

# The Bulb Garden

Volume 4, Issue 2

Fall 2005

## Pacific Bulb Society Board of Directors

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- BX Director: Dell Sherk  
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CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com

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## Inside PBS

*Hello PBS members!*

### Advertising News

In the past PBS hasn't pursued potential advertisers for our newsletter with any regularity. However, our Vice President, Shawn Pollard, has recently taken on the task of ferreting out possible advertisers.

If you have a flowering bulb-related nursery, supply, or other related business and wish to advertise in the newsletter, we can help. Please contact Shawn Pollard: PolardS@adelphia.net.

### Member Renewals

All memberships in PBS are on a calendar year basis and are up for renewal end of the year. We will be posting a reminder note or two to the PBS email bulb forum and then sending paper renewal notices via snail mail in December.

### Treasury Changes

We have moved the PBS account from a traditional bank to Fidelity Investments. This makes it easier for our treasurer and for the board because the board is spread out all over the country.

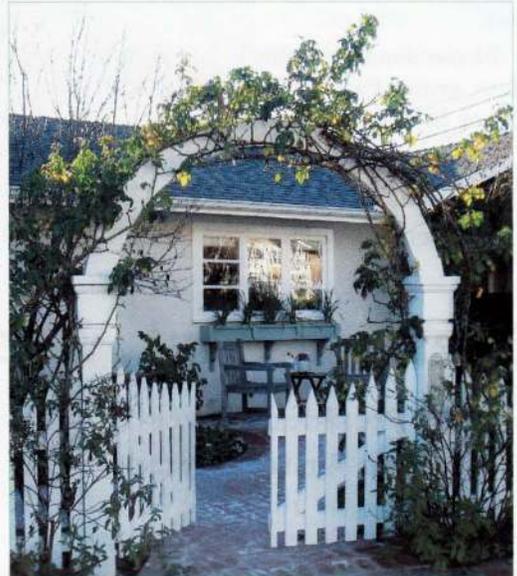
This change will have one drawback and that is that we can no longer accept

money orders; not even international ones.

So when you renew your membership or wish to pay for your BX purchases, please send a check or use a Pay Pal account. Using Pay Pal will be especially beneficial to our international members. It costs less than postal money orders and you receive a receipt immediately. No waiting and no wondering! Please take advantage of Pay Pal, it is absolutely secure.

### Pay Pal Information

Our secretary, Jennifer Hildebrand, has instructions on how to set up a Pay Pal account and also how to pay your member dues and BX purchases via Pay Pal. Making payments through Pay Pal makes it easy to renew your PBS membership and also to pay for your BX purchases. Whether you wish to set up a Pay Pal account or wish to know how to pay using a Pay Pal account that you already have, please contact Jennifer. She will be glad to help you.



Contact Info:  
Jennifer Hildebrand—  
TheOtherJen88@msn.com

### Membership Directory

The membership directory goes out mid-year each year and so our 2005 directory went out this summer.

If you wish to be included in the 2006 membership directory you need to renew your PBS membership at the end of this year.

Thanks for your continued support and loyalty!

*Our "Inside the Garden Gate of PBS" photo for this issue is a photograph I took of a home in San Clemente during a walk through the neighborhood near my office.  
Editor*

# Editorial

## Renew your membership now!

Memberships in PBS expire at the end of each calendar year.

Your personal year of expiration (most being 2005) appears on the address block or mail label on this newsletter.

Please send your check, NO money orders, or use Pay Pal for renewal \$20 (US), or \$25 (outside US) to:

Pat Colville PBS memberships  
1555 Washburn Road  
Pasadena, CA 91105 USA

## Membership Benefits:

- International email forum (340 members at last count)
- PBS WIKI with thousands of color photos of bulbs
- Newsletters
- Local dinners with lectures, travelogues, and often bulb auctions
- PBS very popular BX (Bulb & Seed Exchange).

## CONTEST!

PBS needs a LOGO! Please put on your thinking caps and fire up your imagination. Submit LOGO ideas (drawings) to:

Cathy Craig  
630-A So El Camino Real  
San Clemente CA 92672  
CathCraigEA@hotmail.com

Contest deadline is December 31, 2005. The winner will be awarded a **FREE ONE-YEAR MEMBERSHIP** in PBS. Good luck!!

