

The Chuparosa

Chapter Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 4 - April 2017



Annual tour was a success



Desert Marigold and Barrel Cactus at Las Fuentes. Photo by Caroline Greyshock.

Greeted by perfect blue skies and mild temperatures on Sunday, March 26, nearly 900 guests visited four diverse gardens during the Society's 12th annual Desert Garden Tour in Palm Springs.

Gracious homeowners who opened their garden gates for the Society's event included:

- Gary Dorothy at Jake Ryan Park on North Farrell Drive
- Dave Johnston at Colony 29 on Tahquitz Drive
- Don Karvelis on Araby Circle
- Bruce Tominello and the Luminaire HOA

As always, the tour was part of the Society's continuing efforts to educate Coachella Valley residents about water conservation and desert adapted landscapes that support local wildlife.

Nearly six dozen volunteers and docents guided the visitors. Among them were Society members, Master Gardeners, Volunteer Palm Springs members, plus a scattering of spouses and relatives.

Chairman was Robert Musial. Registration point this year was at the North Gene Autry Trail offices of Desert Water Agency. Ashley Metzger

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served as the liaison between the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley and DWA.

Tour proceeds and revenue from new memberships topped \$10,000 and will fund college scholarships for local students.

The Society is always looking for desert gardens for future tours. If you have gardens to suggest, please contact Robert Musial at robertt-musial@gmail.com

See pages 4 and 5 for photos from the tour, in case you couldn't make it.

Our Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 19 at 6 p.m.

Cacti, Agaves and Yuccas of California's Deserts

Stephen Ingram's multimedia presentation explores some of the unique attributes of the cacti, agaves, and yuccas and highlights what makes them such intriguing components of our native plant communities. With stunning images of their colorful blossoms and unusual growth forms, this program showcases a number of species and varieties that occur in California's Anza-Borrego desert area.

The main slideshow-talk will be approximately 40 minutes, with time for questions. A second 10-minute show set to music illustrates the beauty of these remarkable succulents. Following the presentation, Stephen will sign copies of his book from Cachuma Press, Cacti, Agaves, and Yuccas of California and Nevada.

Ingram is a native Californian with a long-time interest in plants and plant ecology. He received a B.S. degree in biology from Lewis and Clark

College, and an M.A. degree in botany from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Following graduate school, he was employed as part of the Research Department at Selby Botanical Gardens in Sarasota, Fla. He now works part-time as a photographer/writer and biological consultant in the Eastern Sierra.

Ingram is past president of the Bristlecone Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. His photos have been used in numerous books, magazines, and calendars, and are also sold as fine art prints.

5:30 p.m. Free plant exchange before the meeting. Bring pups, cuttings, plants to share with others. Even if you cannot bring plants feel free to adopt and watch your garden grow.

6 p.m. Meeting and presentation by Stephen Ingram. Free, open to the public.

Where: Hoover Room, The Living Desert, 47-900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert

More Upcoming Events

Here's a cache of events and meetings of interest to members of the Desert Horticultural Society of the Coachella Valley and fellow gardening enthusiasts. Read more at www.deserthorticulturalsociety.org.

Ongoing Mondays free help:

Through May 2017. Master Gardeners will be at the UC Cooperative Extension office in Indio to answer gardening questions, help solve gardening problems. Free. Drops-ins,

telephone calls, emails welcome. 81-077 Indio Blvd., Suite H. (760) 342-2511, anrmgindio@ucanr.edu

Ongoing "Ask the Gardener":

Master Gardeners set up tables Saturdays at Palm Springs farmers market; on second, fourth Wednesday at Palm Desert farmers market; on second, fourth Sunday at La Quinta farmers market. 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Ongoing: Docent tours of Moorten

Botanical Garden: By Master Gardeners, through middle of May 2017.

Scheduled between 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free with admission (\$5 adults, \$2 for children 15 and under, no charge for children under 5). Garden houses: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. daily except Wednesday. 1701 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs. (760) 327-6555. Call to confirm tours.

