



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
California Academy of Sciences
Golden Gate Park
San Francisco, California 94118

APRIL 15 2002

4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum. Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co. Fair Building and on 9th Ave.

5:30 PM NO HOST Dinner will be at Avenue 9 Bistro, 1243 Ninth Ave., San Francisco \$15

7:30 PM Meeting will be held at St. Nicholas Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Blvd. San Francisco. Lower Floor auditorium. From Strybing Arboretum take 7th Ave. that leads into Laguna Honda, turn lt. on Woodside which becomes Portola, then turn rt. onto Diamond Heights Blvd. The church is at corner of Diamond Hghts. Blvd. & Duncan St. Guest Fee \$5.

Monday, April, 15 2002

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

“Horticultural Passions:

Beautiful & Intriguing Plants from My Past, Present, & Future”

Martin Grantham, Greenhouse Manager for San Francisco State’s Biology Department, will share his photographs and growing experience of any number of his more accessible (and a few of his more obscure) plant obsessions from cheilanthoid ferns to conifers, magnolia to *Rhododendron*, *Lapageria* to evergreen climbing *Hydrangea* and restios. When possible, habitat will be contrasted with horticultural tolerances. Propagation and growing tips as well as some initial hybridization results will be given.

The **Plant Drawing** each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarship Program. The drawing in April will include donations from San Francisco Garden Show donors. (See donor list inside *Bulletin*). Our appreciation to **Empire Nursery, Santa Rosa (Marshall Deleon) & to Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** who graciously donated the beautiful specimens for the March meeting.



SAVE THESE DATES
California Horticultural Society

8th ANNUAL PLANT SALE

April 27-28

Rare and Wonderful Plants!!!

Members ONLY Preview Sale Saturday, April 27, 6:00-9:00PM

(Memberships available at the door). Admission: \$5.00

Silent Auction of Selected Plant Treasures! Hundreds of Plants for Sale! Refreshments!

General Sale, Sunday, April 28, 10:00AM-2:00PM

Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Drive, Oakland

(Just off Hwy 580 at Grand Avenue exit)

For information call Jana: (510) 486-0481 or (800) 884-0009 To volunteer call Diana: (650) 593-2350

Monday, May 20, 2002

ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM

“Observations of a Traveling Plantsman”

Presented by Richard Turner, Recipient of the 2002 Annual Award

The program will include many areas of the world—a bit of Mexico, Australia, Chile and South Africa. It will be mostly of plants in the wild and may include a few gardens. Dick has traveled to every continent but Asia to study plants in the wild and in the garden, and will present a few of his observations from those travels.

Coming Meetings

Co-Sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, June 17, 2002

“Understanding Color: The Impact of Blue in the Garden” Presented by Robin Parer

The color blue is a powerful tool in a gardener’s repertoire. Color can be used in garden planting schemes to suggest temperature, light and mood. Color can unify or provide a discordant note. Blue has many moods and many uses. Many gardeners love blue flowers, and use them in their gardens in some very revealing ways. We don’t need to limit ourselves to blue flowers. There are blue leaves, blue garden artifacts, and borrowed blue atmosphere effects. We will examine how our eyes see blue and how we can use the color to bring depth, mystery and enchantment into our gardens.



President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

"Again the blackbirds sing; the streams
Wake, laughing from their winter dreams,
And tremble in the April showers
The tassels of the maple flowers"
Whittier: The Singer. St.20

Yes, I know the local blackbirds never cease, and our streams don't freeze, but the buds are swelling on my maple tree, and the showers will set them dancing. Edith Holden in her *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady* tells us that the name of this month is derived from the Greek word for 'opening.' Among mottoes for April, she gives us "April weather; rain and sunshine together," and "When April blows his horn, 'tis good for both hay and corn." No hay or corn in my backyard, unless you count the relentless grass weeds which I am slowly gaining on, but the perennials are poking their heads up, the big sword ferns are making their lovely

furry curls, and the *Alstromeria* is as 'high as an elephants eye.'
The 2002 Landscape Garden Show is history and the Cal Hort display was very well received. I hope that you all were able to attend and enjoy it. Next on our list of activities is the Spring Field Trip, April 20th. If you haven't already signed up, call Elsie Mueller at (415) 566-5222 right away, there might be room for you.

