

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, October 18, 2010 at 7:15 pm

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th 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 9th Avenue in San Francisco.

7:15 PM – Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in San Francisco.

Cal Hort members may attend for FREE. Non-members – a donation of \$5 is requested



Photos by Ted Kipping

Plant of the Month
Dudleya pulverulenta

October 2010 PROGRAM

The Flora of Borneo

by Tom Ballinger



Photos by Tom Ballinger

The island of Borneo has long been known as a rich repository of flora. A photographic account of a trip to Mount Kinabalu in Sabah and Mulu Park in Sarawak will reveal the tremendous diversity within both montane and lowland forest communities. Ferns, *Vireya rhododendrons*, nepenthes and orchids will be given special emphasis as will plants with common interest to Bay Area gardeners. A landscaper in San Francisco, Tom Ballinger has travelled and done photography in Asia for over two years.

NOVEMBER 2010 MEETING

The All-Star Program

by Ellen Zagory

Ellen Zagory, long-time CalHort member and Director of Horticulture at the UC Davis Arboretum, will present the results of Arboretum staff's identifying and recommending 100 tough, reliable plants (All-Stars) that have been tested in the Arboretum, are easy to grow, low maintenance, don't need a lot of water, have few problems with pests or diseases, and have outstanding qualities in the garden. Many of them are California native plants and support native birds and insects. Most All-Star plants may be successfully planted and grown throughout California, including the Bay Area.

AUTUMN HORTICULTURAL Events by Don L. MacGregor

Foods of the Americas Exhibit

October 12-22

UC BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

This special event features a harvest of colorful food crops that originated in the Americas such as well known corn and tomatoes, and the less familiar achira and oca. Sunday, October 17, will be family day featuring cooking demonstrations and tours conducted in Spanish. UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, 200 Centennial Drive in Strawberry Canyon. (510)643-2755 www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Fruit Tasting Tour with Brian Kemble

Wednesday, October 13, 10 AM

RUTH BANCROFT GARDEN

Join Director of Horticulture, Brian Kemble, on this tasty tour of the garden. You will be able to sample many of the fruits grown here, including prickly pear, jelly palm fruits, pineapple guava, dragonfruit and more. \$20, \$15 members and seniors. Ruth Bancroft Garden 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek (925)944-9352 www.ruthbancroftgarden.org

Managing the Landscape and Garden as an Ecosystem

October 13, 7:30 PM

In 1975 Richard Merrill, Professor emeritus, Cabrillo College, was the co-designer of the new, 11 acre Cabrillo College Environmental Horticulture Dept. Retired as Director of that program, now Merrill is editing an anthology: *The Greening of Agriculture: Creating a More Sustainable Future for Our Food and Farms*. His other books include *Radical Agriculture*, *A Renewable Energy Primer*, and *The Gardener's Table*. This month's featured speaker at the Western Horticulture Society's meeting at the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos Hills. Doors open at 7:00 PM \$5.00 for non-members, members free. info@westernhort.org

Growing Winter Vegetables

UC Master Gardeners Hands-On Workshop,

Saturday, October 16, 9 AM-1 PM

The Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties present a hands-on workshop on winter vegetable gardening for urban gardeners. Learn techniques for renewing the soil, growing winter vegetables, choosing fruit trees and berries, pruning and tool care. Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way. \$35, SFBGS members \$30. Call (415)661-1316 ext 400 or download registration form at www.sfbotanicalgardensociety/education.org.

Green Living:

Ecology and Conservation in the Home Garden

Saturday, October 16, 9:30 AM -1:30 PM

STRYBING ARBORETUM, GOLDEN GATE PARK.

Care of the Earth starts at home. Tom Bressan of the Urban Farmer Store and Dr. Don Mahoney will share changes you can make to your home garden to reduce your ecological footprint through proper plant selection, proper soil and mulch amendments, and use of efficient irrigation. Don Mahoney will speak from 9:30 am-11:20 am on building a healthy ecosystem in your garden, featuring perennials to attract pollinators. Part II features irrigation maestro Tom Bressan from 11:30 am - 1:30 PM, discussing planting zones by water need, application rates and scheduling, and rainwater collection. \$75, SFBGS members \$70. Call (415)661-1316 ext 400 download registration form at www.sanfranciscobotanicalgarden.society.org

Fall Is for Planting

Plant Sale UC-Davis Arboretum,

Saturday October 16, 9 AM-1 PM

The UC Davis "Arboretum All-Stars", a select list of plants for hot California microclimates, will be featured in this sale. Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

