

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, August 15, 2011 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

Acmena smithii



Photo by Ted Kipping

AUGUST 2011 MEETING
Food Forest to
Urban Ecosystem Agriculture
by Scott Kleinrock

From food forests to urban ecosystem agriculture, this is an introduction to gardening like a force of nature. In this talk, Scott Kleinrock, Ranch Manager at the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens, will share theory, images, and stories of his explorations of edible gardens constructed on principles of resilient ecosystems at the Huntington Ranch. Included will be plenty of tips on how to establish these gardens systems at home in everything from designed edible landscapes to wild orchards.



SEPTEMBER 2011 MEETING
Plants for Winter Bloom
by Annie Hayes and David Feix

A wealth of bloom during the winter months? Yes! Here in the Bay Area it's easy to achieve. Annie Hayes (Annie's Annuals & Perennials) and garden designer David Feix will showcase some of their favorite cool season Mediterranean basin, South African, and cloud forest plants. Lots of exciting ideas for jazzing up your winter garden.

EDITOR FOR HORTICULTURAL EVENTS SECTION NEEDED
Our calendar editor, Don MacGregor, is no longer able to continue in this job. With thanks for all his hard work and painstaking attention to detail, we are looking for someone in the organization to take his place. If you can help, contact Steve Morse for more information and a job description at s.j.morse@sbcglobal.net.



Late Summer

HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Don L. MacGregor

SUMMER CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PLANT SALE

Free Admission Day—Saturday, August 6
Members' Preview, 9–10 AM; Public Sale, 10 AM–1 PM
Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek.
(925)944-9352 www.RuthBancroftGarden.org

SHADE PLANTS

Monthly Plant Sale
Saturday, August 13; 10 AM–1 PM
San Francisco Botanical Garden Nursery, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park. www.SFBotanicalGardenSociety.org

QUERCUS MEMBERS WALK

Guided Tour
Tuesday, August 16; 1–2 PM
UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley,
200 Centennial Drive, Strawberry Canyon. Free for members.
Registration required at garden@berkeley.edu. (510)643-7255

ETHNOBOTANY OF ASIAN PLANTS

Guided Tour with Ernie Ng
Sunday, August 21; 10 AM–12:30 PM
San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, \$20, members \$15. Download registration form online
or phone (415)661-1316 ext. 400, questions to kfisher@sfbg.org

EXPLORING BURMA

Potluck*/Slideshow with Richard Wigen
Tuesday August 23; 7 PM
San Francisco County Fair Building,
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park.
*Please bring a dish or a beverage to serve eight.

CELEBRATING THE RARE AND EXOTIC: COCKTAILS IN THE GARDEN

An opportunity to meet the "Esteemed Advisors"
who have crafted Quarryhill Botanic Garden and its mission
Friday, August 26; 6 PM–8 PM
Quarryhill Botanic Garden, 12841 Sonoma Highway, Glen Ellen.
\$100, members \$75. (707)996-3166 www.Quarryhillbg.org

NATIVE AMERICAN CONTEMPLATIVE GARDEN

Guided Tour
Saturday, August 27; 10 AM
UC Davis Arboretum, Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center.
(530)752-4880 www.arboretum.davis.edu

PLANT FORUM / July 2011

Floriferous Fun with Funnel-Form Flowers

Garden borders filled with floriferous perennials and showy annuals can yield a floral bounty for cutting, as well as display your personal color favorites and combinations. Attention to the form of the flowers, as a design element, helps create a more dynamic show while basking in all that color.

Kristin Yanker-Hansen showed a collection of blossoms with rich color and trumpet shape. *Thunbergia battiscombeii* is tropical and freezes in her Danville garden, but only to the ground, recovering each year to a maximum of three feet. The funnel-form flower is blue-violet with a yellow throat. Kristin used this selection to illustrate treating tropical plants as perennials in California gardens. *Streptocarpus* (Cape Primrose) is attracting fanciers who are hybridizing these plants for floral color effects and offering them at online auctions; Kristin procured her "Strep" online.

Echinops ritro, *Echinacea hybrids*, and *Phlox paniculata* are each native to North America. The tall panicle of flowers for which *P. paniculata* is named encourages hybridization for blossoms in vivid colors; Kristin showed magenta, fuchsia and white blooms. Heat and good soil drainage limit mildew damage. The popular *Echinacea* (Coneflower) hybrids are not just for pink anymore and make "a great cut flower", according to Kristin. While attracting beneficial insects, "Red Hot Tomato", "Hot Papaya", and "Green Envy" give deep color. Kristin pointed out the green picatee on the tips of the petals of "Green Envy". *Echinops ritro* or *exaltus* (Globe Thistle) will bloom without water and freely reseeds as a perennial, and its form adds interest to a bouquet of cut flowers.

Impatiens glandulifera is a re-seeding annual which will bloom without water and bears 100 degree heat and, if drooping or wilting, will revive readily when watered. *Perovskia abrotanoides* (Russian Sage), a "haze of lavender" with tall stems to three feet holding up its flower panicles, holds its fragrance when cut. It has a long-lasting bloom and the plant is deer resistant. Kristin also showed a form of *Platycodon grandiflorus* (Balloon Flower) that doesn't open fully, retaining its balloon shape. It needs deadheading for repeat bloom. The tender roots are available in nurseries in February.

