

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 19 Number 5

May 2013

May Meeting

Saturday, May 4, 2013

3842 Warner Ave. Huntington Beach

Meet at 9:30 am

Bolsa Chica Wetlands Field Trip

Comfortable walking shoes are recommended plus hat and jacket as it can be windy and cool. Binoculars are nice to have, but if you don't have them, we can share.

The Bolsa Chica Conservancy is a non-profit, non-political organization whose mission is to advocate the restoration and preservation of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands through public outreach, participation, education and leadership. It is a coalition of responsible community leaders from science, business, education, and government.

The Conservancy organizes monthly non-native vegetation removal and trash collection and removal. It maintains native plant specimen gardens.

There are four main points of interest: the Intertidal Marsh dominated by cordgrass in the lower area and pickle grass in the upper area, both of which provide breeding areas for endangered species; the Dunes where lilac-colored Sea Rocket blooms year round and the yellow Beach Primrose blooms in winter and early spring; the walk bridge which offers a view of the subtidal habitat; and Barren Island, an unvegetated nesting area for several tern species, including the endangered California Least Tern.

Send your volunteer hours in to Jean Rice so that you can vote in the June election!

Gardening Events

Sat. May 11: "Tri-Counties African Violet Display & Sale". 9am – 4pm. Free

New location: Messiah Lutheran Church in Yorba Linda, located at 4861 Liverpool Street. Get there early for best selection!

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

Sat. May 11 "Entomology for Gardeners". 9:00am – 1:00pm. \$25/members/\$30/non-members. Pavilion classrooms.

Examine the major groups of local Arthropods, and look at specimens both preserved and living. A 10- or 20-power hand-lens is recommended. A few pest control strategies for home gardens will be covered. Taught by Bob Allen.

Fullerton College Horticulture Dept.
<http://horticulture.fullcoll.edu/> 714/992-7135

Sat-Sun. May 4-5 and 11: "Spring Plant Sale".
May 4, 9am-4pm; May 5, noon-3pm; Sun. May 11, 10am-3pm.

Perennials, herbs, tomatoes and peppers! Plus, Valerie Loew (daughter of member Phil Loew!) will speak on Perennial Vegetables on Saturday, May 4 at 11am.

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

Sat. - Sun. May 4 - 5 : "Spring Perennial Sale"
Sat. 9am – 4pm. Sun. 11am – 3pm \$2/free parking.

Perennials plus succulents, hummingbird plants, flowering plants for shade, and potted, blooming bulbs will be available for sale.

Leaves from the President



I recently read the novel *The Language of Flowers* by Vanessa Diffenbaugh. It was an interesting story that was largely based on misconceptions between people, often expressed by the giving and receiving of flowers that were meant to have a particular meaning. This led me to look into the “language” a bit more. I shared a little of it at the April meeting (e.g. Bougainvillea = Passion, Cactus = Ardent Love, and Lobelia = Malevolence). Maybe that’s why I can’t grow Lobelia!

This language is also called “**floriography**”. It was largely a Victorian-Era means of communication in which flowers and floral arrangements were used to send coded messages, allowing individuals to express feelings which otherwise they might not be able to share. It was commonly communicated through “tussie-mussies” which were small flower bouquets. These were also called “nosegays” because they were to be worn near the nose and appeal to the sense of smell.

If you want to delve further into the “art”, here’s a book that has been recommended: *Tussie-Mussies: The Victorian Art of Expressing Yourself in the Language of Flowers* by Geraldine Adamich Laufer.

So, if you received a nosegay of Salvia, Eucalyptus and Thyme before leaving on a vacation, you might expect good health, protection, and lots of activity to come.

Whereas one of Pineapple, Strawberries, Potato Vine, and Queen Anne’s lace might mean you have an ardent admirer who thinks you’re perfect, delicious, and has fantasies about you!

At a funeral, you might run into Thrift, Aloe, Rosemary, and Protea offering you Sympathy, Grief, Remembrance, and Courage.

If you received this posey, you’d really be confused: Yellow Roses, Veronica, Peonies, Lavender, and Tansy.

Makes you think!

Anne Porter, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

More on Saikei

By Don Martin

Moss: Sometimes moss is used. The moss must have a fine texture and be bright and clear in color. It must also withstand dryness. Moss grows in wet shady places. Moss that grows on stone is much stronger than that which grows on the ground. If you collect moss, do so after a good rain.

Soil: There are three sizes of soil grains. Sift your soil through a large meshed sieve about ½-inch. Save what remains in the sieve. Change to ¼-inch mesh and again, save what remains. Change to a 1/8- or 1/16-inch mesh and save that. Now you have your soil. Discard the fine stuff. Keep the soil dry: it’s much easier to work when planting. Try to match the soil that the trees are growing in as best you can. Or, like me, use your favorite potting mix.

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Nomination Committee

The following people have agreed to be on the slate of candidates for our annual election in June. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

President: Anne Porter

1st VP: Glenn Vodhanel

2nd VP: open

Treasurer: open

Corresponding Secretary: open

Recording Secretary: Judith Wright

June Plant Exchange

We will hold our annual plant exchange at the June meeting. Now is the time to plant seeds and start cuttings so they will be rooted by then. Be sure to label your plants with the name and include care instructions. The editor is hoping someone will bring sweet basil.

We Thank Our Volunteers

Thanks to everyone who helped at the OCIMG booth at Green Scene. We had a number of people interested in joining our group, including former master gardeners from other areas.

Mary Lou Heard Memorial Garden Tour

In case you're wondering, the annual tour will not be held this year, but expects to be back in 2014. If you'd like to offer your home as a site, email heardsgardentour@yahoo.com.

