

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003



A Farm Visit By Jennifer Hildebrand

Jennifer is a novice gardener in Riverside, CA and a graduate student of American History at U. C. Riverside, so for the time being she is confined to an apartment with a very small, concrete patio! All her gardening is done in containers. She is glad to be in a Mediterranean zone, as her favorite bulbs are grown in those areas. She is especially fond of South African bulbs. Her current headache (besides her spatial limitations) is mealybugs, but Jennifer thinks that we will not want to know about those! Ed.

A few weeks ago, Cathy Craig eagerly wrote to ask me to accompany her to the Gentry Experimental Farm in Murrieta. The farm is dedicated to the production of *Urginea maritima*. To be honest, I had no idea what *Urginea maritima* is. Since the E-mail came from Cathy, I knew it had to be a bulb, so I accepted the invitation and then navigated through the IBS Gallery to see a picture of what I was going to visit. If I had not been excited enough by the prospect of a bulb-related outing, I immediately became so when I saw the photo of that breathtaking white torch.

We met in Murrietta, then headed down Los Alamos to meet with Peter McCrohan, the general manager of the farm. We passed several dirt road turnoffs before we found the long driveway leading back to Peter's home and farm. As we pulled up, Fritz, his longhaired gray dog, greeted us with an enthusiastic volley of barking. Jasper was not far behind. He is a much bigger but equally friendly mixed breed with a bad hind leg. Cosmo, one of the biggest tiger cats I have ever seen (Peter assured me that Cosmo can hold his own in a fight with a jackrabbit) ran over to Cathy's side so that he could occupy her car as soon as she vacated it. Cosmo is fond of unscheduled journeys! Fortunately, the meter-readers have learned to look for him in their vehicles before they leave the farm.

(continued on page 5)

The Empress of Brazil By Sheri Ann Richerson

Sheri Ann has over 20 years experience in newspaper, magazine and creative writing and as an editor and speaker. Sheri is a lifetime member of the International Thespian Society and writes for various Llewellyn publications in addition to a considerable amount of Internet writing. She is a longtime member of the Garden Writers Association of America and the American Horticultural Society. She is also a member of the Grant County Evening Gardening Club, Creative Hands, Morning Gardening Club, Tropical Flowering Tree Society, North American Rock Garden Society as well as a Master Gardener intern.

Her pastimes include riding her motorcycle, visiting arboreturns, traveling, reading, writing, horseback riding, designing and improving websites, and - especially - working in her huge garden. Sheri specializes in herb gardening and tropical, sub-tropical and exotic plants.

Her diverse range of writing has included an eclectic mix of articles on current events, herbs, aromatherapy, tropical and exotic plants, as well as various pieces on Harley-Davidson motorcycles. Sheri lives in Marion, Indiana. For more information, please visit her website at <http://SheriAnnRicherson.exoticgardening.com> Ed.

Commonly called the "Empress Of Brazil", *Worsleya Rayneri* boasts a flower color of deep blue-mauve or violet blue fading to almost white in the center and the flowers may also be soft pale lavender with lots of blue spots. *Worsleya rayneri* grows on mountainsides in South America, especially Brazil. It grows on ledges clinging to the rock with fleshy thong-like roots that penetrate deeply into crevices.

The seeds have a good germination rate and generally germinate in three to ten weeks at temperatures of 65°F to 75°F (18°C to 24°C). They require light to germinate, and the seeds of this plant should be sown on the soil surface. The shelf life of *Worsleya Rayneri* seeds is a good nine to ten months or longer. It may take up to six years before the first flowering when sown from seed, but they will usually flower every year thereafter.

Worsleya Rayneri must be cross pollinated with an individual of another clone. It also multiplies vegetatively. This plant requires no dormancy period, and prefers to be grown in full sun. Plant it in should well-drained, fibrous and acidic soil with no lime.

(continued on page 9)

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens: Part 2: Inspiring Blue Thoughts **By John Ingram**

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.

Spring is here and garden centers are gearing up for summer planting. Containers and plants are widely available and should be purchased as soon as possible. The best pot selections and plant cultivars are sold quickly; so hesitation is not an option. With container gardens, you never have to worry about the plants needing the same soil and water requirements so you can mix and match whatever you prefer. You can work unlike plants together as long as you keep in mind what you have and the design towards which you are working. By adding a few “snappers” into the design, you can pull unusual colors and textures together. Some examples of “snappers” are *Cimicifuga* ‘Hillside Black Beauty’ which compliments burgundy-purple foliage with white flowers and *Lilium* ‘Tom Pouce’ which pulls together cream, yellow, pink, and white or any combination of these colors.

Terra cotta and ceramics are the most commonly available containers but resin is the newest product on the market. It can handle temperatures from subfreezing to arid baking without any damage. Traditional and modern design styles have been integrated to meet every possible need for a garden. Resin containers are lightweight and easy to move. Once planted, the larger pots are just as heavy as clay or ceramics. Be sure those you choose look real. Cost is a factor. Resin is as costly as the terra cotta it is imitating. Nevertheless, it will not break or crack as easily as its predecessors and has a longer life in the garden to justify the expense.

Before we get too far, here are a few descriptions of containers, designs, and materials:

Container Descriptions:

Azalea pot: Azalea pots are equal in height and width, i.e. 8” tall and 8” wide. These are best suited to lower spreading

plants such as taller growing ground covers, azaleas, and perennials that will only grow as tall as the pot size.

