



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



**October 21, 2002**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Avenue 9 Bistro, 1243 Ninth Ave., San Francisco \$15.

**7:30 PM Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way**

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

**Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society**

**Monday, October 21, 2002**

**“TEMPORAL MOMENTS WITH LIGHT IN GARDENS”**

“The California light is perhaps the largest influence on my garden designs”. Whilst I plan for light to play a major role in my garden designs, often the most striking effects occur by chance.” Bernard Trainor, noted landscape designer will show images of magical moments he has shared with light in his garden designs. Bernard’s exceptional landscapes have been recognized by the International Society of Garden Designers in Britain, and the Association of Professional Landscape Designers in America.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In October the drawing will include donations from the **Grand Lake Garden Center**, Oakland, courtesy of Tom Nelson; **Sloat Garden Center**, courtesy of Dave Stoner and **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **Suncrest Nursery**, Watsonville; **UC Santa Cruz Arboretum**, courtesy of Dr. Dan Harder, and to **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the September meeting.



**Coming Programs**

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

**Monday, November 18, 2002**

**“Lamiaceae – Salvias & other horticulturally significant genera in the Mint Family”**

Ernie Wasson, co-editor of *Botanica* and Nursery Manager/Garden Curator of the Cabrillo College horticultural facilities will talk about Cabrillo College’s *Salvia* collection (which presently features over 200 different *Salvias*) plus other horticulturally significant genera in the Lamiaceae Family. An important part of plans for the new gardens development will be the certification as a national collection of *Salvias* under the guidelines of the North American Plant Collections Consortium. Ernie will show slides of several uncommon *Salvia* species and new cultivars plus an assortment of other horticulturally significant Lamiaceae genera including: *Agastache*, *Colquhounia*, *Lavandula*, *Leonotis*, *Lepechinia*, *Oregano*, *Plectranthus*, *Phlomis*, *Sideritis*, *Stachys*, *Teuchrium*, *Trichostema* and *Westringia*.



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## President's Letter by Katherine Henwood

Edith Holden, in *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, tells us that "October is the eighth month of the old Roman year. By the Slavs this is called the 'Yellow month', from the fading of the leaf, to the Anglo-Saxons, it was known as Winter fylleth, because at this moon (fylleth) winter was supposed to begin. She also quotes the motto, "In October dung your field, and your land it's wealth will yield."

So who is this Edith Holden I keep quoting? She was an Edwardian lady who made her first entry in a diary on January 1, 1906. She used the diary to record the countryside surrounding her home in Olton, Warwickshire throughout the seasons. Her words were carefully written by hand (of course!) and include favorite poems, thoughts and observations of the wildlife around her. The book was unknown until it was found on the shelves of a country house, probably in the 1970's. The diary is full of beautiful paintings on every page, and is a true delight! Do look for it!

On the Equinox, I re-set my sundial, and feel just a bit sad, because I know that the days, already getting shorter, will seem to shorten even faster now. Most years I do put down a layer of compost, but this year I have dung! My son gave me two bags of the finest horse manure, which I will mix with this year's compost. Since it was collected from the field, I suppose I will have a whole new variety of weeds! Well, I was getting tired of

the usual ones. In bloom at the end of September, and into early October were hollyhocks, lavender and blue petunias, second crop of dwarf Jewel nasturtiums, lots of sweet alyssum, some roses, daylilies, salvias, the dahlias, a gerbera, geranium 'Patricia,' hypoxis, nepeta, a cymbidium (they never quit) and the last of the tuberous begonias. I forgot to mention the streptocarpus and other gesneriads. They could go on indefinitely!

The September program was a very interesting trip to Zambia presented by Dr. Dan Harder of the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum. There were many wonderful plants donated by U.C., Suncrest Nursery, and our own Strybing Nursery. The Plant drawing is an important source of funds for the Cal Hort Grants and Scholarship Program, so be sure to take advantage of this way to increase your collection of wonderful plants while supporting the Grants and Scholarship fund. Remember that students are the professionals of tomorrow. We also fund special projects of botanical and horticultural interest.