# Events: Past, Present, and Future

## PBS President Gives Talk at Garden Writers Symposium

On September 10, 2005, your PBS president, Cathy Craig, gave a talk to the Garden Writers at the annual Garden Writers of America symposium in Vancouver, Canada.

Granted, the talk was not on plants or bulbs. It was a talk on retirement and retirement planning. But she managed to mention the Pacific Bulb Society. Hopefully some of the GWA members will join.

If you write, are an aspiring writer, or if you are a photographer, you might consider joining the Garden Writers of America. Their mission is to help writers, photographers, and other garden-related communicators become professionals in their chosen field. See their web site at: [www.gardenwriters.org](http://www.gardenwriters.org)

## Coming Event! Bulb Pot Luck

Customarily there is a pot luck twice a year hosted by your PBS president, Cathy Craig and her husband, John Hancock. Last year due to exterior home renovations there were, unfortunately, no pot luck bulb dinners.

The good news is that in 2006 they will be back on schedule with pot luck dinners, travelogue slide presentations, and bulb auctions.

Anyone interested in bulbs is invited to attend. The dinners are at their home in San Clemente, CA.

Please watch this newsletter and also the PBS email forum for notices. As soon as the winter 2006 date is set, Cathy will notify everyone via the email forum and the notice will appear in the first newsletter of 2006.

Contact info: [CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com](mailto:CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com)

## Refer a Friend for Membership and Get a Free Bulb

Many of our members join the Pacific Bulb Society because a friend tells them about us. We'd like to give you a little gift when this happens.

If you refer a friend who joins PBS, please let our membership director know. You can email Pat Colville at [Pat.Colville@JHResearchUSA.com](mailto:Pat.Colville@JHResearchUSA.com).

Or your friend can email Pat. Or your friend can put a note on his or her membership application form.

This offer also applies to GIFT MEMBERSHIPS. Just write FREE BULB on the new member's application form with your name as the referral person.

MEMBERSHIP FORM is available at our website: [www.PacificBulbSociety.org](http://www.PacificBulbSociety.org) and scroll down to "membership form".

*This offer is good until Dec 31, 2005 Hurry!*



## Donate to the BX—Note: **New Address**

The BX (Bulb Exchange) was an idea originally suggested a few years ago by Dr. James Waddick, author of several excellent bulb and plant books and co-founder of the Variegated Plant Society.

The BX is one of PBS' most popular member benefits.

Dell Sherk ([dells@voicenet.com](mailto:dells@voicenet.com)) is our super-organized BX director. To date he has put over 100 BX offerings on the table for PBS members.

When you re-pot or re-dig a garden bed, or anytime you find you must divide bulbs or plants, or when you have seed pods, please send your extras to Dell.

Clean them and make sure they are labeled. We try to offer bulbs & seeds that are true-to-name. If you don't know exactly what you have, give Dell the best description you can.

### It's easy to contribute to the BX!

Send clean and labeled bulbs, tubers, corms, rhizomes, and seeds to our BX Director:

### NEW ADDRESS!

Dell Sherk—PBS BX  
PO Box 429  
New Hope PA 18938  
[DellS@voicenet.com](mailto:DellS@voicenet.com)  
(215) 862-0438

The BX continues to be one of PBS members' most popular benefits. To date PBS has made over 100 BX offers to members.  
Ed.

## Garden Humor

*This cartoon is from a new book by Art Wolk (a member of the Garden Writers of America) soon to be reviewed in our newsletter.*

*Cartoon at right: © Laurie Baxendell*

*Published with permission of the author.  
[Ed.]*



## Advertise With Us & Get Your Message Out There!

Our members loyally support our advertisers.

The advertising rates are simple: \$10 per column inch per issue. Any size available. We don't require 'camera ready art' copy. We will design and set up your ad for you. We make it easy for you!

Let our members know that you are out there and what you sell.

Offer catalogs, and list your website in addition to your other contact information.

Let them know if you have special rates or offers for PBS members.

Encourage them to order early by suggesting a deadline or offer a discount for orders received by a certain date.

Make suggestions for plants and bulbs that are your personal favorites.

Include a sketch, photo, or ask us to find and include one for you.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact our VP in charge of advertising: Shawn Pollard.

[PollardS@Adelphia.net](mailto:PollardS@Adelphia.net)

# The Mad Potter of the Pacific Northwest

Contributed By Mark Wilcox

*Once upon a time* there lived a gardener who decided to grow his plants entirely in pots.

