

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, September 21, 2015; 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

Plant of the Month

Lomandra longifolia



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

A Succulent for Every Garden

by Brian Kemble,

Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden



There are many exotic, hard-to-find and hard-to-grow succulent plants, but this talk will focus on succulents which do well in the Bay Area and can be used by any gardener to create an attractive drought-tolerant garden.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

**Exciting South American Bulbs
for the Summer and Winter Growing Seasons**

By Nhu Nguyen



South America is home to many wonderful bulbs, with a diversity of forms and of seasonal bloom. Nhu Nguyen, President of the Pacific Bulb Society, will discuss both easy-to-grow and uncommon species and their cultivation.

Late Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

HOME IRRIGATION WORKSHOPS

Saturday, September 12; 10 AM–NOON

Markham Nature Park and Arboretum, 1202 La Vista, Concord

A recent participant commented, "Now I finally understand what my landscaper is talking about!" If you want a simple solution to saving water in your landscape, this one-day workshop is for you. Learn by hands-on tasks how to convert an existing sprinkler system to drip. All the basic parts of the system will be demonstrated, and there will be time for questions throughout the workshop. The instructor, Seth Wright, is a landscape contractor with 20 years experience in the landscape industry, now specializing in irrigation efficiency. This workshop was made possible with the generous support of the Contra Costa Water District and the City of Concord. \$30; Class limited to 15. Classes meet in the nursery area at the Garden Center.

THE KIPPINGS INVITE YOU TO POTLUCK*/SLIDE SHOWS

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

Wednesday, September 16; 7 PM

EXPLORING GUYANA

with Alan Ridley and Helen McKenna

Wednesday, October 21; 7 PM

WILDFLOWERS OF THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

with Joan Hockaday

Wednesday, November 18; 7 PM

EVOLUTION OF OUR GARDEN

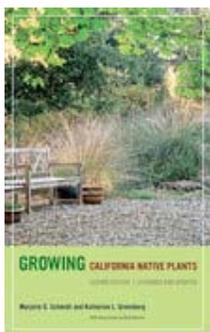
with Ted Kipping

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

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANTS FOR SEASONAL INTEREST: FALL

Friday, September 18; 10 AM–NOON

UC Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley



The workshop will begin with a discussion of Katherine Greenberg's favorite plants for seasonal interest in Fall, with suggestions for companion plants. Katherine will also present ideas for planting a water-wise garden with native plants suited to Bay Area gardens. Fall is the ideal time for planting, and participants will receive a list of plants that will be available at the plant sale, with a pass to come early to the sale. Participants will also have an opportunity to purchase *Growing California Native Plants*. The book is a useful resource for gardeners, with descriptions of 300 native plants, 200 color photos, and lists of plants for different garden situations. \$25/ \$20 Members. Register online, or by calling 510-664-9841, or by emailing gardenprograms@berkeley.edu.

SUCCULENT PROPAGATION

Saturday, September 19; 10:30 AM–NOON

(2–3:30 PM will open if there is enough interest)

Ruth Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road, Walnut Creek

Propagation is one of the first techniques to learn as you explore your love for succulent water-conserving plants. Whether you want to use your plants in crafts and décor or have an abundant collection in your garden, this course will teach you the most successful and easiest methods of increasing your collection. Succulents are easy to propagate through different techniques including division and by taking cuttings. These activities produce quick results and utilize the natural tendencies of the plants in a very effective way. Learn which types of plants thrive with which practices, and participate in some hands-on practice of the common routines that you will use frequently in your garden. \$20 / \$15 Members.

UC SANTA CRUZ ARBORETUM 50TH ANNIVERSARY JUBILEE

Sunday, September 20; 4–7 PM

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz

This event will honor the Arboretum's foundation and toast its future. Fred Keeley, who has a long record of public service and statewide leadership on environmental issues, will be emcee and auctioneer. Please join us in honoring director Brett Hall and volunteers Phyllis Norris and Marie Beckham (representing over 115 years of dedication to the Arboretum) and in applauding exceptional UCSC students working at the Arboretum who are leading the way for our future. Bid on auction items, including consultations in your garden by Arboretum curators, guided trips to extraordinary areas, mature King Proteas, student support and more. Taste great wines poured by local boutique wineries and enjoy seasonal appetizers from local caterers; desserts will be donated by our local gourmet bakery, The Buttery. Listen to acoustic sets by American Idol© finalist and Santa Cruz native James Durbin and local blue grass band, Jimmy Chickenpants. Tickets are \$50.



