

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, January 19, 2015, 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
Comarostaphylis diversifolia



Photo © 2014 Ted Kipping

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2015

So Much Beauty with So Little Water
with Wendy Proud

Join Wendy Proud of Mountain States Nursery as she shares a unique mix of plants native to the southwest that adapt and perform while using far less resource and time to maintain. Desert adapted plants can offer the perfect solution to difficult landscape situations, while at the same time bringing amazing beauty and wildlife to the garden. For more, visit the web site of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery at www.mswn.com.



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2015

The High Line: Protecting History and Inspiring Change in Our Green Spaces
with Thomas Smarr

The High Line is a unique urban park that opened in 2009 along the western side of Manhattan Island, but its existence was almost not realized. Today, the High Line symbolizes the great benefits of transforming former industrial spaces into inspiring gardens for public enjoyment and encouraging economic benefits. Tom Smarr will briefly cover the story of how the elevated train structure—around which the garden was built— was saved and discuss the design, horticulture, and care of “the park in the sky”.

Early Winter HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

FOLLOWING IN THE BARTRAMS' FOOTSTEPS: CONTEMPORARY BOTANICAL ARTISTS EXPLORE THE BARTRAMS' LEGACY

Through February 15, 2015

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

This major art exhibition includes forty-four original artworks based on the native plant discoveries made by John and William Bartram in their renowned and influential travels throughout the eastern wilderness of North America between the 1730s and 1790s. The UC Botanical Garden will be the only West Coast showing of the exhibition.

PLANT FAMILY CRASSULACEAE

Saturday, January 10; 10 AM–Noon

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

From common hens and chicks to frilly-leaf hybrids, the genus *Echeveria* is one of the most popular of the family Crassulaceae. Additionally, the Crassula Family is home to many leafy and easy-to-propagate plants. Discover the diversity and fun of this plant family and learn to identify the characteristics that distinguish one from another. The lecture is open to the public but is also a part of the Docent Training course at the garden. Join RBG staff for this in-depth plant identification class in the garden. Admission \$20, members \$15. Space is very limited, pre-registration is highly recommended. Members, please call office to register at member price.

WEDNESDAY WALKS WITH WARREN

Wednesday, January 14; Noon

Arboretum Gazebo, Arboretum Teaching Nursery, UC Davis Arboretum
Join our Superintendent Emeritus Warren Roberts—famous storyteller and punster—for an always engaging noontime exploration of the UC Davis Arboretum's west-end gardens.

MUSHROOMS IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, January 17; 10 AM–Noon

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Join local naturalist and mycologist Debbie Viess, Co-Founder of the Bay Area Mycological Society, for a talk on local mushrooms that occur in our Bay Area woods, lawns and yes, even gardens. Beautiful photos, stories and plenty of easy to digest science will be value added. After this indoor preview of the world of fungi, we will walk the beautiful UC Botanical Garden and see just what has made itself at home. Fungi are everywhere we want to be! Admission \$25, members \$20; register by calling 510-642-7082 or by e-mail to gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.



PLANT FAMILY NOLINACEAE AND OTHER GARDEN FAVORITES

Saturday, January 24; 10 AM–Noon

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

In addition to plants in the family Nolinaceae, such as the Ponytail Palm, this lecture will cover plants that fall out of the normal range of plant families in the garden, including Australian Grass Trees, Purple Wandering Jew and Ocotillo. Join us to learn about these unique and interesting “miscellaneous” plants in the garden. The lecture is open to the public but is also a part of the Docent Training course at the garden. Join RBG staff for this in-depth plant identification class in the garden. Admission \$20, members \$15. Space is very limited, pre-registration is highly recommended. Members, please call office to register at member price.

THE BIRDS AND THE TREES: STORIES IN NATURAL HISTORY

Saturday, January 31; 3 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Terrace Garden

(next to Whole Foods Market)

Rain/cold/wind location: Whole Foods Market Annex

Join us for an hour of captivating storytelling by naturalist Steve Daubert, who will read original stories that explore the lives of birds and the natural histories of redwood trees. Light refreshments will be served. Appropriate for adults and older children. Co-sponsored by Whole Foods Market. The event is free; free 3-hour parking is available in the Davis Commons Shopping Center parking lot behind Whole Foods at First and D Streets.

