

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, October 20, 2014, 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

Aechmea gamosepala



Photo © 2014 Ted Kipping

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014

So Many Plants, So Little Time!

We had a great time last year, and we plan to do it again this year, a full meeting of plant display and discussion only one month later in the season. It is amazing how much our members know about plants, and how many plants out there we know very little about. So if you have a special plant or a few that you would like to discuss with the group come to our September meeting and bring it along. It could be a cutting or a beautifully grown specimen, or something you are having trouble growing. This is a meeting for everyone to learn. This year Mike Craib from Suncrest Nursery will be bringing a selection of plants once again. These will be put in our drawing after the program.



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2014

Using Native Plants in Pots



Join Pete Veilleux, the founder of East Bay Wilds and the area's premier native plant designer and nurseryman, for a short course in growing California natives in containers. You'll learn about the most suitable containers to use, soil and soil mixes, and of course the plants that work best in such circumstances. Half of the class will be spent viewing some of Pete's spectacular photographs and then we'll watch him pot up some

containers. His astounding work with descriptions of maintenance and care will be very enlightening. He will have some plants available for sale as well.

Early Autumn HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

A HISTORY OF CHOCOLATE: TALK AND TASTING

Thursday, October 2; 6–8 pm

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley
Join Brian Hockaday as he provides an introduction to the biology and history of cacao, from its earliest known domestication in prehistoric times through its global dispersal during Colonial Era and the modern agricultural powerhouse that it is today. Hear about the contemporary processes that turn raw cacao beans into chocolate and learn how to become an ethical chocolate buyer and fine-chocolate connoisseur. Brian Hockaday is a botanist with a strong interest in food. After working as a field botanist for a number of years in environmental consulting, Brian worked in the chocolate industry for Dandelion Chocolate in San Francisco. Brian is now further pursuing his interests in plant geography and bioinformatics and is an active volunteer at UC's University and Jepson Herbaria. Registration required: \$25 / \$20 members. Registration info: Register online, or by calling 510-643-2755, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu. Event Contact: gardenprograms@berkeley.edu, 510-643-2755

CONTAINER GARDENING WITH ORGANIC MATERIALS

Saturday, October 4; 10:30 AM–12 PM or 1:30–3 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Learn to create succulent arrangements in natural materials. Two sessions available.

DIGGING DOG NURSERY ONLINE FALL SALE

September 26–October 11

<http://www.diggingdog.com/>

For our valued on-line customers, we're offering an internet Fall Sale. Take a 15% discount when you order \$100.00 worth of plants. Please note, your order must be shipped by October 13 and applies to in-stock items only. If you are not ready for a plant delivery, you can purchase a \$100 Gift Certificate for 15% off, which means \$100.00 worth of plants for only \$85.00 (It's a great time to squirrel away those early Christmas presents—don't forget one for yourself...cash it in later this fall or even next spring!) Be sure to post "October 2014" in the Comment Box on your online order form.

DIGGING DOG NURSERY FALL DOG-GONE SUPER PLANT SALE

October 10, 11, and 12. 10 am-5 pm.

31101 Middle Ridge Rd., Albion, CA 95410

Stroll Digging Dog Nursery's beautiful gardens and enjoy a 20% discount on a wide array of easy-to-grow garden plants, including many rare beauties and water-wise toughies.

FALL PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 11; Members Only Pre-sale: 9–11am

Memberships can be purchased at the door

Public Sale: 11 AM–3 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Free admission to the Garden all day. Garden open until 4pm.

FRUIT TASTING TOUR

Saturday, October 18; 1:30–3 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
The Garden has an abundance of fruit-producing plants which we will sample on this special tour including palm fruit, dragon fruit, and cactus fruits.

MARKHAM NURSERY "BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES" PLANT SALE

Saturday, October 19; 10 AM–4 PM

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum Garden Center
1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

Find lots of interesting perennials and drought-tolerant California natives. In addition, come by for a free talk by garden designer Kelly Marshall on planting a Pocket Meadow.

LAWN TO GARDEN WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 25; 10 AM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Work with Garden Designer Kelly Marshall and RBG staff to transform a front yard to a drought-tolerant garden with California natives.

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way,
Golden Gate Park, Fireplace Room

Tuesday, October 28; 7 PM

IN SEARCH OF PLANTS AROUND THE WORLD with Chen-Hao Hsu

*Bring a dish and beverage for eight to share,
as well as your own plates and silverware.

MEDICINAL PLANT WALK

with Peggy Schafer of the Chinese Medicinal
Herb Farm & Sondra Beam Herbalist at
Crane West Herb Pharmacy



Don't miss this rare opportunity to meet Peg Schafer and Sondra Beam, and learn about the many potential health benefits of Chinese herbs, and get tips on how to grow your own herb garden!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
10:00 - NOON



Space is limited, so call
707.996.3166
to reserve your seat today!
\$10 members
\$15 non-members



Quarryhill
BOTANICAL GARDEN

12841 Sonoma Hwy.
Glen Ellen, CA 95442
707.996.3166
www.quarryhillbg.org

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Aechmea gamosepala,
the Match Stick Bromeliad

Family: BROMELIACEAE



Almost everyone has at least one water hog in their garden. A water hog is a plant that sucks all of the water out of the surrounding soil, making it difficult to plant anything near it. In my garden, this would include several bamboos. As nice as they are, their shallow, dense root mats guzzle every drop of water nearby and prevent anything from growing at their feet. One trick I've learned is to fill this space with plants that don't need much watering. In fact, bromeliads have very few roots for absorbing water in the first place! Most bromeliads can get by with minimal soil watering, as long as they retain some water in the central cups created by their leaf bases. This adaptation helps them thrive in the wild as epiphytes on trees and as geophytes on cliffs and other places with minimal soil.

The Match Stick Bromeliad is one of the more common bromeliads for colder areas. Although they won't survive in a hard frost, they come

through light, brief frosts pretty well. Surprising for such an exotic looking plant, and even more so when you realize that they come from Brazil! The green, strap-like leaves are attractive, but not outstanding. However, the blooms on this plant are out of this world—a long spike, covered in pink bracts with a blue flower at the tip of each one, like a pink matchstick with a blue tip. Amazing! They last for a long time on the plant, and make a great exclamation point in a cut flower arrangement.

Aechmea gamosepala can be grown in dappled shade to full sun, and is not fussy about soil as long as it is quick draining. Each plant sends out short runners with juvenile plants (called 'pups'), so that over time it can fill in a reasonable area as a ground cover. If you are interested in adding an exotic look to your garden, and you need to fill in a spot near a water hog, consider adding this plant to your garden. Other cold hardy bromeliads that may work include other *Aechmeas*, some *Billbergias*, *Dyckias*, *Puyas*, *Neoregelias* and *Vrieseas*. For more information about cold hardy bromeliads, check out the Bromeliad Society of San Francisco (www.sfbromeliad.org).



Aechmea gamosepala



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Byron Martin of Logees Greenhouses and Barbara Ziegler for bringing in plants for the drawing. This month is an all plant display and discussion meeting. Mike Craib has said he will be bringing in a nice selection from Suncrest. Please bring unusual plants from your gardens for sharing. It is also an opportunity for our members to obtain unusual plants.

Monthly Plant Display and Discussion

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery, or a plant that has attributes that are not known by the mainstream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group. You can also donate this plant afterwards to the plant drawing.

To join the California Horticultural Society or to find out about a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org.

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).

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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson,
 2014-2016 (First Term) Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

OFFICERS

President	Open
Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Holly Sauer
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Steve Morse, Andy Stone, Dave Tivol

BULLETIN EDITOR

editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org

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.