

2024 Oxnard Insect Festival Has Record-breaking Year

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Ventura County Master Gardeners (MGs) and the regional UC Emerging Tree Pests Program co-tabled at the June 1 event held in Plaza Park. The annual festival is all about bugs: Beneficial and pestilent.

Our table focused on the importance of pollinators, tree pests currently identified in the county, and looming threats from other invasive pests that have potential for infestations in Ventura County. Insects currently identified in the county, which were emphasized in the outreach included Asian citrus psyllid and invasive shot hole borers. Simple prevention measures were shared with attendees, including and not limited to 'Eat It Where You Grow It' for backyard citrus and 'Buy It Where You Burn It' for firewood.

Twelve MGs comprising the Invasive and Beneficial Outreach Group, newly-graduated MG Class of 2024, and seasoned MG volunteers shared their expertise and time at the event. The one-day festival, which typically garners 10,000 visitors broke a record with 11,000. The UC table interfaced with 554 children and 742 adults. Thanks to newly-minted MG graduate Robin Galland for coordinating the table, along with all the dedicated volunteers who help impart the science and education of the UC Cooperative Extension programs. Appreciation to the City of Oxnard Recreation and Community Services for coordinating another successful year for the Insect Festival.

Image caption and credit: *Visitors and Master Gardener volunteers interface at the June 1, 2024 Oxnard Insect Festival. Credit: David Strong - Ventura County Master Gardeners Invasive and Beneficial Insects Outreach Group.*

