



BULLETIN

**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
**San Francisco County Fair Building**  
**Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way**  
**San Francisco, California 94122**  
**JUNE 21, 2004**



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 Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way .  
8:00 PM Speaker and Plant Drawing.

\*\*\*Guest fee \$5.

**Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society**  
**Monday, June 21, 2004**

**“Incorporating Succulents in the Garden for Bold Year Round Interest”**

Presented by **Ernesto Sandoval**, Curator, Division of Biological greenhouses, Section of Plant Biology, University of California Davis.

Using examples from private gardens such as the author’s garden and public gardens such as the Ruth Bancroft Garden, the Huntington Botanical Gardens and Strybing Arboretum, succulents that merit a place in our gardens will be discussed. Aloes, Agaves, cacti and other succulents appropriate to mixed plantings will be emphasized using quality photographs. Although many people consider succulents to be hard to grow and even dangerous, the author hopes to convince us that not all succulents are difficult and that there are many which have little chance of causing pain and anguish from their presence in our gardens. Some less common, but not too difficult to grow plants such as various Aloe and Agave species, and bulbs such as *Ornithogalum fimbri-marginatum* and other low water use plants will be discussed as well as made available for purchase at a plant table supplied by the speaker. Proceeds from those volunteer grown plants will benefit the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory.



The Plant Drawing each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In June, the drawing will include donations from **The Dry Garden**, Oakland, courtesy of Richard Ward and from Strybing Arboretum, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to the many nurseries, members and to **Strybing Arboretum**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the May meeting.

**Monday, July 19, 2004**

**Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society**

**Taking the High Road: People and Plants in Pakistan’s Shangri La**  
**Presented by Dr. Dan Johnson, Curator Native Plants, Denver Botanic Gardens.**

Few might consider a trip to Pakistan in these times, but before 9/11 the world seemed a different place. On that very day we entered the northeastern countryside of Pakistan, where the world’s greatest mountain ranges collide, and the dry steppes of central Asia merge with lush forested mountains. Here the Karakorum, Hindukush and Himalaya converge in a cathedral of the world’s tallest peaks. Twisting through their heart, the Indus river cuts deeply through the land and has nourished one of the richest and most diverse cultures on Earth. The varied landscape only hints at the rich flora of the region, from the bristling mounds of *Acantholimon lycopodioides* to the windswept *Betula utilis* at treeline. In just two weeks, an unfamiliar territory captivated us all in unexpected ways.



# President's Letter

by Bruce Peters

Our Annual Dinner was FUN! I had never heard our Annual Award winner Annie Hayes speak before and she was great. No one will ever accuse her of being a dry speaker, that's for sure!

I was also happily surprised to see little 4" gift plant placed in front of each and every seat, thanks to Don Mahoney and Kathy Echols. I brought home that cool *Nem-esia cheiranthus* 'Shooting Stars' I've been struggling to get going from seed. Thank goodness for great Cal Hort surprises!

Then everyone brought so much super-tasty food — I had to try a little of almost everything and then got so full I could hardly get up and keep the meeting going! As for the bounty of left-over serving utensils which Ann DeRosa very kindly washed and stored for the next meeting, I'll try to make an announcement for people to claim what's their's but if I don't remember to bring it up, remind me.

OK, enough gushing about the fun dinner meeting. This is a information-heavy *Bulletin*, despite there being no Plant Forum or Meeting Recap. At the next meeting we're starting up our 'Bring in a new member and get free Plant Drawing tickets' program which is in dire need of a less verbose and more catchy name. Any ideas?

We're also really excited about starting up a member-driven propagation group. Check out the little blurb to the right and help out...we need basically everything to get it going and then volunteers to keep it going. Let us know ASAP if you're interested because I have a feeling this thing is going to attract a lot of attention.

Renee Fittinghof has also been instrumental in getting a bunch of gardens together for a free member's only Open Garden Tour in June. A great way to sneak a peek at what's going on in other people's yards...legally!

The newly(-ish) Conservatory is garnering awards and kudos from just about everywhere so how could we resist setting up a Cal Hort tour in August, along with other gardens? We couldn't! Detail are forthcoming but save August 7 for a fun time limited to 40.

That's all for now as my garden is crying out for water, despite the recent foggy SF days. I'll see you all at the next meeting or in one volunteer group or another (hint, hint)! Keep on planting!

## Grants And Scholarships Applications

Grant applications close July 5, 2004, Scholarship applications close July 15, 2004

The information and forms are on our website. Please spread the word to students and people or organizations contemplating worthwhile projects. We have \$1,459 from the Plant Sale Auction, \$119 from the Annual Dinner silent auction, and \$578 from the plant raffles from January through April. This gives us a total of \$2156.

