



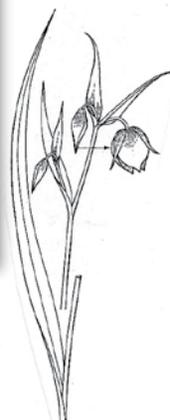
**BULLETIN**  
**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**San Francisco County Fair Building**  
**Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way**  
**San Francisco, California 94122**  
**August 15, 2005**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.  
 Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 5:30PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave; San Francisco.  
 7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum. Meeting will be held at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.  
 \*\*\*Donation requested \$5.

**Monday, August 15, 2005**  
**Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum**

**“Buried Treasures – Best Bulbs for year-round color in California”**

**Presented by Dr. Don Mahoney**, Horticulturist, Nursery Manager, San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum. The diversity of bulbs growable by the Bay Area gardeners is quite outstanding. There are bulbs that bloom every month of the year either for containers or for planting in the ground. There are both winter dormant bulbs for watered gardens and summer dormant bulbs for dry gardens. They come in a wide array of colors and some are among the most exquisite flowers in the plant kingdom. By the right combinations, bulbs can be the dominant element giving color to your garden for much of the year. Both difficult small bulbs and easy landscape staples will be shown and discussed.



**The Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In August, the drawing will include donations from **Berkeley Horticultural Nursery**, courtesy of Paul Doty and the San Francisco Botanical Garden, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **Suncrest Nursery**, courtesy of Michael Craib and to the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the July meeting and to David Grey of **Hortica Nursery** for the variety of wonderful plants donated over the past three months.

**Monday, September 19, 2005**  
**Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum**

**Foliage Color & Texture**

Presented by **Luen Miller**, noted horticulturist and co-owner of Monterey Bay Nurseries Luen began focusing on foliage plants after losing an argument with his wife about what color to repaint their house. (She won and she was right). After the house was painted, Luen had an epiphany about the use of plants as samples of colors and textures. The architectural style of the house invited a more Asian type of planting to enhance the overall look. His talk will include slides from gardens around Santa Cruz that celebrate planting for foliage effect before flower color and for his particular love for blue and silver foliage, as well as use of many hardy tropical plants.

In addition because of the distraction of work and the activities of his children he had less time for weeding. Thus, he developed his philosophy of “Weed-Fu”. One loosely inspired by the principles of Kung-Fu and Feng Shu, that philosophizes that if you fill up all the empty space in a garden there is nowhere for the weeds to grow.



# President's Letter

Bruce Peters

One of the things I find frustrating about Cal Hort is that, although we have so much knowledge in our society, I have no way of accessing it. All these people come to our meetings each month and they all seem to know each other and I don't know any of them. OK, that's not totally true but it was mostly true before I became the Big Guy up front each month. Had I not done that, however, I'd still be coming to meetings and not talking to anyone because I felt like everyone else already knows each other.

Well, turns out, I'm not the only one who gets that vibe. Being Cal Hort's Commander in Chief, people talk to me. They tell me that they don't know anyone else and that everyone else knows each other. They say they have a gardening question but don't know who they could ask. They tell me, in other words, that I'm not the only one who felt like the only one!

This topic was brought up in our Board meeting again this month and we all decided it's time for that artificial feeling of separation to end. Our first step is to once again push the use of name tags at the meetings. We always used to have our members fill out name tags but it just sort of fell by the wayside. No one knows why so I figure we might as well start it up again, right? Grab one at the entry table next time and fill in your name and where you live. That way, other people from the same general area can find you and seek gardening advice.



Another idea which came up yet again (which means it's an idea in need of action) is carpooling. For those members who come from far away, it could be really handy to know if others live nearby and would like to carpool to meetings. At future meetings, starting soon, we're going to have a carpool board. Simply sign up if you're willing to drive, need a ride etc and look to see who else from your area is looking. The details have yet to be worked out so if you have any experience with this, let me know!

## Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup (as I well know).

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find, visit and patronize these great nurseries. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

### Hortica

(415) 863-4697

566 Castro St. S.F., CA 94114

Since being founded 1968, Hortica has become something of an horticultural institution in the Castro, residing on a street where businesses seem to come and go with alarming frequency.

