



Bulletin  
of the  
California Horticultural Society

May 2007

**MEETINGS**

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.  
Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
6:30PM Socializing & Sale of Special Plants  
7:00 PM Potluck followed by Program to be held at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the  
San Francisco County Fair Building at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

\*\*\*Members free for monthly meeting. Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

**Monday, May 21, 2007**

**ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM  
MADAGASCAR'S UNIQUE SUCCULENT FLORA**

**PRESENTED BY Inge Hoffmann, Internationally recognized horticulturist.**

***RECIPIENT OF THE 2007 AWARD for her contributions to the knowledge, discovery and introduction of palms. She has been a hub for palms and succulents not only in the Bay Area but also worldwide. Through her seed distribution business, she has contributed to the cultivation of hundreds of new palm species, and the discovery of many. Inge has also authored many articles for various cactus and succulent journals.***

**SILENT AUCTION OF RARE PLANTS**

**6:30P.M. Socializing & Sale of Special Plants**

**7 P.M. Potluck followed by Program**

**CALL ELSIE MUELLER AT [800-884-0009] for reservations.**

**Fee is \$5 per person to cover event costs. Advance reservations must be made no later than Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. See Reservation form [yellow] in last month's Bulletin. Your dinner ticket & name tags will be held for you at the door. Bring your favorite dish [enough to serve 8]; your table setting & own silverware; plants for sale. The Society will provide ham and turkey.**

The **Plant Drawing** each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In **May**, the drawing will be replaced with a **Silent Auction** of many rare and beautiful plants. Our appreciation to **Annie's Annuals**, courtesy of **Annie Hayes** and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** for the outstanding selection of plants donated for the April meeting.

**Monday, June 18, 2007**

**Co-sponsored with San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum  
'A Pattern Garden'**

***The Essential Elements of Garden Making***

**Presented by Valerie Easton, a regular contributor of articles to numerous publications, including Gardens Illustrated, Country Gardens, Fine Gardening, Garden Compass, and Horticulture magazine, for which she is a contributing editor. Her quarter-acre garden in the Seattle area has been seen on HGTV's Grow It! And on PBS's The Victory Garden and has been featured in Better Homes and Gardens and Fine Gardening. Valerie has been a weekly garden columnist for the Seattle Times since 1997, where she also regularly contributes articles about garden design and architecture. Valerie is an active speaker, having toured the West Coast giving presentations for her previous 2 books, 'Plant Life' and 'Artists in Their Gardens.' Her new book 'A Pattern Garden' really makes you take a deeper look at your garden to determine what elements create an inviting, comfortable, and intimate environment, taking into consideration 14 aspects that are in a way archtypes of human responses to space.**

I hope to see you all at the Annual Potluck Dinner this month. It is a shame that during the regular meetings there never seems to be enough time to say more than just "Hello." This is an opportunity to get to know other members a little better and catch up on old friends. Bring what you can and come have a great time. We will honor individuals who have shown great contributions to horticulture in the past year.

This month I would love it if you all could fill out the membership survey either on-line or by filling out the paper survey in this month's *Bulletin*. We want to make Cal Hort the best for all of us. Give us your suggestions, your comments, your concerns. Do you have suggestions of how the Society can be more interesting, can be a better resource or serve you better? Have you been to other organizations that have some features that you would like to see implemented by Cal Hort? Please be candid and let us know your thoughts.

Does anyone want to be Vice President? It is such an honor to serve on the board and to make a difference in the direction the Society ventures. You, too, can be a part of the Council and put in your two cents on Society business. As Vice President, you will be responsible for arranging the programs for the next year; what a wonderful opportunity to get just the programs that interest YOU. There will be plenty of help and suggestions, so don't worry about that. Barbara Hopper has

done a beautiful job arranging the programs for the rest of 2007 so you can relax and get warmed up for the January 2008 meeting. We have Council meetings every other month, the Monday after the meeting, so that is only 6 more meetings per year.

