

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 4

April 2007

May Meeting

**Saturday, May 5, 2007
Garden Tour**

Fourth annual Spring Tour of OCMG member gardens. This tour features gardens in north Orange County.

*This is a self-guided tour. Below are directions to each home, though it is advisable to check against a good map. There are scheduled times to visit each garden and you must follow the schedule—this will allow our hosts to visit the other gardens. Please do **NOT** take cuttings or seeds. If you see a plant you covet, ask the gardener if you may have a cutting when the time is appropriate.*

Cameras and garden journals welcome.

Tips for Garden Tours:

1. There are scheduled times to visit each garden, please follow the schedule. Visit one or all the gardens as your time and inclination permit.
2. Wear comfortable shoes suitable for lots of stairs and lots of walking. Also, bring a hat, wear sun block, and carry water. Be prepared for the weather.
3. Carpooling is recommended--especially with someone who can act as a navigator. And who can read the map you bring in the car. Use Google, Mapquest, or Yahoo maps to preplan your trip. Double-check all directions given against a map!

Garden #1 -- 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Dr. Robert Sharp

Dr. Sharpe's gardens are a feature of Marion Knott Anderson's "Honeymoon" home built in the hills of La Habra Heights in 1949. "On a clear day, the view surrounding the gardens can upstage all my work! I have four rose gardens, featured with many companion plants. Nuccios Camellias are a new addition. I consider my gardens a test site for Fullerton Arboretum plants! Think 4-5 new additions monthly for over 5 years of volunteering at the Arboretum. I have also added a state-of-the-art irrigation system to one of the gardens. Come to see! (Veni, Vidi, Vici!)"

Garden #2 -- noon to 1:30

Anne Porter

"When we bought our home in the 1990, I knew I'd be able to have a lot of fun with 11,000 square feet of concrete. I wanted to make a "grandkid" friendly backyard that still had room for my favorite plants and as wide a variety of animals as possible. So we have a variety of gardens: meadow, patio, dry climate, rose, and cactus. Last year, the yard became a certified backyard habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Come and enjoy part of Cinco de Mayo with us."

This year, we have fewer places to visit because several of our members have opened their gardens for the Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour on May 6 and need Saturday to finalize preparations. Information regarding the tour, which is a fundraiser for three charities, is on the web at: <http://www.heardsgardentour.com>

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler, Tuesday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

Gardening Events

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

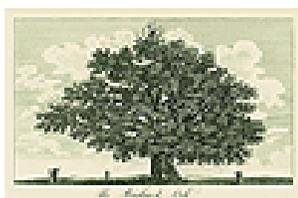
Sat.-Sun. May 5-6: Herb Extravaganza and Plant Sale. 10 .m. – 4 p.m. Hundreds of herbs and related plants for sale in the Potting Shed.. Demonstrations and speakers are scheduled both days. Free.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Gardens Pre-register by calling Rachel at (909) 625-8767 x224

Sun. May 19: Guerrilla Gardening! The Politics of Using Native Plants in Your Landscape. 10 a.m. – noon. \$12.00

Considering changing your front yard landscaping to native plants but anxious about the impact of your decision on your neighborhood, homeowners association, or local jurisdiction? Ellen Mackey will first present the history of residential landscapes in Southern California, the expectations of neighbors, legislation, and local ordinances, following with a discussion on practical ways to avoid many of these problems. Participants will learn how to receive a habitat garden certification by National Wildlife Federation Wildlife Habitat Program. If interested, bring your plant list to class and be prepared to fill out the forms.

Leaves from the President



Spring has sprung and our gardens are starting to shape up after a very dry winter.

And to top off the changes, the Santa Ana’s are starting to blow. The seasons can be subtle in Southern California, but they are unmistakable to a trained eye.

Well, OCMG is also gearing up for seasonal changes. First, our annual garden tour occurs in May. While we are only going to view two gardens this year, there is no saying how many ideas we will garner from the experience. Besides, viewing a slew of gardens can blur the very important details. And don’t they say that excellence is in the details? So this year while having fun with my gardening friends, I am going to try to focus on one or two ideas from these gardens that I can actually bring home and implement. If something in one of the gardens next month moves you to make changes in your garden, let us know. Stories like that can be very inspirational.

