



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



January 20, 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. \$15.

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, January 20, 2003

“The Building & Plants of Portland’s Classical Chinese Garden”
Introducing plants new & very old through the context of horticulture hundreds of years past.

Sean Hogan, horticulturist and a curator of the Chinese garden, describes this new garden as a place that includes both the species and forms found in the early gardens of Suzhou, in southeast China, and numerous traditional plants found nearby. Some of the exact plants or cultivars and/or forms selected by Suzhou scholars have been incorporated into the garden. Rounding out the collections are rare and unusual specimens planted for the first time in western gardens. Major collections include: Osmanthus, Camellia, Orchids, Michelia, Asarum and bamboos.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In January the drawing will include donations from **Quarryhill Botanical Garden**, Glen Ellen, courtesy of Director Bill McNamara & **Strybing Arboretum** and **Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **California Flora Nursery**, Fulton, courtesy of Sherrie Althouse & Phil Van Soelen & to **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the November meeting.



Coming Programs

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, February 17, 2003

“The Once and Future New Zealand Garden”

Presented by Scot Medbury, Director of the Strybing Arboretum and The Conservatory of Flowers.

The list of non-native plants introduced to Golden Gate Park, grown for decades, and then lost from cultivation here is an extensive one. Concentrating on the re-introduction of such proven non-weedy species is a practical response to concerns about the potential ecological risks of plant-introduction programs. Scott Medbury, recently returned from a trip to New Zealand, will explain how documentation on thirteen decades of plant-introduction activity is informing the planned renovation of Strybing’s historic New Zealand collection, and how this project promises to bring new cultivars of New Zealand species to Bay Area gardens. A focus on New Zealand vegetation types, unusual species such as tawari (*Ixerba brexioides*), hinau (*Elaeocarpus dentatus*), and toru (*Persoonia toru*), and the horticultural performance of New Zealand plants in the Bay Area will bring the plans for the renovated Strybing garden alive.



President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

Edith Holden in her lovely journal, *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, tells us that:

"December was the last month of the old Roman year, which was divided into ten months. The Saxons called it 'winter-monat' or winter month, and heligh-monat,' or holy month from the fact that Christmas fell with it. The 22nd of December is the date of the winter solstice, when the sun reaches the tropic of Capricorn."

Writing this in mid-December for you to read in mid-January did propose a quandary: Write as if December never happened? Pretend I'm writing in January, looking back? No, I'll write looking forward, anticipating the holidays, the solstice, the seed catalogs the beginnings of the new growth. Mid -December finds me still watering the pots, planting out the pansies, the Iceland Poppies and some *Schizanthus*. I found some really beautiful cyclamen at the San Lorenzo nursery in Santa Cruz, white with just a touch of red on the tips of the petals. It is a lovely nursery, with lots of plants and garden related stuff. I keep telling my family that I'm really easy to please; gift certificates for nurseries are great presents! I'm looking forward to a lovely Christmas, and hoping that all of you will have had one by the time your read this!

On to January: Edith Holden tells us:

"January, named for the Roman god Janus, who is represented with two faces looking in opposite directions, as retrospective to the past, and prospective to, the coming year."

One of my favorite poems as a child was from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Child's Garden of Verses*. I won't give you the whole

thing, but the last verse epitomizes winter for me, even 'though I no longer live where this happens.

"Black are my steps on silver sod;
Thick blows my frosty breath abroad;
And tree and house, and hill and lake,
Are frosted like a wedding-cake."

In Pacifica we seldom see frost, for which I am pleased. It means that I have some things in bloom year-round. It also allows me to do the weeding, cutting back, dividing and planting after others have retired to fireside with their seed catalogs.

Seed Catalogs! I go through each one, making a list, wondering if I could try this or that. By the time I am finished, I have a list that would plant all of Pacifica and part of Daly City! There is no way I could give all those seedlings a home! It's hard enough keeping up with gesneriad cuttings and seeds, let alone the general population of the garden! I find that actually, I do very well at our Plant Drawings at Cal Hort. There are always some plants that will do well, and some that will be challenges.

