

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



MARCH MEETING

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**

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, March 19, 2001

“Plants for a New Millennium”

Presented by **Wendy Proud**, horticulturist and product manager for Monrovia Nursery where she is involved in the development and introduction of new plants and is responsible for managing the nursery's product mix, as well as assisting with the marketing of Monrovia's 1500 varieties. Ms. Proud is Present Past President of the California Association of Nurserymen Los Angeles Chapter. During a slide illustrated program, she will discuss some of the exciting new plants available.

PLANT DRAWING The plant drawing will include donations from **Sloat Nursery San Rafael** (David Stoner) and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens** (Dr. Don Mahoney). Our appreciation to California Flora Nursery, Fulton, California (Sherrie Althouse & Phil VanSoelen) and to Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, (Dr. Don Mahoney) for the splendid plants donated in February.



COMING ACTIVITIES

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, April 16, 2001

“From Sakhalin to Taiwan: the forests of eastern Asia”

Presented by **Mark Flanagan**, professional horticulturist for more than 10 years for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Wakehurst Place. The temperate forests of Asia, in particular China and the Himalaya, have yielded a treasure trove of garden plants. The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew has played an active role in introducing plant material from China, in collaboration with a range of organizations including the Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen. In addition, Kew has pursued an active field program in other parts of eastern Asia. Mark has travelled widely in search of hardy plants. During these trips over 700 seed and plant collections were made and many exciting plants introduced to cultivation as a consequence. From Ullung Island, off the coast of South Korea, an outstanding form of Japanese rowan (*Sorbus commmixta*), from Taiwan new species of cotoneaster and rhododendron, from the Siberian Tiger country of Ussuriland the little known conifer *Microbiota decussata* and from Hokkaido, the monarch birch (*Betula maximowicziana*). This illustrated lecture will feature the plants, peoples and landscapes of these fascinating places.

May 7, 2001

Save this date

California Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Dinner

at which time **Ruth Bancroft** will receive the **ANNUAL AWARD** in recognition of her many contributions to horticulture over the years. Brian Kemble, Horticulturist & Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden will present the program - “The History of the Ruth Bancroft Garden”.

June 2-3, 2001

California Horticultural Society

7th ANNUAL Hort Plant Sale

LAKESIDE GARDEN CENTER, OAKLAND

Rare and Wonderful Plants!!!

For information call Jana at 510-486-0481 or Elsie Mueller at 800-884-0009

President's Letter

by Dr. Don Mahoney

The diversity of plants that we gardeners and horticulturalists can grow here in California is truly amazing. Our February program on *Oxalis* and *Pelargoniums* by Michael Vasser was very well received by a large audience. Many of us, especially your current president, were overwhelmed by the potential and desirable plants in these two genera that are locally available and growable given the right conditions. (Where to put them without getting rid of something else is of course another matter altogether.) I hope our members support the nurseries and growers that propagate these treasures so

that they continue to be available to us.

At this writing welcome rains have been arriving on a regular basis and it appears that we are in for a wonderful gardening year. Why not go to the California Horticulture Society new plant display at the San Francisco Landscape and Garden show March 21st to March 25th and get some ideas of new plants to try in that little empty spot in your garden. This looks like another good year for planting. Also don't forget to propagate a few extras for the Cal Hort plant sale the first weekend in June. ✨

Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. Rare and hard to find treasures are frequently offered, but, 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, we're now listing the contact information so you can find these great nurseries and get all those fantastic plants you might not have won, or just to check out the great selections our local nurseries have. This month's donations are from:

Sloat Garden Center

1580 Lincoln Ave.
San Rafael, CA 94901
(415)453-3977

Sloat consistently has the largest and best-looking selection of any chain in the Bay Area. Check out their

website for a location nearest you and for loads of great gardening tips and classes. www.sloatgardens.com.

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 March 10 and April 7. ✨



Plant Swap Corner

As gardeners we experience gluts of various bulbs, perennials that get out of hand, shrubs, annuals, or grasses that self-sow. We could, of course, throw them away but how much more gratifying to pass them on to someone who would like to have them, perhaps in exchange for something we would like to grow.

