



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122
MAY 17, 2004

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

7:00 PM Potluck & Program will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

***Advance Reservations must be made with Elsie Mueller (800) 884-0009 not later than Friday, May 14th.

Coming Programs
 Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society
Monday, May 17, 2004
ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM
“New Plant Introductions”
 Presented by
Annie Hayes, owner of Annie’s Annuals & recipient of the 2004 Annual Award.
 Annie will present an exciting program showing the best new plant introductions from Annie’s Annuals. Her presentation will include live plants, highlighting many of the choice and unusual plants that her nursery has introduced to the gardening public in Northern California over the last seven years. **Silent Auction of rare plants. Call Elsie Mueller at [800-884-0009] for reservations.** Your dinner ticket & 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 is 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 **Magic Gardens** courtesy of Aerin Moore; to **Lone Pine Gardens**, Sebastopol, courtesy of Ian Price and to **Strybing Arboretum**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the April meeting.



Monday, June 21, 2004
 Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society
“Incorporating Succulents in the Garden for Bold Year Round Interest”
 Presented by **Ernesto Sandoval**, Curator, Division of Biological greenhouses, Section of Plant Biology, University of California Davis.

Using examples from private gardens such as the author’s garden and public gardens such as the Ruth Bancroft Garden, the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Strybing Arboretum, succulents that merit a place in our gardens will be discussed. Aloes, Agaves, cacti and other succulents appropriate to mixed plantings will be emphasized using quality photographs. Although many people consider succulents to be hard to grow and even dangerous, the author hopes to convince us that not all succulents are difficult and that there are many which have little chance of causing pain and anguish from their presence in our gardens. Some less common, but not too difficult to grow plants such as various Aloe and Agave species, and bulbs such as *Ornithogalum fimbri-marginatum* and other low water use plants will be discussed as well as made available for purchase at a plant table supplied by the speaker. Proceeds from those volunteer grown plants will benefit the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.



President's Letter

by Bruce Peters

Springtime for horticultural organizations often mirrors the general horticultural climate, which is to say, BUSY! We've just come off of two big events for Cal Hort, our New Plants Exhibit at the SF Flower & Garden Show and our Annual Plant Sale--both of which went fantastically! These two events are very important to the Society for both public exposure and monetary income and in both cases each of these events was a great success.

Again and again, I find myself so impressed with our members and their dedication to Cal Hort. We have people from all walks of life coming together and helping to forge a strong and coherent Society whose goal it is to further horticulture in California and, personally, I think we're doing a really good job. Through our monthly meetings, website (fielding thousands of visitors each month), outreach programs such as the New Plant Exhibit, Grants & Scholarships program etc. we're helping both members and the general public to experience the joy of growing plants.

Like plants, either singly in pots or in larger plant communities, organizations such as ours need to be cared for and intelligently nourished to maintain not only current but fu-

ture health, one of the main reasons for the existence of our Executive Board.

Although I feel our Board does that job admirably, I feel that the lifeblood of any organization is in its members as they are the ones who make any organization exciting and worth belonging to. It's often the members who come up with the best ideas for keeping an organization fresh and vital and who know how to put those ideas into play. When you think of things you wish Cal Hort could do differently, or new things we could do, don't keep them to yourself! Either e-mail, call or talk in person to one of the Board members and let us know so that we can keep Cal Hort flourishing long into the future. .

Happily, it's time again for our Annual Dinner where we can all let our hair down for a bit to just hang out and chat. It's a big Cal Hort event but one where we can all get away from the president constantly interrupting your conversations to get on with the program. I know I'll be glad to stop the shushing and start eating! I'm looking forward to seeing what cool things we have for the Silent Auction table. I hope to see you all there on May 17th and remember, don't be embarrassed to give us your ideas for new or better ways!

\$8,662.92

Our 2004 Annual Plant Sale was a great success, bringing in a grand total of \$8,662.00 for the Society! Our Silent Auction raised almost \$1,500 for the Grants & Scholarships program.

Our totals have gone up from last year and we are hopeful they'll keep going up in the years to come. Thanks to all who weathered a year of weak

volunteer efforts to create a banner year in Plant Sale returns. We've already heard from a few people interested in helping out next year and are looking forward to many more when the time comes.

Keep your calendars free for April 16 & 17, 2005!!



Botanical Tours

January 20–February 2, 2005

Drakensbergs—a floral treasure—South Africa in Summer with Panayoti Kelaidis. In support of the American Rock Garden Society

October 11-27, 2004

Wildflowers, Gardens, Natural History and Fjordland of Chile at the Peak of Springtime Bloom with noted horticulturist and Landscape Architect Professor Wes Conner. In support of Strybing Arboretum Society.

