



Bulletin
of the
California Horticultural Society

January
2007

MEETINGS

January 15, 2006

4:00 PM

Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave; San Francisco.

7:15 PM Meeting will be held at the SF Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

Announcements, Plant Forum, Program.

\$5 Donation requested from non-members.

CEANOTHUS: GARDENING WITH A CALIFORNIA CLASSIC

Monday, January 15, 2007 Presented by David Fross

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

David Fross, founder and President of Native Sons Wholesale Nursery, Arroyo Grande California. He is co-author of two recently released books: *California Native Plants for the Garden* and *Ceanothus* (with Dieter Wilken). He will take us from California to Europe and back again, viewing gardens displaying the many ways our California Lilacs can add to our own native landscapes. Drawing on his decades in native horticulture, Dave will show us his favorite varieties and cultivars ranging from mat-like groundcovers, gorgeous shrubs, to lovely small trees, all with a broad garden and landscape potential that will make you appreciate these beauties to an even greater degree. He will also show how many of our natives work well in combination with Ceanothus. Prior to and after his presentation David will sign his new book *Ceanothus*, a complete horticultural and botanical treatment of the genus aimed at both gardeners and botanists.

The Plant Drawing each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In November, the drawing will include donations from the **Sloat Garden Center** in Kentfield, courtesy of **Laura Muschiatti** and from **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney**. Our appreciation to **Grand Lake Ace Hardware**, courtesy of **Steve Mauricio** and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** who contributed the outstanding selection of plants for the October meeting.

MOSTLY MARIPOSAS

Monday, February 19, 2007 Presented by Ron Parsons

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

Ron has been photographing wildflowers for 20 years. He will be discussing some of the amazing wildflowers he saw in 2006 with his usual focus on Calochortus, the genus that includes some of California's most beautiful natives. He traveled through northern California and southern Oregon on many trips with his co-author, Mary E. Gerritsen, to see as many species of Mariposa Lilies, Globe Lanterns, Cat's Ears and Star Tulips as possible. They also traveled to Jalisco, Mexico in August of last year to see some of the species of Calochortus there. Ron also traveled to Minnesota, Manitoba, Florida, Georgia and New York in 2006, to see and photograph wildflowers, and will show some highlights of those trips. Mary and Ron are the authors of the current Timber Press title, "Masdevallias – Gems of the Orchid world" and have a second book in press, "Calochortus – Mariposa Lilies and their Relatives" which will be released in June of 2007.

1. *Dendrobium bracteosum*

ORCHIDACEAE

Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood

This small, warm growing epiphyte with tufted, 9-noded, yellowish stems covered in papery sheaths carry up to 6 rich green leaves. It blooms in spring through fall on 1-1/2" long pendulous, dense racemes that have dense clusters of "bottle Brush" type, ball-like clusters of flowers, with 3 to 8, lightly scented, waxy flowers. Flowers may vary from white, pink or purple. They are found in Papua New Guinea at elevations of 0-2400 feet, and are epiphytes of forest trees and mangroves in rainforests along rivers and coastlines. It is horticulturally the most significant orchid genus of New Guinea. It prefers a warm greenhouse in bright light.

2. *Montanoa leucantha ssp. arborescens*

ASTERACEAE

Don Mahoney, Richmond

Southern Mexico and central America are home to many large shrubs or small trees in the aster family. The genus *Montanoa* includes some of the largest. This variety can become a multi-stemmed thicket to 30 feet tall. Its juvenile leaves can be quite large, to 8" across, although mature foliage is only 2-3" wide. The flowers are 1-1/2" wide, white daisies with yellow centers that are produced in such abundance in late fall and early winter that they turn the whole tree white. The seed pods are also attractive. They need some summer water and are hardy only to the high 20's, but will resprout if frozen by temperatures in the high teens. Bees and butterflies are always around the flowers.

3. *Montanoa grandiflora*

ASTERACEAE

Don Mahoney, Richmond

This is another large shrub from southern Mexico. It only reaches 10 to 12 feet high and is not as dense as the other species. Its flowers are in dense clusters and it blooms around Thanksgiving. The seeds pods are large and bright lime green for several months. The lobed leaves have winged petioles. It is another great butterfly plant. Hardy to 25 degrees, it requires moderate summer water.