Help us make the best use of our funds.

## Botanical Tours

**January 20–February 2, 2005**

**Drakensbergs—a floral treasure**—South Africa in Summer with Panayoti Kelaidis. In support of the American Rock Garden Society

**August 26–September 9, 2004**

**South Africa in Springtime, Natural History of Namaqualand & the Western Cape Province**—

In support of the California Horticultural Society with Annie Hayes, award winning horticulturist & owner of Annie's Annuals

**September 12 - 23, 2004**

**GREAT GARDENS & VILLAS OF ITALY**—with Michael Bernsohn as Guide in support of Strybing Arboretum Society. Info: [www.venture-out.com/gardens.htm](http://www.venture-out.com/gardens.htm)

**October 11–27, 2004**

**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 Strybing Arboretum Society.

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

## Volunteer Corner

Being a volunteer-run organization, Cal Hort is always in need of people with various skills and talents to help out. Look below to see how you can help our Society to grow!

**Hospitality Committee:** Tasks include showing new members the different areas and aspects of the monthly meetings. The only pre-requisite is having attended one previous meeting. *We really need people here!* Contact Renee ([vicepresident@calhortsociety.org](mailto:vicepresident@calhortsociety.org)) or Diana ([lambeaux@pacbell.net](mailto:lambeaux@pacbell.net)) for info.

**Newsletter:** The *Bulletin* is always happy to accept stories, articles or fun garden-related tidbits. If you would like to start a column, write something or have just run across an interesting item, share it with the rest of us! Contact Bruce at [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org) or (415) 824-1833.

# Propagation group

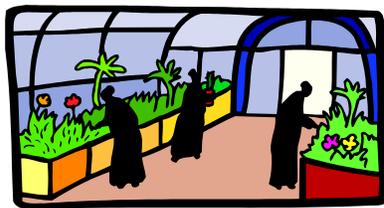
Cal Hort is looking to start up a propagation group. We would like to get a group of people together, both experts and beginners, to start propagating plants for next year's plant sale. We're looking to propagate some choice plants via any means necessary to have them ready and saleable by next April.

Although still in the planning stages, we'd like to get this group up and running as soon as possible so that the plants will look their best by next year.

Following in a list of things we're going to need. If you can think of anything else we will need, help out in any of the following areas or know someone who can, please contact us *right away!*

- Volunteers to propagate and care for the plants.
- Greenhouse space
- Ideas for choice plants to grow - plants that will pull more people to our sale.
- Seeds, cuttings etc of the chosen plants
- Potting soil & pots

This is a great way to gain hands-on horticultural experience, share some of that experience with others, meet new members, help out the Society, learn about new plants... The list goes on and on!



Contact us at [propgroup@calhortsociety.org](mailto:propgroup@calhortsociety.org), by phone at (415) 824-1833 or in person at one of our membership meetings.

Please welcome to the following new members to the California Horticultural Society.

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Herb & Lynn Fredricksen | Adam Dunlap       |
| Gwen Kaplan             | Judy Ousterhout   |
| Amy Kessler             | Leslie Riggall    |
| Bonnie Lammar           | Richard Sanders & |
| Michelle Leahy          | Dannis Mitchell   |
| Cimeron Morrissey &     | Traci Teraoka     |

## Garden Conservancy Fellowship

Want to garden in the dramatic setting of Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay? Want to work on one of the most exciting garden preservation projects in the country?

That's the proposition from the **Garden Conservancy**, America's only non-profit organization devoted to preserving exceptional gardens. The Conservancy is now accepting applications for its Marco Polo Stufano Fellowship.

The Garden Conservancy, in partnership with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, has embarked on an ambitious project to preserve and restore gardens created by superintendents, officer's families and prisoners. The Fellow will work with professional staff and volunteers, engage in hands-on gardening and learn historic preservation philosophy and techniques. The Fellow will also participate in special projects that will enhance his/her professional experience.

Anyone who has completed a degree program in horticulture or related subject, or has demonstrated talent by working 3-5 years in the field is eligible.



For more information and an application please visit [www.gardenconservancy.org](http://www.gardenconservancy.org) or call (845) 265-9396, ext. 18. Deadline is June 8

## Open Garden Tour

Save the date, Sunday, June 27, to visit Cal Hort members' gardens in San Francisco. Fliers will be available at the next general meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting, send a SASE to: Elsie Mueller 1847 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-4109. This is a free event and is limited to members only.



## Alcatraz Gardening

The Garden Conservancy and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, with the endorsement of the National Park Service, are taking the first steps towards stabilizing and restoring the gardens of Alcatraz Island.

