

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 04

April 2010

April Meeting

Saturday, April 3, 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 **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, 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: Anaheim's Urban Forest Program

Anaheim has been designated a tree city for 21 years running and is responsible for the maintenance of over 70,000 trees along streets and in parks. Alan Hudak will describe the pleasures and pitfalls of street trees as well as how the city selects the tree species allowed for parkways. Questions about starting an urban forest program and receiving a tree city designation are welcomed.

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

Sat - Sun. Apr. 17– 18 " Green Scene"

10:00 am– 4:00 pm.

Many new exhibitors and products.

South Coast Plaza. Phone 714-435-2160 or www.springgardenshow.com

Thurs. – Sun. Apr. 22-25: "Southern California Spring Garden Show" 10am-9pm
Thurs & Fri, 10am – 8pm Sat, 11am-6:30pm Sun.

Hundreds of vendors selling plants and supplies; fantastic floral displays.

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

Sat. Apr. 17: "Absolutely Awesome Native Grasses for Your Garden" 9am - 12pm, \$40

Some native grasses are able to live to be hundreds of years old, are important for erosion control and provide critical habitat for birds and other animals. Learn about twelve hardy and attractive grasses that will succeed in your garden.

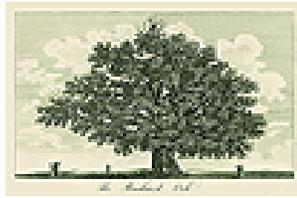
UCI Arboretum. South of the corner of Campus Drive & Jamboree Rd on UCI North Campus.

Sat. Apr. 10: "April Showers of Flowers" 10 am - 4 pm.

For sale are Natal Fairy Lily (*Scilla natalensis*), Corn Lily (*Ixia* species), Babiana and other bulbs; Echverias, Sedums, Kalenchoes and Aloes; Pelargoniums, Arctotis, Salvias, and other unique selections.

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

Leaves from the President



I hope you all liked our new meeting location at the La Habra Branch Library. I think it is great with good parking, kitchenette, chairs, tables, indoor plumbing, etc.

Our speaker's topic for April is the City of Anaheim Urban Forest program presented by Alan Hudak. I participated in one of the "plant the tree" days for Alan and have talked with him several times about his presentation. I have lots of questions to ask and look forward to his talk.

The plant exchange is coming in two months! June will be here sooner than we think. Now is the time to get the starts started and planning what you will bring. We will also have a new addition at the plant exchange - our new seed exchange. The seed exchange will be a standard part of the group meeting as soon as we get more samples of seeds. We have canteen and pitcher gourd seeds to start our inventory. Both heirloom and hybrid seed are welcome, just remember to bring the hybrid seed in the original package to show proof of purchase. The heirloom may be harvested seed from wherever. All seeds need to be identified as best you can with some indication of age and any special instructions. As you plant your spring gardens and have left over seed, bring it in the original package to the meeting. The way it will work at the meeting is 'bring some - take some'. Michelle Brendel is offering to operate the exchange via e-mail at seed.exchange@hotmail.com during the year. Contributors should send their (flower-fruit-vegetable) seeds to: Michelle Brendel, OCIMG Seed Exchange, P.O. Box 842, Seal Beach, Ca. 90740. Write a maximum of two lines of information regarding the seeds, if it is not self-explanatory, such as age of seed, type, etc. Those requesting seeds should first send an e-mail asking for what they want or what's available and

then if it's in inventory, they will be notified and will then mail a self-addressed stamped envelope to the P.O. Box. The purpose of this is to help preserve diversity in general and specifically to diversify your gardening experience.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President*
Diane Wilkison, *Treasurer*
Anne Porter, *1st^d Vice Pres*
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Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter*
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)

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.

Nominating Committee

Our thanks to Anne Porter, Jill O'Neill, and Lois Daybell, who have volunteered to be on the nominating committee. All positions are open, so if you are interested or would like to nominate someone, please contact one of these members.

Green Scene Volunteers Needed

We need at least 3 more people to volunteer for Green Scene. Please call Sharon Neely at 714/846-1037 if you can take a Saturday or Sunday afternoon shift.

Is Your Seed Still Viable?

From CharleysGreenhouse.com

sent in by Sharon Neely

It makes good sense to save and use that extra seed from last summer, if it is still viable. If not, however, it's a waste of time and space. Here's some information to help you make the decision.

Different kinds of seed remain viable for different lengths of time. For example, corn and onion seed have a short lifespan of 1-2 years. Tomato and lettuce seeds average 3-4 years. Radish, squash and spinach seeds may be good for 4-5 years. Cucumber and endive seeds can actually be viable for up to 10 years.

Reliable, quality seed catalogs and many seed packages will note in their specs the particular variety's usual seed life. Many seeds are still viable after that date — however, expect the germination rate to increasingly deteriorate as they age.

Here's a basic, easy test to check if your seeds are still viable —

Take 10 seeds from your batch and place them on a dampened paper towel. Fold the paper towel over in half, covering the seeds. Put the towel in a Ziplock plastic bag. Set in a warm place (approximately 70-75° F.)

Depending on the seed, they should start to sprout in 2-12 days. Check on seeds every few days. The majority will sprout within several days of each other. When germination stops and seeds have no longer sprouted for several days, you'll know the general germination rate you can expect from this batch of seeds — e.g. seven sprouted seeds would equal a 70% germination rate and worth planting. Two sprouted seeds would equal a 20% rate and probably not worth your bother.

