

**BULLETIN**  
**THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**  
California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, California 94118

**MAY 2001**

**Important note:** The Annual meeting held on May 7<sup>th</sup> replaced the regular meeting for May; therefore the next very important event that we hope you will support is the **California Horticultural Society's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale to be held on June 2-3, 2001.** See details elsewhere in this issue.



**The PLANT DRAWING** each month provides an important source of funds for the **Grants and Scholarship Program**. Our appreciation to **Suncrest Nursery** (Mike Craib), **Quarryhill Botanical Gardens**, and to all the donors to the **New Plant Exhibit at the recent San Francisco Landscape and Garden Show** for their outstanding contributions for the April drawing.

**SPECIAL NOTES OF GRATITUDE**

To all of those who helped to make the **California Horticultural Society's Annual Meeting** and **Pot Luck Dinner** such a successful and memorable event as we honored **Ruth Bancroft** for her many contributions to horticulture over the years.

**June 2-3, 2001**  
**California Horticultural Society's**  
**7<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL PLANT SALE**  
**LAKESIDE GARDEN CENTER, OAKLAND**  
**Rare and Wonderful Plants!!!**  
**For information & to donate plants & to help volunteer**  
**Call Jana at 510-486-0481 or Elsie Mueller at 800-884-0009**

**Coming regular meetings**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Avenue 9 bistro, 1243 Ninth Ave., San Francisco \$15

7:30 PM Meeting will be held at the California Academy of Sciences, Morrison Auditorium Golden Gate Park. \*\*\*Guest fee \$5.

**Monday, June 18, 2001**

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society & Mediterranean Garden Society  
**Cistus Species & Natural Hybrids Around the Mediterranean**

Presented by **Olivier Filippi**, well known authority on Cistus who has collected species & hybrids in various parts of the world & maintains France's National Collection of Cistus numbering 250 different plants in his experimental garden. He will review 60-70 of the best forms for gardens as well as their native habitats, the landscapes & other plants with which they are commonly associated. In a beautiful double screen presentation, he will show Cistus species and their natural hybrids and give a more global understanding of their natural habitat. As cistus are found all around the Mediterranean in very different conditions of soil, altitude and climate, he will give an overview of the 'best companion plants' from the Mediterranean flora. For example *Artemesia arborescens* in Crete, *Euphorbia dendroides* in Greece, *Retama roetam* near the Nequev desert in Israel, *Pistacia lentiscus* in France, *Phlomis purpurea* in Spain, *Teucrium fruticans* in the Atlas Mountains.



# President's Letter

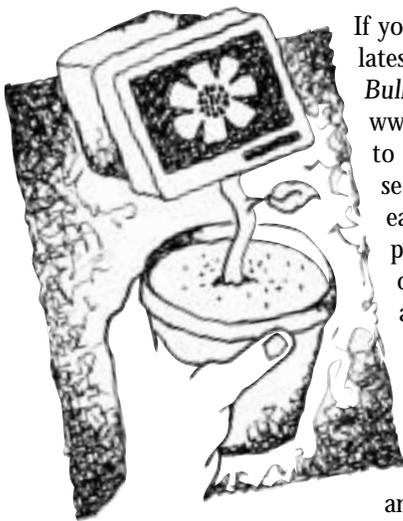
by Dr. Don Mahoney

Spring is here and it's another plant sale season, a time to buy all those ornamentals we try and grow in the years when there is enough water to go around. My garden has a wonderful selection of purchases from Cal Hort plant sales. The first bulb to bloom in the spring is an *Ipheon* cultivar I purchased four years ago and one of the last to bloom is a perennial sunflower from last year's sale. But the reason we can find such plants is because Cal Hort members go to the trouble of propagating and donating their favorites for others to enjoy. Let's all keep up the tradition and bring lots of plants to the plant sale committee to offer at our June sale.

