



Bulletin

of the

California Horticultural Society

Cultivating friendship, gardens and fun for 75 years!

March 2008

M E E T I N G S

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.

Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1240 9th Ave, San Francisco.

7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum, and Meeting will be held at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

***Members free for monthly meeting. Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

Monday, March 17, 2008

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

“The History of Gardening in the United States”

Jenny Rose Carey, Director of the Landscape Arboretum at Temple University, Ambler, Pennsylvania and Garden historian, will present an overview of the more than 400 years of known gardening history in the United States of America. Jenny Rose was born in London, England to a family of gardeners and Botanists, and has lived in the United States for twenty years. She has traveled the country looking at, and photographing gardens, looking at the subject with an outsider’s eye.

This lecture will begin with the sketchy details of the pre-colonial gardens, leading on through the early subsistence gardens to gardens designed purely for pleasure and not food. Each era of American History has produced distinctive gardens that are in keeping with the socioeconomic climate of the times. Some of the early gardens, such as Monticello and Mount Vernon, have influenced gardens across America. Others show a distinctive regional style that could be found nowhere else.

What are the differences between a Colonial Garden and Colonial Revival? How did Victorian thinking in Europe and America change the gardens that were produced? How did the women at the turn of the last century help to change American gardens drastically? What is an American garden; is there such a thing? These and many other questions will be discussed.

The **Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In March the drawing will include donations from the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** and from **UC Botanical Gardens** courtesy of **Anthony Garza**. Our appreciation to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** and to the **Ruth Bancroft Garden** courtesy of **Brian Kemble** for the outstanding selection of plants donated for the February meeting

Monday, April 21, 2008

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

“The History of the Japanese Tea Garden, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco”

“The oldest Japanese style garden built in the United States”

>With garden tour by one of the family members of the garden creator Makoto Hagiwara.<

There will be featured photographs from the family album of the pre WWII Tea Garden while the family resided there and a personal talk highlighting the garden’s history and changes up to the present. One topic of the lecture is the introduction of the Fortune Cookie, which was originated and introduced there.

Jonathan Silverman, David Tivol and David Schooley
at San Bruno Mountain



I had an absolutely invigorating trip to San Bruno Mountain ...it was that very stormy weekend where they predicted torrential rains and wind gusts that will blow you away. It was to hit Saturday ...and boy did it. Not as awful as predicted, but enough to scare folks away from the field trip. Three of us that faired the weather, and were delighted to find all sorts of plants in bloom. David Schooley from Mountain Watch gave us a driving and walking tour and showed us all 6 species of *Arctostaphylos* that grow on the Mountain. What a great trip. It reminded me of John Muir up in the top of the tree in the middle of a storm to experience the weather. The rain had passed, but we did have some fantastic wind. Pictures are posted on Yahoo Groups. We have rescheduled another outing with David Schooley on Sunday March 23rd, same time, same place, but many more flowers...please RSVP by the March 17th meeting so we know if we need two leaders or not. \$5.00 donation to Mountain Watch for members and \$10.00 for non-members (\$5.00 Mountain watch and \$5.00 Cal Hort).

I don't know about you, but I am looking forward to going to Filoli March 29th. The great garden escape in Woodside or is it England???? Dan Carlson and Jason DeWees have a wonderful trip planned. We will go on a nature walk in the morning to see the garden mother earth created, and then after lunch will see the garden that the Bourn family and Peter Porter created, Mrs. Roth's nurturing and enhancement, and the current interpretation of that garden today. This is one of the classic gardens that are available for everyone to enjoy. It is beautiful any time of the year, but especially in the spring. I hope to see you all on the 29th.

Did you see the new 75th anniversary "collectable" T-shirts and tote bags? They are very cool. I've been meaning to get bags to bring home groceries to be more environmental, but haven't, so now I have no excuse and neither do you. They are \$12 each or 2 for \$20. See the order form in this bulletin or buy some from Elsie at the monthly meeting. Look for them at the next meeting!

By the time you get the bulletin, we will be enjoying and working the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. I want to recognize and thank Kristen Yanker-Hansen and Bruce Peters for their help in obtaining plants and volunteers, printing the plant list and entering the plants and pictures onto the website. The booth, which is our main outreach to the gardening public each year would not happen without both of your efforts and everyone who put in 2 or more hours at the show to let people know about Cal Hort. I hope you had a good time and enjoyed the fun and festivities of the show.

