



Garden Notes

with the San Joaquin County
Master Gardeners



OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2014

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Master Gardener Training - 2015

Marcy Sousa, Master Gardener Coordinator

**Do you enjoy gardening?
Do you live in San Joaquin County?
Are you willing to volunteer your time
and talent?**

The San Joaquin UC Master Gardener program is recruiting new volunteers!

The next bi-annual training will be held January 28th – June 3rd, 2015. The application deadline is November 5th, 2014. Classes will be held on Wednesdays from 8:30 am – 1:30 pm. There is a \$180.00 class fee to cover books and training resources. All classes are taught by University of CA specialists, horticulture advisors, and community experts. Some of the topics include: introduction to horticulture; soil, water and fertilizer management; ornamentals and drought tolerant plants; turf management; landscape trees; introduction to insects; water quality; home vegetable gardening; plant disease diagnosis; weed identification and management; home orchards; and diagnosing garden and landscape problems.

Applicants must be residents of San Joaquin County. This Master Gardener program is administered by the San Joaquin County Cooperative Extension office. If you are not a San Joaquin County resident, contact your local Cooperative Extension office for training information.

After attending all class sessions, and all the weekly quizzes and final exam are completed, trainees receive a graduation certificate. New Master Gardeners are required to contribute fifty hours of community volunteer work during the next twelve months. Every year thereafter, twenty-five hours of volunteer activity is required. Twelve hours of continuing education are also required each year.



Honey Harvest at Boggs Tract Community Farm

Susan Mora Loyko, Master Gardener

The only reason for making a buzzing-noise that I know of is because you're a bee...The only reason for being a bee that I know of is making honey...and the only reason for making honey is so I can eat it. ~ Winnie the Pooh, A.A. Milne's "The House at Pooh Corner"

Observing local beekeeper Ethan Heilman work among the thousands of bees at the first honey harvest at the Boggs Tract Community Farm was like watching a well-choreographed performance of many dancers, moving together, aware

where the other is, and each knowing the right steps to take.

On a Saturday morning in early August, Ethan and several farm volunteers wearing their bee suits worked while curious onlookers watched the harvest of "urban honey" from eight hives (or supers) brought to the farm in March.

Ethan and crew began by waving a silver "smoker" to puff into the hive, tricking the bees into thinking their home was on fire. Some bees

You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a webpage and learn more about that topic!



Fall is the time to [plant trees](#), shrubs, most ornamentals, and cool season edibles. With summer heat behind us, the soil remains warm and rain may water your garden over the next few months.

In October

Plant -

Annuals such as dianthus, Iceland poppy, pansy, primrose, snapdragon, stock, viola and violets do well in cooler weather.

Perennials and shrubs planted in fall are easily established with the help of winter rain. Enrich your landscape with plants that attract pollinators such as hummingbirds and bees.

Bulbs scattered and planted now will provide natural, colorful spring displays. Nursery selections should include anemone, calla, Narcissus, freesia, Hyacinth, Muscari, or Dutch iris. Wait for the temperature of the soil to fall to 55° (when average night time temps are 50° or cooler for at least 2 weeks) to plant.

Winter [vegetable](#) transplants that do well now include Bok Choy, [broccoli](#), [Brussels sprouts](#), [cabbage](#), [cauliflower](#), celery, chard, endive, kale, and kohlrabi. Carrots, leaf lettuce, peas, radishes, spinach, and turnips are easy to start from seed. Garlic cloves planted now produce an early summer harvest.

Sow wildflower seeds for flowers that attract butterflies and beneficial insects – good bets are California poppies, Alyssum, Blackfoot daisy, corn cockle, and larkspur.

[Trees planted in fall](#) adapt to your garden over winter. For autumn colors of red, gold, or yellow choose Chinese pistache, Gingko, Tupelo, scarlet oak, red oak, Japanese maple, red maple, crape myrtle, or redbud. Be sure to check the mature height and width of the trees so they will have room to grow.

Maintenance –

[Houseplants](#) that were outside should be prepared to be brought back inside. Gather them in a shady place for a few days to get them used to lower light, prune or repot any that may need it, and look for signs of insects.

Cut spent blooms to extend the flowering period of your plants. Begin pruning back old growth and feed roses one more time to keep the blooms coming through the fall.

Dig clumps of crowded daylilies, iris, Shasta daisies, and agapanthus with a spading fork so the root-ball comes up intact, then use a spade or sharp knife to divide them (each division should have plenty of leaves and roots). Re-plant divisions immediately.



Knock down water basins around trees and shrubs to avoid standing water around the root crowns which encourages crown rot.

To discourage [brown rot](#) on citrus, prune the tree skirts 24” above the soil, clean fallen leaves and old fruit from under the trees and mulch to prevent fungus spores from splashing up from the ground.

Add a layer of mulch to all of your plants for added protection this winter.

Clean up your summer vegetable garden. Plant a cover crop of clover, bell beans, fava beans, or vetch to add nitrogen for next year.

Lawns - [Be sure to fertilize](#). Thatching could help control both Bermuda and bent grass, especially if you over-seed with a perennial rye and fescue mix to keep your lawn green through the winter. Cool season lawns, such as the popular fescue blends, are putting on a spurt of growth now. Mow often so that you are never removing more than a third of the total height of the grass blade. Reduce the frequency of watering by 50% to 75% as the weather cools.

In November

Plant –

Put in transplants after a light rain during calm conditions to make digging easier and help roots with hydration. Plant seeds just before a light rain on a calm day.

Cool season annuals like calendula, Iceland poppy, snapdragon and viola can still be planted.

[Cont. pg. 13.](#)

Fall is here already! Maybe you already are thinking of how to preserve the fresh aroma of herbs that have been the aromatic flagship of your summer garden. No fear, there are as many ways to preserve fresh herbs as there are countless ways to add their flavorings to favorite recipes. It's important to think about which herbs you enjoy using in your cooking or in craft projects. Spring is the time to be inspired, to think ahead, and incorporate herbs in your planting choices. Growing and preserving food is enjoyable and rewarding, so take the time and effort in pre-planning so you will reap the benefits of your efforts all year long!

It is important to keep in mind that it is the oils in the herb leaves that hold the robust flavor of that herb. Harvest them early in the morning after the dew has evaporated and before the heat of the day has had time to disperse the oils or caused the plants to wilt. Clip the fresh tops or, at the end of the season for annuals, you can pull the whole plant. If needed, rinse and pat dry with a towel or let air dry. Be sure to pick more material than you think you will need since it will shrink as it dries. Also, think about the end use for the specific herb to choose which preservation method most efficiently optimizes the enhancement of the final product. There are several methods of drying to be used for different purposes.

