

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, May 15, 2017, at 7:15 PM

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.

For the schedule for the evening please refer to the Annual dinner announcement in the newsletter.



POTLUCK / SLIDESHOW
County Fair Building
in Golden Gate Park

This is our 38th and final year.
Please join us for these events:

Wednesday, May 17 at 7 PM
Ted Kipping *Woody Companion Plants for Rhododendrons*

Wednesday, June 21 at 7 PM
Dr. Carlos Sanchez, Director of Havana Botanic Garden in Cuba

Please bring a dish and beverage to serve eight - No alcohol please!
San Francisco Parks and Recreation mandates no alcohol in the room.

MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017

Garden Inspiration, Design and Plant Selection

by Ernesto Sandoval

Growing up and seeing hundreds of gardens from a young age in Los Angeles, Ernesto often wondered how he would lay out a garden himself. Through views and images of other peoples gardens, scenes and landscapes in nature, Ernesto will share the combination of design elements and principles that have led him to implement the various public and private gardens under his care.



MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017

The California "Superbloom"

by Bart O'Brien



The spring of 2017 has been widely heralded as a "superbloom"—one of those rare confluences of conditions that result in an abundance of spectacular floral displays in a number of different parts of California.

Bart's talk will feature images from this past spring and he will share some of the reasons why some areas were fantastic and others were not, and how to grow these plants in your home garden.

California Horticultural Society Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner

Monday, May 15, 2017

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

Program Presented
by Ernesto Sandoval
UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

- 5 PM Volunteer! Start the fun early, any time after 5 PM, to assist with setting up. We will be collecting plant materials from the Arboretum and making arrangements for the tables. We'll also be setting up the tables for the buffet and for plant display.
- 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.

Reservations must be made in advance with Sharon Townsend no later than Friday, May 12.

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

We will be attending the Annual Dinner Monday,
May 15, 2017

Name(s) (please print) _____

Mail to: Sharon Townsend,

345 Remington Loop, Danville CA 94526
or email Sharon: jstownsend@comcast.net

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN

Saturday, May 27; 9:30 AM

On Saturday, May 27 at 9:30 AM we are invited to coffee at the garden of the Reiter family in San Francisco. While many of us strive to cultivate a garden with a sense of place, their garden has been such a place for three generations of Reiters dating back to the 1930s.

Charlie's father, Victor Reiter Jr., established the La Rochette Nursery there in the late 1920s. Victor Reiter Sr. became very involved with the nursery in his retirement. In the 1960s, the city of San Francisco decided such an agrarian business had no place in a residential zone and forced its closing. At this point it became a private garden. After Victor's passing the garden fell into a state of neglect and as a result most of Victor's rock garden collection was lost, but many heritage plants remain.

Victor Reiter Jr. was one of the founders of our California Horticultural Society. For many of us this will be a first opportunity to visit the current incarnation of the long standing Reiter garden. Karen and Charlie feel that thirty would be a reasonable number for this visit.

As usual, I will pick up the coffee and we will all bring a little something to have with it. Be sure to RSVP to me at mdelepine@liacook.com in time to join us for a morning in a garden I am very much looking forward to seeing.

TOUR OF DAVIS GARDENS

Sunday, May 21; 9 AM

Ernesto Sandoval, the curator at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, has invited us to Davis to view some private gardens he has designed as well as some on campus, one of which Cal Hort supported early on.

The plan is to arrive at the first of the private gardens at 9 AM on Sunday, May 21. The date was reported incorrectly in last month's Bulletin. *Mea culpa* and sorry for the confusion!

More good news: parking on the weekend on the UC Davis campus is easy, so drive alone or with friends. Parking will be more limited adjacent to the private gardens. What's more, after we return to the campus to view the Biological Orchard and Gardens, we will be able to lunch together at the nearby dining commons where you can pretty much get all you can eat for about \$10. After lunch, Ernesto has arranged for his very knowledgeable colleague, at the UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden, Emily Griswold to show us around the Shields Oak Grove and adjacent Storer Garden where she has been making improvements.

This tour has now reached its capacity. Anyone who RSVPs from after this point on will be put on a waiting list and allotted spaces as others opt out. It should be a memorable day of garden visits for all of us lucky enough to attend.

We Need Volunteers

You might have noticed the absence of a *Plant of the Month* article this month, as the writer is overwhelmed with work right now. Arcangelo Wessells has written some amazing articles about amazing plants since he started. This situation should raise our awareness of the fact that Cal Hort is an organization run by volunteers. We need more volunteers, not only to write articles about plants, but to participate in other mechanics of keeping the organization going.

Specifically, we need a technologically savvy person who can manage our web site and make sure that the Bulletin is published. Steve Morse has been doing this job for at least 15 years. We also need a new Bulletin designer. Diane Goldsmith has done this job for many years, and would like to relinquish the job.

There are many other opportunities available for keeping Cal Hort going. If it seems like a lot to do, all jobs can be shared with others—many hands make light work—and we'll help you get started. Cal Hort is financially a sound organization. However, we are struggling for volunteer support. If you really enjoy this organization, consider giving some time to it.

