

The University of California, Riverside Botanic Gardens UCRDBG Newsletter

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Butterfly Corner

The Funereal Duskywing

Article and Photos by Ann Platzer

Why mention these little butterflies with their sober, rusty black coloration? In fact, some say Duskywings look like drab little moths suggesting that not every butterfly is beautiful! The Duskywing skippers are classified as **spread-wing skippers**, a group that hold both sets of wings open when perching, while the other skippers typically perch with wings closed. There are 17 species of Duskywings native to North America, six of which can be found in southern California. This group, of similar-looking butterflies, is notoriously difficult to identify in the field and often the only accurate way to determine the species is by examining differences in the sexual organs under the microscope! That being said, let's examine the Funereal since it's the most common and widely distributed Duskywing seen in southern California.

The Funereal Duskywing butterfly, *Erynnis funeralis*, is small, with a wingspan of only 1 1/8 - 1 3/4 inches. Like other members of the Skipper Family, Hesperiiidae, it is known for its rapid and agile flight, stout body, large eyes and short antennae. It has blackish wings with very



Dorsal View, Funereal Duskywing

pronounced, white fringes on the outer margin of the hindwings, even visible in flight or if wings are open or closed (see photo, above). The forewings are narrow and pointed, and dorsally, there are lightly mottled, small, white spots on the front near a brown patch. The hindwings are broadly triangular and underneath the wing surfaces are mostly brownish-black.

The Funereal Duskywing is widely distributed in southern California and also found in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas then south to Argentina and Chile. Its preferred habitat includes deserts, arid lowlands, roadsides, in addition to residential gardens with host and nectar plants.

The flight is February through December with three broods in Southern California. The first brood is on wing from February to mid-April, the second from mid-May to until late June and the third appears from late August and September. Photography of the Funereal Duskywing is frustrating because of their fast and erratic flight. However, with patience and luck, you may be successful as they sip nectar from black sage (*Salvia mellifera*) or bush lantana (*Lantana* sp.).

Females lay eggs singly, on the underside of leaves. The eggs are hemispherical and vertically ribbed and change in color from white through green and orange to brown. The larvae are yellowish green and hairy and rest in shelters of rolled up leaves when they are not feeding to hide from predators. Larvae from the third brood diapause (a period of dormancy) over winter. The pupae are green and clouded with yellow.

This butterfly is so widely distributed because it is the most polyphagous of the Duskywings since the larvae feed on a large number of native and non-native legumes: plants in the pea family, (*Legumaceae*). It is an excellent

candidate in your garden if you grow peas (*Pisum sativum*), beans (*Phaseolus vulgaris*) or sweet peas (*Lathyrus odoratus*). A few of the many other host legumes include deer weed (*Lotus scoparius*), palo verde, (*Parkinsonia aculeate*), and desert ironwood (*Olneya tesota*)

not to mention false indigo (*Amorpha sp.*), which is also the host plant for our California Dogface butterfly.

In closing, the Funereal Dusky-wing, which is a frequent visitor to our garden since we grow sweet peas in addition to false indigo, asks you to add one of the above host legumes to

your garden. Don't forget -- one more butterfly, one more pollinator.

Thanks to Edward Platzer and Marco Metzger for reviewing this article.

Happy Butterfly Gardening. 🌱 AP

Around the Gardens

NATURAL HOLIDAY WREATH CLASS

Joyce Dean of the Garden and Floral Arrangers Guild of Redlands came to the Gardens in early November and demonstrated how to create a natural winter wreath.

The class was filled to capacity, and the step-by-step instruction was much appreciated by the participants. You can see examples of the lovely wreaths in the photos below. We are hopeful that this popular class will become an annual event in the Gardens.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

For the second year, the Friends of the Botanic Gardens had a booth at the Festival of Trees. This event is hosted by the Riverside County Regional Medical Center. The event draws more than 30,000 people over the course of several days around Thanksgiving.

At our booth, we had a craft for children, information about our Gardens and upcoming events, as well as a drawing for a docent-led tour of the Gardens. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach the many families who may not already be familiar with the Gardens.

BIRDWALK AND BREAKFAST- WINTER BIRDS

A hearty group gathered early in the morning on December 5th, before the Gardens were open to the public. Norm Ellstrand led the group of beginning through advanced birders through the quiet Gardens. The conditions were ideal, the morning was crisp and sparkling, and they were able to identify more than 30 species of birds, including some unexpected varieties. Wrens, Flickers and Hummingbirds were abundant. Following their hike through the Gardens, the group convened in the conference room to enjoy a continental breakfast

and to discuss all that they had observed. If you would like to participate in such a special event, see the listing of upcoming events (page 7) for future Birdwalks.

