

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 1

January 2016

January Meeting

Saturday January 9, 2016
Second Saturday! New Location!
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1421 W. Ball Rd.
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.	Program
11:00	Clean-up

Members with last names starting with **R - Z**, 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: Chicken In Your Garden with Mark Gotts



Several of us have been lucky enough to win a half-dozen of Mark's eggs at our Plants 'n Things. Now we can find out how he raises them and how they interact with his garden. Mark teaches English literature at Whittier High School, lives in Fullerton, and is married with four sons and three grandsons. His household also includes eight hens, seven rabbits (today), Jacob's duck, Andrew Jackson (cat), and an active opossum.

Gardening Events

Armstrong Nurseries: Free morning classes are provided at each location. January 16 at 9am features starting a vegetable garden from seed; January 23 at 9am is rose pruning and later at 11am is fruit tree pruning; January 30 is how to grow berries.

<http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Irvine Ranch Water District 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine.

Wed. Jan. 13: "How to prepare your landscape for spring and summer". 6 - 8pm.

Plants, pruning, soils, inspecting your sprinkler system and overall landscape care that will aid you in your gardening efforts.

Sat. Jan. 16: "Rainwater Harvesting Workshop & Rebate Event". 8am – noon at the Home Depot in Lake Forest at 20021 Lake Forest Road.

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

Thurs. Jan. 14: "Plant Propagation Class"., 9am – noon. This class is held every second Thursday of the month except in April. \$5/members and \$10/non-members

This class will explore techniques used to propagate native California and drought tolerant plants from seeds/cuttings collected from the Arboretum.

Prince of Peace is our permanent meeting place unless we find another, centrally located site that does not charge. Our June meeting will be held at the La Habra Library so that OCIMG can participate in the Do-It-Yourself Festival.

Leaves from the President



The Banker Plant

Aphids are common pests. The most common ones are the green peach aphid and the melon aphid. Growers are now turning to biological controls. One of these methods is the use of a banker plant. Banker plants were developed to address the problem of keeping *Aphidius* Colemani, a small wasp (1/8 of an inch in length) that lays eggs inside the aphids so that the larvae can feed on them. Banker plants provide food or hosts to sustain natural enemies in greenhouses.

And, on another note: the potting shed at the Fullerton Arboretum will be turned into a bonsai pavilion by Green Scene. There are about six bonsai clubs in Orange County. No word if the shed will be renamed, if it's permanent, or if part of the potting shed will remain.

Editor's note: For more information on Banker Plants: <https://ag.umass.edu/sites/agcenter/files/pdf-doc-ppt/AphidBankerPlantSystem.pdf>

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New Products for Gardeners

Don Martin shared three brochures on new garden products that he requested be put in the newsletter for all our edification.

The Composting Warehouse: The tag line is



“bringing you the best of Swedish ingenuity and design”. The card shows three sizes of a Joraform compost tumbler which can transform all kitchen waste, including “apple cores, grass clippings, even meat scraps and bones”.

Their headquarters is in Mission Viejo and the website is: <http://www.compostingwarehouse.com/>. The telephone is 949-273-3701. Prices range from \$319 to \$799 plus tax and shipping is free.

Tower Garden by Juice

PLUS: This looks and sounds very similar to the Living Justly aquaponics system that was demonstrated at our September meeting.

However, this system states that it uses “aeroponics”. The website describes it thusly: “Aeroponics is a technological leap forward from traditional hydroponics.



Aeroponics is sometimes considered a type of hydroponics, as it does use water to transmit nutrients to plants and thus requires no soil. Technically, however, true hydroponics uses water as the growing medium; aeroponics has no growing medium.

Tower Garden has a 20 gallon reservoir or storage tank at its base. This reservoir stores the Tower Garden Mineral Blend nutrient solution (Mineral Blend combined with water). Inside the reservoir is a small, low wattage submersible pump. The pump pushes the nutrient solution up through a small central hose, all the way to the top of your Tower Garden. From there, the nutrient solution drips through the central “tower” of the Tower Garden using a special device that evenly cascades the nutrient solution over the plant roots that are exposed there.” A complete system costs \$545 and even includes seeds.

Gro-O Garden: This is a fancy raised bed garden system. The website is www.gro-O.com. The company was started by Karen Cancilla who, as best as can be determined, lives in Alta Loma,



California. The company offers after-school gardening programs and home garden installation and maintenance. Container gardens starting at \$100 are available and their most popular product is their 4'x8'x18" raised bed planter for \$1199. It includes planter, seat topper, irrigation system with a timer, a trellis, plus delivery, installation, soil and compost, seeds and/or starter plants, wire, weed liner and 30 days of FREE complete maintenance.

Let me know if you have tried any of these products and please share your opinions and experiences.

Preserving Vintage Roses

The Friends of Vintage Roses has a mission to preserve old roses. Beginning in the early 1980s, Gregg Lowery and Phillip Robinson, with the assistance of others, developed their collection through gifts of plant material from then still-existent old gardens or small nurseries in the United States, from cuttings propagated from old plants discovered in California and other states at abandoned homesteads, old cemeteries and the like, and by purchasing and importing cultivars no longer available elsewhere from specialized nurseries abroad. This passion for old roses resulted in documented inventories of 5,412 named cultivars.

While some of the cultivars cannot be found in the collection at present, TFoVR is working to inventory all existing plants and to obtain replacements for lost specimens deemed worthy

of continued representation in the collection. Roses in the collection have been the source of propagation material provided to numerous public rose gardens worldwide, including the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, the Historic Rose Garden in the Sacramento Historic City Cemetery, the UC Botanical Garden (Berkeley), the Huntington Botanical Gardens (San Marino), and Hearst Castle State Park (San Simeon). Plant material from the collection also has provided replacements for old roses long missing from the rose gardens at Roseaie de l'Hay-les-roses in Paris, the Europa-Rosarium in Sangerhausen, Germany and in the United Kingdom, the National Trust's historic rose garden at Mottisfont Abbey. Their website is: <http://thefriendsofvintageroses.org/>

With the closing of Vintage Roses, it's good to know that there is still an organization dedicated to preserving these antique specimens.

Debris from the Editor

Our December meeting was held at the Common Ground Community Garden in Anaheim. I'd like to share my impressions. The Garden is a large area, completely fenced in, with a locked gate. This provides some security and helps keep out those critters that could play havoc.

There were some very well maintained plots and others that have been let go for the winter. There are permanent art and education boards created as part of a Girl Scout Gold Award project, plus tables and seating. Future plans include adding an orchard, more plots, and possibly more seating. There is water, but no electricity. And, most important, no restrooms, which pretty much means that people can only stay for a short time unless they live in the neighborhood and can make a quick trip to use their facilities. Small children and those of us of a certain age need that type of access!

Nick has asked our help to join their Board, provide gardening advice, and start plants that can be sold or given to people renting plots. I can see lots of possibilities for this land and for the Common Ground program. We talked about having our own OCIMG demonstration plot where we could grow seedlings to sell or give away or use at our meetings. All it takes is time and commitment from us.