

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 15 Number 11

December 2009

December Meeting

Saturday, December 5, 2009

Back at the Bowling Green

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Meet & Greet & Demos
10:00 - 10:15 a.m. Break
10:15 - 10:45 a.m. Plants 'n Things
10:45– 11:00 a.m. Business Meeting
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Clean up

This is our annual holiday celebration! The Board will provide a main dish and we invite all to bring appetizers, a side dish or dessert. Also, please 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.

Remember to save your holiday cards for Rita Corpin's World History class.

Program: Meet and Greet OC Garden Clubs/Demos

We will have representatives from a dozen gardening organizations based in Orange County. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet people expert in their fields. Water conservation and other gardening demonstrations will be featured.

Board Meeting: 6:30 pm Tuesday before general meeting at the home of Robert Shaw.

**If you have not paid your dues this year,
this will be your
LAST NEWSLETTER!**

Pay at December meeting or send dues to
Diane Wilkinson

Gardening Events

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

Fri - Sun. Dec. 4-6 "Winter Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale" 10 – 4 pm.

Hundred's of specimen plants for sale. Visit the show portion on December 5 & 6 to see unusual cactus and succulents from area collectors and growers.

Sat. Dec. 5 "Eat the Yard II" 9- noon, paid pre-registrations only, call by Wed. Dec. 2, \$20/member family

Gardener Jonathan Davis welcomes you back to his outdoor classroom at the Arboretum's Organic Vegetable Garden to learn organic pest control, plant maintenance, succession planting, and seed saving. Wear a hat and outdoor clothing.

Laguna Hills Nursery 25290 Jeronimo Rd., Lake Forest, 92630 Pre-register 949-830-5653

Sat. & Sun. Dec. 12 -13 "Art and Science of Pruning" 9:30 – 11 am. Free. Pre-register

Gary will discuss how pruning affects plants internally, what techniques do the least amount of damage, and how to prune to promote flower and fruit production and for best structure and beauty.

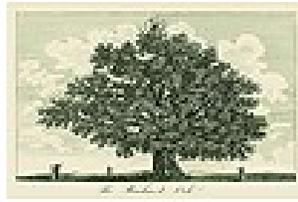
Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224

Sun. Dec. 6: Hypertufa Pot Workshop with Stive Gerishcer 11am -1 pm. \$33

Create a trough planter in class out of Hypertufa, using cement, perlite and natural fibers.

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

Leaves from the President



The OC Independent Master Gardeners are having a holiday party, Saturday December 5, from 9am to noon. We would like any of you who are available to attend with us. The meeting will be at the Santiago Park Lawn Bowling Center. We are planning on holiday food stuffs, a water conservation demo, a seed exchange sign-up, and a gardening demo. Also attending will be representatives from many of the garden clubs in north Orange County. I have had a very enthusiastic response to the invitations so far. We are using this meeting to expand the other clubs' notice of who we are as well as perhaps building lots of goodwill with the other groups. We are inviting those signed up for the next training class, too. The class is still not scheduled due to low registration. We have 11 of the 24 minimum - but we want 40!! people to hold the class and are making progress. The news articles Ann Porter has submitted have started to yield more sign-ups. The local La Palma paper ran a blurb and 5 called, with 3 now registered.

We have had something a bit strange occur at the last 4 club meetings which I want to both share and emphasize. You can easily recall the feelings of dread we went through in trying to work out the transition for those who wanted to be UCCE certified with the "fur flying" at each meeting for a while. Gratefully, I recognize that we have gotten past those episodes with each of the last 4 months being like the "good old days" we all enjoyed so much. We have missed our friends who have been absent - just a quick check, do you recall bees and pollination, web pages, and composting? All subjects covered in the last few meetings. We will have a field trip in January to Redondo Beach for succulents and the Anaheim urban forest in February. I want you to come to the annual party on 5 Dec and enjoy the fellowship. As you can see from above, we have

planned something for everybody with the demonstrations and other invited guests.

I do wish you all only the best of the holidays this season and hope to see each of you on Saturday, December 5.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

Scott Carroll submitted these two news bulletins:

Toyota goes greener

Toyota has created two flower species that absorb nitrogen oxides and take heat out of the atmosphere. The flowers, derivatives of the cherry sage plant and the gardenia, were specially developed for the grounds of Toyota's Prius plant in Toyota City, Japan.

The sage derivative's leaves have unique characteristics that absorb harmful gases, while the gardenia's leaves create water vapour in the air, reducing the surface temperature of the factory surrounds and, therefore, reducing the energy needed for cooling, in turn producing less carbon dioxide (CO₂).

The two new plants are part of a wide-ranging plan to reduce the impact of Prius manufacture on the environment. Since 1990, the plant has reduced CO₂ emissions by 55 per cent.

And so does an Australian farmer

A wheat farmer in Australia has eliminated adding fertilizer to his crop by the simple process of injecting the cooled diesel exhaust of his modified tractor into the ground when the wheat is being sown. In doing so, he eliminates releasing carbon into the atmosphere and at the same time saves himself up to \$500,000 (AUD) that would have been required to fertilize his 3,900 hectares in the traditional way. Yet his crop yields over the last two years have been at least on par with his best yields since 2001. The technique was developed by a Canadian, Gary Lewis of Bio Agtive, and is currently in trial at 100 farms around the world.

Message from Marjorie Puckett

Marjorie was in the second master gardener class offered about 15 years ago and both the designer and first editor of our newsletter. She was a founding member of OCIMG when we split from the UCCE group. She has since moved to an island off the Washington coast. She will be riding in the Pasadena Rose Parade this January 1st, with the Western Haflinger Group. She will be easy to spot in her black jacket with lace collar, one of two riders, amid five carriages. All horses are palominos. The riders are dressed in Bavarian style costumes (see photo). She writes:

“The parade is a test of endurance, we line up at midnight, forget about sleep. Mounted for 5 hours, ride for 3.5 hours, no port-a-potties for us. Five miles of an audience of 1,000,000 in the stands, 40 million TV watchers from 150 countries, I hope Mah Rico stays calm, and I don’t have to pee.

If you are near the L.A. Equestrian Center in Burbank, come visit as I’ll be there 7 days prior to the parade, performing in the mounted show of Equestfest on Dec. 29 prior to the parade. This is open to the public with seating for 3,000 and is family entertainment. All mounted units from the parade perform and the horse barns are open to the visiting public.” (Equestfest information available at: <http://www.tournamentofroses.com/events/equestfest.asp>)



New TV Series on Native Gardening

Martin Hale, who created the Wild Gardens video series, has a new program beginning Monday, Nov. 16, on KVCR-TV (Channel 24) at 6:30pm. He is working with the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA and Frank Simpson, a well known Educator and Landscape Architect in Southern California. This television series, *Getting Native*, will bring the beauty and craft of landscaping with native plants to PBS audiences throughout Southern California. The program is designed to educate, enlighten and entertain the viewers with a greater understanding of which natives and Mediterranean plants are best suited in our urban landscapes. Each episode in the series will focus on a front yard renovation project, using sustainable design and drought tolerant plants in their most appropriate locations to maximize water conservation and to create a great looking living space.

☎ Contacts

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Diane Wilkenson, *Treasurer*
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Jill O’Neill, *2nd Vice Pres.*
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Jill Patterson, *Newsletter*
Submit articles by the 10th of each month via:
e-mail
or snail mail
Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*

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

We are grateful for:

Our new treasurer! Many thanks to Diane Wilkinson, who has stepped up and volunteered for this position.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to ALL