

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, November 21, 2011 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.

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

5:30 PM – No-host dinner will take place at Park Chow Restaurant, located at 1240 Ninth Avenue in San Francisco.

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

**Plant of the Month**

*Dahlia imperialis*



**NOVEMBER 21, 2011 MEETING**  
**From Sculpting Stone to Landscapes**  
with Peter Hanson



A fascination with form and beauty led Peter on a journey from carving stone into sculptures, fountains and furniture, to designing the garden spaces they inhabit. This evolved into an awareness of the potential for a garden space to be experienced as a sculpture “in itself,” not merely as a visual object, but as a space to live in and move through. Garden elements such as plants, walls, paths and trellises can transcend their functional roles to

become sculptural forms that participate in the over arching sculptural gestures of the space. In this way, garden design is elevated to the level of “art” while remaining grounded in the needs and aspirations of outdoor living.

**JANUARY 16, 2012 MEETING**  
**Aloes of South Africa’s Winter Rainfall Region**  
by Brian Kemble

South Africa is home to many species in the genus *Aloe*, including a diverse assortment occurring in the winter-rain region along the west coast. These species have a particular relevance to gardeners in California because the same cycle of dry summers and rainy winters is found here. Brian will discuss *Aloe distans* as well as many unknown but useful species for our climate.

## Early Fall

### HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

#### WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, November 9; 12 NOON  
Gazebo, Garrod Drive, UC Davis

Join Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus Warren Roberts for a lunchtime stroll in the UC Davis Arboretum. Enjoy the crisp fall weather, explore the pleasures of the autumn garden and get a little exercise. Meet at noon at the Gazebo, on Garrod Drive on the UC Davis campus.  
(530) 752-4880. [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu).

#### BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION: AUTUMN LEAVES

with Lee McCaffree

Sunday, November 13; 10 AM-4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Fall foliage offers a brilliant color palette to catch our eye, but a graphite drawing or green leaf can be just as fascinating. Expert Lee McCaffree will instruct students on the structure of leaves as students draw and paint them. \$80, \$75 members. All levels are welcome. Pre-registration required.  
(510) 643-2755 Ext. 03. [ucbg\\_info@berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbg_info@berkeley.edu)

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVES:

#### PLANTS AND PEOPLE TOUR FOR KIDS

Saturday, November 19; 1-2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

How could people get everything they need from the natural environment without stores? Learn about the plants used by California Indians for food, shelter, clothing, tools, medicine, games and music. Join the Garden as we explore the varied customs and skills of California's earliest inhabitants. \$15 for each adult and child, \$12 members; \$5 each additional person. Pre-registration recommended.  
(510) 643-2755 Ext. 03. [ucbg\\_info@berkeley.edu](mailto:ucbg_info@berkeley.edu)

#### GUIDED TOUR:

#### CONTAINER PLANTS FOR WINTER COLOR

Saturday, November 19; 2 PM

UC Davis Arboretum, Arboretum Terrace Garden,  
Davis Commons, First and D Streets, Davis

Planting in containers is a great way to create a garden in a small space and enliven a deck or patio or create a lush oasis while conserving water. Learn about container gardening for winter color during a free public tour at the UC Davis Arboretum.  
(530) 752-4880. [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu).

#### SUCCULENT HOLIDAY CENTERPIECES DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, November 19; 2-4 pm

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

Come and learn how to design beautiful, creative and long lasting succulent centerpieces that are sure to delight your guests this holiday season. \$20 RBG or Garden Conservancy Members; \$25 General Admission.  
(925) 944-9352. [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

#### CLOUD FORESTS OF EASTERN ECUADOR

Potluck\*/Slideshow with Ronn Patterson

Tuesday, November 22; 7 PM

San Francisco County Fair Building,  
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park.

\*Please bring a dish or a beverage to serve eight.

#### WINTER SURVIVAL AT RBG

Saturday, December 3; 10 AM-12 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

Come see how we survive the wet and cold winters at The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Each year we install an elaborate system of covers to protect our precious collection of plants. Learn what types of covers we use for which plants and why we use the materials we do. \$20 for RBG or Garden Conservancy Members; \$25 for General Admission. Sponsored by the Contra Costa Water District.  
(925) 944-9352. [www.ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org).