Maybe this sounds like a fairy tale to you, but I'm here to tell you that this Mad Potter really exists, and this series of photographs is his story.



Front yard from the sidewalk. Our Mad Potter has an exquisite sense of symmetry.



Front yard from the street. Notice how some rows have the same color pots, and some have alternating colors.



Front yard at sidewalk: This photo was taken on April 25. Notice how each pot is sited on top of a cement base or is actually set down into and through a cement base. The potting soil must have to be delivered in a 10-wheel dump truck!



Here is an identical shot taken July 25th, three months later. It doesn't take long for the plantings to mature to the point where you can't even see the pots they are contained within.

The mysterious Mad Potter is locally famous and we believe it's permissible to print his address. For those of you within a reasonable driving distance, it would seem to be well worth the gas—even at \$3 per gallon: 3725 Vassault Street, Tacoma, WA 98407 (he might even appreciate some fan mail).



Notice the alternating pot colors here too.

It must have been an exacting chore to get all the pots level. If you've ever tried to level a bird bath, you have some idea of the work that must have been involved.

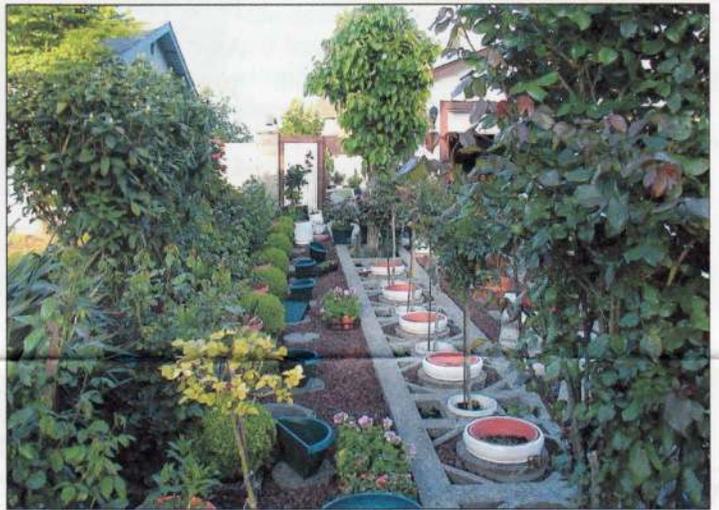


Here is a closer look at the pots to the right of the house. Our Mad Potter has given this project a lot of thought.



Each pot in a row has identical plantings, but each row has a different type of plant.

If you look carefully, you can see that the whole area around each pot has been mulched with bark. What a job!



These are the plantings down the left side of the house, (left of the driveway). The cement base alone is intricate and looks like it has been poured in place. He's even using green half-pots.

Judging by the size of the white/terra cotta pots, he would have had to excavate at least two cubic feet to place each pot.



This photo shows that he now even has the tree lawn, or "hell strip" as it's known in some parts of the country, planted with various pots and plantings.



Aha! If you look very closely you will see our shy, and mysteriously anonymous, Mad Potter hiding under his gardening hat.

*All photos courtesy of Jim Schaefer © 2004*

# Officers' Reports

## BX—Bulb Exchange Report BX/SX Director: Dell Sherk

### BX Offerings exceed 100!

The PBS BX celebrated its 100th BX posting my opening the offering to all members of the email forum. These items included plant material donated by 11 members from all over the US and from South America.



Thanks to all of you! *Dell Sherk*

## Membership Report Director: Pat Colville

The membership of the Pacific Bulb Society now numbers nearly 150!

Please welcome the following new members to our PBS family!

Ms Claude Babcock • Mary Carrol  
Patti Donner • Michael Homick  
Don Lehrer • Shirley Meneice  
Gary Meltzer • Donald Osborne  
Keith Portka • Guiseppe Rivenelli  
Bob Prusan • Myke Ashley-Cooper  
Dan Tyson • Veltmon White  
Beautiful Blooms in Canada  
Ena Gatenby  
Marie-Paule Opendakker

## Vice President's Report VP: Shawn Pollard

The VP often does jobs for which we do not have director slot. Shawn has graciously agreed to act as our director of advertising as well as maintaining his VP post. Thank you, Shawn. Advertisers, please contact Shawn: PollardS@adelphia.net



