



**BULLETIN**  
**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**San Francisco County Fair Building**  
**Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way**  
**San Francisco, California 94122**  
**July 18, 2005**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.

Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9<sup>th</sup> 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 the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

\*\*\*Donation requested \$5.

**Monday, July 18, 2005**

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

**“Plant Exploring in South Africa”**

**“In Search of South Africa’s Woody Irids and encounters with a treasure trove of South African plants along the way”**

**Presented by Martin Grantham**

Inspired by Peter Goldblatt’s 1993 book, *The Woody Iridaceae Nivenia, Klattia & Witsenia*, along with Robert Ornduff’s preliminary research efforts with this group, Martin set out to locate populations, for all 14 species of these beautiful, inaccessible, and little known plants. They are indeed woody, with one species of *Nivenia* recorded as exceeding 10 ft., bearing countless blue flowers approaching gentian intensity. They constitute an ancient group, perhaps predating Mediterranean climate in Western South Africa, and show unusually diverse flower structure. Join our speaker in an account of his dogged pursuit, his efforts to bring these plants into cultivation, noting many other beautiful, strange, or strangely beautiful plants encountered on the way: *Restios*, *Geophytes*, *Brunia* and *Proteaceae* to name just a few.

**The Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In July, the drawing will include donations from **Suncrest Nursery**, courtesy of Michael Craib and the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **Grand Lake Ace Hardware**, courtesy of Tom Nelson and the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the June meeting.

**Monday, August 15, 2005**

**“Buried Treasures – Best Bulbs for year-round color in California”**

**Presented by Dr. Don Mahoney**, Horticulturist, Nursery Manager, San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum. The diversity of bulbs growable by the Bay area gardeners is quite outstanding. There are bulbs that bloom every month of the year either for containers or for planting in the ground. There are both winter dormant bulbs for watered gardens and summer dormant bulbs for dry gardens. They come in a wide array of colors and some are among the most exquisite flowers in the plant kingdom. By the right combinations, bulbs can be the dominant element giving color to your garden for much of the year. Both difficult small bulbs and easy landscape staples will be shown and discussed.

# President's Letter

Bruce Peters

Ah, summer is FINALLY Here! I always am so happy when February comes around to the Bay Area as that's when things start poking their heads out of the soil, buds start breaking. That's when I always think the growing season has arrived...then along comes June and things just really take off!

Maybe it's the higher temperatures, maybe it's the higher night-time temps, I don't know but now is really when things are just exploding! And some things, like many *Arisaemas* have just finally decided to get out of bed and show themselves...just when I think they've rotten below ground. Phew!

I've read that most plants growth is based upon the average temps throughout the day and night, so that really hot days and cool nights are supposedly the same as moderately warm days and nights...as long as the 24 hour average is the same. I don't know if I truly believe it. In fact, as I write this out, I don't believe it. Personally, I think lush growth is all about the warm nights as I have noticed that plants (well, My plants, at least) put on more growth during the night as opposed to the day. Maybe this is obvious to many, but I've not had much in the way of formal horticultural/botanical training. There must be quite a few of you out there, however, who have so what do you think? Am I making all this stuff up or have I just rediscovered the wheel with my theories? Someone let me know.

Moving on from that tangent, it's time to get to Society business. At the last meeting we had a very quiet introduction of a great new idea which, in the excitement and drama of getting things going, I completely forgot to mention. At the reception table we now have our 'Volunteer Easel' I talked about so much in my last Letter. This will make it even easier for you to sign on and help out in small or large

ways and it's a prime opportunity for committee heads to hang out and cajole people into choosing their committees over someone else's! Just turn something into a competition and my brain goes into overdrive. Maybe I'll just hang out there and get more people to work on my committees... Hmmmmm...

Anyway, look for the easel next time you come to a meeting. And let me know if it's enticing.

That's all for this month. Enjoy your summer and the luxurious growth it can bring!

