



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 8/11/2015

Agenda Placement: 4B

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: MONICA COOPER - County Director/Viticulture Farm Advisor
UC Cooperative Extension

REPORT BY: Priscilla Rodrigues, Administrative Secretary I - 253-4060

SUBJECT: Proclamation celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the UC Master Gardener Program of Napa County

RECOMMENDATION

Presentation of proclamation recognizing the UC Master Gardeners (UC MG) of Napa County for their 20 years of service to the local community to Yvonne Rasmussen, Volunteer Program Coordinator; David Lewis, Director, UC Cooperative Extension, Napa County; and David Layland, UC MG Napa County President followed by a brief presentation commemorating the 20 year history of the UC Master Gardener Program in Napa County.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

UC MG volunteers have offered research-based horticultural information to the general public and encouraged sustainable gardening practices that promote healthy gardens, gardeners, families and communities for 20 years. We are proud of their achievements and take this opportunity to commend them for their service and accomplishments.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

The Master Gardener Program, founded in 1981, is a public service and outreach program of the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. It is administered locally by participating UC Cooperative Extension (UCCE) offices in more than 50 California counties. In 1995, Dean Donaldson, UCCE County Director and Environmental Horticulture Advisor started the UC Master Gardener program in Napa County. His vision and collaborative approach to horticultural education continues through the program's volunteers and the commitment to enhancing gardening knowledge, productivity and enjoyment.

In 2014, each of our 145 active UC MG volunteers contributed an average of 90 hours for a total of 11,000 hours of service. Since the program's inception, 98,000 Napa County residents have participated in UC MG programs including 6,200 home gardeners in 2014. UC MG volunteers extend gardening information and provide outreach through a variety of events, forums and partnerships. These include:

GARDEN RESOURCES

- | Gardening books: *Month-by-Month Guide to Gardening in Napa County* and *Trees to Know in Napa Valley*
- | Healthy Gardening Tips: one to two page sheets providing local gardening information
- | Help Desk: volunteers answer gardening questions from residents who drop-in, or by telephone and e-mail
- | Mobile Help Desk: information tables at local garden retailers in spring
- | Local newspaper: weekly articles address topics relevant to local gardeners
- | "Spill the Beans" blog: provide information on crop production, timelines for garden tasks and solutions to garden problems
- | Farmers Markets: information tables
- | Seminars presented at meetings of local non-profit agencies and clubs
- | Social Media and Website (ucanr.org/ucmgnapa)

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

- | Demonstration Gardens
- | Seminars/Public Workshops
- | Connolly Ranch Education Center
- | Annual Tomato Plant Sale & Education Day
- | Down the Garden Path Garden Tour
- | Home composting classes
- | Water-wise landscaping classes
- | School gardens
- | 30-minute local cable TV show (2006-2011)
- | "Get Growing" Vegetable Series

PARTNERSHIPS

- | Napa County Resource Conservation District
- | Napa County Firewise
- | Connolly Ranch Education Center
- | Non-profits: COPE Family Center, Hospice, Adult Day Services, Moving Forward Towards Independence
- | Schools within the Napa Valley Unified School District

- | California Native Plant Society & Skyline Park
- | Local municipalities: County of Napa, City of Napa, City of St. Helena, Town of Yountville, City of American Canyon, City of Calistoga

Future program plans include enhancing current and developing new community partnerships and increasing our Latino outreach. Master Gardeners continue to find innovative ways of reaching the gardening public through technology, and assessing new areas of interest for residents.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Proclamation
- B . PowerPoint Presentation

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Liz Habkirk