

# Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

*Cultivating Friendship, gardens and fun for over 75 years*

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building and are co-sponsored by the SF Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Parking is available behind the SF Co. Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with the speaker.  
Meet at the entrance

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1240 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. San Francisco.

7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the SF Botanical Garden in the SF County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

\*\*\*Members free

\*\*\*Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

June 2009

Volume 76, Issue 6

## Rare Fruit

June 15th

### What is it and why should you grow it?

Presented by Bill Grimes, National President of the California Rare Fruit Growers

Concentrating on rare fruits that we can grow in the Bay Area, Bill's presentation will start with a discussion of deciduous rare fruit varieties, then subtropical and then tropical fruits if time allows. Most of the plants presented may seem familiar to us, but there are "rare" qualities or varieties that need to be considered. Others will be, unfamiliar and of interest. Questions will be entertained at the end of the presentation.



Naranjilla fruits, flowers and leaves by Oscar Jaatt of Hawaii courtesy of the California Rare Fruit

Bill joined the California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) over 20 years ago and his interest in fruiting plants began in earnest when he built his house in 1979. His Travels to Europe, Africa, Asia and South America expanded his palate for the unusual and knowledge of fruit. Bill has been president of CRFG for the last 5 years.

The **Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program.

**For May,**  
Our appreciation to:

The various members those who brought plants and items for the auction, Strawberry Press and Alex Rigg Succulents for their generous donations.

Please patronize these  
business  
supporters of Cal Hort

## July's meeting

July 20th

### Great New Plants for Mediterranean Gardens

Presented by Ryan Hall from Pacific Plug and Liner

Ryan is involved in cutting edge new plants and knows his plants extremely well. He is an enthusiastic speaker that we all should enjoy hearing. He will cover a range of plants from perennials to shrubs and plenty of architectural type plants like Cordyline.

Rumor has it that Ryan may be bringing some plants to share for the drawing.



## More about the California Rare Fruit Growers - CRFG

Founded in 1968, the CRFG is the largest amateur fruit-growing organization in the world. Although oriented toward the environmentally sound culture of any and all edible plants in the home landscape, CRFG is focused on species not native to nor grown commercially in any given area. Its mission is to share knowledge acquired from its activities with home growers in particular and with anyone else in the world having an interest in edible plant cultivation.

In addition to publication of a highly acclaimed magazine, *Fruit Gardener*, six times a year, the organization includes many other activities, such as organizing

plant sales, scion exchanges and fruit tastings to educate the public as well as to promote the growing of less common varieties of fruiting plants. CRFG also conducts an annual educational seminar, called the **Festival of Fruit** and hosted by one or more chapters on a rotating basis, with renowned speakers, plant sales, tastings and tours; this year the Festival of Fruit (<http://festivaloffruit.org/schedule.html>) will be held in Santa Rosa the week of August 15 featuring the olive and olive oil but covering many other subjects as well. People interested in learning more about the organization, the Festival of Fruit or fruit growing in general are invited to visit the web site, [www.crfg.org](http://www.crfg.org).

**FESTIVAL OF FRUIT - SANTA ROSA  
August 12 - 16**

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

### Pomegranate- *Punica granatum*

If you live in an area with hot summer weather and have a sunny site, the pomegranate is a fruit that you can easily grow. Not only will you get delicious fruit to eat, but you will also be continuing a long line of pomegranate growers that began over 4000 years ago! In fact, the pomegranate was one of the first domesticated crops, along with figs, dates, grapes and olives. Originally from the Mediterranean region, pomegranates were cultivated in ancient Egypt, the Middle East and India. The Spanish missionaries brought them to Mexico and California in the 16th century.

Like many plants from the Mediterranean region, pomegranates do best with full sun, good drainage and hot summer weather. In fact, they probably won't bear fruit if you live near the coast where summers are mild. Pomegranates form large shrubs, or small trees if they are pruned. They tend to produce lots of suckers from the base, and this can produce a dense mass of thorny twigs unless pruned every year or two. With pruning, the natural vase-like shape of the plant can be accentuated as a small multi-trunked tree.



Pomegranates provide interest throughout most of the seasons- flowers and fruit in the spring and summer, and great color in the autumn.

Once established, pomegranates need very little additional water, although a little summer watering helps with fruit production. However, over watering and over-feeding can cause fruit drop, so sometimes benign neglect is a good thing!



Photo by California Rare Fruit Growers



## Elsie Mueller - Cal Hort Secretary Retires

by Demi Bowles Lathrop, Ph.D., Master Gardener

Elsie Mueller who has worked as Cal Hort's Office Secretary since 1964 retires this June, after some forty years of service. She came to the office by way of Arthur Stettler, an early Cal Hort board member who knew Elsie from their work together in the American Fuchsia Society. Stettler could have been a human resource director for a firm with his skill to match people with their job. Elsie has been tireless at hers since that time, and this includes membership, the newsletter and fielding calls. Beyond her organizational duties, "she has been the glue that has held the club together," said member Kristin Yanker-Hansen.

