

Resources

U P D A T E



Photos courtesy of USDA.

Adult psyllid (right) and yellow shoots on infected sweet orange plant.

Quarantine Ordered New Citrus Pest

In an effort to prevent the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid in California, southern San Diego County was placed under a quarantine that regulates the movement of citrus and closely-related plants. As of September 11, 2008, all harvested citrus in the quarantine area must be commercially cleaned and packed before it can be moved out of the area. Nursery host plants may not be moved out of the area. The movement of cut greens, green waste and citrus fruit will be regulated and enforced by federal, state and county quarantine officials. Residents are urged to consume back yard citrus fruit at home and to refrain from transporting their back yard citrus, as well as citrus plants, out of the area.

(continued on Page 3)

Help Restore the Santa Ana River

October 18, 8 AM - 12 AM

If you or your group would like to volunteer an hour or more to help remove human-created debris from Temescal Wash, a tributary to the Santa Ana River, please call Alison Loukeh of the Corona Department of Water and Power at (951) 279-3601. For more information, contact Erin Snyder at (951) 683-7691 Ext. 207 or snyder@rcrcd.com.

Where: Auburndale Street crossing of Temescal Wash in Corona, west of N. Lincoln Avenue. Park on W. Rincon Street.

Directions: From the 91 Freeway, exit at Lincoln Avenue and travel north. Turn left on W. Rincon Street. Proceed 1/2 mile to the Cleanup parking area.

How: Show up! For maximum safety and comfort, please wear closed-toe shoes, cotton or "breathable" long-sleeved shirt and pants, sunscreen, insect repellent and a hat. Plastic gloves and bags will be provided, however, you may wish to bring your own gloves. This event is not recommended for children under the age of 10, and children under 18 require a parent/guardian's signature to participate.



The Riverside-Corona
Resource Conservation District

The RCRCD works to create sustainable communities and treat each land use according to its needs.

Serving parts of western Riverside & San Bernardino Counties; areas surrounding and portions of:
Riverside
Corona
Norco
Grand Terrace
Colton
Reche Canyon
Temescal Canyon
Gavilan Hills
Highgrove
Woodcrest
Canyon Lake

SAWA: A Leader in Habitat Restoration



Biologists search for fish and aquatic animals.



SAWA, the Santa Ana Watershed Association, is a non-profit organization that works to improve the health of the Santa Ana River and its watershed, the land that drains to the river. In the past, SAWA's main efforts have been to restore native habitat along the Santa Ana River, and its tributaries, by removing non-native, invasive plants and animals. In this way, SAWA is able to restore the natural functions of the river and increase populations of all types of native animals and plants, especially those that are endangered. During 2007, SAWA maintained about 3,200 acres to prevent regrowth of invasive plants. SAWA's staff conducts and manages environmental projects that increase and improve habitat. Wildlife biologists monitor stream-side habitat to measure the recovery of sensitive species.

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) works collaboratively with SAWA and many other partners restoring habitat and conducting native fish research and propagation. SAWA helps support the native fish program at the RCRCD's onsite stream where biologists study and propagate the Santa Ana Sucker (a threatened fish species), the Speckled Dace, and the Arroyo Chub. SAWA's staff supports RCRCD on grant projects and management of the RCRCD's native plant nursery.

As SAWA matures, it is broadening its programs to help improve environmental quality throughout the watershed. SAWA works collaboratively with a variety of agencies, organizations, and private citizens to help address regional issues and to educate the public.

Education and Volunteer Programs

The SAWA education staff has developed a new field trip program that offers hands-on environmental education activities at the Chino Creek Wetlands and Educational Park.

SAWA is also developing volunteer and internship programs, and will be seeking volunteers, especially to serve as docents at the Chino Creek Wetlands Park. Periodically, SAWA will need volunteers to help with projects, such as habitat plantings, plant maintenance, and invasive species control. SAWA will offer internships for high school and college students.