April 9 Invasive Species Removal:

Whitewater Preserve. 9 a.m.-noon. 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road, Whitewater. whitewaterpreserve@twc-ca.org, (760) 325-7220

Events, cont'd

April 20 Propagating Plants in the Desert: By UCCE Master Gardeners, 4:30-5:30p.m. Free. Cathedral City Library, 33-520 Date Palm Drive.

April 22 Coachella Valley Water Sources & Conservation Lecture: Free. Learn about the valley's water resources and how they are managed. 10 a.m.-noon. CVWD Steve Robbins Administration Building, 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert. www.cvwd.org, (760) 398-2651

April 22 Earth Day at The Living Desert: Discounts at the nursery, tree planting ceremony, first 500 guests receive free milkweed plant. 47-900 Portola Ave., Palm Desert. www.livingdesert.org, (760) 346-5694

April 24 Les Dames D'Escoffier Spring Farm Tour: 8 a.m., bus tour departs Shields Date Garden, 80-225 Highway 111, Indio. Visit composting site, CVWD, major grower. Lunch at Café at Shields. \$80. Advance paid reservations required. www.ldeips.org, (760) 895-9899.

April 29 Mission Creek Volunteer Day: Light landscaping, clean up. 9 a.m.-noon. 60-550 Mission Creek Road, Desert Hot Springs. More details, RSVP at pmp@twc-ca.org, (760) 369-7105

May 7 Invasive Species Removal: Whitewater Preserve. 9 a.m.-noon. 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road, Whitewater. whitewaterpreserve@twc-ca.org, (760) 325-7220

May 13 Water Celebration: Whitewater Preserve. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 9160 Whitewater Canyon Road, Whitewater. The goal and mission of this event is to educate people about where our drinking water comes from and how to conserve and protect water in the desert. whitewaterpreserve@twc-ca.org, (760) 325-7220

May 18 Common Garden Pests — Identification of Damage and Pests: By UCCE Master Gardeners, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Free. Cathedral City Library, 33-520 Date Palm Drive.

This & that

Handy, informative website

Want to know what grows where in California? Go to calflora.org, an education and conservation site that has information and photos about wild California plants and weeds.

Learn how climate change impacts local plant life

UCR Palm Desert is hosting two experts who will give a free talk that will focus on our local plant life, climate change, the most current research and an emerging naturalist program starting at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 13.

Dr. Cameron Barrows, research ecologist for UCR's Center for Conservation Biology, and Janet Hartin, environmental horticulture advisor for UC Cooperative Extension will discuss:

Drought, heat stress and root damage resulting from construction damage and cramped underground rooting space that can lead to stressed trees.

How over-reliance on too few species can reduce important biodiversity, natural predators, and pollinators and increase damage from introduced insects and diseases.

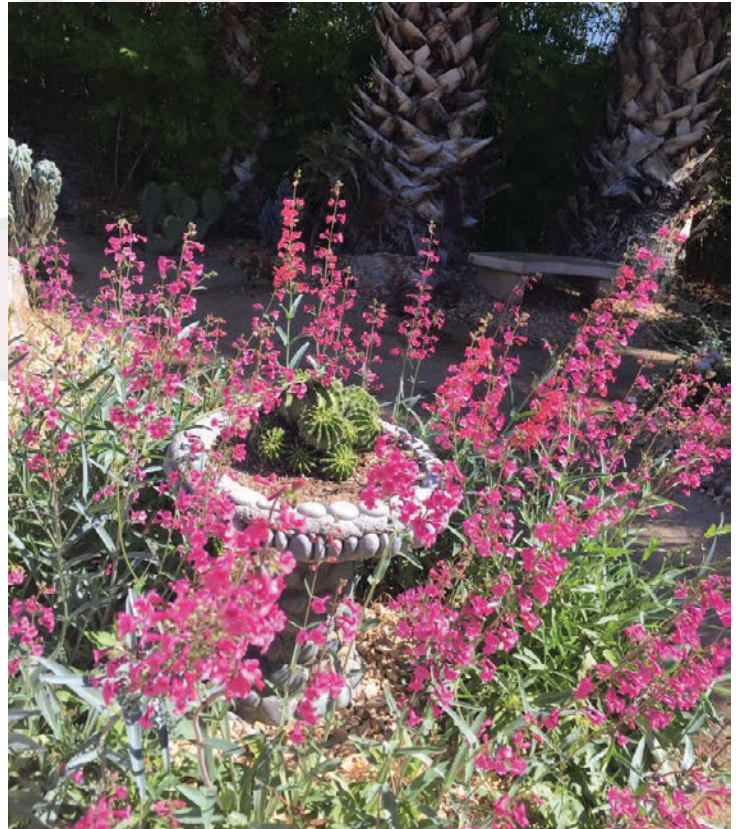
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Welcome to the 180 new members who joined our Society in March!

