

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 20 Number 6

June 2014

June Meeting

Saturday June 7, 2014

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/Elections
9:45 - 10:00 a.m. Plants 'n Things
10:00– 11:00 a.m. Plant Exchange
11:00 Clean-up

We're asking everyone to please bring a breakfast snack to our last meeting of our business year. 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.

2013-14 Slate of Officers

We will be voting on the slate of officers at this meeting. Nominations can be taken from the floor. We thank these members who have accepted the nominations:

President: Glenn Vodhanel
1st Vice-President: Mark Gotts
2nd Vice-President: Judith Wright
Treasurer: Nancy Shaw
Corresponding Secretary: Cerise Outhier
Recording Secretary: Mary McMurrin

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the June meeting
or mail by mid-July to:
Nancy Shaw

Volunteer Hours are Due!

Send your hours to Jean Rice
Use volunteer hours form listed on website
and information from the Contacts box

REMEMBER: No July meeting!

We'll meet again in August

Gardening Events

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.

May 10 – Aug. 3: "Butterfly Pavilion" 10am – 3pm daily, \$2 admission above Garden entry fee.

The annual butterfly exhibit has opened! Walk among the native butterflies and the California native plants that they depend on for food.

Roger's Gardens, 2301 San Joaquin Hills Rd., Corona Del Mar, CA 92625, tel.949/640-5800

One-hour seminars are offered each weekend. June 8, 10am will include care of tomatoes and other warm season vegetables, strawberries, and summer pruning and thinning of deciduous fruit trees. June 14, 9am will demonstrate how to create a living rainbow with a succulent color wheel. June 21, 9am covers butterfly gardens. June 28 at noon and 3pm will convene in the rare plant show area to discuss an assortment of rare, unusual or interesting plants.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free classes are provided at each location. The June classes are all at 9am and include how to attract hummingbirds, lavenders, citrus care, and plumerias. Website is: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Volunteer Opportunity

Taylor Thompson will be at the June meeting to request assistance for a garden project at Remington Elementary School in Santa Ana. If you can't make the meeting and are interested in helping, contact him at his work number: 949-453-5122.

Leaves from the President



California Native Plants that Grow in Full Shade

The trip to the Huntington Gardens was a wonderful success, even though it was very hot that day. Walking around the gardens after the tour of the Chinese Garden, I started to think about one of my own biggest challenges: what to plant under my trees that would be relatively low-growing and draught tolerant. That's been a hard thing to find. So I did some "digging".

I found a wonderful nursery with a website that not only provides a large selection of possibilities, but also has short videos about each of them. And some of the selections I've even grown in the shade (Douglas Iris, Monkey Flower, and Snowberry). Unfortunately, I moved the Snowberry to a sunnier location and killed the poor thing.



One that I'd like to try is the **White Chaparral Currant**. Bees, Birds, and Butterflies love it; and it grows in shade as well as being drought tolerant. And it blooms in the winter and early spring!

They have a "blog" with questions from visitors. One was, "What is drought tolerant, low growing and is fire retardant?" They suggested Ceanothus gloriosus porrectus, Mt. Vision Ceanothus, and another was Baccharis pilularis pilularis, Pigeon Point, Dwarf Coyote Brush will survive in most of the populated areas of California with no additional water. In inland area or rural areas it would like a wash down every week since it doesn't like dust.

The nursery is Las Pilitas Nursery in Santa Margarita and Escondido, California. They only grow native plants! What about a field trip?

The site is:

http://www.laspilitas.com/garden/California_natives_for_full_shade.html

Anne Porter,
OCIMG President

Editor's note: OCIMG did visit Las Pilitas and other nurseries in the area about 12 years ago. The watsonia thriving in my yard is from that trip.

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Plant Exchange This Month!

For every plant you bring to exchange, you get to take one home. Bring 10-12 well-rooted plants of any kind or combination. Each plant must be labeled with the **botanical and common names** along with a note as to how to maintain the plant.

All plants will be staged outside at the back side of the building. Just drive around to the far side, facing the freeway. There is plenty of parking and it's an easy drop off and pick up.

Try and place plants in groups: annuals, perennials, vegetable, succulents, etc. Signs will be provided to help organize the space. Please, no plants are to be brought inside the meeting room (unless you're willing to stay and clean up!).

Don Martin's Beat

Geothermal: The Steady Heat

Did you know that in 1876, not far from the geysers of Yosemite, on a piece of property now known as Chico Hot Springs, a miner erected a few hot houses for his garden. Water from the hot springs, warmed by the geothermal heat, flowed underneath the crops and created a prime growing environment. And I will bet he didn't even know it!

How it works: Topsoil may freeze, snow may fall, the sun may scorch tender leaves, but down below there are steadier temperatures. Geothermal systems harness the heat from the earth to provide continuous, 24-hours-a-day, clean, sustainable energy production. The degree of warmth depends on the geology of the area. Heat continuously flows from the core of the earth outward, mostly by conduction. Closer to the crust, solar energy is stored in the top 100 meters. Much of the earth's core heat is trapped below the crust and heats rock and water. If water or steam is trapped, it can form a geothermal reservoir. This can be harnessed for energy.

Alyssum and Lettuce: What a Pair

Have you grown lettuce, either for that hamburger or that great salad, only to find out that something got to it before you did? There's new research that will have you reaching for alyssum. That's right, I said alyssum. New studies have shown better pest control when alyssum is planted near organic lettuce. Randomly planting alyssum between lettuce plants may be very effective for aphid control. The reason? Alyssum attracts a beneficial insect known as the hover fly. The larvae will move over to the lettuce to prey on the lettuce aphid. This pest plagues California growers by colonizing the interior leaves of the lettuce.

PS: When alyssum was planted with a full complement of lettuce, the alyssum produced more blossoms per gram of alyssum dry matter, making it more valuable as an insectary plant.

Notes from the Huntington Library

It was one of the hottest days of the season...and how we appreciated the shade in the Chinese Garden! We were divided into two groups, with Glenn and his entourage making up one of them and the remainder in a second group. The hour and a half tour flew by as we marveled at the workmanship and learned that true Chinese gardens include five elements: water, stone, calligraphy, architecture, and plants. This is one of the few gardens that has all these elements.



Anne Porter and other members.

Architects from Suzhou, a Chinese city renowned worldwide for its ancient gardens, worked with Californian builders to produce a traditional Chinese landscape that continues to expand in scope and area as funds permit. The third phase is in progress with a fourth in the planning stages.

It is well worth the time just to visit this garden, but a number of special exhibits will enhance your visit, so plan to spend the day. Bring a hat, good walking shoes, water, sun block, and sunglasses and you'll be comfortable and prepared. The roses are in bloom now and are spectacular.



Glenn's group in the pavilion across the lake.