I am also looking for a new Chairperson (or 2 co-chairs) for the SF Flower and Garden Show New Plant Picks booth that Cal Hort sponsors each year. I have chaired the committee for the past 3 years and I love being involved, but would love to pass this on next year. It doesn't mean I won't help...I have too much fun seeing all the new plants first. Barbara Stevens started this many years ago and it gives Cal Hort great exposure and it promotes our mission of education; any interest???...you get to be a big wig at the show.

Linda Baptiste gets super star status (note to self: find a botanical themed adjective equivalent for "super star") (*how about "Perfect Pentas?" -outgoing Ed.*) for volunteering and taking over the *Bulletin* Editor duties. This is really appreciated and we are looking forward to her personal design flair overflowing to the layout of the *Bulletin*. Thank you Linda!

May is a great month. I absolutely love having the longer days...I actually get home from work during daylight and can play in my garden. What a treat!!! Enjoy these long days and I hope to see you over a wonderful pot luck dinner on May 21st.



## We have COLOR!

You might have noticed something different in this newsletter... it's in color! Thanks to an ongoing donation by the print brokers at pressArts, the *Bulletin* will now be coming to your doorstep in full, glorious color, at least whole or in part. Thanks, guys! In return, they get to use the donation as a charitable write-off on their taxes. Maybe you or your company can also find a wonderful way to help out everyone's favorite horticultural society...just let our illustrious president, Ellen Frank, know via email at [president@calhortsociety.org](mailto:president@calhortsociety.org).

So, now that we know where the color's coming from, what are all of these plants? In honor of our last speaker, Derick Pitman, informally known as Mr. Impatiens, we thought we'd print up a bunch of beautiful *Impatiens*. All photos by Bruce Peters.

On this page, l. to r., *Impatiens arguta* and *I. niamniamensis*. On the next page, clockwise from top left, *I. repens*, *I. namcharbarwiensis* 'Blue Diamond,' *Impatiens sodenii*, *Impatiens maceyana* ssp. *Clairii* and, finally, Bruce's favorite, the variegated *I. niamniamensis*.



Derick Pitman, Mr. *Impatiens*  
 “The New *Impatiens*”

On April 16, 2007, in the auditorium of the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park, Sacramento native and longtime dedicated San Francisco Botanical Garden volunteer, Derick Pitman, gave a beautifully detailed slide talk to Cal Hort members on new species of *Impatiens* for Bay Area gardens, interiors and glasshouses.

Pitman started growing plants at an early age, but didn't think of it as a profession and majored in philosophy in college. The first plant he raised was a *Justicia carnea*. As a mark of his dedication, it continues to thrive in his care. When he first began volunteering at Strybing Arboretum (as the San Francisco Botanical Garden was then called) he was particularly interested in the ACANTHACEAE. Begonias are his third love, of which he has had a very large collection.

At the moment most of his energy is devoted to *Impatiens*, of which he has 165 different species under cultivation. Many of these he has introduced to cultivation through the likes of Ball Horticultural Company and Annie's Annuals.

Ron Parsons contributed the exquisite slide photography illustrating Derick's lecture.

*Impatiens* species exist on all continents except South America and Australia. Southeast Asia is a center of diversity for the genus, which includes perennials, subshrubs, and annuals; many are tuberous. For each species, the flower begins as male, drops its anthers, and turns female as its stigma becomes receptive. In keeping with their zygomorphic faces, some *Impatiens* are orchid mimics, attracting the same pollinators as species in that famously diverse monocot family.

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**The flower begins as male, drops its anthers, and turns female...**

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Africa's *Impatiens walleriana*, 30 years in the trade, is the famed pink (and white, magenta, etc.) bedding plant, known as the balsam. The giant, indestructible species found on every block in San Francisco is *Impatiens sodenii*, and comes in several shades besides pale pink, including pure white and red-lined.

Many of the species Pitman promotes for Bay Area gardens are, not surprisingly, of cloud forest origin. Others are hardy annuals useful for temperate continental climates as well. *Impatiens hinslowiana* a native of India, grows aside waterfalls. It has a velvety leaf, inspiring the epithet of lamb's ear balsam.

A warm tropical-climate species, *I. auricoma*, native to the Comoro Islands off Mozambique, has been used in hybrids with *I. walleriana* in the Fusion series that's diversifying the color



range for the annual standby. From nearby Madagascar comes *I. tuberosa*, a tuberous species, that's completely dry-deciduous.