Guess what is happening in early May????? Get ready to visit some of our own members' beautiful gardens. We will be having an East Bay Garden Tour and Tea. How exciting!!!! I can't wait. You really get a connection with a person when you visit their garden.

We are actively seeking a new newsletter editor. Linda Baptiste is moving to Portland, Oregon and will be leaving the area by Summer. It is a very important job, taking some time each month. Don't underestimate it, it is a big job, but it is a chance to be creative and have a sense of contribution. Linda, I want to thank you for taking on this task and running with it. You've created "the Question Lady", which I sure enjoy reading each month and you've added your own touch to the publication. The Society appreciates your enthusiasm and your energy in producing a quality newsletter. Please email Linda at editor@calhortsociety.org if you want a little more information on what is involved or to volunteer. If we get a volunteer relatively soon, then Linda and the new editor can work together for a few months to let the new editor get comfortable.

Spring is here and everything is going wild. I hope to see some of you at all the activities that are planned. See the calendar on Yahoo groups or use it to connect to people for rides or information. If you are not signed up for Yahoo groups, please email me and I will send you an invite (president@calhortsociety.org).

While the California Spring Garden Show in Oakland was probably the most famous of all Bay Area garden shows, it was not alone. Other highly successful garden shows ran for many years. Two of the most notable were the San Mateo Floral Fiesta and the Marin Garden Show. All three of these shows enjoyed tremendous popular success in the years immediately following WWII as the post-war housing boom reached its peak and new homeowners searched for landscape ideas they could use in their newly created suburban yards. These shows also became increasingly important for the Bay Area's horticulture industry, as nurseries and landscape architects teamed up to show off their skills and generate some business.

My previous article may have given readers the impression that the California Spring Garden Show ended after Howard Gilkey's reign as director. This is far from the truth. While Howard may have been one of the shows most creative designers, best known for his ability to create seemingly natural landscape settings indoors, many others played this role during the shows 30+ years history. It was not until after Howard Gilkey's run as chief designer that the California Spring Garden Show began to gain national acclaim. In October of 1950, the Saturday Evening Post ran a feature article about the show that included six color photographs. This article not only helped to draw increased attention on the show itself, but it helped to highlight the talents of the landscape architects responsible for designing the displays.

The roots of the San Mateo Floral Fiesta can be traced back to the 1926 flower show sponsored by gardening groups in Burlingame and Hillsborough. Like the Spring Garden Show, the event grew in popularity each year. Organizers put the event on hold during the depression, but it returned in October of 1935, under the name of The San Mateo Products and Floral Fiesta. The event was held in a portion of the Jockey Club on the grounds of Bay Meadows, which was later sold to the county for the site of the San Mateo County Fairgrounds. The Marin Garden Show was unique among the three for two reasons: It was held during the summer, housed entirely outdoors on the grounds of the Ross estate giving it a very different feel than the other two indoor shows. One of the main advantages of holding the show during the summer was that the event never had to deal with the negative impact of rain on deterring attendance.

During the post-war period, all three shows enjoyed incredible success as they had tremendous popular appeal

with the public. The suburban housing boom began to take off as the population of the Bay Area increased dramatically between 1950 and 1970. Due to the home building occurring in the Bay Area, nurseries were provided with a major business opportunity. Landscape architects also benefited from the housing boom, as they were able to begin to create landscape designs for smaller homes on a large scale for the first time. Prior to WWII, landscape architects mainly engaged in projects for large estate holders, or public and commercial landscaping projects. Their services were simply out of reach for most Bay Area residents. However, as home ownership increased during the post-war period, they suddenly found a new outlet for their services. The garden shows brought the nurseries and the designers together as both groups worked to capitalize on the new business opportunities presented by the growth of the suburban housing movement.

In speaking with Ernest Wertheim, the world famous landscape architect and long time Cal Hort member, I learned that the shows allowed nurserymen and designers to work together in a very intimate way. The nurseries would hire the designers to create their displays and the two groups would work together to execute the plans, which allowed for highly productive exchanges of ideas about plants and their functions within specific landscape settings. The shows became highly competitive as nurseries and their designers tried top one another each year with their displays. It was a big boon for both parties if they were able to win one of the cash prizes given for the best displays or land a feature article in a gardening magazine like *Sunset*.

All three of these shows are a thing of the past. Their undoing was largely the result of rising overhead costs associated with the production of the shows and decreasing attendance figures. The competition for people's entertainment dollar is fierce and garden shows find themselves lost in the midst of the vast array of entertainment choices in the modern world.

