

The next monthly general meeting is Monday, September 19, 2016, at 7:15 PM

Monthly meetings are held at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park.

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 outside the entrance gate to the San Francisco Botanical Garden. New rules require that if you do not enter with the California Horticultural Society as a group, you will need to pay, or be a member of the Garden if you are not a San Francisco resident. So be on time.

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 are welcome; Cal Hort requests a donation of \$5.



Isocoma menziesii v sedoides

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2016

Uncommon Plants for Mediterranean Gardens

by Ernesto Sandoval

Ernesto Sandoval has been gardening for over 25 years and as a result of his work at the UC Davis Botanical Conservatory, he's been exposed to a variety of plants that are fairly uncommon in our gardens. He will share an assortment of plants that are very suitable for the varied flavors of our Mediterranean climate including a few showy aloes and other xerophytes, as well as other notables such as *Acacia hindsii*, *Calliandra californica*, *Capparis spinosa* and *Mirabilis multiflora*.



Agave colorata and *Mirabilis multiflora* growing together in Ernesto Sandoval's garden in Davis, California.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

Salvias for the Home Garden

by Dr. Don Mahoney

Using live material, Don Mahoney will showcase the best salvias for the home garden. Included will be cultural tips for not only the commercially available salvias, but also cloud forest, native and other drought tolerant mediterranean forms.

Gifts

by Arcangelo Wessells

I lied last month. The Syrian Oregano was past its prime and most of the bees had left by July. Strangely, new leaves of Za'atar have just appeared. There are still bees in the garden, and the first bird of fall has arrived. The garden is pretty dull and dry, but a few plants have surprised me for various reasons, and they all have Cal Hort in common.

In July, when Nhu Nguyen gave his talk on Oxalis, he brought a lot of plants. He is moving to Hawaii and had to find homes for plants that he and Ulu Knecht had grown. I was excited to pick up a five gallon plant of *Mutisia subulata*. This is a scrambling plant from Chile that grows under shrubs and between rocks. There are two forms, but I wasn't sure which this was: one is a small plant with leaves like thin rosemary, and the other has recurved leaf tips to help it climb through its neighbors. When I bought it, it had a few flowers on it, unusual red daisies with a dozen ray florets almost two inches long. I had a lot of trouble with the new *Mutisia*. It came in a very fast draining soil mix, and I wasn't exactly sure what it wanted. I moved it around a few times to try to find a place for it to be happy. At first, I put it in the shade to imitate cooler Berkeley. Then I moved it on to more sun to get it ready for life in the ground in Vallejo. Somewhere along the way I must have forgotten how light the soil was and the leaves were suddenly crisp and dry.

I recently killed a young *Mutisia oligodon* from stingy watering, and I did not want to kill a plant the someone else had spent a long time growing. So I shoved it under a bench and started to water it more frequently. It recovered with its roots being cooler, and even made a new flower. Just this Labor Day weekend, I noticed that a new shoot had grown up between the boards of the bench. It is purple and about a foot tall. Two other shoots are beginning to grow. I have to house sit for three weeks, but I think I will leave it under the bench until I get back and can plant it in the ground.

At the November 2014 Cal Hort meeting, Pete Veilleux, the founder of East Bay Wilds, brought in a one gallon *Isocoma menziesii v sedoides*. Prostrate Coastal Goldenbush is a low growing shrub from coastal dunes and bluffs with late season flat-topped clusters of yellow flowers. Exactly what I wanted, but last year this *Isocoma* really bothered me. It grew about eighteen inches tall, sprawled out over almost three feet, and was one of a few plants that hosted a population of Shield Bugs. I am not sure if it had too much fertilizer, but I decided to get rid of it after it bloomed. I changed my mind and cut it back pretty hard in the winter, and it gets watered less fre-



Mutisia subulata growing in the cool area under a bench.



A member of the Malvaceae, *Iliamna bakeri* has a large blossom.

quently. This year it stayed about one foot tall. It has leaves are very similar to *Baccharis*, the Coyote Bush, but each stem ends with an inch and a half wide cluster of yellow rayless daisy flowers. These are very popular with small bees and wasps, and Skipper butterflies that are active this late in the year. I don't have that many other flowers in the garden at the moment, so this is essential to keeping many creatures alive.

My collection of potted plants has even less in flower. If they are not dormant, they are mostly plants grown from seed waiting to be planted into the ground, or waiting to be given away. This year I bought wild collected seeds of something I would not normally try to grow, *Iliamna bakeri*. It is called Wild Hollyhock or Baker's Globemallow. It comes from northeastern California and southeastern Oregon. It interested me because it is a plant that grows after forest fires. I decided to grow it to give to Kristin Yanker-Hansen, because it is in the Malvaceae. These *Iliamna* look like a compact version of a weedy Mallow species, with palmately lobed leaves. I put a few plants in the ground, and they have struggled. The plants that are in one gallon pots like water. They are growing in almost full sun, and reached about one foot in height this year. According to the Jepson manual, the stems can reach two feet, growing from a woody caudex. The seed source, Alplains, says they can be one meter high, which is a little bit big for my garden. The plants are relatively upright, with several side branches. Flower buds grew as the Cal Hort August meeting approached, but they did not open in time. I was surprised how big the flowers actually are: big pink hollyhocks that don't open all the way but are still an inch and a half across. They close at night, and each flower seems to last about a week.

