

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 8

September 2015

September Meeting

Saturday September 12, 2015

Note: meeting is **SECOND** Saturday

**La Habra Library
221 E. La Habra Blvd.**

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.	Program
11:00	Clean-up

Members with last names starting with **H - P**, 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 with Don Sheets on Aquaponics



Paul Sheets is responsible for Construction and Installations at Living Justly. This non-profit partners with other organizations to

construct modules to help feed those in need.

You can visit their website at

www.livingjustlyindustries.org. The site address is 615 S. Palm St., La Habra, CA 90631. Or contact them at 714-814-5540. Full article on page 2.

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 at the September meeting or mail to Nancy Shaw at 9701 Holder St., Cypress, 90630

Volunteer Hours Are Due!

Send your hours to Jean Rice

Use volunteer hours form and mail or email.

Gardening Events

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

September classes, all at 9am, are: edible garden tasks on the 5th, creating a beautiful water-wise garden on the 19th, and creating seasonal plant containers on the 26th.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free morning classes are provided at each location. September classes are: cactus and succulents on the 5th, gardening basics on the 19th, and attracting songbirds on the 26th, all at 9am. For more information, check: <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. Pre-register for all classes online at <http://www.rsabg.org>.

Sat. Sept. 9: "California Admission Day"

Enjoy free garden admission all day (8 a.m. to last entry at 4:30 p.m.) with behind-the-scenes tours offered at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Early bird notice: Sat. Oct. 3 is the Fall Planting Festival at RSABG. 10am – 4pm

The Festival features thousands of California native plants for sale.

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

Thu. Sept. 10: "Plant Propagation", 9am – noon

Early Bird Notice: Fall Veggiepalooza plant sale is Oct. 3 & 4, 10am – 4pm.

Leaves from the President



For those of us who want the world to stop using neonics (systemic pesticides), here is an idea: let's start a quest for a super bee. However, someone already had this idea. We called them killer bees. Now Louisiana State University and the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture are testing the insecticide Phenothrin, which is sprayed at night. They say bees don't come in contact with it because they return to the hive at dusk. But it has been discovered that small doses have negative consequences for the bee. The U.S.D.A. is now trying to breed a colony that naturally resists Nosema Cerana, a fungal parasite from Asia. The queen is bred to be "hygienic", which means that she produces worker bees that can detect and kill a mite-infested pupae. They are also developing hygienic bees for beekeepers. Super Bee--good idea or bad idea? You decide.

Don Martin
OCIMG President

*Editor's note: A website talking about this is:
<http://www.buzzaboutbees.net/the-super-bee.html>*

Do-It-Yourself Fair at La Habra Library

Several of you signed up to teach a mini-workshop at our DIY fair, originally scheduled for October. However, the Fair has been postponed until very early June—probably the second Saturday in June, which will also be our annual business meeting—due to the fact that the library is scheduling programs for four different grants this fall and winter. The fair will be the kick-off for our Summer Reading Program.

I'll have a sign-up sheet at one of our meetings this spring to sign people up. The 30-minute mini-workshops on gardening will cover lots of different subjects—how to grow orchids, create a miniature garden, keep your plants alive in a drought, etc. A great opportunity to earn volunteer hours at a fun venue.

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Website: <https://www.ocmastergardenrs.org>

Oh, The Places We May Go This Spring!

The Japanese Garden at CSU, Long Beach: Open Sunday through Friday.
http://web.csulb.edu/~jgarden/education/Tour_Fieldtrip.html

The Coastkeeper Garden: Adjacent to the Santiago Canyon College campus in the City of Orange. This sustainable garden hosts plants from six southern California native habitats..
<http://www.coastkeeper.org/coastkeeper-garden/>

Rancho Los Alamitos: Historic rancho with large gardens. If one has a group of 10 or more you can book lunch.
www.rancholosalamitos.com

Robinson Garden in Hollywood: Open on two weekends a month. It's \$11 for adult, \$6 for seniors. Tours are at 10am and 1pm. It's on the National Historic Places Registry, built in 1911, the first luxury estate built in Beverly Hills. Remember Robinsons Department Stores?
<http://www.robinsongardens.org/>

South Coast Botanical Garden, Palos Verdes: It is one of the world's first botanical gardens to be developed over a sanitary landfill.
<http://www.southcoastbotanicgarden.org/>

Aquaponics in the Community

By Anne Porter

Living Justly Industries, Inc., headquartered in La Habra, is a non-profit organization that partners with community-minded and faith-based partners, including Storehouse Ministry of the Vineyard, North Orange County Church, the Orange County Food Bank and United Way. They build **Modular Aquaponic Systems** to feed the less fortunate, train the untrained to operate a business, save water by using a closed loop system for agriculture, and incorporate the newest technologies "off grid" systems to



produce healthy herbs, produce and healthy farm raised fish. These new growing systems can produce food in a very small area, without the typical problems associated with dirt-based

growing (over-watering, under-watering, disease, weeding).

By using the latest aquaponic technology, they provide the highest quality organic protein (fish) and vegetables to meet the physical and cultural needs of our community and partners. They feel honored to serve people in need including the following: Veterans, Special Needs groups and communities, Homeless, Senior Citizens, Working Poor, Single Parents, and Unemployed.