## Cal Hort Committees

Following is a list of committees that our Society can use help in. Although some are fairly well staffed, we can always use a little extra help! After looking them over for something you're interested in, contact our fearless president, Bruce, via email ([bruce@calhortsociety.org](mailto:bruce@calhortsociety.org)) or phone (415 824-1833) and we'll get you on your way! This is a great way to meet and learn from other Cal Hort members.

**Advertising** – Currently vacant. We'd really love to get some help here in both selling and organizing advertising.

**Awards** – The Awards committee chooses our Annual Awards, including garden awards, cultural awards etc. See the article in this issue for a full list.

**Bulletin** – We can always use help in procuring articles and other interesting tidbits for the *Bulletin*, and wouldn't balk at accepting any layout help, as well!

**Field Trip/Open Gardens** – This committee organizes our annual local field trips as well as the open garden tours.

**Flower and Garden Show** – Volunteers seek out and procure new and interesting plants for our exhibit at the Annual Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace.

**Grants and Scholarships** – Mostly, this committee goes through the applications for grants and scholarships and makes their recommendations to the council.

**Nominating** – Composed of 2 board members and one general member, this committee, formed anew each July, finds interested members to serve on our Council.

**Plant Forum** – Volunteers here help in writing up each month's submissions and sending them to the *Bulletin* editor.

**Plant Sale** – Looks like this is on again and we have a need for people to help out. Duties include, but are not limited to, driving to nurseries to pick up plants, storing plants, setting up and striking the actual sale etc.

**Program** – Coming up with new and exciting ideas for our monthly speakers and then following through to get those speakers is the task our Program committee does so well.

**Public relations/membership** – Getting Cal Hort's name out there is something we're currently not so great at.

**Reception** – The reception committee helpers are the first faces people see when they come to our monthly meetings.

**Seed Exchange** – Headed by Dave Tivol, this committee collects, organizes and doles out our annual seed donations.

**Web Site** – Keeping the web site up to date is a perennial task which, unfortunately, is sometimes neglected.

## Botanical Tours

October 12-21, 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.

February 4 - 17, 2006

**A South African Wilderness Experience, Drakensberg Flora & Bushveld Fauna**— Drakensberg Park, trails alongside mountain streams, alpine flora on the 'roof of South Africa,' day and night safari drives with expert naturalists, fine mountain resort hotels...this tour has it all! In support of the California Horticultural Society

For information please call (800) 624 6633 or visit [www.geostartravel.com](http://www.geostartravel.com).

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# June Plant Forum by Ted Kipping

## 1. *Arisaema peanifolia*

ARACEAE -150 SPECIES

All three *Arisaema* are grown by John and Barbara Hopper, Kentfield

*Aris* or *aron* = arum; *baima* = blood, used either in sense of "relationship:" i.e., akin to arum, or referring to speckles/flecks on spathe of original species.

Native to Eastern North America, Eastern and Central Africa, Asia from Arabia to Japan and Malaysia, this dramatic sculptural perennial woodland creature invites visual inspection from below with the chalky-rhubarb and white stripes of the hooded sheathing of the "spathe" which protectively envelops the spadex - a spike-like inflorescence with a complex intersecting double helix of congested female flowers sitting maypole-like above a lower, looser but comparable arrangement of female flowers below. The spathe ends in a long threadlike drifter extending nearly to the ground. (For ants? Repulsive Rapunzel let down your hair/spathe!?)

## 2. *Arisaema saxatile*

*saxatile* = found among rocks

Spathe is white with green stripes.

## 3. *Arisaema sikokianum*

*sikokianum* = from the island of Sikoku

The spadix is porcelain white like a pestle protruding from the cup of a mortar. These bizarrely appealing plants require rich, moist soil and filtered/dappled shade appropriate to woodland plants.

