



Bulletin
of the
California Horticultural Society

July
2006

MEETINGS

July 17, 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.

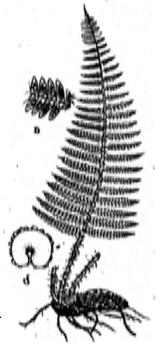
\$5 Donation requested.

FERNS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AND FOR BAY AREA GARDENS
[INCLUDING HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN FROM SPORES.]

Monday, July 17, 2006 Presented by Martin Grantham

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

Martin will show a wide range of ferns encountered on his botanical travels from rock ferns to tree ferns. He'll point out many that grow well in the SF Bay Area. Since some of the best ferns are rarely offered by nurseries, he will include a discussion of home propagation. Unusual ferns will be available to the horticulturally adven-



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 Nurseries** courtesy of [Michael Craib](#) and from **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of [Dr. Don Mahoney](#). Our appreciation to the UC Botanical Garden, courtesy of [Anthony Garza](#) and to **the San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of [Dr. Don Mahoney](#) and member **Linda Baptiste** who contributed the outstanding selection of plants for the June meeting.

MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2006

"DEVELOPING NEW PLANTS"

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

Presented by Dr. Scott Trees, Director of New Crops, BallFlora Plant, Guadalupe, California. Dr. Trees will speak on hybridization of plants, such as the radiating of *Salvia*, in order to develop new products for the market, as well as other treatments in order to get patents and trademarks.

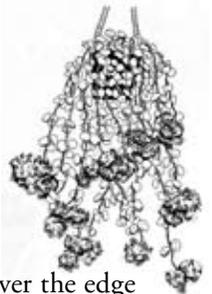
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2006

"WHEN PLANTS CASCADE"

PRESENTED BY TED P. KIPPING

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

Even the most quotidian, over used workhouse plants seem more refined and expressive when allowed to flow over the edge of a wall or container revealing a new quality of form and seeming gracefulness in their release from the merely vertical or horizontal. Other plants, unusable in most garden situations "come into their own" when given an opportunity to cascade. Let us explore and celebrate some of the possibilities. I am sure your creativity will conjure up many more.



The creation of something from nothing is a miraculous thing. In effect, that is what non-profit organizations do on a daily basis creating informative and entertaining programs, brochures, newsletters etc. for the rest of the world to enjoy.

OK, I say something from nothing, but that's not entirely true.... maybe something from nothing tangible would be more like it since everything we do here at Cal Hort is created through the energy, commitment, enthusiasm and excitement of our members. Running low on funds? Have a plant sale! Curious about ferns? Find and book the best fern guy around!

It is these kinds of accomplishments which give me great pride to be a part of this organization. But it's also these kinds of accomplishments which worry me. Why? Maybe I'm just a worrywart (not to be confused with a penny- or butterwort) fearing that the energy spent to produce these creations was a transitory and ephemeral thing. On the whole, though, I am feeling an uptick of support from members who are breaking out of their daily routine and joining us in maintaining our society of plant lovers.

This little uptick in my worry meter seems to surge every year about this time as we prepare for new councillor elections. Although the elections are officially held at the end of the year, we start scouting out new members in July. I've heard that people are wary of becoming Board members due to the three year terms, ("It's just such a long time!"), a perceived lack of networking ability ("I don't know any of the other members."), or a lack of extra time in their busy lives ("I'm exhausted at the end of the day, sorry!")

Well, I'm here to say that, sure, those concerns are valid, but perhaps they are not quite as high a barrier as they may seem. Board members meet only every other month for about 2 hours, (kind of like seeing an exciting movie every eighth Monday, or so) and end up meeting new people on the job. When I started coming to Cal Hort I didn't know a soul and only gradually met others through being on committees, asking questions at meetings, etc. I figure, if I can do it, anyone can.

Now, about that exhausted at the end of the day part. Hmm, well, that's what caffeine is for, right?

