

Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

Cultivating Friendship, gardens and fun for 75 years

Coming events:

May 19th - Annual Awards
Dinner - Call Elsie to RSVP
800-884-0009

June 7th - Field trip to Quarryhill
Botanical Gardens and private
gardens in Sonoma area
See flyer in this bulletin

Volunteer Opportunities:

Newsletter Editor -
Let your creativity go wild

Vice President -
Help steer this organization to
exciting new gardening galaxies

The **Plant Drawing**
each month is an important
source of funds for the Grants
and Scholarships Program.

In May, the drawing will be re-
placed with a **Silent Auction** of
many rare and beautiful plants.

Our appreciation to:

- **Annie's Annuals**,
courtesy of **Annie Hayes**
- **SF Botanical Garden**
courtesy of **Don Mahoney**

for the outstanding selection of
plants donated for the
April meeting

**Please patronize these
business
supporters of Cal Hort**

May 2008

Volume 75, Issue 5

Annual Awards Dinner

sign up for pot luck on page 5

“WHY PLANTS FLOWER – THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING”

PRESENTED BY

LUEN MILLER, RECIPIENT OF THE 2008 AWARD
for his contributions to horticulture & new plant intro-
ductions.

Co-owner of Monterey Bay Nursery & plant fanatic,
Luen will discuss the various factors affecting how,
why, & when plants flower. Understanding flowering
cycles is the basis for most gardening culture. Our
speaker knows what makes this crowd show up... he
always brings a truck full of plants to give away.



Monday, May 19, 2008

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 16th. 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.

Don't miss June 16th - Designing with Palms

Flora Grubb, a noted garden designer and the owner of Flora Grubb Gardens
and Jason Dewees, a Cal Hort council member and palm expert on staff at
Flora Grubb Gardens will be talking Palms at our June 16th meeting.

The speakers will do their best to convince you that palms belong in our Cali-
fornia Gardens. See palms anew with the help of Flora Grubb and Jason
Dewees' myth-busting ideas.

President's message

Ellen Frank

Oh my goodness, I am chuckling to myself. I just looked at our website and Bruce has this amazing underwater looking snail like flower that is called *Aristolochia redicula*...even the

name looks made up, "redicula". I had to email him to find out where he found such a coooooool plant. When I went back to it to check it out further, I saw where

Bruce had put the link to the "hot plant picks" pictures on the website, so I clicked on that link and lo and behold, *Aristolochia redicula* was one of the "hot plants." Oh my gosh, it was there all week at the show and I didn't take the time to even look at the plant... *Aristolochia*, *maristilochia*... I've seen those before... well, now I know, if you've seen one *aristolochia*, you

haven't seen them all. What a wild plant, thanks to Martin Grantham for lending it to us to freak people out, if they take the time to really look at it and thanks to Bruce Peters for taking all the pictures and posting them with the information for all to refer to. Very cool. See the other "Hot Plant Picks" of the website.

We finally have the winners of the photo contest from last Sept. Congratulations to 1st place winner Bruce Peters for his *Helenium* wrapping paper print, very colorful; Kathy Till's leaf print that looks like plane's view of a green landscape with rivulet veins and a leaf surface like rolling hills. Nancy Jan took 3rd place with her colorful harvest of tomatoes creatively arranged. See the pictures on page 4, along with the honorable mentions.

Barbara Hopper has a fantastic field trip planned for Saturday, June 7th. See the sign

up form on page 7.

This month is our annual potluck awards dinner. This is our opportunity to honor some of the great contributors to the horticultural industry and an opportunity to break bread with other members. There is always something to talk about... gardens, the plant on the auction, plants in the drawing, the recent field trip you attended. Get to know someone with a love of plants and gardening. If you don't have time to cook, bring something you can pick up at a bakery, grocery store or deli. It is always a treat to taste other members culinary creations, but you always need the basics, so don't worry that you aren't bringing grandma's special recipe dish, come anyway and pick something up on the way to share.

Have fun and celebrate people who make nature exciting.



"One of the most
delightful things
about a garden is
the anticipation it
provides"

—W.E. Johns



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California Horticulture History

Aaron Dillon

On April 4th at 8 am, my life changed forever. My daughter Olivia Alani Dillon was born. After months of anticipation and planning, she was finally here, leaving my wife and I somewhat stunned, exhausted and amazed by the whole experience. While it is impossible to know the future, Olivia could end up being the fifth generation of the Dillons to run our citrus nursery. Contemplating this possibility got me thinking about the fact that there are so many multi-generational nursery operations here in the Bay Area, many of which I have had the chance to get to know over the years. It is really surprising how many families remain in the nursery business given the fact that only 40% of family owned businesses survive to the second generation, 12% to the third, and 3% to the fourth (Boston Globe, May 4, 2003). For the next few months, I plan to share with you some of the stories of family-run nurseries from around the Bay Area.

