

## *Banksia integrifolia*—Coast Banksia

The plant family known as Proteacea has a southern hemisphere distribution, especially Australia and South Africa, and contains 80 genera of trees and shrubs. Many are popular ornamentals and Macadamia produces an edible nut. Most of the species are drought tolerant and are good candidates for Southern California landscapes. *Grevillea robust* (silk oak) is present in two large stands on Victoria Avenue between Anna and Horace (outbound parkway) and between Madison and Grace (inbound parkway) and produce spectacular yellow blooms in the spring.

The only other member of this family on Victoria Avenue is *Banksia integrifolia* (Coast Banksia) in the Dr. Lewis Garden. The genus *Banksia* consists of 75 species of trees and shrubs. The leaves are hard and leathery and the margins are often toothed. The flowers are produced in dense spikes of flowers that are typically held erect. Flowers range in color from red, through orange to yellow. *Banksia integrifolia* (Coast Banksia) is a shapely tree to 75 ft. The leaves are clustered in whorls, are narrow, and are dark green on the upper surface and silvery gray on the lower surface. Juvenile leaves have toothed margins but adult leaves have entire margins. The tree flowers from October through winter. The flowers are pale yellow on cylindrical, erect spikes up to 6 in tall. The trees flower from fall through winter. The fruits are woody, bivalve follicles.



*Unopened flowers on spike of  
Banksia integrifolia*



*Woody fruits (follicles) on old spike.  
Note silvery undersides of leaves that are  
characteristic of B. integrifolia.*



*Banksia integrifolia*—Tree  
habit and flowers.