To address this need the *Bulletin* has set up an Exchange Corner to connect members with excess plant material and/or searching for desired plants. To use the service, contact Bruce Peters (415) 824-1833 or e-mail editor@calhortsociety.org, with a list of whatever plants or bulbs you have available, in what quantity, and a list of what plants you are looking for in exchange, if any. Include your name and phone number or email address so people can then respond to you directly. Some examples of successful

trades include *Nicotiana mutabilis*, daffodils, *Lysimachia minoriensis*, cannas and various salivas.

⇒ Marjory Harris has lots of *Fascicularia pitcairniifolia* (not entirely sure of the species, but a spectacular Chilean bromeliad). Would trade for interesting succulents (especially aloes) or verbascums or acacias.

Marjory Harris, Proprietor
The Harland Hand Memorial Garden
825 Shevlin Drive
El Cerrito, CA 94530
Tel: (510) 525-9648, Fax: (510) 558-8250, email: marjory11@earthlink.net

⇒ I have a dwarf, double flowering cherry that I'm getting rid of. It's pretty, I've just outgrown it. Email: bruce@calhortsociety.org or (415) 824-1833.



November Plant Forum

by Fred Coe

1. **Kniphofia x 'Winter Cheer'**

Red-hot Poker

David Feix, Berkeley

LILIACEAE

This genus, confined to Southern Africa, has dozens of species blooming at different times of the year. "Winter Cheer" is one of the taller hybrids, growing up to 5 feet in height and blooming late in the year. It is easy to grow and hardy in this climate.

2. **Tecomathe speciosa**

BIGNONIACEAE

There is only one plant of this species left in the wild. It is native to Three Kings Island in New Zealand. Closely related to *Tecoma* the trumpet bush, this is a liana or "vine" with shiny, leathery green leaves and foxglove-like flowers 3+ inches long, creamy to green in color. It needs shelter in cold winters.

3. **Montanoa bipinnatifida**

Daisy Bush

ASTERACEAE

This is shown every fall at this time. It is a large bush (to 20 feet) covered with fragrant white "daisies". It is native to Mexico and will not take a great deal of cold. The generic name is from a Mexican politician, Don Luis Montanoa.

4. **Senecio sp.**

ASTERACEAE

This is a vining species up to 30 feet long with evergreen leaves and yellow flowers. It will grow over and through a hedge in short order. The genus contains 1000 species, from small succulents to trees and everything in between.

5. **Tecomaria capensis 'Aurea'**

BIGNONIACEAE

There is only one species but a number of color forms are in cultivation. It is widespread through Southern Africa and can be a low bush, a climbing liana or a tree up to 20+ feet. The pinnate dark green foliage is a good backdrop for the colorful trumpet flowers.

6. **Hedychium flavum**

ZINGIBERACEAE

There are two species that are very similar, both in growth and flower color. This one has stems up to 7 feet high with foot-long leaves and 6-inch spikes of pale yellow flowers. *H. flavescens* is very similar. This species is a rampant grower which will overgrow almost anything nearby. It is from N. India and quite cold hardy.

7. **Dahlia imperialis**

ASTERACEAE

Native to Central America and northern South America, this is the "tree dahlia", growing to 30 feet in one season. The flower shown was a good pink but there are a number of color forms and recently some smaller growing hardier forms (species?) have been introduced.

8. **Hypoestes aristata**

Ribbon Bush

ACANTHACEAE

A South African bush to 3 feet, evergreen, with deep pink to rosy purple flowers.

9. **Iochroma grandiflora**

SOLANACEAE

A species from Ecuador forming a shrub to 4 feet with rich purple flowers borne in terminal pendent inflorescence.

10. **Malacothamnus 'reticulatus'**

MALVACEAE

An unlisted "species" of this southwestern U.S. genus with pale pink 1/2 inch flowers.

11. **Clerodendrum sp. (possibly philippinum)**

VERBENACEAE

A pink-flowered sweetly-scented species. If this is the correct name, it is a native of China and Japan which has naturalized throughout the subtropics.

