Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number9 October 2016

October Meeting

Saturday October 1, 2016

New Location!
Patriot Hall
735 S. Brea Blvd.
Brea, CA 92821

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: Outdoor Design with Don Equitz

Don Equitz will speak on the preliminary steps of going from a drought destroyed garden to a much improved outdoor environment. Don is now working full time for a city and is designing parks, one of which will use underground watering. This should be an especially good talk.

Reminder! Dues are now past due!

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

Volunteer Hours are Due!

Send your hours to Bill McMurran

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

Sun. Oct. 16: "Planting Fall Color". 10 - 11am. Free.

Color expert Marty Bailen shares favorite seasonal plants and color combinations for fall, plus soil preparation, plant sizing and the appropriate time of the year to plant.

Sat. Oct. 29: "Second Crop". 9 - 10am. Free.

David Rizzo's seminar about what to do with your spring crop, how to rejuvenate soil for a fall planting and what to fall crops to plant.

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

Sat. Oct. 29: "**Designing Native Plant or Drought-tolerant Gardens**". 10am -noon.

Design your garden by matching native plants that will bloom in succession.

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.

Sat. Oct. 1: Free admission and Annual Fall Plant Festival. 10am – 4:30pm.

Free lectures, bake sale, and an enormous selection of native plants for sale.

Armstrong Nurseries: Free classes are provided at each location. Sat., Oct. 22 is how to grow five favorite perennials at 9am. Website is: http://www.armstronggarden.com/pages/classes

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

Plant sale on Oct. 1 with 10% off 9am – 4pm.

Leaves from the President

Notes on taking out a pool and turning your yard into a wildlife habitat. Or what to do after you remove your pool.

About three years ago, we decided to be remove our pool and turn the area into a garden. There were many reasons to do this: the pool was a waste of water, and almost nobody was using it. It was costing a lot of money in electricity and chemicals. It was lot of work to maintain. And, it was taking up almost a third of the backyard.

So we hired a contractor to break up the sides, punch big holes in the bottom, and remove all the concrete from around the edge. After 15 dump trucks full of dirt, we were left with a large, mostly flat, dusty blank canvas to work with.

Our vision (Mary's idea) was to turn this area into a garden and not plant any grass at all. We started out using the busted pieces of concrete to make raised beds along the walls and recycling as much material as possible. We decided to use California native and drought tolerant plants when replanting that area. We left space between the plants and covered the open area with mulch.

The results: We now have an area that is a certified wildlife habitat, and provides much more entertainment than the pool. While this is still a work in progress, the variety of the wildlife continues to grow. The picture is of our newest resident/visitor to the garden. We now have two or three different varieties of praying mantis in the garden.

Bill McMurran, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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Trees in Peril

From the Los Angeles Times online

A glossy beetle no larger than a sesame seed, the polyphagous shot hole borer has started its invasion of Southern California.

Though small and sluggish, its appetites are wide and its spread is relentless. It attacks forest trees, city trees and key agricultural trees. It has defied all conventional and chemical weapons. No one seems to have a way to stop it.

Eskalen, a plant pathologist at UC Riverside, wants to contain this invasive bug before it spreads throughout Southern California. Already the beetle has been sighted as far south as San Diego, as far west as Santa Monica, as far east as the Riverside County city of Eastvale.

These beetles have a strange M.O. They don't eat wood, like termites; instead, they drill circular tunnels toward the heart of the tree. They carry fungal spores in their mouths and sow them like seeds as they go. Then they harvest the fungus to feed their larvae. It's a deadly partnership: The beetles attack, but the fungus also helps to kill, colonizing the wood tissue and spreading through the plant.

The beetles have easily evaded the authorities. Inside the tree, they're well protected from pesticide sprays. The incestuous offspring mate

with their siblings inside the trunk, so sex pheromones do not lure them out.

When Eskalen and his colleagues surveyed the 335 species at the Huntington Library in San Marino and the Arboretum in Arcadia, they found the beetle had attacked 207 of them and 54% of these victims were infected with fungus. Nearly two dozen of the trees were being used as reproductive hosts. The number of tree species attacked by the beetle now stands at 286.

UC Riverside entomologist Richard Stouthamer examined the DNA of the beetles themselves and traced the bugs to Vietnam. The beetles are not as much of a pest in Asia — perhaps because some other critter keeps them in check. Maybe that natural enemy could be brought to California to fight the infestation, a practice known as biological control.

Thus far, what little is known about the polyphagous shot hole borer doesn't place it in the alarm-raising category of the Mediterranean fruit fly or the Japanese beetle, which some say spread more quickly. The U.S. Department of Agriculture hasn't imposed any restrictions to contain this beetle.

Read the full story online at:
http://www.latimes.com/science/la-sci-beetle-trees-20140530-story.html

More on PSHB from UC ANR, part 1

The Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB) is a new pest in Southern California. This boring beetle, from the group of beetles known as ambrosia beetles, drills into trees and brings with it a pathogenic fungus (*Fusarium euwallacea*), as well as other fungal species that may to help establish the colonies. The PSHB attacks many species of trees, but some trees are resistant to the fungus it carries. The beetle is dark brown to black and tiny, with females between 0.07 and 0.1 inches long, and males even smaller, usually about 0.05 inches long. Pregnant females bore through the tree's bark, creating galleries under the bark.

They plant the fungus in these galleries, where it grows and spreads throughout a susceptible tree. The female then lays her eggs in these galleries and when the eggs hatch, the larvae eat the fungus. The larvae develop into adults in about a month. Many more of the larvae develop into females than males, and the females mate with the males (their brothers) while still in the gallery. The pregnant females then pick up some of the fungus in their mouths, and leave through the entry holes created by their mothers to start the process again.

What happens?

There are several potential outcomes of a beetle attack.

1. Beetle is repelled with no infection. This has been observed in 20 species of trees. Investigators are trying to figure out what features of the tree might repel the beetle.

2. Beetle drills into the tree and transmits the fungus, but doesn't produce offspring. This has been observed in over 50% of the tree species attacked. We don't know the final outcome of this interaction. Often leakage of xylem fluid is noticed on the trunk and branches. Maybe nothing bad will happen to the tree, but the tree could suffer if the xylem vessels are clogged up, which could cause dieback of branches. Damage could also make the tree more prone to attack from other pest species.

3. Beetle drills into the tree, fungus infects the tree, and the beetle produces offspring in the tree. This has been seen in about 8% of the tree species attacked, and these species are considered true host of PSHB, and include box elder, coast live oak, and avocado. Interestingly from a natural resources perspective, it also includes invasive plants like castor bean and tree of heaven (Ailanthus). Some trees seem to suffer mild symptoms like branch die-back, while others are killed outright.

From:
http://ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests/Polyphagous_Shot_Hole_Borer/