



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, California 94122



April 21, 2003

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave., San Francisco.

7:30 PM Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

*****Guest fee \$5.**

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, April 21, 2003

“Hibiscus and related Malvaceae: so much more than just a pretty flower”

Presented by **Georgia Bost**

The speaker is President of Village Botanica Nursery, Houston, Texas and the 277 acre Production Farm: Hibiscus Hill Plantation located in Waller, Texas. Nearly all of the temperate North American species of Hibiscus, as well as a number of Asiatic and a few South American genomes – all perennials - are grown at the plantation. Also being grown are more than 120 hybrids of North American native Hibiscus. All of these genomes are being chemically characterized for flowers, green pods, mature seeds, root fibers, and cane fibers as preliminary analyses for future products from this perennial crop. The program will be richly illustrated with slides.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In April the drawing will include donations from our speaker Georgia Bost, **Village Botanica Nursery**, Houston, Texas ; **A Touch of the Tropics**, Santa Rosa, courtesy of David Franzman; **Annie's Annuals**, Richmond, courtesy of Annie Hayes; and **Strybing Arboretum** and **Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to Patrick Worley and to **Strybing Arboretum** and **Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the March meeting.

SAVE THESE DATES

California Horticultural Society

9th ANNUAL PLANT SALE

May 17-18, 2003

Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco County Fair Building

Rare and Wonderful Plants

Saturday, May 17, 2003 6:00-9:00PM - Members ONLY

Silent Auction of Selected Plant Treasures! Hundreds of Plants for Sale! Refreshments!

(Memberships available at the door). Admission \$5.00

General Sale, Sunday May 18th – 10:00AM to 2:00PM

For information call Elsie Mueller 800-884-0009

Monday, May 19, 2003

ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM

“Propagating & Gardening with Native Plants”

**Presented by Phil van Solen & Sherrie Althouse, owners of California Flora Nursery, Fulton.
 recipients of the 2003 Annual Award.**

For information call Elsie Mueller 800-884-0009

Coming Programs

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, June 16, 2003

“Palms for the Bay Area Palette”

Presented by **Jason Dewees**, a noted authority on palms. He is a writer who is active in the International Palm Society and California Horticultural Society, and a volunteer at the Conservatory of Flowers and Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens. The program will include an overview of the palm family, their great diversity of habitats and the many species that may be grown in the bay area. The geographic range of palms may surprise some: from nearly 44 degrees N latitude in Europe (farther north than Portland, Maine) to 44 degrees S latitude in New Zealand. Andean passes as high as 13,000 feet harbor *Ceroxylon parvifrons*, while *Nypa fruticans* lives in tidal swamps and the date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera* inhabits below-sea-level basins including the Dead Sea and California's Coachella Valley.



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President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

"Who loves a garden loves a greenhouse too."
1887, Cowper: Task

Well, of course! Doesn't everyone? My greenhouse is small, but it allows me to grow some things that I particularly like that need to be protected and kept warmer than the outside. I have a few orchids and many gesneriads. I grow a number of the gesneriads from seed. The seed of the micro-mini-sinningia is very fine and must be protected. I sow them in covered plastic containers, and when they come up, the seedlings are so small that it is hard to distinguish their separate leaves. After a few weeks, I can move them on to a larger covered container (covered to maintain the humidity) using a large darning needle to move the tiny things. In a surprisingly short time, the plantlets are about the diameter of a nickel and may set buds. A large leaf may be 3/8 of an inch and the flowers a half inch. These plants are definitely indoor plants in our climate, requiring more warmth and humidity than the great outdoors provides. I'll bring some to the April meeting for you to see.

Outdoors, the Iceland poppies are putting on a great show as are *Narcissus* 'Geranium' and 'Ice Follies'. I planted

a bunch of lilies and potted up the tuberous begonias. I have to hurry up and finish repotting the *Sarracenia*s (North American pitcher plants) because they are starting to bloom!

By now the Landscape Garden show is history. It was very interesting, many lovely display gardens, exhibits of flower arranging, bonsai, our own Cal Hort display of "Hot Plant Picks" that drew a lot of comment, and many growers selling their tempting wares. Not to mention potters, garden ornaments, books, useful information and even koi! I strongly encourage you to sign up to take a turn with our display next year. You get in free, and can stay all day, paying only for the parking, unless you come by public transportation. Such a deal!