I hope you have all renewed your membership, and are eager to see what wonderful programs this New Year will bring to us. Our Program Committee headed by Barbara Hopper works hard to find new and interesting topics and speakers for us. If you have suggestions either for topic or speaker, don't hesitate to tell her or any member of the Council. Remember that your council exists to serve the organization, and cannot function with out your input and support.

This month's meeting will bring us Sean Hogan showing us the Portland Classical Chinese Garden. I always look forward to our programs, there is so much to learn, and the opportunity to visit beauty is not to be missed! 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!

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!

Quarryhill Botanical Garden

(707) 996-3802

quarryhill@vom.com

QBCis dedicated to the conservation, study, and cultivation of the temperate flora of Asia. includes sixty-one acres of rolling hills above the pastoral vineyards of Sonoma Valley near Glen Ellen. It houses one of the largest collections of scientifically documented wild source Asian Plants in North America with well over 10,000 plants, representing more than 300 genera and more than 1600 species. Almost all of the plants have been

grown from seeds collected on scientific expeditions.

Although there are no plants for sale, docent-led tours for individuals are conducted by appointment on the 3rd Saturday of the month, March through October. Arrangements for group tours and specialized study in the garden are available, at other times, on a limited basis. Reservations must be made two weeks in advance for small groups and one month in advance for groups over twenty-five. All reservations are made on a space-available basis.

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. They focus on material that will do well in the Bay Area but there's always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, there are monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. ✨

October 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. *Tibouchina longisepala*

MELOSTOMATACEAE

Deborah Lindsay, Oakland Kaiser Center Roof Garden

Most of this family is tropical but a few species like this one and its larger cousin, the Princess Flower, can take a certain amount of light frost. This species is a small shrub to 3 feet with pink 1-inch flowers from mid-summer into winter. It prefers part shade and loves the fog belt. It is native to Central America and is fairly new to cultivation.



Tibouchina longisepala

2. *Epidendrum porphyreum*

ORCHIDACEAE

John and Barbara Hopper, Kenwood

This unusual member of the reed-stem orchid group comes from mid-elevations on the eastern side of the Andes in Ecuador. It likes to be kept moist and is not quite as hardy as the more common epidendrums one usually finds in gardens, and so is best kept in a cool greenhouse in winter. ❁

THE PLANT FORUM is a traditional feature of our monthly meetings. Members are strongly encouraged to bring new plants or old favorites from their gardens to tell about and share. What is putting on a display in your garden this season? Bring it in and share it with us!

Some Ginkgo history...

The *Ginkgo biloba* is the world's oldest living tree, a species whose existence can be traced back-over 250 million years! For this reason, the Ginkgo was referred to as living fossil (1859) by Charles Darwin. It appeared at Carboniferous. During the Jurassic, Ginkgo trees were common and widespread in Asia, Europe and America. Ginkgo survived many crises, in particular at the end of the cretaceous where the dinosaurs disappeared. But Ginkgos disappeared from America about 7 million years ago, and from Europe about 3 million years ago.

GINKGOACEAE belong to the class of the Ginkgophytes. This class constituted the link between the ferns and the angiosperms (flowering plants).

The last survivor Ginkgos have taken refuge in the south-east of China. The buddhist monks venerated it, and undoubtedly them its survival is owed. Regarded as guard to entreat fire, it was planted near the pagodas, in the imperial gardens in China, wood crowned of the temples.

In the late 17th century, Engelbert Kaempfer (1651-1716), a German botanist, has become known as the first European to discover and categorize the *Ginkgo biloba*. He lived in Japan from 1690 till 1692 and described the Ginkgo tree in his book *Amoenitatum exoticarum* (1712).

The oldest European ginkgo would have been sown in 1730 in the Utrecht Botanical Garden. In 1762, Ginkgo was cultivated in Kew Botanical Garden (London).

The oldest French ginkgo was sown in Montpellier in 1778. A rich person ship-owner of Montpellier could acquire a foot of Ginkgo, in England, for the extravagant sum of forty ecus. This is why, one of its vernacular names is: Tree with the forty ecus (arbre aux quarante écus).

Ginkgo biloba was first brought into the United States by William Hamilton for his garden in Philadelphia in 1784. It was a favorite tree of Architect Frank Lloyd Wright and made its way into city landscapes across North America.

