



BULLETIN  
**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
 San Francisco County Fair Building  
 Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way  
 San Francisco, California 94122  
 April 18, 2005



4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.  
 Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 5:30PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave; San Francisco.  
 7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum. Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.  
 8:00 PM Speaker and Plant Drawing.

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

**Monday, April 18, 2005**

Co-sponsored with San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

**“Modern-Day Plant Hunters: the New Explorers and Their Discoveries”**

Presented by **Bobby J. Ward**, environmental scientist, past president of the American Rock Garden Society and noted author. Many gardeners are aware of the “greats” of historical plant exploration, such as E.H. Wilson, George Forrest, or John Tradescant. Fewer of us may know the names of today’s plant explorers or recognize the makings of a new golden age of plant discovery-the post-Cold War era-of which we are the beneficiaries. A visit to almost any nursery will reveal the bounty of these current-day intrepid plant collectors, whose handiwork enriches public and private gardens everywhere. In his talk on modern-day plant hunters, the speaker profiles some of today’s more prolific plant hunters and some of the many plants they’ve introduced and promoted. From the Czech Republic and the U.K., to South Africa and Chile, and to the U.S. and Canada, Ward has sought out those explorers in the private sphere who are collecting plants specifically for horticultural introduction through their nurseries or businesses.



**The Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In April, the drawing will include donations from **The Ruth Bancroft Garden** and from the **San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney**. Our appreciation to **UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley, California**, courtesy of **Anthony Garza**; and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** for the outstanding plants donated for the March meeting.

**Monday, May 16, 2005**

**ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM**  
**“Water-Wise Gardening”**

Presented by

**Susan Handjian & Christine Finch of East Bay MUD,**

recipients of the 2005 Annual Award for their efforts in promoting water-wise gardening.

**Presentation of Photographic Award of the Year**

to noted garden photographer **Saxon Holt**.

**Silent Auction of rare plants. Call Elsie Mueller at [800-884-0009] for reservations.** Fee is \$5 per person to cover event costs. Your dinner ticket & name tags will be held for you at the door. Bring your favorite dish [enough to serve 8]; your table setting & own silverware; plants for sale.



# President's Letter

Spring. A busy time in a gardener's life and it comes not a moment too soon! I was really getting weary of the long nights and cold, rainy days. I think I must be part plant for just as the plants in my garden seem to be more energetic and lively, so am I! In fact, maybe we are all part plants and this is where the idea of 'Spring Cleaning' has come about... we all just naturally find ourselves full of energy and vigor to tackle those tasks untackled since Autumn.

With this new-found flush of energy and excitement, I'm hoping to see a rash of new volunteers beat my door down in their eagerness to help the Society. It's already started happening a little, but, like little Oliver, 'I want some more!'

We have a full issue this month, so that's all for me!

*Plant Forum* continued from following page ■■■▶

***Sedum spectabile* 'Brilliant'**—a clump-forming deciduous perennial succulent to 18"+ with bright pink flowers with darker carpels and anthers from China & Korea. Usually finished blooming in late autumn (What's your secret, David?)

***Sparaxis fragrans ssp. grandiflorum***—another Iris relative (6 species) from S. Africa, the source of endless bulbs and succulents (adversity leads to diversity??). Flowers are reddish-purple funnels with yellowish tubes and die back to underground 'corms'

Thank you, David, you are a local treasure!

## Botanical Tours

**April 21-25, 2005**

**A Springtime Medley of Private Gardens in the Santa Barbara Area** with Barbara and John Hopper. In support of SF Botanical Garden Society.

**May 19 - June 8, 2005**

**Botanical and Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces** escorted by Kathy Musial, Curator of living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens. A *Pacific Horticulture* tour.

**August 26-September 9, 2005**

**South Africa in Springtime, Natural History of Namaqualand & the Western Cape Province**—In support of the California Horticultural Society led by Kristen Yanker-Hansen.