We in the Bay area also have a plethora of other plant

sales to choose from. One can purchase from botanical garden sales, native plant sales, or club sales like the dahlia society sale or the cactus and succulent society sale. Those of us who grow unusual plants are practicing conservation through cultivation. For instance, the only reason the San Francisco manzanita *Arctostaphylos hookeri* ssp. *franciscana* still exists is because botanists/horticulturalists from San Francisco and Berkeley took cuttings and seed from the last populations before they were bulldozed for development. So keep good records and take good care of those rare plants you grow successfully because no one can guess exactly which ones will become invaluable in later years. ✨

## Get your Cal Hort news **FAST!**



If you just can't wait to get the latest news from our Society *Bulletin*, log on to [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) and go to the 'Bulletin Online' section to see a PDF version of each issue. The *Bulletin* is posted on our site by the first of every month. You can also see past Bulletins—it's a virtual filing cabinet! Even if you're not a World Wide Web kind of person, give it a try. It's super easy, immensely convenient and free, to boot! ✨

## Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup!

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find these great nurseries.

### Quarryhill Botanical Garden

P.O. Box 232  
Glen Ellen, CA 95442  
(707)996-3166.

Located on a 20-acre hillside, this Garden collects and grows seed of rare and unusual plants from Asia—primarily China and Tibet—to determine their potential as landscape plants. It presently has 10,000 plants from over 300 genera. The Garden is open to group tours only on a limited basis. ✨

## Botanical Tours

### August 14–September 1

**Namaqualand & the Western Cape** with *Pacific Horticulture* editor Richard Turner as leader. Info: (800) 624-6633.

### October 12–28

**Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province** sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society & San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden. Info: (800) 624-6633.

### January 9-27, 2002

**Argentina, Chile & Patagonia** Sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* and Strybing Arboretum Society and led by Dr. Don Mahoney. Info: (800) 624-6633.

### August 20 - 30, 2001

**Montane Pteridophytes and Angiosperms of Ecuador** Alan Smith (University Herbarium, UC Berkeley) and Grady Webster (Herbarium, UC Davis), Sponsored by: The Friends of the Jepson Herbarium and Betchart Expeditions. Please contact Staci Markos at the Jepson Herbarium for more details. (510) 643-7008. <http://ucjeps.herb.berkeley.edu/active.html>

### April 24 - May 8, 2002

**A Springtime Medley of Gardens:** Floraide & Keukenhof in Holland-Bruges; Belgium-Paris at cherry Blossom-time Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society. Info: (800) 624-6633.

# March Plant Forum by Fred Coe

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of all the following plants are available on our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) in the 'Plant Forum' section.

## 1. *Narcissus* hybrids

AMARILLIDACEAE

Wayne Roderick, Orinda

Wayne brought in a large bouquet of narcissus hybrids in full bloom. These are naturalized in his garden and he has a large number of forms from jonquil types to trumpets in yellow, white, and orange. In addition, there was a tulip and hyacinth which have naturalized.

## 2. *Aloinopsis luehmannii*

AIZOACEAE

Frederick Coe, Ross

Growing in a 5-inch container, this is a slow-growing, small woody shrub 3 inches high by 5 inches across with small succulent leaves of olive green, the tips and edge covered with small spines. The plant was in bloom, but the flowers open at 2 in the afternoon and close at 6, so the 0.75 inch straw yellow flowers were not visible. Cold tolerant to probably 25°F, winter rainfall region of South Africa.

## 3. *Gasteria baylissiana* x *G. liliputana*

LILIACEAE

Frederick Coe, Ross

Growing in a 3-inch container, this is a small succulent only 3+ inches across the two ranked leaves. It is very floriferous with two branching stalks in bloom and a third bud showing. The cross was made in 1998 and all the seedlings are blooming at a small size. The flowers are orange with green tips with 6 to 8 flowers to a stalk. The parents are from South Africa and the plants are hardy to 25°F.

## 4. *Aristea spiralis*

IRIDACEAE

Frederick Coe, Ross

Although *Aristea eckloni* has smaller, very blue flowers and is easy to grow, it is also a weed in most gardens as every seed germinates and grows vigorously. The plant shown has 1.25-inch pale blue flowers, usually 2 or 3 to a stalk each day and does not set seed. It is a clump former with 0.25-inch wide iris-like evergreen leaves about 10 inches high. The flowering stalks are 20 inches high and bloom over a period of 2-3 weeks in late winter. Unfortunately, the flowers closed before the plant was brought in. Native to South Africa and drought tolerant.

