

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 20 Number 11

December 2014

December Meeting

Saturday, December 6, 2014

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 – 9:30 a.m. Business Meeting
9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Meet & Greet
10:30– 11:00 a.m. Plants 'n Things
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Clean up

Let's enjoy every calorie at our last meeting of 2014! We will have a main dish brought in. We are asking everyone to 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-L: finger foods and appetizers

M-Z: desserts or side dish

Program: Meet and Greet OC Garden Clubs



We will have representatives from a number of gardening organizations based in Orange County. Take advantage of this opportunity to meet people who are expert in their fields and find out what activities they offer.

Let's also talk about field trips we'd like to take in 2015.

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.

Sat. Dec. 13: "Winter Prep for a Spring Meadow". 10 - 11am. Free!

Meadows are more successful when planted in time for the winter rainy season. Antonio Sanchez presents what to do now, in the autumn & winter, for a beautiful wildflower display in your garden come springtime. Free, but please RSVP.

<https://11213.blackbaudhosting.com/11213/Winter-Prep-for-a-Spring-Wildflower-Meadow>.

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

Sun. Dec. 7: "Edible Gardening", 9-10am.

Steve Hampson will emphasize planting cool season crops such as potatoes, garlic, and onion varieties appropriate for southern California.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free classes are provided at each location. A class on Poinsettias will be held Sunday, Dec. 7th at 9am & Wednesday, Dec. 10th at 3pm; Saturday, Dec. 27 at 9am is rose pruning; Sunday, Dec. 28 at 9am is fruit tree pruning. For more information, check website at: <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Rebates for Metropolitan Water District users

Rebates for turf removal, rain barrels, and soil moisture sensor devices are available from the MWD. Check out the MWD website at: <http://socialwatersmart.com/index.php/home/?p=res> for more information. Another website, <http://www.overwateringisout.org>, offers a video on how to install a rain barrel. This website also talks about the Three S's for effective water use on landscaping—slow it, spread it, and sink it. Until that rain barrel is installed, low-tech and simple suggestions for spreading the water from your downspout are described. We are entering our rainy season (we hope!), so let's get ready.

Leaves from the President



First and foremost I want to wish a happy and healthy holiday season and new year to all of our members.

This year, 2014, we have had tremendous support from our members and a number of excellent presentations during our monthly meetings.

Please remember, Orange County Independent Masters Growers is your organization and you, the members, are who make it strong and vibrant.

Please feel free to invite your friends who are interested in gardening to our meetings and participate in our master gardener training classes. I also solicit and appreciate suggestions from all of our members for our monthly meeting agendas and desired speakers.

Please keep well, keep your gardens beautiful and healthy, and I look forward to sharing time with you this coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Glenn Vodhanel,
OCIMG President

Citrus Diseases

The website, www.saveourcitrus.org, has current information on citrus diseases. Portions of Los Angeles and Orange counties are under temporary state emergency quarantine for citrus greening disease. Officials are conducting a comprehensive survey of the region to identify the extent of potential disease spread. Residents may call 800-491-1899 for information on state regulations.

All of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Riverside and Ventura counties, as well as parts of Tulare, Fresno, and Kern counties are under quarantine

for Asian citrus psyllid. This means NO moving of trees or fruit outside your area. This site also provides information on detecting citrus diseases.

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Jan Brider

I am saddened to report that former member Jan Brider passed away November 26. I well remember her lecture to us on the fine points of exhibiting roses some years ago. She was an ardent rosarian and I had the privilege of visiting her garden in Yorba Linda one year when it was on the Mary Lou Heard tour. The front of the house displayed a lovely cottage garden but her back yard was a paean to all things roses—each rose with its own name plate. She grew over 200 roses and companion plants. She moved to Menifee a few years ago after she retired and began to experience serious health problems.

She was a long-time member of the American Rose Society and the Orange County Rose Society, receiving the ARS Bronze Medal for her involvement in the local society. She was the chair of the annual OCRS Rose Show at Rogers Gardens. She will be deeply missed by her many gardening friends.

Don Martin's Corner

This One's For Rita

Sometime ago Rita Corpin had an idea of what our group could do, which was to come up with a list of toxic plants that could harm our pets. Well, the ASPCA beat us to it! On their website you can learn about specific varieties that you could grow in your garden. Most garden variety plants won't pose any harm or would be life-threatening to our pets. But doing a little research can't hurt. If an animal consumes anything that's not part of its diet in large amounts, a mild to moderate gastrointestinal imbalance may happen. The majority of herbs are safe and most fruits are as well. All outdoor pets have access to fallen fruits like apples and cherries, which have seeds often thought to be poisonous. Although they do contain cyanide, the amount is minute. Most pets don't chew the fruits thoroughly. This means seeds aren't usually broken open when ingested. It's more likely a seed could cause an obstruction in the digestive system than cause cyanide poisoning. Although it may be rare, pets might eat green tomatoes. This may cause a toxic reaction. Dogs are attracted to eating grapes, which may cause kidney failure. And if you grow avocados, some pets love them, but these can also be toxic. Plants like rhubarb, garlic, and onions consumed in large amounts may cause an adverse reaction called hemolytic anemia.

Plants Considered Toxic To Pets:

Trumpet vine	Japanese Yew
Oleander	Castor Bean
Jerusalem Cherry	Lily of the Valley
Precatory Beans	Foxglove
Azaleas	Ferns
Hydrangeas	Rhubarb
Sweet Peas	Baby's Breath

Green fruit from the Nightshade family:

Tomatoes
Potatoes
Sweet Pepper
Eggplant

The backyard is your pet's kingdom. So when we plant, we have to think of them, too.

What we need to pay attention to now are insecticides, fertilizers, and pets.

Debris from the Editor

It's the time of the year when we think about gift giving and getting. What would you like to find under wrapping paper this year? Let me share some of my ideas:

Garden Art: I'm a lover of whimsical garden art. NOT gnomes or flamingos, but this idea may come close: A sea serpent by Arizona sculptor Chris Crooks, available at uncommongoods.com.



Paderno spiralizer:

I've actually already bought this for myself and love it. Best thing for spiralizing vegetables into noodles. Lots of recipes for healthy and delicious veggie dishes at inspiralized.com



These solar illuminated planters would be beautiful along a walkway. Available at gardeners.com for \$129 each.

Cheesemaking kits: I was given the book *One Hour Cheese* by Claudia Lucero at a library conference in June and have made a few of the cheeses. She sells her kits on Etsy.com under the Urban Cheesecraft label. Delicious, easy and affordable!



Fairy gardens: Who can resist these? We may be too old to play with dolls, but this is an adorable substitute for adults. Garden centers carry accessories, but fairygardenstore.com has an amazing selection, such as this gourd fairy house. Even a mini-chicken coop and water tower!