



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118



NOVEMBER 2001

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Avenue 9 Bistro, 1243 Ninth Ave., San Francisco \$15

7:30 PM Meeting will be held at St. Nicholas Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd. San Francisco. Lower Floor auditorium. From Strybing Arboretum take 7th Ave. which leads into Laguna Honda-turn lt. on Woodside which becomes Portola, then turn rt. onto Diamond Heights Blvd. The church is at corner of Diamond Hghts. Blvd. & Duncan St. Guest Fee \$5.

Monday, November 19, 2001

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

“Confessions of A Plant Addict”

Presented by **Kelly Dodson** noted horticulturist and avid plant collector, of Reflective Gardens Nursery near Poulsbo, Washington. His focus is mainly on uncommon plants and species. From seed collected on his expedition to Yunnan, China he has grown the beautiful pink *Allium mairei*. One of his new introductions is *Ficus ti-kona*, a ground cover which he believes holds great promise for the Bay area. You will not want to miss this fascinating slide illustrated program.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarship Program. The drawing in November will include donations from **Diablo Valley College** (courtesy of **Kathy Echols**) and from **Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney**. Our appreciation to Marin-Bolinas Botanical Garden, courtesy of Dr. Herman Schwartz & to Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens (Dr. Don Mahoney) who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the October meeting.

DECEMBER 2001

There is no monthly meeting. Our very best wishes to you and yours for a happy holiday season and for a rewarding New Year filled with new plant treasures for your gardens.

Coming Meetings

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, January 21, 2002

“New Plants for Horticulture from Brazil”

Presented by **Dr. Frank Almeda**, noted botanist and explorer, of California Academy of Sciences. For several years the speaker has studied the flora of Campo Rupestre, a high plateau in central Brazil located at an elevation of 4000' - 5000'. In this prairie-grassland plant community, Dr. Almeda has discovered many new members of the MELASTOMACEAE, some of which, like *Tibouchina cardinalis* are now being successfully propagated at Strybing Arboretum.

Monday, February 18, 2002

**“Plant Exploration in the Highlands of Northern Vietnam,
Bali & the Philippines”**

In the ongoing effort to develop Strybing's Southeast Asian Cloud Forest, Collections Manager, **Bian Tan** collected seeds and cuttings from the Bali Botanic Gardens, cloud forests in the Philippines, and the highlands of Northern Vietnam. This last expedition was in collaboration with researchers from the Missouri Botanical Gardens and Vietnamese botanists. The variety of plants encountered was amazing, and included many rare conifers, orchids, and rhododendrons. Through slides, Bian will tell us about this expedition into limestone areas that are home to rare and endangered species, and how foreign botanists are assisting with Southeast Asian plant conservation efforts.

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President's Letter

by Dr. Don Mahoney

Our truly American holiday of Thanksgiving is just about upon us. This year I am very thankful for many things, especially all the help that the Cal Hort Board and numerous other volunteers have give to keep the organization fruitful and solvent. Of course, what I am really most thankful for are the many plants I get to raise, many from Cal Hort sources. I have never really gotten over the thrill of watching a new plant (or an old one, for that matter) blooming for the first time in season.

We had a very successful field trip to Sacramento and many thanks to Kristen Yanker-Hansen for organizing it. I'm

not sure what was better—the warm weather for sun-starved San Franciscans, the camaraderie of plant people together in a bus, or the beautiful valley gardens we were able to visit. So thank you again, Kristen.

Many thanks also to Dylan Hannon for his excellent program on Socotra. The photographs were artistic and of high quality and the story they told of an island that is still relatively intact was very heartening. I do sometimes wish I had the hotter climate needed to grow some of the wonderful caudex plants he showed that are already in the trade. ✿

Our very Successful Sacramento Field Trip



An expansive view at Daisy Mah's WPA garden in Sacramento. [Click to enlarge](#)



Superintendent Warren Roberts giving anecdotes at UC Davis [Click to enlarge](#)

On September 22, a very fun group of Cal Hort members arose VERY early in the morning to hop on the 8 am bus bound for northern horticultural delights!

First stop brought us to the private garden of Dick and Trish Bruga to ogle at their fabulous collections of grasses, *Phlomis* and a myriad of other plants. They even had a 'test garden' where they planted all the new and different things

they found before moving them on to more permanent spots.

Then on to the UC Davis Arboretum, for a tour by Superintendent Warren Roberts to see all their choice plants that thrive in heat (something in short supply here along the coast!) Of particular interest was the large swath of mature *Ephedra* plants from around the world and, of course, the fancy boxed lunches under the trees at the Arboretum headquarters.

After lunch, we went to explore the WPA garden in Sacramento, managed by our own Cal Hort member Daisy Mah. Daisy grows nearly everything from seed and had many unusual plants that we had never seen before.