Air dried as individual herbs: Using paper bags with holes punched into the sides, tie herbs together in bunches, put in bag and close bag around the banded end and use another rubber band to close bag around the herbs. Hang in a warm dry place with good air circulation. Herbs are dry when they crumble to the touch, about 10-14 days, depending on the thickness and moisture content of the leaves and stems. Shake the bag to separate the leaves from stems or hand strip them. Alternatively, strip fresh leaves from stems, spread on butcher paper or paper plates, and stir them every few days. Store the dried product in jars or plastic bags and label. Leaving herb leaves whole and storing them in a dark cool place will preserve the flavorful oils much longer.



Drying can also be done in the oven or microwave, but it can be difficult to control the temperature and time, with risk of burning the product. Herbs can be preserved individually or combined to create seasoning mixes such as an Italian blend or taco seasoning. This blending of herbs is especially handy if you make certain types of dishes frequently. In addition, dried herbs can be mixed with sugar and sweeteners to use directly in drinks. Likewise, incorporate herbs with flour or sugar to be added to baked goods remembering to subtract the amount of the sugar or flour from the recipe. Herbs can also be dried using a dehydrator, which incorporates heat and circulating air as a very efficient method of preservation.



Frozen in cubes: Mix herbs with water, oil, oil and butter blended, or broth to be used in compatible dishes directly. Put fresh herbs stripped from their stems in ice cube trays and cover with the base liquid. Again, note the amount of the base to subtract from the recipe. Just freeze the herbs, pop cubes out of trays, and store in labeled and dated freezer bags.

Frozen in bulk pastes: Mix fresh herbs (along with other recipe ingredients) with oils (i.e., pesto) or butter (i.e., garlic/herb butter). Label, date, and store in freezer containers. A handy way to do herb/garlic butters is to shape mix into a roll and wrap in freezer paper or plastic wrap. Store in the freezer and just slice a piece off of the roll when needed. Alternatively, flavored herbal butters can be blended and stored in the refrigerator for up to a week.

In addition to the basic methods for preserving herbs themselves, herbs can also be "preserved" by infusing them into vinegars and oils to be used as additional culinary treats. There are countless uses of herbs in craft items and culinary gifts. Think beyond the ordinary and create a dried topiary, holiday wreath, sachet, potpourri, or herbal beauty product. Fall is the perfect time to be thinking of all the ways you can put together flavorful and crafty preserved herbal gifts for the upcoming holidays! Cheers!

[Ten Easy Ways to Preserve Herbs](#)

[Seasoning Mix Recipes](#)

[How to grow, preserve, and use herbs.](#)



The Disease Triangle & Poke Weed

Steve Sanguinetti, Master Gardener

Pests and Plants of the Season

[UC IPM website](#)

Integrated pest management, or "IPM," is a process you can use to solve pest problems while minimizing risks to people and the environment. IPM can be used to manage all kinds of pests anywhere.

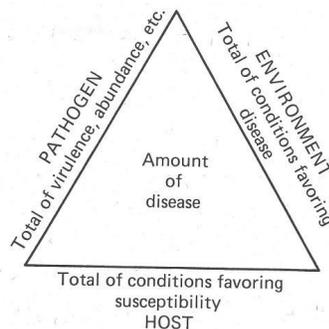
You can click on any of the blue underlined words in any of the articles to go to a web-page and learn more about that topic!



One of the key principles of plant pathology is that disease results from an interaction of the virulence of the pathogen, susceptibility of the host, and the conduciveness of the environment. This concept is visualized by the "disease triangle" in which the three factors, pathogen, environment and host make up the three sides of a triangle and the area of the triangle is the amount of disease produced in the plant. The disease triangle shows visually that a very weak and inefficient pathogen could cause substantial disease if the environment is conducive or if the host is extremely susceptible. The Disease Triangle is addressed in more detail on the following web-sites:

[UC IPM Plant Diseases](#)
[Ten Principles of Plant Pathology](#)
[Plant Diseases LA Master Gardeners](#)

In addition, the [American Phytopathological Society](#) website often has information on specific horticultural subjects not yet covered by UC-IPM.



If you have seen this weed in your garden, you are in a lot of company. It is called Poke Weed (*Phytolacca americana*). While it is native to Eastern North America, it has been around our rural settings for years. It has more recently started infesting more urban landscapes. Once the plant reaches a substantial size, it develops a large taproot which allows the plant to regenerate after herbicide application or shallow digging. The plant may die back to the ground in winter, but is likely to return as weather warms. Its seeds are readily consumed and spread by birds.

While portions of the plant are considered edible, it can be toxic if not properly prepared.

[For more info, click here.](#)



White Grubs

Steve Sanguinetti, Master Gardener

A common lawn pest which appears in late summer or fall is the white grub, the larval stage of *Cyclocephala*, masked chafer beetle. Lawn damage attributed to white grubs is often due to other causes such as fungus or watering problems. While grub damage to lawns appears as irregular, asymmetrical patches of dead grass, faulty irrigation and fungal damage is usually more symmetrical. White grubs are quite common. They only directly damage most well cared for lawns when they reach higher populations. Damage from skunks or raccoons digging to feed on grubs can also be a problem. Such animal damage can be an indicator of the presence of lawn grubs. Although the UC Davis IPM reference below mentions only a few types of lawn as hosts, other types, such as bermuda and tall fescue may host this pest, but suffer less direct damage.

The following links offer more information on this pest.
[UC IPM White Grubs](#) [Guide to Healthy Lawns \(UC\)](#)
[UC Lawn Insects](#)



UC Statewide IPM Project
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Winter Jasmine & Cyclamen

SHRUB: Winter jasmine
(*Jasminum nudiflorum*)

PLANT IDENTIFICATION:

A rambling and deciduous vine-like shrub with 11 six-petaled trumpeted yellow flowers which blooms in winter, November through March. Flowers start blooming at the base of the stems and slowly bloom up the stems, before the leaves unfurl. The blossoms have no fragrance, but the bees love them. Leaves are bright green and glossy and pinnately divided into 3 oblong leaflets. Mature size is up to 10 feet wide and tall, if supported on a trellis or arbor, otherwise it grows in a weeping form and may be pruned to shape as a shrub or hedge.



OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:

Full sun in fertile, well-drained soil, for best blossoms. No serious pest or disease problems. Prune after flowering, to clean out old wood and tidy plant. Every 5 to 6 years, rejuvenate the shrub by cutting it down to within 6 inches of the soil.

For more information including common pests [click here](#).

PERENNIAL: Cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum*)

PLANT IDENTIFICATION:

Cyclamen grow from tubers that are round and rather flat. They flower in autumn, winter or spring, and go into a leafless or near-leafless dormant period in the summer. They typically have heart or kidney-shaped dark green leaves, often with silvery mottling. Flower colors include crimson, red, salmon and white. Used as a potted plant or for bedding.

OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:

Plant in part shade in the central valley to avoid leaf burn. All cyclamen grow best in fairly rich, porous soil with lots of humus. Cyclamen prefer to receive a good soaking, then dry out partially before receiving a good soaking again. Wait until the soil surface feels dry before you water, but don't wait until the plant becomes limp. Do not water the center of the plant or the tuber may rot. They go dormant during the summer months, at which point water should be minimized. When new leaves start to grow in the fall, water the soil thoroughly. Pinch off spent flowers and dead leaves to keep tidy.



Liquidambar

TREE: Liquidambar, American Sweet Gum
(*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
Family Altingiaceae

PLANT IDENTIFICATION:

Liquidambar species are deciduous trees and grow from 25 to 60 feet. Young and middle-aged trees are generally upright, somewhat cone shaped; older ones have a more spreading habit. Lobed, maple-like leaves. Valuable for form, foliage, and brilliant fall foliage in many colors, depending on variety. Trees have spiny pods that hang through the winter and drop in the spring.

OPTIMUM CONDITIONS FOR GROWTH:

They prefer full sun and accept a range of soil conditions. Although they are tolerant of lawn water conditions, it forms surface roots that can be annoying in lawns. Additional water is favorable during hot or windy conditions. Prune to train central leader when young. Disease and pest resistant. For more information on Liquidambar including common pests [click here](#).

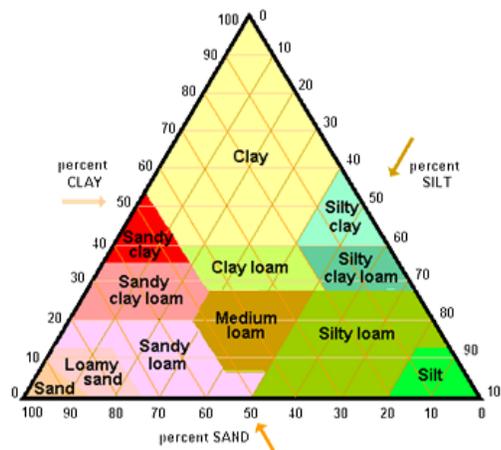


A Little Bit About Soils

Corinne Bachle, Master Gardener

The study of soils is a science in and of itself; there are volumes written about this substance we often take for granted. *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* defines soil as "the upper layer of earth that may be plowed and in which plants grow." Below are a few of the basic, but important, components of soil:

- It is formed by gradual transformation of rock into soil, influenced by climate, organisms, relief (topography), parent material, and time.
- Its mineral particles which support plant growth are divided into three categories by size: sand, silt, and clay.
- Soil texture is determined by the relative proportions of sand, silt, and clay mineral particles in a given soil. It can be determined by its "feel" to the experienced gardener and is a good indicator of its physical properties and behavior. To conduct a soil texture test click [here](#).
- Mixtures of sand, silt, and clay can be combined into 12 basic soil textural classes as determined by the USDA. They are illustrated at right:
- Loam, sandy loam, and silt loam, which contain about 5 to 10 percent organic matter, are said to be the best soils for home garden cultivation because they provide a mixture of sand, silt, and clay that retains sufficient water but also permits infiltration and percolation.
- Tilth is a descriptor of soil. It combines the properties of particle size, moisture content, degree of aeration, rate of water infiltration, and drainage into abbreviated terms in order to more easily present the horticultural prospects of a piece of land.



[Environmental Horticulture Notes # EHN 55, Know Your Soil](#), provides additional soil information and is worth your reading.

[NRCS Soil survey information](#) contains online maps and soil profile information. There are helpful directions before getting started.

Sources: California Master Gardener Handbook

Useful Garden Websites



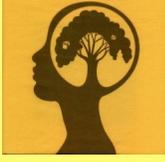
[San Joaquin County Master Gardeners](#)

Our site is full of information on gardening. We are continually adding information to this site. Have questions? We have answers!

[UC WUCOLS](#) - is a data base that provides evaluations of the irrigation water needs for over 3,500 taxonomic plant groups used in California landscapes. Includes a plant [search database](#).

[UC Urban Ag](#) —This site contains details on how to start an urban farm from chickens and bees to small scale production, soil, pest management, zoning laws and more.

[Nuts: Safe Methods for Home Gardeners to Harvest, Store and Enjoy](#) — This publication offers advice on safely harvesting, processing and storing chestnuts, almonds, walnuts, pecans and pistachios.



Growing Knowledge

Bill and Lynne Gowdy, Master Gardeners

Hellstrip Gardening, *Create a Paradise between the Sidewalk and the Curb* by Evelyn J. Hadden, Timber Press, paperback, 2014, 296 pages.

Evelyn Hadden begins her inspiring and motivating book ***Hellstrip Gardening*** by telling gardeners they have the power to transform weed infested parking strips and small unusable areas along driveways, sidewalks or utility easements into thriving garden paradises. These transformations enhance curbside appeal, expand gardens, conserve natural resources, stimulate senses, invite wildlife and welcome visitors. ***Hellstrip Gardening*** is the first book to explain how to reclaim these ignored spaces. “Hellstrip” areas do not normally support healthy lawns, but they do have the potential to add beauty and ecological enhancements that dramatically improve surroundings. These gardens present challenges, but their potential rewards can encourage homeowners to give these unsightly areas a makeover.

Hadden skillfully lays out her book in four well-planned sections. In Part One, “Inspirations, Curbside Gardens from Coast to Coast,” Hadden offers “an armchair tour” of twelve curbside gardens. Along with detailed descriptions and magnificent pictures, she encourages the reader to seek out useful ideas and unexpected solutions from these examples and then apply them to their own unique situations. She advises thoughtful and thorough planning.

In Part Two, “Situations, Challenges to Address, Situations to Overcome,” Hadden talks about challenges from trees, to water issues, poor soil, unsightly equipment, laws and covenants, vehicle and pedestrian traffic and wildlife. She presents suggestions for managing each one of these issues. Hadden ends this section with a discussion of how curbside gardens build a sense of community and pride. These former “hellstrip” areas inspire gardeners by providing visual examples of plant combinations, color schemes, textures and materials. These landscape designs can also be replicated and extended to nearby properties. She recommends specific strategies to encourage others to create their own curbside paradises. These strategies include sharing extra plants, neighborhood garden clubs, informal garden tours, certificates of recognition, persuading local businesses or organizations to provide funds for projects and lobbying against regulations that favor lawns over alternative forms of landscaping.

