

BULLETIN  
**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
San Francisco County Fair Building  
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way  
San Francisco, California 94122  
March 20, 2006

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum0.  
Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
5:30PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave; San Francisco.  
7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum. Meeting will be held at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

\*\*\*Donation requested \$5.

**Monday, March 20, 2006**  
Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

**The Flora of Greece**  
Presented by **Dr. Bob Gibbons**

Dr. Gibbons received his PhD in Botany from Durham University. He has authored more than thirty books on botanical subjects including field guides to flowers of Southern Europe and Northern Europe all illustrated with his own beautiful photographs. He is a professional nature photographer and an excellent speaker. It is with anticipation that we look forward to his program on the flowers of Greece

The **Plant Dawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. **In March**, the drawing will include donations from **Bancroft Garden** courtesy of Brian Kemble and **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to the **Guerro Street Gardens**; and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding selection of plants donated for the January meeting.

**Monday, April 17, 2006**

Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

**“THE SAVAGE GARDEN” Growing Carnivorous Plants”**  
Presented by Peter D’Amato

Peter is Co-owner of California Carnivores and internationally noted authority and author on carnivorous plants. His nursery, California Carnivores, was started in 1989, and houses the world’s largest collection of insect and animal eating plants in the world, several hundred varieties. He is the author of the *Savage Garden: Cultivating Carnivorous Plants*, which won the American Horticultural Society’s Book Award, and is in its sixth printing. He and his nursery have appeared many times in the media, from numerous HGTV shows to Martha Stewart Living, plus newspapers and magazines. The slide illustrated program includes the great diversity of species and their natural habitats. A display of many specimens will be of special interest.

April 8 & 9, 2006  
**California Horticultural Society’s 11th Annual Plant Sale**  
Lakeside Garden Center, located in Oakland  
Specialty Nursery Plant Sale - Rare and Wonderful Plants

*Saturday, April 9 5PM–9PM, Members Only Gala*  
Sunday, April 9th 11AM–3PM, General Sale  
Information, call (415) 425-5964 or (800) 884-0009

# President's Letter

Bruce Peters

Spring is here! Finally!

I know I always jump the gun this time of year. I see a bunch of perennials poking their little heads back above the soil, seeds start germinating, days are lengthening so I think, "Good, winter's over!" and move my succulents outside, plant things up and basically prepare for warmth and growth.

Oops. Then the rains come and the temps dip drastically low and those aforementioned succulents turn into so many pots of mush. Those tropicals or semi-tropicals wither away overnight into so many pots of pathetic sticks. I think I'm finally learning, however. This year I kept my a bunch of things inside, against my better judgement and they're still going great. All those fancy *Adeniums* I got last year, however, aren't so happy. Well, at this point, they're not feeling much of anything any more but, well, gardening's all about learning what will grow where, right? And now I know to keep hybrid *Adeniums* inside longer, but that the species or tried and true cultivars can handle our winter no problem. I know, I know, that's almost always the case with hybrids but you gotta try it out, right?

With spring comes more than just plants popping up in your yard, we also have the SF Flower and Garden Show with Cal Hort's immensely popular booth showcasing new, exciting and newly available plants. I've seen some of this year's selections

and they're great! A great way to check them out is to help staff our booth, which also gets you free entry to the Garden Show. More info on that later on in this very issue!

Then, April brings our new and improved plant sale featuring everyone favorite....specialty nurseries! We already have 10 on tap and are looking for a few more in addition to our all important stock of great member donated plants. In fact, I just put a variegated banana into my greenhouse to coax out a few more leaves before the sale. Time to start fertilizing those pots to make them look fantastic for the sale...it's amazing what a little NPK and minors can do!

Check out the plant sale article just to the right for more detailed info! I know I've gotten a lot of great things from our member sales and am looking forward to getting more this year!

Importantly, we still have some room left on our exciting Field Trip to North Carolina in May...but we need to know IMMEDIATELY who's coming to lock in our rates and reservations. Led by Kristin Yanker-Hansen, this promises to be a whirlwind of horticultural heaven. I've been on two of Kristin's trips in the past and I can't recommend them enough! For what you get, the price is absolutely rock bottom with no sacrifice in quality. Check out the page in this issue. ***Last chance to sign up!***



From the February Plant Forum. Details in next issue.