Of course, there is our April 15 meeting with Martin Grantham, see the cover for details.

The Annual Plant Sale is April 27-28 at the Lakeside Park Garden Center in Oakland. Many of you will be donating plants and helping with the preparation for this event, our largest fund raiser. Remember the Preview Gala for members only on Saturday April 27th. This is truly a Gala occasion and shouldn't be missed. Besides the great food, there are all those great plants!

That wraps up April! Good growing to all of you and have fun! ✨

Plant Sale News!

Once again, the Cal Hort PLANT SALE will be happening April 27 & 28. We need your plants! Please donate one, two, or twenty lovely things to the sale.

Drop off site will be the same as the past two years: 2403 San Pablo Ave., at the corner of Channing Way, in Berkeley. (Next door to our business, Ohmega Salvage) Please call Jana Drobinsky, at (510) 486-0481 to coordinate.

Please label everything! Call me for labels, and I'll see you get them. Every plant you donate makes money for the Society!

We also need volunteers both for the set up day, Saturday, April 27, and for the sale on Sunday, April 28. On Saturday, we need plant haulers, labellers, and set up artists. On Sunday, we need knowledgeable plants people to advise buyers. Please give Diana Ross a call at (650) 593-2350 to volunteer.

Saturday night, April 27, from 6-9 PM is our GALA: members only night. The Gala offers the first chance to buy, silent auction of all the best stuff, and food and drink by Kristin Yanker Hanson and company. Come enjoy the evening with all your Cal Hort friends! Members only—admission \$5.00 (People can join at the door.)

PLANT SALE

Saturday, April 27 6-9 PM, the GALA (\$5 admission)
(Set up all day starting at 9 AM.)

Sunday, April 28, 10-2, open to everyone, free at the Lakeside Garden Center, Bellevue Ave. off Grand Ave., near Childrens' Fairyland, Oakland.

Please post the enclosed flyer in a high-traffic area or give to a friend so that everyone can enjoy the sale!

SEE YOU THERE!



Botanical Tours

May 6 - 24

Sichuan, China - A Botanical Paradise Sponsored by Quarryhill Botanical Garden and Strybing Arboretum Society with Bill Mc Namara.

August 20-September 7, 2002

Namaqualand & the Cape Floral Kingdom Sponsored by UC Santa Cruz Arboretum. Tour host: Brett Hall. Leader: Dr. John Manning

September 4-15, 2002

Italian Mannerist Gardens Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society and lead by Suzanne Biaggi

September 13-30, 2002

Botanical and Cultural Treasures of China's Yunnan Province at the Peak of Springtime Bloom. In support of The Nature Conservancy's Yunnan Project.

February Plant Forum

by Kristin Jakob

"A picture is a worth a thousand words." Fully believing the old adage, color photos of the following plant are available on our website at www.calhortsociety.org in the 'Plant Forum' section.

1. *Helleborus orientalis* - Lenten Rose

RANUNCULACEAE

Frederick Coe, Ross

Fred brought two color forms, both blooming in 1 gallon pots. The darker one, a dusky purple-black was much admired. It had been purchased at a Seattle flower show from a grower on Vashon Island. *Helleborus orientalis* is long-lived in part-shade with moderate water and will self sow. The species is native to Turkey and The Caucasus.

2. *Anapalina caffra*

IRIDACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This elegant, red-flowered South African bulb was flowering freely in a 1 gallon pot. Originally obtained from Martin Grantham, who had expressed some concern about its potential invasiveness, it is fortunate that this plant seems to thrive in containers. For David, it can flower over a four-month period.

3. *Bryophytum* (formerly *Kalanchoe*) *tubiflora*

CRASSULACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

So-called "Mother-of-Thousands", this succulent has taupe-colored leaves with darker spots and clusters of pendulous coral-colored flowers. The leaf margins produce small plantlets which, once detached, can grow into new plants. It is long-flowering, requires little water and is hardy out of doors in Berkeley.