On the way back, our horti-cultural mega-bus made a detour to a wonderfully secluded and well stocked nursery for the last shopping splurge of the day.

All in all, a great trip!



Miscanthus & Aretemesia artfully growing at the Bruga's

Botanical Tours

January 9-27, 2002

A Natural History Tour of Southern Chile and Argentina A Pacific Horticulture Tour. Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society. Tour Escort: Dr. Don Mahoney

April 24 - May 8, 2002

A Springtime Medley of Gardens: Floraide & Keukenhof in Holland-Bruges; Belgium-Paris at cherry Blossom-time
Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society.
Info: (800) 624-6633.

May 6 - 24, 2002

Sichuan, China - A Botanical Paradise Sponsored by Quarryhill Botanical Garden and Strybing Arboretum Society with Bill Mc Namara.

May 16-June 3, 2002

Botanical and Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province at the Peak of Springtime Bloom. In support of The Nature Conservancy's Yunnan Project

Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup!

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find, visit and patronize these great nurseries. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

Diablo Valley College

321 Golf Club Road
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
(925) 685-1230 x478 or x443

Imagine being friends with all the big name horticultural stars who also give you unique access to unique plants and you're a plant propagation teacher. Sounds great, right? Well, for those of us who aren't like Kathy Echols, at least we have the opportunity to buy the often rare or uncommon results of her connections and classes DVC.

There are 2 sales in the Fall & 3 in the Spring. If you just can't wait for an official sale, Kathy often allows shoppers to come on Fridays during classes during the school year. You might want to call first, just to be sure.

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316
Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF
www.strybing.org

Strybing's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens. They focus on material that will do well in the Bay Area but there's always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, there are monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. The next sale is on November 10 and is the End-of-the-Season Sale. ✨

THE PLANT FORUM is a traditional feature of our monthly meetings. Members are strongly encouraged to bring new plants or old favorites from their gardens to tell about and share. What's old hat to you might be a brand new wonder to another member. What is putting on a display in **your** garden this summer? Bring it in and share it with us!



Pseudolarix amabilis

September Plant Forum

by Fred Coe

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of the following plant are available on our website at www.calhortsociety.org in the 'Plant Forum' section.

1. Streptocarpus 'Mary Sakamoto' - Cape Primrose

GESNERIACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

We've shown hybrids of these plants before but nothing to equal this plant. At first glance the large flower could be mistaken for a *Miltonia* (Pansy orchid) as it is well over 2 inches across, white with a cross band of pink. The plant had numerous bloom scapes, each with 2 or 3 buds. The ruffled, dark green foliage was quite compact, so all in all it was a wonderful plant. Like all streptocarpus plants it likes shade and fairly cool conditions. These plants will take several degrees of frost, so may be grown outdoors. Katherine lives in Pacifica, so the plant is happy. ✨

Seed Exchange Time

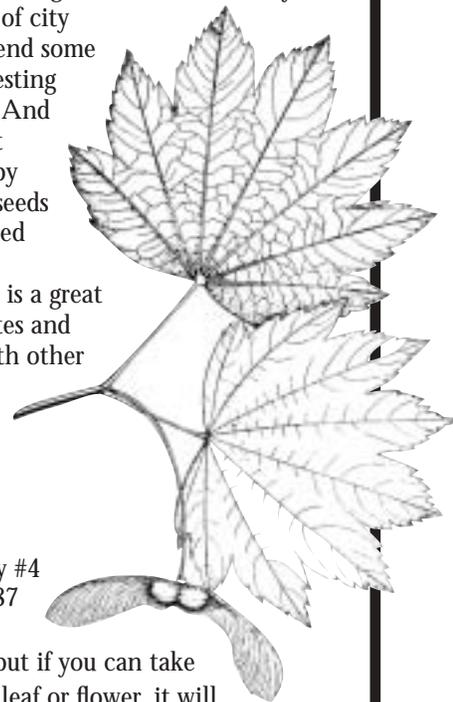
Harvest time has come again! What better way to relieve the daily stresses of city and work life than to spend some time in the garden harvesting this year's crop of seeds? And what better way to boost your karma rating than by donating some of those seeds to the Cal Hort 2000 Seed Exchange?

The Seed Exchange is a great way to share your favorites and even not-so-favorites with other members.

Any time before Thanksgiving, please send the seeds to:

Dave Tivol
130 Locksunart Way #4
Sunnyvale CA 94087

It's not mandatory, but if you can take a picture of the plant in leaf or flower, it will be posted on our web site, where it will help illustrate the beauty (or other pertinent feature) of the plant. To see how this will work, logon to our website at www.calhortsociety.org and go to last year's Exchange. If you have any questions, either ask Dave at the meeting or call or email Bruce Peters at (415) 824-1833, bruce@calhortsociety.org. ✨



New Arid House at UC Botanical Garden by Lisa van Cleef

For those gardeners who are as excited by tools and gear as they are by plants, the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley has a big treat for you—its new \$1 million-plus state-of-the-art Arid House is open.

