

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 7

August 2016

August Meeting

Saturday August 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:

Will be a surprise. We have a speaker in mind and are working on confirming the date.

We really do need someone to take on the position of Speaker Coordinator. A number of members have pitched in these past few years, including Glenn, Anne, Don, and Mark, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. This is a job that can be done from the home via telephone or email. We will take time during this meeting to discuss potential field trips, topics and speakers so that we can be prepared our schedule for the year. Please bring your ideas and be willing to step up, especially if you have not held an office or been on a committee. We are only as strong as our members and we are all volunteers.

Reminder! Dues are due!

Please pay \$20 to:
Nancy Shaw at
9701 Holder St., Cypress, 90630

Volunteer Hours are Due!

Send your hours to Bill McMurrin

Use volunteer hours form and mail or email.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Aug. 13: "California-Friendly Trees & Shrubs". 9 - 10am. Free.

Tim Fiskin will focus on plant characteristics, specific roles, and proven plant combinations.

Sat. Aug. 20: "16th Annual Tomato & Pepper Tasting". 9 – 10:30am. Free.

Tomato expert, Steve Goto, will prepare over a 100 varieties of tomatoes for tasting. David Rizzo returns with peppers from his garden.

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>.

Sun. August 7, "Butterfly Release" 10am until
all butterflies are released. \$5 per family unit.

Families and groups are invited to release our native butterflies into the wild by escorting a butterfly out of the pavilion until all are released.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free classes are
provided at each location. August 13: how to
attract birds & butterflies; August 27: how to
grow cactus & succulents, both at 9am. Website
is:
<http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

Tree of Life Nursery 33201 Ortega Hwy, San Juan
Capistrano, Tel: 949/728-0685

Sun. August 13, "Dream Gardens". 9:30 –
10:15. Free.

Designer Susan Trindle will present 5 garden
styles and the California native plants that can
achieve the look. Learn about Cottage, Desert,
Mid-century modern, Tropical, and Zen gardens.

Leaves from the President



Now that the Godzilla “almost an” El Niño has come and gone and the summer heat is here, it is time to take stock of our gardens and our club. We need to take hard look at our club and see if it is going a direction we like or if we need make any changes. Our membership numbers are down, and meeting attendance is way down. Obviously we need to get new members and find ways increase meeting attendance.

Our club needs the help of our members to stay healthy and vibrant. Without our membership support we will soon become just like another abandoned garden choked with weeds. I for one value our club too much to stand by and let that happen. I hope all of you feel the same and are willing help do what you can to keep the club alive.

Remember we are an organization full of really good and smart people, we are Master Gardeners after all. I am sure we have the knowledge and talent to overcome all our problems.

Many of you reading this have stopped coming to our meetings, or are not coming very often. I would like to take this opportunity to ask all of you who can make it to the August meeting to come. Take this as a call to action, a chance to voice your opinion, or just a good opportunity to yell at the new president, but please come to the meeting.

Bill McMurrin, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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OCIMG at La Habra Library Jill Patterson, Branch Manager

OCIMG’s presentations at the Library’s “How To U” were a huge success. There were people at the tables the entire time and our presenters kept several of the same people almost the entire day. We found homes for all the plants--what few were left over were claimed by library staff. Miguel, thank you for trying to save my orchid. My fingers are crossed that you'll succeed. And Glenn, thanks for bringing your beautiful orchids and for telling me what to do with my other orchid. Diane, thanks for coming out -- I know you had more plans for the day. Cerise, thanks for the list of native plant nurseries. I think they were all handed out. Mary, thank you for bringing so many plants to share. The three of you were a great team. Don, thanks for staying the entire time as our back up. Linda and Anne, we had people waiting all day for your program on miniature gardens. Thanks for bringing so many samples. Mark, thanks for stepping in to talk about vegetables! Perfect timing for planting them.

I am so grateful to all of you for your presence, support, expertise, and willingness to help. Let’s start thinking of next year and what topics we should include. What can we do better?

Don Martin's Corner

For Prometheus, the Bristlecone”

“Just to Count the Rings

The University of Arizona has some famous firsts, but this one takes the cake. Arizona's Laboratory of Tree Ring Research calls their specimen the Curry Tree, but most know it by another name: Prometheus. Curry was a graduate student in the summer of 1964 when he came to eastern Nevada's Snake Mountains to study ancient trees and prehistoric climate change. While doing his field work, he talked the Forest Service in cutting down a tree. Well, the tree turned out to be approximately 4,900 years old, making it the oldest known tree on earth at the time!

Cutting down this old tree dismayed people. It also prompted tighter restrictions on the destruction of old trees and to the creation of the Great Basin National Park.

Donald Curry went on to a distinguished career in geography. He was known for his extensive research of relics of ancient Lake Bonneville in the Eastern Great Basin region. But Prometheus would haunt him until his death in 2004. His story has taken on a mythic quality—one fueled by the tree's age and the folly of killing it just to count the rings.

As for the crew that cut it down and did the dissection of it—some died under unusual circumstances.

In 2013, scientists took a fresh look at Curry's Tree and determined it to be much older! About 5,000 years old. No bristlecone alive or dead has ever reached this age.

Editor's Note: To his credit, Curry personally took part in lobbying efforts to get Congress to designate the area as a part of a national park.

The oldest LIVING tree is called "Methuselah" and is 4,765 years old. This tree is nearly 1,000 years older than any other bristlecone alive today. It lives in a secret location in the White Mountain range of eastern California.

What is Calflora?

Calflora is **1.** a website you can use to learn about plants that grow wild in California (both native plants and weeds); and **2.** a nonprofit organization responsible for providing this service. Calflora is run by a team of volunteers and staff centered in Berkeley. Information in Calflora comes from many sources: public agencies, non-profits, scientists, private donors, and the interested citizen. What does it offer us?

Find Out About a Plant

You can enter the common or scientific name of a plant to find out about it. Or, use the name wizard on the site to just enter part of a name and have the wizard make suggestions. The result is an illustrated table of plants that match the name you entered. Click one of the plants in the table to learn the details about that plant -- in particular, where it's been observed in California.

Find Out What Plants Grow in a Place

You can also choose a place and get an illustrated list of the plants that grow there. We call that *What Grows Here?* You define "here" by picking a place on the map, or by choosing park boundary, place name, etc. Refine "here" by zooming in and out of the map, or drawing a polygon. Then click **SEARCH** to get an illustrated list of plants known to grow "here."

But Wait! There's More!

Click on the "Great Places" tab to find areas rich in native plants. You can specify an area to narrow your search or type in a plant name to locate where they can be found in the wild. There are visitor tips and history included on most sites. In Orange County, our two great places are Santiago and Modjeska Peaks and Caspers Wilderness Park.

You, too, can also contribute to CalFlora by recording observations, commenting on posts, and participating in groups. Apps can be downloaded to collect data about plants and to enter or edit plant observation records.

CalFlora offers Weed Manager (WM,), a system which enables organizations engaged in land management to track weed infestations and treatments over time.

This online resource is at www.calflora.org