



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
 California Academy of Sciences
 Golden Gate Park
 San Francisco, California 94118



August 19, 2002

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 Avenue 9 Bistro, 1243 Ninth Ave., San Francisco \$15.

7:30 PM Meeting will be held in the County Fair Building, Strybing Arboretum Society, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way, San Francisco.

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

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, August 19, 2002

“New Plants, Old Plants, and Plants that Work: Continuity in Mediterranean Gardening”

Presented by Jeff Rosendale, owner of Sierra Azul Nursery, Watsonville, California. In a slide-illustrated program, the speaker will show the myriad of possibilities of year-round gardening in California’s Mediterranean climate-California natives, Australian and South African plants, perennials and drought tolerant plants.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarship Program. In August the drawing will include donations from **Sierra Azul Nursery**, courtesy of our speaker Jeff Rosendale; **Berkeley Horticultural Nursery**, courtesy of Paul Doty and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **Magic Gardens, Berkeley**, courtesy of Pam Cosce and to **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the July meeting.

Coming Programs

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, September 16, 2002

“The Botanical Riches of the Zambezan Woodland Flora”

Dr. Daniel Harder, Director of UC Santa Cruz Arboretum will present a fascinating program about Zambezan flora, the variety of plant communities, and its botanical richness showing photos of the wonderful woodland flora including bulbs, succulents, orchids, endemics and species new to science. He will highlight his work as Director of Missouri Botanical Garden’s program in Zambia in which he provided the government of Zambia with plant diversity information within recognized National Heritage Sites and Botanical Reserves as a first step towards protection of national plant resources. He visited nearly three-quarters of the 600 or so sites and carried out botanical inventories at each area.

Monday, October 21, 2002

“TEMPORAL MOMENTS WITH LIGHT IN GARDENS”

“The California light is perhaps the largest influence on my garden designs. Whilst I plan for light to play a major role in my garden designs, often the most striking effects occur by chance.” Bernard Trainor, noted landscape designer, will show images of magical moments he has shared with light in his garden designs. Bernard’s exceptional landscapes have been recognized by the International Society of Garden Designers in Britain, and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers in America.



President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

"This month received its present name from the Emperor Augustus, and was selected not as being his natal month, but because his greatest good fortune happened to him. As July contained 31 days, and August only 30, it was thought necessary to add another day to the later month, in order that August might not be in any respect inferior to Julius."

This quote from *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* (she quotes the *Encyclopedia Britannica*) leaves one with the obvious question of just what was Augustus' greatest good fortune?? Not being a history scholar, I don't know, do any of you know?? Who can answer this mystery question? A prize is offered!

August is grand month in the garden with so many things in bloom and in bud. This morning I was treated to the sight of a swallow-tail butterfly on the purple buddlea. Mother Nature casts

her colors about with great abandon. Consider the red and purple fushia, or the strange combinations found in bromeliads. I have a magenta and yellow gladiolus coming up through a red salvia. But I think the prize for colorful is the view of red rose and pink penstemon that my double orange daylily has invaded! Every year I consider doing my garden in a co-ordinated color scheme, but I can never decide which one I like best so the result is always vivid.

Some of the plants for last months plant drawing were donated by Michael Barclay who has moved to Arizona with future plans to move on to Florida. I'm sure that he will have a great time with whole new category of plants to play with!! So thank you, Michael, and best wishes for good growing where ever you are!!

This month's program will be presented by Jeff Rosendale, the owner of Sierra Azul nursery in Watsonville. We can look forward to a beautiful slide program showing the many possibilities of gardening in our wonderful California. I look forward to seeing you there. ✿

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!

Magic Gardens

2121 San Joaquin St, Richmond
(510) 528-5587

www.magicgardens.com

Monday through Saturday 8-5, Sundays 10- 5

Magic Gardens is dedicated to the creation of beauty and to inspiring a deeper relationship with plants and gardens through display, education, and service. They are committed to collecting, growing and making available reliable, colorful, and unusual plants that thrive well in the temperate Bay Area climates. They also have frequent and interesting classes.

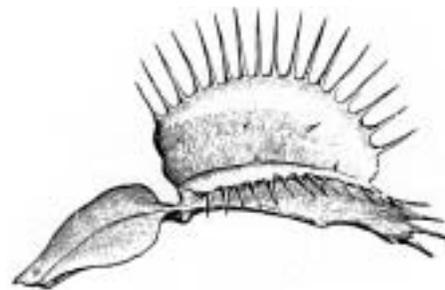
Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(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 sales are on August 10th featuring shade plants and September 14th, Open Nursery with Native Plants & Succulents. ✿



Botanical Tours

January 2003

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

May 16-June 3, 2003

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

August-September, 2003

Namaqualand and the Cape Floral Kingdom Sponsored

by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

September 2003

Wildflowers of Western Australia with Rodger Elliot & Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific Horticulture*.