Many of the Bay Area's best known nurseries got their start during the period after World War II. One notable exception was the famous California Nursery, founded in

Continued on page 3

San Jose in 1865. John Rock, a German immigrant, founded California Nursery Company, which was responsible for introducing numerous fruit trees and prized ornamentals into California. As the population of San Jose continued to grow, Rock was forced to move the nursery to Niles, part of modern day Fremont, where they eventually had nearly 750 acres under production. John Rock passed away in 1904, but the nursery survived after his death. One of the nursery's more famous endeavors was 1915 Panama-Pacific Exposition. California Nursery supplied all 400 of the Canary Island palm trees that still line the Marina in San Francisco to this day. These palms were grown in Niles and were then brought to S.F. by train. In 1917, a man by the name of George Roeding Sr. purchased California Nursery. It has been in the Roeding family ever since. At the time of the purchase, the Roeding name was already well known within California's nursery industry. The Roedings owned Francher and Fresno nurseries in the San Joaquin Valley where they

provided fruit trees by the millions and ornamentals by the thousands to fill the growing demand for plant material for homes and agriculture throughout the state. Today, Roeding Park in Fresno is a monument to the Roeding family, housing a large number of the ornamental and fruit tree species they once grew. Under the direction of George Roeding Jr., California Nursery Company shifted from a strictly wholesale operation to a retail nursery with branches located throughout Northern California. The company eventually became one of the largest operations of its kind on the West Coast with multiple retail outlets and landscape divisions. All along though, California Nursery continued to grow a staggering amount of plant material at the nursery in Niles. One of the most outstanding features of the operation was the 60-acre specimen fruit tree orchard that was used to produce scion wood for propagators around the world. California Nursery eventually came to specialize in bulbs and roses, which they sold through catalogs to homeowners all over the country. However, as Bruce Roeding,

the grandson of George Sr., explained, California Nursery eventually became too big for its own good. The nursery operated for years under a tremendous debt



The Dillon's of Four Winds Growers

4 generations, Don Dillon Sr., Don Dillon Jr., Aaron Dillon and Olivia

load as its operations expanded across the state. As other large-scale growers emerged the market place for catalog and wholesale sales dropped off. California Nursery began closing its satellite locations in 1951 and eventually sold the majority of the Niles property in 1972. Many of the specimen trees from the nursery were incorporated into the housing development that was built on the site. Today, the Roeding Family continues to operate the California Nursery Company as a retail mail order business still selling scion wood for fruit tree propagators from some of the original source trees. Learn more about the history of California Nursery by visiting <http://www.fremontica.com/CNCo/>

*Many long time
Nursery operations
are multi-
generational ;
families passing the
business from
generation to
generation*

Photo Contest Winners

It has been a long time coming, but finally we are announcing the winners from the 2nd Annual Photo Contest in which the final entry date was the end of September 2007. It was worth the wait and so color coordinated too! The judges, who were the



2nd Place - *Gunnera* by Kathy Till



1st Place - *Helianthus* by Bruce Peters

winners the

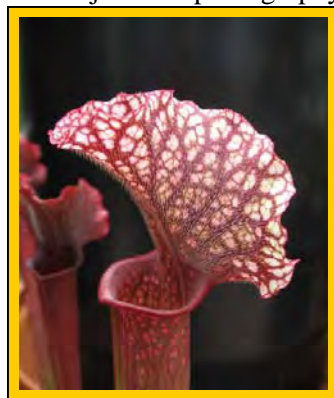
previous year were Rebecca Ford, Lisa Frank and Linda Baptiste. They looked for photographic images emphasizing composition, design and color, as opposed to those that merely document or convey information.

It is essential

that the photo subject be in sharp focus. Unfocused images are discouraged except in unusual cases, for a desired effect. Gardening, plants and design make wonderful subjects for photography.

*“Beauty can be seen in
all things, seeing and
composing the beauty is
what separates
the snapshot from the
photograph”*

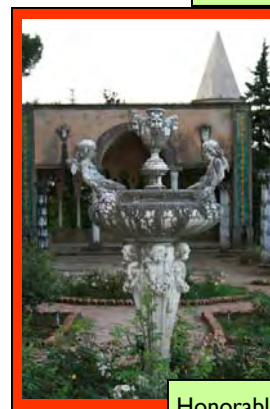
Matt Hardy



Honorable mention -
Sarracenia by Dave Hermeyer



3rd Place - *Tomatoes* by Nancy Jan



Honorable mention -
Statue by Elizabeth di Simone

**Congratulations
WINNERS!!!**

California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting & Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 19, 2008
SF Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, San Francisco.