Garden Tour 2017



Beautiful desert vignette on a corner at Luminaire HOA. Photo by Caroline Greyshock



Penstemon in full bloom at Jake Ryan Park. Photo by Tracy Merrigan



Happy garden-goers at Jake Ryan Park. Photo by Tracy Merrigan



Dave Johnston of Colony 29 teaching our many volunteer docents about the wonders of those gardens. Photo by Tracy Merrigan

Garden Tour 2017



A mix of native and non-native plants wend their way up the hillside at Colony 29. Photo by Caroline Greyshock



Eight years of happy plant growth at Las Fuentes. Photo by Caroline Greyshock



A happy trio of bloomers at Las Fuentes. Photo by Caroline Greyshock



Tom Edwards, Robert Musial, and Liz Day at Colony 29 on the Docent Preview Tour. Photo by Jessyca Frederick

This & that, cont'd

Ecological justice matters in your own backyard.

In addition, the UCCE Master Gardeners will sell succulents, cactus and other desert-friendly plants with prices ranging from \$3 to \$10. Cash or check only.

UCR Palm Desert is at 75-080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert. RSVP to palmdesert@ucr.edu or (760) 834-0800

Visit Amboy Crater with Mojave Desert Land Trust

The Mojave Desert Land Trust will host its Spring Open House on Saturday, April 8 at Amboy Crater, an extinct cinder cone northeast of 29 Palms, west of Amboy and in the Mohave Trails National Monument. The event will carry a "Backyard BBQ" theme and included related crafts and guided hikes along the rim of the crater. Events start at 10 a.m. RSVP at (760) 366-5440, Ext. 226 or jacqueline@mdlt.org

Where to see wildflowers

Theodore Payne Foundation hosts one of the most reliable Southern California wildflower hotlines. Here's the link: <http://theodorepayne.org/education/wildflower-hotline/>

DWA expands smart irrigation controller plan

DWA customers can now choose where to shop (online or in-store) and which model of weather-based irrigation controller they want. The program, which is available to residents and businesses in Palm Springs and portions of Cathedral City, also covers costs for professional installation.

With DWA's new program, customers purchase and install the device, then fill out an application and submit receipts. Depending on the device purchased, the rebate could cover the entire cost plus installation. Residential customers will receive up to \$150 for the device and up to \$100 for professional installation. Businesses and/or homeowners associations will receive up to \$2,500 for the device(s) and up to \$750 for professional installation.

Smart irrigation controllers use wifi data or sensor components to gather weather information. This information dictates how long water is applied on a given day. DWA has been providing customers with smart irrigation controllers for several years, but previously did not allow the customers to choose the device, retailer or installer. Learn more at www.dwa.org/controller. Tick the box for 'Flexible rebate program' on the application.

CV Water Counts to offer water education academy

Want to learn more about water in the Coachella Valley? CV Water Counts will soon offer a program made up of three evening courses and one full day weekend tour. Class size will be about 20 students. Topics will range from local water production and delivery systems to recycled and imported water. For more information follow CV Water Counts (www.CVWaterCounts.com) on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Coachella Water Authority offers free kits, rebates—a variety of ways to save water are offered to its community by the City of Coachella Water Authority. They include:

Toilet replacement program: Swap your toilet with a water-efficient model for up to \$100 per toilet.

