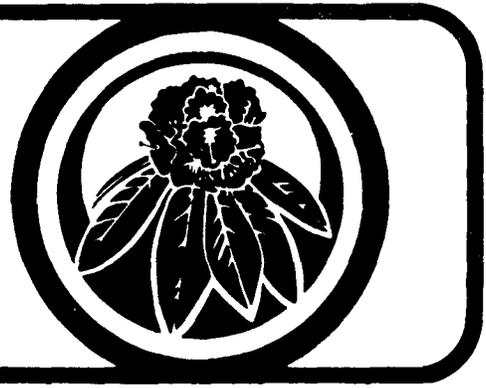


Friends of the Botanical Garden

Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY



SPRING 1983

Vol. VIII: No. 2

President's Message

Every time I visit the Garden I'm surprised by more changes: old areas cleared or renovated, trees trimmed, shrubs moved, paths worked on, storm damage (lots!) and storm repairs (not enough). Daniel Campbell and his workers are really moving on their lengthy agenda, and the Garden will be the better for it in years to come. With a minimum of cash, they're getting maximum results.

Nature's Wonder come in succession each week in the Garden. But, perhaps unseen, some things are unchanged: inadequate parking areas, rotting greenhouses, jerry-built offices, awkwardly scattered work facilities, the rare plants never purchased, the plant expeditions that never went. These are the symptoms of the cash-anemia that has afflicted our Jewel of Strawberry Canyon for so many years. But standing in the Garden on a sunny Spring day, one can only feel grateful to Staff and Volunteers over so many years, and gifts large and small from all the Friends, that kept this oasis in Berkeley alive for us!

Our Project for 1983: the Friends' Board and Membership Committee are working hard to *double* (yes!) our membership this Spring. After the Plant Sale we will be asking for your help, to bring in your friends and neighbors who will relish this Good Work as much as we do. For now, come enjoy the veritable explosion of Garden Events coming up!

More to come: Summer will see a new Lecture Series, for which we're saving Dr. Ornduff's slide-talk on his recent plant-collecting trip through Chile and Argentina. When our new Curator arrives, there will be a further dimension added to the Garden's work with the University and the public. New plants, old favorites with a new lease on life, and enriching tours await you when next you visit the Garden.

See you at the Members' Preview and the Plant Sale!

Jim Ratcliff, President

Plant Hunting in the Southern Andes *by Robert Ornduff, Director*

In February and March of this year I spent several weeks in northwestern Argentina and in Chile. This "expedition" of a party of one yielded so much interest to the garden that I have to call it the seventh garden expedition to the Andes, the most recent of a series which began in 1935, and the earlier of which are delightfully chronicled in former director T. Harper Goodspeed's book *Plant Hunters in the Andes* (available through the Information Center at the usual members' discount). Three weeks were spent in Chile, mostly in the company of Mary T. Kalin de Arroyo, a former student of mine who is now on the biology faculty of the University of Chile in Santiago. Mary's research interest is in the reproductive

behavior of plants in alpine areas of the Andes, so my first trip into the field was to her research site above Farellones, which is situated only a short distance via a fine dirt road east of Santiago. The tree line there is at a very low elevation with the result that one leaves the dry forest and matorral not long after leaving the Central Valley and enters a region of scattered shrubs and herbs, and eventually, what resembles our own herb fields in the Sierra.

Plants at this elevation represent a mixture of the familiar and the unfamiliar. Calandrinias—Chilean allies of our own native Red Maids—abounded, along with odd rosette violets, tropaeolums, locoweeds, calceolarias, monkeyflowers much like our own yellow *Mimulus guttatus*, barberries, schizanthus, and lupines. Of particular interest here and elsewhere were the mutisias, odd vine-like evergreen plants with spectacular large composite heads of steel-pink, cinnabar, or orange, and the alstroemerias, which come in shades of red, pink, and orange. The only pests were the occasional biting flies and the stinging loasas—plants that warn one not to touch them by the glistening hairs of their leaves and stems.

South of Santiago we again went into the Andes, this time into the forests of southern beech (*Nothofagus* species). Here the roadsides were brightened by shrubs of the wild *Fuchsia magellanica* and by small trees of an extraordinarily handsome eucryphia, covered with white camellia-like flowers. In the shade of the beeches we found a number of shrubs of botanical or horticultural interest, including the attractive, glossy-leaved *Azara microphylla*, pernettias and gaultherias, and along the streams, the giant *Gunnera chilensis* with its huge, umbrella-like leaves. In drier areas the rocks were covered with puyas of the pineapple family, the inevitable alstroemerias which seem to defy successful transplanting from the field, libertias, more barberries, and shrubby yellow and purple-flowered calceolarias.

