

# Garden Clippings

Orange County Master Gardeners' Newsletter

Volume 12 Number 6

June 2006

## June Meeting

**Saturday, June 3, 2006**

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. Plant Exchange

We are asking all members to bring a breakfast item to share for our semi-annual potluck.

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 dues (\$20.00).

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

## Enrichment program—Plant Exchange

We are asking people to bring 12 or more plants. Plants must be potted and rooted. If you bring plants, you may choose plants to take with you. ALL plants must have an individual tag with botanical or common name on them. No provision is being made to mark them at the meeting. This event is being facilitated by the new class of 2005/06. Please contact Mike with any questions.

## Gardening Events

**Fullerton Arboretum.** Pre-register for all classes by calling 714/278-3579 ext. 0. Classes are \$7/\$5 member.

**Jun. 3: Composting I.** 10 – 11:30 a.m.  
Bleachers

**Jun. 10 - 11: Perennial Plant Sale.** 10 a.m. – 14 p.m. Includes the first Friends of the Arboretum plant introduction: Cuphea 'Friends'

**June 15: Garden talk & book signing *The Earth Knows My Name* by Patricia Klindienst.** 6 p.m., Arboretum Pavilion. Klindienst is an award winning scholar and teacher speaking on food, culture and sustainability in the gardens of ethnic Americans. Call to reserve a space

## Nominations for Board

Sharon extends her heartfelt thanks to the nominating committee for their hard work: Don Grime, Jeannie Lawrie, Robin Russell, Bob Shaw and Helen Wood.

Candidates are:

President: Diane Gipson

1<sup>st</sup> VP: Mike Maertzweiler

2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Sally Licata

Treasurer: Jetta Miles

Recording Secretary: Diane Asato

Corresponding Secretary: Tonia Morrell,  
pending completion of 50 volunteer hours

### **Reminder!**

Next general meeting is August 5

No general meeting in July

No newsletter in July

# Leaves from the President



I have had a wonderful time these last 3 years and now it is time to move on, but first I would like to thank each board member for all their support and help they have given me over this last year. My 1<sup>st</sup> VP Gayle Crowe has been such a pleasure to work with, always ready to help with a smile. She is moving to Tennessee in a few months. They will be lucky to have her in the volunteer state and we were lucky to have her in our group. My 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Bob Shaw did a terrific job with the coordinating and organizing our last class. He will be involved this next year helping wherever he can with great plans and ideas. Helen Elich--what an amazing person--she takes on a project and gets it done plus still keeps her sense of humor. Thank you for starting and completing our 501c non-profit paperwork and being so efficient in all our treasury's responsibilities. Recording Secretary Jean Rice kept me on my toes and most of all helped so much reminding me of things that needed to be done. I also thank her for typing again and again the updates of our Bylaws, I am really grateful for all her dedication and help. Corresponding Secretary Diane Gipson brought a cheerful smile and many ideas to each board meeting. She started *Things to do in the Garden* each month and I hope it will continue on this next year. Diane, your calls always brightened my day. Cheryl Spencer, Parliamentarian, taking this job for three years to help me out--what can I say but "thank you". You have been a joy to work with and a good friend. Jackie Brooks, you have been so efficient and helpful each month in making sure everyone's hours have been recorded correctly and keeping me informed so I could order the badges in time for each meeting, thank you. Plus your suggestions and ideas have been gratefully appreciated. Bill and Mary McMurrin had hot coffee ready each month. I

and everyone is so thankful. Nora Koenig, thanks for taking on the plants'n things job each month. Last but not least, Jill Patterson, I can't even begin to tell you how grateful I am. You have been such a good friend and have given me such positive support and feed back that words can't express my feelings. Our newsletter should and could win awards it is so well done. Not only I, but everyone thank you. I might have forgotten some names, but I will never forget everyone's kindness, help and support during my term so the only thing I can say again and again is thank you all.

--Sharon Neely

## Contacts

Sharon Neely, *President*.....  
Gayle Crowe, *1st Vice Pres.*.....  
Robert Shaw, *2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Pres.*.....  
Helen Elich, *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*.....  
OCMG Website: <http://www.ocmastergardeners.org>

## The Electronic Connection:

A recently created website, managed by Margaret Morrissey, includes an extensive garden calendar of events:  
<http://www.orangecountygardeners.org/>

You can also find a list of clubs and arboretums and links to other websites of interest.

