

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

**AUGUST MEETING**

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

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

**7:30PM Meeting will be held at the California Academy of Sciences, Morrison Auditorium Golden Gate Park**

**\*\* Guest fee \$5**

**Monday, August 21, 2000**

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

**“Landscapes and Flora of Chile and Southern Argentina”**  
**Dr. Robert Haller, Botanist, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**

Chile and Argentina stretch for 2,500 miles from north to south, and if placed in North America, would reach from Mexico City to Alaska. Along their length are the highest mountain in the Western Hemisphere, the world's driest desert, magnificent rain forests and balmy Mediterranean-type countryside, all in magnificent surroundings. The amazing flora shows a little similarity with the flora of western North America, some with New Zealand, and many components that are unique, including rare, redwood-like Alerce (*Fitzroya cupressoides*) and the bizarre Monkey Puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*).



Andean Alerce  
*Fitzroya cupressoides*

**PLANT DRAWING:** The plant drawing will include donations from **Wayward Gardens**, Sebastopol (Leana Sims) and **Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens** (Dr. Don Mahoney). Our appreciation to **Noodle Dog Gardens** (John Marchant) and **Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens** (Dr. Don Mahoney) for the splendid plants donated in July.

**COMING ACTIVITIES**

Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

**Monday, September 18, 2000**

**“Here today - Gone tomorrow?”**

**Hawaii's Endangered Flora and Fauna**

A lecture and slide presentation by noted photographer **David Liittschwager**, whose works have appeared in *National Geographic*, *Life Magazine*, and *The New York Times* and **Susan Middleton**, former chair of the California Academy of Sciences department of photography. They will speak about their 15 year odyssey photographing endangered plants and animals. Over the last two years, in partnership with Environmental Defense, they have scaled sharp lava peaks and trudged through some of the world's wettest rainforests to record the last surviving specimens of Hawaii's endangered flora and fauna. The hope is that their magnificent photographs of *Hibiscus clayi*, (of which only three remain), or the Crested honeycreeper, along with other exquisite images will inspire people and governments to support efforts to save these irreplaceable species. Their compelling images are part of an Environmental Defense effort to protect what has been called “one of the rarest and most improbable living assemblages on the earth as well as “the endangered species capital of the world.”

# President's Letter

by Dr. Don Mahoney

For several years now most member's meetings have been preceded by a walk in the Strybing Botanical Gardens that is themed to the evening's program. This last month we had a wonderful tour led by our speaker Warren Roberts on South American plants. He has watched Strybing's plants for 30 years or more and can compare them with plants he has seen in the wild. If you have not been on one of these walks lately you should make an effort to come to one and then join the speaker at a local restaurant before the evening program.

When technology works it can be a great time saver and when it doesn't it can create a mess. Our apologies for the

spacing and margin errors in the new membership roster. The problems with our new computer and data management are being addressed and a set of corrections as needed will be mailed in a future *Bulletin*. A new corrected roster will be distributed early next year. Let's hope our data management can soon reflect the high quality of the rest of Cal Hort's programs and events. A tearout form is included in this *Bulletin* to allow members who wish to change or add information to their listing. Please return this soon if you want to add an email address or make any changes. ❁

## A Great Banana for the Bay Area

by Bruce Peters

Nothing says 'tropical' like a beautiful banana tree growing in your yard. In most parts of the country, banana trees are something only to be enjoyed while on a balmy tropical vacation but there are bananas which will also do great in the whole of the Bay Area, even frigid San Francisco!

One of these is *Musa velutina*, the pink flowering banana. A small statured plant which does well in pots, *Musa velutina* grows quickly to a height of 5' to 7' and suckers readily, producing a miniature lush banana grove. It's real charm, however, are the flowers that it reliably produces every year, even following a hard freeze! They flowers begin as an unbelievably bright pink leaf that open up to a succession of yellow-orange male flowers. Then come the little pink female flowers which grow and swell into mini bright pink, fuzzy bananas. In cooler areas (read San Francisco fog), the bananas

don't get quite as large as in more heated places, but they stay closer together, giving a fuller, more compact bunch. Although not (enjoyably) edible, their color alone is worth having them about.

Suckers, when about 1/3 to 1/2 the size of the parent plant, are easily removed to be passed along to friends to help share in the topical wealth.



*Musa velutina* flower

(click for larger color image)

## Botanical Tours

**August 19 - September 7, 2000**

**South Africa's Cape Flora Kingdom & Namaqualand** at the peak of springtime bloom, with Dr. Don Mahoney. Limited to 20 participants. Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society. (800) 624-6633 or (415) 661-1316 Ext 300.

**October 31 - November 17, 2000**

**Springtime in New Zealand**—a botanical tour featuring the native flora, plus private gardens, with Kathy Musial of the Huntington Botanical Gardens. Sponsored by Pacific Horticulture. (650) 595-2090.

