



Next Monthly General Meeting is March 15th, 2010 at 7:15 pm

March 2010

Volume 77, Issue 3

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building

9th Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Parking is available behind the SF Co. Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with the speaker. Meet at the entrance

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

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

***Members free

***Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

March Program: March 15, 2010
Fungus Among Us: Observing, Collecting, Growing and Using Mushrooms for Health, Wealth and Happiness

Ken Litchfield began his professional career as a naturalist in the early '70s at Texas State University, where he taught in the biology and art departments, illustrated scientific



papers, theses and textbooks and worked as a botanist on environmental impact studies. He has since illustrated, written, taught and worked in the fields of art, science and health. Ken is currently the Cultivation Chair of the Mycological Society of San Francisco. He teaches "Mushroom Cultivation", "Growing and Using Healthful Herbs" and "Beneficial Beasts in the Garden" in the Landscape Horticulture Department at Merritt Community College in Oakland, and consults widely.

April meeting April 19, 2010

“From Trash to Treasure: One Man’s Garbage Is Another Man’s Art.”

Mary Te Selle is the award-winning garden designer of Quite Contrary Garden Designs. Her work has been featured as a Golden Trowel winner in Garden Design Magazine and she frequently exhibits in the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. Her ever-developing growing garden, lectures on a variety of garden topics and busy design practice help feed her passion for design and the interplay of organic materials in the garden.

March 23, Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM

The Kippings' potluck/slideshows—Segrid Selle on “Kamchatka: Land of Ice and Fire”. Please bring a dish and beverage for 8 people to share. At the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, 7 PM. (415) 753-7090

March 24-28, Wednesday thru Sunday, 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show—Four acres of inspiring full-sized gardens, over 70 seminars and workshops (for all gardening levels) and a marketplace with 250 vendor exhibits, all related to Bay Area and California gardening. Located at the San Mateo Event Center at 2495 South Delaware St, San Mateo 94403. Tickets available online at www.sfgardenshow.com and at many Bay Area nurseries, for an early bird price of \$16.

March 27, Saturday afternoon, 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Free Plant Exchange—Come and trade your excess plants with others. Take home new plants for your yard. All types of plants are welcome, from cuttings to full size. Garden accessories and accents welcome as well. 3811 Lakeshore Avenue, Oakland 94610. Easy parking. Noon – 4 PM.

April 14, Wednesday evening, 7:30 PM

Alternatives to Lawns—See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas, get professional landscaping tips and practical how-to notes on lawn removal. Presented by Deva Luna. Western Horticultural Society at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7:00 PM, meeting starts promptly at 7:30 PM. Members free, non-members \$5.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN
(510) 528-0526 • <http://www.nativeplants.org>

March 21 and 28, Sunday, 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM

Learning All About Our Native Lilies—With Glenn Keator. The first class will show pictures and include a walk through the Botanic Garden to find as many lilies and lily relatives as possible. The second class will be a local field trip to see several species in their native habitats. 10:00 AM – 2:30 PM, each class: members \$35, non-members \$45.

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

March 22, Monday evening, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Author Series: Succulent Container Gardening Workshop—Learn everything you need to know about creating stunning container displays of exceptionally water-wise plants with Debra Lee Baldwin. 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, members \$25, non-members \$30.

March 28, Sunday, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Native Plant Dyes—Ecological Artist Rebecca Burgess leads a day-long exploration of native plant dyes. Learn everything from harvesting to preparing fibers to producing beautiful textiles with natural color. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, members \$65, non-members \$75.

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

March 27, Saturday morning, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Design Your Own Spring Victory Garden—Learn about the history of Victory Gardens and urban gardening, building and maintaining soil health, the physical construction of garden beds, as well as the production of select veggies and fruits from start to finish. A great start for beginners and a continued dialogue for seasoned veggie growers. 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$25, non-members \$35.

