

The Bulb Garden

Volume 6, Issue 1

December 2007

Pacific Bulb Society Board of Directors

- President: Cathy Craig
CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com
- Vice President: Shawn Pollard
PollardS@adelphia.net
- Secretary: Jennifer Hildebrand
TheOtherJen8@yahoo.com
- Treasurer: Arnold Trachtenberg
Arnold@nj.rr
- Forum and wiki: Mary Sue Ittner
MSittner@mcn.org
- Membership: Pat Colville
Pat.Colville@JHRresearchusa.com
- BX Director: Dell Sherk
DellS@voicenet.com
- Newsletter and Website:
Cathy Craig
CathyCraigEA@hotmail.com
- Publications Assistant: Josh Lowe
JoshLoweTax.Asst@hotmail.com

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Inside PBS

News • News • News

Hello PBS members!

Your Board at Work

While you may not hear often directly from your board members, we are nonetheless constantly busy with PBS business.

We hold an online (chat) board meeting every quarter, rain or shine, and for most meetings, all board members are present.

We are also in constant contact via emails regarding ongoing issues affecting you and your society.

About Our Treasury

About 18 months ago the board voted to invest \$8,000 of our treasury cash in a mutual fund through our account with Fidelity Investments. Since that time the investment has grown from \$8,000 to about \$9,200.

A week ago we invested another \$5,000 in a different mutual fund. These investments are recommended by me because my business is tax preparation and asset management.

The balance of our cash remains in our Fidelity account earning 5.03% interest.

Our success with the management of the cash in your PBS treasury is one

reason we are able to begin planning for another PBS Members Meeting. See page 3 for more details.

Your board believes transparency is of tantamount importance. This is why we provide a Treasurer's Report in each and every issue of your newsletter, and why we give you details about how the money in your treasury is managed.

Help is on the Way

Putting together a newsletter and an annual membership directory takes a lot of time. During our most recent board meeting I requested some outside help with these publications.

The board of directors had a lengthy discussion on this issue and voted to put my office assistant, Josh Lowe, on as a non-voting board member.

The reason we did it this way is because Josh is still too young to be able to donate his time, therefore the board will be paying him a pre-determined and limited amount to help me with these publications, on a publication-by-publication basis.



Other News

After much discussion, the board approved a new PBS logo. We are very excited about this! You can see the logo and how we came by it inside the newsletter, see page 3.

On another front, we are in the beginning stages of planning a new Members Meeting. See page 3 for further information.

PBS President, Cathy Craig

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

Members Gather in Northern California

By Mary Sue Ittner

Trip to visit Diana Chapman

I'd like to report about our Pacific Bulb Society weekend at Diana Chapman's in Ferndale, CA. There were 13 participants including the three people who live in the area. We had a wonderful time. I always enjoy talking with others who are interested in talking about bulbs, although of course that wasn't all we talked about.

Bob Werra brought slides of a trip he and his wife took to China with the Alpine Garden Society about ten years ago and we looked at them the first night.

Both Friday and Saturday we all spent a lot of time looking at some of the bulbs that Diana had blooming in her greenhouses: species of *Oxalis*, *Romulea*, *Gladiolus*, *Spiloxene*, *Lachenalia*, *Erythronium*, *Veltheimia*, *Bomarea*, *Phaedranassa*, *Albuca*, *Tecophilaea*, *Cyclamen*, *Allium*, *Stenomesson*, *Hippeastrum*, *Muscari*, *Rhodophiala*, one Aroid (I forgot to note if it was an *Arum* or *Arisaema*), and did I mention *Oxalis*?

The *Oxalis* seemed to be what people spent the most time looking at. There were even some *Oxalis* that don't normally bloom that were sporting blooms to throw off anyone new to that genus. *Oxalis palmifrons* had this large white (unattached) flower in the middle of the leaves.

Harold Koopowitz brought some plants for show and tell and left a few with Diana. Among those he brought were some *Cyclamen* with amazing leaves, *Ranunculus*, a very tiny *Narcissus*, and a pot of robust short bright yellow *Narcissus pumilis*, a present for Diana.

Harold showed pictures of his trip to Crete last November in search of interesting leaf forms of *Cyclamen graecum* and *Narcissus serotinus*. They also found some nice *Sternbergia* and a couple *Crocuses* blooming at the same time.

Harold knows how to tell a story and entertained us with the travails of a plant collector attempting to follow the ever changing rules.

We also found we could gather around his laptop and see pictures from a trip to the White Mountains of California and Harold's attempt to hybridize *Gladiolus* to create an attractive Mother's Day flower.

There were a lot of other interesting images as this wasn't planned ahead of time so he didn't quite know what would appear. I showed a CD of wildflower pictures of mostly Central California in last year's amazing spring.

