

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 34

April 2007

April Meeting

Saturday, April 7, 2007

NEW LOCATION!

**Fullerton Arboretum, Oak Hall
1900 Associated Rd.**

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Enrichment Speaker
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
11:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Clean up

Members with last names starting with **H – Q**, 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.

Enrichment program—Backyard Orchard Culture!

Tom, from the Dave Wilson Nursery, is well-known to our group. Each time he speaks, we learn something new. Tom is the Southwest Regional Representative for Dave Wilson Nurseries, a leader in fruit tree development with extensive retail and wholesale distribution. With more than 25 years of fruit tree nursery experience, he has worked with sub-tropicals and deciduous fruit trees, including landscape and orchard site consultation. Speaking requests by gardening organizations and local nurseries keep him in high demand. His talks are always stimulating and give new meaning to fruit tree culture in our backyard gardens.

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler, Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m.

Gardening Events

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

Sat.-Sun. April 21 – 22: Green Scene Plant Sale and Garden Show Largest plant sale and garden show in the region. Over 100 vendors selling plants and garden accessories. Time: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission: \$6/Adults

CSU Fullerton, McCarthy Hall-MH 513:

Wed. Apr. 11, California Beetles: A reflection on biodiversity and human history, 4 pm.

Dr. Art Evans, Research Associate, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution and author of *Introduction to California Beetles* and *Field Guide to Beetles of California*, both available for purchase, will speak. For directions and campus map: <http://www.fullerton.edu/campusmap/>

Thurs. – Sun., Apr. 26 – 29: 18th Annual Spring Garden Show. South Coast Plaza in the Crystal Court building. Over 75 vendors featured and seminars all four days. More information at:

<http://www.springgardenshow.com/index.html>

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens

Sun. April 22: “Grow Native” Garden Tour. Call Barbara at (909) 624-0838 for more details.

Visit home gardens in the Claremont area that feature California native plants. All will give you ideas on how to create beautiful natural spaces using natives in your own garden. Pick up the map and garden descriptions at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden visitor entrance, where a staff member will be available to answer questions. You may visit the host gardens in any order at your leisure between 11 am and 4 pm. Free.

Leaves from the President



March is shaping up to be a red-letter month. At the beginning of the month, 27 new gardeners graduated from the OCMG's 12th class and joined our ranks. Seeing their happy, expectant faces with the joy of completion and the anticipation of new beginnings was exciting.

Then there was my first Fullerton College tomato sale (shhhh - don't tell the Fullerton Arboretum). No surprise to myself, I bought double the tomato plants I planned.

Finally, Monday, March 12, three intrepid OCMG members (Jan Brider, Kathleen Jones and I) spoke to a full house at Placentia Library. We brought 40 handouts each and had them begging for more. There must have been over 50 people present. And seeing OCMG members in the audience who came to support us and cheer us on – words can't suffice for the appreciation I felt (though perhaps didn't show). I saw Mike M., Richard C., Nora K., Joe U. and a graduate from last year's class who just moved back into the area. Thank you! The audience was attentive and seemed to hang on our every word. And they came up with some good questions, too.

For a moment I felt as I imagine the first Master Gardeners had felt. They put themselves out for an as-yet unknown, unimagined future. Would this take off? Would they like what they were doing? Would they feel fulfilled by it and would others respect their knowledge and the effort they put in? Giving this public talk as a representative of OCMG was a challenge. I had to trust the universe to lay a path down under my feet as I walked into this situation. I knew it wouldn't be a fiasco; that it would be okay. I wanted it to be good, naturally. But that wasn't exactly my anxiety. What I didn't realize was

how much it meant to me, that it be better than good – that it reflect well on our whole organization.

Now that it's over, my conclusion is very simple: it is uplifting to stretch oneself, whatever the outcome. And it doesn't have to be a major stretch – like a couch potato in a 50 k marathon or an agoraphobic becoming little miss extrovert party animal. It doesn't have to get the adrenaline rushing or make you hyperventilate. Sometimes all it takes is 'showing up,' or maybe even just raising a hand. The challenge can be a seemingly little thing with hidden motives and concealed anxiety. But the payoff - oh how sweet!

My goals may be modest and my trials somewhat undemanding to some, but that's not the point. It's that I stepped forward to a felt need without any real expectation or desire for personal outcome. And surprise – I discovered a benefit I hadn't envisioned. Okay, maybe it's endorphins from tackling a new challenge! Or maybe it's just the natural cycle of things: from effort to completion. Or simply a task that changed into a moment of 'Wow, that was cool!'

And, to top it off, I now have a talk that I can actually give again and it feels real good. How does this sound: Have talk, will travel!

