

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, September 15, 2014, at 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

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Plant of the Month

Geijera parviflora



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

Ethnobotanical Botanizing in Transcaucasia

By Joseph Simcox



To the south of the Caucasus, Europe’s highest mountains, are the republics of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. This region is a hotspot of biodiversity, with some 6400 species of higher plants, of which a quarter are endemic. It was a cradle of plant domestication. Grapes, for example, were domesticated in what is now Georgia 4000 or even as much as 8000 years ago. The forests of the region hold the progenitors of many of our favorite orchard and bush fruits,

as well as a vast array of unique edibles. World food plant ecologist and botanical explorer Joseph Simcox will take us on a photographic tour of this botanical region. He will discuss the horticultural and culinary opportunities for the gardeners who grow marvels from Transcaucasia. Irina Stoenescu, a food historian, will then follow with cultural stories about some of the species Joe introduced and share traditional recipes still cherished in the region today. Joseph anticipates being able to share some seeds with attendees and information regarding sourcing of some of the species he will talk about.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014

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 only 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.

HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

MARKHAM PLANT SALE: WELCOME TO FALL COLOR

Saturday, September 13; 9 AM–1 PM
Markham Nature Park and Arboretum Garden Center
1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

Find lots of interesting perennials and drought-tolerant California natives. In addition, Robin Parer, of the Geraniaceae Nursery, will be there with her special offerings of unusual gernaiums and pelargoniums.

BRINGING BACK THE NATIVES: DROUGHT-TOLERANT GARDENING WITH NATIVES FOR INTEREST AND COLOR THROUGHOUT THE SEASONS

Saturday, September 13; 10 AM–3 PM

Join artistic landscape designer Pete Veilleux of East Bay Wilds in a tour of two drought-tolerant native plant gardens designed to provide color and beauty throughout the year. The third stop will be Pete's own native plant nursery, East Bay Wilds, which contains a wide selection of native plants, including many not sold in other nurseries. Take this opportunity to tour the nursery with Pete; you may wish to purchase some of the plants you have just seen. (Pre-registration is required, \$30) For more information contact Kathy Kramer, (510) 236-9558, or email kathy@kathykramerconsulting.net or visit the web site at www.bringingbackthenatives.net.

SUCCULENT PROPAGATION

Saturday, September 13; 10:30 AM–Noon
Saturday, September 13; 2 PM–3:30 PM

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek
Propagation is one of the first techniques to learn as you explore your love for succulent plants. Whether you want to use your plants in crafts and decor or just have an abundance for your garden, we will teach you the most successful and easiest methods of increasing your collection. Learn the best propagation techniques for specific plants, see demonstrations of some of the trickier methods, and participate in hands-on practice that will frequently come in handy in your own garden. \$25; \$20 Members.

GROWING THE DROUGHT-TOLERANT PALETTE: INSPIRATION AND ACHIEVABLE BEAUTY FOR WATER-WISE GARDENS.

*Date TBD (either Friday, September 19
or Saturday, September 20, 2014); Time TBD (morning program)*
Gardens at Heather Farm
1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek

Expand your drought-tolerant garden palette with underutilized water-wise plant choices. Get excited about new-to-you drought-tolerant plants and learn from several expert speakers how to use them in a garden. Look at some great statement plants to update your gardens with structure, color, and year-round beauty. Discover companion plants that complement existing gardens and mingle well with others. Speakers will include Brain Kemble, Garden Curator at The Ruth Bancroft Garden and Troy McGregor, Gondwana Flora. Check the web site for more information: www.ruthbancroftgarden.org.

UC BOTANICAL GARDEN FALL PLANT SALE

Sunday, September 28;
Members: 9 AM–10:30 AM, Public: 10:30 AM–3 PM
UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley

QUARRYHILL FALL GARDEN TOUR

Thursday, September 18; Tours at 9:30 AM, 11 AM, 1 PM

Join us for Quarryhill Botanical Garden's annual Fall Garden Tour. Those who attend will get the rare opportunity to view two stunning local gardens – the Mulberry House and the Jubaea Estate. \$125; \$145 for non-members. Space is limited, so reserve your spot by calling 707.996.3166 today. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to scheduled departure. Vans will leave promptly. All tours begin and end at Quarryhill Botanical Garden. See more at: www.quarryhillbg.org/page94.html#sthash.H5K5aEVo.dpuf

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

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

Tuesday, September 23; 7 PM

EXPLORING SOUTHEAST BRAZIL: MINAS GERAIS AND BAHIA with Carl Carter

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

MARKHAM GARDEN PARTY

Sunday, September 28; 1 PM–4 PM
Markham Nature Park and Arboretum
1202 La Vista Avenue, Concord

