

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, August 19, 2013, 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

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Plant of the Month

Cussonia paniculata



Photo © 2013 Ted Kipping

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2013

Looking at Old Irises

Gesine Lohr

Growing up in New Jersey, Gesine Lohr loved the old irises, but didn't know any of their names. It wasn't until 1999 that she found the first name, 'Indian Chief' (Ayres 1929) identified by Mary Hess at Bluebird Haven Iris Garden. She is now editor of "Roots," the journal of the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS), and will share the evolution of the old Irises.



Horned Amethyst
(Austin 1960)



Rhea
(Williamson 1928)



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2013

So Many Plants, So Little Time!

We had a great time last year, and we plan to do it again this year— a full meeting of plant display and discussion. It is amazing how much our members know about plants, and how many plants are out there that we know very little about. So if you have a special plant (or a few) that you would like to discuss with the group, come to our September meeting and bring it along. It could be a cutting or a beautifully grown specimen, or something you are having trouble growing. This is a meeting where everyone can learn.

Late Summer

HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

TIRED OF MOWING YOUR LAWN?

Saturday, August 3; Noon–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Gazebo, UC Davis campus

There are great alternatives to a thirsty, high-maintenance lawn. For more information and directions, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum75th.ucdavis.edu/tired-of-mowing-your-lawn>.

CONTAINER GARDENING WITH SUCCULENTS

August 10, 2013; 10–11:30 AM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden; 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek CA 94598
See several demonstrations and create your own miniature container garden to take home with you. Learn the art of container gardening with our instructor, Laura Hogan, former Ruth Bancroft Garden Nursery Manager and owner of Arid Accents. Laura will demonstrate the assembly of 5 different categories of succulent container gardens and show custom containers that she has handcrafted for the Ruth Bancroft Garden. Whether you are seeking a succulent container for your garden or inspiration for a living gift, this class will provide you with the foundation for creating quality. \$25 General Admission; \$20 Members. Pre-registration is required.

WATER FEATURES WITH CHRIS CARMICHAEL

Tuesday, August 13, 1–2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley

Join our Associate Director of Collections and Horticulture for a unique and lovely tour of the Gardens many water features. Free Members Event. Register online.

DELIGHTS FROM DOWN UNDER

Saturday, August 17; 9:30 AM

UC Davis Arboretum Wyatt Deck, UC Davis campus

Take a leisurely guided stroll through the Australian and New Zealand collections. See plants from down under that thrive in our Mediterranean climate and discover some of their fascinating adaptations. For more information and directions, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum75th.ucdavis.edu/delights-from-down-under>.

PONDS AND CREEKS TOUR

Saturday, August 17, 10–11:30 AM

UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley

Explore the Garden's water habitats from gently flowing creeks to still pond waters. Dip nets in pools and examine plants, insects, and water critters under microscopes. Learn about photosynthesis, decomposers, and the importance of protecting these fragile environments. Advance registration required. \$12, \$8 members Adults / \$8, \$6 members Children. Register online.

SUCCULENTS, NOLINAS, AGAVES

Saturday, August 24; 10 AM

Ruth Risdon Storer Garden, UC Davis campus

Learn about the origins and cultivation of these beautiful and extremely drought-tolerant plants. For more information and directions, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit <http://arboretum75th.ucdavis.edu/succulents-nolinas-agaves>.

WILDLY SUCCESSFUL PLANTS

Saturday, August 24, 10–Noon

UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley

Others seek out the rarest plants; San Francisco Chronicle columnist (“Golden Gate Gardener”) Pam Pierce has scouted old gardens to find treasures among historic Bay Area ornamentals, the ones that thrive with little or no care. She found many handsome, drought tolerant, mostly deer and snail resistant, plants we can still love in our new sustainable landscapes. Her presentation is partly horticultural history, partly an exploration of plant adaptability, and partly design inspiration for using these old plants, and their newer varieties, in new settings. Her images include maps to show plant origins. (Surprisingly, many are not from mediterranean climates.) \$15, \$12 members.

TURN YOUR LAWN INTO A GARDEN

August 24 and 25, 2013; 10 AM–2 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

Are you curious about how to transform your yard from a grass lawn to a drought-tolerant garden? It can seem like an overwhelming task if you have no prior experience. Lawn to Garden Workshop to be held at Pleasant Hill – address will be given upon registration. \$20 General Admission; \$12 per class for Members (\$40 for both classes General Admission or \$24 for Members) For more information: Please visit The Ruth Bancroft Garden or call (925) 944 9352.