4. *Leucadendron gaplinii*

PROTEACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Growing upright to 4 ft wide and ca. 5 ft tall, this South African shrub boasts grey-green narrow leaves and cone like, silvery flower heads on the female form available in the trade. Requiring good drainage, full sun and moderate to occasional water, this genus shares the characteristic family trait of phosphorus intolerance. Hardy to 20-25°.

5. *Leucadendron* x 'Wilson's Wonder'

PROTEACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

This selection is larger, wider and looser-growing than the species described above. Foliage is larger and greener, somewhat reminiscent of that of bottlebrush, and the male flower cones of this clone are surrounded by a ring of bright light yellow to slightly orangish bracts, particularly colorful in winter and early spring and useful for cutting. Ultimately to 5 ft x 6 ft.

6. *Isopogon formosus*

PROTEACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

Related to the aforementioned *Leucadendrons*, this shrub hails from Western Australia, and in its divided foliage resembles some members of another related genus,

Grevillea. The cone-like flower-heads are bright pink, the open flowers protruding in a pin-wheel like ring, and are freely-born in the spring. Grows upright to 6 ft. and requires full sun, good drainage and occasional water once established. Like many other Australian shrubs, top growth can outstrip root development, so watch for wind-rock. Hardy to 20-25°.

7. *Billbergia sanderiana*, *Aechmea cylindrata* x *recurvata*, *Neoregelia* x 'Charm'

BROMELIACEAE

David Feix, Berkeley

David grows all three of these outdoors in the ground in Berkeley, but suggests that most would increase more readily in containers in a freely-draining mix. The *Billbergia* sports hot-pink bracts between which the flowers emerge and suffers top damage at 28°. It is not readily available. The *Aechmea* had blue flowers and the *Neoregelia* was flushed bright red at the centers of the rosettes.

8. *Rhododendron dielsianum* (?)

ERICACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

This and the following specimen are *Vireya* (tropical) rhododendrons, which Katherine grows in pots outdoors in a fast-draining mix. Epiphytic in the wild, these prefer to be in relatively small pots in part shade, kept moist but not soggy. This species has small pink flowers.

9. *Rhododendron macgregoriae* x *aurigeranum*

ERICACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

Larger and lankier than the last, with showy soft orange flowers. The two parent species are from Papua New Guinea and one (*aurigeranum*) grows at 10,000 ft elevation where night time temperatures drop below 40°.

10. (?) *Pleurothallus restrepioides* 'Dragonstone'

ORCHIDACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

This was brought in for identification. It finally bloomed after being shunted around for years. ✨

Corrections to January Plant Forum

Please note the following corrections to the January Plant Forum printed last month. The photos on the website all have the most current information.

• *Justicia rizzinii*-not *vizzinii*

• *Aechmea distichantha*-not *disticantha*

• *Aechmea* 'Pioneer'-hybrid between *A. cylindrata* (seed) x *A. caudata* (pollen), hybrid created by the Australians G. Stonor and G. Lawn, not an *Aechmea recurvata* hybrid as previously listed.



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Horticultural Calendar

April 13 & 14

Annual Rhododendron Show and Sale—CA Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Featuring Vireyas and those especially suited to Bay Area climates, as well as familiar favorites. Saturday noon to 5, Sunday 10–4. Information, (510) 482-4473.

April 20

Earth Day 2002—City of Oakland Beautification Project. (510) 238-7093 to participate.

April 20 and 21

Merritt College Spring Plant Sale—at the Horticulture Facility. Featured will be unusual perennials, an enormous selection of gourmet vegetables, good food, live music, colorful annuals and free garden advice. Bring a box to fill with treasures. 9AM–3PM, 12500 Campus Dr. Oakland.

April 20

Spring Plant Sale—Saratoga Hort Research Foundation. 9AM–2PM, 15185 Murphy Ave, San Martin. (408) 779-3303 or www.saratogahortfoundation.org.

April 25-28

North Coast Range, Snow Mtn. Wilderness—acquaint and immerse yourself with native species and the environments that shape them. (925) 685-1230 x 1864 or ajanke@pacbell.net.

