

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, January 18, 2016, 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
Streptocarpus



MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016

Orchids at The Huntington
with Dylan Hannon

This lecture will focus on the living collections of orchids at The Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, CA. This plant family is well represented at The Huntington by awarded hybrids and botanical species alike and constitutes one of the most significant orchid collections in the United States. With hundreds of varieties and several thousand individual plants, orchids are the best represented plant family in The Huntington’s tropical collections.



Notably, most of the accessions have been obtained within the last 15 years. Groups of particular interest include *Paphiopedilum*, *Stanhopea*, *Pleurothallis*, *Anguloa*, *Acineta* and *Dresslerella*. Sources, maintenance and utilization of these orchids will be highlighted, with photographs of many unusual species and genera. The role of botanic gardens in conserving such collections, and what “conservation” means in this regard, will also be discussed.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2016

Drought Tolerant is Irrelevant
with Saxon Holt

“Summer-dry gardens are naturally dry for long periods. It’s not drought, it’s normal. All plants are drought tolerant in their native habitat and no plant can live without water.” In this presentation, garden photographer Saxon Holt will show examples of some of his favorite garden plants that are suitable for summer-dry climates and, in addition, will introduce the Summer-Dry Project, an online photo database.

Early Winter HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

Walking in the Woods with Chemistry:

Extended through Thursday, March 31

Ruth Risdon Storer Garden, Mediterranean Collection, Conifer Collection, and Mary Wattis Brown Garden at UC Davis Arboretum

Explore our temporary exhibit to discover how a plant can cure cancer, what plant molecules create the smell in your soap and perfume, and how a plant defends itself chemically. Spread across several collections in the Arboretum, this exhibit reveals some of the research of UC Davis Chemistry Professor Dean Tantillo, Plant Biology Professor Philipp Zerbe, and Chemistry Ph.D. candidate Nhu Nguyen. Co-sponsored by the Tantillo Group, the Chemistry Department, the Zerbe Group and the Department of Plant Biology.

Wednesday Walk with Warren

Wednesday, January 13; Noon

Arboretum Gazebo at UC Davis Arboretum

Join Warren Roberts, the Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum and famous storyteller and punster, for an always engaging noontime exploration of the UC Davis Arboretum's west-end gardens. The event is free. One-hour parking is available along Garrod Drive near the Gazebo, or in the Vet Med Visitor Parking Lot 55, where parking can be paid by meter or by purchase of a \$9 daily pass.

Winter Blooming Plants

Wednesday, January 13; 7:00 PM

The Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek
One of the most common requests landscape gardeners hear from their clients is for year-round color. Join Kristin Yanker-Hansen to learn how our climate allows us to grow plants and flowers for color as well as cutting in winter, spring, summer and fall. Even though we live in an area with winter frost and extreme summer heat, it is possible to fill our gardens and vases with foliage and flowers from the garden year-round. Kristin will show us many varieties of plants and flowers she has personally grown which are suitable for our chilly winter temperatures and rain. \$25, members \$20.

Special Botanical Art Exhibit:

The Alcatraz Florilegium

January 16–29, 2016 every day; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

The Northern California Society of Botanical Artists (NCalSBA), in collaboration with the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy and the Garden Conservancy, created a florilegium, a series of botanical paintings, to document the plants of The Gardens of Alcatraz. The UC Botanical Garden welcomes the NCalSBA to exhibit this special showing of the Alcatraz Florilegium in the Julia Morgan Hall. Registration not required; free with Garden admission.

Rose Pruning

Saturday, January 16; 10:00 AM.

The Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek
Join Marsha Hildebrand as she shares her expertise in rose pruning techniques. Proper pruning will greatly enhance the quality and quantity of blooms in the coming season and overall health of your roses. January is the month to prune your roses for a blooming spring and summer. Bring your pruning shears and garden gloves for instruction and hands-on training in a garden of more than one thousand rose bushes. \$25, members \$20.