*Shawn Pollard*

## Treasury Report Treasurer: Arnold Trachtenberg

Checking Bal 1/1/5 \$8,253

### INCOME

Members US	1,300
Members Intl	150
SX/BX	2,165
Donations	37

**Total Income 3,652**

### EXPENSES

Newsletter	1,447
Member Directory	36
SX/BX	574
Bank Fees	36
Adjustment	50

**Total Expenses 2,144**

**NET INCOME 1,509**

Checking Bal 6/30/05 \$9,762



*Secretary  
Jennifer Hildebrand*



*Treasurer  
Arnold Trachtenberg*

## President's Report President: Cathy Craig

I continue to oversee operations, chair the board of director meetings, and lend a hand where necessary.

The second newsletter of 2005 is now in your hands.

We hope you are enjoying the newsletters. I have a lot of material for the newsletters on my desk and promised. Thank you all!

## Email Forum and Wiki Report Administrator: Mary Sue Ittner Committee of Helpers: Susan Hayek, Arnold Trachtenberg, Jay Yourch Tech Support: Mark Parrott

Our PBS list continues to grow and now has 340 members with additional countries represented. Susan Hayek has joined Arnold Trachtenberg and me as a list administrator. I want to thank Jennifer Hildebrand for her help with the list in the past.

The WIKI continues to grow and is becoming an increasingly helpful resource for geophytes. 108 people have contributed pictures or information to the WIKI. We now have WIKI pages for 273 genera, plus many pages of intra- and inter-generic hybrids, with varying degrees of information on each. Many genera in the orchid and ginger families were added this past year.

Instituting a sign-in has made adding to the WIKI a bit more challenging, but has stopped the vandalism and has been a great time-saver for those of us who monitor the WIKI. Mark Wilcox and Mark McDonough have retired as WIKI administrators. Both of them made a huge contribution to creating the organization of the WIKI and helped me repeatedly with the images. Susan Hayek has joined the WIKI team and does whatever I need help with, but is especially talented in dealing with images. She has been adding selective images from John Lonsdale's web site. Jay Yourch continues to lend a hand as needed. He learned how we could add anchors which has enabled us to add cross references to the plants with new names. Arnold Trachtenberg adds images for people who need help with this. Thank you all!

## Minutes of the last Directors' Meeting

Jennifer Hildebrand gave up her dual-position as Secretary-Treasurer and was voted in as Secretary.

We have submitted the paperwork to the IRS so that the Pacific Bulb Society can become a tax-exempt organization. We are awaiting the approval of the IRS.

We discussed bulb distribution ideas, a face-to-face board meeting sometime in the future, and voted to move our bank account to Fidelity Investments.

The next board of directors meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, 2005. This will be the last directors meeting of the year.

# Meeting!

The second 2005 directors meeting was held on July 24, 2005. Present were: Cathy Craig, Shawn Pollard, Arnold Trachtenberg, Dell Sherk, Pat Colville, and Jennifer Hildebrand.

We voted in Arnold Trachtenberg as our new treasurer.

# Book Review: TP Pocket Guide to Bulbs

By John E. Bryan

Review by Jane McGary

This compact (6 by 8.5 inches) manual is made up of material excerpted from Bryan's *Bulbs* (revised edition, 2002).

## Organizational Issues & Extras

With regard to organization; the text is in the typical alphabetical-by-genus format, which will be useful to those who know the taxonomic names; if you know only common names, you will find these cross-referenced in the index.

The introduction includes useful lists by flower color, season of bloom, special uses (e.g., forcing, cut flowers), and special sites (woodland, rock garden). USDA and European hardiness zone maps are also provided, although these are not always useful when it comes to bulbs because these zones were developed to express the winter survival of woody plants, many of which are dormant just at the time that bulbous plants are in full growth and vulnerable to freezing.

The index is useful for its inclusion of common names. A one-page glossary will assist beginners with some common botanical terms.

