

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 1

January 2008

January Meeting

Saturday, January 5, 2008

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 **A – H**, 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.

Enrichment Program: Fertilizers – Food for Plants with Chris Roy!

We are fortunate to have Chris Roy, the retail manager from OC Farm Supply, at our meeting to review the use of fertilizers and other nutrients for our soil and gardens.

Chris has been in the retail farm supply business for over 20 years and provides constant technical information to customers on everything from hardware/equipment to fertilizers, plants and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Information. He is a strong supporter of local garden and horticultural clubs in Southern California and is a cycad and plumeria grower.

This review will feature chemical versus organic fertilizers, granular versus water-soluble types and liquid nutrient elements. Chris will bring some updated fertilizer information and samples as give aways. He will also bring product to sell at reduced prices for your gardens. Please no credit cards, only cash or checks.

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

Gardening Events

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

Sat., Jan. 12: Worm Composting, 10:00am – Noon. Bleachers, Free for residents of participating cities* \$5/members, \$7/person

Learn how to introduce and maintain worms in your home composting system. You have the worms do the work for you and you will be rewarded with a rich “fluffy” soil for your garden. Instructor: Patrick McNelly, O.C. Sanitation District. *Sponsoring cities: Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, Orange and Santa Ana with proof of residence

Sat., Jan 12: Saturday Plant Sale @ UCI Arboretum, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. South of the corner of Campus Drive & Jamboree on UCI North Campus. Contact 949-824-5833 for more information.

Fullerton College Horticulture Dept.: The Spring semester will feature the popular hands-on Home Owner's Series of 6 week classes, including Landscape Pruning Practices, Home Turf Care, and Home Pest Control. Go to <http://horticulture.fullcoll.edu/> for more information and a list of other classes.

For more gardening events, check out <http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>.

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.

Leaves from the President



*Dedicated to Sharing
Horticultural Knowledge...*

As our new year begins, my thoughts always turn to the expectation for support to our mission in the various ways our club provides. The OCMGs greatest strength is how committed our members are to sharing the wealth of information we have learned and shared with gardeners in the past. Our attitudes and demeanor speak highly for the professionalism as our volunteers work in assisting the general public. Keep up the good work!

Our holiday party was great! Thanks to all of you who came and brought food items, as well as seasonal Plants 'n Things raffle items.

Also, thanks to the Board who prepared both the food and the mixer for the event. Highlights of the meeting were the Twelve Days of Christmas song re-written by Nancy Smith and Robin Russell. We presented Ann Summers with her Life Time member badge with the help of Dick Foster and Harriet Boldin from the Friends of the Fullerton Arboretum. Nellie Starling also received her Green Badge.

A special thanks to Jeannine for the dish garden, Robin for the table decorations and wreaths and Jan for the arrangement for the seasonal door prize items.

Thanks to many of you who helped at the last meeting set-up and clean up, we are really getting good at this. It is important to keep the facility clean and orderly. We will need special help for the January 5, 2008 meeting, please come to help set up.

Our January meeting is going to be a review of fertilizers with Chris Roy from Orange County Farm Supply. He will be reminding us of

basic fertilizer information and make comments regarding chemical (man-made) versus organic type fertilizers. This is a meeting NOT to miss as Chris will have some favorite products available at reduce rates. This is a great time to stock up on the right food for those special plants in your gardens.

January is "Update Venue Listing Month", please check the listing to be sure your venue is listed correctly and if any data needs updating see Gayle Von Eissler. Sign-ups for home shows are coming.

Our February, our enrichment program is being planned with Kent Gordon from Fullerton College. His subject is sure to be interesting, though unknown to me at the time of this writing.

For club aprons and license plate frames see Gayle Von Eissler, \$12 each.

Please contact any Board member via email or me 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

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 Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

e-mail at

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

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

New Master Gardener Class

Jan 5: Composting with Bill Roley/Patrick McNelly

Jan 12: Pruning with Kent Gordon

Jan 19: Citrus / Avocados at Cal Poly Pomona with Dr. Greg Partida

Jan 26: NO CLASS

Feb 2: Xeriscape Landscaping at Mt. SAC with Barbara Eisenstein

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

Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life

By Barbara Kingsolver

Novelist Barbara Kingsolver (*Poisonwood Bible*, *Prodigal Summer*)

and her family leave Tucson, Arizona to live on a farm in southern Appalachia. The family vows to buy only food that has been raised in their own neighborhood, to grow it themselves, or learn to live without it.

Part memoir and part investigative reporting that makes the reader aware of the important issues facing us today, one fact is that the

average food item on your local grocery shelf has traveled farther than most families go on their

annual vacation. She states that it is not necessary to live on a food producing farm to participate in this culture, but it is necessary to know such a culture exists. Kingsolver advocates that when shopping at your local farmers market or neighborhood grocery store to be aware of where the food comes from and to buy local and in season as it helps the farmers and the environment.

Each chapter in the book tells of the trial and tribulations of the growing process for that month. The chapters are all told in a humorous and knowledgeable way that compliments what we do as gardeners.

Husband Steven Hopp contributions are thoughtful and informative; her daughter Camille's recipes sound delicious.

Editor's note: check the author's website: <http://www.animalvegetablemiracle.com/>

Debris from the Editor

Happy New Year to one and all! January seems to be one of the few months in California when we can take a few moments to enjoy our gardens while we make plans and prepare for spring planting. Well, unless you're a rose gardener, in which case you are probably busy pruning and bare root planting!

This is also when we make our New Year Resolutions. May I suggest that one of our resolutions be to make a commitment to volunteer this year?

Back to Natives, a non-profit 501(c)3 charity is presenting a free Volunteer Restoration Training class on January 12, March 8, April 12, May 10, & June 14. Check out the website:

www.backtonatives.org, for more information and to sign up. What a wonderful way to help restore those areas devastated by the wildfires this fall.



