



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122

July 21, 2003

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 Park Chow Restaurant, 1249 Ninth Ave., San Francisco.

7:15 PM Meeting will be held at Strybing Arboretum in the San Francisco County Fair Building at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way

***Guest fee \$5.

Coming Programs
Co-sponsored with Strybing Arboretum Society

Monday, July 21, 2003

“Beautifully Behaved Bamboo”

The most diverse and useful grass, bamboo can be as strong as steel yet controlled by initial selection, effective new root barriers or harvesting for lunch.

Darrel De Boer, President of the Northern California Chapter of the American Bamboo Society, will discuss new clumping species and the beauty and utility of the nearly 300 species available today using images of San Francisco Bay area gardens.

Jesus Mora and Jennifer York of Bamboo sorcery Nursery will also show plants, root barriers and answer questions about specific horticultural requirements.

Darrel DeBoer is a Northern California architect who has built a dozen bamboo structures and written or co-written six books, including *The Art of Natural Building*. He was named by Metropolitan Home magazine in 2001 as one of the 100 most influential designers.

The Plant Drawing each month provides an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In July, the drawing will include donations from **Bamboo Sourcery**, Sebastopol and **Strybing Arboretum & Botanical Gardens**, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney. Our appreciation to Jason Dewees and Strybing Arboretum, courtesy of Dr. Don Mahoney for the outstanding plants donated for the June Meeting



Monday, August 18, 2003

“Using the Camera as a Garden Tool”

Presented by **Charles Mann**, nationally recognized garden photographer. This two-part program will offer succinct introductory information about cameras, film equipment, other essentials and basics that the speaker has formed over the course of a decade of professional work. In part two, Charles will share some subjective insights and ideas that attempt to redefine the power of photography and to use it as a means to experience the garden world in a new way, to reveal unappreciated beauty and to become a tool for the broader creative process. Slides of photographs made from a wide variety of garden subjects will be shown during the narration. Charles has been a full time freelance photographer since 1990, specializing in botanical and garden subjects and southwest scenics. In addition to shooting on assignment for SUNSET, Organic Gardening, Country Living Gardener, Horticulture Magazine and others, his photos have been seen in publications by Time-Life, Houghton Mifflin, and books in England and Australia. He has worked as a grower at Plants of the Southwest in Santa Fe, New Mexico and has led tours of Santa Fe gardens for Smithsonian Tours, Horticulture magazine, as well as guiding tours for Garden Conservancy, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and others

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President's Letter

by Katherine Henwood

*Sumer is icumen in,
Lhude sing cuccu!
Groweth sed, and bloweth med,
And springth the wude nu---
Sing cuccu!*

It seems appropriate to start with this anonymous verse, dated about 1226, since today is the first day of summer, the longest day of the year. I must admit that I didn't hear the 'cuccu', but since is rarely if ever seen in my vicinity, not surprising!

I'm sure all your gardens are doing well and bursting with flowers. I seem to have a lot going on, tagetes, lilies (yellow, orange and some small white trumpets, more to come next month), the corn cockles add a nice touch coming up in the heliotrope whose fragrance is pervasive, the larkspur is having problems with the agastache, and Johnny-jump-ups are all over.

We had a serious leak in our fish pool that required emptying, power-washing, and re-coating. Turned out the leak was actually in the pipe that kept the recirculation going for the waterfall, so a new route was devised. Pool has been refilled, replanted, fish added and while it looks odd with only a few lily pads on the surface, it is progressing nicely. Not the sort of job one wants to do often!



Trachycarpus martinanus

We went to Eugene, Oregon, for the graduations of two of the grandgirls, one from High School, and the other from Middle School. While we were there we visited the Hendricks Park Rhododendron Garden. The rhodies were mostly finished, but there were still a few in full bloom and were magnificent. I also made a visit to Cooks Carnivorous Plants. Mr. Cook has a huge collection of Sarracnias and other CPs. Of course, I came away with just a few!

By the time you get this, the American Gesneriad Society Annual Convention (in Sacramento this year) will be over, and my life will return to calm, I hope. It seems as if I've done little except pot up small gesneriads forever.

June's program about palms was very interesting, I had no idea there were some many and that they were so widespread. Our own Jason Dewees gave a great program and his contribution to the Walk was outstanding. If you didn't attend, you missed a worthwhile event.

This month's program will feature "Beautifully Behaved Bamboo" with pictures of bamboo in Bay Area gardens. I like bamboo, and am interested in seeing the options available, having had an unfortunate experience with an assertive runner-type. I do hope that those of you who are not on vacations will be there too,



Hibiscus palmatus

Botanical Tours

August 18–September 2, 2003

Namaqualand and the Cape Floral Kingdom

Sponsored by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles.

