

# Resources

U P D A T E

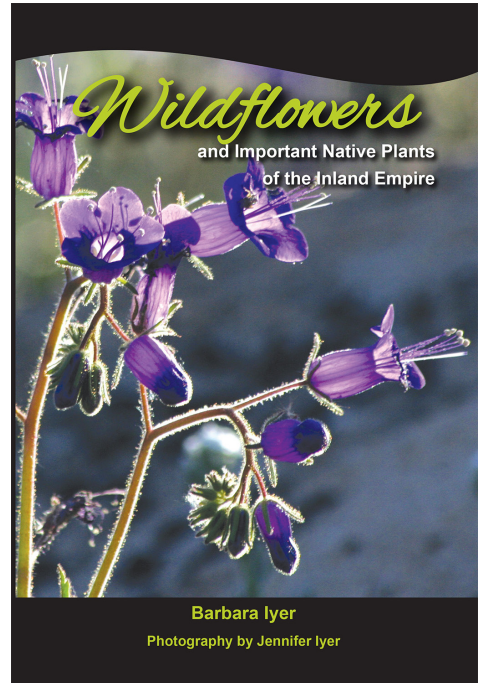
## Wait No More!

No longer will you need to identify native plants by their scientific names. The new book *Wildflowers and Important Native Plants of the Inland Empire* will help you identify plants by the color and size of their flowers. The book provides easy to use features:

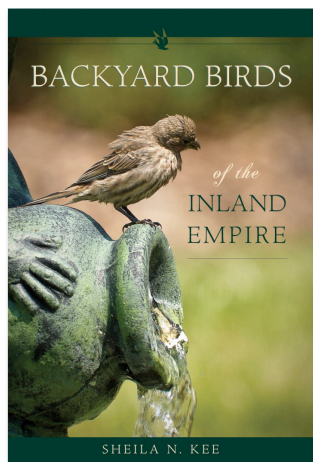
- Full color photos of each unique plant
- Park locations for seeking wildflowers
- A comprehensive glossary and drawings to help with unfamiliar terms.

This book has more than 80 species descriptions covering the plants you're most likely to see in southern California's inland valleys and foothills of western San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. Plant descriptions include information about Native American, landscape, and wildlife uses of plants. Chapters include information about dangerous plants, plant communities, and plant conservation.

This beautiful, fully illustrated book was written by naturalist Barbara Iyer, with photos donated by daughter Jennifer Iyer. You may remember Barbara from her wildflower hikes and programs at the Rubidoux Nature Center and other wildland parks. You can purchase the book at RCRCD by completing a form at: <https://www.rcrcd.org/wildflowers-and-important-plants-of-the-inland-empire>.



*Wildflowers and Important Native Plants of the Inland Empire* is second in a series to help IE residents appreciate the important native species of our inland ecosystems. The first book, *Backyard Birds of the Inland Empire* by Sheila Kee, was last published in 2010. The author and RCRCD are currently revising that second edition. We are seeking donations for the use of digital photos to replace the originals. As technology has changed dramatically, we would like to bring improved photo quality for the third edition. Photo credits will be given.



**NOTE:** RCRCD sells the book at-cost to recoup expenditures from its production. In an effort to keep book costs down and reach as many people as possible, we ask for the use of photos to be donated. If you would like to help replace the old photos, please submit your high resolution image labeled with bird name from the book to [IEBackyardBirds@gmail.com](mailto:IEBackyardBirds@gmail.com).

Find facebook fan pages for these books:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/276411019369793> and  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/199762318119825> .  
Also visit our website at: <https://www.rcrcd.org/> .

# RCRCD has been honored with two EPIC Awards from CAPIO, the California Association of Public Information Officers.

## Environmental Learning Resources

The “ELR” guide was developed to help people find local sites and programs about natural resources, agriculture, and environmental topics. The 32-page booklet includes a directory of environmental and agricultural learning sites and programs for San Bernardino and Riverside counties. The “Guide” provides information about programs for all ages: from early childhood through adult, as well as professional training opportunities. The **free** ELR may help you plan outings and access free materials.

The center pages (pages 16-19) include county maps that designate locations of the educational sites. An interactive map can be found at: <https://arcg.is/1eOzPe> .

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District developed the *Environmental Learning Resources* guide for the Environmental Education Collaborative (EEC) of San Bernardino and Riverside counties, which includes non-formal and formal educators. The EEC is a grassroots collaborative that works to elevate environmental education to a new level of importance and urgency. EEC’s mission is to create a sustainable future through environmental learning experiences for all: <https://www.enviroedcollaborative.com/> .

Since there was no funding for this project, the Guide could not have been printed if it weren’t for many partners and EEC leaders who helped fundraise through a sponsorship program. For this reason, the statewide EPIC award is in the “Dollar Stretcher” category. Sponsor “ads” can be seen throughout the document at <https://rcrcd.specialdistrict.org/files/451a832b1/EnvironmentalLearningResources.pdf> .



RCRCD would like to thank all those volunteers and organizations that helped create and fund this first-of-its kind publication.

If you would like a copy of the ELR mailed to you, please send your name and address to [snyder@rcrcd.org](mailto:snyder@rcrcd.org), or leave a message at (951) 683-7691, Ext. 207.



