

MIXING BULBS INTO CONTAINER GARDENS

By John Ingram

Part I: Container Basics

John Ingram is a garden designer in the greater Los Angeles area (zone 10 - dry and warm summers and wet cool winters). He also works annually with clients in Ohio (Zone 5 - hot, humid, sometimes drought conditions in summer to freezing in winter). He loves and collects bulbs of all types. His specialty is combining bulbs with perennials in container accent plantings! E-mail him at jjingram@adelphia.net or check out his web page at www.floralartistry.org. Ed.

I have many opportunities to design balconies and patios in varied environments. My design experience ranges from Ohio to Southern California. I incorporate a few favorite plants into every design I do. Some of these are *Verbena*, *Delphinium*, grasses, lilies, and *Ipomoea* (sweet potatoes). These plants perform well as seasonal color enhancement in almost any climate. My typical design style is what I call Fusion design. Fusion design is the combination of eclectic plants from around the world.

This series will be a discussion about the use of trees, shrubs, perennials, and other plant material in containers. There are several advantages to using a group of containers on a patio or situated in the open garden. First, it permits more experimentation in placement. Second, many plants with different soil or water requirements can now peacefully co-exist in a grouping of containers. Finally, the plants can be rotated seasonally to add interest all year long – even in cold climates. I use a lot of tropical plants for Ohio customers, and in California, I use more “hardy” plants.

Containers are a great way to experiment with plant combinations and try new and unusual plants. You keep a closer eye on a plant’s development and understand how it grows and flowers. You pay more attention to plants in a container. You can always move them to an open garden setting after learning their needs.

SELECTING THE RIGHT CONTAINER

The right container is just as important to your planting scheme as the plants. Always invest in well-designed pots. If you watch for them, you can find excellent choices at large discount

retailers, fine garden centers, thrift stores or yard sales.

For a traditional look, choose terra cotta from Italy, ceramics from Asia, and other types of pottery from around the world. Containers range from very decorative to very simple and add interest to an already beautiful combination of plants. Colored pots, and antiqued or mossy containers add punch to any container grouping.

Asian ceramic pots and other diverse containers come in a wide variety of colors and patterns and are readily available. When choosing a container, think of the plants you will use with it. For example, a short cobalt-blue ceramic bowl would not be proper for tall purple foliaged plants. It would be more attractive with low silver foliage accented with blues, purples, or pinks.

Terra cotta pots are utilitarian. They have many designs and shapes: round, roll rims, square, basket weave, Orangerie, Della Robbia, lion heads, azalea pots, or standards. There are infinite ways to mix and match them. A grouping may incorporate several design patterns.

For a more modern feeling, use any steel or other metal container as a planting vessel. Ice buckets, galvanized pails or trash receptacles, chimney flues (clay or steel), decorative concrete drainpipes, heavy glassware (be wary of hot sun that may burn exposed roots), or any other devices that hold soil make excellent containers. Be sure to add drainage holes when using such items.



Frost proof containers are becoming more readily available in different colors and at a more reasonable cost. Use a very porous soil with these. This reduces the freezing and thawing effect that does the most damage to containers.

Plastic and other faux materials are an atrocity that should be avoided at all costs. They do not have the necessary weight (visual or physical) to hold tall plants and do not allow for errors in watering. Always consider the ultimate height of the plant when selecting a pot. Plants that will become top heavy over time need a heavier, broader container than those that stay

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shorter and less full. Large pots sometimes become too heavy to move alone. If you must move such a pot, try to get someone to help or place it on a sturdy roller. The inconvenience of the weight is far preferable to the disappointment you will feel when a beautiful pot gets knocked over and broken or a prized plant gets damaged.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Saucers under the pots provide extra water when the plants are dry. Be careful when using saucers. Most plants do not like to have their feet wet and may resent extra water. Keep an eye on the saucers. If they stay full of water for more than a day when it is cool, pour or siphon away the water. In areas with lower humidity and dry winds, the extra water can be an advantage and may not need to be removed.

Add a layer of decorative mulch on the soil surface to finish off the whole grouping. You can use colored sand or stones, fine or medium orchid bark, or green moss (available at most craft or floral supply stores).

Always use a drip irrigation system with at least one drip device in each pot. This cuts down on maintenance and plant loss. In warm areas, pots may need watering more than once a day. If a container dries out, it can be difficult to get it moist again. Clients often say they water the plants "A LOT and the water just runs out the bottom so the plant can't be dying from lack of water." Upon close inspection, the soil is completely dry and cannot absorb any amount of moisture. In this state, the best thing to do is to set the whole pot in a tub of water for several hours until saturated. Make sure the water level is just below the level of the soil to prevent erosion.

POTTING MIXES

You can experiment with potting mixes as every climate is different and nothing should be taken as law. In general, a standard commercial potting soil is the most practical. For most general plantings, this is sufficient. In areas that have heavy rainfall in the winter, some plants will need extra drainage. In this case, try ½ cactus soil and ½ commercial potting mix. Another choice

would be to add more sand, perlite, scoria (the fines from sifted rock), or other drainage type material to the commercial mix. Add a slow release fertilizer and bone and blood meal mix at the time of planting. The better you make the soil initially, the less work you have later.

Many materials can be recycled into large pots. For example, packing peanuts may be used for drainage. Depending on the size of the pot, you can layer between 1 to 6 inches of them on the bottom of the pot. This only works if the container will be placed in a protected area away from winds. In areas with high winds, you could use gravel or decomposed granite for added stability. Decomposed granite is a great base to use for palms and other plants that require good drainage and alkaline soil. Add this and other amendments to a commercial mix.