Today's garden shows are extremely expensive endeavors for those wishing to put on displays. This high cost results in making the shows the exclusive realm of only the biggest players, thus eliminating smaller firms from participation. Perhaps the most unfortunate consequence of the decline of the garden shows is that nurseries and designers no longer have the opportunity to work together and exchange ideas in such an ideal and creative setting.

TOURS AND TRIPS ...

Filoli Tour March 29 - Sign up!

Join your Cal Hort friends for a tour March 29 of the natural areas and the gardens at Filoli, the celebrated country estate in Woodside. We will be seeing this exceptional garden near the peak of bloom season. Arrive by 9:45am for a 10am walk through native habitat. A catered lunch begins at 12pm, followed by a guided tour of the gardens and house at 1pm. Cost is \$30 for Cal Hort members and \$40 for non-members. This includes your entrance to the gardens/house, tour, lunch and a small donation to Cal Hort.

Please send your check written to California Horticultural Society and this completed form to:

Your complete reservations must include

- [1] your check made to the order of the California Horticultural Society (\$30 for members, \$40 for non-members),
- [2] the form below completely filled out and sent by March 15, 2008, or delivered to Jason at the March 17th Cal Hort meeting:

Jason Dewees
Flora Grubb Gardens
PO Box 31485
San Francisco, CA 94131

Please make a reservation for

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Check if you wish a vegetarian lunch.

carpooling: (check all that apply)

I can drive up to ___ others.

I can be a passenger.

I prefer to make my own arrangements.

Call Jason at 415-694-6445 for more info.

Monterey Bay Area Garden and Nursery Tour

Cal Hort will have a field trip Saturday, May 3, to further gardens and nurseries around Monterey Bay. Make your reservation for this day trip now!

Your complete reservations must include

- [1] your check made to the order of the California Horticultural Society (\$20 for members, \$25 for non-members),
- [2] a self addressed stamped envelope to receive confirmation and information, and
- [3] the form below completely filled out and sent before April 18, 2008, to
Dave Tivol
130 Locksunart Way #4
Sunnyvale CA 94087

Please make a reservation for

name: _____

address: _____

phone: _____

e-mail: _____

carpooling: (check all that apply)

I can drive up to ___ others.

I can be a passenger.

I prefer to make my own arrangements.

Bay-Friendly Garden Tour

April 27, Sunday, 10 AM - 4 PM

Registration for the 5th annual FREE Bay-Friendly Garden Tour at www.BayFriendly.org/gardentour is now open.

Bringing Back the Natives

May 4, Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM

Self guided tour of 60 water conserving pesticide-free gardens that provide habitat for wildlife and contain 50% or more native plants will be showcased. See www.BringingBackTheNatives.net/volunteer.html

Poppies!

Ellen Frank

Okay, this is a very difficult question. It is like picking your favorite child, each has its own attributes that makes each unique and loved in its own way. I love different plants in different situations, but if I had to pick just one....POPPIES, POPPIES and more POPPIES. Beautiful, satiny intense orange California Poppies!

Exotica Plumeria

By Jonathan Silverman

It speaks to me so gently a vibrant essence reminiscing the tropical island flavor. The Plumeria most known is used widely in the creation of Hawaiian leis. These flowers are linked up together forming a natural jewel of color that rest over your head like a flower necklace. It's an honor to be leid especially once when you are on the islands. Plumeria is my favorite tropical deciduous drought tolerant plant that offers an amazingly delicious fragrance.

During my recent travels, I had the great fortune of propagating many varieties like Pinwheel rainbow, candystripe, yellowdrop, and more. Basically, for a cutting 12-18' you should submerge it about 3 inches. During the rooting period it is best not to water or you will rot the cutting. Dormancy usually occurs from Dec-March. It takes about 18 months before its' flowering period will begin. Its' soil requirements consist of a sandy loam to allow fast percolation. It is a slow growing glorious specimen that loves the sun rays blazing down.

Each year it will produce more stem growth and 8-10 months of a floral wonders. It's an overwhelming fragrance that puts me into a euphoric state. In northern California it can be grown in warmer micro climates like Noe valley, Mission , and/or Potrero.

The Question Lady Wants to Know:

Have you had to cope with pests in the garden? Tell us about your successes, or failures, as the case may be. Send the story to editor@calhortsociety.org, or mail to Linda Baptiste, 1920 Center Ave, Martinez CA 94553, for insertion into the March Bulletin.

