

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 9 Number 8

November 2003

## November Meeting

Saturday, November 1, 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 A-G, 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.

### Enrichment Workshop

Autumn is a transition season and at this meeting we will host an open forum to talk about our successes, failures, and questions.

This is our time to talk about garden solutions and problems. We'll also hear from our helpline volunteers. Photos welcome!

### Bonnie's "Poop Scoop"



Those in the Brea/North Fullerton area have access to two sources for quality horse manure. Ralph is currently recuperating with a broken leg and is unable to deliver manure, but would welcome pick-ups (the bags are heavy and you will be pushing a wheelbarrow up a slope). He expects to be back in full production in December. Spread the manure on your garden, water it in, and enjoy the results!

Bob Sali:

Ralph Shephard:

## Master Gardener Class Schedule

Contact Kathleen Phipps first if you're interested in auditing a class. No class on Nov. 29.

**Nov. 1:** IPM with Jeff Feaster

**Nov. 8:** Vermiculture & Composting with Shelley Grossman of Vermicoast

**Nov. 15:** Annuals & Perennials with Kent Gordon

**Nov. 22:** Propagation with Dave Lannom @ Mt. SAC (all-day class)

## For the Well-Connected Gardener

Karla Reinhardt likes the Heritage Garden section at this site. There's a photo gallery of local residents' gardens.

<http://www.bewaterwise.com/>

Clifford Meng recommends the seed germination database at:

<http://www.backyardgardener.com>

and these frequently used sites:

<http://www.colby.edu/info.tech/BI211/Families.html>

<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/faculty/carr/pfamilies.htm>

<http://ralph.cs.cf.ac.uk/Cacti/fieldno.html>

<http://www.palaeos.com/Plants/>

<http://www.ou.edu/cas/botany-micro/bot-linx/>

(see archive!)

<http://biodiversity.uno.edu/delta/angio/index.htm>

<http://www.backyardgardener.com/tm.html>

<http://www.csd.tamu.edu/FLORA/gallery.htm>

The Los Angeles Times ran a recent article about crickets and recommended a U. of Florida website as a guide to crickets and their songs:

<http://creatures.ifas.ufl.edu/index.htm>

# Leaves from the President



Autumn is the beginning of one of the best times in the garden. Not only is the weather beautiful, but also everything seems to thrive in the spring when planted in the fall. Our October meeting was a generous one with everyone sharing bountiful cuttings, bulbs and seeds. Bonnie has a method for rooting cuttings that really works. Thank you, Bonnie for sharing your secrets with us. When our cuttings take root, we will have a glorious spring garden.

The information received on Yellowjacket Wasps was so fascinating I plan to set traps for them in my area. I hope others will do the same. Remember to follow the directions for sending in the species and be careful.

The benefits of membership are the essence of what others offer us. This is what makes OCMG so great.

The Holidays are coming very fast so if I don't see you at our November meeting have a Happy Thanksgiving.

- Sharon Neely

## **With deep sadness we are sorry to report...**

Pat Sawyer died peacefully October 16 after a short bout with cancer. As a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, she was uniquely qualified to serve as our parliamentarian of many years. She headed the original bylaws committee and initiated the Plant Specialist program at the Fullerton Arboretum. A retired college professor with a degree in botany, she also taught several of our trainee classes. She was a founding member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. In her non-gardening life, she was involved in barbershop quartets, acted as a starter at boat races, and rescued cats. Pat had recently undergone leg

surgery and during a difficult recuperation was diagnosed with spine cancer.

Services will be held Saturday, Oct. 25 at 11:00 AM. at the West Anaheim Methodist Church, 2045 W Ball Rd (at Empire). In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Fullerton Arboretum.

We will miss our friend and mentor.

## **☎ Contacts**

Sharon Neely, *President*.....

Iris Stuart, *1st Vice Pres.*.....

*Public Education & Outreach*

Kathleen Phipps, *2nd Vice Pres.* ...

Janet Meade, *Treasurer*.....

Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*

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

e-mail at [jillpatterson@yahoo.com](mailto:jillpatterson@yahoo.com)

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*.....

[jackiebrooks@direcway.com](mailto:jackiebrooks@direcway.com)

## **Gardening Events**

**Fullerton Arboretum.** Call 714/278-3579 ext. 0 to register.

Nov. 1 & 8: Botanical Watercolor Painting with artist Mandy Jaress Cherri.

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Oak Hall Classroom

Nov. 15: Orchids 101 with Roberta Fox and Tony Glinskas

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Oak Hall Classroom

## **Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens Fall Plant Sale**

November 1 & 2

Members' Sale--Saturday, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

General Public Sale--Saturday, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All Access Sale--Sunday, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

## **CNPS-San Gabriel Plant Sale**

Sat., Nov. 15, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.:

Under the Oaks: Native Plants for Foothill Gardens at Eaton Canyon Nature Center. Plant & seed sale.

## Flower & Garden Festival at Historic Greystone Estate

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 8 & 9, 10:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m.  
Adults (18 & above) \$25 ea.  
Groups (of 20 or more) \$20 ea.