PLANTING APPROACHES

There are many options for using plants in containers. One choice is to directly place one or more plants into a decorative container. Another is to have a decorative cachepot covering the plastic nursery pot or pots. The second option is for plants that do not like to have their roots disturbed.

When you have several smaller pots to combine for a temporary display statement, a cachepot is a great choice. Either way, the planting can remain untouched until its next repotting. This option will require more maintenance. It requires more water and close attention so that a wind does not knock over the taller plants. You may add sand, stones (both of which are more stable) or Styrofoam around the inside of the decorative pot to provide stability and hold the contents in position. This provides a layer of insulation and keeps the nursery pot cooler in the hot summer months.

To create a showy display with smaller plants in 2 to 5 inch pots, fill the decorative pot with sand, gravel, or perlite around the smaller pots. Select a pot large enough to barely hold the pots you want to display. The smaller pots must be as tight as possible in the large pot.

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ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

The size of the container depends on the growth of the plants. Generally, for a single growing season, use a pot large enough so that it will be full by the end of summer. For large plants that will be containerized for two or more years, use a pot large enough to accommodate the plants growth for three years. After that time, reassess whether the container is still large enough for another year or if it needs to be planted into a larger container. You need to have a good idea of how fast a plant grows as well as what kind of roots it will have. If you are unsure of a new plant, always err on a smaller size. The plant can be moved up into a large pot in the future. Use of an oversized pot leads to rot and the introduction of unwanted diseases and insects. If you are an attentive gardener and pay close attention to your containerized plants, design more for aesthetics than plant requirements. If you are busy with other things, and know your containers may not be watered on a regular basis, choose deeper pots since they hold more water. A one-



gallon *Canna* can fill an eighteen-inch pot by the end of one growing season. A group of twenty-five *Lilium* 'Stargazer' in a fifteen inch pot under planted with five 4" *Ipomoea* 'Blackie' is just fine for one growing season. When planting in containers, I give

extra room to fast growing tropicals and less room for annuals and bulbs.

PLANT SELECTION PRINCIPLES

This is the time of year that to think of plant selection for your patio or balcony containers. Consider which plants to reuse, those you did not use the previous year and those which you want to increase for this year. Plan to remove the plants that did not please you last season. When designing, use favorite bulbs that can be incorporated into mixed groupings. Hardy and tender perennials, trees, shrubs and grasses enhance the best qualities of the bulbs and hide their less attractive stages.

Here are a few basic principles for planning. Consider what style or theme the planting will represent. Some examples of themes are tropicals, desert, Mediterranean, English cottage, or fusion. Decide whether you are focusing on a specific plant type or area of origin. Most bulb collections tend to lean toward one type of specialization, such as South African, Mediterranean, or hardy bulbs. These can be displayed as a group or mixed with other plants for a more eclectic feeling. Then, take into account whether your planting area is in full or part sun, shade or some of each. Most of the plants mentioned in this series are for full sun with the last installment being for the shade and semi-shade areas.

Decide which plants support the theme you have selected. Some plants just don't quite work in certain themes. For example, *Crocus* would look very out of place in a tropical garden while a *Colchicum* with it's large almost tropical foliage would look more appropriate. The water and soil requirements can be completely different for each plant. A papyrus and Japanese iris can be grouped in one container with *Aloes* and *Veltheimia* in others for an eclectic mix in the Fusion garden.

PLANTING EXAMPLES

Plants that are planted singly or masses of one variety in a single container and combined in groupings give color all season long. The seasons can be extended by rotating with seasonal bulbs and flowering plants that are now available from a wide selection of retailers. Some suggestions would be adding heather or forced bulbs such as tulips or hyacinths for spring while autumn color can come from *Amaryllis belladonna* cultivars, *Asters*, or early flowering *Cymbidiums* in addition to the many "lesser" bulbs that you have in your collection.

Use as many plants as possible in each container to give it the most punch for the growing season. One example would be an eighteen-inch clay pot with ten to fifteen *Lilium* 'Casablanca' (which should only be in a tight

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container for one growing season) with six 4" pots of *Verbena 'Burgundy'* and three 4" *Ipomoea 'Blackie'*. This combination has a long period of interest with the sweet potato (*Ipomoea*) foliage and verbena as well as a huge impact when the lilies are blooming and fragrant. Some of the suggested companion plants are not suited to long term use in containers because of such tight quarters and may occasionally need to be replaced or changed. Use an annual application of a slow release fertilizer of your choice as well as a diluted liquid feed every 2-3 watering.

Plant societies and online email groups are a great way also to get other people's opinions on the plants they use for their area. I know I have made many acquaintances that have become good friends over the years. I have also exchanged many millions of plants, seeds, bulbs, cuttings, etc. with them to increase my personal collection and stock for my clients.

ANNUAL PROGRESS

Plant the container on the patio in the spring. In the autumn, divide and plant perennials in the ground in the garden. You can now try another planting in that pot for the next season, either winter or next spring. This provides a beautiful show on the patio in the summer and affords time to decide where to plant the contents in the garden. This process identifies great combinations and real disasters to be avoided. It is easier to experiment with containers versus the open ground. If you are not pleased with a combination by the end of summer, the plants don't have to remain together in the garden. You can also move things around and experiment more readily with containers. Try placing decorative containers on top of the soil in the mixed garden to add more interest. You can observe how plantings work together over the season and consider what they will do in the future. This also gives the plant time to get acclimated before being directly planted in the open ground, thus reducing the stress on the plant.

PLANT SOURCES

There are many great sources for the suggested plants from retailers, discounters, specialty suppliers, to societies. Retail nurseries are the best

source for top quality plants and services such as planting suggestions for your areas. Even though I avoid the discount retailers that have invaded the plant industry, some great selections can be found there if you know plants and their requirements.