## 4. *Amoracia rusticana variegata*

BRASSICACEAE

Grown by Bruce Peters, San Francisco

*rusticana* = found in the country

Native to southeastern Europe, this variegated horseradish, is in the mustard family, and likes rich, moist soil in a cool climate. San Franciscan, Bruce Peters, acolyte of all things variegated, raved about this ornamental edible's ability to provide endless surprises



*Amoracia rusticana variegata*



*Sarracenia*

from one leaf to another. Of course, any leaf failing to meet his visual standards might sacrifice its root to become wasabi.

## 5. *Chlorogalum pomridianum*

Amole or Soaproot

LILIACEAE

Grown by Kathy Till, Danville

*chloro* = green; *galum* = milk (galaxy means "milky way," remember?)

A west coast native of cool, wet winters and dry summers. A vespertine (evening) bloomer opening (with an audible little "pop") at 4:00 PM until morning, with narrow (water conserving) sepals dark on the backside and fluorescent white on the inside. Attractive to sphinx or Hawk moths — the insect equivalent of a Hummingbird in hovering abilities. This plant was of considerable value to West Coast Native Peoples who use(d) the natural saponins (soaps) in the bulb for washing hair, as a topical treatment for dermatitis - even poison oak rash - and as a fish stupefying agent when beaten into the water of summer pools. Some hungry genius discovered that overnight baking in stone-lined fire pits broke down the saponins rendering the bulbs edible ("palatable" is a separate issue!). If this were not enough, another genius learned to craft hair brushes out of the heavy, dense fibers gleaned from the tunics or bulb sheaths. Waste not, want not. Kathy garnished her posie of *C. pomridianum* with a blue moppet hydrangea.

## 6. *Coleus* hybrid selections

LAMIACEAE

Grown by Kathy Echols

*coleus* = a sheath, referring to the manner in which the stamens are enclosed. Thus, the alternative name for the genus *Solenostemon*

Kathy, President of the International Plant

*Continued on next page*

Propagators Society and instructor at Diablo Valley College Horticulture Department, brought two OpArt dazzlers grown for their striking leaf color patterns *de rigueur* house plant of the 60's and 70's, now back in modest variety. Central American locals historically used a decoction of the leaves as an entheogen - a "God brew".

7. ***Coreopsis* x 'Autumn Blush'**

Tickseed

ASTERACEAE

Grown by Kathy Echols

*coreopsis* = koris, a bug; *opsis* = like.

The *cypselas* or seeds reminded earlier botanists of bugs, especially ticks. Growing to 18"-20" in full sun, this snazzy introduction from the wizards of Terra Nova Nurseries in Oregon ([www.terranovanurseries.com](http://www.terranovanurseries.com)) is egg-yolk yellow with a dark burgundy "eye."

7. ***Sarracenia minor***

DWARF PITCHER PLANT

All *Sarracenia*s grown by Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

*Sarracenia* = for Michel Sarrasin (1659-1734), French physician and botanist (weren't they all in those days of herbal remedies?) at Quebec, who sent the first of these insectivorous plants to Europe; *minor* = smaller

Historic range is North Carolina to Florida in boggy, sunny places. 8" - 12", although one form reaches 24."

8. ***Sarracenia oreophila***

*oreophila* = mountain loving (aren't we all?)

Historic range is northeastern Alabama to west central Georgia. 2-1/2 feet

9. ***Sarracenia* x *oreophila***

An interesting hybrid midway between it's parents in size, shape and coloration (see pictures of all these plants at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)).

This 'family group' displayed two species of pitcher plants native to the United States, and a hybrid of the two. *S. oreophila* is an endangered species native to small portions of Alabama and North Carolina. The pitchers show a bright yellow with wonderful darker veining, and grow to about two feet tall. *S. minor*, which grows from North Carolina to Florida, has orange pitchers without veining, and grows to about one foot tall. The hybrid of these two species is of intermediate height, and has beautiful orange pitchers with darker veining. All of these plants are cultivated in full sun, planted in a mixture of peat, sand and perlite.

They are grown in standing water, and it is important to use tap water that has less than 100 ppm of dissolved solids. Otherwise, distilled water or reverse osmosis water is needed, as too many minerals will kill these plants.