“Visions of Loveliness: Great Flower Breeders of the Past” —A New Book by Cal Hort Member Judith M. Taylor —

Behind each cultivar there is both a story and a breeder. Unfortunately, all too often, these stories remain untold, and remarkable efforts and achievements are forgotten. In this new book Judith Taylor, a Cal Hort member and former Council member, brings alive the stories of breeders who have made a contribution to the cultivated plants we have today. “Visions of Loveliness” is a fascinating compilation of the history of breeding and selection of some of America’s most beloved garden plants, celebrating the work of key gardeners and plant breeders in many parts of the world. This work fills an important gap in our understanding of early ornamental plant breeding and selection.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Comarostaphylis diversifolia

Summer Holly

Family: ERICACEAE

The winter rains always make me want to get out and start planting. After all, for West Coast gardeners, this is the season to get plants in the ground. It still saddens me to see the mad rush at nurseries in May and June, when anything newly planted is going to need months of fussing and watering in order to get its roots established. If planted in the fall or winter, most plants can establish themselves with much less work and watering, especially our native plants.

The summer holly is native to southern California, but grows rather well in coastal California gardens everywhere. Like most of our native plants, it prefers good drainage and little summer water once established. Unlike some of our other native shrubs, it can tolerate clay and rocky soils, and light shade. It thrives in areas with summer fog, and tolerates temperatures down to minus 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Heavier frosts can

cause dieback, but summer holly usually resprouts from the base.

Comarostaphylis is a slow growing shrub that can be pruned to form a small tree. It has beautiful small, white, bell-like flowers, similar to those of *Arctostaphylos*; indeed, it was originally in the genus *Arctostaphylos* but was reclassified in the 1880s. The flowers are followed by rough textured, bright red fruit, resembling tiny *Arbutus* berries, that birds relish. Of interest to the taxonomists among us, the mainland subspecies, *C. d. ssp planifolia*, has flat leaves, while the subspecies native to the Channel Islands has rolled leaves and is *C. d. ssp diversifolia*. There are about two dozen species in the genus, most of them hailing from Mexico and Central America.

However, only *Comarostaphylis diversifolia* is familiar in horticulture, and even this species is described as 'underused' in American gardens. As with many of our underappreciated native plants, *Comarostaphylis diversifolia* has been grown in England since the 1890s.

For anyone interested in native plants, low maintenance gardening, or attracting birds to the garden, the summer holly is a great plant. Now is a great time to plant it!



Comarostaphylis diversifolia

2015 Seed Request Form

Please take the time to answer the questions below, adding any comments of your own.

Could you donate seeds to the exchange next year? [] yes [] no If yes, please indicate how you want to be reminded (e.g. in August, by telephone, at (123)456-7890):

_____ (We can't remind you without this indication, and next time reminders should actually be timely rather than belated!)

Would you be willing to help with running our seed exchange? [] yes [] no

Please indicate particular seeds or categories of seed that you would like to have available from our list in the next year or two:

Write the number (not the name) of the seeds you want in the boxes below.. It will be helpful to the committee – and assure that your request can be fulfilled accurately – if you write the numbers clearly and in numerical order. Please expect no more than ten selections, but list alternates; as usual, many donations consisted of small quantities of seed, but distribution will be as generous as possible. Seed packets will be identified only by number, so you may want to keep this list. If you are downloading this form, please be sure to write your name and address on it, and remember that seed requests are a benefit of membership in the California Horticultural Society and will not be honored for those who are not members. Complete requests will be fulfilled as quantities allow, prioritized by date of postmark. Requests should be returned by the end of February. A request is complete only when it also includes your payment of \$5 to cover the cost of supplies and postage; make your check payable to the California Horticultural Society. Send this form along with your payment to Dave Tivol, 140 Locksunart Way #1, Sunnyvale CA 94087.

