

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, August 16, 2010 at 7:15 pm*

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th 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 9th Avenue in San Francisco.

7:15 PM – Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in San Francisco.

Members are FREE.

Non-members – a donation of \$5 is requested

## AUGUST 2010 PROGRAM

### Bringing Italy Home: Images from a Designer's Tour

by Cathy Edger



Not a travelogue, this presentation by landscape designer Cathy Edger traces the beginnings of modern landscape design in the Renaissance and includes the following Baroque and Romantic Eras. She will point out parallels to today's gardens and discuss ways to apply what she saw in our 21st century gardens. Anyone who loves gardens will enjoy this presentation.

Following a career as a Park Ranger Cathy Edger decided that Landscape Design would be her new occupation. Classes in Design inspired her with the dream to tour Italian gardens if she ever got the chance. In September 2009 she took the tour of a lifetime with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers where she was able to visit many the gardens that she had learned about in classes.

## SEPTEMBER 2010 MEETING

“Eating California” — Alrie Middlebrook will be profiling thirty-five native edible plants that have been chosen for their garden beauty, nutritional value, flavor and potential as agricultural food crops that can be easily integrated into mainstream California cuisine. Alrie is a committed advocate and practitioner of the sustainable lifestyle, a landscape professional and California native plant specialist. Her San Jose, California-based build/design firm, Middlebrook Gardens, has installed over 150 California native gardens and remains on the leading edge of the rising sustainability movement. She published the California native plant cookbook, *Eating California*.

# AUGUST HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR by Don L. MacGregor

August is back to school month. How are your skills? Sustainability is the new wave—at least two seminars teach “sustainable horticulture” during September. Sign up now.

## **The Fascinating World of the Geranium Family**

*Saturday, August 14, 2010, 10 AM–Noon*

Robin Parer of Geraniaceae Nursery will share her expertise and love of a plant family that is known—for too long—by a few show-offs. Markham Nature Park Arboretum in Concord, 1202 LaVista Avenue, Concord (925) 681-2968 [markhamarboretum.org](http://markhamarboretum.org)

## **American Begonia Society National Convention**

*Tuesday, August 17, 2010*

Juried show, presentations, and a plant sale on August 21 and 22. Embassy Suites SF Airport, 250 Gateway Blvd., South San Francisco (415) 859-5728

## **The Kippings invite you to a Potluck/Slideshow**

*Tuesday, August 24, 2010, 7:00 PM*

James Martin “The Islands of San Francisco Bay.” Please bring a dish and beverage to serve 8 people. San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (415) 753-7090

## **Planting the Thanksgiving Feast**

*Saturday, August 28, 2010, 10 AM–1 PM*

Friends of the UCSC Farm & Garden presents late-season edible landscaping program at the Center for AgroEcology and Sustainable Food Systems. (\$20) 1156 High St. in Santa Cruz (831) 459-3240

## **Late Summer Pruning of California Native Trees and Shrubs**

*Saturday, September 11, 2010, 9:30 AM–5PM*

Jocelyn Cohen takes us through the do’s and don’t’s of pruning to avoid disease, for shape, dormancy and flowering. (\$75.) Tilden Regional Park, Wildcat Canyon, Berkeley (510) 528-0526 [regionalparks.org](http://regionalparks.org)

## **Garden Feast**

*Thursday, September 16, 2010*

Strybing Arboretum is 70 years old and is celebrating with THE Garden Party of the Year—honoring Senator Dianne Feinstein for her contribution to the Green Movement. Edible Gardening Maven, Pam Pierce, speaks after lunch. For more information: (415)661-1316 x 304 [sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## **Bay-Friendly 2010 Landscaping Conference.**

*Friday, September 17, 2010*

Teaching the nuts and bolts of Sustainable Landscape Gardening, the Bay-Friendly Program walks us through the science and art of Climate-Appropriate and Bay-Friendly horticulture practice. This seminar features interactive sessions, professional networking, and a marketplace to learn about Smart Controllers and other GREEN technologies. (\$150) St. Mary’s Event Center, San Francisco [BayFriendlyCoalition.org/2010\\_Conference](http://BayFriendlyCoalition.org/2010_Conference)

## **Style and Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden**

*Thursday through Sunday, September 23-26, 2010*

Pacific Horticulture, Mediterranean Plant Society, and LA County Arboretum team up for this 8th program of the “Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies” series. A sharp team of professionals will present, and tour nine gardens, including Pasadena’s innovative Arlington Garden. Berkeley’s Marcia Donahue will speak, sharing her sublime artistic vision of whimsy in the garden. That’s worth the trip to Pasadena alone!

## **The Kippings invite you to a Potluck/Slideshow**

*Tuesday, September 28, 2010, 7:00 PM*

Ted Kipping, “Wildflowers of Colorado Rocky Mountains.” Please bring a dish and beverage to serve 8 people. San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco (415) 753-7090

## Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

### *Leonotis leonurus* or Lion's Tail

Family: LAMIACEAE

It is midsummer, which means that many of the flowering plants in our gardens have finished their show for the year, having been spectacular in the springtime. However, *Leonotis leonurus* is just getting started with its amazing floral display, and this is making gardeners, butterflies and hummingbirds very happy. The orange flowers grow in whorls around the stem, similar to *phlomis* and other plants in the mint family and are great as cut flowers.

Hailing from South Africa, *Leonotis* prefers full sun to partial shade, and quickly grows into a 6-foot tall shrub. Its deep green leaves look like they belong on a thirstier plant, but this one really needs very little water once established in the garden. Like many plants that do well in California, *Leonotis* isn't fussy about its soil, as long as it has good drainage. This plant is also frost-hardy, although it may be killed to the ground in a heavy frost, and killed outright in a very heavy frost.

Do not be intimidated by the height that this plant can reach. If you prefer it shorter, simply cut it back by about half after it finishes blooming.



An example of *Leonotis leonurus* blossoms in midsummer.

Sources tell me that the dried leaves and flowers of this plant can be smoked or made into a tea that can create a feeling of euphoria. It has also been used in traditional medicine to treat everything from fever and coughs to headaches and snakebite. Feel free to experiment with *Leonotis* in your garden or your house . . .

## Monthly Plant Drawing

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. For the July meeting Mike Craib brought a beautiful selection of 20 mallows from Suncrest Nursery. Member David Feix divided many of his unusual succulents and brought them in. Cory Barnes brought some fabulous Asian plant selections from Quarry Hill Botanical Garden. And of course Don Mahoney provided some unusual plants from the Strybing Nursery. Thank you all for your generosity. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find plants for your garden that you have never seen before.

Please patronize these corporate supporters of Cal Hort!



**The California Horticultural Society**

San Francisco County Fair Building

9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

San Francisco, CA 94122

[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

To join the California Horticultural Society, or for 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.

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 Board. You can also chat with Board members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at the next Monday's 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

2008-2010 (Second Term) Jim Budke and Ted Kipping

2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

2010-2012 (First Term) Michael Craib, Betsy Flack, Don MacGregor, Caren Magreblan, Dave Mrus

2010-2010 (Second Term) Steve Morse, Andy Stone, Dave Tivol

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