Bulb pan: A bulb pan is a shorter container that is half as tall as it is wide, i.e. 4” tall and 8” wide. The best plant selection here would be low growing bulbs and annuals that will cover the soil, such as tulips with pansies.

Standard pot: Standards are the most commonly available containers. They are slightly taller than wide and have a more noticeable angle to the sides. Taller trees, shrubs, or undersized plants that make a color carpet look perfect in them. Eight 6” azaleas in a 22” pot create a vivid color carpet.

Design and Material Descriptions:

Asian Ceramics: Many styles and patterns are available. They are mostly made of ceramic but some of the higher end containers are still made with porcelain. Most commonly available are what the Japanese call Hibachi and are often used as fish bowls. They are a very rounded form with a very decorative pattern. Other patterns include a taller and less rounded version of the Hibachi. They come in a variety of colors, ranging from cobalt, celadon, and ox blood. These three colors are also the best colors to use in almost any garden.

Della Robbia: This is an Italian design pattern dating from the Renaissance period. The pattern is a garland of fruit and flowers around the main part of the base. Some patterns are more decorative than others. They often include animals such as goats, sheep, or lions.



A Della Robbia Container

Moroccan pots and other handmade pottery/ceramics:

These can be any style, shape, pattern, or construction. Think about their use and whether they will coordinate with the overall look of your design. Moroccan pottery is usually a white washed terra cotta or ceramic and

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

combines beautifully with most stark Mediterranean plantings.

Olive jars: Love these old Italian style containers! They bring a strong feeling of the old world to any garden. The unusually shaped jars were used for storing olives as they were cured. They are used as decorative accents and can be planted with vines that climb up or cascade over the sides without covering the character of the design.

Orangerie: Louis XIV used these extensively in his palace, Versailles. The pattern is a square wooden box overlaid with diagonal latticework on the sides. It is finished with a ledge on top and balls on the bottom for feet.

Roll Rim: This Italian design style has a large rounded lip on the top of the container. The rolls may be single and double, with cost being proportionate.



Containers placed in a stair step pattern

Container gardens are as varied as their creators. Each patio or garden area is different and every gardener has different ideas about placements of groupings and combinations. A stair step design is a good general pattern. Place the taller plants in the back, and work your way down to the smallest in the front. Placing a smaller plant in the distance behind a larger plant will make a garden area appear larger. Create a striking effect by placing similar pots with different plants next to each other.

The following are a few favorite container suggestions with predominantly blue shades for full sun areas. True blue is a difficult color to find in flowers. Accentuate the blues with white, silver/grey, peach, burgundy, fuchsia, or a strong magenta. *Delphinium* provides a good strong vertical and adds an electric color if you use the

cultivar 'Blue Bird'. *Delphinium* is also a terrific plant for cooler seasons. Blue lends itself easily to softly romantic English cottage gardens but it is also prevalent in Mediterranean and tropical gardens.

Blue and white elegance with Asian ceramics

The first blue and white planting is simple and elegant. The key to the simplicity of the design is the containers. The plan begins with white Asian ceramic containers. They are not easy to find but make such a beautiful combination with this planting that the extra search and cost is worth the effort. Cobalt blue is a wonderful second choice. If you want the stark beauty of the white pots but cannot afford the ceramics, simple or decorative terra cotta pots can be painted white or cobalt. The best paint is water based. It should not consist of any metals because some plants may have an adverse reaction.

A combination of blue and white plants with one predominate color completes this design nicely. The blue color is *Caryopteris* 'Dark Knight', *Nemesia* 'Blue Bird', *Nepeta* 'Six Hills Giant', and *Salvia uliginosa*. Plant the *Caryopteris* singly in a 14" standard and under plant twelve to fifteen *Lilium* 'Casablanca' with six 4" *Nemesia* in another 14" standard. The *Nepeta* looks best alone in a 12" standard backed with *Salvia uliginosa* in a 22" standard.

The whites are bold and simple.

Hippeastrum 'Jewel' and *Lilium* 'Casablanca' cannot be surpassed. Six 4" *Verbena* 'Homestead Purple' complement three to six of the *Hippeastrum* bulbs in a 12" Azalea pot. Continue the bold element with a single specimen of *Melianthus minor* (or *M. major* depending on space available) in a 22" standard or a *Vernonia noveboracensis* (Ironweed) in a 20" azalea. *Panicum* 'Heavy Metal' planted in a 14" standard enhances the grouping with vertical stability and substance from its stiff upright silver growths. The whole arrangement can be balanced with a 12" bulb pan of white sweet alyssum and a 14" bulb pan full of *Zephyranthes candida* bulbs. Asian ceramics

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

don't come in bulb pans so these can either be left out of the design or placed in painted terra cotta.

Bold and Blue in Terra Cotta

Execute a bold blue and white theme around simple terra cotta containers filled with *Agapanthus*, *Ajuga*, *Gentiana*, *Perovskia*, and *Zephyranthes candida*. Spotlight a single *Agapanthus* 'Ellamae' in a 12" standard pot or three one-gallon *Agapanthus* 'Peter Pan' in a 12" bulb pan. *Agapanthus* adds a bit of whimsy when the balls of blue flowers dance in the wind. *Ajuga* 'Chocolate Chips' adds an accent of purple foliage to the arrangement with blue flowers in late winter into early spring. The purple foliage adds to the intensity of the blues by providing a dark background. Plant four 4" or a single one-gallon in a 12" azalea pot.