Diana gave people special seeds, and Bob Werra offered some pots of *Calochortus*, *Moraea*, and a few other things that he shared.

We were lucky with the weather. Most of the rain fell during the first night although there were a few showers the next day. Hail falling on a plastic greenhouse is very loud indeed, but fortunately it didn't last long. There was enough light and warmth for most of the *Oxalis* to open and the *Romuleas* too.

We were treated to good food, good company, and a very nice place to stay and visit with each other. Thanks, Diana, for inviting people on this list to come for a visit, and thanks from a happy visitor to all of you who came.

Membership Notes & News

Renew your membership now!

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

Your personal year of expiration (most being 2007) appears on the address block or mail label on this newsletter.

Please send your check, NO money orders, or use Pay Pal for renewal,

\$20 (US), or \$25 (outside US) to:

Pat Colville PBS memberships

1555 Washburn Road

Pasadena, CA 91105 USA

Membership Benefits:

- International email forum
- PBS WIKI with thousands of color photos of bulbs
- Newsletters
- Local dinners, lectures, travelogues, and bulb auctions
- PBS very popular BX/SX (bulb and seed exchanges)
- Annual Membership Directory

2009 Members Meeting:

Your board of directors is in the beginning stages of planning a Members Meeting to be held at Longwood Gardens in Pennsylvania in 2009.

Dell Sherk, our remarkable BX/SX director, is spearheading this effort and acting as liaison between PBS and Longwood.

Planning a meeting of this kind is complex and time-consuming; involving hundreds of details and will probably take the better part of a year of planning. **STAY TUNED!**

Pacific Bulb Society gets a new logo!

For those of you who remember, many years ago, Sheila Burrows from Perth, Australia, picked some flowers from her own garden, arranged them on her scanner, and produced the photo you see here on the right.

Many of us thought this production was beautiful. I frankly consider this inspired and one of the best examples I've seen of artistic genius when it comes to flowers.

I contacted Sheila and she has given us the rights to the picture to use as the logo for The Pacific Bulb Society.



Our ever-efficient secretary, Jennifer Hildebrand, has added the wording and formatting that appears below the flowers to produce a true "logo" for us.

The board of directors voted to accept this as the official logo of The Pacific Bulb Society and we are presenting it here for the first time to our members.

The board wishes to express our extreme gratitude to Sheila and to Jennifer! We hope you agree that our new logo is the perfect statement for our society. Enjoy!

Donate to the BX

BX/SX History

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 160 BX offerings on the table for PBS members.

How to Donate

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.

Note: New Address

It's easy to contribute to the BX!

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

The BX continues to be one of PBS members' most popular benefits. To date PBS has made 115 BX offers to members.

Ed.

NEW ADDRESS!

Dell Sherk—PBS BX
PO Box 429

New Hope PA 18938

Dells@voicenet.com

(215) 862-0438

May Members Meeting 2007

By Cathy Craig

My husband and I have been hosting bulb meetings at our home in San Clemente, CA, for the last seven years. We were on hiatus two years for back yard and pool remodel but those projects were finally finished late 2006.

For this meeting we made it an official PBS Board of Directors and Members Meeting.

While I look forward to the meetings, in the past I was so busy with the food and helping people with various services that I literally had no time at all to visit with the guests.



Pre-dinner snacks and California native wildflowers. The flowers were brought by Shawn Pollard, our VP

This year I turned over the food planning, preparation, and service to my friend Nancy Howell, assisted by my young friend Carla Lowe. Both of whom handled everything beautifully. As a result I was able to properly greet each guest and to get around and talk with many of them over the course of the meeting.



From left: unidentified, Doug Westfall (from Long Beach), Dr. Harold Koopowitz (author, hybridizer, from Tustin), Patty Colville (PBS membership director)



From left: Dell Sherk (BX/SX director), unidentified, Karen Muir (from Aliso Viejo), Harold Koopowitz, Virginia Brady (Dana Point)

There were nearly 40 people present, which is about twice the usual number. I believe we had such a nice turnout because our members wished to actually meet the people on the board of the Pacific Bulb Society.

I sent several notifications to the PBS email forum over the course of about two weeks prior to the meeting, sent separate emails to other people who have attended or expressed interest in attending these meetings, and also to my tax and investing clients (several of whom did attend).

We garnered one new member at the meeting: Bill McClelland. Welcome to PBS, Bill!

The entire board of directors attended with the exception of Arnold Trachtenberg, our treasurer. They lost a key person at his workplace and he could not be spared because the office was so busy. We all missed you, Arnold! Jennifer Hildebrand, our secretary, kindly volunteered to act as treasurer and keeper-of-the-records for the bulb auction that took place between dinner and the slide presentation by Dr. Harold Koopowitz.