This month, our program will be about light in the garden. It is an intriguing title and I look forward to hearing Bernard Trainer on the subject. He will be joining us for The Walk beginning at 4:00 PM by the Bookstore at the entrance to Strybing. Do plan to be with us, I look forward to seeing you. ✿

## New Plant Forum Database on CD

We've sold out of all the CDs containing our popular Plant Forum Database originally compiled by Richard Wagner and are now in the process of compiling the last 5 years of the Plant Forum and updating the database to include photos of the plants shown.

While we're at it, we wanted to ask users of the database for any comments or ideas they have. Is there anything you would like to see added or changed? Are there things you found while using it which you think could be made better or easier to understand? Let us know asap! Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833 or email suggestions to [plantforum@calhortsociety.org](mailto:plantforum@calhortsociety.org). Thanks!



## Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup (as I well know).

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find, visit and patronize these great nurseries. **Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!**

### Grand Lake Ace Garden Center

Retail Only

4001 Grand Ave

Oakland, CA 94610-1007

Hours: M-F 8:30-6, Sat 9-6, Sun 10-4

(510) 652-9143

Grand Lake Ace Garden Center carries the full line of urban ornamentals, specializing in hard to find/unusual perennials, shrubs, and annuals. They also stock a full line of handy garden tools, fertilizers, garden giftware—basically everything you might need for gardening. Attractive display gardens give great ideas for local garden design. Free parking provided.

### Sloat Garden Center

9 locations throughout the SF Bay Area

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

Sloat consistently has the largest and best-looking selection of any chain in the Bay Area. They always have wonderful pottery imported from around the world to complement their plants and decorate your garden. Check out their website for a location nearest you, articles from the *Gardener's Notebook*, great gardening tips and a full list of informative classes.

### Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316

Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF

[www.strybing.org](http://www.strybing.org)

Strybing's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does well in the Bay Area. However, there are always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, the nursery has monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. The next sales are on October 12, featuring trees, ferns and rhododendrons and the November 9th End of Season Sale. ✿

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# August Plant Forum

by Don Mahoney

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of the following plant are available on our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) in the 'Plant Forum' section.

## 1. *Amaryllis belladonna* hybrids

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Wayne Roderick, Orinda

The naked lady bulbs from South Africa are well known to gardeners. The one exhibited had a richer dark pink color, more open flower, was larger, and more open throated than the common trumpet form. These hybrids come in white, bi-colors and rich pinks. Their leaves can fill quite a large space during the winter growing season and then they need a dry summer — ideal for naturalizing in coastal California. See photo at right.



*Amaryllis belladonna*

## 2. *Althea* hybrid

MALVACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This yellow flowered hollyhock (often with peach markings) has somewhat grayer leaves that are a little more lobed than regular garden hollyhocks. The exhibitor says they can reach to 10 feet and bloom spring to fall and are usually biennial but offset for another year. A good plant for deer areas as deer don't eat it (at least in Danville). Kristin usually gives seed of this plant to the seed exchange.

## 3. *Graptopetalum bellum* hybrid (was X *Taciveria*)

CRASSULACEAE

Fred Coe, Ross

This 3-inch rosette had upward facing, light reddish flowers to an inch across. Material from Victor Reiter cross is still being grown by Ed Carmen. The plant needs bright light and is best in a sheltered dry location in winter. Seems hardier than *Tacitus bellus*.

## 4. *Colquhounia coccinea* var. *mollis*

LAMIACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This plant is a salvia look-alike but is not a salvia. It comes from southwest China and becomes a large shrub to 8 feet if given the space. Orange-red flowers are produced in profusion in the summertime making it an excellent hummingbird plant. It is most suitable as a background shrub and can take sun in the fog belt or part shade inland. It can also take fairly heavy frost.

## 5. *Dahlia* hybrid

ASTERACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

The single flowered orange and red dahlias that have recently been available through seed exchanges are mostly derived from *Dahlia coccinea* which comes from Mexico. This is a variable species from 2–4 feet tall that can have a long blooming period. They are wonderful to naturalize in coastal California but need to be lifted and replanted every four or five years to invigorate the clump. They take full sun, water, and survive heavy frost.

