

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 6

June 2011

May Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 2011

Rancho Santiago Community College Rm. 107
2323 North Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Setup Plants 'n Things
9:00 – 9:45 a.m. Business Meeting/Elections
9:45 – 10:00 a.m. Plants 'n Things
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. **Plant Exchange**
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.

2010-11 Slate of Officers

Almost all of our officers are willing to continue a second term. *Thank you!*

President: Jill O'Neill
1st VP: Ann Porter
2nd VP: OPEN
Treasurer: Diane Wilkinson
Correspondence Secretary: Cheryl Borden
Recording Secretary: Barbara Eaves.

Enrichment Program: Plant Exchange

It's our annual plant exchange! See next page for more information about labeling and delivering plants. This is also our annual meeting and we will have elections and discuss the 2nd VP office, which is currently open.

Board Meeting: follows general meeting.

Gardening Events

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

Sat, June 11-12: "Perennial Plant Sale". 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Need more plants after our cutting exchange?

Center for Living Peace, 4139 Campus Dr., Irvine, CA 92612, tel: (949) 854-5500

Sat, June 11: "Building Community: The art of urban gardening" 11am – 1pm. \$22.00

Get inspired about using plants to reclaim space for the public good. Eugene will provide you with tips and tools to begin building community with ideas like neighborhood orchards and sustainable food co-ops. Pre-registration required.

UC Irvine Arboretum. Campus Dr. and near the corner of Jamboree Rd. Irvine, CA 92697

Sat, June 11: "June Bloom Plant Sale". 9am – 3pm

Find warm-weather perennials like Cape Skyflower (*Plectranthus zuluensis*), Pineapple Lily (*Encomia* species) and beautiful Coral Bells (*Huchera* hybrids).

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>. Tel. (909) 625-8767 x224.

Thu, June 30: "Garden Groove". 6pm – 9pm. \$10 adults, \$5 seniors

Enjoy great music, a picnic and cool Claremont evenings at RSABG's summer concert series. The Garden reopens at 6 p.m., concerts begin at 7 p.m. The Garden Shop stays open late on Garden Groove nights.

Leaves from the President



Time flies when you are having fun, so they say. Time also flies by while you are trying to get your garden ready for the hot weather. I can't believe it is almost June. June is a good month for us, though, because it is our annual plant exchange. Nothing says June like having a bunch of new plants to put in.

See you at the next meeting.

Happy Gardening,

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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Plant Exchange This Month!

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.

All plants will be staged outside at the back side of the building. Just drive around to the far side, facing the freeway. There is plenty of parking and it's an easy drop off and pick up.

Try and place plants in groups: annuals, perennials, vegetable, succulents, etc. Signs will be provided to help organize the space. Please, no plants are to be brought inside the meeting room (unless you're willing to stay and clean up!).

It All Started in Riverside

In 1873, the U.S. Department of Agriculture forever changed the history of Southern California when it sent two small navel orange trees to Riverside resident Eliza Tibbets. Those trees produced an especially sweet and flavorful fruit. Word of this far superior orange quickly spread, and a great agricultural industry was born. An effort to promote citrus ranching in the state brought would-be citrus ranch barons flocking to California. The California Citrus State Historic Park at 9400 Dufferin Ave. in Riverside commemorates the birthplace of the citrus industry and is open Wednesdays and weekends 10am – 4pm. Hiking trails, a working citrus grove, and a museum are among the features.

The Citrus Experiment Station and its Citrus Variety Collection were established in Riverside in the early 1900s to support the needs of the citrus industry in Southern California. The world-renowned Citrus Experiment Station became the foundation of the Riverside campus of the University of California and has remained at the forefront of agricultural research, and especially citrus research. The Citrus Variety Collection, consisting of two trees each of more than 1000 different citrus types, remains one of the premier citrus germplasm collections in the world.

Debris from the Editor

I have missed several of the past meetings due to my work schedule and was delighted I could attend the May meeting. Did you know how many different types of pomegranate trees there are? Including a white pomegranate? Brent Edel was an informative speaker and we finally had to stop after a quick hour. He has invited us to visit his garden next spring. Field trip, anyone?

Another person who deserves recognition is our 2nd VP and previous president, Robert Shaw. Bob ushered a successful class through graduation this year and has already started the planning for next year's class. Responding to requests for more hands-on learning, he has developed a partnership with St. Joseph Episcopal Church in Buena Park. The church has taken the first steps to turning part of their property into a community garden with much help and labor from this year's trainees. In return, the church is providing classroom space.

Bob's goal for next year's class has three parts: 1. Use the community garden as a tool to teach students skills such as pruning the orange trees and roses on site; 2. Use the community garden as a laboratory to try different experiments, such as adding weeds to the compost pile; and 3. Use the community garden as a volunteer venue to teach parishioners how to care for their garden plots. The church also sponsors a food bank to which all excess produce will be directed. While Bob will not continue as 2nd VP next year, he has laid the groundwork for the new 2nd VP.

We hope to have candidates come forward at our June meeting. Candidates must have completed their initial 50 hours of volunteer work and be a member in good standing. Good organization skills are crucial. It does take time to contact prospective students from lists we have developed, to contact the instructors, and to schedule the classes. And what better way to review many different subject areas than by sitting in on the classes next year? If you have not held a Board position before, please consider it now. The strength of our organization is dependent on the contributions of all of our members.

Insect-Borne Citrus Disease

Brent Edel did speak briefly about what we commonly refer to as citrus greening disease. An article in a recent UCR alumni publication provided a bit more information. The Asian-citrus psyllid represents a significant threat to California's citrus industry and our own backyard trees. This aphid-sized insect arrived in Florida in 1998 and landed in Southern California via Mexico in 2008. On its own, it is a pest because the toxin it injects while feeding causes newly forming citrus leaves to curl, twist and break off. The scary and dangerous concern is that it can be a carrier of a bacterial disease called huanglongbing (HLB for short) which kills citrus trees. The disease has not yet been found in California, but it is in Mexico and Florida, so it is just a matter of time.

Widespread devastation of citrus trees has already occurred in Florida and other areas of the world. Infected trees can die in as little as five years due to the bacteria which block nutrient flow to the leaves and fruit.

The University of California, led by Elizabeth Grafton-Cardwell, Director of UCR's Lindcove Research and Extension Center, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the citrus industry are collaborating to stop the bacteria and its carrier from spreading in California. Genomics research, pesticide treatments, new regulations, and educational programs for commercial and backyard growers are included in the program. The educational program stresses IPM strategies such as pheromone trapping systems, biocontrol agents, and pesticides. There are more citrus trees in California backyards than our commercially grown in our state, thus homeowners play an integral role in prevention and control.

Before we panic, remember the lerp psyllid, giant white fly, and glassy-winged sharpshooter infestations of the past? We were worried that our oleander, eucalyptus, and citrus trees would be wiped out. While still a concern, these are no longer front page news.