Mobile and Ingestible Landscapes—

The Tea Garden Ecologies
of Southwest China and Southeast Asia

Monday October 18, 7:00 PM

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum

Preparing for his dissertation, Brian S. Kirbis reports on his fieldwork in northern Burma, northeast India, and China's Yunnan Province. Brian's focus is the cultural ferment and the nature-culture of Pu'er tea production using *Camelia sinensis var. assamica*. Potluck dinner at 6pm. Talk begins at 7pm. UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, 1156 High St, Santa Cruz www.arboretum.ucsc.edu

Designing with Grasses II
Workshop at Strybing Arboretum
Saturday October 23, 9 AM-1:30 PM

Tour in Santa Rosa
Sunday October 24, 10 AM-1:30 PM

Grassologist, Bob Hornback will feature grasses with esthetic value in the fall. Learn about best grasses selections for low-maintenance, drought tolerance and varieties for color. The next day, travel to a Sonoma County winery landscape garden for a tour featuring grasses in their fall splendor. \$75, SFBGS members \$65. Strybing Arboretum, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way. Call (415)661-1316 X400 or download registration form at www.sfbotanicalgardensociety.org

California Oaks in Urban Landscapes,
Designing and Maintaining a Landscape for Centuries
Tuesday October 26, 8:30 AM-4 PM

CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, PASADENA
Join Southern California oak experts for a one day field intensive seminar to learn the latest information and practices for care and maintenance, as well as design considerations for oaks in urban landscapes. Presented by Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council and Cal Tech Building and Grounds. \$150; register before 10/15, \$135. Call (213)229-9959 or register online at www.lasgrwc.org.

Fourth Quarter Gardens:
An August to December Romance
Friday October 29, 9 AM-5 PM

LAFAYETTE LIBRARY, LAFAYETTE

The Garden Conservancy; Ruth Bancroft Garden 2010 Workshop Series presents, with Pacific Horticulture, a one-day horticulture and design seminar on gardening for autumn's colors. The day will feature four noted speakers including Bob Perry (Los Angeles) and Elizabeth Murray (Monet's Giverny garden) and two short talks before lunch at the Lafayette Reservoir. It ends with a tour of an award-nominee native plant garden in Lafayette. Pacific Horticulture subscribers will receive a discount. Ruth Bancroft Garden phone (925) 944-9352. Register online at gardenconservancy.org/events.

4th Annual
Spooky Tales in the Redwood Grove
Sunday October 31, 1-2:30 PM

UC BOTANICAL GARDEN AT BERKELEY

Dancing Trees, Laughing Birds, Talking Animals! A parade through the redwoods, then stories, songs and riddles to be TOLD by the Witches Four! It's a family friendly event. Costumes (Be Bold) are encouraged. \$10; UCBG members \$8; Add. child/family \$3; please register (510)643-2755 www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Chomp 2!
Return of the Carnivorous Plants
Sunday October 31, exhibit closes

SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS

90% of the "insectivorous" plant specimens in the exhibit come from California Carnivore nursery's Peter D'Amato. He authored *The Savage Garden, Cultivating Carnivorous Plants*. \$7, \$5, \$2 for kids. See it before it closes 10 AM-4 PM. Tuesday-Sunday, Conservatory of Flowers, J F Kennedy Drive, Golden Gate Park.

Guided Tour:
Native American Uses for California Plants
Saturday, November 6, 11 am

UC Davis Arboretum

This is an opportunity to get the whole family to appreciate native peoples' connection with plants and nature as the tour explores Indian uses of plants for food, medicine, construction, and ritual. Meet at Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center at 11am, Arboretum, Garrod Drive www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

California's Flowering Perennial
and Shrub Borders:
How You Can Create Your Own
Saturday, November 6, 1:30-4:30 PM

STRYBING ARBORETUM

Studying the garden design effects and principles of the English border and its doyenne, Gertrude Jekyll, environmental designer Jim Dixon points out ways to create a gracious and dynamic border using our California plant palette. \$70, SFBGS members \$55. Call (415)661-1316 ext 400 or download registration form at www.sanfranciscobotanicalgardensociety.org.

**Slugs, Bugs, and Bigger Thugs,
Safe and Sane Pest Management
for Bay Area Gardens
Saturday, November 13, 9:30-12:30 PM
STRYBING ARBORETUM**

From the garden's staff, Bob Fiorello is dedicated to IPM through the San Francisco Integrated Pest Management Task Force, as well as the group SPIN (Sustainable Parks Information Network). Join Bob as he profiles the top 10 offenders and how you can avoid toxic chemicals and manage these garden pests. \$70; SFBGS members \$55. Call (415)661-1316 ext 400 or download registration form at www.sanfranciscobotanicalgardensociety.org.

