



Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

Cultivating Friendship, gardens and fun for over 75 years

Next Monthly General Meeting is May 17^h, 2010 at 7:15 pm

May 2010

Volume 77, Issue 5

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building and are co-sponsored by the SF Botanical Garden 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

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1240 9th Ave. San Francisco.

7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the SF Botanical Garden in the SF County Fair Building at 9th Avenue at Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

***Members free

***Non-members – A donation of \$5 is requested.

May Program:

May 17, 2010

Deep Flora: further explorations of South Africa's Cape Floral Kingdom and adventures at home bringing new species from this region into cultivation and trialing them in a new fynbos test garden at SFSU

Martin Grantham, Greenhouse Manager at S.F. State University and this year's Annual Award Recipient, will draw on his experiences from twelve trips to the Western Cape in treating and germinating seed, pot and garden cultures of woody irids, restios and others.



June meeting

June 21, 2010

“A Baja California Natural History: the Land of the Boojum and the Cardon”

Having traveled to the northern half of the Baja California peninsula, Ernesto Sandoval, Director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory hopes to convince us to travel to this particular flavor of the Sonoran Desert, at least vicariously through his presentation if not at some future date. He has visited the peninsula during three particularly moist springs, including the 1998 El Niño, and at least eight winters. Learn about some botanically defining characteristics of the peninsula's plant life as well as the endemic and near endemic plants that are found throughout Baja. Ernesto has amassed a visually stunning collection of images from this remarkable landscape, known to some as one of the most lush deserts in the world.

May Horticultural Calendar

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY
www.gardenconservancy.org

June 9, Wednesday evening, 7:00 PM

Victoria Kastner, author and historian, discusses her new book "Hearst's San Simeon: The Gardens and The Land". This is the first event in the Presidio Garden Lecture Series. At the Walt Disney Family Museum, 104 Montgomery St. The Presidio, San Francisco, 7 PM, members \$25, students \$15, general admission \$30.

June 18, Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Count Your Chickens – in Your Edible Garden. This workshop focuses on growing edibles in your garden. Morning talks feature a history lesson on classical kitchen gardens and current design, followed by short talks expanding on this theme. The afternoon will be spent in two beautiful and different Marin County gardens. Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Ross, CA. Members \$110, general admission \$125, includes talks, lunch and garden visits.

June 23, Wednesday evening, 7:00 PM

Landscape Scenography: Setting the Stage for Garden Mystery. Chip Sullivan & Elizabeth Boult, authors of the recently released book "Illustrated History of Landscape Design", examine how garden designers past and present have choreographed landscape space. This is the second event in the Presidio Garden Lecture Series. At the Walt Disney Family Museum, 104 Montgomery St. The Presidio, San Francisco, 7 PM, members \$25, students \$15, general admission \$30.

July 16, Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Make Room for Succulents in Your Garden. A one-day horticultural and design seminar presented by The Garden Conservancy, The Ruth Bancroft Garden and Pacific Horticulture magazine. Five speakers set your mind on fire with a wonderful assortment of plants and design ideas. The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Rd., Walnut Creek. \$85 members, \$95 magazine subscribers, \$105 general admission. Part of the 2010 Ruth Bancroft Horticultural Series.

REGIONAL PARKS BOTANIC GARDEN
(510) 528-0526 • <http://www.nativeplants.org>

June 5, Saturday, 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Winged Visitors in Your Garden Sanctuary—With Charlotte Torgovitsky. Perhaps you would like to know more about all those creatures in your garden. Take a slide show tour through a year of birds and butterflies, learning unique and identifying features of the species most likely to be seen in native gardens. 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM, members \$30, non-members \$35.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY
(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

May 23, Sunday morning, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Introduction to Chinese Traditional Medicine. Anastacia White, practitioner and teacher of Chinese Traditional Medicine will discuss the principles of CTM, followed by a walk in the garden's Chinese Traditional Medicinal Herb Garden. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20, registration required.

June 2, Wednesday evening, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Sunset Stroll - enjoy the glorious evening light and a glass of wine or sparkling lemonade as you walk through the garden in the quiet after hours. 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM, members free, non-members \$10.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY
(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

May 22, Saturday, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Urban Gardens for Families – a glorious tour of gardens in the heart of San Francisco. This tour focuses on gardens that please families, all designed, installed and maintained by Janet Moyer Landscaping. Plants were chosen for low maintenance and year-round attractiveness. Located in the Forest Hill district of San Francisco. 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, members \$50, non-members \$60.

Pop Quiz

What do these genera have in common?

Acer, *Dudleya*, *Trillium*, *Persimmon*, *Quercus* and *Salvia*.

Give up? These have all be requested in response to Seed Exchange announcements. Do you grow any of these plants and are you willing to collect ripe seeds from them? The Seed Exchange Committee can help with this task if needed.

Reminder: If you take a picture of your plant in bloom or when most iconic, the photos can be included on the CalHort website to help members decide on their requests in the fall.

***Calandrinia spectabilis*, or rock purslane**

Family: Portulacaceae

As much as I love the winter rains, knowing that they are recharging our aquifers and reservoirs and keeping my garden plants happy, I get tired of the gray skies and cold, damp wind. It does drain some of the enthusiasm out of life. As an antidote to the winter blahs, I recommend planting *Calandrinia spectabilis* in your garden.

Hailing from Chile, this plant is deceptively delicate in appearance. In reality, it is shoe-leather tough. It has wonderful, blue-gray rosettes of succulent leaves that get about a foot high and up to four feet across. Wiry stems climb up to two feet above the foliage and hold big cerise blooms that just scream, "Cheer up, winter is almost over." Although it blooms year round in milder climates, the heaviest bloom is spring through fall when a cloud of flowers hovers over the foliage, quivering in the slightest breeze.

Like most of my favorite plants, this one does best in full sun to light shade, with excellent drainage and minimal summer watering. Is your garden full of nothing but heavy clay? No problem- *Calandrinia* does great in containers. There are about 150 species of *Calandrinia*, hailing from Australia, Chile and western North America. The genus is named after Jean Louis Calandrini, an 18th century professor of mathematics and philosophy from Switzerland who was also a botanist.



Photos by Ted Kipping

Monthly Plant Drawing

The plant drawing is an ongoing program for the Society's benefit. Nurseries and individual members donate plants each month, many of which are rare in the trade.

Please patronize these corporate supporters of CalHort!



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

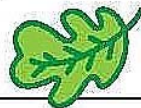


CalHort Needs Volunteers

We are moving forward to essentially an all volunteer Society where all of the tasks that make the Society run smoothly will be performed by members. However, it has also become obvious that the same few members are doing most of these jobs (sometimes multiple jobs) and have been doing them for many years. We have been without a President and Vice President for all of this year. Our Treasurer has been on the job for 14 years. Some of the assignments can be shared among members if we have enough volunteers.

Our 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! The Board asks that you consider volunteering for these positions to keep CalHort the organization we all want it to be. Contact any Board member for further information, either by email, phone or at next Monday's meeting, and especially Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair. We need you! The Membership Roster provides Board Member telephone numbers and email addresses.

To join, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499



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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