

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, June 20, 2016, 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 are welcome; Cal Hort requests a donation of \$5.

Plant of the Month

Hazardia detonsa



MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016

Oxalis, the Beauty or the Beast

by Nhu Nguyen



Oxalis is both feared and admired by gardeners who know them. Apart from their complex reproductive mechanism, varied morphological traits, and global distribution, they are valuable as garden plants. The presentation is an introduction to the diversity of this exciting genus, highlighting the species that have great horticultural potential in our local gardens.

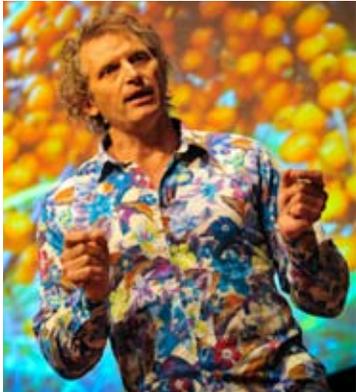


MONDAY, JULY 18, 2016

**Extraordinary Botanical Treasures
from the Andes of Peru and Ecuador
for Gardeners in the Bay Area**

by Joseph Simcox

The mild coastal climate of the San Francisco Bay has a similar climate to the equatorial cloud forests of Peru and Ecuador. This talk will focus on fascinating and edible plants you can grow in your garden from Joseph Simcox, the Botanical Explorer who travels around the world collecting rare and unusual plants—along with their stories.



Late Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

MARKHAM PLANT SALE

Saturday, June 4; 9 AM–1 PM

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 LaVista Avenue, Concord

HANGING VERTICAL GARDEN DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, June 11; 10:30–11:30 AM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Are you ready to defy traditional gardening landscapes and consider vertical spaces? Watch a vertical garden with succulents be built by our nursery staff and pick up designing tips on how to choose different plants for maximum color and textural contrasts. You can purchase materials in the nursery to build your own or sign up to build one with us for an afternoon hands-on workshop. Please register in advance. \$20, Members \$15; members, call the office to reserve your place.

HANGING VERTICAL GARDEN HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Saturday, June 11; 1–3 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
We will provide all materials (plants and a 20"×20" frame) for you to make your own hanging succulent vertical garden in this hands-on workshop. This mobile garden can also act as a centerpiece while the roots establish. Please register in advance. \$165, Members \$140; members, call the office to reserve your place.

EDIBLE AND MEDICINAL PLANTS OF CALIFORNIA: A BIOREGIONAL EXPLORATION

Sunday, June 12; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

California is home to a diverse array of edible and medicinal plants long valued for their nutritional and therapeutic effects. During this workshop we will explore many of the more common and lesser known native and naturalized plants found growing throughout the state, with a focus on historical as well as modern use. Class will include an interactive lecture, a large selection of live and dried plant samples, sampling of a number of different edible and medicinal plant preparations, as well as a plant walk through the California natives section of the UC Botanical Garden. Our study will emphasize a dynamic sensory awareness of the plants by close observation. This comprehensive and intensive workshop should prove to be insightful and rewarding for anyone interested in knowing more about the unique and useful flora of our state. \$60, Members \$50. Registration required: online, or by calling 510-664-9841 or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

2016 SCULPTURE IN THE GARDEN OPENING NIGHT SUNSET SOCIAL

Friday, June 17; 5–8 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Meet the artists and discover all the wonderful pieces in this year's show while you wander the garden on a beautiful Summer evening. There will be live music by Derek Smith Steel Drum Duo, food by the United Bites food truck and beer by CaliCraft Brewing. \$25, Members \$20. Advance purchase required: contact 925-944-9352 for more information.

MARKHAM MORNING GARDEN STROLL: PLANT ADAPTATIONS AND PATTERNS

Saturday, June 18; 9:30 AM–Noon

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 LaVista Avenue, Concord
When it's hot outside, people can take refuge in the cool air conditioning of our houses or the shade of trees. Plants do not have the luxury to move, but they have developed strategies in their leaves, stems and root systems that allow them to stay cool and to conserve water and energy. We will begin the walk at the nursery and end it with tea and something sweet to eat. The guide for this stroll, Patrice Hanlon, is a horticulture consultant and educator. \$10

AROUND THE WORLD IN SIX GLASSES: CELEBRATE THE SUMMER SOLSTICE IN THE GARDEN

Tuesday, June 21; 6–8 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Perched just above the Garden of Old Roses sits the Mediterranean collection that includes three hundred plants from continental Spain and the Canary Islands. Come celebrate the Summer Solstice and our kick-off event for our series in the Garden, "Around the World in Six Glasses," while sipping wines from Spain and enjoying delicious paella. The beginning of summer is a lovely time of year in our collection, which includes familiar culinary and fragrance herbs, thymes and lavenders; wild versions of the iconic olive tree; and horticultural treasures such as the delicate *Narcissus bulbicodium*, the Hoop Petticoat Daffodil, as well as *Cistus*, the Rock Roses. Mathew McMillan, Garden Horticulturist for the Mediterranean Collection, will be on hand to answer questions and take tours through this special collection. \$50, Members \$40. Register online, or by calling Deepa Natarajan at 510-664-9841 or by emailing [Deepa Natarajan at gardenprograms@berkeley.edu](mailto:Deepa.Natarajan@gardenprograms@berkeley.edu).

