

*The next monthly general meeting is Monday, September 20, 2010 at 7:15 pm*

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, 9th 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 9th Avenue in San Francisco.

7:15 PM – Announcements, Plant Forum, and Program Meeting will be held at the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in San Francisco.

Cal Hort members may attend for FREE. Non-members – a donation of \$5 is requested

## SEPTEMBER 2010 PROGRAM

### Eating California by Alrie Middlebrook



Alrie Middlebrook will be profiling thirty-five native edible plants that have been chosen for their garden beauty, nutritional value, flavor and potential as agricultural food crops that can be easily integrated into mainstream California cuisine. Alrie is a committed advocate and practitioner of the sustainable lifestyle, a landscape professional and

California native plant specialist. Her San Jose, California-based build/design firm, Middlebrook Gardens, has installed over 150 California native gardens and remains on the leading edge of the rising sustainability movement. She published the California native plant cookbook, *Eating California*.

## OCTOBER 2010 MEETING

### The Flora of Borneo by Tom Ballinger

The island of Borneo has long been known as a rich repository of flora. A photographic account of a trip to Mount Kinabalu in Sabah and Mulu Park in Sarawak will reveal the tremendous diversity within both montane and lowland forest communities. Ferns, Vireya rhododendrons, nepenthes and orchids will be given special emphasis as will plants with common interest to Bay Area gardeners. A landscaper in San Francisco, Tom Ballinger has travelled and done photography in Asia for over two years.

# SEPTEMBER HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR by Don L. MacGregor

## Lawn Removal with Kat Weiss

*Saturday, September 18, 11AM–1PM*

Ready to ditch your lawn and install a low-water landscape in its place? Learn how to remove your lawn in this informative and hands-on workshop. Ruth Bancroft Garden; \$15 for RBG and Garden Conservancy members, \$20 for general public. 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek. (925)944-9352 [Ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://Ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## Harvesting Rain for the Landscape with Kim Titus

*Sunday, September 19, 10AM–11:30AM*

Keep relatively clean rainwater out of the sewer! The technology of rainwater harvesting; roof and downspout connections, first flush diverters, above-ground containment options and predicting typical collection volume from your roof, and more. Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Wildcat Canyon Road at South Park Drive, Berkeley. (510)528-0526 [nativeplants.org](http://nativeplants.org)

## Guided Tour: Outstanding Oaks

*Saturday, September 25, 10AM*

Fall is the perfect time to get to know the Arboretum's World Class Oak Collection and their special adaptations. Gazebo, Garrod Drive, UC Davis Arboretum. (530)752-4880 [Arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://Arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

## How Plants Live, Die, and Thrive in Our Gardens with Ernesto Sandoval, Director UC Davis Botanical Conservatory

*Saturday, September 25, 9:30AM–1:30PM*

This will be a discussion—using plants and plant images—to learn, in non-technical language, why plants flourish or flounder in our gardens. Why are some plants bulbs and not trees? Why is pH important and how roots work? How do plants know when to re-grow after being pruned or damaged? Bring your inquiring mind to learn the inside/outside of plant growth with an accessible perspective. Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco; \$55 for members, \$65 for general public. SF County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park; (415) 661-1316 x 400. [sfbotanicalgardensociety.org](http://sfbotanicalgardensociety.org)

## Wildflowers of the Colorado Rocky Mountains

*Tuesday, September 28, 7PM*

The Kippings invite you to a potluck dinner and slideshow. Please bring a dish and beverage to serve 8 people. Strybing Arboretum, SF County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way. (415) 753-7090

## Vanishing of the Bees

*Wednesday, September 29, 6–8PM*

This is the Berkeley premiere of a documentary film exploring the alarming disappearance of honeybees within commercial honeybee

operations that are crucial to American orchards and farms. Only 70 tickets! You must purchase tickets in advance at (510) 643-2755. UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, Strawberry Canyon, Berkeley. [Berkeley.edu/botanicgarden](http://Berkeley.edu/botanicgarden)

## The Bay Area Wildlife Garden: Birds, Bees, Butterflies, and Other Beneficials with Nancy Bauer and Charlotte Torgovitsky.

*Saturday, October 2, 10AM–1PM*

Enhance the habitat value of your garden by providing a sanctuary for birds, bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Learn about selecting plant families and species for nectar and/or food value for wildlife. Regional Parks Botanic Garden; \$35 for members, \$40 for general public. Wildcat Canyon Road at South Park Drive, Berkeley. (510) 528-0526 [Nativeplants.org](http://Nativeplants.org)

## Free Neighborhood Plant Exchange

*Saturday, October 9, Noon–4PM*

Do you have plants you must prune or divide? How about trading your excess with others? All types of plants are welcome—from cuttings to full size. Garden accessories and even goldfish are welcome. This is the Seventh Annual Exchange! 3811 Lakeshore, Oakland. (510) 866-8482 [Plantexchange.wordpress.com](http://Plantexchange.wordpress.com) [plantexchange510@gmail.com](mailto:plantexchange510@gmail.com)

