



COORDINATOR

news

Hello Melissa,

Happy New Year to you all. I am reflective as we consider early 2025 events with devastating wildfires raging in the LA area. Many of our volunteers in the area suffered tremendous and sometimes complete losses of their homes and the homes of their loved ones. I am also thinking of the daunting task of response and recovery that will take place over the coming months and likely years. The loss of property and possessions pales in comparison to the loss of lives and livelihoods associated with this tragedy. My heart goes out to any and all of those impacted by this nightmare.

I am also extremely grateful to the thousands of volunteers who donate their time, talents, and energy to the building and the rebuilding of their communities. I am grateful for the knowledge and expertise that are present in this amazing group of people. To them, I share my gratitude for their willingness to work with others to support and sustain themselves. Additionally, I am grateful for your service as coordinators who provide technical support and expertise to these volunteers. The impacts of your work are expanded by a huge order of magnitude as you work with our volunteers to accomplish this amazing service. For you, I am eternally grateful. Thank you for what you do and how you do it. Thank you for empowering Master Gardener volunteers to make homes and businesses safer, food available, and lives brighter for Californians. Your work, our work, is life-changing. I am filled with hope that you and others will assist in the building and rebuilding of California's communities, now and in the future. I share my unwavering thanks and commitment to you that together, we can be a source of strength in this and future challenges. Looking towards an impactful 2025, I am grateful for all that you do.



Warm regards,

Brent Hales

Associate Vice President for Research and Cooperative Extension UC
Agriculture & Natural Resources

Statewide Office Reorganization Wrap-Up

The statewide team is so happy to introduce John Mathews, our new Statewide Training Specialist. With a strong background in training and professional development, John brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the team, and we are excited to have him on board.

In his role, John will assess training needs, lead webinars, support our annual

coordinator meeting, and oversee our triennial conference. He'll work closely with Lauren Snowden to develop engaging training programs that serve our community.



John brings a unique background in improv comedy from Los Angeles, along with 12 years of experience creating dynamic learning experiences. He holds several ATD certifications and has worked across corporate, government, and nonprofit sectors, specializing in train-the-trainer programs and leadership development. Welcome John Mathews to the UC Master Gardener team at jmathews@ucanr.edu.

With John's arrival, our epic re-organization and expansion is complete. As shared in our most recent newsletter, this growth not only signifies immediate improvements but also lays the foundation for a more stable future for the UC Master Gardener Program. This spring, the statewide office team will participate in a retreat to look at the breadth of activities that we have been a part of over the past 10 years. Together, we will consider the value of these activities, where we may have gaps, and propose a draft work plan for the future that addresses programmatic needs, available staffing, and the expertise our team represents. Post retreat, we'll socialize that workplan with coordinators over a series of webinars and look forward to seeking your input. We'll finalize the work plan as a statewide community.

IWP Website Migration

The IWP migration will be happening in late February. To prepare us for the transition, Stephen Dampier will be presenting on various IWP training topics, including Drupal CMS (Content Management System) basics. Join via [Zoom](#) on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-4 p.m.

You can also start reviewing materials on the [IWP training site](#), which includes how-to guides, glossaries/definitions and other resources.

Visit the [IWP website](#) and [FAQs](#) page for the latest information.



Volunteer Contingent Workers Update

On Monday, Feb. 3, the IWP Core Team sent out an update with new guidelines for providing volunteer access to [UC ANR's Integrated Web Platform \(IWP\) Project](#). Volunteers who manage program websites will need contingent worker status, with a limited number of designations available based on program size and Community Educator FTE. Missy sent a follow-up on how this specifically impacts the UC Master Gardener Program on Feb. 3 at 3 p.m. Please check your email for further details.

The deadline to complete the survey for contingent workers is Friday, Feb. 7.