## Cool New Book

Gardening expert Lorraine Cavanagh, in collaboration with the Market Place Magazine, has produced an extensive guide to Mediterranean plants that should never be far from the side of any gardener living in countries benefiting from a mild climate.

"Mediterranean Garden Plants" is a 650 page, unique and comprehensive guide to over 350 plants from around the world. It is formatted in a clear and simple way with glorious colour photographs on each double page description. Apart from cultural and historical details for each plant there is also advice on ideal habitat, cultivation, propagation, pruning and problem solving. The plants can be found in an A-Z directory by their Latin, Common English and Spanish names and there is a comprehensive cross-reference system categorising plants into groundcover, annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs, grasses, bamboo, succulents, water lovers, shrubs, hedging, climbers and trees. It is further divided into sun and shade lovers, with an indication of height and flower colour. The book has a wipe-clean cover and is equally at home in the garden or as a buying reference in the garden centre.

*About The Author* Lorraine Cavanagh has lived in the Mediterranean region for nearly twenty years, running a successful plant nursery and landscaping business. She writes a number of columns for The Market Place Magazine including features on gardening and the environment and is a regular guest on the International radio station OCI.

View "Mediterranean Garden Plants" at [www.moyhill.com/html/med\\_garden\\_plants.html](http://www.moyhill.com/html/med_garden_plants.html)

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society

Stehen Brickley  
Stephanie Changaris  
Gold Rush Nursery  
Diane & Denis Grimsman  
David & Ginger Hanson  
Dave Hermeyer & Samuel Wantman  
Carolyn Kanas  
Lora Kellner  
John MacDougal

Joanne Salz  
George & Mary Suter  
Max Withers  
Susan Wittenmeyer  
Margaret Rigg  
JoAnn Vrillakas  
UPGRADE to Life Member:  
Penny Hlavac

# Specialty Nursery Plant Sale 2006

The new plant sale is just a month away! Everyone that has been involved in the planning is very excited about the nurseries participating and the amazing plants Cal Hort will be offering. Visit the Cal Hort website, [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org), for details and more information about the plant sale.

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> the plant sale and gala setup will be 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. If you have time come on by and lend a hand. The Cal Hort members sale gala and silent auction will be that evening from 5:00 to 9:00 pm, membership can be purchased at the door. This will be an evening you will not want to miss!

Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> the general plant sale will be held 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have a wonderful panel of speakers offering interesting lectures about a variety of horticultural topics during the Sunday sale. Check out Cal Hort's website for information about the speakers and their lectures.

## Plant Sale Donations

The plant sale needs member grown donated plants! The new plant sale is a hybrid of the previous donation based sale and a nursery vendor sale. So your contribution is very important! Cal Hort members that are donating plants please arrive at the Oakland Lake Merritt Garden Center with your donations on Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> between 1:00 pm and 2:30 pm. Call Celena Hoskins at (415) 425-5964 or email her at [plantsale@calhortsociety.org](mailto:plantsale@calhortsociety.org) if you are planning on bringing plants.

## Volunteers for the Plant Sale

We need more volunteers to assist with the setup on Saturday. We are using time saving adhesive barcodes to label plants and there will be an easy to arrange floor plan of small booths to setup. On Sunday Cal Hort needs volunteers help customers with plant questions and cleanup after the sale. If

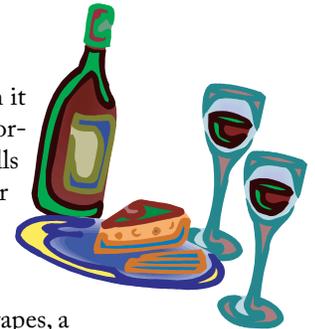
you have time to help out please call Celena at (415) 425-5964.

This is the beginning of a new and unique plant sale for the Bay Area! Mark your calendars and set aside time for the April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Specialty Nursery Plant Sale! See you there!