All *impatiens* have three-to-five sepals and five petals. They're resupinate: They twist 180 degrees, as do orchids.

*I. niamianensis*, another African native is a good candidate for cultivation, but like so many cloud forest plants, its habitat has been destroyed. The only plants left are in cultivation. Fortunately, this bearded-lip groundcover species is self-fertile and available through Annie's Annuals. It's got a green upper petal but dominated by red-orange tones. It's a Sunset zone 17, maybe 16, plant.

Exotic habitat is a great selling point for beautiful plants. *I. namcharbarwiensis* 'Blue Diamond' is native to the deepest canyon in the world in Tibet, an uninhabited chasm that demanded a weeklong trek of the *Impatiens* enthusiasts who described it in 2005. During the January, 2007, frost, it survived in flower beneath trees.

A great hanging basket plant is *I. repens* a yellow, cupped flower best treated as a tender annual. Heat-loving and frost-tolerant *I. arguta*, pictured on Page 3, is lavender blue, rambling, expanding six feet long in a year. It performs better in Sacramento than San Francisco. (Bruce's does fantastically in SF, however...)

Hardy *Impatiens tinctoria*, pictured above, is a holy grail for Derick. He has looked all over the country for this plant, but it is only available in England. He traded seeds for a tuber, gave some to Annie's, and has thereby given us Bay Area gardeners an *Impatiens* that smells like *Gardenia* in flower. It's a tuberous East African native and grows to eight feet tall.

The enticing colors and forms Pitman showed us filled more than 80 slides and kept the crowd scribbling names, requirements and sources in the glow of the screen. The drawing plants, dominated by new *Impatiens* introductions, attracted plenty of tickets.

## HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

### May 12

**California Native Plant Horticulture**—Introductory class recommended for anyone just getting started with native plants. Theodore Payne Foundation 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley. 10 AM– 1 PM, members \$35, non-members \$45. For more info call (818) 768-1802 or visit [www.theodorepayne.org](http://www.theodorepayne.org).

### May 12-13

**California Wildflower Show**—A profusion of freshly gathered native species reaching 300 specimens. A number of wildflower talks will be held. For more info and museum hours call (510) 238-2200 or visit [www.museumca.org](http://www.museumca.org).

### May 13

**Mother's Day Tea**—The Ruth Bancroft Garden hosts a Mother's Day Tea followed by a self-guided tour of the garden. Reservations deadline is May 7. \$35/person. For more info call (925) 210-9663 or visit [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

### May 16

**The Kippings potluck/slideshows**—Elaine Sedlack of UC Botanical Garden speaks on ornamental medicinal plants. Please bring a dish for 8 people to share. At the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way, 7 PM. (415) 753-7090

### May 18

**Ikebana Floral Design Inspired by Music**—Demonstrator Thanh Nguyen, using the theme "Farewell to Spring, Hello Summer" will create numerous ikebana arrangements. At the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way, Noon–1 PM. For more information call (415) 566-2976 or visit [www.ikebana.org](http://www.ikebana.org).

### May 21

**Cal Hort's Annual Award Meeting and Potluck**—Presentation of annual awards for outstanding contributions to horticulture. 7 PM –9 PM, members free, nonmembers \$5.00.

U.C. SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM  
(831) 427-2998 • [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum)

### May 3

**Plant Endemism in the Andes**—Plant researcher Lou Jost Will give an illustrated lecture on the plants of the Andes ecosystem that are challenged by development, and how they might be preserved. 4 PM, Free.

### May 5

**Controlling Gophers and Moles Without Poisons**—Thomas Wittman of Gophers Limited will offer tools you can use to manage gophers effectively. 9 AM –4 PM, members \$25, non-members \$35.

### May 6

**Footprints in the Sky**—David Carle, author of *Air In California*, *Water In California*, and the forthcoming *Fire In California*, will

give an illustrated lecture on the atmosphere we are all obliged to share. He offers a direct, and highly sobering, point of view on air quality and it's ecology. 9 AM –4 PM, members \$10, non-members \$15.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELY  
(510) 643-2755 • [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

### May 6

**Bringing Back the Natives**—Celebrate California native plants at the UC Botanical Garden. Tour led by horticulturist Ken Bates. 10 AM– 1 PM, free with garden admission.

