

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, March 21, 2011 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 – a donation of \$5 is requested

Cal Hort Volunteers Needed for Hot Plant Picks Booth at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show

March 23–27, 2011, San Mateo Event Center.
Wed–Sat: 10:00–7:00, Sun: 10:00–6:00.

Anyone interested should call or e-mail Nancy Schramm. Volunteers get a wristband for free entrance to the show in return for volunteering for two hours (edgreenthumb@att.net / (408) 847-2313). As always, there will be many display gardens, products, seminars and educational booths to see.

MARCH 2011 MEETING

**Chile—
from Desert to Forest
by Kathy Musial**



The long, narrow country of Chile holds habitats ranging from the Atacama Desert in the north—to temperate rainforest in the south—to alpine in the Andes along the country's eastern edge. Kathy Musial is Curator of Living Collections at the Huntington Botanical Gardens where she has worked for 28 years. She just returned from a visit to Chile in September 2010 and will be telling us about this journey.

APRIL 2011 MEETING

**Mesembryanthemaceae,
Aizoaceae, and Other
Swear Words in the
Ice Plant Family**

by Russell Wagner



Russell Wagner, former editor of Cactus and Succulent Journal and book publisher of his own Little Sphaeroid Press, grows a wide variety of succulent plants in his Oakland greenhouse. Russell spent 15 weeks in South Africa, the heart of Mesemb country, last year, exploring both summer and winter-rainfall regions. His talk will show plants in habitat and grown in cultivation.

Early Spring HORTICULTURAL Events by Don L. MacGregor

LAB TESTING TO DECIDE WHAT TO USE FOR IMPROVING YOUR SOIL CONDITION

Lecture with Cliff Low
Wednesday March 9, 7:30 PM
Western Horticultural Society, Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church,
1040 Border Road, Los Altos Hills.
www.WesternHort.org

SUSTAINABLE HOME HORTICULTURE WORKSHOP

Anthony Garza and Dylan Ferreira
Saturday March 12, 9:00 AM–12 Noon
UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley.
\$25, members \$20. Registration req'd: (510)643-2755,
9:30 AM–4:30 PM 7 days a week or garden@berkeley.edu
www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

SANCTUARY: THE PROMISED LAND. ARE WE THERE YET?

Lecture and Tour with
Topher Delaney and Friends
Saturday March 12, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM
San Francisco Botanical Garden, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.
\$85, members \$75. Download registration form online
or phone (415) 661–1316 ext. 400
www.SFBotanicalGardenSociety.org

PLANT SALES!

Saturday March 12, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery.
Members only, join at-the-door (\$40).
(530)752–4880 www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu
10:00 AM–1:00 PM
SF Botanical Garden Nursery General Sale.
Not a San Francisco resident?
Garden Admission is subtracted from plant purchases.

POTLUCK SOCIAL

Thursday March 17, 6:00 PM
Celebrate the publication of Ken Norris's book,
Mountain Time. No scheduled lecture,
bring a dish to share. UC Santa Cruz Arboretum.
www.arboretum.ucsc.edu

UC BERKELEY BOTANIC GARDEN THROUGH THE SEASONS

Illustrated talk with Elaine Sedlack
Thursday March 17, 7:30 PM.
Cal Chapter Meeting of American Rhododendron Society.
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue, Oakland.
www.CalChapterARS.org

IKEBANA EXHIBITION

Flower show and demonstrations.
Saturday March 19 and Sunday March 20, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter of Ikebana International.
County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park. \$10, \$8 in advance. www.Ikebana.org

SOME FAVORITE GARDENS AND WHY

Book signing and illustrated talk with Page Dickey
Tuesday March 22, 6:30 PM
Nancy Goslee Powers Barn Studio,
Santa Monica. \$35, Garden Conservancy members \$30.
www.GardenConservancy.org

KIPPING FAMILY PRESENTS: PAKISTAN

Illustrated talk with Segrid Selle
Tuesday March 22, 7:00 PM.
Bring a dish for eight to share. Fireplace Room.
County Fair Bldg, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park.

LAKESHORE NEIGHBORHOOD PLANT EXCHANGE

Saturday March 26, 12 Noon–4:00 PM
3811 Lakeshore, Oakland.
(510) 866–8482, plantexchange510@gmail.com
www.plantexchange.wordpress.com

PUT A BEE IN YOUR BONNET— INTRODUCTION TO BACKYARD BEEKEEPING

with K. Ruby Blume,
Sunday March 27
Part I–10:00 AM–1:00 PM Part II–2:00 PM–4:30 PM.
Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Part I only - \$45, members \$40.
Full Day - \$80, members \$75. BYO Lunch.
Registration form is online with mailing address or john@rusk.com
www.NativePlants.org

NATURE'S BELOVED SON, REDISCOVERING JOHN MUIR'S BOTANICAL LEGACY

Exhibit on display now, closes March 27
Leshner Center for the Arts, Bedford Gallery,
1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek.
\$5, \$3 for ages 13–17, 12 and under free.
www.BedfordGallery.org

AMERICAN RHODODENDRON SOCIETY ANNUAL PLANT SALE AND FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, April 9
Plant Sale–10:00 AM–4:00 PM Flower Show–12 Noon–4:00 PM.
Cal Chapter American Rhododendron Society,
Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Road, Oakland.
www.CalChapterARS.org

THE WAY WE GARDEN NOW

The Garden Conservancy's
Sixth Annual Garden Design Seminar
A Seminar on Sustainability, Aesthetics and Gardens with Integrity
Friday, April 15, 2011, 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
Golden Gate Club, The Presidio of San Francisco.
\$155, Members \$135, Subscribers \$145
www.GardenConservancy.org

Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

Bambusa oldhamii

Family: POACEAE

I started writing this column seven years ago, and I usually write it at the computer in my home office. Looking out the window, I have a wonderful view of our garden framed by the culms of a mature Oldham's bamboo. Although I have been staring at this plant for all of these years, I never thought to write about it until now, and I'm feeling guilty about that.