## Succulent Troubleshooting

*Saturday, October 9, 11AM–1PM*

From pests to frost to too much water, there are lots of things that can make a succulent sick. This class covers prevention of common problems and teaches you how to fix ones that have already occurred. Feel free to bring in samples of a sick plant. Ruth Bancroft Garden; \$15 for RBG and Garden Conservancy members, \$20 for the general public. 1552 Bancroft road, Walnut Creek. [ruthbancroftgarden.org](http://ruthbancroftgarden.org)

## Plant Families of Mt. Diablo—Tour with Glenn Keator

*Saturday, October 9, 10AM–3PM*

Mt. Diablo displays a wide diversity of local plant families and species appropriate for Bay Area gardens. Glenn will lead a hike to two distinct parts of the mountain—a three-mile hike in chaparral oak woodland and a 1-mile hike near the rocky summit. BYO lunch, liquids, field notebook, and camera; \$65 for Strybing Arboretum members, \$75 for general public. (415) 661-1316 x 400 [sfbotanicalgarden.org/education](http://sfbotanicalgarden.org/education)

## A Tour of David Feix Landscape Design— Gardens in the East Bay

### A Retrospective of Seven Gardens

*Sunday, October 10, 2010 10AM–5:30PM*

Contact David Feix for a complete description of the tour and the hours gardens will be open. [DavidFeix@Yahoo.Com](mailto:DavidFeix@Yahoo.Com)

## Plant of the Month by Josh Schechtel

### *Baccharis*

Family: ASTERACEAE

The genus *Baccharis* contains several very worthwhile native plants for the California gardener. Different species are found from the relatively mild coast to inland areas with extremes of heat and cold, from riparian habitat to inland desert. No matter where you live in California, there is probably a *Baccharis* for you! Several of the *Baccharis* species are fairly deer resistant, and most of them grow rapidly, attaining their full size in two to three years. Another advantage: they often do well on sites with disturbed soil, unlike some other native plants, so they make good cover on newly developed sites. In return, *Baccharis* doesn't have flashy flowers or exciting foliage. They provide a nice green backdrop for other plants, or a low maintenance groundcover, and a shelter for wildlife. *Baccharis* species are an important food source for predatory wasps, native butterflies and native flies. So, while they aren't as flashy as some other plants, they help attract wildlife to the garden and keep it green, even in the summer when other plants want to wilt or go dormant.

*Baccharis pilularis* 'Pigeon Point' is probably the best-known cultivar, growing about a foot tall and



(Top) An example of *Baccharis pilularis*.  
 (Bottom left) Female flowers of *Baccharis pilularis*.  
 (Bottom right) Male flowers of *Baccharis pilularis*.

up to twelve feet wide. It is useful to cover slopes and areas that don't get much foot traffic. Other species are more upright. They are all tough plants that are worth trying if you have a problem area that gets good sunlight.

## Monthly Plant Drawing News

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. For the August meeting, Don Mahoney provided some unusual plants from the Strybing Nursery. Charlotte Masson brought selections from her abundant garden, and Kristin Yanker-Hansen brought plants from her garden. Thank you all for your generosity. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from your garden to share with other members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find unusual plants for your garden.

## Romeo and Juliet

Thursday – Sunday September 16-19  
 also 23-26, 8pm Arboretum Gazebo

The UC Davis Arboretum and newly formed Davis Shakespeare Ensemble present Shakespeare's immortal tale of family rivalry and young lovers, in the romantic, gorgeous garden setting of the Arboretum gazebo. Performed al fresco, "in the round". Order tickets at [Davis.Shakespeare@gmail.com](mailto:Davis.Shakespeare@gmail.com)  
 \$8.00 Students \$5.00 Non-Students  
 Children under 12 free (530)752-4880  
[Arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://Arboretum.ucdavis.edu)



**The California Horticultural Society**

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

**www.calhortsociety.org**

**FALL PLANT SALES**

**Focus on California Native Plants – UC Davis Arboretum**

Saturday, September 25, Member Sale 9-11AM Public Sale 11AM-1PM,  
Arboretum teaching nursery on Garrod Drive.

[Arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://Arboretum.ucdavis.edu)

**UC Berkeley Botanic Garden**

Sunday, September 26, 9AM-2PM

(510) 643-2755. [Berkeley.edu/botanicgarden](http://Berkeley.edu/botanicgarden)

**Strybing Arboretum Nursery**

Saturday October 9, 10-1PM

Trees, ferns and rhododendrons are featured at this month's sale.

9th Avenue and Lincoln Way, San Francisco

**UC Santa Cruz Arboretum**

**and California Native Plant Society at one sale!**

Saturday, October 9, Noon-4PM.

Arboretum Associates and CNPS members enter at 10AM.

Memberships available at the gate. Arboretum Eucalyptus Grove,

1156 High St. Santa Cruz. (831)427-2998.

[arboretum.ucsc.edu/calendar/](http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/calendar/)

To join the California Horticultural Society, or for a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org), or contact Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

The California Horticultural Society has maintained is 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.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Board. You can also chat with Board members, either by e-mail, by phone, or at the next Monday's meeting.

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.

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

2008-2010 (Second Term) Jim Budke,  
Ted Kipping

2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

2010-2012 (First Term) Michael Craib,  
Betsy Flack, Don MacGregor, Caren Magreblan,  
Dave Mrus

2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,  
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