SAWA staff and volunteers are developing an Interpretive Center for the newly completed Chino Creek Wetlands Park at the corner of Kimball Avenue and El Prado Road, in Chino. SAWA has partnered with the Inland Empire Utilities Agency that created the park at its LEEDS certified headquarters. SAWA is seeking book donations for its Interpretive Center's library.



SAWA (continued)

If you are interested in learning more about SAWA's environmental education and volunteer programs, please contact Education Coordinator Dolly Aguirre at (909) 606-1933, Ext. 110 or daguirre.education@sawatershed.org.

This fall, SAWA will be supporting waterway cleanup events and educational outreach programs throughout the Santa Ana Watershed. At the Cleanup events, volunteers help remove trash and debris from waterways to improve water quality and wildlife habitat. To locate Cleanup events in the Santa Ana watershed, check www.trails4all.org. Learn more about endangered species, habitat restoration, and SAWA at www.sawatershed.org.

RCRCD is one of five member agencies that help direct SAWA programs:

Inland Empire Resource Conservation District
San Jacinto Basin Resource Conservation District
Orange County Water District
US Army Corps of Engineers
Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District
Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza Resource Conservation District (Associate member)



Volunteers clean up debris from the Santa Ana River.

Deep Creek Fly Fishers

by Lou Fawley

Deep Creek Fly Fishers is the place to be in the Inland Empire, if the sport of fly fishing is your passion. The nonprofit club is dedicated to the betterment of fly fishing through projects relating to outdoor conservation, restoration and education. Rod Building, Fly Tying, and Introduction to Fly Fishing are some of the classes offered by certified instructors. Monthly meetings host guest speakers from throughout the world, who share their experiences and tips on guided fishing trips. The club sponsors *Trout in the Classroom*, a very popular school program in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Visit online at www.deepcreekflyfishers.org.

Deep Creek begins in the San Bernardino National Forest and flows 23 miles into the Mohave Desert. It has been designated by the state of California as a "Wild Trout Stream". Deep Creek has a large presence of Rainbow (Salmo gardnerii) and Brown trout (Salmo trutta). It is home to many other animals and plants, some of which are endangered, such as the Mojave chub, a native fish. Other wildlife include California spotted owls, mountain lions, black bears, deer, flying squirrels, and nesting golden eagles.

Deep Creek Fly Fishers meet the fourth Wednesday of every month (except in December) at 7 P.M. in the Isaac Walton Clubhouse located in Riverside's Fairmount Park

New Citrus Pest (continued from Page 1)

For more information, contact Larry Hawkins, USDA at (916) 930-5509 or Bob Atkins, San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner at (858) 692-9264. The quarantined area includes nearly 1200 square-miles; a map can be seen at http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/acp/maps/quarantine/ACP_QUAR_SANDIEGO_08_web.pdf



IEWK taught water testing to volunteers at the 2007 Santa Ana Watershed Cleanup Event.

Inland Empire Waterkeeper

Inland Empire Waterkeeper (IEWK) is a grassroots, non-profit organization that works to protect and enhance the water quality of the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed through education, advocacy, restoration and enforcement.



IEWK teaches high school students about watershed concepts with free class presentations and field trips, called the River KATS program (Kid Activism Together with Science). Last year, students from several local high schools participated in the field trips and helped plant native species at the Prado Wetlands. Bank of America is supporting the 2008-2009 program with a generous donation of \$15,000.

IEWK will be supporting several cleanup events this fall. The Chino Creek cleanup will coincide with restoration work of the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA), which includes removing invasive plants and replanting natives.

IEWK is funding this District's *Native Fish and Amphibian Restoration and Enhancement Program* at the Lee Lake Conservation Easement. IEWK was awarded the funding as the result of a lawsuit against water-polluting companies in the area. IEWK does not keep the money that it receives from lawsuits, but grants the funding to nonprofit organizations and agencies for projects that improve the watershed. The \$130,000 grant comes from the Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEP) program.

For more information about IEWK, or to receive its monthly e-newsletter, please visit www.iewaterkeeper.org.