**October 12-21, 2005**

**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 the SF Botanical Garden Society.

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

## Two New Nursery Openings!

After building and moving the Nursery during the wettest winter in years, **Carman's Nursery** is planning our grand opening for May 15, 2005 from 10-5. You're invited to come visit our new location and see our current selection of rare and unusual plants. Carman's Nursery, 8470 Pharmer Road, Gilroy, CA 95020 (408) 847-2313. Pharmer Road is off Watsonville Road, 7/10 mile north of Hecker Pass Hwy, 6 8/10 miles south of Monterey Hwy. Our normal hours will be Thurs, Fri & Sun 10-5 or by appointment. Sat AM Farmer's Markets.

On April 23rd, **Plantopia Nursery** where "all plants strange and wonderful find a home" will be opening a retail nursery in Danville, on the grounds of Sunset Color, a specialty pelargonium grower. The nursery will feature choice and unusual perennials, succulents, subtropicals, bulbs, grasses, Mediterranean and native plants with an extensive selection of variegated and outstanding foliage plants.

The nursery located at 1435 San Ramon Valley Blvd is right off Interstate 680. Take Crow Canyon exit west, and go about 1 mile north on San Ramon Valley Blvd. For more information e-mail Lawrence Lee at [plantopianursery@yahoo.com](mailto:plantopianursery@yahoo.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!

**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](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org) or (415) 824-1833.

**Open Gardens:** if you'd like to open your garden to other members, either for inclusion on a tour or just as a single garden, email [opengardens@calhortsociety.org](mailto:opengardens@calhortsociety.org) or call Renee at (415) 388-6850.

**Publicity Chair:** We're looking for someone to help coordinate our publicity efforts. As it is now, we have various people doing various things and it would be nice to have one person keep track of it all. Not very time-intensive, but very important for the Society! Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

# October Plant Forum by Ted Kipping

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

## 1. *Arisaema consanguineum*

ARACEAE (-150 species worldwide)

Grown by Barbara & John Hopper, Kenwood

*aris/ron*= "arum"

*baima*=blood (referring either to the relationship to arum or the blood fleck-like spots on the spathe of the type species)

*consanguineum*= "with the blood" or "related"

Related to Jack-in-the-pulpit, this tuberous rooted perennial arum from central China & the Eastern Himalayan woodlands has a hooded spathe shielding the spadix (the rod-like structure bearing tight rings of male and female organs—think of peering into a cala lily) from the elements.

The spathe tapers into a l-o-n-g threadlike appendage. This strategy is repeated on the threadlike tip of the many (11-20) digitate leaflets, acting as very efficient rain drippers guiding every bit of water off the surface of the leaves which can grow to 3-4 feet above the duff. The stalk is strikingly marked with shades of green and zoned browns with undertones of yellow and pale orange (hubba hubba!)

## 2. *Arisaema sikokianum*

ARACEAE

GROWN BY BARBARA & JOHN HOPPER, KENWOOD

*skikokianum*—from the Island of Sikoku

12-20 inches tall with dark brown and light green stripes. The spathe is elevated to a nearly vertical position above the porcelain white interior and bulbously tipped spadix of identical coloring, looking like a ceramic apothecary pestle left in a mortar with a fancy raised lid. Bruce Peters, naturally, brought in a variegated form with silver markings on the leaflets. Wow! We all wanted each of them!

The redoubtable David Feix, ASLA, brought in four mixed bouquets of astonishing richness which are listed in below.

*Aechmea kertesziae* — with red and green

*Aechmea* 'Ovata' (*A. comata* x *A. recurvata*) — hybrid tank-type bromeliad

*A.* 'Pioneer' (*A. cylindrata* x *A. caudata*)

*Amaranthus* *sp.* — from Mexico, takes dry shade, blooming all year.

*Billbergia nutans* - Job's Tears - a tank-type bromeliad with nodding flowers

*Cymbidium* hybrid — lucky us! We can grow these outdoors and so many too often take them for granted.

*Crassula multicava* — a shrubby, S. African succulent

with spray-like masses of tiny white/dark pink star-like floral displays. Mine drops plantlets by the score.

*Duranta stenostachya* — shrub with yellow berries related to Verbena

*Euphorbia characias* var. *wulfenii* - a late winter blooming shrub with 4-10" sub-globular clusters of chartreuse inflorescence blooming over many weeks.