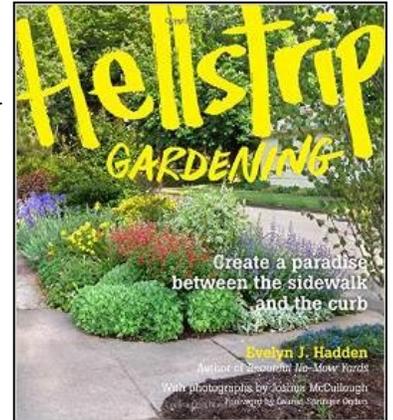
Part Three focuses on “Creation, Solutions for Designing, Building, and Managing a Curbside Garden.” Hadden encourages property owners to think of their curbside gardens as welcome signs and as an asset to the entire community. She covers choosing a design style, plant issues, partnering with nature and earth shaping techniques. She also recommends what to include and what to avoid in curbside gardens. Include self-sowing plants, durable and compact plants, ground covers, and shared plants. Provide paths that link street to walkways. Exclude potential weapons such as fist sized rocks, heavily bearing fruit or nut trees, plants with sharp branches or stickers, aggressive vines or foliage that hide signs or utility equipment.

Part Four concludes with “Curbside Worthy Plants.” Hadden lists almost 60 pages of plants with showy flowers, awesome foliage, culinary and medicinal uses and four season plants that look great year round. All of these plants were selected for their ability to flourish in less than optimal situations. Each plant description includes the botanical and common name, growth habits, plant attributes and zones.

Hellstrip Gardening is easy to read, motivating and full of beautiful pictures. Hadden’s style is informal and engaging. The book’s short sections make it easy to pick up and read as time permits. Her examples are inspiring, cover a wide range of gardening situations and can be applied to all “hellstrip” garden areas. This is a book that will help you create a paradise in unexpected places. Design your own “hellstrip” garden.

Enjoy!

[Click here](#) for images of Hellstrip transformations.



As gardeners, we spend a lot of time planning, cultivating, and enjoying our yards. We feel admiration or, sometimes, consternation when looking at what our neighbors create with their own landscaping. But how observant are we when it comes to the public spaces in our communities?

Stockton Beautiful is an organization unknown to many Stocktonians. Their efforts, however, have been improving neighborhoods and public spaces in the area since 1993. The mission of the organization is to encourage the citizens of Stockton to show civic pride by beautifying and maintaining their neighborhoods. Started as a grass roots organization with only 30 members, it focused initially on simple projects such as planting Valley Oak trees in a few areas or giving landscape assistance to local schools and organizations. Like the native oak trees it planted, though, *Stockton Beautiful* has grown to be a mighty presence in our community. The oak trees planted by the group now number over 3000. The group's other projects are many and varied.

The **Gerry Dunlap Rose Garden** (named for the late *Stockton Beautiful* founding member Gerry Dunlap) at Victory Park is a highlight of *Stockton Beautiful's* efforts. The rose garden was funded, planned, and planted by the organization. Dedicated in 2007, it features dozens of varieties of roses as well as graceful architectural structures that draw attention to the garden, inviting people to step closer and appreciate the unique beauty of this place. *Stockton Beautiful* is also in charge of upkeep for the garden, assisted annually by volunteers who show up every January (date to be announced soon) with gloves and pruning shears in hand to maintain the roses. In addition to the rose garden, the planter area immediately in front of the Haggin Museum at Victory Park is cared for by *Stockton Beautiful* volunteers.

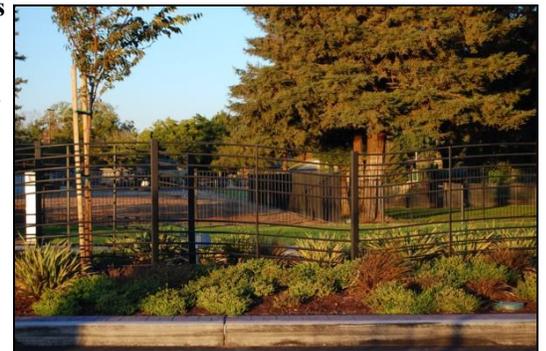


Another huge undertaking by *Stockton Beautiful*, in collaboration with the University of the Pacific (UOP) and the City of Stockton, is the **Pacific Avenue Median Improvement** along Stockton's Miracle Mile. The iron grillwork suggests a music staff and reflects the influence of nearby UOP as well as the nascent music scene further south along the Miracle Mile. Particular care was given to the plantings along the median. Drought-tolerant Mediterranean and California native plants are among the shrubs, flowers, and trees that seem to flow along the median. At night, lights can be seen twinkling among some of the trees, giving a warm welcome to those driving by.

In a quiet, central Stockton neighborhood, the historic **Yosemite Street Trolley Stop** included a barren circle in a public space. Notified and encouraged by *Stockton Beautiful*, many neighbors in the area turned out to work with the organization's volunteers to install irrigation and to plant low-care, drought-tolerant catmint (*Nepeta*) and roses in the circle. This ongoing effort will soon see the nearby benches colorfully painted and its decades-old wooden flagpole enhanced at night by solar lighting.

Stockton Beautiful's other successful projects include the **Annual Home Awards** which recognize homeowners within a specific residential neighborhood who maintain their property in a way that reflects the goals of *Stockton Beautiful*. In addition, some of the highway off-ramps leading into the city have been invitingly landscaped to welcome incoming residents and visitors. Trees have been planted along Weber Avenue and around the Stockton Ballpark. A recently completed landscape project can be seen at the Community Center for the Blind.

The **Cesar Chavez Central Library** will be the beneficiary of *Stockton Beautiful's* attention next year. The library entry courtyard will be renovated with new landscaping and irrigation. Like all the projects undertaken by the organization, this \$20,000 effort will be underwritten by donations and volunteers will provide the design and implementation.



The success of each project undertaken by *Stockton Beautiful* is the result of careful thought and planning. The best practices of good gardening are among the guiding principles for *Stockton Beautiful*. Landscape architect Jeff Gamboni, vice-president of the organization, emphasizes wise water use and ongoing maintenance when they take on a project. Plants such as the colorful, easy-care catmint (*Nepeta*) bloom throughout most of the year and grow well beneath the low-water roses used in many of the gardens. Mediterranean grasses are often used for the contrast of texture and movement they offer among the other plants.

[Cont. pg 10](#)

Honey Harvest at Boggs Tract Community Farm (Continued from page 1)

took flight, urging the queen to follow, as they looked for nearby safety. Others began consuming honey thinking it might be a long time before they found food again.

They then opened the top of the first super, gave a few more puffs to keep the bees away and when safe, carefully removed two frames (usually 10 frames per super) holding the honeycomb loaded with the sweet stuff. They placed them in the nearby holding box. All the while, bees hovered close by in an attempt to protect their honey.

