

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 9 Number 7

October 2003

## October Meeting

Saturday, October 4, 2003

510 E. Memory Lane, Santa Ana

See map in member handbook for directions.

### Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Setup Plants 'n Things

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Snacks and Socializing

9:30 a.m. General Meeting

10:15 a.m. Plants 'n Things

10:30 a.m. Enrichment Program

Members with last names starting with R-Z, please bring a breakfast snack to share. Other members are also welcome to bring goodies.

Also, remember to bring along any items you wish to contribute to our Plants 'n Things raffle.

## Double Enrichment Programs!

Two programs are featured this month:

*“Cutting, Plant, and Bulb Exchange”*

**Facilitated by Bonnie Kocsis**



Fall is the perfect time to plant, especially California natives. Plus, this month we should be able to avoid the rains we've experienced at our last two cutting

exchanges! We're looking for bulbs/rhizomes, seeds, plants you've started and no longer want, as well as cuttings.

Per Bonnie, cuttings should be at least 6 inches long as they will need to be recut just before planting. The more nodes, the better! Cuttings should be longer for plants with widely spaced nodes. The easy "Bonnie way" to bring several cuttings of the same type is to line a 1-gallon pot with a plastic bag, insert the cuttings, and add a little water at the bottom.

*“UC Riverside Southern California*

*Yellowjacket Wasp Survey”*



UCR scientists are researching the distribution of yellowjackets in southern California to determine the best control methods for eliminating them or reducing their populations.

Besides being a nuisance, yellowjackets are a medical threat, especially to hypersensitive people. UCR is seeking the help of as many people as possible, hoping that they will submit yellowjackets for identification from all over southern California in order to produce a reliable distribution map. More information is available at <http://wasps.ucr.edu/waspswanted.html>. Rick Vetter from UC Riverside will describe how we can assist in this important survey.

## Member News

### Membership Renewals

Membership renewals were due in September. If you haven't renewed, this will be your last newsletter. You certainly don't want to miss a single issue! Bring \$20 to the meeting or mail to OCMG, P.O. Box 1103, Yorba Linda, CA 92885-1103.

### New Volunteer Hours form

Attached are the new form and summation of reporting procedures. If you'd like an electronic version, please e-mail your request to the editor.

### Congratulations are in order...

Janet Meade and her husband are the proud parents of a beautiful and healthy baby girl. Lauren Alexis entered the world on July 21, weighing 6 pounds 6 ounces and measuring 19 inches. Parents and baby are doing just fine!

# Leaves from the President



October has always been one of my favorite months. It is now my most favorite because we have a Newsletter Editor. Jill Patterson has graciously volunteered to be the Editor. Thank you, Jill. A big thank you to Karla for all her time and hard work on the previous newsletters.

I'd like to take this time now to thank everyone who has volunteered to be on the Board and various committees. Everyone is so busy these days that taking the time to commit is most appreciated.

OCMG is an amazing organization; everyone has always been so generous with his or her time and information that I am pleased and proud to be a member. We have a great year ahead of us and I am looking forward to working with all of you.

- Sharon Neely

## Gardening Events

**Master Gardener Class.** Begins Saturday, September 20 under the direction of Kathleen Phipps. Contact Kathleen first if you're interested in auditing a class.

**Arborfest.** Fullerton Arboretum: Oct 18 -19; 10am to 4pm.

Signup sheet will be at the meeting. We help little ones pot a seed at this fun event and it's perfect volunteer venue for newcomers (hint, hint to new class members!).

### Fullerton College Plant Sale.

October 4, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

October 5, Noon – 4 p.m.

October 10 & 11, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The fall plant sale includes perennials, flowering shrubs, herbs, natives, winter vegetables, and more. New students can check with the Fullerton College Horticultural Department for volunteer opportunities.

