



# UCRBG Newsletter

## WHAT TO SEE IN THE GARDENS

### Poinsettia

By Lois Whyde



The Christmas holidays are just around the corner and soon thousands upon thousands of potted Poinsettias will be gracing amusement parks, store displays and households alike. Here at the Botanic Gardens we are lucky enough to have a specimen Poinsettia that puts on a display throughout the holiday season and beyond every year.

Our Poinsettia is located just outside the garage office. *Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Eckespoint' was planted in 2014 and is currently 7 to 8 feet tall but will eventually reach up to 15 feet tall and almost as wide. The cultivar name refers to the Ecke family of Southern California, which was instrumental in cultivating and marketing the Poinsettia to become the hugely popular holiday plant it is today.

While most people believe that the flowers are the main attraction of the plant, those large colorful, red-leaf shaped structures are bracts or modified leaves. They turn color in response to the plant forming flowers, which are the small yellow clustered buds in the center, called the "cyathia". Since Poinsettias are photoperiodic, the flowers are initiated by the shortening days of fall, or more technically the longer nights.

A native of southern Mexico, the plant was first brought to the United States in 1828 by the first ambassador to Mexico, Dr. Joel Poinsett, for whom it is named. An amateur botanist, he discovered the plant with brilliant red leaves growing by the side of the road in Taxco, Mexico and sent cuttings to his home in South Carolina. Poinsett continued to study and breed this plant in his greenhouse, sharing with his horticulturist friends. It soon gained acceptance as a holiday plant, but it wasn't until the 1960s that researchers were able to successfully breed Poinsettias to bloom more than just a few days.

On the other side of the country, the Ecke family, led by Albert Ecke, migrated to this country from Germany in 1902. He settled in the Eagle Rock area of Los Angeles and started growing field grown flowers for local markets. In 1906 he started growing Poinsettias from plants obtained from his neighbors. The family moved to Encinitas in San Diego County, and from 1923 to the 1960s Paul Ecke Senior, Albert's son, took over the company and developed and cultivated hundreds of different varieties of Poinsettias in all colors, including red, maroon, white, pink, salmon, yellow, orange and even speckled and spotted. All the principal cultivars of any commercial importance were selections or sports from the Oak Leaf seedling, and most were selected and developed by Paul Ecke Senior.

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## Director's Report - Dr. Jodie Holt



As our second year living under a pandemic ends, I wonder what the future holds for the Gardens, UCR, and wider world. The year 2021 has seen a return to more normalcy, yet much of our operations have changed permanently. Like many other gardens, we have suffered financial losses, struggled to maintain adequate staffing, and spent

considerable time implementing new rules and restrictions on operations to keep everyone safe. Over the past two years events outside our control have resulted in dramatic variation in visitor numbers, volunteerism, membership, and giving, bringing concerns about financial sustainability, much like experiences at most other gardens.

As I've written over the past two years, throughout this period I have been gratified by the loyalty and resilience of our staff, dedication of our volunteers, and persistence of our visitors. Our staff have shown amazing creativity in figuring out how to accomplish tasks and achieve goals, often on a shoestring. Support from many campus units has been critical in our recovering from vandalism, meeting new Covid and safety requirements, promoting Gardens news and events, hiring enthusiastic new student workers, and more. We truly are a Garden family committed to pursuing our mission of providing a beautiful and welcoming space that promotes campus and community engagement in nature, gardens, and conservation.

I've often been asked why we don't charge admission to stabilize our income going forward. Currently our income comprises some salary support from CNAS, gifts and donations, memberships, and earned revenue, which dropped greatly over the past two years. Although we have considered an admission fee, I believe it is incumbent on us to focus on our mission and what we provide to our constituents, particularly the UCR community, rather than what they provide to us. Our goal is to create a space so compelling that it inspires you to visit, volunteer, join, and donate.

Memberships are a special way to support the Gardens' mission as they are at most other gardens. Memberships to some are purely transactional; you pay your dues and get something in return. However, memberships to many, especially our founding Friends members, are much more than that; you join because you truly believe in and want to support our vision, mission, and goals. The benefits are great too of course, most notably early shopping at our plant sales, participation in the AHS RAP program, free or discounted educational events, and more. While membership revenue is critical, we also value your membership for the statement it makes that you share our aspirations and want to be part of the UCR Botanic Gardens.

