



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122

October 20, 2003

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 Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave., San Francisco.

7:15 PM Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

***Guest fee \$5.

Coming Programs
Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, October 20, 2003

“Botany in South Africa at 60 Miles an Hour: Plant I.D. in the Fast Lane”

An upscale botanical tour of South Africa, the Cape regions from N.W. to S.E. and Karoo Mountain region included. This is an awesomely bio-diverse area of an estimated 9,000 species of vascular plants in a semi-arid climate. Each individual plant that we saw, each colony of plants, each vignette or scene was rabidly photographed from every conceivable angle by the six of us. Richard Ward will talk about the Kogelberg Biosphere Reserve, considered by many to be the heart of the Cape flora. We'll take a quick tour through the woodland, montane, and riverine habitats, considering the Proteaceae and Bruniaceae and select floristic oddities as we go. And lest we become too “floricentric,” we'll take a look at a few of the smaller fauna. (Alison Graff); There Is a New Salvia! (Betsy Clebsch); I just went along for the ride and what a ride it was! Botany at 60 miles per hour led by the best in South Africa and in the company of the finest from California. Loved it! (Jana Olson); Peregrinating and persnickety pedant pursued a peripheral passion for purple pellies. (Robin Parer); Common and lesser known Proteaceae of the Western Cape in habitat and at the Kirstenbosch Gardens; or why aren't we growing Mimetes in California (David Feix).

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In October, the drawing will include donations from **Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney and **Suncrest Nursery** courtesy of Michael Craib. Our appreciation to **Cottage Garden Growers of Petaluma**, courtesy of Bruce and Daria Shanks and to **Strybing Arboretum**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the September meeting.

Monday, November 17, 2003

“All Plants Strange and Wonderful”

Presented by

Lawrence Lee, UC Botanical Garden, Horticulturist & New Plants Program Coordinator
& owner of 'Plantopia Nursery'

Strange is not always wonderful but it can be! Join Lawrence Lee for a celebration of some weird, bizarre, and simply wonderful members of the plant kingdom suitable for home and garden. Many rare and little known perennials, succulents, bulbs, grasses, shrubs, and subtropicals will be covered including some oddities recommended by well known and off-beat horticulturists and garden connoisseurs. A choice selection of these unusual and uncommonly beautiful plants will be offered for sale by Plantopia Nursery, “where all plants strange and wonderful find a home.”

President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly. "One must also have freedom, sunshine and a little flower."

So *The Gardener's Guide to Life* quotes Hans Christian Anderson. I don't recall which of the tales that comes from, but butterflies have been on my mind. You may remember that last month I told you about my volunteer anise plants ("Weeds! I can't believe you're letting weeds grow," said my sweet spouse) that I was keeping in hopes of Swallowtail larvae settling on them. Well, patience is rewarded! I have at least four large eating-machines and several small ones coming along! Now if only the *Asclepias tuberosa* will attract a Monarch my dreams will be fulfilled!

These warm days have been lovely for us here in Scenic Pacifica. I have spent several hours sitting in the garden listening to the waterfall, the birds and the bees. Watching the bees and skippers and the Western Painted Lady butterflies working over the heliotrope and the *Nepeta* on a warm afternoon is positively delicious! I've been collecting seed,

too. The *Asclepias* has seeds with fluffy parachutes, which make it tricky to catch. I'll probably have some volunteers of that next year! The *Sisyrinchium californicum*, *Lapeirousia* (*Anomatheca laxa*) and Oriental poppy have been generous, as has the *Dierama* and a few *Alstroemeria*. Then I had to spend some time looking up their proper spellings! It is very hard to be indoors on such lovely days.

Our speaker for the September meeting was Lauren Springer. If you were there, you know she is a very animated speaker and very intense in her presentation encouraging a gardener to keep it natural and relaxed enough that one can be truly experience being in the garden, not just passing through. If you weren't there, you missed a very good program.

October's program will feature six of our members impressions and observations of a botanical tour of South Africa. The title, "Plant I.D. in the Fast Lane" is intriguing, and I'm looking forward to it, I hope you are, too. Please join us for The Walk and dinner, I look forward to seeing you!

HELP!

Being a volunteer-run organization, Cal Hort is always in need of people with various skills and talents to help out. Look below to see how you can help our Society to grow!

