Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 11 Number 4 November 2005

November Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 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
10:15 a.m.	Plants 'n Things
10:30 a.m.	Enrichment Program

Members with last names starting with H- Q, 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—ROSES!

Jan Brider, OCMG member and a member of the Orange County Rose Society will present the Basics of Rose Gardening, specifically how to buy, plant, and care for roses, show some slides and teach us how to purchase roses, how to prune, growing roses in containers, and plants that compliment roses—just in time for bare root planting! Jan will also show slides of rose gardens, including Parc de Bagatelle in Paris. Those of us who saw her garden on our May tour were incredibly impressed with her roses. Now, we can learn some of her tricks!

Board Meeting: November 17, 7:00 p.m. at home of Helen Elich.

Volunteer Hours Contest!

Remember to turn in your volunteer hours this month and be entered in the December contest drawing. Forms are available on the website.

Gardening Events

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

Nov. 19: **Botany 102 for Gardeners,** 9-11 a.m. $7/person, $5/Member, Oak Hall Classroom. New series of classes to learn to identify the over 4,000 plants at the Arboretum, taught by expert botanist Geoff Smith, Horticulture Instructor at Fullerton College

November 5-6, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden: Fall plant sale. Sat 11-4, Sun. 9-12. 909/625-8767 or http://www.rsabg.org/ for more information.

OCMG TRAINING CLASS

Contact Robert Shaw if you're interested in attending a class to ensure there is space.

Nov 5: Entomology/Insect Control at Fullerton College with Jeff Feaster

Nov 12: Lawn and Turf Care at Fullerton College with John Domenici

Nov 19: Tree Selection, Care and Maintenance at Fullerton College with Alden Kelley, Arborist

Nov 26: Thanksgiving Holiday

Members' Corner

Virginia sends this message: "Last month, I broke my right arm, cracked my sinus bones on my cheek and two ribs. So, I will not be seeing you for a while". We'll miss seeing you at the meetings, Virginia. Cards, anyone? I know Virginia would love to hear from people while she's recuperating.

Leaves from the President

Steve Williams gave an informative talk at our October meeting on propagation. The talk and the cutting exchange inspired me to go home and start seeds and cuttings. This gives me time to grow some nice plants to bring back to the June meeting when we will have a plant exchange. Information on our plant exchange will be forth coming in future newsletters. Plan ahead and start your plants now.

We are planning our December meeting. Anyone who can help with the organizing, decorating and set-up should contact me ASAP.

Copies of past newsletters (years 1995-2001) are wanted for Historical notebooks. After copies are made, they will be returned.

--Sharon Neely

Note: We will have updated membership rosters available at the November meeting.

Update on OCMG grants to local gardening organizations: We approved new wagons for the Arboretum at the October meeting.

Check out the new feature on our website: monthly gardening tips. Diane Gipson compiled the list for October. If you'd like to volunteer to research a month, do contact either Debbie or the editor. Hard copies will be available at the meeting and will be posted to the website later in the month. October is the busiest month for planting in our area—many thanks to Debbie for coming up with the idea and researching the chores and tips for the October garden.

☎Contacts
Sharon Neely, *President*……
Gayle Crowe, *1st Vice Pres.*… ……
Robert Shaw, *2nd Vice Pres*……
Helen Elich, *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

California Natives: Suggested Websites and Reading (part 1)

From: Reginald Durant - California Native Landscaping and Restoration

BOOKS:

Flowering Plants of California by Willis L. Jepson

Growing California Natives by Marjorie D. Schmidt

Flowering Plants of the Santa Monica Mountains by Nancy Dale

Roadside Plants of Southern California by Thomas J. Belzer

Jepson Manual-Higher Plants of California by Munz, et al

Also: *California Native Plants for the Garden* by Carol Bornstein, David Fross, Bart O'Brien

www.Calflora.org

www.laspilitas.com

Thanks to Helen Elich, who compiled and sent in this list.

Draught-tolerant and Native Plant Habitats

by Anne H. Porter

Xeriscaping is a resource-efficient approach to landscaping that requires good planning, regionally appropriate plant selection and efficient water management. A well-planned landscape creates an oasis for the gardener from life's stresses and an oasis for wildlife. It can also help preserve local plant species. When water travels from river to house to sewage plant, energy is used to pump, treat and heat it. Saving water therefore saves energy too.

Seven basic principles of Xeriscaping:

- Thorough site analysis and effective, aesthetic and efficient environmental planning and design
- Proper plant selection, based on climate, rainfall, exposure, aesthetics, groupings and function
- Effective and efficient irrigation design
- Soil analysis and management: use of surface mulches, polymers and amendments as needed (much of the soils natural structure is destroyed during building)
- Proper installation practices using quality materials
- Good maintenance techniques, pruning, integrated pest management, fertilizing, and preventive care
- Effective and efficient water management

Site Analysis and Planning

Planning your site for low water requirements and wildlife habitats requires careful research into the flora and fauna in our area. It is important that you include native species in your garden because:

- Plants native to the soils and climate of your specific area provide the best overall food sources for wildlife, while generally requiring less fertilizer, less water, and less effort in controlling pests.
- Our native plantings can reduce our need for water and chemical inputs and can maintain or enhance biological diversity.
- Native plants may support greater biodiversity by supporting 10 to 50 times as many species of native wildlife as non-native plants. Too often, exotic plants brought to our continent for their horticultural or wildlife value spread rapidly and take over farm and woodland, and decimate native plants and animals. Native plants offer the food, nectar, cover, and nesting areas that local birds, butterflies, and mammals need.
- They stabilize soil and reduce erosion; they more effectively filter storm water than exotic plantings, thus improving water quality.