In addition to the standard nursery fare, new owner David Gray revels in seeking out new and interesting plants, often finding high elevation or South American treasures that flourish in the cool SF fog. Having been in the hort industry since the 1970s, David's well suited to understand which plants will work and what won't when making his selections.

If you're into orchids, Hortica's becoming the place to go with a large selection of both species and hybrids, including many quite happy outdoors or in cool indoor settings.

Cal Hort members are encouraged to come and engage in a little plant talk and will always receive a 10% discount **with their membership card**

### San Francisco Botanical Garden

(415) 661-1316

Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF  
[www.strybing.org](http://www.strybing.org)

SFBG's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does well in the Bay Area. However, there are always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, the nursery has monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. See Hort Calendar on Page 4 for more details.

## Botanical Tours

**October 12-21, 2005**

**Wildflowers, Gardens, Natural History and Fjordland of Chile** at the Peak of Springtime Bloom with noted horticulturist and Landscape Architect Professor Wes Conner. In support of the SF Botanical Garden Society.

**February 4 - 17, 2006**

**A South African Wilderness Experience, Drakensberg Flora & Bushveld Fauna—** Drakensberg Park, trails alongside mountain streams, alpine flora on the 'roof of South Africa,' day and night safari drives with expert naturalists, fine mountain resort hotels...this tour has it all! In support of the California Horticultural Society

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit [www.geostartravel.com](http://www.geostartravel.com).

# Grants and Scholarships

Change is in the air! The new dead line for Grants & Scholarships submissions is November 1. This change in time will better coincide with the school year and those looking for scholarships. Look on our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) for all the submission details.



# Cal Hort Committees

Following is a list of committees that our Society can use help in. Although some are fairly well staffed, we can always use a little extra help! After looking them over for something you're interested in, contact our fearless president, Bruce, via email ([bruce@calhortsociety.org](mailto:bruce@calhortsociety.org)) or phone (415 824-1833) and we'll get you on your way! This is a great way to meet and learn from other Cal Hort members.

**Advertising** – Currently vacant. We'd really love to get some help here in both selling and organizing advertising.

**Awards** – The Awards committee chooses our Annual Awards, including garden awards, cultural awards etc. See the article in this issue for a full list.

**Bulletin** – We can always use help in procuring articles and other interesting tidbits for the *Bulletin*, and wouldn't balk at accepting any layout help, as well!

**Field Trip/Open Gardens** – This committee organizes our annual local field trips as well as the open garden tours.

**Flower and Garden Show** – Volunteers seek out and procure new and interesting plants for our exhibit at the Annual Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace.

**Grants and Scholarships** – Mostly, this committee goes through the applications for grants and scholarships and makes their recommendations to the council.

**Nominating** – Composed of 2 board members and one general member, this committee, formed anew each July, finds interested members to serve on our Council.

**Plant Forum** – Volunteers here help in writing up each month's submissions and sending them to the *Bulletin* editor.

**Plant Sale** – Looks like this is on again and we have a need for people to help out. Duties include, but are not limited to, driving to nurseries to pick up plants, storing plants, setting up and striking the actual sale etc.

**Program** – Coming up with new and exciting ideas for our monthly speakers and then following through to get those speakers is the task our Program committee does so well.

**Public relations/membership** – Getting Cal Hort's name out there is something we're currently not so great at.

**Reception** – The reception committee helpers are the first faces people see when they come to our monthly meetings.

**Seed Exchange** – This committee collects, organizes and doles out our annual seed donations.

**Web Site** – Keeping the web site up to date is a perennial task which, unfortunately, is sometimes neglected.

## Cal Hort T-Shirts

Now Available!



\$16.24

(tax incl.)

Size: large

Color: soft green w darker green logo

Available at Cal Hort Monthly meetings,  
or call Ann DeRosa (510) 528-8404

## Are you collecting seeds?

Seeds are ripening left and right through the garden and instead of pruning them off and composting them, we suggest you pop them into a labelled envelope for donation to the Cal Hort Seed Exchange!