The Parks Conservancy has funded a part-time horticulturist position and Deborah Lindsay has accepted this position.

She is actively recruiting volunteers for an Alcatraz garden work crew. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this volunteer opportunity, or any vehicle for getting this information to others, please pass this information along.

Please contact Deborah Lindsay ( ) if you have questions about volunteering for this project.

# Horticultural Calendar

## First Saturday of the Month

**Sick Plant Clinic**—Do you have a sick plant? Let the Plant Doctors diagnose. 9 AM – noon at the UC Botanical Gardens. Free (510) 643-2755 or [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)

## June 5

**Cactus Caper**—Celebrate Lotusland's new Desert Garden with a fun filled afternoon of food and stories. 2 – 6 PM. Advanced reservations are \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. (805) 969-9990 or [www.lotusland.org](http://www.lotusland.org)

## June 6

**Eucalypts and Roses in Tasmania**—A slide lecture with Bill Grant. 1:30 PM at the UCSC Arboretum Horticulture Bldg. Members \$10, non-members \$15. (831) 427-2998 or [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum).

## June 12

**Garden Photography Workshop**—Learn expert tips with Saxon Holt. 8 – 10 AM at the Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen. \$35. (707) 996-3802 or [www.quarryhillbg.org](http://www.quarryhillbg.org).

## June 16

**Slideshow and Potluck**—Stew Winchester will talk about plant hunting in New Zealand. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

## June 17

**Sharing the Garden with Other Vertebrates, or Not**—A pest control lecture sponsored by the SF Professional Gardeners Assn. 7 – 9 PM at SF City College. (415) 558-8036 or [www.sfpga.org](http://www.sfpga.org)

## June 19

**Succulent Gardening**—Learn to garden with these great plants. Free. 10 AM at Magic Gardens, 729 Heinz Ave. Berkeley, (510) 644-2351 or [www.magicgardens.com](http://www.magicgardens.com)

## June 26

**Water Gardening**—Learn how to garden with water loving plants. Free. 10 AM at Magic Gardens, 729 Heinz Ave. Berkeley, (510) 644-2351 or [www.magicgardens.com](http://www.magicgardens.com)

## July 4-10

**22nd Perennial Plant Symposium & Trade Show**—Grand Hyatt New York City. Seminars, Programs, tours etc. [www.perennialplant.org](http://www.perennialplant.org). [ppa@perennialplant.org](mailto:ppa@perennialplant.org)

## August 6

**Hot Summer Gardening**—Second in a series of Dry Garden seminars at the Ruth Bancroft Garden. 8:30 AM – 4 PM. Members \$65, non-members \$70 Register early. (925) 210-9663 or [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## Crissy Field Center

(415) 561-7752 • [www.crissyfield.org](http://www.crissyfield.org)

## June 19

**Mushrooms in Your Garden**—Ken Litchfield teaches you how to grow edible and organic mushrooms right in your own backyard. 1- 4 PM, fee \$15 and pre-registration is required.

## June 19

**Exotic Plant Removal**—Volunteer to help weed the coastal bluffs near Baker Beach. Meet at center, the carpool to site. 9 AM – Noon, free, but pre-registration is required.

## Regional Parks Botanic Garden

(510) 841-8732 • [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org)

## June 5

**Propagating Natives From Cuttings**—An afternoon of plant magic with Martin Grantham. 10 AM – 4 PM. Members \$40, non-members \$45.

## June 6

**Dragonflies of the Bay Area**—Learn to identify local dragonflies with Kathy Biggs. 9:45 AM – Noon, plus an afternoon field trip. Members \$25, non-members \$30.

## The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org)

## June 5

**Garden Maintenance 101**—Learn how to keep your garden looking good with Eric Rasmussen. 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

## June 26

**Bonsai Demonstration**—Mike Baresi will lecture on pruning using the basic principles of Bonsai. 10 AM – noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

## July 10

**Bonsai: Hands-on Workshop**—An in-depth presentation and hands-on pruning with Mike Baresi. 9:30 AM – noon, members \$25, non-members \$30, and a \$20 materials fee.

## July 17

**Build Your Own Hypertufa Trough**—This popular class is back. All materials will be provided to make two planters. 9:30 AM – noon. Members \$15, non-members \$20, plus a \$15 materials fee.

## Strybing Arboretum Society

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

*Continued* →

**Rhodochiton atrosanguineum**

Vines are useful plants in any garden, but they are especially useful in the small garden, where ground space is at a premium. When you run out of room, think vertical! Vines can climb up structures or other plants and provide color and texture without taking up valuable floor space.

