

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 2

February 2005

February Meeting: Field Trip!

Saturday, February 5, 2005

Tour Theo's Bamboo Garden

Meet at Theo's home by 9:30 a.m.

Theo Smith's home is an average sized lot. The yard is home to over 110 varieties of bamboo. Some of the plants have been in the yard since 1982.

There are both runners and clumpers, large and small, culms (that's the word for the vertical stems) in height from 1 ft. to 60+ ft.; in diameter from 1/16 inch to 5 inches. Leaves range from solid green to striped in white and cream; culm colors from solid green to green with yellow stripes, to yellow with hand painted looking green stripes, to solid black, to black with green stripes; many in the ground; many in pots.

Theo is member of the American Bamboo Society and I am sure you will be as amazed as I am with the gardens.

Map on last page. Please try and carpool. Unfortunately, we did not have the 20 people needed to contract a bus.

Bamboo Gardens

Riverside, CA.

Board Meeting: Feb.17 at home of Phil

Loew

OCMG Training Class

Contact Helen Elich before attending this final class—a field trip to the ENC.

5 Feb.: California Natives at Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach

Gardening Events

Fullerton Arboretum. Pre-register for all classes by calling 714/278-3579 ext. 0.

February 19 & 20: ½ price sale on plants!

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden

Register for classes: 909/625-8767 or download registration from <http://www.rsabg.org>:

February 5: Creative Container Gardens

9:00 am - 1:00 pm \$52 (\$61 nonmember)

Limit: 12 participants Dylan Hannon, Conservatory Curator, Huntington Botanic Garden. This class will provide hints to aid you in growing native plants in containers. Materials provided.

February 12: Field Identification of Southern California Manzanitas.

10:00 am - 1:00 pm \$38 member (\$46 nonmember). Bart O'Brien, Director of Horticulture, RSABG. Learn how to distinguish among Southern California manzanita species.

February 13: California Desert Wildflowers: Lecture and Booksigning.

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm \$7 (\$9 nonmember). Sia and Emil Morhardt, Botanists, Authors, Illustrators and Photographers. Sia and Emil will tell the story of their project and present beautiful slides of wildflowers included in their field guide. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

February 19 or 20: Advanced Field Botany

10:00 am - 4:00 pm. \$135 (\$160 nonmember)
Limit: 15 participants. Lorrae Fuentes, Director

of Education, RSABG. Class for plant enthusiasts who have taken beginning and/or intermediate field botany.

Leaves from the President



The winter rains have cleaned the trees, turned the hills into carpets of green, and made the earth a little too soggy to work in. This little inconvenience is fine when I consider the benefits to come this spring. I have kept myself busy reading and planning with the new garden catalogs. The roses I ordered came in planted. I plan to follow Cathy Gordon's advice and take them out of the pots remove the soil and plant them bare root. This makes the new plant adapt to our soil helping it become a stronger healthier rose.

I will let you know how this method turns out.

I really get tired of saying this but please turn in your timesheets. We are all volunteers and to show that our time matters we need to have an up to date account of our hours.

Our Bamboo Garden field trip this month will be very interesting. I like Bamboo but not in my yard--maybe after visiting a garden devoted to Bamboo I will change my mind..

--Sharon Neely

Volunteer Opportunity

Camellia shows began in January. Theresa Piech, due to her mother's health, is not involved this year, but urges members to volunteer. Arrive by approximately 8:30 a.m. and ask to "clerk". You'll be given instruction on what is needed: tagging the flower cards as the judges say are winners, running flowers to the judging tables, etc. It is so beautiful and a fun way to get some volunteer hours.