Hospitality Committee: We are starting a new committee to help new members get a feel for our meetings. Tasks include showing new members the different areas and aspects of the monthly meetings and just helping them feel comfortable and welcome. This is a great way to get to know new people and have fun at the same time. The only pre-requisite is having attended one previous meeting. Contact Renee (reneef@worldpassage.net) or Diana (lambeaux@pacbell.net) for info.

Open Garden Coordinator: We're looking to start up our popular Open Gardens Program where members open their gardens on specific days to other members. This is a great 'tidy-up' motivator and also a great way to share our gardens and see different garden styles. Contact Renee (reneef@worldpassage.net) if interested in opening your garden or coordinating the openings.

Newsletter: The *Bulletin* is always happy to accept stories, articles or fun garden-related tidbits. If you would like to start a column, write something or even just run across an interesting item, share it with the rest of us! Contact Bruce at editor@calhortsociety.org or (415) 824-1833.



Sunday Garden Market

9am to 3pm every Sunday
at the Ferry Building

Plants & Flowers
direct from the growers

Free
Gardening Lecture at 11am

(415) 353-5650
www.cuesa.org

Botanical Tours

August 18–September 2, 2003
October 11–12, 2003

Cal Hort Tour: ONLY 5 SPACES LEFT! Private gardens and nurseries of Monterey, Soquel, Watsonville, Half Moon Bay and Carmel. Leaders: Barbara and John Hopper. (707) 833-2078 to register. Check www.calhortsociety.org for full itinerary.

January 22–February 4, 2004
Drakensbergs—a floral

treasure—South Africa in Summer. In support of The Botanical Society of South Africa for flora conservation.

May 11–23, 2004

Botanical Excursion in Eastern Macedonia & Thrace (Northeastern Greece) with noted greek botanist George Sfikas & Richard Turner. A *Pacific Horticulture* tour.

May 16–June 3, 2004

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces. Escorted by Kristin Yanker-Hansen in support of California Horticultural Society. www.calhortsociety.org for full itinerary.

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

August Plant Forum

by Jason Dewees

1. **Hibiscus poeppegii**

MALVACEAE

Emerisa Nursery, Santa Rosa

A Florida native with flowers in a bell form. It has irritating hairs and its hardiness is unknown.

2. **Daphne caucasica**

THYMELAEACEAE

Emerisa Nursery, Santa Rosa

This evergreen shrub blooms all season with white, fragrant flowers. It grows to about 3' x 3'. See photo below.

3. **Dicentra 'Snowflakes'**

FUMARIACEAE

Emerisa Nursery, Santa Rosa

This bleeding heart has fragrant white flowers and a spreading habit. It likes part shade and shade/woodland environments. It blooms all summer long.

4. **Vitex rotundifolia**

VERBENEACEAE

Emerisa Nursery, Santa Rosa

This evergreen ground cover sprawls to make a dense ground cover. It is native to Korean beach dunes and does well in lean sandy soil in full sun. The leaves are aromatic and the flowers are purple/lavender tip clusters.

5. **Hydrangea paniculata 'Zwijenburg'**

HYDRANGEACEAE (SAXIFRAGACEAE)

Emerisa Nursery, Santa Rosa

Also known as 'Limelight.' Flowers hold chartreuse color well. Upright shrub, summer-fall



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www.anniesannuals.com

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

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's putting on a display in your garden this fall? Bring it in a share it with us!

September Plant Forum

by Don Mahoney

1. **Gymnocalycius sp.**

CACTACEAE

Tina Saravia, Sunset District, San Francisco (indoors)

This genus of cactus is a wonderful group of plants for the window sill gardener. They are forgiving plants that tolerate very little water, although they don't mind regular water. They are almost all small and have pale pink flowers. This particular species has darker pink flowers than most. The grafted pink and red-bodied cactus available commonly at nurseries are also in this genus. Most members of the genus are under 3 inches wide at 20 years old. Most are native to Argentina and can be grown outdoors if kept dry in the wintertime. See photo below.