12. **Plectranthus zuluensis**

LAMIACEAE

There are a great number of species in this genus, some with very aromatic foliage, others scentless. This is a tall growing species (up to 4 or 5 feet) with blue flowers.

13. **Zaluzianskya ovata**

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Bob Watts, San Francisco

All species (35) are native to southern and eastern Africa. The outside of the flowers may be pink, maroon, or purple, while the inside is white. Most species are fragrant at dusk. Some higher altitude species are cold hardy and good alpine plants. If for no other reason than the name they are great to grow. Bob's plant is a low growing compact perennial shrub, probably from fairly high altitude. ✨

Botanical Tours

August 14–September 1

Namaqualand & the Western Cape with *Pacific Horticulture* editor Richard Turner as leader. Info: 800-624-6633

October 12–28

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society & San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden

January 9-27, 2002

Argentina, Chile & Patagonia Sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* and Strybing Arboretum Society -leader Dr. Don Mahoney

Horticultural Calendar

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

March 6

Cal Hort Plant Sale Planning Meeting—Everyone welcome! Jana Drobinsky's house, 2645 Shasta Road, Berkeley. Anyone with suggestions or who wants to participate can also call Jana at (510) 486-0481 (home) or (510) 843-3636 (work).

March 15

Tools for the 21st Century—SF Professional Gardeners' Assn. with Robert Broucaret. Env. Hort. Dept., CCSF. (415) 558-8036.

March 17 & 18, April 7 & 8

Annie's Annals Open House—Many rare and unusual plants, and a great selection of poppies! 2717 Goodrick, Richmond, off the Richmond Pkwy. (510) 215-1326.

March 18

Open Garden—Wayne Roderick's garden featuring 365 days of color with no watering. 166 Cañon Drive, Orinda (510) 254-0912. Take Hwy 24 to Orinda exit, go left under ramp, At third stoplight, go left. About 2 blocks later, hidden by a huge oak tree, is Cañon Drive. 9 AM to 4 PM.

March 21-25

Flower Power—SF Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace. See Cal Hort's New Plants Exhibit! (415) 750-5441 or www.gardenshow.com.

March 28

Gold Country Wildflower Walk—The Gardens at Heather Farms with Toni Fauver. 8:30 AM-5 PM, limited to 16. \$100, \$125 non-members. (925) 947-1678

April 7

Dahlia Tuber Sale—Dahlia Society of CA. SF County Fair Bldg, 9th Ave & Lincoln Way. 9 AM-NOON.

April 7

CA Native Plant Sale—Marin Chapter of CNPS at the Richardson Bay Audubon center, 376 Greenwood Beach Rd, Tiburon. 9:30 AM-2 PM. Info: (415) 332-4117 before 9 PM.

April 17-May 22

Horticultural Therapy Handicrafts—Karen Talbot, Tuesdays, 1PM-4PM. Merrit College, Oakland. Registration & info: (925) 376-1157.

April 21-22

Rhododendron show and sale—Cal Chapter, American Rhododendron Society. Many kinds of rhododendrons and azaleas, including hard to find varieties and species. Some new Bob Scott hybrids. Saturday 1 PM to 5 PM, Sunday 11 AM to 4 PM, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellvue, Oakland (in the park, off Grand Ave., NW corner of Lake. Info: (510) 841-5402.

April 21

2001: A Plant Odyssey—Perennial Plant Club of Sacramento's Plant & Book Sale. Sierra 2 Center for the Arts and the Community, 2791 24th St., Sacramento. 9 AM-4 PM. (916) 362-5337.

April 29

Secret Gardens of the East Bay—Park Day School's annual must-see Garden Tour. \$40 for 10 self-guided gardens. (510) 653-6250 or www.secretgardentour.com.

March 10

Plant Sale—General Sale. 10AM-1PM.

March 15

Caring for Urban Trees—Ted Kipping 6:30-9PM, members \$10, non-members \$12.