--- continued on page 7



Debra Corbin-Euston, Hiliary Brown, and Lee Bayer (left to right) show their beautiful creations in the Natural Wreath Class.

State of the Gardens

PLANTS TO SEE: Late fall and winter are good times to walk in the Botanic Gardens and see what plants are of interest. I walked the Gardens the afternoon of Thursday, November 19, 2015, when students from **Tomás Rivera Middle School, Perris**, were visiting on a docent-led nature tour. Thank you docents for running the Friends-supported school tours. Plants that are in fruit or in flower in November, December, January and February include red- or yellow-berried toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), in the parking lot and at various places in the Gardens. The cream, rose-like flowers appear in May-June, followed by colored fruits at Christmas and New Year. The yellow-berried variety, from northern California, is taller than the local red-berried form, but as yet there are no semi-dwarf or dwarf forms available in the nursery trade. Inside the entrance gate are several autumn sage selections, including the original rose-pink flowered *Salvia greggii* cultivar (cv.) and 'Hot Lips' a cv. of *S. microphylla* under the Chitalpa tree. Outside the ladies restroom is a cream-flowered cv. Across the main drive, in the **Peggy and James Wortz** entrance plaza, are large pots of Mexican weeping bamboo, which add a light green color to the darker days of winter. Back on the left side of the drive is orange-flowered Mexican honeysuckle (*Justicia spicigera*). Next to this are gray-green aggregate fruits of four-winged salt bush (*Atriplex canescens*), followed by

chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), usually with scarlet-flowers. Our first manager, Dennis Kucera, collected a fine yellow specimen from near the border many years ago, and named it 'Tecate Gold'. A visit to Anza-Borego State Park at New Year will demonstrate how humming birds visit these native plants in winter time.

Farther along the drive are dark green vines of wild cucumber (*Marah macrocarpa*), which will have white flowers in December through March. The desert apricot (*Prunus fremontii*) also flowers in January-February. Adjacent are the gray-green leaves of jojoba shrubs, with their separate male and female plants. The male plants have yellow anthers in small flowers in the winter months, while the females have green flowers that are less conspicuous. The desert garden displays a fine array of cactus fruits at this time of the year. Also in the desert garden is our collection of ocotillo (*Fouquieria*) species. The native ocotillo (*F. splendens*) is in front of the four California fan palms. It has scarlet flowers, with or without green leaves, following rain storms. On cactus knoll are several other species that withstand our frosty winters. Mexican tree ocotillo (*F. macdougalii*) has red flowers in late November. Sunset Western Garden Book says it will also grow happily in large patio containers. Arbol de barril (*F. fasciculata*) has white flowers in December, as do cirio or boojum tree (*F. columnaris*) from Baja California, and *Fouquieria purpusii*. Palo de Adan (*F. diguetii*) and Guerrero ocotillo (*F. leonilae*) have red flowers – both

do well at UCR. There are several frost sensitive species that will not survive outdoors at Riverside. Some of these ocotillo species are also planted in the **Boysie Day Memorial Baja Garden** along the west fence line. Behind the entrance restrooms Texas olive (*Cordia boissieri*) was still in flower at the end of November. Indigo bush (*Dalea bicolor* var. *orcuttiana*) will come into flower in December-January. Arizona rosewood (*Vauquelinia californica*), native to Baja (but not Alta) California, Arizona and New Mexico, is an attractive tall evergreen shrub with small white rose flowers in winter-spring.

The **South African slope** will have fine displays of red, orange or yellow-flowered *Aloe* species, and ice plants of various colors in winter. Bird of paradise cv. William Drysdale was in flower at the end of November. By the gate into the Chancellor's garden are shrubs of endangered Nevin's barberry, from San Timoteo Canyon, Redlands. The Gardens also has plants collected as seed from Vail Lake in southern Riverside County. On the south side of the wash is a dwarf shrub form of California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), which we have not been able to propagate. A more standard tree form is close by. If you climb the North coast walkway, there are architectural silver branches of California buckeye, with large asymmetric fruits. First Californians used to leach toxins from the large seeds. Scarlet flowers of California fuchsia (*Epilobium canum*) still attract

hummingbirds, and lead the way to the Rose Gardens which will have odd flowers until pruned in mid-January. Roses that are not pruned and that tend to flower through the winter are cv. Old Blush, from China, and *Rosa minutifolia* from Otay Mesa and Baja California.

