

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 2

February 2008

February Meeting

Saturday, February 2, 2008

**NEW LOCATION: Fullerton
College/Horticultural Department**

Schedule

8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup, snacks in hallway
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	General meeting
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Enrichment program
10:45 – 11:15 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:15 – 11:30	Door prize raffle & clean up

Members with last names starting with **I – Q**, 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 and cards for Rita Corpin's class project.

Enrichment Program: Computer Technology In Horticulture with Kent Gordon!

The meeting site has been changed to Fullerton College, 992-7381 at the Horticulture Dept classroom to allow our speaker Kent Gordon to use multimedia for his presentation. Kent will discuss his experiences with computer technology in nursery management and production, irrigation management, CAD applications in landscape design and management, Internet applications, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), etc.

Board Meeting: Home of Nancy Smith in Placentia, Monday, February 11 at 7 p.m.

Email Request from Ireland

Simon Townley at simontownley@yahoo.co.uk sent this message: "I am looking for root cuttings, cuttings or seedlings of sequoia cultivars, i.e. Aptos Blue, Santa Cruz, Soquel, Winter Blue etc. I am happy to cover any costs involved in obtaining them."

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Feb. 2: Eco Friendly Gardening Practices with Gisele Schoniger from Kellogg Garden Products, 9:00 am – 10:30 am, Pavilion Area \$8/member; \$10/non-members. Learn how to build healthy soil and feed your plants the natural and organic way.

Sat. Feb. 9: How to build your very own Fairy Garden with OCMG member Jan Brider 10:00 – Noon, Pavilion classroom \$15/member; \$18/non-members. See page 3 for more info.

Sat. & Sun. Feb. 23-24: African Violet Show, 10 am – 4 pm. First tri-county show and sale! And ½ price sale at the Potting Shed!

Wed. Feb. 27: National Invasive Weeds Awareness Week, 10:00 am – Noon, Pavilion, Free lecture by an employee of the Weed Abatement department of the Orange County Agriculture Commissioner's office. Identify invasive plants in your area and what their impact is on the southern California landscape.

Santa Ana College: Plants of Orange County, Russell Hall, Room 228. Saturdays: Feb 16 & 23, Mar 15 & 22, April 19 & 26, May 17 & 31, June 7. Lecture 8-9am, lab sessions follow, 9am-12pm., **Registration:** Ticket #1017901 <http://www.sac.edu/>
Instructor: Bob Allen (allen_robert@sac.edu)
Learn about native plants in natural areas of Orange County, techniques to identify them, and their use in "wildscaping." *Local field trips are a major part of the course.*

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

Leaves from the President



Dedicated to Sharing Horticultural Knowledge...

Our first meeting of 2008 was successful with a fantastic lecture from Chris Roy and his donations of free fertilizers. He also brought recommended products from Orange County Farm Supply for purchase. We will try to have this every January as a “kick off” for the New Year. His comments and review of fertilizers and amendments were well received, as were his answers to questions by our members. We had to bring out more chairs to accommodate a standing room crowd. Thanks again to Chris Roy for his great talk.

Many of you helped set up and cleanup for this meeting and it is always appreciated. Thanks to Bill and Mary for the coffee and tea and to Nora and Helen for help with the Plants ‘n Things

Steve and Sharon Jones received their green badges and gave a short pep talk about the opportunities at the Santa Ana Zoo where they volunteer for OCMG. More volunteer help is needed at the zoo; please contact them as you have time to augment our mission there.

If you are interested in supporting the Placentia Yorba Linda School District with their grant for school gardens, you may contact Ms. Dorie Staack at 714 777-1180 directly.

We need help in February to finalize the update of the venue listing, please give Gayle Von Eissler the updated information ASAP. Sign-ups were passed around for the home show and the show committee, contact Gayle and get your times now.

We will be discussing/approving the By-Laws also at the February meeting. You will receive an electronic copy before the meeting, be sure to review them. Watch your email.

March is graduation month at the regular meeting site; in April we are visiting the Olinda Nursery in Brea, and the Crystal Court Home Show; May is the Mary Lou Heard Garden Tour; June is our annual business meeting (elections) and PLANT EXCHANGE.

The April Nursery visitation at Olinda Nursery is at 9 am. We will have a short OCMG meeting with announcements, and then at 9:30 a tour of the nursery facility (shopping allowed). The address is 2601 Valencia Ave, Brea 92823, phone 714 993-0760. See you there.

We are going to expand our garden tours this year by attending the Heards Garden Tour on May 3 and 4, 2008. Please see the website www.HeardsGardenTour.com for maps and donation information. We will not meet at the clubhouse; I hope to see you on the two-day tour. Please review the article in the newsletter.

