

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, October 19, 2015; 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**

*Aster ‘Bill’s Big Blue’*



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015**

**Exciting South American Bulbs for the Summer and Winter Growing Seasons**

By Nhu Nguyen



South America is home to many wonderful bulbs, with a diversity of forms and of seasonal bloom. Nhu Nguyen, President of the Pacific Bulb Society, will discuss both easy-to-grow and uncommon species and their cultivation. He will also be bringing a selection of bulbs for sale.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2015**

**“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, but 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 October 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. Once again this year, Mike Craib from Suncrest Nursery will be bringing a selection of plants which will be put in our drawing after the program.

## Early Autumn HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

### FOODS OF THE AMERICAS

Thursday, October 1–Sunday, October 18; 10 AM–4 PM  
UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Come view a colorful marketplace filled to the brim with foods of the Americas. From chocolate to quinoa, discover the cornucopia of food crops that originated in the Americas thousands of years ago. Free with Garden Admission.

### GARDEN TOUR: CROPS OF THE WORLD COLLECTION

Thursday, October 8; 1 PM–2:30 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Horticulturist Ken Bates will lead you on this special tour of the Garden's Crops of the World Collection. Free with Garden Admission.

### GROWING FOOD IN THE BAY AREA'S SECRET SEASON

Saturday, October 10; 10 AM–NOON

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

January through March is one of the best growing seasons of the Bay Area, and the one least utilized. Crops growing at this time use any rainfall they get to produce some of the most tender, crisp, and delectable harvests of our year. In this class you will learn how to get the most from this least appreciated season. The Bay Area's Vegetable Garden Guru, Pam Peirce, will explain how to select varieties for this time of year, when and how to start them, using winter's wild edibles, and what crops are best for winter-into-spring container gardens. Even in drought years, you will rarely need to water "secret season" crops and will still reap delicious rewards! \$25, \$20 Members

### UC DAVIS ARBORETUM FALL PLANT SALES

Saturday, October 10; Member Sale 9 AM–11 AM, Public Sale 11 AM–1 PM  
and Saturday, October 24; Public Sale: 9 AM–1 PM

UC Davis Arboretum Teaching Nursery

For 10 years UC Davis Arboretum All-Stars have provided California with a foundation for creating attractive, easy-care landscapes that save water. We're celebrating this fall with a large selection of Arboretum All-Stars, California natives, and other regionally-appropriate plants sure to make your yard shine!

### FRUIT TASTING TOUR

Saturday, October 17; 1:30 PM–3:00 PM

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

When most people think of harvesting fruit, prickly pear cacti do not typically come to mind. With intimidating spines and stubborn glochids, the tasty fruit often gets bypassed for easier fare. The Garden has an abundance of fruit-producing plants which we will sample on this special tour including palm fruit, dragon fruit, and other unique cactus fruits. Additionally, Mrs. Bancroft will let us sample some of the fruit from her private garden including her pineapple guava and a strawberry tree. \$25, \$20 Member

### COLORS OF THE AMERICAS: COCHINEAL WORKSHOP

Sunday, October 18; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Come learn the art of natural dyeing with cochineal. Cochineal has been used historically in the Americas for centuries and its deep red color comes from the tiny scale insects who live on *Opuntia* cacti. Textile scholar Yoshiko Wada will teach you how to produce a range of hues from cochineal by using a variety of mordants. \$125, \$100 Members

### THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK\*/SLIDE SHOWS

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

Wednesday, October 21; 7 PM

### WILDFLOWERS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

with Joan Hockaday

Wednesday, November 18; 7 PM

### EVOLUTION OF OUR GARDEN

with Ted Kipping

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

### FALL FRUIT

Thursday, October 22; 10 AM–4 PM

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

Fall offers us a bounty of beautiful fruit to illustrate—including apples, pears, figs and persimmons. Catherine Watters will teach you her 'Ten Stages of a Botanical Painting' to successfully observe, draw and paint luscious fruit. All levels are welcome and students may use graphite, colored pencils or watercolor. A supply list will be given to you once you register for the class or you can sign up to use materials provided by the instructor, for which the fee is an additional \$10, payable to the instructor in cash on the day of the class. \$90/ \$85 Members

### MARKHAM NATURE PARK AND ARBORETUM PLANT SALE

October 25; 10 AM–5 PM

1202 La Vista Ave, Concord

### DO YOU THINK EL NIÑO IS ON THE WAY?

If you do, you should be out gathering seeds from your favorite flowers, shrubs and trees in your garden right now! This is the perfect time—before these promised rains come—to find maturing seeds that hold promise for the next year. If you have enjoyed growing the plant, others will as well.

