

BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122

August 18, 2003

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave., San Francisco.

7:15 PM Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

***Guest fee \$5.

Coming Programs
Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society



Monday, August 18, 2003

“Using the Camera as a Garden Tool”

Presented by **Charles Mann**, nationally recognized garden photographer. This two-part program will offer succinct introductory information about cameras, film equipment, other essentials and basics that the speaker has formed over the course of a decade of professional work. In part two, Charles will share some subjective insights and ideas that attempt to redefine the power of photography and to use it as a means to experience the garden world in a new way, to reveal unappreciated beauty and to become a tool for the broader creative process. Slides of photographs made from a wide variety of garden subjects will be shown during the narration. Charles has been a full time freelance photographer since 1990, specializing in botanical and garden subjects and southwest scenics. In addition to shooting on assignment for *SUNSET*, *Organic Gardening*, *Country Living Gardener*, *Horticulture* magazine and others, his photos have been seen in publications by Time-Life, Houghton Mifflin, and books in England and Australia. He has worked as a grower at Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe, New Mexico and has led tours of Santa Fe gardens for Smithsonian Tours, *Horticulture* magazine, as well as guiding tours for Garden Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and others

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program.

In August, the drawing will include donations from **Emerisa Gardens**, Santa Rosa and **Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to Bamboo Sourcing, Sebastopol, courtesy of Jennifer York, and Strybing Arboretum, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the July meeting

Monday, September 15, 2003

“Continental Ideas for American Gardens”

Presented by **Lauren Springer**, an award winning-writer, photographer and horticulturist. She is contributing editor for *Horticulture* and *Country Living Gardener* magazines, and author of *The Undaunted Garden*, named one of the 75 best American gardening books of the last century by the American Horticultural Society.

For years, Americans have looked to the English for garden inspiration, with a nod here and there to Mediterranean and Japanese influences. Over the past half-century, largely ignored on this side of the Atlantic, there has been a new style evolving in Germany and Holland. While previously the gardens there were typically either in the cottage tradition or copies of Italian and French gardens, an entirely new idiom of ecologically based naturalism has now made its mark on both public and private spaces in those countries. In many ways it mirrors some of our own recent regionally expressive garden styles in America. Lauren Springer will discuss some of these modern continental concepts and characteristics, illustrated with both European and American examples, to provoke thought and inspire ideas for our gardens.

President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

I've just come in from the garden, suddenly realizing I am late again with this offering. I just went out to see if the pots wanted watering, meaning to come right back in, but I'm sure you all know how that is!

Earlier this month, while searching for inspiration, I found a charming anthology, which I must recommend to you. *The Writer in the Garden*, gathered and edited by Jane Gormey, consists of the writings of more than fifty gardening writers (and writing gardeners), revealing their likes and dislikes, and sharing successes and failures. You can find something to agree with, whatever your personal preferences may be. As an example, let me quote from Allen Lacy's short chapter entitled *Hydrangeas? Never!*

"Show me a person without prejudice of any kind on any subject and I'll show you someone who may be admirably virtuous but is surely no gardener."

At this point, you need to know that as a very small child I was trapped by a giant hydrangea, which was conveniently located next to the stairs leading up to the porch. Due no doubt to a sudden hurricane or earthquake or some such cataclysmic event, I found myself in the middle of this monster. It seemed I was there for days before my cries were heard. I have since viewed hydrangeas with suspicion and given them a wide berth. Allen Lacy does not discuss the hydrangea's penchant for trapping small girls, but does comment on their other disadvantages in his opinion.

Well, I'll leave it there or I would copy the whole thing! You like an orderly garden? A semi-wild one? Natural? Ornamented? Love roses? Hate roses? Simple design? You choose, you will find that one or more of these writers will be in sympathy with you.

The July program was, as usual, excellent. I like bamboo, and was delighted to find that some are trustworthy as well as beautiful. We saw many in the Arboretum during the pre-dinner Walk that I had not realized were there. The Walk always reveals something new. If you haven't tried it, I strongly recommend it. Many bamboos were brought for the plant forum and the plant drawing by the Bamboo Sourcery, which specializes in bamboos (of course!) and some were donated by Strybing Nursery.

As I told you at the meeting, this month will see the Nominating Committee at work. Four members of your council will be retiring, as will I, and the search is on for candidates. I hope that you will give thought to this, and if asked, say yes! Questions about the Council activities? Call me!

