

BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122
September 19, 2005

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 the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

***Donation requested \$5.

Monday, September 19, 2005

Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

Foliage Color & Texture

Presented by **Luen Miller**, noted horticulturist and co-owner of Monterey Bay Nurseries

Luen began focusing on foliage plants after losing an argument with his wife about what color to repaint their house. (She won and she was right). After the house was painted, Luen had an epiphany about the use of plants as samples of colors and textures. The architectural style of the house invited a more Asian type of planting to enhance the overall look. His talk will include slides from gardens around Santa Cruz that celebrate planting for foliage effect before flower color and for his particular love for blue and silver foliage, as well as use of many hardy tropical plants.



In addition because of the distraction of work and the activities of his children he had less time for weeding. Thus, he developed his philosophy of "Weed-Fu". One loosely inspired by the principles of Kung-Fu and Feng Shu, that philosophizes that if you fill up all the empty space in a garden there is nowhere for the weeds to grow.

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 **California Flora Nursery**, Fulton, courtesy of Sherrie Althouse & Philip Van Soelen and the **San Francisco Botanical Garden**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to Berkeley Horticultural Nursery, courtesy of Paul Doty, the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney, Diablo Valley College, courtesy Kathy Echols, Merritt College Propagation Group and Kristin Yanker-Hansen for the outstanding plants donated for the August meeting.

Monday, October 17, 2005

Co-sponsored with the San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum

'On the hunt for rare plants'

"Plants from the Edge of the World-New Explorations in the Far East"

Presented by Tony Kirkham, Head of the Arboretum at the Royal Botanic Garden, Kew, and Mark Flanagan, Keeper of the Gardens at Windsor Great Park. They are two of the most important and influential horticulturists in Great Britain. As authors of the new book, 'Plants From the Edge of the World', they will share their adventures to remote areas in the Far East where they concentrated on the species rich temperate woodlands of South Korea, Taiwan, eastern Russia and Japan.



President's Letter

Bruce Peters

You guys are just the greatest! I was so happy to see everyone (well, almost everyone) walking around the meeting sporting name tags. I wasn't the only happy one, either... more than a few people came up and told me what a great idea they thought it was so THANKS to everyone!

We also had some people sign up on our new (and hilariously decorated by our own inimitable Diana Ross) Volunteer Ease! I knew that was going to be a good idea! We're going to keep that up, too, with the monthly highlighting of various committees/groups so you haven't missed out, just come along to the next meeting.

One thing we're still working the kinks out of is the whole carpool thing, and what the best way to organize that is. I haven't the slightest idea of how to go about it, but we're going to try something at this next meeting. Check it out and let me (or any Council member) know if it was good or bad and how it could be improved. I know it's something

Notable Nurseries

Every month, various nurseries donate well-grown and wonderful plants for our Plant Raffle at the meetings. The raffle being a raffle and all, you don't always get that mega-cool plant you've been dying for, even if you put all of your tickets in one cup (as I well know).

To make it easier on you plantaholics, here is the contact information so you can find, visit and patronize these great nurseries. Be sure to let them know you found them through Cal Hort!

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery

1310 McGee Avenue, in North Berkeley, between Hopkins and Rose.

9:00 to 5:30 Closed Thursdays

(510) 526-470

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

Berkeley Hort is a small family owned retail nursery. Their primary goals are to offer top-quality plants of all types to the public, to collect and disseminate information on anything garden-related, and to provide a pleasant atmosphere in which to browse through an array of horticultural products & accessories.

A few notable departments are CA Natives, Mediterranean plants, Roses, Camellias, Rhododendrons, Tropicals, Cacti, Bulbs, Fruit Trees, and Organic Vegetables. They encourage a sustainable organic approach to gardening;

San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum

(415) 661 1316

Ninth Ave at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park, SF
www.strybing.org

SFBG's nursery propagates many truly rare and unusual plants from its gardens, focusing on material which does

people want, and I'm determined to help you out, especially in these times of high gas prices!

I'm also excited to announce our Fall Field Trip in the Sacramento/Davis Area led by Ted Kipping and Warren Roberts. It's a low-key affair so grab some lunch and meet us up there for what promises to be a fun and educational journey.

