

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 16 Number 10

November 2010

November Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2010

At our new Location:

Rancho Santiago Community College
2323 North Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

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.	Enrichment Program
11:00	Clean up

Members with last names starting with **A – G**, please bring a breakfast snack. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies. Also, remember to bring along any gardening catalogs or magazines you'd like to share and any greeting cards for Rita Corpin's World History class.

Enrichment Program: Natives with Celia Kutcher!

Learn which natives are best for our gardens and how to transition from a high water use to a low water use garden. Ms. Kutcher worked at the Arboretum and spoke to our group many years ago. With most cities enacting water ordinances, her return engagement is most timely. Celia is the conservation chairman for the O.C. Chapter of the California Native Plant Society. She worked on the policy statement of the CNPS to oppose unnecessary destruction of California's native plants for the purpose of wildfire management. Her favorite native is toyon, because it feeds the nectar feeders in spring and the berry feeders in fall. CNPS dues are \$45 individual. You will receive the quarterly magazine, "Fremontia", the bulletin and; if you check the Orange County Chapter, the chapter newsletter.

Board Meeting: follows general meeting.

Gardening Events

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

Sat Nov. 20: "Eat the Yard! Organic Edible Gardening Series Part 2: Eyes on the Harvest"
9am – noon OR 1-4pm. \$20/members

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

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711, just off Foothill Blvd. and east of Indian Hill.
<http://www.rsabg.org>. Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224.

Sat.-Sun. Nov. 6-7: "Fall Plant Sale" 11am – 4pm Sat/9am – 2pm Sun

Members Saturday 8am. - 11am. Shop thousands of beautiful plants and water-wise solutions for your home landscape and get the expert advice you'd expect from California's native garden.

Sat. Nov. 20: Butterfly Habitat Opening at Mason Regional Park. 10am – 2pm. \$5 park entry fee. Address: 18712 University Drive Irvine, CA 92612-2601. 949/923-2222.

Explore the new Butterfly Habitat, home to locally native host and nectar plants. Information booths, butterfly host and nectar plants for sale, create butterfly themed crafts. Reginald Durant of Back to Natives will give a workshop on habitat gardening for butterflies and birds.

Leaves from the President



October's meeting was a successful outing to Cliff Meng's house. He is a real authority on succulents and he and his wife went out of their way welcoming us. In November, we are back at Rancho Santiago, and then our Christmas party will be held at the La Habra Library.

We are in October now and, as of this writing, so far no Santa Ana winds, thank goodness. I love the warm winds and how they make me feel, but as a gardener, they give me nothing but problems. Native plants can be put in now, though it is probably best to wait a couple of weeks unless you are like me and can't wait to be out planting in the garden. See you at the November meeting!

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

New Trainee Class schedule

We have over 23 students attending classes! Unless otherwise indicated, classes meet at La Habra Branch Library, normally from 9am – noon. Check with Robert Shaw if you'd like to help or attend a class.

Nov. 6: Roses with Rosarian Jan Brider

Nov. 13: Plant propagation @ Mt. SAC with Dave Lannom.

Nov. 20: Backyard Orchard Cultivation with Gary Matsuda

Nov. 27: Happy Thanksgiving!

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay at the November meeting or mail to:
Diane Wilkinson
2612 Sherwood Ave.
Fullerton 92831

☎ Contacts

Jill O'Neill, *President*
Diane Wilkinson, *Treasurer*
Anne Porter, *1st^d Vice Pres*
Robert Shaw, *2nd Vice Pres.*
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

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)

News from our Members

Anne Porter is recuperating from knee surgery and expects to be back in action by the New Year. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Help!

Do you see all the white space on this page? It's an indication that more contributors are needed to write articles for the newsletter. I would like to see EVERY member contribute at least one article in the next year. It does not need to be long— even a paragraph will do—just write on a subject you care about. Maybe a favorite plant from your childhood, a new technique that you tried, your successes and failures in the garden, a book review, or you can go all out and research a plant or pest. I will be happy to provide editorial assistance (that's my job!). Remember that you do earn volunteer hours for both the research and the writing. And one could be more rewarding than seeing your name in print?

The American Meadow Garden: creating a natural alternative to the traditional lawn

by John Greenlee

Years ago, we visited John Greenlee's nursery in Pomona. The nursery has since been relocated to Chino and Greenlee himself has moved to the Bay Area, but his passion for ornamental grasses continues unabated with his new book. To give you an idea of the depth of his fanaticism, his son is named "Sedgie".

This is one garden book that concentrates on California and southwest gardens and plants, though exotic species are also included. His first book, *The Encyclopedia of Ornamental Grasses*, published in 1992, is an excellent companion to this one, as the encyclopedia includes a color photograph of each grass.

John spends the first few chapters explaining the why of meadows—that they can be created anywhere, in any situation, and in any size. He has one chapter listing grasses he recommends for meadows, which complement the sidebars in the first few chapters that contain his favorites for specific situations. The final two chapters go into details on the how of creating and maintaining a meadow, including the process of removing established turf and a rogue's gallery of "wicked weeds" (my entire front and back lawns are composed entirely of members of the gallery).

Glorious color photographs by renowned garden photographer Saxon Holt fill every single page, and in fact, I would say the photographs outweigh the text. The photographs alone are worth the \$35 cost of the book, published by Timber Press (less than \$24 on Amazon). You can bet this book is going on my holiday wish list!

Greenlee Nursery is at 6075 #C Kimball Ave. in Chino, CA 91708. They are open by appointment only, Monday – Thursday. Their website at greenleenursery.com states that people can come and look at the plants anytime, including Saturday, but there may not be anyone in the

office to assist with purchases. I'm wondering if they would accommodate a field trip?

reviewed by Jill Patterson

Debris from the Editor

Oh, I bet you're tired of reading about my garden woes. I last wrote about my front and back yards, where the original hybrid Bermuda has given way to common Bermuda (illegal to sell in this state, by the way) and lots and lots of weeds. In the spring, even a weed looks good while it's blooming. During the summer, my place looked like I was a fan of the scorched earth philosophy. But now, with fall rains, I have new growth. It's green...that's about all I can say about it.

After admiring the photographs in John Greenlee's book, I was sure that I had found the solution to my yard dilemma—create a meadow! An easy care, mow once a year, beautiful work of art that will attract birds and butterflies (and probably cats, rattlesnakes and gophers). Then, I read the chapters on creating and maintaining a meadow. First, you have to get rid of what's already there. And keep it out. Do you know what is the most impossible turf to destroy? Yep, common Bermuda. Herbicides, such as Round Up, are the recommended method. Not a problem for my "better living through chemistry" partner, but I am not so thrilled. Plus, it has to be applied while there is active growth—spring, for instance. Several applications will be needed. Weeding will be required to keep the meadow a meadow, because many of our exotic plants (such as common Bermuda) will outgrow and out-compete



our natives. Since I can't actually start this project until spring, I do have time to find other solutions. In the meantime, below is my dream yard.