

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, June 17, 2013, 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

Acorus gramineus variegata



MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013

The History of Roses

Marlea Graham



Plants have a human history. The Rose has one of the most amazing stories to tell, including roles by Napoleon and Josephine. Marlea Graham, a retired Oakland fire-fighter, a lifelong gardener, and a collector of heritage roses, is an avid garden history detective. Joining the Heritage Roses Group in 1987 and editing their quarterly journal for ten years, Marlea spent another 12 years as a founding member and editor for the California Garden and Landscape History Society's journal.



MONDAY, JULY 22, 2013

**Behind the Scenes
in the Huntington's Tropical Collections**

Dylan Hannon, Curator

The plants that make up the living collections at the Huntington's Rose Hills Foundation Conservatory are mostly hidden from public view. Where these plants come from, what the conservatory does with them and where they end up will be discussed. The extraordinary plant life in the Chocó region of Colombia, will be highlighted both as a resource and an inspiration for this spectacular modern conservatory.



Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, June 12; Noon

Gazebo, UC Davis Arboretum

Enjoy amazing botanical tales during a leisurely garden stroll with Warren Roberts, Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus.

PLANT SALE AT MARKHAM NURSERY

Saturday, June 22; 10 AM–4 PM

1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

Featuring a fine selection of CA native plants and interesting drought-tolerant perennials. Become a Markham Member and receive 20% off all plant purchases. (925) 681-2968.

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room. (415) 753-7090

EXPLORING THE MOUNTAINS AND ROCK ART OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MOUNTAINS OF BAJA CALIFORNIA DEL SUR

Tuesday, June 25, 2013; 7 PM

with Mike Uhler

**Bring a dish and beverage for eight to share,
as well as your own plates and silverware.*



THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL
Sculpture in the Garden
Benefitting The Preservation of The Ruth Bancroft Garden
JUNE 14-JULY 13 | MONTH-LONG EXHIBIT & SALE

SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

June 14-July 13

1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

For one month every year, The Ruth Bancroft Garden transforms into an outdoor art gallery. The Garden's world-class collection of succulent and drought-tolerant plants provides a spectacular backdrop for artists to display their works. Follow the meandering pathways to discover art that ranges from classical to irreverent, spiritual to functional. (925) 944-9352.

Quarryhill's William McNamara Wins Award of Excellence from National Garden Clubs

William McNamara, noted world plant explorer, botanist and horticulturist, has been honored with a national "Award of Excellence" from National Garden Clubs Inc. NGC is recognized as the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world.

Nominated by California Garden Clubs Inc., McNamara is executive director of the world-renowned Quarryhill Botanical Garden, a contemporary botanical garden situated on a 62-acre preserve in Glen Ellen, Calif., which offers one of the largest collections of scientifically documented, wild-source Asian plants in North America. Quarryhill Botanical Garden, founded in 1987, features more

than 25,000 plants, many of which represent ancestors of horticultural favorites found throughout the world.

McNamara also has been recognized for his extraordinary efforts in plant conservation by the California Horticultural Society, the oldest garden association in California.



Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Acorus gramineus / the grassy-leaved sweet flag

Family: ACORACEAE

This month we celebrate a much-ignored garden workhorse. As I have explored gardens in the Bay Area, I have discovered that many of them include at least one cultivar of the grassy leaved sweet flag, *Acorus gramineus*. In fact, my garden includes at least three cultivars!

Acorus gramineus is native to much of Asia, including China, Japan, Korea, India, Thailand, Myanmar and the Philippines. Tiny yellowish, completely ungrasslike flowers are easy proof that this is not a true grass, despite its appearance and common name. Growing from rhizomes, the leaves emerge in handsome fanned tufts, ranging in color from rich green to golden yellow. The variegated form has green leaves with cream stripes.

Growing to about a foot in height, the leaves of most cultivars arch gracefully, adding to this plant's appeal. 'Ogon', one of the most popular cultivars, has beautiful light green leaves splashed with golden yellow. In my garden, the variegated form has shorter, stiffer leaves that grow straight rather than arching. The miniature cultivars, 'Pusillus' or 'Minimus' grow to only 4 inches tall, and are often used as companion plants by bonsai growers.



Photo © 2013 Ted Kipping

Acorus gramineus 'Ogon'

Acorus prefers moist soil and will even grow in shallow water. It thrives in containers, and prefers full sun to moderate shade along the coast. Inland, it can scorch in full sun. It makes a great companion planting in woodland gardens and along the edges of water features, slowly spreading and filling in as a groundcover. Since it spreads by shallow-rooted rhizomes, it is very easy to keep under control, and very easy to divide for propagation.

For many years this plant was considered a member of the arum family, but recently it has been reclassified into its own family, the Acoraceae.

The common name 'sweet flag' comes from the sweet fragrance that is released if the foliage is bruised. The genus name *Acorus* is derived from the Greek word *acoron*, which in turn was derived from *coreon*, meaning *pupil*, because it was used as a treatment for inflammation of the eye.

Bancroft Garden's Living Wall

This year the California Horticultural Society donated \$2,000 to the Ruth Bancroft Gardens in Walnut Creek. The purpose of the grant was to build a living wall using succulents and drought tolerant plants. The Wall was designed and constructed by Troy McGregor, the garden director. It is an amazing display using parts of the oak tree that had to be removed from the property for safety reasons. You are welcome to go visit this project.





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. For the May meeting we had plants from the Hot Plant Pics from the flower show, as well as donations from Strybing Arboretum and some other members. As a special treat Luen Miller, our speaker who owns Monterey Bay Nurseries brought nearly 100 plants as door prizes. Furthermore Annie's Annuals donated 4 flats of treasures as party favors. It really was like Christmas for us plant people. Thank you all who donated. This month we ask our members to donate plants. Remember, there are always new plants to find at the drawing.

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 main stream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group.

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, 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).

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.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Ellen Edelson, Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson

2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor

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Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Judith Taylor
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
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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.