



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

**July 15, 2002**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 at the Hall of Flowers in Strybing Arboretum, 9th Ave. & Lincoln Way.**

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

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

**Monday, July 15, 2002**

**“Orchids and other flowers of Southeast Australia”**

Ron Parsons, nationally recognized flower photographer will present a program based on two wildflower expeditions to Australia taken in 2000 and 2001 where he visited the states of New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. His key interest was to see as many native orchids as possible. As we all know, orchids only associate with other beautiful flowers, which were also photographed. Some other beautiful plants include Banksia, Telopea, Pimela, Goodenia, Drosera, Viola etc.



The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarship Program. In July the drawing will include donations from **Magic Gardens**, Berkeley, courtesy of Pam Cosce and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **Geraniaceae**, the noted geranium nursery of Robin Parer and to **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the June meeting.

**Coming Programs**

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.



Monday, September 16, 2002

**“The Botanical Riches of the Zambeian Woodland Flora”**

Dr. Daniel Harder, Director of UC Santa Cruz Arboretum will present a fascinating program about Zambeian 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.

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# President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

July, the seventh month in our calendar, was originally the fifth month of the year, and as such was called by the Romans Quinctilis. The later name of Julius was given in honour of Julius Caesar, who was born in the month. The Anglo-Saxons called July "maedmonad" or "Mead-Month" from the meadows being then in bloom, and 'aftera lida' - "the later mild month," in contradistinction to June, which they named the 'former mild month.'

## Days of Note

July 3—Dog Days begin.

July 15—St. Swithin

July 25.—St. James

-*The County Diary of an Edwardian Lady*

All that just so I could tell you about the trip to Northern Spain from which I have just returned. What is the connection, you ask? Well, we started our tour in San Sebastian, close to the border of France, traveled along the north coast route to Santiago de Compostella, Santiago being the Spanish for St. James. Now that I have established that point, let me tell you that the rain in Spain does not fall mainly on the plain, it falls mainly on the north coast, thus earning the name 'Green Spain.' And green it is.

## 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!

### Geraniaceae

122 Hillcrest Ave., Kentfield

(415) 461-4168

[www.geraniaceae.com](http://www.geraniaceae.com)

Open by appointment

Robin Parer is the driving force behind the well-known and highly esteemed Geraniaceae nursery in Kentwood, specializing most plants of the Geranium family, especially Erodiums. Started in 1983, it has become the de facto source for interesting and/or hard to find plants in its eponymous family. As the focus is on less common material, no Pelargonium x hortorum (zonals), P. x peltatum (ivies), or P. x domesticum (regals/Martha Washingtons) will be found here. That's the business of Rite Aid.

### Magic Gardens

2121 San Joaquin St, Richmond

(510) 528-5587

[www.magicgardens.com](http://www.magicgardens.com)

Monday through Saturday 8-5, Sundays 10- 5

Everywhere you look, it is green, the only brown spots seem to be the roads and newly cultivated plots. Even the walls are growing ferns and little plantlets.

We were privileged to visit several botanical gardens and a number of private gardens along the way. We saw immense trees that had never been pruned, a private botanical garden, an estate where one area has been untended for years and the growth of magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and trees is so rank that the sun can seldom reach the ground. We saw a couple of private gardens that were little jewels, (little in comparison to most, which were more like parks), where the owners seemed genuinely delighted to have us visit and graciously talked about their gardens.

Every house seemed to have its own garden plot for vegetables, and almost every house had pots of flowers in front of it, and the balconies had amazing cascades of pelargoniums or petunias. Sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture Magazine*, it was truly a wonderful trip. As if the gardens weren't enough, we sampled the cuisine of the north coast as well. Generally held to be the best food in Spain, it was delicious. I didn't know there were so many different types of seafood, or so many ways of preparing them. If all of *Pacific Horticulture* trips are up to this standard, I can not recommend them too highly! ✨

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](http://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 July 13th featuring bird & butterfly plants August 10th featuring shade plants. ✨



Geranium phaeum

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## Horticultural Calendar

**July 13**

**Pruning Workshop**—Learn the basics of tree pruning with hands-on work by FUF Sherman Elementary School, 1651 Union and Franklin. RSVP (415)561-6890 x.102. 9:30-noon. Free.

