

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 13 Number 10

November 2007

November Meeting

Saturday, November 3, 2007

510 E. Memory Lane/2615 Valencia, Santa Ana

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup, snacks
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	General meeting, new badges
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Enrichment program
10:30 – 10:50 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:00 – 11:30	Door prize raffle & 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.

It's that time of the year again! Rita Corpin is collecting cards for the class project she does with her English students. Holiday, birthday, or any other type of greeting card can be used; text inside the card will be covered and can not be seen.

Enrichment Program: Landscaping with Herbs!

Gayle Slagle, past president of the Orange County Herb Society (www.oherbsoc.org) and member for over 20 years, she is an accomplished speaker. She has given presentations at Rogers, the Orange County Fair, and several Garden Clubs in Orange County. and now it's our turn! Gayle will talk about integrating herbs in the home landscape, including the design process and plant suggestions. She will also demonstrate how to bring the herbs you grow in your garden into your home. This program will be a real treat for your eyes, ears, and nose. Gayle studied botany in college and taught science for twelve years.

Gardening Events

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

Sat., Nov. 03: Home Composting Workshop II

10:00 am – 11:30 am, Bleachers, \$5/members, \$7/person

Quick review of the basics for those who have been Home Composting, then more training to take you further into composting successfully at home? Dr. Bill Roley, President, Applied Ecological Systems and Patrick McNelly, Principal Staff Analyst O.C. Sanitation District, have won the nationally recognized H. Clark Gregory Award for Outstanding Grassroots Efforts to Promote Composting

Sat. Nov. 10: Seed Collecting & Processing

9:30 -11:30 AM Riley/Maag Classroom at the Pavilion \$10/members \$15/person

Learn how to select both native and exotic plants for seed collection, and when and how to harvest. Methods of cleaning, packaging and storing are covered in detail. Participants will be able to take home seeds of selected plants. Dylan Hannon is Curator of Conservatory and Tropical Collections at The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Pre-register for all classes by calling 909-624-0838

Sat., Nov. 03 & 4: Annual Fall Plant Sale

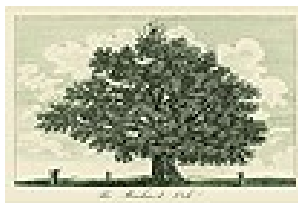
Sat. 11 am–4 pm, Sun. 9 am–2 pm. Free.

Native and California-friendly plants, including a vast selection of perennials and flowering shrubs, spring bulbs and native wildflower seeds

For the electronically connected:

At last month's program on show roses, Jan Brider mentioned a website to help identify roses. It is: <http://www.helpmefind.com/rose/index.php>

Leaves from the President



*Dedicated to Sharing
Horticultural Knowledge...*

Thanks to all of you who helped at the last meeting set-up and clean up, we are really getting good at this. The Board has secured this facility for 2008 with the exception of July when the OCMG is dark.

The membership roll has been increasing to almost 103 paid members with the Board personally contacting the unpaid members for their continued membership actions. It is important for all members to continue to adhere to the by-law established requirements for membership. Please review the minimum requirements.

We were treated to "Preparation for the Rose Show", a great presentation by Jan Bridger, one of our local rose experts. Her ease of delivery and expertise gave members a renewed appreciation for the preparations of roses for judging at shows. The local rose show is coming on the weekend of October 27 and 28 at Rogers Gardens. A number of members have signed to help Jan at the show.

Two of our special committees have been meeting; the Scholarship committee is well on their way to establishing a formal scholarship policy and implementation plan for Board review, and the By-law committee has met and reviewed the by-laws for updating/or change. Both committees will bring their findings to the Board for its review before the policy is presented to the general membership.

The Board has heard a request for a new opportunity to help support a grant given to the Placentia Yorba Linda Unified School District (PYLUSD) for the establishment of school gardens from the state. A short presentation will

be made at a meeting to allow the club members to decide if we can support this request fully this next year in the Placentia-Yorba Linda school area. They will be providing the students, manpower and financing. We are asked to provide advice on various garden development ideas and actions. OCMG project approval depends on the availability of members: the Board will defer to the members for implementation with each of 8 schools in the district. We will be looking for a chairperson for the club other than a Board member and 12 OCMG volunteers.

At the Board meeting, Nancy Smith gave a very positive report about the new class in that they are very eager and enjoying the class materials that she has prepared for them. We will invite the new class to the December meeting for the holiday party. Please remember those special wonderful holiday treats to share.

Please contact any Board member via email or myself at mikem11@earthlink.net if you know of any speaker you would like to hear, a contact phone number is always helpful. We are planning our speakers for the next fiscal year now. My email is almost always on --

Mike Maertzweiler

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

New Master Gardener Class

Nov 3: Irrigation and Water Management with Kent Gordon

Nov 10: Botany and Plant Physiology at Mt. SAC with Dave Lannom

Nov 17: Entomology/Insect Control with Jeff Feaster

Nov 24: THANKSGIVING RECESS

Dec 1: OCMG Holiday Party

OCMG members may audit classes during the semester, but please contact Nancy Smith for space availability. This is a large class and your cooperation is necessary.

Book Review by Sharon Neely

At one of the first OC Rose Societies meetings I attended, we learned how to open a rose to ARS (American Rose Society) perfection by using q-tips. Afterward I went home and excitedly told my husband about the meeting and he just shook his head and said “you sure hang out with some strange people.” So when I heard of the book *Otherwise Normal People: Inside the Thorny World of Rose Gardening* by Aurelia C. Scott, I knew I had to read it.

The author gardens and grows roses in Portland Maine. She visits rose gardens all over the US. Most of the gardeners we meet are growing roses for competition in order to win the ultimate ARS prize, the “Queen of the Show”. We meet Clarence Rhodes from Maine who creates some amazing garden contraptions for his roses. Cal Hayes, who gardens in Santa Ana, Calif. Cal has hybridized a rose ‘Polo Queen’ named for his water polo playing granddaughter. He has also won the highest award that ARS gives, the Nicholson Perpetual Challenge Bowl. Cal says “an easy hobby is a boring hobby”. We also meet a woman who rescues old garden roses from vacant lots and old abandoned farms, also someone who grows 526 roses, Japanese Maples and camellias in Minnesota.

I found this book informative, and very entertaining. You may not be growing roses for competition but you will still enjoy reading it as it validates what we do for the love of gardening.

Volunteer Opportunity

Two elementary school gardens are in dire need of volunteers. The first is:

San Juan Elementary School.
31642 El Camino Real,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-2616

Melissa Hodge is the PTA president, and she will be providing parent volunteers to train for upkeep of the currently installed garden. The Principal has declared that since a new, school wide habitat garden will be installed by the entire student body this fall with Back To Natives, unless there is a specific volunteer that will train the parents to maintain the original garden, it will be removed. She was very specific in requiring that a Master Gardener would need to be the volunteer in charge of the project. Reggie Durant will train the Master Gardener on maintaining the native plants and how to recognize if one needs to be replaced or is just dormant. The garden was extremely successful in surviving the summer heat even though planted just before the end of school. However the grasses and sow thistles have been highly successful in re-colonizing the area.

The other school garden is at:

California Elementary
1080 N California Street
Orange, CA 92867

Nannette Fryer is the lead teacher for that garden and she will be able to provide parent volunteers to train for this location.

Reginald I. Durant, Director of Restoration
Back to Natives Restoration
8 Cherry South
Irvine, CA 92612
949-509-4787

<http://www.backtonatives.org>

