

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 9

October 2008

October Meeting

Saturday October 4, 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
10:45– 11:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:00	Clean up

Members with last names starting with **R– Z** 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: Fall Square Foot Gardening—Mark Fierle

We southern Californians get to plant year round (no rest for us!). Before you start planting your fall garden, get some ideas from Mark. A graduate from our most recent class, Mark is a passionate advocate of square foot gardening. He has worked with Mel Bartholomew, author of *Square Foot Gardening*, and lectures on this subject as often as he can, including at several elementary schools. He also gives workshops and tours of the demonstration gardens at Centennial Farm. Mark and Mel are in the process of designing a new square foot garden at the Discovery Science Center.

For more information on square foot gardening, with lots of photographs of sample gardens, the official website is:

www.squarefootgardening.com

Note that the program will precede the business meeting.

Gardening Events

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

Sat.- Sun Oct. 11 – 12: California Native and Fall Plant Sale! 10 am – 4 pm

Hundreds of natives and fall plants on sale in the Potting Shed. . Admission free.

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

Sun. Oct. 5: Creating a “Native” Native Garden with Mark Acuña.. 1 – 3 pm. \$15.00

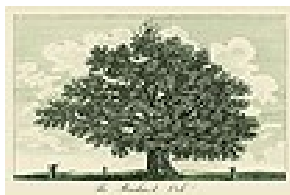
Join Tongva tribal member Acuña as he tours you through the Garden to observe plants used by the Tongva and talks about how your own garden can become a traditional “native” native plant garden..

Sat. Oct. 18: The Art of Flowers and Fall Bulb and Perennial Sale. UC Irvine Arboretum, just south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road. \$2 per adult. Free parking. Sale features unique southern African bulbs from winter flowering collection as dormant bulbs and fall blooming perennials that combine well with bulbs and selected California native plants.

Sat. Oct. 25: Back to Natives: Restoration Volunteer Training Program. BTN partners with the US Forest Service to provide a 9-month restoration volunteer training program in dry restoration practices within the Cleveland National Forest. For more information and to sign up for this FREE training program please call (949) 509-4787.

October is the beginning of native plant sales. For more sales and many other gardening events, check <http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>

Leaves from the President



As the grapevine goes, I'm sure quite a few of you have heard by now that the new name voted upon by the membership at the last meeting is already in use by another organization which will allow us to go back to the "potting bench" so to speak.

I'm glad we do get such a chance because it was brought to my attention that the August 2nd vote to remove "master" from our name was invalid because there was not the requisite fifteen days prior notification for a bylaws modification. (A name change is subordinate to a bylaws change.)

I have read and re-read all the OCMG documentation that has been turned over to the board *so far*. I have yet to find a single example of public name confusion mentioned anywhere at anytime. What does appear to have happened is some less than exemplary behavior by a very few individuals on both sides of the "garden fence."

In an effort to facilitate the "grandfathering" of those wishing to join the UCCE master gardener program, the board, per bylaws, voted to initiate an amendment to the bylaws to change our name from "Orange County Master Gardeners" to "Orange County Independent Master Gardeners." With the addition of "independent" there should be absolutely no confusion that we are our own organization.

We ARE master gardeners and always have been. To represent ourselves as anything else is a disservice to our organization and to those of us who have worked so hard to offer the quality program that we do.

Again, going back to the bylaws, because of the fifteen days required notice, the earliest we can vote on any name change will be at the November

1st meeting. At that time, only Active members will be allowed to vote.

Lastly, with regards to the fifty-dollar "scholarship" voted upon at the last meeting, the vote is being examined for compliance with the law by legal counsel and at this time should NOT be relied upon by those of you enrolling in the UCCE program.

Though not everyone may agree with the results of our voting, we can be proud that, as an organization, we do not just pay lip service to our bylaws, but abide by them.

Janet Meade

Dues are due (\$20.00). This is the last newsletter sent to members who have not paid dues. Dues may be sent to Bob Shaw at: 9701 Holder St., Cypress, CA, 90630

☎ Contacts

Janet Meade, *President*
Sharon Neely, *1st^d Vice Pres*
Bob Shaw, *Treasurer*
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

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

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

Volunteers Needed

We have two openings to staff the Fullerton Arboretum help line. Contact John Baird if interested or via email.

Also, we do need a volunteer for Hospitality—this is the person who sets up the coffee for our meetings. If interested, please contact Janet Meade.

Board Meetings: Second Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm at the home of Cheryl Borden.

New Volunteer Venue

Name Discovery Science Center

Email volunteer@discoverycube.org

Phone 714-913-5028

Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana is starting a gardening program. They are looking for volunteers to help us plan the new landscaping and lead other volunteers in creating and maintaining our gardens.

Book Reviews by Sharon Neely

After our September enrichment program on rose arrangements by Kathy Hoffman, I am recommending a book that will help those who like to create floral arrangements for their own personal use:

Garden to Vase: growing and using your own cut flowers by Linda Beutler. Timber Press, 2007

Linda answers many questions that will help the novice and expert. She gives tips on conditioning the flowers that help them last up to one week plus tells us the correct way of cutting them for the vase. She also provides a directory of hundreds plants recommended for the cutting garden. Finally, she covers what to look for when buying flowers from the local supermarket or florist especially what to avoid. This book is a must have for anyone who grows flowers and enjoys creating beautiful arrangements for yourself, friends and family.



I love tomatoes growing, eating, cooking and reading about them and I am not alone in thinking that they are the perfect fruit. After hearing about *The Heirloom Tomato*

From Garden to Table: Recipes, Portraits, and History of the World's Most Beautiful Fruit by Amy Goldman (Bloomsbury, 2008), I couldn't

wait to read it. This is an informative, fascinating and beautiful book. The photography by Victor Schnager is breathtaking. Amy is the author of *The Compleat Squash* (Artisan, 2004) and *Melons for the Passionate Grower* (Artisan, 2002), the chair of the board of Seed Savers Exchange and an organic gardener who gardens in upstate New York.

Amy Goldman grew and tested more than a thousand tomatoes. The leading candidates were grown at least twice. She made volumes of notes as she sampled delicious, celebrated and unusual tomatoes from her garden.

She classified them in horticultural groups including: size, weight and shape; color (flesh, exterior); flavor, texture; best uses; texture, plant habit, leaf type; yield; maturity; origin; seed sourcing, which will be helpful when choosing what to grow. Names can be misleading but they are seductive hook. How can you resist a tomato named *African Queen* or *Jersey Devil*? The information she has listed on the origins, uses, taste and yield are interesting and informative. The seed starting tricks, how to make the plants grow stockier, and pH soil conditions needed for optimum growing are invaluable.

Heirlooms breed true from seed and are meant to be home grown; they have a personality. Some of them are too fragile to be shipped to market and others are just ugly, but to taste one sun-ripened tomato from the garden makes growing them so worthwhile. So make a list for next year and grow a few heirloom tomatoes--and save the seeds.

This book also has many mouth-watering recipes and sources for seeds and websites plus a list of advocacy groups. Many of tomatoes have a number listed that corresponds with the Herbarium at the New York Botanical Garden.

(Editor's note: All books except The Compleat Squash are available to borrow through OC Public Libraries. Your opportunity to check them out before shelling out the cash!)