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

Volunteer Corner

Being a volunteer-run organization, Cal Hort is always in need of people with various skills and talents to help out. Look below to see how you can help our Society to grow!

Hospitality Committee: Tasks include showing new members the different areas and aspects of the monthly meetings. The only pre-requisite is having attended one previous meeting. *We really need people here!* Contact Renee (vicepresident@calhortsociety.org) or Diana (lambeaux@pacbell.net) for info.

Newsletter: The *Bulletin* is always happy to accept stories, articles or fun garden-related tidbits. If you would like to start a column, write something or have just run across an interesting item, share it with the rest of us! Contact Bruce at editor@calhortsociety.org or (415) 824-1833.

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April Plant Forum

by Josh Schechtal

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

1. *Fuschia paniculata*

ONAGRACEAE

Paul Savage, San Francisco

This member of the fuschia family grows at altitudes of 6000 to 9000 feet in Mexico, and therefore can tolerate bay area temperatures. It blooms much of the year, starting in November, and butterflies and hummingbirds treasure its short flowers.

2. *Fuschia boliviana*

ONAGRACEAE

Paul Savage, San Francisco

This beautiful fuschia sends up arching shoots to 12 feet tall, and produces long racemes of flowers, followed by shiny black berries. It ranges from Mexico into South America.

3. *Ledebouria cooperi*

LILIACEAE

Bruce Peters, San Francisco

This is a small bulbous perennial from South Africa. The



Ledebouria cooperi

Ledebourias are also found in India and Madagascar. This species does well in a sunny, well-drained location. Unlike some other species in this genus, this plant is completely dormant during the winter months. When planting, keep the 'neck' of the bulb exposed above the soil.



Fuschia boliviana



Fuschia paniculata

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. Something old-hat to you might be a brand new wonder to another member. What's putting on a display in your garden? Bring it in a share it with us! In the event of a very large number of submissions, we will select 8-10 plants for the discussion

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

Rachel Baker
Judith Buder
John Dennis & Bill Bulkley
Elkhorn Native Plant
Nursery - Nicky Hughes
Herb & Lynne Fredricksen
Robert Gustafson

Sherry & John Hall
(Terra Sole Nurseries)
Y. Lee Huey-Mankin
Daniel Lozano
Caren Meghreblian &
Harry Bernstein
Arkin Moore

Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of the Month

Sick Plant Clinic—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM – NOON at the UC Botanical Gardens. Free (510) 643-2755 www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Every Sunday

Garden Market—Neat plants for sale and free garden talks 10 AM – 2 PM at the Ferry Building SF. www.cuesa.org

May 8

CNPS Native Plant Sale—10 AM – 4 PM at Hidden Valley Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Cash or checks only. (650) 941-1068 or www.cnps-scv.org.

May 8 – 9

Plant Sale—The 26th annual sale at Cabrillo College. 9 AM – 5 PM and 9 AM – 1 PM at the Horticulture Dept., 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos. (805) 477-5671 or www.cabrillo.cc.ca.us/divisions/becho/hort.

May 11

Public Lecture: Evolution's Rainbow—Dr. Joan Roughgarden discusses her new book concerning 'diversity, gender and sexuality in nature and people.' 7:30 PM, 2050 Valley Life Sciences Bldg, UC Berkeley Campus. Free (510) 643-7008 or bnhm@berkeley.edu

May 15

Pruning Rhododendrons and Camellias—Free class with Garth Jacober. 10 AM at Magic Gardens, 729 Heinz Ave. Berkeley, (510) 644-2351 or www.magicgardens.com.

May 19

Slideshow and Potluck—Walter Teague presents "Plant Hunting in Ecuador." Please bring a dish to serve eight people. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

May 20

Laws & Regs Update—SF Professional Gardeners Assn. SF City College, 7-9 PM. (415) 558-8036

May 22

Long Blooming Perennials and Shrubs—Free class with Aerin Moore. 10 AM at Magic Gardens, 729 Heinz Ave. Berkeley, (510) 644-2351 or www.magicgardens.com.

June 5

Cactus Caper—Celebrate Lotusland's new Desert Garden with a fun filled afternoon of food and stories. 2 – 6 PM. Advanced reservations are \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. (805) 969-9990 or www.lotusland.org

June 6

Eucalypts and Roses in Tasmania—A slide lecture with Bill Grant. 1:30 pm at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Bldg. Members \$10, non-members \$15. (831) 427-2998 or www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum.