October is NeighborWoods Month.

organized by the Alliance for Community Trees www.actrees.org



NeighborWoods Month is a national campaign to regreen America's cities. Learn more at: www.neighborwoodsmoonth.org.

Why Plant Trees?

Trees reduce our need for energy. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air, removing the warming "greenhouse" gas from the atmosphere. They store the carbon as wood, roots and leaves. Trees provide shade and transpire water, cooling the air and reducing the need for electricity and the production of carbon dioxide emissions at power plants.

Trees help:

- clean the air; their foliage traps air pollutants and particles, such as dust
- provide food, cover, and nesting sites for urban-adapted wildlife
- absorb and clean rainwater, utilizing water-polluting nitrates, phosphorus and potassium as nutrients for growth
- slow storm water runoff, reduce flooding, and prevent erosion by anchoring soil with roots and by intercepting the force of raindrops, which dislodge soil particles.

How do city trees help people? Trees:

- slow harsh winds, muffle noise, cool air, and increase privacy
- increase property values
- provide food for people and wildlife
- enhance beauty, tranquility, and community pride.

Tree Care

By Diana Ruiz with assistance from the Inland Empire Urban Forest Council.
Reviewed by Mark Porter, Dave Roger, Deborah Day, Susan Sims and Fred Roth, PhD.

Help! I'm Thirsty!

Since we live in a unique climate zone with little or no water during the hottest months of the year, make sure that your trees aren't "left out to dry".

A tree will decline if it doesn't get its minimum requirement of water, becoming susceptible to pests and disease. Signs of water stress include wilting, curling, yellowing leaves, browning of leaf edges, dieback of twigs and branches, and lack of new growth and shoot lengthening in spring.

Because we attempt to grow trees that are not native to our local climate, it's important to learn about your trees and learn their watering needs. Check websites and/or refer to the *Sunset Western Garden Book* for specifics about your type of tree/s. Most trees will benefit from summer watering, although a few natives might suffer if watered too frequently. It's important to continue watering into the fall, until the arrival of winter rains or dormancy. Increase watering during periods of drought, because trees get less water from rainfall.

Here's how you can quench your tree's thirst.

Water deeply.

What is deeply? It means getting moisture to the rootzone, not just in the top 6-12 inches, as you would for a lawn. (Lawn irrigation is designed to wet only a few inches of soil.) Apply enough water to moisten the soil throughout the rooted area, which depends on the tree size. Before you begin, check the soil under your tree to verify that it needs watering. For mature trees, dig down, or use a soil probe to 18-24 inches to feel for moisture. For young trees, check for moisture 6 inches into the soil on the sides of the rootball.

For mature trees, don't apply water on or near the trunk, but about half way between the trunk and the drip line (the outer edge of the canopy) out to 10-15 feet beyond the drip line. Water until the soil is moist, not mushy.



Photo courtesy of Aaron Escobar.

Water regularly.

What is regularly? Water every two-three weeks during the dry season, which varies each year, but approximately May-November. Young trees require more frequent watering; water the rootball area deeply once per week to encourage the growth of deep roots; more often, if needed. Avoid frequent, light waterings, which encourages shallow roots.

Water-loving trees need more frequent watering, so please, only plant drought-tolerant trees in the future.

If you don't have a separate irrigation line for your tree, there are simple ways you can deeply water the entire rootzone:

- Simply let a hose drip for a few hours, moving it around below the tree canopy.
- Coil soaker hose under the tree beyond the drip line and run for a few hours.
- For young trees, build a circular earth berm and fill the basin with water a few times.

After watering, verify that the water has infiltrated to at least 18-24 inches by digging down and feeling the soil.

Protect Your Trees

Buffer zone

Create a buffer zone at the base of a tree's trunk with no lawn or vegetation. By eliminating the need for grass trimming, tender bark will be protected from damage by string trimmers. Irreversible string trimmer damage can happen in a matter of seconds. Cuts in bark interrupt the transport of nutrients and water and expose the tree to infection, disease and pests. By keeping the base of the tree free of lawn, weeds, and other plants, the tree will not be competing for water and nutrients.