So many of our otherwise normal-looking members keep bringing in such delightfully weird plants. It just shows we cannot judge a horticulturalist by appearances.



*Sanguisorba menziesii*, yellow form

**'Rays of Splendor: Passionflowers of the World'  
Presented by John MacDougal**

Dr. John MacDougal, a well-recognized expert on the world's passionflowers, came to speak about this fascinating group of plants. Dr. MacDougal is based at Harris-Stowe State University in Saint Louis, and is a research associate at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where he was on the staff for many years. He is a founding member of Passionflower Society International, and has been studying them for almost 30 years. Trained in both biology and botany, with extensive horticultural experience, Dr. MacDougal is familiar with the natural history, taxonomy and cultivation of the PASSIFLORACEAE.

Dr. MacDougal opened his talk by showing a specimen of *Passiflora parryana*, with stunning 6 inch orange flowers. This plant was thought to be extinct, but two specimens were found at high elevation in Columbia. One was brought to St. Louis, where it languished. From there, it was sent to San Francisco Botanical Garden, where it thrived in the cooler temperatures similar to its mountain home. It has since been propagated in small numbers, but is still considered critically endangered.

There are over 500 species in the PASSIFLORACEAE. Although we are most familiar with the vining forms, which make up 12 of the 19 genera in the family, there are shrubs and trees as well. The tree species are contained in six genera. Although almost all of these plants are found in the New World, there are about 20 species from the Old World, including Australia and China.

The passionflowers can be divided into four major groups. Although these groups do not correspond completely with formal taxonomy, they form a good basis for understanding this diverse family for the horticulturalist. In the *Passiflora* group, there are the plants that we think of as passionflowers- with relatively large flowers and long tubes formed from the petals. A second group, *Decaloba*, of over 200 species, has small flowers. A third group, *Astrophea*, contains small trees in addition to vines, and the fourth group, *Deidamoides*, is considered the most primitive group, with un-lobed leaves.

Passionflowers have many specialized parts. The more temperate zone passifloras die to the ground in the winter. These plants have a huge root, from which they resprout in the spring. All passionflowers have stipules along their stems. These stipules vary tremendously in size and shape. Many passionflowers display many different leaf shapes on the same plant, a form known as heteroblastic leaves. The

tendrils, which enable the plant to climb towards the sun, are never branched, which assists in identifying these plants as passionflowers. Other plant families, such as grapes, have branching tendrils.

Passionflowers also have nectaries, usually located on the leaf petioles or stems. These nectaries produce a sweet reward for ants and other predators that ward off pests. Interestingly, on some passifloras, these nectaries are also used to mimic the eggs of the *Heliconius* butterfly. Other species also have egg mimics on their leaves. These butterflies lay their eggs on passionflower plants, and the larvae feed voraciously on the leaves of the plant. The female butterfly isn't as willing to lay eggs on a plant that already has eggs on it, so the false eggs help to prevent predation by caterpillars.

Some passionflowers have even evolved to be camouflaged in a field of grass, while others mimic other plants for protection from the butterflies. Some of the passionflowers have microscopic hooked hairs on the surfaces of their leaves, which hinder the movement of caterpillars. In addition to these physical adaptations to combat predators, the passionflowers also use chemical modification. All of the plant parts contain cyanide, especially the unripe fruit. In fact, there have been human deaths from eating the green fruit of passionflowers.

While wanting to avoid predators, these plants need pollinators. Some have a bull's eye pattern on the flower, made up of the petals and corona. This pattern acts as a signal for bees, and draws them to the flower. It is believed that the more ancestral species of passionflowers are insect-pollinated, and that the bird- and bat-pollinated species evolved later.

