

Garden Clippings

Orange County *Independent* Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 14 Number 11

December 2008

December Meeting

Field Trip!!!

Saturday December 6, 2008

Field Trip to Shipley Nature Center

Shipley Nature Center is an 18-acre natural area located in Huntington Beach, California that is an ecological sanctuary for California native plants and wildlife. Situated within Huntington Central Park, the nature center is a haven for the residents and visitors of Orange County. The Center includes 4,000 feet of well-maintained trails that meander through several habitats, including oak woodlands, Torrey pines, meadows, and Blackbird Pond, a natural freshwater wetland with mature willows and sycamores. Within the Nature Center is a 1,500 sq. ft. Interpretive Building with exhibits on local wildlife and ecology. We are hoping that Guy Stivers, our November speaker, will give us a tour. Please meet at the entrance to the Center at 9 a.m.

Address: 17851 Goldenwest Street (south of Slater Avenue), Huntington Beach, CA 92647

Directions from the 405 freeway: Take the Warner Ave exit and head west to Goldenwest Street. Turn right (south) to the Nature Center.

Website for the Center is: www.shipleynature.org

▲ Sharon Neely found a red jacket left from the November meeting; contact her to retrieve it.

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.

Fri. – Sun. Dec. 5 -7: Annual Cactus & Succulent Sale and Show. 10 am – 4pm.

Hundreds of cactus and succulents on sale. Free admission.

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

Sat. Dec. 6: Introduction to Container Gardening With Native Plants. 9 am – 1 pm, \$50.00

Learn how to put together containers with the colors and textures of California using appropriate native plants with eye-catching foliage, flowers, and fruits. Participants will compare the different types of containers, learn how to mix a variety of potting soils for planting, and select and plant a small container to take home. The instructor will discuss general maintenance of container gardens and suggest some excellent plant performers for containers.

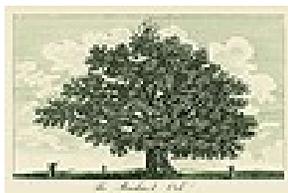
Sat. Dec. 13: What you might not know about our Mediterranean climate and how it impacts our gardens. 1:30 pm, \$20 non-members.

11th annual meeting of The Southern California Branch of The Mediterranean Garden Society. Refreshments, lecture and garden tour.

For many other gardening events, check <http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>

And look for two rose classes by Jan Bridger in January. Bare root season is on its way!

Leaves from the President



Dear Master Gardeners-

I hope you are all reading this in the comfort and shelter of your homes still there after fire, rain, and slides. The fire "storm" that spread through Yorba Linda and Brea came within yards of some of our homes. Jan Youngquist's house remains standing very near neighborhoods that burned to the ground, and Kevin, Lauren, and I were told by police going door to door that there was a mandatory evacuation. I hope no one else was affected (The organization's laptops were packed safely in my car, by the way.).

I am very thankful for all the efforts of those fighting the fires so that so many of us had homes to return to after the evacuation.

I am looking forward to our field trip and I encourage all of you who can attend to do so. It will be our last chance to meet before next year. In the meantime, I wish you all health, wealth, and happiness over the holidays and into 2009.

Janet Meade

☎ 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

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

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

Our wish for the 2009

Jan Brider shared this poem with us and we'd like to pass on the sentiment:

Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?

Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.

Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes, they will teach you valuable lessons.

Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made an effort.

It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.

Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive. Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they will become your blessings.

DIAPREPES ROOT WEEVIL- Information taken from UC Davis Agriculture Department

Exotic species are organisms (plants, animals, and microorganisms) that are not native to a particular region. The impact of exotic pests varies considerably depending on the species and the area being invaded.

Some exotic species have been intentionally introduced to California, while others come in accidentally. Some species are able to rapidly colonize an area and become serious pests, often

because they are no longer under control of predators or diseases that limited their numbers in their native habitat. Species that rapidly colonize an area are often called exotic invasives.

Once established, invasive species are extremely difficult to eradicate and can cause not only ecological disruption, but economic problems as well. Everyone has a part to play to keep exotic and invasive species from coming into California and spreading throughout the state.

How to Manage Pests

What Are Exotic and Invasive Pests?

Historically, people frequently brought species of plants and animals with them from their native lands to California, either accidentally or intentionally. Some introductions did unexpected damage while others had positive outcomes (food and horticultural crops). Many invasive plant problems began as ornamental plants for sale by nurseries and garden centers. Today, exotic and invasive plants are still available in commercial nurseries. Other exotic species arrive in products brought into California by travelers or shipped in commercial trade.



Many exotic invasive pests are of major concern in California. The glassy-winged sharpshooter (an insect) and purple loosestrife (a weed) are two invasive species that are established in some areas but still threaten to invade other areas. Newer exotic species of concern include Diaprepes root weevil, light brown apple moth (LBAM), and various aquatic weeds. Some of the worst invasive plants in California, saltcedar and yellow

starthistle, have caused substantial changes to California's wildlands. Insect-carried diseases such as West Nile virus threaten public health and also affect horses and native birds.

What can you do to help stop the spread of exotic and invasive species?

1. **Don't release exotic or invasive plants into the environment.** Don't dump your aquatic plants or aquarium water into local waters, since many aquarium plants are highly invasive. Many invasive plant species are still sold at nurseries and garden centers. [The California Invasive Plant Council \(http://www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/index.php\)](http://www.cal-ipc.org/landscaping/dpp/index.php) promotes horticultural alternatives to invasive plants in a series of regional brochures entitled "Don't Plant a Pest."



2. **Use plants native to your area for landscaping.** Native plants have benefits such as requiring less water, providing habitat for native butterflies and pollinators, and usually have fewer pest problems, too!
3. **Don't bring foreign plant or animal material into California** when you travel or spread species from local quarantine areas to non-infested areas.
4. **Learn to identify invasive species new to California.** Contact your local [UC Cooperative Extension office](#) or [Agricultural Commissioner](#) for help identifying suspected invasive species or look at the [UC IPM](#) or [CDFA Web site](#).
5. **Report invasive species in your area!** Contact your local UC Cooperative Extension office or Agricultural Commissioner to report invasives and to get information on controlling invasive species on your property.