SUCCULENT EXTRAVAGANZA: THE LANDSCAPE HAS CHANGED

September 25–26; all day

Succulent Garden, 2133 Elkhorn Road, Castroville

This two-day event at Succulent Gardens in Castroville is a celebration of all things succulent. This year they will continue to explore the topic of succulent use in the landscape. They will dive into new topics via demonstration gardens and talks and classes covering companion planting with succulents, cold tolerances, soil preparation, watering and drip-irrigation calibration for a drought-tolerant landscape, and much more. Plan to go home with many ideas that you can incorporate in your own backyard. Free.

ADDING SUCCULENTS TO AN EXISTING GARDEN: COMBINATIONS AND STRATEGIES THAT WORK

Saturday, September 26; 10 AM–NOON

Heather Farms, 1540 Marchbanks Road, Walnut Creek

Adding succulents to an existing garden can be challenging. Things to consider are location, culture requirements, water schedules and elements of style. Diane Goldsmith will explore these challenges and show samples of local gardens where they have been met with success. You will gain understanding of practical ways you can add succulents to your gardens and how to blend succulents with Mediterranean plants, perennials, and grasses.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Lomandra longifolia, Mat Rush

Family: ASPARAGACEAE or
LOMANDRACEAE

Several years ago, a certain *Carex* became the darling of horticultural circles. It could thrive in sun or shade, clay or sand, heat or cold, wet or dry, and it was a native! This sounded too good to be true, and alas, it was. The plant, whose name I will not even mention here, was not a native at all, and caused embarrassment for many native plant gardeners. They had the unenviable task of deciding whether or not to leave this attractive imposter in their gardens or heartlessly rip it out to conform to their version of political correctness.

There is another plant that also sounds too good to be true. It thrives in sun or shade, and is not fussy about soil or watering. However, it has never



Lomandra longifolia

pretended to be a native. *Lomandra longifolia* is one of several *Lomandra* species and cultivars that have entered the horticultural trade in the last twenty five years. These Australian natives are likewise, almost too good to be true.

Grasslike in appearance, except when they are flowering, the *Lomandras* are very forgiving of soil quality and watering (or lack thereof). They are not particularly attractive to deer, and they can definitely tolerate the salt spray in a seaside garden. They are non-invasive, unlike many of the true grasses, and can be sheared back every few years to tidy them up if they get messy.

Although the flowers are small, they are numerous, and are carried in panicles or spikes. *Lomandras* are dioecious plants, meaning that male and female flowers are found on separate plants. Some of them have a delicate, sweet fragrance.

Lomandra longifolia can grow up to four feet tall, and the leaves can arch into an attractive green fountain that is almost as wide. The cultivar 'Breeze' is a smaller plant, usually between two and three feet high and wide, and there is at least one variegated cultivar available.

Lomandra is not a fussy plant, but it is susceptible to root rot due to *Phytophthora*, especially if planted too deep or if the crown is covered with mulch. Proper cultivation techniques should prevent this problem. Although the common name, Mat Rush, sounds like it was stolen from a Hollywood B-list actor, it actually pays homage to the floor mats that Aboriginal people used to weave from the stems of this plant.



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Each month we ask our members to bring in plants for the drawing. There were only a few plants in last month's drawing and they were given away as door prizes. We ask members to participate in this part of the program. In September, the Ruth Bancroft Garden will be donating succulents for our drawing. The plant drawing is an opportunity for members to both reduce their nursery sizes, and for other members to increase theirs.

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.

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,
 Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2013-2015 (Second Term) Mike Craib
 2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve
 Morse, Andy Stone

OFFICERS

President	Open
Vice President	Open
Past President	Ellen Frank
Recording Secretary	Open
Treasurer	Carl Meier
Parliamentarian	Open
Membership	Charlotte Masson

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.