

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 10 Number 6

June 2004

June Meeting

Saturday, June 5, 2004

510 E. Memory Lane, Santa Ana

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.

This is our annual business meeting. We will hold elections and collect annual dues.

Nominee Slate:

President: Sharon Neely

1st Vice-President: Cindy Polera-Burch

2nd Vice-President: open

Treasurer: Phil Loew

Recording Secretary: open

Corresponding Secretary Rosemary Hackett

Enrichment Workshop—Fuchsias!

As a child, I was fascinated with my grandmother's "upside down" flowers. Much later, I learned that these were fuchsias, but I was too intimidated to try and grow my own. Mel and Suzanne Knutson, leaders of the Orange County Branch of the National Fuchsia Society, will share their expertise in the care, feeding, and propagating of these lovely and unique flowers.

Board Meeting: June 17 at 7:00 p.m.
Home of Cheryl Spencer

REMINDER!

Next General Meeting: August 7

No General Meeting in July

No newsletter in July

Gardening Events

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

June 5 "Award Winning" Home Composting Workshop I 10:00-11:30 am, Bleachers

Learn how to start your own home composting system. Discover how easy it is with our informative and entertaining experts, Dr. Bill Roley, president, Applied Ecological Systems and Patrick McNelly, senior administrative analyst, O.C. Sanitation District. Our instructors have won the nationally recognized H. Clark Gregory Award for Outstanding Grassroots Efforts to Promote Composting. Fee is \$7 per person. Free to members of the Friends of the Arboretum and to residents of sponsoring cities: Brea, Buena Park, Fullerton, Orange and Santa Ana with proof of residency. Space is limited.

National Fuchsia Society. The club meets at the Friends Church (12211 Magnolia St.) in Garden Grove, on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. and can be contacted at 714 374-6456.

June 25-27: Annual fuchsia sale in the K-Mart parking lot, corner of Magnolia/Garfield in Huntington Beach. Fri. 10-6, Sat. 9-5, Sun. 9-3.

Leaves from the President



Those of you, who made the effort and time to go on our first garden tour, experienced a wonderful opportunity to see the passion that our OCMG members have for their individual gardens. I want to thank Virginia Carlson, Clifford Meng, Bonnie Kocsis and Shannon, Joyce Smith, Diane Wilkinson, Fred Snyder and Debbie Alder, for opening up their gardens for us all to enjoy. If you have any ideas for future tours or if you would like to participate, let me know.

This next meeting will be the election for next year's Board; there are still positions to be filled. If you are interested call me.

I want to thank all the current Board members for their support, which has been most appreciated. . -- Sharon Neely

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 10th of each month via:

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*

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

Debris from the Editor

It will be a LONG time before my yard will be ready as a site for a garden tour. Which makes me all the more appreciative of the work and effort our members put in to showcase their gardens for our enjoyment. I was awed by Fred's landscape, especially his collection of Japanese maples, and realized by the third climb up the hill that my morning workout was superfluous (thank you for the treats, Fred—they were most welcome!). Debbie has one of the few front yards I've seen that begs to be enjoyed, affording both privacy and neighborliness and an extraordinary vista. Diane's Catalina garden is one that actually looks maintainable by those of us with limited time and I bet her water bill is negligible! Bonnie's tropical oasis is always a delight. To my dismay, I ran out of time and had to forego Virginia's and Clifford's gardens. I envy those of you who planned more efficiently! --Jill

Native Plants That Attract Birds and Small Mammals

Source of information: Tree of Life Nursery

Trees:

White Alder - *Alnus rhombifolia*

Large, fast growing deciduous riparian tree. Seeds eaten by various Finches, particularly Goldfinches.

Western Sycamore - *Platanus racemosa*

Large riparian tree. Seeds eaten by various finch species. Mature trees provide nest sites for raptors and cavity nesting birds.

Fremont Cottonwood - *Populus fremontii*

Large native tree in riparian habitats. Flower buds eaten by numerous birds. Raptor nest sites.

Coast Live Oak - *Quercus agrifolia*

As a mature tree, it is one of the most valuable for wildlife. Acorns are eaten by a wide variety

of birds and mammals. Nesting substrate for many bird species large and small. Foraging habitat for many insect eating birds.