I originally installed my Oldham's bamboo from a 5-gallon container to block out a tall unsightly wall, and this plant has done its job commendably. It has become a wonderful vertical screen, completely hiding the wall, yet remaining in the small amount of floor space allotted to it in our urban garden. In the spring and fall, migrating Audubon's warblers flit among the outer branches, gleaning insects and using the bamboo as a base camp as they explore the rest of the garden.

Although it is commonly grown in southern California and Florida, Oldham's bamboo isn't used nearly enough in northern California. This may be because the young, potted plants look like bamboo fishing poles with a few leaves on their tips—not very attractive. Once they are planted in the ground, and given sunlight and some water, they take off,

getting to 20 feet high in the first few years. In southern California and other warm places, this bamboo can get to 50 feet tall, but in northern California it usually gets to just over half that height. This bamboo will hold its lower branches, which makes it a good screening plant. If you prefer a more open look, you can remove the lower branches and reveal the upright culms. New shoots are very pretty, with a pale blue powdery coating that fades as the branches emerge. The mature culms are green and very old culms take on a burnished gold color. The branches are rather short, and the leaves are fairly long, so it forms a dense, upright mass.

Like most of my favorite plants, Oldham's bamboo serves several purposes. Its young shoots are edible, and it is considered one of the better species for culinary use. The timber can be used for furniture making. And



as mentioned above, the live plant makes a great screen to block out unsightly views. I hope my gushing about this plant makes up for the time it took me to finally share its qualities with the rest of you.

Bambusa oldhamii

Thai Meat Balls served at the February Meeting- Makes 40



To make Dipping Sauce: Put water, sugar and vinegar into a pan and dissolve the sugar over low heat. Once the sugar has dissolved, bring the water to boil and boil for 5 minutes. Turn off heat and add the chili powder, peanuts and cucumber. Leave this to cool and serve garnished with coriander.

To make the Meatballs: Mix all ingredients for the meatballs together in a bowl until thoroughly combined. Form the meatballs into 1 inch balls, and put them on a cookie sheet. Bake the meatballs in a 350 degree

oven for twenty minutes. Note: if using chicken or fish, you need to cook for less time— so that they don't dry out.

For the Meatballs:

2 c. oil
18 oz. ground pork (or ground chicken or fish)
5 tbsp. red curry paste
4 tbsp. fish sauce
1 egg (beaten)
8 tbsp. tapioca flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tbsp. palm sugar
10 kaffir lime leaves, (thinly sliced, discarding stems)
8 long beans (thinly sliced)

For the Sauce:

6 tbsp. water
6 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. vinegar
1 tsp. chili powder
(to make it not so spicy— use paprika)
2 tbsp. roasted peanuts (chopped)
2 tbsp. cucumber (thinly sliced)
1/2 c. fresh coriander (chopped)

For more information, email Yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net and put "meatballs" in the subject line.

Serve the meatballs hot with the dipping sauce and enjoy!



The California Horticultural Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

*You are cordially invited to attend the
 2011 California Horticultural Society
 Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner
 Monday, May 16, 2011 at 6:30 PM
 SF Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers,
 Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco.
 Program Presented by Randy Baldwin,
 Manager of San Marcos Growers and
 Recipient of the 2011 Annual Award.*

*See the CalHort web site for more information.
 Sign up today!*

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Don Mahoney of Strybing Arboretum, and Luen Miller of Monterey Bay for plants for the plant drawing. We encourage our membership to bring in unusual plants from the collections to share with other members.

To join the California Horticultural Society, 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.

It's membership renewal time. Dues are due in January of 2011. Notices have been sent. Questions? Please address them to the new Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 (gardengurus@gmail.com).

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.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at any Cal Hort meeting.

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin 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.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2008-2010 (Second Term) Jim Budke
 2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop
 2010-2012 (First Term) Michael Craib,
 Don MacGregor, Caren Magreblan
 2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,
 Andy Stone, Dave Tivol
 2011-2013 (First Term) Patrick Albin,
 Judith Taylor

COUNCIL

President	Open
Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
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Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

BULLETIN EDITOR
editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR
calendar@calhortsociety.org

**California Horticultural Society
2011 Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner**

Monday, May 16, 2011

SF Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers,
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco

**Program Presented by
Randy Baldwin
Manager of San Marcos Growers
Recipient of the 2011 Annual Award**

6:30 PM Socializing

7:00 PM Potluck

If you can assist with set up, please come any time after 5:00 pm.
We will make flower arrangements from the Arboretum, set up plant displays, etc.
Advance Reservations must be made with Chris Codding no later than Friday, May 13th.

A \$5.00 donation is requested to cover costs of materials, supplies and beverages.
Your dinner ticket and name tags will be held for you at the door.

I / We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday, May 16, 2011

Enclosed is a check made payable to:

The California Horticultural Society for \$ _____
(\$5.00 each, included cups, plates, coffee, tea, spring water)

Mail checks to: Chris Codding, PO Box 1306, Martinez, CA 94553
or e-mail her at cassiered@comcast.net. If late call Chris @925 229-9358.

What to Bring:

- Your favorite dish(Enough to serve 8)
- A serving utensil
- Your own silverware and plate
- Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction & perhaps some wine