

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 7

August 2011

August Meeting

Saturday, August 6, 2011

NOTE LOCATION:

St. Joseph Episcopal Church
8300 Valley View Street, Buena Park

Schedule

8:15 – 8:45 a.m.	Board meeting
8:30 – 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 **A - G**, 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.

Enrichment Program: Community Gardens

Our previous class of trainees has put in many hours creating a community garden at the St. Joseph Episcopal Church. We will view what has been accomplished, create possible designs for the next step, and discuss community garden with Robert Shaw and Anne Porter.

Board Meeting: precedes general meeting.

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the August meeting
or mail to:
Anne Porter
1931 Winney Circle
Placentia, CA 92870

Gardening Events

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

Sat, Aug. 6: "Tomato Tasting and Sizzlin' Salsa Contest". 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

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.

Sun. Aug. 21 & 28: "Tonga Living History". 11am – 4pm. Living History events are free with standard Garden admission

Tongva means "people of the earth". Explore the fascinating history and culture of the Tongva people, the original inhabitants of the Los Angeles region at the Garden's Tongva Village Site.

August Garden Tasks (from Jan Briday)

- Keeping plants irrigated is your most important task this month
- Don't water established natives; water newly planted natives once
- Deadhead annuals; clean up perennials to promote new blooms. If you want to create seeds, stop deadheading at the end of the season.
- Leave palm fronds on trees as bird nesting sites.
- Divide bearded iris clumps; replant healthy sections 1 to 2 feet apart.
- Trim gangly ornamental grasses

- Cut back fuchsia and marguerites to encourage new blooms
- Pinch back impatiens and pelargoniums

Leaves from the President



I hope everyone had a great 4th of July. We were lucky enough to spend it in Washington D.C. with our grandchildren and, though it was hot and muggy, it was a once-in-a-life-time thing.

Our August meeting will be held at St. Joseph's in Buena Park. Jill Patterson will include the address and directions. The meeting will start at 9am. Anne Porter will give a talk on community gardens and then Bob Shaw will give us a tour of the community garden they have been working on.

Hope you all can join us. If you can't, remember September's meeting will be back at our usual location in Santa Ana.

Happy Gardening,

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

Back to Natives Classes

Back to Natives is offering a number of classes through Santa Ana Parks and Recreation. The classes are held at Santiago Park Nature Center, located at 600 E. Memory Lane (by the Bowling Green, where we used to meet). You can fill out a registration form and bring payment to the class, but call (714) 647-5307 to reserve space. Classes are listed on the backtonatives.org website.

One interesting class coming up is on Saturday, August 13, 9am – 12pm covering rainwater harvesting. Brian Maddock will provide a step by step retrofit process that will allow homeowners to capture on site run off for use in residential gardens. Topics covered during this session will include simple rain gutter retrofits to installing large on site cistern systems that will maximize rainwater harvesting. Participants will learn the basic guidelines of choosing a system that best fits the needs of their residence. Using principles of topography, participants will also learn how to properly manage on site storm water in order to eliminate any drainage issue. Cost is \$15.

Invasive Weeds

Last week was California Invasive Weeds Awareness Week and the California Invasive Plant Council has a number of brochures available at <http://www.cal-ipc.org/>. One downloadable brochure targets Southern California and lists particularly troublesome invasives and suggests alternatives. What follows is an adapted copy of one of the pages; the original brochure includes color photos and links with further information.

The cal-ipc website states that “most of the plants used in gardens and landscaping do not invade or harm wildland areas. But a few vigorous species can - and do - escape from cultivation into open landscapes and cause a variety of ecological problems. They crowd out native plants, insects and animals, and can lead to increased flooding, fire and crop losses.

A few simple steps can prevent invasions before they start. We can be an

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environmentally responsible community - one
that supports horticultural businesses and
beautiful gardens!"

Invasive! Do Not Plant! Invasive!

English ivy or Algerian ivy (*Hedera helix* or *Hedera canariensis*)

Some ivy species in the *Hedera* genus are a problem in California. They can smother understory vegetation, kill trees, and harbor non-native rats and snails. It's difficult to distinguish problem species from less invasive ones. Do not plant ivy near natural areas, never dispose of ivy cuttings in natural areas, and maintain ivy so it never goes to fruit. Researchers hope to determine which ivies can be planted safely.

iceplant or Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*)

This vigorous groundcover forms impenetrable mats that compete directly with native vegetation, including several rare and threatened plants. Small mammals can carry seeds of iceplant from landscape settings to nearby natural areas. Pieces of the plant can be washed into storm drains and into natural areas where they become established.

Periwinkle (*Vinca major*)

This aggressive grower has trailing stems that root wherever they touch the soil. Their ability to resprout from stem fragments enables periwinkle to spread rapidly in shady creeks and drainages, smothering the native plant community.

Plant Care Guide	 Full sun	 Regular water	 Drought tolerant
	 Part shade	 Medium water	 Denotes native California plants
	 Full shade	 Low water	

Try these plants instead

beach strawberry (*Fragaria californica* or *Fragaria chiloensis*) 



Forms lush compact mat 4 to 6 inches high. Glossy dark green leaves, white flowers. Mow or cut back annually to force new growth. Can be found growing along the coast from Monterey county and north to Alaska.

germander or wall germander (*Teucrium chamaedrys* or *T. x lucidrys*) 

This plant can be sheared into a neat groundcover or allowed to grow to full height (about one foot), and produces lavender flowers in the spring. Compact cultivars are available. Deer resistant.

Asian jasmine or ivory star jasmine (*Trachelospermum asiaticum*) 

Evergreen, vining groundcover up to 20 feet across. Has glossy, dark green leaves and pale yellow, pinwheel-shaped flowers with a jasmine scent.

San Diego marsh elder (*Iva hayesiana*) 



This fast-growing native is widely used for slope coverage and erosion control. Grows one to two feet tall and four to six feet across with inconspicuous flowers. Summer watering will help maintain a more lush appearance. Prune annually to encourage new growth.

MAP to St Joseph Episcopal Church
8300 Valley View St., Buena Park, 90620

This is about a mile south of the 91
Fwy on the east side of Valley View
Blvd, just north of Crescent Ave.



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Brea CA 92821

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