The History of Florilegia

Friday, January 22; 10–11:30 AM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

A Florilegium is a collection of botanical works depicting the plants of an area. The word means 'a gathering of flowers,' from Latin *flos* (flower) and *legere* (to gather). The first florilegia began in the sixteenth century when European royalty sent botanists and artists on voyages of exploration to collect and record plants from all parts of the world. This lecture, given by Catherine Watters, will include The Banks Florilegium, Hortus Florida and The Temple of Flora among other noted historical florilegia. Registration required: \$15, members \$10; program fee includes Garden admission. Register online, call 510-664-9841 or email gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

Succulent Arrangements

Saturday, January 23; 10:00 AM

The Gardens at Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Drive, Walnut Creek
Join garden designer Diane Goldsmith to create a Valentine inspired succulent arrangement with succulents from The Gardens. Explore ways to create an interesting composition of succulents that will grow well in a pot. Learn how you can use color, form, and texture to create wonderful compositions that will need little water to look their best. This is a hands-on class. Be inspired to unlock your creativity. Each participant will leave with a potted arrangement of succulents in a container. Attendees may purchase succulents collected and propagated by The Gardens for an additional fee on the day of the class. \$30, members \$25.

Time for another garden tour!

This time we're going to the Marin and Sonoma counties—most likely on Sunday, April 3. We're hoping to include at least one garden of a California Horticultural Society member. One of the goals of these tours is to facilitate members getting to know members by visiting each other's gardens. If you would like to have us over to your garden or can recommend another garden for the tour please contact Mark Delepine at mdelepine@liacook.com.



Kentfield garden which will be on tour in April

Plant of the Month

by Kristin Yanker-Hansen

Streptocarpus

Cape Primrose

Family: GESNERIACEAE

When people think Gesneriads, they immediately think of *Santpaulias* or African Violets. Many Gesneriads are, in fact, very tropical—requiring very warm humid conditions. However, the genus *Streptocarpus* actually does very well in the Bay Area if given a root bound, shady location. The plants bloom prolifically throughout the summer with sufficient water.

Winter survival in the ground is also excellent. They can handle our heavy winter rains and survive at least 18° F. They defoliate at these colder temperatures, but as soon as the temps go above 32° F, the plants immediately push out new growth.

During this summer of drought, my plants survived under the lower watering regimen but did not bloom well. However, in a smaller garden where people can water more, it is an excellent candidate for summer bloom at a time when getting bloom in this condition is very difficult.

Finding Streps in the Bay area is somewhat difficult. The wholesaler Tiedemann's carries a nice selection but your local nursery will have them in the Houseplant section. Mail order houses such as Kartuz and Logee's have very nice selections. There are many other mail order houses that carry them as well.

Finally there is eBay. The Russians have done some amazing hybridizing of this genus and have fabulous results in the bloom. I have not tested their performance in the ground.

My general recommendation for growing *Streptocarpus*—indeed, for all tropical plants—is that they should be planted in the spring in order to allow for strong root development, with sufficient sugars to help the plant survive a harsh winter.



Streptocarpus

California Horticultural Society 2016 Seed Exchange

Write the number (not the name) of the seeds you want in the boxes on the Request Form. 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 the form along with your payment to:

Dave Tivol

130 Locksunart Way #2,
Sunnyvale CA 94087-4666

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), Kathy Echols, Ellen Edelson (EE), Mary Sue Ittner (MSI), Ted Kipping (TK), Elise Lew (EL), Daisy Mah (DM), Katherine Pyle (KP), Sean O'Hara (SO), Quarryhill Botanical Garden (QBG), Barbara Siegel (BS), Richard Starkeson (RS), University of California at Davis (UCD), Patricia Van Aggelen (PVA), Kristin Yanker-Hansen (KYH), and those whose gratefully received donations remain anonymous. Nomenclature and descriptions are those given by these donors.