*Fuchsia* 'Autumnale' — a hybrid with great reddish and orange foliage color

*Freesia* hybrid — easy on the eye AND nose

*Geranium canariense* — a large evergreen perennial with 4"-6" leaves and dark magenta/pink flowers.

*Gordonia axillaris* — a SE Asian shrub-relative of Callenias with 3-5" white, saucer-like flowers in winter with smooth, dark, lance-like foliage.

*Grevillea* x 'Superb' (syn. 'Ned Kelley') an attractive Australian shrub for our climate, mostly untouched by deer.

*Heliconia schiedeana* — from S. Mexico with a 1-2' zig-zag floral spike with boat-like red bracts and yellowish sharp tongued sepals—for the birds...and us!

*Heracleum lanatum* — Cow's parsnip — a large, fuzzy native carrot relative growing 3-7' each year with large (8-12") deeply cut leaves and 4-8" wide inflorescence like a hairy Queen Anne's lace on steroids (be it every so umbel). A very architectural plant celebrated overseas.

*Justicia rizzinii* - a shrubby *Acanthus* relative from Brazil with numerous 'Kandy Korn' red and yellow flowers. This creature has had more name changes than Zsa Zsa Gabor has had husbands.

*Kalanchoe* (*Bryophyllum*) *tubiflora* =delagoensis — from Madagascar, a shrubby succulent with tubular bell-shaped flowers purple-grey to pale orange-yellow and 4-6" narrow, brown-spotted grey-green leaves producing little plantlets on the notched tips (beware!).

*Leptospermum corifolia* (Tango) another lovely Australian Tea from the Myrtle family, well-adapted to our climate. The oil is both antiseptic and anti-scorbutic (zaps scurvy!)—pretty and useful.

*Metrosideros carmineus* - a climbing woody vine related to NZ Christmas Tree with carmine-red bottlebrush-like floral sprays. Not aggressive and very under-utilized.

*Plectranthus zuluensis* - a sub-shrubby mint relative from Swaziland, South Africa. Lovely foliage with terminal whorled spikes of typical mint-shaped flowers. It does well in light shade.

*Salvia splendens* = *vanhoutii* — a perennial Brazilian mint relative to 3.5 feet with terminal spikes of deep orange-red flowers with persistent burgandy calyces. Our mild winter allowed this to flower through to March.

◆◆◆ Plant Forum continued on previous page

# Horticultural Calendar

## Every Sunday

**Garden Market**—Neat plants for sale and free garden talks 10 AM – 2 PM at the Ferry Building SF. [www.cuesa.org](http://www.cuesa.org)

## April 8–10

**Annie's Annual's Party Time!**—raffles, talks, music, plants, plants and more plants. 740 Market St, Richmond. (510) 215-1671.

## April 14

**Flowers, Medicines, Exploration, Discovery and Rainforest Conservation**—A slide-lecture with ethnobotanist and author Dr. Mark Plotkin. 7:30 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Tickets are \$12. Call (415) 666-7001 or email [info@conservatoryofflowers.org](mailto:info@conservatoryofflowers.org)

## April 16

**Spring Plant Sale**—U.C. Santa Cruz and CNPS get together for one heck of a great sale. Members sale is 10 AM – noon, public sale is noon – 4 pm at the Arboretum's Eucalyptus Grove. For more info call (831) 427-2998, or visit [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum).

## April 16

**Waking up your Garden**—Learn the basics of year-round maintenance and how it invigorates your garden for Spring, with Melanie Austin. 9 – 11 AM at the Gamble Garden in Palo Alto. Members \$20, non-members \$25. (650) 329-1356 or [www.gamblegarden.org](http://www.gamblegarden.org).

## April 20

**Monthly Slideshow and Potluck**—Sean O'Hara speaks on "Our Mediterranean Climate, What it is and why we should care." Please bring a dish to serve eight people. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

## April 21

**Designing Irrigation systems** to meet plant water requirements for optimum health and vigor—Ewing Irrigation/SF Professional Gardeners' Association. 7–9 PM, Env. Hort. & Floriculture Dept, CCSF. (415) 558-8036; [info@sfpga.org](mailto:info@sfpga.org).

