

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 2

February 2007

February Meeting

Saturday, February 3, 2007

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 A - G, please bring a breakfast snack. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies

Please bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle.

Also, please bring your holiday cards for Rita Corpin's school project and any gardening catalogs you'd like to share.

Enrichment program—Indoor Organic Gardening!

We are so lucky to host Julie Bawden Davis, a regular columnist for the L.A. Times and the O.C. Register as well as the author of four books. Her latest book, *Indoor Gardening the Organic Way* will be available to purchase at the discounted price of \$18.00. She'll be talking about her style of gardening indoors and answering our questions. More information about Julie and about house plants is available at her two websites:

<http://www.healthyhouseplants.com> and <http://www.juliebawdendavis.com>.

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler, Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m.

Gardening Events

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

Wed. Feb. 28, Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28: Botanical Illustration 10:00-1:00 p.m. 5-part series. \$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. Feb. 24, Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24: More for First-time Artists. 9 am – noon. 5-part series. \$125/person, Pavilion/Classroom . Continuation of above class. Course pre-requisite: *Botanical Illustration for First-time Artists* OR completion of another botanical illustration class.

Tue. Feb. 6, 20: Basics of Propagation (3-Part Series) 6-8 pm Chapman Classroom/ Pavilion . \$60/ Series \$50/members. First class covers the basics with Ron LaFond, second class covers propagating cactus and succulents with. Bring shears to the class.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden: Pre-register by calling Rachel Kau-Taylor (909) 625-8767 x224.

Sat. Feb. 10, 10 am – noon. \$12 Meet the authors of the new book, *Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*, which contains substantial information on climate, soil conditions, planting tips, irrigation, pruning methods, pest management and weed eradication. The authors will talk about the contents, answer questions, and sign books.

More Gardening Events

El Dorado Nature Ctr. & Cal. Coastal Comm.

Sat. March 3, Noon – 2 pm. Waves, Wetlands, and Watersheds. Free. Workshop designed for teachers that addresses California's coastal and marine issues such as endangered species, marine debris, coastal geology, water use, and more. The connection between inland areas and the ocean is emphasized throughout, so the lessons are relevant for students living in all regions of California. Register before February 28 with Annie Kohut Frankel at afrankel@coastal.ca.gov or (415) 597-5888

Propagating Native Plants

Are you interested in learning how to propagate California native plants? The Orange Coast River Park, Friends of Harbors Beaches and Parks and the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy **may** offer a 10 week propagation class at a new Native Plant Nursery located on the grounds of the New HBWC interpretive center with Reginald Durant, of Back to Natives Restoration, as instructor. The OCRP is hoping for a late June start for the summer propagation class. Tuition for the 10 week class would be approximately \$50. Contact Lena Hayashi with the Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy. (714) 963-2123 lenahayashi@socal.rr.com

Garden Memories

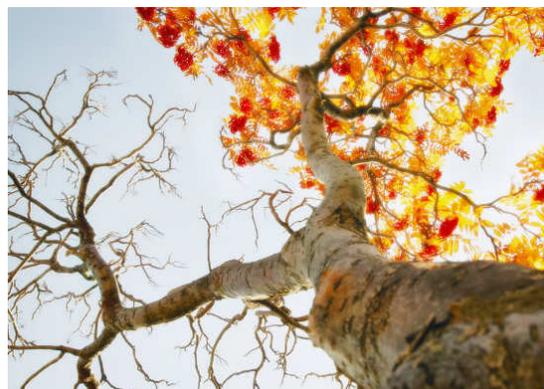
By Kathleen Jones

Notes from Nana's Garden: I grew up in a small town in Pennsylvania. We lived in a three bedroom duplex with a long narrow back yard. Some time in my early years, my Uncle Vince dug up a Maple tree from the nearby woods and planted it in the back yard. It was so skinny, not more than the size of a fat pencil. My brother John kept running his red tricycle into it. None of my family expected the little maple to live, but it did. Our Maple managed to survive and grow, just as did each of the seven children.

When the Maple was about five feet tall, it became a Lollipop tree. Each Sunday morning when we returned from Church the tree would have Lollipops hanging from its branches. Daddy insisted that the Maple tree grew the lollipops. Even though the lollipops were a really big treat; we only believed that story for a short time.

At Christmas the Maple had little decorations hanging from its bare branches. Santa came with a big Ho Ho Ho until I told my sister that Santa was Uncle Vince, and of course the next time she saw Uncle Vince she spilled the beans and that ended Santa's visits.

Throughout the years, it housed a tree house, became the boys' jungle gym, and was the place to sit on a hot summer afternoon.



Today that tree is huge and the roots have spread all over the yard. The roots have managed to invade all parts of the yard and garden. Mother will be 90 next January and is now living alone. She is complaining about all the leaves falling on her grass and invading her garden.

It is always a shock when I go home to see the size of this tree. My five brothers all grew up and are not only fathers but grandfathers. It is as much a shock to see the size of the Maple tree as it is as to see the "little boys" as grandfathers.

The Maple tree has always been one of my favorite trees. Here in California they are especially attractive because their leaves turn colors each autumn.

Leaves from the President



Kudos to everyone who came on our field trip to Maloof Gardens. And thanks to Jackie for suggesting this wonderful place. Wow, what an experience! If you weren't able to join us, think arts and crafts but with a modern twist and a beautiful garden. (Did anyone dare to pick a tangerine?) Sam Maloof should be an inspiration to us all. At 90 years old he is alive and vital, still practicing his craft of wood-working and teaching up and coming wood-workers. I was told that Sam's chairs sell for over \$35,000 apiece and he has people who have reserved chairs and are willing to wait over 2 years to receive them. (His joke was that in the past his customers would ask if they could receive the chair before they died, whereas now, they ask if they will receive the chair before **he** dies.) He was an engaging character, stopping to talk to us as we traversed the garden and a little bird told me that he took the wood-workers from our group into his shop – ask them about it.

Sam was married to his first wife over 50 years and then remarried in his late 80's. He is surrounded by nature and art collected from around the world. This is not to say that he hasn't felt life's vicissitudes – in 1998 his first wife died and he found out that the 210 freeway was going to go right through his living room. His house was found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and he picked out another orchard property, 6 acres, I believe, to move it to. His house, which he had built room by room as he could afford it, was moved in 8 pieces to the new location. He then designed and built a second house on the same property and married again a few years later. His present wife tends to the garden and I think I heard that she designed a system to catch and slow the rainfall from the hills above so that

their slightly sloping garden wouldn't be washed away. They are still enlarging the 'compound' and the new building (museum) is to be completed in May. And experts say that the chairs he builds now are better than those he built in the past. And he does all of this from his head, no plans of any sort!

In this day and age, where youth is revered and 'antics' are filling the news, it is nice to know that quality of life can be sustained and can carry one into the bloom of life with style and grace. Thanks to Sam, we can all repaint our futures and our (prospective) gardens in brighter colors.

--Diane Gipson

Contacts

Diane Gipson, *President*.....
Mike Maertzweiler , *1st Vice Pres*
Sallie Licata, *2nd Vice Pres*.....
Jetta Miles , *Treasurer*.....
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter*

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

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.

Feb. 3: Xeriscape Landscaping with Geoff Smith

Feb. 10 California Natives at ENC with Reginald Durand

Feb. 17: Landscape Design and Maintenance with Don Equitz

Feb. 24: California Natives at Tree of Life, San Juan Capistrano