As this year ends, I hope you will consider the many ways you can become a part of the Gardens family. Please stay connected through our website, eNews, and social media, and send your thoughts and feedback to me at [bgdirector@ucr.edu](mailto:bgdirector@ucr.edu) or 951-827-7095.

Jodie

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College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences

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*Euphorbia pulcherrima* 'Eckespoint' near the garage office

In 1963, Paul Ecke Jr. took the reins of the company and started micropropagation (tissue culture) of the Poinsettias in Guatemala. In the 1990s, Paul Ecke III took over and in 2012 he sold the company to Dummen Orange, a Dutch company, which has become a world market leader in floriculture breeding. Development of new Poinsettia varieties is still conducted on the Ecke Ranch in Encinitas, while all the micropropagation is done in Guatemala before the cuttings are shipped out to growers all over the world.

While Poinsettias are tropical in origin, in mild climates and with protection from frosts they can be grown outside. In native soils, the Poinsettia has long lasting qualities, with flowers remaining on our specimen from November through April. Be sure to stop by and see the spectacular show this plant puts on every year.

Did you know December 12 is National Poinsettia Day?

It has been observed in the US since the mid-1800s and honors the man and the plant he introduced. Poinsett died December 12, 1851.

## Agave vilmoriniana

Article and photos by Miguel Estrada

If you have taken a walk in our Latin America section this year, you may notice the hillside above the conference room peppered with yellow flags. In the last week in February 2021, we planted 44 *Agave vilmoriniana*, or as they are better known, the octopus agave. We have two mature specimens in the Gardens that showcase their characteristic arching leaves and octopus-like appearance. One is south of the ramada in our North American



Below the ramada in the Desert Garden

Desert Garden and the other is by the trail between trail markers 2 and 32. The plants we installed were nowhere near the size of these two; in fact, they were no bigger than a 4-inch pot, hence the flags. The agave is native to Mexico, and in some places prefers to hang on the cliffs. Seizing an opportunity, we cleaned our hillside for a mass planting that is sure to produce a spectacle with each passing year. If you have the patience, then make sure to put this in your calendar. In about 10 to 15 years, like a salvo fired on command, several of these plants are going to send tall flower stalks into the air. This performance is the culmination of years storing energy for this one purpose, and like most agave the plant will die after flowering. The years of building up to this moment will pay off. Each flower stalk will be covered with bulbils to ensure its continued existence. For the Gardens, this means we will have more agave to carpet that hill, and for you, possibly a large stock to buy from in the following plant sale.



Above the conference room

## Butterfly Corner

### Northern White Skipper

Article and photos by Ann Platzer



Photo 1: Male

The Northern White Skipper, also called the Large White Skipper (*Heliopetes ericetorum*), family HesperIIDae, is a medium-sized butterfly with a wingspan about 1¼ to 1½ inches. It's almost the only species of white skipper encountered in its range. The presence of hooked antennae is an excellent way to identify that this white butterfly is a skipper.

The male is predominately white in color with brown chevron markings at the outer margin of the wings (photo 1). Like most white skippers, the female has thicker and darker markings with a cream colored background (photo 2). The underside of both sexes is white with pale tan markings. But note that the dark markings show through on the ventral wings. It may be easy to assume that the Northern White Skipper is a species of the white Pieridae family, but, as mentioned, the hooked antennae and also the fact that they generally perch with their wings open are dead giveaways to their identity.



Photo 2: Female

The female deposits eggs singly on young leaves of the host plants. The caterpillars feed on leaves and live in shelters of rolled or tied leaves. Its host plants are various mallows especially the large chaparral bush mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*) (photo 3), which is numerous in the Box Springs Reserve in the Box Springs Mountains.

Nectar plants mainly include yerba santa (*Eriodictyon* sp.), seen at Cleghorn near Silverwood, and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), seen in the Box Springs Mountains.

When not sipping nectar, the butterfly usually stays near or on the ground. Its habitat is open woodlands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, dry washes and higher sunny desert mountains. It particularly prefers canyon bottoms. The Northern White Skipper is a fast flying species that often flies down small gullies close to the ground.

