

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 10

November 2011

November Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 2011

Tour of the Citrus Museum

**1879 Jackson Street
Riverside, California 92504**

Schedule

8:30 a.m. Meet at carpool point
9:30 a.m. Arrive at Museum
10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Tour
11:00 - ? Optional visit to UCR Arboretum

OCIMG is taking a field trip to the California Citrus State Historical Park! Our timing couldn't be better, as the park has been closed for maintenance and reopens November 4. This park preserves some of the rapidly vanishing cultural landscape of the citrus industry and tells the story of this industry's role in the history and development of California. Parking is \$5.00 per vehicle; admission and tour of the museum is free.

Our carpool point will be at Santiago Community College on 2323 North Broadway in Santa Ana, where we normally meet. **Please telephone Jill Patterson if attending and with carpool information (you need a ride or can drive).**

We will have time to use the facilities and stretch our legs before our 10am one hour guided tour of the museum and, if time remains, of the grounds.

The park contains an interpretive structure, picnic area, and demonstration groves. The land contained within the park still continues to produce high-quality fruits. The museum also has a gift shop, perfect for early holiday shopping!

Those who wish may want to picnic at the park, walk along the trails, or continue to the UCR

Arboretum to visit their citrus groves. Visitor parking is available at the Arboretum for \$5 and self-guided tours of the various gardens are possible.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Nov. 12: "Home Composting II". 10:00 – 11:30am. Bleachers

Learn how to build and improve your composting system by turning yard clippings and food scraps into soil much faster. Free to residents of Fullerton, Brea, Santa Ana, Orange and Buena Park.

Sat. Nov. 19: "Eat the Yard". 9:00am – noon.

Jonathan Davis takes you to his outdoor classroom and shows you how to maintain your garden with organic pest control, succession planting and basic plant maintenance.

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. 5-6: "Fall Plant Sale" 11am – 4pm Sat/9am – 2pm Sun.

Shop thousands of beautiful plants and water-wise solutions for your home landscape and get the expert advice you'd expect!

Reminder! Dues are past due!

Please mail \$20 to:
Diane Wilkinson
2612 Sherwood Ave.
Fullerton, CA 92831

**Checks are made out to OCIMG.
Last call and last newsletter!**

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Leaves from the President



Aloha,

By the time you read this I will be in Maui laying in the sand or sitting watching the sunset with a boat drink in my hand. I'll be thinking of you. LOL

I want to thank Rita Corpin for her talk about herbs last month and all the handouts she had.

I am sure we have more members who are knowledgeable about subjects the rest of us would love to hear about. Please let me know if you would like to be a speaker.

I hope everyone has a good time at the Citrus Museum and I will see you in December.

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

Ed. Note: Rita brought seeds to give away and had several samples of herbs she passed around, all from her garden. I'd love to see her yard, but so far, Rita insists on keeping it private.

Coming Up: OCIMG Garden Tour

We are scheduling our May meeting to be a garden tour of members' houses. Bob Anspach, Barbara Eaves, Anne Porter, Virginia Carlson and Shawna Adam have all volunteered to open their gardens to us. We'd love to have a few more to visit, so please contact Jill Patterson or Jill O'Neill if your gardens are ready for their close up.

We are thinking of serving a lunch at one of the homes, so let us know if you have a suitable area

outside. We'll provide the food and paperware, if you can provide tables and seating for a large group.

The Queen's Own Grove

By Patricia Beatty

A bestseller at the Citrus Museum's gift shop we're visiting in November, Patricia Beatty's historical fiction story centers on burgeoning Riverside's citrus industry and the threat posed by white scale in 1887 that was posed to decimate the orange groves. The story revolves around 13-year old Amelia, whose family has traveled to Riverside from England for her father's health. The family buys an orange grove and grapples with weather, white scale, unruly neighbors, and a startlingly different culture

Patricia Beatty and her husband lived in Riverside for many years and she worked with the California Library Association to create a book award to honor his memory. The John and Patricia Beatty Award established in 1988 honors the children's book that best depicts California's culture, geography, or history each year. This would be a terrific book for that preteen reader in your life and an enjoyable read for anyone interested in the genesis of the citrus industry in California.

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

Reduce Our Plastic Footprint

As gardeners, we are fervent caretakers of our environment. Sharon Neely sent this article from the Surfrider Foundation (surfrider.org), whose mission is to protect our beaches and oceans:

In the spirit of **RAPTOBERFEST**, where we're celebrating our **Rise Above Plastics program** throughout the month of October, here are 5 easy ways to reduce your plastic footprint:

Stop using single-use plastic water bottles. In nearly all cases, the water out of your tap is just as safe - if not safer - than the water distributed in single-use plastic bottles. Instead, buy and use a reusable bottle and fill it with water.

Whenever possible, buy food in bulk. Buying food in bulk helps to reduce the total amount of packaging materials consumed.

Buy your music electronically. By purchasing your music electronically, you avoid the need to create plastic compact discs, plastic jewel cases, and cellophane wrapping.

Reusable containers are rad! When it comes to lunch and leftovers, ditch the plastic bag and use reusable containers instead. Reusable containers are just as easy to use and far less harmful to the planet.

Stop using plastic grocery bags. Each year over one trillion plastic bags are used worldwide. Because these bags are so light and thin, they are easily carried by the wind out into the environment. Instead, use reusable bags to get your groceries and other purchases home.

Volunteer Opportunity

Evie Tyra, Nursery Manager at the Fullerton Arboretum, is asking for our help. She needs volunteers to work at the Potting Shed on weekends and also in the back preparing plants on the weekdays. Also, she needs additional help when the Potting Shed has special sales. If you are interested please call her at 657-278-4001 or email:etyra@fullerton.edu

Debris from the Editor

Has anyone who receives the Garden Clippings via snail mail noticed that it is now in color? This is courtesy of my partner's new color laser printer and I just want to acknowledge his graciousness in letting me use it. It saves the club money as we are no longer paying to make copies.

Also saving us money is our new website, courtesy of Glenn Vodhanel. Do check out the website, it is lovely and looks quite professional. Thank you, Glenn! Updating of certain information is needed, such as our meeting site and the list of local nurseries. Anyone care to volunteer? Yes, you do earn volunteer hours for any work done on the website!

On a completely different subject, I spent a day at the L.A. County Fair in September and signed up for home delivery of a box of produce every four weeks. All the produce is organic and comes from farms in the southern California area. I requested the "mostly fruit" option and have been eating the most delicious pears from the latest delivery. I never know what will be in the box...though I was able to specify items I never wanted (e.g. no Brussels sprouts and no grapefruit—I have my own grapefruit tree and I haven't yet eaten a Brussels sprout I liked). I still hope I can have a good-sized vegetable garden soon, but I know I can never grow pears like the ones I've been enjoying.



Speaking of gardens, how did everyone's tomatoes grow this year? This is the first summer I would have gotten a bumper crop...except something got it first. I don't know if it is opossum, raccoon, rat, or squirrel, but every tomato is eaten just as it gets ripe and before I can pick it. My yellow pear tomatoes are ignored (so I'm getting **something**) and so are my peppers. I already grow everything in pots because of gophers. Now I'm imagining a totally impervious garden container that will only allow bees to enter. Wish me luck! And share any ideas you have, please!