

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 9

October 2009

## October Meeting

**Saturday, October 3, 2009**

**New Location: Santiago Park/Log Cabin**

### 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 **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.

We are meeting in a new location in Santiago Park, near the Bowling Green. Directions are: Driving north on Main, turn right on the drive just beyond Edgewood.

Driving south on Main St, pass over the river and turn left on the drive immediately before Edgewood (there is a large "Santiago Park" sign at the park entry).

The log cabin is on the right

From the bowling club, drive/walk to the cul-de-sac parking lot by the playground at the end of Valencia. Stay on the south side of the river and walk across the playground, past the restrooms to the log cabin.

## Program: Garden Websites with Raffi Kojian

It's time to revamp our own website! Mr. Kojian created the [www.gardenology.org](http://www.gardenology.org) site as a wiki so others can add information and participate. We can share ideas for our website and learn how to incorporate additional features.

## Gardening Events

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

**Sat. – Sun. Oct. 10-11: California Native and Fall Plant Sale** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm .

Hundreds of varieties of California natives and fall plants for sale.

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

**Sun. Oct. 25: Sustainable Landscaping: A Visionary Look at the Future of Gardens, 1-4pm**

One part practical lesson in sustainable landscaping techniques from one of the masters of the craft and one part rousing motivational sermon by a respected "philosopher of horticulture". Owen Dell's newest book, *Sustainable Landscaping for Dummies*, will be available for sale and author signing. Learn how to design, build, and live with an earth-friendly landscape, the book includes how to harvest rainwater, build rain gardens, plant a low-maintenance meadow and more.

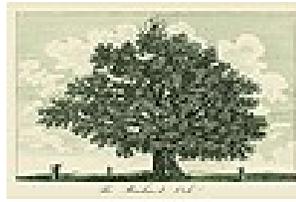
### **Fullerton College Horticulture Department**

**Sat.-Sun. Oct. 3-4: Fall sale, 9am-4pm Sat., noon-4pm Sun.** Vines, natives, perennials, winter vegetables and much more.

October: start of fall planting season and native plant sales!

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

# Leaves from the President



We are besieged by change!

At the last club meeting, I described the situation regarding the cost of using the bowling clubhouse for meetings. I have since been informed by the city of Santa Ana that the reservations for using the club house (at no cost) made by Janet Meade are not being honored due to the city's budget problem. Their problem is now our problem. As a result, we have reserved the log cabin in the Santiago Park for the club meetings in Oct and Nov and the bowling club for the Christmas party in Dec. The log cabin will cost about \$35 a meeting, less than one fourth the cost of the bowling clubhouse. Please contact me if you know of a place suitable for meetings other than Santiago Park (maybe a nearby public school facility??). We will leave a trail of bread crumbs to follow to the log cabin for the next two meetings.

The next training class currently has only 8 students signed up and it has been decided to extend registration and the plan is to have classes start in January. We will invite all new trainees to the club meeting in the meantime. Now is the time to beat the bushes for those interested in the training, please let me know of anyone else interested in the class. Most of the 50+ on the list of interested said that they thought the class would take too much of a commitment, a few had changed jobs, one had a health issue. I suppose that could be taken as a positive comment about the commitment you are making to be a Master Gardener.

Some change is for the good too!

A few words about the 5 September club meeting. I was not too sure of how many would attend, it being a holiday week end. While we did have more than a few absent due to travel plans, it was very nice to have some come out whom we have missed recently. Total attendance was a bit better than other recent meetings. Francene Kaplan presented a lively discussion on composting and has volunteered to coach anyone needing some help in how to start or maintain a pile. Francene plans on attending some of our future meetings. The meeting itself reminded me of the not so distant past where everyone really enjoyed being present - we were all relaxed and had some great conversations.

The October meeting speaker is Raffi Kojian, owner of the Gardenology website. The discussion will include his description of the kind of work it takes to develop an effective Internet presence. We also hope to demonstrate other gardening website resources so that we can chart the direction for our website improvements.

We have been approached on two unrelated efforts. One is to assist those living in Yorba Linda who could suffer from wild fire damages by planning fire retardant (as well as water conserving) landscapes. The other is to initiate a 1-acre community garden plot. A few of us will be involved in scoping conversations; I will advise the club as anything begins to get serious.

Hope to see you in October at the log house.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County  
Independent Master Gardeners

Next board meeting is October 27 at 6:30 pm at the home of Robert Shaw. All members are welcome to attend.

**Note from Sharon Neely:** "I have new OCIMG badges for the following people—please come to the next meeting to receive: Martha and Leroy Lance, Ro Meadows, Valerie Minegar, and Kathy Matthews."

## Find Out If You Are Over-Watering Your Landscape

By Don Grime

One of the venues that will be on display at the November meeting is Water Conservation. This is an important issue since water in Southern California is in short supply, because of protection needed for the delta smelt in the Sacramento-San Joaquin deltas and our multi-year drought. Accordingly, we are being asked to reduce our water use by 10 percent (over what we used last year at the same time). For those who have been conserving in the past, this could be difficult and may not be the best direction for solving the problem. I believe that a better way would be to determine what a person's normal water use should be based on the number of occupants in their household and the size of their landscape area. Once this is established, a person could see if they are inadvertently using too much water or not. If so, their situation could be evaluated and they could then be advised as to how to reduce their water use.

At the November meeting, I will be determining what a person's water usage should be based on the California Dept. of Water Resources model landscape ordinance. However, to do that, I will need to know the two things noted above: number of occupants in a household and the square footage of one's landscape. This can be approximated by providing one's lot size and the square footage of one's house. For those interested in learning about their water use, it would also be necessary to bring in a copy of a past water bill for comparison purposes.

Anyone having questions prior to the meeting should email me or phone me.



### ☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President* .....

Anne Porter, *1st<sup>d</sup> Vice Pres*

Jill O'Neill, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month via:  
e-mail

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*

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

### Botanists collaborate to secure future of rare Tasmanian plant

From Scott Carroll: The Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens is working towards securing the future of a rare and ancient Tasmanian native plant discovered by legendary tin miner and naturalist Deny King. *Lomatia tasmanica*, commonly known as King's *Lomatia*, is critically endangered with less than 500 plants in the wild. King's *Lomatia* grows as a shrub or small tree up to eight metres in height, has broad leathery divided leaves and after about seven years produces clusters of waxy burgundy flowers at the ends of the branches (see photo below). It is a genetic freak which ONLY propagates by cloning. Fossil leaves of the plant found were dated at 43,600 years old and given that the species is a clone, it is

possibly the oldest living plant in the world.  
News links are:

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/09/07/2679005.htm>

<http://www.rtbg.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?sys=News%20Article&intID=1560>