

# The Bulb Garden

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring/Summer 2005

## Pacific Bulb Society Board of Directors

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## Inside this issue:

- Inside PBS* 1
- Calendar of Events* 2
- Garden Humor: complements of Art Wolk* 3
- Bulbs Which Bloom for a Long Time by Charles Hardman* 4
- Officers' Reports* 6
- Directors' Meeting* 6
- Book Review: The Cyclamen of Turkey by Brian Mathew* 7  
*Review by Trevor Wiltshire*

## Inside PBS

### Hello PBS members!

### Newsletter News

While we haven't been able to produce as many newsletters this year as we had hoped, we're going to make it up with more color photos, more humor, and a contest!

### Bulb Dinner News

About the bulb dinners: I usually have one or two bulb dinners each year for PBS members and other guests that may find our dinner meetings of interest.

Sadly, this year my husband and I were remodeling our pool and it took something over one year to complete. So, we weren't able to host a dinner this year.

I felt that having an empty pool would present a danger to guests and so I held off until the pool remodel was complete. The good news is that, YES!, the job is finally finished.

If you live nearby or find yourself in Southern California this coming winter, please come join us for the customary bulb pot luck dinner with either a slide presentation or bulb auction.

Watch the newsletter and the bulb robin for the exact date which I will post the minute we have set one.



### Changes

PBS has completed many long-anticipated changes this year.

Our Secretary-Treasurer, Jennifer Hildebrand, has agreed to become our official Secretary and has given up the treasurer part of her former dual-position to Arnold Trachtenberg. Thank you Jennifer, and welcome aboard, Arnold!

### New Bank Account

We took the opportunity, during the change in treasurer, to move the PBS bank account from Bank of America to Fidelity Investments. We find that it is easier to do business with Fidelity under the circumstances of the PBS board of directors being spread out all over the country.

### What Contest?

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

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

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

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

# Editorial

## Renew your membership now!

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

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

Please send your check for renewal \$20 (US), or \$25 (outside US) to:

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

## Membership Benefits:

- International email forum (nearly 300 members at last count)
- PBS wiki with thousands of color photos of bulbs
- Newsletters
- Local dinners with lectures, travelogues, and often bulb auctions
- PBS very popular BX (Bulb & Seed Exchange).

## CONTEST

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# Events: Surprise Party!

## Happy Retirement, Harold!!

This summer one of our most famous, and best-loved, PBS members, Harold Koopowitz, retired from his "day job" - professor at the University of California, Irvine (UCI)



Far left Jim Comstock of Clivia photo fame. Center Harold, left Frank Alvarez.

There were probably 40 people at the party and, boy, was Harold surprised when he arrived! Good food, very fun! Lots of wonderful friends. Harold's kids did a great job.



Far left Brett, next Frans Van Zyl. Center Harold, then Steve Hampson. Far right, Harold's son, Michael.



Left Harold, center Brett Floyd, right Karen Muir

The surprise retirement party was planned by Harold's daughter, Lynleigh, and hosted at the home of his long-time friend, Brett Floyd.

*All photos by the host: Brett Floyd © 2005*

# Refer a Friend for Membership and Get a Free Bulb

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NEW ADDRESS!**  
Dell Sherk—PBS BX  
PO Box 429  
New Hope PA 18938  
Dells@voicenet.com  
(215) 862-0438

*The BX continues to be one of PBS members' most popular benefits. To date PBS has made over 80 BX offers to members.*  
Ed.

### Garden Humor

I bet this lady reminds you of someone in *your* family. [Ed.]

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

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



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

Our members loyally support our advertisers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact our Editor, Cathy Craig at  
CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com

# Bulbs Which Bloom for a Long Time

By Charles Hardman

“Bulbs are wonderful, but they don’t bloom for very long”, is a complaint I sometimes hear.

Are there any bulbs which bloom for a long time?

Yes, there are. Although they’re not all strictly “bulbs” and what constitutes “a long time” might depend, among other criteria, on whether your definition of “a long time” is measured in seconds/minutes (earthquake, busy housewife, CEO) or months/years (American political campaigns, tree farmers).

Among the true bulbs, certain *Alliums* can bloom for several weeks or even months and then continue to put on a show with interesting seed heads.



In my garden, *Allium sphaerocephalum*, commonly called “Drumsticks” makes a pleasing “Look at me!” spectacle of itself with its violet purple flowers for a month or so in late spring. I can count on its return year after year (it has been gracing my garden for more than twenty years) multiplying by bulblets every year but never seeming to spread rampantly or get out of hand.

