



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



May 19, 2003

6:30 p.m. for socializing and sale of special plants

7:00 p.m. Potluck Dinner

8:00 p.m. Program and Presentation of Awards

***Advance Reservations must be made with Elsie Mueller (800) 884-0009 not later than Friday, May 16th.

Monday, May 19, 2003

ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM
“Propagating & Gardening with Native Plants”

Presented by Phil Van Soelen & Sherrie Althouse, owners of California Flora Nursery, Fulton.
 recipients of the 2003 Annual Award.

Advance Reservations must be made with Elsie Mueller (800) 884-0009 not later than Friday, May 16th.

A \$5 donation is requested to cover costs of materials, supplies and beverages.

Your dinner ticket and name tags will be held for you at the door.

Bring your favorite dish [enough to serve 8]; a serving utensil; your own silverware; plants for sale.

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program
In May the drawing will be replaced with a Silent Auction of many rare and beautiful plants.

Our appreciation to **A Touch of the Tropics**, Santa Rosa, courtesy of David Franzman; **Annie's Annuals**, Richmond, courtesy of Annie Hayes and to **Strybing Arboretum** and **Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the April meeting.

SAVE THESE DATES



California Horticultural Society
9th ANNUAL PLANT SALE

May 17-18, 2003

Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco County Fair Building

Rare and Wonderful Unusual Plants

Saturday, May 17, 2003 6:00-9:00PM - Members ONLY

Silent Auction of Selected Plant Treasures! Hundreds of Plants for Sale! Refreshments!

(Memberships available at the door). Admission \$5.00

General Sale, Sunday May 18th – 10:00AM to 2:00PM

For information call Elsie Mueller 800-884-0009

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.

President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

Suffer them now, and they'll o'ergrow the garden, And
choke the herbs for want of husbandry.

Shakespeare: 2 Henry VI. Act iii. sc.1

Weeding is an everlasting chore, as I'm sure you are all aware. I was out taking advantage of a reasonably dry afternoon working over the Iceland Poppy bed, snapping off the spent stems and was not surprised to find that there was a set of weeds growing up in between. I had planted that bed very closely with the poppies, anemone, penstemon and lilies in the hope that the weeds would be crowded out. Ha! An assortment of young grasses, some of that little yellow-flowered oxalis, and that very thin-stemmed weed that will break off if you don't get hold of it right at ground level. Indeed, Willie S. had the right of the advantage of getting the weeds early before the roots become well established especially the grasses. Grasses! You only have to let one go to bloom and seed to have a standing crop almost instantly.

Moving along to the rose box, I found that the "weeds" taking advantage of the rains and sunshine were Johnny-Jump-ups. Thinned out, they will provide their old-fashioned touch to the roses. My 'Fragrant Cloud' gave me it's first bud, which I brought indoors to open and perfume the room. Nothing is blooming in the center bed yet, but some

of the lilies are up, iris are showing buds and so is the heliotrope I cut back so drastically.

Coming up with the infant grasses are some volunteer *Nigella* and what looks like cosmos. Ah well, time will tell. One of the delights of the garden is seeing what comes up that you have either forgotten about planting or is a self-seeded present from last year!

Our surprise program last month by Ron Parsons was excellent. By now I'm sure you know our featured speaker, Georgia Bost was unable to come due to illness, so Barbara Hopper, our resourceful Program Chair, was able to get Ron to step in. His slides of the wild lilies were wonderful! How often do you get the chance to get really up-close to the blooms in the wild?

The Cal Hort Plant sale is the 17-18 of May, and as you know, lots of help is needed to set up and help with the sale. This is a great opportunity to get special plants that frequently are not available in the trade. Then I want to remind you that the May 19 meeting will be our Annual meeting and Potluck dinner, at which the Annual Awards will be given. Our Program, "Propagating and Gardening with Native Plants" will be presented by Phil Van Soelen and Sherrie Althouse. I am really looking forward to hearing them, and hope that you will all join me.

Email Announcements



We have instigated an exciting new plan to email all of our internet connected members a notification when the latest *Bulletin* has been posted to our website. This is a new free service your Council members are providing.

We will also send out notes about time sensitive things (like a speaker changes etc.). Don't worry about spam, our mailings will be

sparse and your address will **never** be given out. Send to updates@calhortsociety.org

Please direct any email questions to updates@calhortsociety.org

or to Bruce (415) 824-1833 and any postal questions to Elsie at (415) 566-5222.

Food Glorious food...

...for the Plant Sale Gala Saturday May 17th

Every year we ask our members contribute food to our plant sale Gala. We are looking for wine, soda, sparkling water, or just plain water, cheeses, crackers, baguettes, or

your own special finger food, appetizers or desserts, that you will be happy to bring to the show fully prepared. If you are interested in helping, please call Kristin Yanker-Hansen a 925-831-9499 or E-mail at Yankerhansen@pacbell.net. We are open to all ideas.