After the Hiroshima bomb (6/8/1945), all the flora was destroyed. Nothing grew again in calcined ground. However, in spring, one regrowth spouted out: that of an old Ginkgo that had flamed. The growth was respected and encouraged. Therefore, a Ginkgo tree remains in relative healthy condition today in the temple named Hosenji located about 1 Km away from the blast center of the atomic bombing. The survival of the ginkgo is surely due to a natural immunity or a genetic advantage. It has a great resistance to the mutagen agents like the radiations. ❁

Reprinted from *Ginkgo 101*

(<http://perso.wanadoo.fr/ginkgo.dm/index.html>)

The most popular section of Cal Hort's website is the Plant Forum with it's gallery of plant photos. We are building a list of alternate photographers who could snap photos of the Plant Forum. 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

January 14

Causes and Consequences of Sudden Oak Death in California—David Rizzo, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology at UC Davis and co-identifier of the organism that causes Sudden Oak Death. Sponsored by the Friends of the Davis Arboretum, 7 PM at the Veterans Memorial Center Club Room, 203 East 14th St., in Davis. Free. (530) 752-4880.

January 18

Annual Scion Exchange—Golden Gate Chapter, California Rare Fruit Growers. Includes grafting wood and cuttings for rooting & a grafting demonstration at 1 PM. NOON to 3:00 PM. Multi-Use Room, 1700 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill. \$2 donation is requested to help defray costs; plant materials are free. www.crfg.org/chapters/golden_gate/index.html or (510) 843-1657.

January 18

Bernal Heights Tree Care—FUF needs volunteers to help care for three year old trees. No experience necessary. Training is hands-on. 9 AM – 12:30 PM. Meeting location to be announced. Rain cancels. Ellyn Shea (415) 561-6890 x102.

January 30

Topher Delaney will do a slideshow presentation on the process of publishing, and self-publishing at her new studio in San Francisco's SoMa district. 6 PM – 9 PM, Hosted by the APLD. Info/RSVP, e-mail Katey Mulligan at liquidambersf@earthlink.net.

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

January 13

Taxonomy for Gardeners, 8-session certificate course, 6:30-9PM, CFB

January 15

Permaculture Fundamentals, 3-session course, 6:30-9PM, CFB

January 17

Pruning No. 2: The Pruning Year, workshop, 12:30-4:30PM, CFB

January 18

Pruning No. 2: The Pruning Year, workshop, 9AM-1PM, CFB

January 21

Botanical Art Studio, 6 sessions, 5:30-8:30PM, CFB

January 24

Landscape Design Intensive, 3-day course, 9AM-5PM, CFB

January 25

Lunar NewYear Flower Market, begins at 10AM, CFB, free

February 6

New Age Desert Conservation, CNPS talk, free, 7:30PM, CFB

February 7/8

Feb Design Symposium on Light & Color, 2-day symposium, 8AM-5PM, CFB

February 7

Strybing Seminar, Light Change, 8AM-5PM, CFB

February 8

Horticulture Magazine Symposium, How to Garden with Light & Color, 8AM-5PM, CFB

February 8

Plant Sale at the Strybing Nursery, general sale, 10AM-1PM

Friends of the Urban Forest
www.fuf.net • (415) 561-6890
Tree Plantings

January 11

Mission—Planting area is from 101 Hwy to 22nd St and Mission to Harrison and the area of 17th to 22nd and Guerrero to Mission and an extended area Harrison to Bryant and 16th to 19th. 9 AM – NOON. Call for meeting location. Bill Hart x.10.

January 18

Mulch Workday—Mulch worksite has not yet been determined. 9 AM – NOON. Call for meeting location. Karla Nagy x.110

January 25

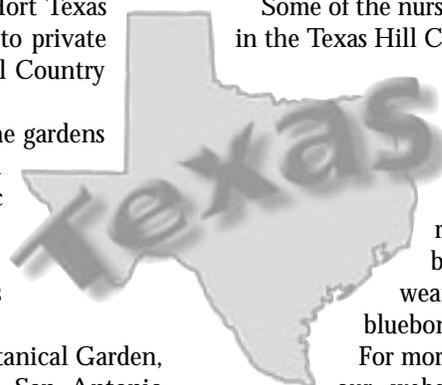
Parkside—Planting area is from Santiago to the north side of Sloat and 19th Ave to 36th Ave. Call for meeting location. 9 AM – NOON. Bill Hart x.101 ✻

Texas Field Trip

There is still room available for the Cal Hort Texas Field Trip from April 9–April 14 with visits to private gardens, nurseries, botanical gardens, the Hill Country and an evening in Old Town San Antonio.