Designed by Noll and Tam Architects of Berkeley, the 3,000 square-foot greenhouse incorporates a system of computers and electronics guaranteed to enthrall the technophiles and widget-inclined amongst us. And for those whose passion lies with the plants, this new building is a great vehicle for viewing the garden's world-class collection of over 3,000 cacti and succulents.

According to Cal Hort member Larry Lee, the Museum Scientist managing the collection, the computer system controls the fans, heating system, retractable shade screens, and humidity levels within the structure. Once the system has been accurately calibrated, no small challenge, it should maintain steady temperatures and climate conditions for the collection within by automatically making adjustments to compensate for any weather and light changes outside. (Of course, it can all be manually overridden should these best laid plans not work out. This is technology after all which is as buggy as gardening.)

The building is divided into three growing rooms. The first room which is at the far east end of the greenhouse, houses the elaborate panel of electronic controls Lee has had to conquer. This room is the cool night temperature room that will be allowed to get down to 45° at night in winter. The day temperatures can get as high as 100°.

The cacti kept in this room love high heat according to Lee and no adjustments are made as temperatures increase unless they surpass 110°. Exhaust fans will go on automatically at that point. Remarkably, some of the plants housed in this room date back to the 1930's when the University's Dr. Goodspeed began his pioneering field work collecting in South America.

The second room stores the succulents from South African and Madagascar, and some cacti. The minimum temperature in this room will be 50°. Unlike some of the cacti, the African succulents will not tolerate cold nights. This room and the first are filled with nifty rolling tables that pack snugly together for maximum storage capabilities.

The third room is the only one visitors can freely enter. This will house interpretive displays and large plants that can't be stolen easily. As anyone associated with a public garden knows all too well, theft is a sad reality and anything small enough to slip into a pocket or bag won't last long. This room will also be maintained as a warm house with a minimum temperature of 50°.

Lee says plans being discussed for this room include installing a small, naturalistic limestone outcropping for American Southwest cacti. There is also talk about allowing donors to sponsor tiles made by schoolchildren that will be used to pave the pathway within the room.

Running along the entire southern length of the greenhouse is a "viewing corridor," a long hall where visitors can look into the collections of the two rooms closed to the general public. Lee says the University will have interpretive signs along the length of the hall.

He points out that this is a vast improvement over the old greenhouse where it was nearly impossible for the public to see the collection. And no, viewing the collection from a few feet away is not as nice as strolling amongst the plants would be, but the collection is too dear with many type specimens as well as rare and endangered species to be open to the public.

The xerophytic fern garden, funded in part by Cal Hort a few years ago, has also been restored with the completion of the greenhouse. Bordering the southern exterior of the structure, these desert-dwelling ferns of the PTERIDACEAE family are found throughout the world and are particularly diverse in Mexico and the Southwest. Most of the ferns in this collection have not been grown in cultivation before.

Unlike most desert plants, these ferns are not succulents, but have developed other strategies for dealing with their harsh, dry natural environments. For example, the genus *Notholaena* has developed a waxy covering on the underside of its leaves that inhibits water loss. And, some species of *Pellaea* have leaves that can dry out and turn a dark olive green, only to return to a vibrant green once a heavy rainfall has occurred. The Botanical Garden is working to make these unusual ferns more readily available to the public.

Those of us working in older greenhouses will be taken by the shiny newness of this place. But don't be fooled, that beauty belies the enormous amount of work that went into, construction, and tending these plants in makeshift greenhouses. It's been a long haul to get this building completed, don't miss checking it out for yourself while it still gleams.

SUCCULENT AND CACTI FACTS

- Succulent is a descriptive term, not a plant family. The term refers to plants that have developed the ability to store water in their cells to survive the extreme droughts of their native environments. Approximately 20 different plant families have succulent members.

- Cacti are from the same family (CACTACEAE) and its members are found only in the Americas with the exception of a couple of species found in Madagascar whose seeds were thought to have been carried over by birds. All cacti are succulents storing water in their fleshy stems.

- Succulents store water in their leaves, stems and/or roots.

- Despite what they tell us in the Westens, there is no pool of water in the body of a barrel cactus. The water is held in the plant's tissue, not unlike a juicy melon.

- All cacti, except the most primitive species, have modified their leaves into spines to protect themselves from water-seeking predators.