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

Oct. 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

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

May 16–June 3, 2004

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces. In support of California Horticultural Society

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

March Plant Forum by Don Mahoney

"A picture is 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. **Fuchsia 'Blush Fandent'**

ONAGRACEAE

Don Mahoney, Strybing

This unusual Fuchsia is a hybrid created at Strybing nursery by Dr. Peter Baye in his mite-resistant fuchsia breeding program. The parents are Fuchsia dentata and F. 'Fanfare'. He named a series the 'Fandent' series after the two parents. The blush flower on this plant has an almost white corolla with green tubes contrasting with a peach colored calyx. This particular hybrid is easy to grow but is difficult to propagate. See photo below.

2. **Pleione Orinoco-gemini**

ORCHIDACEAE

Fred Coe, Ross

The pleione is a Butterfield hybrid that has two flowers per stem and each flower has a darker pink lip than the usual pink pleione. It's parents are native to China. Pleione's are wonderful container orchids for the deck or partly shaded patio. They have a winter dormancy period when they need to be protected from excessive wetness, but otherwise appreciate ample moisture. They are early spring bloomers and grow best in orchid bark that has a little potting soil and extra perlite added.



Fuchsia 'Blush Fandent'

3. **Lobelia aguana**

CAMPANULACEAE

Don Mahoney, Strybing

When this was displayed it had not yet been identified but subsequently has been identified by Frank Almeda of the Academy of Sciences. It is a rarely collected and previously uncultivated species. It has horticulture potential as its leaves and flowers are substantially larger than Lobelia laxiflora, to which it is related. Its large red flowers have a central yellow stripe on the lower petal. It should be grown in full sun or part shade with regular water. It hails from Vulcan Zunil in Guatemala where it grows between 7,000 and 8,000 feet.

4. **Kennedyia coccinea**

FABACEAE

Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood

This woody vine is one of the showier pea vines from Australia. It is small as far as vines go, but will readily cover a fence or a wall, especially if there is reflected heat. Its orange-red flowers have purple marks at the base and cover the vine from late winter into spring. It is frost sensitive and appreciates winter protection. It makes a good companion to Hardenbergia violacea as it likes similar conditions and is also moderately drought tolerant.



Pleione Orinoco-gemini

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Texas Field Trip Recap

by Ellen Zagory

Speeding through the upper atmosphere Daisy Mah and I sat in our jet age comfort dreaming of plants that



Sephora secundiflora

we hoped we would see on our Cal Hort trip to Texas.

Our first find was in the parking lot of our hotel, *Sephora secundiflora*, the Texas mountain laurel, an evergreen shrub with delicious, drooping, purple

racemes that smell like grape Kool-Aid. We found some of last year's seed, and being propagation inclined, made them our first souvenirs.

The next day was sunny and cool as we rode in deluxe comfort out of Austin, through vast fields of wildflowers, *Castilleja*, scarlet paintbrush, bluebonnets, and that scourge of the California irrigated garden, *Oenothera speciosa*, the Mexican evening primrose. Kristin briefed us on the similarities and differences of our California climate and the climate of central Texas, they having a prolonged drought and late frost, and assured us we would see new, tough and adaptable plants great for our California gardens.

We visited the Antique Rose Emporium, with many hardy roses "rustled" from old abandoned cemeteries and, therefore, guaranteed to tolerate extreme Texas heat. Our charming host Mike Shoup assured us "if dead people can grow 'em anybody can" which was just the first of many encounters we would have with charming Texan humor.

Next stop was the much anticipated Yuccadoo Nursery and Peckerwood Gardens. The "spikophiles" in the group were ecstatic at the selection of *Agave*, *Yucca*, *Nolina* and



Antique Rose Emporium

Dasyilirion. My favorite (I want them not to poke me) was *Dasyilirion miquillahensis* with fine, soft foliage in a lovely mass. Other beauties such as *Echeveria runyonii* and *Dyckia marnier-lapostolle* with silver foliage also caught my eye.

Just a short walk across the property found us having lunch in the garden of John Fairey, Peckerwood Gardens. Large oaks and pines created a cool and lovely high shade under which we saw a number of fascinating plants like *Pinellia* with its little mouse tails and *Eomecon* which Daisy tells me grows well in her Sacramento garden. *Styrax* in bloom caused "oohs" and "aahhs" mixed in with the native savannah holly with its mottled bark.

For those interested in native and hardy *Hibiscus* a stop at Hibiscus Hill Plantation is a must. Although a little early for flowers we had a most interesting introduction to the species of *Hibiscus* being studied for their use as fiber as well as ornament.

