



Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

Cultivating friendship, gardens, and fun for more than 89 years

November 2023

www.calhortsociety.org

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Cal Hort Meeting Social!

Monday, November 20

In-person at the SF County Fair Building

Parking lot in back accessible off of 9th Avenue

End-of-Season Social

with all of us!

We are celebrating another eventful year with an in-person social event including:

3:45 p.m. Guided walk with Andy Stone, Park Section Supervisor and CH member, through San Francisco Botanic Gardens.

5:00 p.m. Appetizers, rock painting, Plant Exchange, general socializing

Bring extra plants that you are propagating or cuttings to share. You may also bring books, magazines, or any useful gardening accoutrements (pots, tools, carts, etc.) to share and exchange.

6:00 p.m. Pizza or BYOD Please email ellenfrank@sbcglobal.net if you would like pizza so we have an idea of headcount.

7:00 p.m. Announcements and Members sharing stories, demonstrations, plant adventures.

Members and friends may talk about live plant specimens—cut flowers/stems/branches or potted plants—or share from pictures sent in advance, to Ellen Frank, (ellenfrank@sbcglobal.net) before Sunday November, at 5 p.m. Each person will have up to five minutes of time to share stories or knowledge.

8:00 p.m. Break for a little dessert.

8:15 p.m. Free drawing for the plants and other items left from the Exchange, as well as any additional plants, books, magazines, pots or tools brought in specifically for the giveaway. Everyone will get three tickets, and you'll get additional tickets for donating additional plants, or books, pots or tools. *(If what you brought is left at the end of the night, we ask that you take whatever you brought back home unless Andy can use it in the gardens at Golden Gate Park.)*

We won't be requiring masks, and you may wear one or not as you choose. This event will NOT be live streamed or recorded. 🌿



Cal Hort Online

Please visit our website

(<https://calhortsociety.org>) for news, updates, articles, and resources.

Videos of our featured speakers and Plant Forum discussions can be found on our **YouTube channel** (youtube.com/c/CaliforniaHorticulturalSociety)

Join us for conversations on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendswholikecalhort>)

Plant Forum

To share in the Plant Forum send images and any text to Ellen Frank, ellenfrank@sbcglobal.net, by Sunday prior to the monthly meeting. For full details along with the slide shows visit the **Plant Forums page** (<https://calhortsociety.org/about/monthly-meetings/plant-forum>).

Did You Know?

Cal Hort is a member of **Mediterranean Gardening International (MGi)** an international group of like-minded horticultural groups. You can find links to the other member organizations on our **Links of Interest** page (<https://calhortsociety.org/links-of-interest>).

Open Garden, Saturday, November 18, 9 a.m–5 p.m.
Eight Acres of Demonstration Gardens Plus Fall colors in Grass Valley
Dawn Gardens, 14446 Perimeter Road, Grass Valley



Come see the turn of the seasons in Cal Hort member and landscape contractor Barry Frieson's eight-acre demonstration garden. You are welcome to bring your family and friends to enjoy the fall colors of the Japanese Maples, Hornbeams, Smoke Trees, Ginkgos, fruit trees, and perennials.

- ☘ There is no fee to enter, but a donation box will be available.
- ☘ Donuts, scones, turnovers, and hot coffee will be served.
- ☘ A golf cart and driver will be available for people who need a ride around the property.
- ☘ Please consider carpooling.

[Video tour of the garden in the fall](https://tinyurl.com/DawnGardens) (tinyurl.com/DawnGardens)



Cal Hort Meeting, Monday, January 15, 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom or by phone

Gardens and Alpines of New Zealand

with Mark Akimoff, owner Illahe Rare Plants



Mark will cover the gardens and wild places of New Zealand that he visited from mid December 2022 to early January 2023. His botanical explorations ranged from Auckland to Queenstown on the South Island and back to Auckland, driving some 1,500 km. Frequent trips into the Southern Alps and the Grampian Mountains on the South Island and the Volcanic Tongariro National Park on the North Island revealed scores of great alpine plants to photograph. In between, Mark and his companion visited

every botanic garden and some wonderful private gardens, as well as some amazing crevice gardens. The diversity of climates and habitats they visited made for a wonderful botanical experience, from alpines on rocky crags between glacier carved peaks in the Southern Alps, to ferns and dense rainforests of the subtropical North island's Waitekere Ranges. New Zealand's remarkable alpine flora, friendly people, and wonderful gardens made it an amazing adventure.