4. *Dahlia imperialis*

ASTERACEAE

Don Mahoney, Richmond

From southern Mexico through central America comes this giant dahlia species. The tree dahlias are usually 10-15' tall with 4-8" flowers. The one shown had 9" flowers. Many seedling forms are available, from white to deep pink, and in both single and double pom-pom forms. They are evergreen but will stump sprout if cut to the ground by frost or a zealous gardener. They bloom from Halloween until Christmas, depending on the clone. The late-blooming ones often are cut short by frost or are toppled by early wind storms. They are best planted in protected spots. Both hummingbirds and bees visit them.



November 15

Exploring Northern Ecuador with Richard Wigen— The Kippings potluck/slideshows. Please bring a dish for 8 people to share. At the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, (415) 753-7090.

November 24–December 2

Holiday Traditions—The Filoli Estate's annual holiday fete'. Tickets on sale in early October. (650) 364-8300 or www.filoli.org.

December 2 & 3

Fungus Fair—The Mycological Society hosts its 38th annual fair at the Oakland Museum. (415) 759-0495 or www.mssf.org

February 2007

Master Composter Training Program—Stopwaste.org is currently accepting applications for this 4-month training and environmental education program. (510) 444-SOIL or www.BayFriendly.org (look in the "What's New" section.)

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

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

November 11

Plant Sale—End of the season sale, 10 AM–1 PM at the Nursery.

December 8

How to make and use biodiesel—An in-depth hands-on class with Jennifer Radtke. 9 AM–5 PM, fee TBA.

December 10

Wreath Making Workshop—Make a holiday wreath using cuttings from the Botanical Garden. Fee is \$20–\$40 depending on the size of wreath, time TBA.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

November 12

Orchid Identification and Care—Learn the basics with Jerry Parsons. Includes a tour of the Garden's orchid collection. 9 AM–noon, members \$40, non-members \$50.

November 18

A cultural taste of chocolate—Join John Scharffenbeger as he discusses the cultural and agricultural origins of chocolate. Learn about and taste the principle components of chocolate that give it its flavor. Book signing to follow. 3 PM–5 PM, members \$35, non-members \$40.

THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

November 17

Holiday Floral Demo—Get ideas with Najat Nicola. 9:30–11:30 AM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

U.C. SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM

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

November 5

Vertical Gardening—Slide lecture on vines, trailers, espaliers and roses by Bill Grant. 1:30 PM, members \$10, non-members \$15.

November 11 & 12

Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale—Held in the Hort Bldg. 10 AM – 4 PM and 10 AM – 2 PM.

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

(530) 752-4880 • <http://arboretum.ucdavis>

November 4

Arboretum bicycle tour—Come join for leisurely ride and an overview of the arboretum's different plant collections and gardens. Bring your bike and meet at the Buehler Alumni & Visitors Center. 11 AM, free.

November 5

Family Wildlife Day—Learn about and meet local birds, mammals, fish, and insects at the UC Davis Arboretum. Explore techniques used by UC Davis wildlife researchers. Event at Putah Creek Lodge. 2 PM – 4 PM, non-members, \$5 or \$15 per family.

November 8

Walk with Warren—Lunchtime tour of the arboretum with Arboretum Superintendent Warren Roberts. Meet at the Gazebo on Garrod Dr. on UC Davis campus. 12:00 Noon.

November 12

Central Valley gardens—Learn about great plants with a lot of color that thrive with little maintenance. Meet at the Gazebo on Garrod Dr. on UC Davis campus. 2:00 PM, free.

November 18

White Flower Garden tour—Garden features plants with white flowers and white, grey, or silvery foliage. Tour and learn about plants for the autumn garden. 11:00 AM, free.

Dues for 2007 are now due and payable. If you do not have a 2007 membership card, your prompt remittance would be appreciated. We don't want you to miss your monthly *Bulletin* or *Pacific Horticulture*.

Please use the form and reply envelope from your November 2006 *Bulletin* for your remittance. Forms can also be printed out from our website. **For First Class Mailing of your *Bulletin*, please add \$4.00.** Make checks payable to The California Horticultural Society and mail to:

Elsie Mueller
1847 34th Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94122-4109



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Elsie Mueller
1847 34th Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94122-4109
(415) 566-5222
(800) 884-0009

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Bulletin

Editor
Bruce Peters
25 Chattanooga Street
San Francisco, CA
94114-3024
(415) 203-4407
editor@calhortsociety.org

Production Editor
Max Withers

Hort Calendar Editor
Kathy Dahlin
calendar@calhortsociety.org

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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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