From left, Mary Borobia Walls, Diana Ruiz (project coordinator), and Jen Futterman shared the publication at the World Environment Day.

## Pollinator Fest Award!

RCRCD has been recognized by CAPIO for a “Special Event”: the Riverside Pollinator Festival and Habitat Planting, which was part of a city-wide initiative to help save the Monarch butterfly population and other pollinators. This event was truly a community collaborative that would not have been accomplished without many volunteers and partnering groups, especially the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership, Community Garden Council, and Mayor’s Office.

The Pollinator Festival was free, fun, and educational with informative booths, craft activities, nature walks, demonstrations, games, and citizen science activities.



In conjunction with the Pollinator Festival, the local chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) conducted a native plant sale. Combined attendance surpassed 400 people that day. The following Saturday, a pollinator habitat planting at Ryan Bonaminio Park was coordinated by the Rivers and Lands Conservancy. Thanks are due to the City’s Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department staff for site prep. More than 30 volunteers planted 1,240 plants donated by the Xerces Society. Additional plant materials were funded by the CNPS, Friends of Riverside’s Hills, and RCRCD and were later planted by even more volunteers. A BIG thank you goes out to the 60+ volunteers who supported this collaborative project.

Like the award on the prior page, this event was conducted on a shoe-string budget. In total, 18 organizations partnered. We also appreciate the help from the Inland Urban Forest Council, UCR Botanic Gardens, Riverside Food Systems Alliance, Riverside Food Co-op,

Environmental Education Collaborative, UCCE Master Gardeners, Bee Rooted, UCR Entomology Museum, Southwest Resource Management Association, Greater Riverside Environmental Engagement Network (GREEN), and the California Conservation Corps (CCC). Many thanks to the Mayor, staff, and City Council for supporting the Mayor’s Monarch Challenge through National Wildlife Federation.



Planning committee (from left): Nick Melquiades, Roxanne Robbins, Janine Alamanzor, Jane Burkheimer, Kirstyn Kay, Bonnie Werner, Erin Snyder, Scott Andrews, Michele Felix-Derbarmdiker, Janice Binam, Cindy Peterson, Elijah Hall, and Christine Lampe





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Resource Conservation District**

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Naturalist-SCIC

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CONSERVATION SERVICE**

**Bob Hewitt** (951) 654-7933  
District Conservationist

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

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Project WET: Water Education for Teachers and Home Educators**

August 29, 9 am - 3 pm. Free curriculum, new online learning opportunities. For more information or to register, contact Erin Snyder at (951) 683-7691 x207, or [Snyder@RCRCD.org](mailto:Snyder@RCRCD.org). Please register by August 22, 2020.

**Tree Care for Birds and Wildlife Zoom Webinar**

Sessions begin August 12. Online workshops cover Wildlife Best Management Practices. More information and registration: <https://wcisa.net/meeting/5869>

*Based on current public health concerns, RCRCD's two educational sites, the LandUse Learning Center and Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center remain closed. Please check our website for re-opening dates before planning your next visit. Watch virtual tour videos that are periodically posted on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/RCRCD>*

**Are you interested in local foods and ag?**

RCRCD is a partner with the Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSa), and we invite you to join us.

Sign up for their newsletter: <https://rfsa.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/mailling-list>

View current newsletter: <https://riversidefood.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/rfsa-newsletter-summer-2020.pdf>

Find out where to buy local food products in the *Fresh and Local* food and ag guide: <https://riversidefood.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/2019-fresh-local-guide-web.pdf>



**Northside Heritage Meadows**  
by Diana Ruiz

The Northside Heritage Meadows (NHM) project will be the first urban agriculture project in Riverside's disadvantaged Northside neighborhood. The neighborhood is considered a "food desert" according to the USDA Economic Research Service. A nearly \$3M Urban Greening Grant has been awarded to the City of Riverside to purchase over 7 acres of blighted farmland.

This project will be a collaboration of the Northside community, the Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSa), local groups, agencies and the City of Riverside. Additional in-kind and matching funds by various partners will be leveraged to complete the multiple components:

- 453 tree and shrub species selected for high carbon sequestration and pollution absorption properties
- fields for training beginning farmers, plus incubation plots for small start up farms
- a community garden and carbon-sequestering demonstration orchards
- a composting area to recycle green waste which will be used to increase soil health
- a farm stand that will provide fresh produce in an area with no grocery
- two trails and a bike lane that will reduce vehicle miles traveled and the related pollutants.

The project will improve air and water quality, increase wildlife habitat, as well as provide healthy, locally grown food.

If you are interested in getting involved with NHM, join our Facebook page, Northside Heritage Meadows Community: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/251927775049264>. For more information contact Joyce Jong at [jjong@riversideca.gov](mailto:jjong@riversideca.gov) or (951) 826-5265.



RFSa's mission is to cultivate local food and agriculture for a healthier community.

**RFSa's Food System Goals**

- Local food security and resilience
- Improve local food access
- Food rescue, safety training, food hubs
- Sustainable restaurant practices
- Community and school gardens
- Farmer training and incubator farms
- Sustainable farming practices and farmland preservation
- Building healthy soils and farm waste reuse
- Carbon capture to temper climate change