

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 19 Number 11

December 2013

December Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2013

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

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. Enrichment Program
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Clean up

Let's rock this meeting and enjoy every calorie!
Everyone, please bring a dish to share, with
serving implements. Type of dish is according to
your last name (but feel free to trade with
someone else if you're set on a certain food):

A-H: casseroles, main dish, or other hearty food
I-P: desserts or side dish
Q-Z: finger foods and appetizers

Remember to save your holiday cards for Rita
Corpin, who uses them in craft programs. And
you're welcome to bring catalogs to share

Enrichment Program: Community Gardens with Nick Latimer

Nick Latimer is one of the founders, with the title
of garden supervisor, behind Common Ground,
one of three community gardens in Anaheim.
This one is located in west Anaheim and has as its
objective to grow wholesome food, work together,
and beautify the city. The garden's grand opening
was in August 2012. Nick will share the
background of how and why he took on the task
on building a new community garden and what it
takes to keep it going. A student in the last
OCIMG trainee class, Nick has built a sustainable
community service project that even includes a
Girl Scout Gold Award project "Paints and
Plants" that displays art in the gardens.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Dec. 7: "Intro to Plant ID III" 9am – 1pm.
Pavilion, Cost: \$25/members, \$30/non-members.

Bob Allen introduces you to different California
plant families and helps you develop the
necessary skills to identify these plants on sight.
Some knowledge or completion of Plant
Identification I & II is strongly recommended, but
not required.

Orange County Coastkeeper Garden Santiago
Canyon College, 8045 E. Chapman Ave. Orange,
CA 92869 <http://www.coastkeeper.org>. RSVP via
email at: garden@coastkeeper.org Directions:
From 55 South, exit Chapman Ave East, left on
Newport Blvd, right on E. Santiago Canyon Rd.
The Garden entrance is a gate immediately after
the soccer field with a dirt driveway. Drive along
the edge of the Garden to park in the south-west
corner.

Sat. Dec. 7: "Designing Your New Landscape".
10 - 11am. Free.

Free classes the first Saturday of every month in
creating a California-friendly garden.

We wish you and your families a
very merry, healthy, and
wonderful holiday season!



Leaves from the President



Community Gardens

This month we'll hear a speaker talking about local community gardens and how they affect both the communities and the people who volunteer at them. There are a lot of links to information on community gardens on the Internet. One is to the American Community Gardening Association. I've written a bit on this before in Leaves. Here are few highlights that might focus more on our local area:

- **Regional Training Workshops**
Their curriculum, *Growing Communities: Community Building and Organizational Development through Community Gardening*, is facilitated year-round in various areas throughout the country. Programs are tailored to regional and host needs.
- **Discussion Forum**
www.communitygarden.org/
They have a Discussion Forum that hosts a vibrant online community whose members are engaged in daily dialogue about all aspects of community gardening.
- **Mentoring**
Regional mentors are available to help identify potential resources, provide advice and address technical matters.
- **Database of local Community Gardens**
Not only are links provided to the gardens listed below, but there is also information provided about each garden. Here are a few close to us. (There are quite a few in LA and Riverside).

[Santa Ana People's Garden- Santiago](#)
(Santa Ana, CA)

[Jerome CommUnity Learning Garden](#)
(Santa Ana, CA)

[Huntington Beach Community Garden](#)
(Huntington Beach, CA)

[Unity Farm](#) (Long Beach, CA)
[Long Beach Organic Community Gardens](#) (Long Beach, CA)

[Cambodian Seniors Gardening Project](#)
(Long Beach, CA)

One link I found that was particularly interesting is The Grain Project focused at the Jerome CommUnity Learning Garden.

Mission: *To promote unified, healthy, sustainable communities through farmers' markets, community gardens, & public art.*

Based in Santa Ana and serving all of Orange County, we work to bring healthy food access and urban beautification efforts to the region through collaborative and holistic programming, partnerships, and community-building that promote self-sufficiency and empowerment.

Some of their accomplishment:

- the establishment of the *Santa Ana Certified Farmers' Market*, the first certified farmers' market in Santa Ana
- the *Jerome CommUnity Learning Garden*, the first city-sponsored cooperative garden in a city-owned park
- the *CommUnity Roots* backyard and school garden network
- the *CommUnity Harvest* network of backyard produce collection and distribution by and for under-privileged families
- *Restorative Justice* holistic rehabilitation program in partnership with the Orange County Probation Department and 360 Turnaround Youth Diversion
- *CommUnity Compost Coalition*, a collaborative community composting project.

Anne Porter,
OCIMG President

Gardening is Work!

By Don Martin

Here's a theory: maybe folk are less likely to take up gardening nowadays because they romanticize about it. I know it's just a theory, but hear me out. People remember grandpa's veggie patch, the gorgeous landscapes of Gertrude Jekyll's England, the beauty of America's public lands, and even a well-manicured office park. All of which set a high standard for the new gardener who doesn't know a pansy from a petunia. But those gardens are something else...works of art, you might say, and works of art are works of creativity. What got me theorizing about this was a column I read called "creative work". It talks about how people romanticize what creative types do. Hold it aloft as something greater than themselves, whether it's painting, writing, sculpting, or gardening. I don't know about you, but why I hold this view is because we need to believe that life is more than the work we do and the challenges we face every day. It's nice to think that we contribute something romantic to the greater population. But everything is work, be it the combining of oil paints or the smoothing of clay under the fingers, even putting words to paper or sounds that stir emotion or the moving and planting of earth. It's work.

The Story Behind Renee Shepherd

Fourth in a series

By Jill Patterson

We've learned the history of several pioneering men who founded well-known seed and plant companies back east. However, we have our own California seedswoman, Renee Shepherd, widely regarded as a pioneering innovator in introducing international specialty vegetables and herbs for home gardeners and gourmet restaurants.

Surprisingly, she got her start from a soccer game. While working on her Ph.D. studies on the history of consciousness from the UC Santa Cruz, and teaching in their Environmental Studies department, she mowed a pasture adjacent to her house for weekly soccer games. Case Boonman, a representative for a Netherlands-based vegetable

seed company (and currently president of Ball Seed Co.), was one of the players. He gave her some seeds and Renee loved the results so much that she mortgaged her house, wrote a seed catalog, and founded Shepherd's Garden Seed out of her garage in 1985. She eventually sold her business to White Flower Farm. She stayed with the company until 1996, as her contract stipulated that she could not open a competing company for a certain number of years. Renee left Shepherd's Seeds in 1996 (which has since ceased operations) and founded Renee's Garden in 1997.

Renee is a prolific media contributor, appearing frequently in gardening and cooking periodicals such as *Sunset*, *Fine Cooking*, *Organic Gardening*, *The Gardener*, *Fine Gardening*, and *Country Living*. She has authored two [kitchen garden cookbooks](#), *Recipes from a Kitchen Garden* and *More Recipes From a Kitchen Garden*, and is finishing a third cookbook with her cooking partner Fran Raboff. She has many community and environmental interests and has served on the Planning Commission for Santa Cruz Co, California. Her website, which includes many helpful articles on gardening and her online only catalog, is at: <http://www.reneesgarden.com/>

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