

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, June 19, 2017, 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.



Syrphid fly on Eriophyllum

MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

From Yard to Garden in Only Thirty-Three Years

– by Ted Kipping



Note: Our previously scheduled speaker had to cancel due to family obligations and will speak later this year.

Ted's garden was first featured in Carol Olwell's book, *Gardening From The Heart: Why Gardeners Garden*. The Chapter on Ted and his garden was titled "The Terminal Case" for the intense way an enormous diversity of plants from many different parts of the world has been installed. The theme of the garden is "A Rocky Outcrop In A Cloud Forest." When people ask what expo-sure he sets a plant, the answer is usually, "full fog"!



MONDAY, JULY 17, 2017

Creating New Flower Colors in Winter-hardy Hibiscus (*H. x moscheutos*)

by Dariusz Malinowski

Winter-hardy hibiscus is one of the most sought after ornamental plants due to its tropical-looking flowers and ability to grow in the ground almost everywhere in the USA except for Alaska. Until recently, the flower colors in this species have been very limited, basically only red, pink and white, singly or in combination. In the past eight years, Dariusz and a team have created many new colors in this species, including blue, silver-gray, salmon, magenta, maroon, purple, all shades of reds and pinks, and flowers with dual or triple colors.

Spring Flowers

by Arcangelo
Wessells

I took a class in making paper flowers. I loved it. But it still couldn't put a dent in my obsession with seeds. Robin had a great idea that I should make paper flowers of the plants whose seeds I wanted to buy. This, in theory, would stimulate my creative expression and slow my acquisitive tendencies. I made *Brachysiphon fucatus*, but then I couldn't get the seeds.

We got married at City Hall in San Francisco in 2013. Six guests were allowed. I made paper corsages for the guests and one for a dear friend. I also made Robin's bouquet, a paper *Pelargonium endlicherianum*. It took two and a half years to bloom, and is just sending up its flower spikes now, at the end of May.

Right next to it is *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*, Golden Yarrow. I had always admired this plant, scattered among the rocks of the Serpentine Grassland of Ring Mountain in Tiburon. The form that grows there and throughout the Bay Area, is a low shrub about eight to twelve inches high, with a spread of two to three feet. Its foliage is not as flawless as a grey *Santolina*, but they share an unwillingness to grow upright. They are woody, but the wood lays flat on the ground, sending up annual stems that eventually become more prostrate. The leaves are small and finely lobed, not as threadlike as *Artemisia californica*, but still soft and lacy to the eyes. The local form is *Eriophyllum confertiflorum* var. *Confertiflorum*. Throughout the state there are two other varieties and geographical differences as well, and some of the forms have thicker, greener foliage. Golden Yarrow becomes covered with tiny yellow sunflowers at the end of May. As it is aptly named, its



Golden Yarrow and developing *Pelargonium* buds

flowerheads are presented in dense clusters just over an inch across. It makes for excellent bee watching on a warm afternoon, although that is a rare occurrence on Ring Mountain. Many species of native bees, hoverflies and smaller butterflies are attracted to its nectar and pollen.

The first Golden Yarrow to appear in my yard was a surprise. The seed must have been tossed out or arrived with some serpentine rocks. It planted itself right on the edge of a concrete wall, and has started to spill over the edge after three years. It gets full sun from spring through fall, but passes the winter in full shade when the sun dips down and our house casts a shadow over part of the garden. I had another plant in a hotter spot, and although it slowly died away, it contributed to a good crop of seeds that were not collected. It self sows, but plants take two years to bloom, so it is easy to choose who gets to stay. My plants are all in average soil, perhaps with some sand and gravel added for drainage. They have a three inch layer of serpentine, which acts more as a fast draining mulch than anything else. It adds some mystique to the garden and unfortunately, is very popular nesting medium for earwigs.

The offspring are acting as lovely filler and provide a bit of shade for a few even smaller plants that are getting established in the barrens. One of these plants is *Pelargonium endlicherianum*.

