

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 11

December 2015

## December Meeting

**Saturday December 5, 2015**

**New Location!**

**Common Ground Community Garden  
1220 S. Garden St.**

**On Katella just east of Brookhurst  
Anaheim, CA.**

### 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. Focus Group  
11:00 – 11:30 a.m. Clean up

Our annual holiday get together! 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: desserts or side dish

I-P: finger foods and appetizers

Q-Z: casseroles, main dish, or other hearty food

*Note: we will be outside and there is no electrical power. Be prepared for the weather. Hey, this is California, the epitome of the outdoor lifestyle! Where else could we picnic outside in December?*

## Focus Groups

We need to find a new meeting site. The location at the Santa Ana district office is no longer available due to their concerns about liability. Be ready to brainstorm possible locations. We meet August – June with no meeting in July and two field trips a year. June 2016 meeting will be at La Habra Library as we will be participating in the garden track of the Do It Yourself Festival.

## Gardening Events

**Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens** 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont, CA 91711, just off Foothill Blvd. Pre-register for all classes online at <http://www.rsabg.org>.

**Sat. Dec. 5: "Open House"**. 10am – 4:30pm. Free admission to the garden.

Find unique gifts and enjoy tastings at the Garden Gift Shop until 3pm. Visit with Santa at the Garden Gift Shop from noon until 2 pm.

**Sat. Dec. 19: "Gardening: California Native Plant Propagation: Winter"**, 9am – noon. \$45

How to sow seed, take cuttings and prepare divisions of some of California's most popular native plants. All will receive great take home materials.

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

**Sat. - Sun. Dec. 5-6: "Cactus & Succulent Sale"**, 10am – 4pm

Arrive early for best selection!

**Armstrong Nurseries**: Free morning classes are provided at each location. Sunday, December 13 at 9am features a class on Poinsettia Planters. Learn which plants combine best and their care. <http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

We wish you and your families the happiest and healthiest of holidays!

May your gardens always bloom.

# Leaves from the President



“Get Back to Your Future”

I was looking at a ball signed by Yogi Berra, when I recalled a Yogiism I heard: the future ain't what it used to be! He sure did leave us with some gems. I can picture him sitting on a cloud in heaven, slinging back a few with Einstein and Socrates, each scratching their heads and with a somewhat confused look. He made sense to himself, and that's the person you need to be accountable to. I suppose that somewhat confused look is common to some of us older folks. I'm talking about people of a certain age who didn't grow up with a smart phone in one hand and a caramel macchiato in the other.

I agree with him that the future isn't what it used to be. The future is tiring and requires time to understand, assess, and integrate the barrage of breakthroughs and innovation. And it also requires reading glasses, darn it! The future isn't what it used to be because we have less of it. We have less time to anticipate, to prepare, to ponder—to ask ourselves the questions of whether what we are doing is the thing we ought to be doing. We just do it. While that may be a great slogan for a shoe company, I'd argue our lives might be a little less chaotic and uncontrolled if we just push the “pause” button on occasion. Even “slow-mo” would do. It's OK to take a trip to a far-off destination, but that's not the kind of pause I'm talking about. Rather, during the slower months, make a weekly hour-long date with a carrel in the local library. Bring paper and a pen (better yet, a mechanical pencil), leave the phone in the car, write down the things you miss or are missing and ponder how you can find them again. Or consider the next steps—the big picture, a 10-, 20-, or 30-year plan. Really think about it. Take back the time today's society steals from us! Just an hour a week and get back your future.

Don Martin, OCIMG President

## ☎ Contacts

Don Martin, *President* (714) 778-1045  
Email: donaldmartin946@yahoo.com

Nancy Shaw, *Treasurer* (714) 527-1619  
Email: nancy01@dslextre.me.com

Mark Gotts, *1st<sup>d</sup> Vice Pres* (714) 348-5184  
Email: sttogkram@gmail.com

Glenn Vodhanel *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.* (714) 609-9876  
Email: : glennv@progressivesolutions.com

Cerise Outhier, *Corresponding Secretary*

Mary McMurrin, *Recording Secretary*

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic* (714) 289-0119  
Email: fredswdwrks@cox.net

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor* (714) 256-2084  
Submit articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month via:

e-mail at [jillpatterson@yahoo.com](mailto:jillpatterson@yahoo.com)

or snail mail: 1485 Arrowwood, Brea 92821

Jean Rice, *Vol. Hours* (562) 430-5969  
[jmrice23@yahoo.com](mailto:jmrice23@yahoo.com)

309 N. Sandpiper Dr., Long Beach, 90803

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

In honor of the newest Star Wars movie,  
Carmine Master sent this photo:



The Darth Vader (Aristolochia  
Salvadorensis) aka Dutchman's Pipe

## Memories of Virginia Carlson



Good morning. This is Stephania Bommarito, sister to Alan Carlson and daughter of Virginia Carlson. I remember her interest in this

group and that she was a very active member. There was not a memorial service due to the circumstances and the suddenness of her death. She unexpectedly became very ill on September 23rd. By the following Monday, we arranged for hospice care. She died on October 5th. The family had a small celebration of her life on Saturday before she died when the whole family was assembled together in her garden of 50 years. Due to the circumstances and suddenness of her death, a memorial service was not held. The garden club and the rose society each had a moment of remembrance at their October meetings. I do know she enjoyed being a part of the group and looked forward to sharing her abundant information about how to grow anything with anyone who asked. Being a Master Gardener was a title she treasured. – daughter Stephania Bommarito

Virginia was a founding member of the original Orange County master gardeners and a past president of OCIMG. She was a credentialed rosarian and judge but more than that, she was an expert flower gardener. The front of her house and the strip by her curb were always a showstopper. She taught a number of our master gardener classes, specializing in annuals and roses. I remember her as a thoughtful, caring woman who was generous with her time and knowledge. – Jill Patterson

For years, Virginia was a judge for the national rose shows and she was a popular speaker to garden groups, particularly rose garden clubs. She loved to 'show off a little' and would walk around and name every rose. No reading labels, no knowing the newest rose.....she knew by sight and smell every rose. – Jerry Young

## Proposal from Robert Shaw

A suggestion was presented at the November meeting regarding the possibility of incorporating a potting bench at the community garden in Anaheim with a possible 'joint effort' with the hydroponics provider who came to our meeting in September. It was decided by those attending that the group have a pot luck dinner at the community garden where this could be discussed by a larger group of us.

The basic idea is to combine an effort in vegetable seedling production with the community garden and hydroponics provider. The potting bench would be manned by us for MG volunteer hours, the seedlings would be made available at cost to customers of the hydroponics distributor, the community garden families and our own OCIMG Plants & Things.

We would be a supplier of vegetable seedlings for those who buy the hydroponics towers so that their customers could have a turnkey experience, the plants would be customized as best to conform to the towers (bare root?). The families at the community garden could observe seedling production and purchase their starts from us. We would manage any waste by bringing any overproduction of seedlings to Plants & Things for our members. The potting bench would be on a timer and drip water system. Volunteer hours would be to pot and maintain seed/seedlings on a rotation schedule.

This may be a way to gain visibility for a MG class, both with the hydroponic customers and community garden users. One interesting side comment at the November meeting was "who knows how to grow seedlings?" We were reminded that we are Master Gardeners who should have, or can get, the skills needed.

*Editor's note: We are meeting at Common Grounds so we can view the site before we take a vote on this proposal. Some issues to consider are security, number of hours OCIMG needs to commit, and cost.*