

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, April 18, 2011 at 7:15 pm

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park.

Free parking is available behind the San Francisco County Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

4:00 PM – Botanical gardens walk with the featured speaker. Meet at the entrance to the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

5:30 PM – No-host dinner will take place at Park Chow Restaurant, located at 1240 Ninth Avenue in San Francisco.

7:15 PM – Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building.

Cal Hort members may attend for FREE. Non-members – a donation of \$5 is requested

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Cal Hort Volunteer Needed to run Digital Projector at Meetings

Cal Hort needs a volunteer who can operate the projector at the meetings. We need one or two people who understand how our digital projector works, or are technically oriented enough that they could easily learn this job. You would only have to be at the meetings at 7:00 PM to set up the projector. If interested, please e-mail Kristin Yanker-Hansen at yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net.

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APRIL 2011 MEETING
Mesembryanthemaceae, Aizoaceae, and Other Swear Words in the Ice Plant Family

by Russell Wagner

Russell Wagner, former editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal and book publisher of his own Little Sphaeroid Press, grows a wide variety of succulent plants in his Oakland greenhouse. Last year, Russell spent fifteen weeks in South Africa, the heart of Mesemb country, exploring both summer and winter-rainfall regions. His talk will show plants in habitat and grown in cultivation.



MAY 2011 MEETING
Randy Baldwin Honors Plants and People

In 1972, Randy Baldwin's Eagle Scout project was building foot paths at the Theodore Payne Foundation. Founded and incorporated in 1960, the Theodore Payne Foundation promotes the understanding and preservation of California native flora. Those paths led him down the road to a career as co-owner and manager of San Marcos Growers. He has been fortunate to establish friendships with many knowledgeable horticulturists, who in turn, introduced him to countless wonderful plants. Randy's talk will honor the people and the plants that have influenced him.

Spring HORTICULTURAL Events by Don L. MacGregor

YOUR SUSTAINABLE BACKYARD: LANDSCAPING IN CALIFORNIA

Workshop with Bob Perry and Debra Lee Baldwin

Saturday, April 9, 8:00 AM–3:00 PM

ARC Ballroom, UC Davis, Center for Urban Horticulture.

\$35 includes lunch. To Register, call Missy Borel (530) 752-6642

mjborel@ucdavis.edu or cuu.ucdavis.edu

QUARRYHILL HANGING BASKET WORKSHOP

with Kathleen Bunte

Saturday, April 9, 10:00 AM

Quarryhill Botanic Garden, 12841 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen.

\$50, \$40 members, includes all materials for basket.

To reserve (707) 996-3166, www.QuarryhillBG.org

EXTREME PLANTS: DESERT GARDENS FOR KIDS

Workshop for children of all ages

Saturday, April 9, 1–2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive.

\$20, \$17 members. Price admits one adult and one child,

and includes one potted garden. (510) 643-2755 ext. 03 to register.

botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

NATIVE PLANT GARDEN TOUR

Showcasing San Francisco gardens

Sunday April 10, 11 AM–3 PM.

Yerba Buena Chapter, California Native Plant Society

Free. For a garden list and map, plus more, call (510) 759-3178

www.cnps-yerbabuena.org

BOTANICAL LATIN: IT'S A DEAD LANGUAGE BUT IT'S STILL ALIIIIIIIVE!

Workshop

Tuesday April 12, 1–4:30 PM.

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive.

\$30, \$25 members. (510) 643-2755 ext. 03 to register.

www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

REIMAGINING THE CALIFORNIA LAWN: WATER-CONSERVING PLANTS, PRACTICES AND DESIGNS,

Talk and book signing with Carol Bornstein

Tuesday April 12, Potluck 6:00 PM, Talk 7:00 PM

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz.

(831) 427-2998 www.arboretum.ucsc.edu

TRANSFORMING THE SENSE OF PLACE

Talk with Jim Dixon

Wednesday April 13, 7:30 PM

Western Horticultural Society, The Parish Hall, Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. \$5 for guests.

www.westernhort.org

NATIVE PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN

Talk with Arboretum Director Brett Hall

Saturday, April 16, Noon. Plant Sale, 10 AM–4 PM

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz.

(831) 427-2998 www.arboretum.ucsc.edu

THE WAY WE GARDEN NOW

Sixth Annual Garden Design Seminar

with Stephen Orr, Rosalind Creasy, and others

Friday April 15, 9 AM–5 PM

Garden Conservancy, Golden Gate Club, The Presidio of San Francisco.

\$155, \$135 members. www.GardenConservancy.org

GOING NATIVE GARDEN TOUR

Showcasing Santa Clara Valley and Peninsula Native Gardens

Sunday April 17, 10 AM–4 PM

Santa Clara Valley Chapter of California Native Plant Society

www.goingnativegardentour.org

WHITE BY NIGHT

Full Moon Walk with Kathleen McKenna and Ernie Ng

Monday, April 18, 7:30 PM

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Main Gate,

Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.

\$17 single, \$22 family; \$7 members, \$12 member family.

Registration form online or call (415) 661-1316 ext. 400

www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

GARDENING WITH GRASSES

Workshop and Field Trip with Bob Hornback

Saturday, April 23, Workshop, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM

Sunday, April 24, Field Trip in Santa Rosa, 10 AM–2 PM

San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.

\$65, \$55, members. Registration form online or call

(415) 661-1316 ext. 400. www.sfbotanicalgardensociety.org

NATURALLY DYED EASTER EGGS

Hands-on Workshop

Sunday, April 24, 1-2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive.

