

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



JULY 2001

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

7:30PM Meeting will be held at the California Academy of Sciences, Morrison Auditorium Golden Gate Park. *Guest fee \$5.**

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarship Program. The drawing in July will include donations from **Cottage Garden Growers of Petaluma**, courtesy of owners Bruce and Daria Shanks and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to Wayward Gardens of Sebastopol, California (Leana Sims) and to Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (Dr. Don Mahoney) who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for June meeting.

Monday, July 16, 2001

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

“Rock Gardens and Rock Garden Plants”

Presented by **Dick Dunmire**, former Senior Editor of *Sunset Magazine* and *Sunset Western Garden Book*. The illustrated program will show many of the common and rare rock garden plants with photographs of rock gardens under construction and some finished rock gardens from various places here and abroad. The principal display will be of rock garden plants, individually and in groups, including many unusual or rare species such as *Daphne petraea* and *Dicentra peregrina*. There will also be some pots, troughs, and alpine plants from Edinburgh to Inverewe, Denver and Vancouver and south. The slides for this presentation were made for possible *Sunset Magazine* rock garden stories or for a rock garden book that never materialized.



Coming Meetings

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, August 20, 2001

“Hibiscus—beautiful new hybrids for non-tropical climates”

Presented by **Charles Black**, owner of Hidden Valley Hibiscus, and a specialist in the hybridization, propagation, growing, and distribution of the fancy new forms of *H. rosa-sinensis*. He has spoken and written extensively on this subject including articles in *Pacific Horticulture* and the *American Nurseryman*. The talk will explore the origins and development of the modern “show” hibiscus, starting from the earliest records we know of. The talk will include photos and blooms of recent hybrids.



Monday, September 17, 2001

“Subtropical Style in the San Francisco Bay Area”

Some contemporary Gardens

Tonight’s speaker **David Feix**, is a local designer and horticulturist, trained as a landscape architect, who has been designing gardens in California for the past 25 years. Plants were an early interest for David and discovering tropicals as an adult rekindled that initial passion. Various extended stays working in Brazil, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia have all left their mark. Come explore gardens which combine succulents, bromeliads, tropicals and mediterraneans, in a mix that could only be Californian! Is the concept even appropriate for our mediterranean climate? Hear David make his case for erasing winter from our vocabulary, and having fun in the process.

President's Letter

by Dr. Don Mahoney

Last month's program on *Cistus* and related plants from the true mediterranean region by Olivier Filippi was a humorous, well-balanced presentation very much in line with what we Californians should be doing. We all need to hear, even though we may not like to, that drought tolerant plants are valuable in our gardens. No one knows if next year will bring drought or another El Nino. Before we all totally succumb to "subtropical temptations", as our speaker put it, we also need to hedge our bets and plant some of our

own beautiful natives and some of the well-behaved *Cistus* hybrids, *Phlomis*, *Rosemaries*, and lavenders so well described by our speaker.

Again, many thanks to all those who helped make the Cal Hort plant sale a success, and remember, it is never too early to start propagating your favorite plants for next year's sale. This year's seed crop is beginning to ripen and it is also time to collect that seed for our next seed exchange. N

Botanical Tours

October 12-28

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province with Dr. Sun Weibang, Director Kunming Botanical Gardens & Strybing member Wes Conner, a noted horticulturist. Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society & San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Info: (800) 624-6633.

August 20 - 30

Montane Pteridophytes and Angiosperms of Ecuador Alan Smith (University Herbarium, UC Berkeley) and Grady Webster (Herbarium, UC Davis), Sponsored by: The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium and Betchart Expeditions. Please contact Staci Markos at the Jepson Herbarium for more details. (510) 643-7008.
<http://ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu/active.html>

April 24 - May 8, 2002

A Springtime Medley of Gardens: Floraide & Keukenhof in Holland-Bruges; Belgium-Paris at cherry Blossom-time
Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society. Info: (800) 624-6633.

May 6 - 24, 2002

Sichuan, China - A Botanical Paradise Sponsored by Quarryhill Botanical Garden and Strybing Arboretum Society with Bill Mc Namara.

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 these great nurseries.

Cottage Garden Growers

3995 Emerald Drive
Petaluma, CA
(707) 778-8025
9-5 Daily, retail and wholesale.

Perched atop a sunny knoll, this newly rebuilt, terraced nursery is a plant lover's dream come true. The terracing of all the walkways and beds is a work of art by itself. Fill those paths with over 50 varieties of clematis, 100 varieties of roses, rare, unusual perennials and tried and true hard-working perennials and you have a just a portion of what makes Cottage Garden Growers so great. Although in their first year at this new 4 acre location, CGG have been busily growing and learning about speciality perennials for 11 years.