### May 19

**The Unselct Lecture**—Join UC Berkeley Assistant Professor and Garden Research Associate, Dr. Chelsea Specht to explore the fascinating evolution of tropical gingers. 1 PM –3 PM, free.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY  
(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

### May 13

**Urban Oasis-Open Garden Day**—Explore exquisite gardens in San Francisco Chat with the designers and marvel at these urban retreats. 10 AM–3 PM, members \$25, non-members \$30.

### May 9 - June 27

**Chinese Brush Painting**— Celebrated artist Feng Chen will teach students at all levels how to create beautiful brush paintings. Open to students of all levels. SFBG members \$95.00; non-members \$115.00

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM  
(530)752-4880 • <http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu>

### May 9

**Walk with Warren**—Lunchtime tour of the arboretum with Arboretum Superintendent Warren Roberts. Meet at Mrak Hall south entrance, UC Davis campus. 12:00 Noon

### May 19

**Arboretum Plant Sale**—Hundreds of varieties of uncommon plants for Mediterranean-climate gardens. Last sale until October. 9 AM–1 PM, Arboretum Nursery at Orchard Park.

Send submissions to [calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)

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*Salvia africana-lutea*  
LAMIACEAE Family

Every gardener appreciates pollinators- the hummingbirds, moths, butterflies and other insects that zip from flower to flower, helping our plants propagate. And almost any self-respecting gardening book lists plants that excel at attracting these varmints. Although it isn't always on these lists, *Salvia africana-lutea* should be in the pollinators' hall of fame. While its flowers aren't the most showy in the garden, they are full of nectar, and act as a magnet for pollinators.



This plant is a woody salvia, growing to about 5 feet tall, and at least as wide. The flowers begin bright yellow, but by the time they are open, they have changed to a rust orange color. Blooming begins in very early spring, mid March, and continues for several months. The leaves are gray-green and rather small, and they are a nice contrast to other darker-leaved plants.

Like many species of salvia, this one has medicinal properties. In fact, the name 'salvia' is derived from the Latin

word 'salvere,' to save or heal. Salvias are our salvation... A tea made from this plant and sweetened with honey is supposedly a fine treatment for coughs and colds.

This plant grows throughout southern Africa, and even thrives in sand dunes on the coast. Here, it prefers full sun and well-draining soil. Give it these, plus a very small amount of water, and you will be enjoying its charms for years.

## SF Flower and Garden Show Photos online now

We had a great turnout at our Hot Plant Picks booth at the 2007 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace.

We're posted photos of the plants we had on display, along with their cultural information and growers, on our website. Just go to the Flower Show link on the left of the home page and relive the wonder you experienced in March.

## Electronica

We've been busy updating our electronic announcement list. If you haven't been getting our scintillating emails and would like to be kept up to date on Cal Hort happenings please send your preferred email address to [bruce@calhortsociety.org](mailto:bruce@calhortsociety.org).



Upon receipt of your name and email address, we'll send you a link to subscribe to our spam-free list. Then, you'll be kept in the Cal Hort loop. Who wouldn't want that?

**DIGGING DOG NURSERY** In Albion is hosting a fundraiser for the Mendocino Unified Schools Arts Programs on June 24, 2007 (Sunday), 9 AM to 4 PM. Their private garden—featured on the cover of *Martha Stewart Living*, March 2006—will be open to visitors during this fundraiser for local school art and music programs. Margaret Fox, of Cafe Beaujolais, will be cooking gourmet treats, there will be flower arranging demonstrations, and John Scharffenberger will provide chocolate tasting! There will be wine & music, too! The nursery will be open for anyone who wants to buy plants. Tickets are \$40.00.

In addition, Digging Dog Nursery's annual plant sale is July 13, 14 & 15, 2007 (Fri, Sat & Sun): Tour the Digging Dog greenhouses and garden areas! Browse their selection of rare garden plants for yourself! Stock up!