Dr. MacDougal showed wonderful slides of many species of passionflowers. Among the many highlights were *Passiflora multiflora* from Florida, which has the smallest flowers of the family; *P. tica* and *P. macrophylla*, both tree species with leaves up to three feet long; *P. engleriana*, another tree species from the highlands of Columbia, which would probably thrive in San Francisco's cool climate; *P. boenderi*, with silver variegation and egg mimics on the leaves; *P. pendens*, a very rare species from Chiapas that has spiny bracts over the flower buds and fruits. This species has a weak ability to digest insects through these bracts, much like other carnivorous plants. There were also photographs of *P. incarnata*, believed to be the original passionflower described by Linnaeus; *P. ciliata*, which grows on the beach in Honduras; and *P. membranacea*, a beautiful species with two large bracts protecting the flower, which is growing just past the entry garden in the SF Botanical Garden.



*Passiflora 'Lavender Lady'*

# Horticultural Calendar

## First Saturday of the Month

**Sick Plant Clinic**—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM – noon at the U.C. Botanical Garden at Berkeley. Free (510) 643-2755 [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

## Every Sunday

**Garden Market**—Neat plants for sale and free garden talks 10 AM – 2 PM at the Ferry Building SF. [www.cuesa.org](http://www.cuesa.org)

## July 9

**Summer Bloomers in the Redwoods**—A tour through the U.C. Davis Arboretum Redwood Grove with Pam Kazmierczak. 10 AM, free. Call (530) 752-4880 or visit [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

## July 20

**Formal Tea**—Enjoy tea and goodies in Miss Gamble's House and an optional guided tour. 2 – 4 PM, \$20. At the Gamble Garden, (650) 329-1356 or [www.gamblegarden.org](http://www.gamblegarden.org)

## July 22

**Gardening With Plants From South Africa's West Coast Part 2**—A variety of lecturers will present talks on this exciting topic. Plants will also be for sale to attendees. From 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, members \$65, non-members \$75. (925) 256-1889 or [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## July 30

**Open Gardens Tour**—Visit six private gardens in Oakland, hosted by The Garden Conservancy. Fee per garden is \$5. See the directory at [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

## August 20

**SF Estuary Canoe Trip**—Discover plants and animals of the Bay with the SF Professional Gardeners Assoc., 8:30 AM – 2:30 PM, fee TBA. For more info (510) 452-9261 or [www.sfpga.org](http://www.sfpga.org)

## August 21

**Salvia Workshop**—Join Betsy Clebsch in the Quarryhill Botanical Garden. Class starts at noon, fee is \$25. (707) 996-3166 or [www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org)

## Filoli Center

(650) 364-8300 • [www.filoli.org](http://www.filoli.org)

## July 11 – 26

**Beginning Floral Design**—This six session course covers all the basics, with Anne Patrick. Mondays & Tuesdays 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$350, non-members \$400.

## July 30

**Summer Evening Party, "Beneath The Tuscan Moon"**—A fun filled tribute to the Italian artists and gardeners who helped build Filoli. 5 – 8 PM, members \$50, non-members \$60.

## August 6

**Fruit Tree Espalier Workshop II**—Continue learning about this horticultural art with Alex Fernandez. 9:30 AM – noon, members \$30, non-members \$35.

## SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## July 16

**Designing a Natural Garden**—Don Mahoney shows you how to transform a weedy lot into a beautiful garden. 9:30 – 11:45 AM, members \$ 20, non-members \$30.

## July 30

**Japanese Garden Construction**—Join Jack Tomlinson for an in-depth lecture on this time honored tradition.. 9:30 AM – 1 PM, members \$45, non-members \$55.

## August 11

**South African Restios For California**—Local restio guru Martin Grantham will share his knowledge of these highly beautiful garden worthy plants. 6:30 – 9 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

## August 13

**Plant Sale**—General sale featuring shade plants. 10 AM – 1 PM at the Nursery.

## Quarryhill Botanical Garden

(707) 996-3166 • [www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org)

## August 21

**Salvia Workshop**—Join Betsy Clebsch in the garden. Starts at noon, fee is \$25.

## October 16

**Flower Arranging**—With Sogetsu Ikebana master Soho Sakai. Starts at 11 AM, fee is \$25.

Kathy Till will be collecting old cell phones and cell phone batteries for the National Wildlife Federation who will get \$1 for every phone donated. Please bring your old phones and batteries to the July meeting.