California Bay Laurel - *Umbellularia californica*

Good tall shrub to tree size depending upon conditions.

Willow - *Salix spp.*

Important wildlife plant in wetland habitats for general cover and nest sites. Flowers and buds eaten by various finches. Foraging habitat for insect eating birds.

Pacific Wax Myrtle - *Yrica californica*

Large attractive fragrant tree. Waxy coated fruit and its seed eaten by variety of birds.

Pine - *Pinus spp.*

Seeds eaten by many birds and mammals. Mature trees provide shelter and nest sites.

Shrubs:

Manzanita - *Arctostaphylos spp.*

A very large variety of short to medium height shrubs are available for general wildlife cover. Fruit eaten by birds and mammals. Hummingbirds use flowers.

Coyote Brush – *Baccharis pilularis consanguinea*

Excellent cover plant, dense foliage.

Ceanothus - *Ceanothus spp.*

Some of our most attractive cultivated shrubs providing good general wildlife cover.

Mountain Mahogany - *Cercocarpus betuloides*
San Diego Mountain Mahogany - *Cercocarpus minutiflorus*

Two important chaparral plants for good general wildlife cover. Seed eaten by birds and small mammals.

Island Bush Snapdragon - *Galvezia speciosa*

Good low cover. Showy accent plant in small clumps. Hummingbirds use red tubular flowers.

Toyon - *Heteromeles arbutifolia*

Outstanding wildlife plant and slope stabilizer. General tall shrub cover. Fruits eaten by many birds including California Quail, Northern Mockingbird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Western Bluebird, and Black-headed Grosbeak.

Mesquite - *Prosopis juliflora* var. *torreyana*

Deep-rooted deciduous shrub with attractive yellow flowers. Seeds eaten by birds and small mammals.

Hollyleaf Cherry – *Prunus illicifolia*

Good for general tall cover. Lush green growth, very drought tolerant. Showy white flower clusters and attractive fruits eaten by birds and mammals.

Coffeeberry - *Rhamnus californica*

Hollyleaf Redberry - *Rhamnus croceailicifolia*
Good for tall shrub cover. Many birds eat fruit.

Lemonadeberry - *Rhus integrifolia*

One of the best and most dependable species for general wildlife cover including bird nesting substrate. Birds eat the fruit. Deep network of fleshy roots provides good slope stabilization.

Laurel Sumac – *Malosma laurina*

Great tall shrub cover. Many bird species nest in it. Many birds eat its flower buds and fruit.

Mexican Elderberry – *Sambucus mexicana*

Outstanding wildlife shrub. Good as cover. Fruit eaten by a very long list of birds & mammals.

California Fuchsia – *Epilobum canum*

Great small accent shrub. Profuse bloomer. Bright red flowers. A Hummingbird favorite.

Coastal Quail Brush - *Atriplex lentiformis*
ssp.breweri
Excellent conservation plan, tolerates poor soil.
Seeds eaten by small mammals and birds. Also
serves as important cover plant providing
general protection and nest sites for low nesting
birds.

Currents & Gooseberries – *Ribes spp.*
Several species of low to medium shrubs. Do
well in shade. Attractive fruits eaten by many
birds and mammals. Hummingbirds use flowers
of *Ribes malvaceum*, *R. speciosum*, and *R.*
sanguineum.

Sub-shrubs & Other Small Plants:

Red Columbine - *Aquilegia formosa* var.
truncata
Excellent border plant for woodland effect.
Attracts hummingbirds, which serve as its
primary pollinator.

California Encelia - *Encelia californica*
Easy, fast growing subshrub. Seeds eaten by
many birds and small mammals.

California Buckwheat - *Eriogonum fasciculatum*
Good low cover. Seeds eaten by birds and small
mammals.

Bladderpod - *Isomeris arborea*
Very drought tolerant. Flowers most of year.
Seeds eaten by finches, sparrows, and doves.
Bright yellow flowers occasionally visited by
hummingbirds.

Heart-leaved Penstemon - *Keckiella cordifolia*
Vining shrub, good in shade. Flashy red flowers.
Hummingbirds.