You can find many real treasures if you can check these stores often to know when shipments are arriving. The sales help at these stores, if you can find them, have little if any knowledge of the plants that are offered. Sometimes they do get plants and containers from suppliers and not really know what to do with them. Plan on unfamiliar plants being expendable if you want to try them.

In Southern California, some of the legitimate plant retailers fail to realize the hardiness and adaptability of some plants. They won't order certain plants because they do not believe the plants can adapt to the conditions here while the discount stores have no idea. One example would be clematis vines. If they are available at retail nurseries, they are rather expensive while discount stores bring in 1 or 2 quart size for the same price as most 4" "tender" perennials such as geraniums. So, keep an eye on such stores as Wal-mart, K-Mart, and Home Depot. Also remember, the quality is not the same as retail nurseries and some plants may need coddling until they are established. Specialty suppliers are worth searching for as well. They have what you may never find at a local supplier or discounter. In addition, the miscellaneous plant societies are the best sources for more information and contacts for more sources.

PLANT SUPPLIERS

Here are a few suppliers that can deliver some of the specialty plants to your door or at least get you started in the right direction.

- 1) Plant Delights, www.plantdel.com, 919.772.4794, office@plantdelights.com
- 2) Munchkin Nursery, www.munchkinnursery.com, 812.633.4858, genebush@munchkinnursery.com
- 3) Brent and Becky's Bulbs, <http://www.brentandbeckysbulbs.com>, 804.693.3966, info@brentandbeckysbulbs.com
- 4) Telos Rare Bulbs, Contact: Diana Chapman, rarebulbs@earthlink.net
- 5) Glasshouse Works, www.glasshouseworks.com, 740.662.2142, plants@glasshouseworks.com
- 6) Yucca Do, www.yuccado.com, 979.826.4580, info@yuccado.com
- 7) Terra Nova Nurseries, Inc., <http://www.terranovanurseries.com>

Retail sources in your area are listed on the web page

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8) Proven Winners, <http://www.provenwinners.com>, another wholesaler with a link to retail suppliers.

9) San Marcos Growers, www.smgrowers.com, 805.683.1561. This wholesaler has a great web page for descriptions and photos. It also lists retailers on the west coast.

10) International Aroid Society, www.roid.org, P.O. Box 43-1853, South Miami, FL, 33143, U.S.A.

11) American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, www.aggs.org, 118 Byron Avenue, Lawrence, MA 01841-4444 USA

12) Pacific Bulb Society, Membership: Vicki Sironen, mumswell@mail.earthlink.net

13) International Palm Society, www.palm.org, PO Box 7075, Lawrence KS 66044-7075

SUMMARY

With a little planning and some good plant choices, container plantings can display a large bulb collection as well as perennials, trees, and shrubs. Remember the container and its plants are not separate entities. They enhance each other and transform a nice grouping into a gorgeous one. Look for the new and hardy plants that are introduced each year and try them out in containers. This will give you some idea of what they will do in the open garden. Each year new cultivars are introduced with insect and disease resistance being a top priority for many hybridizers.

I always look for the new introductions to try each year. This sets me apart from other designers, since many will use the warehouse store specials that are readily available in mass boring quantities to the point of being a cliché. My next article, will present descriptions of exciting color palates with pinks, blues, and bold flashy combinations, and do well in sunny gardens. There will be some luscious examples of plant selection using those colors. The final installment will focus on plant groupings for the shade garden.

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LITTLE CUPS OF GOLD: THE HISTORY AND CULTIVATION OF TAZETTA *Narcissus* By Jaminia A. Colliard, Monterey Peninsula College

Bill Welsh raises bulbs in Carmel Valley, California. He is fascinated by Narcissus hybridization and collecting heirloom varieties. Jaminia is his assistant. Both Bill and Jaminia have given us permission to publish this article, which was previously published and copyrighted on his temporary website at: "http://skyberry.com/BulbBaron/article.htm". The American Daffodil Society divides all daffodils into 13 divisions according to their flower shape, type and parentage. All Tazetta daffodils comprise Division 8, which is characterized, in part, by multiple flowers per stem. Ed.

"When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze...
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance."
-Williams Wordsworth

Driving down the Big Sur coast on Highway 1, in the month of February, I notice clusters of white and orange flowers that look like tiny daffodils sprouting up from the green carpet of a cow pasture. I can't help stopping to get a closer look even though the rain is coming down in sheets. I climb carefully through the barbed wire fence to retrieve a few of the rain soaked blossoms and my efforts are rewarded by a wonderful fragrance similar to those of orange blossoms. Some ranchers in a truck slow down, peering through the gray, trying to see if I'm doing anything wrong. I hold up my pitiful bouquet of drenched flowers and they wave back, driving on. Luckily, crazy trespassers picking flowers in their pasture isn't their first concern on a rainy Monday afternoon.

Since then, I have learned a lot about these wonderful flowers. The flowers are in the Amaryllis family, and are commonly referred to as Tazetta *Narcissus*. Tazetta means "little cups" in Italian, which is an accurate description. As for the name *Narcissus*, according to Greek mythology, the god Narcissus was turned into a flower that eternally stares into a pool of water as punishment for his vanity. In Greece, these flowers are commonly found growing near pools of water and since the flowers naturally face down, it appears as though they are staring at their own reflections. The main difference between other daffodils and Tazettas is that Tazettas are smaller flowered and more fragrant than daf-

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fodils. Tazettas also have clusters of three to fifteen flowers per stem rather than one large flower like other daffodils. There can even be up to 30 flowers per stem in some cases. Because Tazetta *Narcissus* have many flowers per stem, another name for them is *Polyanthus Narcissus*.