Possibly the most memorable visit was to Parque Nacional Nahuelbuta, in the coast ranges south of Concepción memorable not only because of the vast araucaria forest there, but because of a night spent on the floor of a drafty furnitureless cabin with a slice of cheese and a hard-boiled egg for dinner and for breakfast, plus nocturnal visitations by unidentified furry little creatures that seemed to have a strong interest in using our clothing for their nesting material. The araucaria forest there is truly impressive, with many lichen-festooned giants growing on the sterile granitic sand and rocks. At sunset, flocks of squawking green parrots flew to their roosting sites for the night, which in my fieldbook, I described as one with "much fog, wind, and cold". The next morning the meadow below the shelter produced seeds of a fine small armeria, a low, tufted bamboo of the genus *Chusquea*, a dwarf *Lyrteola* laden with snow-white fruits, a wand-

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Plant List for 1983 Annual Spring Plant Sale

This year, as in years past, the Botanical Garden offers a wide selection of choice, unusual plants, some rare, for sale to the public. The following list highlights by section those plants that may be of greatest interest to potential buyers. Most of these plants were propagated from the UC Botanical Garden collection, while others came from collector's gardens or were grown from seed obtained from botanical gardens around the world and seed houses in the U.S.

PERENNIALS: Over 140 species and forms from *Aconitum* to *Veronica*. Of note are 5 *Aquilegia* spp. (Mongolia and U.S.); Park's "Candy Lilies"; 7 *Campanula* spp. (including *C. vidalii* from the Azores); *Canaria canariensis*, the "Canary Island Bell Flower"; *Kniphofia* (5 species); *Digitalis* (15 species); *Hosta* spp.; *Iris*, both bearded and non-bearded species (18 non-bearded species; bamboo (*Pseudosasa japonica*, "Arrow Bamboo"); and miniature and dwarf geraniums. Plants are suited for sun, woodland, or waterside. Many are deer resistant.

ROCK GARDEN: Over 100 species (in addition to PERENNIALS) from *Acaena* to *Wahlenbergia*. Includes alpine plants, woodland plants, plants for sunny places and plants for wet places. Featured are *Campanula*, *Dianthus*, *Draba*, dwarf *Iris* (including *I. melitta*) Primula, and *Viola* (double white Parma) species.

BULBS: Most of these are South African, many being quite rare. Since many of the South African bulbs come into bloom *before* the Sale, they may often be found for sale in the months prior to the Information Center. Please beware so as not to be disappointed. Also many bulbous plants from South America will be available (including *Stenomesson pearcei* from Peru).

TREES AND SHRUBS: Over 100 species from *Abutilon* to *Zenoweawei*. Many of these wild species make attractive garden specimens, such as a 10 gallon size specimen of *Sciadopitys verticillata*, "The Japanese Umbrella Pine". Of special interest are a number of imported varieties of Camellia (from the Kunming Botanical Garden *C. Mave Taohong*, *Xiaoye Mudan*, *Saijuban*, and *Grijsii*; from Hong Kong *C. Mave Yinhong*; and *C. Mudan Cha* and *Damanao*) species.

FUCHSIA: Both species and horticultural varieties have been hard hit by the Brazilian Fuchsia Mite, so at this early date we're uncertain about what we will have for sale.

ORCHIDS: We have standard and miniature cymbidiums (awarded clones and some unknowns); species and complex hybrids of Phalaenopsis and Paphiopedilum; and Cattleyas, Laelias, and S.L.C. hybrids. The selection is in all price ranges, so some bargains are to be found. We offer something for the beginner as well as the connoisseur.

BROMELIADS: This exotic family of plants has many attractive and colorful species. The selection includes species for both indoor and outdoor gardens. Genera from which to choose are *Aechmea*, *Billbergia*, *Neoreglia*, *Vriesea*, *Guzmania*, *Cryptanthus*, *Tillandsia* and more.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES: Recently the garden thinned its orchard of many European varieties of apples and pears to make room for an expansion of the South American collection. These are specimen size trees (3 years in the ground) among which are apple varieties known since Roman times, varieties favored as dessert and eating apples in Elizabethan England, and some of the first apple varieties grown in Colonial America. The pears are of Belgian and French origin. In addition to these specimen trees, we will offer selection of cast stock which includes *Malus* spp. and *Prunus* spp. grown from seed collected in China and a few unusual *Citrus* spp. from the Far East.

