



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, California 94122
 September 20, 2004

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.
 Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9th Ave.
 5:30PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave., San Francisco.
 7:15 PM Announcements, Plant Forum. Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way .
 8:00 PM Speaker and Plant Drawing.
 ***Guest fee \$5.

Monday, September 20, 2004
 Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

“Gardening with one foot in the tropics”

Presented by Davis Dalbok, Award winning Landscape Designer, owner of Living Green, will discuss gardening and garden design in two distinct micro-climates. Drawing out the parallels and differences between his garden near Hilo, Hawaii, and his Fairfax, Marin home, Davis will incorporate visual imagery, conceptual garden design ideas, and illustrative examples of how one can cultivate a sanctuary with a lush, sub-tropical theme.

The Plant Drawing each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In September the drawing will include donations from **Sloat Garden Center in Kentfield**, courtesy of Laura Muschietti and from **Strybing Arboretum**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to **California Flora Nursery, Fulton**, courtesy of Sherrie Althouse and Phil Van Soelen, and to **Strybing Arboretum Society** courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the August meeting.



Monday, October 18, 2004
 Co-sponsored with San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society & Strybing Arboretum Society

“Madagascar: A Floral Treasure Chest”

Presented by Gary James, biologist, Retired Professor of Biology, Orange Coast College, Costa Mesa, California; plant explorer, and world traveler. His special plant interest is the group of geophytic euphorbias that come from Madagascar. The talk will be based on the five trips he has made to Madagascar since 1978. Because of the long isolation, Madagascar has developed many unique life forms, both plant and animal. The program will highlight some of the many endemic plants and animals. Narrow endemism has resulted in over 84% of the plants and in some cases over 90% of some animals which are found nowhere else in the world. New discoveries are being made on a regular basis.



Monday, November 15, 2004
 Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

“Hot Borders – Cool Plants Exciting Borders and Interesting Uses of New plants”

Presented by Marietta O’Byrne, long time nurserywoman who along with her husband Ernie, owns and runs Northwest Garden Nursery in Eugene, Oregon. The garden displays all types of plants from rock garden to woodland perennials along with a large collection of hellebores. The nursery is widely recognized for its unusual plants and has been featured in a number of magazines.

President's Letter by Bruce Peters

"How does Cal Hort work?"

That's a question I used to wonder as I watched "those in charge" at meetings taking care of thing and doing their tasks. It seemed that everything always went along so smoothly and professionally; I figured that all these people had been doing their specific tasks for years. Later on, I found that in some cases, that was true true, but in many, it was not.

The 12 plant lovers on our current Council all came to be there for various reasons but we all have the same goal—to keep Cal Hort healthy and alive. We do this by spearheading Committees, coming up with new ideas, keeping old ideas active and just talking to each other and applying common sense to problems.

Council members can serve for only two consecutive terms of three years each. Some stay for one term, some for two. Some have been long-time members of Cal Hort while others are relatively new to the Society. It doesn't really matter how long you've been a part of things as long as you're enthusiastic about it!

So, why am I talking about all this? November is the month we're going to vote in four new members to take the place of those whose terms are up. Usually, we ask at the November meeting if there are any Nominations but I wanted to give you a little more time to think about it.

Do you know someone who you think would make a good Council member? Would you make one? What we need are people either with ideas or the wherewithal to carry them out. You don't need a lot of prior Cal Hort experience or a lot of current Cal Hort friends, just a desire to keep our great Society flourishing.

Think about it and when you come up with some suggestions, let one of us know! Call me (415 203-4407) with any questions and I'll do my best to answer them. If you don't have any questions, just call and let us know of your nominations, either for yourself or others.

And if you'd like to help but being on the Council is just too much to think about, try volunteering for one of our existing committees in the Volunteer Corner below. That's how I got started, oh, ten years or so ago and look where it brought me.



Botanical Tours

January 20–February 2, 2005

Drakensbergs—a floral treasure—South Africa in Summer with Panayoti Kelaidis. In support of the American Rock Garden Society

September 12 - 23, 2004

Great Gardens & Villas Of Italy—with Michael Bernsohn as Guide in support of Strybing Arboretum Society. Info: www.venture-out.com/gardens.htm

October 11-27, 2004

Wildflowers, Gardens, Natural History and Fjordland of Chile at the Peak of Springtime Bloom with noted horticulturist and Landscape Architect Professor Wes Conner. In support of Strybing Arboretum Society.

