

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 10

November 2009

November Meeting

Saturday, November 7, 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 **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.

We are meeting at the log cabin 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).

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: Bees with Melinda Nelson

Melinda Nelson, Bee Keeper and owner of the **Buzz 'Round Town** honeybee removal and rescue business, will be our speaker. She will be speaking to us about the benefits of bees in our gardens plus sharing interesting facts about bees. Please join us!

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Nov. 14 "10 Tips for Your Garden with Master Gardener Jan Brider" 10 – 11:30 am, Pavilion Classrooms

Learn the basic steps of redesigning and/or improving your garden. Master Gardener Jan Brider's expert instruction, pictures and examples will give you all the tools you need to create the garden space that's perfect for you! Prepaid preregistration recommended / space is limited / Call by Thursday, November 12th / 657-278-3407
Preregistration: \$12/members, \$15/nonmembers
Post-registration/walk-ins: \$22/members \$25/nonmembers

Sat. Nov. 21: Hypertufa Pot Workshop with Stive Gerishcer 1:30 – 3:30 pm. Bleachers. \$32

An artificial medium with absorbent properties, Hypertufa is a mixture of cement, coir*, and perlite molded to resemble tufa or crumbling granite, lighter than regular concrete and will not be damaged by freezing after it is cured. Create a piece in class. Reserve by Nov. 16.

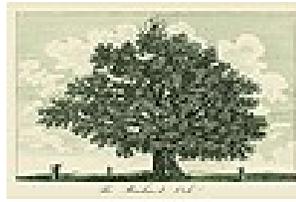
Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224

Sat. & Sun. Nov. 7 & 8: Fall Plant Sale. Sat., 11am – 4pm, Sun., 9am – 2 pm.

Thousands of native and water-efficient plants. Experienced horticulturists on-site. Shuttle service. On-line plant list, www.rsabg.org
Free admission and parking.

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

Leaves from the President



Think “trainees” – as in we need more! I announced at the recent meeting that we have an insufficient number of people interested in being trained as master gardeners. Starting with the list of more than 50 interested, the club received 7 checks. The majority opinion of the 43 not signed up was that being a master gardener was too much of a commitment, a few had job changes and one is suffering catastrophic illness. In past years, the working list of interested has been about 125-150. Doing the math, we need at least 75-100 more interested to get the class going. The class is now scheduled to begin in mid-January. Several of the 43 may be available for this later start. We had training applications at the recent plant sale at Fullerton College and at the club meeting. I think the best source of qualified leads is you, the current membership. Those of us now attending are in the best position to explain what we do while sharing our enthusiasm. YOU need to contact one or two folks you already know are interested and get them to sign-up for class.

This past club meeting was held in the log cabin at Santiago Park and I'd like to get any input you have about the log cabin as a meeting place. Did anyone not hear about the move and miss the meeting because of the change? A couple of us had received the newsletter (but did not read it!) and missed the announcement. We'll continue to post the 'move notice' at the bowling club for a while just in case. We plan on having the year end party on 5 Dec back at the Bowling Clubhouse (cost is \$206 for the 3 hrs) with the rest of this year's meetings at the log cabin.

The Fall Festival scheduled for November has been rescheduled to coincide with the Christmas party in December. We will be hearing about pollination and bees on Saturday, 7 Nov, at the Santiago Park log cabin.

An update on talks held with the Yorba Linda water district: As a result of last year's fire

damage, Cheryl Spencer and I met with Ken Vecchiarelli for an hour to discuss how we might be involved in instructing homeowners on proper landscape planning regarding fire resistant and water conserving landscapes. Just an FYI: as a trial, the fire authority surveyed 5400 homeowners along the most hazardous areas. Some homeowners were 'shy' about participating; the completed survey form was left at the home as an aid in what might be done to reduce fire damage. One response is that while certain plants are good suggestions, locating and caring for the plants is a problem. The fire authority is assessing the effort. It seems to me that each of the jurisdictions involved (city, fire, homeowner's insurance, water department, CERT) are liability-sensitive to the extent that each is currently planning for only a segment of the overall solution. A lot of the problem is budget. It was discussed that some of the insurance companies have done field work and determined that some existing policies for homes older than 10 years will not be renewed unless the homeowner makes changes to building structure and landscape (choosing another policy is not an option –the fire loss risk must be reduced). The water department is sponsoring a few classes at the Fullerton Arboretum and one possibility is that we might be instructing the class on water conservation. Cheryl is the one to talk with about the details. More to follow . . .

A little help please . . . \$20 dues covers from July thru June and many have paid for this year. Trying to put together a draft budget reveals the need for all of us to be current on our dues, so if you still need to, make out the check/cash and I'll be ready this month with the receipt book. As a matter of 'check and balance', we really really need to have a treasurer other than me or my wife. The hours count, not that it takes too much time. Basically you'd attend the board meeting the last Tuesday of each month (fresh baked cookies at the meeting!) and make a deposit. Other than that you'll be at the club meetings anyway.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

Board meetings are the Tuesday before the general meeting at 6:30 pm at the home of Robert Shaw. All members are welcome to attend.

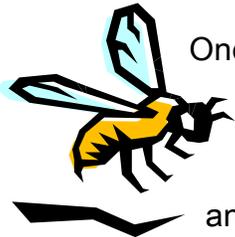
Reminder

Memorial services for Janet Meade's husband, Kevin, are Saturday, November 14, at 2:30 pm.

They will be held in the amphitheater in Hurless Barton Park, which is just south of the Yorba Linda Community Center on Casa Loma Ave. and Imperial Blvd. Park in the Community Center parking lot and walk south to the park. There is stadium seating in the amphitheater and the service will be followed by a picnic. Bring a blanket to sit on and wear clothing appropriate for the weather.

Please RSVP to Janet Meade.

Bee Facts



One fact is that it takes 1.3 million bee hives to pollinate California's almond orchards, and the hives are transported via flat bed trucks from all over the United States.

Another fact: most native bees do not form hives, but make individual nests, primarily in bare soil. Mulching discourages bees from building their nests in soil, so leave some bare areas in your garden.

Check out this website for more information on native bees and how to attract them to your garden. While many books encourage planting natives to attract bees, this site

suggests that many exotic plants can do an even better job.

Though the information is based on studies in Berkeley, much can be adapted to our Southern California gardens.

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/urbanbeegardens/>

Speaking of websites...

Last month's speaker, Raffi Kojian, demonstrated the gardenology website he created using Wiki software. A Wiki is a type of website that allows other people to add or change information on the site. A prime example is www.wikipedia.com, which is one of the largest encyclopedias on the Internet. There are ways of limiting who can make changes to a site. And there are several providers who offer FREE space to host a wiki. Do we want to consider looking into something like that? It all depends on what we want to have on the website. What are your ideas? Besides an archive of the newsletter, our list of monthly garden chores, forms, and a few links, what would you like to see on our website? Let me or a Board member know! If you have some computer expertise, let us know if you'd be willing to help design a new look.

Food Co-ops

Scott Carroll sent links to a website about a Glassell Park food co-op where neighbors share extra produce with each other. How many of us have a surfeit of tomatoes, zucchinis, herbs, or citrus fruit? It wouldn't be hard to start a local co-op in our own neighborhood or even among ourselves. Check out the ideas at: <http://hillsideproducecooperative.org/>

☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President*
Anne Porter, *1st^d Vice Pres*
Jill O'Neill, *2nd Vice Pres*.

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:
e-mail

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*

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