2024 Fundraising Recap

It was another spectacular year for UC Master Gardening fundraising! For the 2024 calendar year, the UC Master Gardener Program had 1,196 donors and 1,680 gifts across the state for a total of \$390,813 raised! Thank you for championing the program and its efforts to raise funds to support our mission. If you have questions about raising funds for your county program please contact Mary Ciricillo | mciricillo@ucanr.edu or Emily Delk | eddelk@ucanr.edu

P.S. Save-the date for UC ANR's Giving Day on May 15-16 from noon to noon.



Gardeners With Heart

We are excited to continue our annual volunteer recognition during National Volunteer Month (April) with Gardeners with Heart 2025! The deadline to get your nominations is **Feb. 10, 2025!** This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize volunteers making and impact in their communities.

Nomination categories:

- Community Well-being – Strengthening relationships and expanding program reach
- Food Gardening and Access – Supporting communities in growing food and improving access
- Sustainable Landscaping – Promoting pollinator education, native plants, and invasive species management
- Climate Readiness – Providing education on climate resilience and environmental challenges

Submit your nomination using the [Gardeners with Heart 2025 Nomination Form.](#)

If you have questions or would like support with your nomination, please do not hesitate to reach out! Contact Marisa Coyne | macoyne@ucanr.edu



Reappointment Halfway Point

With our calendars flipped to 2025, we are now just beyond the mid-point of the fiscal year (*July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025*) and just over halfway to reappointment. Now is a great time to remind volunteers about Volunteer and Continuing Education (CE) hour requirements and encourage them to log hours or sign up for upcoming events. **Join us on Apr. 30 at 1:00 pm for a Coordinator Webinar on Reappointment** to include resources, procedures, timelines, tips, and more.

If you are a new coordinator and are not familiar with reappointment, visit the [Reappointment page](#) on the UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator website.



Informal Corrective Action

- Most common type of volunteer-related conflict
- Minor problems in behavior, attitude, management, and performance
- Resolved at the local level by the coordinator
 - with input from Advisor, county director and/or supervisor
- Addressed through short in-person, Zoom, or phone meeting
- Outcomes include improvement and resolution plan

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Conflict Resolution Webinar

If you missed the UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator Webinar on Conflict Resolution, it is available now on [the UC Master Gardener Program YouTube Playlist](#).

The Conflict Resolution Webinar covers the following:

- volunteer conduct and conflict materials
- volunteer conflict resolution process
- conflict management roles
- scenario practice