Cultivar versus Variety

By Cindy Haynes. Dept. of Horticulture,
Iowa State University

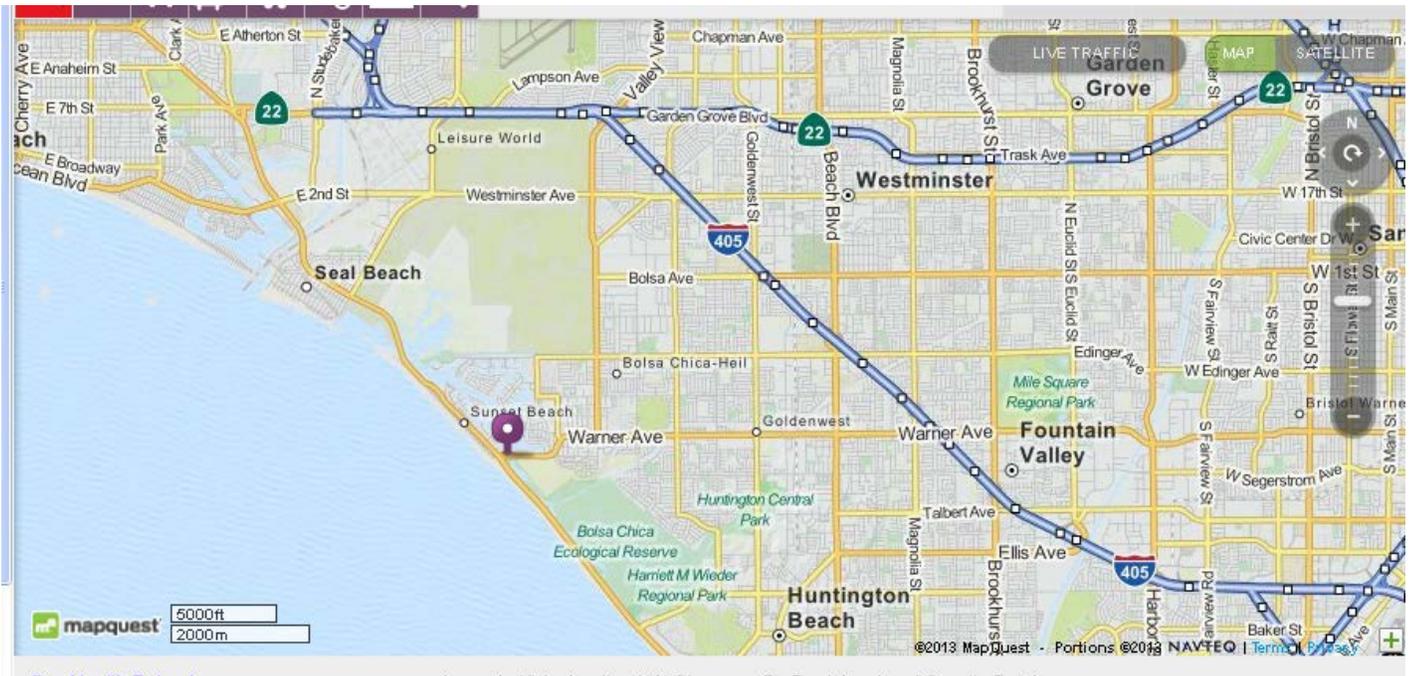
As a horticulturist, it is important that I use the right terms the right way (at least most of the time). Variety and cultivar are two terms often abused by gardeners and horticulturists. What's the difference, you ask? Quite a lot. Both are part of the scientific name. Both appear after the specific epithet (second term in a scientific name). Both refer to some unique characteristic of a plant. However, this is where many of the similarities end. Varieties often occur in nature

and most varieties are true to type. That means the seedlings grown from a variety will also have the same unique characteristic of the parent plant. For example, there is a white flowering redbud that was found in nature. Its scientific name is *Cercis canadensis* var. *alba*. The varietal term "alba" means white. If you were to germinate seed from this variety, most if not all would also be white flowering. Cultivars are not necessarily true to type. In fact cultivar means "cultivated variety", therefore, a cultivar was selected and cultivated by humans. Some cultivars originate as sports or mutations on plants. Other cultivars could be hybrids of two plants. To propagate true-to-type clones, many cultivars must be propagated vegetatively through cuttings, grafting, and even tissue culture. Propagation by seed usually produces something different than the parent plant. Varieties and cultivars also have differently naming conventions. A variety is always written in lower case and italicized. It also often has the abbreviation "var." for variety preceding it. The first letter of a cultivar is capitalized and the term is never italicized. Cultivars are also surrounded by single quotation marks (never double quotation marks) or preceded by the abbreviation "cv.". For an example of a cultivar of redbud, consider *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy' (or *Cercis canadensis* cv. Forest Pansy) which has attractive dark purple spring foliage and pinkish-purple flowers. Can a plant have both a variety and a cultivar? Sure. One good example is Sunburst Honeylocust. Its scientific name is *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* 'Sunburst'. The term "inermis" means without thorns and "Sunburst" refers to the bright golden spring leaf color. In today's world of horticulture, cultivars are planted and used more than varieties. Yet we often still refer to a type of plant species as a variety instead of what is actually is--a cultivar.

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Educational Demonstrations

The Tri-Counties African Violet Society will hold two demos at their May 11 sale (see page 1). Methods of Watering will be held at 12:30 and Violet Culture is at 1:30pm.



Directions to Bolsa Chica Wetlands:

From the 405 or 22 Freeways, take the Bolsa Chica exit south to Warner Ave. Turn right on Warner toward Pacific Coast Hwy. The parking lot is located at the southeast corner of Warner Ave. and Pacific Coast Highway.