



BULLETIN
THE CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY
San Francisco County Fair Building
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, California 94122
May 15, 2006



4:00 PM Botanical gardens walk with speaker at Strybing Arboretum.
 Parking is available behind the San Francisco Co, Fair Building on 9th Ave.
 6:30PM Socializing, sale of special plants & silent auction.
 7:00 PM Potluck & Program will be held at the SF Botanical Garden's Hall of Flowers at 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way; San Francisco.

***Donation requested \$5.

Monday, May 15, 2006
ANNUAL MEETING, POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL AWARDS, PROGRAM
"The Best Year for California Wildflowers 2005"
 Presented by
Dr. Glenn Keator, noted botanist and author,
recipient of the 2006 Annual Award for his outstanding contributions to our knowledge of
 California's native flora.
Silent Auction of rare plants. Call Elsie Mueller at [800-884-0009] for reservations. Fee
 is \$5 per person to cover event costs. Advance reservations must be made no later than
 Friday, May 12h. Your dinner ticket & name tags will be held for you at the door. Bring your
 favorite dish [enough to serve 8]; your table setting & own silverware; plants for sale.

The Plant Drawing each month is an important source of funds for the Grants and Scholarships Program. In May, the drawing will be replaced with a Silent Auction of many rare and beautiful plants. Our appreciation to **David Gray** of **Hortica Nursery** and to the **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum** courtesy of **Dr. Don Mahoney** for the outstanding plants donated for the April meeting.

Monday, June 19, 2006
 Co-sponsored with **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum**
"Mosaic designs for enhancement of gardens"

Presented by Jeffrey Bale. A presentation of the finest stonework that he has encountered during his travels in Asia, North, Central and South America, and the work

It has inspired him to build for gardens in the Western United States. Specializing in pebble mosaic and artistic stone construction, he has designed and built several gardens with a strong emphasis on the structural component, treating it as a sacred art form. The talk will include images ranging from Vastu puranic temple design in India and Cambodia, Inca stonework, Portuguese and Spanish mosaic, and visionary works by self-trained artists in various countries, in addition to Jeffrey's own work and the processes he uses for construction of walls, patios, paths, steps, and fountains.

Monday, July 17, 2006
 Co-sponsored with **San Francisco Botanical Garden Society at Strybing Arboretum**
"Ferns from Around the World and for Bay Area Gardens"
[Including how to grow your own from spores.]

Presented by Martin Grantham, a noted horticulturist. Martin will show a wide range of ferns encountered on his botanical travels from rock ferns to tree ferns. He'll point out many that grow well in the SF Bay Area. Since some of the best ferns are rarely offered by nurseries, he will include a discussion of home propagation. Unusual ferns will be available to the horticulturally adventurous for purchase.



President's Letter

Bruce Peters

Our renewed plant sale was a great success, as you can see below. The pictures don't really do it justice, but it really looked super great and we had a good turnout. Thank you to Celena Hoskins for re-invigorating the sale and getting off the ground! She's a fantastic whirlwind of efficiency and organization and we're lucky to have her. HOORAY Celena!

We are also trying something new this month by adding a crossword. People have asked if we could put in some fun little plant-related items like that so this is the first. Let us know what you think!

Remember to send in your reservations for the Annual Dinner meeting to Elsie so we know how many tables to set up. And think of a great plant to bring in for the Silent Auction. You know, some huge, great, rare thing you're just sick of looking at and think would make the Society a lot of money...I'm just kidding...sort of.

If you have a friend who like plants, the Annual Dinner is a great way to introduce them to the Society so send along your invites early so they can add it to their calendars!

Over \$5,000!

The inaugural Specialty Nursery Plant Sale hosted by everyone's favorite plant society, Cal Hort, was a wonderful success bringing in over \$5,000 to help fill up our coffers.

There was a huge turnout of the general public on Sunday, and, although there were fewer members at the Saturday night gala than in the past, those that did come snapped up some really rare and fabulous plants---raising the per-person sales totals to literally record highs.

We had both well-grown member donated plants and specialty nurseries offering some wonderful plants from around the globe. The Silent Auction, often the biggest money maker as well as the best place to get astonishing bargains, boasted a huge variety of uncommon and/or amazing specimens.

Thanks to all the following volunteers who came and helped out. Without you, this sale would have been an utter disaster!

