

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 8

September 2011

## August Meeting

**Saturday, September 10, 2011**

**NOTE Meeting is SECOND Saturday!:**

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  
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 **H - Q**, 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: Pruning

Horticulturist Valerie Loew will speak on how and when to prune shrubs and fruit trees. Valerie, besides being the daughter of long-time member Phil Loew, has owned a nursery and has been involved with

gardening most of her professional life.

**Board Meeting:** precedes general meeting.

### Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the September 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. & Sun. Sept. 10 & 11: "Salvia Spectacular Plant Sale".** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

This is the time of year to plant salvia and the Arboretum's annual Salvia plant sale offers a huge selection.

**Sat. Sept. 10: "Water Conservation Gardening Session 1: --Low Water Gardening Basics".**

1:30-4:30 p.m. Free for Yorba Linda Water District customers; all others: \$25-\$30.

Come discover how easy it is to create a landscape you enjoy using less water and providing a habitat for local wildlife: birds, butterflies and other beneficial insects.

**Sherman Gardens,** 2647 East Pacific Coast Highway, Corona del Mar, CA 92625

**Sat. Sept. 17: "All About Begonias"** 9:30am

Bobbie West, President of the Doug Frost Chapter of the Begonia Society, will talk on the care and growing of begonias. Includes a tour of Sherman Gardens begonia collection. This class is free and open to the public. No reservation needed.

**Shiple Nature Preserve,** 17851 Goldenwest Street (south of Slater Avenue), Huntington Beach

**Sat. Sept. 24: "All About Composting"** 9-11am. \$10 reservation fee, limited space, register at [www.shipleynature.org](http://www.shipleynature.org)

Learn both vermiculture and traditional backyard composting. Bins will be available for purchase.



# Leaves from the President



As I am writing this it is 97 degrees in Anaheim Hills and I am wondering, is summer finally here? I doubt it. Like last summer this has been a fairly mild one which has been great for us gardeners and bad for us beach lovers.

September starts the beginning to the fall planting season, one of the busiest times of the year in the garden. We start preparation for the winter, and winter is great time to garden in Southern California. September usually marks the beginning of the new master gardeners' class, too.

This year, unfortunately, the response for the class wasn't what we had hoped for and we will not be holding one this year. We had a lot of interest, but when push came to shove, not enough people were willing to commit. Some of the reasons were economic and having Saturday classes that we may have to eventually address. We will not let this affect us and this year we will concentrate on attending more venues than just the Green Scene to put our message out.

Please remember to wear your badge at the meeting. It will help our new members to learn your names and help our not-so-new members to remember them!

Look forward to seeing you all in September.

Jill O'Neill, President  
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

## OCIMG Website

Our website has just had an overhaul, thanks to the efforts of tech guru and member Glenn Vodhanel. We may be able to demo the website

at the meeting; in the meantime, check it out! It's at the same address and now is the time to suggest improvements and additions. Thanks, Glenn!

## ☎ Contacts

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

## Book Review

By Jill Patterson

I read Barbara Kingsolver's *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* last year and admired the family's resolve to eat only food they grow or that is produced within 100 miles of their Virginia home...but I don't think I would be willing to eliminate all citrus and tropical fruits from my diet, as they must. Her earlier book, *Prodigal Summer*, also has a strong environmental theme. Kingsolver weaves together stories of three different people in Appalachia: a forest ranger studying coyotes; a young widow struggling to survive on her husband's farm, and an elderly man trying to breed blight resistant American chestnut trees. During the course of one summer, their lives change irrevocably as they find their places within the flora, fauna, and people that share their world. As always, her language is lyrical and each character is finely drawn. Her insights into the food chain and the crucial part predators play are thought provoking. And the American Chestnut

Foundation ([www.acf.org](http://www.acf.org)) is striving to restore the American chestnut tree to its native range within the woodlands of the eastern United States.

## More on Don't Plant a Pest!

From <http://www.cal-ipc.org>

### Invasive Trees:

Brazilian pepper, Peruvian pepper or California pepper/ *Schinus terebinthifolius* or *Schinus molle*

Pepper trees are native to South America. Seeds are transported by birds and mammals into natural areas. The aggressive growth of peppers enables them to displace native trees and form dense thickets in natural areas. They produce undesirable suckering and sprout unwanted seedlings. A serious problem in southern California.

blue gum eucalyptus/ *Eucalyptus globulus*

Found along the coast from Humboldt to San Diego and in the Central Valley. Most invasive in coastal locations. Easily invades native plant communities, causing declines in native plant and animal populations. Fire departments in Southern California recommend against planting because they are extremely flammable.

Russian olive/ *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Found throughout California. Able to spread long distances with the help of birds and mammals. Invades river and stream corridors, pushing out native willows and cottonwoods. Reduces water levels. Provides poor wildlife habitat.

edible fig/ *Ficus carica*

Can be a problem in the San Francisco Bay area, the Central Valley, and Southern California. May be spread by birds and deer, as well as by vegetation fragments. Can dominate stream and riverside habitat.

Saltcedar / *Tamarix* spp.

A serious invader throughout California and southwestern states. Uses excessive amounts of water, increases soil salinity, changes water courses. Diminishes wildlife habitat, and increases fire hazard. Not commonly sold.

## Trees to Plant Instead

California bay / *Umbellularia californica*

Grows up to 60 feet tall. Evergreen, aromatic, native from the California mountains into Oregon. Excellent as a screen, hedge, or background planting.

fern pine / *Podocarpus gracilor*

Evergreen tree 20 to 60 feet tall. Makes an excellent street tree or individual specimen in a park setting. One of the most pest-free trees, able to tolerate a variety of soil conditions and temperatures. Can also be used as a hedge or screen plant. Many species and varieties are available at nurseries.

California sycamore / *Platanus racemosa*

Very attractive deciduous tree with smooth, pale bark. Fast growing up to 75 feet tall, California native tree. Requires water when young, but drought tolerant once established. Can be found growing wild throughout California in creeks, canyons and drainages. Makes a great tree for landscaping because it can tolerate excess water and grows well adjacent to or inside an irrigated lawn. Do not confuse this plant with its sister species London plane tree (*Platanus acerifolia*). *Platanus acerifolia* is intentionally NOT RECOMMENDED as an alternative because of its ability to hybridize with locally native California sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) and negatively impact wild populations.

Chitalpa / *XChitalpa tashkentensis*

Chitalpa makes a great street tree with its compact size and beautiful white or pink showy flowers. It is drought tolerant and sterile. No messy seed pods. Grows 20ft. to 30ft. tall.

coast live oak / *Quercus agrifolia*

Evergreen tree that can reach 40 ft. tall and 20 ft. wide. Native to California, drought tolerant, and attracts many birds and butterflies to your garden.