--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 Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

e-mail or snail mail:

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

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

Camellias at Nuccio's Nursery

By Barbara Eaves

The sight of camellias in bloom is a familiar one to those of us who live in California and is one of the signs by which we mark the winter season. One of the best sources of these beautiful plants is right here in our area—Nuccio's Nurseries in Altadena, which is just north of Pasadena. Started in the 1930s, they are world-renowned experts in camellias and azaleas. On a recent trip to their nursery, Tom Nuccio was kind enough to spend two hours with me and a group of friends, touring the nursery, explaining grafting techniques and infecting us with his enthusiasm for these beautiful plants. The nursery is also a retail facility with a huge selection of both *C. japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. The knowledgeable staff will help you choose the right camellia for your garden. Tom stated that most of his plants are shipped to the San Francisco Bay area, but local retail sales are also an important part of his business. Nuccio's has a website:

www.nuciosnurseries.com. We're all familiar with *C. japonica*, but a very good source of information on *C. sasanqua* can be obtained at www.sazanka.org which is the website of amateur grower and hybridizer Yuri Panchul. A good source of information on *C. japonica* is <http://hort.ifas.ufl.edu/shrubs/CAMJAPA.PDF>. Whether we choose one or several of these lovely flowers for our gardens, they will cheer us up on those gloomy winter days when nothing else is in bloom.

Placentia's Historic Trees

The Placentia Historical Committee is trying to identify unique and old trees throughout the city which will be included in a tour of historic homes in the community. One example is the macadamia nut tree at the corner of Yorba Linda Boulevard and Placentia Avenue that dates back to the early 1900s and is the oldest fruit tree in the city. Another are the four pine trees that stand at Valencia High School, planted in 1930.

They became the boundaries for the school's front driveway when it was built, because people didn't want them removed. Community members can suggest other trees for the honor by calling 714-520-1623

OCMG Member Updates

Helen Elich has a new email address:

OCMG Garden Tour in May!

Our May meeting is the annual members' garden tour. There is a lot going on that date, but making time to visit our three Gardens should be first on everyone's list. Information about each garden will follow in our May newsletter as usual. The tour is one of the highlights of our meeting year!

If anyone would like to volunteer their garden, please contact Sharon Neely right away.

Budget Committee Formed

Let's thank and congratulate Bob Shaw and Martha Murphy for volunteering to work on the budget committee. They will work with our Treasurer, Jetta Miles to create the budget for next year.

Financial Review Committee Formed

And to make sure our finances are in order, a Financial Review Committee was created. Let's give our support to Nancy Smith, Jan Youngquist and John Baird, who volunteered to be on the Final Review Committee for this year. Yea Team!

Neighborhood Gardening Club: Becky Person is starting a Garden Club in west Costa Mesa, first meeting April 21st. Is there an expert gardener in her area who might like to come? .

Gardening for the Chinese New Year From Sloat Gardener's Notebook, Feb/Mar 07

Traditional Chinese gardening:

- Chinese gardens embrace the Taoist philosophy of yin (calmness) and yang (activity). These gardens illustrate the traditional aesthetic of placing plants and objects together that are opposite so that they work as a balanced whole.
- Chinese gardens are often constructed to take viewers on a journey of discovery and may be planned to encompass balance, harmony, proportion and variety through a combination of natural elements.
- Water is a central element in a Chinese garden; it balances other elements of the garden.

Each January and February, Chinese communities in the Bay Area begin preparing for Chinese New Year (also known as Lunar New Year). There are many traditions that are thought to bring good fortune if put into practice during this time, including planting and caring for plants. Throughout the year, certain plants are favored in traditional Chinese gardens for their associations with luck, fortune and perseverance. Here at Sloat this Chinese New Year, we present six beautiful plants chosen for their symbolism in helping gardeners yield good health, wealth and luck.

A **Kumquat** or **Mandarin** promises a fruitful and prosperous new year inviting endless wealth. "Kum" symbolizes gold, while "quat" symbolizes auspiciousness and peace; many Chinese believe in keeping at least one or two in their home. Kumquat and Mandarin are also said to protect the home and ward off evil.

Flowering Plum Tree – It is believed that plum trees not only invite and create love, but also prosperity and wealth. Plum trees are revered for their beautiful blooms, perseverance and ability to grow in a wide variety of climates and terrain.

Camellia – Native to eastern and southern Asia, this shrub symbolizes wealth and is associated

with auspiciousness, peacefulness, and royalty. Its beautiful flowers are a lovely floral treat.

Peony – A symbol for wealth, value and power, the peony is also a sign of royalty. With its dignified beauty, peony has been used to describe queens and royal concubines in ancient China. In full bloom, it is a sign of peace. For centuries, the peony has been esteemed in traditional Chinese gardens as one of the most exquisite flowers.

Nandina – Also known as Heavenly Bamboo, Nandina is an evergreen or semi-evergreen woody shrub. Since bamboo has "sections" on each stalk, it symbolizes personal and professional development section by section. It makes a light, airy looking hedge, screen or tub plant and is dramatic with night lighting. Nandina is excellent for bonsai and terrific in urban environments in narrow, restricted spaces. Nandina is also known for its beautiful winter color.