Garden *Hippeastrum* bulbs put on quite an outdoor show for two months or more during our Southern California spring times. Blazing reds, dark reds, whites and those with red and white stripes along with a few which bloom pink flowers are common in So-Cal yards during March, April, May and early June. I’ve heard that some parts of Florida, Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi and even mild winter spots near the eastern and western U.S.A. coasts north of Florida and California can grow garden varieties of these beauties outdoors with no lifting during their winters.



Photo: James Frelichowski

Once our winter rains or irrigation watering hits these roots in late autumn, up come the graceful plants during late October, November or early December. Early clones begin blooming about one month after emergence. Subsequent clones continue blooming until, by February, you have a whole potful or plotful of lovely *Cyclamen*-like flowers (both genera are in the *Primula* family, although they are said to be not closely related to one another). I can get blooms until I stop watering them sometime in April (this depends on the season and whether or not the heat has closed down their growth/flowering cycle for the season). They’re easy from seed, especially here in Southern California. You’ll find *D. clevelandii* eager to please you with only slight effort on your part.

For summertime, one has the wonderful “zephyr lilies” and “rain lilies”, *Zephyranthes* and *Habranthus*. They can bloom three, four, I’ve even heard of five times a year during springtime and summer, as long as the grower lets them go a little dry between bloomings. Not desert dry, mind you, just “a little dry”. Feed them lightly with a high potassium, low nitrogen fertilizer – a 3-5-8 or 2-10-10, something in that range – during each growth cycle to keep the bulbs and clumps plump and happy. Their pink, white, yellow, orange and rose flowers, some bordering on red are cheery little amaryllids which somehow rarely ever seem to look out of place, even when they escape to your lawn or other parts of your garden. If you would rather not have such escapees, pick off their seed pods shortly after the flowers have faded, for I know of few plants which produce fully mature seeds – which are then scattered by the wind— more easily than these.

Of course, reblooming daylilies – of which there are more every year – and reblooming tall, bearded iris – of which there are also more every year – are standard garden “workhorses” which, in spite of such a crude epithet, manage to stun us each bloom cycle with their grace, beauty and ever-expanding color ranges.

Passifloras, the passion flower vines, bloom for months. Many are fine but some are very aggressive. Beware the lavender-flowered cultivar ‘Incense’ which can take over one’s entire yard in one season. It spreads by stolons. Also the *P. vitifolium* with its lovely scarlet flowers has a tendency to throw its thirty-foot vines over tall trees and short shrubs with no discrimination at all. Careful selection is essential

*P. edulis*, is fairly well trained, though it has less beautiful flowers and can be colonized quickly and even killed by huge scale insects here in my Southern California yard (17 miles east of Los Angeles). Nevertheless, its fruit is so delicious I can endure these indignities.

Talk about a cheap thrill that's *legal* to grow! What could be better than having your own blooming, repeatable orchid plant for from ten to twenty bucks?

Many orchids bear pseudo bulbs, above-ground storage units for water and nutrition, and a wide variety of wonderful, named orchid clones are being micro-propagated these days and sold from outlets such as Trader Joe's, Home Depot, numerous nurseries and home and garden centers as well. Some of these plants are suited to growing outdoors year-round in Southern California, Hawaii and a few other U.S.A. spots and outdoors-in-summer/indoors-in-winter in colder climates. I have purchased beautiful plants for from \$10.00 to \$20.00 and marveled at the longevity of the flowers – six weeks or so – and the fact that I could then place the plants outdoors in containers filled with orchid planting fibers (coconut fiber and old *Platyce-rium* fern fibers work great in orchid baskets) or wood chips. If you opt for using wood chips, try experimenting with them in combinations with fibers which will hold water better; the air in some Southern California areas is probably too dry for wood chips alone. Some shade almost certainly will be needed as well, especially in the inland valleys. But many orchid plants do wonderfully well outdoors in Southern California, summer and winter.



Annual Orchid Show held at the South Coast Plaza shopping center Costa Mesa, CA in February Photo: Cathy Craig © 2004

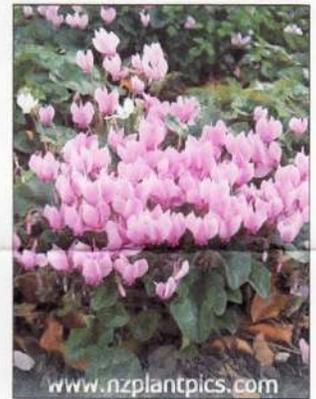
There are other "bulbs" which bloom for a long time including summer growing Dahlias. These can bloom for months, depending on the species or cultivar. My tubers of the heirloom Dahlia, 'Bishop of Llandaaff' bloom for three months or more every year. And the dwarf border dahlias, cute as they are, are also hard workers giving forth with bright blooms and shiny green



DAHLIA Photo: Cathy Craig © 2005

leaves for months each year. These little dahlias must have gone through improvements in recent decades while I wasn't looking as they seem improved in every way from those I remember from twenty years ago. They're squatter, cobbier, prettier somehow and with an improved color range and flowers that fairly sparkle.

