

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, July 16, 2012 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**  
*Romneya coulteri*



Photo © Ted Kipping 2012

**JULY 16, 2012 MEETING**  
**EXPLORING FOR PLANTS IN ARMENIA**  
with Joseph Simcox



Joseph Simcox, a botanical explorer and a world food plant ecologist, has led expeditions to more than 70 countries to study the world's plant resources. His work has taken him from steaming jungles to high desert plateaus. Joseph spends most of his time on expeditions and is presently working on a television series to introduce the thrills of plant exploring. He will talk about

both food and other plants he has found on recent explorations to Armenia.

**AUGUST 20, 2012 MEETING**  
**THE SEARCH FOR ACER PENTAPHYLLUM**  
with William McNamara

William McNamara, director of Quarryhill Botanical Garden and our Annual award recipient for 2012, has spent the last 15 years searching for a wild form of *Acer pentaphyllum* in China. The cultivated plant was originally planted at Strybing Arboretum and was the parent of all the *Acer pentaphyllum* in cultivation. Come hear the story of how this plant was found again.

## Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

### DIGGING DOG NURSERY'S DOG-GONE SUPER SUMMER PLANT SALE AND FREE SATURDAY TOURS

Plant Sale: July 6, 7, and 8, from 10 AM–5 PM;

SATURDAY TOURS: JULY 28, AUGUST 11 AND 25,

SEPTEMBER 8 AND 22, OCTOBER 6

Digging Dog Nursery is holding its Dog-Gone Super Summer Three-Day Plant Sale. Visitors can enjoy a free guided tour, garden consultation and light refreshments, with horticulturist Deborah Whigham, on Saturday, July 7, at 2 PM. The guided tours will be held again on alternate Saturdays throughout the summer. Digging Dog is a family-run nursery that produces an abundance of diverse, easy-to-grow garden plants, including many rare beauties and water-wise toughies. For further information: (707) 937-1130. website (with full catalog): [www.diggingdog.com](http://www.diggingdog.com)

### ALL IN GOOD TIME: SUSTAINABLE, SEASONAL BOUQUETS

Friday, July 13, 2012: 8:30 AM–12:30 PM

\$45 General Admission, \$40 Members

Spend a morning with flowers! Through lively lectures and floral-design demonstrations, Debra Prinzing, author of *The 50 Mile Bouquet*, and Robin Stockwell, owner of Succulent Gardens nursery, will show you the path to enjoying the full floral bounty the Bay Area has to offer, how to benefit from your own homegrown cut-flowers, and how to think outside the box for your design materials. To learn more about this half-day seminar here. To register, call the office at (925) 944-9352 or visit the website: [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

### CROSS-POLLINATION: ART/NATURE WORKSHOP

Sunday, July 15, 2012; 10 AM–Noon

Arboretum Gazebo, Garrod Drive on the UC Davis campus

The UC Davis Arboretum and the Davis Art Center present a hands-on, interactive workshop where participants will explore the relationship between creativity and the natural world. All ages are welcome to visit the Shields Oak Grove, collect natural materials, make art, and discover what happens when we encourage cross-pollination between art and nature. Learn more at [www.davisartcenter.org/discoveryart](http://www.davisartcenter.org/discoveryart)

### TIRED OF MOWING YOUR LAWN?

Saturday, July 21, 2012; 10–11:30 AM

Nature's Gallery Court, Garrod Drive, UC Davis

Tired of mowing your lawn? Learn how to save water, energy and money with a sustainable home landscape. The UC Davis Arboretum will offer a special "how to" tour exploring how to convert a home landscape from lawn to low-water, low-maintenance, beautiful plantings. Meet at Nature's Gallery Court on Garrod Drive on the UC Davis campus (look for the colorful mosaic mural). Free parking is available in Visitor Lot 55. For more information, please call (530) 752-4880 or visit [www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

### EAST BAY OPEN DAY GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Saturday, July 22, 2012; 10 AM–4 PM

The Open Days program of the Garden Conservancy offers a chance to see private gardens not generally open to the public. Seven gardens are featured in the East Bay with one in El Cerrito, one in Albany, two each in Oakland and Berkeley, and one in Piedmont. These range from Harland Hand's half-acre site on a rocky hillside in El Cerrito looking out to San Francisco, to eclectic combinations of color, artwork of amazing dimensions, and

plant palettes at Keeyla Meadows in Albany. There are a cottage garden on Webster Street and the subtropical plantings of Marcia Donohue and Mark Bulwinkle intermingled with their sculptures in steel, stone and ceramic on Wheeler Street in Berkeley. Unbelievable water features and woodland glades define the Potomac Waterworks garden in Oakland. The drought tolerant renovation of former lawn into fruit and vegetable plantings, mature trees and a man-made bog arrest the eye in Trestle Glen in Oakland. Piedmont Garden on Estates Drive offers an extensive plant palette of color and texture, rustic stonework, interesting water features and large pots fitting to a Mediterranean home. Call (415) 673-2195 for more information. Those who volunteer for three hours at one of the gardens can see all the others at no charge. [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org)

### THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK\*/SLIDESHOWS

Fourth Tuesday of the month  
San Francisco County Fair Building,  
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way,  
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco  
For information call (415) 753-7090.

