



Master Gardeners of Southern Nevada

August 2015 Community Newsletter

AUGUST CALENDAR

August 1, 9:30-11:30 – “Birds, Bees and Butterflies” by Master Gardener Denise McConnell at Inspirada Solista Community Ctr. (2000 Via Firenze, Henderson, 89044). Reservations are required by contacting mwojciechowicz@ccmnet.com or 702-260-7939.

August 15, 8-9 – “Helpful Bacteria and Fungi: Soil friends of plants” by Tamara Wynne, Cooperative Extension Research Technician, at Research Center and Demonstration Orchard (4600 Horse Dr., North Las Vegas 89131.) For more information: 702-786-4361 or wynnet@unce.unr.edu.

August 22, 10:30-noon – “Adventures in Desert Gardening” by Master Gardener Howard Galin at James I. Gibson Library (100 W. Lake Mead Parkway, Henderson, NV 89015). Call (702) 565-8402 for registration information.

August 22, 8-noon -- “Gardening in Small Places: Landscape Design” by Master Gardener Denise McConnell at Cooperative Extension. The fee for the class is \$25. Pre-registration is required. Contact Elaine Fagin at fagine@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5573.

August 22* and 29*, 10-2 – Junior Master Gardener Open Houses at two locations. JMG is a Saturday program for children 7-12 years. Find out more: **8/22 at 4600 Horse Dr.**, NLV 89131 or **8/29 at 8050 Paradise Rd.**, LV 89012. Contact Karyn Johnson for details at 702-257-5523 or johnsonk@unce.unr.edu.



COLD-HARDY PALMS RESEARCH

Master Gardener Denise Stevens checks rare palm seeds in the lab incubators. Some have germinated after more than two years!

The palms are then planted and moved to the greenhouse. The collection at the Cooperative Extension Demonstration Gardeners now includes more than 90 different cold resistant palms.

For a free publication, “50 Palms that are grown or should be tried in Southern Nevada”

by Prof. ML Robinson go to:

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2010/fs1064.pdf>

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION DEMONSTRATION GARDENS

The **Demonstration and Test Gardens** (8050 Paradise Rd, LV 89123) feature over 1,000 species of desert-appropriate plants, from Mojave natives to fruit trees, vegetables, roses and herbs. The Gardens are open to the public Monday-Friday from 8-5. Plants are labeled with botanical and common names.

The **Research Center and Demonstration Orchard** (4600 Horse Dr., NLV 89131) offers seasonal produce and plus free mulch, guided tours and gardening advice. It is open Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon.

MASTER GARDENERS MAINTAIN HEALING GARDEN

Community volunteerism is the foundation for University of Nevada Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener program. Individuals participate in a lengthy training process to become certified Master Gardeners. After training they are required to volunteer a minimum of 50 hours each year on community projects.

Three hundred fifty active Master Gardeners assist and educate the community via community projects throughout the valley. One such volunteer, Joy Mandekic, and project, the Nathan Adelson Hospice Healing Gardens, is a hidden gem.

Built in 2002, Master Gardener Mandekic was involved in the design and planning stages of the Hospice garden area. Water features, designed with water conservation in mind, were included as calming features. Each hospice room opens to a healing garden area.

"The other Master Gardener volunteers and I tend to gardens on the second Tuesday of the month," explained Mandekic. "During the summer, one of us visits at least once a week."

Due to lack of irrigation, and intense, direct sun on most beds, care was given to choosing hardy, desert appropriate plants. Many herbs were selected, and some of them are considered to have healing properties. "For instance," stated Mandekic, "we planted mint, lavender, oregano and thyme, rosemary, and rose and pomegranate." The focus has been on the visual, aromatic, calming characteristics of the plants, not medicinal. Intermingled throughout the garden are turf lily, asparagus fern and lantana; hardy in the toughest garden environments.

The Healing Garden provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover, and places to raise young. Meeting these criteria is how this healing garden became a National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat in 2013. "This was proven in 2014 as a wildlife habitat when the mallards nested in the garden," added Mandekic, "it was high drama!"

For complete article by Marilyn Ming, Marketing/Public Relations Specialist:

<http://www.unce.unr.edu/counties/clark/news/article.asp?ID=2104>



ADAPTATIONS OF DESERT PLANTS

Ever wonder why some gardens can not only survive the summer but also "look good?" Chances are the landscapes contain native or desert-adapted plants which have characteristics that help them reduce water loss or protect them from intense sun: Small Leaf, Hairy Leaf, Thick or Waxy Cuticle, Grey or Light Green Color. Other (non-visible) adaptations include heat/drought/salt/cold tolerance.

Look for plants with these features when renewing your landscapes.

Master Gardener Joy Mandekic tends the healing garden at Nathan Adelson Hospice.

MASTER GARDENER HOME GARDENING HELP LINE

702-257-5555 or LVMasterGardeners@unce.unr.edu. Master Gardeners are available Monday – Friday, 9am -3pm to answer your gardening questions. Call, email or visit us!

Contact edmundsa@unce.unr.edu or 702-257-5587 to UNSUBSCRIBE to this newsletter
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, 8050 Paradise Rd., LV NV 89123. An EEO/AA Institution