Most of the 250 species of *Pelargonium* come from Southern Africa, especially in the winter rainfall area of the Western Cape, but there are also species from East Africa and Yemen, Australia, New Zealand and Turkey. While most *Pelargoniums* are not very frost hardy, the two species from Turkey are very cold tolerant plants. *Pelargonium endlicherianum* is from the Taurus mountains of Southern Turkey and Northern Syria, and extends Northward towards Georgia. It seems to grow at 4,000 to 5,000 feet. Most rock gardening sources say it occurs naturally on limestone, but it is documented to grow on serpentine as well.

Most every description of *P. endlicherianum* mentions two or three things: it dislikes winter wet; it needs hot dry summers to survive; and that it needs winter cold to bloom well. I have chosen to ignore the recommendations about winter wet. Last winter was dry

and warm, while this year was wet but not extremely cold, but the plants seemed indifferent. They are in sunny situations and the soil has improved drainage. In some parts of their range, the heaviest rainfall occurs in May. I have been irrigating them once every two weeks, and they are planted at the base of rocks (and an *Eriophyllum*) to keep the roots cool. *Pelargonium endlicherianum* makes a woody caudex which some growers expose above ground. This may occur naturally as the plants grow on crumbling stony banks.



Pelargonium flowers and the paper bouquet

Besides growing on serpentine, *Pelargonium endlicherianum* has large showy flowers held up on strong stems. The basal leaves are fairly round and grey green, with crenate margins. While not exactly quilted, they have a muscled undulation to them. The leaves are just over an inch across. The flowering stem has a few cauline leaves that are reduced in size but are more strongly dentate.

The basal leaves are only about four inches tall, but the stems can be eighteen inches high. The flowers are interesting in that the upper two petals are very big, and bright magenta, while the other three petals are reduced to about the size of a pinhead.

Pelargonium endlicherianum can be found at Geraniaceae.com and many nurseries that specialize in Alpines. Seed can also be obtained from Alpains.com, an excellent source for wild collected seeds of Western North American plants, including Alpines, California native plants, and Cacti.

Eriophyllum confertiflorum is available from many growers, including Watershed Nursery in Richmond.

Cal Hort Visits the Reiter Garden on Saturday May 27



Coffee at the Reiter garden was a big hit with everyone able to attend. This year has started out strong with another first time host, Bobby Watts, stepping up to share his garden in April. Please let me know if you would like to share your garden with us this way. Cal Hort provides the coffee, the attendees bring the nibbles and you just prepare to enjoy the garden you love with your fellow garden lovers. This is a great way to build a sense of community with your fellow Cal Hort members.

I hosted coffee in my Berkeley garden last year and will do so again this year on Sunday, July 23. If you've been before, you may be surprised at what has changed, prompted by my preparation for a Garden Conservancy's Open Day this past April. New Cal Hort member Gerhard Bock took a number of excellent photos for his writeup of his visit here that day in his blog, [Succulents And More: http://www.succulentsandmore.com/2017/04/pseudonatural-freakshow.html](http://www.succulentsandmore.com/2017/04/pseudonatural-freakshow.html).

There is plenty of room for anyone who would like to come, but I will need to get an RSVP so as to have an adequate amount of coffee on hand. So please RSVP to me at your earliest convenience if you'd like to attend. When you RSVP please tell me how many are in your party and also where you will be coming from if you are interested in carpooling. There is plenty of parking available on my street on Sundays.
mdelepine@liacook.com



California Horticultural Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
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www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Plant Drawing News Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Perhaps you sowed a few too many seeds, or rooted too many cuttings, or you need to divide some plants that have gotten too big for your garden. Here is your opportunity to find those plants some good homes

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 main stream. 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!!

This notice is especially pertinent this month as our long-time editor because of medical reasons will not be able to carry on with the editing and production of this Bulletin. If we do not have a volunteer, the Bulletin will be significantly reformatted to probably a 1 page notice and there is also the possibility that mail printed versions will no longer be offered.

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER TO BE EDITOR!!

Contact Steve Morse if you will consider volunteering for this position. He can be initially contacted via email at markhameditor@sbcglobal.net

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.

COUNCIL

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