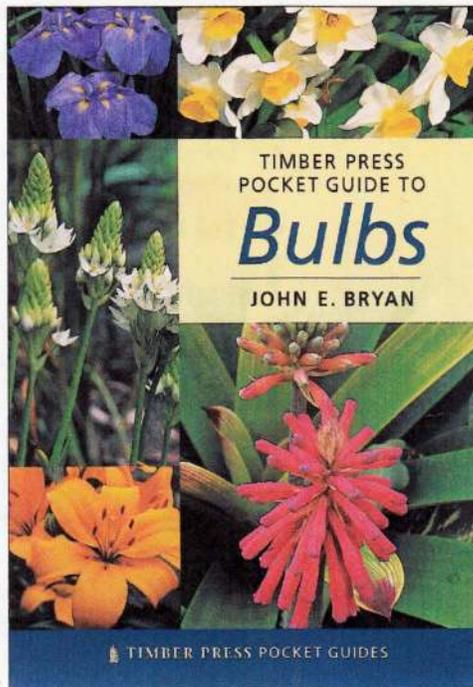
## The Photographs

The generously supplied photographs are more even in quality than those in *Bulbs* and will be valuable for the novice reader. Almost every species mentioned is illustrated.

## Main Text

The plants represented are "bulbs" in the broad sense, including some with tubers or rhizomes. This book will be most helpful to general gardeners buying bulbs for the border and for containers. Most of the species and varieties mentioned are those available through mass-market Dutch bulb catalogs and garden centers.

Beyond that principle of selection, however, the species mentioned sometimes seem to have been chosen at random. One expects to see, for instance, *Sternbergia lutea*; but there is no mention of the widely grown, if doubtfully distinct, *S. sicula*. And there is an entry for *S. colchiciflora*, a species that is very difficult to obtain and that has minute, fleeting flowers that would probably only attract specialists.



Each genus or single-species section begins with cultivation tips, often useful. USDA hardiness zones are given for many but not all entries and exhibit the usual problems encountered when authors (driven by publishers) try to assign them to bulbous plants. For example; why is *Dichelostemma ida-maia* optimistically rated Z7, and the much harder *D. congestum* Z8?

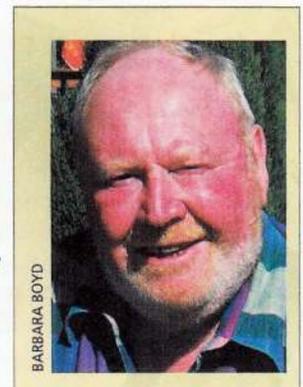
The very condensed format permits little detail, and sometimes important details have been omitted. Thus, someone using this book to decide whether to purchase a bulb of *Cardiocrinum giganteum* would not find out that the bulb is monocarpic.

There are errors in the book which may be due to incomplete editing. For example, where the book discusses *Schizostylis cocinea* it states that it "should be placed where night-blooming habit and fragrance can be appreciated" - neither of these being characteristics of *Schizostylis*. Because many books contain some errors, it's always best when attempting to grow a bulb with which you are unfamiliar, to check further into its habits and cultivation preferences by comparing several reference books and doing Internet research.

The soft cover is laminated to be waterproof, so this book may find a home on the counter of the garden center as a handy, sturdy quick reference.

*Timber Press Pocket Guide to Bulbs*, by John E. Bryan. Portland: Timber Press, 2005. 227 pages, color photos throughout. Softcover, \$19.95. ISBN 0-88192-725-2.

John E Bryan is a horticultural consultant, lecturer, and television personality. He also publishes a monthly gardening newsletter and leads annual garden tours to Europe and South Africa. John has written and edited several books on bulbs, including the encyclopedic *Bulbs* (2002). He gardens in the Bay Area of California.



Get Guide to Bulbs

The Pacific Bulb Society was formed in 2002 by co-founders Cathy Craig and Marguerite English. We serve all people interested in flowering bulbs. Our major member benefits are:

- Our International email forum
- The PBS wiki with color photos of bulbs
- Our Newsletter
- Local dinners with lectures, travelogues, and often bulb auctions
- The PBS popular BX (Bulb &Seed Exchange)

A MEMBERSHIP FORM is available at our website: find us at [www.PacificBulbSociety.org](http://www.PacificBulbSociety.org) and scroll down to "membership form".



**Pacific Bulb Society**

*Gardening with Bulbs!*

*We're on the web!*  
[www.pacificbulbsociety.org](http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org)

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The Bulb Garden

The Bulb Garden is the newsletter of the Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). It is published once-annually to quarterly depending on the time the volunteers have available and is available to Pacific Bulb Society members. This newsletter provides bulb & gardening articles, news of interest to members, and announcements of the PBS organization.  
 Editor: Cathy Craig CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com

# Newsletter of the Pacific Bulb Society

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