**Jan 10 - 28, 2001**

**A Natural History Tour of Southern Argentina**—A *Pacific Horticulture* tour with Richard Turner and Dr. Robert Haller. Info: 800-624-6633

**Jan 24 - Feb 10, 2001**

**Drakensberg Flora:** Explore with Rod and Rachel Saunders of Silverhill Seeds (South Africa). Huge variety of flowering plants; magnificent scenery. Limited to 12 participants. Call: 800-624-6633

**April 16-May 2, 2001**

**Crete—Mediterranean Wildflower Tour.** Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society. Leaders: Barbara and John Hopper. Info: 800-624-6633

**June 2-16, 2001**

**Gardens of W. Vermont and New York's Finger Lake Region.** Sponsored by Strybing Arboretum Society. Leaders: Barbara and John Hopper. Info: 800-624-6633

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## Horticultural Calendar

### August 12 & 13

**Thompson Heather Garden** on the Mendocino Coast, will be open to the public in a benefit tour featuring Jim Thompson's ingenuity and whimsical imagination. Visitors who want to add more humor and individuality to their gardens will come away with loads of inspiration. \$15.00. Info: (707) 882-1655.

### August 17

**Ecology of a neglected collector's garden** - S.F. Professional Gardeners Assn. Survivors, Pests, and Methods of sustaining a framework that hints at the joy and insights of a well known plantsman and horticulturist. 6 p.m. At the corner of 17th St. & Stanyan for parking. Tour of Victor Reiter, Jr's garden. Info: (415) 753-1366.

### September 9 & 10

**Annual Dahlia Show**—SF County Fair Building, 9th Avenue & Lincoln Way, San Francisco. SF Dahlia Society of California. Saturday 10 AM–5PM and Sunday 10 AM–4PM. Information: (415) 566-5222.

### September 23

**Hermitage Santa Barbara Sculpture garden tour**—Benefits American Diabetes Association. (\$50 half day, \$150 all day) Information: (805) 965-0025; jhermitage@aol.com, www.hermitage2000.com.

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

### August 12

**Plant Sale**—general sale with shade plants, 10 AM-1 PM.

### August 13

**Summer Maze of Tithonia & Milkweed**—carpool to Sebastopol. 10AM–4PM

### August 19

**Organic Vegetable Gardening**—workshop, carpool to Sebastopol. 10AM–4PM

### September 12

**Botanical Illustration**—drawing studio, 6 sessions. 5:30–8:30 PM.

**The Gardens at Heather Farms**  
(925) 947-1678

### September 9

Drawing and Watercolor Painting Workshop with Stephanie Scott, 9:30 AM–5 PM, \$65.

### September 14

**Introduction to California's Beautiful Native Plants**—includes flowers, trees and shrubs. Patrice Spencer, 7–9 PM, \$10 GHF member; \$15 non-member.

### September 13, 20, 27

**Planting Design**—Bobbi Feyerabend & Georgia Madden, 7–9 pm. \$45 GHF member, \$55 non-member.

### HORT NOTES:

**JOB AVAILABILITY:** Horticulturist, California Native Section University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley. A full-time position listed under the job title of Museum Scientist. Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Horticulture or equivalent experience, etc. Salary Range: \$30,200–\$45,000. Excellent UC benefits.

Info: Chris Carmichael, Manager of Collections and Horticulture at the UC Botanical Garden (510) 642-9856 x 1, carmichi@uclink4.berkeley.edu or UC Berkeley Job Listings web site <http://hrweb.berkeley.edu/hrjobs.htm>.

**NEW BOOK:** Landscape Plants for Dry Regions by Warren Jones and Charles Sacamano. A guide to landscaping in the southwest. 600 species, 1200 color photos, 400 pages. \$39.95 hardcover. Available at bookstores and amazon.com and [www.fisherbooks.com](http://www.fisherbooks.com). ☼

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## Cal Hort Roster Update Sheet

If you would like to modify your listing in the Cal Hort roster, please fill in the information below and send this form to: Deb Connell, 95 Willow Avenue, Fairfax, CA 94930-1245. You can also visit our website at [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) and use the 'Contact Us' link to email any changes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Officers**

**President**  
Don Mahoney

**Vice President**  
Katherine Henwood

**Jr. Past President**  
Tonie Jones

**Recording Secretary**  
Richard Starkeson

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Dr. Frederick W. Coe

**Treasurer**  
Jan Hamby

**Secretary**

Elsie Mueller  
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**Bulletin Editor**

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editor@calhortsociety.org

**Executive Council****2000-2002**

**First Term**  
Leanna Beeman-Sims  
waywardg@sonic.net  
John Marchant

**Second Term**  
Michael Barclay  
opga@wenet.net  
Katherine Henwood

**1998-2000**

**First Term**  
Jana Olson Drobinsky  
Elise Lew  
Don Mahoney

**1999-2001**

**First Term**  
Richard Starkeson  
Keitha Demara  
Deb Connell  
DJConnell@LBL.gov

**Second Term**  
Barbara Hopper

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.

## Late *Bulletin*? A reminder.

If you keep getting your *Bulletin* late, you have two options...

1.) Log on to [www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org) and go to the 'Bulletin Online' section to see a pdf version of each issue. If that means nothing to you, just try going. It generally just shows up in your browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator) without any special actions on your part! The *Bulletin* is posted on our site by the first of every month. Even if you're not a World Wide Web kind of person, give it a try. Super easy and immensely convenient.

2.) You can also add \$3 to your annual dues and specify that your *Bulletin* is sent by First Class Mail. Otherwise it's sent Third Class, which generally takes a little longer but is much more economical for non-profits like Cal Hort. Call Elsie at (415) 566-5222 for more information about this.



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## California Horticultural Society

California Academy of Sciences  
San Francisco, CA 94118

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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[www.calhortsociety.org](http://www.calhortsociety.org)

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