And cyclamen... cyclamen flowers bloom in my garden every day of the year with various species coming into bloom as the months go by. *C. purpurascens* is the champ. I have watched a plant of this species open its deliciously scented flowers in March while another plant of the same species began to fade its last flower, still deliciously scented, on December 26th that year.



Cannas, too, produce colorful flowers for months in warm climates. Even in cooler areas where they get their tops knocked off by autumn frosts, the summer Canna show is spectacular to the point where nothing else can give quite that long season of bold, stately, colorful, wild-yet-contained tropical jungle look. Take a wildling, dress it in a business suit, then stand back and observe just how sophisticated it appears, that's Cannas for you. Mass plantings are not necessary, although as a group or as an individual plant, Cannas always can look great with just a bit of care including tidying up spent leaves and canes.

By selecting the right plants and by staggering plantings you can have bulbs (or pseudo bulbs) in bloom every day (or nearly every day) of the year along much of the Pacific Coast.

And don't forget to fertilize with a low nitrogen, high potassium fertilize such as a 3-5-8 or a 2-10-10. Bulbs eat, too.

# Officers' Reports

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

### BX Offerings exceed 100!

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

From time to time people donate packing materials to the BX, not just bulbs and seed. Things like slightly-used padded envelopes and new seed envelopes are always welcome. We are concerned about the environment and like to recycle!



Dell Sherk—BX

## Membership Report Director: Pat Colville

PBS now has 125 members!

## Vice President's Report VP: Shawn Pollard—incoming

Shawn is an associate professor at Arizona Western College in Yuma, AZ. He has a doctorate in music.

His botanical loves include: themidaceae, amaryllids, native Southwestern and other desert geophytes, and other humming bird-attractors.



Vice President  
Shawn Pollard

## Treasury Report: Treasurer Outgoing: Jennifer Hildebrand Incoming: Arnold Trachtenberg

Checking Bal 1/1/4 \$5,536

### INCOME

Members US	1,720
Members Intl	200
SX/BX	3,390
Advertising	30
Donations	26

**Total Income 5,366**

### EXPENSES

Newsletter	1,351
SX/BX	1,213
Internet	85

**Total Expenses 2,649**

**NET INCOME 2,717**

Checking Bal 12/31/04 \$8,253



Secretary  
Jennifer Hildebrand



New Treasurer  
Arnold Trachtenberg

## Email Forum and Wiki Report Administrator: Mary Sue Ittner Committee of Wiki helpers:

Mark McDonough, Mark Wilcox, Jay Yourch, Dave and Linda Brastow  
List Helper: Arnold Trachtenberg  
Tech Support: Mark Parrott

Our PBS list continues to grow and now has 300 subscribers!

The wiki continues to grow and is becoming an increasingly helpful resource about geophytes. Ninety-two people have contributed pictures or information to the wiki. We now have wiki pages for 213 genera with various degrees of information on each. New images and information continue to be added to the wiki and we are enjoying continuing participation of new contributors.

To facilitate viewing, separate folders have been created on the wiki files page for genera with at least 15 images (plus some others with not quite 15 images as yet).

## President's Report President: Cathy Craig

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

The first newsletter of 2005 is now in your hands. We hope you are enjoying the newsletters.

## Minutes of the last Directors' Meeting

We reviewed the amended Articles of Association and By Laws and passed them unanimously.

Patty Colville represented PBS at the Clivia Symposium armed with membership forms, copies of our latest newsletter, and a partial list of recent BX offerings; all as enticements to join PBS.

Our secretary, Jennifer Hildebrand, is in the process of submitting the paperwork to the IRS so that the Pacific Bulb Society will become a tax-exempt organization. This is Form 1023 and is 28 pages

long! Since the form required several years of financial information, your president, Cathy Craig is helping Jennifer with the form, and other items that may be required for submission. We will be required to pay the IRS \$150 fee to apply for this tax-exempt treatment.

The most recent Board of Directors meeting was held on July 24, 2005 where we voted Arnold Trachtenberg in as our new treasurer. We discussed bulb distribution ideas, a face-to-face board meeting sometime in the future, and voted to move our bank account to Fidelity.

# Meeting!

The first 2005 directors meeting was held on January 30, 2005.

Present were: Cathy Craig, Shawn Pollard, Dell Sherk, and Jennifer Hildebrand.

We voted in Shawn Pollard as the new Vice President of PBS.