2006 ANNUAL AWARDS

Annual Award

Glenn Keator

Council Award

Steve Morse

Rixford Award

Jan Hamby

Writer's Award

Bart O'Brien

David Fross

Carol Bornstein

(for *California Native Plants in the Garden*)

Publishing Award

Cachuma Press (for *California Native Plants in the Garden*)

Photographer's Award

Ron Parsons for *Masdevallias Gems of the Orchid World*

Editorial Award

Phyllis Faber

Plant Collections Awards

Katherine Henwood – *Petrocosmea* collection

Bruce Peters – *Ledebouria* collection

Cultural Awards

David Feix – *Aechmea recurvata* var. *benrathii*

Barbara and John Hopper – *Arisaema sikkokianum*

Martin Grantham – *Aristea corymbosa*

Martin Grantham – *Nivenia corymbosa*

David Feix – *Tecoma X smithii*

SF Botanical Garden – *Rhododendron superbum* hybrid



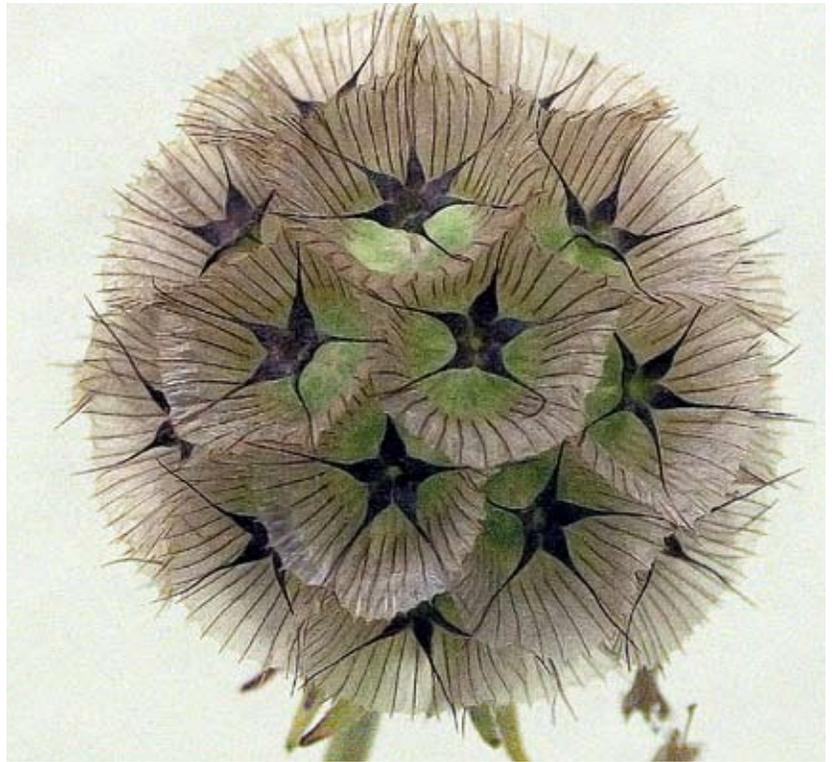
Award winning
Tecoma X smithii

1. **Epidendrum ibaguense 'purple'**

ORCHIDACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Reedstem orchids are delightful additions to our frost-free Bay Area gardens. The usual color is red, but this one is a lovely shade of purple. It is best grown in a container of orchid mix, and blooms almost year-round with at least a half-day of sun and frequent fertilizing. They can tolerate a few degrees of frost. The parent species is native to Central America. See photo below right.



2. **Metroisideros collina 'spring fire'**

MYRTACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Since this shrub or small tree is native to the warm islands of the South Pacific, it is adapted to bloom any time of the year. The red bottle brush-type flowers are often seen year around also, in cultivation. It is somewhat drought-tolerant and will grow in most soils. It is only hardy to about 30 degrees.

3. **Ceratozamia mexicana**

ZAMIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This cycad from Mexico is similar to the sago palm *cycas revoluta*. However, David says this Mexican cycad grows much faster for him in our cool summer climate. This is a cycad for shade or dappled sun in well-drained soil and with plenty of water. It is not very frost-tolerant. It makes a great specimen for a large container.

