



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

June 16, 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.

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.

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program.

In June, the drawing will include donations from our speaker **Jason Dewees** and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to the many nurseries and individuals too numerous to list, who donated the great diversity of splendid plants for the Silent Auction and Plant Sale at the May Annual Meeting

Monday, July 21, 2003

“Beautifully Behaved Bamboo”

The most diverse and useful grass, bamboo can be as strong as steel yet controlled by initial selection, effective new root barriers or harvesting for lunch.

Darrel De Boer, President of the Northern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society, will discuss new clumping species and the beauty and utility of the nearly 300 species available today using images of San Francisco Bay area gardens.

Jesus Mora and Jennifer York of Bamboo sorcery Nursery will also show plants, root barriers and answer questions about specific horticultural requirements.

Darrel DeBoer is a Northern California architect who has built a dozen bamboo structures and written or co-written six books, including *The Art of Natural Building*. He was named by Metropolitan Home magazine in 2001 as one of the 100 most influential designers.



President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

I hate to be reminded of the passage of time, and in a garden of flowers one can never escape from it

E.V. Lucas

I don't know who E. V. Lucas is, but this quote appears in *The Gardener's Guide to Life*, a little book I received for Christmas. Sub-titled "Timeless Lessons Based on the Principles of Gardening," it is full of the gentle wisdom of gardening. I don't mind the passage of time; after all, one always waits for tomorrow and the garden's delights. I love to go out first thing in the morning to greet the day, see what's blooming that wasn't yesterday, check for the activities of the marauding raccoon and make a plan for the days activities. This plan is very flexible and may never actually be carried out.

This morning's plan included transplanting little plants for the American Gesneriad Society's annual convention, which is being held in Sacramento this year in July. If you want to see a lot of gesneriads, this is your chance! Time is getting short for getting these plants ready. Actually, I ended up transplanting a lot of little Sundews (*Drosera*) for the Bay Area Carnivorous Plant Society's show and sale to be held in August at the Berkeley Botanical Garden. There should be a lot of them on display and for sale. So I guess I will get to the gesneriads tomorrow!

Another thing that surprises me about time is the age of our children and grandchildren. How did they get so grown-up? I don't mind being however old I am, I just don't understand how it can have happened so fast!

The Cal Hort Plant Sale is another thing that is now in the past. It was a grand sale! A dedicated crew of volunteers appeared to set-up, arrange and price plants. The Gala was

grand, with good food, thanks to efforts of Kristen Yanker-Hansen and her husband, Dick. Sunday saw a steady stream of people who came to look and stayed to buy. Volunteers I saw hard at work included Ann DeRosa, Jana Olsen, Diana Ross, Beryl Golden, Bobbie Feyerabend, Renee Fittinghoff, Josh Schechtel, Ted Kipping, Andy Stone and his son, Don Mahoney, Marie Riess (who made the nice posters with the names of the nursery contributors), Kim Ruchamkin, David Feix, Ernie Gladney, Richard Starkeson, Jan Hamby, Tonie Jones, Steve Morse, Charlotte Masson, her friend Joyce, Linda Aurichio, and probably at least ten others I didn't see, to whom I apologize!

Then, if that wasn't enough excitement, Monday brought our Annual Dinner and awards. As is usual, this was a potluck event that brought in many delicious dishes, hot, cold and dessert! Again a valiant group of volunteers came in to set the tables (which looked lovely!), arrange the food, the coffee, the wine the glasses, the drinks and the plants. Plants? Yes! Special plants left from the plant sale went on silent auction; others were offered for sale. And nicest of all, small plants were set out on the tables as table favors! Everyone loves a free plant, and everyone seemed delighted. The Annual Award went to the owners of California Flora Nursery, Phil van Soelen and Sherrie Althouse for their work with native plants. Phil van Soelen gave a wonderful program illustrated with lovely slides. All in all, it was a lovely evening and if you weren't there, I'm sorry you missed it!

Our next program will be our own Jason Dewees speaking on "Palms for the Bay Area Palette." Remember that we will start the meeting at 7:00 PM. so we can do the Plant Forum before the Program! I look forward to seeing you!

