

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

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May 2004

## May Meeting—OCMG Garden Tour

Saturday, May 1, 2004 **9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

**First annual Spring Tour of OCMG member gardens. This tour features gardens in north Orange County. Next year we hope to have members from south Orange County volunteer their gardens.**

*This is a self-guided tour. Below are directions to each home. You may visit the gardens in any order, but please visit them between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.*

*Please do **NOT** take cuttings or seeds. If you see a plant you covet, ask the gardener if you may have a cutting when the time is appropriate.*

*Cameras and garden journals welcome.*

**Reminder: We'll be back at the Bowling Green in June. Membership dues will be collected and elections held.**

### Garden # 1: Virginia Carlson,

"I have lived here since 1964. Original landscaping was laid out by landscape architect, Peterson of Anaheim in 1957. The ash tree shades the whole south end of house. Maple shades south west window in dining area. Wisteria on patio roof planted in about 1966 as was the yellow Banksia rose over the loquat tree. The staghorn fern, *Platynerium bifurcatum*, c,v, Nederland, was mounted on a box about 12 X 20 on the post in the '80's. The *Cereus peruviana* blew over in 2003 and had ¾ of the limbs cut back and was raised upright. The rest of the cactus garden came out of pots after that.

About 150 roses are found mostly in the front terraces, some climbers and Old Garden roses in the rear. I have been a rose judge and Consulting Rosarian since the late '70's.

I was accredited as a flower show judge by National Garden Clubs in 1957 and as a Flower Show school Inst. in Horticulture since 1963, having taught in sixteen states from Alaska to Louisiana, Georgia to Hawaii and in Costa Rica. Therefore, the garden is a collection of many kinds of plants, from Rock garden plants in the back terraces and the bank on the north to a begonia collection, ivy collection, daylilies, ferns, and many kinds of perennials and a few annuals.

The two Japanese maples were purchased in 1970 and planted out a couple of years later in shady areas. The palm was also purchased about that time.

The area by the fence on the right bank has no irrigation and a ceanothus and manzanita are planted there with succulents below"

### Garden # 2: Clifford Meng,

"My garden has a large collection of cactus and succulents and other desert tropicals. It has a large collection of caudiciforms (plants with a swollen root structure used for water storage) rarely seen in Southern California. Specimen plants as well as seedlings. Many of the caudiciforms are staged in bonsai pots."

### Garden# 3: Diane Wilkinson,

"After living here for 15 years I realized I was here to stay, so it was time to make things the way I wanted! I have always been a voracious vegetable gardener. The appeal of a Mediterranean garden grew on me over time. I started researching and got impatient and had someone put in the hardscape, which was the hit of the neighborhood, while I tried to come up

with a design. It sat about two years before I could decide what my focal tree was to be. I had read an article in Pacific Horticulture about the *Quercus tomentella* or Channel Island Oak!! That had to be the tree for me. There are two beautiful specimens at Rancho, one about 50 feet tall. I had done my research on the plants that are native to the Channel Islands that I thought had the right growth habit and color for my taste and yard size. The garden was three years old in March and every day I love pulling into my driveway and admiring the beautiful plants. The early fall rains of 2003 brought the plants out of dormancy and the blooms this year are spectacular. Everything is filling in so nicely!

As a child, my family loved boating and we spent every single vacation, including holidays and summers at all the Channel Islands, Catalina in particular. So I have an investment in the native flora. Since the Conservancy is now using GPS to map the Ironwood groves, I have spent a lot of time climbing up the canyons to check them out!!!

### **SPECIAL GARDEN**

Joyce Smith,

This garden is located across the street from Diane's. **It is a walk by and enjoy garden.** Joyce has a lovely garden with many South African bulbs, roses and perennials. Joyce is one of the original Charter members of the Fullerton Arboretum and OCMG and used to write a Garden Question column in the OC Register back in the 80's and early 90's. She also was in charge of the extraordinary tomato sales at Green Scene before there was any competition from anyone! Joyce is a very knowledgeable plant person and we will all benefit from seeing her garden.

### **GARDEN # 4, Bonnie Kocsis,**

"Bonnie's garden answers her question of how can you have a small tract lot and collect hundreds of international plants? Her garden reflects this. She also has a passion for tropicals

and practices water conservation. She has said that a machete is needed but not welcome."