Gentiana makinoi 'Royal Blue' is not easy to find but worth the effort (refer to list of suppliers in the previous installment.) Gentians have a reputation for being difficult because of a few other members of the genus. They do need a bit of additional care the first year. After that, they are nearly self-sufficient. The vivid blue color is a bold accent for the mid-season garden. This Gentian also has a light purple tint to the leaves in cooler weather. Whether you find them in 4" containers or bare root, put four into a 10" standard. *Perovskia* 'Filigran' is a strong vertical plant and should stand singly in a 20" standard roll rim. The soft lavender color of the *Perovskia* makes the blues seem even more intense while the white of *Zephyranthes candida* creates some footing. Fill them into a 10" azalea or one dozen bulbs per pan in multiple 6" bulb pans. Soften and accent this with the silver foliage of *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle' by planting it alone in a 12" azalea. The east coast native silver saw palmetto, *Serenoa repens*, planted singly in an 20" standard, adds a bold accent.



Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara' 1

Add fragrance with three one-gallon *Phlox* 'David' in a 14" standard and one 3-gallon *Sinningia tubiflora* in a 12" azalea pot. *Aristea major* or *A. ecklonii* is a great plant when planted three 1-gallon sizes in a 16" standard. You could also plant single *Aristeas* in multiple 12" azalea pots. Either species adds a pleasing texture with large or small blue flowers in the late spring. Any of the larger growing *Phormiums* with burgundy-purple foliage such as *P. tenax atropurpureum*, can substitute for the *Aristea*, if necessary.



A Mediterranean Blue Foliage Fantasy

Mediterranean plants are perfect for those who prefer to save water and time. These plants come from the drier parts of the world with pronounced seasonal rains. They are accustomed to periods of drought followed by a few months of flooding. Whitewashed Moroccan pots and large Italian olive jars accented with other terra cotta styles or mixed metal containers make an excellent choice for this planting.

Create an elegant plant combination using the blue foliage of *Aloe* 'Blue Elf', *Aloe marlothii* (blue form), *Beaucarnia* (*Nolina*) *recurvata*, *Ceanothus* 'Ray Hartman', *Encephalartos natalensis*, *Leucodendron argentea*, *Melianthus major* and *Romneya* 'White Cloud'. *Aloe* 'Blue Elf' is a dwarf clumping aloe that stands out when three are planted in a 14" bulb pan. *Aloe marlothii* on the other hand is a large tree form aloe that is very noticeable when placed singly in an 18" standard.

Beaucarnia is also known as the ponytail palm. It is not actually a palm but is guilty by appearance. It should be planted in a very unusual 22" pot as a single specimen. The *Ceanothus* is a selection of our native California Carmel creeper (also known as

(continued on page 8)

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Floral Artistry

Specializing in South American and South African Amaryllids such as *Crinum*, *Hippeastrella*, *Hippeastrum* species and hybrids, *Zephyranthes* and more.

We also design and install gardens and patio plants.

Email us with any questions or wish lists at jjingram@adelphia.net or visit our web site at www.Floralartistry.org

A Farm Visit (continued from page 1)

Soon Peter ambled over to add his welcome to the already warm one his pets provided. He is as eager to talk bulbs as most people on the PBS robin. Peter has over 100,000 *Urginea maritima* bulbs under cultivation on eight acres of land located in Murrieta and Fallbrook. He takes great pride in the fact that his plants share a common ancestry; they are almost all of clonal stock derived from eight single bulbs. Though Peter is now ready to branch out into the bulb market, his production was previously dedicated to the cut flower market, and clonal stock ensured that the flowers his bulbs would be uniform.

As Cathy and I surveyed the new shoots coming up, Peter explained that the stock on the Gentry Farm had been intended initially for manufacture as rat poison. Dr. Howard Gentry developed a highly toxic rodenticide, which was popular for its selectivity. While it killed rodents, it acted as an emetic to humans and household pets. The poison would not stay in the system long enough to kill our pets or us.

Peter found, however, that the bulbs had a greater purpose: they produce gorgeous flower stalks, and selling these stalks as cut flowers was more profitable. He is also discovering a new market for the bulbs themselves. He currently sells some of his stock to Roger's Gardens in Newport Beach, California. When Cathy and I arrived, he was packing a large order for another buyer up north.

Cathy had previously seen the *Urginea* bulbs at Roger's Gardens, but I had never seen them before. I was absolutely amazed by the 35-pound bulb that

Peter had in the back of his truck. A bulb that size is not an anomaly, either. The "normal" sized bulbs were larger than any *Hippeastrum* I have ever seen. Peter estimated the average bulb weight as between six and eight pounds. The bulbs are almost as attractive as the flower stalk. They are a beautiful, rich red; hence the common name "red squill". Peter has been selling his as "white squill", since people ordering a "red squill" as a cut flower might be surprised to receive a white plume.

Urginea is native to Mediterranean countries, and is summer-dormant and winter-growing. The flower stalk makes its first appearance in early August. The stalk is about three inches tall after two or three days. The first leaves appear in early October. Growth continues once winter rainfall begins. In March, the plants have reached the apex of their growth; they begin to die back in May and are dormant by mid-June.

