

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, March 17, 2014, 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

**Plant of the Month**

*Mimulus puniceus*



**MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2014**

**What Is New at the UC Botanical Garden**

by Paul Licht



Many new things are happening at the University of California Botanical Garden in Berkeley's Strawberry Canyon. Director Paul Licht will be highlighting the various new programs and projects in the Garden. UCBG features a global collection of flora that is one of the most diverse in the country and includes many rare and unusual plants that you'll rarely see anywhere else.



**MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2014**

**Harvesting Rain Water**

by Jason Sampson

Jason Sampson is the Curator of the Manie van der Schijff Botanical Garden, a division of the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. He has recently completed a rainwater harvesting system on campus using a large bog to landscape around the Mining Engineering Study Center at the university. His talk will discuss the design, construction and amazing results of this garden.



# Cal Hort Field Trip to Mount Diablo with Dr. James Hale

Saturday, April 12; 9 AM

Our February speaker, Dr. James Hale, has agreed to lead members of Cal Hort through the fire-burned area of Mount Diablo on Saturday, April 12. There should be many unusual plants germinating and blooming that have not been seen for a long time. He will also take us to another burn site from several years ago and point out the progress of growth. In addition there will be a visit to one of the Native American villages that were very abundant 150 years ago on the mountain.

Please bring a lunch and plenty of water. Wear good, comfortable shoes. The walk should be easy to moderate—relatively flat and between two to three miles in total—returning to the picnic site, which will include facilities. Dr. Hale has tried to make the walk available to all.

Meet at the Muir picnic site on Mount Diablo, the last picnic site before the summit. Follow the road to the summit of Mt. Diablo from either entrance to the Park. You will need to pay a fee of \$10 per vehicle at the entrance gate, regardless of the number of occupants, so you may want to carpool. For more information go to [www.mdia.org/site/park-information/park-](http://www.mdia.org/site/park-information/park-)

[info/park-location-map](#). Cal Hort will collect a fee of \$10 for each participant. If you are interested in signing up, please send the following form by mail, enclosing a check for \$10 per person made out to Cal Hort, to:

Kristin Yanker-Hansen  
569 Contada Circle  
Danville, CA 94526.

Questions? [yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:yankerhansen@sbcglobal.net).

For carpool coordination, contact Dave Tivol at [dtivol@yahoo.com](mailto:dtivol@yahoo.com)

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Yes, I would like to attend the Cal Hort Field Trip!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of persons attending \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Early Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

### SPRING PROGRAMS AT UC BOTANICAL GARDENS

200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley  
For more information on these classes, call (510) 643-2755  
or visit [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

#### CHEMISTRY OF DYES

Saturday, March 8; 10 AM–Noon

#### RESIST DYEING TECHNIQUES

Sunday, March 9; 1 PM–4 PM

#### COLORS FROM NATURE

Saturday, March 15; 10 AM–Noon

#### PINE NEEDLE BASKETRY

Sunday, March 16; 10 AM–3 PM

#### FILM VIEWING:

#### 1, 2, 3, INDIGO VAT DEMO WITH SLOW FIBER STUDIOS

Tuesday, March 18; 6:30 PM–8 PM

#### PLANT COLOR EXTRACTIONS FOR COSMETICS

Saturday, March 22

#### CREATING PIGMENTS AND PAINTS FROM PLANTS

Sunday, March 23; 10 AM–4 PM

### MARKHAM NURSERY PLANT SALE

Saturday, March 22; 9 AM–Noon  
Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

### THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK\*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,

Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room

Tuesday, March 25; 7 PM

### THE WEST: AN INTIMATE LOOK

by Ted Kipping

\*Bring a dish and beverage for eight to share,  
as well as your own plates and silverware.

### BANCROFT GARDEN SPRING OPENING AND PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 12; 11 AM–3 PM  
Members only sale 9 AM–11 AM; memberships available at the door  
Garden open until 4 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek  
Visit and shop the Bay Area's best source for drought tolerant plants, succulents, cacti, California natives and other Mediterranean climate plants. Docent-led tours will be held at 11 AM and 1 PM. Admission is free all day. For more information, please call (925) 944-9352.

