



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122
January 17, 2005

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.
Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9th 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 Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way .
8:00 PM Speaker and Plant Drawing.

***Guest fee \$5.

Monday, January 17, 2005

Co-sponsored with San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

“Broadleaved evergreen trees, shrubs and climbers”

Presented by Sean Hogan, well known horticulturist, author, and co-owner of Cistus Nursery and Design in Portland, Oregon.

Learn about the avalanche of species and forms allowing us to use new textures far outside of accepted boundaries. Evergreen oaks with orange furry leaves, Scheffleras and relatives able to withstand ten degrees F. and maples that look like live oaks.... even Mahonia species from Mexico that make great shade trees. A little more on the practical side, many are superbly drought tolerant and create permanent green and screen where deciduous plants fail half the year. This talk concentrates on the new and most promising plants we can now acquire.



A limited number of the speaker's books will be available for purchase as well as a special selection of new plants from Cistus Nursery.

The Plant Drawing each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In January, the drawing will include donations from **Guerrero Street Gardens**, courtesy of **Christopher Reynolds**; from **Cistus Nursery, Portland, Oregon**, courtesy of **Sean Hogan**; and from the **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney**. Our appreciation to **Sloat Nursery of San Rafael**, courtesy of **Steve Maurico**; to the **Northwest Garden Nursery in Eugene, Oregon**, courtesy of **Marietta O'Byrne** and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** for the outstanding plants donated for the November meeting.

Monday, February 21, 2005

Co-sponsored with

San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

“Seeing Color in a Different Light”

Presented by **Karen Platt**, recently named one of the leading innovators in the gardening industry. Her unique books on color in the garden are sought after the world over. She has single-handedly created the market and increased desire for black plants with her book 'Black Magic and Purple Passion', Books on golden plants, 'Gold Fever' and silver plants 'Silver Linings' have followed. She is also a garden designer, photographer and watercolorist.

Karen will illustrate the use of color in the garden. She will concentrate on the effect of color and how to use it and offer a complete palette of plants for black, gold and silver. She will demonstrate the use of tone on tone and color mixing.

A limited number of the author's books will be available for purchase as well as a special selection of black, gold and silver plants.

President's Letter

by Bruce Peters

Welcome to the New Year! I spoke of New Year's resolutions in my last letter and gave you some tantalizing ideas (like writing an article for our *Bulletin*, for example). If none of those ideas appealed to you, here's another...

VOLUNTEER!

We have two big events coming up, both of which need some heads and hands to help make them successful.

The first is the 'Hot Plant Picks' booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show (no, we didn't choose the name). We consistently have one of the most popular exhibits in the show and it's a great PR vehicle for our Society.

There's a full run-down of what's involved elsewhere in this newsletter. I think it looks pretty fun!

The second event coming up is our Annual Plant Sale. The Plant Sale is a vital money maker for the Society and requires a lot of people to help out in a wide variety of areas (how's that for vague?).

Plant Sale volunteers have been making themselves more and more scarce over the past few years...a disturbing trend which might very well bring about the end of the sale altogether. So, if you've ever thought about volunteering for anything, give the Plant Sale a try. Shoot an email out to plantsale@calhortsociety.org or leave a message at (415) 824-1833. You won't regret it!



Botanical Tours

April 21-25, 2005

A Springtime Medley of Private Gardens in the Santa Barbara Area with Barbara and John Hopper. In support of SF Botanical Garden Society.

August 26-September 9, 2005

South Africa in Springtime, Natural History of Namaqualand & the Western Cape Province— In support of the California Horticultural Society with Annie Hayes, award winning horticulturist & owner of Annie's Annuals

October 11-27, 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.

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

Volunteer Corner

Being a volunteer-run organization, Cal Hort is always in need of people with various skills and talents to help out. Look below to see how you can help our Society to grow!

Newsletter: The *Bulletin* is always happy to accept stories, articles or fun garden-related tidbits. If you would like to start a column, write something or have just run across an interesting item, share it with the rest of us! Contact Bruce at editor@calhortsociety.org or (415) 824-1833.

Propagation group: Call Bruce @ (415) 824-1833 or email to propgroup@calhortsociety.org

Open Gardens: if you'd like to open your garden to other members, either for inclusion on a tour or just as a single garden, email opengardens@calhortsociety.org or call Renee at (415) 388-6850.

Publicity Chair: We're looking for someone to help coordinate our publicity efforts. As it is now, we have various people doing various things and it would be nice to have one person keep track of it all. Not very time-intensive, but very important for the Society! Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

November Plant Forum by Don Mahoney

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos are available on our website at www.calhortsociety.org in the 'Plant Forum' section.