Our next meeting, April 21, will feature *Hibiscus* and other related MALVACEAE. They are a large family of great beauty and usefulness. I hope that you join us for the Walk and dinner before coming to the meeting. I do look forward to seeing you, and hopefully some visitors and new members from the Landscape Garden Show.

I hope that you are able to find some tranquility in your own garden (and greenhouse if you have one) during these very troubled times."

Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup (as I well know).

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find, visit and patronize these great nurseries. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

A Touch of the Tropics

by appointment (707) 578-9317
Santa Rosa, call for directions

Craving luscious deep green leaves and huge flowers of super saturated colors? Dave Franzman has 1000's of plants, with almost every *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis* cultivar you could ever want. Open by appointment only for wholesale or retail sales.

Annie's Annuals

(510) 215 1326
www.anniesannuals.com

Most of Annie's plants are grown in 4" pots size, out in the open, right next to the San Francisco Bay, in Richmond, California. Annie grows all of her selections in her own garden in Richmond, before introducing them which guarantees that they are good performers! Available at nurseries all over the Bay Area and at the famous Open House Sales. Check website for directions and details.

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316

Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF
www.strybing.org

Strybing's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does well in the Bay Area. However, there are always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, the nursery has monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. The next sale is the big Annual Sale, May 2 & 3. Don't miss it!

Fine Gardening

Do you currently subscribe or were you thinking of subscribing to the bi-monthly magazine *Fine Gardening*? If we get a minimum of 10 people to sign up together each will receive a 20% discount. If you're interested, call Bea Dimpfl at (925) 932-1873.



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February Plant Forum by Don Mahoney

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of the following plants are available on our website at www.calhortsociety.org in the 'Plant Forum' section.

1. *Aeschynanthus* 'Maylisia'

GESNERIACEAE

Don Mahoney, Strybing

This evergreen trailer or short vine is a relative of the common African violet. The flowers are very striking, having a deep maroon calyx and tubular red flowers with black stripes. It is a hybrid whose parents hail from SE Asia. It can be grown outdoors in the Bay Area with protection. It likes partial shade, regular water and an epiphytic soil mix.

2. *Chirita* 'Keiko'

GESNERIACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

This gesneriad belongs to a large and diverse Asian genus that is only recently become more available for cultivation. This is a hybrid between *Chirita fimbrispala* and *C. rhomboidea*. It looks like a mixture of African violet and streptocarpus, with a rosette of leaves and slipper shaped large blue-violet flowers held above the foliage. It is best grown in a cool greenhouse but can be grown outside with protection from frost.

3. *Asarum maximum*

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Tom Ballinger,

During the last decade there have been introductions of many wonderful ground cover gingers from western Asia. They all have variously mottled and silvered leaf reminiscent of the best cyclamens. Some of them also have beautiful flowers and this species is one of the best. One common name is panda flower because the 2 inch flower has almost black petals with a sharply contrasting white center. These plants are not easy to grow as they do not like Mediterranean conditions. They prefer warm humid conditions and part shade with enriched woodland soil. They burn in low humidity and rot when wet and cold. However, the striking leaves and flowers make them well worth the effort of finding the right conditions. These beautiful specimens were well grown in a warm shady garden in San Francisco.

4. *Asarum splendens*

ARISTOLOCHIACEAE

Tom Ballinger,

This ginger from western Asia has the same habit and culture as the last entry. It has smaller and darker flowers.

5. *Michelia maudiae*

MAGNOLIACEAE

Jana Olson, Berkeley

This splendid small tree is one of numerous new introductions to west coast horticulture. Hardy possibly to zone 7, it does best in warmer but moister areas around the bay. It is an elegant evergreen tree with large shiny

leaves with a blue-toned reverse. The flowers are 4 inches across and heavily scented. It grows very well in Portland and Seattle. It is native to China and flowers in early spring. The specimen shown was grown in Berkeley.

6. *Sinningia leucotricha*

GESNERIACEAE

Fred Coe, Ross

This is one of those plants that makes you want to pet it, as its leaves look like they are made of thick white velvet. It can develop a very large tuber to 6 inches across. It is dormant for part of the year, usually late summer into winter and then in early spring sends up its wonderful white leaves and sprays of tubular apricot orange flowers. It is best grown in a cool greenhouse but will survive outdoors with protection from excess winter moisture. It is native to Brazil.