1. *Abelmoschus manihot* (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. *Acer cappadocicum ssp sinicum* (QBG)
3. *Acer morrisonense* (QBG)
4. *Acer oliverianum* (QBG)
5. *Acer tataricum ssp ginnala* (QBG)
6. *Aeonium ciliatum* (AA)
7. *Aeonium escobarii* (AA)
8. *Agapanthus hyb* (EE): dwarf form
9. *Alcea hyb* (AB): Hollyhock; very dark purple flowers
10. *Allium hyalinum* (MSI): California native bulb; white flowers
11. *Allium turconamicum* (KP): largely upright evergreen strap leaves to 2'; flowers pink to mauve, in balls like chives; very similar to *A. senescens* but always looks good
12. *Allium sp* (KE): pink flowers in a large head; to 4' tall
13. *Aloe buhrii* (UCD): open pollinated by hummingbirds
14. *Aloe striata* (UCD): open pollinated by hummingbirds
15. *Alstromeria hyb* (EE): flowers white with pink and yellow
16. *Ammi visnaga* (PVA)
17. *Aquilegia hyb* (EE): mixed
18. *Aristea major* (TK): South African irid; to 5' high; flowers dark blue
19. *Asclepias fascicularis* (KE): California native milkweed, primary food for Monarch butterfly; to 3' high; winter dormant; drought tolerant, runs with water
20. *Berberis wilsoniae* (QBG)
21. *Berlandiera lyrata* (DM): Chocolate Flower
22. *Betula albosinensis* (QBG)
23. *Betula luminifera* (QBG)
24. *Bulbine annua* (KYH): succulent annual, comes up every autumn and blooms profusely in spring
25. *Callicarpa japonica* (QBG)
26. *Canna indica* (= *Canna edulis*) (KP): tall leafy stems to 5' topped by spikes of small red flowers; often killed to ground by frost but comes back quickly from roots; tubers edible, also used as a starch source
27. *Chaenomeles japonica* (QBG)
28. *Cheiranthus × allionii* (AA): Siberian Wallflower
29. *Clarkia concinna* (EE): Red Ribbons
30. *Clematis armandii* (KYH): lovely sprays of fragrant white flowers in winter; if seeds allowed to mature and disperse, will gently seed about in the garden
31. *Clematis integrifolia* (BS)
32. *Clematis stans* (QBG)
33. *Clematis tangutica* (QBG)
34. *Collinsia tinctoria* (DM)
35. *Commelina coelestis* (KP): supposed to be perennial but may be a re-seeding annual here; blue flowers similar to *Tradescantia* on foot-tall stems from a basal leaf clump
36. *Cornus capitata* (QBG)
37. *Crinodendron patagua* (KYH): South America; evergreen tree; fragrant flowers in June like Lily-of-the-Valley; grows in wet areas in nature, but will grow nearly dry here in California
38. *Crithmum maritimum* (SO): Rock Samphire; native to Mediterranean and western European seacoasts, edible: once used by mariners to prevent scurvy
39. *Cupressus duclouxiana* (QBG)
40. *Cypella coelestis* (KP): irid; Argentina/Brazil/Uruguay; to 3' tall, pleated pale green leaves; flowers blue with yellow markings
41. *Datura metel* 'Black Currant Swirl' (BS)
42. *Datura tatula* 'La Fleur Lilac' (KYH): lovely form with lilac flowers all summer
43. *Datura wrightii* (AA): Jimson Weed
44. *Daucus carota* (PVA): volunteer Queen Anne's Lace
45. *Delphinium staphisagria* (AA): biennial or overwintering annual; upright racemes of bright blue flowers in early spring; disturbed soil in sun or part shade; germination generally within a few weeks, but seed may lie dormant, coming up in an ensuing season
46. *Delphinium hyb* (AB): blue flowers
47. *Dierama* 'Blackbird' (AA): magenta flower
48. *Dierama* 'Cosmos' (AA): very dark flower
49. *Dierama pulcherrimum* (TK)
50. *Dierama sp* (KP): from seedling plant; pale pink flowers on gently arching stems, 3' or more tall
51. *Digitalis parviflora* (DM)
52. *Diospyros lotus v lotus* (QBG)
53. *Dombeya rotundifolia* (AA)
54. *Dyckia platiphylla* (KYH): leaves near black; orange flowers
55. *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
56. *Echinops sphaerocephalus* (KYH): very pokey thistle; white flower in summer; needs no summer water; full sun to partial shade; deer won't eat
57. *Echium fastuosum* (KE): Pride of Madeira; blue/purple spikes second year from seed, butterfly magnet; 3' tall; drought tolerant
58. *Echium wildpretii* (KE): Tower of Jewels; biennial; pinkish flowers in spikes to 8' tall; butterfly magnet; drought tolerant
59. *Eriogonum crocatum* (PVA)
60. *Eriogonum fasciculatum* (PVA)
61. *Eriogonum grande rubescens* (PVA)
62. *Eriogonum sp* (PVA): 3' tall and wide, bushy but not compact; stiff upright branches with reddish bark; narrow leaves green with silvery underside, rather like rosemary; pale pink flower
63. *Eryngium creticum* (KYH): thistle relatively easy to grow; lots blue flowers in early summer; spreads slowly; quite drought tolerant
64. *Freesia leichtlinii ssp alba* (= *Freesia alba*) (MSI): South African corm; fragrant white flowers
65. *Fuchsia boliviana* (RS)
66. *Geissorhiza brehmii* (MSI): South African corm; white flowers
67. *Gladiolus hyb* (AB): dwarf clump; purple flowers