Mulch

Place a layer of wood chips, leaves or partially decomposed compost 2-5 inches deep on the soil surface, under the canopy, but not touching the trunk. The tree's own leaf litter can serve as mulch. Do not mix the mulch into the soil, unless it is fully composted. Otherwise, the decomposing material will use the available nitrogen, which the tree needs. Do not use stones, weedcloth or plastic sheeting under trees. Organic mulches conserve moisture, protect roots from drying, and promote a healthy underground environment.

Stake

Stake young trees by holding the tree upright and placing tree-ties 6 inches above where the tree will stand straight. Allow for some trunk movement.



This young tree is properly staked and tied with rubber tree-ties. The original nursery stake has been removed. The young tree is able to move with the wind, without breaking.



Dont let this happen!

Studies have shown that if a tree can move a little in the wind, it will develop a stronger trunk. Remove the original nursery stake, as it is too close and attached too tightly to the young tree.

Remove tree-ties and stakes when roots are developed enough for the tree to stand alone, usually one year, or less. If left around the tree too long, tree-ties will restrict and girdle the trunk.

This young tree has been bent and damaged because it was improperly staked. Instead of removing the original nursery stake upon planting, it was left and a tree-tie was attached too tightly.



Prune

Remove suckers (shoots from the base of the tree), and prune with care. The best time to prune a non-native tree is just before spring. A tree coming out of dormancy is able to heal quickly from pruning cuts and nesting birds will not be disturbed. The first five years of a tree's structural development are the most important for long-term success. Trees that receive the appropriate pruning while they are young will require little corrective pruning when they mature. Proper pruning is essential in developing a tree with a strong structure and desirable form.

In most cases, mature trees are pruned as a corrective or preventive measure. Routine thinning does not necessarily improve the health of a tree. Because each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree, no branch should be removed without a reason, such as to remove dead branches, to remove crowded or rubbing limbs, to eliminate hazards, or to increase light and air penetration to the inside of the tree's crown or to the landscape below. Rarely should you ever cut a main branch to a stub.

Learn About Tree Hazards

Why do trees break apart? Why do trunks uproot? Why do branches suddenly tumble to the ground? Learn about tree hazards at: <http://ucanr.org/treeposter>. The master gardener poster describes the seven most common structural defects in trees. The defects include: lean, multiple trunks, weakly attached branches, cavities and decay, trunk and branch cracks, hanging or broken branches, and dead branches. A detailed tip sheet on inspecting trees and a list of tree failure resources are available to download. More information about tree failure is available in a UC Agriculture and Natural Resources publication titled *Recognizing Tree Hazards: A Photographic Guide for Homeowners*, by Costello. The 10-page publication may be purchased for \$4 from the ANR online catalog, <http://ucanr.org/treehazards>.

Don't Top Trees

Many people mistakenly "top" trees because they grow into utility wires, interfere with views, or simply grow so large that they worry the landowner. The topping process is usually self-defeating because it creates ugly, bushy, weakly attached limbs, which often grow back higher than the original branches.

Use the 1/4 and 1/3 Rules for Pruning

National Arbor Day Foundation

Do not remove more than 1/4 of a tree's crown in a season.

Where possible, try to encourage side branches that form angles that are 1/3 off vertical (10:00 or 2:00 positions). Ideally, main side branches should be at least 1/3 smaller than the diameter of the trunk. If removal of a main branch is necessary, cut it back to where it is attached to another large branch or the trunk. Do not leave a stub. For most deciduous (broadleaf) trees, don't prune up from the bottom any more than 1/3 of the tree's total height.



How to Make a Pruning Cut

National Arbor Day Foundation

Large Limbs:

A: Make a partial cut from beneath.

B: Make a second cut from above several inches out and allow the limb to fall.

C: Complete the job with a final cut just outside the branch collar.

Small Branches:

Make a sharp clean cut, just beyond a lateral bud or other branch.