\*Please bring a dish & beverage to serve eight people

### COLUMBIAN ADVENTURE IN THE ANDES

with Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna

Tuesday, July 24, 2012; 7:00 PM

### HIKING THE INCA TRAIL TO MACCHU PICHU

with Ron Breuch

Tuesday, August 28, 2012; 7:00 PM

### EXPLORING THE SIERRA NEVADA CREST

with Mike Euler

Tuesday, September 25, 2012; 7:00 PM

### A MEDITERRANEAN ROCK GARDEN

with Ted Kipping (channeling Victor Reiter, Jr.)

Tuesday, October 23, 2012, 7:00 PM

### BOTANIZING THE NORTH WOODS

with Bob Case

Tuesday, November 27, 2012; 7:00 PM

### LANDSCAPING WITH GRASSES: A WINNING STRATEGY FOR YOUR GARDEN!

With Bob Horback, Grassologist

Saturday, September 22, 2012; 10 AM–1 PM

San Francisco Botanical Garden, located in Golden Gate Park,  
near the corner of Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.

Scant winter rainfall has left Northern California dangerously dry. Water is scarcer and more expensive than ever. So, what's a gardener to do? Persevere, of course! If you're searching for plants with good drought-tolerance, good looks and easy maintenance, here's the class for you. \$25 Members. \$30 Non-members. For more information, contact: Kitty Fisher, Education Coordinator, (415) 661-1316 Ext. 400 or e-mail: [kfisher@sfbotanicalgarden.org](mailto:kfisher@sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Romneya coulteri*, Matilija Poppy

Family: PAPAVERACEAE

It is mid summer, which means that many perennials have long finished their flowering. Apparently, *Romneya* didn't get the memo, because it is continuing its spectacular floral display without stopping to rest. This plant seems to scare everyone—either they try to grow it and fail, or they try to grow it and it takes over their garden. The truth is somewhere in between the two extremes. Like many of our flowering natives, *Romneya* prefers lots of sun and very good drainage. It is not happy in a pot, which is why many nurseries don't carry it, and it can often fail if planted into heavy clay soil. In the southern California wild, it lives in dry washes and canyons with coastal sage and chaparral in fairly sandy soil. If planted in a good location, this plant does tend to quickly spread. This can be prevented with a root barrier, or by planting it in a patch of favorable soil surrounded by heavier clay. Of course, you can also overwater it in the summer to kill it off.

The glaucous foliage is rather attractive on the upright stems, and the large, crinkled, crepe-like white flowers are amazingly cheery. Especially when



Photo © Diane Goldsmith 2012

*Romneya coulteri*

they are held up to 6 feet above the ground. It will spread by rhizomes in well-draining soils, and is great for a sunny slope.

The name Matilija is believed to be of Chumash origin. The Latin name honors two friends, the Irish botanists Dr. Thomas Romney Robinson and Dr. Thomas Coulter. Coulter was the first to collect and describe the plant, but since the genus *Coulteria* was already named after him, this genus was named for his friend, and he got the species name instead. How is that for a happy ending?

## COUNCIL RECOMMENDS VOTE ON BYLAW REVISION AT JULY MEETING

CalHort Bylaw revisions will be considered for approval at the membership meeting of July 16, 2012. The Council has recommended a reduction in the size of the Council from from twelve to seven with a quorum of four.

The rationale for the recommended revision is to downsize the Council to better fit the membership size (about half of what it was when the Bylaws were adopted in 1998) and also fit the Society's ability to recruit and sustain members to serve on the Council.

The proposed revisions to the Bylaws are posted on CalHort's web site at [http://www.calhortsociety.org/downloads/Draft\\_Bylaws120530.pdf](http://www.calhortsociety.org/downloads/Draft_Bylaws120530.pdf) and a link can

also be found on the CalHort web site's home page ([www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)).

Comments and/or recommendations on the revisions should be addressed to: Steve Morse, 2265 Shasta Court, Martinez, CA 94553-4944 or by email (preferred) [s.j.morse@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s.j.morse@sbcglobal.net). Please submit any comments by July 8 so that they may be reviewed by the Council at its July 9 meeting.

If you do not have web access and wish a copy to be mailed, please contact Steve Morse at 925-330-6527. Steve can also answer your questions on the proposed revisions.



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

[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

**Monthly Plant Drawing News**

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Proven Winners is providing the plants for the July meeting since they forgot to get them to us for June. Thank yous go to Kathy Echols of Midhill Farms and Don Mahoney from Strybing Arboretum for donations to our June meeting. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from you garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find plants for your garden that you have never seen before.

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](http://www.calhortsociety.org), or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 ([gardengurus@gmail.com](mailto:gardengurus@gmail.com)).

The California Horticultural Society has maintained its quality programs because of the dedication of the volunteer officers, chairs and members. The future of the Society depends upon its member volunteers to provide leadership. The Board asks that members volunteer for positions to keep Cal Hort the best organization it can be.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone or at any Cal Hort meeting.

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin, with the exception of December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

2010-2012 (First Term) Mike Craib

2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,  
 Andy Stone, Dave Tivol

2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor

2012-2014 (Second Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

**COUNCIL**

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Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Judith Taylor
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

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