Other offerings include French Strawberries (*Fraises des Bois*), Chili Peppers for mole', Tepary beans and blue corn (grown 5,000 years ago by Indians in the southwestern U.S. and Mexico), and many unusual vegetables not generally found in nurseries.

CALIFORNIA NATIVES: As in years past, the selection of natives we have to offer contains many unusual, hard-to-find species, and this year's selection is no exception. Of interest are species of *Arctostaphylos*, *Dudleya*, and *Calochortus*, as well as many other species collected in the Channel Islands, the Siskiyou Mountains, and the Sierra Nevada.

In addition to the unusual, we will have 11 species of *Brodiaea*, *Styrax officinalis* var. *Californica*, *Vancouveria hexandra* and *planipetala*, several *Penstemon* spp., *Romanzoffia suksdorfii*, and rock garden plants such as *Linnaea borealis*.

SUCCULENTS: A broad selection of unusual succulents, many being atypical to those most commonly found in Bay Area gardens, will be offered. *Aloe*, *Echeveria*, and *Crassula* species are prominently represented. In addition, we will have a large number of popular succulents for indoor growing and outdoor planting.

CACTI: Many Cacti from South American (some rare) and Mexico will be available. *Cereus*, *Opuntia*, and *Lobivia* species will be featured, a number in bloom. Some small species good for window sill gardens. In all, 35 species will be offered.

HERBS: The emphasis of the herb selection this year will be those species that have ornamental value in the garden. Scented Geraniums, Tansy, Lavendar, and many culinary and medicinal herbs that work well in the landscape will be available. We'll also have some good "spot color" plants. Look for the unusual here!

ROSES: Several old, yet difficult to find varieties and classes of roses for the rose buff. We're offering some favorite old hybrid perpetuals (e.g. General Jacqueminot) and the earliest of hybrid Teas (e.g. La France, 1868), as well as Noisette and Gallica hybrids. Many 5 gallon plants, some older plants not yet transplanted to larger containers, and some one year cuttings from the Garden's collection. Of special interest are some *Rosa* species grown from seed collected in Khamzaabad in the Soviet Union. All plants for sale are well tended and vigorous.

RHODODENDRONS: Many of the plants we have are really quite small and may not be available for sale until next year. We are anticipating having a small selection of species rhododendrons, some in flower, for sale.

FERNS: Several *Pteris* spp. (*P. cretica* and a cultivar of *P.c.*, *P. rowei*, and *P. multiflora*) will be available in quantity. Several plants that may be of interest to fern buffs are a variety of *Polypodium aureum* called "Mandaianum" which has a bluish cast and grows well indoors and *Aglaomorpha herbaclea*, an epiphytic fern which grows to immense proportions (6-8 feet).

New members are invited to join that evening.
For further information call 642-2084 or 642-3343

Spring Garden Highlights

Asian Area

Rhododendrons, azaleas and Empress trees in flower

California Area

Spring wildflowers and wildflowers of the vernal pools in flower

African Hill

Succulents, bulbs, daisies and Cape Marigolds in flower

UC
Botanical Garden

Plant Sale Festival

Saturday, May 7, 1983
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Playing field located at Hillside & Dwight, Berkeley

featuring

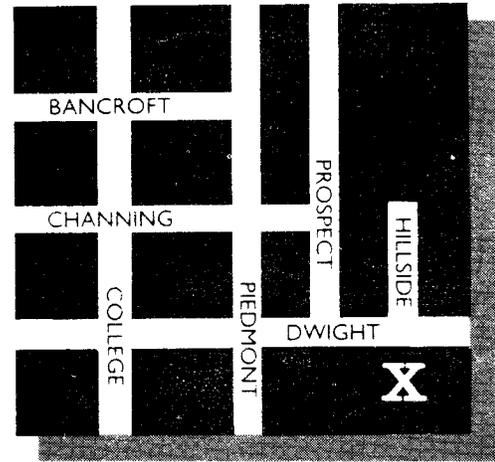
Herbaceous plants, Shrubs, Trees, and California Natives
Also artisans and their crafts will be featured



**Friends Preview Plant Sale Benefit
Friday, May 6, 1983 6 to 8 p.m.**

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Please . . . Bring a box!



