

# Resources

UPDATE

## Urban Farmer Training

by Scott Berndt

The City of Riverside is pleased to present urban farmer Curtis Stone to speak at the 5th annual GrowRIVERSIDE conference on April 4, 2018. Curtis is an urban farmer who earns \$100,000 on a ¼ acre of land farming only during the spring, summer and fall of the cold climate of Kelowna BC, Canada in the Vancouver region. He is a consultant and author of “The Urban Farmer – Growing Food for Profit on Leased and Borrowed Land”. Curtis will speak about how to profitably and efficiently run an urban farm, while still having time for your personal life. He believes in the 80/20 rule: focusing on the 20% of the crops that make up 80% of his profit. He maintains meticulous records of yields and sales per crop variety, which help him to make informed decisions to plan his crops and profits.



Following the conference, Curtis will teach a two day, in-depth course “Profitable Urban Farming” on April 5 and 6 at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District’s sustainable ag demonstration garden and conference room (Building F). Curtis will offer insights into the following topics: planning and finding a farming location, what to plant, record keeping, selling and marketing your goods, infrastructure and tools, crop planning, and structuring your workweek.



The April 4th conference will be held at Central Middle School, 4795 Magnolia Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506.

Also available are a Farm-to-Fork Dinner on April 4, Farm Tour on Saturday, April 7, and a two-day Profitable Urban Farming Workshop with Curtis Stone.

Register for the course and other GrowRIVERSIDE events online at [GrowRivConference.com](http://GrowRivConference.com). The two-day course cost is \$250.



# GROW RIVERSIDE

## Join Us at GrowRIVERSIDE

by Sandy Ramirez

*GrowRIVERSIDE is a multi-stakeholder initiative to cultivate food and agricultural activities across the inland Southern California region.*

We invite you to our GrowRIVERSIDE conference and events April 4 – 7, 2018. You will not want to miss our featured keynote with Curtis Stone! He will discuss his focus on business and systems to streamline labor and production. His new thinking on farming will give you insight – one where quality of life and profitability coexist!

### Conference Tracks

#### **Community Food Programs: *More Than Vegetables***

This session seeks to empower your community to build social equity by growing food. Discuss the deeper impacts of local community programs, addressing food access, physical and emotional health, workforce development, and community building.

#### **Community Crops, Health, and Policy: *Agrihoods = Pioneering at Home***

This session will discuss about how the next frontier in urban planning brings working farms to our neighborhoods, called “agrihoods”. Compare and contrast new ideas for integrating agriculture into modern American communities. Speakers include Joe Johnston, visionary and owner of Agritopia and ag leaders.

#### **The Workings of a Sustainable Farm: *Irrigation in the Age of Climate Change***

This session will cover water-wise skills and the equipment needed for a successful urban farm. Learn how to build an irrigation system that works for your farm that minimizes the effects of climate change and maximizes the water you have. Kerwin Russell, Natural Resource Manager at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District and experts from the Toro Company will share their expertise and programs about irrigation. Adrian Rodriguez, soil expert will address soil health for a sustainable farm.

#### **Agritourism: *Diversifying Your Farm Income***

This session will discuss the love, value, and promotion of inland agriculture through nature tourism and selling on-farm products. The session will cover the culture of agriculture and how to profitably provide community-based leisure and learning activities that attract visitors. Thom Curry of Temecula Olive Oil Company and Glen Tanaka from Tanaka Farms will share their successes, failures, and what it took to get them where they are today.

#### **Training the Next Generation of Farmers: *The Beginning Farmer Training Program***

This session aims to bring your dreams to fruition: learn what it takes to become a rocking urban farmer. The Riverside Food Systems Alliance and Raincross Farm’s Don Webber and Scott Tenney will discuss what is already being done in SoCal and plans for the Beginning Farmer Training Program.

#### **The Business of Urban Farms: *Got Ag Land?***

This session will help you understand the programs that connect farmland to the new generation of farmers. Learn about the roles of land leases, farmland trusts, agricultural easements, financial tools, and tax incentives that bring urban land under farm production. Staff members from Solutions for Urban Ag will be speaking about ag leases and trusts.

## Grow with Us!

by Nick Melquiades

The Riverside Garden Council (RGC) wants healthy communities by creating a garden network where everyone can grow. As we mature into our new status as a nonprofit organization, to be completed in 2018, we've become more aware of Riverside's promise, more rooted in that mission statement.

