

Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

Cultivating Friendship, gardens and fun for over 75 years

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building and are co-sponsored by the SF Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum, 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Parking is available behind the SF Co. Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with the speaker.
Meet at the entrance

6:30 PM - Socialize before dinner the SF County Fair Building at 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, SF

7:00 PM Announcements announcing the Award winners followed by our 2009 awardee's program

This meeting only a donation of \$5 is requested for supplies.

Reservations required and a dish for eight. Come and enjoy yourself!

May 2009

Volume 76, Issue 5

May 18th - 6:30 PM Annual Awards Potluck Dinner

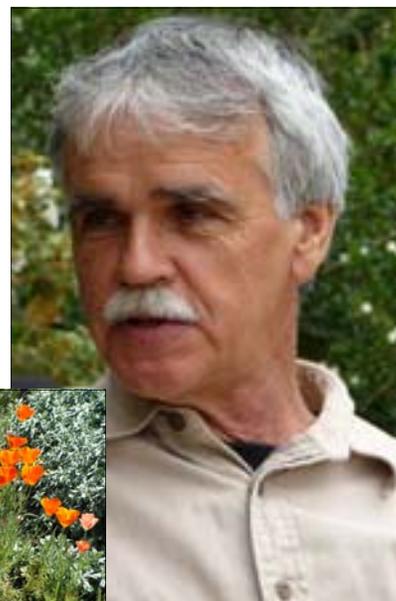
Annual Potluck Dinner and Awards Program

Presented by the 2009 Honoree

Dr. Don Mahoney The Natural Gardens of California

We will also be presenting other Society Awards including Garden and Plant Awards. Help us recognize their achievements and meet the new Council Members.

Advanced reservations - see pg. 3



2009 Cal Hort Annual Horticulturist of the Year
Dr. Don Mahoney



The Plant Drawing

each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program.

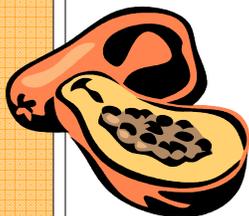
For April, Sloat Garden Center of Kentfield – courtesy of Laura Muschiett will be donating plants along with SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum courtesy of Don Mahoney.

Our appreciation to:

- ▶ Emerisa Gardens—Courtesy of Anthony Garza
- ▶ Kristin Yanker-Hansen
- ▶ Beryl Golden

for the outstanding selection of plants donated for the April meeting

Please patronize these
business
supporters of Cal Hort



June's meeting— Rare Fruit

June 15th

Rare Fruit - What is it and why should you grow it?

Presented by Bill Grimes,
National President of the California Rare Fruit Growers

Come and learn about the California Rare Fruit Growers organization and about some unusual varieties of common fruits and some rare and exotic fruits you can grow in the Bay Area. There will be time for questions and answers as well.

*"Come and
honor the best
of the best and
the coolest of
the cool"*



To pique your
curiosity...

Who will be honored
with...

The Rixford Award ?
Council Award ?
Garden Award ?
Publisher's Award ?
Writer's Award ?
Editor's Award ?
Photographer's Award ?
Website Award ?

The Un-President's message

Ellen Frank

This month is the "not to miss" meeting. We will be honoring the best of the best and the coolest of the cool. This year the ultimate horticulturist we will be honoring is Dr. Don Mahoney. A loyal member that support Cal Hort every month with his expertise, his plants and his insight. Don will be sharing his love of the natural gardens of California that inspire us all in our endeavors to create our own personal edens.

This is a chance for all of us to catch up with old friends and hopefully meet some new friends. Regular meetings are so filled up that we don't really have a chance to socialize, so this is a great opportunity to get all that talking out of the way for another year. Come and find out who will be honored and help celebrate the awardee's accomplishments.

On another note, I want to thank everyone who helped with the plant sale/ gala and the SF Flower and Garden Show. Both of these events take a lot of time and effort and I would like to recognize a few folks that really did more than their share. Kristin Yanker-Hansen was a huge part of procuring the new plants for the hot plant picks. She and the Western Hort gals, Sherrie Hall and Nancy Schramm did a lot of calling on nurseries, driving to pick up plants, setting up and tearing down the booth. Kristin and her friend Diane Goldsmith expanded on Diane's project on edible ornamentals that was very well received at the show. Thank you all for your hard work.

Kristin also organized the food for the Gala which is always yummy and she creates a festive ambiance with her table settings - this year delicious plates of goodies staggered on big tree rounds. Ann DeRosa was invaluable in planning and organizing the day of the event. She has been helping year after year and is familiar with the process. Some of the other committee members that worked hard in planning and setting up the day of the event, Diana Ross, Jonathan Silverman,

Jan Hamby, Ted Kipping, Jim Budke, Steve Morse, Jana Olsen and there were many others, but those stand out. Thank you all for your efforts, hard work and support.