4. **Scabiosa stellata**

DIPSACACEAE

Kristen Yanker-Hansen

If you like making dried flower arrangements, this pincushion flower is for you. It is an annual that thrives in full sun in all parts of the Bay Area. The pale blue-lilac flowers are long lasting, but eventually turn into a beautiful papery inch-wide globe of seeds that are a perfect accent for flower arrangements. (see photo above)



One of the many beautiful roses displayed by Jack Halpern



Jeffrey Bale

Inspirational Stonework

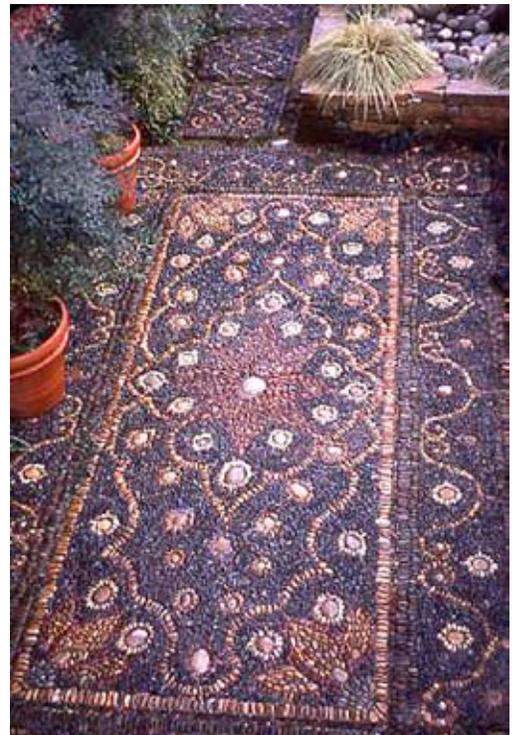
While most slide lectures presented at California Horticultural Society meetings focus on plants or their habitats, many members are also interested in garden ornament and construction, such as sculpture, mosaic, masonry and architecture. On Monday, June 19, 2006, Jeffrey Bale showed the crowd at the San Francisco County Fair Building some of the world's most exquisite stone handiwork from India, South America, Central America, Spain, and Cambodia, much of it in garden contexts. An artist in stone inspired by the geology of his native Oregon and folk artists of the Pacific Northwest, Bale introduced the audience to his own extraordinary, obsessive creations.

At age four Bale was already photographed atop a stony outcropping in Bend, Oregon's, Drake Park, examining – or perhaps communing with – the forms, textures and colors of his hometown's basaltic substrates. His grandparents' rockhound business surely infected him with the grain of lithic fixation that has grown to El Capitanian proportions. The pain most of us feel at the mention of Afghanistan's Bamiyan must cut to Bale's heart, for the intense passion he conveyed for stone as a material and stonework as an expression of human spirituality enraptured the room.

The intrigue of Bale's presentation was in following the development of his own art on a journey through the world's great stoneworks, beginning in Oregon. The group began to understand Bale's story when he showed slides of Petersen's Rock Garden, a collector's place of miniature moated palaces constructed of pebbles and stones, and when he shared pictures of himself at the Sisters volcanoes, where fresh stone lies strewn about, recently



disgorged from the mantle, frozen in liquid and frothy form. Bale's early works include basalt walls and steps, but then, inspired by Oaxacan and Iberian paving mosaics, he taught himself to set pebbles in Portland.



Among the designs he developed: wave patterns, pebbles flowing like water down steps, serpentine "watercourses" along sidewalks, and DNA molecules for health-care workers to traverse on their lunch breaks.

Water and stone make a powerful couple. Bale's slides documented the ancient stepped-stone bathing facilities of Mandu, India, designed to allow access to the water long into the dry season; the water-sculpted limestone of Chinese garden tradition seen in Portland's Chinese Garden; and the rounded river stones in his creations, which he collects by the (presumably double-stitched) pocketfuls on his travels. The sound of water over stone, the movement that stone in water generates – these are the sensory elements that transcend what might seem rather inert material to those of us caught up in the realm of cellulose, chlorophyll, meiosis and mitosis.