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

June Plant Forum by Don Mahoney

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

1. *Angelica archangelica* (seedling)

APIACEAE

Bruce Peters, San Francisco

This relative of the carrot normally grows to six feet and is used in part shade to give a luxuriant tropical look to the garden. It likes rich soil and water. *Angelica* has been used medicinally to improve circulation and also as a flavoring for alcoholic beverages. This particular plant on display was a very pale light green form which grows much slower and probably needs a little more shade to prevent sun burn.

2. *Browallia*

SOLANACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

In keeping with the subject of the program, a number of blue flowers were presented. *Browallia* is a member of the solanum family and is sometimes used as a bedding annual, although it is at its best as a hanging basket. Its two- inch flowers can be blue or violet and are produced in profusion all summer. With luck it can be over wintered in a greenhouse and can be treated as a perennial.

3. *Brunfelsia Pauciflora* 'Macrantha'

SOLANACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This is another member of the Solanum family with blue flowers. This cultivar has markedly larger flowers than the more common yesterday-today-and-tomorrow plant. It also is more tender and requires warmth, moist rich somewhat acid soil and partial shade. Its spectacular flower show is worth the extra attention it requires. It blooms in the early summer and it was reported that it may re-bloom.

4. *Dichaea glauca*

ORCHIDACEAE

Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood

This unusual orchid was presented as a foot high stem with many small white flowers opposite the leaf axils. This genus of epiphytic orchids is poorly known. This species grows in cloud forest conditions in Mexico and Central America at rather high elevations and needs plenty of water, cool temperatures and bright light to grow well.

5. *Epipactus Helleborine*

ORCHIDACEAE

Rebecca Lhermitte, Berkeley

This European ground orchid is "weedily spontaneous" in Marin gardens prior to 1970, according to Thomas Howell in Marin Flora. It is in many locations through the Bay Area now. It apparently spreads by wind borne seed and is not noticed until a mature plant bursts into bloom with its multi-colored brown, green and yellow 2 cm. flowers. It usually occurs in shade and does not impact other vegetation very much, so is not a nuisance. I doubt if it can be transplanted.

6. *Masdevallia coccinea* 'Leywood'

ORCHIDACEAE

Tom Ballinger, San Francisco

This large flowered orchid with its red 1-1/2 to 2" cloak-like flowers is one of the nicest in the genus. The flower stems on this well-grown plant were about a foot tall. *Masdevallias* as a group are relatively easy to grow in the fog belt but are more difficult where summer temperatures are too warm or winter temperatures too cold. Like many orchids, these are epiphytic and need a well-drained orchid mix with regular watering in summer, a little less in winter. They bloom mostly in the spring and summer.

7. *Symphyandra Zangezora*

CAMPANULACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

A wonderful member of the Campanula family, this plant might make a better hanging basket than garden plant because its light lilac-blue flowers are produced in abundance on 1 foot branched thin intertwining stems. It needs full sun or partial shade inland. With proper pruning it will over winter as a perennial, but if allowed to, it will bloom itself to death.

8. *Tacitus bellus*

CRASSULACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

This is possibly the largest flowered member in the *Crassula* family and certainly has some of the brightest flowers. Interesting hybrids with this and other members of the genus were created by Victor Reiter and are still being grown by Ed Carmen. *Tacitus bellus* itself has rose-red flowers over an inch across held nicely above the plant. The plant is easy to kill from over-watering and must be in a fast-draining mix and protected from winter wet and cold. It is most often treated as a house plant. ✨

Photographers

The most popular section of Cal Hort's website is the Plant Forum with it's gallery of plant photos. Unfortunately, our current photographer, Bruce, can't always attend the meetings to take the photos...leaving a big gaping hole in the list of plants shown on our website, depriving many of the pleasures of proper plant identification.

To circumvent this, we are building a list of alternate photographers who could snap photos of the Plant Forum in Bruce's absence. All you need is a digital camera and a computer to send the photos. No special photographic talents are required. You will be given at least 24 hours advance notification if you're needed.

Interested? Please send bruce@calhortsociety.org a note to be put on the list or to ask any questions. It's a fun and easy way to garner the appreciation and respect of not only your fellow members, but of plant lovers world-wide!



Horticultural Calendar

August 10 & 11

Annual Dahlia Show—SF County Fair Building. 10am-5pm both days. Sponsored by Dahlia Society of California. Free.

August 10 & 11

Mushrooms and Permaculture Weekend Workshop—Learn the basics of both permaculture design and Mushroom cultivation! Pre-registration required. www.sonic.net/permashroom or (707) 874-1244. Sonoma Co.