The nurseries that supported Cal Hort in both events are listed below. We are greatly appreciative of their support and we need to support these nurseries that give so graciously to our needs.

New Plant Picks Donors:

Alive 'n Silk- San Jose
Annie's Annuals & Perennials- Richmond
Cabrillo College - Aptos
Cal Flora - Fulton
Carman's Nursery - Gilroy
Cistus Nursery - Portland
Diablo Valley College - Pleasant Hill
Emerisa Gardens - Santa Rosa
EuroAmerican Propagators - Bonsall
Four Winds Nsy Growers - Fremont
Generation Growers - Modesto
Goldrush Nursery - Soquel
Meadowlark Nursery - Hollister
Monrovia Nursery - Woodlake
Monterey Bay Nursery - Watsonville
Native Sons Nsy.- Arroyo Grande
Pacific Plug & Liner - Watsonville
San Marcos Growers - Santa Barbara
Sierra Azul Nsy. - Watsonville
Skagit Gardens - Mt. Vernon, WA
Sommer Wholesale Nsy.- Templeton
Succulent Gardens - Elkhorn
Suncrest Nurseries - Watsonville
Terra Sole Nurseries - Corralitos
UC Santa Cruz - Santa Cruz

Plant Sale Participating Nurseries:

Plant Heaven - Corina Reider
Suncrest Nurseries - Watsonville
Meadowlark Nursery - Hollister
Leondis.com - Paul Leondis
Alex Rigg Succulents - Berkeley
Garden Natives - Martinez

Thanks to everyone who share their plants and their gardening experiences at the plant forum. This is an opportunity for all of us to learn from others' successes and failures. The awards dinner will be honoring some of the best specimens shared during the last year.

Vireya Rhododendron

Leslie Washburn
San Francisco



This very impressive specimen has always been in a pot from the time Leslie bought it 10 years ago at a Strybing sale... potting soil is mostly cocoa shells. She claims her care has been benign neglect. The flowers are very fragrant. Vireyas are from South East Asia growing in cool mountainous regions as epiphytes in the upper story of the trees in the cloud forests. Vireyas are frost tender.

Chloranthus spicatus

Common Name:
Pearl Orchid, Chicken Feet Orchid
Family: Chloranthaceae

Daxin Liu
Mountain View

This Southern Chinese native's botanical name means greenish yellow flowers in spikes. The tiny yellow flowers are borne in branched spikes and are very fragrant. It blooms summer to fall and prefers shade, warm temperatures and a moist acid soil. Use dilute fertilizer regularly. Protect from frost. It can be used as a houseplant.



Plant of the Month

Josh Schechtel

Plant of the month- Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Variegatus'

China is home to more than 30,000 species of plants. Many of the plants that we are familiar with in our gardens originated in China. One of



these, the variegated osmanthus, or false holly, is a great slow-growing shrub that can become a small tree over many years. It does well in sun or moderate shade, as long as it is in a pro-

tected spot, away from strong winds. Its holly-like leaves are beautifully variegated, with cream colored edges and pale spots and splashes on the central portions. This useful plant can be grown as a specimen, as a hedge, or in a container. Like many osmanthus species, the flowers are tiny, but their fragrance is wonderful! Your garden will be cloaked with this perfume in the autumn, when little else in the garden is producing much fragrance, making it all that much easier to enjoy.

In the Bay area, I've seen this plant growing in moderate shade to nearly full sun. Although it has a lush appearance, once established Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Variegatus' needs little water. It is also tolerant of a wide variety of soil types, including clay. Of course, a little soil amending never hurts... Over time, this slow growing beauty can become a multi-stemmed tree to 15 feet tall, but it is easily kept smaller with pruning. If you're looking for something to brighten up a shady corner and add wonderful fragrance to your garden, try the variegated false holly.

May 16, Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00PM

Diablo Valley College Plant Sale + ceramics sale
321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill - cash and checks only
More information? 925-685-1230 ext. 1958

May 15 and 16, Friday and Saturday, 8:30AM – 5:00PM and 8:00AM – 1:00PM

Plants and Gardens of Australia—Refreshing your Australian repertoire: how to mix exciting and appropriate Australian native plants in Bay Area gardens. Part I of a two part series presented by The Garden Conservancy and The Ruth Bancroft Garden. The Friday seminar will be at the Civic Arts Education center, Shadelands Campus, Walnut Creek. Seminar will be followed by a garden visit and reception at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Saturday half-day study tour will be Martinez/Berkeley and points in between. For more info visit www.gardenconservancy.org/events.pl?ID=269

Or call (415) 441-4300. Friday: 8:30 AM –5:00 PM and Saturday: 8:00 AM –1:00 PM, members \$110, non-members \$130.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

May 21, 23 and 24, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday afternoon, 1:30PM – 2:30PM

Sustainability and the Environment: Beautiful Gardening with Waterwise Plants—Create a beautiful garden using plants with minimal water requirements. The Garden's unique collection from around the world provides attractive plant candidates. 1:30 PM –2:30 PM, free with garden admission.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

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

May 7 – June 4, Thursdays, 6:00PM – 8:30PM

Armchair California Botany: A lecture series with Dr. Glenn Keator—Author and horticulturist Dr. Glenn Keator's slide presentation will whisk viewers to California's wild lands without leaving their chairs. Vicarious visits will be made to special sites throughout the northern part of the state, delving into the ecology, pollination, adaptation, interrelationships, and strategies of plants in specific native communities. Five Thursdays, 6:00 PM –8:30 PM.

