

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 8

September 2009

September Meeting

Saturday, September 5, 2009

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 - 10:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
10:00– 11:00 a.m.	Program
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.

The business meeting will include a discussion on the Bowling Green as a meeting site as the city is now charging us for its use.

Program: Compost It! with Francene Kaplan

Dr. Kaplan has been an organic gardener for 30 years, starting with a college project of snail abatement utilizing ducks. She has been a science teacher for over 25 years and encourages students to apply aspects of organic gardening to their lives, while meeting the Cal. State Standards. Composting has been a particular interest to Dr. Kaplan, because it just makes sense to do what nature has always done. She enjoys the desert and is a steward for the Mojave Desert Land Trust, mostly servicing Joshua Tree. She likes to write, use household objects for percussion, and create weird assemblage art from found and repurposed objects. Some of her nicknames include: The Queen of Compost and the Priestess of Rot!

Gardening Events

Fullerton Arboretum. Pre-register for all classes by calling 657/278-3407

Sat. – Sun. Sept. 12-13: Salvia Spectacular Plant Sale 10:00 am to 4:00 pm .

Hundreds of salvia's and related plants for sale.

The Potting Shed reopens September 12.

Sat. Sept. 19: Alternatives to Lawns 1:30 – 3:30 pm, Oak Hall (Water Conservation Gardening Series – Class I) Call by Wed, Sep 16 FREE to Yorba Linda Water District customers who present their water bill All others preregistration: \$25/members, \$30/nonmembers

Landscape designer Steve Gerischer will teach how to turn your water-guzzling lawn into a low water garden you'll love! Steve will cover the basics of lawn removal, soil preparation, plant selection, and care.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224

Sat. Sept. 5: Native Plant Clinic 10am – 1 pm

Free clinic to answer your questions.

Sat. Sept. 19: Planning Your California-Native Garden for Hot Weather Beauty and Shade 2-4pm \$29

Discover and view beautiful foliage, flowers, fruits, and shade that thrive during the hottest weather that southern California can dish out.

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

Leaves from the President



Nation wide many master gardeners are thinking of setting up for the winter about now, doing things I can only read and wonder about – but not here in Orange County! We may miss the seasons of other climates, but it's pretty spectacular here as well. Take a walk, take a class, enjoy a fall garden, seed a new interest, improve an old skill, think of what they're missing!

Is there much interest in participating in some sort of 'horticultural field trial' or a seed exchange? If something comes to mind, share the thought with the board and we'll see what it will take to get something set up. I've been thinking about this for some time and I'll be sharing a few 'brain ticklers' at the September meeting.

Remember how you felt when you took the training classes? We've got about 30 folks going through the same emotions/experiences starting this month. Most of the trainees met with us once already. We'll be together again in November, December and March. If you happen to bump into a trainee at some volunteer venue during the next 6 months, please provide encouragement and support. We need to cultivate them carefully.

Let's all try to get our dues paid and send in our hours. You'll notice that we've added an "hours thermometer" metric for the business meeting. This will compare the hours we work to the hours we've reported – I wonder how closely the numbers are matching!

I'm looking forward to seeing all the green thumbs and smiles at our next meeting.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

In Memorium

OCIMG sends its deepest condolences to Janet Meade. Her husband, Kevin Meade suffered a high blood pressure stroke on July 28th and passed away on August 13th, three days after their 23rd anniversary.

Besides Janet, he is survived by their 6-year old daughter, Lauren, his parents, three sisters and one brother. A memorial "party" is planned for November 14th in Yorba Linda.

What to do with that thirsty lawn?

With tight water restrictions legislated by just about every city, what changes have you made to your landscape? How many of you are planning to replace your lawn with something else? Alternatives abound along with classes from the Fullerton Arboretum, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, and Tree of Life nursery. Sunset magazine recently included an article listing the pros and cons of turf vs. plastic grass vs. native species vs. the new low-water turf now available. That article is available online—go to www.sunset.com and search under "plastic grass", click on "Lawns and the alternatives".

☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President*

Anne Porter, *1st^d Vice Pres*

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Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*

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Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:

e-mail at

or snail mail:

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*

Website: [http:// www.ocmastergardeners.org](http://www.ocmastergardeners.org)

Heavenly Acre Farm

By Barbara Eaves

The agricultural tradition of La Habra Heights continues at Heavenly Acre Farm where Karissa Lystrup and her brothers and sisters grow and sell a variety of organic fruits, vegetables and other home made and home grown products. Theirs has been a very successful venture despite difficulties which have arisen over the last two years, and this reflects their adaptability and perseverance as they continue to provide quality products to their customers.

Initially, they ran a roadside stand with a display of currently available products. After the stand was vandalized, the children decided to sell their produce via a website. This has proved to be a very effective method, as customers (from a mailing list of over 500 people) check the website for currently available products (updated weekly), place their orders, and pick them up between 9 and 11 a.m. every Saturday.

Karissa has attended over 20 hours of computer networking and problem solving classes with her father, so has quite a bit of expertise in managing their website. Though neither she nor any of her siblings plan a career in agriculture or horticulture, their experiences running a small business have been valuable training for whatever careers they choose.

These multitalented young people exemplify a quality which good gardeners share-perseverance despite difficulties.

Check their website at www.heavenlyacre.com.

Editor's note: Per the website, items for sale include pesticide-free produce, raw goat dairy products for pet consumption, organically-fed free-range eggs, goat milk soap, whole-grain baked goods and much more. The goat milk soap is available in a variety of scents and would make great stocking stuffers!

Update on OCIMG bylaws

The new bylaws passed at the August meeting. Take a look at Article III and the definition of membership classification. Lifetime members who are not active (i.e. have not reported service hours at an approved venue) will only receive the newsletter via email. We do have a few lifetime members who are not active and currently receive a hardcopy newsletter. If you wish to continue receiving a newsletter, please send your email address to the newsletter editor.

New trainee class

The new class is scheduled to begin in September, meeting at the La Habra Branch Library. Jill O'Neill has accepted the position of 2nd Vice President and will be coordinating the class. If you wish to audit any lectures or assist with the class, please contact her.

Ants in the House?

Hot weather and rainy weather seem to bring ants inside houses. www.wisegeek.com offers these remedies to keep them out:

“ Ants will crawl away from cinnamon, mint, red [chili](#) powder, and [black pepper](#). All of them can be sprinkled on countertops or cupboards, as they're not poisonous and highly effective. Planting mint and [cloves](#) in windowsills or outdoor gardens around the home will also help keep ants out of your house. [Bay leaves](#), especially when dipped into mint mouthwash and placed around the food [pantry](#), are another helpful option.

Creating a ring of Vaseline or chalk around windows and doors also helps, as ants will not cross lines drawn with any of these products. Baby powder is another great ant

repellent. Sprinkling some on doors will keep ants out of your house.

Ants also hate [vinegar](#). For an easy solution, just mix equal parts of vinegar and water and then sprinkle on counters and other food storage and preparation areas. If there are no small children or pets in the house, you can also use [glass](#) cleaner to spray areas in other rooms outside of the kitchen.