7. *Rhododendron* 'Silver Thimbles'

ERICACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

There are vireya rhododendrons in bloom every month of the year as they are native to mid to high elevation Asian tropics. This hybrid has small leaves and matching small (to 3/4") bell shaped flowers that are white with a pink blush. The flowers covered the small plant. They are best grown with protection from excess heat or cold in a well-drained epiphytic soil mix. They prefer part shade.

Food Glorious food...

...for the Plant Sale Gala Saturday May 17th

Every year we ask our members to contribute food to our plant sale Gala. We are looking for wine, soda, sparkling water, or just plain water, cheeses,

crackers, baguettes, or your own special finger food, appetizers or desserts, that you will be happy to bring to the show fully prepared. If you are interested in helping, please call Kristin Yanker-Hansen a 925-831-9499 or E-mail at Yankerhansen@pacbell.net. We are open to all ideas.



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March Meeting Recap Jason DeWees

Clematis, well behaved vines of outrageous beauty
by Patrick Jesse Pons-Worley

Clematis—pronounced CLEM'uh-tiss—was the subject of Patrick Jesse Pons-Worley's talk at the March 2003 meeting of the California Horticultural Society, held at the San Francisco County Fair Building on the 17th.

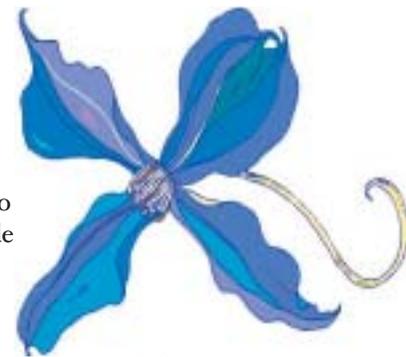
Mr. Worley's experience with the largely woody, vining genus *Clematis* began in childhood in Minnesota, where his first success was with a *Clematis* 'Jackmanii.' Now based in Watsonville, California, he is an avid grower of many different vine genera, including *Passiflora*, on which he has written a cookbook.

The presentation included images of many different hybrids and species, with growing tips and special recommendations. Among those Mr. Worley recommended were *Clematis lasiantha*, a California native; various *C. montana* selections from across its wide Eurasian distribution; *C. 'Vino'*, with coloring that doesn't fade in sunlight; and *C. 'Carmencita'*, with its lovely raspberry tones. Mr. Worley described one hybrid, *Clematis* 'General Sikorsky,' as having "very big flowers—blowsy and impressive." *C. tangutica* bears a particularly charming golden bell-like flower that suffers no color fade. Mr. Worley also noted that not all *Clematis* are vines; some are rhizomatous perennials (e.g., *C. socialis*), and others are shrubby (e.g., *C. integrifolia*). But those that are vines are twiners and do need support—a shrub, trellis or tree. (One epithet for *Clematis* is "treebine.") And not all are deciduous. One of the most common evergreen species

grown here on the West Coast is *C. armandii*, of which he recommended the cultivar 'Henderson' for its tendency to rebloom. Many species offer delectable fragrance, in addition to vibrant color.

Clematis are heavy feeders throughout the growing season, Mr. Worley emphasized. They respond to monthly doses of manure tea, or alternatively, early-season helpings of water-activated, time-release balanced fertilizer. Plants should generally have their feet in shade and heads in sun, although the color on some selections' blossoms will fade in the sun of the late spring and summer months. Temperature can alter color expression as well. Cooler temperatures can render, for example, a normally white flower a greenish-white on those buds that open before the onset of warm weather. Resentful of transplantation, *Clematis* should be planted—without disturbing the roots—in their permanent spot. Certain species, such as *C. montana* or *C. armandii*, can be rather overenthusiastic and smother their tree or shrub hosts, so gardeners should take the habits of individual species into account when choosing.

For Web resources, Mr. Worley suggested querying Google with "clematis growing" to bring up a wealth of discussion groups which one may visit to answer cultivation questions.



Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of each month:

Sick Plant Clinic—diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM–Noon. Free. UCBG, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755

April 12–13

Rhododendron show and sale—Cal Chapter, American Rhododendron Society. Many kinds of rhododendrons and azaleas, from small tropical Vireyas to shrubs with large fragrant flowers, Saturday 1 PM TO 5 PM, Sunday 11 AM TO 4 PM, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. Free. Info: (510) 841-6468.