Botanical Tours

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

October 11–12, 2003

Cal Hort Tour : Private gardens and nurseries of Monterey, Soquel, Watsonville, Half Moon Bay and Carmel. Leaders. Barbara and John. Registration info is forthcoming.

January 22–February 4, 2004

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

May 11–23, 2004

Botanical Excursion in Eastern Macedonia & Thrace (Northeastern Greece) with noted greek

botanist George Sfikas & Richard Turner. A *Pacific Horticulture* tour.

May 16–June 3, 2004

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces. Escorted by Kristin Yanker-Hansen in support of California Horticultural Society

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April Plant Forum by Kristin Jakob

"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. Lavatera collection (Tree Mallows)

MALVACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

The following species were shown:

L. bicolor (*maritima*) from the western Mediterranean. Grows 6-8' tall, 4-5' wide, fairly rapidly. Pruning encourages denser growth.

L. venosa (origin?) attains only 2-3' in height and width. It is a parent, with S. California's Channel Island native *L. assurgentiflora* of a number of hybrids including 'Black Heart' which were displayed.

The Lavateras shown appreciate full sun, well-drained soil and moderate water. They sport blossoms from spring through fall and perform best in Sunset zone 14-24.

2. Alyogyne collection

MALVACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

The following were shown:

A. buegelii (blue hibiscus)

A. b. - pinkish-mauve seedling

A. b. 'White Swan'

A hybrid (*buegelii* x *hakeifolia*)

Long-blooming shrubs, *Alyogyne* hail from Australia. They are fast-growing and somewhat subject to wind rock. Pinching will result in denser plants. *Alyogyne* prefer full sun, excellent drainage and are hardy to 23°F or Sunset zones 13-17/20-24. The straight species is usually lavender-blue; several deeper purple named selections are available.

3. Sphaeralcea collection (Desert Mallows)

MALVACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

The following species were shown:

S. ambigua (orange)

S. nunroana 'Monda' (pink)

S. 'Louis Edmunds' (deep coral)

Another group of long-blooming mallows, *Sphaeralceas* flower from spring through fall. Most are native to the Southwestern U.S. Plants sold as *S. munroana* may actually be *S. philippiana* from Argentina. All are best in full sun with sharp drainage and little water once established. They tolerate heat, but not winter wet. Prune fairly hard in late winter. Hardy to ca 20°F.

4. Rose 'Fragrant Cloud' (Hybrid Tea)

ROSACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

This German-bred cultivar is one of the most fragrant modern roses. It blooms from spring through fall.

5. Rose 'Sparrishoop' (Shrub)

ROSACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

Another German hybrid, 'Sparrishoop' is a large shrub that can be trained as a climber. The deep pink, paler-centered flowers are single and born in clusters in waves from spring through fall. Fat, rich red hips reward the lazy gardener in winter. Both the flowers and hips are long-lasting in arrangements.

6. Camellias 'Aztec' and 'Katie'

THEACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

Both of these *Camellia japonica* hybrids are reliable semi double coral-flowered selections. 'Katie' has some petal streaking. Acid, fertile, organic soil, good drainage and regular watering along with some shade from hot afternoon sun suit camellias best.

7. Tagetes 'Harlequin' (Marigold)

ASTERACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

Jack showed a near-solid black sport of this strain or selection, which usually sport yellow and near-black stripes on the ray flowers. *Tagetes* originate in Mexico and Central America. This one is an annual appreciating fertile soil, sun and regular water.

8. Epiphyllum hybrid (Orchid Cactus)

CACTACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

Shown was a magenta blossom from one of Jack's collections. *Epiphyllums* are mostly tropical epiphytes and in cultivation can be grown in pots or baskets, elevated to accommodate the long arching stems. Soil should be rich, but sharply drained and plants should have protection from hot sun and frost. Excessive watering or poorly aerated soil can cause buds to drop.

9. Pansy 'Jolly Joker' (Melody strain)

VIOLACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

This selection sports dramatic coloration of orange and purple. Cool sun, fertile soil and regular water suit these annuals.