Seeds Requested: List up to ten choices, clearly and in numerical order please:

List up to ten alternates, clearly and in numerical order please:

Thanks to those who donated seed for the exchange this year, without whose participation this program would not be possible, and whose initials in the list below indicate their expressed willingness to be contacted about the plants from which the donated seed came and the conditions under which they grow: Annie's Annuals (AA), Alan Brubaker (AB), Kathy Echols (KE), Bobbi Feyerabend (BF), Steven Hill (SH), Ginny Hunt (GH), Bob Hornback (BH), Ron Lutsko (RL), Daisy Mah (DM), Quarryhill Botanical Garden (QBG), Ruth Bancroft Garden (RBG), Jill Salmon (JS), San Marcos Growers (SMG), Kristin Yanker-Hansen (KYH), and those whose gratefully received donations remain anonymous. Nomenclature and descriptions are those given by these donors.

1. *Abelmoschus manihot* (SH & KYH): hardy tropical mallow from southeast Asia, where leaves used in cooking and are supposed to be quite healthful; summer flowers beautiful yellow with a near black eye, form like hollyhock; will die back in frost but come back from roots, made it through 19°F last year.
2. *Acacia sp* (RL): wild collected, Irby Field, Rumsey CA, 2008
3. *Acer caudatifolium* (QBG): seed sourced 2002
4. *Achillea sibirica var camtschatica* (QBG): seed sourced 1987
5. *Agave franzosinii* (SMG): large Century Plant; wavy white-gray leaves
6. *Alcea hyb* (AB): Hollyhock; black flowers
7. *Allium sibiricum* (AB): Giant Chives
8. *Allium hyb* (AB): clump-forming; lavender flowers
9. *Aloe striatula* (RBG)
10. *Amorpha nitens* (SH)
11. *Anemone rivularis* (QBG)
12. *Anisodonteia hyb* (KYH): seed taken from 'Very Cranberry'; red flower form that has been difficult to grow; tip pruning can keep it going longer; doesn't seem to be available in the trade any more
13. *Arbutus menziesii* (RL): wild collected, Yorkville CA
14. *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* (RL): wild collected, Beartooth Mountains MT
15. *Arisaema erubescens* (QBG): seed sourced 2001
16. *Aristolochia tomentosa* (SH)
17. *Asclepias curassavica* (SH)
18. *Asclepias syriaca* (SH): wild collected in Illinois
19. *Athanasia acerosa* (BF): South African striking shrub to 5'; gray-green leaves to 5" long; umbels of bright yellow flowers in spring and summer; deer-proof; sun; little water once established
20. *Azalea occidentale* (AB): California native; flowers white with pink blush
21. *Belamcanda chinensis* (QBG): seed sourced 2010
22. *Belamcanda chinensis* (SH)
23. *Berkheya purpurea* 'Zulu Warrior' (AA): just cover
24. *Berlandiera lyrata* (DM): to 3'
25. *Boltonia decurrens* (SH)
26. *Bulbine narcissifolia* (AA): just cover <<http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Bulbine>>
27. *Bupleurum fruticosum* (BF): shrub to 6'; gray-green foliage; umbels of chartreuse flowers, great in arrangements; deer-proof; little water
28. *Caesalpinia mexicana* (SMG): shrub, small tree to 15'; yellow flowers
29. *Calamagrostis ophitidis* (RL)
30. *Callicarpa sp* (QBG): seed sourced 1996
31. *Campanula americana* (SH)

