



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



September 15, 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, September 15, 2003

“Continental Ideas for American Gardens”

Presented by **Lauren Springer**, an award winning-writer, photographer and horticulturist. She is contributing editor for *Horticulture* and *Country Living Gardener* magazines, and author of *The Undaunted Garden*, named one of the 75 best American gardening books of the last century by the American Horticultural Society.

For years, Americans have looked to the English for garden inspiration, with a nod here and there to Mediterranean and Japanese influences. Over the past half-century, largely ignored on this side of the Atlantic, there has been a new style evolving in Germany and Holland. While previously the gardens there were typically either in the cottage tradition or copies of Italian and French gardens, an entirely new idiom of ecologically based naturalism has now made its mark on both public and private spaces in those countries. In many ways it mirrors some of our own recent regionally expressive garden styles in America. Lauren Springer will discuss some of these modern continental concepts and characteristics, illustrated with both European and American examples, to provoke thought and inspire ideas for our gardens.

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

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).

President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

Good gardening is very simple, really. You just have to think like a plant.

So says Barbara Damrosch, quoted in the *Gardener's Guide to Life*. That's all very well and good, I would love to know just what my plants are thinking of! Especially when they show up where I don't expect them. For instance, just now I have a good-sized anise in the penstemon patch. I didn't put it there, but I did leave it there in the hope that it would attract a maternally minded swallowtail butterfly. So far, no larvae.

Some are fairly obvious. For example, the *Sisyrinchium californicum* that is trying to take over everywhere. It is thinking, "grow everywhere!" I planted a small pot of it several years ago, not realizing its potential for traveling. Fortunately, I like to see the bright little yellow stars where I least expect them!

Rhododendron Taylora is thinking, "Surprise, here I am again." The clear pink blossoms of this vireya seem to have their own light source, and it is blooming for the third time this year.

On another topic, your Council is considering cost saving measures. Our rent at the San Francisco County Fair Building is \$50.00 more than the rent at the Academy of Sciences. Our income is being stretched to the point that we were not able to be as generous with Grants and Scholarships as we would like to have been. One of our thoughts is that the *Bulletin* could be put out every other month instead of monthly. If you have strong feelings about this, let the Council know! Your Council members are listed on the back page of the *Bulletin*.

Our program in August was unusual in that it did not deal with individual plants, but did show some truly beautiful photographs of plants to illustrate the speaker's feelings about photography and plants. Charles Mann was truly an inspirational speaker and was greatly enjoyed.

Next month's program will feature Lauren Springer, (see the front page of this *Bulletin* for information about her) who will join us for The Walk before dinner and the meeting. I hope to see you there!



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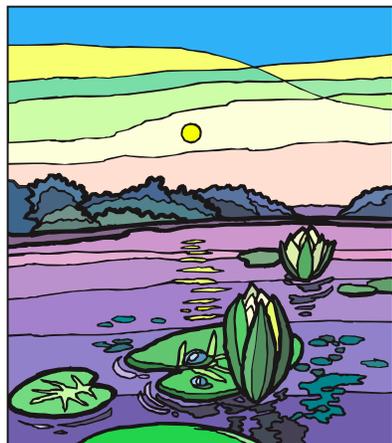
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Notable Nurseries

Each month, nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle. To make life easy for us plantaholics we supply the nurseries' contact information so you can find, visit and patronize them at your leisure. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

Cottage Garden Growers

3995 Emerald Drive
Petaluma, CA
(707) 778-8025
9-5 Daily, retail and wholesale.

Perched atop a sunny knoll, this newly rebuilt, terraced nursery is a plant lover's dream come true. The terracing of all the walkways and beds is a work of art by itself. Fill those paths with over 50 varieties of clematis, 100 varieties of roses, rare, unusual perennials and tried and true hard-working perennials and you have a just a portion of what makes Cottage Garden Growers so great.

Owner Daria Morrill has also expanded to offer numerous succulents, especially Sempervivums, woody ornamentals (to add interest to the dormant perennial garden), loads of vines (up to 15 varieties of most types), citrus, a large selection of ornamental grasses, hardy mediterraneans and 12 varieties of Hydrangeas.

The store boasts garden art, tools, bell cloches, pottery, artistic metal topiary, arbors and trellises, and even teak furniture—pretty much anything one might desire for the garden!

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

(415) 661-1316
Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF
www.strybing.org

Strybing's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does well in the Bay Area. The next sales are Sept 13 Open Nursery Sale and October 11, Trees, Ferns and Rhododendrons.