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SALE: OPEN NURSERY

Thursday, June 30; 10:30 AM–1:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

The entire California Natives propagation area, across the street from the garden entrance, will be open for the public to shop, browse, get advice and chat with the volunteer propagators that specialize in California native plants. View the most current plant list at ucbgcn.blogspot.com. This event is free and no registration is required. For information, call 510-643-2755.

DOCENTS NEEDED AT THE CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

The Conservatory welcomes adult volunteers of all levels of experience to lead tours for adults or children, offering a comprehensive training program which includes gallery tours, lectures and one-on-one sessions with mentors. Training will be held Thursdays from 1–4 PM from July 14 through August 25. We ask all volunteers to commit to two shifts each month for at least one year. In return, the Conservatory offers educational and social opportunities, free passes and discounts, and an engaging, flexible environment. To register for training, contact Erika Frank, Director of Volunteers & Education, 415-637-4326 or efrank@sfcf.org.

Plant of the Month

by Arcangelo Wessells

Hazardia detonsa

Island Bristleweed

Family: ASTERACEAE



I used to see those bundles of white sage leaves at the store. Or there would be an old bunch on someone's mantel, in the bathroom or hallway, waiting to cleanse the space. Who wouldn't want to grow those ghostly leaves? But I don't think I've ever seen a good looking *Salvia apiana* in the Bay Area. They flop all over themselves and don't really develop their namesake whiteness. But there is a better bush for serious pale grey foliage.

Hazardia detonsa, Island Bristleweed, grows on rocky hillsides, coastal scrub, chaparral and pine woodlands on four of the northern Channel Islands—Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Western Anacapa and Middle Anacapa. Listed by CNPS as a plant with limited distribution, its population had been seriously reduced by feral sheep and goats. It is locally common now that its habitat has been cleared of unwanted browsers.

Young plants form rosettes or clusters of rosettes, slightly reminiscent of the Rose Campion, *Silene coronaria* (formerly *Lychnis*). Rosette leaves are pale grey-green, and can be four to six inches long. Whereas the leaves of the Rose Campion are almost cobwebby felty, *Hazardia's* leaves are firmer and denser, with much finer felt. The narrow ovate leaves are serrated towards the tips. They are held upright in the rosette, like a card player holding their cards close so no-one can see what they have. The leaves also have a lovely twist to their shape, which gives the plant an informal, though still very elegant, appearance.

Plants can develop a dense, rounded habit, and can have thirty or forty rosette stems. In time, the woody stems below the foliage will be exposed. These stems can be more pronounced in shadier locations when the plants may lean towards the sun. Their natural habit is to hold the foliage in ghostly clusters off the ground. In the garden, they could be underplanted with native bulbs, Iris or California Fescue. The stems can also be cut back hard to start growth at the base again. In time, plants grow three to four feet high and three feet wide,

but apparently can even reach six feet in height. Although the leaves are soft and felty looking, the entire shrub has a solidity to it.

Island Bristleweed is a lovely grey-green color throughout the winter. In May, however, the plant turns whiter and becomes visible a block away. The rosettes begin to elongate, and the stems and leaves become extremely white. In June, the pure white flower stalks start to branch out and reach eight to ten inches in length, although photographs seem to show longer stems. The stem will branch about five or six times, with very few much reduced leaves. Each of these branches can end with fifteen or twenty unusual daisies.

The inflorescences are about a half inch across. Although it has both ray and disk flowers, the whole inflorescence just looks like a tuft of saffron colored bristles poking out of a white bell. The flowers in these heads can age to a reddish color. The pappus, or modified calyx, has bristles that open up and turn the color of honey before being dispersed. They are more like the hairs of a paintbrush than like the fluffy parachute of a dandelion. The dead flowering stems persist for a long time, turning grey brown like raw linen, drooping down and contrasting nicely with the pale leaves. The dried flowering branches are brittle and easily removed if one prefers a more well-groomed look.

Island Bristleweed is an extremely drought tolerant plant. It can take weekly summer watering, but does equally well without water after its first year. Plants in full sun seem to maintain a fuller, rounder habit than plants in partial shade. Either way, over time the plant will most likely become open and woody at the base but still have a substantial presence in the garden.

Hazardia detonsa is grown by both Annie's Annuals and Las Pilitas Nursery, but is not available at present. Seed is available from the Theodore Payne Foundation.



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Plant Drawing News

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find plants for your garden that you have never seen before.

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 Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

COUNCIL

2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve Morse, Andy Stone
2016-2018 (Second Term) Ellen Edelson, Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
2016-2018 (First Term) Mary Engle, Bart O'Brien, Arcangelo Wessells

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Vice President	Open
Recording Secretary	Open
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Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

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CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.