

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 2

February 2011

February Meeting

Saturday, February 5, 2011

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 **R – Z**, please bring a breakfast snack. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies. 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.

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Program: Butterflies with Lori Whalen

Lori Whalen volunteers as director of education at the Back to Natives Reserve in Costa Mesa. She also directs the volunteers for the Butterfly House at the Back to Natives Reserve. The Butterfly House was in the planning changes the last time Reginald Durant, director of the reserve, came and spoke to us. Lori will give an update on the status of the Reserve and the House. We'll learn about the butterflies that are found there and the plants that attract them. This is your opportunity to learn how to attract butterflies to your garden.

Board Meeting: follows general meeting.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. March 5: "Eat the Yard! Organic Edible Gardening, part 1" 9am – noon OR 1-4pm.
\$20/members \$25/nonmembers.

Thanks to our Southern California climate, you can experience the simple joys of growing delicious, nutritious food in your own garden year-round – using less water than it takes to grow your lawn. . Class covers low-labor lawn removal, soil amendment, planning for efficient use of space and resources, starting plants from seeds, companion planting and polyculture (e.g. growing squash, corn, and beans together in a three-sisters arrangement), and water conservative irrigation practices.

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.

The Grow Native Nursery, located adjacent to the Garden, is featuring themed native plant sales through May. February's theme is B&Bs for Birds and Butterflies.

Back to Natives Register by calling 949-509-4787 or emailing: info@backtonatives.org.

Sat. Feb. 26: "Designing and Installing Sustainable Native Plant Landscapes" 9am – 2pm. Corona Del Mar

Join native plant landscape professional Reginald Durant for a day of discussion and interactive field activities, and learn about designing and installing a Native Plant Landscape from start to finish!

Leaves from the President



Good news at last regarding a meeting place! I have been able to reserve the large meeting room at Rancho Santiago through December 2011. I hope this is agreeable to everyone and a relief to finally have a permanent meeting place. The meeting room is free, which is an extra bonus. I hope you are all enjoying the weather as much as I am. I went to the dog beach in Huntington last Sunday and, if you looked one way, you saw the surfers in the ocean and, if you looked the other way, you could see snow on the mountains. Gorgeous! I don't know about the rest of you, but I am going to enjoy the warm weather by working out in my garden. Even weeding seems like a luxury to me after all the rain and being cooped up in the house. See everyone at the February meeting.

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

☎ Contacts

Jill O'Neill, *President*

Diane Wilkinson, *Treasurer*

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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)

Roses and Spraying Virginia Carlson, Rosarian

When you buy a new rose, it has been sprayed for mildew, etc. If you continue to spray it, it will continue to have the same problems and require repeat sprayings. In an issue of *Fine Gardening*, I believe it was June of 2010, it said that if rose foliage is NOT sprayed, it will gradually cover itself with a beneficial fungus which repels types of diseases. That seems to be what is happening in my yard when I buy a new rose. After the first year, this natural leaf cover seems to repel most problems.

Another bit of heresy: I do not make a point of raking up fallen leaves. THEY FALL INTO THE MULCH AND DECAY ANYWAY. The first year I saw rust on a newly purchased rose, I dug it out and burned it in the fireplace. Too Late. I soon had rust on other roses.

In the 1990s, the *New York Times* had an article on the withdrawal of several garden chemicals and forecast the dire results to the rose industry. The hybridizers were aware of the problem and since then have worked to produce more disease resistant types of roses. The rose hybridizers are going broke as the chemical industry has growers so scared that they will have disease problems that they have drastically cut down the number of plants sold.

TOP TEN REASONS TO VOLUNTEER IN 2011

1. It's a new year and time to try something new!
2. To give back to the community
3. It's time to get off the couch
4. To make someone's day
5. To feel good about yourself
6. To have fun
7. To learn new skills
8. To meet interesting people
9. To learn something about yourself
10. To help others

The nominations committee will soon be seeking new officers. Think about it!

Lester Rowntree

By Virginia Carlson

Have you heard of Lester Rowntree and her book, *Hardy Californians*? She was born Gertrude Ellen Lester in Cumberland, northern England in 1879 into a Quaker family. Ten years later, they moved to Kansas. She was always a child who roamed around in the fields around her. She married a Quaker named Rowntree and had one child, Cedric, born in 1908. They lived in New Jersey and had a large garden. They moved to California in 1921 because of her health problems and divorced in 1932.

She became a "plant gypsy" roaming around the lowlands, hills, and highlands of California and found a life studying the native plants. She started to write articles about them and trained herself as a botanist. She supported herself by writing over 700 articles and selling seeds (with a permit). Occasionally she lectured to garden clubs, with a hat and silk stockings, of course. She and her son eventually built a home in Carmel Highlands.

"It took adversity to bring me the sort of life I had always longed for. Not until after my domestic happiness had gone to smash did I realize that I was free to trek up and down the long state of California, and to satisfy my insistent curiosity about plants, to find them in their homes meeting their days and seasons, to write down their tricks and manners in my notebook, to photograph their flowers, to collect their seeds, to bring home seedlings in cans just emptied of tomato juice..."

"I honestly wanted to find out about California wild flowers. There was little written about them in their habitats and nothing at all about their behavior in the garden, so I made it my job to discover the facts for myself" (*The Lone Hunter*, The Atlantic Monthly, June 1939)

She explored Canada, Mexico, and Arizona, as well. Her first book, *Hardy Californians*, was published in 1936 by Macmillan Co., which sold the plates for metal scrap in World War II. It was later published in a small edition by Peregrine

Smith in 1980. Her second book, *Flowering Shrubs of California*, was published in 1939.

She had an automobile and sometimes traveled in the mountains with a mule or burro to carry her heavy camera. "I inhabit my hillside only from November to February, while the winter storms are blowing and the winter rains pouring. In March and April I have long shining days on the desert, in May happy weeks in the foothills, where a chorus of robins wakes me and my morning bath is in a rushing stream of just-melted snow. In June I am in the northern counties scented with new-mown hay and wild strawberries. In July in the higher mountains, and in August and September up in the alpine zone with mule or burro."

Lester Rowntree lived until 1978 in her home in the Carmel Highlands and died 3 days after her 100th birthday in 1979. She was introduced once at a board meeting of California Garden Clubs in the 1960s when I was present. The book was reprinted in 2006 (with a biographical introduction by her grandson) by the University of California and is available for about \$20. I got my copy at the Autry Museum. I also have a copy of the original, which a friend of mine found in the 1960s or 70s and gave to me later.

Editor's note: more information about this fascinating woman is available on the website of Lester's grandson: <http://www.lesrowntree.com>

New Trainee Class Schedule

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 and for specific information about assembly sites.

Feb. 5: Plant ID @ Cal State Fullerton

Feb. 12: IPM

Feb. 19: Landscape Design

Mar. 5: GRADUATION!