## Trees in a Backyard Habitat, part 2

By Anne Porter

### **Juglans californica (California Black Walnut)**

Southern California Walnut woodland is severely threatened by urbanization. When looked at as an example of a woodland habitat, it is



associated with a long list of plants that could be used to re-create its natural habitat in an urban patch. Species include: arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), California bay (*Umbellularia californica*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), sugar sumac (*Rhus ovata*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), Mexican elder (*Sambucus mexicana*), redberry (*Rhamnus crocea*), coffeeberry (*R. californica*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), birchleaf mountain-mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), California scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), spiny ceanothus (*Ceanothus spinosus*), bigpod ceanothus (*C. megacarpus*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), fuchsia-flower gooseberry (*Ribes speciosum*), brome (*Bromus* spp.), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), sweetscented bedstraw (*Galium triflorum*), rape mustard (*Brassica rapa*), wildrye (*Elymus* spp.), and Mexican whorled milkweed (*Asclepias fascicularis*).

[www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/jugcal/al1.html](http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/tree/jugcal/al1.html)

### **Heteromeles arbutifolia (Toyon)**

This is a small tree or large shrub (my shrub got totally out of hand! One author noted that you

don't have to worry about deer loving its tender new leaves – it's one of the few plants that outgrows their reach quickly.) In summer its masses of white flowers are attractive to hummingbirds and to nectar seeking insects like bees and butterflies. Birds, squirrels, and other wildlife rely on the abundant berries during the winter months as they ripen when few other fruits are available. Birds that are attracted to the berries include mockingbirds, cedar waxwings, robins, finches, flickers, hermit thrushes, warblers and song sparrows – to name a few.

### **Corylus cornuta, var. californica (Western Hazelnut)**

Western Hazelnut is an attractive, small tree reaching 20 – 30' tall and 6' wide, with multiple arching branches. The long, pendant male catkins form in late winter giving ornamental value and are the first native blooms of spring. Squirrels like the edible nuts, as do many people! Western hazelnut is shade and moisture tolerant and prefers a slightly alkaline soil. With a little effort, Western hazelnut can be trained to form a unique hedge.

### **Crataegus douglasii (Douglas Hawthorn, Black Hawthorn)**

This tree grows slowly to 10,' sometimes reaching 20 - 30.' A hardy tree, in the garden, it attracts birds, butterflies and the most welcomed of garden visitors, the ladybug. This versatile tree prefers full sun and is drought resistant while also tolerating brief periods of flooding. The black berries, or haws, are edible and used for jams.

These were from Wallace Hansen's article on **Native Plants of the Northwest Native Plant Nursery & Gardens** (<http://www.nwplants.com/business/catalog/trees.html>).

Another great site for information on trees for local habitats can be found at the Orange County Native Plant Society's site:

<http://www.ocnps.org/> .

Also, there is a site that lists plants for birds ([www.theodorepayne.org/plants/plants4birds.htm](http://www.theodorepayne.org/plants/plants4birds.htm)). Here are a few of their listings:

## **BERRIES and FRUITS:**

### **Small Trees/Shrubs**

- *\*Arctostaphylos spp.*, Manzanita – red berries and tasty flowers; insects; dense cover
- *\*Berberis spp.*, Mahonia/Barberry – tasty, summer-ripe berries; plants make good cover and shelter
- *Malsoma laurina*, Laurel Sumac – large drought-tolerant shrubs provide berries, shelter, and cover. Warblers love the insects this shrub attracts.
- *Prunus spp.*, Cherry – Woodpeckers and Jays eat the fruits whole; smaller birds pick off the pulp from large seeds
- *Rhus spp.*, Sumac – large drought-tolerant shrubs provide berries, shelter, and cover

### **Seeds**

- *Atriplex lentiformis*, Quail Bush – excellent cover and perching site; many birds eat seeds and salty leaves. Quail love this shrub! One of the best bird plants.
- *\*Lavatera assurgentiflora*, Tree Mallow – Goldfinches eat the seeds, which are produced in quantity