Tickets include parking, shuttle to/from Greystone Estate & admission. There is no parking at Greystone Estate or anywhere in the neighborhood. Event includes 10 new display gardens, 100 flower, garden and art-related vendors, viewing inside the mansion and lectures. For more information call (310) 285-2537 or visit the web site:

<http://www.beverlyhillsgardenfestival.com>

**The Center for Garden Based Education at Cal Poly Pomona.** Call 909/869-6722 to register for either workshop.

Sat., November 8, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference on School Gardening with keynote by George Levenson. \$25, includes lunch.

Sat., December 6, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Everything you always wanted to know about starting a school garden. \$30, includes lunch.

## Jurassic Pot Plants?



Scott Carroll discovered this news story. The Wollemi Pine, a Jurassic-era tree thought to be extinct, was discovered in 1994 in the Blue Mountains, west of Sydney, Australia, when a park ranger stumbled across the unusual trees. Their home is a closely guarded

secret. After years of experimentation, by the end of 2005 Wollemi Pine saplings will be available from selected retailers. They could survive in hot or cold climates and would make perfect indoor plants. For more details see:

<http://www.wollemipine.com/>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/3139450.stm>

## Debris from the Editor

It is surely difficult to follow in the footsteps of our previous talented editors. Marjorie Puckett, Pat Cline, and Karla Reinhardt have set high standards and I will do my best to approach them. This job is definitely a learning experience, so please bear with me!

Our officers for next year are on the last page so that you may insert that page in your handbook. There is one committee chair vacancy and this is a wonderful opportunity for you to help our organization and yourself by earning hours. Only Board positions require certification, so if you are a trainee working to complete your 50 hours, contact Sharon Neely and sign up!

I'm looking forward to this month's meeting. I certainly have lots of garden failures to share. All of my tomato plants died this summer. Could it have happened while I was on vacation during the August heat wave? My roses did OK, but I don't have the showstopping non-stop blooms of my neighbors. Do I need to fertilize them more than once a year? And most of my irises didn't even bloom once this year! Too much water? Not enough water? How much fertilizer do they really need? Well, at least my cacti never disappoint. My night-blooming cereus has been flowering since August. Too bad it does so after dark, when it's too late to impress the neighbors with my gardening acumen!

--- Jill

### Drum roll, please:

OCMG has its own website! Thanks to the efforts and expertise of Scott Carroll, our site is now live. The Arboretum helpline is listed. Our volunteer venues and volunteer hour form can be downloaded as needed. Scott will post past issues of the newsletter minus telephone numbers and will continue to add links to applicable websites. Help us improve our site by sending your suggestions to Jill Patterson.

<http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

## Fruit Facts

### LYCHEE NUT – Litchi chinensis – Sapindaceae

#### Donated by:

CRFG/Stillman and  
planted in 1979 (r.f.-02)

Common names: Lichi,  
Laichi, Lechia, Litchi,  
Quenepe chinosis,  
Lychee, Leechee

The litchi is a handsome round-topped tree native to the low elevations of the provinces of southern China. The earliest record of the tree was 1059 A.D. in China.

The litchi is a slow-growing tree, 30 to 100 feet high, with a dense round top. The evergreen leaves are dark green and glossy on the top, with gray-green underside, and 2 to 3 inches long.

The tree has three types of flowers: male, hermaphroditic fruiting as male, and hermaphroditic fruiting as female. Many of the flowers have defective pollen. The tiny flowers, borne in terminal clusters, are greenish-yellow to white.

The fruit is showy, oval, heart-shaped or round, and is borne in loose clusters of 20 to 30. It is usually strawberry red, sometimes pink, is aromatic and has leathery skin. Under the skin is a clear juice and then flesh, which somewhat resembles the inside of a grape. The flavor is sub-acid and distinctive. In a few days the fruits dehydrate naturally, the outer skin becomes brown and brittle, and the flesh becomes dry and shriveled like a raisin, somewhat musky in flavor. Because of this tendency, the fruits became known as “lychee nuts.” This is a



misunderstanding. They are not nuts, and the seed is not edible.

Litchi's seedlings do not reproduce true to the original “mother” tree, and most will not have viable seeds. Litchi seeds remain viable only 4 to 5 days, and seedling trees will not bear fruit until they are 5 to 25 years old. Seeds are planted primarily to be used as rootstock.

The litchi tree is difficult to graft because the cambium is active only during the earliest stages of secondary growth, and thus most trees are air-layered. An air-layered tree has a weak root system. However, it has been said that the litchi tree is not in its prime until it is 30 to 40 years old. Many of them continue to fruit until they are 100 years old.

The litchi grows well on a wide range of soils. The pH should be between 6 and 7. It is advised that young litchi plants should be planted in raised beds so that they have perfect drainage but the soil is always moist. Even though the litchi has a high water requirement, it cannot stand waterlogging, but it will stand occasional brief flooding.

Young trees benefit from wind protection by creating a windbreaker in their proximity, making sure that the tree gets full sun. Once the trees become established, they become structurally high wind-resistant. Remember that in their natural habitat they have withstood typhoons.

Newly planted trees must be watered but not fertilized. The adult tree should be fertilized only twice a year with organic material. Limestone may be necessary to avoid chlorosis.

—*Alfredo Chiri*, OC Calif. Rare Fruit Growers liaison to the Fullerton Arboretum.