

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 12 Number 10

November 2006

November Meeting

Saturday, November 4, 2006

510 E. Memory Lane/2615 Valencia, Santa Ana

Note time of Enrichment Program!

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Enrichment Program
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Snacks and Socializing
10:30 – 11:20 a.m.	General Meeting
11:20 – 11:30 a.m.	Plants 'n Things

Members with last names starting with R - Z, please bring a breakfast snack. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies

Also, remember to bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle.

Enrichment program—Natural Gardening

Giselle Schoeniger who will talk about the natural way to garden. Giselle is an expert in organic gardening from Kellogg's "Dr Earth". She has spoken at many venues, including radio, television, and garden events.

Note: Sign-ups for the field trip to Maloof Gardens will be taken at the meeting.

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler, Tuesday, November 14 at 7 p.m.

OCMG Speakers Needed

We are working with the Placentia Library to plan a Spring Garden talk for the evening of Monday, March 12. This is a great opportunity to improve your public speaking skills and represent our great organization. If anyone would like to join a panel of 2-4 people and speak for 20-30 minutes about a garden topic relevant to that time of year, please contact Diane Gipson.

Gardening Events

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

Sat, Nov.04: **Botanical Illustration 10:00-1:00 p.m. -5-part Series- Nov. 4,11,18,Dec.2,9 \$125/person, Pavilion/Classroom** First-time artists will acquire an understanding of botany and be introduced to the world of botanical art and illustration. This class is ideal for gardeners who would like to learn how to begin to draw in their gardening journals. Taught by Tania Marien, Botanic Artist/Biologist. Art supplies are not included.

Sat., Nov. 4: **“Saturday Night Date” at the Arboretum with the Garden Gourmet. 5:30-7:30pm \$35/person (for class & dinner) Pavilion/Classroom** Join Garden Gourmet, Chef Martin Corso, for a cooking demonstration, and an interactive fun evening, including a 5 course dinner. Singles and couples welcome! Pre-registration is required. The menu will be sent to all class participants. Class limit: 20**Sat.**

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden:

Sat. Nov. 4, 11 am – 4 pm & Sun. Nov. 5., 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. Fall Plant Sale. Free. Thousands of native and California-friendly plants, including a vast selection of perennials and flowering shrubs, spring bulbs and native wildflower seeds.

Sat. Nov. 18, Noon - 4 pm Propagating Native Plants From Seed. \$61.00. Learn the different techniques and requirements to germinate California native plants. You will have the opportunity to plant seeds of several native plant species to take home. Materials provided and included in class fee. **Pre-register by calling Rachel Kau-Taylor (909) 625-8767 x224.**

Leaves from the President



Since our OCMG Garden Tour last year, I've thought a lot about how our gardens reflect us, the gardeners. Each garden was so real, so right and so very singular. It was their differences that made each gardener shine. And admit it, if our gardens were all alike, they would not be the exciting adventures that they are.

However, something was brought to my attention at the last OCMG meeting which delves a little deeper. A male member, who shall remain nameless, laughed and said my last editorial was "from a women's perspective." This brought me up short. Was he speaking about my thoughts about gardening, my writing style, or me as a gardener? I had never thought of myself as a 'female' gardener. To me, gender doesn't enter into it. Love of gardening has nothing to do with gender and doesn't pander to a certain segment of the population. This addiction, if I can call it that, can come upon any unsuspecting victim, willing or not.

Then, I wondered, does my gender affect how I garden, how I design the pathways and beds or even dictate which plants I buy? My initial reaction was, "No, of course not." But this comment lingered in the back of my mind at two plant sales (Fullerton College and Fullerton Arboretum) I've attended since that OCMG meeting. It made me question myself. Why did I choose the plants I did? What attracted me to them? And why did I buy some and put others back (besides financial considerations)? I picked up a plant that seemed distinctive, seeming to be covered with little white hairs, almost like a cobweb. And when I read that its popular name was 'Furry Kittens,' I couldn't resist it. When I found a similar plant with the same name but more pointed leaves I discovered that the first was called 'Teddy Bear' and the second was really 'Furry Kittens.' To my

chagrin, I discovered that I wanted to buy both of them as much for their cute names as for their distinctive leaves and pretty buds. So my question was answered! I am a 'female' gardener as much as I hate to admit it.

To beat myself up for this folly seems silly. I accept it since fighting would be to no avail. My experience of myself as a person and as a 'female' informs my experience as a gardener. And why should that not be so? It dictates my choices of dress, the color I painted my house and the books I read. Why should gardening be any different?

