

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, August 17, 2015; 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.

6:30 PM – Annual Cal Hort Dinner
San Francisco County Fair Building,
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way

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

Agastache rupestris



MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015

Introducing Native Sod

by Jodie Sheffield



Come hear Jodie Sheffield, seed specialist at Delta Blue Grass, who has developed a sod using native California grasses. You will find out the myriad ways this new product can be used in California gardens using little to no water—depending on the aesthetic appearance you wish to achieve. This

product inspires a paradigm shift in thinking about turf, and may be the future of lawns in California.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

A Succulent for Every Garden

by Brian Kemble,

Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden

There are many exotic, hard-to-find and hard-to-grow succulent plants, but this talk will focus on succulents which do well in the Bay Area and can be used by any gardener to create an attractive drought-tolerant garden.

Late Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

HOME IRRIGATION WORKSHOPS

Saturday, August 8 and Saturday, September 12; 10 AM–NOON

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista, Concord

A recent participant commented, "Now I finally understand what my landscaper is talking about!" If you want a simple solution to saving water in your landscape, this one-day workshop is for you. Learn by hands-on tasks how to convert an existing sprinkler system to drip. All the basic parts of the system will be demonstrated, and there will be time for questions throughout the workshop. The instructor, Seth Wright, is a landscape contractor with 20 years experience in the landscape industry, now specializing in irrigation efficiency. This workshop was made possible with the generous support of the Contra Costa Water District and the City of Concord. \$30; Class limited to 15. Classes meet in the nursery area at the Garden Center.

PREPARING THE GARDEN FOR WINTER

Friday, August 14; 10 AM–NOON

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista, Concord

Learn seed propagation of annual flowers for fall and winter. Classes meet in the nursery area at the Garden Center. \$10 / Free for Members

SUCCULENT SURPRISES

Saturday, August 15; 10 AM

Ruth Risdon Storer Garden, Garrod Drive, Davis

Is your garden sizzling? Succulents can take the heat, even in mid-summer! See examples of succulents of all sizes in the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden and learn how to grow them in your home garden. The event is free; parking is available at no charge along Garrod Drive near Storer Garden or in nearby Visitor Parking Lot 55.

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room

Wednesday, August 19; 7 PM

EXPLORING PERU

with Peter Wan

Wednesday, September 16; 7 PM

EXPLORING GUYANA

with Alan Ridley and Helen McKenna

Wednesday, October 21; 7 PM

WILDFLOWERS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

with Joan Hockaday

Wednesday, November 18; 7 PM

EVOLUTION OF OUR GARDEN

with Ted Kipping

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

BOTANICAL ART WORKSHOP

Thursday, August 20; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Come learn how to capture these distinctive and beloved flowers with Botanical Artist Catherine Watters in this day long botanical illustration course. \$90/\$85 Members. Registration required. Call 510-664-9841 or email gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

SUCCULENTS IN SEASHELLS

Saturday, August 22; 10:30 AM–12:30 PM or 1:30–3:30 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

In honor of Ruth's passion for seashells as well as succulents, The Ruth Bancroft Garden is pleased to offer a special workshop on combining these beautiful natural materials. Laura Hogan of Arid Accents will demonstrate various techniques for creating and displaying long lasting professional looking mini-gardens in shells. Each participant will receive three large take-home shells, plants, soil mixes, and personalized assistance from the instructor. Handouts will also be provided with suggested sources for shells, recommended plant species, and care instructions. \$50/\$40 Members.



BOTANICAL PRINTS

On exhibit now through August.

The Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture

The Library is open, free of charge, from 10 AM–4 PM,
every day except Tuesdays and major holidays.
1199 Ninth Avenue in Golden Gate Park

Ernest Clayton painted a series of nearly 200 watercolors of the California native plants that he saw on his many walks around Marin County in the period from 1938 to 1952.



Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Agastache rupestris, Threadleaf Hyssop

Family: LAMIACEAE

One of the difficulties with a drought tolerant perennial bed is finding drought tolerant perennials that will bloom beyond spring. Many a bloom-filled May garden is a floral wasteland by the time July and August roll around. Many of us are still living in our gardens at this time of year, and it is nice to enjoy flowers later in the bloom season.

Agastache rupestris is a perennial that blooms from July through September, and provides a nice visual highlight as well as food for hummingbirds and native insects.

Native to higher slopes in Arizona, Texas and Mexico, *Agastache rupestris* is adaptable to both cool and hot summers. It will grow to about two feet tall, and produce spikes of coral flowers which grow from purple calyxes in a most attractive manner. The flower spikes project above the leaves, which are narrow and bluish green.



As with many perennials, deadheading can help prolong the blooming period into autumn. Unlike many perennials, the Threadleaf Hyssop grows well in rapidly draining poor soil, and prefers to be on the dry side. Too much water in the winter can cause it to rot, although it is nowhere as sensitive about this as many of the hybrid *agastaches* on the market.

An added bonus to this plant is the scent of the foliage. It has been described as smelling like licorice or root beer, leading to Licorice Mint and Rootbeer Plant as other common names. Chopped or crushed, the leaves are wonderful as a scented garnish in iced tea or sprinkled on fresh fruit.



Agastache rupestris is attractive to hummingbirds.



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. Last month, Beryl Golden reduced her nursery stock with some fantastic finds. Please do not hesitate to bring any “extra plants” from your collections to share with our members. Remember, there are always new plants to find at the drawing.

Monthly Plant Display and Discussion

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery, or a plant that has attributes that are not known by the mainstream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group. You can also donate this plant afterwards to the plant drawing.

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.

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
 or email to: info@calhortsociety.org.

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.

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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib
 2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve
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