Blooming in my garden now is a spectacular *Coreopsis tinctoria*, which has yellow flowers, shading to dark reddish brown in the center with a dark red disk in the center. This has turned into a sprawling thing, coming up in the red-purple dahlia and invading the raggedy Shasta Daisy. I put in a lot of lilies this spring and now that the Asiatics are finished, the trumpets are coming into bloom. A rhododendron supports a big yellow one. And several others are coming through the large, late blooming red salvia. I know I should save the plant labels, but somehow they get lost.

This month's program will feature Charles Mann who will tell us about "Using the Camera as a Garden Tool". It may be that we will all become inspired to keep a pictorial record of our gardens. I hope that you will join us for the Walk, dinner and the program. I look forward to greeting you all!



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www.anniesannuals.com

Botanical Tours

August 18–September 2, 2003

**Namaqualand and the Cape
Floral Kingdom** Sponsored by the
Natural History Museum of Los
Angeles.

September 16–October 5, 2003

**Wildflowers of Western
Australia** with Rodger Elliot &
Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific
Horticulture*. (800) 624-6633 or
www.geostartravel.com

October 11–12, 2003

Cal Hort Tour: Private gar-
dens and nurseries of Monterey,
Soquel, Watsonville, Half Moon Bay
and Carmel. Leaders: Barbara and
John Hopper. Registration info is
forthcoming.

January 22–February 4, 2004

Drakensbergs—a floral treasure—

South Africa in Summer. In support of
The Botanical Society of South Africa
for flora conservation.

May 11–23, 2004

**Botanical Excursion in
Eastern Macedonia & Thrace**
(Northeastern Greece) with noted
greek botanist George Sfikas &
Richard Turner. A *Pacific Horticulture*
tour.

May 16–June 3, 2004

**Botanical & Cultural Treasures
of China's Sichuan & Yunnan
Provinces**. Escorted by Kristin
Yanker-Hansen in support of
California Horticultural Society

For information please call (800) 624-
6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

July Plant Forum by Don Mahoney

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of the following plants are available on our website at www.calhortsociety.org in the 'Plant Forum' section.

1. *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* var *spectabilis*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This is one of many hardy (to 0°) running timber bamboos that are useful in the right spot as a windbreak or hedge. This one has beautiful yellow stems striped with green and some of the stems were growing with a zig-zag pattern. It grows to 18' in the shade and 25' in the sun. It is from Asia.

2. *Fargesia fungosa*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

Also called chocolate bamboo, this clumper has stems that age to a delicious chocolate brown which contrasts with their bright green narrow leaves. In the full sun it can reach 20' and is hardy to 15°. It is from Asia.

3. *Chusquea circinata*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This bamboo is not very hardy and is best kept in a sub-tropical house or somehow protected from frost. It is from South America. The chusqueas do not like to have soggy feet and are best planted high in well-drained soil. This bamboo will reach 12' and has elegant stems and branching habit.

4. *Fargesia nitida* 'Eiseach'

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This Chinese bamboo, hardy to 0°, is a small clumper that only reaches 7' in sun, or 6' in shade. It has a very graceful, delicate appearance and thrives in the Bay Area. Like all bamboos, it needs summer water. It is apparently beginning its blooming cycle.

5. *Oatea acuminata* var *aztecorum*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This is the Mexican weeping bamboo from cloud forests where it can become quite large to 20' with long arching stems. In cultivation it is much smaller, to 8' or 10', but retains its wonderful weeping character. It is a clumper and is a marvelous accent in a lawn or on the edge of a shrub border. It is not very hardy and dies back to the ground at 20° or so.

6. *Phyllostachys nigra* 'Black'

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This is the familiar black bamboo which can often be found in large colonies in old gardens. The old stems turn very black and at that stage are much sought after building materials. It is a timber bamboo that runs and

can reach 30' with adequate water and sun. It is relatively hardy to 0° and comes from Asia.

7. *Chusquea sulcata*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This is another cloud forest bamboo from Chiapas, Mexico. There is a large clump at Strybing where its large yet graceful weeping habit can be observed. Properly trained, it is upright to 18' with beautiful arching tips. The stems are knobbed, giving it a very decorative appearance. Hardy only to 25°, it is rather rare in the trade.