Steve Morse
Bobbie Feyerbend
Sue Gaylord
Bonnie Remigio
Bruce Peters
Ellen Frank
Ted Kipping
Vanessa Kuemmerle
Josh Schechtel
Dan Carlson
Beryl Golden
Diana Ross
Jan Hamby
Ann DeRosa

Gordon Piper
Martha Kincaid
Lora Kellner
Cynthia Gauthier
Linda Ellinwood
Keitha DeMara
Linda Aurichio
Mike Dahlin
Cynthia Wood
Ernie Gladney
Jason Dewees
Celena Hoskins
Josh Brunaugh

Now, let's not forget **the Nurseries** who donated both time and plants which are the real reason people came to the sale!

*Annie's Annuals	Mostly Native Nursery
Berkeley Horticultural Nursery	Ogawa-Mune Inc
Bloom's Wholesale Nursery	Orchard Nursery
California Flora Nursery	Pacific Nurseries
*David Feix Design	*Plant Freaks
Devil Mountain Nursery	Rosendale Nursery
The Dry Garden	Sebastopol Growers
East Bay Nursery	*Sequoiah Ridge Nursery
*East Bay Wilds	Skagit Gardens
Emerisa Gardens	*Sloat Garden Center
EuroAmerican Propagators	*Sonoma Horticultural Nursery
Flora Grubb Gardens	*Soquel Nursery Growers
Diablo Valley College Hort Dept.	SF Botanic Garden at
*Garden Delights	Strybing Arboretum
Geraniaceae	Sierra Azul Nursery
Grand Lake Ace Hardware	Suncrest Nurseries
Harlequin Nursery	Sweet Lane Nursery
John's Nursery	Sweetwater Nursery
*Kassenhoff Growers	Tiedemann's
Lone Pine Gardens	Yerb Buena Nursery
Martin Grantham	Youngblood's Nursery
Merciari Designs	(in Oregon- Kristin Yanker-
Monterey Bay Nursery	Hansen)

Check out some of the photos from the event below and on page 6 and get ready to help out next year!



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April Plant Forum

by Don Mahoney

1. **Drosera binata**

DRUSERACEAE

Peter D'Amato, Sebastopol

This magnificent container planting was one of several dozen brought by the speaker for display. A slide was shown of the container 15 years ago and it has changed little. The container was an 18" long, boat-shaped ceramic pot with no drainage holes. Several dozen spidery carnivorous *Drosera* plants filled the container. The name *binata* refers to each leaf being divided into two narrow leaflets, with red markings and hairs on cilia coating the segments. Each hair ends in a glistening drop of liquid. Small gnat-like insects are attracted to the nectar and then become stuck. Then the hairs roll up and first suffocate the insect and later digest the soft fluids of the insect. When grown without drainage, careful attention must be paid to never let the container dry out. Water must be very low in minerals. This plant hails from Australia.



Picea orientalis 'Silver Seedling'

2. **Chirita 'Atsuko'**

GESNERIACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

The genus *Chirita* was virtually unknown 20 years ago, but because of new discoveries and introductions by gesneriad enthusiasts, new species and hybrids are available every year. This hybrid had leaves resembling a succulent *Plectranthus*. These leaves were topped by large blue-purple, open-throated, snapdragon-like flowers. While hardy outdoors in a protected spot, these are best protected from winter rains, which will damage the foliage. *Chiritas* will rival African violets in the future as easy free-blooming window sill plants.

species have only recently been discovered in Mexico. They are native to many regions of the world and even occur as far north as arctic Europe. The flowers on the species *primuliflora* were white with wide purple edges; flowers on the cultivar 'True Blue' were small and white with a blue edge; and those on the cultivar 'Aphrodite' were large and purple. Butterworts are often epiphytic in the wild and many, especially the Mexican species, are capable of becoming succulent during dry periods and survive on humidity alone. These Mexican species, unlike most other carnivorous plants, do not need acidic conditions. Most *pinquiculas* are very hardy.

3. **Pinquicula varieties**

LENTIBULARIACEAE

Katherine Henwood, Pacifica

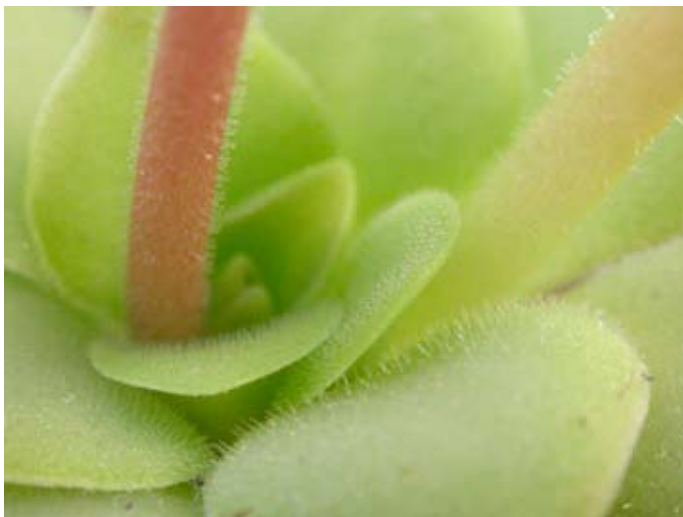
Four varieties of these butterworts were shown and illustrated some of the diversity of this large genus. Many