Not sure what that fantastic plant providing all those seeds is? Bring in a representative sample to a meeting and let the combined genius of our membership figure it out for you.

We can accept seeds up until Thanksgiving, but you're more than welcome to bring seeds to any meeting before then and get them out of your hair.



# Horticultural Calendar

## August 17

**Monthly Slideshow and Potluck**—Rod Badger presents 'Southwestern Deserts in a Rainy Spring.' Please bring a dish to serve eight people. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

## August 20

**SF Estuary Canoe Trip**—Discover plants and animals of the Bay with the SF Professional Gardeners Assoc., 8:30 AM - 2:30 PM, fee TBA. For more info (510) 452-9261 or [www.sfpga.org](http://www.sfpga.org)

## August 20 -21

**Aquatic Plants**—A two-day workshop with Barbara Ertter focusing on aquatic plants found in California. Jepson Herbarium members \$200, non-members \$225. (510) 643-7008 or [ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html](http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/jepwkshp.html)

## August 21

**Salvia Workshop**—Join Betsy Clebsch in the Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Class starts at noon, fee is \$25. (707) 996-3166 or [www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org)

## September 12 -27

**Advanced Floral Design**—A six day course held at the Filoli Center. 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, members \$350, non-members \$400. (650) 364-8300 x507 or [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)

## September 24

**100% Agave or How to go from Maguey to Margarita**—A Lotusland lecture featuring the production of alcohol from the Agave. A reception with margaritas follows. 3 - 5 PM, members \$35, non-members \$40. (805) 969-9990 or [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)

## Through October 1

**Photo Exhibition**—Oakland photographer Margaretta K. Mitchell shows recent work of English Gardens at the Mechanics Institute Library, 57 Post Street, SF. Open M - F 10 AM - 5 PM, free. (415) 393-0114 or [www.milibrary.org](http://www.milibrary.org)

## Ruth Bancroft Garden

(925) 210-9663 • [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## August 13

**Palms of the Ruth Bancroft Garden**—Tour the collection with Dan Sekella. Starts at 10 AM, \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

## August 27

**Aromatic Plants Tour**—Experience fragrant leaves, stems, flowers and more. Starts at 10 AM, \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

## September 24

**Ethnobotany Tour**—A walking tour of the garden with Marilyn Brackett. Starts at 10 AM, \$5 members, \$10 non-members.

## SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## August 13

**Plant Sale**—General sale featuring shade plants. 10 AM - 1 PM at the Nursery.

## August 20

**Dazzling Dahlias for Your Garden**—Learn to grow SF's official flower, with Mark Gaensler. 9:30 AM - 1 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

## August 22 - September 26

**Groundcovers for the Garden**—A six session certificate course with Charmain Giuliani. 6:30 - 9:30 PM plus a Saturday field trip. Members \$135, non-members \$155.

## September 10

**Plant Sale**—General sale featuring CA natives and succulents. 10 AM - 1 PM at the Nursery.

# Photography

In the works is a Cal Hort photography contest and we'd like to have some members come in on the ground floor to help come up with the rules and ideas. Give Bruce a call at (415) 203-4407 for more details or to offer up your help. You don't need to be a photographer yourself to help out, this is for the planning committee.



Kathy Till will be collecting old cell phones and cell phone batteries for the National Wildlife Federation who will get \$1 for every phone donated. Please bring your old phones and batteries to the August meeting.



Send submissions to [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)  
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.

**Sempervivums**  
**CRASSULACEAE Family**

Once again, this column should really be called genus of the month. The name *Sempervivum* means 'always living', and these plants live up to their name. Commonly known as hen-and-chicks or houseleeks, they continue to reproduce and multiply forever. The *Sempervivums* are great little succulents hailing from central Europe through the Mediterranean. There are roughly 50 species and over 3000 cultivars! In this article, I will describe each of the species and their cultivars. Just kidding.

*Sempervivums* vary in color from green to brown, yellow, orange, pink and red. Sorry, no variegated ones yet. Their colors are most vivid in full sun, and many cultivars fade to dull green if they are planted in too shady a spot. The leaves can be glossy or matte finish. Reminds me of housepaint rather than houseleeks...