## 5. *Pleione* x *Tangariro* 'Jackdaw'

ORCHIDACEAE

Frederick Coe, Ross

A brilliant magenta-flowered hardy orchid created by Ian Butterfield in England. The parents are native to China and the plants bloom before the leaf growth. The flower is 2.5 inches across with a lip colored yellow inside. The leaves drop in late fall and the pseudo-bulbs tolerate dry, cold temperatures in the high 20's during winter.

## 6. *Iris confusa* 'Chengdu'

IRIDACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This is one of the Evansia ("cristata") irises and it gets the curious name "confusa" because it is easily confused with *I. japonica* or *I. wattii* when not in bloom. All three of these species have woody stalks about 1.5-2+ feet tall bearing a fan of shiny foliage. The cut stalk shown was in flower, the flowering scape coming out of the center of the fan and bearing 8-10 two-inch flowers. These are white or very pale blue with yellow spots. Native to western China.

## 7. *Bartlettia sordida*

ASTERACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Although the Eupatoriums found in the U.S. can grow to 7 or 8 feet, this close relative from Mexico reaches 10 feet and is a real shrub. The stems are covered with red hairs at first. The heads of violet colored flowers are about five inches across and fragrant.

## 8. *Dichroa febrifuga*

HYDRANGEACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This is a sub-tropical species probably hardy to 28°F. It is an evergreen shrub 4 to 8 feet tall with hydrangea-like heads of blue and lavender (dichroa - 2 colors) flowers. From the species name it must be used for treating fever. Himalayas?

## 9. *Impatiens balfourii*

BALSAMINACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This is an annual growing to about 20 inches in height with racemes of flowers colored white, pink, yellow and bright rose. It is an attractive plant tolerant of sun and shade so long as there is water. It is native to the western Himalayas and will naturalize if happy.

## 10. *Parahebe perflata*

SCROPHULARIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Native to the higher country of New South Wales in Australia, this is a perennial to 2 feet with arching stems of grey-green ovate, stem-clasping leaves and nodding sprays of bright blue flowers. The foliage is excellent in arrangements and could be mistaken for eucalyptus. It needs to be cutting propagated every 2 or 3 years. Cut back old stems after blooming. ♡

THE PLANT FORUM is a traditional feature of our monthly meetings. Members are strongly encouraged to bring new plants or old favorites from their gardens to tell about and share. What's old hat to you might be a brand new wonder to another member. What is putting on a display in **your** garden this winter? Bring it in and share it with us!

# Botanists Find 'Living Fossil' Tree

By Paul Tait (Reuters)

Australia has a new addition to its unique list of flora and fauna after the discovery of a species of tree described as a living fossil dating back at least 90 million years. The tree, which grows to above 130 feet tall, has been christened unofficially the Nightcap Oak after its discovery in the Nightcap Range rainforest near Byron Bay, 400 miles north of Sydney.

The tree's history spans more than 90 million years, back to when Australia was part of the Gondwanaland super-continent linked to what is now Antarctica, New Zealand and South America, said Dr. Peter Weston of Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens.

"It's a very, very old lineage indeed," Weston told Reuters. Weston identified the new tree after a stand of about 20 mature trees was discovered by botanist Robert Kooyman in August. Weston said it was remarkable that such a unique tree could have gone unnoticed in a rainforest which has been well researched and documented by botanists. "I was really amazed...this rainforest has been scoured to within an inch of its life by some very good botanists."

The Nightcap oak has not yet been given a scientific name but early research by Mr Kooyman and Dr Peter Weston, has placed the new tree in the family Proteaceae, of which native Australian banksias, waratahs, macadamias and grevilleas and South Africa's proteas are members.

Weston said the tree was a "relatively non-descript"

rainforest tree with dark green leaves, nuts about the same size as macadamias, and small white flowers in dense clumps.

Kooyman said the flowers smelled faintly of sweet aniseed.

