

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:15 pm

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. (Note location change for March 2012 meeting.)

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

Aloe striata



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FEBRUARY 20, 2012 MEETING

BULBS of South Africa

by Ernesto Sandoval



Hesperaloe cucullata

Do you like bulbs? Ernesto Sandoval, director of the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, will be talking about his experience growing South African bulbs. Come see his photographs and learn about the diversity in foliage and flower, as well as the horticultural needs of these bulbs and some of the reasons why South Africa has so many of them. Also, Ernesto will be bringing bulbs and other botanical beauties for you to buy for benefit of your garden and that of the Botanical Conservatory.

Nerine, Lachenalia, Albuca, Cyrtanthus and an assortment of other bulbs including a few CA natives will be available, as well as less common aloes and other succulents from South Africa and elsewhere. Nearly all of these species are quite suitable for and tested in Northern California.



MARCH 19, 2012 MEETING

STEPPE CLIMATES OF THE WORLD

by Panayoti Kelaidis

Steppe climates occur to the east of all the major Mediterranean climates on earth, sharing great similarities of flora and fauna despite their far more extreme weather patterns and cold. Panayoti Kalaidis will be doing a quick tour of the four principal Steppe regions on earth: the Mediterranean and its steppe-sister, the Irano-Turanian floristic region; South Africa's Fynbos and neighboring Karoo; the Patagonian steppe across the Andes from the Chilean littoral, and California itself, nestled against the Great Basin, Colorado Plateau and interior steppe of Western America. The Steppe sisters encompass collectively an enormous percentage of the world's plant species, and a great deal of the lore and history that have sustained humans in their evolution.



Winter HORTICULTURAL EVENTS by Judith Taylor

FOLK MUSIC JAM SESSION

Friday, February 3, 12:00–1:00 PM
Wyatt Deck, Old Davis Road, UC Davis

Folk musicians are invited to play together informally during an acoustic jam session at the Wyatt Deck, located on Old Davis Road next to the redwood grove in the UC Davis Arboretum. The event is free. Parking is available for \$7 in Visitor Lot 5, at Old Davis Road and A Street. Call (530) 752-4880 or visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

SLIDE SHOW AND TOUR: BIRDS OF DAVIS

Saturday, February 4, 11:00 AM

Arboretum Headquarters, LaRue Road, UC Davis

Learn about local birds during a free slide show and tour of the UC Davis Arboretum. Enjoy a slide show highlighting birds you might see in winter in the Arboretum. The tour will meet at Arboretum Headquarters, on LaRue Road on the UC Davis campus. There is no charge for the tour, and free parking is available in Visitor Lot 47. Call (530) 752-4880 or visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

WALK WITH WARREN

Wednesday, February 8, 12:00 NOON
Gazebo, Garrod Drive, UC Davis

Join Arboretum Superintendent Emeritus Warren Roberts for a lunchtime stroll in the UC Davis Arboretum on Wednesday, February 8. Parking is available for \$7 in Visitor Lot 55, on Garrod Drive at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Call (530) 752-4880 or visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

Quarryhill Botanical Garden HortiCulture Series CONIFERS AROUND THE WORLD:

with Zsolt Debreczy

Sunday, February 12, at 5:30 PM

Hungarian botanist Zsolt Debreczy had a modest dream—to document all of the world's temperate conifers in their natural habitats. After traveling the world for 40 years, the dream has now become a reality with the publication of "Conifers Around the World" (DendroPress, 2011; \$250). The book is edited by Kathy Musial, curator of living collections at The Huntington.

Debreczy will give an illustrated lecture about the project on Sunday, February 12, at 5:30 PM at Quarryhill Botanical Garden. A book signing will follow the program. Space is limited, please call 707-996-3166 to reserve yours in advance. Quarryhill Members, \$10, Non-members \$15. Quarryhill Botanical Garden, PO Box 232, 12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen, CA 95442 info@quarryhillbg.org, www.quarryhillbg.org

GUIDED TOUR: NATURE'S GALLERY COURT

Saturday, February 18, 2 PM

Arboretum Teaching Nursery, Garrod Drive, UC Davis

Nature's Gallery is a ceramic mosaic mural, a stunning work of art composed of over 140 tiles hand-crafted by UC Davis students and community members. Meet at the Arboretum Teaching Nursery, on Garrod Drive on the UC Davis campus. There is no charge for the tour, and free parking is available in Visitor Lot 55, on Garrod Drive at the School of Veterinary Medicine. Call (530) 752-4880 or visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

CITIZEN FORESTER TRAINING

Next classes begin February 22nd

Citizen Forester is a six-week long series of classes, with each week covering a different topic in urban forestry. Lectures are held at the Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) offices on Wednesday nights, and each lecture is followed by a Saturday field day at locations around San Francisco.