Photo by Robin Harry

***Sempervivum***  
***arachnoideum***

Some species have furry leaves, while others are smooth. Some have tiny little tight rosettes of leaves, while others have more open rosettes up to 6 inches in diameter.

In their native habitat, these plants grow in alpine and subalpine regions, so they are fairly cold hardy.

Their cultivation needs are pretty simple: lots of sun and excellent drainage. Even our cold and soggy winters won't harm these tough little plants if the drainage is good. Rock walls, tufa troughs, pots, and rock gardens are all great places to plant *Sempervivums*.

Use a soil mix with lots of sand, perlite or grit in it to keep it quick draining. These plants are great for filling in gaps, even where there is limited soil- I've seen them growing in the tiniest cracks in a rock wall. In Europe, where green roofs (roofs planted with living plants) are more popular, this genus is often used, as they can take the intense light and dry conditions that prevail.

The juice from crushed *Sempervivum* leaves has been used in traditional medicine to treat skin complaints such

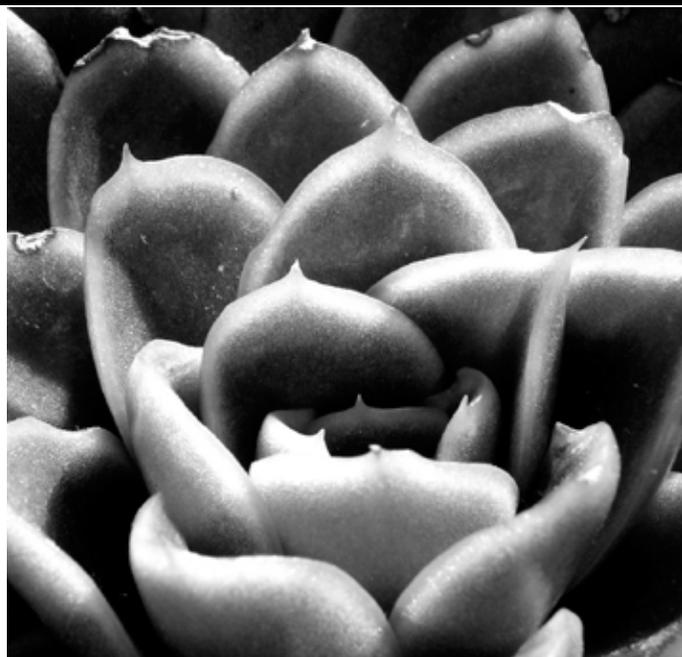


Photo by Karl Newell

as burns, scalds, corns, calluses, warts, ringworm, shingles, insect stings, itching and burning of the eyes, and earache. Wow, a whole pharmacy in one little plant.

In the garden, these plants form wonderful, dense colonies through offsets. Since they are monocarpic, eventually each plant flowers and soon after dies. However, there are always plenty of offsets to fill in the hole where the last plant grew. The patterns and textures created by the close growing rosettes are always wonderful to see, and the offsets are easy to separate and move to another spot in the garden. Or pot up for a Cal Hort plant sale (hint hint).



**Need some Horticultural Help?**

The back page of your Cal Hort Roster contains a special listing of our Business members. What better way to insure your future landscaper knows a tulip from a petunia? It's also a great place to find recommendations for your friends !



Rosemary's Mushroom Farm  
**Mushroom Compost for \$6 a cubic yard**

Our mushroom compost is Lab tested,  
Pasteurized, and is weed free.

We have two locations:

Morgan Hill and Watsonville

Size of delivery truck is 20 and 40 cubic yards

Commercial Delivery Rates Apply

(408) 972-5809

**Please Welcome The Following  
New Members To The  
California Horticultural Society**

Shawna Anderson  
Cassandra Bright  
Jolayne Copper

Michael Davis  
Kathy Musial

## Earn CEU Credits

We now offer Continuing Education Units for the California Certified Nursery Professionals—a program of the California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers. Attendance at our monthly lectures and plant Forum will qualify you for one CEU. Sign in at the registration desk *following* the program.



### Officers

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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.

Membership year begins January 1 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. 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](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call (800) 884-0009.



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San Francisco, CA 94122**

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