It's coming up on Council renewal time again, so start thinking of people you'd like to see guide our Society. If the only person you can think of is yourself, that's just fine! Let one of the Council members (they're all listed on the back of the Bulletin and in the Roster...and now that we all wear name tags at the meetings, you can find them there, too!) or myself know if you're interested or if you just want some more information on what being a Council member entails.

If you weren't at the last meeting, we have some great news about the new Cal Hort plant sale scheduled for next spring. You'll get all the details next month and, boy oh boy, are you going to be happy!

well in the Bay Area. However, there are always a few things worth pushing the climate envelope for. Although not open daily to the public, the nursery has monthly plant sales offering a bounty of treasures. See Hort Calendar on Page 4 for more details.



Botanical Tours

October 12-21, 2005

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 the SF Botanical Garden Society.

February 4 - 17, 2006

A South African Wilderness Experience, Drakensberg Flora & Bushveld Fauna— Drakensberg Park, trails alongside mountain streams, alpine flora on the 'roof of South Africa,' day and night safari drives with expert naturalists, fine mountain resort hotels...this tour has it all! In support of the California Horticultural Society

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

July Plant Forum by Ted Kipping

1. *Alternanthera ficoidea* 'Party Time'

AMARANTHACEAE

(~200 species of annuals, perennials from tropical and subtropical central and south America

Bruce Peters, San Francisco

alternan = alternating

antera = anthers (alternate anthers in the genus are barren of pollen)

Bruce continues to share his fascination with plants bearing variegation, bringing in this scrambling grower to 18" bearing preternaturally bright magenta patches on the leaves. The variegation fades to light pink and white in sun. Grows best with water, but can handles temporary (and repeated) dry conditions with ease.

2. *Cotyledon orbiculare*

CRASSULACEAE

Kathy Echols, Martinez

cotyledon = from *kotyle*, a cavity or small cup; some species have cup-like leaves

orbiculare = *disk shaped*; from the shape of the leaf.

A wide-ranging and variable species with the flattened succulent red-rimmed leaves showing many attractive forms with pednat orange to coral waxy tubular flowers from July–September.

Used natively to treat corns, boils, worms, toothache and earache.

3. *Zantedeschia X* 'Edge of Night'

black calla lily

ARACEAE

(6 species of perennials with rhizomatous tubers from wet areas of South and eastern Africa)

Named for Francesco Zantedeschia, Italian botanist born in 1797.

Kathy's plant had already been in bloom for 2 months (!) and was obtained from Terra Nova nurseries, a tissue culture lab outside of Portland, Oregon.

Originally from wet areas of south and southeast Africa, these have been used for wounds, boils, bronchitis, sore throat gargles and asthma.

4. Kristen Yanker-Hansen of Danville, CA, where mid-summer temperatures regularly rise over 100°F, brought an arresting bouquet illustrating what's putting on a show in her fog-free July garden.

• *Agapanthus X* 'Storm Cloud' & 'Blue Sapphire'

LILIACEAE 10 SPECIES OF S. AFRICAN PERENNIALS

agape=love

anthos=flower

The cultivar names say it all on these sun-loving 'African lilies.'



Zantedeschia X 'Edge of Night'

• *Agastache sphaeralcea*

Giant hyssop

LAMIACEAE

(30 species of aromatic perennials from Asia and N. America)

agan=very much

stachys = an ear of wheat, in reference to the many flower spikes.

Beloved of hummingbirds and other pollinators in arid, hilly landscapes, these sub-shrubs delight the eye and olfactories, as well.

• *Helenium autumnale*

sneezeweed

ASTERACEAE

(~40 species of annuals, biennials and perennials found in damp meadows or woodland margins in North and Central America)

helenium = derived from another plant named for Helen of Troy

autumnale = pertaining to autumn

Unlike the related and salubrious *Echinacea*, sneezeweeds cause severe discomfort if any part is ingested while contact with the foliage may aggravate skin allergies. That caveat aside, they make sturdy long-blooming part-shade to sun-loving displays in damp areas and make good cut flowers. Apiarists and butterflies also value them.

• *Echinacea purpurea*

purple coneflower

ASTERACEAE

(9 species of strong, stiff perennials of dry prairies, gravelly hillsides and open woodland in central and eastern North America with thick, short rhizomatous rootstocks)

Echinos = 'a hedgehog,' in allusion to the prickly scales of the receptacle.