10. Orchid collection

ORCHIDACEAE

Jack Halprin, San Francisco

Plant Forum continued on next page

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May meeting recap

Phil Van Solen and Sherri Althouse are the founders of California Flora, a natives nursery in Fulton, Sonoma County. Honored with California Horticultural Society's Annual Award at the May 19 Potluck banquet, they gave a slide program on California natives and our relationship to them in the wild and in our gardens.

Speaking for the pair, Van Solen discussed his work in ecosystem revegetation as a prelude to the founding of California Flora. With its emphasis on planting small, establishing a variety of species, capturing genetic diversity, and adhering to indigenous genotypes, his revegetation experience influenced the philosophy of the nursery. Today, California Flora is known for the wide variety of its offerings; Althouse and Van Solen and their customers are continually testing new introductions at the nursery and in their gardens.

The question of how we appreciate wild species on both sides of the line between the domestic zone and native habitat animated Van Solen's presentation. Scrappy natives can show a new, more pleasing side in cultivation. Freed from herbivory, or benefiting from timely and judicious irrigation, many species bloom more vigorously, take on unexpected forms, or otherwise earn their keep. Alternatively, Van Solen showed the joyous aftermath of habitat restoration. At the Vine Hill Preserve in Sonoma County between Sebastopol and Forestville, endangered *Arctostaphylos densiflora* returned the favor of a second chance (Van Solen planted rooted cuttings in December and watered once thereafter) with a lush and vigorous reoccupation of this bit of their former terrain.

The images of plants Van Solen shared ranged from the undervalued and common *Aralia californica* and *Cornus sericea*, to a choice white *Mimulus* hybrid and a wine-colored *Dudleya* growing among the Palisades above the Napa Valley. He showed images of California natives in England grown without concern for habitat correctness, such as *Fremontodendron* cohabitating with *Hydrangea macrophylla*, as well as wild-habitat arrangements inimitable in cultivation. He also showed the wide variety between his warm, sunny garden and the shady, redwood-zone garden Sherrie Althouse tends at her home. From streamside *Epipactis* orchids to inner Coast Range chaparral species, native plants have widely varying needs.

In the age of expanding vineyards and suburbs, Van Solen said he has shifted from lamenting what habitat is lost to appreciating what remains. Many of the wildlands he showed us in Sonoma and Napa have yet to be overrun with either invasive broom or masses of hikers.



Phil Van Solen & Sherri Althouse accepting the Annual Award

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

Plant Forum continued from previous page

Jack's collection included several *Odontoglossum* hybrids, *Sopbro laeliacattleya* hybrids and one species, *Encyclia vitellina* (small orange flowers). All were cool growers which Jack keeps in an unheated greenhouse. He swears by an internet-obtained fertilizer called "Jerry's Gro" which is derived from corn.

11. *Aechmea ramosa*

BROMELIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

David grows this Brazilian species in a pot. It can bloom at any time of year and is hardy to 32°F. It should be kept moist and should be partly shaded while outside, brightly-lit indoors.

12. *Aechmea recurvata* (with *Echeveria agavoides*)

BROMELIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This container grouping featured three color forms, including orange, of this Brazilian *Aechmea*.

13. *Scilla natalense*

LILIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This bulb from the Drakensberg Mountains of South Africa needs water in summer and a dry winter rest. In spring, it produces a tall spike of small light purple flowers. Hardy to 30°.

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

Sammay Brongel	Mary Gribbin
Michele Cooper	Mark Lum
Holly Damaini	Wm. Reed
Dave Egbert &	Saskia Smith
Mark Morro	Jason Trachewsky

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Plant sale success!

The CalHort 2003 Plant Sale was once again a great success raising funds (nearly \$8000) for Society activities and our Grants and Scholarships program. It was held at a new location this year, Strybing Arboretum Auditorium, and somehow many plant lovers found their way there. We also welcomed many "drop ins" who just happened to be walking in the park and some of whom joined Cal Hort.

