



**Bulletin**  
*of the*  
**California Horticultural Society**

July 2007

**M E E T I N G S**

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.  
5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 149 Ninth Ave, San Francisco.  
6:45 PM Socializing, and cutting and plant division exchange. **NEW!** See page 3 for more information.  
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.  
\*\*\*Members free for monthly meeting. Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

**Monday, July 16, 2007**

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

**‘Rooftop Landscaping’  
“Reaching for New Heights in Gardening”**

**Presented by Glen Patterson**, noted horticulturist of Vancouver, British Columbia. He will share the art of roof gardening with the inclusion of many unusual and quite exotic trees, shrubs, perennials and rock garden plants. Ted Kipping says that “his roof garden is the most diverse and engaging per square centimeter that I have ever seen. He has water falls, a stream, pools for different size fish, a bog and bio/wetland filtering setup, as well as woodland and alpine plants and an amazing array of trees cloud-pruned to allow wind, light, and the eye to pass freely through the garden.” Included will be: the advantages of roof top gardening, pathways, ponds for fish and rocks for the joy of including a rock gardening hobby.

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 the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney**. Our appreciation to **Emerisa Gardens**, courtesy of **Muchtar Salzmann** for the beautiful plants donated for the June meeting and for the outstanding selection of plants donated by **San Francisco Botanical Garden** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** and our wonderful Society members.

**Monday, August 20, 2007**

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

**Hellebores – Playing Cupid with the Gene Pool!!!**

**A Presentation by mad plant breeder Charles Price of the inspired garden and award winning garden designer team (Glen) Withey and Price.** Cal Hort and SF Botanical Garden Society members were well inspired and entertained on his last visit and presentation in 1997. Come be amazed at the colorful progress which has been made by a modern and obsessed plant breeder. You will get more than an eyeful. **Beware**, plant lust may ensue. Just a sample of his work includes “Aiming for showy color in the winter landscape, not just a pretty flower for close-up viewing” and “Breeding Hellebore X hybridus for the landscape”.



California Horticultural Society photo file

On Daisy, on Dahlia, on Cuphia and Camellia. On fuchsia, on Orchid, on Aloe and Iris... I hope you all are dreaming of seeds dancing in your heads. Remember to take pictures and snag those seeds before they fall to the ground for our annual seed exchange this Winter. This is a great way for members to get unusual plants....there are other ways....and in August we are going to try a new event each meeting that I hope will be popular and people will enjoy. We announced at the June meeting....Socialized Cuttings...cutting exchange and socializing. When do we have time to do this???? Well, the ½ hour before the meeting will now be the social half hour. We will open the doors to the auditorium at 6:45 to 7:15 for socializing and we will encourage people to bring cuttings of the latest plants they happen to be pruning that month. We will also encourage bringing bulbs and divisions to share. We ask that you provide the names of the plant and a few cultural hints for growing the particular offspring. A picture of your plant before you pruned it, chopped it in half or dug it up would be helpful. Kathy Echols, who gave that wonderful propagation talk this past October has put together guidelines regarding taking cuttings, how to keep them fresh for the meeting and information on what to do with them once you get them home. See the guidelines in this month's bulletin.

Thank you all for turning in the survey this past spring. It was good to hear each and every one of your comments. Everyone is different and they have various objectives for coming to Cal Hort meetings and being a member of Cal Hort. We received answers to "start the meeting later" to "start the meeting earlier"...some have a hard time getting to meetings on time and some can't keep their eyes open that long. I guess life is about compromises and that is why the meeting starts at 7:15 instead of something like 7 or 7:30...We also try to accommodate those folks arriving late by having

announcements first, before the program so they don't miss the program.