Our major project for Spring, 2018 is a new urban farm/garden for the California School for the Deaf - Riverside, among the largest schools of its kind in the nation. It is RGC's great privilege to help strengthen neighborhood ties to our city's sizable deaf community through the wordless eloquence of farming. Related to this project is our active work supporting the Riverside Food Systems Alliance to build local economic, environmental and social health with a robust food-growing culture. Garden projects include elementary and high schools, private properties, and residences.

Would you like to stay up-to-date with the Riverside Garden Council? Our voicemail is (951) 394-3793. Our email is [riversidegardencouncil@gmail.com](mailto:riversidegardencouncil@gmail.com). Find us on Facebook at [RiversideCommunityGardens](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideCommunityGardens). To *Get The Dirt!* (our newsletter), sign up at [RiversideGardenCouncil.org](http://RiversideGardenCouncil.org).



Nick Melquiades is the RGC Chair. He was recently recognized as a Neighborhood Hero by the Riverside Neighborhood Partnership.

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## Grant to Fund Food Rescue

by Nick Melquiades

CalRecycle has awarded the Riverside Food Systems Alliance (RFSA) a \$209,000 Food Rescue and Waste Prevention grant that will help divert edible food from our landfills to feed those in need. RFSA intends to support gleaning programs that reduce farm and backyard food waste and to educate the public to prevent food waste. RFSA will create an online network to connect those with food excess to emergency food relief services and food producers with food purveyors and buyers to build resilient local food chains. Thank you CalRecycle!



GrowRIVERSIDE was recognized with the Sustainability and Green Development Award by the Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

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The *Fresh and Local* Guide will be updated during 2018, thanks to a grant from the California Department of Conservation. If you would like to sponsor or would like a free listing, please contact Diana Ruiz at Ruiz@rcrcd.org or (909) 238-8338.



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RCRCD developed the 36-page *Fresh and Local* Guide that was recognized with a Capella Award for Creative Communication by the Public Relation Society of America's Inland Empire chapter.



PHOTO USE COMPLIMENTS OF CITRUS PEST & DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM

## Protect Your Citrus Trees

by CA Department of Food and Agriculture

To protect citrus trees, the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program recommends:

- Inspect trees for the vector Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and the plant disease Huanglongbing (HLB) that is believed to be caused by a phloem-restricted bacterium.
- Don't move citrus into or out of your area
- Buy citrus trees from licensed, local nurseries
- Only use registered budwood
- Cooperate with agriculture crews
- Apply products that protect your tree
- Dry or double bag plant clippings

Find out more at [californiacitrusthreat.org](http://californiacitrusthreat.org). For the latest quarantine maps, visit [www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/acp/](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/acp/). The Pest Hotline is 1(800) 491-1899.

## Ag Ed Resources

Visit [agclassroom.org](http://agclassroom.org) for free agricultural learning tools and programs for kindergarten through high school.

For California programs, visit California Foundation for Ag in the Classroom at [www.learnaboutag.org](http://www.learnaboutag.org)

Scott Berndt is the resident urban farmer at the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District. He helps train emerging farmers and students. He is also the Food Hub Coordinator for Riverside Unified School District and is on the board of the Riverside Food Co-op and Riverside Food Systems Alliance.



PHOTO USE COMPLIMENTS OF CITY OF RIVERSIDE

# Protect Wildlife During Tree Care

by Gillian Martin of Cavity Conservation ([cavityconservation.com](http://cavityconservation.com))

Nesting season is in full swing. It's time to spotlight our Best Management Practices and remind those hiring tree care providers to include these standards in work contracts.

Visitors to our websites can easily locate the full document, or simplified set of guidelines in English and Spanish titled, *Preventing Harm to Wildlife During Tree Care*, as well as a 15-minute training video. But there's more on the website--downloadable articles for your newsletter, posts for social media, even sample letters to send to your HOA or city officials.

See [treecareforbirds.com](http://treecareforbirds.com) and please "like" our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/treecareforbirds](http://www.facebook.com/treecareforbirds).



PHOTO USE COMPLIMENTS OF WEST COAST ARBORISTS

Treecareforbirds.com has helpful information about how to locate and protect nesting sites in urban environments.



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## Want healthy, beautiful trees?

The Inland Urban Forest Council has developed *A Practical Guide to the Proper Pruning of Trees and Shrubs* that will help you recognize good pruning practices, understand when pruning is needed, and find a competent arborist. Find the guide at [inlandurbanforestcouncil.org/downloadable-content/](http://inlandurbanforestcouncil.org/downloadable-content/)



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Does your city have an urban forest management plan? Help your community develop a well-managed urban forest that will save money and provide maximum long term benefits.

