

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 18 Number 9

October 2012

October Meeting

Saturday, October 6, 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 **R - Z**, 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: Pruning with Greg Rager

Greg is a 5-year member of California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG); current Board member and active volunteer at Irvine's South Coast Research & Extension Center in the persimmon, avocado, peach, pluot, and cherimoya fields; active volunteer at the Arboretum's Green Scene; and active with fruiting plant & tree rescues.

Greg is also involved with various outreach programs for Xerox Corporation and CRFG; photographer and author of the *2009 Avocado* and *2010 Persimmon* calendars (as well as future editions, including Cherimoya, pitaya, strawberry, and pluots); lectured on grafting at the LA County Fair and at CSUF, and produced *Avocados: A Primer*, an educational publication for SCREC.

Board Meeting: follows general meeting

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Oct 13: "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.

Sat. Oct. 20: "Cool Season Vegetable Garden: Urban Farming". 9 – 11:30am. \$20/members and \$25/non-members

Learn how to start your cool-season vegetable garden in raised or standard garden beds.

Tree of Life Nursery/California Native Plant Society. 33201 Ortega Highway, San Juan Campistrano, 92675. 949/728-0685. Website = californianativeplants.com

Sat. Oct. 27: "CNPS – OC Fall Native Plant Sale". 9am – 4pm.

Great selection & expert advice from CNPS members, with talks on gardening with California native plants.

UCI Arboretum. Located just south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on the UCI North Campus. (949) 824-5833.

Sat. Oct. 20: "The Art of Flowers Fall Art and Flower Festival" 10am – 3pm. \$2/person

Annual fall bulb and perennial sale featuring South African plants plus art show from the artists of Orange County Fine Arts, Inc.

Leaves from the President



One of the joys of a garden is to sit back and enjoy all you've done and to watch and listen to all the activity in the garden. Unfortunately, my milkweed plants may not be the right kind to attract Monarchs, but I do have a Swallowtail that visits my roses every day. And then there are the birds! In keeping with our speaker for next month, here's my garden bird list (I'm not an expert on this so some of them are best guesses):

Anna's Hummingbird (gone now)
Ash-throated Flycatcher
Black Phoebe
Black-headed Grosbeak
Scrub jay
Brown Towhee
Crows (of course)
Evening Grosbeak
Goldfinch
House Finch
House Sparrow
House Wren or Wren-tit
Mourning or Spotted Dove
Red-tailed Hawk (once)
Rufus Hummingbird (current)
Sparrow Hawk (Sharp Skinned Hawk)?
White crowned Sparrow

Every time I hear a new bird, I run and get my *Birds of North America* guide and try to identify it. I get to see the hummingbirds and Black Phoebes in both the front and back yards – partly because of the Salvias and Grevilleas I have. It's amazing how quiet everything gets when the hawk pays a call.

Fall is my favorite time to sit and enjoy my surroundings. There's something about the air. I hope you are all enjoying it too.

Anne Porter, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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Reminder! Dues are due!
Please pay \$20 at the September meeting or mail to: Anne Porter 1931 Winney Circle Placentia, CA 92870

Bonsai Care in September

By Don Martin

This is the time for most trees to start to slow down their growth patterns. They won't show the vigor of summer greenery and will begin to show autumn color. Chemical changes won't begin to show until late September, also known as the autumnal equinox. This is the time to move deciduous trees to a cool place. You may have some regrowth in spite of periods of cool weather. Trees respond to the warmth of late summer and develop new foliage.

Editor's note: Don's small California Juniper, acquired in 2007, did not make it through the summer. He did have its portrait painted and will share that with us.

In honor of the start of the planting season for California natives, below are two educational opportunities.

Propagation of Native Plants with Back to Natives

Sundays, 9-30-12 through 12-16-12, 9am – 1pm

Join Back to Natives for a hands-on class to increase your native plant propagation knowledge. Participants will gather once a week for 12 weeks to learn which native plants propagate best by seed, cuttings, layering, and division. The biology, anatomy, history, and use of these propagation techniques will also be covered, briefly. Students will help propagate native plants for use in habitat restoration and environmental education projects. Students can choose to count class time toward volunteer hours, or take home up to twelve of the plants that they propagated! Most classes will take place at the Back to Natives Nursery at Santiago Park. \$75/12 Weeks. RSVP to: education@backtonatives.org

Back to Natives Nursery in Santiago Park, at 600 E Memory Lane, Santa Ana, has their fall plant sale and open house on Saturday, October 28 from 10am - 3pm. Two workshops will be offered: Butterfly and Bird Gardening at 11am and Edible Landscaping at 2pm.

At Home with Natives 2012: Solutions for Nature-Friendly Landscaping

Symposium offered through the Orange County Chapter of the Native Plant Society on Saturday, October 13 at Saddleback College, 28000 Marguerite Parkway, Mission Viejo. 8am – 5:15pm, \$60.00 after Sept. 30, includes lunch.

Creating and growing beautiful water-wise gardens with California native plants has never made more sense. Our native plants are as lovely as any; require fewer pesticides, fertilizers, and maintenance.

Workshops scheduled:

When the Lawn is Gone

Green Native Gardens and Water

Local Natives and the Bugs, Butterflies, and Birds They Attract

Color with Natives in the "Off" Seasons

The Whole Truth and Nothing but the Truth--

Caring for a Native Garden

More information and online registration at

<http://www.ocnps.org/gardening-with-natives/events/210-at-home-with-natives.html>

New OCIMG Trainee Class Begins!

Our first class met last week, with 15 people registered. Several students are specifically interested in school gardens and other volunteer venues; others have moved to SoCal from other states and want to learn how to garden in a year-round environment.

Anne Porter welcomed them; Jill O'Neill went over the basics of who a Master Gardener is; and Bob Shaw explained why we are the Independent group and some of the history leading up to today.

There was extensive discussion of volunteer opportunities. Bob, Sharon Neely and Anne did a role play session on booth duty and responding to questions. Bob went over the course list and several people volunteered to help contact the garden clubs in Orange County for our holiday party.