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Volunteers Needed For Plant Sale

The Annual Spring Plant Sale is the year's most important fundraising event for the Botanical Garden. Funds generated from this sale will go a long way toward maintaining the quality of the Garden's plants and programs.

At this time, our volunteer propagators are working diligently to prepare a collection of plants for sale. And as always, the selection will be outstanding in both variety and uniqueness.

But we still need volunteers to help with the actual event, including the Friends' Preview Sale on Friday, May 6, and the Plant Sale Festival on Saturday, May 7. It takes a small caravan to move the plants from and back to the Garden. So we'll be needing your trucks, vans, station wagons, and camels as well as help in loading and unloading same. For those with a flair for figures, we'll provide the calculator if you'll tally up the prices.

If you'd like to help us on either or both days of this singularly vital sale, we'd love to hear from you. There is much to do and plenty of good seats left for volunteers willing to join our working party. Please contact Wendy Mitchell at 642-2084.

Special Plants For Sale

We've got three plants that are so great, we'd rather not even try moving them to the plant sale. So we're offering these delightful "heavies" for sale right now at the Garden.

Chamaedorea elegans, sometimes called "neanthe bella," is a parlor palm. We have three of these palms growing together in a 13 inch pot with saucer. The palms are about 20 years old and have reached heights of 20" to 40" at the crown. Cost: \$75.00

Chamaedorea metallica, sometimes grown under the name of "C. tennella," is one of the so-called fishtail palms. A pair of these naturally solitary palms is currently available. They are each about 17 years old and some 40 inches tall at the crown. They are growing in 11 inch pots with saucers. Cost: \$125 each or \$225 for the pair.

If you are interested in purchasing these plants, please call 642-3343 or 642-2084.

Advance Notice of Garden Events

May 6, 1983

Friend's Preview Plant Sale
6 - 8 p.m.
Dwight-Hillside Playing Field
Wine and Cheese Benefit
New members welcome to join

May 8, 1983

Bay Area Museum Sunday
Selected tours of the Garden and glass houses. Opening ceremonies of Floriculture Area. 1 p.m.

May 15, 1983

Celebration of Floriculture Area
Benefit Brunch catered by Narsai's Restaurant. 11 a.m. For reservations call 642-2084

May 7, 1983

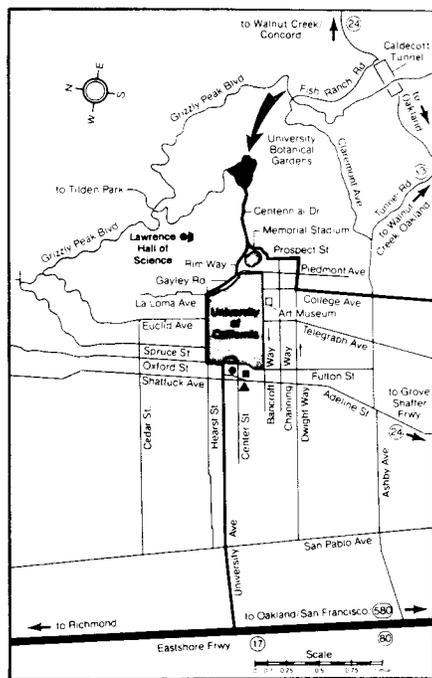
Plant Sale Festival
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Dwight-Hillside Playing Field
Plants, artisans and crafts

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like barberry, and a dwarf form of *Drimys winteri*.

While the chief purpose of my trip to South America was to carry out research studies, it was impossible to pass up the many opportunities to collect seeds, bulbs, and plants for the garden's collections (with the generous permission of the Servicio Agrícola y Ganadero in Santiago). In a three week period I collected material of about 250 species, or about 5% of the estimated flora of Chile, which is more than the garden can handle unless we turn the entire acreage over to South American plants. Inevitable mortality aside, in a few years we should have a richer representation of southern South American plants than we now have. The "extras" will be propagated by our volunteers and will be made available to the public via our sales. Hopefully, the results of this journey will serve in a small way to enrich California horticulture.

Wendy Mitchell, Editor



UC Berkeley Foundation
Friends of the Botanical Garden
University of California
Berkeley, California 94720

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