Program Presented by

Luen Miller

co-owner of Monterey Bay Nursery and
recipient of the 2008 Annual Award

What to bring:

- Your favorite dish (enough to serve 8)
 - A serving utensil
 - Your own silverware
 - Plants for sale
 - Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction
- Beverages include Spring Water, Coffee, and Tea. Please bring your own wine.*

****6:30pm for socializing, sale of special plants.**

****7:00pm Potluck.** If you can assist with set up, please come any time after 5:00pm. We will make flower arrangements from the Arboretum, set up for plant displays and sales, etc.

****Advance Reservations** must be made with Elsie Mueller (800) 884-0009 not later than Friday, May 16th.

****A \$5 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.

*“Come and honor
those that have
contributed to our
addiction and our
passion!!!*

I/We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday, May 19th, 2008.

Names
(Please print) _____

Enclosed is a check made payable to California Horticultural Society,
for \$_____. (\$5.00 each, includes cups, plates, coffee, tea, spring water).

Mail checks to Elsie Mueller,
1847 - 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122-4109.

It's Spring -

Go out and enjoy some
gardens!!!



Don't forget to check
out Yahoo Groups
Calendar for other
events.

Not a member of Cal

Hort's Yahoo Group?

Email

editor@calhortsociety.org

and get yourself

invited.

May 15, Thursday evening, 5:30PM

The 2008 Garden Design Chats at Flora Grubb Gardens Yard Art and Handmade Places—Jill Nokes, an authority on native plants and ecological restoration, sought out residents who had transformed their yards and gardens into oases of art and exuberant personal expression. In her book *Yard Art and Handmade Places* (University of Texas Press, 2007), Jill Nokes presents their stories about why they created these places and what their yard art has come to mean to them and their communities. Flora Grubb Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Ave., San Francisco. Wine and hors d'oeuvres at 5:30 PM, design talk and book signing at 6:15 PM. Cost is \$45.

May 24, Saturday 10AM – 3PM

Gardening for Butterflies—Learn how to ID species and some interesting facts about each one; also discuss Lepidopteran biology and the important associations these insects have developed with certain plants. Enjoy a “slide show tour” through a year of butterflies commonly seen in the Bay Area and tour the Habitat gardens at MAGC. Cost is \$45. Register through the College of Marin, course #8223, at www.marincommunityed.org. 10:00 AM –3:00 PM.

THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

June 8, Sunday morning, 10AM –12:30PM

The Working Herb Garden—This class will go beyond the basics of herb gardening to learn techniques to grow and maintain a beautiful productive garden. Led by Rose Loveall-Sale, owner of Morningsun Herb Farm. 10:00 AM –12:30 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

(510) 643-2755 •

www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

June 8, Sunday afternoon, 1PM – 3PM

California Deserts: An Ecological Rediscovery—Join Mills College Professor of Biology and conservationist, Bruce Pavlik, as he speaks to current issues of desert conservation. 1:00 PM –3:00 PM, members \$8, non-members \$10.

June 10, Tuesday evening, 5:30PM – 8PM

Film Screening: In the Company of Wild Butterflies. See live butterfly specimens and walk through the California Native Area of the Garden with caterpillar lady, Garden propagator and docent Sally Levinson. The screening will begin with a 15 minute film of the lifecycle of butterflies. 5:30 PM: Walk and Display Viewing, 6:30 PM –8:00 PM: Film Screening. Members \$10, non-members \$12.

June 14, Saturday morning, 9AM – Noon

Gardening Under Oaks—Join Horticulturist Nathan Smith as he shares his experience working around the Garden's numerous mature specimen trees, including detailed discussions of best cultural practices and suitable plants. A lecture will be followed by a tour of the Garden's oaks and associated plantings. 9 AM–Noon, members \$25, non-members \$30.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

June 12, Thursday 8AM – 4PM

A Perfect Summer Day in the Sonoma Wine Country—A visit to the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens and the Matanzas Creek Winery. In Santa Rosa, Bob Hornbeck, Horticultural Historian at the Luther Burbank Home & Gardens, will lead the tour of the charming house and grounds of the world-famous Plant Wizard, Luther Burbank. Heading east into Bennett Valley, we will arrive at the Matanzas Creek Winery where head gardener Patricia Kaczmarek will talk to us about the culture and use of lavender, a featured crop at the winery. Tour concludes with wine tasting in elegant tasting room. 8:00 AM –4:00 PM, members \$95, non-members \$105.

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

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

May 17, Saturday morning, 11AM

Guided Tour: Herbs and Herbivores—Look at herbs as living organisms adapted to surviving their enemies. Meet at the Gazebo. 11 AM, free.

May 24, Saturday morning, 11AM

Guided Tour: Use a Mediterranean Garden Model for your Garden—Learn to use hardscape to show off your plants. Meet at the Arboretum Terrace Garden. 11 AM, free.

