



# EDEN



California Garden and Landscape History Society Journal

Vol. 1 No. 6

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## DUES DUE??? CHECK YOUR LABEL NOW!

No, it isn't particularly pleasing, aesthetically or otherwise, to have us pouncing on you immediately with demands for money, but several members have asked for immediate notice on the first page as they don't always have time to read every little paragraph in the newsletter (shocked gasp from the Editor!).

**So, please check your mailing label now.** We have color coded them as follows:

- \* RED STAR means dues due this month.
- \* YELLOW highlight on expiration date is for all those who were due in December and forgot about sending in their money - you're in good company as several Board members forgot too, but send it *now* please as our member directory project is on hold until we get renewals out of the way.
- \* PINK highlight on date due is for those who are long gone and we'd like you to come back again.

All renewal dates are quarterly, relative to when you join up.

Also by popular request, we've included a handy renewal form in a ghastly color which will glow in the dark and remind you to send in your check for \$20 so you can keep on receiving this wonderfully informative newsletter. Use it or lose it!

## CAPITOL CONFERENCE COMING SOON

Plan now to attend our 1998 Conference, which will be held on **May 2nd & 3rd** at the Capitol Building in Sacramento. Included in the tentative schedule of events so far is a tour of the State Archives and Capitol Park, the oldest Arboretum in the West, with extensive collections of trees, camellias, desert plants, and modern roses. Barbara Oliva will give us a tour of the Historic Rose Garden at the Old City Cemetery at

Broadway and Tenth Street. The emphasis here is on an extensive collection (over two hundred varieties) of old roses found and gathered from pioneer California cemeteries and ranches throughout the state. Two other possibilities for touring include the Jepson Prairie Wildflower/Wildlife Preserve and Roris Gardens Iris Nursery.



*Moss Rose*

Other places of interest to visit in the area include four worthwhile gardens at UC Davis: A collection of 80 oak trees from around the world; a native plant garden, a drought-tolerant garden and a white garden.

For conference schedule and registration fee information, call or write Roberta Burke, 44735 South El Macero Dr., El Macero, CA 95618, 916-552-7901. You can use the handy little form (in a less ghastly color) that we've enclosed here for your convenience.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Our Annual Conference will take place this spring in Sacramento over the weekend of May 2-3. Hopefully, you have had that date pencilled in on your calendar for months and are eagerly awaiting further news of the event.

We have a number of items for discussion at the General Meeting and will be having our yearly election, as prescribed in our By-Laws. Margaret Mori resigned as Treasurer this winter and she has been replaced by Kathleen Craig of Palo Alto. Margaret will remain as a Board Member at Large, and we thank her for her years of service to the organization serving as its first Treasurer.

All of the current Officers have agreed to run again for re-election. We welcome, however, nominations of other candidates for those offices, and names should be sent in (before April 15) to Kathleen Craig, who is also chairing the Nominating Committee. Please send along a statement of purpose and any qualifications the candidate might have that are pertinent to the office. Remember that in running for office one is committing oneself to attending the Annual Conferences and Board Meetings for the term.

Before the election we will be discussing several possible changes in the By-Laws, and then voting on those matters. At our last Board Meeting, we discussed the possibility of changing the term of office to two years at a time. Several members have suggested this, and now that we have decided to have meetings only once a year, the one year term seems to allow officers to barely begin to figure out their tasks, and then leave office. Also, there has been less than a stampede to run for office, so retaining officers for a longer period may be a good idea. Please think about this issue, and be prepared to discuss it and vote on it.

Another item for discussion and vote will be the possibility of establishing Family Memberships in addition to Individual Memberships. Our current By-Laws provide for a yearly membership of \$20 for individuals. The newsletter accounts for about half of our expenses. The proposal is to make a Family Membership (where only one journal goes to the same address) available for \$30/year. That would allow member and partner to both belong for a reduced fee (less than two separate memberships) and the organiza-

tion would not lose any money on the deal. Each person would still have to sign up and pay individually for the Annual Conferences at whatever fee was required to cover those expenses. Again, please consider this proposal and be ready for discussion and a vote.