As long as *Urgineas* receive adequate moisture, their most active growth occurs in February and March. Peter's Murrieta farm is not irrigated, but he has found that one or two inches of water a month from November to March is enough to support the population. (Conveniently, Peter is experimenting with a crop of *Allium praecox* — they bloom in May and would hide the yellowing foliage! He is also growing *Penstemon spectabilis* var. *Lovely Rita*.) Squill cannot grow in areas with summer rainfall; it requires a dry dormant period. Peter estimated that *Urgineas* are hardy to about 25 degrees F. Their root system frequently extends three to four feet, so they are not suited to pot culture. He has not amended the sandy soil on his Murrieta farm, and he does not fertilize the bulbs.

Peter was most generous with his time, his knowledge, and his bulbs. He sent us home with several "free samples." He is eager to share his knowledge with other bulb enthusiasts, and welcomes members of PBS interested in touring his farm. For more information, visit his website at <http://www.whitesquill.com/>, email him at pmccrohan@nctimes.net, or call him at (909) 677-6552. PBS members who cannot make it down to the farm can purchase white squill through the Roger's Gardens website at: www.rogersgardens.com.

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

An Out-of-the-Way Nursery By AnnMarie Rametta

AnnMarie gardens in southern California. Her favorite plants are: Amaryllis Belladonna, Oxalis, Crinum, Succulents, Hippeastrum, Peruvian Daffodils, Iris, Epiphyllum, Epidendrum, and Habranthus. Her soil is clay-like with most of the larger rocks removed over the years coupled with the addition of lots of compost and some sand. All her larger bulbs are in the ground and only need mulching in the winter to flourish. Check out her website at: <http://www.rjunkdrawer.com>. Ed.

If you are the adventuring type, get into your car and head out towards Santa Barbara, California. It helps if you live in southern California! My sister-in-law and gardening pal, Susan Mulqueen and I met in Ventura in the middle of September last and drove up the coast on Hwy 101 to the lovely gardens of Betty and Richard Doutt at BioQuest International. The drive to their gardens is a treat in itself, as it meanders past several old and new estates. It would be lovely to peek in for a glimpse of the gardens.

As we arrived at our destination, we were greeted by the Amaryllis garden. My first reaction was a very large smile. I felt like a kid in a candy store. Susan and I looked at each other and smiled even more. Betty greeted us at our truck and showed us around her gardens. We looked at the various colors: deep raspberry, white with pink tips, pink with white throats, solid hot pink, solid white and several others. What a treat for our eyes!

Then Betty handed us a pitchfork! Bags in hand, we dug up everything we wanted. Everywhere we looked there were tempting flowers still in bloom. I picked up 2 each of everything she had. Betty only had some lovely *Nerine/Belladonna* crosses white and pink with white. Those had smaller flowers but the tips were crinkled like *Nerines* but the growth like *Belladonnas*.

Susan and Richard found they had a lot in common. Both are Entomologists. We all had in common a love for South African bulbs. After we purchased our bulbs, we saw Richard's bug collection and talked about his book called "Cape Bulbs". We traded gardening information and said our good-byes with promises to visit earlier next year. Though a lot of the bulbs are still in bloom, the first part of September must have been spectacular there.

Our goal now was to get our new treasures replanted the same day, as we had promised Betty to keep their growing cycle intact. I got them home that evening and replanted them in my garden. Another gardening friend

was so envious of my new treasures that we're returning next weekend. Yes, I'll be buying more, too. I can't resist. Could you? It is always a great day when your vehicle is full of newly purchased plants and bulbs!

Betty's bulbs are so healthy and being able to pick them out from what is blooming was a real treat. You should really take advantage of these beautiful bulbs. Call Betty at BioQuest, she'll be happy to send you a form for ordering or make arrangement for you to see them personally to pick your bulbs out. You can reach her at: Betty Mann Doutt, BioQuest International, 1781 Glen Oaks Dr, Santa Barbara, CA., 93108. Phone: (805)-969-4072 and E-mail address: BioQuest@silcom.com.

Telos Rare Bulbs

Wide selection of hard-to-find bulbs from around the world, grown in our nursery :
Western United States, Central & South America
Southern Africa, & elsewhere.

Catalogue \$3.00 domestic/\$5.00 overseas
P. O. Box 4147 - Arcata, Calif. 95518
U.S.A.

WWW.TelosRareBulbs.com

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to new charter members of 'The Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). As of March 31, 2003, PBS had 79 members. The new members are:

Louis Mensing	imensing@rio.com
Christopher Carley	cpcarley@mac.com
Toni Rizzo	toni@mcn.org
Diane Chapman	rarebulbs@earthlink.net
Sally Ruth Bourrie	sbourrie@earthlink.net
Harold Koopowitz	hkoopowi@uci.edu
Kelly Irvin	bulbmeister@bulbmeister.com
	sheriannricherson@exoticgardening.com
Sheri Ann Richerson	exoticgardening.com
Junius Des Brisay	ockiedb@libero.it
Shirley Meniece	samclan@redshift.com
Cynthia W. Mueller	c-mueller@tamu.edu
Daniel Thompson	stockholm@dragg.net
Jerry John Flintoff	jflintoff@aol.com
Elisabeth C. Miller	
Library: Tracy Mehlin	tmehlin@u.washington.edu
Judy Glattstein	jglatt@ptd.net

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

PBS News and Events

List Administrator Report

Mary Sue Ittner

Co-administrator: Arnold Trachtenberg

Ibiblio picture page administrator: Mark McDonough

On January 24, 2003, the list was moved to a new server: ibiblio.org. This server, unlike the previous one at Mendocino Community Network, archives messages. I had surveyed the list members earlier and the ones who responded were in support of finding a server that would archive messages. We were able to add many of our old messages to ibiblio. Some of them were lost in spite of the hard work and many hours spent by a number of volunteers who tried to edit old messages, so they could be added. Arnold Trachtenberg continues to help me with the PBS list. There are now 161 addresses subscribed to the list.