June 7, Saturday morning, 11AM

Guided Tour: Arboretum All-Stars—The Arboretum's favorite plants for home gardens. Meet at the Gazebo. 11 AM, free.

75th Anniversary Design T-Shirts and Tote Bags for Sale



T-shirts – short sleeved / white w/ dk. green design-
\$12 each or 2/\$20 (save \$4)

long sleeved / dk. green w/ white design-
\$14 each or 2/\$24 (save \$4)

Totes -\$12.00 each or 2 for \$20.00

Call 1-800-884-0009 to order or email editor@calhortsociety.org

Question Lady for the June Newsletter:

What is your best advice to a new gardener?

What have you learned over the years that you think a new gardener should know? Share some of that sage advice. Email editor@calhortsociety.org, write it down and bring it to the next meeting - give it to Elsie at the door, or drop it in the mail to:

E. Frank,
2101 Harbor Dr.,
Martinez. CA 94553.

Look for answers in the June Bulletin



Question Lady: What is your favorite Nursery?

Dave Hermeyer writes:

It's hard to pick a single nursery, since many of the ones I like are specialty nurseries. Here are a few which I like:

Tradewinds Bamboo Nursery
<http://www.bamboodirect.com>
Very good selection and reasonable prices

Sarracenia Northwest
<http://cobraplant.com/index.php>
Great carnivorous plants, and an informative website and monthly newsletter

Andy's Orchids
<http://www.andysorchids.com/default.asp>
Nice orchids (mounted or potted), many unusual varieties

Greer Gardens
<http://www.greergardens.com/>
Vast selection of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, Japanese maples and more.

But I think my favorite is the one I volunteer at:
Strybing Arboretum
<http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>
Great stuff and great prices!
The big annual sale is May 2 and 3.

Plant of the Month

Josh Schechtel



Photo by Ted Kipping

With all of the cool plants from Australia, South Africa and other exotic places that thrive in California, we often overlook some wonderful plants native to the west coast, especially

when they are short, dainty, and dormant in the summer, when most of us are outdoors enjoying our gardens. One of these overlooked wonders is *Nemophila menziesii*, Baby Blue Eyes. This plant is a total charmer- cute leaves, cute flowers, polite to its neighbors, and kind enough to self-seed without being invasive in the garden. The plant forms a loose low mound, about a foot tall and one to two feet wide, covered in spring with beautiful sky blue flowers. Each flower is cup-shaped, with a white center.

Nemophila is equally happy in the ground or in a pot. Mixed with orange and yellow flowers, such as our native poppy, they create a beautiful color combination to catch our eye early in the season. All it

asks for (politely, of course) is sun, average watering, and good drainage. By early summer, *Nemophila* has usually finished blooming and set seed, just in time to let later-blooming perennials take over the show. But don't despair- those seeds will bring cheerful blue flowers back next year.

The Latin name for this plant comes from the Greek words *nemos*, "a glade," and *phileo*, "to love," meaning that it has "an affinity for glades". In the wild, *Nemophila* is often found in open areas surrounded by oak or pine forest. The species name, *menziesii*, is in honor of Archibald Menzies (1754-1842), Scottish botanist and surgeon. He sailed around the world with Captain Vancouver, collecting plants along the way. Menzies introduced the monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*) to Europe, and discovered many other plants, including the Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Quite a grand legacy for a diminutive annual plant, but *Nemophila* would make Menzies proud.



To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Elsie Mueller at 800-884-0009.

Deadline for publication 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

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We need YOU!!!

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calendar@calhortsociety.org

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Ellen Frank

Vice President

We need YOU!!!

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Bruce Peters

Andy Stone

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Executive Council

2006 - 2008

First Term

Fred Bove

Second Term

Jason DeWees

2007 - 2009

First Term

Steve Morse

Andy Stone

David Tivol

Second Term

Dan Carlson

Don Gerimonte

2008 - 2010

First Term

Jonathan Silverman

Second Term

James Budke

Ellen Frank

Ted Kipping

**Welcome
New Members !**

Sergio C. Alvear – So. S.F.

Madeline Bakrich – Woodside

Floyd redmon – Woodside

Jenny Rose Carey – Pennsylvania

Cindy Chan – Berkeley – student

Jerome Ellis – San Francisco

Anne Gilmore – San Francisco

Tami Jewett – Moraga

Gerald Kuscak – Campbell

Anne Lesko – Orinda

Sandra Loey – Pleasant Hill

Eric Codley – Pleasant Hill

Tauni Meade – Stinson Beach

Jenni Norton – Martinez – student

Susan O'Connor – Eureka

Sue Rosenthal – Oakland

Doug Shaffer – San Francisco

Barbara Siegel - Oakland



The California Horticultural Society

San Francisco County Fair Building

9TH Avenue & Lincoln Way

San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

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