February 5-18, 2005

Gardens of Singapore with Bian Tan & Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Malaysia's Kuala Lumpur & Taman Negara National Park. In support of Strybing Arboretum Society

August 26-September 9, 2005

South Africa in Springtime, Natural History of Namaqualand & the Western Cape Province—In support of the California Horticultural Society with Annie Hayes, award winning horticulturist & owner of Annie's Annuals

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

Volunteer Corner

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!

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 have just run across an interesting item, share it with the rest of us! Contact Bruce at editor@calhortsociety.org or (415) 824-1833.

Propagation group: Call Bruce @ (415) 824-1833 or email to propgroup@calhortsociety.org

Open Gardens: if you'd like to open your garden to other members, either for inclusion on a tour or just as a single garden, email opengardens@calhortsociety.org or call Renee at (415) 388-6850.

Seed Collecting: Some people have some great seeds for our Seed Exchange but don't have the time/ability to collect the seeds themselves...that's where you come in. We need people to visit other people's gardens (a treat in and of itself!) and collect said seeds. A fun and interesting task. Call Dave Tivol (408) 732-2743 for info and to volunteer.

August Plant Forum

by Ted Kipping & Bruce Peters

"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.

1. *Begonia sutherlandia*

BEGONIACEAE (>1000 SPP)

Grown by David Feix, Berkeley

Begonia – Michel Bégon (1638–1710), governor of French Canada and a patron of botany

Sutherlandii – James Sutherland (1639–1719) professor of botany at Edinburgh and superintendant of the botanical garden

Found in deep, damp forest shade in canyons near streams growing near *Streptocarpus* in the Eastern escarpment from Drakensberg Mountains north. Reproduces via small vegetative propagules. Appreciates dappled light and moist, organic soil.

2. *Cissus tuberosus*

VITACEAE

Grown by Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

Cissus – from the Greek, *kissos*, for ivy

tuberosus – referring to the caudex-like tubers

Found very happily growing under the bench in Kristin's unshaded greenhouse where temperatures allegedly reach 130°F demonstrating their affinity for hot, dry conditions. In shade the stems are fat and fleshy, sun focuses the plant's energy into the tubers.

3. *Lobelia valida*

CAMPANULACEAE (~375 SPP.)

Grown by David Feix, Berkeley

Lobelia – Matthias de L'Obel (1538–1616), Flemish

botanist and physician to King James I of England

Valida – strong, or well-developed

David gives this sun and good drainage. Related to the bell flowers, *Lobelias* are found world-wide as annuals, perennials and shrubs often with extended blooming periods.

4. *Nephrolepis exultata* 'Suzy Wong'

NEPHROLEPIDACEAE

Grown by Kathy Till, Danville

Nephro – kidney-like

Lepis – scale, alluding to the shape of the spore body

Kathy Till brought in a drolly bizarre mutant fuzz ball 'Suzy wong' fern in a white porcelain face-like container looking like a wig which had mildewed when left too long near the shower stall. It is a super-finely multiple-pinnatifid supercalafragilistic...you get the idea. The green foam that might have been in the frig from Ghostbusters.



Rosa 'Scentimental' variegated selection

5. *Podophyllum* 'Kaleidoscope'

BERBERIDACEAE

Grown by Barbara and John Hopper, Kenwood

Podophyllum – from *anapodophyllum*, *anas*-duck, *podos*-foot and *phyllon*-leaves

Lovely dark, hidden pendant flowers and a stunning deciduous foliage with psychedelic patterns requiring rich, moist woodland soil, dappled light, high humidity and, perhaps, a very high priest.

6. *Rosa* 'Scentimental' variegated

ROSACEAE (>100 SPP.)

Grown by Bruce Peters, San Francisco

Rosa – Roman name

A fragrant, fragrant variegated summer bloomer desiring only sun, well-drained soil and immoderate quantities of admiration.

