

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 10

November 2008

November Meeting

Saturday November 1, 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.	Business Meeting
9:45 - 10:45 a.m.	Program
10:45– 11:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
11:00	Clean up

Members with last names starting with **A– G** 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.

Note that the program will be **AFTER** the business meeting.

Enrichment Program:

Speaker to be announced at the meeting.

In light of the events of the past five months, if you have decided that our organization is not where you want to be and would like your dues refunded, please speak to treasurer Bob Shaw prior to the start of the November 1 meeting. We will in good faith refund your 2008-09 membership dues in forfeit of your membership and all subsequent rights, including voting privileges. Once the meeting is called to order, no further refunds will be issued.

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

Gardening Events

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

Sat.15: Designing Your Native Drought Tolerant Garden 10 am – noon. \$15

Bart O'Brien, Director of Special Projects, will focus on how to use and establish drought tolerant plants in California gardens.

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

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 1-2: Native Plant Sale! Sat. 11 am – 4 pm, Sun. 9 am – 2 pm

Perennials, flowering shrubs, spring bulbs and native wildflower seeds. Shuttle service available for shoppers and plants. Plant list available on website in October.

Sat. Nov. 15: Propagate Native Plants from Seeds. 12 – 4 pm. \$63.00

Learn different techniques and requirements of germinating California native plants. Opportunity to practice by planting seeds of several native plant species to take home. Materials provided.

Tree of Life Nursery 33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Capistrano. 949/728-0685
www.californianativeplants.com

Sat. Nov. 8, 15, 22: Replace Your Lawn Series 9:30 a.m. Nov. 8 = Kill Your Grass!, Nov. 15 = Design Elements, Nov. 22 = Plant Selections

Workshops in the basics of converting a ecologically taxing and expensive lawn into a beautiful, carefree, sustainable habitat.

We're still in native plant season! For many other gardening events, check <http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>

Leaves from the President



Hi everyone! First off, I would like to begin with some good news for a change. Because the board knows that a lot of us will not be able to attend our holiday party on December 6th, and since several members have expressed a desire not to miss this celebration, the board has decided to reschedule our annual gala to January 3rd when we will have a New Year's celebration. For those of us who are still able to attend on December 6th, we will still be meeting at the Bowling Green for good cheer.

Secondly, I would like to say that nobody feels worse about where we are right now as an organization than those of us on the board, and because of this we are going to do everything in our power to make sure where we are now is never where we find ourselves again. To that end, we will be reviewing and changing our application, handbook, literature, etc. to not only clearly state who we are but also who we are not.

Those of us on the board have a deep passion and love for this organization and have invested literally thousands of hours in it. As a little bit of trivia, we have over twenty-two years collective service on the OCMG board.

Because of our length of service we are blessed with a unique perspective. We very clearly understand our history—what got us here, what has sustained us, and what will keep us around to serve others in the future. We do not believe, nor, as it has already been stated, can we find any written evidence that we misled the public. But in an effort of cooperation and to clearly and expressly differentiate ourselves from the UCCE master gardeners, the board is recommending you vote to change our name from Orange County

Master Gardeners to Orange County *Independent* Master Gardeners.

The board feels that the new name would without confusion explain completely who we are—master gardeners whose work it is to get correct gardening information to the public; we are from Orange County; and we are, well, independent. By definition, 'independent' means we are not subject to control, restriction, modification or limitation from a given outside source.

At the last general meeting, in addition to the board explaining its proposal of the aforementioned amendment, Rita Corpin, in a desire to offer alternative choices for our organization's name, gathered the requisite signatures per Article X, section A, item 1. The names that will be on the ballot are as follows:

1. Orange County Independent Master Gardeners
2. Best Gardeners of Orange County
3. Orange County Best Gardeners
4. Orange County Expert Gardeners
5. Orange County Certified Gardeners

Those of us in attendance at the November meeting who are Active members whose dues and hours are in good standing will be given a ballot with all the proposed amendments and will be able to vote for only one.

Per Robert's Rules, absentee and proxy voting will not be allowed. Dues and hours will be accepted up until the meeting and, as a reminder, hours may be sent by e-mail to Jean Rice.

I look forward to seeing all of you in a few weeks. I hope by that time all of you taking the bridge classes will have already gained garden knowledge that you can share with others including those of us "on the other side of the bridge."

Peace-

Janet Meade

Scadoxus multiflorus “Blood Lily”

By Jill Patterson



If you attend either the Orange County Fair or the L.A. County Fair, you are sure to have seen the tropical flower booths offering plumeria and other amazing flowers for sale.

If you're like me, you haven't been able to resist buying. My first plumeria came from one of these booths. A few years ago, a new plant was offered under the name star flower. I bought some rhizomes, planted them in a pot, and they have flowered every year, dying back in winter. This year, I stopped by the booth and asked for the scientific name (and yes, bought some more plants). I was told it was a Haemanthus, which started my own research. In the Amaryllidaceae family, the genus Haemanthus includes 21 species. The nine species of Scadoxus were originally included in this genus, but are now regarded as distinct due to the spiral arrangement of their leaves and the rhizomatous bulbs.

Originally from South Africa, Scadoxus grow well in California in full sun to light dappled shade. They like humus-rich moist, well-drained soil. The plant is propagated by seeds or offsets. The seed should be sown as soon as it is ripe, though berries can be left on until they start to look a bit wrinkled. Clean the berry pulp off with care as the seed underneath is soft and fleshy. Use a well-drained, light potting mix, press the seed gently into the soil, do not cover it but leave the tops just visible or level with the soil surface. Keep damp. Flowers can be expected from the third season onwards. Offsets should be removed after flowering in autumn and replanted.

Source: *AHS A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants* &:

www.plantzafrica.com/plantqrs/scadoxkath.htm

Helen Elich has been in contact with Bill Havens, a Master Gardener Program Leader from the Washington State University. We'd like to share his most recent message:

Hello Hello,

Getting good gardening information out to the public is the most important issue. Washington State M G Program is working to develop on-line training that will be most useful for remote parts of the state. Some Counties can train and operate without a University Extension agent. Also, Perhaps there are Extension Agents in other fields from the CA Universities in your area that you can work with. If all else fails use a name that describes you and can contain the words Master Gardener.

Bye, Bill

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:

e-mail at

or snail mail:

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

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

For the electronically connected

Sharon Neely found this website for a raised garden that would fit the square foot gardening method. The company is in San Diego. Their gardens are beautiful but pricy, however someone handy could build one at a much lower cost.

<http://www.gardenstogro.com/>

Gardener's Supply Company also sells the components for creating a raised bed:

<http://www.gardeners.com>