68. *Gomphocarpus fruticosus* (= *Asclepias fruticosa*) (PVA)
69. *Gossypium hirsutum* (KYH): brown cotton; rich dark green leaves; beige bolls; needs water and heat, full sun; easily grown in a pot with saucer to catch the water and keep the plant moist
70. *Helenium cv* (AB): yellow petals, red centers
71. *Heemerocallis 'Corky'* (KP): lemon-yellow flowers on wiry nearly black stems; about 3' tall, to 3' spread; winter dormant
72. *Heemerocallis hyb* (AB): Daylily; dwarf; yellow flowers
73. *Hippeastrum hyb* (AB): dwarf; pink flowers
74. *Hydrangea paniculata* (QBG)
75. *Idesia polycarpa* (QBG)
76. *Iris forestii* (QBG)
77. *Leucadendron linifolium* (AA)
78. *Leucadendron rubrum* (AA)
79. *Leucocoryne vittata* (MSI): hybrids; Chilean bulb; beautiful flowers purple and white
80. *Lilium formosanum* (QBG)
81. *Lilium maritimum* (MSI): rare lily native to the north coast of California; red flowers
82. *Lilium pardalinum* (DM)
83. *Lilium tigrinum* (AB): Tiger Lily; to 6'; flowers orange with spots
84. *Limonium psidoclada* (DM)
85. *Lupinus arboreus v eximus* (EE): Purple Bush Lupine
86. *Lupinus perennis* (AA)
87. *Lupinus pilosum*: garden collected this year
88. *Lycopersicon esculentum* (AA): tomato
89. *Malva* (= *Lavatera*) *assurgentiflora* (EE)
90. *Malva sylvestris* (KYH): hybrids; will grow dry or watered; flower colors can range from deep purple, a broad array of pinks to white, can even run to the bluer tones
91. *Malvaviscus arboreus* (RS)
92. *Manfreda sp* (KYH): Leopard Agave; one parent of Mangave that everyone craves; flower stems in summer to nearly 5' tall; a runner in the garden
93. *Marah fabaceus* (UCD): California Manroot
94. *Matthiola incana* or *longipetala* (KYH): semi-perennial stock; fragrant white blooms in spring; gently seeds about
95. *Melanoselinum decipens* (KE & BS): Madeira Giant Black Parsley; large plant; huge leaves which when removed leave rings around the stem, looking like bamboo; blooms second or third year, huge panicles of light pink, then dies
96. *Moraea vegeta* (MSI): South African corm; short plant; flowers brown with yellow nectar guides; easy
97. *Muscari neglectum* (KP): small bulb; flower spikes light blue near top shading to blackish blue near bottom with white picotee on lower flowers
98. *Ornithogalum fimbriarginatum* (UCD)
99. *Orthrosanthus sp* (AB): irid; clumping foliage; flowers on blue spikes
100. *Oxalis adenophila* (TK): flowers violet-pink with white
101. *Papaver orientale* (KE): perennial poppy; large orange flowers with black centers
102. *Pelargonium cordifolium* (AA)
103. *Phacelia bolanderi* (AA)
104. *Phormium tenax* (EL)
105. *Plantago subnuda* (DM)
106. *Polygnum orientale* (BS)
107. *Pyrus ussuriensis* (QBG)
108. *Ranunculus cortusifolius* (TK)
109. *Rosa banksiae v normalis* (QBG)
110. *Rosa brunonii* (QBG)
111. *Rosa longicuspis v longicuspis* (QBG)
112. *Rosa luciae* (QBG)
113. *Rosa roxburghii f normalis* (QBG)
114. *Rosa rugosa* (QBG)
