

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 12 Number 11

December 2006

December Meeting

Saturday, December 2, 2006

510 E. Memory Lane/2615 Valencia, Santa Ana

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup & Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	General Meeting
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Christmas Party
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Take Down

This is our annual yummy potluck and our opportunity to meet the new OCMG trainees. EVERYONE is invited to bring edible goodies (especially main dishes) to share. We do have some favorites that we hope will be offered again this year (Jan's bacon-wrapped dates, for example!). *Sharon Neely requests that one person bring hot apple cider—and call Sharon to confirm that you are the one person.*

Also, remember to bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle. In the spirit of the holidays, gift-type things, plant-related or not, would be welcome.

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler, Tuesday, December 12 at 7 p.m.

January Meeting: Field Trip

We will be touring the Maloof garden in January and Sharon Neely must have an exact count by December 20. An optional tour of the house is also available at a cost of \$15.00 per person; there is no charge for the garden tour. More information on Maloof will be in the January newsletter. Signups will be taken at this month's meeting or you may call Sharon before December 20 to register.

Gardening Events

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

Sat, Dec. 2 & 3: Cactus & Succulent Sale

Visit the Potting Shed for a huge selection of cactus and succulents. Potting Shed hours are 10:00 am to 4:00 pm both days.

Fullerton College Horticultural Dept.

Sat, Dec. 2: Nursery Clearance Sale, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Donna O'Neill Conservancy Pre-register and get directions by calling (949) 489-9778.

Sat, Dec. 2: Family Nature Walk - Making a Nature Journal for the New Year. Walk along the trail and discover fall.. \$10/adult; \$5/child. 9:30 - 11:00 am.

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.

Dec 2: Combined class at Bowling Green

Dec 9: Plant Identification with Geoff Smith

Dec 16: Backyard Orchard Culture with Tom Spellman, Dave Wilson Nursery

Dec 23 & 30: HOLIDAY

Jan 6: Composting with Bill Roley/Patrick McNelly

Attention:

If you have not paid due, you have been dropped from the mailing list. If there is an error, contact Sallie Licata ASAP.

Leaves from the President



I'm a firm believer in every once in a while looking at 3 things: where we are, how did we get here and is this where we want to be. There couldn't be a more fitting time to do this – in preparation for the New Year.

About 20 years ago, I was involved with a philosophical/theological type organization (which I still hold dear to my heart) during which time I met their national speaker. He had been instrumental in working with the U.S. government to get his home, the Phillipines, rebuilt after war had devastated it. He stayed with my family when he came to speak at the Orange County chapter that I had started. I've since lost touch with him but still consider him one of the most spiritual people I have every known.

He came into my life at a time that turned out to be a crossroads that was yet to happen. I had just had my second child and life was very difficult. I was working hard to keep my marriage intact, which meant I didn't know that a divorce was in my near future. I remember asking him about how one knew if they were on the right path and how to get there if they weren't. He simply said, follow your heart and all else will come. Well, that seemed too simplistic an answer then and even now. How could that help my situation – a new child, financial hardship and a depressed and distancing husband? Yet, I couldn't not follow that advice. My husband left, I was offered a part time position in that organization as their Southwest Coordinator and could work from home. He had been right.

That advice has served me well even though I don't intentionally follow it. I just can't help but put my energies into what I love. And gardening is something that I have always loved though it sometimes takes a backseat to other parts of my

life. Now that I have a home with a big (to me) yard, it has blossomed (sometimes into an albatross about my neck – but that, my friends, is a different story).

So how did it happen, that the more I get involved in gardening, the less time I have to spend in my garden? It all started with Green Scene at the Fullerton Arboretum. I had moved to Placentia a couple of years previously and stumbled into the Arboretum's big event. I couldn't believe it - I hadn't been to the Arboretum since attending CSUF about 15 years before. A little while later a friend and I were complaining that we weren't doing what we wanted to be doing; I wanted to garden more and he wanted to join a gym. Sick of my own whining, I challenged my friend to pick a goal and set a deadline. We gave ourselves 6 weeks – he was going to join that gym and I was to volunteer at the Arboretum. I called that day, a mere 3 days before the half-yearly volunteer orientation. And that was all she wrote!

At that orientation I heard the term 'Master Gardener.' What is that, I asked? And my goal quickly became to become one. Of course I had to wait almost a whole year to take the classes, but that only made me want it more. I waited with bated breath. During the course I made good friends, gained knowledge and started going on garden tours and visiting more nurseries and gardens. Then I joined the board, went on monthly excursions with OCMG friends and started taking on projects. Now I am in an irrigation class at Mt Sac. But how do I find the time to tend to that living, breathing entity that is my garden?

I don't want to give anything up (except maybe that irrigation class) but I do need to attend to basics. So, Diane, take a deep breath and get in touch with your heart. And of course, pick up the pruners on your way out. (Oh, by the way, my friend never did join that gym - and he is still whining!)

--Diane Gipson

Last Month's Speaker

Well, last meeting had its ups and downs. The scheduled speaker, Gisele Schoniger, was injured and couldn't make it. In her stead, Kathryn Kellogg Johnson spoke to us. Instead of merely learning about the Dr Earth products which were developed by her father, we learned a lot about the history of the Kellogg family (yes, she is even related to the Kellogg cereal founder) and how entwined are the histories of her family and Orange County. We learned what their products are comprised of, how they were developed and where we could buy them. It was an eye opener and many people want to hear more. Thank you, Kathryn, for a wonderful talk and history lesson (and the product samples).

Maloof Home and Garden

Located in Alta Loma at the base of the San Gabriel Mountain Range, the Maloof Home attracts thousands of visitors. They come to see the world-renowned furniture of master woodworker Sam Maloof, and the art collection that represents his personal 70-year legacy of supporting the Arts and Crafts. And they come for the gardens...of which there are several, including alluvial terrace, woodland, lemon grove, orchard, and meadow. The orchard and lemon grove gardens are based on a color scheme and integrate native plant species and cultivars with other horticultural varieties

Easy African Violet Propagation Using Leaf Cuttings

At long last, here is one of the handouts from our speaker on African Violets. Thanks to Jean Rice for transcribing it—more will be forthcoming.

Step 1: First, remove a fresh, healthy leaf and cut the leaf stem about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch from the base of the leaf blade with a clean knife or razor blade.

Step 2: Next, insert the leaf into a rooting mixture of $\frac{1}{2}$ perlite, $\frac{1}{2}$ vermiculite, and a sprinkling of charcoal. Mark the pot with water-proof ink. Water with Vitamin B-1 and mild fertilizer.

Step 3: Keep the rooting mixture barely moist and leave it in bright (not direct) sunlight. In 6 – 8 weeks, “babies” should appear.

Step 4: Don't get impatient – as long as the leaf looks healthy and you are meeting its light, moisture, and light fertilizer requirements, it will produce eventually. Some leaves do take longer than others.

Step 5: When the babies become $\frac{3}{4}$ inches tall, gently pull them away from the “mother” leaf and separate them from each other.

Step 6: Plant in individual 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch pots. Don't forget to label! Water lightly with Vitamin B-1 and return to bright light.

Each leaf can yield anywhere from one to ten new plants, so be prepared to share with a few friends!

Contacts

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Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:
e-mail

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*.....
OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>