## Mark Your Calendars!

The March 19, 2012, monthly meeting will be held at a different location—the Multi-Use Building at San Francisco City College. The 4 PM walk will start at the Environmental Horticulture building at 50 Phelan Street. Dinner will be made available through the restaurant classes at the college. Parking will be made available at the MUB Parking Lot. Our speaker will be Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Denver Botanic Gardens Outreach on “The Steppe Sisters,” a talk based on the little recognized fact that all mediterranean climates are steppe climates. More details will be available in the next newsletter so please look out for it.

*A semi-arid climate or steppe climate describes climatic regions that receive precipitation below potential evapotranspiration, but not extremely. A more precise definition is given by the Köppen climate classification that treats steppe climates as intermediates between desert climates and humid climates in ecological characteristics and agricultural potential. Semi-arid climates tend to support short or scrubby vegetation, with semi-arid areas usually being dominated by either grasses or shrubs. —Wikipedia*

## Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

*Dahlia imperialis*, the tree dahlia

Family: ASTERACEAE

Every November and December there is an annual horticultural cliffhanger that keeps me riveted to the garden. This is the time of year that the tree dahlia finally flowers after growing to huge proportions all summer and fall. It is also the time of year for frosts and high winds, both of which can destroy the buds and blossoms overnight. I console myself by saying that even if the flowers are demolished, which happens fairly often in windy San Francisco, the tropical-looking foliage is attractive on its own.

If you have a sunny, sheltered, relatively frost-free spot in your garden, you can try this fast growing perennial. It is easily propagated from stem cuttings as long as the cutting includes at least one or two growth nodes. Just stick one end into the soil, keep it lightly moist, and it will start sprouting leaves. If the meteorological stars align and your plant flowers, you will enjoy masses of downward pointing pinkish lavender flowers on the top of the plant, anywhere from 8 to 15 feet above the ground.

Native to highlands of Mexico and Guatemala, the tree dahlia enjoys cooler temperatures and moderate watering, and does well in almost any soil type. Young plants need protection from snails and slugs, but once they are larger, they tend to be pest-free.



Two forms of *Dahlia imperialis*

*Dahlia imperialis* has been grown in gardens since the 1860s, and there are both white and pink forms, as well as double flowering forms. Like all dahlias, it is named after Anders Dahl, a Swedish botanist of the eighteenth century.

## THE TIME HAS COME . . .

. . . for you to gather the ripe seeds from your garden and bring them to the October or November meeting or mail your seed donations to:

Dave Tivol  
130 Locksunart Way #4  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

All seeds are welcome additions to the 2012 Seed Exchange List. Cal Hort members have especially asked for Cyclamen, Gomphrena, and Lilies (*L. rubrum* in particular), along with woodland plants, conifers, fruits and vegetables, and summer-dry natives of California, South Africa, Australia, and northern Mexico.

Please get your donation to Dave by the end of November in order to allow enough time to prepare the Seed List for our January Bulletin.



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

[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

**Monthly Plant Drawing News**

Thanks once again to Don Mahoney and the San Francisco Botanical Garden, as well as all others, for plants donated for our drawing. This feature of our meeting creates great camaraderie and laughter among our members. A special thanks to Emily Griswold of UC Davis for the acorns she brought to the meeting.

To join the California Horticultural Society, 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.

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](mailto: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.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone or at any Cal Hort meeting.

It's membership renewal time. Current members will soon be receiving your annual notice of renewal due January 1st. Look for it in your mail within the next month.

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.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
 2008-2010 (Second Term) Jim Budke  
 2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop  
 2010-2012 (First Term) Mike Craib  
 2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,  
 Andy Stone, Dave Tivol  
 2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor,  
 Mary TeSelle

COUNCIL	
President	Open
Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Jim Budke
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

BULLETIN EDITOR  
[editor@calhortsociety.org](mailto:editor@calhortsociety.org)

CALENDAR EDITOR  
[calendar@calhortsociety.org](mailto:calendar@calhortsociety.org)