Owner Daria Morrill has also expanded to offer numerous succulents, especially *Sempervivums*, woody ornamentals (to add interest to the dormant perennial garden), loads of vines (up to 15 varieties of most types), citrus, a large selection of ornamental grasses, hardy mediterraneans and 12 varieties of Hydrangeas.

The store boasts garden art, tools, bell cloches, pottery, artistic metal topiary, arbors and trellises, and even teak furniture—pretty much anything one might desire for the garden!

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316
Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way

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. The next sales are July 14. N



June Plant Forum by Kristin Jakob

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

1. Selection of semi-hardy Bromeliads

BROMELIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

David brought in a number of bromeliads which he cultivates outside in pots:

Aechmea nudicaulis var. *nudicaulis* - native to South America, sun or part shade.

Aechmea triangularis - from Brazil, this species is best in the sun.

Tillandsia imperialis - this South American was shown in bud.

In flower it will be blue, from red bracts on 1' spikes.

During bloom, the whole plant flushes red.

Dyckia platypoda - another South American, but from higher elevations. This species has orange flowers and needs regular water.

Quesnelia blanda - native to Brazil, its turquoise-blue flowers are a perfect match to *Tweedia caerulea*.

2. *Tweedia caerulea* (*oxypetalum caeruleum*)

ASCLEPIADACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

From Brazil and Uruguay, this milkweed relative can weakly climb or sprawl to 3'. Best in full sun, with good drainage and average water, it is hardy in milder parts of the Bay Area, but not always long-lived. The turquoise-blue and mauve flowers match *Quesnelia blanda* (above) and the next specimen, *Brunfelsia pauciflora* var. *macrantha*.

3. *Brunfelsia pauciflora* var. *macrantha* ('Macrantha')

SOLANACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This close ally to the popular shrub, called "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," has unfading purple-blue flowers and also hails from Brazil.

4. *Alstroemeria ligtu* hybrids

AMARYLLIDACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

The so-called Peruvian Lily is native to Chile and is most elegant in its wild species forms. David brought in a large bouquet of numerous sherbet tones, courtesy of a neighboring client who boasts a large patch. The tall ligtu hybrids require only sun, good drainage and moderate water to put on a 6-week display in early summer. They then set seed, which permits them to spread in an even greater variety of colors, eventually going dormant by late summer. Occasionally available as plants ('Dr. Salter's Hybrids' is a seedling strain), or as seed, which must be sown fresh. *Alstroemerias* have fleshy, brittle roots which resent disturbance. Pull, rather than cut old stalks to groom. Very long lasting as cut flowers.

5. *Rhododendron* 'Chojuho'

Miniature Satsuki Azalea

ERICACEAE

Michael D. Barclay, Kensington

This individual blooms for Michael 6 months of the year

(April–August). Flowers open hot pink, turn to dark red, then green and salmon and finally mahogany. It is dwarf, upright, and Michael is growing it as a bonsai.

6. *Arisaema tortuosum*

ARACEAE

Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood (Sonoma Co.)

The Hoppers cultivate a variety of *Arisaemas*, some in pots, some in the ground. This species is from China and the Himalayas. The Hoppers saw and photographed it in the Yunnan Province in May of this year. *Arisaemas* need rich, well-drained soils high in organic matter, shade, and a constant supply of moisture during the growing season. Flowers are curious, funnel-shaped with a broad, tapered blade that hangs over the flower opening. The few leaves have 3–19 leaflets. The plant can reach 5' in height, and blooms in early summer.

7. *Cavtleya lutea*

ZINGIBERACEAE

Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood (Sonoma Co.)

This is a terrestrial herb that grows from a short rhizome. Several stems grow to 16", terminating in loose spikes of yellow or orange flowers. Native to the Himalayas, it is heat-tolerant but should have shade during midday and afternoon. Keep evenly moist but not soggy, feed lightly, at half strength. ♡



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's old hat to you might be a brand new wonder to another member. What is putting on a display in **your** garden this summer? Bring it in and share it with us!

Plant Sale Reprise

Jana Olson Drobinsky, Plant Sale Chairman

Thanks to the efforts of many, many CalHort members, and the generosity of over 50 nurseries, the Cal Hort Plant Sale on June 2 and 3 netted about \$6,200.00 for the Society. This is a big part of our budget, and I want to thank all the people who helped on the sale.