Contact a local certified or consulting arborist for professional pruning or guidance. Find one in the tree service section of your phone directory.

Web extras

Find excellent resources online about proper tree care, pruning, and more at:

The International Society of Arboriculture: www.treesaregood.com or www.isa-arbor.com

The National Arbor Day Foundation: www.arborday.org

Tree websites:

<http://actrees.org>

www.americanforests.org

www.californiareleaf.org

www.canopy.org

Tree database websites:

www.calflora.org

<http://plants.usda.gov>

<http://selectree.cagr.calpoly.edu>

www.BeWaterWise.com (Garden Guide)

Conservation Cooperator

Shelby Shinkle is the owner of a property with a waterway, a portion of the Springbrook Wash in Highgrove, in north Riverside. Mr. Shinkle became a cooperator of the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD) and created a conservation easement on his waterway, so that it could be preserved and restored to high-quality wildlife habitat.

The waterway had been littered with weeds, debris, and trash. It had been narrowed, which restricted the flow of water and caused erosion. RCRCD was able to use funding from development mitigation fees to restore the creek to its native condition. The channel was cleaned up and widened. Native plants were planted to control erosion and create habitat. As the plants mature, native trees will anchor the soil and provide shade, food, nesting sites, and cover for wildlife. Mr. Shinkle helped with the restoration by weeding and providing equipment and supplies.

The Shinkle conservation easement is RCRCD's first project along the Springbrook Wash. The waterway is an important link and source of water for wildlife, as it drains from the Box Springs Mountains and flows to the Santa Ana River. RCRCD hopes to help restore this "green" urban infrastructure and preserve the remainder, cooperating with more landowners using the conservation easement tool.



Thank you Mr. Shinkle (above right) for helping improve the functioning of the Springbrook Wash.



Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada is a new book by botanist and photographer Stephen Ingram. He examines the natural history of these succulents including their origins, ecology, and conservation. Ingram tells some of the best places to see these plants in the wild and offers practical horticultural advice for cultivation. The book was published by Cachuma Press and can be purchased on the California Native Plant Society's website: <http://cnps.org>.

Educational Materials

The RCRCD provides free programs and teaching materials to teachers, clubs, and home schooling families who reside or work within the RCRCD. To request an order blank for this year's free educational materials and/or an *Only Rain Down the Storm Drain* presentation, please call Renee Hicks at (951) 683-7691, Ext. 208. Leave your name, address, phone number, and grade level. You can also find an order form online at www.rcrcd.com at *Educational Programs*.

Those who live outside of the RCRCD service area may purchase RCRCD created materials. Please call and request the "Materials Available Order Form" or find it online.

School Garden Success

By Diana Ruiz

Carolyn Linderman, a teacher at Alcott Elementary School in Riverside, turned an unused campus weed patch into a field of dreams: a beautiful school garden, science learning lab, and peaceful haven for students and urban-adapted wildlife.

Mrs. Linderman was inspired to develop the garden while reading a story to her first graders. The story was about an actual school garden in Fremont, California. While reading aloud, the light bulb went on, and she interrupted the story with: "We could do this here!"

Towards the end of the school year in 2007, Carolyn got busy soliciting guidance, funding, and support from students' parents and grandparents, friends, local businesses and her supportive husband Gary. She applied for, and received grants from Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation, The California Department of Education, the Alcott School Foundation and this District. The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District twice awarded mini-grants to help develop the garden.



Gary and Carolyn Linderman

After developing plans, Mrs. Linderman, her family, and friends began removing weeds and debris from the dusty plot. Bender boards were installed to define the garden beds. Decomposed granite was laid for trails. The compacted soil was tilled and amended. The drip and sprinkler irrigation systems were laid out. Greenbelt Growers donated most of the plants. R.I.T. Grove Management donated expertise and most of the labor to plant and install irrigation.