Seed collecting is not a hard job—just put your seeds in some sort of envelope and label the outside with the name of the plant. We can help with cleaning seeds, if necessary, and with plant nomenclature. If you do not know the botanical name, use the common name with a word or two of description that can help identify the seeds. Any advice you can offer from your experience in growing the plant will be welcome as well.

Just bring your seeds to the next Cal Hort meeting or, if more convenient, send them to:

Dave Tivol  
130 Locksunart Way #2  
Sunnyvale, CA 94087-4666

## Plant of the Month

by Kristin Yanker-Hansen

*Aster* 'Bill's Big Blue,' Michaelmas Daisy

Family: ASTERACEAE

This aster was originally introduced by Ed Carmen, and is available at some smaller nurseries like Digging Dog and Cal Flora. It is one of the taller asters growing four to five feet tall and will bloom later with lovely medium blue flowers. Depending on the year, it may bloom as late as November.

Asters are generally very drought tolerant; Cal Flora says it needs water once every two weeks. In my own experience it will go rampant in a regularly watered garden, and eliminating the plant may become a lifelong project. However, it is also a plant that will grow without any summer water— even in Danville.

This year even with very little rain falling after January, the plant is showing color, although the leaves have turned brown on the lower stems. In good rain years this does not happen.

Asters attract bees and other insects so the late bloom helps support wildlife late into the growing season. Since they are a composite, they also keep the beneficial insects going longer in your garden.

They make a great cut flower, and once the flowers are cut they will send out lateral shoots for further bloom.

Even though *Asters* primarily come from temperate climates, they are great additions to the California garden since they can adapt to our dry summers. This plant even grows well in southern California, and should be considered for dry gardens everywhere.



*Aster* 'Bill's Big Blue'

### Our Gardens, Ourselves: Touring the Gardens of Cal Hort Members in 2016

by Mark Delapine

Cal Hort members, old and new, invited all Cal Hort members to tour their gardens in Berkeley and El Cerrito on Sunday, October 4, 2015. Next year we hope to be invited into gardens in other areas. There are so many members with interesting gardens to see all over the greater Bay Area, and they have friends or know of other interesting gardens to visit. When friends who are not currently Cal Hort members invite us to see their gardens, we give them free memberships to say thanks.

I'm calling on our members to think about sharing their gardens. I know we have members with interesting gardens in the South Bay onward towards Monterey Bay, on the Peninsula, in the North Bay, out toward Mt. Diablo and also from Richmond out to Martinez.

I would love to help organize multiple tours at different times of the year. If you'd like to participate and you have ideas for gardens in your area, please contact Mark Delepine at [mdelepine@liacook.com](mailto:mdelepine@liacook.com) and we'll get something going.

If there is interest, I'd also like to plan an overnight trip to gardens and nurseries in Point Arena, Fort Bragg and points along the way. Gardens really want to be seen and appreciated. We should do this.



**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**

Each month we have a plant drawing which include plants donated by individual nurseries and members. We thank the Ruth Bancroft Garden and Strybing Arboretum who contributed to the September drawing. This month our speaker will be providing a few bulbs for the drawing as well as selling some of his bulbs.

**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.

**Officers of the California Horticulture Society Are Needed**

The California Horticulture Society is reaching out to our membership for new Executive Council members and as well as President, Vice President and Treasurer. We are also seeking members for the Officer Nominating Committee. If you are interested or would like to nominate someone for any of these roles, please contact Ellen Edleson (e.edelson@sbcglobal.net). Thank you and I hope you and your colleagues want to become more involved with CalHort.

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

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair: Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Pamos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.

**COUNCIL**

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,  
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen  
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib  
 2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve  
 Morse, Andy Stone

**OFFICERS**

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

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