



# Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

*Cultivating Friendship, gardens and fun for over 75 years*

Next Monthly General Meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:15 pm

November/December 2009

Volume 76, Issue 11

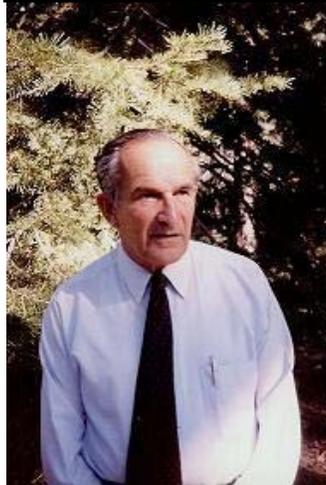
Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building and are co-sponsored by the SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Parking is available behind the SF Co. Fair Building on Lincoln Way.

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

\*\*\*Members free

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

## November's Program: November 16, 2009 Ernest Wertheim and CalHort – 1939 to 2009



Still an active and prominent Landscape Architect, Ernest will provide us with highlights of his career and his long involvement with CalHort (several times President) as well as CalHort's impact on gardening and horticulture in the Bay Area. Included will be anecdotes of his training in pre-WWII Germany, his arrival and work in the Bay Area prior to WWII, the early years of CalHort and its founding members,

CalHort's early field trips, the horticultural impact of the 1939 World's Fair on Treasure Island, the founding of the Strybing Arboretum Society by CalHort members, his introduction of *Vireya* Rhododendrons, the Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation and the nursery industry.

### Friends of Elsie A Special Event

Nov 16, 2009, 5:30 – 7 pm  
Rec Room, County Fair Building  
9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln, GG Park  
Join us for an intimate special dinner to honor and thank our friend Elsie Mueller, recently retired after 44 years as Secretary of CalHort. Wine and beverages, light supper & dessert; \$25.00 per person (cash or check. Sorry no credit cards.)  
Reservations should be paid by November 1st. Attendees may then cross over to the Assembly Room for the November CalHort meeting and listen to Ernest Wertheim's much anticipated presentation. There will be NO WALK in the garden with Ernest before the meeting and no speaker's dinner, because Ernest will be attending Elsie's party. If people wish to walk, the garden awaits their pleasure.  
Info: Bobbi Feyerabend, 510-450-0803, bobbi@fmlanddesign.com

## January's meeting January 18, 2010

**Program: The Rhododendron Species Foundation - an up-and-coming garden and world class collection shown from the perspective of a plant hunter.**

Steve Hootman is the Co-Executive Director & Curator of the Rhododendron Species Botanical Garden in Federal Way, Washington. He has participated in or led over a dozen expeditions into remote regions of Asia looking for rare and new taxa of rhododendrons and other plants, and is considered one of the world's authorities on the genus. He is also an active collector, authority and promoter of related members of the Ericaceae family including genera such as *Vaccinium*, *Agapetes* and *Gaultheria*. Steve is currently working on his Ph.D. in Botanical Systematics at the University of Washington.

### 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. Last month's donations were made by The **San Francisco Botanical Garden** and **Kristin Yanker-Hansen**.

This month's contributions will be made by **Suncrest Nursery** and **The San Francisco Botanical Garden**. We also encourage members to donate overstocks of their own plants.

**Please patronize these corporate supporters of CalHort!**

### Holiday Sale: CalHort Accessories

For that person on your shopping list who has everything, consider a CalHort T-shirt, apron or tote bag, featuring our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary design.

These items will be available for purchase at the November meeting for the **reduced price of \$5**, and are a great way to support our mission.

### New Bulletin Editor

Tyler Cutforth has volunteered as the new editor for the CalHort newsletter. A west coast native originally from Vancouver, Canada, he holds a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology from U.C. Berkeley, has been an avid gardener for the past two years and propagates native grasses at the SF Botanical Garden nursery. Send your comments/suggestions for the newsletter to [editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org) or [tyler.cutforth@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.cutforth@gmail.com).

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

### ***Cantua buxifolia*, The Sacred Flower of the Andes** **Family: Polemoniaceae**

In honor of our September speaker, who spoke about plant exploration in the Andes, I couldn't help but immediately think of *Cantua buxifolia*. This wonderful shrub comes from several countries in the Andes, and does very well in California. Like most plants that do well here, it prefers at least some direct sun (less inland where it may burn), little to moderate watering and a medium to rich soil mix. Its long branches often arch over with the weight of its flowers, eventually reaching a height of 7 to 8 feet. I doubt that this plant lives at particularly high elevations, since it is reported to be hardy to only about 35°F. The flowers are wonderfully pinkish-red (cerise?) tubes with flared ends, and they sway festively in the breeze.



Photo by Ted Kipping

Of course with a name like 'Sacred Flower of the Incas' comes an accompanying legend. Like most legends, this one includes war between two people with large egos, involvement of multiple generations, lots of bloodshed and sorrow, with eventual forgiveness and tears of regret. The tears produced the flowers of *Cantua* as a symbol of peace/hope/unity (select one). I realize that I have given you a very bare-bones version of this complicated legend. I don't mean to be flip about anyone's legends, but I am always skeptical when I cannot find a documented source for such a story.