## Plant Sale Gala Food for the evening of April 8, 2006

The plant sale is back, and with it our fabulous Gala. This is your opportunity to show off your culinary skills by providing some interesting finger food for the Gala. Or if you prefer you can donate bags of plastic glasses, small paper plates, napkins, a flat of Strawberries, large Grapes, a Costco container of Mixed nuts, soda, bottled water, wine (anywhere from a bottle to a case), cheese, bread & crackers, a platter of crudites, or anything else you think would be good. If you are interested call Kristin Yanker-Hansen (925) 831-9499 or e-mail [yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net).



## Who are your Cal Hort Council Members?

To better acquaint you with our Council Members, we will be printing up mini-bios in the next few issues.

**Josh Schechtel** gardens in San Francisco. He enjoys working with native and non-native plants to create gardens that are appropriate to the local climate and environment. A self-confessed plant nut, he is always looking for new plants to test in his garden.

**Barbara K. Hopper**—Past President, currently Corresponding Secretary, Program Chairman, retired Prof. Botany-Biology-Entomology; favorite plants: collector of Arisaemas, unusual Hostas, variegated plants, orchids, South African flora. She gardens in Kenwood, CA

## Help the *Bulletin*!

As I write this, it's raining and dreary outside. An awful time to be a gardener...but a great time to be snug inside behind a warm computer monitor and working on the next Cal Hort *Bulletin*. Don't fret, however! You could be in my position with just a simple phone call or email!

The current *Bulletin* Editor needs to divest himself of the majority of *Bulletin* related duties by year-end and would be tickled pink to help you take it on. You'll need some type of page layout program and...well, I guess and a desire to put out a monthly newsletter! It's basically just taking articles and images from members and fitting them into our format. If you'd like to re-design it, we're open to that, too!

Email the [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org) for more info.

# Horticultural Calendar

## March 13

**The Art of Not Gardening**—Billy Martin lectures on his innovative garden design. 7:30 PM at the Orinda Library, 24 Orinda Way. Mediterranean Garden Soc. Members \$10, guests \$15. [www.mediterraneangardensociety.org](http://www.mediterraneangardensociety.org) or (925) 254-0226.

## March 16

**The Lure of Lavender**—An in-depth class all about the uses of lavender. 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Elizabeth Gamble Garden, members \$20, guests \$25. [www.gamblegarden.org](http://www.gamblegarden.org) or (650) 329-1356

## March 18

**Plant 'Parenthood'**—An intro to propagation with Patrice Hanlon at Heather Farm. 9 AM – noon, members \$15, non-members \$20. [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org) or (925) 947-1678

## March 24

**The Butterfly Zone**—Butterflies are back at the Conservatory of Flowers! Tuesday – Sunday 9 AM – 4:30 PM, free with paid admission. [www.conservatoryofflowers.org](http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org) or (415) 666-7001

## April 1

**Annual Dahlia Plant & Tuber Sale**—9AM–NOON, SF County Fair Bldg by Dahlia Society of California

## April 7–9

**Name That Wildflower**—A weekend ID workshop on Sierra Foothill Wildflowers, sponsored by the Sierra Friends Center. Info at (530) 273-3183 or [courses@woolman.org](mailto:courses@woolman.org)

## April 15

**Plant Sale**—Get all your favorite CA natives at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden's Spring Sale. 10 AM -3 PM, bring a box. [www.nativeplants.org](http://www.nativeplants.org) or (510) 841-8732.

## April 18

**Mushroom Program for Beginners**—A Mycological Society short slide lecture featuring morels, truffles and other spring-time fungi. 6:45 PM at the Randall Museum, 119 Museum Way, SF. [www.mssf.org](http://www.mssf.org) or (415) 759-0495.

## April 19

**Monthly Slideshow and Potluck**—Walter Teague presents 'Plant Hunting in the Southern Andes.' Please bring a dish to serve eight people. 7 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. (415) 753-7090.

## April 22

**Field Trip**—The California Lichen Society will be going to Mt. Diablo State Park. Meeting time and place TBA. [www.californialichensociety.org](http://www.californialichensociety.org).