**SPECIAL GARDEN:** Shannon Kocsis, "Shannon's (Bonnie's daughter) garden is across the street. This garden is in the beginning stages. The front yard is to be a mountain /woodland garden with an interest in attracting wildlife. The backyard will be her tropical hideaway. She invites us to return next year to see the changes."

### **GARDEN # 5: Fred and Christy Snyder,**

"Fred's garden is on one acre of hillside. Depending on various microclimates, forest, shade, Mediterranean, native and drought tolerant can be found. Fred also has many fruit trees and a good size vegetable garden. Look for the aviaries of Exotic Birds and the new collection of small conifers and Japanese Maples."

### **Garden # 6, Debbie and John Alder,**

Debbie says, "A friend of ours, Rod Tapp, owns a landscape architecture business called Land Design. My husband and I spent quite a bit of time chatting with him to decide what our "park-like" property should look like at the conclusion of its makeover. Finally, we decided that the focus of our front yard would be a two-tiered pond with a bronze fountain (5 dolphins leaping out of the water) in the center. Surrounding the base of the pond area, we covered the existing block wall with rose/gray stone to create a more finished look. Canna Lilies, Geraniums, Blood Grass, and several other types of grasses surround the pond area. To ensure the safety of the neighborhood children, my husband and I had the yard fenced in with artistic soft green wrought iron, which contains a very dramatic wave-like design flowing along with the front of the property. A pedestrian walkway made of concrete and various types of stone is lined with roses, nandina and groundcover to provide a dramatic entrance to the yard. Numerous trees have been planted around the yard, including:

chestnut, jacaranda, kapok, fig, Mexican lime, apricot, peach, tangerine, grapefruit, etc. There are two rose gardens in the front yard, along with roses interspersed throughout the rest of the foliage. A large wooden deck sits nestled under the kapok tree...it's a lovely place to just sit and relax!! Just below the deck is a natural watercourse where we have had river rock installed to help channel the water when it's flowing. The back yard was also completely made over and includes a lovely fountain built into the rear retaining wall. We have used different types of rocks and concrete to create several patio areas. At the rear of our yard, we have installed more of the pale green wrought iron, above which are planted with numerous native California plants along with other drought tolerant species. My husband and welcome you to join us on May 1<sup>st</sup> for a walk in our park!"

**May 15:** Mrs. P's Pressed Flower Workshop with Lyn Pitts, Botanical Artist and Garden Columnist. 10:00-Noon, Oak Hall-\$35/person

Each participant will receive supplies and plant materials to create projects.

**May 22:** The Exciting World of Herbs with Rita Corpin, O.C. Herb Society president & Master Gardener. 10:00-11:30 am, Bleachers-\$7/person

Edible flowers and the best herbs to grow will be explored.

## Volunteer Opportunities

**Saturday, May 1:** Heard's Memorial Tour at the home of Theresa Piech (714/963-1210).

Approximate tours hours: 10-5 pm

Theresa welcomes volunteers to help answer questions about her yard and will ply all with delicious food. URL for the Tour is:

<http://gardentour.home.att.net> .

**OCMG:** We need volunteers to fill the following positions: Plants 'n Things Coordinator (perfect job for a new graduate), Recording Secretary, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Please contact Sharon Neely if interested.

## Gardening Events

**Fullerton College:** Spring plant sale May 1, 9a.m. – 4p.m., May 2, noon-3 p.m., May 7 & 8 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Fullerton Arboretum.** Pre-register for all classes by calling 714/278-3579 ext. 0.

# Leaves from the President



In March we (I) decided to update and re-landscape our front yard. The plans were made on a Monday and Tuesday my yard was gone. I saved a few plants and let the rest go. I was upset at losing some of the plants, as I had personal memories attached to many of them. I am sad that they are gone but new plants and memories await and it is spring, and I have a fresh new palette to start again. Of course I have had to hear from my neighbors asking if I was crazy and why your flowers were so pretty! I just say to all “they will be back”. I did take photos earlier this year because I had been planning to make some small changes never thinking at the time I would be making a complete change, so they will be a good reference.

Our garden tour this month will also give me the opportunity to see how many different plants grow and whether or not they would work in my new garden. I hope everyone plans to attend our tour to enjoy the uniqueness and diversity our OCMG gardens.