*Send submissions to [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto: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.*

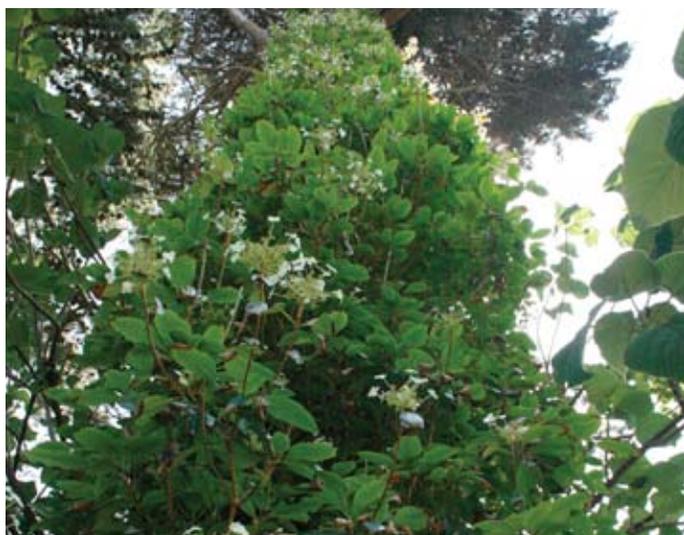
***Hydrangea anomala petiolaris***  
**Climbing Hydrangea**

There is a wall in our garden that has been a problem. It was practically screaming for a vine to cover it, but the wall is relatively smooth, gets little direct sun, and we can't attach any sort of trellis or other support to it. This narrowed down the candidates considerably, but we finally found our answer: the climbing hydrangea. This plant's Latin name refers to fruit shaped like a water jar *hydro aggos* and unusual or remarkable leaf stalks *petiolaris*. Sounds rather ho hum, until you see the actual plant. Spring through fall it is covered in glossy, heart shaped leaves. Late spring brings masses of lacy panicles of white flowers. Before dropping in the autumn, the leaves change to a bright yellow. After they fall, the sinu-



different genus) with silvery leaves defined by green veins.  
—*Editor's note.*

Climbing hydrangeas are not very fussy about their growing conditions. Part shade (especially inland) to full sun; well drained organic soil; and even watering are about all that they want. Although they are slow to start, once they begin to climb up a wall or large tree, they are moderate growers. With time, they can reach up to 50 feet. However, they are not particularly aggressive, and respond well to pruning. This plant climbs by growing tiny roots from the stem that anchor it to surfaces, which means that it doesn't need an arbor to twist around. So, if you've got a problem wall, or an old tree whose trunk would look better cloaked in green, consider the climbing hydrangea.



ous form and wonderful cinnamon colored exfoliating bark are revealed. This is definitely a plant for all seasons! Supposedly, there is even a variegated form...(I'd love to see that!) However, I do know that there is available *Schizophragma petiolaris* 'Moonlight,' a climbing hydrangea (same family,

## Cal Hort T-Shirts

Now Available!



\$16.24 (tax incl.)

Size: large

Color: soft green w darker green logo  
Available at Cal Hort Monthly meetings,  
or call Ann DeRosa (510) 528-8404

### Need some Horticultural Help?

The back page of your Cal Hort Roster contains a special listing of our Business members. What better way to insure your future landscaper knows a tulip from a petunia? It's also a great place to find recommendations for your friends!



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

Tim Carrol  
Lorraine Edel  
Robert Simon Jubb  
Craig Latker

Ann Miani  
Cindy O'Donnell  
Bobby J. Ward

## 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.



### Officers

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Ted Kipping

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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](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call (800) 884-0009.



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