June 12

Garden Photography Workshop—Learn expert tips

with Saxon Holt. 8 – 10 AM at the Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen. \$35. (707) 996-3802 or www.quarryhillbg.org

Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(510) 841-8732 • www.nativeplants.org

May 8

CA Butterflies' Host and Nectar Plants—Lecture and slideshow with Bobby Gendron. 9 AM – 2 PM. Members \$35, non-members \$40.

May 9 & 16

Designing Your Garden with Natives—A two-session workshop with Glenn Keator. 10 AM – 3 PM both days. Members \$75, non-members \$85.

June 5

Propagating Natives From Cuttings—An afternoon of plant magic with Martin Grantham. 10 AM – 4 PM. Members \$40, non-members \$45.

June 6

Dragonflies of the Bay Area—Learn to identify local dragonflies with Kathy Biggs. 9:45 AM – Noon, plus an afternoon field trip. Members \$25, non-members \$30.

U.C. Davis Arboretum
(530) 752-4880
arboretum.ucdavis.edu

May 15

Tour—Spring Bloom in the Native Plant Collection 11 AM at the Alumni Center.

May 15

Spring Garden Party—Celebrate the newly renovated Weier Redwood Grove and other new plantings. 1 – 4 PM, meet at Wyatt deck.

May 16

Tour—Exploring the Redwood Grove. 2 PM at the Alumni Center.

May 22

Spring Plant Sale—Many unusual plants for indoors and outdoors. 10 AM – 2 PM at the Arboretum Nursery.

May 29

Tour—Edible plants in the Arboretum. 11 AM at Putah Creek Lodge, Free.

The Gardens At Heather Farm
(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

May 15

Soil: The Underworld Revealed—Dig in deep with Steve Andrews. 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, \$15 members, non-members \$20.

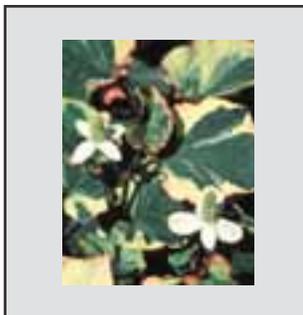
May 22

Starting a Garden—Get your garden off to a healthy

Continued →

Houttuynia cordata

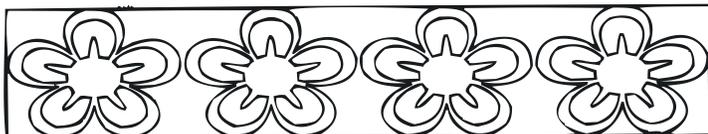
After spending the winter dormant and invisible, the Chameleon Plant, *Houttuynia cordata*, begins to emerge from the ground during the month of April, basking in its full glory during May and June. This interesting plant, completely deciduous even in the mild climate of San Francisco, hails from eastern Asia. It was named in honor of Maarten Houttuyn, a Dutch biologist living in the late 1700's. Little did he know that two centuries later, this would be such a popular garden plant.



Houttuynia prefers evenly moist soil, or boggy ground, making it ideal for a pondside, container or poorly draining spot in the garden. The species form shows attractive blue-green leaves with a bronze or red edging, while the very popular variegated cultivar has leaves that are painted in varying patches and streaks of green, cream and red. Both plants have colorful red stems, and both carry small cone

shaped inflorescences surrounded by creamy petal-like bracts at the ends of the stems, above the leaves. There is even a double flowered variety named Plena. Although *Houttuynia* does well in some shade, the red of the stems and leaves is richer and brighter in full sun. Be warned- this plant can be invasive in areas where it receives ample moisture.

Houttuynia is eaten much like spinach in many parts of its native range. In addition, it has antibacterial properties and is used in traditional Chinese medicine. Unlike some of the more unpleasant medicines people have invented (remember cod liver oil?), *Houttuynia* leaves, when crushed, have a wonderful citrus scent. So, if you are in need of an interesting foliage plant for a damp spot, consider the plant that one nursery owner calls 'hot tuna'.



start with Jessie West. 9:30 AM – noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

June 5

Garden Maintenance 101—Learn how to keep your garden looking good with Eric Rasmussen. 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

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

May 21

Rose Fantasia: Old Roses for your Garden—Refurbish your rose garden with Gregg Lowry. 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM, members \$85, non-members \$110.

May 26 – July 28

California Natives for Your Garden—Certificate course with Glenn Keator. Seven classes & one field trip 6:30 – 9 PM, members \$225, non-members \$265.

June 5

Medicinal Herbs—A slide lecture with Sapna Bhan. 9 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

June 5

Garden Insects of North America—Join Whitney Crenshaw for a walk and talk about insects. 10 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

June 12

Plant Sale—featuring perennials and Epiphyllums. 10 AM – 2 PM at the nursery.