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Meeting recap by Jason DeWees

Charles Mann Photography as a Way of Framing Life

Santa Fe-based photographer Charles Mann presented his philosophy of re-seeing the world through the camera in his quotation-rich slide presentation at the recent Cal Hort meeting. He is published in *Arizona Highways*, *Sunset*, *Horticulture*, and has produced two books, *Secret Gardens of Santa Fe* and *Viva Guadalupe!* Photography enables Mann to connect with sights otherwise unseen and to experience the wondrous "aha" of life. He recommended the process to anyone with an interest in taking pictures.

In the first portion of his presentation, Mann gave some practical advice for taking photos. For one, he suggests discarding worries about the cost of film. Capturing a good photograph means taking many different shots of a good subject in good light. If we economize on shots we may miss the serendipity of that moment when the perfect light illuminates an exceptional subject.

Light is so important, said Mann, that even your grandmother's old tennis shoes can make for a great photo if the light is great. He later proved it with a delightful slide of a pair of succulent-encrusted boots.

Mann uses his flash on all people shots, but only natural light with garden and landscape subjects. For people, he takes them with the light at their back or on the far side of their profile. The flash illuminates faces and diminishes harsh shadows.

The only film he uses is Fuji Velva 50 ASA in his 35 millimeter camera. Using a consistent medium allows him to develop an intuitive sense of how the film will perform in

a variety of situations. With such low-speed film he must always use a tripod, but the advantage of color saturation and fine grain makes for outstanding prints, as we saw in the slides. Canon or Nikon are the cameras he trusts most, partly because their ubiquity means they can be serviced anywhere; for tripods Mann recommends Bogen at a price around \$150 and Gitzo at the high end. Advances in camera-making mean that almost any brand today is better than the best of cameras ten years ago. Mann has three types of lenses on hand: wide-angle, regular, and telephoto. His telephotos include three ranges: 20-35 millimeter, 38 [not sure I heard this correctly]-80 millimeter, and 75-300 millimeter.

Composition is the fun part: Placing a frame around any set of objects makes them a unique object unto themselves. As a way of developing a garden design Mann suggested looking at it through a frame, as if it were a photo subject.

Among the compositions we saw in the slide presentation were: *Agave vilmoriniana*; Santa Fe pueblo architecture wreathed in *Clematis*; annuals shining against the vivid paint of a chair; garden gloves resting atop pickets; Kyoto buildings and gardens; papyrus towering over a man at the L.A. County Arboretum; an Abiquiu landscape with cattle; a cottonwood ablaze in autumn yellow; tomatoes and peppers filling a dozen paper plates; a Trinity College Dublin Botanic Garden succulent knot; *Datura metel*; Louisiana iris doyenne Marie Caillet hip-deep in her favorite blooms; and many more.

Altogether Charles Mann gave Cal Hort's phalanx of plant and garden enthusiasts new ways of appreciating the objects of our affection, and new processes for pursuing life-sustaining pleasures.

Wayne Roderick 1920 – 2003

Wayne Roderick at 83, although failing slightly, had been well and active until about a month before his death. On July 9, while on a collecting trip in the High Sierra for the CNPS Oakland Museum wildflower show, he suffered a stroke. He was quite debilitated and had other strokes during the intervening month. His wishes that no extraordinary measures be taken under such circumstances were honored, and he died peacefully at home in Orinda on August 10, looking out onto his beloved garden and hills.

For those of you who did not have the pleasure of knowing Wayne, he was a locally and internationally well-known, respected, and skilled horticulturist. He was especially knowledgeable about bulbs, California natives (especially native bulbs!), and alpine flora. His long horticultural career included 24 years as Head of the CA Native Section at UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, after which he became director of the East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden at Tilden, where he remained until his retirement.

Wayne had a great sense of humor and an enormous heart; he was a welcome speaker, and has written many articles about growing the plants that he knew and loved. He

was responsible for developing several cultivars, and several others were named for him.

Wayne was a very good friend of Strybing where there is a specially designated Wayne Roderick collection of rare books that he donated to Helen Crocker Russell Library in the 1970s. He has continued to contribute books to this collection over the years. And he continues to look after the library now that he is gone. The library is designated in Wayne's bequest to be the recipient of his remaining books, prints, and some botanically-illustrated dinnerware. The books not needed for the library will be passed on to Diablo Valley College. His slide collection has been left to the Jepson Herbarium and his history collection has been designated for Merritt College.

A memorial celebration will be held at the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley. Sunday, September 28th at 2:00 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Barbara M. Pitschel, Head Librarian Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture

Scholarship & Grant Recipients – 2003

Cal Hort has been faced with reduced financial resources this year. The total amount available for grants and scholarships for the 2003-2004 year was \$1650. Five requests for grants totaled \$10,570. The committee was impressed with the projects and the presentation of all five proposals. Three grants totaling \$1350 were awarded.