August 15

21st Century Disease & Insect Review with Bruce Hagan CA Dept of Forestry. City College of SF. Sponsored by SF Professional Gardener's Association. 7-9 PM, (415) 558-8036.

August 18

Garden Party—Western Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, 2-5 PM, at The Harland Hand Memorial Garden, 825 Shevlin Drive, El Cerrito. Refreshments and plant sale. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Directions: <http://home.earthlink.net/~handgarden/index.html>. Info: handgarden@earthlink.net.

September 21

The Legacy of Thomas Church - Town Gardens—This lecture walking tour is led by Richard McPherson, B.A. E-mail jessy_berg@yahoo.com to reserve your spot. Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD) members: \$35; non-members: \$40; Class size limited to 20 people.

September 22

Annual Meeting of The Western Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society, 6:30 PM at the SF County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. Potluck dinner, plant sale, raffle of items from the Estate of Harland Hand, election of officers, and slideshow. Travel to South Africa with Martin Grantham for a tour from the Eastern Cape's Drakensberg Mountains to the Western Cape's Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve. Info: (510) 525-9648

Strybing Arboretum Society
(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

August 10

Plant Sale—10 AM-1 PM, Strybing Nursery

August 16

Weeds seminar, 12:30-4:30PM

August 17

Weeds seminar, 9AM-1PM

August 18

Story Time, 10:30AM, Library, free

September 6

Organic Prelude, Napa Valley field trip to organic farms, 7AM-7PM (bus)

September 8

Story Time, 10:30AM, Library, free

September 10

Botanical Art Studio, 4 Session studio, 5:30-8:30PM, CFB ✨

Seed collecting

Your fellow members of Cal Hort would be delighted to find any of the following seeds in next year's exchange! If you are growing (or have other means of access to) any of these types of plants, please take a little time to collect the seed. Your fellow Cal Hort members will thank you!

General categories:

California natives
Mediterranean natives
drought tolerant plants
California native annuals
California native bulbs
South African native bulbs
hardy bulbs
fern spores
heirloom vegetables
vines
annuals
trees

Genera:

Agave
Aloe
Cyclamen
Dyckia
Paeonia

Specific plants:

Acer palmatum
Agapanthus 'Storm Cloud'
Cestrum nocturnum
Dianella tasmanica
Miscanthus 'Morning Light'
Neomarica caerulea
Paeonia californica



Any time before Thanksgiving, please send the seeds to:

Dave Tivol
130 Locksunart Way #4
Sunnyvale CA 94087

It's not mandatory, but if you can take a picture of the plant in leaf or flower, it could be posted on our web site, where it would help illustrate the beauty (or other pertinent feature) of the plant. Digital photos can be sent to seeds@calhortsociety.org. Prints can be sent in with seeds; we will digitize them and return the originals. Thanks for supporting our Seed Exchange! ✨

Host a Speaker

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a monthly speaker. Many of our speakers live out of town or the state and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to stay for one night with one of our members and perhaps enjoy their garden or another if time is available. Please contact Barbara Hopper (707) 833-2078 or Bruce Peters (415) 824-1833, bruce@calhortsociety.org.

Searching for the real Rice-Paper Plant

by Robert E. Perdue, Jr. and Charles J. Kraebel

Rice paper is a soft, velvety, paperlike substance, long used in North America and Europe as a raw material for making very realistic artificial flowers. It has also been used for many years by Chinese artists as a surface for water colors.

In two respects rice paper was very inappropriately named. Rice plays no part either in its origin or in its manufacture. In the generally accepted sense that paper consists of matted fibrous matter rice paper is not a true paper. The product is prepared from the spongy pith of an Asiatic plant *Tetrapanax papyrifera** (Hook.) Koch. The origin of the name "rice paper" is unknown but it probably arose through the misunderstanding of early western explorers of the Orient; rice paper was believed by laymen to have been prepared from rice straw. Early botanists who examined the produce were readily aware that it was not produced from a grass but could offer little more than an indication that it came from a dicotyledon.

Rice paper was first brought to England by a Dr. Livingstone about 1805. The product became well known but remained a curiosity of unknown origin until its identity was more or less definitely established by W. J. Hooker in 1852. In an effort to establish the identity of the plant, Hooker requested information about it from a General Hardwicke, then resident in the East Indies. Hardwicke believed the source of rice paper to be the same as that of the "shola" (*Aeschynomene aspera*) of India. His excellent description of that plant and its utilization was published by Hooker without questioning the authenticity of the identification.