For more information or directions to the nursery, look on their website at [www.diggingdog.com](http://www.diggingdog.com) or call (707) 937 0393.

## We have a New Editor!

After a great many years of putting together this newsletter (10? 11? more?), I'm very happy to announce that, starting with the next issue, the *Bulletin* will have a new Editor, Linda Baptiste! Linda gained a lot of hands-on experience as the editor of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Northern California Chapter newsletter and I'm sure she's going to do a bang-up job with our *Bulletin*! If you have any ideas or suggestions on things you'd like to see or ways to make the newsletter more interesting or accessible, now is a great time to voice them. It's always easier to make changes when there's a new leader in charge. You can send emails to [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org) or look her up in the Roster.

## Don't forget to RSVP for the Annual Dinner, our May meeting

Call our Secretary, Elsie Mueller at (415) 566-5222 or (800)-884-0009 to make your reservations!

It's super helpful to know how many people are coming in advance to we know how many tables to set up and decorate, how much wine to get etc. Let us know ASAP or by May 12th at the absolute super-duper latest! Yes, it's true, you can show up at the last minute, unannounced, but then you risk having Bruce look unprepared by having to set up more tables and stuff and you wouldn't want that to happen, right?

### *Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies V:* **Save the Date!**

By Susi Torre-Bueno, Pacific Horticultural Foundation

*Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies V* is scheduled for September 28-30 in San Diego. Titled *Lessons In Our Gardens – San Diego*, the event is sponsored by *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, in association with Quail Botanical Gardens, *Garden Design* magazine, the San Diego Horticultural Society, the Mediterranean Garden Society, and The Water Conservation Garden. The weekend celebrates plants that thrive with minimal care in San Diego's Mediterranean climate and showcases the wide range of garden possibilities in a low-water environment. It includes keynote talks at Quail, followed by visits to four excitingly different gardens for a combination tour and on-site lecture by the experts who designed them.

Participants will visit a garden of natives, one for birds & butterflies, another of succulents, and a fourth with a huge range of plant material. One talk at Quail, on sustainable landscaping, will be by award-winning Santa Barbara landscape architect Owen E. Dell. The second Quail talk features Shirley Kerins, an award-winning Pasadena-based landscape architect and former curator of the Huntington Botanical Gardens herb garden, who will speak on plants for Mediterranean-climate gardens.

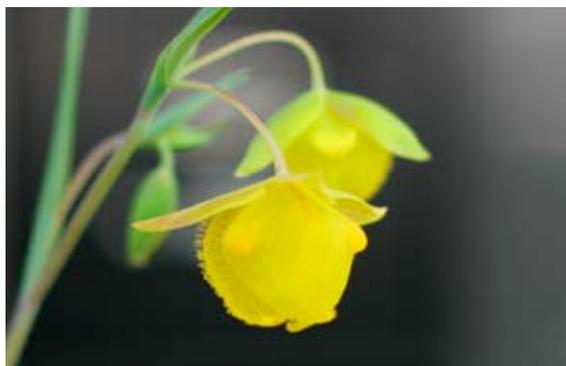
The event includes tours of Quail Botanical Gardens, plant sales, and book signings. A box lunch will be enjoyed each day in one of the gardens, and there will be an evening wine and cheese reception at Quail on Sept. 29. On September 28 there will be a talk and garden tour at The Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College in El Cajon.

Registration for California Horticultural Society members is offered at the discount rate of \$129, and includes two lunches. The standard fee is \$155. After Sept. 1 fees go up by \$30. To register go to [www.sdhortsoc.org](http://www.sdhortsoc.org) (after July 1) or call (760) 295-7089.

## SF Flower and Garden Show Photos online now

We had a great turnout at our Hot Plant Picks booth at the 2007 San Francisco Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace.

We're posted photos of the plants we had on display, along with their cultural information and growers, on our website. Just go to the Flower Show link on the left of the home page and relive the wonder you experienced in March.



*Calochortus pulchellus*

*Now printed on recycled paper*

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Membership year begins January 1 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with 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 (800) 884-0009.



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