**July 15**

**Orchids & Flowers of SE Australia**—Cal Hort lecture, 7:30 PM, Academy of Sciences

**July 21**

**Mediterranean-Style Gardening for the Central Valley**—Use time-honored techniques to reduce water use and create a cool retreat. Free tour of the UC Davis Arboretum Terrace Garden at 10 AM next to Borders Books and Music on First Street. (530) 752-4880

**June 29**

**Horticulture Workshop for Educational Gardens:** Design the Ultimate School/Community Garden using natives. Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont. 9 AM - 5 PM. \$55 (\$49 for members of RSABG). Limit: 25 participants.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 SF CFB. Potluck dinner, plant sale, raffle of items from the Estate of Harland Hand, election of officers, and slideshow by Martin Grantham.

**Strybing Arboretum Society**  
(415) 661-1316 • [www.strybing.org](http://www.strybing.org)

**July 10**

**Informal Landscape Drawing**—3-session course, 6:30-9 PM, CFB

**July 11**

**Making Gardens a Work of Art**—lecture, 6:30-9 PM, CFB

**July 13**

**Making Gardens a Work of Art**—demonstration, 9:30 AM-12 PM, CFB/Gardens

**July 13**

**Plant Sale**—10 AM-1 PM, Strybing Nursery

**July 20**

**Landscape Watercolor**—3-session course, 10 AM-3PM, CFB

**July 26**

**Creating a Garden from Scratch**—design workshop, 9 AM-5 PM, Sebastopol

**July 31**

**Travel journal Workshop**—2-session workshop, 6:30-9pm, CFB

**August 1**

**Cape Ivy: Its Ecology & Invasiveness**—CNPS/SAS lecture, 7:30 PM, free, CFB

**August 1**

**Trouble Shooting in the Garden**—6-session certificate course, 6-8:30 PM, CF13

**August 2**

**Gardener's Soil seminar**—12:30-5 PM, CFB

**August 3**

**Garden Fair**—Main Gate, 12-4 PM, free

**August 4**

**Birding Walk**—8-11 AM, Main Gate, free

**August 5**

**Ornamental Vines**—7-session certificate course, 6:30-9 PM, CFB

**August 7**

**Beginning Garden Design**—4-session course, 6:30-9pm, CFB

**August 10**

**Plant Sale**—10 AM-L PM, Strybing Nursery

**Lotusland - Santa Barbara**  
**Reservations required.**

**Call (805) 969-9990, M-F, 9:00 to Noon.**

**Admission is \$30 for individual lectures, \$75 for the series.**

**July 12**

**Nuts and Bolts of Designing and Building a Water Garden**—Barbara Dobbins Davies – Past-President of the International Water Lily and Water Gardening Society. Slide lecture and a container garden demonstration. 2:00 PM (gates open at 1:00)

**July 19**

**Aquatic Plants A to Z**—Virginia Hayes – Curator of the Living Collection, Lotusland. Slide lecture, open question session at the water garden, and aquatic plant sale. 2:00 pm (gates open at 1:00)

**July 26**

**Pond Biology: Lotus Blossoms to Green Water**—Bob Cummings, PhD. Professor of Botany and Biology, Santa Barbara City College – Slide lecture and peek through the microscope, plus Danyel Dean's lotus-leaf imprinted ceramic platters display and sale. 2 PM (gates open at 9:30)

**HORT NOTES:**

■ FREE: 200 gallons of red pumice, packed in 5 to 25 gallon containers. Rocks are 1" to 3" size. Contact Alan at [amiller@broadcom.com](mailto:amiller@broadcom.com) or (408) 922-5954 (daytime). ♣

### Roster Correction

The following Roster listing was printed with outdated information. The correct information is:

Linda Baptiste  
[Land\\_work@yahoo.com](mailto:Land_work@yahoo.com)  
(925) 957-1187 work

# Study of enzymes gives cut flowers new power

By Betsy Mason, *Dallas Morning News*

Cut flowers can remain fresh up to twice as long, according to new research. A scientist at the University of North Texas in Denton discovered a substance in plants that slows the wilting process.