## 6. *Gloxinia* sp.

GESNERIACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This neat little African violet relative from Central America had a beautiful pink flower with white markings. These rhizomatous plants are best treated as house plants but with protection from snails and freezing in winter will go dormant and reappear in the spring. They are easily lost among other plants as they are small. They prefer morning sun or filtered light and ample moisture.

## 7. *Lantana* hybrids

VERBENACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

Lantanas are familiar to most gardeners and are usually thought of as basic landscape ground covers. However, they have many merits: the deer don't eat them, butterflies love their nectar, they need little water and are frost tolerant, they bloom a lot, and the leaves give off a fragrance you may (or may not) like. The two shown had purple and gold flowers, respectively, which are the hardiest (to 21°F) in Danville. They are from the subtropical Americas. Some varieties are better as ground cover and will vine into other plants while some can be trained as upright shrubs.

## 8. *Mirabilis jalapa*

NYCTAGINACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

Commonly called four-o'clocks because the flowers open in late afternoon, they are deciduous perennials many of us remember from our childhoods. They are reasonably drought tolerant as they have a thick carrot-like tap root which also assures their return after moderate cold. They like lots of heat although they do well in San Francisco. They prefer sun but will tolerate shade and they come in many colors. They form vigorous 3 foot high clumps and reseed readily. They are native to Peru.

## 9. *Petunia* hybrid

SOLANACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

This delightful little annual petunia was selected from a seed crop by Kathy at Diablo Valley College. The seed is from strains being developed in Europe for smaller, sturdier

*Plants Continued on following page* ➤

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petunias. The color was a bright magenta pink on a sturdy dwarf 10 inch plant. It reseeds readily and Kathy may produce it as a named variety.

**10. Phlox paniculata 'Mt. Fuji'**

POLEMONIACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

Summer phlox are deciduous perennials which are native to the eastern and southern U.S. and are not often encountered in California as they are prone to mildew. This strain is more mildew-resistant and is excellent for hot sunny locations. This very floriferous white cultivar reaches 3 feet in height.

**11. Sphaeralcea fendlerii**

MALVACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

One of the desert hollyhocks, this deciduous perennial or sub-shrub is native to California and Arizona. It has a long bloom period and prefers sun or light shade. It is very drought tolerant but extra water makes it last longer with its show of pale reddish orange flowers on a 2-1/2 inch plant.

**12. Verbascum bombyciferum**

SCROPHULARIACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This species of mullein, like most, is a biennial. The first year it forms a foot high rosette of grey-white furry leaves and then the second year it elongates into a 6 foot or more tall white covered stem with yellow flowers. It is fairly hardy and moderately drought tolerant but must have full sun. ✨

## Stamp out late *Bulletins!*

Does your *Bulletin* arrive after the 10th of the month? If so, let us know! If we have enough complaints, we can bring the issue up with the Post Office and get it taken care of! Call Elsie at (415) 866-8222, (800) 884-0009 or email to [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org).



## Horticultural Calendar

**October 5 and 6**

**Merritt College Fall Plant Sale**—unusual perennials, annuals, vegetable starts, Dutch bulbs, food, live music, Dr. Raabe the plant doctor. Bring a box. 9AM-3PM. 12500 Campus Dr. Oakland. (510) 436-2418 or visit [www.merrittlandhort.com](http://www.merrittlandhort.com).

**October 5 and 6**

**The California Native Plant Society Plant Sale**—Merritt College, Sat. 9 AM-3 PM, Sun 9AM-1PM. 12500 Campus Dr. Oakland. (510) 436-2418 or visit [www.merrittlandhort.com](http://www.merrittlandhort.com)

**October 11-26**

**Annual Images of Filoli**—Fine Art Exhibit. Tues thru Sat 10AM-3:30PM. 86 Canada Rd. off Hwy 280-Edgewood, Woodside. Free with admission to Filoli.