Ibiblio provides available space for a web site and a wiki. Our pbswiki is off to a good start with about 26 people so far adding images or information about bulbs they are growing or have seen in the wild. The wiki is found at <http://www.ibiblio.org/pbs/pbswiki/index.php/>. Mark McDonough is assisting on the pbswiki.

A temporary web site has been created at <http://www.ibiblio.org/pbs/>. This site provides a place to refer people who have questions about our group, our list or the wiki or who want to find a membership form.

Treasurer's Report

Jennifer Hildebrand

In my first term as treasurer, much of my energy has been spent on opening a bank account at Bank of America. As part of that process, I have been working on filing for tax-exempt status with the IRS and the Franchise Tax Board. By the end of next quarter, I hope to have this process completed.

I have established a PayPal account for PBS and published our policies for accepting payments in this manner. Response has been relatively slow, but those who have used it have expressed gratitude that we instituted the policy, especially those overseas members.

Before our Seattle plans became a bit unclear, I was working with Mary Sue and Vicki to plan the meeting.

President's Report

Cathy Craig

Cathy has been extremely busy during tax season and has no activities to report this quarter.

Vice-President Report

Marguerite English

I completed and formatted the annual membership list to be included the Spring issue of the Bulb Garden. No other action this quarter.

Editor's Report

Marguerite English

Associate Editor: Hamish Sloan

We have completed editing and formatting the spring issue and I will be delivering it to the printer before the board meeting.

Hamish Sloan has volunteered to be associate editor. He will gradually take on responsibility for editing all articles, and manage the book review column. I will retain the final layout, printing and mailing activities. We will both continue to find and develop new authors and maintain communication with all authors. I will also focus on obtaining advertising revenue until I can find some brave soul to take over that activity.

Advertising inquiries have increased. John Ingram, Jane McGary and Diane Chapman have taken out ads in the current issue. The Silverhill advertisement is a thank-you gift to the Saunders for handling the paperwork to get Alberto's seeds to the exchange.

Pacific BX/SX Report

Del Sherk

The Pacific Bulb Society's Bulb and Seed Exchange (BX) slowed down a little during the winter season, but we anticipate renewed vigor as spring comes to the Northern Hemisphere. With two dozen distributions since the BX began in July of 2002, participants have been offered an enormous assortment of seeds and bulbs that were donated by our very generous members. More than fifty members have taken advantage of the BX offerings so far.

Please consider donating your extra plant material when you divide or harvest. Seed from your winter growers should be ripening soon. Donors get a credit for postage on their future BX orders every time they contribute. Send clean, clearly labeled seeds or bulbs to: Dell Sherk, PO Box 224, Holicong, PA 18928, USA.

Membership Report

Vicki Sironen

Vicki has been on leave due to work-related travel. If you have any questions about membership, please send them to Jennifer Hildebrand for now. We currently have 79 members.

By-Laws committee

Vicki Sironen, Jennifer Hildebrand, Mary Sue Ittner
No action this month due to other priorities.

Officers

	Cathy Craig	batlette@cox.net
Vice Pres.	M. English	meenglis@cts.com
Secretary	Lee Poulsen	wpoulsen@pacbell.net
Treasurer	Jennifer Hildebrand	
List-Serve Administrator	Mary Sue Ittner	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

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Silverhill Seeds and Books

We source and supply seed of over 400 species of native South African bulbous, cormous and rhizomatous plants from the fynbos, grasslands and mountains, as well as a diverse selection of books.

From Amaryllids to Zantedeschias

P.O. Box 53108, Kenilworth
7745 Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 21 762 4245 Fax +27 21 797 6609

E-mail: Rachel@Silverhillseeds.co.za

Website: WWW.silverhillseeds.co.za

See instructions on our website to find our online catalog

Or contact us for a printed catalog

ANNUAL MEETING May 23-24-25

By Jennifer Hildebrand

As some of you know, PBS officers have been considering the possibility of a meeting in Seattle this year. I'm sorry to report that it simply won't be feasible. Vicki, our membership chair, was doing an excellent job coordinating the meeting for us, but when her work schedule changed she just couldn't manage it. Without our local contact, the planning became too difficult.

Perhaps next year we'll be able to organize something, especially if our membership continues to grow. In the meantime, let me encourage all of you to organize small, local meetings between yourselves!

The membership list is enclosed with this issue.

Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens: (continued from page 4)

California lilac.) Place it alone in a 20" container.

Plant a single one-gallon *Encephalartos natalensis* in a 10" azalea pot. One of the tallest plants in this group is *Leucadendron argenteum*. Simply place one five-gallon plant in an 18" standard. Add more drama with one 5-gallon *Melianthus major* in a 20" standard and one five-gallon *Romneya 'White Cloud'* in a 14" standard.

Bring the height down to medium sized plants with a combination of the following; three one-gallon *Agapanthus 'Storm Cloud'* in a 12" bulb pan, a single *Lavandula 'Hidcote'* in a 12" azalea pot, and a single *Sphaeralcea 'Louis Hamilton'* in another 10" azalea pot.