Chaparral Honeysuckle - *Lonicera subspicata*
Deciduous vining shrub with attractive orange
berries eaten by many birds.

Scarlet Monkey Flower - *Mimulus cardinalis*

Low, herbaceous perennial spreading readily by
underground rootstocks. Good in partial shade.
Red flowers attract hummingbirds.

Bush Monkey Flower - *Mimulus longiflorus*
Red Bush Monkey Flower – *Mimulus puniceus*
Good mixed in with low shrub cover. Profuse
bloomers. Hummingbirds.

Scarlet Bugler - *Penstemon centranthifolius*
Small herbaceous perennial, showy in bloom.
Hummingbirds attracted to its red tubular
flowers.

Showy Penstemon - *Penstemon spectabilis*
Tall flower spikes, abundant bloom, lavender-
purple flowers used occasionally by
hummingbirds.

California Wild Rose - *Rosa californica*
Outstanding for low shrub cover. Forms
protective thickets for nesting birds.

California Blackberry - *Rubus ursinus*
Great protective cover. Fruits eaten by many
birds and mammals.

Sages - *Salvia spp.*
Many good low shrub cover species. Seeds eaten
by birds and mammals. Hummingbirds visit
Salvia mellifera, *S. apiana*, *S. greggii*, and *S.*
clevelandii.

Purple Nightshade - *Solanum xantii*
White Nightshade - *Solanum douglasii*
Low shrubs. Fruit eaten by many birds and
mammals.

Woolly Blue Curls - *Trichostema lanatum*
Beautiful accent shrub. Showy, profuse bloomer.
Heavily used by Hummingbirds.

Desert Grape - *Vitis girdiana*
Great cover for shelter and bird nest sites. Fruit
eaten by long list of birds and mammals.

Fruit Facts

PACAY – *Inga feuillei* – Fabaceae

Donated by: CRFG/Barkman and planted in 1998 (r.f.-06) Common names: Ice-cream beans, Pacae, Guarma, Guamo, Rabo de Mico

The Andean “Pacay” is widely grown in highland valleys as well as in coastal lowlands of Perú and Ecuador. The tree pods have been



favorite snacks for their sweet, mealy pulp and are eaten as fruit. The species has also been introduced across most of tropical South America, Panama and Costa Rica. The tree is most widespread in areas without a dry season (Andean South America, western Brazil) or with a dry

season of 3 to 4 months and minimum rainfall around 1200 mm.

In South America this tree is often employed as a shade tree in the coffee and cacao plantations.

The Pacay pods have been called in English the “ice-cream beans” because they are reminiscent of cotton candy.

The Pacay tree grows up to 51 feet tall, with broad spreading crown. The bark is pale gray, and the trunk is cylindrical to 12 inches in diameter. Branching starts at 3 to 6 feet from base, forming a broad, flat, moderately dense canopy. Leaves are once pinnate, up 4 to 12 inches long, with 4-6 pairs of opposite oval leaflets. Between each pair of leaflets they are separated by a winged rachis.

Flowers are fragrant, solitary, arranged at the tips of stems or solitary in upper axils. Corolla is silky. The tree may flower throughout the year, but in regions with a short dry season it is most likely to flower at the beginning of the wet season.

The fruits are ribbed, cylindrical pods, straight or spirally twisted, up to a yard long, occasionally even longer, and 1 to 2 inches in diameter. The fruits contain



fleshy green seeds (1 inch long) in a sweet, white, cottony pulp. Seeds sometimes begin to germinate in the pod. The pods do not ship well. The seed storage is very poor.

The Pacay tree can tolerate short droughts. The tree is tolerant of acid soils, outgrowing many other leguminous trees under such conditions. It is a forest gap generator, and although seedlings often establish themselves in the shade of other trees, it needs light to grow and flower. In the forest it becomes a canopy tree, but it is also common in secondary forest.

Like most legumes, the Pacay trees fix nitrogen and improve the soil around them. The litter is high in organic nitrogen, lignins and polyphenols. It is slow to decompose but provides a long-term build-up of organic nitrogen.

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