In southern California it has about five broods and is seen most of the year. Its range is eastern Washington south to western Colorado, southern California, Arizona, Baja California, and New Mexico. However, this species is only abundant in southern California and east to Nevada.



Photo 3: Male on *Malacothamnus fasciculatus*, chaparral bush mallow

The stately chaparral bush mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*), a California native host plant, would be an ideal addition to your butterfly garden to attract the Northern White Skipper in addition to the Gray Hairstreak, Common Checkered Skipper, and the Painted Lady.

Happy Butterfly Gardening!

AP

Thanks to Edward Platzer for reviewing this article.

## Wildlife of the Gardens

### Raccoon

By Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker

A fluffy masked bandit with a talent for finding trouble is how many people describe the North American raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Humans will commonly fall in line with one of two opinions regarding the raccoon, that it is an adorable ball of fur or it is a menace to both farmers and urban neighborhoods. While both opinions are valid, upon closer examination the raccoon should be considered an incredibly adaptable but misunderstood creature of the night.

#### Habitat/Diet

Raccoons can be found throughout most of the Americas and have even begun to thrive in parts of Asia and Europe. Their adaptability has been the key to their success. While they typically prefer to live in wooded areas near water, they are also perfectly content to live in urban, suburban and farmland habitats. All they require is a food source, access to water and a safe denning area. Not even tropical islands are devoid of these animals. You probably won't find them lounging on the nearest beach chair, but they will readily reside near water to find their favorite foods such as crayfish, fish, frogs, bird eggs, and a variety of invertebrates and plant materials. Overall, their diets tend to consist of more plant material and invertebrates than anything else.

#### Breeding

Raccoons are solitary for much of the year but will expand their territories during mating season. Mating occurs from January into mid-summer, with most giving birth in the spring. Only one litter of kits is produced a year and the female is the sole caregiver. Typically, the female will birth an average of 4 young in a secluded tree den, cave, abandoned building, barn, attic, garage, even a sewer. The helpless kits will not be ready to forage alongside mom until they are approximately 5 months old. They will remain with her through their first winter, continuing to learn from her during their nocturnal activities. Cold weather may induce them to sleep for long periods, but they do not truly hibernate. In the spring the kits will venture out into the world. The females will be sexually mature by 12 months of age and males at 24 months of age.

#### Identification

Coloration of raccoon fur can vary with their habitat, with the most typical color being the salt and pepper combination. However, they all don the classic bandit mask across the eyes and rings around the tail. They can



Photo by Lee Bayer

be quite large, depending on their habitat and diet. Body lengths vary from 2 to 3 ft. and weights from 13 to 22 lbs. With their keen hearing and night vision, it is likely that you will only catch sight of a chunky backside running up a tree. Their human-like hands make them excellent climbers. These dexterous hands often get them into trouble. Latches, door handles, and trash can lids are no match for this intelligent fluff ball. Those developed paws can make excellent swim paddles but raccoons are reluctant to swim since their fur lacks a waterproof coating.

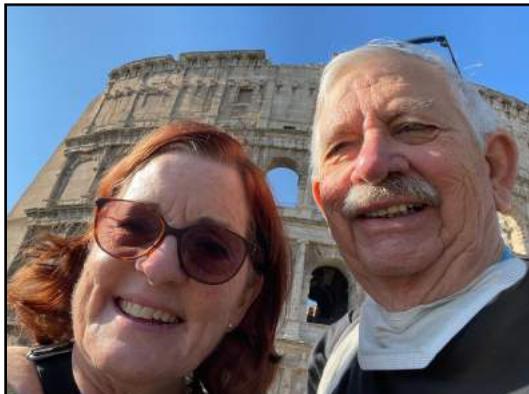
#### Threats

This species is not considered threatened or endangered at either the state or federal level. Despite extensive hunting, the raccoon has thrived and expanded its range, although a few distinct island populations are considered endangered or extinct. Besides predation by larger animals the overall biggest threat to raccoons remains humans. Though raccoon fur has declined in popularity, they are still hunted for their pelts, which is used as imitation mink. Raccoons also tend to have negative interactions with farmers and gardeners since they can easily destroy crops and raid poorly secured chicken coops. If you encounter a raccoon, it is best to give it space and access to an escape route. A feisty and fierce attitude is hidden under all that fluff.