Bale shared in detail the richness of stonework in the wealthiest and the most impoverished countries. We saw Incan puzzlemasonry in Cuzco; coral mosaic in Cuba; Mayan pyramids in Mexico; mosaic walls in Chile; prayer-rug-pattern mosaics in Portland and India; junkyard debris mosaic in Buenos Aires; the modernist Burle-Marx's pavements of Copacabana and Ipanema in Rio; a boulder bridge in Singapore; and stone fountains of all dimensions and forms.

Oh the poverty of pavement in America! Jeffrey Bale has shown us the way. He provided inspiration for ameliorating our concrete- and asphalt-lined landscapes by showing us his methods, his inspirations, and his magnificent work.

**Palm Trees
A Story in Photographs**

By David Leaser

Westwood Pacific Publishing

**\$39.95 hardcover w/jacket / 9" x 12" / 144 pp / 135
color illus.**

ISBN 1-59588-010-0

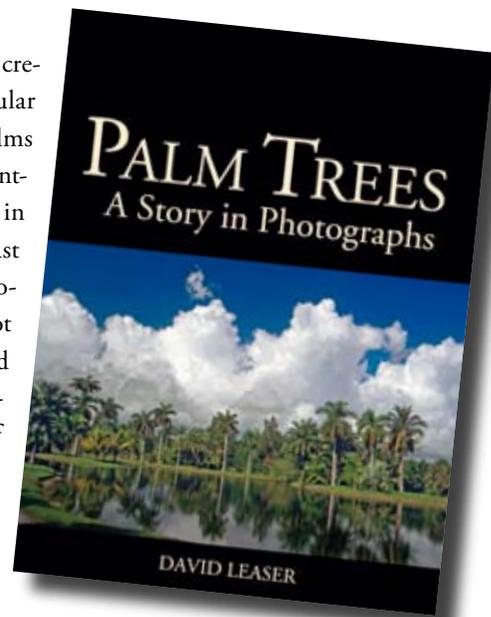
For decades, the best encyclopedic, accessible book on palms in English was *Palms of the World*, by Joseph McCurrach, long out of print but occasionally available used. Published in Florida in 1960 and reprinted in 1970, it is an extraordinary document of late-Eisenhower-era (and pre-Castro) Sunshine State horticulture, with beautiful black-and-white photographs, a format organized by genus, and as much information as one could hope to assemble in 60-plus years of palm horticulture in Florida, Southern California, and the Caribbean. The least-informative entries, as for cool-growing genera like *Rhopalostylis* and *Ceroxylon*, were romantic temptations, while entries for common Florida subjects, like *Roystonea* and *Sabal*, gratified with detail, and portraits of genera subject to the Lethal Yellowing disease that swept Florida in the 1970s, like *Pritchardia* and *Cocos*, recorded lost splendor. Then, in the 1980s, a stream of books from Australia, these with color photos and cultural notes more legible to Californians, began to appear, and to reveal the contours of potential palm introductions for our

West Coast climates. Beautiful as some of their photos were, the books were rightly dedicated to the horticulture and botany of palms.

Now, Southern California resident and International Palm Society member



David Leaser has created a spectacular portfolio of palms for the frequent-flyer age. Printed in vivid, high-contrast color, the photographs he has shot and assembled capture the aesthetic power of this beautiful yet workhorse family of plants.



The book opens with basic information about the group, its history, economic importance, and its iconic species – the coconut (*Cocos nucifera*) – and then tours the world by way of regional palm species and the gardens and habitats in which they grow.

The balance of information and beauty provides perfect leisure reading, whether to learn more about the plants, or simply to be transported to tropical beaches in the New and Old Worlds, Moroccan cityscapes, California idylls, or botanical gardens in Hawaii, Florida, California, the Caribbean, and beyond. Among the particular achievements of the book is capturing the setting of Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden, at the base of the green, knife-edged Ko'olau Mountains on windward O'ahu. A massive flood-control project-cum-botanical garden, vast Ho'omaluhia offers exquisitely grown, rare palms against a titanic backdrop. As with so many of the settings, the book makes a good case for touring the place. By the same token, Leaser's spreading prints render the flat setting of Florida *Sabal palmetto* habitat serene and colorful, and preserve the messy vigor of Palm Springs' *Washingtonia filifera* groves in Palm Canyon.