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 hardcopy photos and brief description/care to Dave Tivol at any Cal Hort meeting or by mail to Dave at: Dave Tivol, 130 Locksunart Way #4, Sunnyvale CA 94087.

Thanks for sharing!

**Go Native!
California Native Plant Society
Fall Plant Sales**

By planting native plants in the garden,
you conserve water and energy, eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals
and create a garden attractive to humans as well as birds and butterflies.

**EAST BAY CHAPTER
FALL PLANT FAIR**

Saturday, October 16, 10 AM-3 PM

Sunday, October 17, Noon-3 PM

**Native Here Nursery, Tilden Park
101 Golf Course Drive, in Berkeley**

Over 200 species of Alameda and Contra Costa County native plants will be on sale; featuring iris, Dutchman's Pipe, and a healthy supply of oaks (oaks will be marked half-off). Artist-Ecologist Laura Cunningham will sign copies of her new book "A State of Change: Forgotten Landscapes of California," and the entire book inventory will be marked down for closeout.

Educational Talks: Saturday, 1 PM, Barbara Deutsch,

"Let's Entwine Ourselves with Pipevines
and Adorn our Gardens With Butterflies."

Sunday, 1 PM, Lisa Owens Viani,

"From Gray to Green: How Green Streets
and Residential Rain Gardens Can Help San Francisco Bay."

Garden Artisan Market: featuring hand-made garden tools, mixed media arts & crafts, and Native Plant merchandise.
Seeds and bulbs sold only on Saturday.

(510)549-0211 www.ebcnps.org/nativehere.html

**SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER
FALL PLANT SALE**

Saturday, October 16, 10 AM-3 PM

**CNPS Nursery, Hidden Villa Ranch
26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills**

Scores of hard-to-find native plant species, seeds and bulbs suitable for California gardens will be for sale.

- Speak to experts about lawn alternatives such as native perennials, wildflowers, and grasses.
- Native Plant books, posters and cards for sale as well.

Educational Talk: 1 PM, Stephanie Curtis, a landscape professional specializing in sustainable gardens and featured in Going Native garden tours.

Nursery is located two miles west of 280.

Exit at Moody/El Monte Road.

BYO Boxes for carrying plants.

(650)260-3450 www.cnps-scv.org

Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

Dudleya pulverulenta

Family: **CRASSULACEAE**

The chalk lettuce is one of our more exotic-looking native plants. Found in southern California, Arizona and northern Mexico, this succulent plant appears to be dusted in flour or confectioner's sugar. *Dudleya pulverulenta* grows in rocky areas with poor soil. I have seen it growing out of cracks between rocks, where there was hardly room for any soil. Like many succulents, this plant grows in a rosette, with fleshy pale green leaves covered with a coating of white, chalky powder. This gives it a striking silvery appearance, contrasting well with dark rocks and foliage. It also looks great in moonlight, for those of us who appreciate our gardens at night. The flowers are small and cute, but nothing spectacular, hanging from wiry, white inflorescences.

Mature plants can be twelve inches across, and command attention in the garden. They can take heat in the summer, and winter cold to well below freezing. However, they are also one of the easiest plants to kill by over-watering. Make sure you plant them in full sun to light shade, with great drainage. To help them through the wet winter, plant them at an angle so that the rosette doesn't hold water. Most important of all, water them very sparingly during the summer.

The genus is named after William Russell Dudley, the first chair of the botany department at Stanford University and one of the first members of the California board of park commissioners. The species name, *pulverulenta*, means powdery or dust covered, which perfectly describes the leaves of this striking plant.

Planting *Dudleya pulverulenta* on a bank improves drainage. The large stones act as a mulch.



Photos by Ted Kipping

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Garden Natives Nursery www.gardenativenatives.com in Martinez, and Strybing Arboretum for some wonderful native edible plants that they contributed to last month's drawing. We encourage all our members to contribute to our monthly silent auction.



The California Horticultural Society

San Francisco County Fair Building

9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

To join the California Horticultural Society, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org, or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

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 Board. You can also chat with Board members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at the next Monday's meeting.

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, Ted Kipping

2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

2010-2012 (First Term) Michael Craib, Don MacGregor, Caren Magreblan, Dave Mrus

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