In Memoriam

The entire OCIMG membership sends its condolences to Anne Porter for the loss of her husband.

Paul died on March 13 as a result of a heart condition that the family was not aware of. It was sudden and painless for Paul, but his family is devastated. He was 62 years old. He is survived by his wife of 21 years, Anne H. Porter, his sons David, Gregg and Daryl, 7 grandchildren, and his first wife, Sharon Porter. Those who wish may make a gift in Paul's honor to the American Heart Association.

The website is:

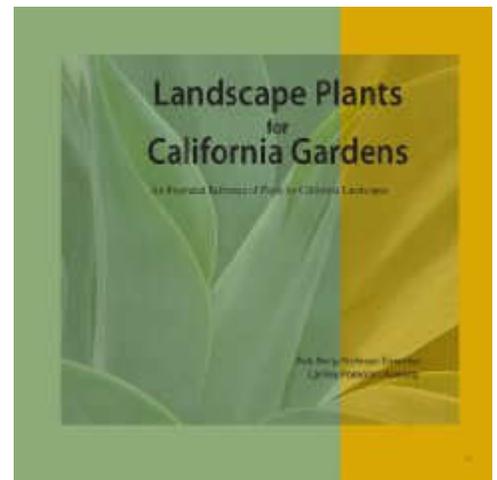
http://honor.americanheart.org/site/TR/Events/General?pxfid=144030&fr_id=1030&pg=fund

Cards may be sent to Anne's address.

Bob Perry's *Landscape Plants for California Gardens*

By Anne Porter

Emily Green has a column in the *Los Angeles Times* every week. Last week, she presented information on Bob Perry's latest book on landscape plantings for



California. This sounds like a wonderful addition to our libraries as it is focused just on California rather than including all of the Western States. The book covers our Mediterranean, desert and alpine climates, their limited water resources, and the best ways to plant and irrigate them.

Perry is a licensed landscape architect and has been a working garden designer for nearly 40 years. In addition, he's taught plant identification, ecology and landscape design at Cal Poly Pomona, UCLA and USC. He focuses on plants that are "appropriate" for California, not just native, and shows where plants thrive, and on

what water budget. He also addresses a recently updated statewide landscaping ordinance that requires professionally installed new gardens to work within a water budget based on “evapotranspiration” rates – how much water they will give up to the atmosphere.

The latest book opens by breaking down California's climate zones, then linking them to master lists of plants and their respiration rates. He explains how to create "hydrozones" in your garden, and he gives efficiency rankings for different irrigation systems. Perry also groups compatible plant communities by palette and connects water adaptations to those color schemes.

According to Green, Bob Perry covers plants by regional style:

- California natives,
- Mediterranean,
- Southwestern,
- subtropical,
- woodland,
- Asian, and
- coastal

He also breaks them down by type: flowering, shrubs, vines, ground covers. Then he breaks them down again, this time by function and aesthetic:

- street trees,
- monumental trees,
- courtyard and patio trees,
- hedges and screening plants,
- fragrant plants,
- butterfly plants,
- hummingbird plants,
- plants for containers and
- shade

Every plant description comes with a graph explaining its irrigation needs throughout the year. The 652 page book also contains a fully illustrated A-to-Z listing of 2,100 landscape plants suited specifically to the California climate.

This is the latest of Bob Perry’s three books on landscaping in California: "Trees and Shrubs for Dry California Landscapes" (1980), "Landscape Plants for Western Regions" (1992), and now "Landscape Plants for California Gardens". It is available for \$65 through Land Design Publishing, www.landdesignpublishing.com. I’ve already ordered mine.

From an article by Emily Green, *Los Angeles Times*. February 28, 2009.

Credits: Page views and book cover courtesy of Land Design Publishing.

Plant Palette
Jacaranda

The jacaranda tree is native to South America and is a highly colorful flowering tree with many uses in California landscapes and gardens. It is well suited to parks, greenbelts and urban medians. Additionally, it is widely planted in residential yards and school grounds where its late spring floral display is greatly admired. However, in contrast to its much valued flowers, regular maintenance is needed to contend with the shower of fine twigs, leaflets and spent flowers. A balance between virtues and dilemmas is often achieved by planting this tree in lawns where it receives regular moisture and mowing activities pick up fallen litter.

The jacaranda palette brings attention to plants that are well suited for large landscape spaces. Many trees are listed that provide flowering, shade and stately character as they mature. Shrubs, vines, perennials and ground covers have also been selected for their reliable nature, basic care requirements and contribution of flower color or attractive foliage. These plants are well adapted to inland and valley zones where they respond to summer heat and tolerate occasional winter frosts. All of these plants have been selected from the Subtropical Garden Plants list located on pages 52-53. They represent species that can be damaged by frost, but are hardy enough to recover the following growing season.

California Plant Climate Zones

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

This chart shows the common plant climate zones for this palette; individual plants may grow in other zones.

Alseco: Jacaranda mimosifolia

Horticultural Preferences

Plants included in this palette are all adapted to Plant Climate Zones 15-24. These zones fall within the heartland of Mediterranean climate conditions, with moist winters and long and dry summers. Throughout this range, winter temperatures fall below 25°F for 10-30 days each year.

Moderate levels of moisture are needed throughout the year; seasonal rains often meet moisture needs during winter months. Supplemental water is essential during spring and summer to