

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 1

January 2005

## January Meeting

Saturday, January 8, 2005

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
10:00 a.m.	Enrichment Program

Members with last names starting with H-Q, 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.

Rita Corpin will be collecting holiday cards for her school. She will be very grateful if you would bring your cards to the January meeting. She needs over 600 cards for her students to use to make origami boxes.

Rita is using some of her 15 minutes of fame—she's mentioned on page 30 of the December Sunset Magazine—congratulations, Rita!

**Board Meeting:** Jan. 20 at home of Phil Loew.

## Enrichment Workshop—Roses & Perennials

Cathy Gordon, “The Plant Nut”, will share her expertise on her favorite plants: roses and “foo foo” perennials. She is a California native with an A.S. degree in ornamental horticulture from Saddleback College and a certificate as a Nursery Professional from the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. She

worked at Laguna Hills Nursery, considered one of the best nurseries in Orange County, until 2000, and is now in business for herself as a gardener and designer.

Thanks to Nancy Moyna for creating a comprehensive list of nurseries in southern California. The list is on our website; do call to confirm hours before making a long drive. Additions or corrections should be sent to Helen Elich or Jill Patterson. Our unwired members can sign up for a print version at the meeting

### OCMG Training Class

Contact Helen Elich before attending a class to confirm space and location.

8 Jan.: Trees with Alden Kelley

15 Jan.: Citrus and Avocado with Greg Partida at Cal Poly

22 Jan.: Landscaping with Don Equitz

29 Jan.: Pruning plus Annuals & Perennials with Kent Gordon

**Volunteers Needed:** The Environmental Nature Center in Newport Beach needs people to propagate unusual California Natives and you may be able to keep some of the plants you grow. They are also looking for stewards on the weekend.

Contact Reggie Durant, grounds coordinator, at 949-645-8489. ENC is at 1601 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

## February meeting

We have contacted Karmel Shuttle Service for our transportation to Riverside for our Feb field trip. If we have at least 24 members sign up, the cost will be \$20 per member, which also includes gratuity, a great value considering the cost of gasoline. I will have a sign up sheet at the January meeting and I will also ask you to pay so I can reserve the Bus. If you won't be at the meeting please call or email me if you wish to participate or need more information. The Bus will pick us at 9:30AM in Fullerton at the Target parking lot on Yorba Linda Blvd.

# Leaves from the President



Happy New Year! I would like to thank everyone who attended the December meeting. We had a wonderful turnout of members, delicious food and Scott Smith was an informative speaker. This year we have many interesting things planned, so come to our meetings and read our newsletter so you won't miss out.

Don't miss the information on our field trip; if we have enough members participating in this the cost will be reasonable. Those who say we don't have enough volunteer venues in south county, see below for information on the Marian Bergeson School garden.

With all the early rains, we gardeners are looking forward to beautiful spring gardens. Anyone who would like to volunteer to open their gardens for our May Garden Tour please let me know, I have several members who are getting their gardens ready. --Sharon Neely

## New Volunteer Venue

Marian Bergeson Elementary School Garden  
(part of the Capistrano Unified School District.)  
25302 Rancho Niguel Road  
Laguna Niguel 92677

Contact is Anne Kinzig: 949-831-9465, email [ocbird@cox.net](mailto:ocbird@cox.net).

Design, plant, and maintain 5 garden plots that currently have nothing in them. Creating a Butterfly & Hummingbird Garden, an Herb Garden, a California Native Garden, and a Miscellaneous Garden (for various projects, vegetables, etc.)

Start a Garden Club with the 4th and 5th graders to teach gardening and to supervise work in the garden. Projects will include soil preparation, bulb planting, perennials and annuals, vegetables, integrated pest management, flowers and shrubs to attract birds and butterflies and

other insects, building garden structures such as trellises and raised beds, and organic gardening.

The garden will be 100% organic. If we can find room, we will also study composting.

