
The next monthly general meeting is Monday, April 17, 2017, 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 outside the entrance gate to the San Francisco Botanical Garden. New rules require that if you do not enter with the California Horticultural Society as a group, you need to pay the entry fee if you are neither a SFBG member nor a resident of San Francisco. Please be on time.

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 are welcome; Cal Hort requests a donation of \$5.

MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

In Defense of Plants

by Matt Candeias



For several years, Matt Candeias has been writing *In Defense of Plants*, communicating a wide variety of scientific observations about botany. Blogging and broadcasting, he feels that the best way to protect our environment is a plant-based approach to conservation.

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MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

Garden Inspiration, Design and Plant Selection

by Ernesto Sandoval

Growing up and seeing hundreds of gardens from a young age in LA, Ernesto often wondered how he would lay out a garden himself. Through views and images of other peoples gardens, scenes and landscapes in nature, Ernesto will share the combination of design elements and principles that have led him to implement the various public and private gardens under his care.

California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 15, 2017

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

Program Presented
by Ernesto Sandoval

UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

- 5 PM Volunteer! Start the fun early, any time after 5 pm, to assist with setting up. We will be collecting plant materials from the Arboretum and making arrangements for the tables. We'll also be setting up the tables for the buffet and for plant display.
- 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.

Reservations must be made in advance with Sharon Townsend no later than Friday, May 12.

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 15, 2017

Name(s) (please print) _____

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

Mail to: Sharon Townsend,

345 Remington Loop, Danville CA 94526

or email Sharon: jstownsend@comcast.net

March Plant Forum Notes

compiled by Sean O'Hara

Campanula celsii / CAMPANULACEAE / Archie Wessells, Vallejo / Campanula = 'bell shaped'; celsii = honoring Olof Celsius, Sweden. The cut stem displayed showed velvety leaves with typical lavender-blue flowers in leaf axils towards the stem tip. Archie mentioned that his plant tended towards a clump of spreading stems rather than the tight tuft typical of plants in its native, rocky environment. Native to South-eastern Greece.

Conostylis juncea / HAEMODORACEAE / Archie Wessells, Vallejo / Cono = 'cone' + stylis = 'column' (referring to the flower's style); juncea = 'rush-like.' The potted specimen displayed attracted a lot of attention, with its clump of stiff, narrow green leaves parted by a tight clump of yellow, star-like flowers borne close to the soil. The southern hemisphere family, HAEMODORACEAE includes the well-known kangaroo paws (*Anigozanthos*). Native to Western Australia.

Crassula fascicularis, fragrant crassula / CRASSULACEAE / Archie Wessells, Vallejo / Crassula = 'far' or 'thick'; fascicularis = 'clustered' or 'bundled' (referring to the flowers) An erect succulent branching, 5-15 inches tall, from a semi-woody base, with linear, pointed leaves. Appearing in spring or early summer, clusters of cream-colored flowers are fragrant, especially at night. Native to South Africa's Western Cape.

Gladiolus lilaceus / IRIDACEAE / Archie Wessells, Vallejo / Gladiolus = 'sword'; lilaceus = 'lilac-colored' This curious species bears star-shaped dull-reddish flowers that become lilac-purple and highly scented at night! Growing about 15-18 inches tall, this winter growing species goes dormant during the summer. Native to South Africa's Western Cape.

Cyclamen persicum / PRIMULACEAE / Richard Turner, San Francisco / Cyclamen = 'circle' or 'round' (referring to the tuber's shape); persicum = 'of Persia' This easily grown flowering plant is an important parent of the common 'florist's cyclamen', with smaller, more graceful flowers. With handsome leaves and clusters of spring flowers, it is dormant in summer. Native to Turkey, Jordan, and Israel. Also found in Algeria, Tunisia, and some Greek islands, where it is thought to have been introduced by traveling monks.

Freesia leichtlinii ssp. alba / IRIDACEAE / Richard Turner, San Francisco / Freesia = honoring Friedrich H. T. Freese; leichtlinii = honoring Max Leichtlin; alba = 'white' This easily-

grown, small winter-growing, spring-flowering bulb is common in Bay Area gardens, making its appearance this time of year. Sometimes known as *F. alba*, it is now considered a subspecies of *F. leichtlinii*. Richard mentioned that he is among those rare people whose nose cannot detect the smell of this charming little flower! Native to South Africa.