7. *Salvia namaensis*

LAMIACEAE (>750 SPECIES)

Grown by Don Mahoney, Strybing - San Francisco

Salvia – from the same source as *salve* meaning safe, well, or sound, from medicinal uses of so many of the species.

Namaensis – from the Nama area of the western Cape (but south of NAMibia)

Like some many of this world-wide genus, this is drought-tolerant and takes full sun (in Strybing, he must mean full fog!). Summer blooming.

Need some Horticultural Help?

The back page of your Cal Hort Roster contains a special listing of our Business members. What better way to insure your future landscaper knows a tulip from a petunia? It's also a great place to find recommendations for your friends!



“Unique and Exciting Plants from the California Islands”

Presented by Steve Junak, Herbarium Curator, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden since 1976.

For his August slide presentation to the Society, Steve Junak, curator at the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden and co-author of the Flora of Santa Cruz Island, gave the audience at the SF County Fair Building a tour of the California Islands, especially the lesser-known southern ones on both sides of the Mexican border. Nothing so native could seem so exotic as plants from islands hardly any Californians (Altan or Bajan) have visited or even knew existed. Exciting indigenous and endemic plants from islands like the US Navy outposts San Clemente and San Nicolas, and the northwestern Baja islands of Guadalupe, Cedros, the San Benitos, and San Martin wowed the crowd.

San Clemente is still a bombing range for the Navy, but since the military eradicated feral goats and boar in the 1990s, the rare flora has rebounded tremendously. The western side of the long island steps up gradually in remarkable grassy marine terraces, while the eastern side drops precipitously from the summit ridge. Junak showed images of the common *Opuntia littoralis*, herbaceous endemics in the genera *Delphinium*, *Astragalus*, *Camissonia*, *Castilleja* and *Brodiaea*, and shrubs like the gracefully thready *Constancia* (*Eriophyllum*) *nevini*, the subtle malvaceous endemic *Malacothamnus clementinus*, and the shrubby dandelion-like *Munzothamnus blairii*.

One funny image was of the “San Clemente National Forest,” a sign that had commemorated a *Eucalyptus* cluster now gone. Habitat restorers are planting extra native trees and shrubs, like *Quercus tomentella*, the rarest California tree oak, around the sign to keep the joke in play—and demonstrate that San Clemente really does have native trees.

Good news comes from Guadalupe Island, the westernmost outpost of Mexico and, as described by Guadalupe’s great chronicler, Dr. Reid Moran, the southernmost outpost of the California floristic province. According to Junak, the Mexican government and Island Conservation, a Santa Cruz-based non-profit, have collaborated on fencing to protect a few remnant *Pinus radiata* var. *binata* and *Cupressus guadalupensis* groves from the voracious feral goats. Now seedlings of the pine and *Satureja palmeri*, a mint once thought extinct, are proliferating in the enclosures.

Here is the tallest-growing population of Monterey pine, and living in the fringes of the winter-rainfall belt of our coast, on the 3000-4000-foot crests of this volcanic island, the trees and associated species depend heavily on fog drip for survival. The pre-goat woodlands of pine, cypress, *Quercus tomentella*, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, and *Hesperlaea* (extinct evergreen yellow-flowered privet-like tree) helped transfer fog moisture to the island’s water table but springs have long gone dry as the vegetation has been goat-mowed or died of old age. However, epiphytic ferns (*Polypodium scouleri*, whose next-closest habitat is hundreds of miles north in Santa Bar-

bara County) persist on the old *P. radiata* var. *binatas* above the browse line.

Junak gave glimpses of the profuse lichens on the rocks and of the untouched islets off the south end of Isla Guadalupe, “Isla Adentro/Toro” and “Isla Afuera/Zapato,” where bizarre deciduous stem-succulents like the endemic *Cistanthe* (*Talinum*) *guadalupensis* and indigenous *Coreopsis gigantea* grow and burst into spectacular pink and gold bloom in spring. On the south end of the island, where goats rarely wander, cactuses like *Mamillaria blossfeldiana* ssp. *shirleyana* and *Bergerocactus emoryi*, both also native to other California islands, defy herbivory alongside *Lycium californicum*.