Elsie, a second-generation native San Franciscan, comes from a long line of gardeners. She first learned to garden alongside her mother in their backyard, a "little vegetable garden by the side of the house," she recalled of her early memory. "We gardened together, and it just carried on from there." The family later added many plants other than vegetables to their city plot. On her father's side of the family, her grandmother another avid gardener, hybridized plants, and her uncle Ed Lohbrunner had a nursery in Victoria, British Columbia. Ed, along with his other brother, "went on explorations in the Olympics, the Northwest, Alaska and he



Elsie Mueller checking in names at this past Annual Awards Dinner

introduced some things. Alpines and rock garden plants were his primary interest." A rock garden in his name at the University of British Columbia commemorates him. "There's a lot of horticultural interest in the family tree," she summed up.

In her marriage to her husband Carl, the passion continued and grew. When they bought their San Francisco home in the Sunset district in 1951, she made her first garden with him. An ad in the local paper posted by the American Fuchsia Society, propelled her even further: "we went to find out what it was about and that started the whole thing," she pointed out. Fuchsias drew them both, and their involvement with the plant and society grew. Their terraced three-level garden gave them an ideal site for fuchsias at its lowest level, in a lathe house built together by her husband and father. That and a glass and lathe enclosure by her home gave her ample room to house her collection.

Once the fuchsia mite struck that "devastated" their collection, they bumped into a Dahlia Society of California member who told them, "you've got to grow some dahlias." And so, the upper part of the garden became the dahlia garden. Not one to let the frailties of age deter her, Elsie turned to orchids that she still happily grows.

While Elsie stays on as a Cal Hort member, she leaves her Office Secretary post. I'm sure everyone will join me in thanking Elsie for her years of tireless service to our group. Thank you, Elsie, from us all.

## Newsletter Editor needed...

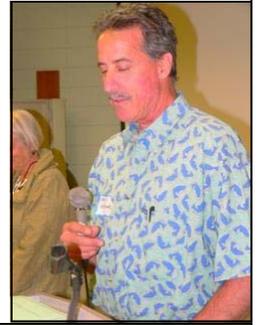
Cal Hort is looking for a newsletter editor. It is a creative outlet that allows you to write and design the newsletter as you see fit. We have regular contributors, Kathy Dahlin - calendar, Josh Schechtel - plant of the month and the unpresident's letter (Thank you, Kathy, Josh and the rotating council member president for the month). I've had a lot of fun this past year or so writing and arranging the information, but other obligations prevent me from continuing past July. I will continue to contribute, but will not be able to be the editor. Please let one of the council members know (listed on the back of the bulletin) if you are interested and we can tell you more about the job. If two people want to share the responsibility, that would work as well.

Thank you!



## Recap - Annual Awards Dinner

What a lovely event the Annual Awards Dinner turned out to be! The food was great, as always, the company was incredible and the award winners were honored and celebrated with much gusto. Thank you all who helped put this together, donated plants and items for the auction and help make this a fun event for all who attended. Our apologies for those that were not informed in time. The newsletter was late and we tried to reach all by phone or email, but still missed some.



Publisher's Award accepted by David Schwartz for Strawberry Press on behalf of his deceased father, Herman Schwartz, MD

Thank you to those who jumped in and decorated the tables with interesting plant material that Andy Stone and Don Mahoney collected and the 4" succulents so graciously donated by Alex Rigg Succulents (look for her plant sales in Berkeley on varying weekends on Craig's list). Also, each attendee was surprised with a book, *A History of Succulent Plants* which were donated by Strawberry Press. Congratulations to the award winners mentioned below. The horticultural awards are given to plants that are brought to share in the Plant Forum. Thank you to those that participated this past year. Don Mahoney gave an inspirational presentation about our natural flora that was enjoyed by all and was a nice way to end the evening....basking in our own good fortune of native plants.



Ernest Werthheim, past president and long-time CalHort member talked of his early years in CalHort.



Kathy Echols was awarded the Garden Award for her lovely garden in Martinez

### 2009 Cal Hort Horticultural Award winners

- Horticulturist of the Year:** Dr. Don Mahoney  
**Rixford Award:** Richard Starkeson  
**Council Award:** Robert Scudder  
**Garden Award:** Kathy Echols  
**Publisher's Award:** Strawberry Press  
**Wirter's Award:** Sean Hogan  
**Editor's Award:** Pam Pierce  
**Photography Award:** Marion Brenner  
**Website Award:** [Monterey Bay Nursery](http://www.montereybaynursery.com)

#### Horticulture Awards:

Plant(s)	Family	Recipient(s)	Award
Paphiopedilum lawii	Orchidaceae	John & Barbara Hopper	cultural award
Rudbeckia trilobata	Asteraceae	Kathy Echols	award of merit
Nivenia corymbosa	Iridaceae	Don Mahoney	award of merit
Zantedeschia collection	Araceae	Kristen-Yanker Hansen	collection award