April 26 & 27

Secret Gardens of the East Bay—the much-loved annual tour. Limited Edition Tour on the 26 (\$90), self-guided tour and marketplace on the 27 (\$45). www.SecretGardenTour.org

May 3rd, 2003

Ninth Annual Spring Festival—Crow Canyon Institute and Gardens will be holding its in San Ramon. Plant sale featuring hard-to-find heirloom plants, classes and demonstrations on gardening and environmental issues as well as garden-related crafts, and special activities for children. A gourmet lunch will be served made from produce grown in the garden. Admission is free. www.crowcanyongardens.org

May 3 & 4

Santa Rosa Iris Society Show—Hundreds of irises inside and in display garden. Bring your own for judging! Luther Burbank Art and Garden center, 2050 Yulupa Ave, Santa Rosa. (707) 433-8633.

June 27–29

Gardening to Extremes—Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's 2003 Study Weekend with Pamela Harper, Dan Hinkley, Maurice Horn and more. registration required and it fills up fast. <http://www.hardyplant.com/calendar.htm>

July 27–Aug 3

21st Annual Perennial Plant Symposium—seminars & lectures-trade show in Sacramento-Hyatt Regency (July 27–July 31.) Tours Aug 1–3 San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, the Napa & Sonoma areas, Watsonville & Gilroy areas. Info: (614) 771-8431, ppa@perennialplant.org.

Hort Notes:

■ **THE RETURN OF MAGIC GARDENS NURSERY** to its longtime Berkeley home at 729 Heinz Avenue, on March 15th & 16th will be a dream come true for local gardeners. In its newest incarnation Magic Gardens Berkeley will be a specialty "Weekend Nursery" open Saturdays and Sundays from 9–5 at the newly refurbished Berkeley Arts Complex, which also houses other creative businesses.

Email Announcements

We are instigating a new plan to email all of our internet connected members a notification as to when the latest Bulletin has been posted to our website. This is a new free service your Council members are providing for those who receive their Bulletins late by postal mail.

If you have already provided us with your email address, you should have started getting the announcements already. If you haven't, or it's changed, let us know at *emailupdate@calhortsociety.org*

You can also get your *Bulletin* sent by first class mail, which will easily get it to you on time by adding just \$4 to your Annual Dues.

Please direct any email questions to *emailupdate@calhortsociety.org* or to Bruce (415) 824-1833 and any postal questions to Elsie at (415) 566-5222.

Advertising

We are now accepting advertising by members for members in the Cal Hort *Bulletin*. This is a prime way for our membership to learn about the great horticultural items and opportunities our other members can provide. We will still list your events for free in the Horticultural Calendar but you can still make a larger impression with a one-time ad, as well.

Rates are \$12 for a business card size (3.5 x 2) and \$24 for a quarter page per month. We accept both digital and camera ready art.

Visit our website for more information or call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society:

Linda Bell	Suzanne Redell
Timothy Criewijk	Kim Ruchamkin
Bill Holt	Sandra Sellinger
Suzanne Mounts	Catalina Quintero-Avila
Dana O'Connor	Devlin Cuyler
Jerry Parsons	Wallace Gorell

Grants & Scholarships

...information is now posted on our website at www.calhortsociety.org. Alternatively, send a SASE to Grants Committee: Care of: Diana D. Ross, Box 60, Belmont CA 94002



Botanical Tours

May 4

Cal Hort Coastal Garden Tour. Visit gardens on the Marin coast in all their spring splendor. \$10 per person. Call (415) 388-6850, reneef@worldpassage.net or sign up at the next meeting to reserve your spot.

May 16–June 3, 2003

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces. In support of Strybing Arboretum Society

August 18–September 2, 2003

Namaqualand and the Cape Floral Kingdom
Sponsored by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

September 16–October 5 2003

Wildflowers of Western Australia with Rodger Elliot & Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific Horticulture*. (800) 624-6633 or www.geostartravel.com

January 22–February 4, 2004

Drakensbergs—a floral treasure—South Africa in Summer. In support of The Botanical Society of South Africa for flora conservation.

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

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****Meeting Time Change****

Starting in June, our monthly meetings will be starting at 7:15 instead of 7:30. The times for the Strybing walk and dinner will remain the same.



HELP!!!

The *Bulletin* needs a new Calendar Editor. The position requires just a couple of hours a month to organize, sort and format the press releases, notes etc. for publication. The only requirements are familiarity of any word processor and an email account. Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833 or email editor@calhortsociety.org for more information. It's a great way to keep tabs on what's going on the horticultural world.



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Katherine Henwood

Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted *two* months ahead. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to the Editor at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call the Office secretary at the number above.

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