## April 22

**Plant Sale**—Merritt College's awesome Spring sale held on the Horticulture Dept. grounds, 12500 Campus Drive, Oakland. Time TBA. [www.merrittlandhort.com](http://www.merrittlandhort.com) or (510) 531-4911

## April 22

**Plant Sale**—At the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum in the Eucalyptus Grove. For more info call (831) 427-2998, or visit [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum).

## April 28

**Practical Pruning: A Workshop for Arborists**—UC Davis, \$190. Info or register (800) 752-0881 or [www.extension.ucdavis.edu/agriculture](http://www.extension.ucdavis.edu/agriculture).

## April 29

**Bamboo Festival, Sale and Auction**—Held by the No. Cal. Chapter of the American Bamboo Society. 10 AM – 1 PM at the County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, S.F. Free. [www.americanbamboo.org](http://www.americanbamboo.org)

## SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

## April 8

**Plant Sale**—General sale featuring Epiphyllums. 10 AM -1 PM at the nursery.

## April 22

**Palm Saturday**—A day with expert David Leaser, includes a tour, sale and auction of palms. 10 AM – 3 PM, members free, public \$5.

## April 22

**Fabulous Containers**—All about growing plants in pots, with Charmain Guiliani. 10 AM – 3 PM, members \$25, non-members \$35 plus a materials fee.

## U.C. Botanical Garden At Berkeley

(510) 643-2755 • [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

**Sick Plant Clinic**—Plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills will diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM – noon on the first Saturday of each month. Free

**Create a Perennial Border Using CA Native Plants**—A workshop with Nathan Smith. 10:30 AM – noon, members \$20, non-members \$25.

## April 29

**Plant Sale**—Featuring plants propagated from the Garden. 9 AM – 2 PM.

## May 7

**Children's Container Garden**—A family workshop focusing on succulents, 2 – 3:30 PM. Fee for one child and parent-members \$14, non-members \$18.

*Send submissions to [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)  
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*Azara microphylla*, the Small Leaf Azara  
FLACOURTIACEAE family

There is an old *Azara microphylla* in our garden that has been long underappreciated. It acts as a living trellis for at least three vines, and puts up with an amazing amount of indiscriminate pruning from our parrot. Yet, it continues to look wonderful, with its sprays of leaves arranged in a way that makes it look like it is in a perpetual state of surprise.

*Azara microphylla* is a great shrub or small tree for any garden where it can get some direct sun. Although references say that it needs good drainage, ours is happy in our miserable clay soil. The branches of this plant grow in a flattened fan shape with very small leaves, so the overall effect is very lacy and airy. It looks great against a wall, where it forms a natural espalier, growing slowly up to 18 feet high. However, a little pruning will keep it much smaller if desired.

*Azara* is interesting botanically because of its leaves. Each pair of leaves is actually a true leaf and a leaf-like stipule. The flowers are also interesting- they have no petals! They look like tiny

yellow pom poms and smell like vanilla. Ours usually blooms in March or early April.

Chile and Argentina are the native home for *Azara microphylla*. Fittingly, it was named after J.N. Azara, a 19<sup>th</sup> century Spanish patron of botany. In its native habitat, old specimens can get up to 30 feet high, but this is rare in gardens, where it is usually much

smaller and easily managed. And if all of this wasn't enough to convince you to try growing this plant, it also comes in a wonderful variegated form!



## Sunset's Dream Garden Awards 2006

**Sunset's biennial landscape competition has been re-named** and is now open to both professional and home gardeners (the two categories will be judged separately). The new *Dream Garden Awards* recognizes the best of residential garden design in the 13 Western states and British Columbia, Canada. For the first time ever, *Sunset* will offer cash awards to the grand prize, second place, and third place winners in each program. There is no entry fee. Read below for categories and prizes.