The 'cone,' composed of the disk flowers and stiff paper bracts, is remarkably sturdy and prickly feeling—try it! Used as an immune system stimulant—especially with the bitter tasting root of goldenseal *Hydrastis*. Also used for wounds, fevers, colds and colics, nausea and 'nerves.'

• *Dahlia* (probably *coccinea*)

ASTERACEAE

(~30 species of tuberous rooted perennials of montane Central America)

Named for Dr. Anders Dahl (1751–1789), Swedish botanist and pupil of Linneaus

coccinea = scarlet

In the clan of *Dablias* called 'single,' as are most species. The dahlia was first introduced to Europe to ☞

be used as a tuberous food source like the Jerusalem artichoke but the taste never caught on. However, the enthusiasm for breeding them as garden ornamentals certainly did, as evidenced by the more than 20,000 (and counting) named cultivars. Of late, the dahlia has been resurrected for containing substances which are to males what the yam is for women. (Flower Power!)

- **Rudbeckia fulgida**

Black-eyed Susan

ASTERACEAE

(20 species of annuals, biennials and perennials of moist meadows and light woodlands of North America)

Rudbeckia = for Olaf Rudbeck (1630-1702) Swedish anatomist, botanist and antiquarian whose son, also a botanist, befriended the young Linnaeus (Karl Linn), then an impoverished student. The name commemorates father **and** son.

fulgida = shining or glistening, which some do.

- **Hibiscus syriacus**

Rose of Sharon, rose mallow

MALVACEAE

(200 species of trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals widely distributed in warm temperate as well as sub-tropical and tropical climates)

Hibiscus = from the Greek name

syriacus = Syrian, (not the first time the last point of export on a trade route was mistaken for the source)

An erect deciduous shrub up to 10+ feet by 6+ feet with large (2"+++ wide) satiny trumpet-like to salverform flowers in a wide range of colors—whites, yellows, reds, pinks, lilac-blues—some with contrasting 'eye-rings.' Blooms late summer to mid-autumn.

- **Monarda didyma**

beetbalm, bergamot, Oswego tree, horse-mint, squaw tea

LAMIACEAE

(-15 species of annuals and clumping perennials of dry scrub, prairies and woodland in North America)

Monarda = for Nicholas Monarda (1493-1588), physician, & botanist of Seville who published on New World plants and their uses.

didyma = twin or in pairs; two-fold. Referring to the strong 2-lipped structure of the tubular flowers.

Red to pinkish clusters, much used by American Indians and pioneers for colic, colds, fever, gastrointestinal troubles, headaches, emasles, worms, insomnia, etc.

- **Phlox paniculata hybrid**

POLEMONIACEAE

(70 species in North America, 1 in Siberia)

Phlox = flame, in reference to some brightly colored species *paniculata* flowers arranged in panicles

Kristin shared a dark burgundy selection resistant to powdery mildew—the scourge of so many of the early *P. paniculata* forms.

- **Wisteria X 'Cook's Special Purple'**

FABACEAE

(10- species of deciduous woody vines in Asia and US)

Wisteria misspelled from Caspar Wistar (1761-

1818), professor of Anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania

Kristin's vine in sporadic, but continuing bloom, reminds us that some *Wisterias* are able to bloom on new growth, not just from buds formed on end-of-summer spurs.

5. Our speaker, Martin Grantham of Emeryville, CA, brought in some choice selections:

- **Aristea juncifolia**

IRIDACEAE

(50 species of evergreen clumpers from coastal and mountain sites in S, W and E Africa and Madagascar.

Aristea = *aristos* (Greek) = pleasing or best

juncus = rush

juncifolia = rush-like foliage

1 inch purple/blue star-like flower with spiky-bladed foliage, many which resemble large *Sisyrinchiums*.

- **Condrotalium tectorum**

RESTIONACEAE

Condros = cartilage

petalum = petals

tectorum = roof, these rush-like plants are used for thatching roofs in S. Africa.

Elegant, jointed and rush-like with appealing glossy deciduous papery bracts, these plants create a compelling textural effect in the landscape.