One interesting and useful vine is *Rhodochiton atrosanguineum*, the purple bell vine. This mild mannered vine comes to us from southwestern Mexico, and is an annual plant in most of the country. However, blessed with our mild climate, we are lucky enough to have this plant overwinter as a short-lived perennial. *Rhodochiton* starts flowering in May or June, and continues to flower well into autumn. The flowers are formed by wonderful



pink umbrella-like calyxes, with a deep purple tubular flower hanging beneath. This vine will twine to about 10 feet, and is ideal threaded through open shrubs and small trees, with its flowers dangling and shimmering in the breeze. It also looks great in a hanging basket.

*Rhodochiton* prefers sun to light shade, and rich well drained soil. It can be grown from cuttings or from seed. The seed can take up to 2 months to germinate, and needs to be kept fairly warm. While this plant has a reputation for being tender, the small amount of work that it requires is a small price to pay for such beauty.

Photo from <http://www.plantsofperfection.com/>



**Free Plant Drawing Tickets!**

Now when you get a new member to join **and** attend a monthly meeting, you will get a bonus of 6 free tickets to our plant drawing!

There's no limit to the number of times you can invoke this benefit so the more people you introduce to the fruits of a Cal Hort membership, the more free plant drawing tickets you get!

You get extra chances to win great plants, other Cal Hort members will get the opportunity to make more horticultural friends, and your friend gets all the benefits of a Cal Hort membership. What are those benefits?

- A Subscription to the pre-eminent horticultural magazine for our climate zone, *Pacific Horticulture*
- 11 monthly *Bulletins* filled with timely information about our society and horticulture
- Our annual Seed Exchange filled with a great mix of rare (and not so rare) seeds, often unavailable anywhere else
- Monthly slide lectures given by a broad range of horticultural professionals covering the gamut of the horticultural spectrum
- First crack at the plants in our Annual Plant Sale at the members-only Gala
- Much more that we don't have space for here.

How do you claim these tickets? Just tell Elsie or one of the reception volunteers when you first enter that you've brought a new member and they'll give you a certificate to redeem for your free tickets during the announcements. Remember, new members also get 6 free tickets at their first meeting. Whoo hooo!

**June 5**

**Medicinal Herbs**—A slide lecture with Sapna Bhan. 9 AM - 12:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

**June 5**

**Garden Insects of North America**—Join Whitney Crenshaw for a walk and talk about insects. 10 AM - 12:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

**June 12**

**Plant Sale**—Featuring perennials and Epiphyllums. 10 AM - 2 PM at the nursery.

**June 19**

**Hardscape Construction Details**—Bill Steele discusses a variety of landscaping issues and problem solving. 9 AM - 4 PM, members \$75, non-members \$90.

**July 9**

**Gardening for Wildlife: A Personal View**—Don Mahoney shares his secrets. Noon - 4:30 PM, members \$55, non-members \$75.

**July 10**

**Plant Sale**—Featuring bird and butterfly plants. 10 AM

# Cal Hort T-Shirts



\$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

## Host a Speaker

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a monthly speaker. Many of our speakers live out of town or the state and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to stay for one night with one of our members and perhaps enjoy their garden or another if time is available. Please contact Barbara Hopper (707) 833-2078.

### Officers

**President**  
Bruce Peters  
president@calhortsociety.org

**Vice President**  
Renee Fittinghoff  
vicepresident@calhortsociety.org

**Past President**  
Katherine Henwood

**Recording Secretary**  
Richard Starkeson  
rstarkeson@calhortsociety.org

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Barbara Hopper  
jbhopper@calhortsociety.org

**Treasurer**  
Jan Hamby

**Parliamentarian**  
Jan Hamby

### Secretary

Elsie Mueller  
1847 34th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA  
94122-4109  
(415) 566-5222  
(800) 884-0009

### Executive Council

#### 2002-2004

**First Term**  
Michael Craib  
Renee Fittinghoff

**Second Term**  
Richard Starkeson  
Keitha DeMara

#### 2003-2005

**First Term**  
Ann DeRosa  
Bruce Peters  
Jason Dewees

**Second Term**  
Katherine Henwood

#### 2004-2006

**First Term**  
Dan Carlson  
Scot Medbury  
Josh Schechtel

**Second Term**  
Diana Ross

### Bulletin

**Editor**  
Bruce Peters  
25 Chattanooga Street  
San Francisco, CA  
94114-3024  
(415) 824-1833  
editor@calhortsociety.org

**Hort Calendar Editor**  
Corina Rieder  
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.

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.



**San Francisco County Fair Building**  
**9th Avenue & Lincoln Way**  
**San Francisco, CA 94122**

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit #4143  
San Francisco

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

**Dated Material - Please deliver by June 10**