From San Francisco, Jack Halpern showed two Orchid hybrids. *Adanoglossum* "Jersey" is a medium sized plant with a spire of blossoms in soft orange with brown splotches. With a bloom coming but once a year, Jack proudly shared his *Potinara* "Haw Yuan Kang Gold", a hybrid honored with the

Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

Acmena smithii

Lilly Pilly Tree

Family: MYRTACEAE

The myrtle family is a huge one, with over 5600 species in over 150 genera. Included in the Myrtaceae are the myrtles (obviously), cloves, guava, feijoa, allspice, Eucalyptus, Leptospermum, Melaleuca, Metrosideros and Agonis, to name a few. The Eugenias, Syzygiums and Acmenas are closely related genera in the Myrtaceae. Although the first two are well known in horticulture, the Acmenas are not as well known. In fact *Acmena smithii* is also known as *Syzygium smithii* and at one time was thought to be a *Eugenia*.

The lilly pilly tree is native to eastern Australia, from northern Victoria to Queensland. It grows in a variety of soils, from sandy to clay, and becomes fairly drought tolerant once established. Although it can be pruned into a hedge, this plant really calls attention to itself when it is allowed to grow into a full-sized tree. Growing anywhere from 20 to 60 feet, depending on the local conditions, it is a graceful tree with shiny green leaves, producing fragrant, small white flowers in the spring that are followed with pale purple fruits. The clusters of small berry-like fruits create a wonderful purple haze that covers the tree and creates a great focal point in the garden.

The lilly pilly does well in sun to part shade, and prefers well-draining soil. It is reportedly hardy down to 20° F, but probably couldn't take this much cold for very long without damage. Although many of the *Syzygiums* in California are damaged by an introduced psyllid, *Acmena smithii* is rarely affected by it.

The genus *Acmena* is believed to be named after Acmene, one of the names for Venus, and *smithii* honors Sir James Edward Smith, a prominent English botanist and first president of the Linnean Society in London in the mid-18th century. Beauty and intelligence—what more could you want in a plant for your garden?



Acmena smithii

FCC/RHS designation. The yellow-orange flower, which lasts three to five weeks, is stunning for the arrangement and layering of the corolla.

The evening's speaker, Martin Grantham, brought in two blooming plants of South Africa. *Merwillia dracomontana* is a dwarf scilla growing to only four inches. The blossom is a metallic blue with tiny white bits intensifying the openness of the inflorescence. Grown from seed collected in the Eastern Cape Region, the bloom comes after three to five years of growth. Martin also shared his own hybrid, as yet unnamed, of *Scadoxus nutans* and *S. puniceus*. In summer this bulb produces a bloom composed of tightly packed salmon-orange petals with yellow anther filaments extending above the clustered petal tips of what Martin refers to as a "ball of fire!", which perhaps could be the name for this hybrid!

GONE TO SEED?

It's time to visit your garden and check on the seeds you'll find there.

Are they ripe? Or not quite yet?

Note on the calendar, so you don't forget.

Once fully ripe they should be collected and labeled with as much information as you care to share: botanical name, common name, growing conditions, germination hints—whatever you send in will be appreciated. Images, too, add a lot to the descriptions in the Seed Exchange Listing for 2012.

Your colleagues are counting on you!

(Dave Tivol is our 2012 Seed Exchange Chair.)



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

www.calhortsociety.org

THE BRITISH ARE COMING TO QUARRYHILL!!

From Scotland, England, and even New England—from the Queen’s Botanist to a British Lord of Howick Hall Gardens, a phalanx of English gardeners will invade Sonoma County in the last days of August. In addition, Beijing Botanic Garden, Missouri Botanic Garden, not to mention California Academy of Sciences, will be gathering for the American Public Gardens gathering at Quarryhill Botanic Garden in Glen Ellen for 2011.

Plant Exploration and Importation Symposium

Sunday, August 28–Tuesday, August 30

Topics include “The Golden Age of Plant Collecting in Eastern Asia,” “International and National Regulations,” “From Wild to Commerce; Mechanics and Ethics.”

For the details of the 2011 Symposium, including registration information, see the American Public Gardens Association’s website at www.publicgardens.org or contact Quarryhill at (707)996-3166 www.Quarryhillbg.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thanks once again go to Don Mahoney of Strybing Arboretum for a fabulous selection of plants from the Arboretum. Last month in addition to the plant drawing, Martin brought a selection of plants from SF State Greenhouses for sale. We encourage our members to bring plants for our drawing each month.

To join the California Horticultural Society, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

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).

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 Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at any Cal Hort 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
- 2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop
- 2010-2012 (First Term) Mike Craib
- 2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse, Andy Stone, Dave Tivol
- 2011-2013 (First Term) Patrick Albin, Judith Taylor, Mary TeSelle

COUNCIL

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| President | Open |
| Vice President | Open |
| Past President | Ellen Frank |
| Recording Secretary | Jim Budke |
| Treasurer | Carl Meier |
| Parliamentarian | Open |
| Membership | Charlotte Masson |

BULLETIN EDITOR

editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org