

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, March 20, 2017, 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 outside the entrance gate to the San Francisco Botanical Garden. New rules require that if you do not enter with the California Horticultural Society as a group, need to pay the entry fee if you are neither a SFBG member nor a resident of San Francisco. So be on time.

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 are welcome; Cal Hort requests a donation of \$5.



Paeonia clusii

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

Plant-Hunting in the Wilds of Asia and Beyond

by Steve Hootman



Come experience the highlights of fieldwork Steve Hootman has done in the seven or eight years since he last spoke at Cal Hort. Steve will show images and discuss details of some of his most interesting experiences in some of the wildest places still left on the planet, including remote China, the Himalayas and Papua New Guinea, with a focus on exciting new plant introductions.



MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017

In Defense of Plants

by Matt Candeias

For several years, Matt Candeias has been writing *In Defense of Plants*, communicating a wide variety of scientific observations about botany. Blogging and broadcasting, he feels that the best way to protect our environment is a plant-based approach to conservation.

Tortoises Are Hares

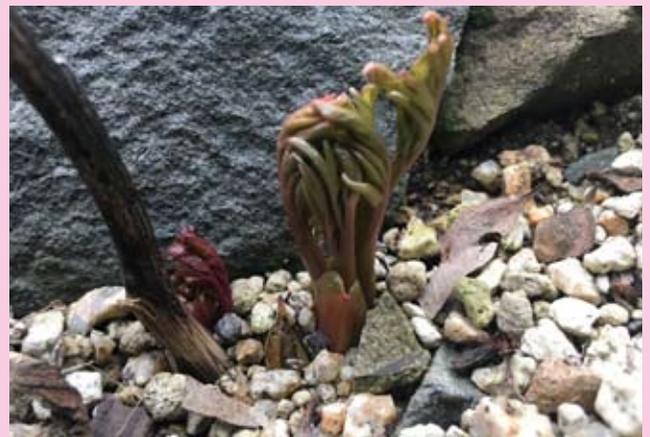
Peonies from the Mediterranean Islands
by Arcangelo Wessells

Mediterranean Peonies emerge pretty quickly from dormancy and bloom in March. Their flowers are big and showy, but start to fade within a day or two of opening. They are actually easy and undemanding to grow. They require very little water, and nothing eats them.



Paeonia mascula ssp. russoi

Paeonia mascula ssp russoi, from Sicily and Calabria, blooms about five weeks after breaking ground. Its expanding leaves are wine-red, but covered with fine pale hairs on the undersides.. The flowers are about four inches across, and are most wonderful just after they peak.



Paeonia clusii

Paeonia clusii ssp clusii grows only on Crete. It has lovely creamy white flowers scented of cloves, and can grow in full sun. It is a gorgeous plant, about twelve inches tall, with finely divided smooth green leaves.



Paeonia cambessedesii



Volunteers emerging

Paeonia cambessedesii, from the Balearic Islands of Mallorca and Menorca, is only about 8 inches tall. Its leaves emerge shiny and waxy, the color of red wine. Their smooth undersides remain that color, while they are blue green above. Peonies have big branching carrot-shaped roots and resent disturbance. Don't move them or dig around them. I dug near this plant two years ago and it is just recovering, but it has volunteer seedlings nearby. They will take about five years to bloom.

Garden Tours

At last September's meeting Ernesto Sandoval was our speaker and "Uncommon Plants for Mediterranean Gardens" was his topic. He showed us a lot of great plants in his slide show, many of them succulents. Now he will be showing us some of the gardens where these photos were taken.

Mark it down: On May 11, we'll be driving up to Davis very early in the morning to meet Ernesto at 9 AM. He will show us gardens he is developing on campus and some others nearby. He is also arranging for Emily Griswold to show us around the Shield Oak grove and Storer gardens which she's been working to upgrade.

Carpooling is always encouraged as it is just more fun that way as well as better for the planet. Information about where to meet up in Davis will be given when you RSVP to me at mdelepine@liacook.com. We'll brainstorm nurseries we may want to explore on our way back.

Coffee in the Garden

If you notice your garden looking splendid this Spring aren't you going to want to host us for coffee some weekend morning? It is a great way for other members to get to know you by sharing what you like to do in your garden. If you would like to open your garden for Cal Hort members, please try to let me know as soon as you can so we can announce it at a general meeting and in the Bulletin ahead of time. The best way is by email: mdelepine@liacook.com

UC Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale

Saturday, April 29; 10 AM–2 PM

200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley, CA 94720-5045

Despite the recent rains, waterwise gardening in the Bay Area is smart and sensible! The Garden offers a wide selection of drought-resistant plants from around the world, including an extensive selection of California natives. Shop for exotic, unusual, and hard to find plants: rare cycads and palms, carnivorous plants, cacti and succulents, vines, tropical specimens and more.

<http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/springplantsale/>



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 members and nurseries bring plants to share in the Cal Hort Drawing. This is a fun way to get new plants. Last month, Sean O'Hara brought some wonderful new plants for us to try. Surely you have some overgrown specimens or perennials that need some reduction. Pot them up and share them with the group.

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 main stream. 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.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair: Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

COUNCIL

2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve Morse, Andy Stone
 2016-2018 (Second Term) Ellen Edelson, Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2016-2018 (First Term) Mary Engle, Bart O'Brien, Arcangelo Wessells

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Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.