I challenge each of you to think about what your garden says about you. Does it point out your practicality, your flightiness, your love of challenges or of leisure? Do you think that someone could tell your gender by your garden, or does it speak more of your personality? How does it affect the garden when both members of a couple garden? Do you compromise in the garden and how? Do you have separate planting areas, or does one tend to dominate in choice of plants and placement? Or do you go in stages where you each shift your involvement in the garden, sometimes letting the other take charge?

To that nameless male, here is another musing of a 'female' gardener. But, not wanting to dominate, I invite those 'male' gardeners out there to share their insights or perspectives on gardening. We are always open to articles of interest to the gardener. Come and share with the rest of us. Let the wisdom fall from your pen (or your fingertips) as you write. (You can't say I'm not giving you a chance at equal opportunity!).

--Diane Gipson



Volunteer Venue Spotlight

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens

Albert T. Finnerty writes:

Both Susan Jett and Janet Takara were glad to have me volunteer. They told me they currently have one other volunteer from O. C. Master Gardeners and would welcome others. The big activity now is preparation for the Fall Plant Sale to be held November 4th and 5th, 11 am to 4 pm Saturday and 9am to 2 pm Sunday. Janet needs help preparing for the sale. Ongoing Nursery activities include propagating, growing plants from seeds, repotting young plants and caring for seedlings and other activities not discussed with Janet. RSABG has an annual training program that began in September and is currently in progress. Therefore, some activities are reserved for trained volunteers and I may have to wait to be offered one of these activities after formal training. My impression is that they can always use good volunteers with Master Gardener training and with this experience they can place you into their program. They have an experimental program to grow plants from Hawaii, in one of their three greenhouses, to determine if they can live in California. I especially appreciated Janet taking time to explain what they were doing. I peppered her with probably too many questions, but she patiently answered them all.

Susan took me on a short tour. Most interesting was their seed program. In this area, they process collected native plant flowers, extract the seeds, test for viability and store the seed in freezers, packaging some seeds for the sale.

The area where I will be doing the most work, in addition to the nursery, is in the maintenance of their collection. I mentioned the vernal pools they are rebuilding and Susan immediately said I could help with this project. I enjoy working outside even if it's pruning, raking or cutting out dead wood.

RSABG is an OCMG approved volunteer resource others in our club should consider. An important benefit is that their volunteers receive extensive training in technical areas through their formal training program. Another important benefit is their workman's compensation insurance if an injury occurs to a volunteer.

OCMG Members and Trainees should contact Brenda Bolinger, Volunteer Manager if they are interested. Brenda's phone number is 909-625-8767, ext. 256 or you may e-mail: brenda.bolinger@cgu.edu.

Other Venues described at the October meeting:

UCI Arboretum

Artie Thomas spoke of her involvement with the UCI Arboretum Herbarium. She is having fun and learning a lot by helping them catalogue California plants that are found in local areas. She showed us how they preserve the plants and explained her tasks. There are many different groups to join at the UCI Arboretum and anyone interested in volunteering there can get more information from Artie.

Oakview Elementary School

Roz Romain spoke about her venue, Oakview Elementary. She explained the design tasks she accomplished in their garden area and even her tribulations in putting in a drip irrigation system. She showed us photos and described future tasks she wants to complete. As her OCMG companion has moved to a different venue, she needs assistance. If anyone is interested in volunteering at this site, please contact Roz.

☎ Contacts

Diane Gipson, *President*.....

Mike Maertzweiler, *1st Vice Pres*

Sallie Licata, *2nd Vice Pres*.....

Jetta Miles, *Treasurer*.....

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*..... (

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

OCMG Classes

Contact Sallie Licata if you would like to host a class or if you would like to audit a class to ensure there is space. All classes at Fullerton College unless otherwise stated.

Nov. 4: Irrigation and Water Management with Kent Gordon

Nov. 11: Roses with Virginia Carlson

Nov. 18: Tree Selection, Care and Maintenance with Alden Kelly, Arborist

Nov. 25: Thanksgiving Recess

Dec. 2: Combined class & holiday party at Santa Ana Bowling Green

Booked on Herbs

Kathleen M. Jones

A few years ago I discovered an author who wrote about two of my favorite subjects, Herbs and Murder. Susan Wittig Albert has been writing mysteries full time for the last 15 years. She lives in the hill country of Central Texas. Her mysteries feature China Bayles a lawyer turned-herbalist who owns Thyme and Seasons Herbs and is co-owner of Thyme for Tea with her friend Ruby Wilcox. The stories take place in a fictional town called Pecan Springs.

