

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, June 15, 2015 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

Gomphrena globosa 'Fireworks'



MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

What's New at Tilden Park
by Bart O'Brien



The Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills is celebrating its 75th Anniversary (1940-2015) of growing a most remarkable collection of California native plants. Bart O'Brien will be discussing some of the new projects, including the three large new rock gardens created by Phil Johnson, some of the garden's noteworthy collections and some most unusual Californian plants from Baja.



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.



Early Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

VIDEO IN THE GROVE: "THE POLLINATORS"

Friday, June 5; 6–7:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Video Artist Sarah Rara will join us to introduce the video she made with footage taken in the UC Botanical Garden. Bring a picnic and enjoy this film under the Garden's towering Redwoods in the amphitheater. *The Pollinators* focuses on the insects, birds, animals and vectors that pollinate flowers. Filmed against brightly colored backgrounds that both attract and distract pollinators, the video explores wild color spaces, modeling the ultraviolet-rich color range perceived by insects that extends beyond human vision and the RGB colorspace of video. With sound by Luke Fischbeck, *The Pollinators* was filmed over the course of a full calendar year to document a complete annual cycle of flowering. *The Pollinators* is generally shown as a video installation, running as a non-narrative video loop structured by color from Red to Ultraviolet. This is a rare one-time-only screening of *The Pollinators* outside of the video installation and loop format, to honor of the native plants and pollinators of the UC Botanical garden at Berkeley that inspired the film. Admission \$10; free for children twelve and younger. Register online, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu or calling 510-664-9841.

WEDNESDAY WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, June 10; Noon

Arboretum Gazebo, UC Davis campus

Join Superintendent Emeritus, famous storyteller and punster Warren Roberts, for an always engaging noontime exploration of the UC Davis Arboretum's gardens and plant collections.

CALIFORNIA BEES & FLOWERS: A SELECTIVE LOVE AFFAIR

Saturday, June 13; 10 AM–11:30 AM

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista, Concord

This program is an introduction to the incredible diversity of California native bees. Did you know that there are 1,600 bee species in California alone, nearly 40% of the total diversity in the United States? Covering native bee ecology, the relationship between bees and plants, and the implications they have on habitat gardening, this talk provides the listener with knowledge to start encouraging native bees at home. The presenter, Sara Leon Guerrero, has been a research assistant for Dr. Gordon Frankie in the UC Berkeley Urban Bee Lab since 2012. She is project



manager for the Lab's *Farming for Native Bees* project, in which extension specialists partner with small farmers in Brentwood and Ventura to install native bee habitat in farm locations, attracting native bee populations and supplementing honey bee pollination of crops. Find out more about Sara and the Urban Bee Lab at their website www.helpabee.org.

STRYBING ARBORETUM MONTHLY PLANT SALES FEATURING PERENNIALS & POLLINATOR PLANTS

Saturday, June 13; 10 AM–1 PM

Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco

Come by for a unique opportunity to admire and acquire an outstanding selection of plants seldom found in commercial nurseries or garden centers. Enjoy a wide variety of plants at each monthly Saturday sale, in addition to featured selections, based on the season. Find the right plants for your Bay Area (or beyond!) microclimate with many propagated from our very own collections.



SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN

Juried Exhibit & Art Sale at The Ruth Bancroft Garden

Open to the Public, Tuesday–Sunday, June 19–July 19, 2015



21ST ANNUAL SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN OPENING NIGHT SUNSET SOCIAL

Friday, June 19; 5:30–8 PM

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

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. Join us as we unveil this year's Sculpture in the Garden Exhibit and Sale. Enjoy a glass of champagne while you chat with the artists and discover the inspiration behind the wonderful and imaginative pieces displayed in the Garden. Admission \$50; Members \$45.

SUMMER SOLSTICE SHRUBS AND SPIRITS

Sunday, June 21; 6–8 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Mark your calendar for lovely evening hours in the Garden on the Summer Solstice. The Cocktail Whisperer Warren Bobrow will tell us tales of the newest celebrity in the artisanal cocktail world: the shrub! Our local favorite, St. George Spirits will be sponsoring the event with delicious libations to enjoy during the book signing and talk, as well as while you wander the Garden in the lovely evening hours. Admission \$50; Members \$45. Buy tickets online, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu or calling 510-664-9841.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Gomphrena globosa 'Fireworks'

Family: AMARANTHACEAE

On those rare occasions when someone accuses me of being old-fashioned, I usually take it as a compliment. You don't watch television while eating dinner? Old-fashioned. You don't text and send e-mails while on a date? Old-fashioned. You actually talk to strangers at social events? Old-fashioned. How does one describe *Gomphrena globosa*? Old-fashioned. *Gomphrena* was one of the more popular flowers in cottage gardens and cut flower arrangements. Even more damning, it was often used in dried flower arrangements, since it holds its color well after drying. Eventually, gardeners felt that it just wasn't 'cutting edge' enough for them, so it went out of favor.

Thanks to some new cultivars, such as 'Fireworks', *Gomphrena* is hip again. The mystery is why it ever went out of style. For those of you who live in areas that get warm in the summer (unlike San Francisco), *Gomphrena globosa* is a great plant, flowering all summer and fall no matter what sort of bad soil you have, and becoming drought tolerant once established. In return for meager fussing, it grows rapidly and puts on a show of blooms for months. In frost-free areas it is actually a perennial, and in areas with light frosts, it will politely self seed. 'Fireworks' is a bit larger than most *Gomphrenas*, getting up to three feet across and two to four feet tall. Native to Central America, *Gomphrena* likes summer heat. The flowers of 'Fireworks' are carried on the tips of long stems, and unlike many annuals, they don't

need deadheading. Each flower is an inconspicuous bit of nothing, but its stamens produce the tiny yellow stars at the end of the much more decorative bracts, making the entire flower structure resemble, well, a firework.

According to one reference, 'Gomphrena' is an alteration of 'gromphaena', used to describe a type of amaranth. 'Globosa' refers to the rounded shape of the flowers. In one of the more touching traditions on our planet, *Gomphrena* is often used to make the garlands for Brother's Day in Nepal. The garlands are given to brothers by their sisters as a symbol of protection. I couldn't help but think about this custom after the recent earthquakes in that country, and wish everyone there as much protection as possible.



Gomphrena globosa 'Fireworks'



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 some choice plants from Strybing Arboretum and some other members. 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.

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.

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.

COUNCIL

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

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