May 23, Saturday morning, 9:00AM – 12:00PM

The Geranium Family—Learn everything you always wanted to know about Geraniums and Pelargoniums (but were afraid to ask). Known across the state as “the geranium lady”, Robin Parer will lead this workshop which will include a discussion of the newest and best hybrids. 9:00 AM –12:00 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

June 6, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Living Roof Workshop—Join Ecological Designer and teacher Gabrielle Fladd in this all-new workshop on incorporating green roofs, living walls, and ecological watershed systems into building and landscape design. 10:00 AM –1:00 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

June 7, Sunday, 10:00AM – 3:00PM

The Art and Design of Planting—Join noted horticulturist and garden designer Jim Dixon for a tour and discussion of the two-acre modified perennial garden he designed at his home in Occidental. Bring items for a pot-luck lunch. 10:00 AM –3:00 PM, members \$75, non-members \$85.

June 13, Saturday, 10:00AM – 1:00PM

Growing Proteas in Bay Area Gardens—Learn how you can add exotic flavor to your garden with beautiful species of the genera protea, leucospermum, leucadendron, banksia and grevillea. Jeff Rosendale, owner of Sierra Azul and Rosendale Nurseries in Watsonville, will lead this workshop.

10:00 AM –1:00 PM, members \$55, non-members \$65.

U.C. SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM

(831) 427-2998 • www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum

May 16 and 17, Saturday and Sunday, 9:30AM – 4:00PM and 10:00AM – 2:00PM

Bamboo: Crafts, Culture and Cultivation—This workshop, taught by Karl Bareis, founder of International Bamboo Association, will include: the types of bamboo suited to our climate; bamboo drought-resistance, practical use and bioremediation; planting and design in landscape; and maintaining bamboo, pruning & thinning stands and groves. Sunday field workshop will be identification and hands on pruning. Must pre-register, class size is limited. Saturday: 9:30 AM –4:00 PM and Sunday: 10:00 AM –2:00 PM, members \$75, non-members \$80.

UC DAVIS ARBORETUM

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

May 31, Sunday afternoon, 2:00PM

Guided Tour: Ethnobotany of California Native Plants—Learn about the fascinating interactions between California native plants and peoples. Meet at the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center



California Horticultural Society
Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 18, 2009

SF Botanical Garden's hall of Flowers, 9th Ave. at Lincoln Way, San Francisco

Program Presented by

Dr. Don Mahoney

Curator and Nursery Manager

for the San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum

Recipient of the 2009 Annual Award

What to Bring:

- ◆ Your favorite dish (enough to serve 8)
- ◆ A serving utensil
- ◆ Your own silverware & Plate
- ◆ Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction



- ◆ 6:30 pm Socializing
- ◆ 7:00 pm Potluck. If you can assist with set up, please come any time after 5:00 pm. We will make flower arrangements from the Arboretum, set up plant displays, etc.

Advance Reservations must be made with
Elsie Mueller (800) 884-0009 no later than Friday, May 15th.

- ◆ A \$5.00 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.

I / We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday, May 18th, 2009

Name(s)

(Please print) _____

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

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

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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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

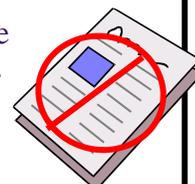
2009 - 2011

First Term
Demi Bowles Lathrop
Cindy O'Donnel

Do you want to save a tree?

How about saving your postal worker from your ferocious dog? Saving Cal Hort some money?

Now you're talking.....



How can you do this?

Ask to be included in receiving your Bulletin on-line.

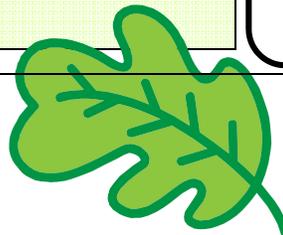
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to be included.

Enjoy full color on-line.

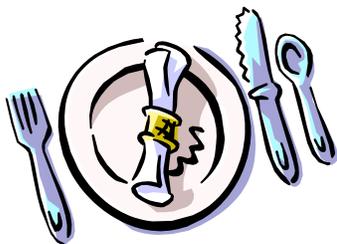


The California Horticultural Society

San Francisco County Fair Building
9TH Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA 94122
www.calhortsociety.org



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Annual Awards Meeting & Potluck dinner - reservations required