Foliage is an integral part of this grouping. Herbs and succulents such as *Artemisia*, rosemary, thyme and *Dudleya*, create balance when they are repeated or massed. Plant a one-gallon *Artemisia*

'Powis Castle' in a 10" standard and a single *Rosmarinus 'Prostratus'* into an 8" azalea pot. Plant six 4" *Thymus psuedolanuginosa* in a 12" bulb pan and three 4" *Dudleya brittonii* in a 12" bulb pan to finish the grouping.

Add touches of color with three *Hippeastrum puniceum* (or other peach colored species or hybrid) in a 12" azalea pot, *Pelargonium 'Tweedle Dee'* (three to five 8" pots planted individually) and six *Sisyrinchium bellum* rhizomes (choose cultivars such as 'Rocky Point') into an 8" azalea pot. *Tecophilaea cyanocrocus* is a real eye-catcher when in bloom. Plant as many of them as you can squeeze into any sized container. 'Queen Fabiola' is a selection of the California native *Brodiaea* that should be packed twenty-five to fifty into a 10" bulb pan. *Salvia leucantha 'Santa Barbara'* (picture on page 4) in a 14" standard will carry color into the fall and winter season.

A Romantic Interlude

Mingle intense blues and purples with soft peach and salmon for a romantic garden. A story unfolds in the garden as two lovers, *Rosa 'Abraham Darby'* and *Clematis 'Jackmanii'* combine for a romantic interlude. Allow them to drape over a wall, fence or railing, as they desire. Plant one *R. 'Abraham Darby'* in a 20" standard or for a smaller garden, combine it in a 22" standard with the *Clematis*. If you wish to plant the *Clematis* separately, place one 5-gallon plant in a 14" standard. Introduce an intense *Delphinium* such as 'Black Knight', 'Lancelot', or 'Blue Bird' to further complicate the tale. Plant five or six of these in a 14" azalea pot.

Add peach accents such as *Hippeastrum 'Riling'* (five bulbs in 12"), *Pelargonium 'Tweedle Dee'*, *Salvia 'San Isidro Moon'* (12", singly), *Verbascum 'Jackie'* (six to eight 4" in 10") and *Sphaeralcea 'Louis Hamilton'* to complement the rose. *Salvia leucantha 'Midnight'* (one 1 gallon in a 12" standard) brings in a darker side and *Sinningia 'Tante'* (six 4" in a 10" bulb pan) brings a regal elegance to the story.

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens:

(continued from page 8)



Combining blues with intense and soft shades of other colors can either enliven or moderate your garden's character. Many of these plants are listed in order to interest you in looking for more unusual plants than your local garden center carries or will carry if you hassle them. Some of these plants are so new to the nursery trade that they may not yet be available in all areas. In time you can have

them in your garden. You may know the different genera listed here but not the cultivars. They are not interchangeable with other more common cultivars. Substitution for a more familiar cultivar will not produce the same effect. Very nearly every time, it will be very disappointing. So, for your own pleasure, seek out these varieties and containers. They are a small investment but do you not think your pleasure is worth it?

The Empress of Brazil (continued from page 1)

Water with rainwater only, and allow to dry between watering. They must receive plenty of water in the summer. Do not disturb the roots by frequent repotting.

On mature plants, false stems can range anywhere from two to five feet tall. These stems are made of tightly folded bases of leaves, which may be up to three feet long. Average daytime temperatures are 40°F to 45°F (3°C to 7°C) during the dry winters, but they are subject to an occasional ground frost. During the summer, temperatures seldom exceed 80°F (28°C) with many brief evening thunderstorms.

The genus is named after Arthington Worsley who was a mining engineer and traveled South America extensively. In his retirement, he became a bulb expert. According to Worsley, successful flowering can be achieved by planting the bulb "in nine inch drainpipes filled with rock, charcoal, and chippings of stone covered with a little oak leaf mold and bits of live moss (not sphagnum)."

Major Albert Pam, who also successfully got *Worsleya* to flower, used sharply drained compost, mixing fibrous loam with the soil shaken out of *Osmunda* fiber and adding plenty of charcoal. He grew

the bulb in a "warm pit" in full sun in his greenhouse with frequent overhead syringing and watering to keep the compost constantly moist. His plant flowered regularly in August after that.

The bulbs show no warning signs of sickness and require constant attention to their cultivation requirements if you intend to be successful with them. In the summer, feed them with dried blood meal.

Some known sources for bulbs or seeds of this plant include Park Seed, Dirk Wallace (currently out of stock), Thompson & Morgan, Tropical World Nursery and Terry Hatch. Although some of these sources may not have *Worsleya Rayneri* in stock, they should be able to direct you to a source. I will be happy to pass contact information along to anyone who requests it.



Worsleya rayneri 1

Photo by Daryl (Dash) Geoghegan, who writes:

The wonderful Empress of Brazil. A highly sought after rarity, *Hippeastrum rayneri* formerly *Worsleya rayneri*, is an Amaryllid having exquisite blue flowers. Most commonly called the 'Blue Hippy' here in Australia, it is treasured by the collector/bulb grower. Growing this geophyte can sometimes be a hair-pulling experience as it is tender and tricky to establish. This is definitely the all time favourite bulb for me. My goal...seeds!