The next day we breakfasted on delicious pastries and coffee in the garden of Jennifer Myers in an outdoor living room next to the fireplace. Jennifer's garden was recently featured in *Garden Design* magazine and was as lovely as anticipated. A formal symmetrical entrance and many pots with palms and other plants gave a Mediterranean feel around the beautiful historic limestone home.

Then we visited the home and garden of James David where we were "wowed" by the use of limestone and formal garden design. The back garden reminded me of the Alhambra with its runnels of water, starting up at the house and continuing pool to pool down a lovely formal staircase into the pond below. The talent of Mr. David and his staff was obvious from the perfect views from every window, the at-



Puya sp.? at



"Suction Cup Plant"

.....

tention to the minutist detail and artistic placement of pots and plants.

My personal interest was the Ladybird Johnson National Wildflower Center, because I want to learn more about Texas native plants that would be useful in California gardens. Their water-harvesting entrance evoked Roman aqueducts and demonstration areas provided beautiful displays of native annuals and perennials. We toured the prairie restoration areas, heard a docent speak about hummingbirds, and of course ran up a few charges in their most excellent book store and gift shop.

As a close to a great day John Dromgule of The Natural Gardener most generously hosted us for wine and cheese, an opportunity to pick up some new and interesting plants and a lively discussion of organic garden techniques.

The next day dawned early with a first stop at the Zilker Botanical Garden and staff led tours of the recently completed prehistoric garden. Home landscape demonstration areas incorporated the native *Melampodium*, *Carex texana*, and *Callirhoe involucrata*, the Texas wine cup.

Then it was time to visit the plants in their wild habitat with Eric Lautzenheiser at the Freidrick Wilderness Park. Hiking up the hillside we saw *Juniperus ashei*, *Yucca rupicola*, *Diospyros texana* and more. The highlight of the tour was the rare *Quercus laceyi* (syn. *Q. glaucooides*) and a creamy yellow form of *Aesculus pavia*.

On Friday we visited the San Antonio Botanical Garden which opened in 1980. Our tour guide, Don Cox, was entertaining and humorous and I was dazzled by the glasshouse collections of tropicals, especially one unknown plant we dubbed the "suction cup" plant. (*Dischidia imbricata*, I think. -ed.) A serene and lovely Japanese garden was unexpected as well as the floriferous flower gardens. The restoration of an east Texas landscape included the central Texas bald cypress



Yuccado



Erigeron at Ladybird Johnson National Wildflower Center

which Don informed us "puts on more weight than an old flame at a high school reunion..." I know I will try to get his *Chilopsis linearis* 'Bubba,' a dark burgundy and upright growing selection good for hot Valley gardens.

Well, I know I'm out of space but there is so much more to tell: watching thousands of bats pour from beneath a bridge with an interpreter from Bat Conservation International, the fabulous garden designed by John Troy, a collector's garden at the home of Brett Bothe, a barge tour of the San Antonio Riverwalk plantings, the Alamo and Schumacher and Big Red Sun Nurseries. And I know there is something I've forgotten! The tour was more than I had hoped for, fabulous gardens, lots of new plants and fun and friendly people and everyone speaking Latin! What better vacation could there be?

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Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of each month:

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

May 8–11

Filoli Flower Show - A Celebration of Friendship—Preview: May 8 5:30–7:30 PM. \$60. May 9–11, 10 AM–3:30 PM, \$15 adults, \$1 children 2–12. (650) 364-8300 x 218

May 9–11

Cabrillo College Environmental Horticultural Center—25th anniversary Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale celebrating the opening of their new facilities. 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos. Info (831) 477-5671, www.cabrillo.cc.ca.us/divisions/bech/hort.

May 10

Diablo Valley College plant sale—9 AM–1 PM. 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. 925-685-1230, Ext. 2443

May 17 & 18

Cal Hort Annual Plant Sale—Sat. Members Only Gala, 6–9 PM, \$5. Sun General Sale, 10 AM–2 PM, County Fair Bldg, Strybing Arboretum. (800) 884-0009.

May 18

Going Native Garden Tour—Various home garden locations throughout Santa Clara Valley. 10 AM–4 PM. Free (408) 274-6965, www.goingnativegardentour.com.

May 18–19

Satsuki Azalea Bonsai Show—Sale and show, Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland. 10 am–5 pm. (925) 284-9525

June 1

Carmen's Nursery Labeling Party—Come for an afternoon of plants and memories. Bring your own lunch, cookies & juice will be provided. For more info, call (408) 356-0119, from 11–5, Wednesday–Saturday.