April 27

Plant Sale—The Perennial Plant Club of Sacramento. Proceeds finance scholarship fund for horticultural students. 9–4 at the Sierra 2 Center, 2791 – 24th Street, Sacramento. (916) 985-4262

April 27

Diablo Valley College Plant Sale—your opportunity for many choice plants! 9AM–1PM, 321 Golf Club Rd Pleasant Hill (behind tennis courts).

April 27

Water in the Garden—Half-day tour offering a look at fine gardens that celebrate the splendor of water. \$150 each including food and transportation by chartered bus. Limit 70 people. Benefits Park Day School. (510) 653-0317 or www.secretgardentour.com.

April 28

Secret Gardens of the East Bay—The Annual Park Day School event. 5 gardens, 9AM–5PM, rain or shine. \$45 incl. map and detailed booklet. Bike touring maps also avail. (510) 653-0317 or www.secretgardentour.com.

May 3 & 4

17th Annual Spring Garden tour “Gardens of Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” sponsored by the Elizabeth Gamble Garden in Palo Alto. 10AM–4PM. 5 gardens in Palo Alto. (650) 329-1356.

May 18

Plant Lovers Affair—the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens hosts a gathering of specialty nurseries from across N. California. 10:00–4:00 PM, free. For more information or if your nursery is interested in participating (707) 964-4352 x 12. Located in Fort Bragg at 18220 North Highway One.

June 29

5th Annual Gig Harbor Garden Tour—Washington (Tacoma Community College), speaker-Marianne Binetti. (253) 851-3776 or www.TacomaCommunityCollege.com.

Strybing Arboretum Society
(415) 661-1316 • www.strybing.org

April 13

Success with Outdoor Container Plants, pruning workshop, 9AM-1:30PM, SAS trailer

April 15

Spring Perennials—7-session certificate course, 6:30-9PM, SAS trailer

April 17

Garden Makeover—6-session design course, 6:30-9PM, SAS trailer

April 20

Native Spring—11AM-3PM, California Garden, free

April 24

Web of Life—lecture, 7-9pm, SAS trailer

April 25

Gardens of Sonoma County—garden tour, 7:45AM-6:30PM, meet at Main Gate

April 26

White by Night—full moon walk, 7PM-8:30PM, meet at Main Gate at 6:45pm

April 27

Landscape Construction Seminar—9AM-4PM, SAS trailer

May 3 & 4

35th Annual Plant Sale—Fri. Members-only Preview, 5-8PM, sat. public sale, 10AM-2PM, CFB, free

UC Davis Arboretum
(530) 752-4880

April 10

Lunchtime Walk in the Arboretum—Join Superintendent Warren Roberts for a lunchtime stroll at noon from the Gazebo. Free.

April 14

Edible and Useful Plants in your Garden—2:00 p.m. Docents Jennifer and Henry House will lead the tour, which will leave from Arboretum Headquarters, on LaRue Road on the UC Davis campus. Free.

April 14

Containers Add Punch to a Hot Valley Garden—The tour will meet at 11:00 am at the Arboretum Terrace Garden, next to Borders Books at the Davis Commons retail center, on First Street in Davis.

Magic Gardens Nursery
(510) 528-5540 • www.magicgardens.com
Classes are free and start at 10 AM

Magic Gardens has moved to a new 3-acre location! Call or visit website for directions and more info.

Continued next page

SF Landscape Show Donating Nurseries

Another success story was realized for the California Horticultural Society with the design and presentation of our exhibit 'New Plant Introductions to Horticulture' a perennial favorite at the San Francisco Landscape & Garden Show. Special commendations are in order for Kristin Jakob, Kristen Yanker-Hansen, Barbara Stevens and Bruce Peters for their leadership roles in this project and to the fine team of volunteers who assisted with the exhibit which has received rave reviews.

In case you happened to miss the show, or just forgot the name of that cool new Restio, photos of all of the plants are posted on our website (www.calhortsociety.org) along with cultural info and the grower who donated it to the show.

Although many of the plants are from wholesale only nurseries, you can still get the plants. Just go to your local garden center and ask them to order the plants you want directly from the grower.

