

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 06

June 2010

June Meeting

Saturday, June 5, 2010
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/Election
9:45 - 10:00 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
10:00– 11:00 a.m.	Plant Exchange
11:00	Clean up

To celebrate the last meeting of our membership year, we're asking everyone to bring a breakfast item to share.

Also, remember to bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle.

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

2010-11 Slate of Officers

Many thanks to the nominating committee-- Anne Porter, Jill O'Neill, Lois Daybell, Robert Shaw and Sharon Neely.

President: Jill O'Neill

1st VP: Ann Porter

2nd VP: Robert Shaw

Treasurer: Diane Wilkinson

Correspondence Secretary: Cheryl Borden

Recording Secretary: Barbara Eaves.

Enrichment Program: Plant Exchange

It's our annual plant exchange! For every plant you bring to exchange, you get to take one home. Bring 10-12 well-rooted plants of any kind or combination. Each plant must be labeled with the **botanical and common names** along with a note as to how to maintain the plant.

Gardening Events

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

Sat Jun. 12: " Mojave to the Mediterranean: Regional Landscapes for Your Garden Series -- Birds and Butterflies: Gardens that Attract Wildlife" 9:30-11am. Bleachers.

Biologist Greg Pongetti will tour the low-water sections of the Arboretum. Class includes plant list, details on plant needs, growth patterns and plant use in landscaping.

\$30/members \$35/nonmembers, preregister by Wed, June 9

Sat - Sun. Jun. 19 – 20: " Perennial Plant Sale" 10:00 am– 4:00 pm.

Annual "June Bloom" Perennial Plant Sale at The Potting Shed.

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

Sat. Jun. 12: "Habitat Gardening: Creating a Sustainable Butterfly Garden" 9:00am-noon. \$39

Learn how to establish and maintain a native plant garden that attracts a diversity of butterfly species.

Sorry to say that, due to lack of time, Margaret Morrissey has had to drop the maintenance of her website <http://www.orangecountygardeners.org>. Thank you, Margaret, for all your efforts. The

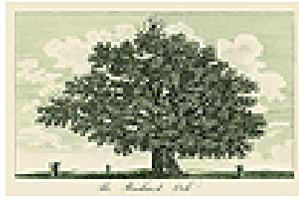
website was an invaluable resource for gardening events and club meetings and we'll miss it.

This is our annual business meeting!

We will hold elections and collect dues (\$20.00).

Reminder! Next general meeting is August 7
No general meeting in July

Leaves from the President



What a year it's been, for me at least. What do sheep, walnuts, citrus, kids and aerospace have in common? My family has been involved in each "crop" in Orange County for the past 130 years. This is just another way of saying that things change over time, I guess. Going out with a bang - we have a great board nominated. Our attendance has been a bit low, but the good news is the next class starting on 11 September is going to be a bit larger.

How about this list of "do's"?

Do come to the June group meeting at the library. We've had a few of 'the less often attending' come out the last couple of months and it's been really nice to see everybody.

Do join in the conversation regarding another meeting place suggestion, back near the Santiago Park.

Do bring and take items for the plant/seed exchange. We don't have many seeds yet, but it's a start.

Do bring friends and "well composted" master gardeners (I guess I could have said experienced MGs?).

Do you have your summer garden growing?

Do you have plans for your winter garden yet?

Dues - As far as I know, no one has paid dues for the 2010-2011 year and June would be a great time to start the new year off with nobody being confused on paid-not paid status.

We'll run the seed exchange the same as the plant exchange using the 'bring some take some' principle. I will try to have very small envelopes with which we can divide a seed packet into several servings in case someone brings any full/partial packets. The idea is to share and diversify our experience.

What kind of advice do you offer when asked about water conservation? You'd probably start by mentioning zone planting, rotor sprinkler heads or drip systems along with choice of California friendly and xeriscape items and then continue talking about mulch and soil types. One conservation item which may be overlooked is the rain runoff diverted from the street gutter to be retained in swale plantings or otherwise allowed to soak into the ground on your property. It may not directly affect your pocket book but could have a major effect in replenishing ground water levels and avoiding ocean contamination. We would be embarrassed to admit how much of our environment is paved with asphalt or concrete. A real problem is knowing how much water your yard needs as compared to how much you give it. There are tables available for various plants/trees but so many factors go into proper quantity of water to use that the tables are only a general guide. My wife Nancy uses a water probe meter all the time. So, the answer I offer, after listing all the above, is to take our training class and become a Master Gardener. The great majority of classes apply directly to the topic of water conservation.

Robert Shaw, President, Orange County
Independent Master Gardeners

☎ Contacts

Robert Shaw, *President*

Diane Wilkinson, *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*

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

More on Garden Blogs

Sharon Neely admits she is a garden blog devotee. Her favorites are Dirt du Jour (of course), but she also likes Diggin Food by Willi Galloway (she grows vegetables organically in the Seattle area and her ideas are very useful) and Far out Flora's blog. Flora is located in the San Francisco Bay area but her focus is on succulents and natives. The pictures are really helpful for plant identification.

<http://www.digginfood.com/>

<http://faroutflora.wordpress.com/>

Volunteer Hours

Please send in your volunteer hours to Jean Rice BEFORE the June meeting. Only members with hours submitted for the 2009-10 membership year are eligible to vote in the June election. Forms are available on our website. EXCEPT, I just noticed, Jean's address and email are incorrect, so send it to the email in the contact box above! We'll correct the form ASAP.

Member Milestones

Founding OCIMG member Eunice Messner will be 90 this July 22. She has not been an active member for some time, but was one of the lecturers for our training class and opened her house to one of our meetings. She has a wonderful garden on a steep slope with many fruit trees of all types. If you'd like to send her a card, please contact Sharon Neely for her address. Congratulations, Eunice, and wishing you many more years of gardening and happiness!

And congratulations are in order for Jerry Young, another long time member, who will be receiving her lifetime badge this next meeting!

Another reason to have a library card:

Bob Perry's *Landscape Plants for California Gardens* is now available at a number of OC Public Library branches (including La Habra). Check it out before you buy it!

More Goodies at Plant Exchange

Barbara Eaves will be bringing green basil and maybe purple basil as well. If you subscribe to the Dirt du Jour blog, you'll remember the recent rapturous description of *Aeonium Zwartkop*. Jill Patterson will bring one rooted plant of a similar species, but has a large shrub for those who want cuttings at another meeting. She'll also bring one epiphyllum with large red flowers that hopefully will hold off blooming until the meeting.

Debris from the Editor

My grass is dead. It hit the dust last summer, despite watering it at least once a week. Yep, I'm not big on watering and I really believed all those notices that we Californians water our



lawns excessively. Not me! Nature abhors a vacuum, however, and my back yard is serendipitously filled with all kinds of flowering weeds, wild mustard being particularly prevalent and still blooming. I also have something that looks like a variety of Mexican feather grass along with a few dandelions and Mexican evening primrose. My computer desk faces the back windows and I've enjoyed watching the birds hop from one plant to chew on another, the bees searching for nectar, the lizards sun themselves, and the squirrels run along the fence to get to the bird feeders.

The front yard is filled with grasses from the aforementioned bird feeders and what common Bermuda has managed to survive. While it all looks very pretty in the spring, by the end of June, I'll be facing a sea of dead and brown. It's time to make some decisions about the next phase of these two areas...and convince my Michigan-born partner, who's accustomed to vast swathes of green, that it's a Good Idea to have something besides turf. Wish me luck and please feel free to send me your ideas for low water, low maintenance, and high interest native plants to include.