September 16–October 5 2003

Wildflowers of Western Australia with Rodger Elliot & Dick Turner. In support of *Pacific Horticulture*. (800) 624-6633 or www.geostartravel.com

October 11–12, 2003

Cal Hort Tour : Private gardens and nurseries of Monterey, Soquel, Watsonville, Half Moon Bay and Carmel. Leaders. Barbara and John. Registration info is forthcoming.

January 22–February 4, 2004

Drakensbergs—a floral treasure—South Africa in Summer. In support of The Botanical Society of South Africa for flora conservation.

May 11–23, 2004

Botanical Excursion in Eastern Macedonia & Thrace (Northeastern Greece) with noted greek botanist George Sfikas & Richard Turner. A *Pacific Horticulture* tour.

May 16–June 3, 2004

Botanical & Cultural Treasures of China's Sichuan & Yunnan Provinces. Escorted by Kristin Yanker-Hansen in support of California Horticultural Society

For information please call (800) 624-6633 or visit www.geostartravel.com.

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June Plant Forum

by Don Manhoney & Jason Dewees

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

1. Hibiscus palmatus

MALVACEAE

Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Danville

This plant was shown without flowers although they are reported to be yellow with maroon centers. It is from Zimbabwe and is new to cultivation. It has shiny palmate leaves to 6 inches across and is potentially hardy to a few degrees of frost. See photo at left.

2. Masdevallia hybrid 'Highland'

ORCHIDACEAE

Tom Ballinger, San Francisco

For those of us lucky enough to be in a Bay Area microclimate and can grow these beautiful orchids, this copper angel variety is well-worth growing. The plant shown had numerous 1-inch orange-red flowers. Masdevallias require cool to intermediate temperatures to do well. Otherwise they thrive with regular orchid care.

3. Disa uniflora

ORCHIDACEAE

Alek Koomanoff, San Francisco

This orchid, with its very showy bright red flower (looking like a tigridia without the central cup) was grown in a lath house in San Francisco. This ground orchid from South Africa is the showiest in the genus. It was grown in spagnum moss and watered with pure water. These plants have a reputation for being difficult, but this specimen was obviously well-grown and vigorous. It received regular water in summer with a little less water in winter. These orchids must be repotted every year.

4. Odontoglossum uro-skinneri sibling cross

ORCHIDACEAE

Alek Koomanoff, San Francisco

This showy orchid is a narrow endemic from the Guatemala highlands. It is best grown in cool to intermediate temperatures in moss or bark. Its roots like to grow over the edges of the pot.

Nearly all palms will do their best with regular applications of 3-1-3 fertilizer in the growing season (March to October).

5. Caryota gigas

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

An enormous fishtail palm (to 125 feet high) newly introduced from mountains around Chiang Mai, Thailand, tolerant of some frost and sun but requiring regular moisture and a bit of summer heat to grow well. Probably best suited to Sunset zones 16 and 15 in our area.

6. Ceroxylon interruptum

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

A wax palm of the Andes, from Venezuela and Colombia at 1500 to 2800 meters in altitude. It reaches almost 30 meters in height, requires some shade as a juvenile, moisture, and well-drained soil. Cool-loving, even cool-demanding, and tolerant of moderate frost, it's a very good bet for Sunset zones 17-15. Like all in its genus, it's dioecious.

7. Dypsis baronii

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

A moderate-sized, unarmed, clustering pinnate palm from Madagascar forest at moderate altitudes, tolerant of frost to 28F, resembling the common indoor "Areca" palm, *Dypsis lutescens*. Newly introduced, it has been quite successful in various Southern California climates. The petioles and crownshaft can have pleasing yellow to red tones. Tolerant of cool conditions and needs bright shade or dappled sun when young, regular water and well-drained soil. Worth trying in Sunset zones 17 & 16. Has been tested in zone 9 - so far so good, but is bound to have periodic frost setbacks.

8. Heterospatha sp. "Yaga"

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

A little-known collection from Papua New Guinea, this species is in cultivation near Brisbane in Queensland, Australia and is reputed to be cold hardy. It's pinnate, clumping, unarmed, with bronze new leaves. Probably cannot dry out or take full sun when young. Worth testing for the cloudforest collections.