*Michele is a UCR graduate who worked as a field biologist for six years throughout Riverside County and is currently a naturalist for Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District.*

## Spotlight On...Dennis & Janice Ponsor

By Janine Almanzor



Janice & Dennis in Rome

Dennis and Janice have contributed so much to the Gardens over the years that this article won't do them justice. Not only have they done a lot, but they have put their heart and soul into every activity. They love the Gardens and it shows in how they always think of ways to improve events and bring them to the next level. As a UCR graduate, Dennis has a special affinity for the Gardens.

My first encounter with the Ponsors was with Janice at the Docent Training Class in 2008. Janice was full of enthusiasm and eager to get trained as a docent to lead children's school tours. She thoroughly enjoyed working with the children and leading tours, but really wanted to offer more of a hands-on experience for children, so in 2010 she began the Children's Adventure in the Gardens events. Also in 2010 Dennis began volunteering at the Gardens and in 2011 they both became Master Gardeners. Dennis joined

the team of docents in 2014 and has been a great addition to the program.

Both Dennis and Janice were on the Friend's Board of Directors for many years and Dennis was the President in 2014-2015. They have been an integral part of many Primavera in the Gardens events, including the Silent Auction, set-up and take-down, bulletin board, sponsorships, and in 2017 they co-chaired the event. They have also helped with many plant sales and various other events. Before the new kiosk was installed and the bulletin board was still on the gate house, Janice was part of the team that maintained the bulletin board. More recently, Dennis has been a Garden Steward while Janice has been part of the Butterfly Garden maintenance team.

Since Dennis' retirement in 2010 as a personal injury defense attorney, he and Janice have enjoyed traveling the world, visiting six continents. Australia is planned for next fall, completing all seven. They have grown particularly fond of Italy and are thinking of spending three months in Italy and three months in Riverside on an alternating basis. Maybe a botanic garden in Italy will be as fortunate as we are by having this dynamic duo as volunteers. In commemoration of their incredible support of the Gardens, they each now have a *Salvia* named after them that will be available at the next plant sale. Look for *Salvia cedrosensis* 'Dennis Ponsor' and *Salvia x jamensis* 'Janice Ponsor'. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with Janice and Dennis for so many years and they are certainly missed when they're traveling.



*Salvia cedrosensis*  
'Dennis Ponsor'



*Salvia x jamensis*  
'Janice Ponsor'

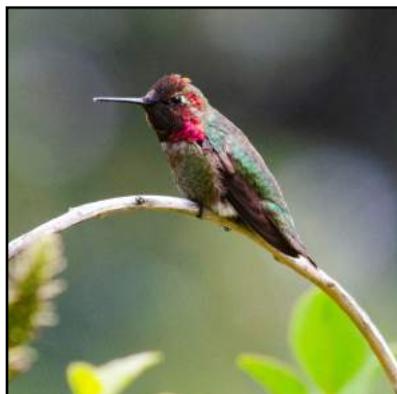
### DOCENTS NEEDED!

Do you love the outdoors and working with children?  
Consider being a docent to lead school tours.

Contact [ucrbg@ucr.edu](mailto:ucrbg@ucr.edu) for more information.

Classes begin February 3, 2022.

## Birding in the Gardens



Anna's Hummingbird, photo by Lee Reeder

We were delighted to host our first in-person Bird Walk & Breakfast since Covid shut down our activities in March 2020. On Saturday, September 25, 2021, 11 enthusiastic birders and our two UCR birding experts, Norm Ellstrand and David Rankin, plus hosts Jodie and Doug Holt, convened at 6:30 a.m. on the Alder Canyon lawn for a welcome and introduction before embarking on their tour. While the guides and guests went birding, the Holts set out a continental breakfast on the patio and tables and chairs on the lawn.

After about 2.5 hours of birding, the group reconvened on the lawn to enjoy their self-serve continental breakfast. Norm and David debriefed and discussed with the group the day's sightings of resident and migrating birds. A total of 128 individuals in 36 species was recorded, including 15 Anna's Hummingbirds. Other notable sightings were several hawks and woodpeckers, a Phainopepla, and a Cedar Waxwing.