Echeveria agavoides 'Lucas' (hybrid) / CRASSULACEAE / Sean O'Hara, Berkeley / Echeveria = honoring Anastasio Echeverri, Mexico; agavoides = 'agave-like' Sean saw this plant on Flickr (a photo-sharing website) and commented his admiration of its clump of narrow, soft green leaves. The French gardener ultimately sent him a cutting, which grew into the four rosettes with ten arching flower stems of the potted specimen displayed. Sean believes this may be an *E. agavoides* x *E. pulidonis* hybrid. Native to Mexico.

Ioichroma 'Salmon' / SOLANACEAE / Sean O'Hara, Berkeley / Ioichroma / Io = 'violet' + chroma = 'colored' This tall, multi-stemmed shrub the presenter received from David Feix. The salmon-red flowers and slightly hairy foliage seem to indicate that it is likely a *I. fuchsoides* (red-flowers) x *I. cyanum* (purple flowers) hybrid. Preferring cold conditions, this plant is happiest when close to our coastal fog. *Ioichromas* are native to South American forests, from Columbia to Argentina.

Cymbidium (mini-hybrid, unnamed) / ORCHIDACEAE / Sean O'Hara, Berkeley / Cymbidium = 'boat', 'bowl' or 'cup' (referring to the flower shape) Sean also saw this variegated, mini-Cymbidium on Flickr. The owner, a local orchid enthusiast in Mountain View, mentioned that he received it from a friend who found this single specimen among dozens of plants at Trader Joe's! The leaves show a narrow white edging which also appears on the greenish-yellow flowers.

Albuca namaquensis / ASPARAGACEAE / Ernesto Sandoval, Davis / Albuca = 'white' (most species are white flowered); namaquensis = 'of Namaqualand' Ernesto brought in a full pot of these interesting bulbs, topped with beautiful yellow-green flowers. The first three tepals of the pendant flowers are held open while the remaining three are closed around the flower center. The very narrow leaves showed some 'spiraling', a trait this species shares with *A. spiralis*. Goes completely dormant in summer. Native to Namibia to the Eastern Cape of South Africa.

Impatiens tinctoria / BALSAMACEAE / Bob Watts, San Francisco / Impatiens = 'impatient' (referring to the explosive seed pod); tinctoria = 'for dye' This huge tender shrub, growing 10-12 ft, has bamboo-like stems sprouting from an underground tuber, bearing large, fragrant, white flowers with red markings at the throat. In colder climates, the tubers can be dug and stored like

Dahlias. Preferring cool and moist conditions, it grows very well in San Francisco. In its native Central Africa, women mash the tubers to create a reddish dye.

Aechmea hybrid / BROMELIACEAE / Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville / Aechmea = 'spear' A handsome specimen with wide leaves in a broad, flatted crown, showing reddish coloration towards the center as the flowers develop. Kristin discussed the hardiness of many bromeliads in the colder winters of her Bay Area location. This genus is distributed from Mexico into South America.

Neoregelia hybrid / BROMELIACEAE / Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville / Neoregelia = honoring Edouard August von Regel, Russia. A potted specimen with short, sharp-pointed, gray-green leaves. A flattened, deep purple cluster of flower buds was evident in the largest rosette. This genus is from South American rain forests.

Rhododendron 'Honey Butter' / ERICACEAE / Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville / Rhodo = 'rose' + dendron = 'tree'. Kristin brought in a specimen she could not resist buying, a compact plant with rounded clusters of warm yellow flowers flushed pink around their edges. The new foliage is said to be flushed red. This is a recent introduction from Pacific Northwest hybridizer, Jim Barlup.

Rhododendron 'Dendricola' / ERICACEAE / Richard Starkeson, Berkeley / Rhodo = 'rose' + dendron = 'tree'. A fragrant white flowered form brought in for the theme of this month's talk (Hunting Rhododendrons in China).

Rhododendron hybrid / ERICACEAE / Richard Starkeson, Berkeley / Rhodo = 'rose' + dendron = 'tree'. A white flowered hybrid, Richard thinks possibly *R. forsteriana* x *R. edgeworthii*, brought in for the theme of this month's talk (Hunting Rhododendrons in China).

