

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 17 Number 11

December 2011

## December Meeting

**Saturday, December 3, 2011**

**Holiday Party!**

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– 12:00 p.m. Meet & Greet & Eat  
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Clean up

Let's rock this meeting and not count calories!  
Everyone, please bring a dish to share, with  
serving implements. Type of dish is according to  
your last name:

A-H: casseroles, main dish, or other hearty food  
I-P: desserts or side dish  
Q-Z: finger foods and appetizers

We are inviting the garden clubs in the area to  
send a representative to share their groups'  
activities and expertise with us and each other.

Remember to save your holiday cards for Rita  
Corpin, who uses them in craft programs. And  
you're welcome to bring catalogs to share.

## Program: Meet and Greet OC Garden Clubs

We will have representatives from a number of  
gardening organizations based in Orange County.  
Take advantage of this opportunity to meet people  
expert in their fields

**Board Meeting:** follows general meeting.

## Gardening Events

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

**Sat. Dec. 17: "Free Tour of the Garden".** 10:00  
– 11:00am. Nature Center

Meet our nature guides at the Nature Center for a  
wonderful free tour through the garden.

**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. Dec. 10: "Cut it out! – An Introduction to  
Pruning"** 9am – 12pm. Fee: RSABG member  
\$25, public \$32

Don't be intimidated by the idea of pruning  
your own trees and shrubs! Get the basics  
from Dave Lannom, professor of horticulture  
at Mt. San Antonio College, to maintain the  
health of your trees and shrubs through  
proper maintenance.

Learn basic botany as it relates to pruning,  
reasons behind pruning, rules of when make  
cuts, and gain deeper insight into how  
pruning affects the overall health and growth  
of your plants. You'll also learn the tools of  
the trade, how to make cuts properly, and be  
shown examples of pruning on shrubs and  
trees. Handouts provided.

December is a time to enjoy and appreciate  
our gardens, our families, and our loved ones.

We wish everyone a joyful and healthy  
holiday season and a wonderful New Year.

# Leaves from the President



Happy Thanksgiving. Haven't heard any feedback regarding the November field trip but hope everyone had a good time. Can't wait to hear about it.

Our Holiday (or December) meeting is coming up and it should be a good one. Even though it is early in December, let's all get in the holiday spirit and dress accordingly. It always seems more cheerful. And remember to wear your badges!

I am still on island time, both literally and mood wise, so this is all I can think of to say. See you all in December!

Jill O'Neill, President  
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

## 📞 Contacts

Jill O'Neill, *President* (714) 279-0892  
Email: [oneilljill@sbcglobal.net](mailto:oneilljill@sbcglobal.net)  
Diane Wilkinson, *Treasurer* (714) 870-1756  
Email: [newport30@gmail.com](mailto:newport30@gmail.com)  
Anne Porter, *1st Vice Pres* (714) 993-9011  
Email: [mahporter@gmail.com](mailto:mahporter@gmail.com)  
OPEN *2nd Vice Pres.*  
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic* (714) 289-0119  
Email: [fredswdwrks@cox.net](mailto:fredswdwrks@cox.net)  
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor* (714) 256-2084  
Submit articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month via:  
e-mail at [jillpatterson@yahoo.com](mailto:jillpatterson@yahoo.com)  
or snail mail: 1485 Arrowwood, Brea 92821  
Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours* (562) 430-5969  
[jmrice23@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrice23@yahoo.com)  
309 N. Sandpiper Dr., Long Beach, 90803

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

## Citrus Museum Tour

Ten of us met on a chilly Saturday morning and enjoyed a full tour of the museum and grounds. Our guide spent time searching for fruit to share—since it's a state park, the fruit can not be sold—and urged us to return in the spring when there would be a more plentiful selection. There are special fruit tasting days in March and April—check out their website after January for the specific dates:  
[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=649](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=649).

We did see a fingered Citron tree in full fruit and the aroma was intense. The museum shop is open on weekends, regardless of holidays, and has a lovely variety of items, from books to designer plates to soaps, all with a citrus theme. I found a wonderful cookbook on lemon desserts and made a delicious lemon mousse from one of the recipes for Thanksgiving. A great place for holiday gifts!

Afterwards, Anne Porter, Diane Wilkinson and I found a cozy lunch spot across from UC Riverside and then spent over an hour wandering the grounds of the UC Arboretum. We did not find the citrus groves, but discovered the cactus garden, potting area, and rose garden. It is a popular spot for wedding photographs as evidenced by the bridal party we passed as we exited the grounds. The parking lot right outside the Arboretum is 25 cents an hour and admission is free, though a donation is suggested.

—Jill Patterson



## Caring for Holly Plants

By [Heidi Green](#) /The Writers Network

Properly caring for a holly plant can add a year-round splash of color to your lawn. When planted in a yard or container, they provide beauty all year. Hundreds of varieties of holly are available, and they range in size from a little over a foot tall to over 50 feet high. The most popular varieties in the United States are used as container plants or hedges and require similar care. Follow these tips to keep your holly plants thriving.

Holly plants are dioecious, which means that there are male and female plants. In order for your female holly plant to grow the vibrant red berries that it's loved for, you'll need to plant a male holly nearby, preferably within 50 feet. Your local nursery can help you determine which plants are male and female.

Your holly plants will grow best when grown in full sunlight; aim for at least 6 to 7 hours of exposure per day. Though hollies can tolerate a little shade, you'll find your plants won't bear much fruit if they don't get enough sun.

Holly plants like well-drained, slightly acidic soil. Adding organic compost to your soil before planting your Hollies can help them grow faster and fuller, and applying a slow-release fertilizer once or twice yearly will help

your plants reach their fullest potential. Keep the soil moist, since hollies will start looking



shabby if they get too dry.

If you want to keep your holly plants looking well-manicured,

you'll need to prune them every so often. The best time to prune a holly is in December. During this time, they're in hibernation, and pruning their foliage won't send them into shock. In addition to improving appearance, pruning your holly helps kick start new growth in the spring.

### References:

[National Gardening Association:](http://www.garden.org/plantguide/)  
<http://www.garden.org/plantguide/>

<http://www.homeandgardenideas.com>

### California's Native Holly: *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

*From wildscaping.com*

Better known as Toyon, this holly-like shrub – which eventually grows into a dense tree up to 35' – is what Hollywood was originally named after. Its stiff evergreen foliage and dense clusters of red berries make it a favorite for holiday wreaths, as well as a snack for the local wildlife.

Deer browse on its tender new leaves; fortunately, it's one of the few plants that have no trouble outgrowing their reach. More importantly, birds, squirrels, and other wildlife rely on the abundant

berries during the otherwise bleak winter months. The berries hang on the trees for a long time, as apparently they aren't edible until they are very ripe. Ours usually last until the end of January, when a visiting flock of Cedar Waxwings finishes them off (much to the consternation of our resident birds). The cycle repeats with clusters of white flowers in late summer.

When nursery shopping for Toyon, bear in mind that it generally looks terrible in a pot; get it in the ground and it'll be much happier and long-lived. It is happiest in full sun to light shade, with little to no summer water once established. More water – especially in bursts long enough to reach its deep roots – encourages growth. Toyon should be used as a replacement for the more typical, but non-native, *pyracantha* or *cotoneaster*. Seedlings may appear nearby, but are easily managed. Transplanting seedlings can be successful if you catch them when they are very young before the tap root gets going.