Choysia ternata

By Alice Lukens Bachelder

A favorite plant that immediately comes to my mind is *Choysia ternata*, Mexican orange. I live in an oak woodland at 500' elevation in Marin County, Sunset Zone 16. *Choysia* claims a favorite place in several areas of my garden for its ease of growth and management, its consistent, year-round good looks, its adaptability. On the short list of plants that are deer resistant, drought resistant and grow in shade, Mexican orange and *Nandina* top the list. It's consistently handsome and, I think, overlooked for its compatibility with conditions in our water-short California gardens. My plants get a natural mulch of live oak leaves and seem to thrive on that soil acidifier. Mexican orange is easy to get, but not that commonly seen in gardens. Making a good informal hedge or streetside shrub, it's OK in a front-and-center position, or as background or low screen.

Choysia ternata is a broad-leafed evergreen shrub to 5' or so in height, about the same or less in width. Starting in late winter 1" white, lightly-scented flowers with yellow stamens appear in clusters at branch ends. Shiny 3-4" long by 1" wide, dark green, leaflets in a whorl of 3 make great foliage in a flower arrangement. It is of Mexican origin. Forget the "orange"--there's no fruit, at least in my climate, but they're in the same family--Rutaceae.

I grow *Choysia ternata* by my driveway where it is almost never irrigated. A yellow-leaved cultivar, 'Sundance', is slower to grow in stiff soil, but lightens up the approach to the driveway. A newer cultivar, 'Aztec', is available. These plants grow faster with some summer water, of course, as in the fenced and irrigated part of my garden where they reach 5' or more and are easily pruned to a side branch to keep them in bounds. I've grown them for about 30 years. Occasionally a major branch in center will yellow out and die, but I cut it back to the ground, and new growth fills in. Gophers sometimes destroy roots, but then again, some side shoots show up, seemingly where roots have been shortened. The only other occasional pests have been scale or mites, which I treat with an oil spray.

Here is a fine-looking, adaptable, easy to grow, old reliable shrub that I depend on as I get old and less reliable!

Giant feather grass, *Stipa gigantea*
Family Gramineae

Giant feather grass is in its full glory during the summer, when its tall flower spikes look like fireworks when backlit by the late afternoon sun. However, the long-lasting flower heads are still swaying in the breezes of winter, adding some interest to an otherwise dormant garden, and making it this month's plant of the month.

This ornamental grass is native to Spain and Portugal, and is well suited to our Mediterranean climate. The leaves grow to about two feet in height, forming a dense mound. The show begins in spring, when the flower

spikes emerge and continue growing to about six feet. The panicles are loose and dangle in the wind, creating a shimmering effect that has to be seen to be believed. Use this plant to add height to the back of a border, or use it as a focal point, like a giant exclamation mark for your garden. The flowers do double duty, looking great in the garden or in flower arrangements. Giant feather grass is tough, and does well near the coast and in windy locations, as long as it gets full sun, good drainage, and protection from heavy frost.

Paphiopedilum lowii
Orchidaceae
John and Barbara Hopper, Kenwood

Native to the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, Borneo and Sulawesi (Celebes)

Distinguishing characteristics: Unspotted dorsal sepal; large purple spots on the lower half of the petals and rose purple flushed outer petal halves. Widely spaced flowers on a vary long stalk above green unmarked leaves. Multi-bloomer that can carry up to 30 flowers and open sequentially along the inflorescence.

Characteristics and culture:

Type: terrestrial

Growth habit: sympodial

Origins: Java, New Guinea, southeastern Asia

Blooming season: Spring-summer

Light: Bright, diffuse, with consistent shading from direct sunlight' excellent under fluorescents or high intensity light

Temperature: Intermediate with a winter nighttime minimum of 55-60 degrees F

Humidity: High, constant; use a humidity tray. These plants require the same humidity as do Cattleyas. Good air circulation is a must. Excessive moisture on the leaves encourages disease.

Moisture: Keep moist at all times; growth is continuous in this genus, and plants have no pseudo bulbs. The potting medium should not be allowed to dry out. The frequency of watering depends on environmental conditions and on the type of medium used; it is difficult to give any set schedule. During bright weather two waters per week may be sufficient, with longer intervals between waters in dull weather. Misting the plants is usually not necessary except during very hot weather. Always water thoroughly so that water runs out the bottom of the pot to flush out excess salts; accumulation of salts is injurious to the roots.

Growing medium: Should be in a deep pot with room for the extensive root system.