## April 23 & 24

**33rd Annual Wildflower Show**—A showcase of native flowers from Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. 10 AM – 4 PM at the Hospitality Mgmt Bldg, Mission College, 3000 Mission Coll. Blvd. Santa Clara. Parking is free in Lot C. (650) 691-9749 or [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org).

## April 30

**Clematis with Everything**—A slide lecture on how to mix and match clematis in the garden, with author Linda Beutler. 1 PM at Chalk Hill Nursery. Cost is \$12.50. for more info call (707) 433-8416 or visit [www.chalkhillclematis.com](http://www.chalkhillclematis.com).

## April 30 & May 1

**Secret Gardens of The East Bay**—Ten private gardens open to the public and a garden marketplace hosted by the Park Day School in No. Oakland. 9 AM – 4 PM, ticket

prices vary, entry to the marketplace and workshops are free. (510) 653-6250 or [www.parkdayschool.org](http://www.parkdayschool.org).

## May 1

**Bring Back the Natives Garden Tour**—50 Alameda & Contra Costa County gardens. Free & self-guided. Passes to 40 private and 10 public gardens, Garden Guide provides details on each, talks scheduled throughout the day. Registration required. [www.bringbackthenatives.net](http://www.bringbackthenatives.net).

## May 6 & July 22

**California Gardening with South African West Coast Plants: Part 1 & 2**—From bulbs and succulents to proteas and restios, what grows well in the Bay Area will be covered in this two part seminar. 8:30 AM – 4 PM (includes lunch) at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, for more info call (925) 210-9663 or visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

## May 15

**Carmen's Nursery Grand Opening**—A new location and interesting selection of rare and unusual plants. Open 10 AM – 5 PM at 8470 Pharmed Rd, Gilroy Ca, (408) 847-2313.

## Regional Parks Botanic Garden (510) 841-8732 • [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org)

## April 16

**Plant Sale**—Tilden's annual sale specializing in CA natives. 10 AM – 3 PM.

## April 23

**Propagation of Native Plants**—Martin Grantham teaches you the techniques to grow your own native garden. 10 AM – 4 PM, members \$40, non-members 45. Bring lunch.

## April 30 & May 1

**Drawing & Painting the Birds of the Garden**—Peg Steunenberg teaches all levels how to render what you see onto paper. 10 AM – 3 PM, members \$90, non-members \$95. Bring lunch

## The Gardens At Heather Farm (925) 947-1678 • [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org)

## April 23

**Spring plant sale**—beyond the baseball fields in Heather Farms Park. 9AM-1PM

## April 23

**Great Performers; Great Plants!**—A tour and lecture on combining beautiful plants and low water needs. With Susan Handjian and Patrice Hanlon. 9 -11:30 AM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

## May 3

**Pest Control for the Home & Garden**—Learn easy and effective ways to keep pests away and what to use if they insist on stopping by anyway. 7 – 9 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

*Continued -->*

## *Carex phyllocephala* 'Sparkler' The Sparkler Sedge

Well, it is April, time for spring showers (in some parts of the country) and, of course, April Fool's Day, with its fun surprises. And that brings us to our plant of the month. Sparkler sedge is a surprise of a plant. In the horticultural world, the carexes are usually included in the grasses, but the sparkler sedge appears pretty ungrasslike to many people. Most people who see it think it is some sort of bamboo, or dracaena, or something other than a sedge. Yet there it is, in all of its sedgeness.



Hailing from Japan, this cheery plant has red or purple upright culms that resemble stems, topped with whorls of green leaves striped with creamy white. Like most sedges, this isn't a big plant, usually growing to about 2 feet in height. To look its best, the sparkler sedge prefers rich, moist



soil in full sun, or partial shade in the inland areas. Too much dry wind and heat can cause leaf burn.

This plant makes an ideal potted specimen, lighting up a semi-shady corner of the garden, or alongside a water feature, where it multiplies the shimmering effect of the water surface. You can minimize the amount of water needed to keep this plant happy by keeping it in a drainless pot or container. It will reward you with a spectacular display of foliage and cool terminal flower clusters that look sort of like the incense punks we used to burn back in the days of patchouli and macramé. Although it can be a difficult plant to find, the sparkler sedge is worth looking for in your local nursery.