8. *Thamnocalamus aristatus*

POACEAE

Bamboo Sorcery, Sebastopol

This is another of the Asian bamboos with turquoise-blue new stems. It forms a tight large clump to 18'. If the three- and four-year old stems are thinned out annually just before the new sprouts emerge, then the new blue growth is seen to best advantage. It is hardy to 0° and hails from Asia.

9. *Sasa kurilensis* 'shimofuri'

POACEAE

John and Barbara Hopper, Kenwood

This variegated running ground cover bamboo has narrow very fine white lines on the leaves. It is best as a shade ground cover to 3' tall or as a container plant. Like many in the genus, it has wide (to 1") leaves that are 6 or more inches long. It may burn in the hot sun. It needs water and hails from the Kuril Islands.

10. *Bomarea* sp. 'Big Red'

ALSTROMERIACEAE

Tom Ballinger, San Francisco

Tom reports this vining lily has reached around 30' in his garden. Each stem blooms and then dies. The bloom consists of a large cluster of inch-long Alstroemeria-like flowers only more narrowly tubular. The color of this species, which is a UC Botanical Garden introduction, is bright red. Bomareas hail from Central and South America and need shade and moisture. They bloom mostly in late summer through winter.

Plant Forum continued on following page

Plantopia Nursery

"Where strange and wonderful plants find a home"

**Come see us at the San Francisco
FERRY PLAZA Garden Market**

Sunday 9 am - 3 pm

Lawrence Lee

plantopianursery@yahoo.com

11. Chitalpa tashkentensis

BIGNONIACEAE

Gail Uyehara, San Jose

This is a fast growing tree to 20' or more that is a hybrid between *C. bignoniodes* and *Chilopsis linearis*, the desert willow. It inherited the best qualities of both with large frilly trumpet-shaped flowers of a light pink. It blooms over a long period in summer and is drought and heat tolerant.

12. Corynocarpus laevigata

CORYNOCARPAEAE

Tom Ballinger, San Francisco

New Zealand laurel, as this small tree to 20' is called, was shown in its variegated form. Even the fruit was green and white. This plant is excellent as a large evergreen hedge as its large lustrous leaves are tough and leathery. The species is only hardy into the mid-20's and this variegated form does best in protected shade.

13. Disporum sessile 'Variegata' (Fairy Bells)

LILIACEAE

John and Barbara Hopper, Kenwood

Disporum is a genus of between 10-20 species of elegant and attractive woodland plants related to and similar to Solomon's Seal. Species are native to the US, eastern Asia and the Himalayas. They have creeping rhizomes that can travel some distance but they are not invasive. The arching stems are often slightly branched and clothed with attractive alternating leaves. The flowers are bell shaped and hang under the stems. They can be white to green-yellow. This variegated form is absolutely beautiful in our rock garden and is good in pots. Give them a cool, moist, part-shaded position with ample organic material like leaf mold.

14. Heliconia sp. and Heliconia schiedeana

MUSACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

These two specimens illustrate the wide range of subtropical banana relatives that can be grown outdoors, in the more protected Bay Area gardens. One, about four feet tall has a large showy stem of reddish glowers while the other is shorter at only two feet. Both need some shade and protection from wind, but otherwise are of easy culture and are surprisingly hardy. Both are native to Mexico.

15. Meconopsis cambrica

PAPAVERACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This poppy relative native to the British Isles was grown at Annies Annuals in Richmond. Its clear yellow flowers to 1-1/2" are held above fern-like light green leaves. The whole plant is only a foot tall and prefers moist woodland conditions with filtered to full sun. It has a long blooming period and is a herbaceous perennial that is fully hardy in the Bay Area.

16. Michelia champaca

MAGNOLIACEAE

Gail Uyehara, San Jose

This magnolia relative is much admired in southeast Asia where it is native, mostly for its exquisitely fragrant flowers which are a pale orange and are three inches across. It flowers from July to November. The tree is evergreen to perhaps 20' tall, needs regular water and does better outside the fog area as it loves moist summer heat. It is not very hardy, only into the high 20's.

Notable Nurseries

Each month, nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle. To make life easy for us plantaholics we supply the nurseries' contact information so you can find, visit and patronize them at your leisure. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

Emerisa Gardens

(707) 525-9644

555 Irwin Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 954001

www.emerisa.com

Emerisa Gardens is a family-run nursery specializing in four-inch perennials, herbs, grasses, as well as unusual and classic roses in both the one-gallon and five-gallon size. Known as a nursery with a large selection of healthy and uncommon plants, Emerisa is always worth visiting. Wholesale and retail. Check website for directions or more info.

