Walks and Twilight Tours and another well attended Rose Pruning Demonstration. We continued to tweak the format of our Garden Market &



George Spiliotis' tour group at the Twilight Tour

Plant Sales to reduce costs, raise revenue, and increase impact. We added to our marketing program by creating new branded tee shirts that sold well at the Garden Market and at Primavera. Another big initiative was the production of a new Lidar imagery map of the Gardens by volunteer Katherine Kendrick and faculty in the Earth Sciences Department; the map is now posted in large format on our entrance message board and copies are available for visitors to use while touring the Gardens.



Volunteers and visitor services

Volunteers are the backbone of our workforce and we strive to improve the volunteer experience. With the help of campus partners in HR we streamlined the volunteer sign-up and onboarding process and added it to monthly volunteer orientation sessions, resulting in a mere 24-hour period before volunteers can begin work. In June we held a volunteer appreciation luncheon with raffle



Docents at the EEC Symposium (from left to right: Janine Almanzor, Claudia Clark, Barbara Gable, Becky Hiroto & Georgia Renne)

prizes and UCRBG branded coasters for all attendees. We continue to recruit Garden Stewards who generously volunteer their time to staff the entrance table on weekends throughout the year. We will soon install an infrared people-counter on the entrance gates to collect data on visitor numbers by hour, day, week, and season, which will help us tailor staffing and programs to times when the Gardens are busiest.

Development and fundraising

This year we partnered with CNAS Development staff to revamp Primavera in the Gardens, our signature fundraiser. New materials, signage, and letterhead were produced by Campus Communications, showcasing new Primavera branding. A program was added as guests entered to inform them about how ticket donations would be used, the interactive GIS app was rolled out, and posters displayed campaign goals including a new entrance building. During cashing for Silent Auction we held our first pop-up Garden Shop, selling branded tee shirts and signature planter boxes of succulents propagated from our collection. In the fall, volunteer Karen Fleisher again organized Art in the Gardens, a much anticipated and well attended fundraiser. Finally, plans are underway for the installation of a legacy brick patio;



Steven Orr (far right) at Primavera

several pledges for bricks have already been received.

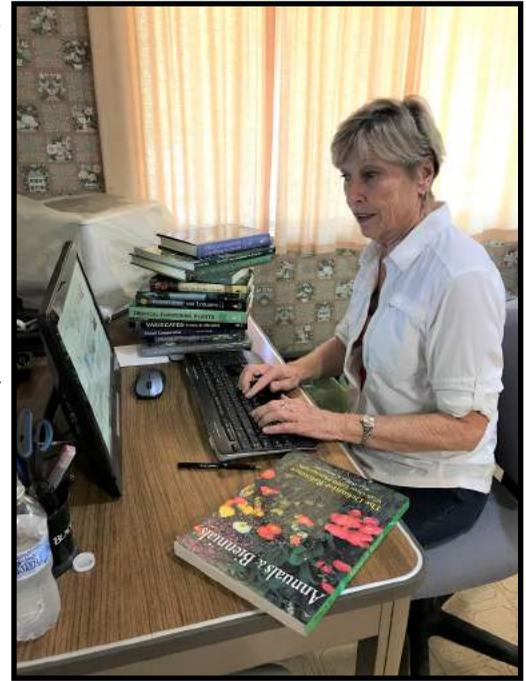
Membership

As described in the “Member Update” article, the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens is one of the oldest membership support groups on campus. Over the past two years we worked with the Board of Directors to restructure their organization in the context of current UC and UCR policies for support groups. We are gratified that the immediate past Board members and many other Friends remain some of our most avid volunteers. We are now working with our CNAS

Development staff to restructure and add membership levels and new member benefits, which will be rolled out in the coming months.

Goals for 2018-2019

Over the next year we will be preparing core guiding documents, including strategic and master plans; policy and management plans for our collection, landscape, and facilities; and program plans for education and outreach, visitor services, volunteer management,



Karen Fleisher volunteering in the library

development, and marketing and communication. We aim to complete renovation of the greenhouse and creation of a conservatory, break ground on our Native American Plants Garden, and continue cleanup, renovation, and augmentation of the eco-geographical gardens. We will also continue to work with our partners in Development to seek creative ways to enhance fundraising so that funding does not impede our accomplishing these and other goals.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated, talented, and energetic staff, including a wonderful group of students, who share our vision and aspirations. We hope you will continue to support, visit, and engage with the UCR Botanic Gardens as we embark on another exciting year together.



University of California, Riverside
Botanic Gardens
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Riverside, CA 92521

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UCRBG Calendar of Events

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- October 9 **Volunteer Orientation**, Conference Room, 9:00 am
- October 20 **Fall Garden Market & Plant Sale**, 8:00 - 10:00 am Members
Sale, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Public Sale
- November 3 **Art in the Gardens**, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
- November 13 **Volunteer Orientation**, Conference Room, 9:00 am
- December 11 **Volunteer Orientation**, Conference Room, 9:00 am
- January 8 **Volunteer Orientation**, Conference Room, 9:00 am
- January 13 **Rose Pruning Demonstration**, Rose Gardens, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Please note: The UCRBG will have late openings (1:00 pm) on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month.