The frames were taken a distance from the hive and turned over to the spinning crew in order to keep the bees from finding and taking back “their” honey which could prove dangerous had they located the confiscated honey. The crew, using a simple table fork, stroked the frames to remove the caps of wax that secured the honey within the honeycomb. At day’s end, there was little wax collected which is the reason most beeswax candles are so prized and very expensive. Once the caps were removed, the frames were placed in the centrifuge (or extractor) where they were spun to remove the honey. The spinning crew used a hand-cranked model, giving them a good workout.



Some of the honey frames are known as brood supers where the queen lays eggs (they can number up to 6,000 unborn bees with a thousand or so live ones) and the brood gestates. They were left alone because harvesting would have injured the brood and destroyed the future bees needed to keep the hive productive.

With all the honey collected, the frames were carefully removed from the centrifuge. The honey was then poured into a five-gallon container with a filter used to remove wax and any other particles, and would later be poured into jars for future sales to farm customers.

There is only one queen per hive who is the mother of all of the bees in the hive. Her sole purpose is to reproduce. A healthy queen can lay up to 2,000 eggs daily and she can live 2-5 years. The hive’s existence depends on the queen. Protecting her and keeping her hidden and safe are the top duties of all the bees.

All drones are males and make up about 1% of the hive. They live only 40-50 days. Their only task is to mate with the queen, beyond that they do nothing. The drones are regularly kicked out of the hive by their worker bee sisters which comprise most of the hive. The queen bee is doted upon by the worker bees who are all females and whose jobs are to provide the queen with food and tend to her every need. Due to their tremendous workload, their life span is just four months.

Ethan predicted there would be two more harvests before the year’s end. Winter is the hardest time for bees; temperatures below 55 degrees can be deadly. Worker bees will keep both the queen and the eggs warm. They will control humidity by consuming moisture and fanning their wings to circulate air in the hive to reduce mold and fight off mites and molds. Honey will also be used to feed the bees when their food supply is low.

Watching Ethan and his crew work in and around the bees as they harvested the honey was wondrous. The small creatures are very social, extremely industrious and focused on their jobs providing for the queen, making honey and caring for the hive. Our success as gardeners and the larger agricultural community depends on them.

Stockton Beautiful: Civic Pride in Action (Continued from page 8)

Maintaining a garden in a public space can be a challenge. Gamboni says another important consideration for *Stockton Beautiful* is collaboration with other groups to insure a broader buy-in for each project. When neighborhoods and organizations are brought into the design and planning process, it is more likely the public garden spaces will be cared for as well as enjoyed.

Stockton has been positively impacted by the hard work, dedication, and commitment of *Stockton Beautiful*. Like many civic organizations though, their efforts must be sustained by the community that benefits from their work. Becky Potten, the group's president, says the group always needs volunteers for their hands-on projects. And to make sure *Stockton Beautiful* regains its place in the public's awareness, they are in special need of someone to update and maintain their website and newsletter.

Consider what *Stockton Beautiful* has given to our community. If you, or someone you know, can give some time and talent to this worthwhile organization, contact Becky Potten at (209) 948-4914 or Jeff Gamboni at jeffgamboni@sbcglobal.net.

Then take a drive to admire some of the work done by *Stockton Beautiful*.

Beneficial Insects: Soldier Beetles

Kathy Ikeda, Master Gardener

This has been a difficult fall season for many gardens, with the stress of severe drought added to the customary stresses of heat and pests. However, there is one insect we can enlist for future help in our ongoing battle against plant-draining aphids and crop-eating caterpillars.

Soldier beetles—also known as “leather-winged beetles” or Cantharids, after the Cantharidae family to which they belong—have sharp-looking uniforms: brightly colored heads and abdomens (red, orange, or yellow) with wing covers in shades of black, gray, or dark brown. Most of these beetles are about ½ inch long, with slender abdomens, long antennae, and shiny black eyes. California is host to approximately 100 different species.



UC Statewide IPM Project
© 2000 Regents, University of California

As their name implies, soldier beetles will fight to keep your garden in order. Adult soldier beetles move quickly from plant to plant by either crawling or flying, and they feed voraciously on aphids and other soft-bodied insects. Adult beetles also feed on pollen of brightly colored flowers (favoring yarrow, cosmos, and goldenrod), and they are nearly as valuable as bees in their role as beneficial pollinators. The ground-dwelling soldier beetle larvae are also beneficial, since they feed on caterpillars, mites, and the eggs and larvae of other insects such as grasshoppers and moths. Neither the adult beetles or their larvae are harmful to humans; they are not poisonous and do not bite or sting.

Soldier beetles undergo complete metamorphosis, and their life cycle begins when the eggs hatch in the fall. The young larvae feed and grow during the warm months, then overwinter in damp ground or in piles of leaves. If you happen to disturb any larvae (see photo below) during your winter garden clean up activities, return them to a protected location where they can safely transform into pupae then adult beetles when the weather warms in the spring.

For more information:

[UC IPM: Soldier Beetles, Leather-Winged Beetles](#)

[UC California Garden Web: The Love Bugs](#)

Nothing screams Halloween like a trip to the local pumpkin patch! Even if you didn't get around to planting your own pumpkin seeds in July, all is not lost. Hold on! Don't despair! You will not have to keep that lonely vigil waiting for the Great Pumpkin to arrive. Our community has some great connections to some of the most family-friendly pumpkin activities that truly embody what fall is all about. So when there's that crisp snap in the air, go pumpkin picking and support our local pumpkin farmers.



Countryside Farms, located in Stockton off of East Main Street is home to a fourth generation family of farmers. Although modernization and mechanization have replaced historical farming practices, it is the philosophy of the farm that careful tending of the land guarantees its bountiful harvest. The unique specialties of the farm, are the prearranged field trips and tours that share the farming experience. A variety of farm stations offer hands-on agricultural education to local children. Soil and planting stations illustrate the three different soil types. Soil is viewed as both living and decomposing matter. Seeds are planted with the knowledge of what is required for them to grow and develop. Owls are shown to be beneficial to farmers, and irrigation methods promote drought

-smart farming. In October, before the “pumpkins turn into carriages,” the farm at its pumpkin prime is available to the public. So, come play on the haystacks, visit the petting farm, get lost in the corn maze and pick your pumpkin as a take-home souvenir of a delightful day spent at the farm: www.countryside-farms.com.