April 3, Saturday afternoon, 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Chinese Plants for Food and Medicine—Thomas Wang – noted local ethnobotanist – will share his knowledge of plants used in China that may be unfamiliar to Western gardeners and cooks. His presentation will include a field trip to a local Chinese market and herb shop. 12:00 PM – 3:30 PM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

April 10, Saturday morning, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

The New Zealand Flaxes—Phormiums offer the easiest and most spectacular way to bring lasting color to your garden. Phormium fanatic Bob Hornback will be presenting dozens of new and old varieties – including several of his own introductions – and will show you how to select and maintain the best ones for your garden. 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$55, non-members \$65.

Plant Display and Discussion

The California Horticultural Society was founded over 75 years ago for the purpose of finding plants that will thrive in the Bay Area. We encourage our members to bring plants to the meetings for display and discussion with the members. If you have a well-grown specimen or growing information, or a new plant that you think would be interesting to the membership, please bring it along to the meeting.

***Heuchera maxima*, the giant heuchera**

Family: Saxifragaceae

Japanese gardens have long been popular in California for good reason. They are peaceful green oases of calm, and easily transport us away from our everyday worries and problems. While there are spots of bright seasonal color, such as flowering azaleas and cherries, green leaves are often the stars of these gardens. Luxurious carpets of moss highlight contrasting foliage shapes and sizes under a canopy of shade created by pines or maples. While aesthetically pleasing, this is not always the easiest garden to create in an arid area with no summer rainfall. How can we create the feel of a Japanese garden using plant materials more suitable to our climate? Instead of the thirsty foliage plants that are often used, consider planting some drought tolerant plants with similar foliage qualities. The giant heuchera *Heuchera maxima* is a good choice for providing interesting foliage texture and delicate flowers.

The giant heuchera grows to about one foot tall, bearing clumps of large, dark green leaves with a slightly wavy edge. In early spring, delicate stems rise another foot or two above the foliage, ending in pink-tinged white flowers that are manna to our hummingbirds and a joy to behold as they wave in the breeze. Their delicate appearance blends well in the Japanese garden and disguises this plant's hardy nature.



The giant heuchera is native to the Channel Islands of southern California and tolerates minimal summer watering, making it a good companion plant for native oaks and vine maples. It does not need a cold rest period in the winter (vernalization). I suspect that a need for vernalization is why many showy hybrid heucheras seem to shrink to nothing within a few years in our mild climate. Planted in clumps among a small-leaved ground cover such as our native *Oxalis oregana*, in a shady or semi-shady spot, it will transport you away from your worries.

An interesting note: Although it is an American plant genus, *Heuchera* was named after Johann Heinrich von Heucher, a botanist from Wittenberg University.

Monthly Plant Drawing

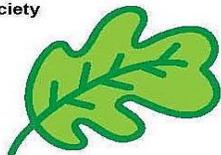
The plant drawing is an ongoing program for the Society's benefit. Nurseries and individual members donate plants each month, many of which are rare in the trade.

This month's contributions of fresh fruitable blocks will be made by **Far West Fungi** (www.farwestfungi.com) and **The San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum** will also donate plants. We encourage members to donate overstocks of their own plants.

Please patronize these corporate supporters of CalHort!



The California Horticultural Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 9TH Avenue & Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, CA 94122
www.calhortsociety.org

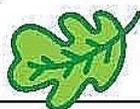


CalHort Needs Volunteers

We are moving forward to essentially an all volunteer Society where all of the tasks that make the Society run smoothly will be performed by members. However, it has also become obvious that the same few members are doing most of these jobs (sometimes multiple jobs) and have been doing them for many years. We have been without a President and Vice President for all of this year. Our Treasurer has been on the job for 14 years. Some of the assignments can be shared among members if we have enough volunteers.

Our 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! The Board asks that you consider volunteering for these positions to keep CalHort the organization we all want it to be. Contact any Board member for further information, either by email, phone or at next Monday's meeting, and especially Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair. We need you! The Membership Roster provides Board Member telephone numbers and email addresses.

To join, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499



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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