The South Coast Garden Show was a success. Thanks to Evie Tyra for her help in picking out the most interesting blooming plants this year, her efforts helped us sell all of the plants and made our space very colorful. Kathleen Phipps for her help in setting up our display and having to drive so far so early in the morning, thank you. Thanks to Leroy Lance for bringing us more flyers twice, and to all the volunteers who manned our table for the duration of the show: your efforts are appreciated and helped make our participation in the Show a success.

Happy Spring -- Sharon Neely

## Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*.....  
Iris Stuart, *1st Vice Pres.*..... *Public Education & Outreach*  
Kathleen Phipps, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*...  
Janet Meade, *Treasurer*.....  
Fred Snyder, *Plant Clinic*.....  
Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor*  
Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*

OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

## News and questions from our members:

Virginia Christiansen (Gini) has started a business selling garden tools (including tools from Denman's)—check out her website: [www.merrygardeners.com](http://www.merrygardeners.com)

Karla Reinhardt is thinking of acquiring some chickens and would be grateful for advice from other members. She also reminds us to check for standing water and dump it before it becomes a mosquito breeding ground.

Here are five tips for keeping birds away from your windows from the Audubon 3/2004 issue:

1. Put feeders within three feet of windows; at this distance approaching birds aren't moving fast enough to get hurt.
2. Hang obstacles in front of the glass: tree limbs, strips of cloth or shiny materials, old CDs, toilet-paper rolls, or feathers on a ruling.
3. Spray the glass with vegetable oil or fake snow to make it opaque. Or stick on plastic wrap. Consider products used on greenhouses to make glass translucent.
4. Put decals-including dots or bird silhouettes-on the outer glass face. Space decals uniformly, two to four inches apart, to transform the window into an obstacle birds will see.
- 5: Hang netting, or buy special see-through screens. Also consider installing awnings that can be lowered when you go to bed or raised when you want a view.

To purchase decals, go to [www.wpines.com](http://www.wpines.com). For additional information, go to [www.rlrouse.com/window-protector.html](http://www.rlrouse.com/window-protector.html).

## VALENCIA ORANGE – *Citrus sinensis* spp. ‘Valencia’ – Rutaceae

**Donated by:** This fruit tree is part of the original orchard and planted in 1950 (r.f.-03)

Common names: Valencia orange, naranja valenciana

The Valencia orange was known in the past as ‘Common’ or ‘Sweet Orange,’ but now it is commonly referred to as the ‘juice’ orange. Valencia oranges originated in either Spain or Portugal. The Spaniards introduced oranges to Florida four centuries ago. Orange trees bear flowers and fruits at the same time. In some ancient cultures the flowers and fruit were used in fertility rituals and weddings. The white flower symbolized virginity while the fruit symbolized fertility.

The tree varies both in stature and in the character of the fruit. Normally the fruit contains up to ten compartments or locules. The orange belongs to a tribe of three-foliolate plants, and although the leaves appear to be simple, they are really compound. The leaf blade is joined to a rachis, which is a leaflet whose sides have not developed.

The leading difficulty of growing an orange tree is the tendency to have it growing the entire year and to keep it too wet at the roots. After the fruiting season, the plant should be allowed to rest for a time in order to harden its wood for the next year’s blooming. The tree roots should be kept dry.

Water



should not be withheld entirely, because the plant should be kept in such a condition that the foliage will not drop. After this period of inactivity, one or two months, the plant should be reinstated to its regular watering and fertilizing cycle.

Ordinarily, if the orange tree is grown in a container (small tub or half wine barrel), it will not require re-potting for several years when it has attained a height of 5 to 6 feet. Some of the surface soil can be removed from time to time and replaced with new soil.

The area location’s climates have a strong influence on the fruit size, shape, color, flavor, texture, and thickness of the peel. Valencia trees bloom early in hot areas and latest in cool coastal areas. In some warm areas in California the trees bloom in April, while in the cooler coastal areas the tree blooms in May.

Fruit size is largest in California’s warm areas and decreases in size in cooler coastal areas. Fruit tends to be elongated in the warmer areas and flatter in the cooler areas. The peel tends to be thinner and smooth in warm areas and to have thicker and rougher texture in cooler areas. Temperature does not affect the pulp, which remains juicy and acid.

Some Valencia oranges undergo a natural process called ‘regreening’ during the late spring and summer. This process occurs when the fruit is left on the tree during the warm temperatures of the summer months. The warm temperatures cause the chlorophyll to return to the skin, causing a greenish tint. The color of the skin has no effect on the sweetness of the fruit. These oranges are sweet, juicy and ripe.

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