

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, May 18, 2015

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park.

Free parking is available behind the San Francisco County Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

4:00 PM – Botanical gardens walk with the featured speaker. Meet at the entrance to the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

6:30 PM – Annual Cal Hort Dinner
San Francisco County Fair Building,
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way

7:15 PM – Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building.

Cal Hort members may attend for FREE. Non-members—a donation of \$5 is requested

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Plant of the Month

Beschorneria yuccoides



MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015

A Vision for Modern Horticulture

by Flora Grubb

Flora Grubb, owner of the Flora Grubb Nursery in San Francisco, is honored this year at Cal Hort’s Annual Dinner. Flora says, “We woo our customers with design and beauty, but we never lecture or bore them. Gardening connects people to the natural world, and through that connection people find an antidote to the stresses of modern urban life.”



MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2015

What’s New at Tilden Park

by Bart O’Brien

The Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in the Berkeley Hills is celebrating its 75th Anniversary (1940-2015) of growing the most remarkable array of California native plants in cultivation. Bart O’Brien will be discussing some of the new projects (including the three large new rock gardens created by Phil Johnson and funded by a generous gift from the Bonita Garden Club of Piedmont), and some of the garden’s noteworthy collections and new plants (including some most unusual “Californian” plants from south of the border).

California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 18, 2015

San Francisco Botanical Garden,
Hall of Flowers,
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in
Golden Gate Park

Program Presented
by FLORA GRUBB,
owner of Flora Grubb Nursery
in San Francisco

- 6:30 PM Socializing
- 7 PM Potluck. If you can assist with set up, please come any time after 5 PM. We will make flower arrangements from the Arboretum, set up plant displays, and so on.
- Advance Reservations must be made with Tena Gallagher no later than Friday, May 15.

What to Bring:

- Your favorite dish (enough to serve eight)
- A serving utensil
- Your own silverware and plate, and perhaps some wine
- Unusual and choice plants for the Silent Auction
- 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.

We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday,
May 18, 2015

Name(s) (please print) _____

Enclosed is a check (\$5 each) made payable to the:
California Horticultural Society for \$ _____

Mail to:

Tena Gallagher, 400 Cliffside Drive, Danville, CA 94526

Email: tena@aol.com

Spring HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, May 13; Noon

Arboretum Gazebo, UC Davis campus

Join Warren Roberts, the Superintendent Emeritus of the Arboretum and famous storyteller and punster for an always-engaging noontime exploration of the UC Davis Arboretum's gardens and plant collections.

JULIA MORGAN HALL: GENDER, SPACE, AND NATURE

Thursday, May 14; 10–11:30 AM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

In 1911 famed Bay Area architect Julia Morgan returned to her alma mater to design a social hall for senior women students. The result was a deceptively simple, brown-shingle building in the Bay Tradition style. Behind this simplicity was a subtle feminist act to empower women students and redefine femininity in the early twentieth century. Karen McNeill is a historian based in Oakland. She has been researching and writing about Julia Morgan since 2000. Her work focuses on women and gender in the architectural profession as well as how Progressive Era women used the built environment to expand their roles society as consumers, reformers, educators, and professionals. Registration required: Free with Garden Admission. Register by calling 510-664-9841, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

STARGAZING IN THE WHITE FLOWER GARDEN

Friday, May 15; 9 PM

Arboretum Gazebo, UC Davis campus

Need to get away from it all? Join us for a relaxed, shared experience appreciating the wondrous night sky. Conditions permitting, we will be in for a slim crescent moon and a lush tapestry of stars. Bring the whole family! This free event is sponsored by the Arboretum Ambassadors.

PUBLIC PLANT SALE

Friday, May 15; 9 AM–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery

Garrod Drive across from Vet Med, UC Davis campus

This clearance event is our last plant sale of the spring season! We know that many homeowners out there are in the process of developing their "New Front Yard" by replacing high-water use plants with low-water alternatives. That's why you are going to find just what you need and get the best selection at our first plant sale of the spring season. We are going to have the area's largest selection of attractive, drought-tolerant, easy-care, region-appropriate plants including California natives and Arboretum All-Stars.

SUCCULENT SUCCESS FOR BEGINNERS

Saturday, May 16; 10:30 AM–Noon

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek, CA 94598

This beginner's class is designed for those new to the succulent world. We'll discuss the basic principles for care of succulents, both in the ground and in containers. Learn to keep your plants happy from roots to leaves! Brian Kemble, Curator of The Ruth Bancroft Garden, will teach this workshop. You will leave the class armed with strategies for a successful succulent collection to enjoy for years to come. \$20, \$15 Members. Space is limited, pre-registration is recommended.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Beschorneria yuccoides

Family: ASPARAGACEAE

I think about dry shade a lot, probably more than I should, but I can't help it. A huge portion of my small garden is made up of dry shade. Add poor soil and windy conditions, and you've got the trifecta of a gardening disappointment. If you have similar conditions in your garden, there is a ray of sunshine from Mexico that can make your disappointment shrivel like Dracula at sunrise:

Beschorneria yuccoides.

An agave relative, only recently placed in the Asparagaceae family, *Beschorneria yuccoides* is from dry woodland areas, and prefers good drainage. However, if the drainage is not reasonable, just place it in a pot instead—it is equally happy in containers. Although I like agaves, they don't necessarily like me. They often draw blood when I tend to them, they sometimes rot in the cold winter rains (not a problem this year...), and being monocarpic, they often die after flowering. *Beschorneria* provides the visual punch of agaves without these problems. Their leaves are spineless, they can tolerate being cold and wet, and they bloom year after year.

There are about ten species of *Beschorneria* in addition to some hybrids. *Beschorneria yuccoides* is one of several that are easy to find and easy to grow. It forms rosettes of long, pointed, glaucous leaves about four feet in diameter, or smaller in a container. In spring, a coral colored flower stalk up to seven feet tall emerges, sending out side

branches from which the flowers dangle. The flower bracts are a similar coral pink color with green tips on the petals, and there are zillions of them on each stalk, forming a huge hummingbird magnet. For added stupendiosity, there is a variegated form, known under three different names as 'Flamingo Glow', 'variegata', or 'Reality'. Several gardeners saw one of these beauties flowering in a local garden recently and were clutching their pearls as they gasped over its beauty.

Whatever cultivar you choose, remember that *Beschornerias* were named after Friedrich Wilhelm Christian Beschorner, a 19th century German physician and amateur botanist who was the first director of the Owinska Psychiatric Hospital in Poland. When I tinker in my garden, talking to myself, I often think of him.



Beschorneria yuccoides in a garden setting



California Horticultural Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

The month of May is our annual dinner. Instead of our usual drawing we are asking members to bring in special plants they have propagated for a Silent Auction.

Monthly Plant Display and Discussion

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery, or a plant that has attributes that are not known by the mainstream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group. You can also donate this plant afterwards to the plant drawing.

To join the California Horticultural Society or to find out about a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org.

Questions from members about your membership?
 Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson.
 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209
 (gardengurus@gmail.com).

The California Horticultural 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 to provide leadership. The Board asks that members volunteer for positions to keep Cal Hort the best organization it can be.

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin 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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib
 2015-2017 (First Term) Steve Morse, Andy Stone

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