2003 Specialty Bulb List

Collector's surplus: Old and New World species, many rare in cultivation, many from wild seed, for cool temperate summer-dry conditions. Shipped within USA only, sorry.

Write for August list:

Jane McGary,
33993 SE Doyle Rd.,
Estacada, OR 97023,
janemcgary@earthlink.net

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Michael Vassar

It was with sadness that I read about Michael Vassar's untimely death. I had the pleasure and privilege to meet him at the IBS symposium and discuss the beautiful *Oxalis* species with him. I was also pleased he received his well-deserved award in recognition for all the horticultural work he's done on the subject. I was honored to have met him, he will be sorely missed.
By Bill Dijk.



Michael Vassar

The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs

By John Manning, Peter Goldblatt and Dee Snijman

Review By Rod and Rachel Saunders

Rarely has the arrival of a new book created so much excitement on the plant scene. The feeling of anticipation is heightened as you see the beautifully illustrated cover. On opening the book, the frontpiece of a waterside bulb display in Nieuwoudtville is a fitting introduction.

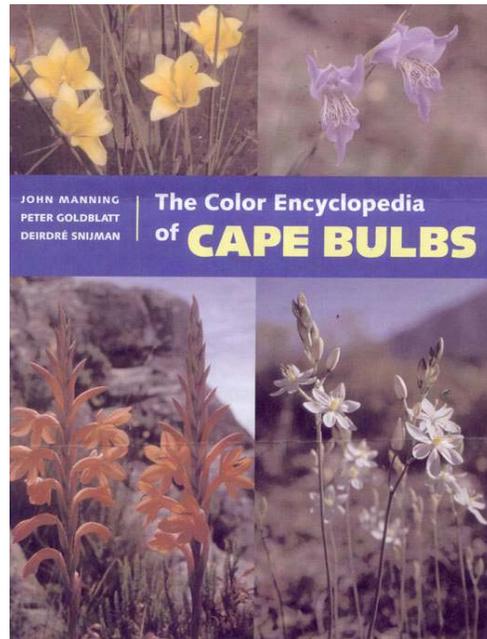
The first chapter "Bulbs at the Cape" starts with a brief but fact filled introduction to the Cape Floral Kingdom and its uniqueness. There are 9 000 species in the Floral Kingdom, an area taking up only 0.04% of the earth's land surface, and 17% of these are geophytes. This proportion is 3 to 7 times higher than in any other area with a Mediterranean climate.

The introduction is followed by five pages on "Exploration of the Cape Flora", which details the history of Cape bulbs and early collectors. The first recorded bulb to flower in Belgium was *Haemanthus coccineus*, in 1603, and by 1612, *Boophone haemanthoides*, *Drimia capensis* and a *Gladiolus* species were already listed on a Dutch nurseryman's catalogue! The Cape bulbs were well collected between 1600 and 1850, mainly due to the easy access from Cape Town. I particularly enjoyed the story of the introduction of

Nerine sarniensis to the British Isles. The authors also note how the exploration is not yet complete - since 1990, 33 previously undescribed species have been named, with more species waiting.

The next section describes the climate, geology and soils of the Cape. If you are growing Cape bulbs, you **must read** this section, as it will give you an appreciation of the diversity of the plants and an indication of their individual requirements. The information on the different regions of the Cape Floral Kingdom is detailed and extremely informative with details on, for example, soil types, rainfall figures, and species found in the areas.

The chapter "Bulbs in the Garden" will ensure that the reader has guidelines to the cultivation of Cape bulbs. The differences between bulbs and corms are dealt with in detail, particularly with respect to how this determines their cultivation techniques. There are sections on temperature, light, soil, planting, watering, fertilizing, pests, and finally, a section on seeds. Lacking is a section on pollination, which is most important if one intends to maintain the integrity of a collection.



The main section of the book is laid out alphabetically according to genus, and is preceded by eleven pages of keys to the families and genera of Cape bulbs. Measurements of the various floral organs are given in metric, which may pose a problem for American readers, although this is

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

rectified by an excellent conversion table at the end of the book on page 469. Of course, this was the section for which we all waited. More than half of the species described in the book are illustrated, and all the photographs were taken in habitat. This, in itself, is a monumental undertaking. The reproduction of the plates is particularly good and I can find no fault with their clarity or color. The photographers involved in the production of the book are to be commended for their excellent work. It is true that "a picture tells a thousand words." Habitat pictures are often an excellent guide to a plant's cultivation requirements.

Each genus is introduced by a general description, which includes information on relatives of the genus, cultivation methods, pollinators and number of species. An interesting, and to me, vital, addition to the text is the section titled "Further reading" at the end of every genus description. If the genus has been revised it is mentioned there as well. Then all the species found in the Cape Region are described, and an indication is given of the soil type and general locality in which they grow.

The number of taxons depicted and described in about 360 pages is huge and will more than satisfy the most gluttonous of collectors! It can be stated that the Encyclopedia is the most lavishly illustrated and most comprehensive book on South African bulbs yet published.

At the end of the encyclopedic section are about 50 pages of comprehensive keys to all the species mentioned. As a guide to identification, this is vital, and is unique amongst all SA bulb books so far published.

For those people who are intimidated by all the botanical terms, there is a complete glossary of all the words used in the book. The authors have assumed that most readers will have some knowledge of flower structure, and have not included any diagrams and line drawings of flowers and their parts.

Finally, the encyclopedia ends with a very comprehensive reference list.