The variety we see scattered in cow pastures and along old roads was brought to our area by Chinese immigrants during the Gold Rush. It is called Single Chinese or Chinese Sacred Lily. The flowers are used in the Chinese New Year's Celebrations and are considered sacred. It is believed that the Single Chinese *Narcissus* were spread East by the Silk Route, since the flowers are found growing all along it. They also grow along the coasts and rivers of China, possibly being spread by traders or perhaps by floods. There is also a form of Single Chinese with double petals called Double Chinese or Double Roman. The reference to Rome comes from the fact that the varieties are believed to be native to the Mediterranean area and were actually spread to surrounding areas of the Mediterranean by Roman soldiers, hence the name "Double Roman". Apparently, the bulbs help relieve muscle pain and are so poisonous they were used to end the life of suffering soldiers who were wounded badly and going to die. This same poison is what keeps gophers and deer from eating them.

Everyone seems to recognize the yellow King Alfred Daffodils, which became a popular garden flower in the early 20th century. When I talk about *Narcissus* most people think of paper-whites, but there are other wonderful varieties as well. Also, few people realize that the Tazetta *Narcissus* at one time experienced as much popularity as Daffodils do now. As early as the 17th century the Dutch and English discovered Tazetta *Narcissus* and began collecting wild varieties to use for hybridizing. Large quantities of these wild bulbs were gathered, decimating the native populations. Later, during the 18th century the popularity of the new hybrid Tazettas soared, to the point that they were almost as popular as tulips. By 1890, 200 different Tazetta varieties were listed and, by 1907, there were 75 named garden varieties.

Unfortunately, an unusual combination of events wiped out all of the newer hybrids the Dutch had in their collection. World War I had begun, which made it necessary for the flower growers in Holland to switch cultivation over to food crops. There were two very harsh winters in the Netherlands at this time as well, which killed off many of the tender bulbs. Also, during

this time, the King Alfred Daffodil was introduced, and quickly gained popularity with gardeners in Europe since it was more cold hardy than Tazetta *Narcissus*.

The Tazetta hybrids the Dutch had been working with when this disaster struck had never been sold or planted anywhere else as far as we know, so the varieties we do have are all very old.



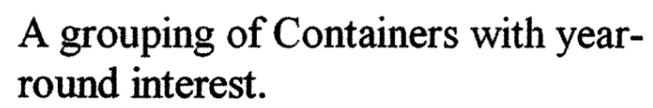
There are about 30 Tazetta varieties in existence today and only about five varieties available in most bulb catalogues.

Almost nobody is hybridizing Tazetta *Narcissus* these days so virtually no new varieties are being made. I would love to see, for example, some

Tazetta *Narcissus* with the different colors and shapes that I see in the new daffodil hybrids. Furthermore, few bulb growers are growing and propagating any Tazetta *Narcissus*, except for the most common ones. We are fortunate on the Monterey Peninsula to have the world's leading authority on Tazetta *Narcissus*, living right here in Carmel Valley. Bill Welch, or Bill the Bulb Baron as he's often called, was captivated with the Single Chinese *Narcissus* growing in his back yard as a child, especially when no one knew much about them. He was amazed by their ability to thrive on neglect. The clumps of single and double Chinese we see growing every-where show us how drought tolerant Tazetta *Narcissus* are, making them an ideal plant for the Monterey Peninsula.

Today, all of Bill's waking moments are spent working in the field digging, growing, picking and hybridizing *Narcissus*. He decided to grow Tazetta *Narcissus* bulbs for a living, so he would be able to work on hybridizing them every chance he got. Since no one else seemed interested in preserving the old varieties that still exist, he has made it his mission in life to collect as many as he can find. At his field in Carmel Valley, one can see the largest collection of Tazetta *Narcissus* in the world. He uses many of these varieties for pollinations to create new types of *Narcissus*. His goal is to develop varieties with different shaped cups, different colors, double petals, and varieties that have different fragrances, different seasons of bloom and ones that multiply well in the garden.

Pollinating *Narcissus* is not as easy as it sounds. The weather conditions have to be just right.



A grouping of Containers with year-round interest.



Red Sensation!



Verbena with Helichrysum 'Limelight'

See the Book Review
on page 8.

Container Photos by J. Ingram

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Luckily, since these bulbs are native to the Mediterranean area, the weather conditions here on the Monterey Peninsula are close to ideal. You need sunny weather when they are blooming to really get good pollination. They bloom from September into April, so in most places it would be too cold and wet to hybridize. In our area, we do get more sunny winter days than most areas, while still getting enough rainfall for the bulbs to grow naturally. Even so, it has been an uphill battle trying to run a one-man bulb business and hybridize at the same time. Some years it's so cold all the flowers freeze, and so do all the seed pods that he worked so hard to pollinate. When the weather is good for pollinating, it's bad for cut flowers (because it's too hot) so it seems that there is always a trade off.

Despite all of this, Bill has successfully made thousands of pollinations on his Tazetta *Narcissus*, collected the seed from them and raised the hybrid bulbs. The bulbs take up to seven years to grow from seed, so as you can imagine, this is a lifetime commitment. Bill has bred and named several new varieties, including Avalanche of Gold, Sugarcups, New Glory and Liquid Sun. He even plans on naming one of his flowers Jaminia, but we haven't decided which one yet.