### 📞 Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*

Iris Stuart, *1st Vice Pres. Public Education & Outreach*

Janet Meade, *Treasurer*

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

Submit articles by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*

## Bed's origins: from garden to trash

Submitted by Warren Bowen

### Sleeping quarters: the bed

The origins of "bed" have more to do with gardening than with sleeping. Bed comes from the Teutonic word "bhedh" (to dig). Historians explain that, at one time, resting places for both animals and people were dug out of the ground. These resting places were the models for the flowerbeds of today. "Garden bed" has been used by the English since at least AD 1000. And "to bed out" plants was a common term in garden manuals 600 years later. Shakespeare's "bed of roses" is figurative for the comfort you'd imagine roses would get by being tucked in.

### Littered with meaning

The word "litter" is related to the French "lit," for bed and the English verb "to lie." In the 1300s, a litter was a curtained stretcher that carried nobles.

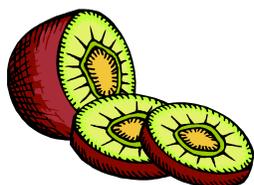
For others, a bed was a pile of hay. About 100 years later, the sense of litter was extended to mean "bedding material." As the bed was literally thrown together, though, a more pejorative sense developed. By the 18th century, "litter"

meant any disordered array of things. Eventually, the word's meaning was transferred from what was scattered about to that which lies upon it: newborn animals. This last sense of the word is a brood of young.

From:

Nancy M. Kendall SOURCES: 'Dictionary of Word Origins,' by Joseph Shipley; 'The Barnhart Dictionary of Etymology,' by Robert Barnhart; The Encyclopedia

## Fruit Facts



### **KIWI – Actinidia chinensis – Actinidiaceae**

Var. Elwood – donated by: CRFG/Roger & Shirley Meyer and planted in 1991 (r.f.-06)

Var. Vincent – donated by: CRFG/Roger & Shirley Meyer and planted in 1991 (r.f.-06)

Common names: Kiwifruit, Chinese gooseberry, Yang-tao

The Kiwifruit is one of the few fruits that have been domesticated this century. Native to China where it was a wild plant, by the 70's it was developed in New Zealand into a new fruit. There are about 60 species, and their genus varies with every individual species, giving an unlimited chance for diversity in the breeding programs.

The Kiwi plant is a vigorous, deciduous shrub that may climb to 30 feet. The 5-inch leaves are densely hairy underneath. When young, they are bright red, changing to brown at maturity. The fruit comes from a sturdy vine that grows even in snowy climates but is most tender when the young sprouts grow in the spring.

For the vine to fruit, a male and female is a must. The flowers are white, attractive and fragrant, changing to yellow with age. The female flower is many-celled, and it produces a fruit with many seeds. Pollen must be transferred from the flowers on staminate plants (male) to

those on pistillate ones (female). The flowers seem to be easily adapted to bee pollination rather than wind. The structure of the flower, needing numerous pollen grains on their stigma to fertilize the ovules and produce numerous seeds, indicates that insects are the best pollinators.

The Kiwifruit is an oval or oblong fruit with brown skin densely covered with short, stiff brown hairs. The flesh, firm until fully ripe, can be green or sometimes yellow, with a white succulent center from which many fine, pale lines radiate. Between these lines are many dark seeds that are unnoticeable during eating.

Kiwi vines will tolerate part shade but prefer a sunny location where they can climb in some type of trellis system. The vines would not perform well in hot desert climates, and they should be protected from strong winds.

Prune heavily during the dormant season, and train them like spur grapes. The vines, besides bearing fruit, also have attractive foliage. They prefer a well-drained soil that is rich in organic matter. Kiwis do not tolerate salty soils.

The 'Vincent' kiwi can be grown in mild areas with fewer than 100 hours of chilling. In mild winter areas the vines may retain their leaves and fail to flower the following spring. The flowers can be damaged by late spring frosts; also the fruit, which requires a growing season of at least 240 frost-free days to become sweet. —Alfredo Chiri, OC Calif. Rare Fruit Growers liaison to the Fullerton Arboretum.