115. *Rudbeckia hirta* (KE): large, nearly hand-sized blooms, russet, rust, bronze shades; long lasting if cut
116. *Rudbeckia hirta 'Denver Daisy'* (KE): to 3' tall and wide; showy gold flowers with black centers all summer and autumn; long lasting if cut; attract butterflies
117. *Rudbeckia hyb* (AB): Yellow-Eyed Susan
118. *Salvia forskaohlei* (KYH): dry shade as well as in a modestly watered garden; if dead headed regularly will bloom all summer; does seed about
119. *Salvia glechomifolia* (KYH): wonderful for shade and sun; will often bloom through Christmas; has reseeded once for me
120. *Salvia karwinskii* (RS)
121. *Salvia sclarea* (KE): biennial; one of the showiest salvias, large white bracts with lavender flowers, even good in arrangements; drought tolerant
122. *Salvia transsylvanica* (KYH): sun to partial shade; really deep blue flowers
123. *Salvia sp* (RS): probably *S. sclarea* (RS)
124. *Scabiosa atropurpurea* (BS)
125. *Schima argentea* (QBG)
126. *Sisyrinchium sp*: possibly *S. rosulatum*, not native to California; white flower; self-sows
127. *Trachelium caeruleum 'Jemmy'* (KE): perennial semi-shrub to 2' tall and wide; bluish purple heads of small flowers all summer and autumn; green leaves with purple shading
128. *Triteleia peduncularis* (MSI): corm native to wet places in California; flowers white on long pedicels
129. *Veltheimia bracteata* (MSI): South African bulb; beautiful leaves; shade; summer rainfall but can be grown as winter rainfall bulb, brief dormancy in summer
130. *Verbena bonariensis* (PVA)
131. *Watsonia aletroides* (AA)
132. *Watsonia coccinea* (MSI): South African corm; under 2' tall; orange-red flowers; summer dormant; does not increase vegetatively much
133. *Watsonia hyb* (TK): South African corm; to 4' high
134. *Zaluzianskya villosa* (AA): Southern Lilac Drumsticks
135. *Zantedeschia 'Mint Julep'* (DM)
136. mystery seed (KE): crucifer
137. mystery seed (TK): South African irid; yellow flower; to 5' high
138. mystery seed (EE): purple poppy
139. mystery seed (TK)
140. mystery seed (TK)

2016 Seed Exchange 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.)

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:

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

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



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Plant Drawing News Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Because our whole program was plant display and discussion in November, many of our members donated fabulous plants but all were given as door prizes. Bring your oversupply of plants to 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 Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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, Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve Morse, Andy Stone
 2016-2018 (First Term) Mary Engle, Bart O'Brien, Archie Wessells

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Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.