

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 21 Number 3

March 2015

## March Meeting

**Saturday, March 7, 2015**

**Field Trip to Reata Park**  
**28632 Ortega Highway**  
**San Juan Capistrano**  
**Meet at 1pm**

We'll meet at the new Reata Park by the Farm House next to the parking lot. Family & friends welcome, but please RSVP to Jill so we have a count of how many to expect.

This 18-acre public open space area is the last piece of the city's 132-acre open space purchase. The Open Space Foundation developed a plan for the area that would preserve its rustic beauty and make it accessible for all. After more than 7,000 hours donated by Foundation volunteers and an outpouring of contributions from the community, Reata Park opened in May 2014.

The thoughtful design of the park is evident as tree-lined walkways, scenic event spaces, and native plant landscaping flow seamlessly through the area. The native plant garden is one of the largest and most extensive in California. To preserve a slice of the city's history, the nearly 100-year-old structure located on the property has been carefully restored and now serves as the park's new Welcome Center.

While in the area, visit Tree of Life Nursery or Stevens Garden at 27401 Ortega Hwy. It's on the north side of Ortega Hwy. on the way to Tree of Life. Less than a mile from the 5, it has one of the most extensive selections of pots and garden fountains you will find anywhere in Southern California. Trails throughout the property wind below the lush canopy alive with bird song and reveal fish ponds, fountains, and troves of pottery, fountains, and succulents at good prices.

## Gardening Events

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

**Fri. – Sun. March 6-8: “Tomatomania”**, 11am  
Over 150 tomato varieties on sale; plus free seminars. See <http://rogersgardens.com/seminars-events/tomatomania/> for more details.

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

**Sat.-Sun March 21-22: “Veggiepalooza”**, 9am - 4pm

Buy from 350 varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and companion plants. List of plants and lectures at:  
[http://fullertonarboretum.org/ps\\_veggiePalooza.php](http://fullertonarboretum.org/ps_veggiePalooza.php).

**Armstrong Nurseries**: Free morning classes are provided at each location. March classes include: Growing berries on the 7<sup>th</sup>, tomatoes on the 14<sup>th</sup>; vegetables & herbs on the 15<sup>th</sup>; and container gardening on the 22<sup>nd</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. March 14: “Spring Open House & Plant Sale”**. 10am – 3pm/FREE

Free admission. A wonderful time to visit the native plant gardens.

**Upcoming: Mary Lou Heard 2015 Memorial Garden Tour will be held May 2-3.** Website is: <http://www.heardsgardentour.com/>

# Leaves from the President



I'm sure that those who were able to attend our February meeting really enjoyed the presentation by Steven Kutcher, during which he presented rather a comprehensive discussion of bugs in the garden and also demonstrated what causes flowers to change color. Steven has provided insects for a large gamut of films, (<http://bugsaemybusiness.com/>). He also showed us art created by dipping insect legs in paint: (<http://bugartbysteven.com/>).

Our next event is a field trip to the Goin' Native therapeutic gardens at the Reata Park in San Juan Capistrano on March 7<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 PM. We will meet at the farm house.

I wish to thank everyone for their continued support and remind all that we welcome newcomers to our meetings and will sponsor Master Gardner classes for groups of 10 or more.

Respectfully submitted,  
Glenn Vodhanel, President

## Don Martin's Corner It's Just That Simple

You know, I can understand growers wanting a better mouse trap for insects in the greenhouses. But due to issues with potential direct and indirect effects on honeybees and bumble bees, growers are being pressured to consider using alternative insecticides to combat the big six: aphids, whiteflies, mealybugs, scales, and fungus gnats (larvae).. One thing we as gardeners must do is read the label! Applications have to be timed appropriately, especially when applied as a granule or a soil drench. If you have questions about using granules or a drench, contact the company.

PS: When in doubt, use soap and water or predators or beneficial nematodes. It's just that simple.

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Website: [http:// www.ocmastergardeners.org](http://www.ocmastergardeners.org)

## Coming Up: June Plant Exchange

All plants need to be labeled with the botanical and common names and include care instructions. Vegetables, perennials, succulents, herbs, trees and annuals are all welcome. Start your plants now to ensure they are well-rooted.

