

Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 6

June 2005

June Meeting

Saturday, June 4, 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 and Election

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.

Please also update your contact information, especially your email address. We hope to have an updated roster by the September meeting.

Enrichment Workshop—Bats!

Rescheduled from last September, this is a wonderful opportunity to learn about our California Bats. Stephanie Remington, Research Assistant with Orange County Vector Control, a biological consultant, and a field instructor at Starr Ranch Sanctuary's Bat Camp, will share her experiences with and knowledge, discussing the different types of California bats, their affect on the environment, and where they may be seen. We can also ask her if bat houses actually attract and house bats in our area!

Dear OCMG family,

Thank you all for your kinds words, flowers and cards during this most difficult time in my life. I know that life gives us different paths we must face and, hopefully, with the help of all my friends, I can face this new path with good and bad days.

Thank you again,

Cindy

Elections: *Please rescue Sharon Neely!*

Sharon has served two years as president, and per our bylaws, must step down.

Our annual business meeting is usually very short, but we do still need candidates (who must have completed their initial 50 volunteer hours) for the following positions:

President: Nominee should have held a previous position on the Board.

1st Vice-President: Responsible for volunteer venues. Recruits volunteers for special events. Great position for new graduates and doesn't require that much time.

Corresponding Secretary: Responsible for correspondence, primarily thank you notes to speakers. Another great starting position for new graduates--hint, hint!

Please call Sharon if you are interested in a position or would like to recommend someone else.

REMINDER!

Next General Meeting: August 6

No General Meeting in July

No newsletter in July

Leaves from the President



A **BIG** thank you to Jan, Anne, Cliff, Diane, Joyce and Robert for participating in our second OCMG garden tour, it was wonderful to see repeat gardens and new gardens. Each was as unique as its gardener. I enjoyed visiting each of them.

The next **BIG** thank you goes to our Board members: Phil, Cindy, Helen, Jean, Cheryl and Rosemary. Your support and ideas were most welcome, keeping me informed and inspired. Also special thanks to Jill for the wonderful job she does each month on our newsletter and Jackie who has the big job of keeping all our volunteer hours recorded. I am always grateful to all of our members who have been so kind, thoughtful and supportive. It has been wonderful two years being President of Orange County Master Gardeners. Thank You

. -- Sharon Neely

Clifford Meng shares this information about his club. And, he will be donating several of his unique succulents to our June Plants 'n Things table.

Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society

Meets 4th Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church, 11832 Euclid Street in Garden Grove. Social hour is at 7:00 p.m.; program at 7:30 p.m.

Just north of Chapman and south of Orangewood. The meetings are much like the Master Gardeners meetings with a social, plant raffle, discussion of member's plants that are

interesting, blooming or in trouble and a feature speaker. .

June 23: Petra Crist of Whittier. Travels to Namibia

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*
Jackie Brooks, *Vol. Hours*
OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

Gardening Events

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

June 4: Home Composting Work Shop I, 10:00-Noon, Bleachers \$7/person/free to members

Learn how to start your own composting system.

Acorn Naturalists' Center for Science and Environmental Education, 155 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA. 800/422-8886

June 8: Restoration of Orange County Wildlands by Trish Smith, 7-9 p.m.

Orange County Rose Society

June 2: Annual rose auction and meeting at 7:00 p.m.. The meeting will be held at:

Huntington Beach Public Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach

Searching for the perfect rose labels for your garden? Jan Brider just bought new labels for her 180+ roses from:

<http://www.harlane.com/products.html>

They will custom print rose names or supply blank labels you can write on for other plants.

**TROPICAL APRICOT – *Dovyalis abyssinica*
x *hebecarpa* – Flacourtiaceae**

Donated by: CRFG/Haluza/SBA and planted in 1984 (r.f.-09)

Common names: Tropical apricot, Kitambilla, Ceylon gooseberry, Koshim, Ankakute, Ongolatz, Aihada.

The bush is a natural hybrid from Florida. The tropical apricot differs from the two parents' varieties in that the parents the Kashun (*D. Abyssinica*) and the Kitembilla (*D. Hebecarpa*), require male and female for fruiting. The tropical apricot requires one plant for fruiting.

The Tropical apricot is a spiny shrub or tree that grows up to 20 feet high with a rounded crown. The bark is gray with spines up to 5 or 6 inches long. The short-stalked leaves are shiny dark green and ovate to two inches long. The flowers are green sepals. The plant has male, female and perfect flowers.

The fruits are round berries of 1.5 inches. At first the skins are green and hairy, then changing to smooth pale yellow with green stems. The flesh is an orange-yellow color surrounding the three or four dark brown seeds.

Fruits are edible. The fruits are collected and eaten raw. The fruit produces a sweet-sour taste with a tingling sensation on the teeth, and when fully ripe, tastes like an apricot.

In their natural habitat the plants are found along rivers in humid lower forests. The plant is not particular as to the soils, doing well in sandy soils. The plant is suitable for subtropical climates.

The plant is propagated by seeds or by shield budding.

Occasionally, gardeners mistake the Tropical apricot for the Kei apple (*D. Caffra*). The Kei apple or Umbolo requires at least two plants for pollination, since each plant has only male and female flowers. The fruit varies from light

yellow to light brown. At maturity the fruit is acid and generally is cooked for consumption.

In many villages in Africa The *Dovyalis* plants are planted around the village as a protection against lions and tigers. Now gardeners are utilizing these plants to protect those areas that are subject to intruders or those areas where fences can not easily be built.

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

Earl Burns Miller Japanese Garden

June 12th and 26th: Pruning of the Black Pines. 9 a.m.-noon

The black pines provide the skeleton for the design of the Garden. The beautiful condition and form of these trees is due to the expert tending and trimming by professionals, trained and practiced in their craft for decades, that care for them. Learn from these Japanese experts the art of ueki, artful tree trimming. Narrated one-hour demonstration begins at 10:30 a.m.

Admission: Adults \$5, Seniors \$4, Friends of the Japanese Garden Members \$3, Children 12 and under free, CSULB Students free.



The garden is located on the campus of California State University Long Beach. From the 405 Freeway, take the

Bellflower exit south to State University Drive and turn left. Turn left again at Earl Warren Drive. At the second stop sign, turn right into Lot "16" and park. The garden is directly across the street. Public Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. or Sunday 12-4 p.m.