9. Trachycarpus martinanus

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

One of the most beautiful of the hardier fan palms, this single-trunk species comes from the foothills of the Himalaya; this particular selection from the Khasia Hills in eastern India is prized for its vigor and beauty. Unlike most *Trachycarpus*, the trunk of this species has dense leafbase fibers that appear to be woven and that abscise not far below the crown, leaving a clean, slender appearance. It should be grown in bright shade to half

Plant Forum continued on following page

Plantopia Nursery
"Where strange and wonderful plants find a home"
Come see us at the San Francisco
FERRY PLAZA Garden Market
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Lawrence Lee
plantopianursery@yahoo.com

Plant Forum continued from previous page

sun, with regular water and in well-drained soil. Tolerates temperatures down to perhaps 21F, and grows slowly to as tall as 40 feet. Inflorescence branches are apricot-colored.

Grow in Sunset zones 8-9, 14-17 in our area.

10. *Wallichia densiflora*

ARECACEAE

Jason Dewees, San Francisco

A pinnate clustering palm from the foothills of the Himalaya in Assam, India, this species grows as high as 1600 meters above sea level and tolerates some frost. A new introduction to the Bay Area, it may require a bit of heat to grow well, but is certainly worth testing in Sunset zones 17-14 in reasonably well-drained soils with regular water and bright shade or dappled sun.

Plant Drawing Plants

Ceroxylon parvifrons - For culture see *Ceroxylon interruptum*. A moderate-sized, cool-loving wax palm from the highest altitude of all palms, 2500-4000 meters from Venezuela to Bolivia. Achieves a trunk at a relatively young age for its genus (12 years from seed). Perhaps the best *Ceroxylon* for urban gardens.

C. vogelianum - A wax palm with plumose, rather than flat, leaves, this is about the size of a queen palm, but develops a trunk more slowly. More tolerant of heat and sun than *C. parvifrons*, *C. vogelianum* comes from 2000-3000 meters in Colombia, Ecuador and perhaps Peru.

Reinhardtia paiewonskyana - A little-known, unarmed, single-trunk pinnate palm endemic to the highlands of the Dominican Republic, palms from this seed crop may be the first ever seen in California. Try growing it in a protected, shady spot in Sunset zones 17-16. In its habitat it reaches 40 feet, on a three-inch trunk. Frost tolerance, if any, is unknown.

***Coccothrinax montana* "El Guano"** - is a skinny, unarmed, single-trunk fan palm endemic to the mountains of the Dominican Republic at altitudes as high as 2200 meters. This species too may never have been seen in California before now. Give it sun and well-drained soil with regular water. May reach 45 feet in habitat. Frost tolerance is unknown, but other members of the genus have shown some.

C. scoparia - Similar to above, but upper altitudinal limit is 1800 meters.

Chamedorea radicalis - A single-trunk ground-dwelling palm from NE Mexico that tolerates sun, frosts as low as 18F, and a bit of drought, but at its best in a bit of shade with regular water and a touch of summer warmth (even just as warm as the east side of San Francisco). Dioecious, this species' red fruits are quite pretty held high above the foliage, so grow several plants together. Occasionally will depart from its ground-dwelling ways to develop a treelike form.

Sabal palmetto - The state tree of South Carolina and Florida is a moderate-size fan palm that tolerates temperatures as low as 15F, full sun from an early age, flooding, limey or acid conditions, salt spray, and some drought. Very slow in California, but a reliably hardy plant in some of our colder areas. Fastest growth likely in hot inland areas with regular

Grants & Scholarships

...information is now posted on our website at www.calhortsociety.org. Alternatively, send a SASE to Grants Committee: Care of: Diana D. Ross, Box 60, Belmont CA 94002



Are you organized?

We need someone to fill our new Advertising Editor position immediately. The position requires about 1-2 hours per month. The only requirements are an ability to keep track of things and access to a computer with email. For more details call Bruce at (415) 824-1833 or email to advertising@calhortsociety.org.

Be sure to tell our advertisers you saw them in the Cal Hort Bulletin!

Please welcome the following new members to the California Horticultural Society:

Marion Brenner	Mari Kawaguchi
Arnold Chaney	Andy Liu &
Julie Gates	Maragaret Kincaid
Phyllis Herrin &	Nan Pierce
Andrea Sewell	Maria Reeves
George & Jean Jardim	Lance C. Reiners
Jacqueline Jones	Erica Ryan

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Horticultural Calendar Listings

We have a new Calendar Editor and a new listing protocol...read on!

Newly wedded Corina Rieder (congratulations, Corina!) has been a member of Cal Hort since 2000 and has jumped on board as our new Horticultural Calendar Editor.