Each of the China Bayes Mysteries series includes the herb thyme. Susan gives the reader information about the medical, culinary and craft uses for these herbs as well as recipes.

Thyme of Death China Bayles left her law practice to open an herb shop in Pecan Springs,

Texas. But tensions run high in small town, too – and the results can be murder.

Rosemary Remembered When a woman who looks just like China is found murdered in a pickup truck, China looks for a killer close to home.

Witches' Bane When a series of Halloween pranks turns deadly, China must investigate to unmask a killer.

A Dilly of a Death China Bayles is in a pickle. Pecan Springs is hosting the annual Pickle fest and the Pickle Queen disappears.

In chapter five of A Dilly of a Death, China orders a German-style cucumber salad with sour-cream dressing, “heavy on the dill.” Here is Mrs. Krautzenheimer’s recipe, scaled down to serve four.

¼ cup sour cream

¼ cup mayonnaise

1 1/2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard

1 tablespoon dill pickle juice

3 teaspoons fresh dill

Her newest mystery is **Dead Man Bones** and is the 13th in the series.

I enjoy her web site:

<http://www.mysterypartners.com/> and go to **Landscapes** where Susan write about her life as a writer and what is happening on her 31 acres, which she and her writer husband call Meadow Knoll. She takes pictures of what is in bloom, this week she had a wonderful picture of Garlic Chives.

Susan’s newest book is **China Bayles’ Book of Days**, in the traditional format of the book of days or daybook. This new book is 365 days of celebrations of the mystery, myth, and magic of herbs.

Debris from the Editor

I am one of the lucky people invited to Don Schultze’s garden to choose a Hoya from his extensive collection—Don’s method of weeding so he can add new Hoyas to include in the book

he is writing. His garden is breathtaking—it includes a water feature, a greenhouse, an orchard on a steep slope and a multitude of plants. Hoyas not in the greenhouse hang along one side of his property on a dripper system

Regarding Diane's musings on whether or not her garden is a reflection of her feminine gender, I am wondering how Don's garden is a testament to his masculinity. Is it the automatic watering system? The very cool motorized lift that makes the hillside accessible? Or the greenhouse and pond, all with specialized equipment? How about his outdoor photography area? Are Hoyas, one of Don's passions, inherently attractive to men? Something to think about when we visit each other's gardens, especially on our annual spring garden tour. My Hoya, by the way, is alive and blooming again. Thanks, Don, for sharing your expertise, home, and plants with us.

--Jill Patterson

Last Month's Speaker

Leon Gray (www.aquascapes.com) gave directions on how to create low maintenance ponds. This distinctive garden feature can encourage different wildlife and enable gardeners to grow plants that otherwise might not thrive in our climate. If some of us have wanted to create a pool in our backyard, this was a perfect opportunity to see the scope of the job and get some free professional advice. If anyone decides to go ahead with the project, let us know how it goes. The rest of us may be taking a wait and see attitude.

And, we'd like to hear from our members who already have water features in their gardens. Please share your tips and lessons learned. Leon expounded that a pond will change your life. Has it changed yours? In what ways?

Recipes are rarely included, but this one was very popular at our annual December potluck and serves to start our creative juices flowing.

Mike Maertzweiler's German Sausage Cake®

This traditional family recipe has been handed down for generations in our family and receives raves when served during the holiday season.

1 lb raisins
1 lb pork sausage (bulk 100%pure)
1 lb brown sugar
2 cups flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp.cinnamon
1 tsp.nutmeg
1 tsp. baking soda

Put raisins in saucepan, cover with water, and bring to boil, simmer for about five minutes. Drain off 1 cup of raisin juice and save for later. Add baking soda to raisin juice.

Mix together raisins (when cool) pork sausage and brown sugar.

Combine flour, baking powder, and cloves cinnamon, nutmeg and sift.

Alternately add the flour mixture and the raisin juice to the sausage mixture, beginning and ending with the flour mixture.

Add ½ to 1 cup of diced pecans after batter is mixed, fold into mixture.

Grease and flour 9 x 13 x 2 pan and bake in moderate (350 degrees) for 50-60 minutes. You may use loaf pans but total baking time is shortened.

Frosting – Melt ½ c butter in pan.(one stick) Add 1-cup brown sugar to butter and bring to boil for two minutes. Remove from heat, add ¼ cup of milk, and bring to boil again. Let cool to lukewarm, then add powdered sugar until desired spreading consistency is reached. Frosting will harden when completely cooled.