The project evolved into a demonstration of natural resource conservation and stewardship. To conserve water, an efficient irrigation system was installed. Mulch was spread to protect roots from drying, shade out weeds, promote a healthy underground environment, and reduce evaporative loss from the soil surface. The garden was planted with drought-tolerant and native plants to save on the water bill and create habitat for urban-adapted wildlife. A birdbath was added to provide a water source for birds, butterflies and the flying creatures of the food chain. Daniel Guthrie, a professor of biology at Claremont McKenna College, donated 12 bird boxes for the surrounding trees.

School Garden Success *(continued)*

As the project brought in more community support, it became an example of reuse and sustainable use. One supporter, Nanci Larsen, pulled all the right strings for the City of Riverside to donate pre-used (but still in good condition) benches. Roy Takeno, a grandparent, donated salvaged vineyard stakes that were reused as a stylish rustic fence. The Gless Ranch donated 15 citrus trees of different varieties, which provide agricultural and historical elements for study. The Worthington Family donated a beautiful statue of children reading. Phyllis Nelson, a volunteer visiting from Maine, donated \$200!



While the project seems to have grown into a communal labor of love, it has transformed an eyesore of wasted space into an incredible learning resource. Mrs. Lindeman and other teachers use the garden to study science and foster environmental stewardship. The natural surroundings provide a contemplative setting for reading, thinking and creating. The Alcott Alley Cats have many to thank for their beautiful new garden, but mostly the innovative and energetic Mrs. Linderman of Room 34.

Mini-grants for up to \$250 are offered to help fund outdoor conservation projects such as tree plantings, re-vegetation projects, and gardens. Mini-grants are awarded to all ages of school and youth groups. For an application, please call Renee Hicks at (951) 683-7691, Ext. 208., or download from our website.

California School Garden Week is October 25-31, 2008. The California School Garden Network (CSGN) is encouraging schools throughout California to host garden activities and events to celebrate the success of school gardens. To receive the CSGN newsletter *Sowing and Growing*, sign up at www.csgn.org. The newsletter contains the latest school garden news and announces new resources and funding opportunities

Imagine This... is a story writing contest for grades 3-8 through the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (www.cfaitc.org/imagine). Students write a positive story related to California agriculture. 750 words or less. Due date: November 1, 2008

If you're visiting Washington DC, don't miss ***Dig It!: The Secrets of Soil*** a 5,000-square-foot exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. *Dig It!* includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos, and 54 monoliths representing soils from all over the United States. The exhibit is supported by the Soil Society of America and will be open until January, 2010. See: www.soils.org/smithsonian

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E-mail our staff at rcrcd@rcrcd.com

All RCRCD programs and services are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, national origin, religion, or gender.

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Dates to Remember 2008

October 12-15

The Future of Urban Forestry – It's More than Trees. The California Urban Forest Council and CA Releaf host the Society of Municipal Foresters' Conference in San Diego, CA. For more information see www.urban-forestry.com.

October 18

Help cleanup the Santa Ana River. Auburndale Street crossing of Temescal Wash in Corona, west of N. Lincoln Avenue. (*See front page*)

October 18-19

Fall Plant Sale at UC Riverside Botanic Gardens
See www.gardens.ucr.edu for more information.

October 28

10:30 AM-1:30 PM

Inland Empire Urban Forest Council (IEUFC) quarterly meeting
University of California, Riverside Botanic Garden. Program: *Why Trees Fail*. For questions, or to RSVP, please e-mail ieufc1@aol.com.

November 1-2

Fall Plant Sale at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA. Thousands of native and water efficient plants. See www.rsabg.org or (909) 625-8767 for times.

November 15

9 AM-3 PM

Native Plant Sale by the local chapter of California Native Plant Society at the Riverside Metropolitan Museum, 3580 Mission Inn Avenue

November 18-22

The California Association of Resource Conservation Districts conference held jointly with the California Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils. Riverside Convention Center and Mission Inn, www.carcd.org or (916) 457-7904 for more information.



National Farm-City Week: November 21-27, 2008

A week dedicated to strengthening the understanding of the farm-city connections that provide our food, fiber and shelter.
www.farmcity.org



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