

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, April 20, 2015, 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**

*Heliconia psittacorum*



**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015**

**Victor Reiter's Last Garden**

by Ted Kipping



Victor Reiter was one of the founding members of the California Horticultural Society. His garden was an amazingly successful experiment of growing winter wet and summer dry rock garden plants from the Mediterranean. Although primarily a collector, Victor Reiter was also an artist when it came to his garden.



**MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015**

**How Horticulture  
Is Developing  
in Our Current World**

by Flora Grubb  
Owner of Flora Grubb Nursery  
in San Francisco



# California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 18, 2015

San Francisco Botanical Garden,  
Hall of Flowers,  
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in  
Golden Gate Park

Program Presented  
by FLORA GRUBB,  
owner of Flora Grubb Nursery  
in San Francisco

- 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 15.

## 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.

We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday,  
May 18, 2015

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

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

Mail to:

Tena Gallagher, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville, CA 94526

Email: [tena@aol.com](mailto:tena@aol.com)

## Early Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

### BEGINNERS' GARDEN PHOTOGRAPHY

Saturday, April 4; 8–10 AM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Join us for an introductory class on garden photography. Not only will you gain early access to the garden for the best lighting, you will also have a lesson on exposure, depth of field, focus and other techniques. Bring your camera and a tripod if you have one. \$20 / \$15 Members. Space is very limited, pre-registration is required.

### EVERYTHING AGAVE: SUCCESSFULLY GROWING AGAVES AT HOME

Saturday, April 4; 2–3:30 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Greg Starr comes to town to share his love for the agave plant. Many people are intimidated by this plant, fearing its mature size and extreme flowering habits. However, with a variety of sizes, colors, and habits, agaves can work great in gardens, large or small, and even in containers! At this event, learn how to grow agaves successfully at your home through a discussion on sun requirements, frost hardiness and watering requirements. Participants will receive a list of must-have agave species for the garden and containers. \$20 / \$15 Members.

### PUBLIC PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 11; 9 AM–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery  
(Garrod Drive across from Vet Med), UC Davis campus

Many homeowners out there are in the process of developing their "New Front Yard" by replacing high-water use plants with low-water alternatives. This sale will have a large selection of attractive, drought-tolerant, easy-care, region-appropriate plants including California natives and Arboretum All-Stars.

### BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: SPRING BULBS

Thursday, April 16; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Capture the beauty of Spring Bulbs! Catherine Watters will teach you her "Ten Stages of a Botanical Painting" to observe, draw and paint successfully the flower you choose. \$90 / \$85 Members; \$12 materials fee. Register online, or by calling 510-643-2755 or by emailing [gardenprograms@berkeley.edu](mailto:gardenprograms@berkeley.edu).

### SUCCULENT PROPAGATION

Saturday, April 18; 10:30 AM–NOON or 2–3:30 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Propagation is one of the first techniques to learn as you explore your love for succulent water-conserving plants. Succulents are easy to propagate through different techniques including division and by taking cuttings. Learn which types of plants thrive with which practices, see demonstrations of some of the activities and participate in some hands-on practice of the common routines that you will use frequently in your garden. \$20 / \$15 Members.

### SPRING 2015 PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 11–Thursday, April 16

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

There is a new sale format at the new Ruth Bancroft Garden Nursery retail space, with six days of expanded plant selection. On Saturday, there will be a Members Only Pre-Sale from 9 AM–11 AM. Entry will be granted to members of The Ruth Bancroft Garden only: no reciprocal members or guest passes. However, you can become a member at the door. Then the public sale will begin at 11 AM and continue until 3 PM. There will be docent-led tours at 11 AM and 1 PM. Admission is free all day on Saturday, and the garden will remain open until 4 PM. On Sunday through Thursday, the public sale will continue from 10 AM–4 PM each day.

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Heliconia psittacorum tedkippingensii*

Family: HELICONIACEAE

Who can resist a hardy, drought-tolerant, fragrant explosion of inflorescence? Record-breaking sales at Flora Grubb and Davis Dalbok's Living Green showroom, both in San Francisco, and Richard Ward's Dry Garden in Berkeley indicate that nobody can. The existence of a previously unknown *heliconia*, long used by Hawaiians as a mystical ingredient in the leis favored by Queen Liliuokalani, has been kept a closely-guarded secret from the outside world. The recent lava flow from Mount Kilauea that has threatened the little town of Pahoehoe, has also cast a shadow over the only sacred woodland in Puna where this astonishing plant is found.

Reminiscent of Mozart's theft of the *Allegri Miserere* from the Sistine Chapel, Davis and Flora last year staged a nail-biting nighttime raid, braving vigilant cane toads and coqui frogs to rescue the *Heliconia psittacorum tedkippingensii*

from its probable immolation and extinction, and bringing it to California for all to appreciate.

Not inexpensive at a few cents under \$250 for a 4" pot, HPTK, as it has become known, has been selling like hot cakes and certainly rewards the investor. Having evolved to glean its nutrition from the air and from sea-mist, it will grow with Hawaiian rapidity as a houseplant or outdoors in semi-shade or full sun. Good drainage and a cinder-based medium help, but nothing else seems necessary.

"Within four days of planting, it was barfing up flowers," enthused Mr. Ward. Large, erect herbaceous plants can grow to 8 feet tall; deep purple 10-24" leaves with pale copper variegation give rise to an impressive aggregation of inflorescence, deep red pendulous flowers with pale cream edges hanging from blue-black stems.

Fragrance is a powerful combination of *Brugmansia* and *Sativa* with a hint of daffodil, modulating to the unmistakable bouquet of *Rafflesia* as the flower wanes. Ingestion invokes similar symptoms to a Mulga strike.

If you have wanted to add a bit of tropicalismo zonal denial to your garden, while making your friends jealous, try planting HPTK.

—April 1, 2015



*Heliconia psittacorum tedkippingensii*



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

**www.calhortsociety.org**

**Monthly Plant Drawing News**

Thank you to Strybing Arboretum, and Kristin Yanker-Hansen for supplying a nice selection of plants for the February plant drawing. Please bring unusual plants from your gardens for sharing. It is also an opportunity for our members to obtain unusual plants.

**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).

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.

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.

**COUNCIL**

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,  
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen  
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib  
 2015-2017 (First Term) Steve Morse, Andy Stone

**OFFICERS**

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Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
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