Semele androgyna / ASPARAGACEAE / Richard Starkeson, Berkeley / Semele = from mythology, one of the women raped by Zeus (giving birth to Dionysius), in similar fashion to Dana (the genus name for another closely related plant); androgyna = 'both male and female together' (referring to the flowers) Richard brought in this vining plant for identification. The flattened, leaf-like stems (called cladodes) with clusters of flowers in each notch are characteristic of this species. Richard says he planted it a few years back and suddenly this past wet winter it sent up a long, asparagus-like stem up into other plants around it (another characteristic). Native to the Canary Islands and Madeira.

5th Edition, Updated and Expanded

WHERE ON EARTH

A Guide to Specialty Nurseries
and Gardens in California



NANCY CONNER, DEMI BOWLES LATHROP,
AND BARBARA STEVENS

Where on Earth: A Guide to Specialty Nurseries and Gardens in California

Nancy Conner, Demi Bowles Lathrop,
and Barbara Stevens

Paperback • 4.5 x 8 • 336 pages

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Gardening/Reference

Publication Month: February 2017

The statewide gardening guide—now in an updated and revised fifth edition

Ever since its initial publication in 1993, this guide to California's specialty plant nurseries has been an invaluable tool for gardeners and landscapers, and it is now available in an expanded and completely revised edition. Organized by geographic region, each listing provides essential information, including address, contact information, hours, plant offerings, and a detailed description of the facility and its owners. In addition to featuring specialty nurseries, *Where on Earth* catalogs notable garden centers, plant societies, education programs, and horticultural attractions throughout the state, as well as mail-order sources for bulbs, seeds, and rhizomes. The coauthors also include twelve essays, one for each region, that address that area's special features and gardening concerns. Whether you're searching for antique roses on the foggy North Coast, water-wise succulents and native shrubs around Los Angeles, or a palm doctor for your sickly cycads in the Central Valley, this book gives current, detailed advice for plant lovers to see, shop, and savor.

About the Authors:

Nancy Conner cofounded the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show and was instrumental in its organization for over a decade. She served on the boards of both the San Francisco Parks Alliance and the Presidio Trust. A Certified Master Gardener, Demi Bowles Lathrop was a contributing garden writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Pacific Horticulture* magazine. She was a board member for the Late Show Gardens and the California Horticulture Society. Barbara Stevens is a cofounder of the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show and was its horticultural chair for twelve years. She served on the board of the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society.

About Heyday

Heyday is an independent, nonprofit publisher and unique cultural institution. We promote widespread awareness and celebration of California's many cultures, landscapes, and boundary-breaking ideas. Through our well-crafted books, public events, and innovative outreach programs we are building a vibrant community of readers, writers, and thinkers.

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A SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS OF CAL HORT

Heyday Press has a special offer for Cal Hort members to receive 30% off on purchases of *Where On Earth* by visiting www.heydaybooks.com. Enter the code CALHORT (not case-sensitive) at checkout.

Roulette

by Arcangelo Wessells

I had always heard that *Ceanothus* were notoriously short lived, and 'Dark Star' especially so. My plant slowly dried up after ten years of glory. I pulled it out and found that its roots still had the shape of a one gallon plant, even though I had bought it as a five. I needed to replace it with something about six feet high to be the backdrop of the garden and to block some stairs.

You can think and think about what you would like to plant, but sometimes you have to use what is available. Other times you just see something and know it is right. Or you hope it is.

I noticed *Metrosideros collina* 'Springfire' at a nursery because the leaves were so beautiful. It must have been summer, because it had no flowers, but I could imagine it would have the showy red stamens typical of the genus. The picture on the tag said so too! The plant I found was from Monrovia, and I was amazed that it said it was a compact form growing six to eight feet tall and three to four feet wide. Two years later it is about three feet tall but I feel lucky. When San Marcos Growers "first received

this plant the height was listed as six feet tall but a specimen in the nursery garden planted in 1998 has pushed past twenty feet tall." Most information about 'Springfire', except the Monrovia website, says that it will grow to about 12 to 15 feet tall, or as much as 25 feet! It apparently takes well to pruning, but that is not the point.

While I play my slow-motion roulette game, waiting to see if it really is compact, I am not afraid. After this wet winter, new growth is very big, but that is the highlight. The new leaves are the color of coconut milk soup from a Thai restaurant, a warm soft yellow gray—a psychedelic Arnold Palmer of lemonade with milk instead of tea! The elliptic leaves vary from two to three inches long, and have a wonderful undulating quality. Older leaves are leathery and gray-green, with pale felted undersides. Most striking is the contrast between the new and old growth. The leaves are oppositely arranged, on angular branches that give the plants a dense appearance. The structure of the stems is a bit jumbled and hectic. The branches usually grow a few inches each year, concentrated in Spring, but this wet year has made the leading branches grow about six or eight inches.