Turf removal program: Replace your lawn with drought-tolerant landscaping and receive \$1 per square foot up to \$1,000.

Conservation kits: Ask for free indoor and outdoor conservation kits.

Smart controller replacement: Improve your lawn's efficiency with a free irrigation controller that saves water by delivering only the amount needed.

This & that, cont'd

Information: (760) 501-8100, conservecoachella.com

DWA program covers free sprinkler nozzles

With summer approaching, it's time to check your irrigation system. Need new nozzles? Desert Water Agency can help. It offers free nozzles at freesprinklernozzles.com.

It's easy:

- Go to the site.
- Fill out the on-line form and print a voucher.
- Figure out what nozzle size you need.
- Go to a participating supplier and pick up your new nozzles.
- Install your nozzles.

Water agencies to continue groundwater rights case

Here's a summary of a news bulletin released by the Desert Water Agency about its court battle with the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians over groundwater rights:

The boards of directors of Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District have decided to ask the Supreme Court to review a lowercase ruling that gives groundwater rights to the Agua Caliente Band. The Court will likely accept or deny review of the case this fall.

Litigation will end if the Court decides to review the case and reverses the lower court ruling. If it does not review the case or upholds the lower court ruling, the case would continue to determine if the Band has a right to water quality and storage, and how much water the Band is entitled to.

The Band has stated it would like the two water agencies to stop replenishing the groundwater basin with imported, untreated Colorado River water. That, the water agencies say, has prevented groundwater levels from falling drastically.

The Band has not said publicly how much water they want access to or how they would use that water.

More information: www.dwa.org/

[lawsuits](#) or www.cvwd.org

CVWD plans new ponds for groundwater replenishment

A consultant will be hired to design a new groundwater replenishment facility in Palm Desert by the Coachella Valley Water District.

So far, more than 3.3 million acre-feet of water has been returned to the aquifer at replenishment facilities in the Coachella Valley. The new facility would add up to 25,000 acre-feet per year, about the same amount of groundwater used by 50,000 homes.

The facility would be built in two phases, with the first set of ponds at CVWD property south of the Hovley Lane offices and north of the wastewater reclamation plant on Cook Street. The second set of ponds would be built with the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel next to the plant.

Construction could begin in early 2018. Total cost is estimated at approximately \$9.8 million.

Maintenance by the Month: April

By Troy Bankord

Happy spring!

It's a glorious time to live in the desert. Certainly, by now our gardens are abloom and busting out all over. (And most likely so have the weeds!) Keep tight on your pruning as our intense summer sun and scaling temperatures are right around the corner.

Pesky weeds that germinated with the fall-winter rains will begin to flower now. You can manually remove by hand or for larger areas spray with glyphosate/pre-emergent following directions on the label. Adding a small amount of marker dye in the glyphosate solution can be helpful to avoid spraying the same areas twice. When using a chemical spray use an old pair of shoes that will never be worn indoors. The glyphosate product/pre-emergent can be used around cacti and most succulents without damaging them. It is also inactive in the soil, so it will not harm the roots of other plants.

Garden maintenance

Leaf molting: In most cases, no, Lucy, your plantings are not dying. Many trees and plantings will be molting this month. It's just Mother Nature's way of allowing plants to shed their old leaves to allow for the new.

For wildflower lovers: The desert comes alive with colors, smells and sounds. If rains were plentiful during the fall and winter months, a dazzling array of color will have bestowed your garden floor. Allow your wildflowers to dry up and go to seed. They seed heads can be shaken around the garden and will germinate next year with winter rains. Otherwise, seeds can be collected and sown elsewhere or shared with friends and fellow gardeners



The very rare Desert Lily announced itself among the wildflowers in this year's superb bloom. Photo by Jessyca Frederick

nate next year with winter rains. Otherwise, seeds can be collected and sown elsewhere or shared with friends and fellow gardeners

Deadheading: Continue to dead-head annuals and herbaceous perennials to encourage continued flowering, including Desert Marigold (*Baileya multiradiata*), Red Sage (*Salvia coccinea*), Angelita-daisy (*Tetrandeum acaulis*), and Gaillardia (*Gaillardia pulchella*).