### **Shelter & Nesting Materials:**

- *Alnus rhombifolia*, White Alder – Warblers, Goldfinches, Pine Siskins; buds eaten by Cedar Waxwings
- *Juglans californica*, Southern California Walnut – Jays and Band-Tailed Pigeons eat the nuts
- *Platanus racemosa*, Western Sycamore – Black-Chinned Hummingbirds; Finches, Cedar Waxwings, Pine Siskins
- *Quercus spp.*, Oak – excellent habitat tree for all kinds of birds: provides insects, acorns, nesting sites, cover, etc.
- *Salix spp.*, Willow – unripe capsules eaten by Warblers, Thrushes, Fox Sparrows and Finches

\* attracts hummingbirds

## **Book review by Barbara Eaves**

*Changes in Landscape: The Beginnings of Horticulture in the California Missions* by Michael R. Hardwick, The Paragon Agency, 2005

This carefully researched book documents the influence that the missions had on agriculture and horticulture in California. It describes the plants grown at the individual missions, their successes and failures and the influence of weather and site location. It describes the importance of the native population as a labor source and the influence of Spanish culture on their choice of crops. This book clearly shows the influence that the padres had on the plants that we Californians use for food and landscape.

## **Heather's Great Spinach Salad**

*Yvonne Smith served this during the April garden tour and it is printed here by request.*

Fresh spinach, 4 – 5 cups  
4 slices bacon (I use turkey bacon), cooked crisp and crumbled

1 – 1 ½ cups Nature's 3 Berries (from Costco  
freezer section) or any mix of fresh berries  
1 cup grapes  
¼ cup *each* pine nuts and sunflower seeds  
½ cup *each* almonds and pecans  
1 cup jicama cubed  
4 small tomatoes cubed or 8 – 10 cherry  
tomatoes  
about ½ cup Lite House Pomegranate Blueberry  
Vinaigrette Dressing

I don't mix this salad: just add everything on top  
of the spinach.

## Garden Memories

By Jill Patterson

When Helen Elich shared her idea for a column on our childhood garden memories, the first thing that popped into my mind was a picture of the four-o'clock flowers growing in my childhood backyard. They flourished in the shade of a nectarine and apricot tree and truly did bloom after 4 o'clock on warm summer afternoons.

### Mirabilis jalapa

Also called Marvel of Peru, it is a South American native that is easily grown from seed. In Pomona, where I grew up, this was an easy-maintenance perennial growing to a 3-foot bushy shrub. I remember yellow flowers, but red and pink are just as common. Sunset's *Western Garden Book* indicates a full sun exposure; our



flowers thrived in the partial shade under the trees. Blooms would remain tightly furred until late afternoon and then



miraculously open. What could be better than eating a nectarine right off the tree while surrounded by flowers welcoming you in their midst? *Sunflower Houses*, by Sharon Lovejoy, gives directions for creating a garden clock, using flowers that open at different hours. Some of the flowers included in her list are:

- 6 a.m. Morning Glories and Iceland Poppy
- 7 a.m. African Marigold
- 8 a.m. Scarlet Pimpernel and Fringed Pinks

- 9 a.m. Marigolds and Tulips
- 10 a.m. California Poppies
- 11 a.m. Sweet Peas and Passion Flowers
- 12 p.m. wild Daisies
- 1 p.m. Open flowers continue to follow the sun
- 2 p.m. Tulips & Daisies are at their fullest
- 3 p.m. Vesper Iris
- 4 p.m. Four-o'clocks!
- 5 p.m. Evening Primrose
- 6 p.m. Evening Primrose is fully open
- 7 p.m. Evening Campion
- 8 p.m. night-scented Stock
- 9 p.m. Moon Flower
- 10 p.m. – midnight: Night-Blooming Cereus

What a wonderful way of marking time and utterly magical to the child within us.

## Debris from the Editor

June marks the end of our year and also the end of Sharon's three years as President. Please join me in expressing my appreciation for her hard work, patience, and creativity. Sharon has done a remarkable job and our organization has grown and thrived. Our annual garden tour of member's homes is one of her innovations and has become a favorite event. She has been unfailingly enthusiastic and encouraging and I have especially been grateful for her attentiveness and quick turnaround with the monthly newsletter. Sharon was on the Board for several years before taking over as president and certainly deserves a (short) rest. Sharon, I have loved working with you and expect to see you at upcoming meetings! Thank you seems too little for all that you have done and all the time you have expended to nurture our group.

The Board and committee members have done a particularly outstanding job this year and I have enjoyed the contributing articles that have been sent (keep them coming!). My congratulations to the new Board coming on and for the new energy and ideas they will bring. Thank you all!

--Jill Patterson