

University of California Cooperative Extension County of Mariposa



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I am pleased to report another productive year for Cooperative Extension office. It is the privilege of all of us to serve the residents of Mariposa County. Residents with a wide range of questions from commercial farming to the home landscapes have been provided current and science-based information.

Cooperative Extension is unique because of our very large network of volunteers. Our 4-H and Master Gardener volunteers work hard to make our county a great place to live and raise capable young people. For more information about any of our programs please contact us. *Maxwell Norton*

- Workshops and Events held in 2011
- Invasive Weeds
 - Sustainable Landscaping
 - 4-H Judging Day
 - Forest Pest Management
 - Master Gardeners Annual Plant Sale
 - Chowchilla-Madera Jr. Fair Horse Show
 - Landscaping for Fire-Safety
 - Presentation and Favorite Foods Day
 - Water-wise Gardening
 - Fashion Revue and Style Show
 - Nurturing the Soil
 - 4-H Family hosted Japanese Exchange Student
 - Rain Water Harvesting
 - Ag Day at Lake Don Pedro Elementary School
 - Vegetable Judging



The extension office has many research-based leaflets available to answer many common concerns of residents. UC offers many free publications on line at : anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu. You can also order any ANR publication on line or from the office.



Master Gardener Program



The Master Gardener Program (MGP) started the year by offering its popular Master Gardener training course. Twenty participants graduated to become certified Master Gardeners (MGs) and share research-based information with the public. In 2011, the **MG volunteers contributed 4,350 volunteer hours, bringing the accumulated hours since the program's inception in 1995 to 28,442 hours and exceeding 2010's total by 1,000 hours.**

Focus on Fire-safe Landscaping

Title III funds now support the Master Gardener Coordinator (MGC) position to provide information on fire-scaping at all workshops and outreach events. The MGC and volunteers have attended several Mariposa County Fire Safe Council (MCFSC) meetings and distributed fire-safe literature at all MG events. The MGP will provide workshops on fire-safe issues and is working closely with the MCFSC in planning a fire-safe rally in 2012.

Educational materials on fire-safety have already been made available at six free public workshops. For instance, more than 80 community members attended a "Rain Water Harvesting" workshop co-sponsored by the MGP.



Support Tourism



The MGP remained involved in the agri-nature tour. MGs staffed several booths downtown along the Creek Parkway and provided information on tomatoes (the theme) and landscaping for fire-safety; how to sharpen and care for garden tools; and growing water-conserving native plants. An MGP volunteer also wrote and submitted monthly articles about growing and caring for tomatoes to the local newspapers to promote the event.

The MGP enhanced tourism experiences by providing a booth during the John Muir Festival in Coulterville, using interactive activities targeting children and adults.

Provide Public Outreach

Residents can readily obtain information from two county MG Hotline sources; one at the office in Mariposa and the other in Greeley Hill (which will be moving to the Don Pedro area). The MGs now display house plants at both towns' libraries, changing plants monthly and providing care instructions to residents.

MGs constantly answer queries about gardening challenges in the foothills. From June through early November, MGs staff a themed informational booth at the monthly Farmers' Market.

The MGP provided an Earth Day booth at the county landfill to promote recycling and composting.

Joining 4H for Ag Day, the MGs taught students at Lake Don Pedro Elementary School about planting and growing vegetables and the lives of honeybees.

The popular Plant and Garden Art Sale was offered three times this year, one in Mariposa & two in Coulterville. Three MGs offered their own gardens for the spring garden tours.

The MG Mariposa Creek Parkway continues to delight and educate the public about the values of growing and maintaining native plants. MGs have led parkway tours for garden clubs, locals and visitors, and many events such as this year's Tomato Fest are held there. Working with UC Davis, we continue to add new and unusual California native plants and inform residents if it is feasible to grow them locally.