32. *Canna glauca* (SH)
33. *Carpenteria californica* (SMG): Bush Anemone, California native
34. *Carya texana* (SH): wild collected in Tennessee
35. *Castilleja exserta* (= *Orthocarpus purpurascens*) (AB): Owls Clover
36. *Catalpa bignonioides* (SH): wild collected in Illinois
37. *Cephalophyllum pillansii* (AA): GA3; surface-sow
38. *Chaenomeles japonica* (QBG): seed sourced 1998
39. *Chilopsis linearis* (RBG)
40. *Chorizanthe staticoides* (GH)
41. *Clematis crispa* (SH)
42. *Clematis lasianthus* (KYH): California native clematis; blooms in partial shade; does seed about
43. *Cornus capitata* (QBG): seed sourced 1990
44. *Cornus officinalis* (QBG): seed sourced 2003
45. *Crassula falcata* (SMG): Airplane Plant, succulent from South Africa
46. *Cynara cardoon* (RL): broadleaf form
47. *Cypela peruviana* (KYH): autumn bloomer, golden yellow flowers continue for several months
48. *Despium* sp (RL): wild collected, Beartooth Mountains MT
49. *Dichroa febrifuga* (QBG): seed sourced 1996
50. *Dierama pulcherrima* (JS): dark purple flowers
51. *Digitalis parviflora* (DM)
52. *Diospyros virginiana* (SH): wild collected in Illinois
53. *Dolichos lablab* (SH)
54. *Echeveria cante* (SMG): rosette-forming succulent; blue-green leaves with white waxy coating
55. *Echeveria racemosa* var *citrina* (SMG): rosette-forming succulent; lemon yellow flowers
56. *Echinops ritro* or *bannaticus* (KYH): thistle; wonderful blue flower in summer, then casually reseeds about; seems to need little to no water once established; sun, but can handle quite a bit of shade
57. *Echinops sphaerocephalus* (KYH) very pokey thistle; white flower in summer; needs no summer water; full sun to partial shade; deer won't eat
58. *Echium gentianoides* (RL)
59. *Elsholtzia ciliata* (SH)
60. *Eragrostis elliottii* (RL)
61. *Eriogonum nudum* (DM)
62. *Euphorbia berthelotii* (AA): GA3, just cover
63. *Euphorbia rigida* (RL)
64. *Eurya japonica* (QBG): seed sourced 1989
65. *Farfugium japonicum* (QBG): seed sourced 1992
66. *Festuca* 'Doe Bay Blue' (RL)
67. *Firmiana simplex* (QBG): seed sourced 1989
68. *Gladiolus cunonis* (GH): from South Africa; winter growing; red flowers
69. *Gomphocarpus physocarpus* (SH)
70. *Gossypium hirsutus* 'Red Beauty' (KYH): from the strain of *Gossypium* that produces cotton but deep red leaves; white cotton bolls; grown in pot with saucer in order to give it sufficient water
71. *Gossypium thurberi* (SH & KYH): desert shrub from Arizona; blooms in August-September; needs no summer water, great plant for dry garden; full sun or partial shade; wasn't eaten by deer in Orinda, probably because the javelinas in Arizona don't eat it either.
72. *Halesia carolina* (AB): Silver-Bell

73. *Hemerocallis* *hyb* (AB): dwarf Day Lily; yellow flowers
74. *Heracleum lanatum* (RL): wild collected, Malagra Ridge, Pacifica CA, 2012
75. *Heracleum lanatum* (AB): Cow Parsnip; California native
76. *Hesperaloe parviflora* (RL)
77. *Hesperaloe parviflora* F9 (RL)
78. *Hibiscus coccineus alba* (KYH): white form of the Texas Star hibiscus, so named because unlike the other perennial types the flower petals are quite separate
79. *Hibiscus grandiflora* (KYH): hardy Hibiscus from the South of the US; marvelous fuzzy leaves all summer and blooms in October, needs heat to set buds; full sun; regular garden water, can live in standing water
80. *Hibiscus poeppigii* (KYH): rare and endangered plant in the Caribbean; well worth growing for the unusual bell-like flowers; pot plant for me although I am trying it in the ground; really likes heat
81. *Ilex fargesii ssp fargesii var fargesii* (QBG): seed sourced 1996
82. *Incarvillea arguta* (QBG): seed sourced 2009
83. *Iris ensata* (QBG)
84. *Iris missouriensis* (RL): wild collected, Owens Lake CA
85. *Isatis tinctoria* (SH)
86. *Kitaibela vitifolia* (SH)
87. *Kniphofia northiae* (SMG): Giant Poker; forms trunk
88. *Kniphofia* *hyb* (JS): flowers brown or black
89. *Koeleria macrantha* (RL): wild collected, Lava Beds OR
90. *Lactuca hirsuta* (SH)
91. *Layia gaillardiioides* (GH): California annual; aromatic leaves; bright yellow flowers in Spring
92. *Leycesteria Formosa* (QBG): seed sourced 1990
93. *Lilium tigrinum* (AB): Tiger Lily; flowers orange with spots
94. *Lomatium californicum* (RL): wild collected, Cache Canyon CA
95. *Lomatium sp* (RL): wild collected, Mt St Helens WA
96. *Lupinus bicolor* (GH): very bright blue small flowers that sparkle in Spring
97. *Magnolia denudate* (QBG): seed sourced 1994
98. *Magnolia kobus* (QBG): seed sourced 1989
99. *Malvastrum americanum* (SH)
100. *Malvastrum guatemalense* (SH)
101. *Malvastrum interruptum* (SH)
102. *Melanoselinum decipiens* (GH)
103. *Mimulus cardinalis* (RL)
104. *Mirabilis longiflora* (GH)
105. *Muhlenbergia dubia* (RL): seed souced 2009
106. *Muhlenbergia emersleyi* (RL): seed sourced 2010
107. *Napaea dioica* (SH)
108. *Nelumbo nucifera* (SH)
109. *Nicotiana rustica* (BH): Wild or Sacred Tobacco; easy and prolific annual to 18"; clusters of small lime-green flowers in summer; source for nicotine insecticides
110. *Oenothera biennis* (SH): wild collected in Illinois
111. *Oenothera versicolor* 'Endless Orange' (AA): GA3, just cover
112. *Ornithogalum sp* (AB): white flowers
113. *Parodia mammulosa* (RBG): pink flower