May 7

**Bird & Butterfly Habitat Gardens**—A slide lecture on creating places for a variety of critters. 10 AM – noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

### SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

April 9

**Exceptional Salvias**—A slide lecture with Betsy Clebsch, includes a garden and nursery walk. 10 AM – noon, members \$20, non-members \$25.

April 23

**Japanese Gardens: History and Design**—Explore this fascinating topic with Jack Tomlinson. 9 AM – 2:30 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

April 29 & 30

**Annual Plant Sale**—Members only sale is Friday 5 – 8 PM, the public sale is Saturday 10 AM – 2 PM, both at the County Fair Building

### U.C. Botanical Garden At Berkeley

(510) 643-2755 • [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

### First Saturday of each Month

**Sick Plant Clinic**—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM – noon, free.

April 17

**A Child's Container Garden**—A family fun workshop using succulents to create a take-home potted garden. 2 – 3:30 PM, fee for parent/child \$14 members, \$18 nonmembers plus \$7 for each additional child.

April 23

**Waterwise Gardening Workshop**—A lecture and tour of summer-dry plants and their needs. 10 AM – 1 PM, free.

April 29 & 30

**Spring Plant Sale**—Featuring an exciting collection of unusual plants; check out the plant list on the website. Members sale is Friday 5 – 6:30 PM, the public sale is Saturday 9 AM – 2 PM.

*Send submissions to [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)  
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.*

# Compost Tea—A Great Brew For Your Plants by Merrill Jensen

Growing up, my family would always visit my grandparents' farm in eastern Nebraska. I can still remember the large barrel that sat on a low table near the vegetable garden gate. A downspout from the small shed dropped into this barrel and would add rain water from each passing shower. My grandmother had an old cotton flour sack that she would fill with compost (made from rotted hay and chicken manure) from her pile and hang in the barrel. I asked her one spring what she was doing and she told me that she was brewing some tea for her garden. Being an inquisitive little kid, I came back with the standard kid question, "Why?" "It makes my plants grow faster and taste better..." She always did have the best sweet corn around. I stored that information away in my kid brain and didn't really think much about it until years later as I embarked on my horticultural career.

Sitting in the lecture hall listening to my professor lecture on plant nutrition, he mentioned that a plant is unable to differentiate the source of its nutrients. Nitrogen is nitrogen is nitrogen. Period. That started the wheels turning and the old memories of grandma and her barrel of tea came back. While nitrate from commercial fertilizer may be indistinguishable from nitrate from compost, I had noticed that the soils in commercial farm land were not the same as those of the old gardeners from whom I had learned. The farm ground was full of hard clods and had little aroma to it. The old organic gardens had soil that was light and fluffy (as soil goes) and had a wonderful earthy aroma. What was the difference? The judicious application of organic matter on a regular basis.

What makes the difference in the soil and ultimately the plant is the astounding array of microflora that live in a healthy soil. Organic matter is the key. Without that almost invisible ecosystem, soil would be nothing more than dirt. Compost tea is an easy way to help jump start that system.

An actively aerated compost tea is a rich source of soil microflora that is essential to a healthy soil food web, which is directly responsible for healthy robust plants. Unfortunately, this information that was common knowledge to my grandmother's generation was forgotten with the advent of the green revolution and inexpensive chemical fertilizers. Sure you can have a great green plant with a lot of "blue water," but it does nothing for the overall health of your soil. Dr. Elaine Ingham, a soils researcher in Corvallis, Oregon, has built a career of trying to understand the soil food web and how it functions. She has found that the application of good quality compost tea is the cornerstone of a healthy soil. I have personally been using compost tea for almost ten years and have always seen positive effects from the addition of tea to soil fertility programs. I arrived in the Bay Area eight months ago and inherited some rather sickly 'Iceberg' roses at the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden where I am the Director of Horticulture. I was able to acquire some tea from Lyngso Garden Materials. Within a week of the initial application, the roses were putting on new growth and then bloomed continually from early September to well past Thanksgiving. I've been applying Lyngso's tea on a weekly basis to all the beds at Gamble ever since. The overall health of the plants at Gamble shows.

