

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 7

August 2007

August Meeting

Saturday, August 4, 2007

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.	Member Survey and Where are we going?
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Snacks and Socializing
10:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Door prize & clean up

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.

Dues are overdue! (\$20.00).

If you have not paid the \$20 annual membership, which covers our insurance and newsletter, please bring to meeting or mail to Jetta Miles at:

20915 Timber Ridge Road
Yorba Linda, CA 92886

Please also update your contact information, especially your email address. We hope to have an updated roster by the September meeting.

No Enrichment program this month

The August meeting will be used to help plan the direction the club will take during the coming year. Ideas for speakers and volunteers for committees will be solicited. .

Gardening Events

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224

Sat. Aug. 18: Container Gardening with Native Plants 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. \$50. Learn how to design container gardens using appropriate native plants with eye-catching foliage, flowers, and fruits alive with the colors and textures of California.

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

Potting Shed is closed until September 8.

Advance notice: the tomato tasting and sizzlin' salsa contest is on that date so get your tomatoes and salsa recipes ready.

Plant Exchange Thanks

We all owe thanks to the OCMG class of 2006-2007 volunteers for hosting the June plant exchange. And thanks to all of our members who brought plants to share.

The Traveling Gardeners

See page three to find out where they traveled to last month!



Barbara Eaves, Dorothee Kohlmeier, Helen Wood, Gloria Potocki, Jan Brider & Helen Elich in the back.

Leaves from the President



On behalf of the newly elected Board of the Orange County Master Gardeners (OCMG) I would like to thank each of you for your vote of confidence as we move into the new year. Each of the Board members has dedicated their efforts this next year to a renewed enthusiastic approach to the support of our mission, *dedicated to sharing horticultural knowledge*.

The Board you have elected is: Gayle Von Eissler, First Vice President (outreach/education); Nancy Smith, Second Vice President (class), Jeannie Lawrie, Secretary; Jetta Miles, Treasurer; and Robin Russell, Corresponding Secretary. I have appointed Co Wilkins, Parliamentarian. We will work as a team even though we have our own by-law chartered responsibilities.

The direction of this Board will be steadfast for the betterment of the club. We will bring you some moderated changes and updates in certain areas such as review of By-Laws, liability issues, development of a scholarship policy and the administration thereof, OCMG manual update and renewed membership actions with support to the new class. I will ask for volunteers to assist on special focus groups to complete "side-bar" reviews for recommendations to the Board.

Last year, the club achieved milestones worth mentioning: update of venue listing, new business cards, in-depth research into the incorporation and non-profit status of OCMG by our Treasurer Jetta Miles, and finally, submission of the formal application to the IRS for the 501(c)3 status by a focus group of Diane Gipson, Jetta Miles and Jeannie Lawrie. A special thanks to Frank Licata (Sallie's husband) for his review and direction on the application. Four outreach venues were accomplished:

Crystal Court Home and Garden Show, Horticultural Society Market, Anaheim Convention Center Home Show, and the Placentia Library presentation. Our venue support is up this year and we should continue to increase hours as the year progresses. This years' class has given the club a new infusion of energy and desire for involvement. Your election of Nancy Smith from this year's class as your Second Vice President is a great example of the enthusiasm our new members have for the club.

Our meeting schedule will change somewhat to accommodate a shorter meeting with less detail unless necessary. We will remain on the first Saturday in Santiago Park. We may use flyers to make announcements, and appoint venue and organization representatives who will keep us informed of their activities, and meet at destinations for a short meetings and tours. We need your help for speaker suggestions; please let a Board member know if you have any speakers/presentations for our meetings.

Our membership listing is being updated and **I cannot emphasize enough to keep your data current at all times**. We may need to contact you by snail mail, telephone or email.

Once again, from the Board, thank you for your vote of confidence for the coming year. Please contact any Board member via email. My email is almost always on.... -- Mike Maertzweiler

☎ Contacts
Mike Maertzweiler , *President*....
Gayle Von Eissler, 1st Vice Pres
Nancy Smith, 2nd Vice Pres.....
Jetta Miles , *Treasurer*.....
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter*
 Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

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

TANAKA STRAWBERRY FARMS

By Barbara Eaves

This is the second in a series of occasional articles on locally owned nurseries, farms, and other horticulture related



businesses.

Tanaka Farms is located close to the 405 Freeway on land leased from the Irvine Company. It is open year round and offers tours in a tractor pulled wagon during which you will see some of the 40 different varieties of fruits and vegetables that they grow. Tanaka Farms is currently run by the fourth generation of a family originally from Hiroshima, Japan. All crops are grown organically, and recycled water is used for drip irrigation. Chili pepper or garlic oil sprays are used to control pests. Crop rotation practices are used with fields left fallow for one year. They use no fertilizers, and all leftover vegetable matter is composted.

During the tour, several stops are made along the way, and everybody has an opportunity to sample just-picked crops. The best stop, of course, is the strawberry field where everybody piles out of the wagon and picks the warm ripe sweet fruit right off the vines. Camarosa is the variety that they grow.

The wagons end the tour at the vegetable stand where everybody is given a box of strawberries and the opportunity to buy fresh produce grown on the farm.

This is a great excursion for families, schools children, and scout troops. Further information can be obtained by going to their website at <http://tanakafarms.homestead.com/contact.html>.

News Bites

Submitted by Scott Carroll

“Man Finally Makes the Weed-Removing Robot”:

According to the Ludington Daily News, Michigan, Danish agricultural engineers have built a robot to help farmers with weeds. The Hortibot is about 3-foot-by-3-foot, is self-propelled, and uses global positioning system (GPS). It can recognize 25 different kinds of weeds and eliminate them by using its weed-removing attachments. It's also very environmentally friendly because it can reduce herbicide usage by 75 percent. But so far, it's only a prototype and the Danish engineers need to find a manufacturer for distribution."

“Plants recognize their siblings”:

Plants are able to recognize their siblings, according to a study appearing in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*.

Researchers at McMaster University have found that plants get fiercely competitive when forced to share their pot with strangers of the same species, but they're accommodating when potted with their siblings.

Susan Dudley, associate professor of biology at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada, said, "When plants share their pots, they get competitive and start growing more roots, which allows them to grab water and mineral nutrients before their neighbors get them. It appears, though, that they only do this when sharing a pot with unrelated

plants; when they share a pot with family they don't increase their root growth."

Dudley and her student, Amanda File, observed the behavior in sea rocket (*Cakile edentula*), a member of the mustard family native to beaches throughout North America, including the Great Lakes. The full story is at:

http://www.pubs.royalsoc.ac.uk/media/biology_letters/RSBL20070232.pdf