

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 5

May 2008

NO May Meeting

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour

Saturday & Sunday, May 3-4, 2008

Instead of our regular monthly meeting, OCMG is supporting the Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden tour. There is no charge for this event, but there will be a donation basket at each garden with net proceeds going to the following charities:

Sheepfold, a shelter for women and their children
Orange County Foundation for Oncology Children and Families, which plans outings and a summer camp for children with cancer and their families.

The gardens will be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. This is a self-guided tour divided into two broad areas to minimize driving. For a listing of all the gardens and which day they are open, go to:
www.HeardsGardenTour.com.

Saturday: Our own Helen Woods will exhibit her garden (California natives) on Saturday:
Helen & Ken Wood

Sunday: Our own Jan Brider will exhibit her garden (lots of roses) on Sunday:
Jan Brider

Board Meeting: Fullerton Arboretum, date to be determined.

Gardening Events

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

Celebrate National Wildflower Week

May 7 - 13

Wed. May 7: Celebrate National Wildflower week. 10:00 am – Noon, Pavilion Classroom--free
Join Chris Barnhill, the Arboretum's Collection Curator for a discussion on our local wildflowers.

Sat. May 10: Wildflower Field Trip. 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, \$25/members, \$30/person.
Learn about different California plant communities and the beautiful wildflowers that inhabit our surrounding area. Bring your cameras, adequate water and lunch.

Sat. May 31: Design and Care of Native Landscapes. 10:00 am – Noon, Pavilion Classrooms--\$12/member \$15/person.
Bart O'Brien, of the Santa Ana Botanic Garden, will discuss the opportunities of a native plant garden and introduce participants to plant selection, planting techniques and plant maintenance needed to make your native plant garden flourish. Bart is co author of California Native Plants for the Garden and Care and Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens.

Fri. & Sat. May 9 -10: Spring Plant Sale at Fullerton College, Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. & Saturday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Drought tolerants, ground covers, grasses , perennials, Vines, Shrubs, Bulbs, Rhizomes, and Tubers, Tomatoes, Herbs, and Peppers.

OCMG 2007-8 Officers

Find more events at:

<http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>

Leaves from the President



Spring is such a wonderful time of year! It seems that every weekend during April and May we can choose from a boundless variety of excellent home garden tours and exciting horticultural events.

The premier home garden tour is the self-guided Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour 2008. It runs May 3rd and 4th from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This year we can visit any or all of the 48 gardens scattered from Long Beach to Yorba Linda, to San Clemente to La Verne, and points in between. For more information, visit www.HeardsGardenTour.com or call (714) 566-4800.

You can download the garden addresses if you are not on the mailing list.

This year we are proud to have the gardens of our own Jan Brider and Helen Wood (with the help of Gloria Potocki) featured on the tour.

Our regular meeting schedule resumes on June 7th, at which time we will be holding our annual business meeting, election of officers, the presentation of the Scholarship Awards and the Plant Exchange. To join in the fun, be sure to bring your rooted plants, well identified by both botanical and common name.

For those of you who have not yet heard, Mike Maertzweiler has resigned from his position on the board, citing personal reasons. I am serving as interim president until the elections in June.

I hope to see many of you on the tour!

--Gayle Von Eissler

Budget Committee

Our thanks to Jetta Miles and the members who volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee: Sharon Neely, Richard Pastore and Yvonne Smith.

Lavender Shortbread Carla Fuchs

Printed by popular request! Recipe from Renee's Garden Cookbook and was given to me by Marc Hall, who is the manager of the LA Arboretum's Garden and Gift Shop. I attended a lecture on the history and culture of tea and these were made to go with the different teas.

1 1/2 cups (3 sticks) butter, at room temperature (no substitutes)
2/3 cup sugar
2 tablespoons finely chopped lavender florets
1 tablespoon chopped fresh mint
2 1/3 cups flour
1/2 cup cornstarch
1/4 teaspoon salt

Garnish: Lavender powdered sugar (for added flavor; put a few lavender flowers in a jar with powdered sugar for a day before using sugar)

Preheat oven to 325 F. Cover baking sheets with parchment or brown paper.

In a large bowl with an electric mixer, cream together the butter, sugar, lavender and mint; mix until light and fluffy, about 3 minutes. Add flour, cornstarch and salt and beat until combined. It will be very stiff.

Line a jelly roll pan with plastic wrap and put your hand inside a plastic bag and press the dough in the pan. Chill until firm.

On a floured board, roll out pieces of the dough to a thickness of about 3/8 inch.

Cut the dough into rounds (I used a biscuit cutter). Transfer to baking sheets, spacing about 1 inch apart.

Prick each cookie several times with the tines of a fork. Bake 20 to 25 minutes until pale golden (do not brown).

Cool slightly, then transfer to a rack. Sprinkle with lavender powdered sugar. Store in sealed containers. Makes about 5 dozen

📞 Contacts

Gayle Von Eissler, Interim Pres
Nancy Smith, 1st^d Vice Pres.....
Jetta Miles , Treasurer.....
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*
Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

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

2008-09 Slate of Officers

Our thanks to nominating committee chair Janet Sonoff and members Diane Gipson, Heather Waxham and Sandy Denny. The slate of officers for 2008-2009 is: President, Gayle von Eissler; 1st Vice President, Nancy Smith; 2nd Vice President, Mark Fierle; Recording Secretary, Jeannine Lawrie; Corresponding Secretary, Robin Russell; and Treasurer, Jetta Miles

June Plant Exchange

Sponsored by class 13

It's time to get started with planting seeds or rooting cuttings so they'll be ready in time for our annual plant exchange at the June meeting.

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.

And, just to make things even better, our trainee class will bring snacks to share with everyone. If you have questions, please contact Kathie Kelly, who is coordinating the event.

Book Review by Sharon Neely

Designing with Succulents

by Debra Lee Baldwin

Award winning garden writer Debra Lee Baldwin is based in southern California. She has written articles for many local publications including *Sunset* magazine, *Better Homes and Gardens* and *San Diego Home/Garden*. This book is a wonderful reference on the many succulent plants that we can grow, with over 300 photographs that will inspire any gardener to include succulents in the garden. The beauty of these plants is that they are drought tolerant, low maintenance, fire resistant and work harmoniously in our Southwestern gardens.

The handsome sculptural qualities work well with other plants plus the color combinations create artful focal points. Debra believes that succulents lend themselves to imaginative, nontraditional landscapes that range from practical to whimsical. They work well with native and non native plants staying green all year, and rewarding us with flowers that attract butterflies and birds. A personal note is that I have cut the flowers and used them in arrangements and they last for weeks longer than any other flower.

There is one chapter that is on themed gardens that would be especially useful in school gardens. The seascape garden gives us ideas and a list of plants that could represent kelp, octopus and sea urchins, star fish etc. The chapter on containers shows you plant combinations to create a gorgeous succulent garden.

This is a beautiful and informative book that would make a nice addition to your garden book library.

Website www.debraleebaldwin.com

"This is the best book ever published on the subject of succulents." Pat Welsh, author of *Pat Welsh's Guide to Southern California Gardening*