1. **Kalanchoe "Calandiva"**

CRASSULACEAE

Grown by Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood

These trademarked selections, bred from *Kalanchoe blosfeldiana*, expand the available forms of this always useful succulent. These forms have abundant rose-shaped double flowers borne in a symmetrical cluster. They come in a wide range of colors. They need well-drained soil and good light to bloom well and are repeat bloomers. They over-winter outdoors in the Bay Area and reach their peak bloom in late spring. They are being mass-produced in Europe.



Kalanchoe "Calandiva"

2. **Dahlia sp.**

ASTERACEAE

Grown by Kristin Yanker Hansen, Danville

This is a small tree dahlia raised from seed and so probably is a dwarf selection of *Dahlia imperialis*. This lavender-flowered plant is different from others because it blooms earlier in the fall before a danger of frost. And, it only reaches 4 to 6 feet tall. These characteristics make it a much more useful plant than regular tree dahlias which bloom so late that they are subject to windfall or freezing from early storms. As do all dahlias, these like rich soil and plenty of water.

3. **Nemesia 'Sunsatia Peach'**

SCROPULARIACEAE

Grown by Kristin Yanker Hansen, Danville

This lovely introduction from Proven Winners is an ever-blooming small perennial very useful for the front of the border or for a large rock garden. A hybrid from South African parents, this plant needs some summer water to continue to produce its bright peach, open-faced clusters of flowers. It needs good drainage and full sun. These new nemesias are some of the most useful plants recently introduced to horticulture



4. **Salvia lavandulifolia**

LAMIACEAE

Grown by Kristin Yanker Hansen, Danville

Commonly known as Spanish sage, this grey-leaved subshrub is drought and frost tolerant. In summer to fall it sends up stems with small pale purple-lavender flowers, which are much loved by hummingbirds. This is a useful small (1-1/2' x 1-1/2') evergreen for difficult, rocky, sunny areas. Well-drained soil is a must.

5. **Oxalis vulcanicola**

OXALIDACEAE

Grown by Kathy Echols, Walnut Creek

This South American native has been in horticulture in various forms over the years. This form typically has yellow flowers. What is different here is the very dark burgundy-red foliage. It is very easy to grow, is both drought tolerant and frost hardy and does not reseed. It propagates readily from cuttings but does not usually root on its own as it spreads as a ground cover for sun or shade. It makes a wonderful container or hanging basket plant.



Rhododendrons acrophilum and *leucogigas*. For more info, see article on Page 6

Horticultural Calendar

Every Sunday

Garden Market—Neat plants for sale and free garden talks 10 AM – 2 PM at the Ferry Building SF. www.cuesa.org

Second Saturdays

Mission Blue Butterfly Team—Help this group restore precious butterfly habitat in the Marin Headlands. Tools and refreshments provided. 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM. For more info call (415) 561-4451.

January 8 & 9

Orchid Show & Sale—An 'Orchid Luau' hosted by the Peninsula Orchid Society. 10 AM – 5 PM at the Fair Oaks Comm. Center, 2600 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City. Admission is \$3 - \$5. www.penorchidsoc.org.

January 15

Annual Scion Exchange—Share grafting wood and cuttings from an assortment of uncommon fruits, includes demos and a plant raffle too. Golden Gate Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers. Noon – 3 PM. Multi-use room, 1700 Park Blvd. Pleasant Hill. \$2 donation (510) 843-1657 or www.cfrg.org.

January 16

Annual Scion Exchange—Same as above but Sacramento Chapter hosts from 10 AM – 1 PM at 4145 Kiefer Blvd. (530) 666-7182 or Monterey Chapter, 1 – 4 PM at the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum meeting room, (831) 728-6515.

January 22

Annual Scion Exchange—Same as above but Redwood Empire Chapter hosts from 10 AM – 2 PM at the Vets Memorial Hall, 282, High Street, Sebastopol. (707) 537-8723.

January 19

Monthly Slideshow and Potluck—Joe Lamb and Jessica Lawrence present "The Borneo Project." Please bring a dish to serve eight people. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

February 17

Container Gardening and Floriculture—Using plants and cut flowers for displays with and without pesticides. 7 – 9 PM at the CCSF Horticulture Dept., Free or \$20 for CEU hours. (415) 558-8036 or www.sfpga.org.

Filoli Center

(650) 364-8300 • www.filoli.org

January 15 & February 5

Mushroom Walks—Join Bill and Louise Freedman on a discovery walk through the back woods of Filoli. 10 AM – noon, members \$10, non-members \$15

January 22

Pruning Workshops—Take your pick: Wisteria, Roses or Espalier. Hands-on learning with Filoli staff. 9:30 AM – noon, members \$30, non members \$35.