UCR and the Botanic Gardens are recognized bird hotspots and as such are included in the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's eBird <https://ebird.org/home>, "...the world's largest biodiversity-related citizen science project, with more than 100 million bird sightings contributed each year by eBirders around the world." This database can be searched for bird records by location, year, month, or date range. Prior to each Bird Walk we use this site to produce a Field Checklist of birds seen during the month of the walk over the past 10 years to help participants identify what they see.



Cedar Waxwing, photo by Lee Reeder

If you love birds, check out [eBird](https://ebird.org/home) before your next visit to help you learn some of the wonderful birds that make the UCR Botanic Gardens their permanent or seasonal home.

## Succulent Pumpkin Class

By Karen Fleisher

Our fall Succulent-Topped Pumpkin Centerpiece virtual workshop on Saturday, November 13, was enjoyed by all twenty participants. Each participant chose from a selection of Fantasy and Cinderella pumpkins and received a kit containing a variety of *Echeveria*, *Haworthia* and *Crassula* plants, along with moss, adhesive, and organic enhancements including sycamore seed pods, crepe myrtle seed pods, acorns, and yellow toyon berries. Some of us went out into our own gardens and collected a few more succulent cuttings and organic enhancements. Riverside County UCCE Master Gardener Linda Powell expertly guided us during the workshop with tips on designing the centerpiece and also instructed us on how to care for our works of art once completed. The beautiful centerpieces will last until after the holidays and then the succulents, which will have grown roots in the moss, can be replanted in the garden or in a pot to be appreciated for years to come.

Thank you to Linda for sharing her creative talent and to all the participants for their enthusiasm and support of the Gardens. We are all looking forward to next year with the hope of scheduling some in-person workshops. Stay tuned!



By Daphne Pleasant



By Ivett Gabriella



By Dianne Seriva



Gigiola Bradbury & her pumpkin

## Plants & Human Affairs Series

### Mistletoe

By Jo Ann Anderson

There are many reasons to love botanic gardens. Besides harboring sometimes vanishing species, botanic gardens celebrate the flora of our planet and pay homage to the everlasting connections between plants and humans. Over the centuries people have turned to the plant world for symbols of deep meaning in life—of love, fidelity, peace, war, power, fertility, immortality... These and others are themes common to all cultures. In many ways, plants provide a common language among peoples.

I chose mistletoe as my topic for the Winter Newsletter because it has special meaning to this season. As we hang mistletoe over doorways, we may unknowingly be reenacting an ancient ritual centered around its mythic powers to protect and to assure peace and vitality. In the early 1900s, Sir James George Frazer, a Scottish anthropologist, produced a monumental study of worldwide legends of the dying and rebirth of priests and kings; the legends were and still are metaphors for the cycles of nature. Frazer titled his work "The Golden Bough," the ancient name for mistletoe. Associated with the oak tree and sacred to Zeus, the mistletoe plant was believed to have mystical powers and represented to the Greeks and other cultures fertility and immortality.

Both Celtic and Druidic rituals celebrated the magical powers of mistletoe. Its powers were sometimes benign, as for the Romans who hung it over their doorways to protect their homes, and sometimes not. In Nordic mythology, Hodur was tricked by Loki into shooting Baldur with a mistletoe arrow, the only plant to which Baldur was vulnerable. In the Middle Ages, mistletoe came to be



associated with Christmas, transferring with other cultural symbols from the pagan to the Christian.

Aside from the symbolic, mistletoe has a bad reputation biologically as it is an obligate hemiparasite, meaning it derives some of its nutrition from other plants. Mistletoes occur in several plant families in the order Santalales; all attach to a host tree or shrub with a specialized structure called a haustorium, which extracts water and nutrients from the host. Mistletoe leaves and fruit (drupes) are toxic to humans but attractive to birds and contain a sticky pulp causing them to stick to the bird's beak or pass through the gut unharmed. In this way seeds are spread from one host to another. While beneficial to birds, mistletoe can weaken the host if a sufficient population builds up.