I was able to talk with perhaps half the people at the meeting at some length. The fish-out-of-water seem to be the people with the least plant experience and we probably ought to figure out a better way to include them more closely at future meetings.



*Scott Baxter (from Prescott, AZ) and several others took home orchids, amongst which were *Zygopetalums* (right). Scott and his wife have named their *Zygo* "Clem" and I was just notified that Clem is blooming now (early Jan 2008).*



Everyone was gracious enough to wear name tags and I feel it helped people feel more comfortable about mixing with others formerly unknown to them. The board had special name tags so that they could be readily identified. This seemed to work well.



From left: Doug Westfall, Charles Hardman (auctioneer extraordinaire, from Baldwin Park), Shawn Pollard (PBS VP, from Yuma, AZ), Dell Sherk (PBS BX/SX, from Pennsylvania)

Fortunately, my yard was just about at peak bloom (excepting liliium) and many of the guests were interested in several of the plants I grow.



From left: Cathy Craig (hostess, President PBS), Scotty (in the hat, from Huntington Beach), and Chuck Schwartz (horticulturist & landscape designer, San Clemente).

The plant auction was a resounding success and Charles Hardman once again proved his worth by demonstrating his impeccable skills as our cherished auctioneer.



Front of house, from left: brugmansia 'Charles Grimaldi', columbine (yellow), larkspur (blue), begonia (red above larkspur), Alstroemeria (white).

I donated several small but mature herbaceous clematis plants. They grow to about five feet when in bloom, put out lovely light cornflower-blue flowers, are evergreen (here), and sometimes will partially bloom midway between normal bloom time (i.e., twice a year).

In addition there were some diosporia. The tubers look like small potatoes. These are dormant for perhaps 7 or 8 months of the year but will put up a gorgeous vine of very large dark green leaves in summer. My tubers are planted perhaps one to three inches deep.



Members regarding the bed beneath my Macadamia nut tree, where *S. natalensis* grows (see below left)



Left: *Scilla natalensis*, from seed from Tony Palmer, New Zealand



Right: *Crocosmia* 'Embers'



Members checking out plants donated for the bulb auction.

Foremost, Chuck Schwartz, Charles Hardman in the rear, and Harold Koopowitz in between.

Lastly I have been growing, from cuttings of my mother plant, 8 hanging baskets of streptocarpella that originally came from my mother (who also attended). These produce dark blue flowers much larger than any you find in local nurseries and when happy will bloom nearly year-round. These I gave away to guests who expressed an interest in them.

If you haven't yet come to one of our pot luck meetings, please come to the next!



Hostess, Cathy Craig, President, PBS

Officers' Reports

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

The Bulb and Seed Exchange has completed over 160 offerings to date!

Thank you all for participating whether you donate, acquire, or both. We couldn't do it without you.



Dell Sherk—BX

If you have any favorite bulbs or seed you would like to see offered on the BX or the SX, please contact me directly.

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

Vice President's Report VP: Shawn Pollard

Shawn has graciously agreed to act as our director of advertising as well as maintaining his VP post.

Advertisers: Please contact Shawn Pollard for assistance.

PollardS@adelphia.net



Vice President
Shawn Pollard

Treasury Report Treasurer: Arnold Trachtenberg

Checking Bal 1/1/7 \$18,864

INCOME

Members US	2,525
Members Intl	525
SX/BX	4,609
Donations	112
Interest	72
Bulb Meeting	825
Investment Gains	868
Total Income	\$9,464

EXPENSES

Newsletter 838	
Member Meeting May 1,134	
SX/BX	1,353
Internet Exp	149
Supplies	17
Adjustment	50
Donation	250
Total Expenses	3,826

NET INCOME \$5,638

Checking Bal 10/31/07 \$25,521



Secretary
Jennifer Hildebrand



Treasurer
Arnold Trachtenberg

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

Our list continues to grow; we now have over 340 members.

The WIKI is a valuable time-saver and excellent resource for finding what a specific flowering bulb looks like.

Thank you all for your participation and for sharing your expertise with all the other members. It's a great learning experience for us all. [Ed.]

Membership Report Director: Pat Colville

Membership currently stands at about 150. Our members are taking advantage of the 3-year membership subscription.

President's Report President: Cathy Craig

We hope you are enjoying the newsletters. If you would like to volunteer to help out, email any of us.

Minutes of the Directors' Meetings

is complete and the new board member is charged with following up on this with the IRS.

We added a new non-voting board member (Publications & Web Assistant), Josh Lowe.

