

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, April 21, 2014, 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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### Plant of the Month

*Lagunaria patersonii*



### MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014

#### Harvesting Rain Water

by Jason Sampson

Jason Sampson is the Curator of the Manie van der Schijff Botanical Garden, a division of the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He has recently completed a rainwater harvesting system on campus using a large bog to landscape around the Mining Engineering Study Center.

Mr. Sampson's talk will discuss the design, construction and the amazing results of this water-saving garden.



### MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014

#### Colombia: a Biodiversity Hotspot for Princess Flowers

By Dr. Frank Almeda

Join us for a closer look at one of the ten largest families of flowering plants—Princess Flowers (*Melastomataceae*)—in one of its cradles of diversity, Colombia. Dr. Frank Almeda will take us on an armchair journey spotlighting some of the work he has done on three recent botanical expeditions, funded by the Planetary Biodiversity Inventory Program of the National Science Foundation, to understand patterns of diversity and endemism better in a family with extraordinary horticultural potential.

## California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 19, 2014

San Francisco County Fair Building,  
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in  
Golden Gate Park

Program Presented  
by Dr. Frank Almeda

Senior Curator and  
Decker and Martha McAllister Chair  
at the California Academy of Sciences

- 6:30 PM Socializing
- 7 PM Potluck. If you can assist with set up, please come any time after 5 PM. We will make flower arrangements from the Arboretum, set up plant displays, and so on
- Advance Reservations must be made with Tena Gallagher no later than Friday, May 16.

### What to Bring:

- Your favorite dish (enough to serve eight)
- A serving utensil
- Your own silverware and plate, and perhaps some wine
- Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction
- A \$5 donation is requested to cover costs of materials, supplies and beverages. Your dinner ticket and name tags will be held for you at the door.

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We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday,  
May 19, 2014

Name(s) (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

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Enclosed is a check (\$5 each) made payable to the:  
California Horticultural Society for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to:

Tena Gallagher, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville, CA 94526  
Email: [tena@aol.com](mailto:tena@aol.com)

## Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

### ARBORETUM PLANT SALE THE NEW FRONT YARD

Saturday, April 5 and April 26; 9 AM–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Garrod Drive near La Rue Road, UC Davis campus

Prepare your landscape for long-term water conservation with attractive, drought-tolerant, easy-care, region-appropriate plants including a large selection of California natives and Arboretum All-Stars at the Friends of the UC Davis Arboretum's first public plant sale of the spring season. The event is free; parking is free. For more information and directions, visit [arboretum.ucdavis.edu/calendar.aspx](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/calendar.aspx) or call (530) 752-4880.

### BANCROFT GARDEN SPRING OPENING AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 12; 11 AM–3 PM

Members only sale 9 AM–11 AM; memberships available at the door  
Garden open until 4 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek  
Visit and shop the Bay Area's best source for drought tolerant plants, succulents, cacti, California natives and other Mediterranean climate plants. Docent-led tours will be held at 11 AM and 1 PM. Admission is free all day. For more information, please call (925) 944-9352.

### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR SEASONAL INTEREST | SPRING

Thursday, April 17, 9:30 AM–Noon

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

The California Garden can provide year round interest, color, form and surprise. Join Katherine Greenberg, author of *Growing California Plants*, for a morning talk on her favorite spring natives followed by walks in the California Area of the Garden. Our expert propagators will also host an exclusive shopping opportunity for you to make purchases of native plants. \$20 for members, \$25 for others. For further information, telephone (510) 643-2755, e-mail [garden@berkeley.edu](mailto:garden@berkeley.edu) or visit [botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

### MARKHAM NURSERY PLANT SALE

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

Saturday, April 19; 9 AM–Noon

Featuring 36 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, hand-selected to match our climate and growing conditions—as well as berries, herbs, and other edibles. You'll find herbs, melons, cukes, squash, beans—almost all heirloom varieties. Stay for a free class, "How to Garden with All Ages of Your Family: Young, Old, and In Between" with Leslie Stiles and Stephanie Jacobs, themselves award-winners for school gardens.

**THE SPECTACULAR  
DIVERSITY OF BAY AREA  
PUBLIC GARDENS**

*Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 8–10; 9 AM to 5 PM  
Various Bay Area Public and Botanical Gardens*

One of the most enjoyable aspects of looking at plants is sharing the experience with fellow botanists. In this workshop, our instructor, Dean Kelch, one of the most enthusiastic and knowledgeable botanists in the Bay Area, will guide participants through six highly acclaimed public gardens. Workshop fee is \$245 for members, \$285 for non-members. The fee includes transportation from Berkeley to each of the six gardens and a boxed lunch each day. To register call (510) 642-2465 or go to [ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2014/regform\\_2014.html](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/workshops/2014/regform_2014.html).

**THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU  
TO POTLUCK\*/SLIDE SHOWS**

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,  
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room

*Tuesday, April 22; 7 PM*

**THE WEST: AN INTIMATE LOOK**  
with Ted Kipping

*Tuesday, May 27; 7 PM*

**THE SOUTHERN OCEAN**  
with Buff and Gerald Corsi

*\*Bring a dish and beverage for eight to share,  
as well as your own plates and silverware.*

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Lagunaria patersonii*, the Pyramid Tree

Family: MALVACEAE

As I travel around San Francisco, I am constantly noticing the various street trees in different neighborhoods. All too often, I am lamenting some of the poor choices (sycamore/plane tree hybrids are among the worst offenders). However, there are also many choices that make me smile. *Lagunaria patersonii* is one of my favorites. This small tree is native to Lord Howe Island, Norfolk Island and parts of Queensland in Australia. Despite being from such a temperate region, it is a tough plant. In a report by the University of California in 1897, it was described as a showy shrub or small tree that withstands drought, frost and hot winds well without irrigation. You wouldn't know this by looking at the Pyramid Tree. It is rather dainty in appearance, having olive green leaves with pale white undersides, a tapering form (hence the name Pyramid tree) and pink, hibiscus-like flowers during the spring and summer. The seed pods are supposedly covered with irritating hairs, which give this plant an alternative name of Cow Itch Tree. I've never gone near them, so I can't speak from experience.



*Lagunaria patersonii*

The Pyramid Tree can grow to 30 feet tall and 20 feet wide, although they are usually smaller than this in our Bay Area. It does best in full sun, and can even take some salt spray and temperatures as low as 25 F (hello, Outer Sunset! Coastal San Mateo!). As our street trees emphatically prove, it needs very little water once established.

The Pyramid Tree is the only member of its genus, which was named after Andrés Laguna, a Spanish botanist and physician in the sixteenth century. The species name is in honor of Colonel William Paterson, a Scottish explorer, botanist and early inhabitant of Tasmania. Some references use the name *patersonia* instead of *patersonii*, but this plant is a winner no matter how its name is spelled.



**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. Last month plants were donated by Strybing Arboretum and Kristin Yanker-Hansen. Please bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. This is also a great opportunity for our members to obtain new plants for their collections.

**Monthly Plant Display and Discussion**

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery, or a plant that has attributes that are not known by the mainstream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group. You can also donate this plant afterwards to the plant drawing.

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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 Ellen Edelson, Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson  
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

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