If I have piqued your interest in these bulbs, you should make a point to take a trip out to Carmel Valley during the months from January to March if you would like to see the flowers at their fullest bloom. Driving East on Carmel Valley Road the field will be on your right side across from Country Club Drive. Start looking for a row of pine trees on the right side of the road after you pass Los Laureles Lodge, there will be a sign that says Welch. You can even pick your own flowers, and leave five dollars down at his barn. Bill the Bulb Baron always welcomes visitors who are interested in talking about what he calls his "babies." If you want some of his bulbs, they are available from July to December, call him at [831]-659-3830, e-mail him at billthebulbbaron@aol.com or just stop by the field.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new charter members of 'The Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). As of December 15, 2002, PBS had 60 members. The new members are:

William Welch	billthebulbbaron@aol.com
Charles Schwartz	babypeeze@earthlink.net
Chad Shroter	chadshroter@yahoo.com
Dr. J. Alberto Castillo	ezeizabotgard@hotmail.com
Robert Parker	dover20@msn.com
Dr. Robert Hamilton	robhamilton@trump.net.au
Vicki Sironen	MumsWell@earthlink.net
Mike Rummerfield	N/a
Kirby W. Fong	kfong@alummi.caltech.edu
Joyce Miller	onager@midtown.net
Jack Elliott	N/a
Ann Marie Rametta	mysticgardn@yahoo.com
Jennifer Hildebrand	theotherjen8@yahoo.com
Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden	mcbg@mcn.ort
Shawn Pollard	pollard@sbcglobal.net
Margaret Oberg	None
John Bryan	johnbryan@att.net
John Hicks	changeme681.attbi.com
Kerry Kerston	kkerston@aol.com
Richard Smith	richardriv@aol.com
Stanley Safford	None
Lynn Makela	vicm527@aol.com
Norman Mayer	normarlene@charter.net
Sheldon Lisker	slisker@ucx.ucr.edu
Roy Sachs	rmsachs@ucdavis.edu
James F. Reese	jimreese1@ATTBI.com
Patricia Brooks	pbrooks3@sc.rr.com
Jean Natter	jmatter@aol.com
Peter R. McCrohan	pmccrohan@nctimes.net
Paul Chapman	ptyerman@ozemail.com.au
Hamish Sloan	hamish.sloan@virgin.net
Amigo Cantisano	ezeizabotgard@hotmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

By Cathy Craig

Tulips for North American Gardens By Brent and Becky Heath

Maybe you've never noticed, but if you look at enough bulb catalogs, you will see that many vendors use the same generic photo to illustrate a particular tulip cultivar. Brent and Becky Heath's new book changes all that. In their book, you will find some of the most luscious and edifying tulip photos extant. There are nearly as many photos as paragraphs in this book; photos of single- and multi-cultivar fields, photos of individual cultivars, and perhaps most useful of all, scores of photos

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depicting how to use tulips in practically every imaginable situation outdoors.

The beauty of this book is not just bloom deep! It reflects Becky's customary cheery and upbeat style. It is straight to the point with the essential information that you want. The smooth and easy-reading prose is peppered with Becky's unique observations. The chapters are organized into history, anatomy, culture, companion plants (one of Brent's many specialties), forcing, hybridizing, flower arranging, a pictorial listing their recommendations of commercially available tulips, and a reference section of FAQs (Frequently Asked Question Sheets).

The reference section typically found at the end of books sounds so boring! In this case, "illuminations" would better describe the contents at the back of this book. Here you will find bulb sources, recommended reading, the USDA zone map, and a great index. In addition, there is one of the most useful tools around to help you plan a garden bed using tulips. This 10-page table shows the tulip name with its division, color, bloom time, and height. With it, you can plan an entire bed in tulips. It will also help you incorporate groups of tulips into any garden bed situation with confidence.

For all the billions of tulip bulbs sold to individual consumers each year, there are precious few (almost no!) books on tulips. Armed with "Tulips for North American Gardens", you can see what they look like, how to grow them, and where to grow them. Then you get to keep the book as a reference. It even makes a nice (though not huge and too heavy) coffee table book. Enjoy!

PURCHASING INFORMATION

The book is a very modest \$22 plus Shipping & Handling if ordered singly (group discounts available). VA residents, please add tax. Order directly from Brent and Becky's Bulbs (877) 661-2852 or order online at. For those of you, who are avid book collectors, state on your order that you would like Brent and Becky to personally sign your book. They will be glad to do so.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Cathy Craig

All in all, 2002 has been good to us. The Pacific Bulb Society was only started in May of this year. Already we have over 60 members, most in the US but many in other countries as well.

Vicki Sironen, our wonderfully efficient membership person keeps track of us all. She has sent out the renewal notices and a special member survey. Be sure to complete the survey when you renew! We have an excellent email forum brilliantly administered by Mary Sue Ittner, who currently oversees more than 100 list members. Dell Sherk, who has superbly run our Bulb and

Seed Exchange, has made nearly two-dozen distributions in PBS' short life span. The offerings have featured many rare and exotic offerings. Marguerite English, our super-editor has put out a great newsletter each quarter of our existence. It is filled with invaluable information and news about our members and our meetings.

Our treasury is in great shape, managed effectively by Lee Poulsen. I am very pleased to tell you that by having carefully planned our expenses our year-end balance is just over \$3,000.

The board of directors has held three online board meetings this year. We have spent those meetings developing a general framework of organization and operations, dividing the workload, and discussing the publications and other member benefits. Further, Mary Sue Ittner and Vicki Sironen are currently working on developing a set of By-Laws for our society.

The Pacific Bulb Society has also sponsored two very successful book offerings and several very popular seed and plant group orders this year.

There have been two member meetings this year, one in April and one in October, both held in San Clemente, Ca. The board has decided to have a general main member meeting in May of 2003 in Seattle, Wa. You will find the details elsewhere in this issue. Please PLAN NOW to come! Airfares are very cheap just now and from Ca. one can fly to Seattle, round trip, for less than \$200. Check with Southwest Airlines first. They are the cost leaders and are listing new fares at \$299 maximum rate anywhere in the US.

