

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, April 16, 2012 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

### Plant of the Month

*Acacia podalyriifolia*



### APRIL 16, 2012 MEETING THE STORY OF CLIVIAS

by Marilyn Paskert



Marilyn Paskert is an avid breeder and collector of the genus *Clivia*. She plans to talk about *Clivia*'s arrival in the horticultural world beginning in the 1800s when they moved to Europe, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand and the US, and the breeding characteristics that each culture concentrated on. She will discuss current breeding trends, and show a visual feast of hybrids that are currently being developed.

### MAY 21, 2012 MEETING ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

#### RESTORING MONET'S GARDEN

with Elizabeth Murray,

Author of

*Monet's Passion: Ideas, Inspiration  
and Insights from the Painter's Gardens*

Elizabeth Murray—author, photographer, painter and keynote speaker—has a voice that inspires and ignites a commitment to beauty, nature, spirit and sustainability. Best known for her work in restoring Monet's garden in Giverny, France, she has returned there annually for 25 years to photograph it. Her lecture includes historic photos of Monet, his paintings, and horticultural information, along with her gorgeous photographs, as seen in her book: *Monet's Passion: Ideas, Inspiration and Insights from the Painter's Gardens*. See page 3 for details on the evening.

# Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

## GUIDED TOUR: UC DAVIS PLANT SALE PREVIEW

*Saturday, April 7; 2 PM*

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive, UC Davis. Gardeners thinking about adding new plants to their home landscapes can visit the demonstration plantings at the UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery during a special tour on Saturday, April 7. No plants will be for sale during the guided tour. For more information, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>.

## WALK WITH WARREN

*Wednesday, April 11; 12 NOON*

Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center, Old Davis Road, UC Davis. Join Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus Warren Roberts for a lunchtime stroll in the UC Davis Arboretum's native plant collections on Wednesday, April 11. For more information, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>.

## PLANT SALE: 3Bs— BIRDS, BEES, AND BENEFICIALS

*Saturday, April 14; 9 AM–1 PM*

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive, UC Davis. This sale focuses on plants that attract and support pollinators in the home landscape. Many of the Arboretum All-Stars, the Arboretum's top recommended plants for Central Valley gardens, will be for sale. For more information, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>.

## RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN 2012 SPRING PLANT SALE AND OPENING DAY

*Saturday, April 14; 9–10 AM, Member Pre-sale  
10 AM–3 PM, Public Hours*

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek – North Entrance. Memberships may be purchased at the door. Contact: Phoebe Berke, Community Outreach Coordinator at (925) 944-9352. [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

## MARKHAM NURSERY'S BIG SPRING PLANT SALE

*Saturday, April 14; 9 AM–1 PM*

Markham Regional Arboretum Society Nursery, 1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord, CA 94521. Free admission. Heirloom tomato plants and vegetables, outside vendors, CA Natives and waterwise perennials. For information, call (925) 681-2968. [www.markhamarboretum.org](http://www.markhamarboretum.org).

## AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW AND PLANT SALE:

*Saturday, April 14; Noon to 4 PM; and*

*Sunday, April 15; 10 AM to 4 PM*

Lakeside Garden Center, 600 Bellevue Ave, Oakland. The largest display of rhododendron flowers in the Bay Area. The foremost area grower, Paul Molinari, is retiring. Free admission. The enclosed Vireya garden (tropical rhododendrons) will be open to the public. [www.rhododendron.org](http://www.rhododendron.org).

## DRAWING CLOSER TO NATURE: ART WORKSHOP WITH PETER LONDON

*Sunday, April 15; 10 AM–4 PM*

UC Davis, Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road, UC Davis. Rain location: Environmental Horticulture 146. Fee: members \$65, general \$75, includes materials. The UC Davis Arboretum invites artists of all skill levels to participate in a drawing and painting workshop. Class size is limited to 20 participants. Pre-registration is required. For more information please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>.

## PACIFIC BULB SOCIETY'S 10TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

*Saturday, April 21; UC Botanical Garden*

*Sunday, April 22, 2012; Field Trip*

On Saturday, there will be a few short geophyte talks followed by lunch, walks around the garden (it should be stunning in April) and visits with other bulb enthusiasts. The Sunday event is an unofficial fieldtrip. We carpool to Mt. Diablo, an interesting destination for CA native geophytic plants. For more information and to register for the event, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/PBSgettogether2012>

## EXPLORING SOUTHEAST COASTAL ALASKA

with John Kipping

*Tuesday, April 24; 7 PM*

County Fair Bldg, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park. Fireplace Room. The Kippings invite you to Potluck\*/Slideshows. Bring a dish for eight to share.