The garden has been approved by the principal and Anne will be coordinating with the teachers to establish garden related curriculum and to explore school garden grants.

## ☎ Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*.....

Cindy Polera Burch, *1st Vice Pres.*....

Helen Elich, *2nd Vice Pres...*

Phil Loew, *Treasurer*.....

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

Jill Patterson, *Newsletter Editor* (

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

Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*7

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

## Gardening Events

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

**January 8: Fruit Tree Workshop** with Frank James. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. bleachers--7/person. Learn how to select, care, and prune deciduous fruit trees.

**January 22: Rose Pruning** with Glen Williams, Arboretum Garden Manger. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. bleachers--\$7/person. Learn techniques on how to prune and care for roses.

**January 23: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: Winter Care and Maintenance of a Native Plant Garden** 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm \$48 (\$58 nonmember) Register: 909/625-8767 *Limit: 20 participants.* Discuss proper planting and pruning techniques and other important garden chores to prepare for spring and summer.

## Fruit Facts

**PUMMELO – *Citrus maxima* var.  
'Chandler' – Rutaceae**

**Donated by:** CRFG/Pacific Tree Farms and planted in 1981 (r.f.-03)

Common names: pomelo, limau obong, limau besar, limau lemon, and pompelmoes.



The pummelo tree, with a somewhat crooked trunk, may reach a height between 16 to 50 feet, with low and irregular branches.

The leaves are alternate, leathery, dull green, glossy above, dull and somewhat hairy beneath. The pummelo produces the largest citrus fruit.

The pummelo is native to southern Asia and Malaysia, and it may have been introduced to China around 100 B.C. It is believed that Captain Shaddock brought seeds to the Western world in the late part of the 17th Century. However many of the trees grown then from these seeds gave very poor quality fruits. The Chandler Pummelo was developed at the University of California, Riverside. The Chandler is a hybrid of 'Siamese Sweet' and 'Siamese Pink.'

The flowers are fragrant and borne in the leaf axils with petals yellowish-white, minutely hairy. The fruit is almost round, reaching sizes up to 12 inches. The fruit skin may be greenish-yellow to pale-yellow and is easily removed from the pulp.



*The pummelo, largest and perhaps the best of citrus fruit.*

The fruit's pulp is divided into 12 to 20 segments. The segments can be very juicy to fairly dry. The flavor varies from sub-acid to acid, and sometimes they have a touch of bitterness.

The fruit normally has a few large yellowish-white seeds. A pummelo that has been cross-pollinated by another pummelo is apt to have numerous seeds, but if cross-pollinated with any sweet or mandarin orange, it will not be seedy.



The pummelo is considered to be tropical or near tropical and does well at low altitudes close to the sea. The tree prefers a soil that has a salty silt or has an organically enriched clay loam soil.

The pummelo can be propagated from seeds. Even though the seeds are monoembryonic, the seedlings will carry the characteristics of the 'mother' tree. Seeds can be stored up to two months at 41° F with a 56-58% relative humidity.

Propagation by air-layering or budding onto rootstocks of pummelo is preferred to propagate the best varieties of pummelo. In the United States, the "T", or shield-budding, has been found to be a very satisfactory method.

Pummelos may flower 2 to 4 times in a year. The main crop matures in November. Fruits that ripen at other seasons appear to have fewer seeds and superior quality. Fruits are picked when they just begin to turn yellow. The fruit keeps for long periods, and in about 3 months the fruit starts to wrinkle and the pulp will be juicier and of a more appealing flavor than in the fresh fruit.—*Alfredo Chiri, OC Calif. Rare Fruit Growers liaison to the Fullerton Arboretum.*

**For Our Wired Members**

Scott Carroll found this website: The Tomato Genetics Resource Center at UC Davis has 2,750 genetic varieties in it's database out of the over 4,000 varieties of tomatoes that have been named. <http://tgrc.ucdavis.edu/>