### CATEGORIES

- **REGIONAL STYLE.** The garden captures the spirit of a particular area with materials and plants appropriate for the climate and terrain.
- **INCREDIBLE MAKEOVER.** Takes advantage of existing features or plants while removing undesirable elements. "Before" photos required.
- **BEST PERSONAL RETREAT.** Seating, birdbaths, garden art, and other distinctive items create a garden refuge.
- **BEST FOR OUTDOOR LIVING.** The space invites gatherings, entertaining, and recreation, with fireplaces, play areas, kitchens, or other features.
- **BEST SMALL SPACE.** Smart design and planting ideas in an area of 2,000 square feet or less.

### DEADLINES

Deadline for professionals to apply for entry package: March 15, 2006

Deadline for home gardeners to enter: May 1, 2006

### PRIZES

One overall Grand Prize winner, Second Place winner, and Third Place winner will be selected from among all the entrants at the Home Gardeners level. And one overall Grand Prize winner, Second Place winner, and Third Place winner will be selected from among all the entrants at the Landscape Architects and Designers level. Each Grand Prize winner will receive \$1,000 cash prize and \$100 gift certificate to a garden-supply company of *Sunset's* choice, each Second Place winner will receive \$500, and each Third Place winner will receive \$250. In addition, some of the winning gardens may be published in a future issue of *Sunset*.

### TO ENTER

**Home Gardeners:** To enter, go to [www.sunset.com/gardencontest](http://www.sunset.com/gardencontest) and click the "Home Gardener" link (above) or call 650/324-5632 for an entry form. There is no entry fee.

**Landscape Architects and Designers:** To enter, go to [www.sunset.com/gardencontest](http://www.sunset.com/gardencontest) and click the "Landscape Architects and Designers" link or call 650/324-5632 for an entry form. There is NO entry fee.

### Native Plants for the California Garden

Bart O'Brien and Carol Bornstein brought their elegant new book, *California Native Plants for the Garden* (co-authored with David Fross) and the insights in its pages to the February 21st Cal Hort meeting, held as usual at the San Francisco County Fair Building auditorium.

O'Brien, the director of horticulture at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in Claremont, California, our state's largest native-plant garden, began the slide show with some of the more exotic-looking species in our flora: *Agave deserti* and *Agave shawii*, two garden-worthy succulents. *Agave deserti* comes from the slopes overlooking Palm Springs and *A. shawii* is native to coastal San Diego County and Baja California. Interestingly, both are winter-growing succulents, although they do appreciate some protection from excess rainfall if possible, and thus are ideal as moveable potted specimens for areas of lowland Northern California. They are fairly frost-hardy.

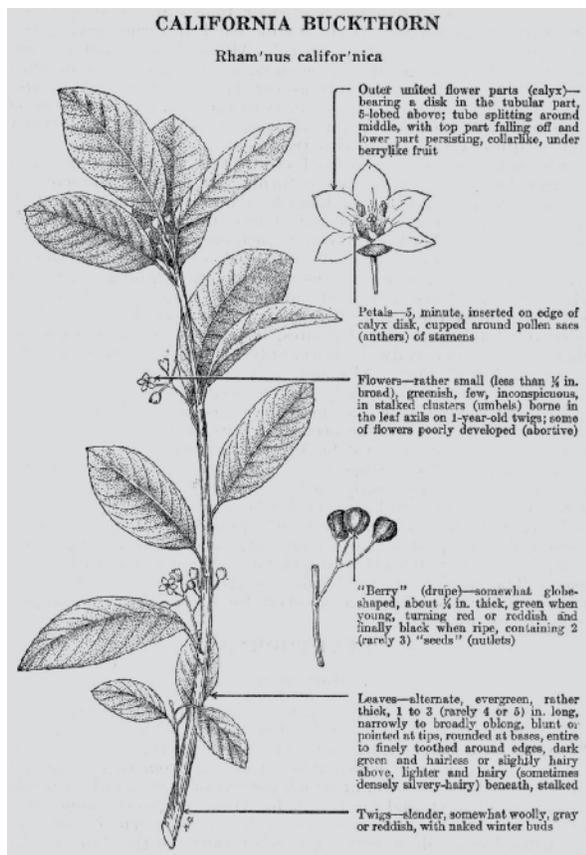
With an emphasis on native plants for the garden, Bornstein and O'Brien made ample admission of cultivars and hybrids into their discussion. O'Brien showed the lovely hybrid, *Agave* 'Blue Flame,' of native *A. shawii* with *A. attenuata* (a popular unarmed Mexican species) that produces 25-foot yellow foxtail inflorescences. They also discussed the widespread hybrid of the desert native *Chilopsis linearis* with *Catalpa bignonioides* – *X Chitalpa tashkentensis* – a hardy, heat-loving flowering tree that makes a good substitute for the overplanted Crape Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia*, in inland climates.