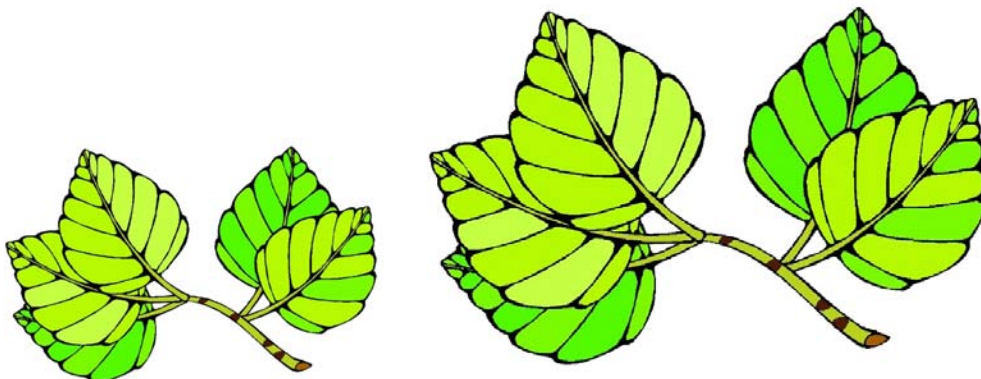
As Fred Bove summarized the results at the June meeting, it is about plant people connecting to plant people, as simple as that. Some other ideas that sprang up from the survey....community service projects, satellite groups in the East Bay, North Bay and the Peninsula.

Our new bulletin editor is doing a wonderful job and we so appreciate her taking on that role. We would welcome any comments, suggestions or articles that you would like to contribute, email her at [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org)....fell free to copy me on them also – [president@calhortsociety.org](mailto:president@calhortsociety.org). Also if you belong to any other horticultural groups (orchid, rose, bromeliad, succulent, etc.) and would like their various special events publicized in our calendar, please email [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org) or call our phone number (415) 566-5222 if you don't have email capabilities so other Cal Hort members can learn of these events. Remember the bulletin is mailed out at the beginning of the month, so if your event is early in the month, you should submit the information 2 months ahead.

This month we have Glen Patterson talking about roof top gardens. That is such a cool concept. I am looking forward to hearing what is involved and seeing all the examples Glen has to show. Can you garden on a regular gable roof??? How do you keep the peak moist...I will probably have to put in stairs to get up to the roof garden.

Remember to bring show and tell for the plant forum. We want to see what is blooming and thriving in your garden; unusual or the not so unusual; it could be a potted plant or if the plant can spare a little pruning bring some so we can see what you have in your garden. It is all about sharing.

I will see you on the 16<sup>th</sup> "Up on the Roof."



**NEW HAPPENINGS** at the Cal Hort meeting...yipee...cutting exchange starting at the August meeting. The auditorium will be open early at 6:45 before the meeting starts at 7:15, for socializing and exchanging cuttings. We will have a special table set up for the cuttings and plant material. Save some plastic bags for your cuttings.

Gardeners like to share their prize plants with other gardeners. Other gardeners LOVE having an opportunity to obtain those prize plants. And free is always appealing.

We will be encouraging you to bring cuttings, divided bulbs, rhizomes, tubers and perennials to share. If you have more than you need, there are loving hands waiting to give your little orphan genetic material a home.

Along with your prize cuttings, please give us a little cultural information...how do we take care of our new plants once they get roots, how big do these little sticks get, and if you could provide a picture of mom plant, that would be great.

This is a trial period so please give one of the board members some feedback or suggestions.

Kathy Echols wrote up the guidelines below so we will be more successful with our new rootless adoptions. Have fun and I hope to see lots of fun plant material being exchanged in the next few meetings.