## Water loss.

The naturally occurring compound is part of a plant's response to a wound such as an insect bite. When a florist cuts flowers from a plant, the wound response is activated to protect the remaining plant.

The cut triggers the release of certain enzymes that break down the plant's cell membranes. "Then the cells become leaky and lose water," says plant biochemist Kent Chapman, the author of the research. His study was published last fall in *Chemistry and Physics of Lipids*.

This process also isolates an injured area to protect the plant from germs that could enter through the wound. In the cut flowers, the same process quickly leads to wilting.

While studying plant enzymes that help regulate oily molecules known as lipids, Chapman stumbled across lipids that are released when a plant is wounded. These lipids bind to the enzymes that cause leaky cells and slow them down, he says.

## Slower wilting

He speculates that the lipids are designed to keep the wound response in check, but plants don't need to keep a lot of them around.

Chapman guessed that the inhibiting lipids might not be present in the flowers of a plant and that adding them to cut flowers might slow the wilting process. Blooms treated with

water containing the lipids outlasted untreated ones by 50 to 100 percent, he found.



"For example, Gerber daisies tend to have a very short shelf life. If we take varieties with a normal shelf life of five days, we can extend that to seven to 10 days," he says.

Some flowers, such as roses and carnations, can stay fresh as long as 15 or 20 days when treated with the lipids, a big improvement over flowers kept in water or in commercial solutions that contain flower food and germ fighters.

## Commercial applications

The discovery spawned a Denton company called FloraNovus, which began marketing a lipid solution to florists this summer.

"It's just a very small company," says Jack Satterfield, the president of FloraNovus. The few florists who have tried the product FloraNovus-XL, are happy, but it has been slow to catch on.

Satterfield says he isn't surprised, however, since many products come on the market making similar claims and then fail to meet expectations. "There's quite a bit of skepticism," he says. "So we have to climb that hill first."

"I was very skeptical when they brought it to me," says Carol Bice, of Bice's Florist in Hurst, Texas. However, after seeing her sunflowers that usually last four or five days stay supple for more than two weeks, she became a believer. "It really prolongs the life."

The discovery may have benefits beyond the bouquet. Because the process involved with fruit ripening is similar to the wound response, Chapman speculates that the lipids may be able to delay the ripening process. ✨

## Botanical Tours

September 4-15, 2002

**Italian Mannerist Gardens** Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society and lead by Suzanne Biaggi

September 13-30, 2002

**Botanical and Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province** in support of The Nature Conservancy's Yunnan Project.

January 2003

**Drakensbergs—a floral treasure**—South Africa in Summer

May 16-June 3, 2003

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

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](http://www.geostartravel.com).

# 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. ✨



THE PLANT FORUM wasn't held during this year's Annual Dinner (although Kathy Echols brought some great Australian plants as unique and interesting table decorations) but will return in next month's *Bulletin*.

The 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 season? Bring it in and share it with us!

## 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. ✨

# Deadline Extended

## for Cal Hort Grants and Scholarships

The application deadline has been extended to July 19, 2002.

Guidelines for application are available on our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or by calling Barbara Hopper at (800) 624-6633.

Last year's total disbursement was \$2,500.

### Officers

**President**  
Katherine Henwood  
[president@calhortsociety.org](mailto:president@calhortsociety.org)

**Vice President**  
Leana Sims  
[waywardg@sonic.net](mailto:waywardg@sonic.net)

**Past President**  
Don Mahoney

**Recording Secretary**  
Richard Starkeson

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Barbara Hopper  
[jbhopper@sonic.net](mailto:jbhopper@sonic.net)

**Treasurer**  
Michael Craib

### Secretary

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1847 34th Avenue  
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### Executive Council

#### 2000-2002

**First Term**  
Ann DeRosa  
Leana Sims  
[waywardg@sonic.net](mailto:waywardg@sonic.net)

**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](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call the Office secretary at the number above.

## California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences  
San Francisco, CA 94118

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