The newsletter, after this issue, will be printed by a publisher who specializes in this type of publication. It presently takes close to a week just to print and mail one newsletter and outsourcing the printing is expected to help us produce more newsletters each year.

Membership renewal notices were mailed just prior to year end.

We adopted a new logo for PBS.

We had the first Members Meeting of PBS in May. See article on pages 4 and 5.

The board is busy planning the second Members Meeting, tentatively planned for May of 2009 at the world famous Longwood Gardens.

Meeting!

The board of directors participated in the customary four meetings for the year of 2007.

We have discussed, voted on, and completed, a number of significant issues:

Obtaining tax-exempt status for our society. The paperwork for this

Book Review: The Little Blue Book of Bulb Forcing

Review by Josh Lowe

By way of introduction, Art Wolk was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and so grew up in an area where there may be more garden clubs and horticultural societies than any place else on earth.

He enjoys a career as a reference librarian and is also past president of the Horticultural Society of New Jersey. (For those on the West Coast that's "New Joisey").

Judging a book...

This is a book you can judge by its cover. What you see is what you get. And what you get is concise instruction on exactly how to force bulbs...with some of Art's customary humor thrown in just in case you begin to get too serious.

On to the book

I applaud the author! He has truly done a terrific job of making the subject of bulb forcing understandable for people who, like me, don't have much experience in the matter.

In the introduction he says, "As long as you can figure out how to fill a flower pot with soil and bulbs without mortally wounding yourself, you have more than enough neurons to make bulbs bloom".

For a small book, there is much detail. It begins by fully explaining the difference between true bulbs, such as Tulip, and what I call the impersonation bulbs such as corms, tubers, and rhizomes.

Some are Easy

One of Art's personal favorites, and on his 'very easy' list of bulbs to force, is *Hippeastrum* (usually sold as *Amaryllis*). There are several easy bulbs listed for the complete neophyte with specific examples of exactly what to do.

Art describes in a direct and forcefully blunt way the processes; choosing which bulbs, the best potting medium to use, exactly how to pot them up, and also specific chilling methods when required by the bulbs.

The bulbs that require chilling and differentiated from the ones that do. Easy, you can do it!

Helpful Photos

The pictures in the book, wow! They are great, especially the 'how-to' photos. They are well taken, well placed, and very helpful in bringing the instructions to life.

Many Favorites Listed

Daffodils, Tulips, Hyacinths, Crocus, Lilies and many other bulbs are listed as well as sources for bulb purchases.

Cold Treatment

There are several cold treatment methods listed, one unusual one called pot-in-a-box. Personally, I'm going to test drive this one immediately.

Blue Ribbons Anyone?

Art explains how to put a pot of bulbs together so that the resulting flowers not only knock your socks off, but could even win you a blue ribbon in a flower show. He should know, he has forced tons of flowers for the Philadelphia Flower Show and been a multi-time winner.

There are some very interesting and instructive stories of his own personal travails with bulb forcing for flower shows in the book. Humor throughout.

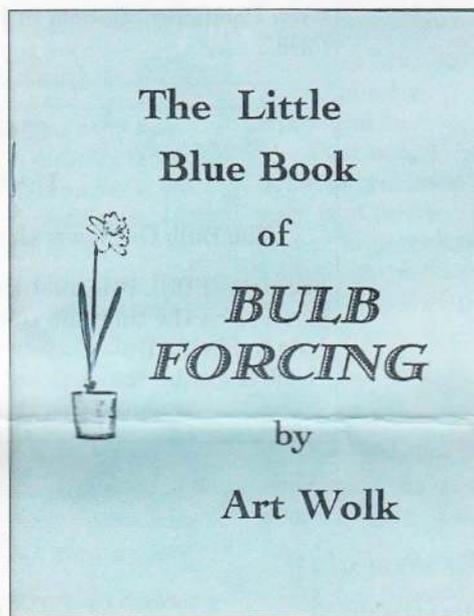
Ok, So Go Buy the Book

Sources are listed in order of least expense to you: www.gardenlunacy.com, and www.amazon.com.

If you order the book from Art's website (above) he will personally inscribe and autograph your copy. The price of \$7.95 includes shipping in the US.

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Book Publishing, soft cover,
40 pages, \$7.95.

Art Wolk is an award-winning writer, lecturer, photographer and bulb-forcer. He amuses us all from 'the garden state' of New Jersey.





Pacific Bulb Society
 • Gardening with Bulbs •

We're on the web!
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 bulb auctions
- Annual Member Directory published in July
- The PBS popular BX (Bulb & Seed Exchange)

A MEMBERSHIP FORM is available at our website: find us at 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.

**Newsletter of the
 Pacific Bulb Society**



FIRST CLASS

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