

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 5

May 2012

May Meeting: Spring Garden Tour

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Fifth Spring Tour of OCIMG member gardens. This tour features gardens in north Orange County.

*This is a self-guided tour. Below are directions to each home, though it is advisable to check against a good map. There are scheduled times to visit each garden and you must follow the schedule—this will allow our hosts to visit the other gardens. Please do **NOT** take cuttings or seeds. If you see a plant you covet, ask the gardener if you may have a cutting when the time is appropriate.*

Cameras and garden journals welcome.

Tips for Garden Tours:

1. There are scheduled times to visit each garden, please follow the schedule. Visit one or all the gardens as your time and inclination permit.
2. Wear comfortable shoes suitable for stairs and walking. Also, bring a hat, wear sun block, and carry water. Be prepared for the weather.
3. Carpooling is recommended--especially with someone who can act as a navigator. And who can read the map or operate the GPS you bring in the car. Use Google, Mapquest, or Yahoo maps to preplan your trip. Double-check all directions given against a map!
4. Bring a folding chair for lunch at Virginia's house.
5. You may bring a guest, but please call or email Jill O'Neill so we have an idea of how many people will be at Virginia's for lunch.

Garden #1– 9:30 – 10:15am

Barbara Eaves
440 Bishop Drive
La Habra

Cross Streets: Whittier Blvd. and Cypress. From Whittier Blvd, turn north on Cypress and make a right on Bishop Dr. House is the fifth house on the right.

“We purchased our home in 1982, and at that time it was a wide expanse of brown St. Augustine grass, a few scraggly rose bushes scattered along the fence, two ancient lemon trees and a beautiful Chinese Elm tree. Over the last 30 years we have changed everything except the tree. I've tried different styles of gardening, but currently it is an eclectic style with mostly drought tolerant plants (including many California natives), two Chinese stone lanterns, an herb garden, a meditation garden, space for tomatoes and vegetables, and lots of succulents. There are sassanqua and japonica camellias across the front of the house. My latest obsession is for tillandsias, and I have a special spot next to the garage where they are doing well. We have also been certified as a National Wildlife habitat. Our garden is a work in progress, and we hope it will continue to be so for a long time...” Enjoy coffee and Mexican pan dulce while strolling Barbara's garden.

Garden #2 – 10:45 – 11:30am

Anne Porter
1931 Winney Circle
Placentia

Cross Streets: Bastanchury and Kramer in Placentia. From Bastanchury (east of Kramer), turn right on Sarah Ave., go to the end. Turn left into the cul-de-sac and we're at the end

“When we bought our home in the 1990, I knew I’d be able to have a lot of fun with 11,000 square feet of concrete. I wanted to make a “grandkid” friendly backyard that still had room for my favorite plants and as wide a variety of animals as possible. So we have a variety of gardens: meadow, patio, dry climate, rose, and cactus. Last year, the yard became a certified backyard habitat through the National Wildlife Federation. Come and enjoy part of Cinco de Mayo with me.”

Garden # 3 – 11:50am – 12:45 (lunch)

**Virginia Carlson,
1137 N Highland Ave.
Fullerton 92835**

Directions: First house south of crossing of Richman Ave. and Highland. Calico cat mailbox on curb. Park along Richman, Highland on east side or El Dorado. Thomas Guide page 738, grid 5G. Best accessed from Valley View from east or Richman from the west.

“I have lived here since 1964. Original landscaping was laid out by landscape architect, Peterson of Anaheim in 1957. The ash tree shades the whole south end of house. Maple shades south west window in dining area. Wisteria on patio roof planted in about 1966 as was the yellow Banksia rose over the loquat tree. The staghorn fern, *Platycerium bifurcatum*, c,v, Nederland, was mounted on a box about 12 X 20 on the post in the ‘80’s. The *Cereus peruviana* blew over in 2003 and had ¾ of the limbs cut back and was raised upright. The rest of the cactus garden came out of pots after that.

About 150 roses are found mostly in the front terraces, some climbers and Old Garden roses in the rear. I have been a rose judge and Consulting Rosarian since the late ‘70s.

I was accredited as a flower show judge by National Garden Clubs in 1957 and as a Flower Show school instructor; I’ve been in horticulture since 1963, having taught in sixteen states from Alaska to Louisiana, Georgia to Hawaii and in Costa Rica. Therefore, the garden is a collection of many kinds of plants, from Rock garden plants in the back terraces and the bank on the north to a

begonia collection, ivy collection, daylilies, ferns, and many kinds of perennials and a few annuals.

The area by the fence on the right bank has no irrigation and a ceanothus and manzanita are planted there with succulents below”

Garden # 4 – 1:15 – 2:15

**Bob Anspach
1557 Chateau Ave.
Anaheim**

Cross Streets: Euclid between Broadway and Ball. My street is accessible from Laura Street, 3 blocks east of Euclid and 4 blocks north of Ball. Take Euclid south to W. Crone (traffic light). Left on Crone for 3 blocks to Lauara St. Right 1 block to Chateau Ave. Left to the house with the White roof, on left side of the street.

“I have just replaced my water hungry grass yard with a drought tolerant landscape. The plants have filled in. I do have about 75 pictures of Butchart Gardens in the spring when all the tulips, daffodils and trees were in bloom.”

Gardening Events

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

Sat. May 12: “Urban Farmer: Prepare for Next Season” 9 – 11:30am. \$20members/\$25 non-members.

Learn when and how you should to harvest to optimize ripeness and extend plant productivity, how to select and prepare for cool-season vegetables to follow the summer crop, and how to control pollination and save the seed.