This fall will mark the 17th year of the Dell’Osso Family Farms pumpkin fete located in Lathrop. Their claim to fame is having the West Coast’s largest corn maze where getting lost is half the fun. The family farm entertains with a Halloween to remember. Besides the pony rides and farm petting zoo there are the haunted house, zip-line, train ride, pumpkin patch, and general store. By far one of the most popular attractions is the pumpkin blaster, where you shoot mini pumpkins from a blaster bazooka into a field of stationary and moving targets. Flying mini pumpkins travel at a speed of 100 mph putting new meaning into pumpkin chunkin! If your pumpkin activities include treating the kids to some attractions along with collecting the family pumpkin Del’Osso Farms is the place to be: www.dellossofamilyfarm.com.



Off of Highway 12 in Lodi, Michael David Winery and Phillips Farms join to create the best of all worlds. In the fall, the kids will love the hay maze, cutouts for fall-themed photo ops, pumpkin decorating, flavored honey sticks, and farm animals. Not only can you pick out your pumpkin, but you can pick up some freshly cut flowers from the garden, and a pumpkin pie from the bakery. Don't miss the opportunity to purchase locally grown produce for a farm-to-fork dinner. Try the café for a tasty meal and a taste from the wine bar featuring Michael-David varietals, (it is no “zin”)! Huell Howser featured Phillips Farms on his visit to Lodi and yes, he definitely found a piece of California Gold: www.michaeldavidwinery.com.

Don't miss the opportunity this fall to visit one of our local pumpkin farms. This list is in no way inclusive as to what our community offers and many opportunities within our county will surprise you as hidden pumpkin patch treasures. Have some fun searching for the perfect pumpkin, whether for a decoration or creating a tasty seasonal treat. After Halloween is over give Jack a second chance by adding him to your compost pile, burying him in your garden, saving his seeds to plant next season or to salt and roast. May the spirit of Halloween be with you and yours!

Compost Problems and Resolutions



Q. What is wrong with my batch compost pile, it is not getting hot or even close to 140°F?

A. There could be several things happening here. For one thing, a compost pile needs to be large enough to trap heat and the general rule of thumb is to have at least a cubic yard of material--- a pile that is 3ft x 3ft x 3ft.

Another second possible problem is that the pile has insufficient 'green' materials in it that are needed to provide micro-organisms with sufficient nitrogen to become numerous enough to get the pile warming up.

If you are composting a high carbon source such as leaves which have a Carbon:Nitrogen ratio of 60:1, you will need to offset this high ratio with materials with Carbon:Nitrogen ratios that are lower than 30:1. The ideal average for a good pile is 30:1. High nitrogen materials are kitchen wastes, coffee grounds, poultry manure, alfalfa meal, and green grass clippings which all have a ratio close to 20:1. Add more of these and see if that cures the problem.

If the materials in your pile are too coarse, that could also slow heating and can be cured by chopping materials into smaller pieces with a mower or shredder. However, this is rarely the problem if you are working with grass clippings and leaves.

If your pile is anaerobic (taking place without the benefit of oxygen) then temperature will be low and turning the pile will help increase the temperature.

There is one other possibility and that is the lack of moisture in the pile. A well-watered pile should be like a wrung-out sponge---moist, but not sopping wet. The pile should get hot, to at least 140°F, to kill pathogens and weed seeds.

Q. What materials should not be included in a compost pile?

A. There are some organic materials that are not good to include such as cat and dog feces, cat litter, or diapers which may have pathogens. Invasive weeds like Bermuda grass, dairy products, and greasy stuff, e.g., peanut butter, vegetable oil, butter, bones, meat and fish should either go in the garden waste/garbage or be buried deeply in your orchard or landscape where animals won't dig them up. Eliminating these things will help keep coyotes, raccoons, dogs, cats and rodents out of your compost.

Q. Why does my compost pile smell badly and what can I do to salvage this situation?

A. Your compost pile likely suffers from either being too wet and or not being turned enough so that you have a smelly anaerobic composting occurring. If your compost is too wet, less watering is the solution along with turning the pile. The pile being too wet is not usually a problem in our hot, dry climate. In fact, it is usually the opposite---not moist enough. Compost benefits from oxygen to have an aerobic composting, so turning the pile to add air is important to keep the process aerobic (with the benefit of oxygen).

Another factor that will cause a smelly pile is too much nitrogen. This is also rarely the case, but it can happen if you have an overabundance of materials that have a carbon to nitrogen ratio less than 30:1 such as the presence of too many green lawn clippings. The cure for this is to mix in more low nitrogen materials like leaves, straw or wood shavings.

If you have a gardening question, call the Master Gardeners Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-12:00 pm at 209-953-6112 or by e-mail anrmgsanjoaquin@uca.nr.edu

Bulbs can still be planted. Choose those bulbs that are plump and firm, and rhizomes or corms that feel heavy. Avoid soft or shriveled bulbs. Plant bulbs at least twice as deep as their height.

Plants that produce colorful red berries during the winter brighten your garden. Cotoneaster, toyon and pyracantha do well in our area, but can be susceptible to fire-blight, so keep an eye on them after they are planted.

Plant [blueberries](#) in acidic soil, preferably on the east side of a building for afternoon shade. They will succeed wherever you have azaleas that are doing well.

Maintenance -

Leave dahlia stems in place until spring. Some recommend cutting stems to about 3 inches and then covering them during the rainy season to prevent tuber rot. This seems like a lot of work when stems can be left unpruned so water doesn't invade easily.

Cover your [frost-sensitive](#) plants (being sure to keep covers from touching foliage) before sunset so that ground heat is preserved. Remove the covers during sunny days. Highly frost-sensitive plants such as Hibiscus and Begonia will be damaged at any temperature below 32 and will be killed by a freeze. Consider moving these plants to a greenhouse for the winter or your garage during cold spells.

Row covers and water-filled containers surrounding young vegetable seedlings offer a warmer nighttime environment.

Keep container plants watered because moist soil retains heat better than dry soil. Remove saucers from under your containers so pots can drain during rain. Water newly planted landscape plants, lawns, and vegetables if rain is infrequent.

Drain water from garden hoses and turn off your irrigation system once the rainy season starts. Remove the batteries from your irrigation timer and store the timer for the winter.

Protect plants near your home from becoming waterlogged by extending rain gutters with flexible pipe.

Control [earwigs](#) and [snails](#) by reducing the dark, cool, moist places they favor and handpick or trap and eliminate them. Look for them under boards, pots, and broad leaf plants during the day.

Apply [dormant sprays](#) to fruit trees after pruning. Spray after a period of rain or foggy weather – not during or just prior to freezing weather. Your local nursery person can direct you to appropriate products for your particular fruit tree variety. Sprays are tree- and pest-specific - [read labels and follow directions carefully](#).

[Lawns](#) – Heavy dew on your lawn every morning is usually enough water for November. Rake fallen leaves from your lawn regularly to prevent a fungus infection or other damage

from lack of sunlight. Raked leaves can be added to your compost pile or used as mulch. Raking your lawn regularly will warm you up this month, be beneficial for your lawn, and is less polluting to air quality and noise levels.