Living Justly Industries, Inc. wants to inspire a generation of new urban farmers that can expand this revolutionary idea into the cities, into any vacant lot, or an unused balcony. They want people to take back their food and experience the awesome, complex beauty of life. They do this by:

- Growing: the highest quality protein (fish) and produce to give away to those in need.
- Showing: they are a research & design facility to be used for training and educating.
- Teaching: create career paths by equipping those in need to become self-sufficient.

- Engaging: building bridges through our community to solve problems.

They have created a scalable aquaponic / hydroponic urban farm module to meet various needs. They install community gardens and can design and build it to fit your foot print. They provide the technical side which can include: power / solar / controls, various styles greenhouse & hoop-houses, commercial vertical grow towers and community gardens for indoors and outdoors

In addition, they sell Mini Aquaponics Systems, Hydrogrow Towers, and Solar Grow Towers.



Top Ten California Friendly plants

From the MWD of So.Cal. at BeWaterWise.com

A California Friendly® garden is filled with native and low-water use plants perfectly suited to our mild winters and warm, dry summers. They are low maintenance, use little to no water, don't need soil preparation or fertilizing and even attract wildlife like birds and butterflies. Here are some favorites to start with. For a more complete catalogue of plant possibilities, garden ideas, rebate information and conservation tips, visit bewaterwise.com.

1. Deer Grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*)

This native California grass is narrow-leafed and forms a dense clump up to 2-3 feet high and wide. The bright green leaves are joined by spiky cream-colored flowers in spring that stand tall at first, and lean a little later, rising 2 feet above the leaves. The deer grass is drought tolerant and does best with little to moderate water in full sun or light shade. An added bonus: deer grass attracts helpful garden bugs like spiders and ladybugs

2. Coral Bells or Alum Root (*Heuchera*)

Slender, spiky stems of loose, small bell-shaped flowers grow from clumps of round scalloped leaves. The delicate blossoms come in shades of

red, coral, rose pink, greenish and white. Most varieties bloom between early spring and late summer, with some lasting until fall. They work great in cut arrangements and are long-lasting. In warmer areas, they do best with afternoon shade and moderate to regular water. And, hummingbirds like them.

3. Baby Blue-Eyes (Nemophila)

With a charming name and abundant blossoms, the “Pennie Black” variety produces blackish purple flowers rimmed in white. Other varieties, more true to their name, are sky-blue blossoms. The plants grow in full sun or partial shade and require moderate water. They grow 6 to 12 inches high and trail to 1 foot wide. The bell-shaped flowers bloom in spring and the ferny leaves give the plants a delicate look.

4. Malva Rosa (Lavatera assurgentiflora ‘Purissima’)

Easy-to-grow flowering shrub with abundant beautiful striped blooms. This variety grows to 8 feet tall and others can grow as high as 12 feet tall and wide. An evergreen, the Malva Rosa requires little to moderate water. It is often used for background, hillside and screen planting.



5. Douglas Iris (Iris douglasiana)

This easygoing and easy-growing iris is native to the California coast. A spring bloomer, the Douglas Iris has evergreen leaves and long stems up to 2 feet that are sometimes branched and crowned with purple and blue shaded flowers. They like sun to light shade and moderate to little water in summer with well-drained soil. Many cultivated varieties are available with yellow, rose, burgundy and purple flowers.

6. Bigberry Manzanita (Arctostaphylos glauca)

This native Californian has blue-gray leaves, which offset clusters of pink to white urn-shaped flowers. The flowers bloom in late winter to early spring and are followed by berrylike red or brown fruits that attract birds. Known for its crooked branches of dark purple/brown bark, this

variety is a tall shrub that can spread up to 15 feet tall and 20 feet wide. There are many different varieties of manzanita; all are evergreen, take full sun or light shade and require little to moderate water

7. California Lilac (Ceanothus)

The California lilac blooms late winter to spring with clusters of flowers in white and every shade of blue from very light to deep violet. Generally an evergreen, the California Lilac comes in all shapes and sizes including low and spreading, tightly grouped and bushy, and standing-up and angular. Only a few varieties lose their leaves in cold weather. They require full sun and little to no water.

8. Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)

Toyon is also known as Christmasberry or California Holly for its brilliant red berry clusters from November through January. It’s a large evergreen shrub, with thick, leathery, glossy green leaves 2 to 4 inches long. It has small white flowers in flattish clusters, which bloom June through July. Toyon requires full sun and can tolerate low moisture. It attracts birds.

9. Seaside Daisy, Beach Aster (Erigeron glaucus)

Another native Californian, this free-blooming plant has purple daisy-like flowers with yellow centers. It flowers in the spring and summer and grows in clumps about 1 foot high and 2 feet wide. It likes full sun or light shade and requires moderate water in warmer areas.



10. Hummingbird Sage (Salvia spathacea)

This hardy, small clumping sage is a magnet for hummingbirds because of its spikes of deep magenta flowers. This sage prefers shade to partial sun and requires moderate water, although its root system helps it to survive drought