Century-plus-old *Brahea edulis* palms stand above the eroded, rocky surface, with no seedlings to be found. Other exceptional ornamentals Junak noted include *Perityle incana*, a whitish endemic shrub with gold flowers, *Lavatera lindsayii*, with its shy pendulous blooms, *L. occidentalis*, *Dudleya guadalupensis*, and *Stephanomeria guadalupensis*. Let’s hope they survive the goats until they can be eradicated there too.

Large Cedros Island possesses mountains nearly as tall as Guadalupe’s (almost 4000 feet), but sits close to the Baja mainland, and has a slightly drier climate. Contrasts occur between foggy woodlands of *Pinus radiata* ssp. *cedrosensis* on windward slopes and desert scrub with *Agave sebastiana*, *Ferrocactus*, pink-flowered *Rhus lentii*, *Pachycormus* (Elephant tree), *Viguiera lanata*, the leafless island snapdragon *Galvezia juncea*, and *Salvia cedrosensis* and *Verbena lilacina*, both now in cultivation. *Eriogonum mallii* made the biggest impression, as a buckwheat with profuse tall inflorescences. Perhaps a candidate for a well-drained spot in a low-frost Bay Area garden?

Isla San Benito looked like an idyllic place of isolation, with its lobster-fishing village and lighthouse. Among the interesting goodies were *Mamillaria neopalmeri*, *Dudleya linearis*, *Lavatera venosa* and the four-petaled poppy *Eschscholtzia ramosa*. A single hunter, Bill Woods, and his Jack Russells managed to eradicate all the feral rabbits from the island.

The volcanic cone of San Martin Island came as a surprise on a coast dominated by sedimentary and metamorphic rocks—except, apparently, in the vicinity of the town of San Quintin. The dominant impression left of the island was of lava gardens with brittlebush, *Encelia californica*, and *Dudleya anthonyi*, bearing 15-foot flowerstalks. Exceptional whale-watching goes on in the lagoon on the mainland.

The last stop was the Navy’s San Nicolas Island, or for those of us who spent third grade in 1970s California, “The Island of the Blue Dolphins.” Here is where in the mid-19th



Brahea Edulis

photo by Jon Rebman

www.oceanoasis.org/

fieldguide/brah-edu.html

Ligularia 'The Rocket'

Although many sources list this plant as *Ligularia stenocephala* 'The Rocket', the Royal Horticultural Society considers it a hybrid between two closely related Asian species, *Ligularia przewalskii* and *Ligularia stenocephala*. 'The Rocket' shows characteristics of both its parents, with tall black-stemmed inflorescences of narrow-petaled flowers and boldly toothed leaves. In fact, the Brits even awarded this plant an Award of Garden Merit—does that mean we should refer to it as Sir Ligularia?

This is another plant that can do well in the semi-shade of an urban garden just as easily as it can in the understory of a suburban wood. The soil must be rich, deep and moist, which describes our local clay soil after it has had some organic amending. If you have a low-lying boggy spot somewhere in your garden, there is a good chance that ligularia would be happy there. Remember, strong sun or high heat

can cause this plant to wilt, and it tends to be happier with protection from strong winds.

'The Rocket' does not have many pests or diseases. In our part of the country, snails and slugs are probably the greatest threat, and are often limited to new growth.

In the spring, the flower stalks shoot up through the heart-shaped serrated leaves, creating quite a spectacular look. The plant can be up to 2–3 feet high, while the flower stalks rise another two feet. The flowers are bright golden yellow, and the blooms often last through mid-summer.

For the Latin junkies out there, *ligularia* refers to the 'tongue-like' leaves on some species in this family, and *stenocephala* refers to the narrow-headed flower. If Latin isn't your thing, you can also call this plant Rayflower or Golden Groundsel. Whatever you call it, this is a great plant to get to know.



Horticultural Calendar

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 at the UC Botanical Gardens, Berkeley. Free (510) 643-2755 or www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

Sundays

Garden Market—Neat plants for sale and free garden talks 10 AM – 2 PM at the Ferry Building SF. (415) 291-3276 or www.cuesa.org

September 16

Using Technology to Reduce Pesticide Use—SF Prof Gardeners Association. 7 PM, Env Hort Dept, City College SF. (415) 558-8036.