Free Plant Drawing Tickets!

Now when you get a new member to join **and** attend a monthly meeting, you will get a bonus of 6 free tickets to our plant drawing!

There's no limit to the number of times you can invoke this benefit so the more people you introduce to the fruits of a Cal Hort membership, the more free plant drawing tickets you get!

You get extra chances to win great plants, other Cal Hort members will get the opportunity to make more horticultural friends, and your friend gets all the benefits of a Cal Hort membership. What are those benefits?

- A Subscription to the pre-eminent horticultural magazine for our climate zone, *Pacific Horticulture*
- 11 monthly *Bulletins* filled with timely information about our society and horticulture
- Our annual Seed Exchange filled with a great mix of rare (and not so rare) seeds, often unavailable anywhere else
- Monthly slide lectures given by a broad range of horticultural professionals covering the gamut of the horticultural spectrum
- First crack at the plants in our Annual Plant Sale at the members-only Gala
- Much more that we don't have space for here.

How do you claim these tickets? Just tell Elsie or one of the reception volunteers when you first enter that you've brought a new member and they'll give you a certificate to redeem for your free tickets during the announcements. Remember, new members also get 6 free tickets at their first meeting. Whoo hooo!

The Art of Espalier, Topiary, Bonsai and Pruning Basics

Presented by Ted Kipping

Ted Kipping is a life member of the California Horticultural Society, the North American Rock Garden Society and the California Native Plant Society, among numerous horticultural and arboricultural societies; he's a leader of wildflower hikes, a world traveler, a consultant to botanic gardens across America, and as principal of Tree Shapers, one of the Bay Area's premier arborists.

In his presentation at the San Francisco County Fair Building (its mid-century modern renovation now fine-finished with wood sound baffles), Kipping showed virtuoso examples from Europe, Japan and the United States of the pruning (the control) of woody plants.

From espalier, the growing of fruit trees in a single plane for maximal production, to pollarding, the pruning of stems back to the same limb-stump every year, to Le Notre's hedge carpets, to clipping unruly trees into 'niwaki' (cloud form) for aesthetic pleasure, Kipping's slides transported the audience through the most human-manipulated forms of plant culture this side of UC Davis.

Unlike those square tomatoes beside Interstate 80, however, the plants in Kipping's slides bespoke results many gardeners could try to achieve themselves with a ladder and clippers, shears and perhaps stakes, ropes and weights. In Japan, Kipping has seen perhaps the most extraordinary lengths to which people will go to create beautiful trees. Bonsai are plants kept in pots, a Chinese style elaborated in Japan and understood in America as miniature trees, although vines, shrubs, bamboos, ferns, palms and other types of plants are often grown as bonsai. Kipping showed trees in the garden manipulated over centuries to maintain cascading limbs or proportions otherwise seen only in nature, and only at a distance.

Picturesque geometry might be the term for images Kipping shared from the European pruning traditions. Often committed in the name of productivity, espalier and other forms arose once all the deer was venison.

Little need to keep things pruned when they're nibbled every night.

The slides from Europe included pear trees espaliered and pleached (stems grafted together) to resemble postcard racks and children's Christmas trees; and *Carpinus* squared-off into trunked hedges. From California, Kipping showed neighboring *Platanus* pleached into a single canopy, an *Olea europaea* carefully shaped over four years from sprawl to niwaki grace, and a property-line *Podocarpus* given two different haircuts, each according to the homeowner's preference.



Photo by Ted Kipping

Cloud Pruning style
"Niwaki"

From Hawaii Kipping presented the example of how the right plant in the right place allows methods from home to work. After years of trying to perform feats on sickly temperate conifers from home, a Kauai gardener tried *Casuarina equisetifolia*, the vigorous tropical Ironwood or Australian Pine tree, and created a mesmerizing living sculpture.

From nature, the audience saw examples of how wind, snowpack and sunshine manipulate the form of alpine conifers, creating foot-high, mat-like krummolz and driftwood-like pines with thin strips of live bark supporting sprigs of green.

Perhaps most valuable for the gardeners in the audience was Kipping's detailed discussion of how to prune. He explained how mistakes can damn a tree to instability and breakage and how selecting a cut at the right spot above the bark collar at a branch can maintain the health of a tree. For more information on trees, interested readers may log on to www.treeslayers.com, Kipping's own Web site.

Need some Horticultural Help?

The back page of your Cal Hort Roster contains a special listing of our Business members. What better way to insure your future landscaper knows a tulip from a petunia? It's also a great place to find recommendations for your friends!