Topics covered include Urban Forestry in San Francisco, Basic and Advanced Pruning, Tree ID, Planting, and Pests and Diseases, and are taught by FUF staff and experts in the field. The cost of the entire series is \$200, or \$35 for a single lecture and its field day. FUF will waive the fee for anyone in exchange for a 50-hour volunteer commitment over the following year. Email heather@fuf.net to sign up. Space is very limited, so reserve yours today!

The Kippings invite you to a Potluck*/Slideshow

EXPLORING BHUTAN

with John Leupold

February 28, 7:00 PM

*Bring a dish for eight to share. Fireplace Room. County Fair Bldg, Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way, Golden Gate Park.

March Meeting of the California Horticultural Society

The Monday, March 19, 2012 meeting will be held in the Multi Use Building, Room 140, on the campus of the City College of San Francisco. The 4:00 PM walk will take place at the Environmental Horticulture/Floristry Department section of the campus and will be led by Department Chair, Stephen Brown. Parking will be made available for free to Cal Hort members at the Multi Use Building parking lot, 50 Phelan Avenue, between Ocean Avenue and Judson Streets. You are welcome to join the group for dinner in the student-run restaurant for an all inclusive price of \$32 per person. We need your reservation and check by the February 20 meeting if you would like to have the dinner. Please fill out the form on the following page and mail it to: Kristin Yanker-Hansen, 569 Contada Circle, Danville, CA 94526 or bring it with you to the January or February Cal Hort meeting.

Plant of the Month

by Josh Schechtel

Aloe striata, Coral Aloe

Family: TROPAEOLACEAE

In honor of Brian Kemble, our January speaker, I wanted to highlight an aloe this month. But which one? There are so many that qualify as my favorite, and I've already featured a few of them over the years. As I looked around my garden, the choice became obvious. A friend gave me a young *Aloe striata* a few years ago, and I planted it in a sunny, very dry, non-irrigated part of my garden, where I promptly forgot about it. For a year. Including the summer. Tinkering in the garden one day I came across the poor thing, and it had actually shrunk in size, but had not died. I apologized and promised to pay attention to it from that point on, and it was most forgiving. It has now tripled in size, and is a wonderful blue-green addition to the garden. Its leaves are edged in a beautiful pale salmon color that adds just the right bit of sophistication to make me forget that it is a tough plant. And now that it is established, it actually likes being neglected.

This striking plant (or 'architectural' plant, as the designers would say) gets about 18 inches high and about two feet across. The leaves form an open rosette that is blue-green in cooler areas and pinkish purple in hotter or very sunny areas. Although many references mention the dark narrow lines that run through the leaves (giving the species its name 'stricta'), these are very easy to overlook. The salmon



© Ted Kipping 2012

Aloe striata

edges of the leaves are especially wonderful because they are smooth, without the sharp teeth that many other aloes carry.

The coral-colored flowers are borne in clusters on stems that emerge above the foliage, aloe-style. Hummingbirds enjoy them as much as people do. As with most aloes, great drainage, little winter water, and frost protection go a long way towards keeping it looking good. If your zone doesn't have all of these requirements, you can always grow it in a pot and move it to a protected location in the winter. This plant is supposed to produce suckers or pups, but I have only seen this on rather old plants that were growing in the ground.

March Meeting Dinner Reservation Form (Return to Kristin Yanker-Hansen, 569 Contada Circle, Danville, CA 94526 or bring it with you to the February Cal Hort meeting.)

Name: _____

Number of People in reservation: _____ Total Submitted: _____

Contact information e-mail preferable: _____



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Monthly Plant Drawing News

Thanks once again to Don Mahoney from Strybing for some wonderful aloes for our plant drawing. Our speaker, Brian Kemble also donated a few aloes. This month Ernesto Sandoval will be donating a few assorted bulbs for the drawing table, as well as having assorted bulbs for sale. Members are encouraged to bring plants for the drawing table. It is also a wonderful opportunity to find new treasures for your garden.

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

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.

Please contact Ted Kipping, the Nominating Committee Chair, for more information about serving on the Council. You can also chat with Council members, either by e-mail, by phone or at any Cal Hort meeting.

It's membership renewal time. Current members were mailed their annual notice of renewal in November and it's due January 1st. If you have questions, please contact our Membership Chair Charlotte Masson (see above).

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

2009-2011 (First Term) Demi Bowles Lathrop

2010-2012 (First Term) Mike Craib

2010-2012 (Second Term) Steve Morse,
 Andy Stone, Dave Tivol

2011-2013 (First Term) Judith Taylor,
 Mary TeSelle

COUNCIL

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
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| Vice President | Open |
| Past President | Ellen Frank |
| Recording Secretary | Judith Taylor |
| Treasurer | Carl Meier |
| Parliamentarian | Open |
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