

Celebrating the Coming of Winter and 2018!

Greetings, Master Gardeners, Honorary Members and New MGCC Class of 2019:

This is the time of year when we reflect on what has happened in our world over the past year, what we did well, and what we could have done better. We also consider what we would like to do next year. For instance, I would like to learn more about the impact of climate change on our home landscapes, as well as the latest studies on defensible fire-scaping, so that I am better prepared to answer questions from friends and neighbors about what we can do to help each other prepare for, prevent or fight future fires in our towns and cities.

Our 2018 Annual Recognition Dinner focused this year on our own MGCC members, recognizing and celebrating the 18 members of the “New MGCC Volunteer Training Team” listed below. We also acknowledged the work of another 32 MGCCs who volunteered their time behind the scenes on the many activities leading up to the training: strategic planning, developing new curricula, marketing and orientation, and application and selection processes. The combined efforts of 50 volunteers, with the support of our County Coordinator, Dawn Kooyumjian and the many instructors and Advisors from the University of California, allowed us to develop and deliver another superb training to our largest class to date: 45 new trainees. Bravo New Volunteer Training Team for the Class of 2019!

This year the MGCCs celebrated 35 years of extending UC’s educational outreach to communities throughout Contra Costa County. Although our leadership changes from year to year, our projects and teams keep on growing and getting stronger, and our methods of research and delivering information keep getting more sophisticated. With our new Strategic Plan as a living document to help map out a course towards achieving our goals, we shall strive to make our community outreach more relevant, our resource materials more accessible to the public, and our volunteer programs more sustainable. Each year scientific research provides us with new information and each year we discover new challenges like the impact of our ever-changing climate. The opportunities to continue learning and sharing knowledge with others provides us with endless possibilities.

Thank you, Master Gardeners, for helping to make this a better year. Be safe, enjoy your year-end celebrations with friends and family, and please plan to come back next year to continue helping us enrich and strengthen the communities we love.

Katherine Alexander, 2013

MGCC President

In Recognition of MGCC Achievements during the year 2018:

New MGCC Volunteer Training Team

Project Co-coordinators (2):



Joie Spinelli



Terri Takusagawa

Classroom Managers (2):



Shawn McAndrew



Margo Peckham

Classroom Stewards (2):



Gloria Choi



Molly Kretsch

Homework Reviewers (12):



Dan Lent



Elaine Sill



Ellen Pohl



Emma Connery



Holly Sauer



John Fike



Judy Boriskin



Monika Witte



Sara Hoyer



Sheila Weston



Stephanie Hargrave



Susan Heckly

Special Achievement Badge Recipients:

Name:	Year:	Special Badge:	In recognition of:
Darlene DeRose	2015	Gold	1,000 volunteer hours
Anne Diggins	2015	Gold	1,000 volunteer hours
Lynn Fischer	2012	Gold	1,000 volunteer hours
Brian Kerss	2014	Gold	1,000 volunteer hours
Terri Takusagawa	2017	Gold	1,000 volunteer Hours
Theresa Pecoraro	2013	Platinum	2,500 volunteer hours
Patti Burrows	2011	Gold/Honorary Status: outstanding contributions	
Bart Burrows	2011	Gold/Honorary Status: outstanding contributions	
Kate Mendenhall	2001	Platinum/Honorary Status: outstanding contributions	
Linda Mizes	2001	Platinum/Honorary Status: outstanding contributions	