In 1834, Bennett, in his *Wanderings in New South Wales ...* published a figure of the rice-paper plant (Fig. 1), adapted from a large colored drawing by a Chinese artist that he had obtained in Canton. This was a true representation of the plant and was apparently the first picture of the plant available to the western world although a figure had been published earlier in the work of Li-shi-chin. Hooker did not see Bennett's figure until 1853 and as far as can be determined from the literature it was not seen before by any other competent botanist.

About 1850, Hooker received from J. H. Layton, British consul at Amoy, samples of the pith, a model of the knife used in cutting the paper, information on the source (Formosa) of the rice paper, and a description of the manner of preparation. He then realized from a comparison of the two materials that rice paper and "shola" were not products of the same species.

Later in 1850 Hooker examined a set of 11 paintings brought from China by a traveler, C. J. Braine, reputedly illustrating all phases of cultivation of the rice paper plant and the production of rice paper. An additional figure had been obtained in China by J. Reeves, this too, reputedly representing the rice-paper plant. This figure had been made by a Chinese artist from a

plant growing in Reeves' garden. From Reeves' picture botanists assumed that the plant was a member of either the ARALIACEAE or MALVACEAE. Reeves' picture did not show more than a shade of resemblance to Braine's paintings. Hooker was inclined to doubt the authenticity of Reeves' picture as it was prepared by a Chinese at Reeves' request, whereas Braine's pictures had been prepared spontaneously without promise of remuneration. Hooker assumed that Braine's pictures were authentic but did not recognize that the size of the stems was out of proportion.



Seemann, in 1852, published a brief account of his efforts in China to obtain information leading to the identity of the source plant. He was able to obtain samples of the pith but only conflicting information about the plant. From descriptive information obtained from a translation of a portion of the work of Li-shi-chin and a woodcut contained in the latter, he supposed the plant to be a member of the MALVACEAE.

About this time Mrs. Layton, widow of the former British consul at Amoy, forwarded a living plant to Hooker. Although the plant died en route, the remains—root, stem and partly decayed leaves—were received by Hooker. A microscopic comparison of a section of the stem with a sample of rice paper convinced him that the plant was the source of this product. The remains of the leaves were sufficient to identify this plant as the same species as that represented in the picture obtained by Reeves some years earlier. Although flowers and fruit were completely unknown and Hooker had seen neither a living specimen nor an herbarium specimen in a reasonable state of preservation, he was certain that the plant was a species of ARALIACEAE and suspected that it was a member of the genus *Aralia*. He described the plant at this time as *Aralia ? papyrifera* and illustrated it with a reproduction of the Reeves picture, diagrams of the stem and root, and a microscopic diagram of the pith.

Later in 1852, two living plants sent by J. W. Bowring were received at Kew and in 1855 Hooker noted receipt of flowering specimens from Bowring.

The plant supplied by Bowring flowered in England in 1855. The flowers dropped off as rapidly as they formed. With this material and the dried flowering specimens received earlier, Hooker was able to prepare a complete description of the plant and published this with a figure illustrating flowering racemes and details of flowers and fruit in Curtis's Botanical Magazine.

In 1859, Koch temporarily transferred it to *Didymopanax* as subgenus *Tetrapanax* but soon elevated it to generic rank. Bentham and Hooker regarded the plant as a species of *Fatsia*; however the disposition made by Koch has been the most widely accepted and the plant is best known today as *Tetrapanax papyrifera**, the only species of this genus. ❁

*Now *Tetrapanax papyrifera*

Cal Hort moves to SF County Fair Building for general meetings

The Academy of Sciences, which has been our home for many years, is due to begin a rebuilding process that will take several years. The S.F. County Fair Building is newly refurbished with a new roof, new floors, new paint and new chairs!

Remember that our meetings begin with the Walk in the Strybing Gardens at 4PM, followed by a no-host dinner at Ave 9 Bistro, and thence to the meeting.

The California Horticultural Society welcomes the following new members:

Diana Arsham
 Billy Barrett
 Gail and Daniel Carstens
 Megan
 Scott Melcher

Terry Regan
 Jeanne Stone
 Gill Tanyan
 Karen & Harold Stoner

Officers

President
 Katherine Henwood
 president@calhortsociety.org

Vice President
 Vacant

Past President
 Don Mahoney

Recording Secretary
 Richard Starkeson

Corresponding Secretary
 Barbara Hopper
 jbhopper@sonic.net

Treasurer
 Michael Craib

Secretary

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Executive Council

2000-2002
First Term
 Ann DeRosa

Second Term
 Katherine Henwood
 Bruce Peters (temporary)

2001-2003
First Term
 Diana Ross

Second Term
 Jana Olson Drobinsky
 Elise Lew
 Don Mahoney

2002-2004
First Term
 Michael Craib
 Renee Fittinghoff
Second Term
 Richard Starkeson
 Keitha DeMara

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.

California Horticultural Society
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