March Plant Forum Notes

April 2017 compiled by Arcangelo Wessells

Richard Turner brought a selection of hot colored flowers that he grows in San Francisco, starting with:

Centradenia floribunda, MELASTOMATACEAE. Spanish Shawl is a sprawling shrub that grows about two feet high, but with support it will get bigger. It features bronze foliage with bright red new growth, as well as masses of bright pink flowers beginning in spring.

Cantua buxifolia, POLEMONIACEAE. Victor Reiter is said to have grown the Sacred Flower of the Incas behind a wall to hide the straggly branches of this six foot shrub and allow the beautiful flowers to float over the wall. It is apparently still twiggy looking in its native Peru. The flowers, two inches long, are usually magenta, but other color forms exist. They are popular with hummingbirds.

Gasteria glomerata, ASPHODELACEAE. This lovely small succulent with firm green leaves and spikes of balloon shaped flowers in a glowing coral color, was only discovered in 1991, and has only recently become available in garden stores. The leaves want a bit of shade, as they grow in nature under deciduous shrubs.

Continuing the coral theme, **Richard Starkeson** brought:

Fuchsia splendens, ONAGRACEAE. This Fuchsia shrub is an epiphyte from cloud forests of southern Mexico and Central America, where it grows at altitudes between 6,000 and 11,000 feet! In cultivation, it grows to about six feet, and is resistant to mites. Hanging flowers are coral or orange with green petals, exerted stamens and a pinch in the flower tube. Berries are edible and tart.

Ted Kipping brought an unnamed Fuchsia species from Chiapas. He collected seed of this large shrub which is very similar to *Fuchsia paniculata*. It grows 25 to 30 feet tall and has small pink flowers in sizeable clusters. Andy Stone went outside and returned with a big armful of branches to offer cuttings.

Darmera peltata, SAXIFRAGACEAE, is a very interesting plant from stream-sides of California and Oregon. Pink flowers bloom in a dense head on tall stems, often before the leaves open. The plants can be six feet tall and three feet wide. They look similar to Gunnera with big leaves on a tall stem, but have the added feature of excellent fall color.

Podophyllum 'Spotty Dotty', BERBERIDACEAE, also has an umbrella-like leaf. This hybrid Chinese May Apple has intensely speckled leaves. It needs regular summer water and shade.

Callianthe tricolor, MALVACEAE, is the current name for what Ted brought in as *Abutilon tricolor*. This mid-sized shrub features rusty orange, bat-pollinated flowers and large soft cordate leaves. It is a cloud forest plant from Guatemala.

Sean O'Hara brought in an excellent big *Echeveria*, CRASSULACEAE, bred by Ed Hummel, from whose trash it was rescued by Ruth Bancroft.

Lantana montevidensis, VERBENACEAE. Sean found this pink flowered sport in a local Berkeley garden. This widely grown Lantana from South America usually has purple flowers.

Plectranthus parviflorus 'Sapphire Dreams', LAMIACEAE. This small shrublet, about a foot tall, features variegated leaves and intensely blue flowers. It is slow growing and without the rank smell some *Plectranthus* can have. The species is originally from Polynesia and Australia.

Geranium maderense 'Alba', GERANIACEAE.

Mark Delepine grows this excellent white flowered form of the Madeira Cranesbill in Berkeley. Big divided leaves, and a thick trunk propped up by the petioles of the old leaves set the stage for a three foot wide explosion of white flowers. Available from Annie's Annuals.

Kristin Yanker-Hansen brought in a *Neoregelia* hybrid, BROMELIACEAE, that she grows outside in Danville, this Bromeliad makes a three foot wide clump of stiff upright leaf rosettes one foot tall. Like much of what Kristin grows, this plant is more tolerant of cold than is commonly expected.

Primulina 'Diane Marie', GESNERIACEAE. This African Violet relative, about five inches tall and one foot wide, makes a neat clump of velvety silver and green leaves and has big purple flowers.

Arcangelo Wessells came with *Alstroemeria werdermannii*, ALSTROEMERIACEAE, from Chile. It is only a foot high, with twisted blue-green leaves and lavender flowers with intricate markings. To simulate its coastal dune habitat, it is growing in a deep sand bed in Vallejo.

Castilleja affinis var. *neglecta*, OROBANCHACEAE. The Tiburon Paintbrush is a small hemiparasitic plant with showy bracts colored pale yellow and salmon. It was growing with *Eriogonum libertini* as a host plant. Both are Serpentine endemics.



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

Due to the annual dinner there will be no plant display and discussion.

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 Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

COUNCIL

2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve Morse, Andy Stone
 2016-2018 (Second Term) Ellen Edelson, Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2016-2018 (First Term) Mary Engle, Bart O'Brien, Arcangelo Wessells

OFFICERS

President	Open
Vice President	Open
Recording Secretary	Mary Engle
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

BULLETIN EDITOR
editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR
calendar@calhortsociety.org

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.