Your *Cassia* bushes are most likely going to seed. Hand-pruning or shearing/natural thinning can take place now before the heat of summer. Be sure to give the plants a good drink afterward.

Tree care

Trees should be trimmed, thinned and scaled back quickly this month while they are still somewhat dormant. The sooner they are trimmed, the sooner they will partake of the spring surge of growth that is around the corner. Again, giving them a deep drink afterward will minimize any stress they many have endured.

Trimming and thinning now in preparation for our April winds is always a good idea to minimize wind damage or loss.

Dead wood (in reasonable amounts) can usually be removed throughout the year without any chance of harm. If a portion of your tree has expired, avoid removing the dead growth during the hottest part of the year. This may cause scalding of the trunk and perhaps further stress and canopy loss.

Continue transplanting desert-adapted trees, shrubs, ground-covers, vines, ornamental grasses, perennials, cacti and succulents. The earlier in the month they are planted, the better, giving roots time to

April maintenance, cont'd

establish before summer's stressful heat arrives. And remember to give them ample water in our sandy soils, keeping in mind that their roots have not yet established themselves and have not yet "tapped into" any moisture in their surrounding soils.

They are used to a daily drink at the nursery and will need to be watered more heavily when new, than once-established. I've found that flooding the plant with a somewhat forceful flow of water will alleviate any air pockets in the soil – one of our biggest nemeses to plant death here in The Desert.

Many deciduous trees will begin to produce new leaves as the weather becomes warmer. Look for: Mesquites (*Prosopis spp.*), Desert willow (*Chilopsis linearis*), Golden Leadball Tree (*Leucaena retusa*), Catclaw Acacia (*Senegalia greggii* syn. *Acacia greggii*), Feather Tree (*Lysiloma watsonii*), Anacacho Orchid-tree (*Bauhinia lunarioides*), and Kidneywood (*Eysenhardtia orthocarpa*). Leaves of the Boojum Tree (*Fouquieria columnaris*) and Elephant Tree (*Pachycormus discolor*) will begin to yellow and drop. The Boojum Tree and Elephant Tree are summer-dormant. Periods of active growth begin from about November through May. When the leaves of both succulents begin to drop, careful watering is needed

You can also plant....

If roses are your thing, choose a planting site that receives about six hours of full sun daily. Eastern or southern exposures are best, with afternoon shade. Avoid areas with western exposures against walls.



Mature Ocotillo thriving in Joshua Tree National Park. Photo by Jessyca Frederick

Backfilling with a mixture of ½ composted potting soil and ½ native desert soil gives your plants a boost. Topdressing the root zones with a mound of mulch will help shade the roots and keep them moist – while providing fertilizer to the plants as the mulch breaks down naturally.

Many yucca species can be planted in April except for Joshua trees (*Yuc-*

ca brevifolia). When transplanting cacti and succulents, mark either the south or west side and plant facing the orientation you marked to avoid the burning of tender tissues. Most nurseries will mark the side of the container to help you determine proper planting orientation.

However, if the original orientation is not known, newly planted cacti and succulents need to be covered with shade cloth if the plant surface appears to yellow or pale suddenly. Use a shade cloth rated between 30-60% as anything higher will block most of the sunlight and will not be suitable for your cacti and succulents. You may need to keep the shade cloth on the plant for the duration of the summer until the early fall.

Wait a week after planting your cacti and succulents before watering to minimize the chance of rot. After the initial irrigation of your succulents, allow the soil to somewhat dry out here between waterings.

