

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 3

March 2008

March Meeting

Saturday, March 1, 2008

510 E. Memory Lane/2615 Valencia, Santa Ana

Graduation!

Schedule

8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Business Meeting
9:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Graduation & Socializing
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:15	Clean up

Snacks to celebrate graduation will be provided.

Please bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle.

Also, please bring your holiday cards for Rita Corpin's school project and any gardening catalogs or magazines you'd like to share.

Enrichment Program: Graduation!

Our March meeting is our annual Graduation ceremony for our graduating class. We will honor the graduates and recognize the many, many green badges that were earned by the members. Come and welcome our new members; if you have a venue needing volunteers, this is a prime occasion for recruiting.

Board Meeting: Home of Mike Maertzweiler in Placentia, Monday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. & Sun. Mar. 1-2: Potting Shed sale, 50% off. 10 am – 4 pm, admission free.

Sat. Mar. 8: Home Composting Workshop 1, 10 – 11:30 am – Bleachers.

Thurs. - Sun. Mar. 13 – 16: Monster Tomato Sale. 10 am – 4 pm at the Potting Shed. Over 200 varieties of tomatoes and over 90 varieties of sweet and hot peppers. Free admission. On **Mar. 13**, 9 – 11:30 am, Steve Goto of Goto Nursery will instruct how to grow the best tomatoes, Pavilion Classroom, \$10.

Sat. Mar. 29: Edible Estates: Transforming the American Lawn. 10 am – noon, Pavilion. Author Fritz Haeg discusses why we dedicate so much land to lawns. His organization is dedicated to replacing front lawns with edible landscapes. Families may apply to participate in the Edible Estates Initiative. \$12.

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

Bylaw changes: Two versions of the bylaws will be emailed to the membership and uploaded to the website. One is the marked up version which shows the original and proposed changes; the other is the revised bylaws. There are a number of changes in wording simply for clarification purposes, but there are also changes of substance. Among them are: not meeting in August (instead of July), adding the immediate past president to the Board of Directors, increasing the amount of money the Board can spend without authorization from the general membership from \$100 to \$250, and increasing the amount of money the president can spend without authorization from \$50 to \$100. Take the time to read over the changes before coming to the April meeting. At our last bylaws update, two years ago, the membership engaged in very spirited discussion for a good hour. Co and her committee have spent a great deal of time reviewing the bylaws and they deserve your serious consideration. -- editor

Leaves from the President



*Dedicated to Sharing
Horticultural Knowledge...*

Our second meeting of 2008 was an interesting presentation by Kent Gordon, Chair of the Fullerton College Horticultural Department. His discussion centered upon the use of computers in landscape layouts, control of heating, cooling and irrigation systems and as a research tool when data is needed. His description of the way GIS (Global Imaging System) software was used to track Red Imported Fire Ant infestations and project locations of future outbreaks was particularly fascinating.

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 discussed the revised the By-Laws and it was suggested that the marked-up version be sent out for members to see the transition from the old to the new by-laws. IF YOU HAVE any recommendations, PLEASE get them to Co Wilkins or Robin Russell so that they may be discussed by the Board and included in the revisions at the April meeting. Thanks to Paula for help with the Plants ‘n Things.

We need help in March 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.

Chairing the nomination committee is Janet Sonoff, please contact her and let her know your interest to serve.

March is also a presentation at the Placentia Library with Diane Gipson coordinating the speakers for the OCMG. We would like

volunteers to help in this presentation. Please contact Diane for further information.

The April meeting has been changed back to the regular site at the Santa Ana Lawn Bowling Clubhouse to finish the By-laws and the Handbook/manual updates. The NURSERY TOUR will be rescheduled. Don't forget to sign up for the Crystal Court Home Show on April 24-27. (See Gayle)

In May, we are going to expand our garden tours this year by attending the Heard's 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. In June, our annual business meeting (elections) and PLANT EXCHANGE; July, no meeting; August, Composting; September, Rose Show Preparations; and October, Gourds

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

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 balance of the 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 at
or snail mail:
Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*.....
OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

Volunteer Opportunities

The Fullerton Arboretum badly needs volunteers for the Potting Shed and as cultivators and propagators. We, the OCMG, do much for the Arboretum, but it is still never enough to make up for the shortages of staff there. Contact Harriet at 714/278-4798 if you are a new volunteer; otherwise contact Kathie.

Back to Natives, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, is offering a Volunteer Restoration Training Program beginning **Saturday, March 8, 8am – 12pm**. Participants must attend 7 of 9 classes offered throughout the year, including an orientation. For more information on this free training or to RSVP call 949-509-4787 or restoration@backtonatives.org

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.

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.

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 Brider 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.

Speaking of lawns...

Statistics from the September 2006 *Whole Life Times*:

40 million Acres of residential lawn in the US, as estimated by the Environmental Protection Agency.

10,169 The size of Rwanda in square miles (about 6.5 million acres).

10 The average number of miles women in rural Africa walk each day to collect water (the waiting time can be as long as five hours).

238 Gallons of water, per person, per day, poured on American lawns.

6000 Number of children that die around the world each day from diseases associated with unsafe drinking water.

800 million Gallons of gas Americans burn through each year mowing lawns.

\$70 billion Amount the US lawn business pulls in each year.

\$4.8 billion Somalia's estimated gross domestic product (GDP) for the year 2005.

Sources: *Environmental Protection Agency, Encyclopedia Britannica, WaterAid.org, CIA's World Factbook.*