Mark is a specialty grower of flower bulbs, geophytes, alpines, and rock garden plants from around the world.

[Illahe Rare Plants](http://www.illaherareplants.com) (www.illaherareplants.com)



Western Hort Meetings

Western Hort and Cal Hort members attend for free, guests for \$10 each.

For full details visit [Western Hort's website](http://www.westernhort.org/speakers-events) (www.westernhort.org/speakers-events)

Wednesday

Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Garden House in Shoup Park, 400 University Ave, Los Altos

Plant Propagation: Tips from A to Z

with Leonel Morales-Bajarano



Certain basic plant propagation techniques can be applied to many plants, but when faced with more

difficult subjects, independent experimentation can yield some surprising results. Leonel will focus on the propagation of California natives, combining a short history of his work at Suncrest Nurseries and real-life illustrations of challenges he's met.

Wednesday

December 13, 7:30pm

(on-line or in-person TBA)

All Mushrooms are Magical: Experiencing the Phantasmagorical Realm of Fungi

with Ken Litchfield



Learn about many local Bay Area and Northern California mushrooms and

their culinary, herbal/medicinal, dye, and psychoactive properties and uses. ☘

Highlights From Our October Plant Forum

You can watch past Plant Forum videos on our YouTube Channel or view the slides on our website, and you can share your own images in the upcoming Plant Forum and/or on our Facebook page. *(See page 1 sidebar for details.)*



Lithops

Submitted by Ellen Frank, Martinez

“These are Aizoaceae and are native to South Africa. They are long lived if you have the right system. They need to be three years old to bloom. My understanding is to keep them dry in the winter and err on the side of dryness if you are in doubt any other time of the year. I have heard they need a pot at least 5 inches deep.”



A work in progress

Submitted by Jeff Harter, San Francisco

Jeff has wired begonias and orchids to a tree branch, with a bed of spagnum moss to provide moisture. Jeff also shared images of a large crevice container garden he started last year. You can see those images in this month’s slide presentation on the Plant Forum page of our website or in the video on our YouTube channel.



Innovative deadheading method

Submitted by Ellen Frank

On a recent visit to Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Fort Bragg she saw the gardener using some kind of contraption on the Dahlias. He had a long PVC tube with a blade set inside near the end and attached to a shop vacuum. He put the tube over a flower, jerked it up to cut the stem with the blade, and the bloom was vacuumed up. He could reach deep into the beds with this device and work very quickly.



Streptocarpus ‘Cape Primrose’

Submitted by Charlotte Masson, San Francisco

“I got this one and some others from the San Mateo Garden Center. They have a little place where they sell plants that people leave there, so it’s kind of like buying a pig in a poke. These are in the family Gesneriaceae. They do well for me, blooming throughout the year. I have them outdoors in a container in a shadier spot.”



California Horticultural Society
San Francisco County Fair Building
1199 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

Don't Forget to Save and Send in Your Seeds



Fall is a fabulous time to collect seeds for our Annual Seed Exchange! What's growing in your garden? Popular plants we like to grow are late season annuals, dry climate perennials, heirloom fruit and veg, and more.

If you've got seeds that aren't yet ripe or ready to send now but are to be included in the seed exchange, let Dave know now at dtivol@yahoo.com so he can include those on the seed list.

You can mail your seeds o:

Dave Tivol
130 Locksunart Way #2
Sunnyvale CA 94087-4666

The seed list will published along with a request form in the January issue of our *Bulletin*. Your request will be filled in order of request.

For more details and links to seed lists from previous years [visit our website](https://tinyurl.com/CH-SeedExchange) (tinyurl.com/CH-SeedExchange).



Note from the Designer: I working towards making our materials and website more accessible to those using assitive devices such as screen readers. To that end I eliminating phrases such as "click here" and "visit this link" Instead the links are now part of the text that describes what the link takes you to. It is then followed by the URL in paranthesis, which is not clickable. If you have any questions please feel to contact me at anneanderson@mac.com.

Apple Season

While new apple varieties are appearing in produce aisles, scientists are searching for, and bringing back, historic varieties.



[Atlas Obscura](#)

[Meet the Appalachian Apple Hunter Who Rescued 1,000 'Lost' Varieties](#)

(<https://tinyurl.com/3y94t56j>)

[AppleSearch.com](#)

[The Search for "Lost" Heritage Apples](#)

(<https://www.applesearch.org>)



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