Elizabeth Gamble Garden

(650) 329-1356 • www.gamblegarden.org

January 23

Classic Italian Gardens—Betsy Fryberger will inspire us with a slide lecture of 17th and 18th century Veneto region gardens. 2 – 3:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

January 28

Amazing Dwarf Conifers—An in depth look at these great multi-purpose plants. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

February 26

Winter Blooming Shrubs—Learn pruning tips and techniques from Michael Young. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

January 15

Roses—Winter pruning and care with Deb McKay. 9:30 – 11:30 AM, members \$15, non-members \$20

January 27 – February 10

Garden Design Series—Bobbi Feyerabend & Stephanie Alladin will teach you basic, yet serious, home garden design. 7 – 9:30 PM and one fieldtrip. Members \$55, non-members \$65.

February 4 – 25

Creative Floral Design—Techniques and hands-on learning using fresh flowers, with Najat Nicola. 9:30 – 11:30 AM, members \$55, non-members \$65

SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

January 19

Growing Orchids in the San Francisco Climate—Learn to grow orchids outdoors and more. 6:30 – 9:30 PM., members \$25, non-members \$35.

January 22

The Gardens of Roberto B. Marx—A slide tour of Burl Marx's inspirational garden designs. 9 AM – 3 PM, members \$35, non-members \$45.

January 28 & 29

Design Symposium—Two great days of plants and designing for any level of gardener. Friday is \$95, or non-members \$105, while Saturday is \$119, or non-members \$129.

February 5

Lunar new Year Flower Market and Plant Sale—The sixth annual sale with activities and demonstrations. 10 AM – 2 PM.

Mediterranean fan palm
Chamaerops humilis

Inspired by the Cal Hort meeting in September, I decided to write about a plant that lets us bring a bit of the tropics into our gardens in almost every zone of the state. The Mediterranean fan palm is as tropical looking a plant as any self-respecting palm. However, this beauty has a secret—it is very cold hardy! How cold hardy? How about down to 10°F once established? In fact, it grows happily as far north as Switzerland, which is not exactly a place that screams tropicalismo. This amazing plant is not just cold hardy, it is also drought hardy and wind resistant, so it is a great small tree for the west coast.

The Mediterranean fan palm is native to the hot, dry hills of the Mediterranean Sea region, from the Atlas Mountains of north Africa to Spain and France and east to Turkey. Like many other Mediterranean plants, this is an easy tree to grow in California. However, with good drainage, it can thrive in moister places, like the Pacific Northwest. It also does well in a pot, so can be grown in colder areas (Sierra Nevada, etc.) where it can be moved into shelter in the winter.

Reaching up to 15 feet in height, this small tree grows in several forms. It can grow as a traditional single trunked tree, or it can send out multiple basal suckers and grow as a large clump. The foliage color is also variable (but not variegated!), ranging from blue-green to gray-green to yellow-green. Some of the most treasured plants are the very blue leaved forms, which provide a wonderful contrast in the garden. No matter how much you treasure it, don't hug this plant, because it has lots of spines on the leaf petioles.



With sufficient water, the Mediterranean fan palm can grow relatively quickly, but in general consider it a slow to moderate grower. The next time you're wondering how to add tropical punch to your garden, consider the Mediterranean fan palm.

Calendar continued from previous page

U.C. Botanical Garden At Berkeley
(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

January 8

Sick Plant Clinic—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM – noon, free.

January 13

Managing Garden Pests and Diseases—Dr. Raabe discusses winter and spring pest fighting strategies. 7- 9 PM, members \$10, non-members \$12.

February 12

Gondwanaland in the Garden—Join Peter Klement and Jerry Parsons on an evolutionary tour of the garden. 1 – 2 PM, members \$8, non-members \$12.

U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum

(831) 427-2998 • www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum

January 9

The Geranium Family—Join Robin Parer for an in depth look at Geraniums. 1:30 PM, members \$10, non-members \$15.

January 27

Native Plant ID Workshop—Learn how to use the Jepson Manual and a hand lens for keying out natives. 1:30 PM. Free

January 27

Botanical Prospecting in Madagascar—Dr. Harder lectures on his trips to this tropical island. Potluck at 6 pm, lecture at 7 PM. Free

February 6

California Monkeyflowers—Steve Shoenig will give and illustrated talk on the genus *Mimulus* in California. 1:30 PM, members \$10, non-members \$15.

*Send submissions to 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.*



Vireyas at Lakeside

In the April 2004 *Bulletin*, Richard Starkeson gave a quite flattering review of our *Vireya* (*Rhododendron*) Garden in Lakeside Park in Oakland.