One of the larger trees in the Nightcap Range had a circumference of more than 29 inches.

The exact location of the Nightcap trees is being kept a closely guarded secret so the trees can be protected. The New South Wales state government said it was considering a request to grant the tree emergency protection under the state's legislation covering threatened species.

Cuttings from the trees have been taken and are being cultivated at Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens. Botanists were excited in 1994 by the discovery of Australian flora's first "living fossil," the Wollemi Pine which

dates back 150 million years. Weston said it was likely Australia, known for its unique wildlife which includes kangaroos and koala bears, probably still contained many species of undiscovered fauna.

"That something that big can escape detection until now...what small, interesting plants are there now that we know nothing about?" he wonders.

Photos are available at

<http://www.smh.com.au/quickpics/20001215/I5049-2000Dec15.html>. ♣



**Believed to have been one of the earliest flowering plants to evolve in Australia, the NightCap Oak has strange looking flowers and seeds (pictured). Photo: Peter Rae**

## Cal Hort's

### Annual Plant Sale

### June 2 & 3

**MEMBERS ONLY Preview Sale, Saturday, June 2, 6:00 – 9:00 PM.**

**(Memberships available at the door). Admission: \$5.00**

**Silent Auction of Selected Plant Treasures! Hundreds of Plants for Sale! Refreshments!**

**This is THE place to go to get truly rare and unusual plants in the Bay Area.**

**General Sale, Sunday, June 3, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Admission: Free**

**Hundreds of Plants for Sale!! Plant Experts available to help you!**

**Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Belleview Drive, Oakland**

**(Just off Hwy 580 at Grand Avenue exit)**

**Call (415) 566-5222 or (800) 884-0009 for more information.**



# Horticultural Calendar

May 5

**Spring Festival**—Crow Canyon Institute and Gardens plant sale with hard-to-find heirloom plants, garden talks and demonstrations, garden craft sale, special activities for children, gourmet lunch & organic wine, ale and cider tasting. 9:00 AM–3:00 PM, 20 Boardwalk, San Ramon. Free.

May 6th

**Cole Valley Tree Tour**—With Mike Sullivan, long-time Friends of the Urban Forest volunteer, current Board Member and Certified Arborist. Site: The former Tassajara building; corner of Cole and Parnassus. 2 pm–4 pm. (415)561-6890.

May 12 & 13, 26 & 27

**Annie's Annuals Open House**—rare, unusual and heirloom plants. Be the first to see Annie's new finds! 2717 Goodrick, Richmond, off the Richmond Parkway. (510) 215-1326.

May 16-18

**2001 Annual Urban Forest Conference** Marin Center, San Rafael, CA. Info: (415) 647-4207; E-Mail cauf@home.com; www.cufc.org

May 17

**Care of Wood Structures and More**—SFPGA - SF City College, Environmental Hort. Dept. \$20 non-members for CEU hours. 7–9 PM, (415) 753-1366.

June 2

**Minding Your Business Workshop**—SFPGA, Offices of Janet Moyer Landscaping, 4226 21st St., SF. 9 am–4 pm, SFPGA members \$100; non-members \$180. (415) 753-1199 to sign up.

July 9–August 17

**Summer Day Camp**—for children ages 8-11 at UC Davis Arboretum. "Hands-On Nature" & "Putah Players" Six week-long sessions from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM, with optional afternoon add-ons available until 5:30 pm. The cost is \$115 per child per session (\$95 members), or \$215 for two sessions (\$175 members). Limited to twenty students per session. For more information, please call (530) 752-4880.

**Strybing Arboretum Society**  
(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

May 4 & 5

**Annual Spring Plant Sale**—20,000 plants, 4,000 varieties! Friday, Members only 5–8 PM. Saturday, Public Sale 10AM–2PM.

May 8–June 12

**CA Native Plants for the Garden**—Certificate course with Dr. Glenn Keator, 6:30–9 PM, \$140, non-SAS members \$155.

May 9 & 12

**Saturday's Vines**—J. Charmain Giuliani, find great vines for SF fog. \$25, non-SAS members \$30.

May 10

**A Springtime Garden Medley in Sonoma County**—Sonoma garden tour with Barbara & John Hopper. \$115, non-SAS members \$130, includes travel by bus/lunch/refreshments.