One of the most important things we have decided is that you, all the members, will be voting for the board of directors. We understand that this is not normally done in plant societies but we feel very strongly that each member is vitally important and that each member deserves direct input. Board positions are for a two-year term and as the terms expire, we will have an election. Be prepared to vote!

I feel that, together, we have all accomplished a great deal during our first year. I am proud to represent such a fine organization of wonderful, talented, and generous people – you!

Let us now look forward and set some goals for 2003. If each of you will commit now to just three small goals, by the end of our second year our society will be able to look back at some huge progress! They are these: get one other person to join PBS (or give a gift membership to a brand new member), complete your member survey and return it with your renewal notice, and come to the annual member meeting in May in Seattle.

Alone, these are small things. Together these three little commitments on your part will compound into making PBS a raging success. This will enable each of us to enjoy an interesting array of member benefits. This kind of challenge is fun, just like sharing our love of

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bulbs is fun, and like sharing our time and thoughts with one another, whether online or in person, is fun. Let's do it! Introduce one new member; complete the survey; come to Seattle in May. New member, survey, come in May. Member, survey, May. GO!!

Authors Needed: Try writing an article about your garden! Lead articles are 1200 to 4000 words depending on subject and content, and other articles are 200 to 600 words long. Deadlines for the quarterly newsletters are the tenth day of February, May, August and November. Send inquiries or articles to Marguerite.

PBS NEWS AND EVENTS

Seed and Bulb Exchange News

by Del Sherk

I am pleased to report that we are enjoying a new offering almost every week. This is due to the generosity of our donors and the enthusiastic participation of the membership. We would all like this activity to continue and want to show our appreciation to those who contribute seed and bulbs for sharing. Anyone who takes the time to grow, harvest, clean, label, and package seed or bulbs for the rest of us will receive a credit for the amount of the postage. If it costs you \$5.75 to send us a batch of plant materials, \$5.75 will be deducted from your BX bills.

A number of you have asked if we could offer particular plants, especially bulbs, as opposed to seed. The wish list includes *Fritillaria* ssp, *Cardiocrinum giganteum*, *Allium* ssp, *Rhodophiala* ssp, *Lycoris* ssp/hybrids, *Crocus* and other hardy bulbs. If you grow these, please share the extras when you dig and divide. There are people out here eager to provide them with new homes! Happy growing!

When you donate, please send cleaned, clearly labeled material to:

Dell Sherk
PO Box 224
Holicong, PA 18928

OFFICERS

President	Cathy Craig	batlette@cox.net
Vice Pres.	M. English	meenglis@cts.com
Secretary	Open	
Treasurer	Lee Poulsen	wpoulsen@pacbell.net
List-Serve Administrator	Mary Sue	msittner@mcn.org
Membership	Vicki Sironen	mumswell@mail.earthlink.net
SX director	Dell Sherk	dells@voicenet.com
Newsletter Ed.	M. English	meenglis@cts.com
Web Page	Cathy Craig	batlette@cox.net

Member Meetings and Outings

DINNER, PRESENTATION AND BOOK SIGNING

Saturday, October 4, 2002 was a beautiful warm summery day and the temptation to get lost puttering in the garden was almost too much! Nevertheless, twenty-one bulbophiles managed to cook potluck dishes and travel to the home of our president Cathy Craig. We were certainly well rewarded. We feasted on marinated pork loin, chicken, broccoli-stuffing casserole, eggplant parmesan, chicken-rice casserole, deviled eggs, fresh fruit and vegetables, home-made yeast rolls, brownies, ice cream, and several other dishes.

Eleven week old member-to-be, Emma Poulsen, made her PBS debut by attending her first meeting. Buster, the African Grey parrot was the official greeter by the patio. The cats were in hiding.

A display table in the garden was the pre-dinner attraction. It contained bulbs in bloom brought by Harold Koopowitz, Lee Poulsen, Charles Hardman, Cathy Craig and others. The display featured a brilliant flashy pink *Amarine*, *Hymenocallis sonorensis*, some tiny *Leucojum* and *cyclamen*, *Rhodophiala bifida*, a lovely pink *Haemanthus albiflos* hybrid and an assortment of orchids grown by Cathy's husband John.

In addition, an impromptu plant sale drew a quick response. Charles Hardman brought a mixture of his hybrid *Nerines* in bud and bloom, along with *Hippeastrum augustifolium*, *H. neolepoldi* and several species cross seedlings. He also shared his Belgian *Clivia* seedlings, seeds of many bulb species, bulb offsets from the *Amarine* featured on the display table, a few succulent plant cuttings and two buckets of persimmons. Attendees quickly scooped up all of the goodies! Thanks, Charles for your contribution to benefit the PBS treasury.

Phyllis Ferguson generously donated two miniature *Sinningias* (full size is not quite the diameter of an American quarter) for our door-prize drawing. Mike Brewer and Andrew Wilson won these cute little bulbous guys. Harold won a gardening diary. Phyllis won the 'smallest bulb' contest, with her *Sinningia* bulbs that are somewhat larger than the head of a pin, and Cathy displayed a bulb of *Urginea maritima* that is 54 cm. (21 inches) tall and 17 cm. (nearly 7 inches) in diameter. Following dinner, Harold Koopowitz and Jim Comstock signed copies of their new book, "Clivias". The book is written by Harold and contains many superb photographs by Jim. Harold also donated a few assorted bulb booklets, which were sold to benefit the PBS treasury.