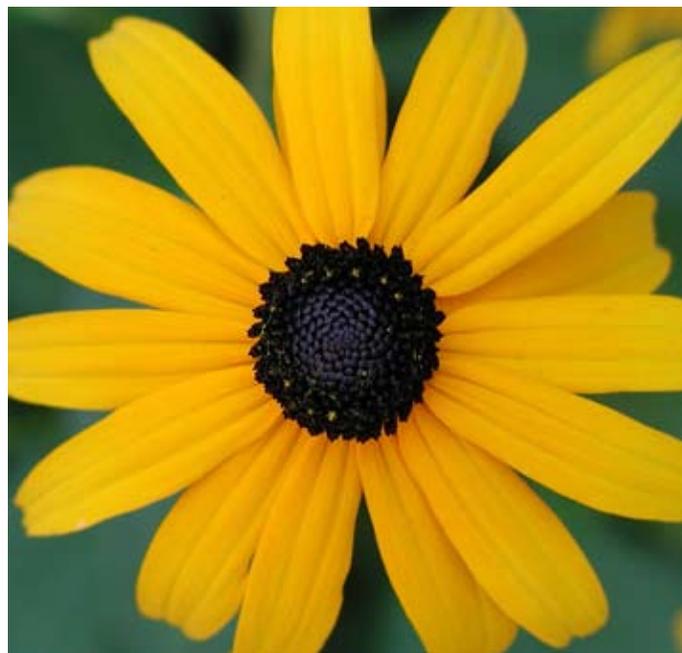
- **Nivenia corymbosa**

IRIDACEAE

Nivenia = named for Niven

corymbosa = broad, flat-topped or domed inflorescence.

A gentian-blue, woody member of the Iris family, this species has been recorded to 10 feet (!) but Martin finds it bushy to 22" in sun and a slender 3' in shade.



Rudbeckia

Photo by Anita Gould - CLick photo for larger size or more images

Do You Grow These?

If you have enjoyed growing these types of plants, please collect and contribute seed for our exchange.

Please indicate, too, which of these qualities pertain to each type of seed you donate. Thanks!



Laperousia pyramidalis.

- California natives
- California native grasses
- California native annuals
- California native high-altitude plants
- California native bulbs
- wild-collected seed from the SF Bay Area
- South African natives
- trees for hot and summer dry conditions
- shrubs for shade
- attractive to butterflies
- “quick” seed (flower in one season)
- succulents
- bulbs
- tropicals
- bamboos
- vegetables

Kathy Till will be collecting old cell phones and cell phone batteries for the National Wildlife Federation who will get \$1 for every phone donated. Please bring your old phones and batteries to the August meeting.



Grants and Scholarships

Change is in the air! The new deadline for Grants & Scholarships submissions is November 1. This change in time will better coincide with the school year and those looking for scholarships. Look on our website at www.calhortsociety.org for all the submission details.



Cal Hort Committees

Following is a list of committees that our Society can use help in. Although some are fairly well staffed, we can always use a little extra help! After looking them over for something you're interested in, contact our fearless president, Bruce, via email (bruce@calhortsociety.org) or phone (415 203-4407) and we'll get you on your way! This is a great way to meet and learn from other Cal Hort members.

Advertising – Currently vacant. We'd really love to get some help here in both selling and organizing advertising.

Awards – The Awards committee chooses our Annual Awards, including garden awards, cultural awards etc. See the article in this issue for a full list.

Bulletin – We can always use help in procuring articles and other interesting tidbits for the *Bulletin*, and wouldn't balk at accepting any layout help, as well!

Field Trip/Open Gardens – This committee organizes our annual local field trips as well as the open garden tours.

Flower and Garden Show – Volunteers seek out and procure new and interesting plants for our exhibit at the Annual Flower and Garden Show at the Cow Palace.

Grants and Scholarships – Mostly, this committee goes through the applications for grants and scholarships and makes their recommendations to the council.

Nominating – Composed of 2 board members and one general member, this committee, formed anew each July, finds interested members to serve on our Council.

Plant Forum – Volunteers here help in writing up each month's submissions and sending them to the *Bulletin* editor.

Plant Sale – Looks like this is on again and we have a need for people to help out. Duties include, but are not limited to, driving to nurseries to pick up plants, storing plants, setting up and striking the actual sale etc.

Program – Coming up with new and exciting ideas for our monthly speakers and then following through to get those speakers is the task our Program committee does so well.