October 2 & 3

SFOS Orchid Fest Show and Sale—SF County Fair Bldg. 10 AM–5 PM. \$2. (415) 665.2468 www.orchidsanfrancisco.org

October 9 and November 6

Plant Sale—Diablo Valley College, 21 Golf Club Road, Pleasant Hill, CA 94523 • (925) 685-1230. 9AM–1PM.

October 20

Practical Pruning: A Workshop for Arborists—UC Davis Extension. 9 AM–4 PM. \$190 incl. course materials & box lunch. Info/enroll: (800) 752-0881, aginfo@unexmail.ucdavis.edu or www.extension.davis.edu/agriculture

Regional Parks Botanic Garden

(510) 841-8732 • www.nativeplants.org

October 17

Point Reyes Field Trip—An afternoon of botanizing around the National Seashore, with Glenn Keator. 10 AM

– 3 PM, Members \$80, non-members \$95.

October 24

Montara Mountain Field Trip—Another fine afternoon of botaizing with Glenn Keator. 10 AM – 3 PM, members \$80, non-members \$95.

November 21

Seed Propagation—Learn how to collect, store, treat, and sow a wide variety of seeds, with Martin Grantham. 10 AM – 4 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

November 28

Native Ferns From Spores—A hands-on afternoon covering all you need to know on how to grown your own ferns, with Martin Grantham. 10 AM – 4 PM, members \$40, non-members \$45.

Ruth Bancroft Garden

(925) 210-9663 • www.ruthbancroftgarden.org

September 18

Annual Dinner in the Garden—Benefit event for members and guests, also includes an auction. 4 PM. Call for more info.

October 16

Fall Plant and Iris Sale—Vintage Iris cultivars, cacti and succulents. 9:30 AM – 2 PM.

November 5

Dry Garden Design Seminar III—How to winterize your dry garden. Speakers TBA. 8:30 AM – 3 PM.– 2 PM at the nursery.

RECAP continued from page 4

century a native woman lived on her own for almost two decades only to perish weeks after being rescued and moved to Santa Barbara.

San Nicolas is a 22-square-mile sandy island plateau, 68 miles from the mainland, with an extraordinary 20-acre shell midden attesting to the richness of the Indians' fishery. Four pinnipeds haul out here, but the plant life is somewhat limited. Among the rarities is *Astragalus traskiae*, named for the naturalist Blanche Trask, a turn-of-the-century resident of Catalina and the coastal counterpart of Mary Austin. *Eriogonum grande ssp. tamorum*, an endemic buckwheat, has good horticultural potential, as does the umbellifer *Lomatium insulare*, with its yellow flowers and outsized fruits



Officers

President
Bruce Peters
president@calhortsociety.org

Vice President
Renee Fittinghoff
vicepresident@calhortsociety.org

Past President
Katherine Henwood

Recording Secretary
Richard Starkeson
rstarkeson@calhortsociety.org

Corresponding Secretary
Barbara Hopper
jbhopper@calhortsociety.org

Treasurer
Jan Hamby

Parliamentarian
Jan Hamby

Secretary

Elsie Mueller
1847 34th Avenue
San Francisco, CA
94122-4109
(415) 566-5222
(800) 884-0009

Executive Council

2002-2004

First Term
Michael Craib
Renee Fittinghoff

Second Term
Richard Starkeson
Keitha DeMara

2003-2005

First Term
Bruce Peters
Jason Dewees

Second Term
Katherine Henwood
Ann DeRosa

2004-2006

First Term
Dan Carlson
Scot Medbury
Josh Schechtel

Second Term
Diana Ross

Bulletin

Editor
Bruce Peters
25 Chattanooga Street
San Francisco, CA
94114-3024
(415) 824-1833
editor@calhortsociety.org

Hort Calendar Editor
Corina Rieder
calendar@calhortsociety.org

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 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. 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.



San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA 94122

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #4143
San Francisco

www.calhortsociety.org

Dated Material - Please deliver by September 10