

Garden Clippings

Orange County Independent Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 22 Number 10

November 2016

November Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 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 **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: Valerie Loew on "Edible HOA"

If you live in a neighborhood governed by a home owners' association, you know that there are rigid restrictions on what can be planted. Valerie Loew will share edibles which can pass as decorative landscape features. Even if you don't live in an HOA-controlled residence, a landscape filled with decorative edibles may make your neighbors happier and may decrease crop loss from local "foragers". (I had someone come into my yard and grab a blood orange right in front of me without asking permission.)

Ms. Loew teaches botany, propagation, and horticulture at Fullerton College (and is our own Phil Loew's daughter). She has been a popular speaker at our meetings and we welcome her back.

Gardening Events

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

Sat. Nov 5-6: "Native Plant Sale". 10am – 4pm

Over 100 varieties available for sale.

Sat. Nov 19: "Using Form, Foliage & Texture in the Garden". 10am -noon. \$35 - \$40

Award winner Steve Gerischer will teach how to use foliage, colors, decorations, and structures to enhance your 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>.

Sat. Nov. 19: "Soil 101: Understanding Your Soil". 10 - 11am. Free, but must preregister.

Soil textures? Percolation? Understand the importance of the soil in your garden and how to identify different types.

Note: If you missed their annual native sale, the Grow Native Nursery will receive new stock the first week of November. It is a nonprofit retail nursery that helps support the conservation, education, horticulture, and research efforts of Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Located just outside the entrance of the garden, it is open weekends. Telephone is (909) 625-8767 ext. 404. Free parking.

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 McMurrin

Use volunteer hours form and mail or email.

Leaves from the President



With its cooling weather, fall lets us spend more time outdoors. It is a good time to take stock of your garden and get it ready for spring.

1. Take a hard look of your garden: is there something in the layout you want to change? Are there some plants that didn't really work out the way you intended? Are there some plants that have shaded out other plants that need sun? Take time to design how you want it to look like in the spring.
2. It is a good time to clean up debris such as dried leaves and stuff that blows in from your neighbor's yard. If you have a large enough supply of dried leaves you can use your lawn mower to mulch them up and use them in your flower beds. However, if your trees are Alleopathic i.e. leaves containing chemicals that can accumulate in the soil and prohibit the growth of competing plants (e.g. Eucalyptus), avoid using them as mulch.
3. Put some color back into your garden. This time a year, a lot of plants have passed their showy summer blooms. So adding a little color back can be a good idea. Now I am not suggesting putting in a green Frankenstein, but maybe something like mums or pansies.
4. Many of us have container plants that need to be sheltered from our "harsh" winter weather. While our biggest concern is frost and it may not get here till late December or January, it is still important to plan where to move the plants; waiting till the night before the first winter storm arrives is not recommended. Some people transplant perennials into containers for winter and return them to the garden in the spring.

5. Plant new bulbs or divide and replant perennials in your garden. Dividing the perennials will encourage new growth and give you an easy, cheaper way to add more plants and flowers to your garden.
6. Take care of your tools. Clean up, sharpen, repair/replace broken tools. Do you have any garden products that have expired or that you have decided not to use again? This would be a good time to dispose of them properly. Make a list of what you need to buy for the spring.
7. Time to take a hard look at your trees and see if you have any broken or dying branches. If so, get rid of them now before they fall on your other plants. As the trees lose their leaves it makes it easy to see what needs to be trimmed. Also, even though most nesting birds have moved on, please check to make sure you don't have any nesting birds in your tree or bushes before trimming.

Bill McMurrin, President
Orange County Independent Master Gardeners

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More on PSHB from UC ANR, part 2

Symptoms of PSHB attack and fungus infection differ among tree species. The beetle produces a very precise, perfectly round, tiny (< 0.1 inches in diameter) entry hole in most trees. Infection with the fungus can cause a dry or wet and oily dark stain surrounding the entry holes, discolored wood, leaf discoloration and wilting, and dieback of entire branches. In box elders and avocados, a white crusty ring of sugar, also called a “sugar volcano” can be produced. Frass may be produced, but because this can quickly dissolve in water it can be easy to miss. If the bark is scraped away, dark dead tissue may be found around the galleries.

Management

Protect your trees and local habitat from a variety of pest species by avoiding moving infected wood around -- use local firewood.

PSHB has been found to attack healthy trees, but as always a good defense against disease is to keep trees in optimal health. Healthy trees are also more likely to recover more quickly from an attack. Choose trees that are appropriate for the site and don't require a lot of additional water. Provide appropriate soils and access for roots to grow and expand. Avoid excessive pruning, over- or under-watering, and planting inappropriate companion plants within the dripline. If trees are infected, systemic insecticides generally are poor for treating ambrosia beetles. Prophylactic spraying of the bark could be used to protect uninfected trees in some situations. Sterilize pruning tools between uses to avoid spreading the fungus.

If you think PSHB is affecting your trees, please contact your local Agricultural Commissioner's office. More information on identifying symptoms, how to report PSHB, and how to decide when to remove a tree can be found at: http://ucanr.edu/sites/socaloakpests/Polyphagous_Shot_Hole_Borer/

The Orange County Agricultural Commissioner is at 222 East Bristol Lane, Orange, CA 92865
Phone (714) 955-0100. Hours: Monday – Friday, 8am-noon, 1-5pm.

New Native Plant Resource Available

The California Native Plant Society and the Jepson Herbarium at U.C. Berkeley have launched a new online resource to native plants, **Calscape.org**, to help people conserve water, make gardening more successful by selecting plants suited to the local environment, and save money spent on replacing unsuccessful plants. There is so much variation in California growing zones, that this site provides even more specific information than that redoubtable resource we all own, the *Sunset Western Garden Book*.

This resource maps the natural geographic ranges of all California native plants by using more than 2 million GPS field observations from the Consortium of California Herbaria. It then offers plant recommendations by popularity and cross-references using Calscape's nursery plant list database, so you know where to find and buy a particular plant (Annie's Annuals, Tree of Life and Grow Native Nursery are among those listed.). Photos, plant descriptions, sun and soil requirements are also provided.

I entered my street address and was given this basic information:

Bioregion: South Coast
Elevation: 593'
Annual Precipitation: 17.08"
Summer Precipitation: 0.32"
Coldest Month Avg. Temp: 53.47° F
Hottest Month Avg. Temp: 77.6° F
Native Plants: 416

Using my zip code gave slightly different results—more plants, higher rainfall—which shows how variable elements are in just one city.

The listed plants can be viewed by categories, such as grasses, trees, perennials, shade, drought resistance and “very easy” (my favorite—73 plants for my area!), but not, alas, an “edible” category. I was thrilled to discover that Toyon is indeed native to my area—and also on the “very easy” list, but that there 80 other shrubs I could consider.

Each plant has a photograph and short description in the list view, clicking on the plant photo brings up a full page with much more detailed information. I've already bookmarked this site!