## UC BOTANICAL GARDEN 47TH ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE

*Friday, April 27, 5–7:30 PM, Members' Sale and Silent Auction*

*Saturday, April 28, 10 AM–2 PM Public Sale*

University of California Berkeley Botanical Garden. Call (510) 643-2755 Ext. 03 for event registration or to purchase or renew a membership. <http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/>

## YOUR SUSTAINABLE BACKYARD: POLLINATOR GARDENING

*Saturday, April 28; 8:30 AM–4 PM*

Room 1001 Giedt Hall, UC Davis. Fee: \$45, includes coffee/scones and boxed lunch. Learn how to support pollinators and enhance the environmental potential of your home landscape during a special workshop. Contact Missy Gable at (530) 752-6642 or [mjborel@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mjborel@ucdavis.edu). [ucdavis.edu](http://ucdavis.edu).

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## OPEN HOUSE AT CARMAN'S NURSERY

*Sunday, May 6; 11 AM–3 PM*

Carman's Nursery was founded 75 years ago by a long-time member of Cal Hort, Ed Carman, and is run today by his daughter, Nancy Schramm, who is hosting an anniversary celebration. In addition to the unusual plants at the nursery, there will also be homemade cookies and lemonade! The address is 8470 Pharmer Road in Gilroy. Parking is quite limited, so carpooling is recommended. Please contact Dave Tivol at [dtivol@yahoo.com](mailto:dtivol@yahoo.com) or (408)732-2743 to indicate whether you prefer to drive (if so, how many passengers can you take) or to be a passenger in someone else's car, along with the number of people in your party. Dave will coordinate carpooling so that members and their guests who live near each other can meet up.

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Acacia podalyriifolia*, the Pearl Acacia

**Family:** FABACEAE

Any plant whose care includes the description “hates summer water” is a friend of mine. The pearl acacia has so many endearing qualities that it is a very good friend of mine. *Acacia podalyriifolia* is a small tree, reaching 15 to 20 feet in height. It hails from open forests of southern Queensland in Australia, and is perfect for a sunny, well-drained location in the garden. Its small size, friendly response to pruning, and ability to thrive on neglect make it a good street tree also. The only downside to this tree is its frost sensitive nature—a heavy frost can nip it down to the roots, or kill it completely.

The leaves of the pearl acacia are silvery blue-gray in color, and are actually not leaves. They are specialized flattened stems called phyllodes. Seedlings have true, feathery leaves that quickly fall off as the plant grows.

In late winter or early spring, this acacia is covered in masses of small yellow flowers, that appear to be, well, acacia-like. These are followed by large, wavy, blue-gray seedpods that are very ornamental. The mature seeds can be grown by first scarifying them



Photo © 2012 Brett Hall

*Acacia podalyriifolia*

or letting them soak in very hot water before planting. Skilled propagators can grow this plant from cuttings, but it isn't easy.

Like many leguminous plants, pearl acacia has nodules on its roots that contain nitrogen-fixing bacteria. This provides a nitrogen source for the tree as well as for nearby plants.

The genus name *Acacia* comes from the Greek *acis*, or thorn. The species name *podalyriifolia* refers to leaves like those of *Podalyria*, another genus in the Fabaceae family, found in southern Africa. Different plants. Different continents. Which came first, the *Acacia* or the *Podalyria*?

### ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER

with Elizabeth Murray

**6:30 PM—Socializing**

**7 PM—Potluck:** If you can assist with set-up, please come any time after 5 PM. We will make arrangements with flowers from the Arboretum, set up plant displays, etc. Advance Reservations must be made with Tena Gallagher, no later than Friday, May 18, 2012.

#### What to Bring:

- Your favorite dish (enough to serve eight)
- A serving utensil
- Your own silverware and plate
- Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction
- Beer or wine, if you prefer

- **We will be attending** the Annual Dinner Monday,
- May 21, 2012, at San Francisco County Fair Building,
- Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park.
- **Name(s) (Please print)**

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- **Enclosed is a check made payable to:**
- The California Horticultural Society for \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- (\$5 for each person, which covers the cost of
- supplies—coffee, tea, and spring water.)

- **Mail checks to:** Tena Gallagher, 400 Cliffside Drive,
- Danville, CA 94526



**California Horticultural Society**  
 San Francisco County Fair Building  
 Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way  
 San Francisco, CA 94122

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

**Monthly Plant Drawing News**

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. For the March meeting The Ruth Bancroft Garden as well as SF City College donated plants. For April's meeting, our speaker Marilyn Paskert will be donating some Clivias. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find plants for your garden that you have never seen before.

To join the California Horticultural Society or to find out about a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org), or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 ([gardengurus@gmail.com](mailto:gardengurus@gmail.com)).

The California Horticultural Society has maintained its 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**

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

2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor, Mary TeSelle

2012-2014 (Second Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

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