In December

Plant -

Camellias are beginning to bloom now. Select a color and bloom type to enhance a shady area.

Horseradish and rhubarb are now available in local nurseries.

Acacia, columbine, flowering quince, foxglove, gaillardia, salvia, and winter Daphne are perennials to plant now that bloom early in spring.

[Bare root](#) plants are arriving at nurseries. Fruit trees, [grapevines](#), cane berries, [roses](#), strawberries, artichoke, asparagus, and horseradish make nice gifts for family members who garden. Boysen, Marion, and Olallie are berries that do well in the valley and should be available as bare root selections late this month. If you are going to add to or begin a rose garden, be sure to choose Grade 1 roses for vigorous first-year growth.

[Poinsettias](#) received as a holiday gift need the foil surrounding the pot removed to avoid root rot. Select one with an abundance of dark, rich green foliage that is undamaged, dense and plentiful all the way down to the soil line. Display away from heater vents in a spot that gets bright, indirect light or outdoors under an overhang next to the house. Temperatures below 45-50° can damage plants. Water when the top of the soil feels dry to the touch. Poinsettias can thrive inside through the winter when placed in a warm, sunny location, out of drafts. Water your poinsettias weekly, feed them monthly through April, then transplant them outdoors.

Maintenance -

[Citrus trees](#) can handle frost, but need to be covered in a hard freeze. Be sure your cover does not touch the leaves of your tree. Little, twinkling holiday lights will keep your tree warm and add sparkle to your winter garden.

Inspect your garden after storms for broken branches, overturned pots, and wind damage.

Clean, sharpen, and oil your pruners to be ready for the pruning season. Clean and oil shovels, rakes, and other garden tools before putting them away for the winter.

Lawns will need little care in December. Use the time you would normally devote to your lawn to plan your spring garden.

Information for this article was gathered from:

[UC IPM](#), [Sunset Garden](#), [Farmer Fred](#)

San Joaquin Master Gardeners: *A Valley Gardeners Journal*
Sacramento County Master Gardeners: *Gardening Guide*.

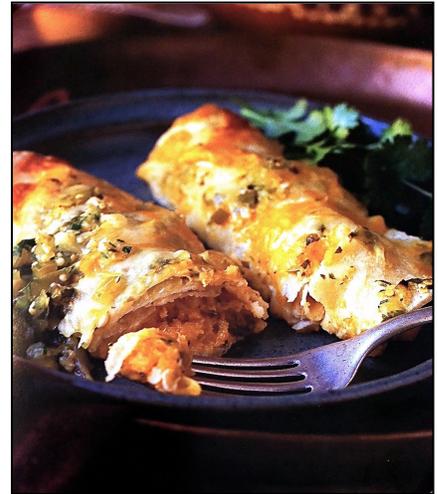
The Taste of the Season, Diane Rossen Worthington, Chronicle Books, 2004

Butternut Squash and Corn Enchiladas with Salsa Verde and Chipotle Cream

(edited)

Ingredients for Enchiladas

2 pounds of butternut squash, peeled, seeded, cut into 1-inch cubes
 2 tablespoons olive oil
 6 scallions, thinly sliced
 1 tablespoon roasted garlic, pureed
 1 cup fresh corn (frozen corn can be substituted)
 2 tablespoons finely chopped cilantro
 Salt and freshly ground pepper
 1½ cups shredded Monterey Jack Cheese
 1½ cups shredded mozzarella cheese
 Twelve 6-inch corn tortillas
 Salsa Verde (see below)
 Chipotle Cream (see below)
 Chopped fresh cilantro for garnish



Fill bottom of large steamer and bring to a boil. Cover and steam squash over medium heat until fork tender or place squash in a glass bowl, cover and microwave on high for about 5 minutes or until fork tender. Set aside. Heat oil in a large skillet on medium-high; add scallions and sauté 3 to 4 minutes until lightly browned. Add cooked squash and garlic puree and cook 2-3 minutes. Mash squash. Add corn and cook for another minute, or until tender. Add cilantro, salt and pepper and mix. Taste for seasoning. Remove from heat.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease a 9 by 13 inch baking pan. Combine cheeses in a bowl and mix well. Soften tortillas in a nonstick skillet over medium heat or place in a microwave until warm. Place tortillas on a work surface and spread a big tablespoon of squash filling down the middle of it. Sprinkle 2 tablespoons of the cheese mix on top, roll up, place seam-side down in baking pan. Repeat. Place Salsa Verde evenly over enchiladas. Sprinkle remaining cheese over top. Bake 20-25 minutes or until enchiladas are bubbling and cheese is melted. Serve with a dollop of Chipotle Cream. Garnish with cilantro.

Serves 6

Chipotle Cream

½ cup sour cream
 1 teaspoon Chipotle-Garlic Puree (see below)
 Salt and Pepper
 Combine sour cream and chipotle puree. Mix well. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Makes about ½ cup

Chipotle-Garlic Puree

6 garlic cloves, peeled
 One 7-ounce can chipotle chiles en adobo
 With the motor running, add garlic to a food processor and process until minced. Add the chiles, with their sauce, and process until totally pureed.

Makes about ¼ cup

Salsa Verde

1¾ cups chicken broth
 ¾ pound tomatillos, husked, rinsed and diced
 4 scallions, thinly sliced
 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
 2 jalapeno chiles, finely chopped
 ¼ teaspoon ground cumin
 2 teaspoons fresh lime juice
 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
 Salt

Combine broth, tomatillos, scallions, garlic, half the chiles and cumin in a medium saucepan and bring to boil over medium-high heat. Reduce heat, partially cover, and simmer for about 15 minutes or until slightly thickened. Let cool. Use a blender to coarsely puree the mixture (leave some texture). Add the remaining chiles, lime juice, cilantro and salt. Taste for seasoning.

Makes about 2 ½ cups

Autumn 2014

Saturday and Sunday, October 4 – 5, 2014**Fall Rose Show**

This show is co-sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Rose Society & [Alden Lane](#)

Nursery

Saturday – 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Awards given out on Sunday at 3:00

p.m. at Alden Lane Nursery

Public Entries Welcome!

Enter roses on Saturday, October 4th from 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

HINT: Cut the stems long. We can shorten them up when you arrive.