In the vein of touring, the book peeks at humans and their uses for palms beyond horticulture as well, offering respites from greenery in photos of people, handiwork and architecture. It is a delight to see such a lavish and seductive photo book given over to one plant family, especially one's favorite.

The few minor errors of nomenclature will have no effect on the reader's enjoyment of this distillation of arecaceous beauty. *Palm Trees: A Story in Photographs* introduces readers to a fascinating group, and offers the next best thing to an intoxicating walk through Fairchild Tropical Garden in Miami.

Passiflora membranacea
 Family: PASSIFLORACEAE

There are some plants that are so rare or hard to find that they are better known by their reputation than by any actual experience with them. This is true of *Passiflora membranacea*. Passion vines are popular garden plants in California, and many of them are commonly seen climbing trellises, fences, and often, escaping into surrounding trees. However, *Passiflora membranacea* is different. Its flowers are borne between large, colorful bracts, different from other passion vines. Its leaves are round, with purple undersides, different from other passion vines. And it is not common at all, which is different from many of the other passion vines. And little has been written about it, unlike so many of its relatives.

Hailing from high forests of Central America, this plant prefers climates that don't get too hot, but also don't freeze very often. Sort of like much of coastal California. It isn't too fussy about soil, as long as it isn't allowed to dry out completely and is well drained. Like most other passifloras, full sun is necessary for *Passiflora membranacea* to be really happy. This plant can get big (I've seen one in Berkeley completely cover a telephone pole...), but responds well to pruning.

There isn't much information available about propagating this plant. Supposedly, two plants are required to produce fertile seed. Even though the flowers are hermaphroditic, a plant cannot fertilize itself. Bummer for the plant. One source states that the seeds can take one to 12 months to germinate! Bummer for the gardener- who has the patience to wait a year for a seed to sprout?