114. *Paulownia fortune* (QBG): seed sourced 1992
115. *Paulownia tomentosa* (SH)
116. *Pavonia sidifolia* (SH)
117. *Perilla frutescens* (SH): Korean vegetable variety
118. *Pinus sabiana*: wild collected on Mt. Hamilton, Santa Clara County CA, forty years ago!
119. *Platycodon grandiflorus* (QBG): seed sourced 2001
120. *Primula veris* ssp *macrocalyx* (AA): GA3; surface-sow
121. *Puya alpestris* (RL)
122. *Ratibida pinnata* (SH): wild collected in Illinois
123. *Ribes mandshuricum* (QBG): seed sourced 2003
124. *Rosa chinensis* var *spontanea* (QBG): seed sourced 1988
125. *Rosa rugosa* (QBG): seed sourced 1989
126. *Rudbeckia hirta* 'Denver Daisy' (KE)
127. *Rudbeckia triloba* (KE)
128. *Salvia coccinea* (SH)
129. *Salvia indica* (GH)
130. *Salvia nemarosa* 'Merleau Blue' (AA): just cover
131. *Salvia sclarea* (AA): surface-sow
132. *Scabiosa caucasica* 'Fama' (SMG): perennial pincushion; blue flowers
133. *Sedum spathulifolium* (AA): GA3; just cover
134. *Senna artemisioides* (RBG)
135. *Sida cordifolia* (SH)
136. *Sida hermaphrodita* (SH)
137. *Silphium asteriscus* (SH)
138. *Solanum pyracanthum* (GH)
139. *Sorghum bicolor* (= *S. vulgare* var *technicum*) (SH): broom corn
140. *Sphaeralcea ambigua* (RL): wild collected, Wild Rose Road CA, 2009
141. *Sphaeralcea ambigua* Mohave Form (RL): seed sourced 2010
142. *Sphaeralcea* sp (RL): orange flowers, very floriferous; wild collected, Chamisa Ridge Creek Bed CA, 2010
143. *Stapelia variegata* (DM): Starfish, Carrion Flower
144. *Strophostyles helvola* (SH)
145. *Styrax hemsleyanus* (RL): Hemsley Snowball
146. *Tabebuia chrysotricha* (RBG)
147. *Thalictrum speciosissimum* (RL)
148. *Tithonia diversifolia* (SH)
149. *Viola tricolor* (DM): flowers black or dark blue
150. *Zinnia tenuifolia* 'Red Spider' (DM)
151. mystery irid (AB): low-growing, clump-forming; pink flowers
152. mystery succulent (AB): strap leaves, large clump; from RBG (editor's note: seed capsules look like *Beschorneria*)



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Berkeley Botanical Garden for supplying a nice selection of plants for the November plant drawing. Please bring unusual plants from your gardens for sharing. It is also an opportunity for our members to obtain unusual plants.

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
 (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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson,
 Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

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BULLETIN EDITOR

editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org

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.