Here in southern California, mistletoe is prolific in the branches of our native oak trees. Fortunately, we have not found any mistletoe in the Botanic Gardens recently, but it is not hard to find it in the area if you wish to collect some for your holiday decorations.

Join or renew your membership at [gardens.ucr.edu/friends](https://gardens.ucr.edu/friends)

#### Benefits of Membership

- Early entry to plant sales; members-only plant sales
- Quarterly Newsletter in digital or print format
- Reduced price for select UCRBG events
- Members-only events
- Use of Horticultural Library
- 10% discount at local businesses:
  - Bonnett Irrigation
  - Louie's Nursery
  - Paradise Garden Center
  - Parkview Nurseries
- Free or discounted entry to over 350 gardens, arboreta and conservatories in the U.S. through the American Horticultural Society's Reciprocal Admissions Program, [ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap](https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/rap)

**10% OFF FOR UCR  
FACULTY &  
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## Fall Online Plant Sale Recap



L to R: Emily Masterson & April Wilson volunteering on pick-up day

Our main Plant Sales held in the fall are always an exciting time at the Gardens. The many weeks spent preparing plants, taking inventories, and compiling sale lists pay off when we see the customers so happy with their new plants. This year's Online Fall Plant Sale was very successful, with sales totaling over \$11,000. The Friends were able to purchase plants on October 9th, one day ahead of the public sale held on the 10th. We now have a well-organized system for the in-person pick-up process, so the pick-up days went without a glitch.

We are thankful for all who purchased plants and for the many volunteers who helped during the various aspects of the Plant Sale.

## Butterfly Garden Recap

The Master Gardener docents completed their Sunday events in the Butterfly Garden in November, but plan to resume again in March. Visitors of all ages appreciated the expert advice from Ann Platzer, George Spiliotis, Karen Fleisher, Janice Ponsor, and Lee Bayer. It wasn't uncommon for them to speak to about 65 visitors in the Butterfly Garden during the few hours they were there. The children especially enjoyed learning about the butterfly lifecycle and observing the displays of butterfly eggs, larvae, and pupae. Some days they even received a free plant to start their own butterfly garden.

Mark your calendars to watch for this event in the spring. Thank you to the volunteers who made this event possible.



George Spiliotis explaining metamorphosis to young visitors



Ann Platzer's display of Monarch eggs, larvae, & pupae was a hit.

## NEED A GIFT IDEA?

UCR Botanic Gardens branded merchandise can be purchased online!

Click the "Gift Shop" button at [gardens.ucr.edu](http://gardens.ucr.edu)

For pick-up only Thursdays & Sundays

GIFT SHOP



## In The Works

### By Botanic Gardens Staff

With cooling weather (finally!) and the help of enthusiastic volunteers, our staff have made progress on many projects and initiated some exciting new ones. Here is a summary of some of our recent activities.

#### On-site:

- ▶ Janine and her team have made excellent progress inventorying, organizing, and cleaning the three greenhouse sections.
- ▶ The Conservatory (greenhouse section 1) will soon be improved by the addition of two new cooling units, completing the replacement of all six.
- ▶ With abundant help from UCR Fleet Services, our vehicles have been repaired and returned to full function, despite their battered appearance.
- ▶ New safety signs have been installed on the asphalt road cautioning visitors against taking strollers downhill and encouraging use of the paved switchback trail.
- ▶ Jorge has done a remarkable job creating a drainage outlet for rainwater coming off the Schneider House property to prevent further erosion of the unplanted areas behind the restrooms, dome, and greenhouse.
- ▶ Miguel has been working on extending a drainage channel along the dirt trail from North Coast to the Rose Garden.
- ▶ UCR classes are now returning to the Gardens for their field trips and outdoor laboratories. We're especially excited about the Freshman Seminar field trips that introduce new UCR students to the Botanic Gardens.
- ▶ A volunteer team continues to beautify the Butterfly Garden and through the month of November held a bimonthly information table on Sundays.
- ▶ Volunteer teams and individuals continue to make an impact in the Rose Gardens, North Coast, and Herb Garden.