## Got Shade?

Concerned about your area's shrinking tree canopy? Develop an Urban Forest Management Plan with the free online toolkit at [UFMPtoolkit.net](http://UFMPtoolkit.net)



# Resources for Environmental Learning

## Free Materials from RCRC

A variety of publications for residents about local natural resource concerns can be found at [www.rcrcd.com/#Publications](http://www.rcrcd.com/#Publications).

For youth: The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District provides free conservation education materials to schools, youth groups, and homeschooling families who live or work within RCRCD boundaries. We also provide mini-grants for school gardens, up to \$250 per teacher. Find order forms, a mini-grant application, and additional school gardening resources on our website at [www.rcrcd.org/#For\\_Youth](http://www.rcrcd.org/#For_Youth).

Order forms have been sent through PeachJar.com to teachers in our three school districts. As of January 1, 2018 educational materials (3,588 copies) were provided to 463 students and 13 teachers at nine schools.

## Presentations for Corona Schools

The City of Corona's Department of Water and Power sponsors free classroom presentations about water conservation and beverage container recycling. If you are a Corona elementary teacher or youth group leader, sign up for one or both hands-on presentations by contacting our resource educator Kirstyn Kay at (951) 683-7691, ext 226 or email [kay@rcrcd.org](mailto:kay@rcrcd.org).



## California Naturalist Training

The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District will conduct the California Naturalist certification course over 10 weeks from June through August, 2018. Highly trained instructors and lecturers will introduce students to the natural history and local ecology of the beautiful and diverse landscape of the Santa Ana watershed, from the mountainous headwaters in the San Bernardino National Forest to the river's mouth at the Pacific Ocean. The course includes current issues such as sustainability and climate change. The program is conducted with lectures, field trips, self-study, and hands-on learning opportunities. Those who complete the course will become part of an active and vibrant base of volunteer naturalists and citizen scientists in California.

Registration opens April 1st at [calnat.ucanr.edu/Take\\_a\\_class/Inland\\_Empire/](http://calnat.ucanr.edu/Take_a_class/Inland_Empire/). For more information, please contact Erika Presley at [Presley@RCRC.org](mailto:Presley@RCRC.org) or (951) 683-7691 ext. 223 or Erin Snyder at [Snyder@RCRC.org](mailto:Snyder@RCRC.org) or (951) 683-7691 ext. 207.

## Citizen Science Tools

RCRCD has supported several citizen science programs that engage our community. Recently, RCRCD led the development of the Santa Ana Watershed Community Science Network that facilitates the collection of data for air, water, vegetation, soils, and wildlife. The Network has established citizen science "outposts", information hubs where people can go to learn about collecting data and find the support needed to participate in local and regional projects. At the outposts groups and individuals can check out backpacks with tools such as measuring tapes, field guides, GPS units, binoculars, and magnifiers.

RCRCD's Land Use Learning Center and Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center are both Citizen Science Outposts that offer a variety of projects. Stop by and find out how you can become a community scientist! For more information, visit our citizen science Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SantaAnaWatershedCommunitySci/](http://www.facebook.com/SantaAnaWatershedCommunitySci/) or contact Erika Presley at [Presley@rcrcd.org](mailto:Presley@rcrcd.org) or (951) 683-7691, ext. 223.



Check out a backpack full of citizen science tools at SCIC



Naturalist Michele Felix-Derbarndiker will make sure you have a fun learning experience at SCIC.

## Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center

Visit RCRC's Sycamore Creek Interpretive Center (SCIC) Thursday through Saturday from 9 AM - 3 PM (closed holidays) and by appointment at 11875 Indian Truck Trail in Temescal Valley, CA (intersection of Campbell Ranch Road and Indian Truck Trail). For more information about the center and educational programs for schools and the community, please visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SCICTV/](http://www.facebook.com/SCICTV/) or contact us during open hours at (951) 277-0219 or call Monday through Friday to the RCRC main office at (951) 683-7691, Ext 223.

See [www.rcrcd.org/#Sycamore\\_Creek\\_Interpretive\\_Center](http://www.rcrcd.org/#Sycamore_Creek_Interpretive_Center).

## Environmental Education Collaborative

The Environmental Education Collaborative (EEC) of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties continues to evolve and gain partners. EEC hosted its fourth annual symposium: *STEM in the Outdoors* this past February. To learn more and receive EEC information, such as about its Small Grant Program, visit [www.enviroedcollaborative.com](http://www.enviroedcollaborative.com).

If you are interested in being included in the EEC's Environmental Learning Resources Guide and with a free website listing, complete the membership form to let us know information about your programs. Request a form from Diana Ruiz at [ruiz@rcrcd.org](mailto:ruiz@rcrcd.org). Sponsorship/advertising opportunities are also available.