After we watched the sun set gorgeously over the Pacific, Harold shared slides of his trip to Holland. His presentation included photos taken during the bulb flowering season. The presentation featured many breathtaking displays of bulbs, such as tulips, that we in Southern California rarely see in full bloom. Harold's explanations were interspersed with fascinating

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commentary on how the Dutch industry propagates its stock, how it selects marketable bulb, and the process of developing a saleable bulb to market - 30 years in some cases! He also provided histories of the derivation of some cultivars.

The second half of the presentation featured slides of various *Clivias* taken on Harold and Jim's recent trip to South Africa. Harold also previewed what he has up his sleeve with regard to *Clivia* and miniature *Narcissus* breeding in the future. Wow!

Treasurer's Report

Starting balance:		\$775.09
Income		
Interest	1.04	
Memberships	130.00	
BX	448.00	
Clivia Books	104.95	
Ad (John Ingram)	20.00	
Potluck plant & book sales	155.00	
Expenses		
ATM setup fee	-10.00	
Repro and mail: Bulb Garden	-65.94	
Current Balance		\$1558.14

Minutes: PBS Board Meeting

The PBS Board of Directors met online on October 27, 2002. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM PST.

Present: Cathy Craig, Lee Poulsen, Vicki Sironen, Mary Sue Ittner, and Dell Sherk

Not Present: Marguerite English

Old Business

A. Review Treasurer's Report

Unpaid Pacific BX/SX was discussed. Lee will let Dell know who hasn't paid. A policy will be developed on what to do about unpaid Pacific BX/SX. A discussion was held about developing an annual budget. No action was taken.

Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

B. Membership Report

Membership

Current membership: 47 members

3 members do not have an e-mail address:

New members

I will continue to send out e-mails to all new members acknowledging receipt of their application.

I was going to create a standard "welcome" e-mail for all new members, but I have changed my plan. Instead I have been sending out a personalized e-mail usually regarding something they included about themselves on our membership form.

I will continue to send out new member e-mails to all board members

Directory

All board members have received a copy of an updated membership directory. I will send these out quarterly or sooner if there is a lot of membership activity.

If any one wants any membership information at any time, just let me know. All information is in a database that can be sorted.

Renewals

I will send out renewal notices the first of December. I will send a draft of the notice to all board members before that time for comment. Estimated cost for postage is \$16.00

Membership's report was unanimously approved.

C. List Administrator Report

We have 74 subscribers to our regular messages list and 18 to the digest. Two individuals have subscribed with two e-mail addresses so the total is 90 subscribers. We haven't lost very many people. It is a little hard for me to tell because I have to compare the lists to see what the changes are. Three people have unsubscribed. Some people have figured out how to come and return when they are going to be away for a while. Most of our list members seem to be lurkers.

List Administrator's report was unanimously approved.

D. Pacific BX/SX Report

There is not much news in the BX department. Things are going great guns with so many generous donations (Special thanks to Mary Sue, Charles Hardman, and Cathy) that we have had an offering almost every week since midsummer - 12 in all. Many more offerings are to come. The income from the BX is helping to swell our coffers to be used for a conference or publications. Alberto Castillo will be sending us his latest harvest as soon as it is ripe and we figure out how to get it safely into the US. (Lee, may we ask you to receive this shipment since you have an import permit?) I have sent some leftover *Crococsmia* corns from Mark Wilcox for Vicki to use as enticements in Seattle. Other leftovers are accumulating to be offered to new members on sale and later to the general membership as an online SX. I'll snail mail our members without e-mail with the same list then. I would like to encourage interest among our northern and eastern members in hardy bulbs and get donations of these materials. Maybe topic of the week (crocus, daffodils, tulips, etc.) would get things rolling.

There are now 26 items on the leftover list.

It was suggested that members without e-mails ask a friend to let them know of Pacific BX/SX offerings and/or set up an e-mail account with Yahoo or similar and use their library to monitor the offerings.

The Pacific BX/SX report was unanimously accepted.

E. VP and Editor Report

I notice that Hobby Greenhouse Assn. has a Director of Publications, and editors for each of the publications they create. The Publications director is on their board, but the editors are not. Their plant publication is separate from the news publication, although there is some carryover. Both are published quarterly, but not in the same month. They include the letters from their round robins in one of the written publications, and selected conversations from the on-line list. Most of their members are not on-line. Something for us to think about.

This past two months, I have prepared and sent out the Summer and Fall 'Bulb Gardens' to all current members. Summer issue was late due to problems coordinating. In the future, I will provide volunteers with appropriate job descriptions and deadlines. Cathy arranged for printing the summer issue and reprinting the winter issue, as I was extremely busy at the time. There was a discussion on how many newsletters to print.

There is a discussion regarding printing extra newsletters to send to new members. It was suggested that the editor print extra copies.

The VP and Editor's report was unanimously accepted.

F. President Report

This last quarter I have been keeping track of things and making sure we are all going in the same direction at approximately the same pace, although with wonderful and diligent officers as you all are, that has been a piece of cake. I continue to encourage people to join PBS. So far it seems pretty easy to get them to come on board although it may take some weeks. I have researched some ideas for an 'outing' in So Cal., then put together and finished the pot luck dinner here - a very nice success and PBS will have collected nearly \$300 in net Clivia book sales plus plant sales from that. Timber Press gave us a very handsome discount.

I have been working with Vicki helping her with the planning and finding speakers for the May 2003 PBS meeting near Seattle.

I am working on our web site. We already have a place for it and a name. I will continue to work on that and should have some of it up and running shortly. Also wrote to Steve V about the PBS/ADS spring 2004 meeting. As soon as I hear back, I will let everyone know. Kirby Fong

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joined PBS, which will be a great help if this proposed dual meeting gets serious.