May 15–June 5

**Intro to Botanical Illustration**—Michele Meyer. 4 sessions, beginner to experienced. \$85, non-SAS members \$95.

UC Botanical Garden - Berkeley

(510) 643-1924

May 6

**Rhododendron Walk with Elaine Sedlack**—It's the height of the season and a great time to enjoy both color and fragrance! 10 AM–NOON, \$5., Members free

May 12

**South African Bulbs**—Graham Duncan from Kirstenbosch will share information about some of the tremendous diversity of bulbs from South Africa. 3 PM Free! (Reservations required!)

May 13



**Mothers Day Tea**—A very special treat for Mom! Music, a wildflower display and luscious homemade goodies. Seatings at 1PM, 2 PM, and 3 PM, \$15, Members \$10. Children under 12 \$5.

May 17, 4 Thursdays,

**Beginning Birdwatching**—Everything you need to know about getting started in this absorbing hobby. Dennis Wolff, UCBG Volunteer and longtime Audubon member. \$65. Members \$50.

**Spring Classes at  
The Gardens at Heather Farms**  
\$15 GHF members; \$20 non-members  
(925) 947-1678

May 17

**Gardening with Herbs** - 9 AM–NOON, Ze'ev Vered

May 19

**Solving Garden Pest Problems** - 9 AM–NOON, Bob Case.

May 22

**Perennials and Decorative Grasses** - 9 AM–NOON, Bill Eddy.

May 26

**Choosing Trees for the Home Garden** - 9 AM–NOON, Steve Bachelder

## HORT NOTES:

✦ **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS** applications now available from Barbara K. Hopper, Box 783, Kenwood CA, online at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or by email request to [bhopper@calhortsociety.org](mailto:bhopper@calhortsociety.org). Maximum grant \$2500. Deadline for receipt of applications July 10, 2001.

✦ **POSITION AVAILABLE**—Friends of the Urban Forest seeks a Development Director to help us to achieve greater financial security and public support. Please visit <http://www.craigslislist.org/sfo/np0/883452.html> for more info.

✦ **POSITION AVAILABLE** Apprentice Course Coordinator—Center for Agroecology & sustainable Food Systems. Job #01-01-81. (831) 459-2011 for further information. UC Santa Cruz (for apprenticeship Coordinator to run the Farm & Garden Apprenticeship Program). ✧

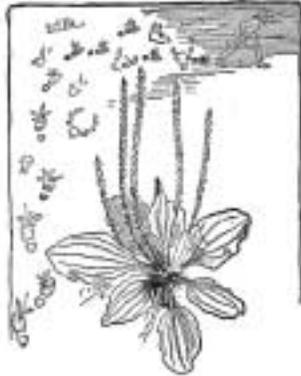


**MASTER GARDENER** is seeking a rental around Berkeley to create a great garden as well as pay rent. Please call Garry Bernhardt, (415) 285-3363.

# Food glorious food!

...for the Plant Sale Gala Saturday June 2, 2001!

Every year we ask our members to contribute food to our plant sale Gala. We are looking for wine, soda, sparkling water, or just plain water, cheeses, crackers, baguettes, or your own special finger food, appetizers or desserts, that you will be happy to bring to the show fully prepared. If you are interested in helping, please call Kristin Yanker-Hansen at (925) 831-9499 or E-mail at [Yankerhans@hotmail.com](mailto:Yankerhans@hotmail.com). We are open to all ideas.



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## Executive Council

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#### **First Term**

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Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted *two* months ahead. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to Bruce at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (w/ proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) or call the Office secretary at the number above.

ADVERTISING: Rates: \$60 for a business card size (3 3/4" w x 2" h), \$75 for 1/8 page (3 3/4" w x 2 1/2" h), \$150 for 1/4 page (3 3/4" w x 5" h). Submit ads or questions to *Bulletin* Editor at above postal or email address.

## California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences

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