

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 8

September 2012

## September Meeting

**Saturday, September 8, 2012—SECOND Saturday!**

**New Location: La Habra Branch Library  
221 E. La Habra Blvd. La Habra 90631**

### 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.	<b>Program</b>
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: Fred Snyder on Maples

Fred cares for a multitude of Japanese Maples on his property—trees that don't like our water, soil, or climate. He will share his experiences and offer tips to create an environment where these beautiful trees will thrive.

**Board Meeting:** follows 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. 8 - 9: “Spectacular Salvia Sale”.** 10am – 4pm. Potting Shed.

Over 130 varieties of Salvias are available, all propagated and grown at the Arboretum nursery.

**Sat. Sep. 22: “Home Composting”.** 10:00am – 11:30am. \$5 members/\$7 non-members/free to residents of Fullerton, Brea, Orange, Santa Ana and Buena Park.

Learn how to start your own home composting system; learn the basics of home composting and receive a booklet to guide you. Highly recommended.

**Sat. Sep. 29: “Edible Landscaping”**, 9:00am – 11:30am. \$20/members and \$25/non-members.

As part of the Urban Farming series, this class aims to develop a delicious home garden with smart water use and landscaping.

**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.- Sep. 16: “Free Landscape Design Class”** 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Smart phone required.

A free landscape design workshop that will help you identify the best native plants for your home landscape using a new mobile phone application created by RSABG.

# Leaves from the President



I get a long, cool, drink (I've gotten to really like Sweet Green Tea) and enjoy the beautiful late Summer/early Fall evenings.

Anne Porter, President  
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

## You're planting what in September?

There is a lot of disagreement on what you can plant, or not plant, here in Southern California in the early Fall. One source (the LA Garden Blog) is very clear: NOTHING, until late in the month. For me, September is a time to get the garden ready for planting come October and November. It's a time for trimming back summer growth and getting the soil ready for new plants.

For later in the month and on into Fall, there are a lot of recommendations on planting poppies and other wildflower seeds to get them in before the rains start. If you do, here are a few hints from the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden: Mix them with sand or dirt before tossing them to help make sure the seeds are more evenly distributed. And make sure they're covered enough to withstand the Santa Ana winds that will be coming. As obvious as this sounds, also check how tall the flowers will grow as shown on the seed packets, planting taller flowers such as clarkia behind shorter ones like poppies and blue-eyed grass. They also recommend planting some of each type of the seeds in pots, so you have samples of young seedlings to help differentiate wildflowers from weeds.

Another source, The Christian Science Monitor, says September is a good time to plant vegetables from seeds. Things like beets, sugar peas, broccoli, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, lettuce (both head and leaf types), kohlrabi, short-day onion, shallot, leek, radish, spinach, and Swiss chard. I can't say I've had a lot of luck with these once the Santa Ana winds start blowing in November. But I have friends who do very well with them.

What do you do in September in the garden? I tend to enjoy the cooler evenings and early mornings and clean up my garden "rooms". Then

## ☎ Contacts

Anne Porter, *President* (714) 993-9011  
Email: mahporter@gmail.com  
Diane Wilkinson, *Treasurer* (714) 870-1756  
Email: newport30@gmail.com  
Glenn Vodhanel, *1st<sup>d</sup> Vice Pres*  
Email: glennv@progressivesolutions.com  
Jill O'Neill *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.* (714) 279-0892  
oneilljill@sbcglobal.net  
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic* (714) 289-0119  
Email: 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)

## Special Bonsai Exhibit

**Bowers Museum.** 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706 714/567-3600. Admission \$8.00.

**Wed. - Sun. Sept. 26 - 30:** "Bonsai & Viewing Stones Display". 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. John M. Lee Court and Thompson Foyer.

An exhibit of 25 trees selected from private collections displayed in a traditional manner. All trees have been trained and taken to a final style over many years. The **Viewing Stones**, or 'found art,' are also from private collections collected from areas in the United States and Asia. This exhibit is hosted by the club, Kofu Bonsai Kai.

Check the Bowers Museum schedule for workshops and lectures on Bonsai at:  
<http://www.bowers.org/index.php/events/calendar>

## Bonsai Care in August

By Don Martin

August brings a respite from the busy spring chores and a period of vigorous growth. August brings higher temperatures that slow down new growth and reduce pruning. Trimming, repotting and styling are still in order. Pinch the trees that need it each day.

Summer vacation: Leave your trees with someone who does bonsai as a hobby along with instructions for the care of your trees. Trees that require special care should be grouped together, making it easier to tend them. Using an automatic watering system is OK, but always have someone come by who can check its functions.

Summer maintenance helps the trees get ready for fall and winter. Plan ahead. Look for fast summer growth. Warm days and cool nights encourage new tip growth, long internodes and lush foliage. A regular feeding in summer is important. Reducing the nitrogen content of the fertilizer mix inhibits excessive green growth and allows the formation of chemical changes that is good for the best fall colors. Also, watch your wires. If left on too long, they will leave permanent scars. Turn your trees for equal light exposure and even growth. And always look for insects!

## Debris from the Editor

Some years back, our group visited Lotusland, a public garden in the private residential area of Montecito near Santa Barbara. I was unable to participate due to work, but I asked someone who went what it was like. She told me that the grounds were filled with all the plants you'd never want in your own garden.

Hmmm...this past weekend, I travelled to Santa Barbara expressly to visit the garden myself and hopefully get ideas to use in replacing my front/back lawns. Reservations are a must, as the city restricts the number of automobiles allowed to drive to Lotusland each day and only members are allowed to wander the grounds without a tour guide. The tour itself is a full two hours and

covers 25 acres of many different garden styles. Madame Ganna Walska, the Polish opera singer who created the gardens, had her own unique vision and the money (through six financially remunerative marriages) to carry it out. There is a serene Japanese garden, one of the world's largest and most complete cycad collections (called the million-dollar garden), many water features, all kinds of euphorbias and aloes, and the famous lotus ponds.

Madame did not care for flowers, but there is a butterfly garden (originally shielded from her view by tall hedges) and what remains of an orchard of citrus and olive trees, planted by the previous owner with the intention of selling the produce. The olive trees no longer bear fruit, but there is a lovely arbor covered by the branches Meyer lemon trees. The fragrance of the lemons wafts down as you walk underneath.

Many of the plants could have been lifted from a Dr. Seuss picture book—wild and outlandish. Madame Walska did not want her plants labeled so I don't know what the below plant is, but it's certainly one I would welcome in my yard!

The garden is open for tours February 15 – November 15. Website is [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org).