March 20-April 3

Beginning Pencil Drawing—Michele Meyer. 5:30-8:30PM. \$85, non-members \$95 (materials additional).

March 28

Pollination Cycle: pollinators & flower design—Greg de Nevers 7-9 PM, \$6, non-members \$8.

April 5-14

Springtime Birding—Allan Ridley, 2 classes, 2 field trips, \$85, non-members \$95.

April 7

Plant Sale—General Sale with Spring Bloomers. 10AM-1PM.

April 9-May 14

Ornamental trees—Certificate course with J. Charmain Giuliani, 6:30-9 PM, \$125 non-members \$140.

UC Botanical Garden - Berkeley
(510) 643-1924

March 10

Small Trees for Waterwise Gardens—Stew Winchester, who knows everything about trees, will suggest some particularly interesting ones for your drought resistant garden. 10 AM, \$15. Members \$10. (510) 643-2755.

March 24

Ornamental Grasses for the Mediterranean Garden—by John Greenlee, author of *The Encyclopedia of Grasses*. Mr. Greenlee will be available to sign copies of his book immediately following the talk. 10 AM, \$15. Members \$10. (510) 643-2755.

April 14-April 29

Fibers and Dyes Exhibit—see the plants that many common fibers and dyes are derived from, with samples and abundant information. 10 AM-4 PM, free with Garden admission.

April 27 & 28

Annual Spring Plant Sale—Members' Preview and Silent Auction Friday, 5-7:30 PM. Public Plant Sale Saturday, 10 AM-2 PM.

UC Davis Arboretum
(530) 752-4880

March 11

Wild Plants in the Supermarket—Jojoba and aloe are common ingredients-but what are they? These questions and others will be answered on a free public tour at 2 PM let by Docent Christy Dewees will lead the tour.

March 13

Acacias in the wild and in the Garden—known in Australia as wattles because English settlers used their willow branches as a framework for mud walls, in an ancient type of construction called "wattle and daub." Dr. Eric Conn, will show slides and discuss acacias at 7:30 PM at the University Club. Free. ✨

New Money

by Bruce Peters

Ahhh, Spring. A time when happiness comes to California gardeners in so many ways: longer, sunnier days, emerging bulbs with their promise of warmer times to come, fresh new growth on many trees and shrubs, Ceanothus mirroring our newly cleared skies...I could go on and on but I won't. Instead, I'll tell you what I welcome most every spring—well, every other spring, at least, in my yard. It's the return of an almost forgotten friend, one who has been around for over a year but who, tired of being taken for granted and always overlooked in favor of brighter and gaudier things, cloaks herself in brand new stylish garb and adamantly refuses to be ignored any longer. Who is this Madonna of the plant kingdom, ever changing her clothes? Why, *Lunaria annua variegata*, of course!

She begins life much like her common cousin, the old-garden money plant, uncomplainingly spending her first year in a preferably lean soil (but she's not picky, really, any soil will do) under full sun to light shade, putting out a standard rosette of vaguely toothed and spade-shaped leaves. It's in the spring of this biennial's second year that the heart-stoppingly beautiful variegation takes hold, deeply frosting the outer edges of the leaves to light up those hidden corners and neglected spots in the garden.

Looking to garner still more attention to herself, up comes a 2' to 4' tall typically Brassica inflorescence with ever whiter and jaggy leaves leading up to the rather plain, yet abundant white or pink flowers, somehow cheery in their simplicity. Continuing the show, the flowers are followed by quarter-sized, paper-thin 'silver dollars,' (or moons, as the latin name suggests), each enclosing 1-4 odd, flattened kidney shaped seeds, themselves deserving of a closer look.

The seeds are easily grown (whether you'd like to or not) and will happily fill in those less-travelled areas of your yard.

HORT NOTES:

✦ **WRITERS NEEDED!** articles to be published in *Borderlines*, the journal of the Half Hardy Group of the Hardy Plant Society. The journal, published twice a year, is the main avenue of communication between the members in the UK, Europe, Canada and the USA. Group members are interested in growing a wide variety of plants most often thought of as being suited to Mediterranean climates.