## July 10 and 11, Friday and Saturday, 8:30AM – 5:00PM and 7:30AM – 7:00PM

Plants and Gardens of Australia, Part II—Refreshing your Australian repertoire: how to mix exciting and appropriate Australian native plants in Bay Area gardens. Part II of a two part series presented by The Garden Conservancy and The Ruth Bancroft Garden. The Friday seminar will be at the Civic Arts Education center, Shadelands Campus, Walnut Creek. Seminar will be followed by a garden visit and reception at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Saturday full-day study tour will be Monterey/Santa Cruz and points in between. For more info visit [www.gardenconservancy.org/events.pl?ID=269](http://www.gardenconservancy.org/events.pl?ID=269)

Or call (415) 441-4300. Friday: 8:30 AM –5:00 PM and Saturday: 7:30 AM –7:00 PM, members \$145, non-members \$165.

## June 13, Saturday, 10 AM - 2PM

Markham Arboretum Plant Sale, 1202 LaVista Ave., Concord, CA ; 925-681-2968

## THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM

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

## June 20, Saturday, 10:00AM – 4:00PM

Native Medicinal Plants of California—Explore many of the more common (and lesser known) plants used in Western American herbalism, with a focus on historical as well as modern use. Bring lunch. 10:00 AM –4:00 PM, members \$50, non-members \$60.

## June 27, Saturday, 9:00AM – 4:00PM

The California Garden—Slideshow led by landscape architect Bobbi Feyerabend that will discuss plant selection appropriate to a California garden. The class will visit Harlequin Gardens/Nursery in Walnut Creek in the afternoon for a special tour with owner Don Rose, and some plant shopping. Bring lunch. 9:00 AM –4:00 PM, members \$50, non-members \$60.

## June 28, Sunday morning, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Between a Rock and a Hardscape—Learn about rock, boulders and stone with concrete and permeable surfaces. Environmental impacts and design will be discussed. 9:00 AM –12:00 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

## U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

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

## June 28, Sunday afternoon, 2:00PM – 5:00PM

Green Gala Garden Party—Annual party to celebrate the garden. Fashion show held in Redwood Grove Amphitheater followed by festivities in the Garden. Food, wine and live music. Space is limited; registration required. 2:00 PM –5:00 PM, \$95 in advance, \$115 at the door.

## July 4, Saturday morning, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

Sick plant clinic—Join UC plant pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe for his monthly clinic and find out which diseases ail your plants. Entomologists are also available to identify the pests that are living on your plants too. 9 AM–Noon, free.

## SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

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

## July 11, Saturday morning, 9:00AM – 12:30PM

Coping With Bambi in the Garden—Bob Hornbeck (who manages to live with deer every day in his wooded garden) will show you tried-and-true techniques- including plant selection, repellants and protective barriers- that will help your garden coexist with Bambi and his friends and relatives. 9:00 AM –12:30 PM, members \$45, non-members \$55.

## July 11, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Plant Sale—A general sale at the nursery featuring salvias and shrubs. 10:00 AM –1:00 PM.

## UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

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

## June 27, Saturday morning, 10:00AM

Guided Tour: Ecology of the Redwoods—Learn about the complex and fascinating ecosystem of the redwood forest. Meet at the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center. 10:00 AM, free.

## July 4, Saturday morning, 10:00AM

Guided Tour: Discover Plants from Down Under—Special plants in the newly-renovated Australian Collection. Meet at the Arboretum Terrace Garden. 10:00 AM, free.

## July 11, Saturday morning, 10:00AM

Guided Tour: Bring the Mediterranean into Your Backyard—Mediterranean garden style for Central Valley gardens. Meet at the Arboretum Terrace Garden. 10:00 AM, free.

To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org), or contact Elsie Mueller at 800-884-0009.

Deadline for publication 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

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**2007 - 2009**

First Term  
Steve Morse  
Andy Stone  
David Tivol

Second Term  
Dan Carlson  
Don Gerimonte

**2008 - 2010**

First Term  
Jonathan Silverman

Second Term  
James Budke  
Ellen Frank  
Ted Kipping

**2009 - 2011**

First Term  
Demi Bowles Lathrop  
Cindy O'Donnell



SAVE THE DATE

September 18, 19 and 20

This new garden show promises to be a "don't miss it" event. You will see wonderful gardens, art and have the opportunity to buy interesting garden accoutrements and plants. Come to hear an amazing array of speakers.

September 18, 19 and 20;  
Preview party on Thurs. Sept. 17th  
with music, raffles, wine, food, fun and  
fabulous gardens.

Cornerstone  
23570 Highway 121, Sonoma  
\$20.00 entry

Show proceeds will go to the  
Trust for Public Land's new Bal-  
boa Park. This park is in San  
Francisco's Excelsior district.  
Visit [ww.thelateshowgardens.org](http://ww.thelateshowgardens.org)  
for more information.



**The California Horticultural Society**

San Francisco County Fair Building  
9TH Avenue & Lincoln Way  
San Francisco, CA 94122  
[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

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