

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 19 Number 7

August 2013

## August Meeting

**Saturday, August 3, 2013**

Rancho Santiago Community College Rm. 107  
2323 North Broadway, Santa Ana, CA 92706

### Schedule

88:30 – 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. Enrichment Program  
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. 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: Irrigation

Don Grime has been active with the Master Gardeners since the first class in 1995 and was classmates with Jeri Young and Virginia Carlson. Since that time, he has volunteered at the Fullerton Arboretum as a Potter and as a Nature Guide, which he is still doing. He also worked on a couple of school gardens and the hot line, which he initiated. Together with the late Pat Sawyer, a previous Master Gardener, he started the Plant Specialist program at the Fullerton Arboretum, which he would like to see revived.

Don obtained a certificate in Landscape Horticulture at Fullerton College in 2003. His studies at Fullerton College included Water Principles and Practices, in which he has been active with ever since. Landscape irrigation is a complicated subject so Don would like to review some of the key principles.

While on the OC Grand Jury in 2007-2008 and during a drought, Don participated in study called “Water Budgets, Not Water Rationing” and he will share some highlights from the report.

Don has developed a watering calculator to simplify irrigation computations, which he would like to share with the group. Anyone that brings a laptop to the meeting will be able to download the watering calculator and follow it themselves while it is being demonstrated

## Gardening Events

**UC Irvine Arboretum.** Located just south of the corner of Campus Drive and Jamboree Road on the UCI North Campus. Call the Arboretum Office at (949) 824-5833.

**Sat. Aug. 10:”Saturday Plant Sale”.** 9am – noon. Free.

Selections in August typically include perennials such as Cape lilac (*Plectranthus ecklonii*), succulents such as Sedum, Echeveria and Aeonium.

### **Armstrong Garden Centers**

**Sat. Aug. 24: “How To Have a Beautiful Garden That Uses Less Water”.** Free. 9am.

Tips and techniques on how to save water in your garden.

**Reminder! Dues are overdue!**  
**Fill out membership form on page 3**

Please pay \$20 at the August meeting  
or mail to:  
Diane Wilkinson  
2612 Sherwood Ave.  
Fullerton, CA 92831

# Leaves from the President



## Be Water wise in Orange County

There is a wonderful website that you may not have seen yet. It's Bewaterwise.com. On the site are all kinds of resources and tips for gardening in our unique environment. For example, they list classes you can take online or onsite, a free water wise survey for commercial and common areas, lists of places to buy California Native and retailers who are California Friendly ©. There's also a list, by county, of gardens to visit that demonstrate water wise planting. Here are a few (I left out the ones we hear about most often like Shipley Nature Center, Rogers Gardens and the Fullerton Arboretum):



### San Clemente Casa Romantica Cultural Center

415 Avenida Granada, San Clemente  
(949) 498-2139  
The historic home of San Clemente founder Ole Hanson boasts a 2.4-acre California Friendly® garden along an ocean bluff with stunning views. The gardens were designed by Isabelle Greene (granddaughter of Craftsman architect Henry Greene.)



### Park Semper Fi

San Clemente Pier Bowl, San Clemente  
This low coastal bluff adjacent to beach parking features endangered coastal sage scrub and chaparral plant communities indigenous to San Clemente, and a bronze monument to the U.S. Marines.



### Costa Mesa Mesa Water District Demonstration Garden

1965 Placentia Ave., Costa Mesa  
(949) 631-1205  
California Friendly® plants are showcased, along with the latest in state-of-the-art irrigation practices.



### Newport Beach Environmental Nature Center

1601 16th St., Newport Beach  
(949) 645-8489  
The Environmental Nature Center provides hands-on education with nature and demonstrates indigenous California vegetation and habitats. It offers 16,000 students the opportunity to study local ecology in 15 on-site, native Southern California plant communities.

Anne Porter, President  
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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309 N. Sandpiper Dr., Long Beach, 90803

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

## Saving Heirloom Seeds

It's that time of the year when our vegetable gardens are in full production. If you've found a variety you want to grow next year, how about saving the seeds? You can start seedlings for our plant exchange, for your friends, family, and neighbors, and for yourself.

One good source for information on saving and buying heirloom seeds is longtime proponent of heirlooms, [www.seedsavers.org](http://www.seedsavers.org). Their instructions for tomato seed saving are:

*Seed Saving:* Cross-pollination between modern tomato varieties seldom occurs, except in potato leaf varieties which should be separated by the length of the garden. Do not save seeds from double fruits or from the first fruits of large-fruited varieties. Pick at least one ripe fruit from each of several plants. Squeeze seeds and juice into a strainer and wash, spread on a paper plate, and dry.

These instructions differ from those given on the [www.sunset.com](http://www.sunset.com) website:

Wash your heirloom tomatoes, then cut it in half across the middle (not the stem end). Gently

squeeze tomato seeds and juice into a labeled glass or plastic container. Fill containers about half full, then set them out of direct sun in an area where you won't be bothered by the ripening odor or fruit flies.

Allow the seed mixture to sit until the surface is partially covered with whitish mold (in three to five days). In warm climates, you may need to add a little water midway through the process to keep the seeds afloat. Scrape off the white mold with a spoon, being careful not to remove seeds.

Fill the container with water, then stir; the good seeds will sink to the bottom.

Pour off and discard floating seeds and pulp. Repeat until the good seeds are clean. Pour the cleaned seeds into a fine strainer; rinse and drain

Sprinkle seeds onto a plate and allow them to dry for one to three days, depending on the weather. Keep them out of direct sun. To make sure they dry thoroughly and don't stick together, stir twice a day.

Store dried seeds in a cool, dry, dark place in individually labeled airtight containers such as a glass jar until planting time next spring.

Please complete the information sheet below and send it in with your renewal registration. If you have already renewed, thank you! And please fill out the form as well and send it to Diane Wilkinson. We need to update our address information, especially for the newsletter. All members will receive the newsletter via email unless they contact the editor to request a paper newsletter. Keep in mind that postage continues to go up and the emailed newsletter arrives faster than snail mail!

### ORANGE COUNTY INDEPENDENT MASTER GARDENERS

#### MEMBER INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one: Cash    Check # \_\_\_\_\_    Member since \_\_\_\_\_