Coming from a family of horticulturally-minded women has imbued in Corina a deep love of plants. "I think my calling in life is to grow plants," she said when asked for some biographical info, "but I also enjoy aesthetic pruning."

Following her calling, Corina recently completed the Advanced Nurseryman's Certificate from Merritt College, was a self-employed gardener in the East Bay and for the past 2+ years has worked as a gardener for the SF Unified School District.

"I won't tell you what my favorite plants are because there are too many, but I have been known to be a bamboo nut, vine nut (and coconut.)"

With the new Editor comes a new protocol for submitting listings. Our new calendar email address is the easy to remember calendar@calhortsociety.org. Postal submissions can be sent to Corina Rieder, Cal Hort Calendar Editor, 809 54th Street, Oakland, 94608.

Deadlines for submission are still the third Monday of the month for inclusion in the following month's Bulletin. For events happening from the 1-10 of any month, please submit two months prior.

Horticultural Calendar

First Saturday of each month:

Sick Plant Clinic—diagnose what ails your plants. 9 AM–Noon. Free. UCBG, Berkeley. (510) 643-2755

Every Sunday

Gardener Talks—Various speakers and topics. 11 AM, at the S.F. Ferry Plaza. Free.

<http://ferryplazafarmersmarket.com/HTMLpages/gardenspeakers.htm>

July 22

Slideshow And Potluck: The Art Of Espalier, Topiary, Bonsai...—presented by Ted Kipping. 7 PM, County Fair Building. Free

July 27-August 3

Perennial Plant Association Symposium & Trade Show—Design, marketing, propagation, individual species presentations, Business Management and tours of public and private gardens, nurseries and retail centers. Trade show July 29, 31. Post symposium tours in San Francisco. register by July 7 to receive reduced rates. Info: Dr. Steven Still, (614) 771-8431, Fax (614) 876-5238, www.perennialplant.org.

The Gardens At Heather Farm
(925) 947-1678 • www.gardenshf.org.

July 26

Hypertufa Trough Class—Carol Sturman and Ruth Janke will teach you how to make lightweight, 'aged stone' troughs for your favorite alpine plants. 9:30 AM–12:30 PM, \$15 members, \$20 non-

members plus \$10 material fee.

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

July 12

Plant Sale—General sale with bird and butterfly plants. 10 AM–2 PM at the Strybing Nursery.

July 18

Propagation No.2: Seeds and Cuttings—workshop with Don Mahoney, 1–3:30 PM. \$35 members, \$40 non-members.

August 2

Gardening Fair—Check out the many great activities, demonstrations and plants for sale at Strybing's Gardening Fair. 12 noon–4 pm at the Main Gate. Free

August 18

Ornamental Shrubs For The Garden—This seven session certificate course with J. Charmain Giuliani will teach you to identify and grow over 60 different shrubs suitable for the home garden. 6:30 PM–9:30 PM, \$200 members, \$225 nonmembers.

Hort Notes

■ THE CALFLORA WEBSITE is back: The internet's best database for searching California native plants is up and running again. <http://calflora.org>

■ MAGIC GARDENS NURSERY has moved—They have re-opened their Berkeley nursery site at 729 Heinz Avenue with new hours. (510) 528-5587. <http://magicgardens.com>



Sunday Garden Market

9am to 3pm every Sunday
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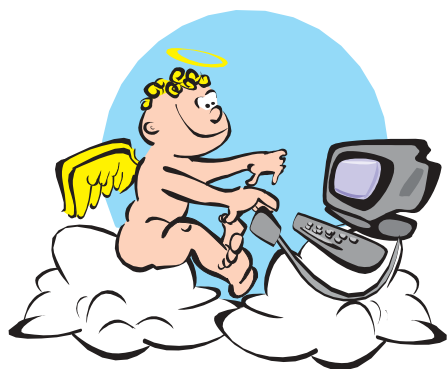


Our monthly meetings now begin at 7:15 instead of 7:30. The times for the Strybing walk and dinner will remain the same.

Can you type?

We need help in entering plant info into our updated Plant Database CD. No special computer experience is needed, just the ability to type and the time to do it.

Call Bruce at (415) 824-1833 or email to CD@calhortsociety.org for details or to wholeheartedly volunteer...the sooner the better!



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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 the Editor at the above address. Faxes and postal submissions also accepted.

Membership year begins January 1. Dues are \$40 individual, \$50 joint household, \$25 Student (with 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.

Advertising

Rates are \$12 for a business card size (3.5 x 2) and \$24 for a quarter page per month. We accept both digital and camera-ready art.

Visit our website for more info or call Bruce at (415) 824-1833.

California Horticultural Society

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