Some of the Gardens' autumn sage selections are planted on the west side of the main drive, near the Gardens' garage, whilst white-mauve *S. x Waverly* and scarlet *S. microphylla* flower through the winter on the east side of the drive. Yellow flowered forsythia sage (*S. madrensis*) is found at the northeast corner of the lath house. Popcorn cassia (*Senna didymobotrya*) is blooming at the southwest corner of the green house. Across the drive in the **Butterfly Garden** are several white, purple and yellow-colored flowers of butterfly bush (*Buddleja* species), several of which bloom in the winter. Several Aster Family genera flower through the winter season and attract butterflies on warm days. Many Mediterranean plants display in the **Herb Garden** through the winter. Growing through the roof of the lath house are pink blossoms of the tree dahlia (*Dahlia imperialis*) from Mexico. On the north side of the lath house is an established Camellia sasanqua 'Australian Hiryu', which is one of the few cultivars to survive from several planted 30 years ago. At the northwest corner is a pink ball tree, (*Dombeya* 'Seminole') which blooms in fall and winter.

Winter is an excellent time to exercise in the Botanic Gardens. With 300 feet elevation difference between the entrance gate and the radio tower, there are lots of gentle or steeper paths to use to burn off the effects of overeating during the holiday season.

PLANT SALE: A big thank you to all the volunteers, Friends and staff who helped at the Friends Plant Sale October 23, 24 and 25. The total number of adults and children who attended the two day sale was 2041. Saturday morning between 8.00 and 11.00 a.m. 316 Friends attended. By 11.30 a.m. the total was 657. One hour later at 12.30 p.m. the total reached 1013 and by 4.00 o'clock on Saturday afternoon when the sale closed 1434 people had entered the Gardens. The sale re-opened at 9.00 a.m. on Sunday and by 10.00 a.m. 1539 folks had entered, while at noon Sunday the total was 1756, and by 3.00 p.m. Sunday when the sale closed 2041. It was a very good sale for numbers of plants sold and for the clement weather. I wish especially to thank Mein and Antoon who staffed the Food Booth, Rebecca Levers, who organized Friends and volunteers, and Theresa Mclemore, who set up and took down the sale.

ART IN THE GARDENS: There was a steady flow of visitors on November 8 for this display and sale of the work of local artists. Thank you to all the Friends, staff and volunteers who helped, and especially Tammi Meeks, who coordinated the event.

Jody Suverkrup: I am saddened to report the death of a Friend of the Botanic Gardens in November. Jody served on the board of the Friends and was in charge of memberships and events. She was also a generous supporter to the Botanic Gardens and Friends.

Victor & Marjorie Goodman Endowment

Chase Howell was hired as a temporary worker in the Desert Gardens paid from the proceeds of the Victor & Marjorie Goodman Endowment.

DONATIONS : I wish to thank Friends for the following donations which were received in September and October, 2015. If by chance I missed mentioning your name please let me know so I can correct the record.

Botanic Gardens General Fund: Michelle Almazan, Arthur Douglas, Remeny Farren, Claire & Brian Federici, Monika Ittig, Peggy Milfeld, Sara Mills, Rhonda Solorzano, Marie Wahe, J G Waines.

Botanic Gardens Endowment Fund: Lewis Cohen.

Butterfly Garden: Gloria Macias-Harrison, Nancy Marchand, Bill Mumma, Lawanda Pennels, Cass Schroeder.

Botanic Gardens Wheelchair Fund: Hedy Zittrach-Tyson.

Friends Botanic Gardens General Fund: Pamela Balys, Cathy Beatty-O'Shea, Roger Best, Vickie Bicket, Linda Carter, John Chaney, Amber Claffin, Alejandro Cortez, Kenneth Dowell, Daphne Fairburn,

State of the Gardens, continued.

Friends Botanic Gardens General

Fund: Floodway Books, Brenda Kreutzer, Susan Legner, Scott McClaughlin, Susan McClintock, Sheila McMahon, Antoon Ploeg, Wilma Printy, Roger Ransom, Ann Servin, Catherine Sims, Patricia Springer, Charlotte Stanley, Van Stout, Michael Talley.

UCR Herbarium Endowment:

Frank & Maxine Vasek, J G Waines.

Children's Garden Matching

Appeal: Almost 100 Friends have responded to this matching fund request. I will print all the names at the end of the appeal.

End of year, tax deductible donations: The UCR Foundation will gratefully accept end of year donations to any of the Botanic Gardens or Friends of the Botanic Gardens funds listed above. Please send checks to The UCR Foundation, 1200 Hinderaker Hall, UC Riverside, 900 University Ave. Riverside CA 92521, or donate on line at the website www.ucrfoundation.edu May I wish Friends, volunteers and staff all the best for the holiday season. 🍀GW

Volunteer News

Karen Fleisher and Theresa McLemore

Our dedicated weekly volunteers have been busy this fall maintaining many areas of the Gardens including the rose gardens, the desert area and the Colonial Herb Garden. The **Herb Garden** has been adopted by Lynne Fumey, Marcia Edwards, Lucinda Jensen and Laura Afansev. They are weeding and renovating the plantings under the supervision of Theresa McLemore, Gardens Manager.

