

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 2

February 2016

February Meeting

Saturday February 6, 2016
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 **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: ???

The OCIMG Board is confirming our speaker for the February meeting. Come on Saturday and be surprised!

We will be talking about our June meeting and the Do-It-Yourself festival. We would also like to have an update on the Common Ground program.



Gardening Events

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

Sat./Sun. Feb. 20-21: "The 3rd annual Daffodil show". 9am – 5pm. Free.

Dozens of familiar and unusual California-grown Daffodil varieties will be on display. Customers are invited to bring Daffodil (Narcissus) stems for entry and display. Bring your entry, with the variety name, if known, before 11 AM Saturday.

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

Thurs. Feb. 11: "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.

Sat. Feb. 20: "Composting II" 10-11:30am

Learn how to build and improve your composting system and speed up the process of turning yard clippings and food scraps into soil.

Tree of Life Nursery 33201 Ortega Highway,
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675, tel. 949/728-0685

Sat. Feb. 13: "Create a Native Habitat Container" 9:30 - 11:00am. \$15 includes soil, plants, and decorative stones; bring or buy your own container. Pre-register or walk-in.

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



Registering Pesticides

A group of petitioners concerned about bee health too the US EPA to court in early September of last year. The US 9th Circuit of Appeals cancelled the EPA's approval of the systemic pesticide sulfoxaflor, sending them back to the drawing board to gather additional information on the active ingredients and the impact on pollinators. The Court concluded that "because the EPA's decision to unconditionally register sulfoxaflor was based on flawed and limited data, the EPA's unconditional approval was not supported by substantial evidence." Both the EPA and DOW AgroSciences, the developer of sulfoxaflor, are staying relatively quiet about their next move. The Court's written decision criticizes at length the EPA's process and conclusions, leaving some pondering the implications on other pesticide registrations.

Was the EPA wrong to register this pesticide? I don't think so! But the 9th Circuit Court does.

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Territorial Seed Company

By Jill Patterson

Which are your favorite seed companies? I have profiled a few in previous newsletters. I recently received a catalog from Territorial Seed Company, located in Cottage Grove, Oregon. Founded by Steve Solomon in 1972, the company was bought by its current owners, Tom and Julie Johns, in 1985.

Solomon is still involved in gardening. The 35th anniversary edition of Solomon's book, *Growing Vegetables West of the Cascades: The Complete Guide to Organic Gardening* was just published December 2015 and he has other books out on organic gardening, all targeting the northwestern United States.

Many, but not all, of Territorial Seed Company's products are organic. They specialize in vegetables, especially lettuces, tomatoes, cucumbers, and squashes. They grow 20% of their own seed.

However, based on reviews, I am hesitant to recommend ordering from them. Their shipping charges are high and there have been complaints of erroneous credit card charges and slow shipping times. No complaints about their seed germination or the quality of their plants. If you've ordered from them, what has your experience been?

Coming Events at La Habra Library

The La Habra Library is a recipient of a California State Library funded grant, Book to Action, administered by the California Center for the Book. The focus of the La Habra's grant is water and two books have been selected for discussion: *The Water Knife* by Paolo Bacigalupi, a thriller set in the near future with Arizona and Nevada fighting for shares of Colorado River water; and *Water Wars* by Cameron Stracher, a teen book set in a future where water is more precious than gold and drinkable water is held by a powerful few.

Even more exciting, two programs have been scheduled in the spring to talk about gray water recycling with a hands-on project to build a gray water system. Dates to be confirmed and will be shared in our next newsletter.

More on Sulfoxaflor

Excerpts from an article in the May 2013 Canadian magazine, Western Producer:

“The Centre for Food Safety (in Canada) said sulfoxaflor is highly toxic to bees and is similar to a class of insecticides called neonicotinoids, which were recently banned in Europe because authorities believe they are killing bees.

A Dow Agro Canada spokesperson said the insecticides’ impact on bees was assessed during the registration process.

“Like most commonly used insecticides, sulfoxaflor can be acutely toxic when bees contact the spray itself, but toxicity of sulfoxaflor is greatly reduced when the spray has dried.”

However, Mark Whalon, an entomologist with Michigan State University, said it’s important to remember that the science around bees and insecticides is highly complex. ... he said there is no “smoking gun” demonstrating that neonicotinoids are causing widespread bee losses around the globe. Most entomologists believe multiple factors are to blame.

Whalon is particularly perturbed by the obsession with neonicotinoids and new chemistries such as sulfoxaflor because beekeepers apply highly toxic insecticides directly to bees to control mites.

“Here’s the crazy thing. We’re still using organophosphates, nerve toxins, in the hive,” he said.

“Do pesticides (like neonics) have an impact? Absolutely. But how can we be talking about pesticides in the field when we’re still using primitive chemistry to control mites in the hive?”

The EPA collaborated with the PMRA and Australian regulators on the sulfoxaflor review. According to an EPA news release, the agencies evaluated more than 400 studies on sulfoxaflor’s chemistry.

Whalon said the public should have more faith in the approval process.

“I think we (U.S.) have one of the best regulatory processes on Earth. It is pedantic, it is formulaic and it is thorough.”

Whalon’s tone suggests he is an insecticide apologist, but he is actually an organic agriculture advocate. He directs the Michigan State Pesticide Alternatives Lab, which helps producers switch to environmentally benign and organic pest management strategies.”

Full article at:

<http://www.producer.com/2013/05/entomologist-responds-to-furor-over-sulfoxaflor-approval>):

Next Month: Field Trip!

Ann Porter has confirmed that we are scheduled for a visit to Virginia Robinson's Gardens in Beverly Hills on March 5th. Robinson's was the first major department store in Los Angeles. The garden is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is open by appointment to the public. Located behind the iconic Beverly Hills Hotel, the beautiful six-acre property contains a breathtaking display garden, mansion and pool pavilion. The tour includes a walk through the famous mansion’s buildings and the historical garden paradise.

The tour will start at 10:00am. We will need to carpool as parking is very limited. It was the first mansion in Beverly Hills and is surrounded by mansions now - we may want to drive around and take a look and then have lunch. Let’s arrange carpooling at the February meeting.

Tour cost is: \$11.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children (5-12), \$6.00 for students, and \$6.00 for seniors (62+). More details in the March newsletter.

If the weather is bad, we have a hold on the April 2nd date just in case. Here's a link to the website: <http://www.robinsongardens.org/>

By the way, even this garden is being water wise: VRG staff and volunteers wash dishes in a plastic basin in the kitchen sink. Instead of sending dishwater down the drain, the plastic basin is carried outside and grey water is used to water plants.