2. **Haemanthus magnificus**

Giant Stove Brush

AMARYLLIDACEAE

Barbara Hopper, Kenwood

This genus includes about 60 species of bulbous herbs native to Africa. Leaves are basal, flowers red or white in dense umbellate heads or terminal on a solid scape. This species is similar to *H. natchensis*, but the 6-8 spathe valves are bright green. Included in group called Blood Lily. Grown for summer and autumn bloom. Likes night temperatures 50-55° F. Bulbs need rest over winter. It has been a faithful bloomer for the past 4 years.



Gymnocalycius sp.



Daphne caucasica

Horticultural Calendar

Every Sunday

Gardener Talks—Various speakers and topics. 11 AM, at the S.F. Ferry Plaza. Free. (415) 353-5650 or www.cuesa.org

October 11 & 12

Bonsai Show—East Bay Bonsai Society. Lakeside Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. Sat 10 AM-5 PM, Sun 11 AM-4:30 PM. Free. (925) 284-5685.

October 16

Ponds & Other Water Elements—R. Broucuret, SF Professional Gardener's Assn. SF City College 7-9 PM. (415) 558-8036

October 23-26

Marketing Urban Forestry—California Urban Forest Conference, Long Beach Hilton. www.caufc.org

November 1

Plant Sale—Diablo Valley College Fall plant sale featuring unusual and new perennials, tree, shrubs and much more. 9 AM - 1 PM at DVC, 321 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill. (925) 685-1230 ext 2443 or 2478.

November 29 - December 6

Holiday Traditions at Filoli—This year's theme is 'Opening Night,' with classic cars, bejeweled decorations, and tasty treats. Don't miss the party, tickets to the public go on sale October 15. For more information call (650) 366-7836 or visit www.filoli.org.

U.C. Davis Arboretum

(530) 752-4880

www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

October 15 - December 3

Volunteer at the Arboretum—Training course for new volunteers interested in being Naturalists, Nursery Assistants or Gardeners. Topics include CA ecology, CA native plants, propagation techniques and Central Valley gardening. 9 AM - Noon. Members \$45, non-members \$55. For more information, contact Amy McGuire at (530) 754-9126 or almcguire@ucdavis.edu.

October 18

Great Plants for Fall—Tour the Terrace Garden for a focus on fall blooming plants. 11 AM at the Arboretum Terrace Garden. Free

October 19

Plan and Plant Now for Your Spring Garden—Join docent Lois Crowe for a garden tour and discussion on planting during the cool season for a wonderful spring bloom. 2 PM at the Arboretum Terrace Garden. Free

Strybing Arboretum Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

October 11

Plant Sale—Featuring trees, ferns and Rhododendrons. 10 AM - 1 PM at the Strybing Nursery.

October 18

Planting Bulbs for the Bay Area—Anthony Skittone

discusses the buying, planting, growing and propagation of bulbs suitable for the SF Bay Area. 9:30 AM - 1 PM. Members \$40, non-members \$50.

October 30 - December 11

Introduction to Botany—Increase your gardening skills by understanding how plants work with this six session/two field-trip course. Glenn Keator instructs. 6:30 - 9 PM. Members \$225, non-members \$250.

November 18

Peonies for the SF Bay Area—Wayne Demmel will lecture and show slides on the many varieties of species peonies, which are suitable for growing in our area. 7 - 9 PM at the County Fair Building. Members \$15, non-members \$20.

The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org.

October 11

Bonsai for Beginners—Learn the fine art of Japanese Bonsai with Mike Baresi. 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Members \$25, non-members \$30, plus a \$20 materials fee.

October 18

Using Native Plants in the Landscape—Michael Thilgen discusses effective ways to design with or simply include CA natives in your garden. 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. Members \$15, non-members \$20.

October 22

Fruit Trees—If you've ever wondered which fruit trees grow and produce the best in the SF Bay Area, here is the class for you. With Bethallyn Black-Rogers. 7 - 9 PM. Members \$15, non-members \$20.

U.C. Botanical Garden

(510) 643-2755 • www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

First Saturday of the Month

Sick Plant Clinic—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM - Noon. Free. No reservations required.

October 18

Autumn in Asia—Join Horticulturist Elaine Sedlack for a tour of the Asian Area in full fall bloom. 9 - 11 AM. Members are free, non-members \$5, includes garden admission. Registration is required.

November 1

Carnivorous Plants Workshop—Please see web site for more information. 10 AM - Noon. Members \$25, non-members \$35, includes garden admission. Registration is required.