The **North Coast area** has been adopted by the team of Jane Evans, Lois Whyde, Kirstin Tidwell and Rebecca Levers.

The plant sale was enjoyed by all, due to the efforts of the Gardens staff assisted by UCCE Master Gardeners and Gardens volunteers, as well as students from various UCR service groups. These energetic and dedicated volunteers provided over 1500 volunteer hours from plant sale set-up on Thursday, October 22, through sale break-down on Monday, October 26. This incredible team was coordinated by Theresa McLemore, Rebecca Levers and Yo Yo Hong.

Our Fall **Keep Our Gardens Clean and Beautiful** was held on November 21 with over 30 volunteers, including UCR students from Alpha Phi Omega and high school students from the Youth Advisory Council of Second District Riverside County Supervisor John Tavaglione's office, as well as UCCE Master Gardeners and Gardens volunteers participating, weeding the lower rose garden, the North Coast slope and the area around the greenhouse. As always, a grand time was had by all.

We continue to hold **Volunteer Orientations** on the second Tuesday of each month, meeting at the entrance to the Gardens at 9 a.m. Please join us and enjoy the beauty of the Gardens and the rewards and camaraderie of being a part of our volunteer team.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities include the **Rose Pruning demonstration** on January 10, 2016, and preparation for the spring plant sale starting in February.

Volunteers are one of the great strengths of our Gardens, serving as an invaluable resource. They share their time, their love for gardening and plants and their dedication to the community. The Gardens staff is extremely grateful to our dedicated volunteers.

Please contact the Gardens Office at ucrbg@ucr.edu or 951-784-6962 for more information on volunteering. 🍀KF & TM

Volunteers Linda Zummo and Nancy Cox set out plants (left) and Marsha McDaniel and Pauline Pedigo register volunteers for the plant sale.





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For more information:

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Your legacy in the Gardens ...

Would you like to ensure that the beauty and vitality of the Botanic Gardens will endure for future generations to enjoy? You can do so with a gift through your will. You may direct your gift to education or outreach, maintenance, or general support of the Gardens.

What would be meaningful to you?



For information on how to leave a legacy to the UCR Botanic Gardens, please contact:

Tony Truong
Director of Gift Planning
(951) 827-3793
giftplanning@ucr.edu

If you have already remembered the Gardens in your plans, please let us know.

Around the Gardens- Upcoming Events

Information for all events can be found at: gardens.ucr.edu, by emailing ucrbg@ucr.edu, or by calling 951-784-6962

ADULT EDUCATION

Please watch our website for information about Adult Education programs. William Broen, who conducted the Medicinal Plant Walk last spring has agreed to return to the Gardens for another presentation. Lisa Novick from the Theodore Payne Foundation will also be coming to give us a program. In addition, we will resume our popular Garden Tour Series, and have the opportunity to see how regional gardeners design and create their own spaces. As the dates for these events are finalized, we will update the website with more information.

BIRDWALK AND BREAKFAST

You will have two opportunities to join our birdwatching tours this winter and spring. On February 27th, Norm Ellstrand will be leading his 'Gourmet Birdwalk', an outing designed for a select group of birders who want to see a large variety of birds. The group will be limited to 12 people. We will bird the Botanic Gardens and other campus locations. We will start at 7 a.m. and we anticipate seeing 60 species, maybe more. On May 7th, we will have a spring Migration tour, focused on the migrants such as Western Tanager, several warbler and vireo species, all three species of goldfinches, grosbeaks, Rufous and much more.



Siblings Marco (8) and Jennifer (5) visited our booth at the Festival of Trees

WINTER LECTURE Paul and Karen Sternberg, of Living Cycads, in Vista, CA, will be providing the program for our Winter Lecture. They will present information about growing cycads, and introduce us to the various kinds available. Cycads are drought-tolerant and long-lived, so this is a particularly relevant topic for us in southern California. Please watch the website for more information and the date for this educational event.

ROSE PRUNING DEMONSTRATION

January 10, 2016

1 to 3 p.m.

In case of rain, event will be rescheduled for January 17th

Every winter the public is invited to the UCR Botanic Gardens to attend the Annual Rose Pruning Demonstration. Co-hosted by the Gardens and the Mountain View Rose Society, the demonstration runs continually from 1 to 3 p.m. Botanic Gardens Staff, Volunteers and local experts demonstrate how to prune hybrid tea, floribunda, miniature roses and climbers, and are happy to answer questions. This public service has been an event at the Gardens since 1979 and is always very well attended. The demonstration is free, though donations are always gratefully accepted.

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 Katherine Kendrick, Botanic Gardens, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0124, call 951.784.6962, e-mail ucrbg@ucr.edu or visit our website at www.gardens.ucr.edu for information.

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