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

October 2014 - Every weekend**Alden Lane Fall Festival**

Farm animals - Come and visit our sheep, ducks, and goats. Candy Cart, small and simple candies for every sweet tooth. Farm Equipment with the Van Arkle and Hole Families --- from corn grinders to small engines. You can see it all working, and ask the families any questions you have! Pumpkins for purchase: we get them all; Cinderella, blue, white, and even orange. We've got your perfect Jack O' Lantern waiting in our patch. Craft Activity for kids: We'll have an activity every weekend day for kids to engage in! Fresh Apple and Pumpkin pies: You can buy a slice or the whole pie. Yummy goods from Sweet and Savory Bakery and Café. Farm Fresh Apples from Dave Hales's Apple Farm in Sebastopol. Dave delivers every week, only what is farm fresh. Come and taste and then buy some of your favorites! Apple fishing features Dave Hale's apples as well. Craft activity with the Scouts. We'll have a different activity for your child to join in each weekend. Come see what the Scouts are cooking up for fun!

Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Friday through Sunday, October 10 – 12, 2014**Sacramento Home and Garden Fall Show**

Friday 12 noon – 6 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

General Admission: \$6.00 (\$5.00 with can of food for Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services), 12 and under – FREE with adult
Cal Expo, 1600 Exposition Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815

October 11, 2014**San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Gardening Tool Box**

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Discover great gardening websites and resources that are available to add to your virtual tool box.

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply, 11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road, Lodi

Classes are free. Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, October 11 AND Saturday, October 25, 2014**UC Davis Arboretum 2014 Fall**

Plant Sales to Support the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

THE NEW FRONT YARD: We know that many homeowners out there are in the process of developing their "New Front Yard" by replacing high-water-use plants with low-water alternatives. That's why this October you are going to find just what you need at our "New Front Yard" fall plant sales. We are going to have the area's largest selection of attractive, drought-tolerant, easy-care, region-appropriate plants including lots of California natives and Arboretum All-Stars.

Saturday, October 11: 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.: Members only

Not a member? Join at the door for the best selection! [Learn more.](#)

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Open to the Public

Saturday, October 25: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.: Open to the Public

Garrod Drive, Davis, CA 95616

REMINDER: Please bring your own box, cart, or wagon for an easier shopping experience.

Saturday, October 11, 2014**Alden Lane Fall Veggies Gardening with Dee**

1:00 p.m. in the Vegetable Department
Alden Lane Nursery, 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Saturday, October 11, 2014**Medicinal Plants of the Bay Area**

11:00 a.m.
California is home to a diverse array of edible and medicinal plants long valued for their nutritional/therapeutic effects. Come explore many of the more common (and lesser known) edible/medicinal plants found growing in the Central Coast region with Tellur Fenner of [Blue Wind Botanical Medicine Clinic & Education Center!](#) Tellur will focus on historical as well as modern use and will cover a wide range of topics, including plant I.D., plant family characteristics, ethical harvesting/processing and preparation methods, edible/medicinal/utilitarian uses, regional ethnobotany, botanical safety issues, California natural history, and more!

Annie's Annuals, 740 Market Avenue, Richmond, CA 94801

Saturday, October 11, 2014**Re-imagining Your Lawn with California Natives and Mediterranean Low-Water-Loving Plants**

11:00 – 12:30

Speaker Bart O'Brien, is the Director of the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden Park and co-author of Reimagining the California Lawn and California Native Plants for the Garden books. He is a 5th generation Californian and is an authority on native flora of the state. Before coming to Berkeley, Bart was the Director of Horticulture and leader of Special Projects at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Clairmont.

October 18, 2014

San Joaquin Master Gardener workshop: Gardening Tool Box

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon.

Discover great gardening websites and resources that are available to add to your virtual tool box.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca
Classes are free. All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, October 18, 2014

PUENTES Nurbaculture (Natural Urban Agriculture) Workshop: Fall Plant Identification

6:00 p.m.

Learn how to identify and care for the plants commonly grown on the farm in fall and winter

533 S. Los Angeles Avenue, Stockton
(209) 468-3978

Saturday, October 18, 2014

Make a "Lettuce Basket" with Dee

11:00 a.m.

You'll go home from this workshop with a hanging lettuce garden that will keep you in salad all fall, winter and spring.

[Alden Lane Nursery](#), 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Lawn Be Gone

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Join Greg in a "Lawn Be Gone" front yard makeover landscape class. You'll go home with lots of good ideas to get you started.

[Alden Lane Nursery](#), 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Maples for all Seasons

11:00-12:30 p.m.

Join Japanese Maple expert Barry Hoffer of Maples for All Seasons to hear him speak on selecting, planting caring for, and pruning Japanese Maples.

[Alden Lane Nursery](#), 981 Alden Lane, Livermore

Sunday, November 2, 2014

Native American Uses of California Plants

2:00 p.m.

Enjoy an engaging, family-friendly tour of the Native American Contemplative Garden and discover traditional uses for a variety of California plants.

UC Davis Conference Center on Alumni Lane, Davis, CA.

Saturday, November 8, 2014

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Pruning with a Purpose

10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Learn about winter pruning chores.

City of Stockton Delta Water Supply, 11373 N. Lower Sacramento Road Lodi
Classes are free. Class size is limited to 30. All participants must register by the Wednesday before the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Saturday, November 15, 2014

San Joaquin Master Gardener Workshop: Pruning with a Purpose

10:30 a.m. – 12 noon

Learn about winter pruning chores.

Manteca Library, 320 W. Center, Manteca
Classes are free. All participants must register a week prior to the class by calling (209) 953-6100.

Sunday, November 16, 2014

"Go Green" Drop-in Day

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Want to be more sustainable? Have fun learning about conserving resources through hands-on activities. All ages are welcome!

[Trellis in the California Native Plant Gateway Garden](#)
(behind the Davis Commons Shopping Center)

Saturday, December 13, 2014

PUENTES Nurbaculture (Natural Urban Agriculture) Workshop: Soil Building

10:00 a.m.

Learn the components of soil and how to build a healthy soil profile through sheet mulching, composting, and growing cover crops.

533 S. Los Angeles Avenue, Stockton
(209) 468-3978

UC Master Gardeners

2101 E Earhart Ave

Suite 200, Stockton, CA, 95206

Phone: 209-953-6112

E-mail: anrmgsanjoaquin@ucanr.edu

Web-site: <http://sjmastergardeners.ucdavis.edu>

[Find us on Facebook!](#)

Coordinator: Marcy Sousa 953-6100

For nondiscrimination policy, [click here](#)





Love Gardening?

Love talking about gardening
with others?

Want to be more involved in your community?

Become a San Joaquin County Master Gardener Volunteer!

Training classes begin January 2015

Classes will be held on Wednesdays, January 28th through
June 3rd, at the Robert J. Cabral Agricultural Center.

8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Master Gardeners are volunteers for the University of California. Our mission is to extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California.

For more information, including applications,
deadlines and fees, please visit our website at
<http://ucanr.edu/sjmg> or call 953-6112