A selection of private gardens including the gardens of James David, and the gems of Dr. Gordon White and Jennifer Meyers, the eclectic collection of Eric Lautzenheiser, and the West Texas collection of Brett Bothe, John Fairy's Peckerwood gardens, as well as Georgia Bost's permaculture farm of *Hibiscus moscheutos*.

There will be docent led tours of Zilker Botanical Garden, Ladybird Johnson's Wildflower Center, and San Antonio Botanical Garden.



Some of the nurseries we will visit include Wildseed Farms in the Texas Hill Country, the Natural Gardener, a small but fascinating nursery called Big Red Sun, Carl Schoenfeld's Yuccadoo and Mike Shoupe's Antique Rose Emporium.

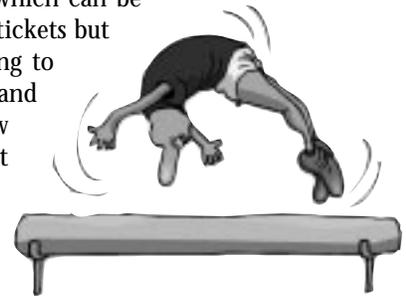
No trip to Texas will be complete without seeing the wildflowers. The roads everywhere will have masses of blooms for hundreds of miles. If the weather cooperates there should be a good bluebonnet season while we are there.

For more information or a reservation form, visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call Kristen Yanker-Hansen at (925) 831-9499.

Meeting flip-flop

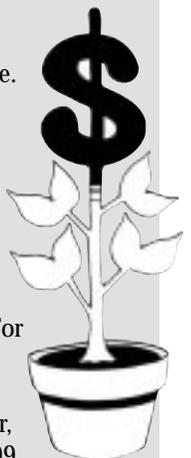
The New Year bring with it a great opportunity to try new things and make changes for the better. To this end, we're going to test flip-flopping the plant raffle and the plant forum at the general meetings.

For the past few years the plant raffle has followed the the plant forum which can be hard for those who have raffle tickets but need to leave early. We're going to alternate the oder of the raffle and plant forum over the next few months asn see which format has the greatest appeal among the membership. If you have a preference, be sure to let us know by telling one of the Council members (the list is on the back page) or emailing us at info@calhortsociety.org.



REMINDER

DUES FOR 2002 are now due and payable. If you do not have a green membership card your prompt remittance would be appreciated. Members who have not renewed by March 1st will be dropped from the roster and mailing list. We don't want you to miss your monthly *Bulletin* or *Pacific Horticulture*. Please use the form and reply envelope from your November 2001 *Bulletin* for your remittance. For First class mailing for your *Bulletin* please add \$3.00. Make checks payable to The California Horticultural Society and mail to Elsie Mueller, 1847-34th Ave., San Francisco CA 94122-4109.



Plant Forum CD

We've sold out of all the CDs containing our popular Plant Forum Database originally compiled by Richard Wagner and are now in the process of compiling the last 5 years of the Plant Forum and updating the database to include photos of the plants shown.



While we're at it, we wanted to ask users of the database for any comments or ideas they have. Is there anything you would like to see added or changed? Are there things you found while using it which you think could be made better or easier to understand? Let us know asap! Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833 or email suggestions to plantforum@calhortsociety.org. Thanks!

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society

Chris Codding	Jean Samuelson
Gregg DeChirico	Martin & Patricia St. John
Ryan Deering	Cathy Teague
Ellen Frank	Bernard Trainor
Daniel Harder	Charlotte Yates
Joel Head	Nicholas Thomas
Amy Hiss	Josh McCullough
Florence Lewis	Lorraine Edel

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Don Mahoney

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Executive Council

2000-2002
First Term
Ann DeRosa

Second Term
Katherine Henwood
Bruce Peters

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.

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San Francisco County Fair Building
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**2003 Seed List
Enclosed**