**October 12**

**UCSC Arboretum Fall Plant Sale**—joint sale with California Native Plant Society. 11AM-3PM, UCSC Arboretum Eucalyptus Gove - High St. at the intersection with Western Drive.

**October 12**

**Autumn at Filoli**—Info: (650) 364-8300 x508. [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org).

**October 14-16**

**California Master Gardeners Conference**—Asilomar Conference Center, Pacific Grove, CA. Info: <http://groups.ucanr.org/mgconf/> or (408) 264-9654.

**October 17**

**Laws & Regs Update**—S.F. Professional Gardeners Assn. 7PM-9PM. Env Hort Dept- SFCC- Judson Ave side of campus, between Genessee St. & Forester St. SF. (415) 558-8036.

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

**October 12**

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

**October 17**

**Gardening 101**—3-session course, 6:30 to 9PM, County Fair Bldg.

**October 18**

**Pruning No. 5**—Fall workshop, 12:30 to 4:30PM, County Fair Bldg.

**October 19**

**Pruning No. 5**—Fall workshop, 9AM-1PM, County Fair Bldg.

**October 19**

**Botanical Drawing**—3-session course, 10AM-3PM, CFB

**October 24**

**Yosemite Flora**—Lecture & book signing, 7 to 9PM, CFB.

**October 25**

**On-site Planting Design**—workshop, 9AM-5PM, Sebastopol

**October 26**

**Water Gardening No. 1**—2-session seminar, 10AM-3PM, CFB.

**November 1**

**Landscape Design Intensive**—3-day course, 9AM- PM,

**November 9**

**Plant Clinic**—12 to 3PM, Main Gate, free

**UC Davis Arboretum**  
(530) 752-4880

**September 8**

**The Fall Garden: Enjoy Late Bloomers, Prepare for Next Year**—Taffy Bandman will discuss the fall garden during a free

**Calendar continued on following page** ➡

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tour of the UC Davis Arboretum Terrace Garden at 10:00AM next to Borders Books and Music on First Street.

#### September 22

**Great Plants for Valley Gardens**—Docent Dagny Huillade will discuss great plants for Valley gardens during a free tour of the UC Davis Arboretum Terrace Garden at 10:00AM next to Borders Books and Music on First Street.

#### Friends of the Urban Forest

Please contact the staff person to verify location and to RSVP at (415)561-6890.

#### October 12

**Fall Pruning Workshop**—Guest arborist Martin Kutches will teach the basics of pruning including hands on opportunities. 9:30 AM–NOON, SF Community School, 125 Excelsior between London and Paris. Free. RSVP to x102

#### October 19

**City Tree Care**—We need volunteers to help care for three year old trees. No experience necessary. Training is hands-on. Western Addition 9 AM–12:30 PM. Info: Ellyn Shea x102. Call x407 for meeting location. Rain cancels.

#### October 12th

**Portola Tree Planting**—Planting area is from San Bruno Ave to Madison Ave and Mansell St to Gavin Ave. 9 AM–NOON. Call for meeting location x101.

#### October 19th

**Visitation Valley Tree Planting**—Planting area is from Mansell to Visitation and the edge of McLaren Park to Bayshore Blvd. 9 AM–NOON. Call for meeting location x110.

#### October 26th

**Mulch Workday**—Mulching FUF trees with staff. 9 AM–NOON. Call for meeting location x101.

UC Botanical Garden  
200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley  
(510) 642-0849

#### October 26

**Best Practices for Mediterranean Gardens in the Greater East Bay**—lecture, slides and a tour of the Garden! With Supervisor of Horticulture and Grounds Anthony Garza. 10 AM–2:30 PM. \$35 members; \$45 non-members. Registration required

#### November 2

**Bees in a Vineyard Landscape**—Professor Gretchen LeBuhn will talk about some of our most interesting and least known native pollinators, solitary bees. 11 AM–1:30 PM. Free to members; \$5 non-members. Registration recommended

#### November 2

**Quarterly Bird Walk**—a morning walk to discover the Garden's bird life! 9 AM–10:30 AM. Free with Garden Admission. Registration recommended

#### Starting 11/7/2002 and most Thursdays through 3/27/03

**Docent Training**—Training begins now to become a Docent at the UC Botanical Garden! garden Staff and additional experts familiarize you with botany in general and the Garden and California natives in particular. 9 AM–12:30 PM. \$150, Registration required.