Michelia champaca – This plant is widely appreciated during Chinese New Year for its positive symbolism. A magnolia relative, it has attractive lush foliage and profuse, fragrant blossoms. In Chinese, the name means "subtle, timid smile." Other plants used in traditional Chinese gardens: **Banana, lucky Bamboo, Quince, evergreen Hydrangea, Chrysanthemum, Ginkgo, Magnolia, Jasmine and Willow.**

--sent by Helen Elich

Kathleen Jones at Placentia Library program.



Citrus Leafminer

By Don Schulze

The citrus leafminer (*Phyllocnistis citrella*) has been a pest of citrus species for many years in many parts of the world, but it is new to Southern California. The larvae bore through the leaf epidermis and begin feeding immediately, forming nearly invisible mines. As the larvae develop, the mines become more visible and larval excrement forms a central trail within the mine. As feeding is completed, they usually form a mine directed towards the leaf margin. This mining may prevent young leaves from expanding and cause them to become twisted and curled. Protecting trees from this foliage loss is important, as trees need this new leaf growth to accumulate needed carbohydrates for tree growth and fruit production.

The only control available until now has been applications of organo-phosphates, which were not available to the home gardener. This year a number of new products containing "Spinosad" have been introduced which provide effective control of the citrus leafminer. The use of spinosad is not a one shot cure. It must be applied at 5 to 6 day intervals after new leaves begin to appear, and for as many as 5 or 6 applications. The product will not harm bees and will allow any sprayed fruit to be used within one day of application.

Gigantic Plant Exchange and Potluck!

Sponsored by the class of 2007

Coordinated by Nancy Smith

When: June 2nd, 2007

What to Bring: Please bring 10 - 12 or more rooted plants to give away. If you bring some, you may take some! Any kind of plant!! All plants **MUST** have label with **botanical and common name** and care instructions.

Food Item to Bring by last name:

A-G: Baked item

H-P: Fruit or Vegetable item

Q-Z: Egg, Cheese or Meat item

If you would like to add your personal or family favorite recipe to the Master Gardener Cookbook, which is being compiled, please bring your recipe.

What's the plan? The plan is to set up and bring plants between 8:15 and 8:45 am, prior to the meeting. The plant exchange will be after the meeting. Please be prompt so set-up completes before the meeting starts!

How do we exchange? You may choose one plant of each kind first time through, and later we will open it up to choosing more.

Please call with any questions you may have: Nancy Smith at

Volunteer Opportunities

Spring Home and Garden Show April 26-29

Check your calendars for the upcoming Home and Garden Show at Crystal Court at the South Coast Plaza. Those of you who have signed-up, thanks....there are still a few spots for which we need coverage. The signup listing will be at the Fullerton Arboretum meeting on April 7. New booth design in the works. Check with Mike Maertzweiler for time slots at .

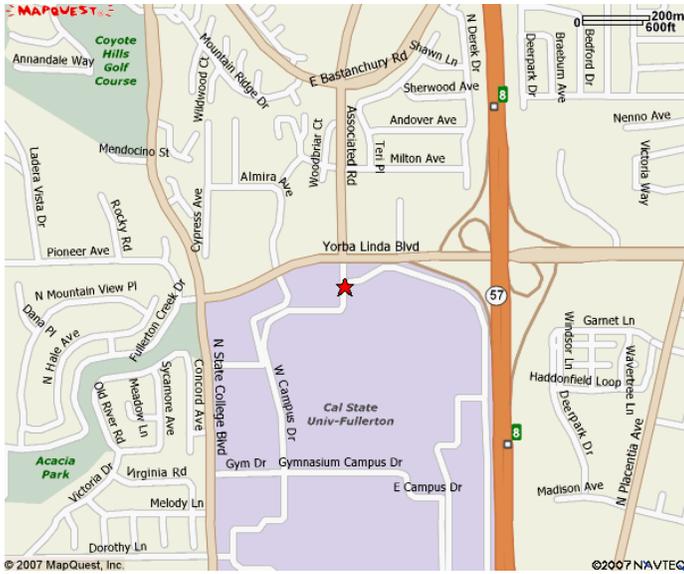
Anaheim Convention Center Home Show- June 29, 30, July 1

Another great opportunity for OCMG to meet and greet the public with answers to their gardening questions. We have not been at this venue before and the sign up listing will be at the Fullerton Arboretum meeting on April 7. Free admission to volunteers and a chance to see other high level booths and venues. Check with Mike Maertzweiler for available time slots at

MAP TO Fullerton Arboretum

1900 Associated Rd

Fullerton, CA 92831



The following routes are suggested

From the 57 Freeway going North: take the Yorba Linda Blvd. off-ramp. Turn left onto Yorba Linda Blvd. Turn left at signal into CSU Fullerton parking lot, turn left at end of parking lot to the Arboretum parking lot.

From the 57 Freeway going South: take the Yorba Linda Blvd. off-ramp. Turn right onto Yorba Linda Blvd. Turn left at signal into CSU Fullerton parking lot, turn left at end of parking lot to the Arboretum parking lot.