Plant your ocotillo (*Fouquieria splendens*) from March through May as these are the ideal months to achieve greater transplanting success. Karoo-roses (*Adenium spp.*) and Plumeria should be "waking" from their winter dormancy. Leaves and flowers should start appearing on the succulent stems. You can begin to fertilize and water your Karoo-rose

April maintenance, cont'd

throughout the warm-season.

Watering

With summer looming around the corner, now is the time to double check your sprinkler timers for efficiency. Test the timer to see if it is working properly and replace back-up batteries if necessary. Check for leaks and clogged emitters and flush out your drip and sprinkler lines. Soaker tubing used in pots and flower beds should be changed out prior to summer as holes clog easily with calcium.

The amount of water and watering frequency depends on many factors. These include: soil type, weather (temperature, humidity, rainfall, etc.), microclimates, cultural practices, plant size and species, direct sun/indirect sun/reflected sun/dappled sun and whether newly planted or established in the landscape (two years or more).

Established native or desert-adapted trees and shrubs should be watered at least 3 feet deep for your trees and 2 feet deep for your shrubs. Our desert plantings prefer a little drying out between waterings, but our sandy soils blur those lines, allowing for more water consumption but also drying out very quickly. Always allow soil to dry out between each irrigation cycle.

Newly planted native and des-

ert-adapted trees and shrubs need to be watered more frequently until established. It can take up to 3-5 years for trees and at least 1-2 years for shrubs to become established in the landscape. After planting your trees and shrubs, they should be watered immediately. Continue to water your annual wildflowers at least every two weeks to prolong flowering.



Equipment for basic garden maintenance and working with drip irrigation.

Problems

Aphids can be found on landscape plants or on your vegetables and herbs. Allow natural predators such as lacewings, praying mantis, lady beetles, parasitic wasps, and even hummingbirds to control the aphid population. You can also spray with insecticidal soap or a forceful spray of water, but check to make sure

beneficial insects are not present.

If you notice a tattered appearance on your landscape plants such as Evening Primroses (*Oenothera spp.*), Sacred Datura (*Datura wrightii*) and Gaura (*Gaura lindheimeri*) it may be the flea beetle in action. A different species of flea beetle may also harm your vegetables including tomatoes, eggplants, carrots and cabbages. The flea beetle larvae and adults can be destructive and they can be difficult to control.

You may notice small, circular cuts on the leaf margins now. This is the handiwork of leaf-cutter bees, important pollinators. The leaf-cutter bees use the cut leaf to line their nest and then lay an egg in each cavity. The damage is cosmetic and does not harm the plant. Control methods are unnecessary.

Agave snout weevils become active during the warm months, feeding on the root systems of your agave specimens, and infestation may not be apparent until they decline and collapse. Insecticidal drenches or granules around their root systems in April, May and June will minimize their deadly impact.

Cochineal scale, the cottony, white substance on your Prickly pears (*Opuntia spp.*) and Chollas (*Cylindropuntia spp.*) may be active now. Remove by using a fast stream of

Plant of the Month: Desert Carpet (*Acacia redolens*)



Acacia Redolens, or Desert Carpet, will thrive in the desert. Its sprawling nature makes it an effective replacement for lawns. Photo courtesy of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery

By Troy Bankord

Here you go! How about this for an interesting alternative to lawn?

Soft, mounding and a nice dimensional addition to otherwise flat turf areas, this Western Australian native looks great in meandering sweeps. Reaching a height of approximately 24 inches, a single plant can spread to 15 feet, making it an economical choice for large planting areas.

This plant has thick, leathery, grey-green phyllodes (a form of 'leaf'). While hardy to 15 degrees, this plant is a moderate grower, blooming small yellow puffball flowers in the spring.

Desert Carpet is a low-water user (with little or no water needed along coastal areas) but needs regular water in our porous, sandy soils. Standard *Acacia redolens* varies widely in its growth habit, with plants often reaching heights more than six feet.