Kris Randal

4-H Youth Development Program

Mariposa County 4-H Youth Development Program offers a wide variety of projects, and activities to help our local youth to become responsible, self-directed, and productive members of our community. Providing the “learn-by-doing” educational experience develops skills that will benefit youth throughout their life. The Mariposa 2010-11 enrollment numbers increased to 184 members with 65 volunteer leaders.

4-H members are highly visible in our community as they perform community service activities and practice leadership skills to undertake a most meaningful experience. In September 2011 at the local Tomato Fest, our 4-H Junior Master Gardeners held a scavenger hunt for youth participants and made mosaics using seeds. They also visited the Fresno Master Gardener’s Garden of the Sun and had the Upper Merced River Watershed staff did a presentation to the Junior Master Gardeners about what a watershed is and why they are valuable.

This intentional programmatic focus leads to adult and youth outcomes that are linked through active youth-adult partnerships. Youth who thrive have the capacity to positively impact the communities in which they live, work and play. As the 4-H motto states “To Make the Best Better”.



Donna Wice

Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Program

The Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Project (SNAMP) and its University of California scientists continue their research on the effects of forest fuel treatments in the Sugar Pine/Oakhurst area. The treatments are designed by the Forest Service to reduce the possibility of catastrophic fire as well improve forest health. Our university researchers have finished collecting their pre- treatment data and the forest thinning work has begun this last summer. The Forest Service hopes to be done with the work in 2012, at which time our teams will collect their post treatment data.

So far: Our water team has water quality and quantity equipment installed in both treatment and control watersheds. Our forest health team has inventoried over a hundred plots before the thinning work to collect data to help build their computer fire models. They have gathered hundreds of tree cores to create a master chronology for the area as well as fire scars to establish a local fire history. Our Spatial team has created very detailed images of the forest’s structure with Lidar images (the latest in remote sensing) as well as being able to help quantify fisher and owl habitats. Our wildlife team in the south has gathered extensive information on the population dynamics of the local Pacific fisher by continuing to track at least 20 collared animals over time. It has been discovered that bobcat are one of their main obstacles to survival followed by disease and road kill. The recent discovery of rodenticide in fisher carcasses has added to concerns for their well-being.

Through our Public Participation team and our representative to the southern site, Anne Lombardo, we continue to share the details of the project with anyone interested in forest management issues. We offer meetings and fieldtrips with our scientists to share the emerging science, answer questions and discuss the many issues embedded in the topic of fuel treatments.



Anne Lombardo

What the Extension in Mariposa County is about



MG Garden Tours

The **Cooperative Extension Service**, also known as the **Extension Service of the USDA** is a non-formal educational program implemented in the United States designed to help people use research-based knowledge to improve their lives. The service is provided by the state's designated land-grant universities. In most states the educational offerings are in the areas of agriculture and food, home and family, the environment, community economic development, and youth (4-H) . The **USDA** administers funding for Smith Lever Act services in cooperation with state and county governments and land-grant universities.

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



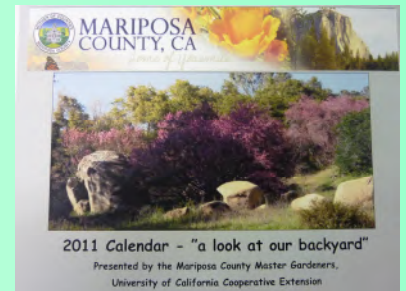
4-H Jr. Leaders



4-H Judging day



4-H & Farm Bureau



MG Calendar

U.C.C.E. in Mariposa County 's goal is to serve County residents through a statewide organization of advisors, specialists, and campus faculty. With the resource base of the entire University of California system, and local advisors, we are able specifically to meet the needs of our County.

In addition to continuing education seminars, we offer free workshops throughout the year. These workshops present information to the community on various topics . Our 4-H youth program focus is on promoting a sense of community and developing leadership skills in our youth and adults.



SNAMP Workshop

MG Workshop



SNAMP Fieldtrip