LIGHT IN THE GARDEN WITH PHOTOBOTANIC WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 7: 7:30–3:30 AM

UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley

Join garden photographer Saxon Holt for a return of his PhotoBotanic workshops to UCBG. We will study “Light in the Garden”—how to capture it, how to process it in post production. Whether our early morning light is foggy or bright we will begin at 7:30 AM with shooting in the garden and hands on instruction, and finish in the afternoon with a 3 hour group critique and computer processing. \$90, \$75 members. Register online.

THE DRUNKEN BOTANIST: THE PLANTS THAT CREATE THE WORLD'S GREAT DRINKS

Sunday, September 8, 3–6 PM

The UC Botanical Garden is pleased to host author Amy Stewart, who is back with her fourth New York Times bestseller, “The Drunken Botanist: The Plants That Create the World's Great Drinks.” Join her for an exploration of the dizzying array of plants that humans have, through ingenuity, inspiration, and sheer desperation, contrived to transform into alcohol. From the sugar cane that gives us Caribbean rum, to the juniper berries that flavor gin, to the odd and obscure fruits that flavor Italian liqueurs, Amy Stewart takes a most intoxicating perspective on the leaves, bark, seeds, roots, flowers, and fruit imbibed around the world. It's the compelling mixture of history, science, literature and humor that Stewart is known for. You will also enjoy a unique walk through the Garden in the lovely evening hours looking at intoxicating plants with Amy Stewart and Garden docents. And! Special guests include St. George Spirits who will be serving up delicious artisanal cocktails. \$75, \$60 members. Register online.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Cussonia paniculata, Mountain Cabbage Tree

Family: ARALIACEAE

Many gardeners, particularly urban ones, struggle to find trees that will do well in their garden but not outgrow it. Many of us can tell the tale of the tree that started out cute but 10 years down the road became the 'monster that ate my garden'.

One well-behaved solution to this is *Cussonia paniculata*. It will provide a vertical element in any sunny, well-drained garden that doesn't have heavy frosts. Native to South Africa, in the wild it grows at elevations up to 7000 feet, so it can withstand a certain amount of cold temperatures.

Fully mature at around 12-15 feet tall, it has an upright trunk covered in cool, cork-like bark, branching only near the top of the plant. The leaves are deeply divided and look like giant, blue-green snowflakes. With good light and good drainage, it grows at a moderate rate, and even does well in a container.

I like to think of it as a good design substitute for some of the trunked cordylines. Apparently it produces woody inflorescences of small flowers, but I haven't had the pleasure of seeing a mature



Photos © 2013 Ted Kipping

Cussonia paniculata

tree in bloom. As a special bonus, it really looks like something out of a cartoon, with its lollipop shape.

The genus name *Cussonia* is in honor of French botanist Pierre Cusson, while the species name is from the Latin '*panicula*' meaning a tuft or panicle. This refers to the flowering inflorescence. Although this tree is not commonly available, it is well worth the search.

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room. (415) 753-7090

Tuesday, August 27, 2013; 7 PM

EXPLORING LAOS

with John Leupold

Tuesday, September 24, 2013; 7 PM

BOTANISING IN SOUTHERN CHINA

with Don Selcer

Tuesday, October 22, 2013; 7 PM

WILD RIVERS OF ALASKA

with John Kipping

Tuesday, November 26, 2013; 7 PM

EXPLORING PANAMA

with Allan Risley and Helen McKenna

*Bring a dish and beverage for eight to share,
as well as your own plates and silverware.



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 various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. For July, Strybing Arboretum donated a wonderful selection of plants. Also our July speaker, Dylan Hannon, brought a fascinating selection from his personal collection. Thank you all who donated. Every month we ask our members to donate plants. Remember, there are always new plants to find at the drawing.

Plant Display and Discussion

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants conducted by the venerable Ernest Wertheim, and brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery—or a plant that has attributes unknown to the main stream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group.

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, 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

2013-2015 (First Term) Mark Delepine,
 Ellen Edelson, Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib
 2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor

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BULLETIN EDITOR
editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR
calendar@calhortsociety.org