The second change coming is elections for the Board of Directors. This change in season is as inevitable as it is in nature. OCMG has been in existence for over 10 years and has had many different permutations of members on the board and the different committees. And while there has been stability through the years, I would hypothesize that each person’s commitment has had some lasting effect on the group as a whole. Members have already come forward to volunteer to serve on the board next year. Thank you all! And if anyone else would like to garner some volunteer hours by contributing in this way, drop me a line. Meanwhile, I’ll see you all ‘in the field.’

--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:

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*.....
10056 Pico Vista Rd. Downey, CA 90240
OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

For the electronically connected:

Joe Underwood sent the link to this site, which has several articles. Click on "Plant Care" and then "Eeny, Meeny, Miny, Moe" for an article summarizing and reminding people of what they should check out before buying potted plants. <http://www.provenwinners.com>

Mother's Day Program

Rancho Los Alamitos is hosting a series of spring programs. On May 12, Sharon Lovejoy, author of *Sunflower Houses*, will speak on "Pocket-Sized Paradise: Creating Small Space Magic". The \$40 cost includes a traditional springtime tea. Reservations can be purchased with a credit card at (562) 431-3541.

Volunteer Opportunities

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. Check with Mike Maertzweiler for available time slots at mikem11@earthlink.net

Fourth Annual Gardener's Market hosted by the Horticultural Society on Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the East Anaheim Christian Church, 2216 East South Street, Anaheim (East of State College, between Ball & Lincoln)

OCMG will participate in this annual garden event by answering gardening questions. We have 2 volunteers already and need 2 more so we can have two teams to cover the event. The Horticultural Society, Geranium Society, Anaheim Garden Club, and the Strawberry Peddlers--including Julie Bawden Davis--will be there. If you need some volunteer hours and would like to hob-nob with members of other gardening societies, call Diane Gipson.

School Garden: The organization **Back to Natives**, founded by Reggie Durant, designed and planted a new native plant habitat garden at **California Elementary School**, 1080 N. California St., Orange 92867 last December. The plants are doing well, but now the children and teachers need assistance and training in maintaining this garden. This whole program by Back to Natives sounds wonderfully exciting. This may be a good way to get on the ground floor and become involved in this worthwhile project. Those interested should contact Diane Gipson for further information.

From the Orange County Register

Stead, Priscilla, 89, died at her Fullerton home of 21 years on March 24, 2007. She was born in New York City and raised on a 200 acre estate in Portchester, New York.. Upon her retirement she moved to Fullerton in 1986. She volunteered at the Fullerton Arboretum as a Potter and Nature Guide. As a member of Fullerton Beautiful she planted and maintained a succulent garden in front of the Fullerton Police Station. A memorial service will be held at the Fullerton Arboretum on May 6 at 2:00 PM. Donations in her memory may be made to the Fullerton Arboretum, 1900 Associated Road, Fullerton, CA 92831

June Plant Exchange:

Joe Underwood will bring large (up to six feet tall!) rooted sections of Charles Grimaldi Brugmansia to the plant exchange barring problems. If you would like one, please contact Joe immediately at junderwoodz@aim.com. He will bring up to about 15 rooted cuttings. Last year, his mother plant probably had between 1500 and 2000 flowers (250 - 350 flowers for each of five or six flowerings) and the aroma was great for weeks.

For those who want to try their hand at germinating seeds, he may still have several dozen seed pods that he can bring to a future meeting. He started 43 plants out of one seed pod two years ago; unfortunately, they died from neglect while he was working in Arizona.



From Logee's website:

(www.logee.com)

Charles Grimaldi teaches us the meaning of such words as "profusion" and "fragrance." The trumpets are a luminous salmon. The richness of color catches the eye, the intense fragrance delights the nose and the profuse blooms add joy to any living space. Hardy Zone 8 and higher for outdoors. Full sun, grows to 3-6' in container, minimum temperature 35°, blooms in spring, summer and fall.

Light: Full to partial sun (southern, eastern or western exposure). If they don't flower, increase the light level.

Temperature: As a potted plant, maintain indoor temperatures above 40.