# Book Review: Cyclamen of Turkey

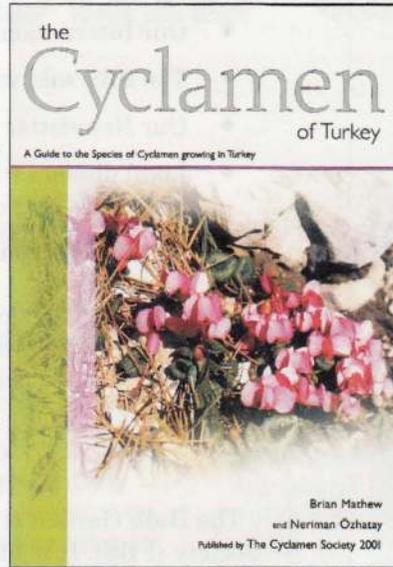
By Brian Mathew

By Trevor Wiltshire

I must confess when asked to write this review by Dr. John Grimshaw and Cathy Craig that I wanted to do it although at the same time feeling I was too close to the project!

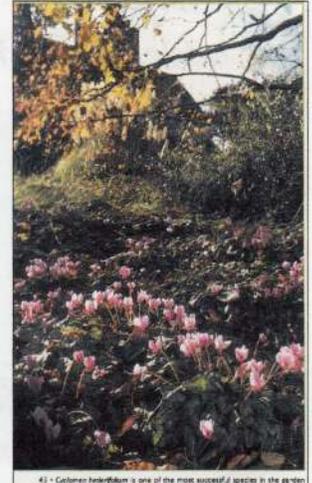
I was involved from the start when Prof. Dr. Neriman Özhatay of Istanbul University and Mr Brian Mathew MBE VMH author and former Principal Scientific Officer Royal Botanic Garden Kew were discussing the need for information about Turkey's endemic Cyclamen being brought to a wider audience. This conversation took place in a minibus bumping along a track in Turkey's Taurus Mountains in 1997!

The booklet is only 32 pages long but contains information never before published.



In this succinct text flower shape, colour and fragrance are discussed, distribution and localities where they can be seen are described, altitudes given and flowering times.

If there is a criticism of the booklet it could be the one that pages are devoted to cultivation, cyclamen in history and cyclamen in general, however it



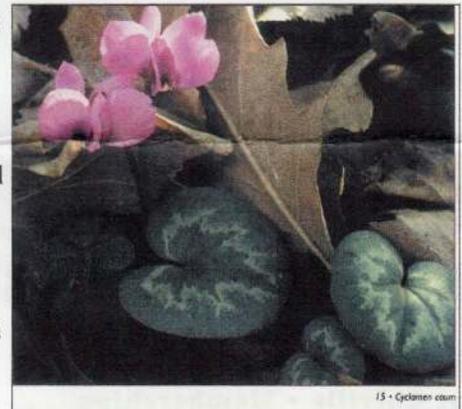
43 • Cyclamen hederifolium is one of the most successful species in the garden

must be remembered that the booklet was always intended to be printed in Turkish as well as English to bring cyclamen, for the first time, to a wider public in Turkey.



2 • Cyclamen persicum on the Marmaris peninsula, Muğla province

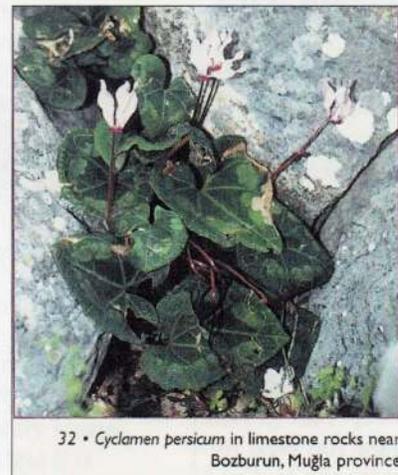
For growers of Cyclamen it provides an insight (pages 8 to 24) into the growing conditions required by each species as localities are described, often with photographs of the habitat.



15 • Cyclamen coum



10 • Cyclamen cilicium near Akeskı, Antalya province



32 • Cyclamen persicum in limestone rocks near Bozburun, Muğla province

Most species are given about one and a half pages.

*The Cyclamen of Turkey* by Brian Mathew. Published by The Cyclamen Society, London. ISBN 0-9537526-1-5. 32 pages. Photo credits: Clockwise 1 & 5 Trevor Wiltshire, 2 Ronald Frank, 3 Pete Murray, 4 Chris Clennet. All photos from the book itself.



**Pacific Bulb Society**

*Gardening with Bulbs!*

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

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

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

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

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The Bulb Garden

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

Editor: Cathy Craig

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

## Newsletter of the Pacific Bulb Society



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

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