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Grants & Scholarships Report, 2003-2004

Each year, Cal Hort awards grants and scholarships to worthy individuals and groups that show great horticultural promise. The amount given depends upon the success of various fund raisers throughout the year, including, but not limited to, the Annual Plant Sale Silent Auction, monthly Plant Drawing and the Annual dinner Silent Auction.

Here is an update on the progress of last year's awardees

CAL HORT SCHOLARSHIPS 2003-2004.

All three recipients were mature adults who have come to horticulture after careers in other fields. They have led varied and interesting lives and will bring the gifts of experience to their new careers. All are talented and personable.

Mary Frost attends Santa Rosa Junior College and works part time as a greenhouse technician. Her goal is to be an independent horticultural therapy contractor/counselor with emphasis in drug and alcohol prevention treatment. She would like to open a 'safe place' for youth using horticulture therapy practices with a focus on life skills and drug use prevention.

She completed the Landscape Management Certificate in 2002 and working toward the Human Services Certificate (fall 2004) and Associate in Science/Horticulture (fall 2004).

She was again awarded the "Dean's Highest Honors" for her academic achievements for fall 2003.

She plans to transfer to Sonoma State University/independent study B.A program in Horticulture Therapy.

Stu Penfield attends City College of San Francisco and works for a company that maintains interior landscapes. He has spent many hours volunteering at the City College Nursery and Friends of the Urban Forrest. His long term goal is to have a small business of his own propagating, producing and designing container landscapes,

April Ringler attends City College of San Francisco. She has worked in the Horticulture department greenhouse and nursery both as a paid student worker and as a volunteer. She served as an intern with the Center for Habitat Restoration. She worked on research topics with their partner, the California Academy of Sciences, at the field site on Mt. Lake in the Presidio.

She would like to transfer to Merritt College in fall of 2004 when they merge their horticulture and ecology departments. She would like to get a one year internship at Strybing Arboretum in Native Plants and then work for the GGNRA and Presidio Trust in habitat restoration.

CAL HORT GRANTS 2003-2004

Aroretum At The University Of California, Santa Cruz (Dan Harder, PhD executive director) revitalizing the native area around the front entrance.

Older overgrown plants are being replaced with showy natives, open and airy shrubs and a wildflower display. A new redwood retaining wall replaces the old. It is important for

the mission of the Arboretum to continue to demonstrate the great floral abundance of California and at the same time keep the front entrance to the Arboretum looking welcoming. The gardens are used as a resource by the University classes in a variety of disciplines including biology, art, theatre and film. Keeping the gardens looking fresh and healthy helps ensure that the Arboretum continues to be an educational and research resource for both the University and the general public.

William Land Park, WPA Garden (Daisy Mah, Parks Maintenance Worker II)--Circular stone bench .

The WPA Rock Garden was developed in 1940. It is beautifully sited along a hillside, flanked on one side by massive redwoods and Italian stone pines, and an amphitheater to the other side. After Proposition 13 in the late 70s, the funding and staffing was drastically reduced. The one acre garden was suffering from periods of neglect. In 1988 a program of eradicating groundcovers began in order to make way for plants with origins predominantly from either California and other Mediterranean regions. That was the year Daisy Mah with degrees in art and horticulture began to work as the gardener assigned to the WPA garden. She grew many of the plants from seeds and cuttings at home. Loyal volunteers and occasional donations of plants helped the project. "It is truly a perennial plant paradise. She is one of my garden heroes," states UC Davis Arboretum Superintendent Warren Roberts. The garden has been mentioned in *Sunset*. The garden lacks seating.

The grant was made for a circular stone bench to accommodate eight people. A donor is willing to donate stone originally used as ballast in sailing ships. An economical source for design for the bench is now being sought, since funds are very limited.

Butterfly Garden at Sonoma State University within Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden---butterfly habitat restoration

Project consists of the creation of an attractive and inviting first sight of the garden from the new campus entry road. Due to the bridge and road construction the area was a barren, un-landscaped space with compacted, asphalt-laden soil typical of a construction site.

Some limited funding had been provided by the University to replant the area, but funds were inadequate to fully restore the natural habitat that is provided in the rest of the garden. The Native Plant Propagation Class, taught by the Environmental Studies and Planning Department, will donate additional trees.



Cal Hort T-Shirts



\$16.24 (tax incl.) Size: large
Color: soft green w darker green logo
Available at Cal Hort Monthly meetings,
or call Ann DeRosa (510) 528-8404

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.

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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.

Membership year begins January 1 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. 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 (800) 884-0009.



San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA 94122

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #4143
San Francisco

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Dated Material - Please deliver by May 10