Metrosideros collina 'Springfire'



In late March, at the tips of the old branches, clusters of chenille buds begin to form. They are the same felted soft gray as the new leaves, which start to grow on the leading branches at the same time. The buds split open to reveal red stamens that are tightly rolled up inside. Each flower is a small saucer of nectar with 24 stamens, each over an inch long. The clusters can measure over four inches across. Adding to the splendor, another tighter flush of pale foliage emerges from the center of the inflorescences.

I grow it in full sun on top of a low stone wall in soil amended to improve the drainage. During the drought, I hand watered it its first year to settle it in. Most sources recommend weekly watering, and last year it received water at most once a week. I plan to slowly reduce its water to reduce over-exuberant growth and fit it into my garden's infrequent watering schedule. I want to find out how it handles our dry season without water. It is supposed to tolerate coastal wind and salt spray but will get lanky in shade and probably flower less prolifically.

The origin and taxonomy *Metrosideros collina* 'Springfire' are as unresolved as its size. The genus contains about sixty species, most of which have red stamens and come from Polynesia. *Metrosideros collina* 'Springfire' is from Rarotonga in the Cook islands. Nurseries list 'Springfire' variously as a cultivar of either *M. collina*, *M. villosa* or *M. polymorpha*. The USDA recognizes *M. polymorpha* from Hawaii, and considers *M. collina* to be a synonym, though most other sources consider them as two separate species. Moreover, *M. villosa* has been considered a subspecies of *M. collina*. Whatever the name, and whatever size it becomes, *M. collina* 'Springfire' is a great plant.

One of the things I love about it is that it reminds me of the trip that Robin and I took to Kauai. At Pu'u O Kila lookout, we walked through stunted forests of *M. polymorpha*. Covered in red stamens, we saw a Hawaiian owl fly along the ridge, where the land dropped 4000 feet down to the nearby sea. I can't wait until the ground underneath my plant is colored with red stamens!

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Sunday, April 15; 10 AM

Bobby Watts has invited us to his garden on Saturday, April 15, for coffee. But his garden can only comfortably handle 20 guests, so be sure to RSVP to me at mdelepine@liacook.com ASAP to reserve your spot. After coffee, Bobby has arranged for us to visit the garden of a near neighbor and he might add a second. Flora Grubb nursery isn't too far away if any have time for some retail therapy on the way home. Don't forget, guests bring the treats.

GARDEN TOUR OF DAVIS GARDENS

Sunday, May 21; 9 AM

Ernesto Sandoval, the curator at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, has invited us to Davis to view some private gardens he has designed as well as some on campus, one of which Cal Hort supported early on. His talk at last November's meeting was well attended so it is good news that we do not have to cap participation on this trip!

The plan is to arrive at the first of the private gardens at 9 a.m on Sunday, May 21. YES, the date was reported incorrectly in last month's Bulletin. *Mea culpa* and sorry for the confusion!

More good news: parking on the weekend on the UC Davis campus is easy, so drive alone or with friends, It's up to you. Parking will be more limited adjacent to the private gardens. What's more, after we return to the campus to view the Biological Orchard and Gardens, we will be able to lunch together at the nearby dining commons where you can pretty much get all you can eat for about \$10. After lunch, Ernesto has arranged for his very knowledgeable colleague, at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, Emily Griswold to show us around the Shields Oak Grove and adjacent Storer Garden where she has been making improvements. Depending on time, Ernesto is lining up a couple of other gardens for the afternoon.

RSVP with yours and the names of anyone you intend to bring with you to me, Mark Delepine, at mdelepine@liacook.com, to receive the address of the first private garden where we will meet up with Ernesto. It should be a memorable garden day for all who can make it.



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Each Month members and nurseries bring plants to share in the Cal Hort Drawing. This is a fun way to get new plants. Last month, Sean O'Hara brought some wonderful new plants for us to try. Surely you have some overgrown specimens or perennials that need some reduction. Pot them up and share them with the group.

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 main stream. 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.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair: Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

COUNCIL

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Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.