The President's report was unanimously accepted

NEW BUSINESS

1. Executive committee is comprised of the PBS "officers": president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer.
A. *Approved unanimously.*
2. The board of directors is comprised of the 'executive committee' plus: list administrator, BX/SX director, membership chair, webmaster, editor.
A. *Approved unanimously.*
3. Board of directors (exclusive of 'officers') appointed by PBS executive committee, simple majority required to confirm.
A. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of having a tie vote. The proposal was modified to read as follows: Board of directors (exclusive of 'officers') appointed by PBS executive committee, simple majority of board of directors required to confirm.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
4. Executive committee voted on by all PBS members via email.
A. This proposal was modified to clarify its intent. It was modified to read as follows: Executive committee to be voted on by all PBS members.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
5. Executive committee prepares and presents PBS slate of officers to PBS members via email.
A. A discussion was held concerning the need to continually incorporate new people into the Board of Directors. The proposal was modified to read as follows: Nominating committee, appointed by executive committee, prepares and presents PBS slate of officers to PBS members.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
6. Each board member has one vote.
A. *Approved unanimously.*
7. All board members attend board meetings (four per year).
A. A discussion was held concerning the intent of the proposal. The proposal was modified to read as follows: The board meetings (four per year) shall be comprised of members of the board.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
8. Terms: When do terms expire (12/31)?
A. It was suggested that the term of office follow the membership cycle. The proposal was modified to read: Terms of office expire on the last day of a calendar year.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
9. Terms: What are the terms (in number of years)?
A. A discussion was held, with the suggestions of one year, two year, or no limit (until member resigns). The proposal was modified to read as follows: Officers' terms are two years. First term will be counted as having started January 1, 2002.
B. *Approved unanimously.*
10. Board members to submit their reports the week prior to the appropriate board meeting.
A. *Approved unanimously.*
11. President to submit the agenda the week prior to the appropriate board meeting.
A. *Approved unanimously.*
12. Job descriptions for board members: see separate sheet
A. No action. Moved to next meeting agenda.
13. Regarding member application: Add six organizations for members to circle that they also belong to: GWAA NARGS IBS _____ ?
A. A discussion was held with the general agreement that this information should be requested from the members. No vote was taken. This item will be at the discretion of the membership chair.

B. Treasurer's report to be Y-T-D each board meeting, not just one quarter (or else both types at each meeting).

A. A brief discussion was held and the proposal was modified to read as follows" Treasurer's quarterly report to be for both the quarter just ended and year-to-date.

B. *Approved unanimously.*

15. Bylaws: who will do? Note: By the time we finish our December 02 meeting someone can probably take all the bylaws from our prior minutes as we will have most everything ironed out by then and they will just need to compile and organize them.

A. A committee of Mary Sue and Vicki was formed to work on the development of bylaws.

17. Need firm policy on BX/SX

A. Following is the policy being used by the Pacific BX/SX.

- a. All donated material will be initially offered online as BX items @ \$2/unit
 - b. Leftovers will be saved and offered to each new member when he joins @ \$1/unit
 - c. Four times/ year, leftovers will be offered online to ALL members @ \$1/unit
 - d. Snail mail lists will be sent to off-line members in cases b. & c.
 - e. Special sale-price offers will be made periodically (b. & c.), and that special opportunities will be offered to off-line members.
- B. *The proposal was voted on and approved unanimously.*

18. Need Logo

A. The proposed temporary logo was not successfully transmitted to all board members. Therefore, no action was taken.

19. Propose official letter to Charles Hardman for dinner contribution to PBS.

A. A discussion was held in which the President was encouraged to write letters of thanks to Charles Hardman and Harold Koopowitz. It was also suggested that thank-you notices be placed in the newsletter.

B. No vote was taken.

May 03 PBS in Seattle: Option A _____ Option B _____ Budget \$ _____ (including speaker). Discussion on speaker: His costs: Airfare \$176 plus (3x\$20) \$60 meals. Waive registration fee. Providing lodging at Vicki's.

A. A discussion was held and included the following items:

- a. Should we start on a Friday, not Thursday?
- b. Who should be the speaker?
- c. It was decided that additional discussion and information was needed. No vote was taken.

21. Spring 04 PBS with American Daffodil Society (ADS)?

A. *Approved unanimously, pending cooperation with ADS.*

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The Bulb Garden

The Bulb Garden is the newsletter of the Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). It is published the third week of each quarter and is available to Bulb Society members.

This newsletter will provide gardening or bulb related articles, news of interest to members and announcements of the PBS organization.

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Volume 1 Issue 1
April, 2002

Membership News by Vicki Sironen

PBS ANNUAL MEETING May 23-24-25

We have great plans in store for your visit to Seattle for the first Pacific Bulb Society Annual Meeting. Meet the friends you haven't yet seen in person. Get to know your officers. Find wonderful plants to take home!

The meeting will take place on the weekend of Friday, May 23 through Sunday, May 25. On Friday, we are planning for a guided tour of Dan Hinckley's Heronswood garden with time left for shopping. Friday dinner will be at my house, and is a casual/social event. On Friday May 23 1:00 we are visiting Dan Hinckley's Heronswood tour with time for shopping.

Additional garden and nursery tours are planned for Saturday. The details will be sent as soon as I confirm them, but I guarantee they will increase plant lust! We will meet on Saturday evening at Bellevue Botanical Garden for a talk by Loren Russell (you can read about Loren at <http://www.peak.org/~parsont/emerald/Corsica.htm>). Then, on Sunday, we will finish off with some more of Seattle's wonderful gardens and nurseries. Some of these are normally closed to the public.

The cost is still being discussed, but it isn't large. Keep this date open on your calendar!