For much more information on compost tea and its effects, go to [www.soilfoodweb.com](http://www.soilfoodweb.com) and click on "about us." Tea is available from Lyngso on Thursday mornings from 7:30 until it is gone.

Merrill B. Jensen. Merrill came to the Gamble Garden from the Oregon Garden in Silverton, Oregon. He has extensive experience as a horticulturist, a landscape designer, and a gardener, and is very knowledgeable about Western landscapes.

<b>APPROVED BUDGET — CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY — 2005</b>					
<b>INCOME</b>		Plant Data Base	\$0.00	SF Flower & Garden Show	\$500.00
Dues	\$17,750.00	Web Site	\$0.00	Roster (Bi-Annual)	\$0.00
Contributions	\$200.00	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$36,625.00</b>	Oral History	\$0.00
Guest Fees	\$400.00	<b>EXPENSES</b>		Plant Database	\$0.00
Plant Drawing	\$1,300.00	Programs	\$3995.00	Web Site	\$250.00
Est. Int. & Invst. return	\$4,000.00	Rent	\$1500.00	Salaries	\$6780.00
Program reimbursement	\$2875.00	Bulletin	\$3000.00	Witholding Taxes	\$1940.00
Advertising	\$0.00	Field Trips	\$200.00	Unemployment	\$130.00
Field Trips	\$1650.00	Seed Exchange	\$25.00	T-Shirts/Aprons	\$0.00
Seed Exchange	\$250.00	Annual Dinner	\$200.00	Workman's Comp.	\$225.00
Annual Dinner	\$400.00	Annual Plant Sale	\$1900.00	Liability & Property	
Annual Plant Sale	\$6500.00	Grants & Scholarships	\$2500.00	Insurance	\$2160.00
Silent Auction	\$800.00	Awards	\$75.00	Equipment	\$200.00
SF Flower & Garden Show	\$500.00	Pacific Hort Foundation		Office Expenses	\$1100.00
		(Pac Hort journal)	\$7815.00	Accounting	\$950.00
		Advertising	\$1180.00	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,625.00</b>

## Exploring Taiwan with the *Dendrological Atlas* Project

Presented by Kathy Musial, Curator of Living Collections, Huntington Botanical Gardens

The *Dendrological Atlas* Project originated in 1971 by Dr. Zsolt Debreczy with Dr. Vera Csapody, at the Hungarian Museum of Natural History, Budapest. The *Dendrological Atlas* Project is a worldwide study of the woody plants of the temperate climates. Field work has been done in most of Europe, western Asia, China, Taiwan, Japan, Mongolia, North Africa and North, Central and temperate South America. The Project's goal is to produce a complete guidebook of the woody flora of the temperate world and its contiguous sectors. Both photographs and original botanical illustrations are used to exhibit the trees, shrubs, cultivars and plant communities. DAP has published a book in Hungarian, *Conifers Around the World*. The English translation, done by Musial, is planned for July, 2005.

Kathy Musial volunteered for a joint venture in Taiwan in the Fall of 1997, with Earthwatch (an Institute that engages in worldwide scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment) and the Hungarians. Participating Hungarians were Dr. Zsolt Debreczy, the project leader, who also made drawings of bark, flowers, cones, fruit, and wrote text, Istvan Racz, the photographer who chose to print pictures in black and white to attain more detail, and Ali, a Hungarian filmmaker.

The group worked with Taiwanese botanists under the sponsorship of the Taiwan Forestry Research Institute. The exploration began in Taipei with Chiang Kai-shek birthday festivities and a visit to Lungshan Temple. At the Taipai Holiday Flower Market, Musial found *Dischidia rafflesiana*, *Nepenthes* and Lucky bamboo, preceding its popularity in the United States.

Moving on to the first of the TFRI stations, Chiayang Base Camp, serious specimen collecting for the herbarium sheets, photographs and drawings began. Among lush and narrow roads were hillside farms and very steep terraced fields. Near the camp was a fruit growing region, and while the fruit was beautiful, it was also expensive!

