

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 7

August 2012

August Meeting

Saturday, August 3, 2012

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 **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

At press time, we were still confirming a speaker. Come and be surprised!

Board Meeting: follows general meeting

Gardening Events

Just a heads up that the Kofu Bonsai Kai show will be at the Bowers Museum September 25-30. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Watering is a must for August. Otherwise, enjoy the blooms and bounty from your garden as we take a rare moment to relax.

UCI Arboretum, located at Jamboree and Campus Drive in Irvine, does have a plant sale on Saturday, August 11 from 9am – noon. Perennials, succulents, and bulbs will be featured.

From the Grapevine

Our relieved good wishes go to member Joyce Toy, who was hospitalized in May with heart problems. She is out of the hospital and walks every day at the mall, except Wednesday, when she and Bob Anspach go dancing. Sounds like a complete recovery, doesn't it?

Don Martin's mother passed away unexpectedly this summer. Services are pending. Don would appreciate thoughts and prayers.

Cindy Burch sends her greetings from Texas. She was considering moving back to California, but between the economy and the fact her home is almost paid off, she decided it wasn't feasible. Our loss! Oh, there may have been another reason Cindy decided to stay. She's getting married in September! Congratulations, Cindy! We wish you every happiness.

Cindy is active with the Master Gardeners in her community, though she reports that they don't define organic the same way we do. The group held their biggest event of the year in June, the 10th Annual Herb Affair, for which she was the PR chair. Over 300 people attended and Cindy has promised to send an article.

Reminder! Dues are due!

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

Leaves from the President



What is the “Spirit of Western Gardening”?

According to the 40th Anniversary edition of Sunset’s **Western Gardening**, it is “...a pioneering attitude, a willingness to try new plants and fresh designs, to explore new techniques for growing plants and caring for them...” The article goes on to say that we are always ready to connect to nature and create gardens that complement our natural environment, to value our resources, and to draw on our Western heritage when thinking about our gardens and planning them.

As members of OCIMG, we do all these things and more: we want to share our knowledge with others and help them appreciate how they can be part of this wonderful adventure. With that said, it’s time to focus on our **up-coming new class** which will be starting in September (the 29th is the date of the first class). Bob Shaw has been diligently contacting prospective students, and we are in the process of setting up and confirming our speakers. If you can assist with this effort, it would be a big help to us all. I’ll have a schedule available at the August meeting and a signup sheet.

\$\$\$ Dues are Due \$\$\$

We have received 2012-2013 dues from several members but we need everyone to be sure to have theirs in no later than the September meeting. The dues are used to pay for clerical and miscellaneous supplies and to pay for stamps, speaker’s fees, scholarships, etc. We supplement them with Plants ‘n Things throughout the year to keep them as low as possible. So, if you haven’t submitted your dues yet and would like to remain on the membership list, please have check for \$20 made out to OCIMG at the August meeting. Diane

will not be there so I will be taking them and giving receipts.

Your New President and Board

As your new board, we want to encourage you to let us know what you would like to see and hear during the coming year. We are going to be talking about Japanese Maples (in September) and want to plan for two field trips. One I would like to take would be to the Bolsa Chica Wetlands to learn about that ecosystem. Another that has been mentioned is Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach. It has been called “*A quintessential place for people to experience the living story of southern California, Rancho Los Alamitos is a microcosm of the region, past to present.*”

<http://www.ranchosalamitos.com/>

I’m looking forward to a fun year full of new experiences and directions.

Anne Porter, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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Website: http:// www.ocmastergardeners.org	

Summer Bonsai Care

By Don Martin

Mid-June to early July is the time when large leaves should be removed from maturing spring foliage. This routine, short of leaf pruning, encourages smaller leaves to stay in scale with the tree. Do not leaf prune on an annual basis. Selective trimming is best done in stages after new growth has hardened. Use a low nitrogen formula. This will restrain growth spurts.

Don't water as much during this growth period. Don't prune flowering trees until after the flowering, so new flower buds can form in the summer months before fall and winter. Do protect your deciduous trees from sunburn when using overhead watering. This is also a good time to look for insects and fungus and a good time for propagation.

During the summer, reduce the need for serious training. Just watch the results of earlier care. July is the time to plan for summer season-like activities in care and feeding. Your bonsai will prefer reduced nitrogen in the fertilizer. This will give you fall colors. A standard cottonseed/bone meal (70/30/%) provides most of the nutrients for summer growth; alternate with a half-strength liquid high bloom (2-2-10). This provides an excellent source for phosphorus.

To promote good summer health of conifers and evergreens, use a mild fertilizer solution with regular feedings in the summer months. You can supplement with a refreshing foliar feed using Miracle-Gro or a milder solution of fish emulsion.

Progress Report:

Remember the small California Juniper tree that I brought to one of our meetings?: On June 16th, I took him to my bonsai meeting to be critiqued and have his portrait done. Wyen Truong is an accomplished artist in painting and drawing as well as bonsai design. He gave me words of encouragement for the tree's first styling. The style is called moyōgi or informal upright. The last time Truong visited the club was about four

years ago. A club member has since told me I should show more of the muscle now the tree has a lifeline about one inch or less.

When Your Garden Is Overflowing

The Harvest Club, part of the OC Food Access Coalition, a locally sponsored project of OneOC, is one resource you can call when you have an over-abundance of fruit and vegetables. From their website: "Orange County is ranked 2nd in all of California for the number of adults that experienced hunger in 2009. Feeding America's 2009 Map the Meal Gap reported that 13.1% of the total population of Orange County and 23.4% of children in the county did not have sufficient food to eat.

We rely on the existing emergency food network to distribute the harvest. We seek out local food pantries, churches, after school programs and service agencies feeding our neighbors in need within the communities we harvest."

Our two local food banks are also wonderful places to drop off your backyard produce donations.

Orange County Food Bank

Address: 11870 Monarch St., Garden Grove, CA 92841

Hours to Drop Off: Mon – Fri 9am to 4pm, Sat. 9am – 1pm

Contact Number: (714) 897-6670

Second Harvest Food Bank

Address: 8014 Marine Way, Irvine, CA 92618

Hours to Drop Off: Mon – Sat 9am to 4pm

Contact Number: (949) 653-2900

You can register your trees or vegetable patch online at www.theharvestclub.org or via telephone at 714/564-9525. Organization members will come to your home to harvest your produce.

You can also register on the website to volunteer to help harvest. Their next harvesting event is picking oranges on Sunday, August 5, in Garden Grove.