Other enticing Southern California natives O'Brien and Bornstein brought north in their slides included Palo Blanco, *Ornithostaphylos oppositifolia*, an elegant chalky-barked Manzanita relative from the Baja frontier, and *Berberis nevini*, a versatile Southland valley shrub spectacular in flower or fruit.

As curator of living collections and propagation at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Carol Bornstein has had a role in focusing gardeners' eyes on domestic use of California natives. Rather than just use them for naturalistic habitat re-creation, she suggests, why not incorporate natives into other landscape forms, such as the mixed border, the hedge, and containers?

Bornstein's suite of slides began with examples of cultivated treatments. What better plant than a sinuous, bonsai-like *Arctostaphylos* to evoke a Japanese garden mood? Relying on California natives to create a silver garden is to work with an embarrassment of riches – *Dudleya pulverulenta*, *Eriogonum crocatum*, *Hesperoyucca*, *Eriophyllum nevini*, *Salvia apiana*, and, again, glaucous species of that speciose and especially Californian genus *Arctostaphylos*. Mixing natives with exotics is easy – as long as cultural needs overlap: Bornstein showed a pleasing groundcover of *Ceanothus hearstiorum* beneath orange trees, accented with the fat powdery stars of *Dudleya brittonii*. *Cercis occidentalis* and *Ceanothus* both looked well in a cottage-garden setting, and a woodland glen comprising a canopy of *Quercus agrifolia* and understory of *Rhamnus californica*, sedges, *Ceanothus*, and *Dudleya*.

Of the more than 5000 species native to the California Floristic Province, an area coincident with our Mediterranean climate that ranges from Guadalupe Island and northern Baja



into southern Oregon and from the western divide to the Pacific, Bornstein, O'Brien and co-author Foss were able to include 524 commercially available taxa in their exceptionally useful and beautifully illustrated book. As the small aperture in the camera obscura brings in the infinite

exterior, these few slides portrayed an expansive world of horticultural potential in our numerous natives.

## Flower & Garden Show Volunteering

We need volunteers for the Flower & Garden show March 15-19, 2006. Every year our organization creates and runs a booth showcasing new plants at the SF Garden Show. The time slots start every day at 8:30 AM and end at 8:30 PM Wednesday the 15<sup>th</sup> through Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, and 6:00 pm Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. We also need help for the clean up at the end of the show on Sunday.



On the days you work the show you get free entrance to the show for that day. You may sign up for more than one day. A sign up board will be passed around at the February meeting, but if you are not going to be there call Kristin Yanker-Hansen at (925) 831-9499 or e-mail: [yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net).



# LAST CALL!

If you haven't yet sent in your renewal, please do so immediately or you will lose your subscription to the fantastic *Pacific Horticulture*, our informative *Bulletin*, discounts on popular Cal Hort field trips, etc etc etc.

Send your check made out to the "California Horticultural Society" to:

Elsie Mueller - Secretary  
1847 34th Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122-4109

(415) 566-5222 or (800) 884-0009

We'll see you at the meetings!

## Earn CEU Credits

We now offer Continuing Education Units for the California Certified Nursery Professionals—a program of the California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers. Attendance at our monthly lectures and plant Forum will qualify you for one CEU. Sign in at the registration desk *following* the program.

### Officers

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Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted two months ahead.

Membership year begins January 1 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call (800) 884-0009.



**San Francisco County Fair Building**  
**9th Avenue & Lincoln Way**  
**San Francisco, CA 94122**

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