4. **Picea orientalis 'silver seedling'**

PINACEAE

Bruce Peters, San Francisco

Often species of conifers mutate on the ends of branches and these 'sports' are propagated as cultivars. While *Picea orientalis* is a lovely large, dense tree in its own right, this variation is a true miniature with frosted white new growth giving it a variegated appearance. Perfect for a bonsai pot, the plant will grow less than a foot in 10 years and should mature at two feet. Best grown in part shade.



Pinquicula sp.



Chirita 'Atsuko'

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March Meeting Recap by Jason Dewees

“The Savage Garden: Growing Carnivorous Plants” presented by Peter D’Amato, California Carnivores

In one of the most instructional Cal Hort presentations of recent years, carnivorous-plant expert Peter D’Amato dazzled the audience with both his encyclopedic knowledge and a series of vibrant and otherworldly slides of insect-dissolving (and even vertebrate- and feces-consuming) plants at the April 17, 2006, California Horticultural Society meeting held at the San Francisco County Fair Building in Golden Gate Park.

America possesses a world-leading richness in plants that obtain their mineral nourishment from animal digestion, D’Amato informed us. In the continental 48 states, especially in a belt running from Tidewater Virginia to Florida’s central frost belt and around to Texas, boggy, sunny, nutrient-poor habitats support an exceptional variety of pitcher plants, sundews, butterworts, and, of course, Venus-flytraps. In this particular brand of exotica, the tropical climes cannot lord their lavishness over us.

By contrast with its eastern cousins in the genus *Sarracenia*, California’s one and only pitcher plant species, *Darlingtonia californica* (cobra plant), occupies bogs so cold that growers must refrigerate their water in order to grow it. Near Mount Shasta, it lives only in areas where D’Amato measured water temperatures below 60 degrees Fahrenheit; as watercourses descend, slow, and warm, *Darlingtonia* disappears from their bogs. Its range includes coastal Oregon, the Klamath Mountains flanking the California-Oregon border, and three counties in the northern Sierra.

Among the notes on carnivore culture D’Amato shared were planting medium (acidic for most types), water quality (soft!), and sun exposure (mostly high).

He recommended differing combinations of long-fiber New Zealand sphagnum moss, perlite, horticultural sand, lava rock, and vermiculite per species type. Replicating bog conditions can be easy using plastic pots with drainage holes sitting in trays of water, or sealed, glazed ceramic pots. Carnivores’ fertilizer needs

tend to be low (the bugs they catch supply most of their needs), and D’Amato recommended only the lightest treatment with dilute foliar feedings of epiphyte fertilizer if needed. The author of *The Savage Garden*, published by Ten Speed Press, shared numerous secrets from its pages, but whetted the interest of many buyers in the group and signed copies.



Pinquicula x John Rizzi

Taking us on a tour of both native American and exotic species, D’Amato showed the astoundingly transforming Mexican *Pinguicula* species that goes from a wet-season *Primula*-like blooming rosette with sticky, insect-trapping leaves, to an *Echeveria*-like succulent, blooming but not trapping insects, in the winter dry season. The only time it’s out of bloom is when it’s making its transition twice a year.

He demonstrated many ingenious methods that pitcher plants, including their vining morphological peers in the tropics, *Nepenthes*, use to lure and trap bugs. In one, nectar trails draw unwitting victims up the seam of the pitcher to the nectar-studded mouth along the top edge of the tank. Light signals from “windows” in the pitcher’s walls trick the mobile meal down toward the digestive liquids, a trip it can’t reverse because downward-guiding hairs prevent reverse movement. Below the zone of guide hairs, the bug hits a slippery, waxy surface and slides to its fate in the digestive broth, cluttered with exoskeletons like carapaces in a Cape Cod giant’s lobster pot.



Drosera capensis attracts insects with sparkling but very sticky blobs of digestive ooze

Perhaps most bizarre were the plants that clearly are capable of digesting frogs, rats, and bird excrement. The latter plant is a pitcher from Borneo that secretes a substance on its lid attractive to birds. Landing on the rim of the tank, the bird eats from the lid, defecates into the tank, and then flies off. Not technically carnivorous, the plant has engineered itself to obtain what we gardeners must spend good money for!