### Preparing and Sharing Cuttings

1. If possible take cuttings in the early morning when they are fresh and turgid.
2. Take cuttings that are not too large, (small enough to fit in a gallon Ziploc bag)
3. Immediately wrap cuttings in a paper towel or newspaper and dampen it, then place cuttings in a plastic bag.
4. The two secrets to successful cuttings is to keep them cool and damp, so place the cuttings in the refrigerator or a cooler with some ice.
5. Cuttings can be successfully taken 4-5 days ahead if they are kept cool and damp.
6. Label the cuttings with the genus and species. If you don't know what they are, include a flower if possible for someone to identify it. Take photos if possible of the parent.
7. If you have lots of cutting material, be sure to bring many cuttings of a kind so there are lots to share.
8. Once you have made your acquisition of cuttings, take them home and again refrigerate them.
9. If you don't have a greenhouse, you will need to devise an area where you can do cuttings. It should be in the shade, and have water near by. Select a cutting tray:(cat litter pan, Tupperware dishpan, plastic sweater tray) and punch holes in the bottom. Fill the tray with perlite and peat mix. I use 1/3 peat with 2/3 perlite. You can use vermiculite also if you choose or sand.
10. Recut the bottom of the cutting with a sharp pair of shears. Make sure that they are bypass and not anvil type. Anvil types will crush the stems.
11. Dip in hormone if available. I use Dip N Grow, available at Orchard Nursery in Lafayette. Use low concentration for softwood cuttings and medium for harder wood. (10 sec.).
12. With a knife or shears, cut a line into the tray medium to make the trench to place cuttings in. Place cuttings 1" Apart. Firm the material around the cuttings.
13. Mist the cuttings at least 3 times a day for the first 4 days. After 4 days you can go to two times a day. Check cuttings after 1 week, check, by carefully digging some with a pencil. If they have rooted, they can then be transferred to a pot with soil. Be sure not to damage or bend the roots.
14. If they haven't rooted, place them back in the tray and check in another week.
15. Lightly feed once transplanted.

## The Vine Maple, *Acer circinatum*

One of the most under-appreciated native plants among west coast gardeners is the Vine Maple. It has a beautiful, multi-trunked form; great autumn color; and thrives in shady areas. It is even happy as a container plant. Think of it as the Japanese Maple of native plant gardens. In the wild, the Vine Maple is found from British Columbia to northern California, generally along the coast and in the mountains, avoiding hot and dry areas. This understory tree rarely grows taller than 30 feet, making it ideal for the smaller garden. It prefers fairly even moisture and cool shade, which is often the case in urban gardens. The Vine Maple's fall color can vary from yellow to red, and its twisting branches provide an interesting winter texture in the garden. It is also valued by many native birds and animals for nest building and as a source of food. The native Americans used the flexible twigs to make everything from baskets and fish traps to snowshoes and baby cradles. So, brush up on your weaving skills and try the native Vine Maple in your garden.



Photos by Linda Baptiste at Strybing



JUNE PLANT FORUM, continued from next page:

*Aristolochia fimbriata*  
Aristolichaceae  
Kristin Jakob  
Mill Valley

This South American deciduous relative of our native Dutchman's pipe is a much smaller plant and for us is best grown in a container. It can also be used as a ground cover as the flowers face upright from the ground. It may get vining stems to 6 feet. The flowers are very intriguing with "pipes" and inch or so across that are purple-brown with yellow markings. The seed pods are equally attractive as they are golfball sized with wide wings all around them. It need regular water and is not frost hardy.

*Manfreda maculosa*  
Agavaceae  
Linda Baptiste  
Martinez

Commonly called Texas tuberose, this Agave relative is often sold at cactus and succulent sales. Manfredas have straplike leaves that are often spotted and mottled with purple. I looks like a small rosette until summer when very quickly a 3 or 4 foot stalk emerges from which hang large spidery flowers in shades of white to purple. They usually are fragrant although Linda says the one shown is not. They do well in a container or in well drained soil where they can be protected from snails. Manfredas grow in full sun or part shade and need regular water when they are in active growth.

