

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 20 Number 8

September 2014

September Meeting

Saturday, September 6, 2014

La Habra Branch Library

221 E. La Habra Blvd. La Habra

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

Members with last names starting with **H - Q**, 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: Plumerias with Curtis Hayes

Curtis reports: “My love for gardening began with my Grandfather and, while under his guidance, I learned to feed myself from the land. He taught me to respect the earth by giving to it and it will give back ten-fold. Over the years, by practicing what he taught, I have reaped those benefits.

I started growing plumeria and other tropical plants over 50 years ago when I married my wife. When you marry a Hawaiian woman, the plumeria comes with her; we are still together and we still have that first plumeria. At present we have over 100 varieties of plumeria at our home and I take care of numerous other plants and trees throughout Orange and LA Counties.

A few years ago, a handful of us got together and started the “South Coast Plumeria Society,” a 501(C)4. Its mission was to have fun, enjoy the plumeria and promote them along with other tropical plants for the benefit of ourselves and the community. Over the years I was granted the

honor and status of “life time member,” served two terms as president of the Society, then moved on to promoting the mission of the Society.

My educational background in the field of horticulture includes a “hands-on common sense” approach. I do not stress organic, chemicals or pesticides, as they all have their place and time to be used.”

Upcoming Programs:

Oct. 4: Native Gardens: Plant Community Garden Design with Laura Camp AND plant exchange

Nov. 2: Planting Bamboo Is Not a Crime with Ralph Evans

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Leaves from the President



Care and Feeding of Plumeria

By Anne Porter & Glenn Vodhanel

Our speaker this month, **Curtis Hayes**, will be covering **Plumeria** and how to grow them in Southern California. The plant in the photo to the



left received Best in Show at the 2013 Plumeria Show held in San Diego. I thought it might be fun to search the Internet for some of

the most common (*or uncommon*) questions. Our speaker will likely answer most if not all of our questions. We look forward to seeing you in La Habra on September 6th! Here are a few questions harvested from the internet:

Some people call them “Plummies”. Is that OK?

Since my Plummies are in the ground, should I continue to water, fertilize, etc. all year long? Or should I let them rest over the winter months? If that is the case, when should I begin to fertilize again, and what kind of fertilizer would you suggest?

I have 3 going right now (November) - all facing West. One is doing great, another seems to have gotten sick, but is now recuperating, and the 3rd is a large cutting (*about 4 feet*) and was just potted it in perlite/cactus mix. All the leaves and inflo's are drooping (I think that's normal?), but I'm not sure if I'm doing the right thing to get it to root by next Spring.

Plummies are bunched together out in the open...that is why I am thinking of draping plastic sheeting over the Plummies. Is this a good idea?

What do 40 degree temps do to the Plumeria plant? Does it mess up the cells inside?

Which varieties thrive in So California (*I'm done dealing with temperamental varieties.*)?

Have you found any of the more exotic varieties that do well around here (Yorba Linda/OC)? JL Hula Girl produces inflos so big that I had to stake it to prevent it from bending the leggy cutting. I'm also eyeing Metallica, Gina, Lava Flow, Toba's Fire.

I've heard there's a So Cal. Plumeria cutting sale on the 1st weekend of April. Any details? I've heard there is a Hawaiian Plumeria Show in San Diego. When and where is it?

What do you do to protect them and keep them from breaking in the high winds we have?

I've always heard of growing them from cuttings, but can you grow them from seed too?

If someone gives me cuttings, what should I look for to make sure I plant the best ones?

For propagation, what's the difference between “water rooting” and “cane rooting”?

I've heard that White Flies can be a problem. Is that true here in OC? I know I've had trouble with White Flies on Hibiscus.

What about viruses that cause streaks of colors in your blooms? Are they OK or should you get rid of the plant?

Respectfully Submitted,

Glenn Vodhanel,
OCIMG President

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the September meeting
or mail 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

Don Martin's Corner

They Really Suck!

Spider mites are among the most damaging and difficult to control pests. They damage plants by puncturing leaves with their mouth parts and sucking out cell contents. This results in tiny brown dots on the leaf surface called “stippling”. Extensive stippling gives foliage a gray or brown cast and reduces plant growth. They also produce a silk webbing that accumulates debris. All these symptoms happen quickly. Don't let this happen! It becomes very noticeable and should not get this far. By the first sign, it's time to take action. The two-spotted spider mite (AKA Tetranychus Urticae) is the most common spider mite. Adults are yellowish with a large black spot on each side. They are active year-round and can develop from egg to adult in as few as five days depending on host quality and temperature. They thrive during hot weather and in green houses, when their populations grow quickly. By the time you see the damage, spider mite populations can be huge. Did you know they feed on over 200 species, and yes, that includes fruits, vegetables, house plants and roses. Spider mites are prey for many predators such as green lacewing larvae, ladybugs, predator mites, thrips, and minute pirate bugs.

PS: You know, I have nothing funny to say about spider mites. It is no laughing matter. Words just fail me. Those spider mites—they really suck!

Nurseries in the News

The traveling nursery that used to be known as [Laguna Hills Nursery](#) has landed. Their new location is 1829 North Tustin Avenue in Santa Ana, site of an old Armstrong Nursery. Gary and Nancy are the owners and can be called at 714/542-5600.

The nursery has fruit trees, perennials and edibles, citrus and fruiting vines. It rounds out the list of other nurseries on Tustin Avenue - making the street a nursery-hopping destination with Laguna Hills, Flowerdale, M & M, Upland Nursery and Village.

Gardening Events

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

One-hour seminars are offered each weekend at 9am. Learn about raised gardens on Sept. 13, cooking from your garden on Sept. 20, and container gardening on Sept. 27.

Sat. – Sun. Oct. 25-26: “Orange County Rose Show”, Sat. 1:30 – 5:00pm; Sun. 9am – 4pm.

The Orange County Rose Society presents its annual Bounty of Roses show. Hundreds of blooms are entered into competition by some of the top rosarians in the U.S at this accredited show, sanctioned by The American Rose Society. The show is free and open to the general public for exhibiting. For more details, please visit rogersgardens.com. To view the schedule, visit www.orangecountyrs.org.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free classes are provided at each location. The September Saturday classes are all at 9am and include selecting roses on Sept. 13; growing cactus and succulents on Sept. 20, and planting cool-season salad greens on Sept. 27. Sunday programs at 10am on Sept. 7 and 21 focus on waterwise gardening and plants. Website is: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

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.

Sat. Oct. 4: “Fall Plant Sale”. 9am – 4pm Free!

One month early this year! Native and drought-tolerant plants, lectures, live music, and gourmet food trucks.

On the Web

Check out *Vegetable Gardening at a Glance: How to Plant and Store* from the University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources for a quick overview of what vegetables to plant when in various parts of California. Tips for fall and winter harvest, general planting requirements, and storage conditions are included. Website is: <http://ucanr.org/sites/gardenweb/files/29040.pdf>