

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 7

September 2008

September Meeting

Saturday September 6, 2008

510 E. Memory Lane/2615 Valencia, Santa Ana

Schedule

8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 9:45 a.m.	Program
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Business Meeting and Election of Officers
10:45– 11:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:00	Clean up

Members with last names starting with **H – 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 any gardening catalogs or magazines you'd like to share.

Enrichment Program: Get ready for the Show with rose arrangements

Kathy Hoffman, who lives in Santa Ana, has grown roses for over 20 years and specializes in container-grown roses (mainly miniatures). She has two gardens: one in her patio and one at UCI's Anthill Community Garden with approximately 70 roses: hybrid tea, floribunda, shrub, old garden roses, and miniatures

She has been exhibiting since 2001, first with horticulture displays and now arrangements. Kathy is an accomplished arrangement expert with many ribbons to her credit. She is

a member of the American Rose Society, Orange County Rose Society, and Los Angeles Rose Society, is past president membership chair of OCRS and its current webmaster: She is a consulting rosarian, a lecturer at the Orange County Fair and is 2008 OCRS Bronze medal recipient

OCRS website: <http://www.orangecountyrs.org>

Gardening Events

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

Sat.- Sun Sept. 6 - 7: Salvia Spectacular Plant Sale! 10 am – 4 pm

Coinciding with the reopening of The Potting Shed, over 100 varieties of Salvia will be on sale.

Sat. Sept. 27: Build Your Own Fairy Garden with Jan Brider. 10 am – noon. \$20.00

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 sold at class or bring your own.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden Pre-register for all classes at 909/ 625-8767 ext. 224.

Sat. Sep. 20: Basics of Native Plant Gardening Workshop Series: Soils with Betsey Landis. 9 am – noon. \$36.00

First of series of four classes. Novice gardeners often overlook the significance of soils when planning a native garden. Betsey Landis will assist participants in determining their garden soil types, and will demonstrate how to improve problem soils or drainage.

Sat. Sep. 27: Basics of Native Plant Gardening
Workshop Series: Design with Bart O'Brien. 1
– 5 pm. \$48.00

Participants will learn basic design concepts. Horticulturist O'Brien will help evaluate your existing landscape, share ideas about dealing with specific site problems, and assist you in developing a new landscape plan. Participants are encouraged to bring photos, sketches and other information about their garden site.

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

Leaves from the Interim President



The interim board and several committee members met and discussed our future direction and our desire to as quickly as possible assist those of us who want to go through the process of taking the UCCE up on their offer of grandfathering membership.

It is a terrific testament to our well-rounded curriculum and excellence of instructors that only two additional horticultural classes have been added for certification. The third class will be policies, procedures, and fingerprinting.

We will keep everyone apprised of new details as quickly as possible.

For those who haven't had a chance to pay dues, September 30 is the final date to do so without being removed from the membership and newsletter rosters.

Please note the program will precede the business meeting.

Janet Meade

We will hold elections and collect dues (\$20.00).

Slate of Candidates

President - Janet Meade
1st VP - Sharon Neely
2nd VP - Fred Snyder
Treasurer - Bob Shaw
Recording Secretary - Cheryl Borden

Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Economics in Gardening By Helen Elich

As we all know, with the high cost of gas leading to the high cost of food, more and more people are taking up gardening and growing their own fruits and vegetables. On a recent trip north I found these web sites in the Santa Rosa Newspaper which might give us some further tips on our own gardens. Hope you find these useful.

Rose Hayden-Smith has a blog and website dealing with Victory Gardens. The Fullerton Arboretum also had a lecture last year on the same subject. Her web site is www.foodandsocietyfellows.org

The City of San Francisco is working in conjunction with the public on the installation of at least 15 organic victory gardens and that website is www.sfvictorygardens.org

My favorite was Fritz Haeg, who is promoting front yard vegetable growing and has published a book entitled "*Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn*".

His website is www.fritzhaeg.com

☎ Contacts

Janet Meade, *Interim Pres*
Sharon Neely, *Interim 1stst Vice Pres*
Virginia Carlson, *Interim Treasurer*
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*
Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:
e-mail at
or snail mail
Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*.....
OC(M)G Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

More Meeting Notes



We are fortunate to also have Jan Bridger as a speaker at the September meeting. Jan is a Master Gardener and member of the American Rose Society. She is an active member of the Orange County Rose Society and has received the American Rose Society's Bronze Medal for her involvement with OCRS. She is also a Consulting Rosarian and an active weekend gardener. Her love of gardening started at an early age on her grandparent's farm in

Indiana. Jan grows over 200 roses and companion plants at her home in Yorba Linda in a country garden setting. (*editor's note: Jan's garden has been on our tour and it is exquisite! Her unique rose labels add another touch of elegance.*) Jan is also the Show Chairman for the Orange County Rose Society "Crates of Roses" show at Rogers Gardens.

We voted to remove the word "Master" from our organization name at the August meeting. We will vote on a new name at this meeting and need your ideas. Two names that have been mentioned are: Orange County Gardeners Continuing Education Organization, aka OCGCE and Orange County Garden Masters.

Those people who wish to take advantage of the UCCE grandfathering offer should have received the August email from Gayle Von Eissler stating that August 15 was the deadline to confirm your interest. If you have not received that email, contact Gayle immediately..

The Case for Stevia

Stevia, a plant known for its naturally sweet-tasting leaves, has been touted as a safe sugar substitute for diabetics and weight watchers. An August 25 article in the Los Angeles Times, however, cites two studies: "Scientists began studying stevia in the lab roughly 40 years ago, and the first findings gave food safety officials in several countries pause. A 1968 study in female rats showed that drinking a concoction of stevia leaves and stems significantly reduced fertility. A 1985 study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, showed that steviol, a breakdown product of stevia, might cause genetic mutations. (In Paraguayan traditional medicine, stevia is used to lower blood sugar and as a contraceptive.)". The www.stevia.net website refutes the studies that indicate stevia has an effect on fertility and asks why, if it does, no research has been done to use the plant's attribute as a contraceptive. The site does not discuss the genetic mutation issue.

The L.A. Times article does not come to any conclusion other than that studies are ongoing and that food manufacturers are interested in stevia as a natural zero-calorie sugar alternative.

Stevia is easy to grow and has been sold in local nurseries. Different varieties of stevia have differing levels of stevioside, the chemical which causes the sweet taste, so this may be a case of "taste before you buy" (or at least ask how sweet a variety is). The stevia website includes a list of plant suppliers as well as information on how to grow and use the plant.

We need your articles!

Looking for an easy way to earn volunteer hours? Write an article or book review for the newsletter. High contrast photographs can be included—email to the editor by the 10th of the month.