A field trip to Taroko Gorge, a national park where marble was mined, provided views of spectacular waterfalls, a variety of ferns and aboriginal Asians. Among the abundant plant life was *Arundo formosana*, *Hibiscus taiwanensis*, *Cunninghamia konisbii* - "The Pulu Sacred Tree" - 40 meters/132 feet tall, more than 1000 years old, *Araïostegia perdurans*, *Schima superba*, *Fatsia polycarpa*, *Pratia nummularia*, *Torenia concolor var. formosana* - the "Wishbone flower".

During the return to Cohhiayang, the group passed a truck carrying 1000-year-old *Chamaecyparis* tree stump to be used for furniture. While there are many protected areas, there is still active forestry and logging taking place.

The small Divine Tree Arboretum at 6500 feet contained a wealth of plant life. A *Chamaecyparis obtusa var. formosana* at 39 meters/128.7 feet and 1,418 years-old was seen. Also

*Lagerstroemia subcostata*, *Hydrangea integrifolia* (climbing hydrangea) growing on a *Chamaecyparis*, Red *Ardisia crispa*, *Tsuga chinensis var. formosana*, *Chamaecyparis formosensis*, *Cephalotaxus wilsoniana*, *Taiwania cryptomerioides* (both adult and juvenile redwoods). Some of these trees were 1000 - 2000 years-old and 40 meters/132 feet tall. Musial spotted many ferns previously unknown to her.



Climbers, workers from the Forestry Department, were hired to obtain male and female cones for identification from the *Taiwania cryptomerioides*. Pegs were nailed into the trunk in order to climb 75 feet to the section where the cones grew. The forestry department reseeds areas of the Arboretum, either with seeds found on the ground or those located on tree branches.

Tatachia Saddle, Yushan National Park is very popular and a trip was arranged for Sunday with permission to collect plant material. Starting at 7700 feet and hiking to 10,000 feet, with a mix of tropical and temperate elements - misty fogs, rugged mountains, palms and pines - stunning scenery in an earthquake area made for an exciting trek.

Istvan tried to photograph specimens as soon as collected, before they dried out. Hairnets were used to keep fir cones together and plant material would be remoistened to make drawings.

The variety of plants was amazing - white daisy, everlasting flowers, toad lily, mosses, *Pieris taiwanensis*, *Gaultheria itoana*, *Schefflera taiwaniana*, *Abies kawakami*, and bamboo that was waist high. Seedling conifers would grow up through the bamboo.

The Earthwatch volunteers departed; Musial and The Hungarians continued to the southern tip of Taiwan. The tropical national park had a *Ficus variegata* - the plank tree with a buttress trunk and aerial roots. At the cycad garden Musial saw *Cycas taitungensis* and *Cycas revoluta*. Wildlife included a spider, harmless but scary looking, and a small green tree snake, which is highly poisonous. Zsolt confidently help up the snake so Istvan could take pictures.

The natural habitat consisted of wetlands, a lagoon, marshes and a monsoon forest with *Podocarpus nakaii*, *Schefflera octophylla* and *Piper kadsura*

Musial gave us a wonderful view not only of the woody plants being studied, but also the familiar and the exotic herbaceous flora of Taiwan. It was heart-warming to learn about the *Dendrological Atlas* Project, those involved with it, and their willingness to undertake and continue with this huge project.

**Please Welcome The Following  
New Members To The  
California Horticultural Society**

Jamey Abresch	Scott Fairbanks
Michael Cunningham	Paul D. Langley &
Michael A. Gonzalez	Richard Dingman
Mary Goroff	Molly Lloyd
David O. Gray - Hortica	Delmar McComb
John Greenlee	Sue & Joe Novak
Jennifer Hidalgo	John & Pamela Reed
Celena Hoskins	Margot Sheffner
Julianna Landscape- Julianna Olate	David Y Sit
Brian Kanamu &	Robert Stansel & Joseph Gatta
	Sue Wilcox

## Earn CEU Credits

We now offer Continuing Education Units for the California Certified Nursery Professionals—a program of the California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers. Attendance at our monthly lectures and plant Forum will qualify you for one CEU. Sign in at the registration desk *following* the program.



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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](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call (800) 884-0009.



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