*Aechmena nudicaulis* var. *nudicaulis*  
 Bromeliaceae  
 David Feix  
 Berkeley

This beautiful bromeliad with a large stalk of red bracts topped with yellow flowers is a very reliable bloomer in the bay area. Best grown with morning sun or bright shade in pots or well drained soil in the ground. These plants are native from southern Mexico to Brazil but are surprisingly hardy to 27 or 28 degrees F. They need water weekly in the summer.

*Neoregelia* hybrid 'Charm'  
 Bromeliaceae  
 David Feix  
 Berkeley

This is indeed a charming bromeliad with it's rosy-red centered rosette. David says this is one of the few neoregelias that maintains a colored center for its whole lifespan, nor just when it blooms. Like the above it is hardy to 27 or 28 degrees F. This one is best grown in a container and needs more frequent watering (twice a week) than the one described above, The parent neoregelia species are probably native to Brazil.

*Alstroemeria* 'Third Harmonic' et al.  
 Amarylidaceae  
 Kristin Jakob  
 Mill Valley

These Peruvian lilies are very similar to the above hybrids except that they stay more evergreen and can bloom off and on all summer if given summer water. The colors are even brighter with sharper markings. They also have *A. ligtu* as one of the parents. Most *Alstroemerias* are from southern South America.

Linda Baptiste Photo - *Manfreda maculosa*



Cal Hort photo - *Aechmena nudicaulis* var. *nudicaulis*

*Alstroemeria* 'Dr Salter's hybrids'  
 Amarylidaceae  
 Kristin Jakob  
 Mill Valley

These deciduous Peruvian lilies are a hybrid population with *A. ligtu* as one of the parents. The flowers are beautiful in many bright shades of orange, red, salmon, and peach with deeper colored flecks and stripes. They are often used as long-lasting cut flowers but are also very showy in a garden setting. They are deciduous, often sending up flower stalks just as the leaves have turned brown. They can spread easily as the clumps enlarge and also by seed. They can take over the bed they are planted in so careful placement is necessary. On the other hand they are invaluable as a colorful groundcover in a controlled situation. They like full sun and no summer water.

Cal Hort Society photo - *Alstroemeria* hybrids



by Linda Baptiste

Other people have furniture handed down from friends and family; I have plants and memories. When I moved from Santa Barbara a fellow bonsai enthusiast presented me with her cherished itty pot of yellow eyed grass. When I finally settled into Castro Valley, I was frustrated with caring for all those little pots, so finally planted it in the ground. Oh. My.... it does like to run about, but it is still a welcome friend. The Holly Fern and Woodwardia from my mother's garden have been better mannered, although I had no idea they would get quite this big. I see the Mexican Evening Primroses just down the street, and remember the many futile hours of trying to dig them out of our backyard when I was a kid; at my neighbor's here they have run under the sidewalk and through the curb to erupt in the gutter. Tough plant.... and one I will not plant here. I discovered the Bletilla ground orchids grow like weeds in the clay soil here; they've been passed on, from my mother to me to my son and his wife. The Oldham bamboo I dug from my clump in Santa Barbara and gave to Mom ended up here in Martinez when we closed her house in Paso Robles; no one else would understand growing a semi-tropical bamboo there. The Kahili ginger I found on a trash heap near our first house when my son was a toddler; it sits in a big pot on the deck, another plant shared with Mom, and another reminder. The plectranthus came from a friend, and at the time she commented "When we are little old ladies we can sit and paint, for now we garden." The cactus and succulents are reminders of my Grandfather's garden; they had spent some time living in the California desert. No visit to them was complete without the tour of the garden, to see what was blooming. That reminds me, I need to get some Portulaca.....

#### GARDEN CONSERVANCY/



#### RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

**July 20-21; Part 1**

##### **Influence of South America on the California**

**Garden:** Seminar and field study for professionals and home gardeners. Friday seminar at the Civic Arts Education Building 111 N Wiget Ln, Walnut Creek, 8:30 AM –5 PM, Saturday field study at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, 8:30 AM–5 PM, seminar and field study: members \$150, non-members \$170. Jointly sponsored by The Garden Conservancy and The Ruth Bancroft Garden. For more info and registration call (415) 561-7895 or visit [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

Part 2 will be October 19-20, stay tuned for more.