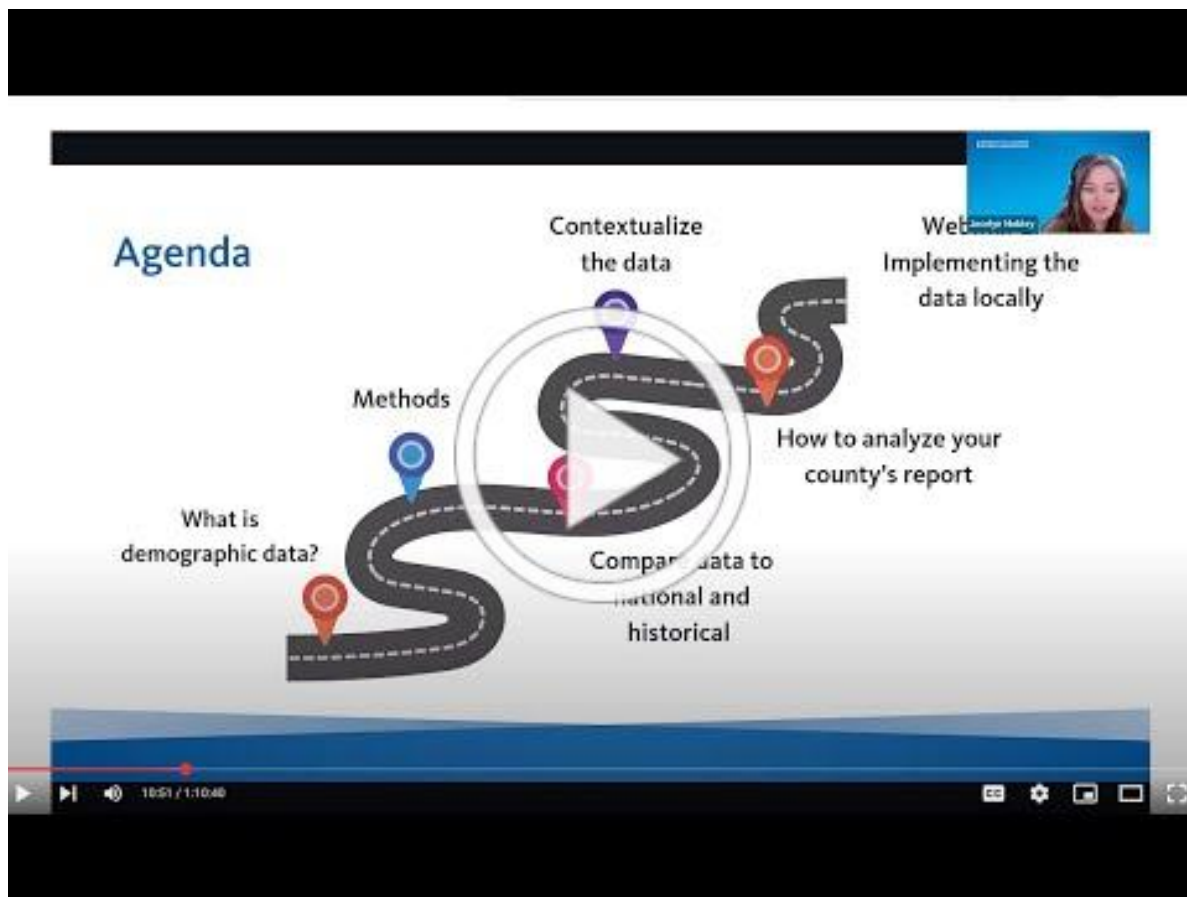
You can find additional resources on the coordinator's website: mgcoord.ucanr.edu/VolunteerHub/VolunteerConflict



Winter Promo Code from Pubs

UC ANR Publications has offered a new 40% off promo code for volunteers who would like to make individual publication or eBook purchases running February 14 – March 1.

Promo code: [TOYON](#)



Evaluation: Volunteer Demographic Data Statewide Results, Part 1

On January 15, the statewide office hosted a webinar to unveil the results of the 2024 statewide demographic survey, offering an unprecedented look into our volunteer community. This session highlighted key findings and trends, compared state data to national Extension Master Gardener benchmarks and reviewed county-level reports. Participants also shared insights to guide future action and enhance program accessibility. If you missed it, please watch the recording or view the resources outlined below.

Resources:

- [video recording](#)
- [slide deck](#)
- [statewide demographic report \(PDF\)](#)

We invite you to join us for **Part 2: County-Level Volunteer Demographic Data on Tuesday, Feb. 25, from 1 - 2:00 PM**, where we'll focus on utilizing local data to identify opportunities, develop equity action plans, and establish program goals. [Visit the events calendar on the Coordinator Website for more info.](#)

PINK HIBISCUS MEALYBUG IN CALIFORNIA

version 01



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UC Master Gardener Program



Duration 50 minutes



Please connect speakers

START COURSE

New, Invasive Pest eLearning Module Available

We're thrilled to introduce an exciting new resource for our volunteers: the Pink Hibiscus Mealybug in California eLearning module. Spread the word by using the following article in volunteer-facing communications to promote this new eLearning opportunity. Together, we can help protect California's plants and ecosystems!

- [Extension Campus: Pink Hibiscus Mealybug](#) (login required to access course)
- [Resources to promote Pink Hibiscus Mealybug to volunteers](#) (BOX)

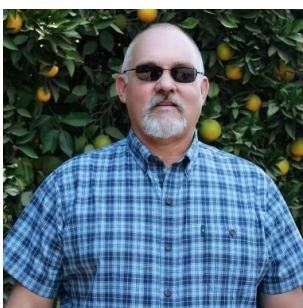
Welcome New County Coordinators

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to the newest members of our coordinator community!



