THE FRIENDS OF THE BOTANICAL GARDEN
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND PICNIC

will be held on
Saturday, June 23  11:30 a.m.
at the Botanical Garden

Included in the program will be the election of officers and board members, and a preliminary report on the Garden's Master Plan by Consultant Eldon Beck. All members are encouraged to attend. Members will receive further details prior to the meeting.

Camellias of Yunnan, China

The Friends of the Botanical Garden is sponsoring an illustrated lecture by Professor Yu Te-tsun on the origin and classification of *Camellia reticulata* cultivars of Yunnan Province, China. This free public lecture, which should be of great interest not only to Camellia enthusiasts but to anyone with a general interest in horticulture or in China, will be on Monday, May 28 at 8:00 p.m. in Room 2000 Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley.

Professor Yu is visiting the United States as a member of an exchange delegation of botanists that has been arranged between the Botanical Society of America and the Academy of Sciences of the People's Republic of China. Professor Yu is the foremost expert on the cultivated Camellias of Yunnan. He was formerly the Director of the Yunnan Institute of Botany in Kunming and is now the Director of the Peking Botanical Garden and Deputy Director of the Institute of Botany of the Academy of Sciences in Peking.

Professor Yu studied at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland between 1948 and 1950 as well as at the Royal Botanical Garden at Edinburgh and the Royal Horticultural Garden at Wisley, England. During this period he participated in the Magnolias and Camellias Conference held in England in 1950. In the report of this conference, Professor Yu published an article titled, "Camellia reticulata and its Garden Varieties." This article was the first description in English of the vast resources of cultivated Camellias in Yunnan. It was through contacts made available by Professor Yu that Walter E. Lammerts and Ralph Peer were able to import many of the Yunnan reticulatas into the United States in 1948.

*Camellia reticulata* has been cultivated in Yunnan Province, mostly in and around the cities of Kunming and Tali, for hundreds of years. The flowers are prized by the Chinese as the foremost of the cultivated Camellias. These flowers range in color from rose, to rose and white, to deep red and are either semi-double or fully-double. The flowers are the largest of any Camellia and in some forms are over six inches in diameter. These Camellias will eventually form trees over thirty feet tall, and plants that date back over four hundred years are still growing around temples near Kunming in Yunnan Province. *Bever Barlow*, Curator

Garden Notes

The response to the Botanical Garden's new Enrichment Series has been outstanding, reports Education Coordinator Laurianne Hannan - in fact, all six of the classes have been oversubscribed. So far, participants have been treated to a tour of the Red McClellan Orchid Farm, a lecture on plant diseases by Dr. Robert Raabe, and a seminar on the formation of the Pygmy Forest in Mendocino County by Dr. Hans Jenny. Enrollment is closed for the remaining classes, but a new series will begin in August - details will be given in the next newsletter.

The annual Friends Preview Plant Sale on May 5 was an unqualified success. Undaunted by the damp weather, Friends members lined up before the start of the sale to get first pick, and purchased almost $3,000 worth of plants by the end of the day. The huge selection available was testimony to the year-round potting and propagating carried on by dedicated volunteers.

Although the Master Plan is not scheduled for publication until this fall, Mr. Beck will present his preliminary findings at the Annual Friends Membership Meeting on June 23. We urge you to attend this meeting and let Mr. Beck know of your concerns.

Jerry Carlin, President

Friends of the Botanical Garden
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Laura Hess, Editor
Trichocereus candicans - the spectacular six-inch long white flowers of this columnar cactus are part of the brilliant display of blooming succulents to be seen through mid-June in the New World Desert and African Hill areas of the U.C. Botanical Garden.

FRIENDS QUARTERLY CALENDAR

May 28 - "Cultivated Camellias of Yunnan, China. Illustrated lecture by Dr. Yu Te-tsun. 8 p.m. 2000 Life Sciences Building.

June 19 - Botanical Garden Enrichment Class #5: Paleobotany lecture-demonstration. 10:30 a.m., Botanical Garden Meeting Room.

June 23 - Annual Friends Membership Meeting and Picnic. 11:30 a.m., Botanical Garden Meeting Room.

July 17 - Botanical Garden Enrichment Class #6: Saratoga Horticultural Foundation/ Filoli Gardens Field Trip. Botanical Garden parking lot; time to be announced.

The Friends of the U.C. Botanical Garden provide assistance to the garden in improving and extending the plant collections, enriching the education program, and meeting general capital requirements.

Membership benefits include special programs on plants and gardening; mailings of the Botanical Garden Quarterly Newsletter and seasonal self-guided tours; a 20% discount on selected UC Press Books; and admission to the annual Preview Plant Sale exclusively for Friends.

Student, senior citizen, and garden volunteer memberships are discounted to $5. Standard dues are $10 for individuals, $15 for families. The Friends of the Botanical Garden functions as a support group under the auspices of the UC Berkeley Foundation, and dues and gifts are tax-deductible.