

January 28, 2015



**The Sherwood Demonstration Garden
by Sue McDavid
UCCE Master Gardener of El Dorado County**

The UCCE Master Gardeners of El Dorado County, in partnership with the El Dorado County Office of Education, and Folsom Lake College, El Dorado Center are forging ahead to ready The Sherwood Demonstration Garden for a public grand opening later this year. The garden will showcase plants and sustainable gardening techniques appropriate to our area, as well as provide learning opportunities for home gardeners on design, planting and maintenance. It is located behind the El Dorado Center of Folsom Lake College at 6699 Campus Drive in Placerville (off Green Valley Road).

The concept of a demonstration garden was the idea of Bob Sherwood, a long-time Master Gardener of El Dorado County, who, unfortunately, died unexpectedly last September. It is not an exaggeration to say that Bob spent thousands of hours getting this project off the ground and when it finally became a viable concept about five years ago, spent the rest of his life working at the garden nearly every day of the week, putting in untold hours. In tribute to Bob and his many contributions to the organization and the demo garden, the Master Gardeners received approval from the University of California to formally name the garden after him, The Sherwood Demonstration Garden.

Our mission is to provide an educational, hands-on experience about research-based, sustainable home gardening practices specific to El Dorado County. IPM (Integrated Pest Management) will be heavily incorporated into the educational and hands-on experiences as well as proper soil management, irrigation techniques, garden design and planting, the right plant for the right place, composting, weed management and so on. Many of our public education classes on various home gardening topics that are currently held in a classroom-type setting will be held at the demo garden so that attendees can actually see and do what they are learning.

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There are 16 themed gardens including roses, native plants, vegetables and herbs, succulents and cacti, a rock garden, a children's garden, a butterfly garden, perennials, ornamental grasses, a shade garden, an orchard, a cottage garden, a Mediterranean/xeriscape garden, a bog garden, a Japanese garden and a U.C. Arboretum All-Stars garden. All have been planted or are being planted in readiness for our public opening. The garden is currently under continuing construction of various hardscape items not yet completed, the installation of walkways, a drainage system and compost bins; a kiosk is also in the planning stage.

The Sherwood Demonstration Garden is truly going to be a destination for gardening enthusiasts – look for more updates about the progress of the garden and proposed opening date on our website (http://ucanr.edu/sites/EDC_Master_Gardeners) and in future newspaper articles.

Join Master Gardener Sharlet Elms at this Saturday's popular, free Master Gardener class: Beekeeping. The January 31st class will show you ways to improve your garden and help the world through backyard beekeeping. Resources to get started, how to maintain hives, the current state of bee survival, and how bees affect our everyday lives will be discussed. Class is from 9:00 am to noon at the Veterans Memorial Building, 130 Placerville Drive, in Placerville.

Beginning in February, Master Gardeners will offer monthly free gardening classes at the Cameron Park Community Center, 2502 Country Club Drive, in Cameron Park. Join master gardeners and master food preservers on Feb 10, from 9:00 am to noon, for the fun and informative Citrus Mania class.

Master Gardeners are available to answer home gardening questions Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon, by calling (530) 621-5512. Walk-ins are welcome at the office, located at 311 Fair Lane in Placerville. For more information about our public education classes and activities, go to our Master Gardener website at http://cecentralsierra.ucanr.org/Master_Gardeners/ and you can also find us on Facebook.