Jessica Delgado joined UCCE Imperial County as the UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator. Formerly a Community Education Specialist with the CalFresh Healthy Living Program in Imperial, Jessica has deep knowledge of UC ANR processes/procedures and is well-positioned to strengthen cross-program collaboration. We are *thrilled* to have her expertise to support and sustain the growing Imperial program.

Email: jesdelgado@ucanr.edu



Jonathan Moody joined UC ANR in late Fall 2024 as the inaugural Coordinator for the UC Master Gardener Program in Kern County! Jonathon also helms with CalFresh Healthy Living program for UCCE Kern. With a background in production agriculture, a penchant for pest control, and a passion for educated adults (in both the US and Mexico) – we are delighted that he will be building the newest UC Master Gardener Program.

Email: jmoody@ucanr.edu

Cassie Burzinski is stepping into the role of Coordinator for the



UC Master Gardener for Placer and Nevada Counties. Cassie brings diverse experiences with food systems, nutrition education, and sustainability studies to the position. From a family of “naturalists and nerds” (her words), we think she will find herself right at home amongst UC Master Gardener Program volunteers!

Email: cburzinski@ucanr.edu



Carletta 'Carly' Amatisto-Smith serves the UC Master Gardener as Coordinator for Amador County as well as several UC Master Food Preserver Programs in the Central Sierra (Amador, Tuolumne, Calaveras). Formerly a coordinator for a Sacramento Valley land trust, she has vast experience organizing speaker series, leading community science efforts, and supporting volunteer docents. We're excited to have her on board and look forward to achieving great things together!

Email: camatistosmith@ucanr.edu



Updates from UC IPM

We're excited to share that UC Integrated Pest Management (UC IPM) has updated its guidance on neonicotinoid pesticides and released new training materials, plus a fresh lineup of webinars for early 2025. Visit the UC Master Gardener Program Coordinator ["News from UC IPM" blog post](#) for all the details.

Upcoming Training & Events:

Web: mgcoord.ucanr.edu/Events

County-Level Volunteer Demographic Data, Part 2

Wednesday, February 25, 2024, 1– 2 pm

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/92419283262

Measuring Our Impact with Statewide Evaluation

Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 11 am - 12 pm

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/97469743353

Reappointment 2025

Wednesday, April 30, 2025, 1– 2 pm
Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/92211254053

UC ANR Giving Day May 15-16, 2025, 12 pm– 12 pm

Office Hours:

Office Hours: UC Master Gardener Communications Office Hours

Tuesdays, 11 am -12 pm,

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/93698902316?pwd=cVpBVDJlS0JSTld1NytmUXNYRzhKQT09

Office Hours: UC ANR Social Media

Wednesdays, 11 am -12 pm

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/91408257262?pwd=dXl0a1RZbW5nR054OXcxYUVqckZtdz09

Office Hours: Site Builder and Blog Clean Up Session Office Hours

Tuesday and Thursdays from 3-4 pm

UC ANR IT answers your questions

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/97937501529?pwd=Zm1PaGRuc0htcnVZbmZQaGcy3oxQT09

Director Office Hours: Admin and Policy Support with Missy Gable

Fridays, 9-10 am

Zoom link: ucanr.zoom.us/j/98021015391?pwd=CFaEiJZf5ionWPcVvAbKbADmmdPxoH.1

Thanks for reading this month's issue! To submit questions, topic suggestions, a spotlight story, project feature, new staff feature, or feedback, email Statewide Communications Specialist, Barbra Braaten at bbraaten@ucanr.edu.

Our Mission “To extend research-based knowledge and information on home horticulture, pest management, and sustainable landscape practices to the residents of California.”



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