There is a website that provides extensive lists of native plants, as well as non-native invasive species. I was going to include a list here, but there were just too many and too much information. Please go to:

http://www.enature.com/native_invasive/

for all kinds of information on trees, plants, and grasses for any state. You'll have to dig a little to locate those that are specifically native to Southern California. ---editor's note: searching for recommended plants requires an email address; you may want to uncheck the "send newsletter and offers" box. The site is affiliated with the National

Wildlife Federation and also links to that website with information on certifying one’ s backyard as a wildlife habitat.

Hoya culture in Southern California

Don Schulze

Hoyas are tropical vines, indigenous to Asia, usually found as far west as India and east to the islands of Fiji. Hoya carnosa (wax vine) and Hoya bella are the best known of the genus and often found growing in southern California gardens. The plants are easy to grow and far more are killed with kindness than neglect.

They like to grown in a well-lighted area without direct sun. Dark green leaves and no flowers can be a sign of too much shade, while yellowing leaves may be the result of sunburn. New growth is frequently a dark purple color changing to green as it matures. Being from the tropics, they like high humidity, which can be provided by surrounding plants. They will not survive frost. If you are in a frost prone area, it will be necessary to move the plants indoors when frost is expected. The plants become dormant in mid-November and will begin growth in early April. When dormant, water very sparingly (once a month) and locate the plants under the cover of a patio roof or eaves to keep them out of the rain. When growth resumes, water thoroughly (drench), but at a maximum of once a week. They like to be misted.

Fertilize once a month from May through August. Use a water soluble 10-30-10 fertilizer at about ¼ the recommended strength. A ½ teaspoon of micro-nutrients and minerals (Ironite) in the spring will help bring flowers. Aphids, mealy bug, and scale occasionally attack but are easy to control with most standard pesticides.

Most of the species tend to become epiphytic as they mature, thus there is no need to repot every few years. Potting soil for immature plants can be almost anything as long as it drains fast, as wet roots over a prolonged period will kill the plants. A mix with lots of sand and pumice works well.

Many of the species are very fragrant, which will be especially noticeable in the early morning hours. Do not cut off the flowering umbels as the peduncle may be persistent (i.e. will blossom again from the same place). Many Hoya species bloom from May through October while others provide only one flowering period. Colors vary from dark purple, red, pink, green, orange, yellow, to white. Some of the flowers are glossy while others are pubescent. Flower size ranges from 3 mm to 25 mm, with umbels having up to 30 flowers.

With over 300 species to choose from and their ability to thrive on neglect, they should become a staple in Southern California gardens.

Below is a letter from one of our two grant recipients:

Dear Sharon,
Thank you so much for your generous award of $250.00.

As you know, an education is very costly and any help a student may receive is welcomed. With the generous support of people like you, students are able to spend time studying rather than worrying about how some of their educational expenses will be covered.
My award is enabling me to work toward a brighter future and a new career in Horticulture. This has been my dream for many years and I truly appreciate your help in making it come true.

Thank you again, and wishing you a joyous and prosperous life.

Linda Tucky

WEEPING MULBERRY – Morus alba var. 'Pendula' – Moraceae

Donated by: Fullerton Arboretum and planted 2002 (r.f.-07)

Common names: Weeping mulberry, common mulberry

This cultivar is a female dwarf, deciduous tree, which features a weeping foliage.

The Weeping mulberry, a white mulberry variety, is a small to medium-sized shrub or tree up to 15 feet tall, round topped with a spread of equal size. It has drooping foliage, with a trunk attaining 12 inches in diameter.

The leaves are alternate, variable in shape, lobed or unlobed, dentate, 8 inches apart on fruiting branches. Leaves are smooth above and dark green. It is glabrous along veins beneath the leaves and light green.

Flowers are small and greenish, in dense spikes to 1/2 inch long with 4 sepals and 4 stamens. The flower pistils hav e two styles, maturing onto an aggregate fruit of drupelets 1/4 to 1/2 inch long, white or reddish yellow, before ripe. Fruit is sweet but insipid. Seeds are brown, 1 to 1.2 mm long.

The 'Pendula' cultivar is a female tree, which produces fruit, while its male version, the 'Chaparral' cultivar, does not produce fruit. Both cultivars can be used as ornamentals because of their weeping foliage.

Weeping white mulberry can be propagated from seeds, but primarily it is by grafting and, as an alternate method, by cutting. Propagation by cuttings is done during spring while propagation by grafting is done during late winter, using a Morus alba rootstock.

Seeds should be treated with camphor water before sowing to prevent disease. Seeds are placed in a thin layer of soil after sowing, and the beds should be kept moist. Seeds germinate in 10-15 days, depending on the season. When the seedlings are about 6 inches tall, t hey are thinned and weeded. Transplanted seedlings that are 6 inches tall are used as bushes, while seedlings that have been allowed to grow up to 3 feet and trained are used as trees.

Weeping mulberry will tolerate drought and occasional wetness but prefers soil that is well drained, loamy or clay with a pH of acidic to alkaline.

Weeping mulberry will grow well in full sun, partial sun, and partial shade. Avoid fertilization with high amounts of quick-release Nitrogen. Prune to shorten branches since plant has weak wood. Trees are susceptible to wind and storm damage.

The white mulberry is so named for the color of its buds rather than the color of its fruit. Fruitless cultivars can be used in more extreme environments where few other trees will grow.

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