Public relations/membership – Getting Cal Hort's name out there is something we're currently not so great at.

Reception – The reception committee helpers are the first faces people see when they come to our monthly meetings.

Seed Exchange – This committee collects, organizes and doles out our annual seed donations.

Web Site – Keeping the web site up to date is a perennial task which, unfortunately, is sometimes neglected.



Horticultural Calendar

September 10

Plant Sale—Diablo Valley College, 321 Golf Club road, Pleasant Hill. 9AM - 1PM.

September 12 - 27

Advanced Floral Design—A six day course held at the Filoli Center. 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, members \$350, non-members \$400. (650) 364-8300 x507 or www.filoli.org

September 24

100% Agave or How to go from Maguey to Margarita—A Lotusland lecture featuring the production of alcohol from the Agave. A reception with margaritas follows. 3 - 5 PM, members \$35, non-members \$40. (805) 969-9990 or www.lotusland.org

September 15

Defensive Responses in Plants: Can We Stimulate them?—Chris Geiger, SFPGA, 7-9 PM, Environmental Hort & Floriculture Dept, CCSF. (415) 558-8036.

Through October 1

Photo Exhibition—Oakland photographer Margaretta K. Mitchell shows recent work of English Gardens at the Mechanics Institute Library, 57 Post Street, SF. Open M-F 10 AM-5 PM, free. (415) 393-0114 or www.milibrary.org

October 1

Plant Sale—The Merritt College Landscape Hort Dept. brings you another great sale 12500 Campus Drive Oakland. 9 AM - 3 PM (510) 436-2418 or www.merrittlandhort.com

October 1 & 8

Creating a Native Plant Garden—Learn how to transform your yard into the right kind of native garden for your site. With Glenn Keator. 10 AM - 3 PM and 10 AM - 1 PM local native garden tour. At the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Berkeley, members \$70, non-members \$90. Get info at (510) 841-8732 or www.nativeplants.org

October 7, 8 & 9

Fall Festival and Native Plant Sale—The Theodore Payne Foundation celebrates the best time of year to plant natives. 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM at the TPF Nursery, 10459 Tuxford St., Sun Valley. (818) 768-1802 or www.theodorepayne.org

October 14

Practical Pruning: A Workshop for Arborists—UC Davis. 9AM - 4PM, \$190 fee. Info and to enroll (800) 752-0881. aginfo@unexmail.ucdavis.edu.

Ruth Bancroft Garden

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

September 24

Ethnobotany Tour—This walking tour with Marilyn Brackett will focus on specific plants and their traditional uses. Starts at 10 AM, members \$5, non-members \$10. RSVP

October 8

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

October 8

Free Home Composting Workshop—Sponsored by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority. Starts at 11 AM, please RSVP.

The Gardens At Heather Farm

(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org

September 17

Fall Plant Sale—9 AM - 1 PM.

September 24

Great Trees for the Garden—Selection and care of trees of the best trees for our climate, includes a garden tour and tree list. 9 AM - noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

October 1

Healthy Gardening 101!—All you need to know and do for a great and beautiful garden. 9 AM - 12:30 PM, members \$15, non-members \$20.

October 22

Great Plants for Shade—Learn about great shade loving plants and how to care for them. 9 AM - noon, members \$15, non-members \$20.

SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

September 10

Plant Sale—Featuring CA native plants and succulents. 10 AM - 1 PM at the Nursery

September 24

Gardening with Light and Movement—Explore how to capture light and movement in your garden using plants, color and structure. With John Greenlee. 9 AM - 3 PM, members \$85, non-members \$105.

October 8

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

U.C. Botanical Garden At Berkeley

(510) 643-2755

www.botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu

First Saturday of each Month

Sick Plant Clinic—Let plant pathologist Dr. Raabe and entomologist Dr. Mills diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM - noon, free.

September 25

Fall Plant Sale—Featuring many choice plants propagated from the Garden's collection. Members sale and silent auction 9 - 10 AM, public sale 10 AM - 2 PM.