I especially want to thank the members of the Plant Sale Committee, who endured long hours of delicious potlucks planning the event: Bobbie Feyerabend, Ann DeRosa, Diana Ross, Keitha DeMara and Ethan DeMara, Beryl Golden, Tonie Jones, David McCrory, Bea Dimpfl, and Jan Hamby.

Kristin Yanker-Hansen and Dick Hansen planned and served the buffet of food and drinks Saturday night--that's what makes our members' preview sale a "Gala". We also had many people renew their memberships or sign up the night of the Gala.

Thanks also to Lizzie Kaska, Josh Schectel, and Renee

Fittinghof, who labeled plants ahead of time, making our set up the day of the sale go smoothly; Vanessa Kuemmerle, Linda Aurichio, David McCrory, Tonie Jones and others picked up plants at nurseries, and schlepped them to the Garden Center. Don Mahoney, Dave McCrory, Martin Grantham, and others lent their expertise to the auction and the general sale on Sunday. Sue Emmons, Elsie and Louise Mueller, Richard Starkeson, Dave Tivol, the entire De Mara family, Stew Winchester, Jane Sylvester were other volunteers who helped in various ways. If I forgotten anyone, don't take it personally! I thank you anonymously!

Over 40 members and 50 nurseries donated plants; we had a broad range of plant material, and having the sale later in the year meant many more things were in bloom, making the room look great as the sale opened. A BIG THANKS to all of you who contributed plants! Start now for next year! N



Annual Awards

Every year at our Annual Dinner, the California Horticultural Society gives out awards to those members who have, in one way or another, helped to advance the knowledge and appreciation of ornamental horticulture in our state. This year's winners are as follows:

Annual Award	Ruth Bancroft
Council Award	Bruce Peters
Editing Award	Dick Dunmire
Rixford Award	Kristin Jakob
Publishing Award	Herman Schwartz
Writer's Award	Elizabeth McClintock

Plant Collection Awards (for plants displayed by members at the monthly meetings.)

- Wayne Roderick for *Cyclamen* collection
- Wayne Roderick for *Nerine* collection
- Kristen Yanker-Hanson for MALVACEAE collection

Individual Plant Awards

- Katherine Henwood for *Sarracenia hybrid*;
- Barbara Stevens Award of Merit for *Clematis x cartmanii*
- Fred Coe *Pleione X tangariro* 'Jackdaw'

Free to a good home!

Member Daniel Campbell has 40 mature variegated and labeled ivies which he cannot bring to his new home. If you're interested and will take good care of them please contact Daniel at (831) 521-0522 or dgcam@pacbell.net as soon as possible.

Plum or apple? It's a plapple!

by Robin Young

(London) A fruit tree that is claimed to bear apples on one side and plums on the other has been discovered in a front garden in Worcester, England.

Dubbed a "plapple tree," the specimen is said to produce small, tasty green apples with pips on some branches and sweet Victoria-like plums with stones on others. There is no sign that the tree has been grafted, and in any case experts believe that it is impossible to graft apple and Plum.

Camilla Bowitz, a business consultant, inherited the tree from the previous owners when she moved into her house in the St. John's area of the town two years ago.

Ms Bowitz, 28: "The first thing I noticed was how pretty the blossom was, and how unusual to have white blossom on one side of the tree and red on the other."

It was her neighbor, Ivan Willis, who first pointed out the trees exceptional characteristic. The white flowering side, nearer the house, produced small, green apples, while the red flowering branches, towards the front of the garden, bore plums.

Mr Willis, 50, a retired hospital technician and a keen gardener, said: "The apples are tart but tasty. The plums are like a small Victoria, quite luscious."

The plapple tree is thought to be about 20 years old but nobody knows who planted it. The trunk forks about 3 feet above the ground.

Samples of the flowers, which are currently in bloom, are being sent to the East Mailing horticultural research station in Kent, where experts will study them to see if they can explain the mystery.

A scientist at the station, Ken Tobutt, said: "I've never heard, of two species growing on the same tree. It's fascinating."

Reprinted from *The Times*, May 24, 2001

Horticultural Calendar

July 11

Learn grassroots fundraising for your neighborhood park—
12–1:30 PM in the law offices of Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro,
50 Fremont St. Free, but reservations required. Nick (415)
750-5224 or nick@frp.org.

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

July 14

Plant Sale—Bird & butterfly plants featured at the nursery
from 10 AM–1PM.

July 16

Recreating Eden at Strybing—Author reception, reading and
booksigning. HCR Library, 7PM.

July 28

Strategies for Managing Deer & Heat—Maile Arnold.
Sonoma Co. workshop. \$75, \$65 SAS members, 9AM–4PM.