Member Lisa Van Cleef writes the weekly Green Gardener column for the San Francisco Chronicle's online edition. Her column can be found at <http://www.sfgate.com/homeandgarden/greengardener>

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Horticultural Calendar

UC Davis Arboretum
(530) 752-4880

November 15

Recapping our Successes and Failures—Open forum for developing plant care strategies for 2002. SF Professional Gardener's Association. CCSF, 7-9PM. (415) 821-3760.

November 24–December 1

The Magic of Paris—Holiday traditions at Filoli. Party, luncheons, Evenings, Musicians, Choral Groups etc. After Oct. 15 call for reservations to (650) 364-8300 x 508.

February 22-23, 2002

8th Xeriscape Conference—by The Xeriscape Council of NM at the Albuquerque Convention Center. Conference details and registration info: <http://www.xeriscapenm.com>.

Strybing Arboretum Society
(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

November 20

Peonies for the Bay Area—Slide illustrated talk with Kelly Dodson, November's Cal Hort speaker. Many peonies come from the northern rim of the Mediterranean Sea, including species well suited to Bay Area growing conditions. 7-9PM, SAS trailer, Co-sponsored with Cal Hort, SAS/Cal Hort members \$8, non-members \$10.

November 11

Fall foliage color—free public tour with Docent Dee Goldberg will show the trees in the Arboretum's Asian collection. 2:00 pm from Arboretum Headquarters

November 14

Lunchtime Stroll—Join Superintendent Warren Roberts for the first lunchtime stroll of the season. noon at Arboretum Headquarters.

November 15

Small-scale ecological restoration—John Anderson will discuss using landscapes for wildlife habitat and to preserve native species 7:00 p.m., at the Veteran's Memorial Club Room, 203 E. 14th Street, Davis. Free and open to the public.

HORT NOTES: The UC Santa Cruz has appointed Daniel Harder as Director of the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. Formerly an associate curator at the Missouri Botanical Garden, Harder assumed his position at UCSC in October.

<http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum/>

■ We are pleased to announce your plant sales and special events in our monthly *Bulletin*, **however**, we must receive the information **no later** than the 15th of the month preceding your event in order to put it into the *Bulletin* in time. Thank you.

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Dues for 2002 are now due and payable. Members are requested to use the dues form for remittance. A return envelope to Elsie Mueller, 1847 34th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122 is enclosed for your convenience. Those interested in providing additional funds to expand the work of the society are invited to do so by choosing special categories of membership. Endowment

and Grant funds are tax-deductible. If you wish your *Bulletin* to be mailed to you first class for speedier delivery, please add \$3.00 to your membership remittance. For those who wish to have their membership card mailed to them, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Other membership cards will be available at the desk at the monthly meeting.

Board action requires that student members are enrolled in a full-time accredited horticultural program and that they may be classified in the student membership status category for a maximum of five years.

Be sure to pick up your 2002 membership card promptly so you will not be delayed in presenting it for admission to the monthly meetings.

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Please detach at dotted line and mail in enclosed envelope to: Elsie Mueller, Secy., 1847 34th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122-4109

Membership Dues

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">o \$40.00 Single Membershipo \$50.00 Joint Membership
(two in same household or corporation)o \$40.00 Internationalo \$25.00 Student Membershipo \$75.00 Horticultural Business (per location, 2 cards, additional separate entry in directory) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Additional contribution to Grants/Scholarship Fundo Add \$3 if you wish 1st Class mailing for Bulletin.o \$100.00 Sustaining Membershipo \$200.00 Supporting Membershipo \$400.00 Life Membership, Individualo \$600.00 Life Membership, Jointo \$1,000.00 Endowment (Including Life Membership) |
|---|--|

Make checks and money orders payable to: **California Horticultural Society**

Kindly return this statement with your remittance - your current name and address appears on the back. If it does not, or if it's changed, please fill out the following:

_____ Zip + 4: _____
Phone _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Host a Speaker

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a monthly speaker. Many of our speakers live out of town or the state and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to stay for one night with one of our members and perhaps enjoy their garden or another if time is available. Please contact Barbara Hopper (707) 833-2078 or Bruce Peters (415) 824-1833, bruce@calhortsociety.org.

The California Horticultural Society gratefully acknowledges the generous contributions from members providing funds to expand the work of our Society:

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Marjory Harris

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Deadline for publication is the third Monday of each month for the following month's *Bulletin*. Events during the first ten days of the month should be remitted *two* months ahead. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to Bruce at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (w/ proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call the Office secretary at the number above.

ADVERTISING: Rates: \$60 for a business card size (3 3/4" w x 2" h), \$75 for 1/8 page (3 3/4" w x 2 1/2" h), \$150 for 1/4 page (3 3/4" w x 5" h). Submit ads or questions to *Bulletin* Editor at above postal or email address.

California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, CA 94118

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