The garden is now approaching its 7th birthday and over the past 6 months we have been doing a lot of fine tuning. We continue to be amazed at how well *Vireyas* do when released from pot confinement!

As Richard pointed out, we do have a bit of an “industrial” look. But the protected lath enclosure and defined raised beds make maintenance easily manageable. Much easier than hacking out an existence in Bed 79 at Strybing! Been there ... done that.

The planting objective has been to sample the diversity of the Section to the extent that material is available. Over the years a lot of seed raising and selection has gone on. And a lot of generous donations. We try to balance hybrids and species. Care must be taken as anything planted out as a small plant may just disappear. So far theft and vandalism has not been a problem. It would be tough to lug away our big 4 x 4 (Peter Sullivan) “Cephas”

I’m not sure where else you can see a nice blooming sized *R orbiculatum* or *R acrophilum* scrambling over rocks or the high altitude heather-like *R ericoides*. In October the elegantly foliaged *R alborugosum* bloomed as a small plant. All just a bit of name-dropping true, but there it is! *R rhodoleucum* had 50 (count’em 50) trusses this fall: finally after growing to 6 feet! Two plants from Alan Clark’s Vietnam collection of *R rushforthii* seem happy.



The lath is open most of the time ... from around 9 to 3:30 ... we try to work on the garden on Tuesdays and/or Wednesdays. Love to show it off and talk. Best check by dropping E-Mail to Lakesidevireyas@pacbell.net.

If you live in the East Bay and want to get closer to the garden or just talk Vireyas please drop by or E-Mail us. We stick pretty close to home.

We have begun our propagation program, but it will take a few years to meet the objective of having small plants of everything growing in the garden available to interested visitors. Of course for a modest donation.

Frost? It wouldn’t dare! Fool’s paradise maybe.

Bill Moyles has been an active member of the American Rhododendron Society for 25 years, and manager of the ARS Vireya Seed Exchange for the past eight years. Bill is retired from UC Berkeley. You can send questions to him about sources, problems, seeds, and so on, with respect to rhododendrons, and especially vireyas at wmoyles@pacbell.net.

NEW PLANTS, NEW PLANTS, NEW PLANTS, NEW PLANTS!!!

Whooh-hoo, the joy and excitement in gardeners eyes when they see NEW PLANTS. “Where can I put that? That would look great with my....” The San Francisco Flower and Garden Show is approaching fast and Cal Hort has again agreed to do the Hot Picks – New Plants for 2005.

Martha Kincaid and Ellen Frank are heading up the New Plant Introduction booth again this year. Last year was our first year and we learned a few things...We would like your feedback and suggestions and HELP. We would like to meet at 6:30 before the January Cal Hort meeting to get feedback from last year’s booth and some suggestions for this year’s booth.... This is a great service for show visitors and it is great exposure for Cal Hort, so we want to do it right.

Cal Hort members make this happen. It is great fun to see the show and take part.

Here is a sampling of the tasks that are involved:

We need a person or a couple of friends to go around at the NOR CAL Trade show. This year it is on Thursday, January 27th (<http://www.norcaltradeshow.org/>). This trade show has all the wholesale growers and is great fun to talk with each and see what is new and exciting...just

what we need!! This is a great opportunity to reach a great number of growers all in one spot.

If you work in a nursery...wholesale or retail, or visit a nursery and see something cool and exciting...find out who grows it and either let us know, or go the extra mile and track down the grower and see if it would be possible to have a sample for the show. We are looking for unusual, new or old plants that were out of the trade, but are now being reintroduced. Please be on the look out. If you have contacts, this is the best way to secure plants through people that you know personally.

We will need people to follow up with phone calls to secure the plants and arrange delivery or pick up and make it happen.

People to pick up plants at growers/nursery sites and bring them to the Cow Palace or to bring them to their homes and someone else can pick them up and bring them to the Cow Palace.

Let me know if you would like to help out in this exciting and fun event. We will be sending out a sheet for working at the show at the February or March meeting. If you are able to secure plants, call, pick up, go to the trade show, set up or clean up, please get in touch with Ellen Frank at 925-372-5559 or email her at efrankooo@aol.com.

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

Beijing Book Co.	Marietta O'Byrne
Caven Forristt	Beryt Oliver
Patricia Gray	Sue Powell
Jean Hansen	Linda Hansen Solinsky
Sonia Hildebrand	Michael Tyler &
Dan Johnson	Amy Schustack
Glenda Jones	

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.



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Second Term
Diana Ross

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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 or call (800) 884-0009.



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