Many thanks to the nurseries and members for all of the plant donations and to all of you who came and shopped! The quality of the plants was stupendous-- the following nurseries who donated deserve your patronage: Annie's Annuals, Berkeley Hort, Bloom's, California Carnivores, Cal Flora, Cottage Garden Growers, Devil Mountain, Digging Dog, The Dry Garden, East Bay Nursery, Emerisa Gardens, Enjoy Rhododendrons, Fine Foliage, Gaddis Nursery, Geraniaceae, Grand Lake Garden Center, Harlequin Nursery, Homestead Gardens, John's Nursery, Landscape Unlimited, Lone Pine Gardens, Marca Dickie Nursery, Miniature Plant Kingdom, Momiji Maples, Monterey Bay Nursery, Monrovia Nursery, Orchard Nursery, Pacific Nurseries, Petaluma Rose Co., Rosendale Nursery, Ruth Bancroft

Gardens, Sebastopol Growers, Sequoyah Ridge, Sloat Garden Center, Sonoma Hort Nursery, Soquel Growers, Suncrest Nursery, Sweet Lane Nursery, Vintage Gardens, Wayward Gardens, Western Hills Nursery.

Kudos to the committee: Keith DeMara, Ann DeRosa, Bea Dimpfl, Bobbi Feyerabend, Jan Hamby, Rene Fittinghoff, Jana Olson, Diana Ross, Josh Schechtel.

And to all the volunteers who worked so hard (and had fun) making the sale a success: Linda Aurichio, Greg DeChirico, Michael Craib, Ann DeRosa, Keitha DeMara, Bea Dimpfl, Bobbi Feyerabend, David Feix, Renee Fittinghoff, Ernie Gladney, Beryl Golden, Jan Hamby, Katherine Henwood, Tonie Jones, Ted Kipping, Don Mahoney, Elsie Mueller, Louise Mueller, Jana Olson, Maria Reives, Joyce Richardson, Diana Ross, Kim Ruchamkin, Josh Schechtel, Richard Starkeson, Barbara Stevens, Dave Tivol.

Thanks also to Merritt College Department of Landscape Horticulture for the loan of the carts (our backs thank you!)



Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of each month:

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

June 21 & 22

Sunburst Project Plant Sale—Proceeds benefit HIV+ children and helps send them to summer camp. 9 AM–6 PM and 9 AM–3 PM. Parking lot #8, on 21st street between X and W streets, Sacramento. (916) 429-8315 or <http://aidsplantsale.home.att.net>

June 25

Bamboo Sourcing Nursery Tour—Join the Association of Professional Landscape Designers for a tour of this well known Sebastopol nursery. 10 AM – 2 PM. Free for APLD SF members, \$5 for non-members. www.apldsf.org

June 28 & 29

Workshop: Sudden Oak Death—An in-depth look with Matteo Garbelotto and Ellen Sims. \$200. UC Botanical Garden (510) 643-7008

July 22

Slideshow And Potluck: The Art Of Espalier, Topiary, Bonsai...—presented by Ted Kipping. 7 PM, County Fair Building. Free

July 27-August 3

Perennial Plant Association Symposium & Trade Show—Design, marketing, propagation, individual species presentations, Business Management and tours of public and private gardens, nurseries and retail centers. Trade show July 29, 31. Post symposium tours in San Francisco. register by July 7 to receive reduced rates. Info: Dr. Steven Still, (614) 771-8431, Fax (614) 876-5238, www.perennialplant.org.

The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org.

June 17

Hypertufa Trough Class—Carol Sturman and Ruth Janke will teach you how to make lightweight, 'aged stone' troughs for your favorite alpine plants. 6:30-9:30 PM, \$15 members, \$20 non-members plus \$10 material fee.

Strybing Arboretum Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

June 13 & 20

Mediterranean Gardening, 2 session seminar, 10 AM – 4 PM, County Fair Building. \$140 members, \$155 non-members

June 21

Attracting Birds & Butterflies, seminar, 10 AM–12:30 PM, CFBuilding \$30 members, \$35 non-members

June 24

Slideshow And Potluck: If Monet Were A Butterfly—Presented by Barbara Tetzlaff. 7 PM, CFBuilding. Free. (415) 753-7090.

June 30

Natural Gardening, 6-session certificate course in California Style gardening, 6:30 – 9 PM, CFBuilding. \$200 members, \$225 nonmembers.

July 18

Propagation No.2: Seeds and Cuttings—workshop with Don Mahoney, 1 – 3:30 PM. \$35 members, \$40 non-members.



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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.



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 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.

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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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