The assortment of species D’Amato brought in for display included several exquisite *Drosera* specimens, their sticky, dewy thread tips like liquid

crystals atop red silk fabric fringe, many intricately blooming pitchers, and the deceptively innocent *Pinguicula*. The array of colors and forms rivaled even a table of orchids. Doubtless many in attendance will pay a visit to his nursery in Sebastopol, California Carnivores.

Crossword by Corina Reider

ACROSS

- 1 Place to relax
- 4 Kinks
- 9 Past
- 12 Sister
- 13 Separated
- 14 Title of respect
- 15 Choose
- 16 Boom box
- 17 Bard's before
- 18 Italian herb
- 20 Guacamole need
- 22 Downwind
- 24 Self-esteem
- 25 Computer _____ (job)
- 29 Author Dickinson
- 33 Farm building
- 34 Ear of corn
- 36 He lives in the Vatican
- 37 Hasten
- 39 Pop diva
- 41 Juice of 42 down
- 43 Insult in slang
- 44 Artifacts found in rocks
- 48 Part of 42 down
- 52 Uncooked
- 53 Quoth
- 55 Lives in a cave
- 56 Precedes an alias
- 57 Endow
- 58 Au revoir
- 59 Cooking measurement
- 60 War-horse
- 61 Used to cut logs

DOWN

- 1 Prig
- 2 Insect in a cocoon
- 3 _ in my pants
- 4 Beermaking grain
- 5 Fed. group
- 6 Zilch
- 7 Hit a golf ball
- 8 Moe, for example
- 9 Afloat

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19			20			21			
			22		23		24					
25	26	27				28		29		30	31	32
33				34		35		36				
37				38		39		40				
			41		42		43					
44	45	46				47		48		49	50	51
52				53			54			55		
56				57						58		
59				60						61		

www.CrosswordWeaver.com

- 10 Belt up
- 11 Dunking cookies
- 19 Malady
- 21 Decayed 42 down
- 23 keyboard option
- 25 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 26 Cat nap
- 27 Is
- 28 Male cat
- 30 Charged particle
- 31 May work at a hospital
- 32 Opposite of nay
- 35 Not good
- 38 Pulpits
- 40 ___ out (gave freely)
- 42 It's green and grows
- 44 Fellowship
- 45 42 down with acorns, pl.
- 46 Switch
- 47 Not front or back
- 49 Declines
- 50 Yucatan people
- 51 Ragout
- 54 Day of the wk.

Wachendorfia thyrsiflora
HAEMODORACEAE family

Among the thousands of plants at the annual Cal Hort plant sale, there was a pot containing what appeared to be a green fan. These were the leaves of a young *Wachendorfia thyrsiflora*, yet another garden gem from South Africa. The pleated, sword shaped leaves grow from a red rhizome, and get up to 3 feet tall. The yellow flowers are produced on spikes that get up to 6 feet tall, and are very showy. Even when not in bloom, the wonderful texture of the leaves gives a tropical look to any garden.

One of the strange things about this plant is that it produces flowers that are left- and right-handed mirror images of each other. The reason for this is unknown. In fact, despite the fact that this plant is well known in South Africa, nobody is sure what pollinates it there. Here in California, it is popular with garden insects due to its nectar, and it is easily propagated from seed.

Wachendorfia thyrsiflora is easy to grow in full sun to semi-shade. Although it prefers marshy soil in its native habitat, it does well in the bay area with regular water, but doesn't need to be very wet. If allowed to dry out in the summer, it sometimes

goes dormant. It will slowly form a clump by sending out new rhizomes, and these can be divided and shared with friends or brought to another plant sale.

Wachendorfia is in the bloodwort family, which also contains the *Anigozanthos*, or Australian kangaroo paw, another popular garden plant. This family is named for the red sap found in their roots, which has been used to make dyes. The genus *Wachendorfia* was named after E.J. von Wachendorff, an 18th century botany professor. The species name *thyrsiflora* refers to the structure of the flowering spike. One author describes 'thyrsus' and being derived from the Greek 'thursos', which refers to a rod tipped with a pine cone, the symbol of Bacchus, god of wine. What could be better than growing a plant named after a famous partier?



<http://www.pbasc.com/dorff/>

Many ways to help the Bulletin!

The current *Bulletin* Editor needs to divest himself of the majority of *Bulletin* related duties by year-end and would be tickled pink to help you take it on. You'll need some type of page layout program and...well, I guess and a desire to put out a monthly newsletter! It's basically just taking articles and images from members and fitting them into our format. If you'd like to re-design it, we're open to that, too!