November 8

Walking Tour of Gymnosperms—Take a tour with Chris Carmichael to explore the many kinds of cone-bearing plants found in the botanical garden. 10 - 11:30 AM. Members free, non-members \$5, includes garden admission. Registration is required.

Hort Notes continued at bottom of following page

Alcatraz Gardening

The Garden Conservancy and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, with the endorsement of the National Park Service, are taking the first steps towards stabilizing and restoring the gardens of Alcatraz Island.

The Parks Conservancy has funded a part-time horticulturist position and Deborah Lindsay has accepted this position. Her goals for the first phase of the project are to stabilize the sallyport area, recruit volunteers, arrange tool and composting needs and plan for stabilization and restoration of additional areas. She will work one day-per-week beginning October 1.

She is actively recruiting volunteers for an Alcatraz garden work crew. If you know of anyone who might be interested in this volunteer opportunity, or any vehicle for getting this information to others, please pass this information along. You can learn more about this at <http://www.nps.gov/goga/vip/vip-ads/index.htm>

The Garden Conservancy Fall newsletter will feature an article on the gardens of Alcatraz and this new partnership.

Please contact Deborah Lindsay (dlindsay@parksconservancy.org) if you have questions about volunteering for this project.

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HORT NOTES:

■ **UCSC FARM AND GARDEN APPRENTICESHIP:** April 2004. Application deadline Nov. 1, 2003. Full-time, 6 month training course in organic gardening and farming. Several scholarships available. Apprenticeship info. Center for Agroecology 1156 High St., Santa Cruz, CA 95064. (831) 459-4140. www.ucsc.edu/casfs/training. apprenticeship@ucsc.edu

■ **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Assistant Horticulturist, California Native Section & Tanglewood - University of California, Berkeley. <http://jobs.berkeley.edu>. Indicate job code 326. AA/EOE or contact Anthony Garza, Supervisor of Horticulture and Grounds at the UC Botanical Garden. (510) 643-2401; garzajr@uclink.berkeley.edu.

■ **JOB OPPORTUNITY:** Horticulturist, Mediterranean & Eastern North American sections UC Berkeley. Job Code 386. Same contact info as above.

■ **CA NATURAL HISTORY GUIDES:** The University of California Press announces a major publishing initiative to re-launch the popular CA Natural History Guides, revising and updating older volumes in the series, with designs that include substantially more illustrations and color.

Seed collecting

Your fellow members of Cal Hort would be delighted to find any of the following seeds in next year's exchange! If you are growing (or have other means of access to) any of these types of plants, please take a little time to collect the seed. Your fellow Cal Hort members will thank you!

- wild-collected trees, shrubs, groundcovers - with source location
- drought and heat tolerant plants
- South African bulbs
- South African shrubs
- plants for shade
- plants for containers
- plants for rock gardens
- California natives
- California native rushes and sedges
- grasses
- conifers
- palms
- restios
- salvias
- verbascums

Agastache
Lycopersicon esculentum (heirloom tomato) "Marianna's Peace"
Paeonia californica
Tropaeolum speciosum
Tropaeolum tricolor

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 could be posted on our web site, where it would help illustrate the beauty (or other pertinent feature) of the plant. Digital photos can be sent to seeds@calhortsociety.org. Prints can be sent in with seeds; we will digitize them and return the originals. Thanks for supporting our Seed Exchange!

Please welcome to the following new members to the California Horticultural Society.

Marilyn Brackett	Charles Mann
Chuck Caudle	Charmaine Metcalf
Zhijian Chen	Stu Penfield
Leslie Davis	Teryl M. Phillips
Darrel DeBoer	Cecelia Pleshakov
Jackie Doda	April D. Ringer
Mary Frost	Sally Robertson
Marilyn Hallidin-Corneto	Dr. Herman Schwartz
Cheryle Lam/ Harlan Kawamoto	Katie Stanke
Emily Griswold	The Dry Garden (Richard Ward)
Brook Jensen	Sara Thomasy
Joanne Krueger	Heather N. Wilson

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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.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call (800) 884-0009.

Advertising

Rates are \$12 for a business card size (3.5 x 2) and \$24 for a quarter page per month. We accept both digital and camera-ready art.

Visit our website for more info or call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

California Horticultural Society

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San Francisco, CA 94122

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