Desert Carpet is a clone, trademarked by Mountain States Wholesale Nursery in Arizona and maintains a height of only 24 inches. This plant will withstand full sun and reflected sun as well as dappled sunlight beneath tree canopies.

A tried and true winner in my eyes.

Maintenance, cont'd
water or spray insecticidal soap.

Fertilization

Now is the time to fertilize your warm-season cacti, succulents, herbaceous and woody perennials and annuals in containers if you haven't done so already. Periodic fertilization may be needed for plants in containers as nutrients will have diminished in the soil over time. Always follow directions on the label.

Cacti, agave, aloe and succulents can be fertilized as well if they are a little pale in appearance. I've found Superthrive (natural vitamins) or Miracle Gro, mixed at half-strength, to be very effective.

Troy Bankord of Palm Springs creates 'Places of Peace' through connective landscape and interior design. His projects have been featured in publications, on architectural tours and on television shows. In Arizona, his firm was the forerunner in native desert plant species maintenance via natural and selective pruning practices. www.troybankorddesign.com, <https://www.facebook.com/TroyBankord-Design>

Planning for permanent water conservation

By Jamie Lee Pricer

Water Counts, a collaboration of five Coachella Valley water districts, hosted three speakers March 28 at UCR Palm Desert who gave views on "How the Drought Changed California and Our Valley."

Erik Ekdahl of the California State Water Resources Control Board reminded the 60 or so audience members that water agencies and users need "to plan for future droughts. They are sure to happen."

About 2.5 million acre-feet of water was saved in California between June 2015 and January 2017. "That's a 22 percent cumulative savings since mandatory measures were established," he said

Emphasizing that water conservation needs to be considered a permanent California way of life, he described four efficiency standards that are targeted for compliance by 2025: Water consumption of no more than 55 gallons per person per household; outdoor water use limits; elimination of water leaks; and commercial, industrial and institutional efficiencies.

Kathleen Tiegs of the Association of California Water Agencies zeroed in on one of the major water problems in the state: "Two-thirds of the water comes from Northern California and two-thirds of the population is in Southern California."

Coming from 2015's lowest snowpack in hundreds of years to this year's robust snowpack measures, the water supply is feast or famine in this state, she said.

Water is stored three ways, in reservoirs, behind dams or in ground-water basins. The basins need the most replenishing, but take years longer than other storage facilities.

Tiegs noted new projects in the works: A desalination plant in San Diego, new filtration operations in Mesa's water systems, recycled water programs and new purification plants.

Probably of most interest to Coachella Valley residents at the program were the remarks of Michelle Sneed of the U.S. Geological Survey, who talked about the valley's aquifer.

There's good news for the Coachella Valley, she said, in specific talking about the Indio groundwater basin

in the East Valley.

After the Valley was populated, basin water levels dropped until 1949 but increased from 1949 to 1970 when the All American Canal brought water to the area. Levels dropped again between 1970 and 2009, she said. Measurements have mostly leveled off since then and are starting to show a bit of an increase.

Through 2015, lower water levels have caused subsidence, particularly in the East Valley. Since then survey show subsidence has stabilized. Sneed associated the Valley's four percolation pond sites with an increase in groundwater levels.

Answering questions from the audience, she noted that the average depth of the Indio aquifer is about 1,700 feet.

Agriculture is going to have to become more efficient. "Water is over-pumped, particularly in the state's Central Valley," she said.

And finally, on a bite everyone is going to have to swallow, she said, "The value of water is underappreciated" so water rates are going to rise.

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Want to Get More Involved?

We have so many opportunities for members to become more actively involved with the Desert Horticultural Society of Coachella Valley. Jump in!

Send Us Your Photos & Favorite Websites!

We like to show off photos of gardens or plants that horticulture society members have collected. Please send your jpeg photos at full size attached to an email with your name, where the photo was taken and information about the photo subject.

And, have you come across online gardens, educational sources or conservation links you like? Email links and photos to Jamie Lee Pricer at jlp6@hotmail.com. We'll share them in future newsletters.