Subscribe to EEC's newsletter to learn about local educational opportunities, and please like and share programs on our Facebook group at [www.facebook.com/groups/EECollaborative](http://www.facebook.com/groups/EECollaborative).



Resource Educators Erin Snyder and Kirstyn Kay shared RCRC's conservation education resources at the Environmental Education Collaborative's annual symposium.

## Operation Healthy Air

by Erin Snyder

Earthwatch Institute's Urban Resiliency Program enables citizens and scientists to collaborate on scientific field research projects. This past summer, Riverside citizen scientists collected temperature and air quality data as part of the Operation Healthy Air Community Science Project. The Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District coordinated the local data collections. Scientists are now analyzing the data, testing ideas, looking for trends, and identifying patterns. (See [earthwatch.urbanresiliency.org/operation-healthy-air/](http://earthwatch.urbanresiliency.org/operation-healthy-air/))

Volunteers participated in a variety of ways from daily monitoring of their home's indoor/outdoor temperatures and humidity; allowing ibutton data sensors to be hung in trees in their yards; and hosting an array of ozone sensors and instruments that logged additional data. Participants also mapped their yards and habitats using [YardMapper.org](http://YardMapper.org) to share information with the scientists about their trees, ground cover, impermeable spaces and more.

Thank you to our local volunteers who participated in this project: Teresa Chamiec, Selenne Contreras, John DeLaRosa, Deanna Doull, Karen Fleisher, Jerry Good, Nareman Guamanian, Dona Jenkins, Eloisa Johnson, Esther Julier, Pete Kallinger, Sebastian Kaye, Norman Kelley, Cheryl LaCount, Michael and Christine Lampe, Nanci Larson, Debbie Mayberry, Kathleen McGinnis, Kimberly Nunn, Julie Olson, Joan Pleasants, Erika Presley, Liz Reid, Diana Renteria, Alrent Schwartz, Justin Scott-Coe, Erin Snyder, Casey Tibbet, Wendy VanSavage, Marcella Waggoner, Pete Wohlgemuth, and the Riverside Woman's Club.





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Resource Conservation District**

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RCRCD](http://www.facebook.com/RCRCD)

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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**

**APRIL**

**GrowRIVERSIDE Conference**

APRIL 4 - 7  
See cover and page 2 or go to [GrowRivConference.com](http://GrowRivConference.com)

**Corona Garden Festival\***

APRIL 7 10 AM - 2 PM  
City Hall, 400 South Vicentia Ave., Corona  
[www.coronaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/18811/](http://www.coronaca.gov/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/18811/)

**Going Green: Riverside Neighborhood Engagement Workshop\***

APRIL 7 9 - 11 AM  
Arlington Library, 9556 Magnolia Ave., Riverside

**UCR Botanic Gardens Spring Plant Sale**

APRIL 7 10 AM - 4 PM  
UCR Botanic Gardens, UCR Campus  
[gardens.ucr.edu/events/springsale.html](http://gardens.ucr.edu/events/springsale.html)

**Riverside Community Flower Show & Garden Tour**

APRIL 14 & 15 10 AM - 4 PM  
Elks Lodge, 6166 Brockton Ave., Riverside  
[www.riversideflowershow.info](http://www.riversideflowershow.info)

**Native Plants**

APRIL 14 10 AM - 12 PM  
UCCE Master Gardeners at Western Municipal Water District, 14205 Meridian Parkway  
[www.facebook.com/MGPRiverside](http://www.facebook.com/MGPRiverside)

**Earth Night in the Garden\***

APRIL 20 3 - 7 PM  
450 E. Alessandro Blvd., Riverside

**Corona-Norco Day of the Child\***

APRIL 21 10 AM - 2 PM,  
City Park, 930 E. Sixth St., Corona  
[coronanorcodayofthechild.org](http://coronanorcodayofthechild.org)

**Earth Day Festival\***

APRIL 22 12 - 4 PM  
San Bernardino County Museum, 2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands  
[www.sbcounty.gov/museum/](http://www.sbcounty.gov/museum/)

**MAY**

**Duck Daze\***

MAY 5 10 - 2 PM  
Hidden Valley Nature Center, 11401 Arlington Ave., Riverside  
[rivcoparks.org](http://rivcoparks.org)

*\*Come visit the RCRCD booth at these events!*

**If you would like to receive future issues of this newsletter electronically, please send your request to Diana Ruiz at [ruiz@rcrcd.org](mailto:ruiz@rcrcd.org).**