October 23

Children's Carnivorous Plant Bog Garden Workshop—join your child in creating a creepy insect eating 'garden' to take home. 1 - 2 PM, members \$12, non-members \$15. ☞

Calycanthus occidentalis
the Spice Bush

There are so many garden-worthy native plants out there, like so many Hollywood starlets, waiting to be discovered. Well, it is about time that more people recognize the native spice bush. This deciduous shrub gets to about 8 feet tall, with nice dark green leaves. From April to August, it has large, red, fragrant flowers that give it a tropical look. Being native to canyons and stream sides of the northern Coastal Range and parts of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada, it isn't very fussy about soil type, as long as it stays evenly moist. Partial shade suits it just fine, and it can take full sun along the coast.

The tongue twister of a name is from Greek, *kalyx* for calyx and *anthos* for flower. This refers to the similarity between the sepals and petals of the flower. *Occidentalis* refers to the plant's western locale. One botanical reference describes the flowers like this: "hypanthium campanulate or ovoid-campanulate at maturity, with tepals linear to linear-spatulate or ovate-elliptic, apex rounded; stamens 10-15, linear to oblong-linear." Huh? What language was that? I would have just said that they are red and puffy and smell nice. Now I know why I'm not a botanist... Other people say that the flowers look like water lilies. Really. Up in the air. On the end of a woody branch. Use your imagination.

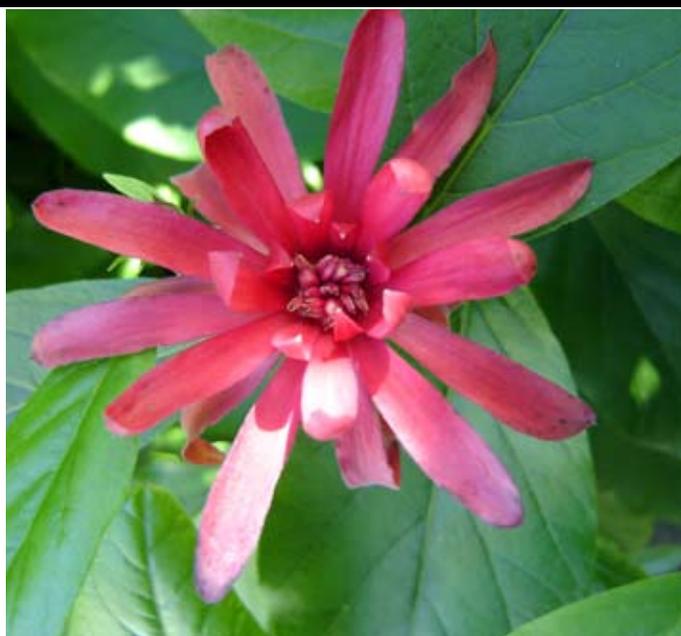


Photo by David Kruse

Like so many of my favorite garden plants, this one is a multitasker. In addition to looking good, this plant's bark and leaves also smell nice, and the scraped bark was used by Native Americans to treat colds. How many Hollywood starlets can make that claim?



U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum
(831) 427-2998 • www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum

Elizabeth Gamble Garden
(650) 329-1356 • www.gamblegarden.org

October 8

Fall Plant Sale—Together with the Cal. Native Plant Society in the Eucalyptus grove. 10 AM to noon for members of either organization, noon to 4 PM for the general public.

November 6

Grevilleas—Bill Grant will give a talk on these most diverse and useful of Australian plants. 1:30 PM, \$15 non-members, \$10 members.

November 19& 20

Dried Flower and Succulent Wreath Sale—Hand-made and Living Holiday Decorations galore! Saturday 10 AM to 4 PM or Sunday 10 AM to 2 PM in the Horticulture Building.

September 10

Mediterranean Plants for CA—Join Merrill Jensen in discovering great plants for our mediterranean climate. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

September 30

Garden Jewels: The Mint Family—A slide lecture with Betsy Clebsch. 10 AM – noon, members \$20, non-members \$25.

October 8

California Plants for Every Garden—Find out which natives will do best in your yard or garden style. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

Earn CEU Credits

We now offer Continuing Education Units for the California Certified Nursery Professionals—a program of the California Association of Nurseries & Garden Centers. Attendance at our monthly lectures and plant Forum will qualify you for one CEU. Sign in at the registration desk *following* the program.



Just announced! October Field Trip!

See flyer inside for details.

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Executive Council

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First Term
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Second Term
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2005–2007

First Term
Sue Gaylord
Bonnie Remigio
Ted Kipping

Bulletin

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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.

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

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