

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 8

September 2016

## September Meeting

**Saturday September 10, 2016**

**SECOND SATURDAY!**  
**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 **H-Q**, 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: How to Teach Children to Garden

At the August meeting, Nick asked for volunteers to help the instructors at the church's elementary school start a school garden. The teachers are behind this request and need our expertise. To that end, Robert and Nancy Shaw will give a workshop on how to teach gardening skills to children. Whether or not you can volunteer for this project, we all have children in our life to whom we can introduce the joys of gardening.

### 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. Sept. 10:** "Cool Season Tomatoes". 9 -  
10am. Free.

Steve Goto will show how to prolong your  
tomato crops by planting cool season varieties.

**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>.

**Fri. Sept. 9:** Free admission to the garden on  
California Admission Day.

**Sat. Sept. 24:** "Book Launch with author  
Barbara Eisenstein" 10am – noon.

Celebrate author Barbara Eisenstein's book  
launch for her new book, *Wild Suburbia:  
Learning to Garden with Native Plants*.

Note: Their annual native plant sale is October 1.

**Armstrong Nurseries:** Free classes are  
provided at each location. Sept 24 features fall  
container gardens at 9am. Website is:  
<http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes>

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

**Sat. Sept. 17,** "Natives for Hummingbirds".

**Sat. Sept. 24,** "Gardening for Butterflies and  
Moths

Both classes are 9:30 – 10:30am. Free.

Experts will teach you how to design your  
garden to attract and nourish these valued  
creatures.

Note: Plant sale on Oct. 1 with 10% off.

# Leaves from the President



Whether we are still in drought or just going through a “dry” spell it is very dry out there. Add to that, most of us have cut back on the amount of water we use in our gardens, so the amount of water available for birds has been reduced. Birds and the other visitors (some wanted, some not) need water. Birds need water to drink, bath, and cool off in the summer heat. Birds do get some moisture from bug and berries, but it is hard for a bird to bath in berry juice.

You can find bird baths at your local home improvement store, nursery, or online. Bird baths range from “works of art” to simple trays or shallow bowls. I don’t think the birds care about how much money you spend but they do care if you keep it clean. It cannot be too deep, 1 ½ to 2 inches, and you need to make sure you don’t grow mosquitos. You will need to check it every couple of days and change the water to keep it clean.

Birds like running or moving water, so we added a small “stream bed” to our pond. The water flows out of the filter into the stream bed and into the pond. We put rocks in the stream beds for the birds to have a place to land. Since it is part of the pond we keep it clean with just the normal pond care.

Bill McMurrin, President  
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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## Keep Mosquitoes Out of Your Birdbath

**Change the water regularly:** It takes 7 to 10 days for a mosquito to mature from an egg to an adult. Empty and replace the water in your bird bath at least every five days. Fresh water is also healthier for the birds who visit the bath as well! Use the old bird bath water on your plants.

**Add an agitator or aerator:** Mosquitoes require still water to lay eggs. Agitating or aerating the water breaks the surface tension and prevents mosquitoes from laying eggs. An agitator like the Water Wiggler or a small waterfall feature will prevent mosquitoes from breeding. The sound of splashing water will also entice more birds.

**Treat the water:** Don’t use a chemical insecticide in your bird bath, but a bacterial insecticide, which kills mosquitoes but is not harmful to birds or other wildlife. These are typically sold as dunks at garden centers. Look for products that contain the bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI). These treatments can only control mosquitoes for up to 30 days.

**Conserve natural habitat:** Natural predators like bats, dragonflies, and fish can help with mosquito control. These organisms voraciously feed on adult mosquitoes and larva.

From <http://dcmosquitosquad.com/ways-to-keep-mosquitoes-out-of-bird-baths/>

## Don Martin's Corner

Eons ago, slugs and snails moved from the oceans to land. These migrating sea creatures adapted to feed on terrestrial plants with their rasping mouthparts. They thrived with abundant moisture. Snails kept their shell, which protected them from predators. Slugs were more adventuresome: their protective cover was reduced to a small mantle plate on their dorsal side. This gave them more mobility than snails because snails have their shell.

When slugs are threatened by drying winds or someone with a salt shaker, they pull back as much as of their body as possible under their protective mantle cover. The common species - the brown garden snail AKA Cornu Aspersum - came from Europe. Most snails and slugs are decomposers. They also hang out under rocks pots and flats where it's damp. A funny solution for snails and weeds is described in this article:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/vineyard-uses-ducks-to-keep-order-2016-5>



For your information: A nematode was found in California by the people at UC Riverside. It's name is Phasmarhabditis. It enters snail's breathing opening and excretes a bacteria that kills them.

p.s. we may be seeing a product soon!

*Editor's note: the above photo is of the flock of ducks which keeps the vineyard in good shape.*

## How to Get Rid of Snails



If we can't introduce ducks, which do need lots of water to be healthy, into our gardens, we

do have other alternatives. Here is an article from Heather Rhoades at Gardening Know How:

**Introduce predators** – One effective organic snail control is to introduce or encourage predators. Make your garden friendly to small snakes, like the garter snake. These snakes enjoy eating garden snails as well as other common garden pests. You can also introduce decollate snails to your garden. Decollate snails will not harm your plants but will eat the common garden snail.

**Lay down grit** – Many gritty substances make effective snail repellents. Gritty substances will cut the body of the snail, which will lead to it being injured. Crushed eggshells, sand or diatomaceous earth sprinkled around plants that the garden snails seem to prefer will deter and eventually kill these pests.

**Set out traps** – A common snail trap is the beer pan. Simply fill a shallow pan with beer and leave it out overnight. The snails will be attracted to the beer and will drown in it. The beer will need to be replaced every few days to remain effective. Another trap is to find a flat object that can provide a dark, cool, moist location. Snails love dark, cool, moist areas. You can use a board, a piece of carpet, or thick cloth to create this environment. Water an area, then lay the object down over the damp area. Return in a few days and pick up the object. You can harvest and destroy the hiding snails.

**Barriers** – Among effective snail repellents is barriers. This organic snail control means putting something in the path of the snails that they do not like. Copper wire, Vaseline, even just mesh curved outwards will help repel garden snails from your plants.

From Gardening Know How: Organic Snail Control: How To Control Garden Snails  
<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/pests/insects/organic-snail-control.htm>