

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, June 16, 2014, 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

Chiranthodendron pentadactylon



Photo © 2014 Ted Kipping

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014

**Learn to Live a Green Life—
Grow Your Own Veggies and Fish**

By Samantha Rodriguez



Samantha Rodriguez is President and CEO of a green-minded remodeling company with an emphasis on disabled accessibility. With an experienced eye, she combines her construction and art background to achieve ways to integrate contemporary farming methods into every person's lifestyle. In 2009, she began *EZ Farms and Fish* and recently took on partners to become *Sunset Sustainable Farms*. Using the re-circulating aquaponic technology, she is continuing to promote a green lifestyle by helping others produce sustainable quantities of organically grown vegetables and fish.



MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014

Making Every Drop Count

By Tom Brassen

Tom Brassen of the Urban Farmer Store will give a short history of Store and a list of the best practices for water conservation in the garden. "The drought makes us think more about the things that we should have been doing all along."



Early Summer

HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

GUIDED TOUR: WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, June 11; Noon–1 PM

Arboretum Gazebo, Arboretum Teaching Nursery, UC Davis Arboretum
Join Warren Roberts, Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum, to discover seasonal color in the UC Davis Arboretum's gardens and plant collections.

20TH ANNUAL SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN OPENING WEEKEND

Saturday and Sunday, June 14–15; 10 AM–3 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 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. Bring the family to the opening weekend of the Sculpture Show. There will be extra tours throughout the day, and some of the artists will be in attendance to talk about their work. On Father's Day, enjoy live music by Ancestral Water, have a picnic in the garden, and keep the kids busy with activities and crafts. \$10 for adults, \$7 for students, seniors, and members of The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Free for children under 12. Free for dads on Father's Day.

Dr. Frank Almeda Receives Cal Hort Annual Award



Frank Almeda has been working at the California Academy of Sciences since 1978, and as Senior Curator, Decker and Martha McAllister Chair of Botany since 1985. Using flowering plants to address questions about plant biodiversity, biogeography, and evolution, Frank is exploring why some families of flowering plants are so species-rich and the factors that have promoted this diversification. Can certain families of plants be used as indicators of biodiversity hotspots and can this information be useful in conservation decisions?

His favorite species in megadiverse families of plants are Princess Flowers (MELASTOMATACEAE). Frank is working to determine how they are related to one another and where they fit into the tree of life for flowering plants. He has introduced several new plants from the melastome family to the world of horticulture

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room

Tuesday, June 24; 7 PM

THE SOUTHERN OCEAN with Buff and Gerald Corsi

Tuesday, July 22; 7 PM

A LIFE DEVOTED TO BEAUTY with Jack Halpern and Ted Kipping

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

in California. He has been a long-time member of the California Horticultural Society, providing many enlightening programs throughout the years. Thank you Frank Almeda for your all your contributions.



Ted Kipping presents the Annual Award of the California Horticultural Society to Dr. Frank Almeda at the May meeting of the Society.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Chiranthodendron pentadactylon,
the Monkey Hand Tree

Family: STERCULIACEAE;
which some botanists place in the
MALVACEAE

Some plants are so odd that they are difficult to ignore. The Monkey Hand Tree is one of these plants. Native to cloud forests and oak forests in southern Mexico and Guatemala, this tree is adapted to moderate daytime temperatures and cool nights. Sound familiar, coastal Californians? In fact, in its native habitat, *Chiranthodendron* grows at elevations up to 2,700 meters. In cultivation, it has proven hardy to 20°F. Like many of my favorite plants, its ideal growing conditions include full sun and good drainage.

Reaching about 40 feet tall, *Chiranthodendron* has vaguely maple-shaped leaves with a brown indumentum on the undersurface. It flowers in spring and summer, and this is when its name starts to make sense. *Chiranthodendron* means “hand-flowering tree”, and the species name *pentadactylon* means “five-fingered”, a reference to the prominent stamens. Each flower is composed of a basal cup, out of which sprouts a red ‘hand’. Composed of the sepals, the cup is fuzzy on the outside and waxy red on the inside. A sixth, smaller finger is the female style.

Thus, the *Chiranthodendron* has what botanists call ‘perfect flowers’, which have both male and female anatomy. Unlike many of my favorite flowers, the Monkey Hand’s flowers have no petals. I told you it was an odd plant. Many of the plants in the Sterculiaceae have fused or reduced petals as part of their flower structure. In its native



Chiranthodendron pentadactylon

range the flowers are pollinated by bats and birds. The seed pods have five woody lobes, and look almost as strange as the flowers.

Chiranthodendron is fairly easy to grow, but our friends at Cal Poly warn that its leaf drop in summer and large surface roots make it a poor choice for a patio or street tree.



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Beryl Golden for taking care of all the plants from the flower show and bringing them to our Annual dinner. Also thanks go to Don Mahoney of Strybing Arboretum and Martin Grantham of San Francisco State for bringing some wonderful Melastomes for our silent auction table. At every meeting we have a plant drawing. Please bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. This is also a great opportunity for our members to obtain new plants for their collections.

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, 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.

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.

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 Ellen Edelson, Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson
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