**November 18, Wednesday evening, 7:00PM**

Exploring Chihuahua and Copper Canyon with Ted Kipping—The Kippings' potluck/slideshows. Please bring a dish for 8 people to share. At the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Lincoln Way, (415) 753-7090.

**December 9, Wednesday afternoon, 1:00PM – 3:00PM**

Sudden Oak Death Preventative Treatment—A free training session for homeowners and professionals. By the California Oak Mortality Task Force at Tolman Hall Portico, U.C. Berkeley, Hearst Avenue at Arch/Le Conte, Berkeley, CA. Register by e-mail at [SODtreatment@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:SODtreatment@nature.berkeley.edu).

**January 13, Wednesday evening, 7:30PM**

The Aesthetics of Sustainability: What is Good Garden Photography?—Presented by Saxon Holt. Come learn the techniques of good garden photography and how to look at your garden in a new light. Western Horticultural Society at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7:00 PM, meeting starts promptly at 7:30 PM. Members free, non-members \$5.

THE GARDENS AT HEATHER FARM  
(925) 947-1678 • [www.gardenshf.org](http://www.gardenshf.org)

**November 14 and 15, Saturday and Sunday, 10:00AM – 4:00PM**

Edible Plants of the Bay Area: Identification and Preparation—Saturday will be spent at Mt. Diablo learning to identify many of the most commonly encountered wild edibles in the region. Sunday will be spent preparing and sampling a number of tasty wild food dishes. With Glenn Keator. Bring lunch both days and water on Saturday. 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Members \$100, non-members \$125.

U.C. BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY  
(510) 643-2755 • [www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu](http://www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu)

**November 15, Sunday afternoon, 1:00PM – 3:00PM**

Making Local Traditional Brine Fermented Olives—Learn the art of curing olives with Jennifer House and Kathleen Elliot. You'll learn about growing olives at home, sorting fresh olives, curing olives and recipes to use with your olives. 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Members \$30, non-members \$35.

**November 18, Wednesday evening, 6:00PM – 7:30PM**

Bats in the Garden—Join the “Bat Lady” Patricia Winters for an informative presentation in the garden on bats. A short lecture and presentation will be followed by a viewing of a variety of live bats. 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM. Members \$12, non-members \$15.

SF BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY  
(415) 661-1316 • [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org)

**November 21, Saturday morning, 9:00AM – 12:30PM**

Garden-Style Propagation—Class with Don Mahoney will emphasize propagation methods that bring success to the amateur gardener. Class will include hands-on practice of taking cuttings and sowing seed. 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM. Members \$20, non-members \$30.

**December 16, Wednesday evening, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**

A Chocolate Tasting Event—Join Brad Kintzer of TCHO Chocolates as he shares a presentation about the botany and cultural history of *Theobroma cacao* and its long and complex journey from pod to chocolate. You'll then enjoy a tasting of origin chocolates, gaining an understanding of the importance of post-harvest processing and quality finishing. 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Members \$15, non-members \$20

**January 16, Saturday morning, 10:00AM – 12:00PM**

Attracting Native Bees to Your Yard—Dr. Gordon Frankie of U.C. Berkeley will discuss some of the more common species, as well as the plants and gardening practices which will encourage bees to take up residence in your garden. 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Members \$25, non-members \$30.

U.C. DAVIS ARBORETUM  
(530)752-4880 • [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

**November 14, Saturday, 11:00AM**

Guided Tour: Fall Pruning for the Home Gardener—Learn the finer points of fall pruning, easy techniques that anyone can use to enhance the form and beauty of plants. At the Gazebo, Garrod Drive, 11:00 AM. Free.

**Don't forget to save your seeds...**

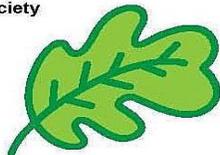
Seeds collected and turned in by the November meeting are put on the Seed Exchange list in our January Bulletin, for distribution in March. The more people participating by sharing their seeds, the better the list.

Turn in your clean seeds, any hard-copy photos and brief description/care to Dave Tivol at any CalHort meeting or by mail to Dave at:

Dave Tivol  
130 Locksunart Way #4  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087



**The California Horticultural Society**  
 San Francisco County Fair Building  
 9TH Avenue & Lincoln Way  
 San Francisco, CA 94122  
[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

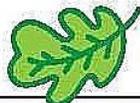


### CalHort Needs Volunteers

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](http://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

Bulletin Editor  
[editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org)

Calendar Editor  
 Kathy Dahlin  
[calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)

**President**

Open - shared by all council

**Vice President**

Open

**Past President**

Ellen Frank

**Recording Secretaries**

Andy Stone

**Corresponding Secretary**

Barbara Hopper  
[Jbhopper@calhortsociety.org](mailto:Jbhopper@calhortsociety.org)

**Treasurer**

Jan Hamby

**Parliamentarian**

Jan Hamby

**Membership**

Cindy O'Donnell  
[Membership@calhortsociety.org](mailto:Membership@calhortsociety.org)

**Executive Council**

**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  
 Ted Kipping

**2009 - 2011**

First Term  
 Demi Bowles-Lathrop  
 Cindy O'Donnell