Humidity: 50% or higher; however, they will tolerate low levels with no harm

Watering: Bring soil to visual dryness between waterings. When watering, thoroughly saturate soil until a little water runs out of the bottom of the pot. They are "soft growers" and can use lots of water under high temperature and low humidity. A slight wilt does no harm

Fertilizer: They need heavy to moderate levels of fertilizer. Give them more under high light.

Under most conditions fertilize with ½ tsp./gallon once a week. If leaves become pale or older leaves turn yellow and fall excessively, increase fertilizer to twice a week until they green up. Use a balanced fertilizer, i.e. 15-15-15 or a blooming fertilizer like Pro Gro 'Grow' 7-9-5 or Electra 5-10-3.

Pruning: Prune after flowering is complete. As they are large and rapid growers, they periodically need a hard pruning which they take

with ease. Prune back on lateral branches if a tree form is desirable. It is best to prune in spring or when plant is placed outside. After the pruning, it can take a month or more before they rebloom.

Insects and Disease: Brugmansias are highly susceptible to whitefly and spider mite. Mealy bug and aphids can also be a problem. They have little susceptibility to diseases of the roots. Foliage diseases are only a problem under high humidity and cool temperatures.

Comments: Brugmansias are fast and easy growers, and can flower under a variety of light conditions. They usually bloom when plant height reaches 3 to 5 feet. If bloom stops, it is usually a sign of too low a light level, inadequate fertilizer or excessively high temperatures. They can be wintered over in basements where they go into a dormancy and defoliate. Check on their watering needs at this time. In the spring they can be moved into a sunny location to start the growing season over again.

Remember to start your plants for the June exchange! All kinds of plants welcome, including vegetables, flowers, shrubs, succulents and anything else you can grow!

15 Things You Never Thought You Needed to Know About ... Grass

by www.SixWise.com

1. A 10,000-square-foot lawn contains six grass plants per square inch, 850 plants per square foot and 8.5 million plants in all.
2. Ninety percent of a grass plant's weight is in its roots.
3. Grass lawns have a major cooling effect: the front lawns of eight average houses have the same cooling effect as 24 home central air conditioning units.
4. A 2,500-square-foot patch of grass releases enough oxygen for a family of four, and absorbs pollutants like carbon dioxide, hydrogen fluoride and perosyacetylene nitrate.
5. Grass lawns help purify water that goes into underground aquifers; the plants' root mass and soil microbes act as a filter when the water flows through, both capturing and breaking down pollutants.
6. There are an estimated 10,000 species of grass worldwide (and only about 50 are suitable for use in a lawn).
7. At the 2006 U.S. Open, the grass was mowed daily to ensure consistency of playing conditions
8. The White House Lawn was once home to grazing sheep. The sheep grazed during the term of President Woodrow Wilson, and their wool was sold to raise money for the Red Cross during World War I.
9. Between 70 percent and 80 percent of grass plants are made up of water (grass clippings are 90 percent water).
10. Americans spent over \$11.6 billion on lawn care in 2003, according to a Harris Interactive poll.
11. Grass helps control air pollution by trapping an estimated 12 million tons of dust and dirt from the air each year.
12. Green lawns like we see today didn't exist in America until the late 18th century.
13. Early lawns, including those of Presidents Washington and

Jefferson, were kept "trimmed" by grazing livestock.

14. A dense grass lawn absorbs rainfall six times better than a wheat field and four times better than a hayfield..

15. Grass needs about 1 inch of water a week to thrive.

--sent in by Jan Youngquist

Late breaking news!

California Friendly® Garden Contest

Orange County homeowners with colorful and water efficient gardens are invited to enter the first annual California Friendly® Garden Contest from now until June 1, to help raise public awareness about smart and sustainable landscaping. The ideal garden will feature colorful and less thirsty plants, irrigation controllers and precision sprinkler heads. Grand prize winner receives \$3,000, with \$500 prizes awarded in four categories: Best Aesthetics, Best Use of Plants, Best Water Efficiency and Best Do-It-Yourself. The public will vote to select the 10 finalists in June and a panel of experts will select winners in July. For more information on eligibility, criteria and how to enter, please visit www.rogersgardens.com/gardencontest. I bet a number of OCMG members are eligible!