#### HORT NOTES:

■ **THE LIBRARY OF AMERICAN LANDSCAPE HISTORY** website is now up and running. Visit [www.LALH.org](http://www.LALH.org) for information on their books or fascinating exhibitions and to download the latest issue of their newsletter, *View*.

■ **HORT ESTATE FOR SALE** featuring over 120 varieties of roses, 1500 peonies, La Petite Butchart Garden & much more. It truly needs someone with a horticulturalist's heart to love & maintain what the current owners have accomplished. [www.pepperroad.org](http://www.pepperroad.org)

■ **GARDEN SOURCE CENTRAL**, an all-new 8.5-acre, one-stop-shopping garden/landscaping center with American Soil Products, Magic Gardens Nursery and The Urban Farmer Store®. Convenient to the entire Bay Area at the Richmond/El Cerrito border. 2121 San Joaquin Street, Richmond. (510) 528-8221 or [www.gardensourcecentral.com](http://www.gardensourcecentral.com). ✨

## Grants winners

Congratulations to the following on their successful proposals to the 2002 Cal Hort Grants & Scholarships Committee. We look forward to the progress reports!

#### Quarryhill Botanical Garden

Submitted by Bill McNamamara, Garden Director  
Plant identification-signage \$1076

#### Diablo Valley College

Submitted by Kathy Echols  
Plant signage project \$1500

#### Leaning Pine Arboretum

Cal Poly State University  
San Luis Obispo  
Submitted by Professor Thomas Eltzroth  
Proposal: Garden Walk & Visitor's Guide \$2100

## Botanical Tours

#### January 22–February 4, 2003

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

#### May 16–June 3, 2003

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

#### August–September, 2003

**Namaqualand and the Cape Floral Kingdom**  
Sponsored by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

#### September 2003

**Wildflowers of Western Australia** with Rodger Elliot & Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific Horticulture*.

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit [www.geostartravel.com](http://www.geostartravel.com).

# Seed Collecting

Seeds are ripening left and right now, just begging to be collected and dispersed to plant lovers worldwide through the Cal Hort Seed Exchange. You might think you don't have anything interesting to share, or that your quantities are too small. Think again! We have numerous members in other countries who have joined for the specific privilege of participating in our Seed Exchange. Plants common here might fall into the 'unusual' category there! As for quantity, just collect what you can; if there's not enough to go around this year, those lucky few who DID get your seed will grow their plants and donate more seed next year (or the year after that, or even the year after that) helping to spread horticultural satisfaction amongst our membership.

Any time before Thanksgiving, please drop off your seeds at a monthly meeting or send the seeds to:

Dave Tivol  
130 Locksunart Way #4  
Sunnyvale CA 94087

It's not mandatory, but if you can take a picture of the plant in leaf or flower, it will be posted on our web site, helping to illustrate the beauty (or other pertinent feature) of the plant. Digital photos can be sent to [seeds@calhortsociety.org](mailto:seeds@calhortsociety.org). Prints can be sent in with seeds; we will digitize them and return the originals. Thanks for supporting our Seed Exchange! ✨

## Officers

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Vacant

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## Executive Council

**2000-2002**  
**First Term**  
Ann DeRosa

**Second Term**  
Katherine Henwood  
Bruce Peters (temporary)

**2001-2003**  
**First Term**  
Diana Ross

**Second Term**  
Jana Olson Drobinsky  
Elise Lew  
Don Mahoney

**2002-2004**  
**First Term**  
Michael Craib  
Renee Fittinghoff  
**Second Term**  
Richard Starkeson  
Keitha DeMara

Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted *two* months ahead. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to the Editor at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call the Office secretary at the number above.

## California Horticultural Society

San Francisco County Fair Building  
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San Francisco, CA 94122

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