

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 03

March 2010

March Meeting

Saturday, March 6, 2010

New Location: La Habra Branch Library
221 E. La Habra Blvd.

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, any gardening catalogs or magazines you'd like to share, and holiday cards for Rita Corpin's World History class.

We are meeting at the La Habra Branch Library, our former alternate meeting site.



Program: Gourds

Members from the Orange County Gourd Society will talk about the horticulture, crafting, and appreciation of hard shelled gourds. Gourd enthusiasts combine gardening with art and crafts, creating miniature masks, bird houses, dolls and bowls. More photographs are on their

website, <http://www.nicheofbliss.com/index.html>.

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

Gardening Events

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

Fri - Sun. Mar. 19-21: " Monster Tomato and Pepper Sale" 10:00 am– 4:00 pm. Potting Shed

Over 200 varieties of tomato plants and 90 varieties of pepper plants will be available.

Sat. Mar. 27: " Edible Landscapes" 1:30– 3:30 pm. Pavilion Classrooms. \$30/reserve by Mar. 24

Grow an edible landscape that is packed with color, is water-wise, and produces year-round. Steve Gerischer is a landscape designer, teacher, and current president of the So. Cal. Hort. Soc.

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens

"Wondrous Wildflower Sale", March 19 – April 1. The Grow Native Nursery, on the grounds of RSABG, is open Wed.-Sun. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 1500 N College Avenue, Claremont

Fullerton College Horticulture Dept., 321 E. Chapman, Fullerton 92832, 714-992-7135

Fri. – Sun. Mar 5 – 7: 2010 Tomato Plant Sale, Fri. & Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

From tiny to jumbo, with new varieties to choose from this year. More details on website:

<http://horticulture.fullcoll.edu>

Blue Hills Nursery. 16440 E. Whittier Blvd., Whittier.

Sun. Mar. 14. "Growing Amazing Tomatoes" 1
- 3 pm with heirloom expert Steven Goto.

For many other gardening events, such as the
Carlsbad Flower Fields and UCI bulb sales, check
<http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>

Leaves from the President



We are moving!

We have finally settled on a new meeting location for the group at the La Habra Public Library. I suppose some of us will miss the 'rustic' character of the log cabin and the remote restroom building. I am sorry to leave the Santiago Park area. The group has met there for many years and it is more centrally located. The lawn bowling clubhouse became too expensive to rent on a regular basis due to Santa Ana's budget crunch.

Two alternatives were considered; the Anaheim Hills Community Center and the library. The library is not charging at all and the community center will not charge for the first 2 hours of use. The travel distance to each for most members is roughly the same. The La Habra Library is located on the corner of Euclid and La Habra Blvd, north of Imperial, west of Harbor, and east of Beach Blvd. There is a great meeting room and plenty of good parking. One of the requirements is that our meetings will be open to the public - but we can stand to have a few more attending anyway. Our speaker for March is the Gourd Society - how to grow and use gourds. Another advantage is that I expect to be able to more successfully meld the training class (which begins in mid-September) into the group by meeting at the same facility. The class will be scheduled for field trips on the group meeting days. The schedule for use looks very do-able.

There has been a fairly positive response to my query regarding a seed exchange sponsored by the group. Several things still need to be worked out but Michelle Brendel and Nancy Shaw have both volunteered to be directly involved. We expect there to be an on-going e-mail enabled exchange via self-addressed stamped envelopes as well as at the OCIMG June plant exchange meeting. We

will advertise the exchange at the Fullerton Arboretum Green Scene this year.

It is now time to be looking forward to the next board's election. Let me know if you want to be on the nominating committee (you'd have a great influence on who is or is not nominated!!). Please consider a favorite position, or be able to arrange your schedule so that you can be considered, especially if it's been a few years since your last tour of duty. We are now well past our tumultuous meetings - we even have most to the next training class signed up already!

All we need do now is show up at the new meeting location on 6 March. See you there.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President*

Diane Wilkison, *Treasurer*

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

or snail mail:

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours*

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

Directions to New La Habra meeting site

If you're driving from the 91 Freeway, take the Euclid exit north to La Habra Blvd., turn right and then left into the Civic Center. From the 57 Freeway, exit at Lambert and head west to Euclid, turn right and continue to La Habra Blvd.

International Succulent Introductions

Did you know that the Huntington Library hosts the International Succulent Introductions, a private institution? The ISI program has had a long-standing association with the Huntington since shortly after its inception in 1958. The program was adopted in its entirety by the Huntington in 1989. The aim of ISI is to propagate and distribute new or rare succulents to collectors, nurseries and institutions. Field-collected plants are not sold, only propagated seedlings, grafts and rooted cuttings produced under nursery conditions without detriment to wild populations. Income is used to support this program. Plants may be ordered by mail-order only; the annual offering appears in each March-April issue of the Cactus and Succulent Journal and year-round at this website: <http://www.huntington.org/BotanicalDiv/ISI%202009/catalogintro.html>

Debris from the Editor

Welcome back to the La Habra Branch Library, our alternate meeting location years earlier. The Library is “conveniently” located 6 miles from any freeway, but that is the only disadvantage. I have missed the last few meetings due to my work schedule and am happy I can at least pop in to say hello when meeting and work dates coincide. As part of our welcome, the Gourd Society will have a display in the lobby case. And if you don’t already have a library card, now is the perfect time to remedy that omission. We have DVDs, books, magazines, and audiobooks for checkout, plus ebooks and eaudiobooks for downloading. All it takes is a library card!

Book Review by Jill Patterson

Botanical Serigraphs: The Gene Bauer Collection. ESRI Press, February 2010

I first read about this book in the Los Angeles Times and had to have my own copy. It just arrived and I’d like to share my delight with you.

I’ve long been fascinated with botanical prints; Gene Bauer’s prints are created using a silkscreen process which uses the hand-cut lacquer film technique. Starting with a soft pencil line drawing, she cuts a stencil from lacquer film for each stage and adheres it to silk fabric stretched over a frame. A squeegee presses the ink through the open mesh of the stencil onto the selected paper. It can take 5 to 8 or more color runs and stencils for each serigraph.

Accompanying many of the serigraphs are essays describing the plant. One such essay, written in 1973, describes cord grass, *Spartina foliosa*, common in marshlands in the Bay area. University studies have shown that cord grass removes more carbon dioxide from the air and gives off more oxygen than any other known plant. It is also a dune binder as its creeping rhizomes anchors dunes and salt marshes.

Another essay extols the virtues of *Umbellularia californica*, the only species in its genus and a California native. Common names are mountain laurel, bay laurel and California bay tree. While the leaves are not the same as the culinary bay leaf, they can be used in cooking. It provides the finest hardwood to be found on the Pacific Coast and is valued for cabinet work and furniture making. It is happiest in cool moist canyons where it can achieve a height of more than 60 feet; it will also thrive in chaparral as a short, twiggy shrub.

I was lucky enough to find this book on Amazon for \$26.00, an absolute bargain. No such luck with this week’s L.A. Times review of Bob Perry’s newest book, *Landscape Plants for the California Gardens*. The reviewer thinks this book will supersede the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, not only because it focuses solely on California, but because it also includes the respiration rates of plants, essential information for landscapers complying with the new state ordinance on water budgeting. Best price for this title -- \$65.00 vs. \$87.50 -- is on the author’s website at landdesignpublishing.com. At that price, I may wait until a used copy becomes available!