A broad range of subject matter is acceptable - favorite plants, cultivation methods, garden descriptions and so on. Colour slides and photographs can be reproduced also.

Articles may be sent by post to Valerie Livesey, Y Felin, Cwmrheidol, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 3NA, Wales. or by email to V.Livesey@btinternet.com.

✦ **NEW BOOK**—Bruce and Sharon Asakawa's California Gardener's Guide. A full-color and well photographed reference book for the beginning to intermediate gardener. Covers 165 of the most commonly found nursery plants that do well all over CA. Includes basic pruning tips for specific plants and 'Personal Favorites' sections for each species.



The cotyledons and young leaves of the variegated form obligingly differentiate themselves from their Plain Jane cousin by showing just a hint of their future frosting, quickly reverting to pure green however, lest you get too excited too early.

With all this, is there anything negative to say about this plant? Although almost completely pest free, young slugs and snails do tend to take exploratory nibbles in the middle of the leaves and some might say that it can be a bit weedy. Hmmpf! Weedy, indeed!

Young plants are sometimes available in 4" pots from Annie's Annuals by seed from heirloom seed houses. I'll try to sacrifice some for next year's Seed Exchange so keep your eyes open! ✨

Organized by plant type; shrubs, vines etc. A great gift! Cool Springs Press, \$24.95 ISBN 1-930604-47-5. www.coolspringspress.com.

✦ **CRUISE LINE NEEDS HORTICULTURALISTS**—Celebrity Cruises are seeking someone to lecture on their new ship, the INFINITY (specifically a horticulturist). The ship has a conservatory on board, where the lectures would be held. Topics can include any horticulturally related topic. The cruise will be free. For more info, call Jennifer Ayers at 1-800-722-5472 ext.3-4961.

✦ **GARDEN RENOVATION VOLUNTEERS** needed to help with the upcoming Lakeside Garden re-do. contact Seán O'Hara at sean.ohara@groupmail.com.

✦ **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS** applications now available from Barbara K. Hopper, Box 783, Kenwood CA, online at www.calhortsociety.org or by email request to bhopper@calhortsociety.org. Maximum grant \$2500. Deadline for receipt of applications July 10, 2001.



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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 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.

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society

Cassandra Bright

Michael Drum

Dodi Middlebrook

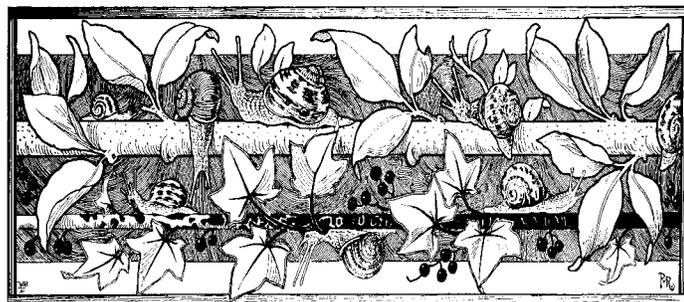
Maria Pasos-Nunez

The Gardens at Heather Farms
(Patrice Spencer - Sheri Kurz)

Saul & Julie Wiseman

Dr. Sandhya Yadav &

Dr. William Lewis



Plan a Plant Sale 2001

The first planning meeting for the Cal Hort Plant Sale will be Tues Mar. 6, 7 PM at Jana Drobinsky's house, 2645 Shasta Road, Berkeley. Anyone with suggestions or who wants to participate can also call Jana at (510) 486-0481 (home) or (510) 843-3636 (work).

The dates for the 2001 Cal Hort plant sale will be June 2 & 3. Last year holds the record for the most plants donated by members and that's a record we'd like to break! Start propagating now! We're hoping to have 10 plants from each member for the sale. It's still a great time to propagate many California natives or hardwood shrubs.

The Cal Hort Plant Sale has quickly become one of the Bay Area's premier sales owing to the talents of its many members. Let's keep that tradition strong! ✨

California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences

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