ALSO., the current **Calendar Editor** is soon going to have her hands full with other projects, so we need someone to help out with that, too.

Email the editor@calhortsociety.org for more info.



Plant Sale Photos 2006



Horticultural Calendar

Elizabeth Gamble Garden
(650) 329-1356 • www.gamblegarden.org

May 12 – 14

Mother's Day Orchid Show and Sale—Hosted by the Orchid Society of California at the Lakeside Garden Center at Lake Merritt in Oakland. Noon – 7 PM Friday and 9 am – 5 pm Sat & Sun. Free. www.orchidsocietyofcalifornia.com

May 20

U.C. Davis Arboretum Plant Sale—Featuring a selection of plants adapted to Central Valley conditions. 9 AM – 1 PM at the Arboretum Nursery. (530) 752-4880 or visit arboretum.ucdavis.edu.

May 27

Anatomy of a Flower—A workshop with Howard Higson, 10 AM at Quarryhill Botanic Garden in Sonoma Valley, fee is \$25. (707) 996-3802 or email info@quarryhillbg.org.

June through October

Filoli Jazz Series—Sunday afternoon jazz in a beautiful setting. Tickets go on sale May 15th. www.filoli.org or (650) 364-8300 x507

June 2 – July 30

Sculpture IS—A sculpture show in the garden at Sierra Azul Nursery in Watsonville. WWW.sierraazul.com or (831) 722-3062.

June 8 – August 10

The Literary Garden—Readings in Landscape and Garden Design. Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 PM at U.C. Berkeley Extension's South of Market Center, 95 Third St., San Francisco. www.unex.berkeley.edu/landscape or (510) 642-4111.

June 10

Let your Garden go to Pots—Suzanne Arca demonstrates how to design a great looking container garden. 9:30 AM – noon, at the Gardens at Heather Farm, members \$15, non-members \$20. www.gardenshf.org or (925) 947-1678.

SF Botanical Garden Society

(415) 661-1316 • www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

June 10

Plant Sale—General sale featuring Perennials. 10 AM – 1 PM at the Nursery.

June 17

Gardening with Succulents—Ernesto Sandoval shows you how to grow them anywhere. 10 AM – 1 PM, members 25, non-members \$35.

May 17

Discovering New Zealand—A tour through slides accompanied by wine and cheese. 6:30 – 8 PM, members free, non-members \$5.

May 20

Growing Your Own Bouquets—Design a cutting garden with Connie Lefkowitz and Laurie Callaway. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

May 27

Success with Succulents—The care and use of succulents. 9 – 11 AM, members \$20, non-members \$25.

June 4

America's Arts & Crafts Garden—Paul Duchscherer shows you how to create a garden to complement your Bungalow. 2 – 4 PM, members 20, non-members \$25.

Regional Parks Botanic Garden (510) 841-8732 • www.nativeplants.org

May 13

Milkweeds of California—A slide lecture with Gene Thomas. 1 – 4 PM, members \$25, non-members \$30.

May 20

Butterflies Common to the Bay Area—A slide lecture with live specimens. 10 AM – 3 PM, members \$35, non-members \$40.

May 21

Gardening Successfully with Oak Woodland and Chaparral Plants—Maggie Cutler and Glen Keator address this aspect of native gardening. 10 AM – 4 PM, members \$40, non-members \$50. Off-site class.

U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum (831) 427-2998 • www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum

May 11

South Africa: It's Way Far!—A slide lecture with Ron Aruda. 7 PM, free.

June 11

Bamboo Workshop—With Karl Bareis. 9 AM – 4 PM, fee TBA.

June 19

The Genus *Trichocereus* in Argentina—With Guillermo Rivera. 7 PM, free.

*Send submissions to calendar@calhortsociety.org
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.*

Field Trip, May 27

Cal Hort is sponsoring a field trip to visit wonderful private gardens and nurseries in the Santa Cruz area on May 27. We will provide the itinerary. You just have to provide transportation and lunch for yourself and hopefully a friend or two. There is a \$10 suggested donation. If you are interested, please send us your e mail address and phone number (street address if you don't have e mail). We will be sending out the final itinerary shortly before the trip. Send your contact information to SantaCruzFieldTrip@calhortsociety.org.

The first garden visit will probably start around 9 AM, so you can plan your drive to Santa Cruz accordingly. We will provide time for a lunch break during the day. We will be visiting some amazing and exotic private gardens and specialty nurseries, so please join us and prepare to be inspired!



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Membership year begins January 1 and includes a full subscription to *Pacific Horticulture*. 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 (800) 884-0009.



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