Start with a tasting of our organic heirloom tomatoes, accompanied by artisanal bread, domestic and foreign cheeses, grilled summer and fall veggies, a glass of wine or "shrub" and hand-crafted ice cream. Then enjoy live music, a raffle and guided tours. Members: \$15; \$20 per couple. Non-members: \$20; \$30 per couple. Please RSVP by September 15 with your name, address, phone, email, and names of your guests. Call 925-681-2969 or email: info@markhamarboretum.org

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Geijera parviflora, Australian Willow

Family: RUTACEAE



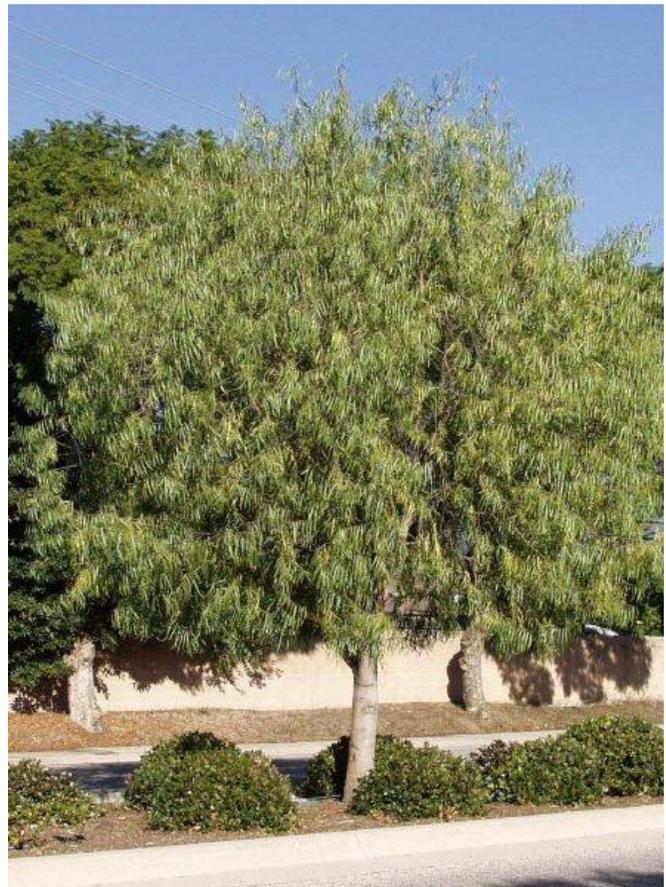
I was recently on the east coast, which was enjoying the balmy, humid weather that summer usually brings. There was even some summer rain, an amazing occurrence in California, but par for the course back east. I got to sit under a large weeping willow, something that immediately took me back to the summers of my youth.

As much as I love these trees, I also realize that they are totally impractical in our dry climate. However, *Geijera parviflora* is a wonderful substitute, with its weeping branches and willow-like leaves.

The genus *Geijera* is a small group of trees and shrubs native to Australia, New Guinea and New Caledonia. The exact origin of the name *Geijera* is unclear, but it is believed to be after J. D. Geijer, a Swedish botanist. Hailing from the woodlands of semi-arid eastern Australia, *Geijera parviflora* is a graceful small tree rarely exceeding 30 feet in height, and is perfect for a small garden or

as a street tree. It has tiny flowers (hence the name *parviflora*) and small hard fruits that are not messy. The leaves have a nice scent when crushed, and once established, Australian willow needs very little water. It can tolerate a wide variety of soil types, including the dreaded clay, as long as it isn't overwatered. Full sun to light shade will keep this tree thriving, with the inner branches tending to grow upright, and the outer branches being more pendulous.

A bit of pruning when it is still young can help shape the tree to increase the weeping effect if this is desired. Unlike the Mayten (*Maytenus boaria*), which is also grown for its weeping habit, *Geijera* does not sucker from the roots. The only difficulty with *Geijera parviflora* is finding it in the trade, since it is difficult to propagate from seed or from cuttings.



Geijera parviflora



California Horticultural Society
 San Francisco County Fair Building
 Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way
 San Francisco, CA 94122

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thank you to Kristin Yanker-Hansen and Byron Martin of Logee's Greenhouses for bringing in plants for the drawing. Also a special thanks goes to Luen Miller for bringing in a fabulous selection of plants for the door prizes. This month our guest speaker, Joseph Simcox will be bringing a selection of seeds from the Caucasus. Please bring unusual plants from your gardens for sharing. It is also an opportunity for our members to obtain unusual plants.

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.

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.

Questions from members about your membership? Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair, Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Palmos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209 (gardengurus@gmail.com).

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.

COUNCIL

2013-2015 (First Term) Ellen Edelson,
 Dave Hermeyer, Charlotte Masson,
 2014-2016 (First Term) Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib

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BULLETIN EDITOR

editor@calhortsociety.org

CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org

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.