July 28–August 18

Landscape Watercolor—Lisa Guthrie. 3 sessions \$105, \$95
SAS members, materials additional. 10AM–3PM.

UC Botanical Garden - Berkeley

(510) 643-1924 • <http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/garden/>

August 4

Sick Plant Clinic—U.C. Experts diagnose your plant woes
the first Saturday of each month. 9AM–NOON, (Free) ✿

San Francisco Trees Online

A new website www.sftrees.com
for people interested in San
Francisco's trees has been created by
Mike Sullivan, an urban forestry
enthusiast. The site contains a wealth
of information about San Francisco trees.
A Landmark Trees section provides street
addresses for over 100 outstanding specimens of different
tree species. The site also includes separate tree-location
pages for 23 different San Francisco neighborhoods. If
you are looking for an example of *Celtis sinensis* (Chinese
hackberry) in Noe Valley, you will find it here. The site
also has a list of Mystery Trees—addresses of street trees
that have so far stumped the experts—and includes an
email address for your identifications or additions!



History of the California Horticultural Society

In the winter of 1933 as unusually frigid air mass
withered gardens in the greater bay area. Because of the
patchwork of microclimates that define the region, then
as now, plants that came through with minimal damage
in one place were turned to black mush a few miles away.
To come to terms with this seemingly whimsical
destruction, a cadre of concerned gardeners called a
meeting to compare notes on the catastrophe. They met
at a restaurant in North Beach and included estate
owners and their gardeners, UC Berkeley academics,
nurserymen, and backyard gardeners. The meeting
proved very rewarding for those attending leading to a
series of meetings which culminated in a decision to
formally inaugurate the California Horticultural Society.

The instigating impulse to compare notes has been
maintained with a plant materials display and discussion
that is part of every meeting. In the past 63 years, over
6000 different species of plants have been shown, 10%
of all plants in world cultivation. A data base featuring
these materials is close to completion and will be
available to members in the near future. In addition, the
Society (1) sponsors field trips to unusual gardens and
nurseries; (2) hosts a monthly series of well-illustrated
lectures on a wide variety of horticultural topics; (3)
holds a yearly plant sale in the spring; (4) makes annual
cash awards that support the introduction of new and
unusual garden plants; (5) runs a seed exchange that
makes rare plants not yet stocked by nurseries available
to members; and (6) has begun a series of oral
histories that will help to illuminate and preserve
the activities and accomplishments of the large
network of amateur and professional gardeners
who have forged the warp and woof of the
Society since 1933. ✿

PLANNED GIVING

Through the generosity of former members who have
remembered us when planning their estates, the Society has
a small endowment fund which helps to tide us over
difficult times and keeps the annual membership dues from
increasing as rapidly as they otherwise might. Any bequest
you might be willing to consider would be gratefully
received by the Society and contribute enormously to the
assurance that CalHort will be there for future generations
in the coming new century. Please contact the Society
president for further information.

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society

Jacque Baclace
Vicki Bonnington
Nari Chong
Gaetane Courchesne
Lola Fullerton &
Sophie Tillotson
Anthony Garza
Alex Hozven &
Kevin Farley
Orion Johnson
Brian Kemble
Kelly Kunkle-Day &
John Day
Amy Larson &
Robert Uhlener
Maria Victoria
Martinez &
Michael Vicent

Joshua McCullough
Carl Meier
Madeline Miller
James Pendle
Steve Peskind
Linda Preminger
Wendy Proud
Lauren Ritter
Ed Rosenthal &
Jane Klein
Elan Rosenquist
Kaye Rosso
Richard Ryan
Gail & Jose D. Setka
Peter Tourtellotte
John M. Ward



Officers

President

Don Mahoney

Vice President

Katherine Henwood

Jr. Past President

Tonie Jones

Recording Secretary

Richard Starkeson

Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Frederick W. Coe

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Executive Council

1999-2001

First Term

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Second Term

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2000-2002

First Term

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Leanna Beeman-Sims
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Second Term

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Katherine Henwood

2001-2003

First Term

Diana Ross

Second Term

Jana Olson Drobinsky
Elise Lew
Don Mahoney

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 Bruce at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (w/ 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.

ADVERTISING: Rates: \$60 for a business card size (3 3/4" w x 2" h), \$75 for 1/8 page (3 3/4" w x 2 1/2" h), \$150 for 1/4 page (3 3/4" w x 5" h). Submit ads or questions to *Bulletin* Editor at above postal or email address.

California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, CA 94118

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