#### Remote work:

- ▶ Jodie is an active participant in a UCR initiative to develop a Native American Landscape Garden in the center of campus, which will ultimately link to our Native American Plants Garden and accompanying tour.
- ▶ Considerable time has been spent working with Human Resources and Environmental Health & Safety to ensure that our volunteers have taken all required Covid and Safety Training and are approved to work.
- ▶ We are pleased that a new endowment was established by Dr. John and Mrs. Elizabeth Willis, the June Willis Memorial Botanic Gardens Award, to help support the salaries of students working in the Botanic Gardens.
- ▶ We were also delighted to receive our first commercial sponsorship from the HomeLight Company, which will also be used for support of our student workers.
- ▶ Plans are underway to hold a Docent Training Class this winter from February 3 through March 10.



Inside the greenhouse



Jorge Fregoso working on the drainage outlet



L to R: April Wilson, Barbara Gable, and Lee Bayer take a break from working in the Rose Garden

The year 2021 has been one of careful return from the devastating effects of 2020, some of which are still being felt. We are fortunate that UCR leadership guided us well through the pandemic and students are now back on campus enjoying some return to normalcy. In the Gardens we have continued to make progress on ongoing and new initiatives. With partial support from UCR, we remain keenly aware of our reliance on the generosity of our constituents and have been gratified how many of you continue to support the Gardens through your gifts, memberships, and volunteerism.

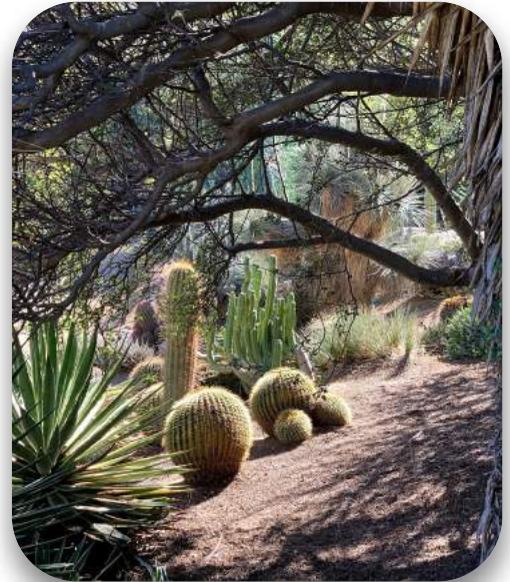
The Botanic Gardens have been a beloved UCR institution for over 58 years, welcoming thousands of visitors each month, educating scores of school children on guided tours, engaging hundreds of participants in our events, and offering Gardens-grown plants to beautify home landscapes. For decades UCR students have used the Gardens to conduct research, engage in field trips, escape school-work, meet friends, and introduce their parents to this iconic treasure. Even with current restrictions we enthusiastically continue to pursue these goals and advance our mission of serving as an oasis of nature, source of learning, and place of respite.

Your contribution will keep our Gardens and valuable programs growing strong for many years to come. Please make your gift today!

I look forward to seeing you in the Gardens.



Jodie S. Holt, Ph.D.  
Director  
UCR Botanic Gardens



## Your legacy in the Gardens

We have been honored to learn how many people wish to have a lasting impact that will ensure the beauty and vitality of the UCR Botanic Gardens for future generations to enjoy. There are many ways to accomplish this, including a gift through your will or a charitable gift annuity that pays income back to you. You may direct your gift to general support of the Gardens or any one of our special projects or programs.

If you would like more information on how to leave a legacy to the UCR Botanic Gardens, please contact:

Amanda Gomes  
Senior Associate Director of Development  
College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences  
951.827.5074 office  
951.318.0976 cell  
[amanda.gomes@ucr.edu](mailto:amanda.gomes@ucr.edu)

If you have already remembered the Gardens in your plans, please let us know as we would appreciate the opportunity to steward your generous gift!



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UCR

## UCRBG Calendar of Events

- Jan. 9 **Rose Pruning Demonstration**, Rose Gardens, 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- Feb. 3 **Docent Training Class begins**, Meeting Room, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Apr. 2 **Member Appreciation Spring Plant Sale**, (tentative)

Please note: The UCRBG hours are Monday - Wednesday 9 am - 12 pm,  
Thursday - Friday 9 am - 2 pm, & the 1st & 3rd Sundays 8 am - 2 pm  
until further notice.

(Please check our website for closure dates)