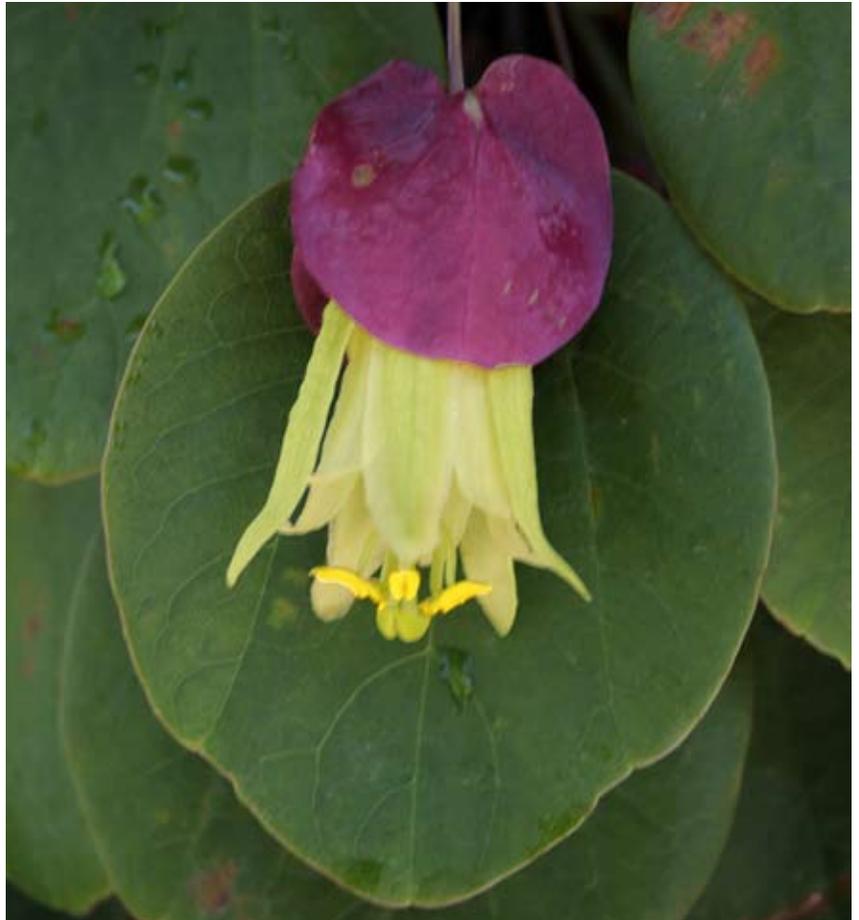


Photo by Bruce Peters

There are also many rumors about growing this plant from cuttings, with various methods offered and various rates of success, from minimal to good. So, if you are interested in owning a beautiful plant that is sort of like a living legend among gardenistas, try finding *Passiflora membranacea* (they sometimes show up at local botanical garden sales) and growing it in your garden.

PHOTO CONTEST



The California Horticultural Society is having a photography contest for its members. In this round, we are offering no prizes, but think of the honor that will be bestowed on the winners!

Enter as many horticulturally oriented photos as you choose. Our intention is to allow the entrants to submit photographs until after the vacation season has ended. September 31, 2006 will be the deadline. The rules of the contest are on the California Horticultural Society website (www.calhortsociety.org)



The contest is limited to members of the California Horticultural Society. Membership is only 40 dollars so, tell your friends!

HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Wednesday Evenings in July & August

Twilight Tours—Explore the U.C. Botanical Garden after hours on a variety of topics. 5:30 – 6:30 PM, members \$8, non-members \$12, www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu or (510) 643-2755.

July 2, 8 & 22

Redwood Tree Tours—A variety of free guided tours discovering the world of Redwoods and their associated plant communities at the U.C. Davis Arboretum. Meet at 10 AM at the Buehler Visitors Center. www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu. or (530) 752-4880

July 21

Horticultural Seminar—Seminar for green industry pros and home gardeners at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. The topic will be plants of Mexico and their influence on CA garden design. More info at www.ruthbancroftgarden.org or (925) 210-9663.

July 27

Native Plant ID Workshop—Bring a hand lens and a Jepson manual to learn to key out native plants at the Santa Cruz Arboretum. 1:30 PM, Free. www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum or (831) 427-2998

August 12

Flora Along the Oat Hill Mine Trail—An in-depth slide lecture of the history and plants of Oat Hill. 9 AM – noon at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden, members \$25, non-members \$30. (510) 841-8732 or www.nativeplants.org

August 19 & 20

Edible Garden Festival—Featuring demonstrations, winetasting, music, a marketplace and more, at Copia Center for Wine, Food and the Arts. More info at (707) 259-1600 or www.copia.org

October 26-29

ASCFG Conference—Assoc. of Specialty Cut Flower Growers will hold its annual meeting in San Jose featuring a wide variety of presentations and tours. For more info (440) 774-2887 or www.ascfg.org.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

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

July 8

Plant Sale—General Sale with Salvias and Shrubs. 10 AM – 1 PM at the Nursery.

July 13

Papermaking Workshop—Open to all levels, with Jacqueline Mallegni. 10 AM – 4 PM, members \$95, non-members \$115, includes materials.

July 11 – August 29

Blossom: The Art of Flowers—Eight sessions of floral illustration for all levels, with Mary Harden. 10 AM – 1 PM, members \$130, non-members \$150.

August 2, 16, 20, 23 & 30;

CA Native Perennials for the Garden—Get the low-down on great plants with Glenn Keator. 6:30 – 9:30 pm and one field trip 10 AM – 2:30 PM, members \$45, non-members \$55.

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.

Help the Bulletin!

The current **Calendar Editor** is soon going to have her hands full with other projects, so we need someone to help out with that.

Email the editor@[calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org) for more info.



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

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.

PHOTO CONTEST!

Check out Page 6 for information on Cal Hort's new photography contest!



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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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