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Mimulus puniceus* / Red Monkey Flower

Family: PHRYMACEAE

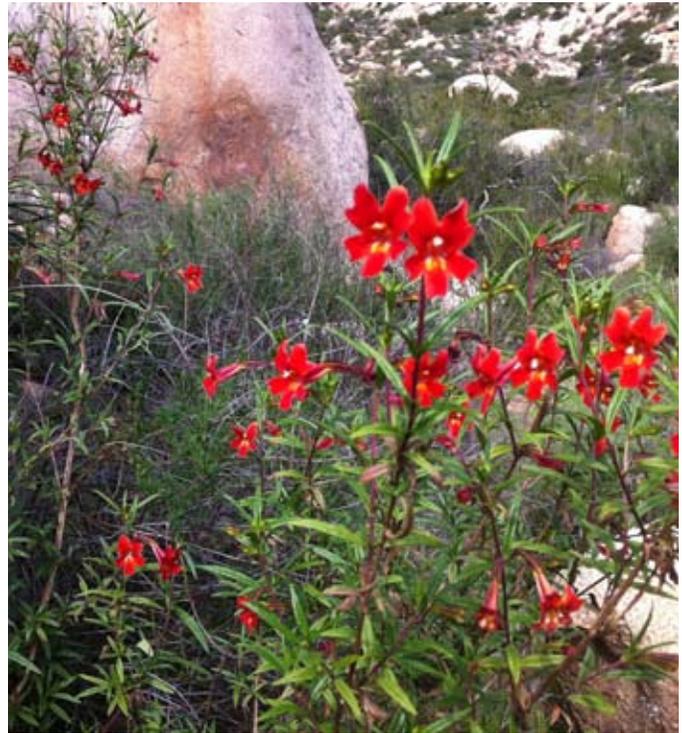
As I write this, our winter rains have finally come in earnest, and my garden is breathing a heavy sigh of relief. I always tell my friends that the best time to plant a garden is in the winter, when the rains keep the soil moist so that plants can get established. I wasn't sure if this advice was going to be very useful this year.

Pondering this, I thought of *Mimulus*. Our native *Mimulus* can be divided into two general groups—the woody or bush *Mimulus* and the herbaceous *Mimulus*. The bush *Mimulus* tend to be drought tolerant woody shrubs, while the herbaceous types are often annuals, and prefer soil that is moist year round, such as creek sides and seeps.

*Mimulus puniceus* is a bush *Mimulus*, and it is a great example of what makes many of our native plants so fascinating. Growing on sunny slopes in Los Angeles and San Diego counties, it prefers to be dry in the summer. In fact, too much summer watering will shorten its lifespan in the garden. However, it needs some water to get established, so planting it now, while the soil is moist, actually helps get it started. This is a bit counter-intuitive to those new to gardening in California.

Adding to the fascination, or maybe frustration, is the crazy taxonomy of the *Mimulus* genus. The bush *Mimulus* species were in the genus *Diplacus* until recently, but they are now in the *Mimulus* genus, and their species names are still being fought out by botanists. In the meantime, they have been moved from the *Scrophulariaceae* family to the *Phrymaceae* family.

And if all of this wasn't enough to keep you riveted, you can actually see the *Mimulus* flower move! Just touch the white stigma in the center of



*Mimulus puniceus*

the flower, and the two parts close up. This is believed to aid in harvesting pollen from visiting insects or hummingbirds. In the absence of pollen, the stigma reopens to try again.

*Mimulus puniceus* was introduced into cultivation in Great Britain, and there is a description of it in a British gardening magazine in the 1830s. It seems ironic that so many of our best California native plants had to travel all the way to Britain to gain horticultural acceptance. In addition to minimizing summer watering, new growth can be pinched back to encourage a more compact form, and the plant can be cut back by half after it finishes blooming. *Mimulus puniceus* is not fussy about soil, as long as it is fast draining, and can take light shade and still bloom all spring and summer.

The genus name *Mimulus* is derived from 'mimic' or 'mime', since the flowers appear (to some people at least) to mimic the face of a monkey. This simian similarity, which is completely lost on me, also gives rise to the common English name, monkey flower.



**California Horticultural Society**  
 San Francisco County Fair Building  
 Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way  
 San Francisco, CA 94122

**www.calhortsociety.org**

**Monthly Plant Drawing News**

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Last month plants were donated by Andy Stone from Strybing Arboretum as well as from individual members. Please bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with the members. This is also a great opportunity for our members to obtain new plants for their collections.

**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 mainstream. 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](http://www.calhortsociety.org), or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at (925)831-9499.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 ([gardengurus@gmail.com](mailto: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**

2013-2015 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Ellen Edelson, Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson

2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

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

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