The Society wishes to express its most sincere gratitude to the many nurseries that graciously contributed display plants for the exhibit.

Annie's Annuals, Richmond
California Flora, Fulton
Canyon Creek Nursery, Butte County
Checkerspot Nursery, Newcastle
El Modeño Gardens, Watsonville
Emerisa Gardens, Santa Rosa
Exotica, Vista
Hines Nurseries, S. California
Homestead Gardens, Santa Rosa

Marilynn's Garden, Stanton
Martin Grantham, SFSU, SF
Monterey Bay Nursery, Inc., Watsonville
Native Sons, Arroyo Grande
Planet Horticulture, Berkeley
Proven Winners (Euro American), Bonsall
Skagit Gardens, Mt. Vernon, WA
Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens, San Francisco
Suncrest Nurseries, Watsonville
Sunset Color, San Ramon
Wayward Gardens, Sebastopol
Western Hills Rare Plant Nursery, Occidental
Worldwide Exotics, Lake View Terrace ✿



April 13

Raising and Using your own Culinary Herbs—Viviane Deleon Bias

April 20

Make your Garden a Work of Art—Keelya Meadows

May 4

Fertilizers, Soils & Amendments—Tom Prest, EB Stone

May 11

Fabulous Fragrance in the Garden—Bryn Rowe, Magic Gardens

HORT NOTES:

■ **OPEN GARDEN**—Come support new members Melanie Olstad and Dan Carlson of Wigglestem Gardens as they open the gates to one of their most horticulturally diverse and environmentally challenged gardens. This dynamic garden will be part of the Garden Conservancy Open Days Tour on Sunday May 5th from 10 AM-4PM. The garden is located in San Francisco at 75 Elmira Street. The cross street is Industrial off of Bayshore Boulevard near Floorcraft Nursery.

The garden is at the base of a 20 foot, natural rock outcropping. A combination of strong sun, poor, rocky soil, and wind inspired the use of many South African natives, lots of succulents, grasses, and other perennials. The client is a metal

sculptor/fabricator, so there is an industrial element to this rugged and natural setting. Varying microclimates within the garden have facilitated a diverse plant pallet.

■ **NEW PUBLIC GARDEN**—Splash Pad Park, in Oakland's Grand Lake Neighborhood just across the street from the Grand Lake Theatre, is about to get a major facelift. The city has hired landscape architect, Walter Hood, to design improvements and construction is to begin later this year. One proposed feature of the new park is a very large planting bed to be filled with hardy perennials...most likely California natives. The architects plans are posted online at <http://www.oaklandpw.com/splashpad/index.htm>.

In view of their current difficulties in providing adequate park maintenance, the city's Park and Recreation Department may, however, require a substantial reduction in the size of the proposed bed. As another option, the Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum is hoping to enlist an organization or group of individuals who are willing to adopt the bed and help provide ongoing maintenance. Hood Design would also be very interested in plant donations to help further stretch the funds budgeted for this project.

If you wish to volunteer or require further information, please contact Ken Katz, the Splash Pad Neighborhood Forum's Chairman at (510) 451-6537 or via email at spnf@california.com. ✿

Host a Speaker

Please let us know if you would be willing to host a monthly speaker. Many of our speakers live out of town or the state and would greatly appreciate an opportunity to stay for one night with one of our members and perhaps enjoy their garden or another if time is available. Please contact Barbara Hopper (707) 833-2078 or Bruce Peters (415) 824-1833, bruce@calhortsociety.org.



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Executive Council

2000-2002

First Term
Ann DeRosa
Leana Sims
waywardg@sonic.net

Second Term
Katherine Henwood
Bruce Peters (temporary)

2001-2003

First Term
Diana Ross

Second Term
Jana Olson Drobinsky
Elise Lew
Don Mahoney

2002-2004

First Term
Michael Craib
Renee Fittinghoff

Second Term
Richard Starkeson
Keitha DeMara

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. Please give any information to Elsie at the meeting or, preferably, email to Bruce at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (w/ proof of enrollment). To join, or for full range of membership levels, please visit our website at www.calhortsociety.org or call the Office secretary at the number above.

California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences
San Francisco, CA 94118

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