\$20, \$15 members. Registration admits one adult and one child, and includes six eggs to dye. (510) 643-2755 ext. 03 to register.

www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

BOTANIZING IN NORTHWEST ARGENTINA

Talk and Slideshow with Peter Wan

Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 PM

Kipping Family Presents; bring a dish and beverage for eight.

San Francisco County Fair Building,

Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES GARDEN TOUR

Showcasing Fifty East Bay Native Gardens

Sunday, May 1, 10 AM–5 PM

East Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society

www.BringingBacktheNatives.net

Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

Mahonia aquifolium

Family: **BERBERIDACEAE**

Dry shade is always a tough problem in West Coast gardens. One plant that can do well in this setting, with just the slightest summertime watering, is *Mahonia aquifolium*, the Oregon grape. This plant is native to the Pacific Northwest, from British Columbia to Oregon.

Not a true grape at all, *mahonias* are actually related to *Berberis*, the barberries. Their bright yellow flowers are small, borne in medium-sized clusters during April and May. They are followed by clusters of blue-black berries that appear to be clumps of small grapes. Birds enjoy feeding on the berries.

This plant is easy to grow, preferring light shade and slightly acidic soil. Although it prefers evenly moist soil, once established it can tolerate summertime drought with just a little water to get it through the warmer months. *Mahonia aquifolium* is evergreen, usually growing between 4 to 8 feet high and almost as wide.

The leaves are similar to holly leaves, which gives the plant its species name, *aquifolium*, which means “holly leaf”. The genus was named after Bernard McMahon (also spelled M’Mahon), an Irish botanist who moved to the United States. He settled in Pennsylvania, and was an avid seed collector, becoming a valuable seed source for gardeners in Europe. He also assisted Lewis and Clark in planning their epic journey across North America, and is believed to have cared for the plant collections they sent back from their trip. Other *mahonias* are found in Asia, and several species and cultivars are popular in horticulture.



Photo by Ted Kipping

Mahonia aquifolium

QUARRYHILL BOTANICAL GARDEN PRESENTS AN EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 23, 10 AM–3 PM

Free admission • Sustainable marketplace • Docent Tours • Family fun

AN ASIAN WOODLAND IN THE VALLEY OF THE MOON AT GLEN ELLEN

Quarryhill Botanical Garden features one of the largest collections of documented, wild-collected Asian plants in the world. Founded in 1987, Quarryhill’s key programs include conservation, expeditions, education, and scientific research. Come, see how Quarryhill preserves the Earth’s precious biodiversity everyday.

12841 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen (707) 996-3166

www.Quarryhillbg.org

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY 44th ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE: NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S LARGEST!

Members’ Sale, Friday May 6, 5–8 PM

Public Sale, Saturday, May 7, 10 am–2 pm

Buy your garden plants, direct from the volunteer gardeners who have grown them! Botanical Garden Plant Sales are cultural and social events for every gardener and plant lover.

PLANT LUST 2011!! BACK-2-BACK, MEGA-PLANT-SALE WEEKEND!!

PLANT LOVER’S DELIGHT

Friday April 29 and Saturday April 30

SPRING PLANT SALE

Members’ Sale, Friday, April 29, 5–7:30 PM

(Become a member at the gate!)

Public Sale, Saturday, April 30, 10 am–2 pm, Free

UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley

GARDENING FOR THE SENSES PLANT SALE

featuring plants for color, texture, fragrance.

Saturday, April 30, 9 AM–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery



The California Horticultural Society

San Francisco County Fair Building

9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

East Bay Field Trip to Member Gardens Saturday April 30, 2011

We will be visiting the Gardens of members Diane Goldsmith, Gary Gragg, Kathy Echols, Carl Meier, and Jan Hamby.

Details: Start time is 9:00 AM with coffee in Orinda at Diane's and finishing up with wine and refreshments on the terrace at Jan's—between 5:00 and 6:00 PM. You will need to drive yourself, although carpooling is advisable. Bring your own lunch to enjoy at Gary's. Most of these gardens are large and will take a minimum of an hour or more to see. Wear comfortable shoes and prepare to walk.

Details and Garden Descriptions will be made available with your registration. Registration is \$15 with a check made out to the California Horticultural Society. Send your check with the attached form to: Kristin Yanker-Hansen, 569 Contada Circle, Danville, CA 94526. Tel. (925) 831-9499 or e-mail: yankerhansen@sbcglobal.com

Please give your e-mail address so that we can send out directions and details by e-mail.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. For the March meeting Don Mahoney provided some unusual plants from the Strybing Nursery. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from you garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find unusual plants for your garden.

To join the California Horticultural Society, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

It's membership renewal time. Dues are due in January of 2011. Notices have been sent. Questions? Please address them to the new Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 (gardengurus@gmail.com).

The California Horticultural Society has maintained is quality programs because of the dedication of the volunteer officers, chairs, and members. The future of the Society depends upon its member volunteers to provide leadership. The Board asks that members volunteer for positions to keep Cal Hort the best organization it can be.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at any Cal Hort meeting.

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin, with the exception of December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2008-2010 (Second Term) Jim Budke

2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

2010-2012 (First Term) Michael Craib,
Don MacGregor, Caren Magreblan

2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,
Andy Stone, Dave Tivol

2011-2013 (First Term) Patrick Albin,
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COUNCIL

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