#### THEODORE PAYNE FOUNDATION

July 1 to September 30

"**California Landscapes**," an exhibition of oil paintings in the plein air style depicting the beauty and diversity of California as interpreted by four local artists, Margot Lennartz of La Crescenta, Kendra Page of Glendale, Liz Reday of South Pasadena, Laura Wambsgans of Santa Clarita.

The Gallery is part of the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers and Native Plants, located at 10459 Tuxford Street, Sun Valley, California 91352.

Directions and map: [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org) or call 818-768-1802. Hours are: Thursday - Saturday, 8:30 - 4:30.

Artist Reception Saturday, July 21st, 2 to 4 PM

#### CORNERSTONE

**August 9**

Design Lecture Series—Get ideas and learn techniques for incorporating stone in and around your house. Optional field trip to Sonoma Mountain Cemetery. 1:30 PM–7 PM, members \$55, non-members \$65. For more info and registration call (415) 561-7895 or visit [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org).

Cornerstone, September 2006 - Linda Baptiste Photo

## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

### July 21

Fabulous Succulents for Bay Area Gardens—Brian Gabbard, Magic Gardens Propagations Specialist, will show you what's new and hot in the succulent world. At Magic Gardens Nursery, 729 Heinz Ave. Berkeley. 10:00 AM, free. (510) 644-2351 or [www.magicgardens.com](http://www.magicgardens.com)

### U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

(510) 643-2755 • [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

### July 11

Walk through the garden's Asian Area with Horticulturist Elaine Sedlack as she shows you garden-worthy plants known to be long-lived and trouble-free. 5:30 PM –7 PM, members \$12, non-members \$15.

### July 15

Preserving the Cycads—Garden Director Paul Licht discusses the history, diversity, and conservation of these most ancient of plants. Experts will guide you through their cultivation and garden design applications. Includes tour of new cycad collection. 10 AM– 12 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

### July 18

Fantastic Ferns—Join Associate Director of Collections and Horticulture, Chris Carmichael to view the Garden's fern collection. 4 PM –6 PM, members \$12, non-members \$15.

### July 25

Marvelous Monocots—From Agaves to Zephyranthes-get your radial symmetry on! Join this tour of fun, bold, exciting plants that can offer intriguing year round form, foliage and texture to the garden with Anthony Garza. 5:30 PM –7 PM, members \$12, non-members \$15.

### SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

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

### July 16

Rooftop Landscaping—Learn about the art of roof gardening with Glen Patterson, noted horticulturist and landscape designer. 7 PM, members free, non-members \$5.

### July 19

Horticultural Therapy Open House—Come to an evening reception to get the latest information about the practice of Horticultural Therapy, to connect with others and to learn about the HT program offered at the Garden. 5 PM–7 PM, free.

### U.C. SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM

(831) 427-2998 • [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum)

### July 26

Plant Collecting in New Zealand—Last Fall Tom Saucedo, the Arboretum's Curator of New Zealand plants, together with Director Daniel Harden and Natives Curator Rick Flores, spent a month exploring the islands, bringing back many rare plant specimens.

### UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

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

### July 15

Summer in the Redwoods—Learn about the understory plants of the Redwood Grove and enjoy the cool shade on this guided tour. Meet at the Buehler Alumni and Visitor Center on Old Davis Road. 10:00 AM, free.

### July 22

Summer Garden Survival Techniques—Tour the Ruth Risdon Storer Garden to learn the best watering approaches and plant choices for Central Valley gardens. Demonstrations of different sprinkler and drip irrigation options. Meet at the Gazebo. 10:00 AM, free

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 submitted two months ahead.

Join the speaker for a walk in Strybing before the monthly California Horticultural Society meeting.



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 web site at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

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