UC Davis Arboretum
(530) 752-4880

May 14

Lunchtime Walk In The U.C. Davis Arboretum—Enjoy spring flowers with arboretum superintendent Warren Roberts. Noon. Free

May 17

Spring Plant Sale At The New Arboretum Nursery—Featuring unusual plants suitable for growing in the Central Valley. Members get a 10% discount. 10 AM–2 PM

May 24

Tour: Container Gardening—Docents Pam Kazmierczak and Mary Horton will discuss container gardening and how to care for your plantings in spring and summer. 11 AM, the Arboretum Terrace Garden. Free

June 27–29

Gardening to Extremes—Hardy Plant Society of Oregon's 2003 Study Weekend with Pamela Harper, Dan Hinkley, Maurice Horn and more. registration required and it fills up fast. <http://www.hardyplant.com/calendar.htm>

July 27–Aug 3

21st Annual Perennial Plant Symposium—seminars & lectures-trade show in Sacramento-Hyatt Regency (July

27–July 31.) Tours Aug 1–3 San Francisco, Berkeley, Oakland, the Napa & Sonoma areas, Watsonville & Gilroy areas. Info: (614) 771-8431, ppa@perennialplant.org.

The Gardens At Heather Farms - Spring Classes
(925) 947-1687 • www.gardenshf.org
\$15 GHF members; \$20 non-members

May 17

Feng Shui in the Landscape—Carrie Ahlgren. 9:30 AM–12:30 PM.

May 21

Roses in Summer—Dolores Moffat, Mary Lou Williams 9:30 AM – NOON.

June 3

Plant Propagation—Patrice Hanlon & Ruth Janke 7–9 PM.

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

May 4

Medicinal and Posionous Plants, walk, 9:45 am – Noon, Main Gate. Free

May 10

Propagation No. 1: Dividing Perennials—workshop, 10 AM–1 PM, County Fair Building. \$30 members, \$35 non-members.

May 16

Full Moon Walk: White By Night—6:45–8:30 PM, Main Gate. Free

June 5

SF Flora: Past and Present—CNPS talk, 7:30 PM, County Fair Building. Free

June 13 & 20

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

Hort Notes:

□ EMPLOYMENT

OPPORTUNITY: The California Science Center Foundation is seeking a Director of Horticulture for their World of Ecology exhibit. For complete job description call (213) 744-2272 or visit www.casciencectr.org.

□ PROPERTY FOR SALE:

Three acres and 270 rhododendrons for the horticulturally inclined. Contact Ron Cleave at ronbon@inreach.com, or visit www.humblewood.com/MattoleValleyProperty.html



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 still 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.

Floriculture Career

Make People Smile—Grow your Future in the Floral Industry, a new career brochure, gives a brief overview of the floral industry and leads the reader through the rewarding career paths available. For people who love flowers, there exists a growing demand for trained professional who have strong business skills and horticultural knowledge.

The brochure can be viewed by logging onto the American Floral Endowment website at www.endowment.org or can be ordered for a small fee by calling (618) 692-0045.

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



Host a Speaker

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a monthly speaker. Many of our speakers live out of town or the state and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to stay for one night with one of our members and perhaps enjoy their garden or another if time is available. Please contact Barbara Hopper (707) 833-2078 or Bruce Peters (415) 824-1833, bruce@calhortsociety.org.

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

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



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Flowers missing fragrance?

Over the past 50 years, flower breeders have been successful in modifying many floral traits including flower size, color, longevity, and the number of blooms. This work has been highly successful with roses and many other floral crops. However, some of this selective breeding has tended to eliminate an important consumer-desired trait—fragrance. Thus, for the past three years, the American Floral Endowment has funded a basic research project headed by Dr. Natalia Dudareva at Purdue University. Her research, using snapdragons, has focused on

- 1.) discovering which biochemical compounds within the plant are important for scent;
- 2.) determining the biochemical pathway(s) that produce these compounds; and
- 3.) isolating the appropriate genes.

She has found that 7 to 10 compounds are responsible for scent and that one, methyl benzoic acid, is very important. She has also found that this compound may be involved in extending floral life, an unexpected benefit of the research.

There is much potential for all segments of the flower industry to benefit from this Endowment sponsored research. For additional details, contact Dr. Dudareva at dudareva@hort.purdue.edu.



****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.



Plant Sale donations

Drop off details: Anytime within two weeks of sale (from May 5 through May 16). Location: 2403 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. SE corner of San Pablo Ave. and Channing Way, halfway between the Ashby Ave. and University Ave. exits from Highway 80. Contact phone: Jana Olson at Omega Too: (510) 843-0666.

For the North Bay, contact Renee Fittinghoff at (415) 388-6850 or reneef@worldpassage.net.

Also, drop off at the sale by 9 AM Saturday, only if pre-labelled. Call Ann at (510) 528-8804.



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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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