The most glaring omission in this monumental work is the lack of a comprehensive index. There is an Index of Synonyms and an Index of Common Names at the back of the book, but if one wants to find a particular *Moraea* for example, one has to find the correct page by means of the alphabet, and then hope that the species one is looking for has been included. I suppose that an index would have taken up a fair number of pages and made the book even thicker than it already is, but it would have been useful.

The Encyclopedia is a hefty volume and will remain the definitive work on Cape Bulbs for many years. It is an essential purchase for all people interested in South African plants, amateurs and professionals alike, and if you are growing bulbs, you will not be able to do without it. I look forward to a book published on the Summer Rainfall Bulbs of South Africa - there is rumbling on the grape vine that such a publication may be forth coming!

PURCHASING INFORMATION

ISBN 0-88192-547-0

Published by Timber Press, Oregon 2002

485 pages, color photographs throughout plus some maps; 289mm x 225mm, hardcover, 2.1kg

Available from:

Timber Press US \$59.95 € 69.95 + shipping

Silverhill Seeds \$60.00 + \$17.00 shipping

Authors Needed: Try writing an article about your garden or your favorite garden bulb! Lead articles are 1000 to 2500 words depending on subject and content, and supplementary articles are 100 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 at meenglis@cts.com.

Financial Statement

Starting balance: 1/1/03

\$2991.59

Income

Memberships - US 780.00

Memberships - International 75.00

BX 442.09

Donations 20.92

Clivia Books 1124.95

Total Income 2442.96

Expenses

Repro and mail: Bulb Garden 266.46

Cost of book orders 851.48

Fees: PayPal 2.77

BX cost of mailing 319.15

Total Expenses 1439.86

Current Balance \$3994.69

Do you have a garden business?

ADVERTISE IN 'THE BULB GARDEN'!

\$10 per single column inch per issue.

Request information from Marguerite:

meenglis@cts.com

THE BULB GARDEN

Volume 2 Issue 2

Winter, 2003

Pacific Bulb Society Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM PST on January 19, 2003
Present: Cathy Craig, Vicki Sironen, Mary Sue Ittner, and Dell Sherk, Marguerite English, Jennifer Hildebrand
Not Present: Lee Poulsen

Old Business

- Review Reports
Reports from all officers were reviewed, discussed and unanimously accepted.
- Bylaws tabled until next meeting
- Seattle meeting and update: Vicki presented an outline of the events for the weekend. After much discussion, it was decided that Vicki, Mary Sue, and Jennifer would work together to formulate plans for publicity, the attendance fee, and other details not yet settled.

Business held over from last meeting

- Logo: tabled until next meeting.
- Publication of Membership Roster: should be mailed to members by the end of Feb. Cut off date for inclusion: 1/31/03. Appx. cost: \$1 per member, or roughly \$60-\$75.
- Nominating Committee: tabled

New Business

- Vote to accept Lee Poulsen's resignation as treasurer and nominate him to position as secretary of PBS: unanimous.
- Jennifer Hildebrand nominated at treasurer. Vote: unanimous.
- Mary Sue moved that we change our PBS email forum to a new list server. As Mary Sue indicated in her report, the ibiblio site will be free. It provides an archive, has limited search features, offers the 'nomail' function, and may allow links to images through an onsite URL (though no attachments in the more traditional sense). The membership list will be hidden, but the archive will be public. We will keep the name "PBS" and that will be the name of the list, with Pacific Bulb Society as our title. Cathy Craig seconded, vote unanimous.
- Annual meeting. President proposes PBS paying \$200 toward each board members expenses to attend each annual meeting. Officers expressed concern that such a benefit might tax too severely PBS's income. The issue was tabled.
- We are listed in "Herbertia" as an affiliate. Discussion took place largely before the meeting, and it was generally agreed that even without material benefits, it wouldn't hurt as a little bit of free publicity. The issue was tabled.

Copyright, 2003

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 provides gardening or bulb related articles, news of interest to members and announcements of the PBS organization.

Editor: Marguerite English

meenglis@cts.com

Associate Editor: Hamish Sloan

A Farm Visit	By Jennifer Hildebrand.....	1
The Empress of Brazil	By Sheri Ann Richerson	1
Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens: Part 2:		
Inspiring Blue Thoughts	By John Ingram	2
Container Descriptions:	.....	2
Design and Material Descriptions:	.....	2
Blue and white elegance with Asian ceramics	.....	3
Bold and Blue in Terra Cotta	.....	4
A Farm Visit	(continued from page 1)	5
An Out-of-the-Way Nursery By AnnMarie Rametta	.....	6
Welcome to New Members	.....	6
PBS News and Events	.....	7
List Administrator Report	Mary Sue Ittner	7
Treasurer's Report	Jennifer Hildebrand.....	7
President's Report	Cathy Craig.....	7
Vice-President Report	Marguerite English	7
Pacific BX/SX Report	Del Sherk	7
Membership Report	Vicki Sironen	7
By-Laws committee	.....	7
Officers	.....	7
Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens:		
(continued from page 4)		8
A Romantic Interlude	.....	8
Mixing Bulbs into Container Gardens:		
(continued from page 8)		9
The Empress of Brazil (continued from page 1)	.....	9
Michael Vassar	.....	10
The Color Encyclopedia of Cape Bulbs By John Manning, Peter Goldblatt and Dee Snijman	.....	10
Financial Statement	.....	11
Pacific Bulb Society Board Meeting	.....	12