Bamboo Sourcing

(707) 823-5866

666 Wagon Road, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Open by appointment

www.bamboosourcing.com

Bamboo Sourcing has more than 300 varieties in total, about 200 in stock for purchase. The 7-acre demonstration gardens include varieties ranging in size from a few inches tall to over 100 feet, with many variations in cane color, leaf size and shape.

Foreman Jesus Mora provides expert advice and will skillfully help to select the right varieties for your needs. Check out the website for loads of detailed bamboo info.

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316

Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF

www.strybing.org

Strybing's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does well in the Bay Area. The next sales are Aug.9 General Sale with shade plants featured and Sept 13 Open Nursery Sale!

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Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of the Month

Sick Plant Clinic— Diagnose what ails your plants.
9 AM – Noon. Free. UCBG, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755 or
www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Every Sunday

Gardener Talks—Various speakers and topics. 11 AM, at
the S.F. Ferry Plaza. Free. (415) 353-5650 or www.cuesa.org

August 21

Masonry—SFPGA, Noe Garcia & R. Broucuret; 7-9 PM.
Env. Hort & Floriculture Dept. CCSF. Proper planning
and installation affect plant performance and longevity of
hardscapes. (415) 558-8036

August 23-24

Annual Dahlia Show— Sponsored by the Dahlia Soci-
ety of California. 10AM – 5 PM County Fair Building. Free
(415) 566-5222

August 30

Free Gardening Class— Shade gardening with Aerin
Moore. 10AM. Magic Gardens Nursery in Berkeley. Free.
(510) 528-5587 or www.magicgardens.com

UC Davis Arboretum

(530) 752-4880

www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

August 16

Guided Tour—How to keep flowers blooming all sum-
mer long. 10 AM. Arboretum Terrace Garden. Free

August 30

Guided Tour—Learn to prepare for fall planting. 10 AM.
Arboretum Terrace Garden. Free

September 10

Garden Tour— Visit Betsy Clebsch's beautiful garden in
Woodside. 8AM – 5 PM. \$35 members, \$45 nonmembers

Regional Parks Botanic Garden

(925) 935-8871 • www.nativeplants.org

September 6

Seeds and Seed Treatments—Propagation class with
Martin Grantham focusing on CA native plants. 10 AM – 4
PM \$40 members, \$45 nonmembers

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(408) 972-5809

Strybing Arboretum Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

August 18 - September 22

Ornamental Shrubs For The Garden— This seven
session certificate course with J.Charmain Giuliani will
teach you to identify and grow over 60 different shrubs
suitable for the home garden. 6:30 – 9:00 PM, \$200 mem-
bers, \$225 non-members.

September 3 - October 11

Ornamental Grasses in the Landscape— Five
session design course with instructor Bob Hornback.
Wednesdays 6:30 – 9:00 PM plus field trip. \$140 members,
\$155 non-members.

September 13

Plant Sale—Open nursery with native plants and suc-
culents. 10AM – 2 PM at the Strybing Nursery

The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

July 26-Aug 9

Hypertufa Trough Class—Carol Sturman and Ruth
Janke will teach you how to make lightweight, 'aged stone'
troughs for your favorite alpine plants.

9:30 AM-12:30 PM, \$15 members, \$20 non-members plus
\$10 material fee.

September 6

Basic Gardening 101—Jessie West 9:30 AM-12:30 PM.
GHF member \$15; non-member \$20

September 12

Botany Basics & the Art of Drawing—Peg Steunen-
berg. 10 AM-5 PM. GHF member \$65; non-member \$75

September 13

Japanese Pruning Workshop—

Dimitri Tioupine. 9 AM discussion,
10 AM-NOON demo. Free, reservations required.





Sunday Garden Market

9am to 3pm every Sunday
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Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted two months ahead. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to the Editor at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call the Office Secretary at the number above.

Advertising

Rates are \$12 for a business card size (3.5 x 2) and \$24 for a quarter page per month. We accept both digital and camera-ready art.

Visit our website for more info or call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

California Horticultural Society

**San Francisco County Fair Building
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