Feb 12: Huntington Gardens, San Marino

Feb 19: Community Center, La Verne. (D street south of Foothill Blvd.—take 57 Freeway to 210 east, exit Foothill, head east and turn right on D)

Feb 26: Descanso Gardens, La Canada

☎ Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*.....
Cindy Polera Burch, *1st Vice Pres*
Helen Elich, *2nd Vice Pres...*
Phil Loew, *Treasurer*.....
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*

OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

Manure (part 1)

Cindy Sears sent an article from Garden Gate Magazine by Jim Childs that encourages using manure in our gardens, stating that 75 percent of the plant nutrients fed to an animal pass through into its manure. These nutrients are readily accessible and release slowly, as opposed to quick release chemical fertilizers. Plus, manure has more trace elements and helps improve soil texture. Fresh manure can be used on dormant plants, giving the nutrients time to leach into the soil without "burning" the plant. Spread about 40 pounds to 100 square feet of garden once a year. You can also add it to the compost pile and let it rot for 6 to 12 months, where it will help break down the plant debris. This will reduce the nitrogen in the manure, allowing it to be used all year. Wait about a month after spreading manure before planting seeds, as the initial microbial activity may interfere with seed germination. Mr. Childs recommends using manure only from herbivores as manure from meat-eating animals has a stronger odor and may contain harmful diseases and parasites.

If you don't receive the newsletter by email, but would like to receive notices of updates or upcoming events (no more than 2 per month), please send an e-mail to the editor at jillpatterson@yahoo.com

Fruit Facts

RANGPUR LIME – Citrus limonia – Rutaceae

Donated by: CRFG/Barker and planted in 1980 (r.f.-07)

Common names: Rangpur lime, Philippine lemon, Marmalade lime, Shabati, Limao, Cravo, Sylhet lime

The tree is probably a cross of a lemon with a mandarin orange. The plant originated in India. The tree is fast-growing reaching, up to 15 feet, and spreading to 6 to 8 feet wide. The branches have short thorns and a drooping habit. The flowers are purple-tinted. It is not a true lime (resembles mandarin) but often used as a lime substitute.

The fruit is round, of irregular surface. The skin is easily removed and is reddish-orange with large oil glands. The pulp has a limelike aroma and is deep-orange. There are 6 to 10 segments, very juicy, with flavor exceedingly sour but resembling an orange with few seeds. Seeds are small and green within.



The Rangpur lime is more cold tolerant than any lime and in California has endured freezes better than the lemons. It bears abundant fruit from November through the winter, and the fruit remains on the tree in good condition for a long time.

Small whole fruits can be candied or pickled, but this fruit can be fully appreciated when made into marmalade. The marmalade excels that made from oranges.

From the most part, Rangpur limes will be purchased from nurseries rather than grown at home. These plants will be container grown in a soil less medium, which makes the trees difficult to establish without special care.

At planting time, gently remove the plant from the container, and using a gentle stream of water from the garden hose, remove an inch or so from all around the root ball, exposing the peripheral roots. Thus when the outer roots are placed in contact with the soil of the planting site, growth commences almost immediately.

Under no circumstances should the soil around the planting be removed to form a shallow basin for watering. To do so almost guarantees you that the young plant will contract root rot and die before its fifth year.

Set the tree in the hole, and backfill about halfway. Then, water sufficiently to settle the backfill around the lower roots. Finish backfilling the hole, and then cover the root ball with about an inch of soil to seal the growing medium from direct contact with the air and

thereby prevent rapid drying of the root ball. Later on it may be necessary to add a little soil to any holes formed as the soil settles around the roots. The watering interval should be every few days for the first couple of weeks, then gradually increased to 7 to 10 days over the next couple of months, at which time the young tree can be considered to be established.

Recycling Cell Phones: Researchers at the University of Warwick have devised a novel way to recycle discarded mobile telephones. They have created a telephone case or cover from a biodegradable polymer that produces a high quality finish but which also biodegrades easily in compost. The case has a small transparent window in which they can embed a seed. The seed is visible to the environmentally aware mobile phone user but will not germinate until the phone cover or case is recycled. For the first prototype telephones they have used dwarf sunflower seeds. See the complete story at: <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/newsandevents/pressreleases/NE100000097300/>