Thank you Cal Hort, for connecting me to these plants!

Late Summer HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

THE CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM ON GARDENING FOR WILDLIFE

Saturday, September 17, 2016, 9 AM to 5 PM
Foothill College, Los Altos Hills

Judith Lerner Lowry, author and owner of Lerner Seeds, will present *The Importance of Being Local for Habitat and Design* and talk about the deep reasons to use locally native plants in the habitat garden from the perspectives of the purist, the bees and the designer.

Sara Leon Guerrero, researcher at the Urban Bee Lab, UC Berkeley, will present *Native Bees Need You!* and describe how native pollinators benefit our gardens, showing some of the most common local bees with their favorite nectar and pollen-rich plants to grow in your garden.

Liam O'Brien, illustrator, lepidopterist and conservationist, will present *The Butterflies of San Francisco: How They Relate to Your Garden* and describe the butterflies within the geographical area of San Francisco.

Frederique Lavoipierre, Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, will present *Hedgerows as Habitat* and show how you can take a boring, monoculture hedge and transform it into a magnet for wildlife.

Bart O'Brien, author and Manager, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, will present *Designing your Habitat Garden* and describe easy, practical steps which you can take now to create a landscape rich in wildlife and movement.

Register in advance at www.cnps-scv.org; same-day registration (if space is available) begins at 8 AM. Continental breakfast and lunch are included in the registration fee: \$100, \$90 for CNPS members, \$65 students. For more information: <http://www.cnps-scv.org>, email: symposium2016@cnps-scv.org, or call: 650-260-3450.

Do You Grow These?

If you have enjoyed growing these types of plants which our members have requested, please collect and contribute seed for our exchange.

SPECIFIC: *Humulus japonicum* 'Variegatum'

GENERIC: *Ipomopsis*

CATEGORY: conifers, edible plants

GEOGRAPHIC: California natives in general, particularly wild flowers; South African native bulbs and shrubs; Mediterranean natives

TOLERANCES: drought, heat, shade

Of course, donations of any and all kinds of seeds are welcome! Plants which have given you pleasure will please others of our members, too. Please bring your seeds to the Cal Hort meeting, or mail them before Thanksgiving to:

Dave Tivol

130 Locksunart Way #2

Sunnyvale CA 94087-4666

Coffee in the Garden with Mark You're invited for coffee in the garden of Cal Hort Member Mark Delepine at 11 AM on Sunday, October 2



Please RSVP to mdelepine@liacook.com and plan to bring something to share.

The garden is located on a natural flyway along Strawberry Creek in Berkeley. What started out as effort to enhance habitat for birds and other winged life 25 years ago has morphed to also include many exotic plants just because they catch my eye.

While in the area, members might also enjoy visiting Marsha Donahue's garden which is open every Sunday from 1 to 4 PM or the U.C. Berkeley botanical garden.

Any member can host a coffee-in-the-garden. All you need to do is supply the coffee; other members will bring things to share. If interested please email me at the address given above and I'll answer questions and help you get the message out in the bulletin. Who'd like to be next?



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

www.calhortsociety.org

Plant Drawing News

Each month various nurseries and individual members donate plants for the plant drawing. Please do not hesitate to bring in unusual plants from you garden to share with the members. Also remember the meeting is an excellent place to find plants for your garden that you have never seen before.

Monthly Plant Display and Discussion

Each month there is a lively discussion about plants brought in by our members. It may be a well-grown specimen or an unusual discovery, or a plant that has attributes that are not known by the mainstream. If you are interested in participating, bring in a plant to show to the group. You can also donate this plant afterwards to the plant drawing.

To join the California Horticultural Society or to find out about a full range of membership levels, please visit our web site at www.calhortsociety.org.

Questions from members about your membership?
 Please address them to the Cal Hort membership chair:
 Charlotte Masson, 579 Los Paltos Drive, San Francisco, CA 94127-2209.

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.

COUNCIL

2015-2017 (First Term) Mark Delepine, Steve Morse, Andy Stone
 2016-2018 (Second Term) Ellen Edelson, Charlotte Masson, Kristin Yanker-Hansen
 2016-2018 (First Term) Mary Engle, Bart O'Brien, Arcangelo Wessells

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Vice President	Open
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CALENDAR EDITOR

calendar@calhortsociety.org

Deadline for publication in this Bulletin is the third Monday of each month for the following month's Bulletin; no Bulletin is published in December. Events during the first ten days of the month should be submitted two months ahead.