## And a free newsletter...

Marylou Heard Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit, has a free garden newsletter that is emailed monthly. The February newsletter features gardener and Board member Jennifer McInteer as their guest writer writing on drought-tolerant gardening. To register for a cop, see: <http://www.heardsgardentour.com/newsletters/>

## And while in San Juan Capistrano

Visit the Los Rios Historic District, one of California's oldest neighborhoods. Los Rios Park, at 31747 Los Rios Street, has native plants, an original adobe structure and photographic plaques along the Historic Depiction Program wall. Shop for whimsical garden supplies across the street at Cottage Home and Garden or dine on locally-sourced produce at Ramos House Café, a few doors down. . O'Neill Museum is a Victorian-style house at 31831 Los Rios St.

## Milan World's Fair

The 2015 International Expo Milan, will take on one of the globe's most vexing questions: How do we feed a future of 9 billion people without destroying the planet itself? The expo, which runs from May through October, will bring together more than 140 countries to share possible solutions.

At the helm of the USA Pavilion at the Expo is Dorothy Cann Hamilton, founder and chief executive of the International Culinary Center in New York. After persuading the U.S. government to have a presence in the expo, Hamilton agreed to organize the effort with the help of the James Beard Foundation and the blessing — if not the funding — of the State Department.

The exterior of the 40,000-square-foot space, for which Hamilton is raising \$60 million in private donations to build, will feature a [vertical farm](#) harvested by acrobats and robotics, while two floors of exhibits and panel discussions inside will spark conversation on such topics as [genetically modified organisms](#) (GMOs) and America's [obesity](#) epidemic. The expo's 30 million expected visitors also can get a taste of American cuisine at the pavilion, which will feature food trucks (think lobster rolls and po' boys), a mini James Beard House and, yes, cocktail and burger bars.

In an interview with Hamilton, the question of GMOs was asked. Her response: "I think GMOs are going to be a focal point. How silly would it be — what would people think — if we didn't talk about GMOs in the American food pavilion? They'd say we're avoiding it, that we're not being realistic about what's going on in America, so we have to confront it. I think there is a real need for education, exploration and discussion about the place of GMOs and the challenge of feeding the world.

We are going to provide a great platform to discuss the pros and cons not only of GMOs, but also of every other, let's say, challenge out there and what the alternatives are. But we want to make sure that we have equally matched representation on either side. I want to hear equally educated people on the topic talk, because

I don't think I've ever been able to get that. And I think it's going to be fascinating."

Our president, Glenn, is attending. Are you?

Full article at:

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/food/2015-expo-milan-at-worlds-fair-the-us-pavilion-is-poised-to-address-the-big-issues/2014/08/09/8578dbf8-1e79-11e4-ab7b-696c295ddfd1\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/food/2015-expo-milan-at-worlds-fair-the-us-pavilion-is-poised-to-address-the-big-issues/2014/08/09/8578dbf8-1e79-11e4-ab7b-696c295ddfd1_story.html)

## Book Reviews

### By Jill Patterson

*Groundbreaking Food Gardens: 73 plans that will change the way you grow your garden* by Niki Jabbour. Storey Publishing, 2014. \$19.95

The author met with garden bloggers, designers, horticulturists, TV hosts, botanical garden designers, and educators for their ideas in creating edible gardens. Plans, layout, and plant suggestions are provided for a multitude of themes. Raised beds, living walls, lasagna gardening, and containers are among the many styles described. Topics range from partially shaded vegetables to orchards and touch on chickens, pollinators, wildlife, power foods, and foraging. Start here if you are looking for creative ideas to incorporate edible plants in your landscape.

*Hellstrip Gardening: create a paradise between the sidewalk and the curb* by Evelyn J. Hadden. Timber Press, 2014. \$24.95

What do you do with that piece of city-owned property known as the parking strip, meridian, verge or inferno strip? If you're Virginia Carlson, you create a flower garden that blooms year round and stops traffic every spring. If you're me, you put in plants that need minimal care and hope for the best. Evelyn offers something in-between and beyond, with hundreds of color photographs. She tries to cover the entire U.S., which means many ideas are unsuitable for California, but the basic tenets are universal. Waterwise ideas are included as well as the caveat to check city regulations.

Both books are available at your local OC Public Library branches.