Photo by Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood



March 12 – 16, 9AM – 8PM

2008 San Francisco Flower & Garden Show—Enjoy four acres of inspiring gardens as well as 300 exhibits and free gardening seminars. At the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City. Wed-Sat: 9:00 AM –8 PM, Sun: 9:00 AM –6 PM. Tickets \$20 adult (\$17 early bird). For more info and to buy tickets visit www.gardenshow.cm/sf/index/index/asp. Tickets may also be purchased at many local nurseries.

March 15, Saturday morning, 9:30AM – 12:30PM

Sublime Succulents—UC Davis Botanical Conservatory Curator Ernesto Sandoval wows audiences with his presentation and slide show about some of horticulture's most interesting members: succulents. Learn about the specialized botany and adaptations of succulents, plus how to incorporate them into your own gardens. Succulents will also be available for sale. At the Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Ross. \$10 at the door. Call (415) 455-5260 for more info.

March 29, Saturday 9:30AM – 4PM

Get Growing: Gardening for Everyone!—The Napa County UC Master Gardeners are presenting an all day event for the community. There will be hand-on demonstrations, walk-through exhibits, displays and an all day help desk to answer specific gardening questions. Classes will be offered for all levels from beginners to experienced gardeners. At Napa Valley College in Napa. 9:30 AM –4 PM, free if preregistered before March 22, \$20 after that. For more info visit <http://cenapa.ucdavis.edu> or call (707) 253-4147

April 1, Tuesday 7PM– 9PM

Pollination Ecology—Join popular Marin naturalist, teacher, author, and photographer Bob Stewart as he discusses the intricacies of pollination. At the Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd. in Ross, 7 PM –9 PM, \$10 at the door. Call (415) 455-5260 for more info.

April 26-27, Saturday and Sunday, 10AM – 4PM

36th Annual Wildflower Show—This two-day expo showcases the plant biodiversity of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties. The event displays over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants, each accurately labeled, many suitable for the home garden. Free classes on native plant identification, growing wildflowers, and gardening with native plants. At Mission College, Hospitality Management Building, 3000 Mission College Blvd., Santa Clara. 10:00 AM –4 PM, for more info visit www.cnps-scvc.org or call (650) 941-1068

May 10, Saturday 10AM – 4PM

Anderson Valley Horticultural Forum's Garden Tour—The Fourth annual "spectacular garden tour" will consist of four private gardens and one commercial garden. Proceeds benefit the Anderson Valley Elder Home. Tickets will be limited so early purchase is recommended. 10:00 AM –4 PM; cost \$40/person. Checks payable to the AV ElderHome and mailed to Ginger Valen, P.O. Box 222, Boonville, CA. 95415. For more info call (707)895-9424 or e-mail waldenvalen@pacific.net

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY
(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

March 29, Saturday morning, 10AM –Noon

Stroll Through Southern Africa—After the winter rains, early annuals and spring flowering bulbs fill the Southern Africa section with color. Come see the floral display in full bloom before it disappears for another year. Led by horticulturist Meghan Ray. 10 AM–Noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

March 29, Saturday 10AM – 3PM and March 30, Sunday 10AM – 2PM

Sidewalk Landscaping—.With a special city permit, homeowners can now reclaim their bit of green space. Jane Martin from Plant*SF walks us through the permit process, takes a look at practical, easy-to-maintain designs and winning plant combinations including Bay Area plants. Saturday workshop 10:00 AM –3 PM, and Sunday hands-on experience 10:00 AM –2 PM, members \$75, non-members \$85.

April 13, Sunday 10AM – 3PM

Green Roof Workshop—Green roofs and living walls are sprouting up around the Bay. Award-winning local green building contractor Bob Vetter shares his knowledge about the history and benefits of green exterior construction. See local examples to gain in-depth knowledge of the nuts and bolts of this new technology. The workshop is designed for homeowners or green professionals who want practical knowledge and experienced advice. 10:00 AM –3 PM, members \$65, non-members \$75.

EDITOR NEEDED!

We are in need of a new editor for the Cal Hort *Bulletin*. Soon would be great, immediately even better! I am moving to Oregon, and am in the midst of sorting and cleaning and trimming and... Wanna help weed? Contact Linda at editor@calhortsociety.org.

2008 DUES REMINDER:

If you have not yet renewed your membership, please contact Elsie Mueller immediately! To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or refer to the November 2007 Bulletin.

Deadline for publication 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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Preview of new Cal Hort 75th Anniversary "T" shirts and tote

Bulletin

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