

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 1

January 2015

## January Meeting

**Saturday, January 3, 2015**

**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 **A-G**, 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: Mounting Staghorn Ferns with Mike Moody

Mike Moody is president of the L.A. International Fern Society and was chair of their annual sale in July at the L.A. Arboretum. The group meets at the Arboretum on the third Friday at 7:30pm. The organization has a spore store and sells packets for .50 plus SASE. For more information, see: <http://www.laifs.org/spore.html>



## Gardening Events

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

**Sat. Jan 10:** “Rose Pruning”, 9 - 10am

A review of basic information will be followed by a hands-on experience in the rose garden.

**Sat. Jan 17:** “CA Friendly Gardening Solutions Series”, 9 - 10am

Design ideas and tips on small space gardening with native plants.

**Sat. Jan 24:** “Five Design Recipes for a Colorful Spring Garden”, 9 - 10am

Learn five design choices, including, “Low Water Garden,” “Butterfly and Hummingbird Garden,” and “California Cottage Garden.” and receive handouts with step-by-step instructions.

**Armstrong Nurseries:** Free classes are provided at each location. January classes include creating a terrarium on the 4<sup>th</sup>, rose and fruit tree pruning on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>. Orchid care is on the 17<sup>th</sup> and fairy gardens on the 31<sup>st</sup>. For times and details, see

<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. Jan. 31:** “California Native Plant Propagation: Winter”. 9am – noon \$36/member \$45/public

Learn the basics of California native plant propagation with hands-on instruction. All will receive take home materials, including plant materials that participants have begun to propagate! Limited to 20 participants.

# Leaves from the President



Let me begin by wishing everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

I look forward to some very interesting speakers this year, starting on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Mike Moody will present and demonstrate how to Dismount & Remount Staghorn Ferns on new Boards followed by Steven Kutcher, on February 7<sup>th</sup>, who will present Garden Insects & Why Flowers Change Colors including a demonstration of flowers actually changing colors.

We have updated our [www.ocmastergardeners.org](http://www.ocmastergardeners.org) website and would appreciate any comments and suggestions that you may have; please send them to [info@ocmastergardeners.org](mailto:info@ocmastergardeners.org).

Let's make this a banner year by attending and participating in our monthly meetings and field trips, encouraging our friends and neighbors to become Master Gardeners by attending our classes and continuing to maintain our gardens.

Respectfully yours,  
Glenn Vodhanel,  
OCIMG President

## Don Martin's Corner

### The Flag

This past September 14, 2014, was the 200<sup>th</sup> celebration of the Star-Spangled Banner that is proudly displayed in the Smithsonian. This flag was hoisted over Fort McHenry to celebrate a crucial

victory over British forces on September 14, 1812. The celebration took place two years later, on September 14, 1814. This flag inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star-Spangled Banner, which became our national anthem!



Smithsonian Nat'l Museum

## Water Conservation: Just Do It

This may not be the best news, but a number of sources recently offered elevated predictions of more drought. The latest report issued by researchers at Cornell University, the University of Arizona, and the U.S. Geological Survey, stated that they had underestimated the risk of future droughts. Using what they call "more complete methods of risk assessment", they offered something unnerving: a list of projections about the southwest. There is an 80% chance of a decade-scale mega drought in the coming century, rather than the 50% chance initially predicted using previous assessment methods. The likelihood of a longer drought (more than 35 years) is between 20% and 50%.

So, are you thinking about water conservation now? Mark Twain said: "Whisky is for sipping and water is for fighting over"! So I guess we will see. For more information, go to [journals.ametsoc.org](http://journals.ametsoc.org) (Journal of the American Meteorological Society).

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## Ideas For a Thirsty California

Excerpted from UCR Magazine, Fall 2014

**The Problem:** The drought is forcing California to reuse water for agriculture, but our country doesn't have the right tools or policies in place.

**The Solution:** Adopt strategies from Israel, a worldwide leader in reclaimed or recycled water.

When it comes to agriculture in Israel, nature isn't on its side. The land is plagued with poor soil conditions, a harsh climate, rugged terrain and chronic water shortages from drought and disputes with neighboring countries over water rights. And yet this desert blooms. What is Israel doing right?

Sharon Walker, a professor of chemical and environmental engineering at the Bourns College of Engineering, went to the country to find out.

The country goes to heroic lengths to use resources sparingly. According to the Global Water Fund, over 80 percent of all municipal sewage is reclaimed in Israel, far more than that of any other country. (The United States, by comparison, recycles 2 to 3 percent of its municipal waste.) It's estimated that treated wastewater will cover 50 percent of Israel's agricultural needs by 2020.

For many years, Israel has been practicing "desert agriculture" techniques, many of which were learned from the Nabateans, an ancient people that ruled the region for a few hundred years beginning before 300 B.C. They collected and conserved rainwater, which allowed them to establish and run thriving spice trade routes across the Middle East.

Recently, Israeli scientists have been able to genetically engineer crops with salty "brackish" water from large aquifers beneath the Negev. Brackish water agriculture has achieved record strides and enabled Israel to export 50 percent of its produce.

In the U.S., agriculture accounts for about 80 percent of the nation's consumptive water use. And yet in a USDA report, the U.S. ranked last among 147 countries in water efficiency. "[Israel's] re-use strategy is one that California

must adopt at a large scale—for agriculture and other potable applications— if we are to not only survive the drought, but to flourish in a climate-change-plagued future," Walker says.

For the full story, see:

<http://magazine.ucr.edu/text/fall-2014.html#p8>

## Seed Libraries in Danger?

The Duluth Public Library in Minnesota started a popular seed-sharing program which attracted 200 members who borrowed 800 packets of seeds in its first year. In September, the library got a surprise visit from a Minnesota Department of Agriculture seed inspector. He informed the library it was violating Minnesota's seed law, which regulates the selling of seeds. Anyone who sells, trades or exchanges seeds in Minnesota must follow state rules that require proper labeling. They also must pay a \$50 permitting fee and have the seeds tested to make sure they germinate properly.

The law is intended to create a level playing field for seed companies and protect consumers — even library patrons. The problem with such state laws is that they were written to regulate the commercial seed industry — not small-scale community exchanges, said Neil Thapar, an attorney for the California based Sustainable Economies Law Center. His group started advocating for seed libraries earlier this year when the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture told a library it couldn't accept seeds from patrons. Nebraska has taken a similar position.

The Duluth City Council has unanimously passed a resolution asking the Legislature to change Minnesota's "seed law" to allow for the free exchange of seeds.

When the Legislature convenes in January, State Sen. Roger Reinert, DFL-Duluth, plans to propose an amendment to the law that would exempt seed libraries and seed sharing from its requirements for testing and labeling if there is no exchange of money. For the full story, see:  
<http://www.mprnews.org/story/2014/12/16/duluth-seed-exchange>