

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, July 20, 2015

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.

6:30 PM – Annual Cal Hort Dinner
 San Francisco County Fair Building,
 Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way

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

Cotyledon orbiculata



MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015

From Chomp To Stranded!

by Lau Hodges

The San Francisco Conservatory of Flowers has made exciting inroads into making plants interesting and exciting to people from all over the world. Lau Hodges, Director of Operations and Exhibits, will talk about how the conservatory creates education exhibits for school children and tourists, as well as for your average plant fancier.



MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015

Introducing Native Sod

by Jodie Sheffield



Come hear Jodie Sheffield, seed specialist at Delta Blue Grass, who has developed a sod using native California grasses. You will find out the myriad ways this new product can be used in California gardens using little to no water—depending on the aesthetic appearance you wish to achieve. This product inspires a paradigm shift in thinking about turf, and may be the future of lawns in California.

Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS



FLOWERS FROM DOWN UNDER

Saturday, July 11; 11 am–12:30 pm
Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park
Explore the floral worlds of South Africa and Southwest Australia, including bizarre banksias, peculiar proteas and other flowers with forms exotic to Northern Hemisphere gardeners. Enjoy a walk through the Garden as you learn about the history of flower families that evolved on the ancient southern land mass of Gondwana.

RARE AND ENDANGERED PLANTS OF THE GARDEN

Friday, July 17; 1–2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Join Chris Carmichael, Associate Director of Collections and Horticulture at the Garden on a tour of the Garden's rare and endangered plants. Registration required. Free with Garden admission. Register online, or by calling 510-664-9841, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

PLANTING COMPANIONS

Saturday, July 25; 10:30 AM–Noon

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

We all love certain plants for gardens and containers. The challenge often comes when you need to pair those plants with other varieties to create an interesting yet visually cohesive arrangement. How do you figure out what to plant with what? Come to the garden for a lecture on grouping plants together. We will talk about colors, textures, sun and water requirements, mature plant dimensions, and other factors that you should consider when pairing plants together. \$20 / \$15 Members. Pre-registration is recommended.



BLUE MOON

Friday, July 31, 7:30 PM–9:30 PM

Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park

Join us for this rare and wonderful Garden adventure. Discover what's in bloom under a blue moon! Bring a flashlight, heavy rain cancels.

BOTANICAL PRINTS BY ERNEST CLAYTON, MARIN COUNTY ARTIST

On exhibit now through August.

The Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture
The Library is open, free of charge, from 10 AM–4 PM,
every day except Tuesdays and major holidays.
1199 Ninth Avenue in Golden Gate Park

Ernest Clayton painted a series of nearly 200 watercolors of the California native plants that he saw on his many walks around Marin County in the period from 1938 to 1952. During his botanical outings, his granddaughters, who have organized this exhibit of prints of his artwork, often accompanied him.

Mr Clayton painted at a time when walking in Marin County revealed "an amazing glory of color and scent surrounding us on every side," according to his granddaughter Eugenia Herr. Those sights and scents are now largely lost to development, but this exhibit gives some insight into that loss.

Presented in a style reminiscent of the arts and crafts tradition of the early 20th century, the paintings go beyond the usual stylized images of that era and present pictures that are vivid and naturalistic combining the observations of a botanist with the aesthetics of a skilled artist. The prints in the exhibit include images of many well known and valued native plants - California buck-eye, matilija poppy, trillium, shooting star to name a few. Each is painted individually like a portrait and all are the same size, making it an attractive and cohesive collection. The images in this exhibit reveal a talented artist who enjoyed and closely observed the native flora growing in the area around his home in San Anselmo.



The collection of work by Mr. Clayton was purchased by the San Francisco Public Library prior to his death. Nancy Praetzel and Eugenia Herr knew that their grandfather's work was safely kept as an important collection at the San Francisco Public Library, but they wanted to make it possible for more people to see the delightful images. To honor the memory of Ernest Clayton and expose his work to the larger public, they have had prints produced of many of the original works.

The artwork in our exhibitions are available for sale, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the Library. For more information, call (415) 661-1316 ext. 403



Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Cotyledon orbiculata

Family: CRASSULACEAE

As our drought lingers, I am becoming more enchanted with the less thirsty plants in my garden, and I'm developing a new appreciation for plants that I used to take for granted. One of the old work horses in my garden that I'm now paying more attention to is *Cotyledon orbiculata*, the pig's ear crassula. Like many gardeners, I obtained my first plant as a cutting from a gardening friend. Planted near a sidewalk in front of the house, it survived the harsh realities at the hands (and feet) of passersby. I would collect the bits that broke off after the plant was stomped on or otherwise creatively mangled, and plant them as well. Before long, I had many clones of my plant, and they were perfect for filling in around other plants in the garden. In the summer, I enjoy the orange-red flowers that hang in clusters from their stems, looking for all the world like little bells.

Widespread throughout South Africa, *Cotyledon orbiculata* is interesting in that it has several different forms, which appear to be entirely different species of plants. Needless to say, this has created quite a chore for the plant taxonomists among us. The leaves vary from silvery gray to pale blue-green, and from nearly circular to finger-shaped.

Although it is toxic to sheep and goats, the leaves of *Cotyledon orbiculata* have been used for removing warts, curing earaches and toothaches, and getting rid of parasitic worms.

The Jepson Manual lists *Cotyledon orbiculata* as naturalized in some parts of coastal southern California, but I'm not aware of it setting seed in northern California to an extent that would make it invasive. The name of the genus comes from the Greek word '*kotyledon*', meaning a cup-shaped hollow. This refers to the leaf shape in some species. The species name '*orbiculata*' derives from the Latin word for a circle, which refers to the round leaves in some of the forms of this plant. This same shape is referenced in the common name of 'pig's ear'.

Provided with good drainage, sun to light shade, and protection from heavy frost, this plant is nearly carefree and is a great addition to the dry garden.



Cotyledon orbiculata in a few of its forms



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Since our speaker will be talking about tropical plants, if any members have unusual tropical plants to share, please bring them in. Remember, you can always find new plants in 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 Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209
 (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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib
 2015-2017 (First Term) Steve Morse, Andy Stone

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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.