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*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

e-mail

or snail mail

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

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

New Master Gardener Class

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

Feb 9: California Natives with Reginald Durand at ENC

Feb 16: Landscape Design and Maintenance with Don Equitz

Feb 23: California Native at Tree of Life and final exam

March 1: Graduation at Santa Ana Lawn Bowling Green

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.

Annual June Plant Exchange

Sponsored by the OCMG Trainee Class #13

Our annual plant exchange will be at the June meeting. Now is the time to start your plants. For every plant you bring to exchange, you get to take one home. Simple! Start your propagating now and be ready with 10-12 well rooted plants of any kind. Spring is just around the corner. Each plant must be labeled with the **botanical and common names** along with a note as to how to maintain the plant. Feel free to email or call Kathie Kelly at (949)830-3604 with any questions or comments.

From Our Members

Scott Carroll found this website:
<http://www.netnaut.com/mnemonics/biology.html>
to help us remember the biological order of groupings. This is one of the mnemonics:

King Phillip came over for good sex
Kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species.

And he also shared this news article from the BBC, website with the full article is:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7193161.stm>

:

Giant Palm Tree Puzzles Botanists

A giant self-destructing palm tree has been discovered in Madagascar. The palm is 20m (60ft) high with leaves 5m (16ft) long, the tallest tree of its type in the country, but for most of its life - around 100 years - it appears fairly unremarkable apart from its size. However, when it flowers, it puts so much energy into an impressive flower-spike, that it eventually collapses and dies. Dr John Dransfield, who announced the tree in the Botanical Journal of the Linnean Society, is baffled as to how it came to be in the country. It bears a resemblance to a species of palm found in regions of Asia; 6,000 km away. It is thought that the palm has gone through a remarkable evolution since Madagascar split with India some 80m years ago.

Create your own Fairy Garden with Jan Brider at Fullerton Arboretum

Each fairy garden has its own personality and in this class you will design and create a lovely place for a fairy to come and visit. Miniature fences and garden tools or fairy figurines draw the eye past each plant, focusing on the tiny details. There's no limit to the variety and impromptu intrigue you can offer with your fairy garden. You will complete a miniature fairy garden in class and learn how to maintain it. Bring your own container. Plants and fairy garden items will be for sale at the class or bring your own personal items.



The Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour Is Coming in May!

This is quite possibly the best garden tour available to us in our own backyard, so to speak. Cottage, English and Rose gardens, California Natives, and an entire backyard devoted to Japanese Maples are just some of the types of gardens that can be explored and enjoyed on this annual tour. To give everyone the opportunity to fully enjoy the tour, and to support the Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour, your Board has approved going dark in May.

There will be no formal meeting at the clubhouse site May 3, 2008.

Private gardens as far north as Long Beach and as far south as San Clemente, and a myriad of gardens throughout central Orange County are open to the public for viewing on Saturday May 3rd and Sunday May 4th, 2008, 10 am to 5 pm each day. The gardens of two of our own OCMG members, Jan Bridger and Helen Wood, were on last year's tour. There is no fee to take the tour, but donations are gratefully collected to support various OC charities. Please review the following website for further information www.HeardsGardenTour.com and join the email listing to receive the locations of the gardens and to learn of further activities of The Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour organization.

For more information, please call Sheri Henderson at (714) 904-0303.

Garden Memories

By Jill Patterson

One of my favorite plants when growing up was the cyperus found in our front and side yard. Of course, I had no idea what the name was. I loved the grassy topknot and thought they made very nice hair pieces for my dolls and me. I'd cut them off to play with them and wear them on my head. These plants were very hardy and easily survived my mistreatment, the dry area in which they were planted, and irregular watering. The species pictured below is cyperus papyrus which looks

exactly like my childhood favorite. I was surprised to find that these are sedges and prefer rich, moist soil—they certainly didn't have that at my house! Per Sunset's Western Garden Book, they are recommended for ponds and other water features. They grow 6 -10 feet high and can take any exposure, though need protection from wind



and freezing (Ours were planted by the house.). These perennials grow from rhizomes, so can be divided (and shared with others). Historically, this is the plant used to make paper in ancient Egypt and is also known as "lion's head papyrus" in the commercial florist industry, where it is valued for its form. Does anyone grow this in soil as opposed to a pond? If so, please consider bringing some for our June plant exchange. There are other cyperus species, at least one of which—cyperus alternifolius or umbrella plant--does well in dry stream beds, but this one has the narrowest stems in its "topknot".