Fullerton College Horticulture Dept., 321 E. Chapman, Fullerton 92832, 714-992-7135

Sat – Sun, May 5 - 6 & Sat. May 12: “Spring Plant Sale”, Sat, May 6: 9am. - 4pm. Sun: noon – 3pm, Sat. May 12: 10am – 3pm

Natives, drought tolerants, herbs & vegetables.
More details at: <http://horticulture.fullcoll.edu>

Leaves from the President



“Anyone who has got any pleasure at all from nature should try to put something back. Life is like a superlative meal and the world is the maitre d' hotel. What I am doing is the equivalent of leaving a reasonable tip.”

Gerald Durrell

The next meeting will be our home tours. A schedule of the tours is included in the newsletter. I hope everyone can come and see what some of our members have done with their yards. It should be a lot of fun. Lunch will be served at Virginia Carlson's home. It will be catered so there is no need to bring anything. Also, if anyone needs a ride let me know. I would be glad to meet somewhere and car pool to the homes. Look forward to seeing everyone.

Ken Bradshaw and I went up to Cal Poly Pomona and awarded six scholarships on the 16th of April. Ken will tell you more about it but I would like to say it was real nice to see how much the money was needed and appreciated. It is definitely something we should do on a yearly basis. Again, a big thanks to Ken and Carol Bradshaw and all the work they have done to make this possible.

Hope everyone is getting their cuttings, volunteers, etc. ready for the plant exchange in June. If you have any requests, now is the time to let other members know in case they have a certain plant you are looking for in their yard.

See you all in May.

Jill O'Neill, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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

More Gardening Events

Sat. – Sun. May 5 -- 6: “Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour”. 10 am - 5 pm

Our own member Jan Bridger is on this tour. Saturday is mostly south county gardens, Sunday is mostly north county gardens. The list of homes and addresses is at: www.heardsgardentour.com

Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711.
<http://www.rsabg.org>. Pre-register for all classes by calling (909) 625-8767 x224.

Opening May 12, 2012: “Butterfly Pavilion”
10am – 3pm. \$2 per person (under 3 free).
Garden admission \$8/\$6 for seniors

Hundreds of butterflies call the temporary enclosure home this spring and summer. Visitors can walk among the butterflies and caterpillars as they feed in the 24' x 36' temporary enclosure. See caterpillars pupate into chrysalises and emerge as butterflies. The Garden is offering special educational to share how to nourish both common and threatened butterfly species in home gardens.

Bonsai: March & April

By Don Martin

March is not just for college basketball. It's also time for repotting. A good basic potting soil, fertilizer and chemicals are needed for this process. If you use used pots, clean them with a bleach solution. Study the trees. During repotting, you may find crossing branches, excess branch growth, or even long internodes that could have been overlooked when the tree was dormant. The tree should be somewhat dry as it makes it easier to remove from the pot. Combing of the root ball after cutting away about 1/3 of the roots frees up fine roots and encourages new growth. Keep a spray bottle at hand because the sun and wind can dry out roots. Screen new soil of fine dust. It's harmful. Replace and replenish any lost soil. After repotting, keep the tree in partial shade for about a week or so. Then move it to full sun. Feeder roots will develop.

April showers bring May flowers. But it's also time for black pines. Cut back the candles on older pines. For younger trees, you should wait until about May. Candles form twice a year: April and August. Clusters form usually two to five at a time, with one being dominant. Keep one as a leader and one to form a side branch. You should remove the largest candles, but don't cut or remove the others until needles begin to open and expand. Timing prevents excessively long internodes from last year's branch tips and new needle growth. Also reduce watering to slow down new growth. Don't allow the pine root ball to dry out. Keep the needles short and strong.



Editor's note: Don was one of our volunteers at Green Scene. He told us about attending the California Bonsai Society's 55th Bonsai

Convention and Show, starring the Iron Men of Naka. This event happens once every five years. He described one of the trees he saw—each needle painstakingly cut short.

Debris from the Editor

Last month, I fulfilled a desire of several years and attended one of the Fullerton Arboretum's composting workshops (usually held on a day I worked). I primarily wanted the discount for a new compost bin (mine had literally fallen apart), but learned a lot from the lecture and hands-on demo. I urge anyone with an interest in composting to go. The instructor included tips on worm composting and we created our own compost mixture as part of the class. One piece of advice: the workshop is held outdoors on the bleachers. Those bleachers are **COLD!** Bring a cushion or towel to sit on or your sit upon will be frozen! And in the summer, you'll burn, so will still need the protective padding.

The discount coupon is good only at Fullerton Ace Hardware store, at 117 Commonwealth (just west of Harbor, parking in the back), and for only one type of compost bin, the same type as was used in the demonstration. So far, I've been very happy with the bin, though I advise you to add screening to the bottom to prevent rodents from burrowing in.

Just a reminder that the plant exchange will be held at the June meeting and I hope someone is starting sweet Basil plants. I'm bringing one fuchsia plumeria plant along with some tillandsias. You saw their blooms if you were at the April meeting.

Every year at this time, I write about my yard--the one I've wanted to redo for over 5 years now. Right now, all the weeds are in bloom and I have mustard, Mexican primrose, and dandelions. The quail and rabbits love it, but by summer it will look pretty barren. I live with an engineer from Michigan who grew up with huge swathes of green lawn and year around rain. He has finally agreed that if I have a plan he approves, he is willing to give up the lawn. I'm really anticipating seeing the gardens on our tour and getting ideas that I can adapt. Our last garden tour was about 5 years ago and we all know how gardens change over the years. And if you have any ideas for my yard, please share!