\$550 UC Santa Cruz Arboretum (Dr. Daniel Harder, Executive Director of the Arboretum) for revitalizing of the California Native Teaching Garden at the entrance of the garden

\$550 Wm. Land Park W.P.A. Rock Garden (Daisy Mah, Parks Maintenance Worker II) circular stone bench for small gatherings and viewing garden

\$250 Sonoma State Butterfly Garden (Mary Merritt, Santa Rosa Garden Club Project Coordinator) creating attractive entrance and helping to restore natural habitat with native plants at new campus entry road

Three student scholarships of \$100 each and a one year membership in Cal Hort were awarded to:

Mary Frost student at Santa Rosa Junior College
April D. Ringler and **Stu Penfield** students at City College of San Francisco

The Grants and Scholarship committee consists of Barbara Hopper, Katherine Henwood, Dr. Don Mahoney and Diana Ross, Chairman.



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September 16–October 5 2003
Wildflowers of Western Australia with Rodger Elliot & Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific Horticulture*. (800) 624-6633 or www.geostartravel.com

October 11–12, 2003
Cal Hort Tour: Private gardens and nurseries of Monterey, Soquel, Watsonville, Half Moon Bay and Carmel. Leaders. Barbara and John Hopper. Registration info is forthcoming.

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

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

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

September 14

North American Rock Garden Society Annual Meeting of the Western Chapter—Larry Lee of UC Botanical Garden and owner of Plantopia Nursery will be presenting from his experiences seeing and creating rock gardens. Potluck and plant sale. 6 – 9:30 PM at the Merritt College Horticultural Department. Free. (650) 365-6136 or www.nargs.org/meet/chap_west.html

September 27

Fall Plant Sale—Featuring low-maintenance plants for the Bay Area. 9 AM – Noon, The Gardens at Heather Farm, (925) 947-1678 or www.gardenshf.org

October 4

UC Davis Fall Plant Sale—Featuring uncommon garden plants suitable for the central valley. 10 AM – 2 PM, UC Davis Arboretum Nursery. (530) 752-4880 or www.arboretum.ucdavis.edu

October 4 – 5

California Native Plant Society Fall Plant Sale—Featuring native plants, seeds, bulbs, botanical art and books. Sat. 9 AM – 3 PM and Sunday 9 AM – 1 PM at the Merritt College Horticultural Department. (925) 376-4095

October 11

Bearded Iris and Fall Plant Sale—Featuring irises from Ruth Bancroft's collection and a 'dry gardening' workshop. 9:30 AM – 2 PM, The Ruth Bancroft Garden. Free (925) 210-9663 or www.ruthbancroftgarden.org

October 11

UC Santa Cruz Fall Plant Sale—Featuring native plants and plants from the collections. Members preview 10 AM, public sale from Noon – 3 PM. Eucalyptus Grove on the UCSC campus. (831) 427-2998 or www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum

Regional Parks Botanic Garden
(925) 935-8871 • www.nativeplants.org

September 20 and 21

Identifying Native Shrubs— Learn about native shrubs in the field and for in the garden with Glenn Keator. 10 AM – 3 PM Saturday at the visitor center and Sunday field trip. Fee \$65 members, \$75 non-members.

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.

September 28

Fall Plant Sale—Mark your calendars for the UCBG's semiannual sale of unusual plants selected from the collections 10 AM – 2 PM

Strybing Arboretum Society
(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

September 13

Plant Sale—Open Nursery featuring native plants and succulents. 10 AM – 1 PM

September 25 – October 23

Western Conifers For The Garden—Seven session certificate course, 6:30 – 9:00 PM and field trips, \$210 members, \$235 nonmembers.

October 11

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

October 16

North Bay Garden Tour— Let Barbara and John Hopper lead you on a tour of private Sonoma and Marin county gardens. Featured designers are Penny Magrane and Brandon Tyson. 7:45 AM – 7 PM. \$140 members, \$164 nonmembers.

Hort Notes

■ **SEPTEMBER 20: CONSERVATORY OF FLOWERS GRAND REOPENING:** Be one of the first to once again visit this historic building and its fabulous plant collections. 10:30 AM – 6:30 PM. Golden Gate Park, free. www.conservatoryofflowers.org

■ **SEPTEMBER 28: THE WAYNE RODERICK MEMORIAL CELEBRATION** will be held at 2 PM in the Regional Parks Botanical Garden in Berkeley. Plant lovers everywhere will miss him dearly.



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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. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to the Editor at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

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 the Office Secretary at the number above.

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.

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