And do contribute your own "garden memories" for a future column. Take a trip back to your childhood and share your favorite plant memories with us.

OCMG 2007 – 2008 Board

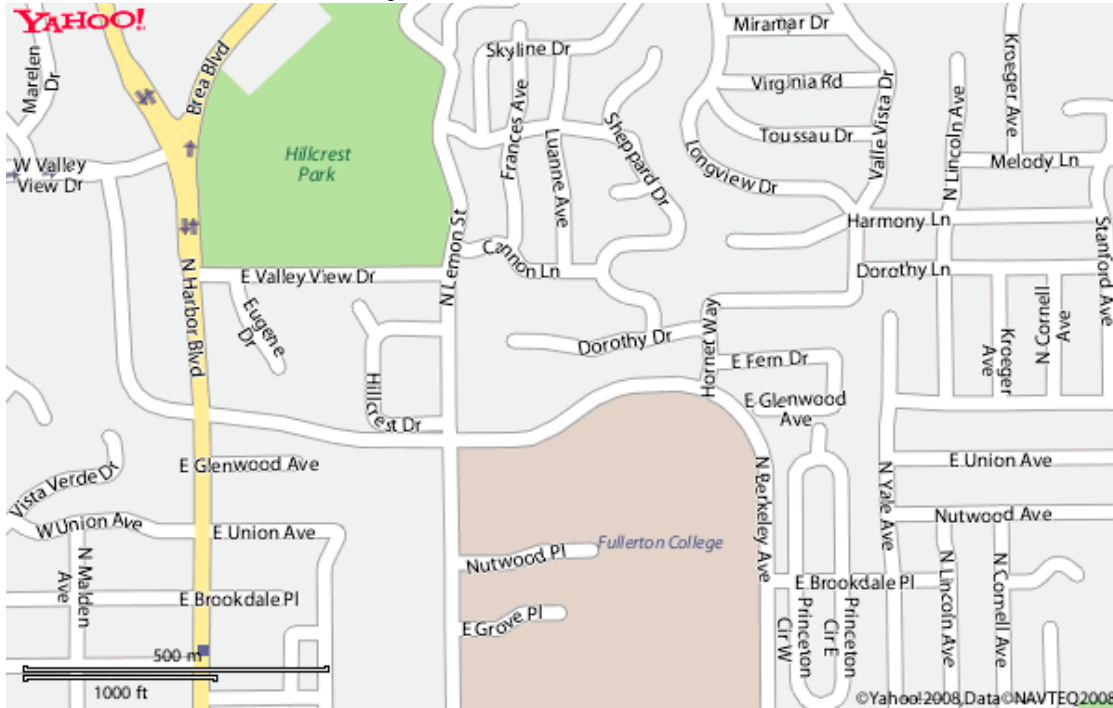
Board Positions	Name	Phone #	Email
President	Mike Maertzweiler		
1 st Vice-Pres	Gayle von Eissler		
2 nd Vice-Pres	Nancy Smith		
Treasurer	Jetta Miles		
Recording Secretary	Jeannine Lawrie		
Corresponding Secretary	Robin Russell		
Parliamentarian	Colleen “Co” Wilkins		

Past President Diane Gipson
 Past President Sharon Neely
 Newsletter Jill Patterson
 Webmaster Scott Carroll
 Volunteer Hours Jean Rice
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1103, Yorba Linda, CA 92885-1103
 Web site: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Budget Committee	Jetta Miles
Bylaws Committee	Co Wilkins
Financial Review Committee	Appointed when needed
Greeter	Bob Shaw
Historian	Jean Rice
Hospitality Committee	Bill and Mary McMurrin
Hotline Help Line Committee	John Baird
Membership Committee	Jeannine Lawrie
New Member Information	Bob/Nancy Shaw
Newsletter Editor/Chair	Jill Patterson
Nominating Committee	Appointed when needed
Plant Clinics	Fred Snyder
Plant Problem of the Month	Steve Williams
Plants ‘n Things	Paula Ames, Jill O’Neill,
Programs & Tours	Open
Prospective Member Training	Nancy Smith, et. al
Public Ed/Community Outreach	Gayle von Eissler
Publicity	Warren Bowen
Volunteer Hours Coordinator	Jean Rice

Fullerton College: The parking lot closest to the Horticulture Dept. is off Berkely Ave., north of Chapman Ave. (remember, this is Chapman in Fullerton). Take the Chapman exit off the 57 freeway and head west to Berkeley, make a right on Berkeley and turn left into the parking lot just before the street bends to the left.



Orange County Master Gardeners

1485 Arrowwood

Brea CA 92821

Garden Clippings