We have been considering several submissions for a logo for the newsletter. If you have any additional submissions, please send them to Laurie Hannah by April 15th. They, too, will be considered at the upcoming meeting.

Please let me or other Board Members know of your ideas for making the California Garden and Landscape History Society more the organization you want it to be. Write to us now so we can consider your suggestions at our next Board Meeting, and bring them before the membership during the General Meeting at Sacramento in May.

—Mitzi VanSant  
President

## PIONEER CALIFORNIA GARDENS

Each state has its early garden traditions, and California has made its contributions to American horticulture. California did not become a state until 1850, but its garden history goes back to 1769 when the first of twenty-one Spanish missions was founded, the first being near Old Town in San Diego. Today the visitor who stands on Presidio Hill at San Diego may glance down to an ancient date palm, the oldest exotic plant growing in California. The chain of Spanish missions was gradually extended as far north as Sonoma, and some gardening was practiced at all of these missions. Fruit orchards were planted at most of them. Vancouver, in his trip to California in 1792, was surprised at the variety of fruits in these mission gardens, including the peach, apricot, apple, quince, pear, and several others.

Little is known about what flowers were grown at the early Spanish missions in California, although we are told that Father Junipero Serra and José de Galvez, in planning the first mission at San Diego, boxed up all kinds of farm implements and included both vegetable and flower seeds, which were brought from Lower California. The site of the first mission was not very favorable, so in a few years it was changed to a location a few miles up the river above San Diego, where it is found today with remnants of the old olive orchard still growing.

The mission padres were more interested in saving souls than in planting ornamentals. It was necessary to plant enough food plants to keep the neophytes healthy, but with a scarcity of water, flowers had to be limited. When Sir George Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Company visited California in 1838 and 1841, he saw several kinds of flowers at the mission gardens. On his trip around the world in 1841 he learned of the death of Count Nicolai Rezanoff on the icy steppes of Russia, and bore the message back to California where he hoped to meet the Count's lover, Conception Arguello. This love story is famous in early California history. When Sir George arrived at Mission Santa Barbara, he met Conception Arguello and told her the story of the death of her Russian lover. He left the sad scene to walk into the cloister garden nearby. There he saw the marigold, wallflower, jonquil, lily, hollyhock, and violet. Just like some writers, he added "etc.," so we are forced to use our imagination as to what other flowers were planted in Spanish California days.

The Spanish missions of California were secularized about 1835, and most of the mission grounds fell into private hands. The brother of General Vallejo secured possession of the grounds around Mission San Jose in 1836. The General's niece, Guadalupe Vallejo, wrote about what was planted in her father's (J. J. Vallejo's) garden. She told about bringing in the nasturtium from Mexico. There were also lilies, violets, and pinks. They had two kinds of roses, mostly pink, but also a white rose. A daughter of Bernal married George Kottinger at Pleasanton and the couple planted a Cherokee rose at their adobe entrance in 1852; so the white rose of those days may have been the Cherokee [*Rosa laevigata*]. The pink rose was the old Castilian rose, *Rosa damascena* var. *trigintipetala* [aka 'Kazanlik'].

The Spanish brought in the pepper tree, *Schinus molle*, to Mission San Luis Rey about 1825 but it may have been grown in California before that date. The oleander was not grown commonly until the American period after 1850, and the same may be said of *Myrtus communis*. The angel's-trumpet (*Datura* sp.) may have been in California before 1850, as well as periwinkle and the lemon verbena.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848, people from all over the world were attracted. Soon these people found that homes were not really homes without flowers, so naturally they imported seeds and plants from their home countries — American, En-

glish, Irish, French, Australian, and Chinese plants being imported at the time. The first seedsmen and nurserymen were American. Colonel Joseph L. L. F. Warren had operated his nursery near Boston for many years before coming to California in 1849. A copy of his 1844 catalogue in Massachusetts bears evidence of a large number of fine ornamentals he grew long before he came to California, such as five kinds of Australian acacias, sixty kinds of camellias, and other listings just as interesting, including the 'Lisbon' lemon and strelitzia. He was responsible for starting the first flower show at Sacramento in 1852, and he helped with the San Francisco flower shows in 1853



Original pepper tree at Mission San Luis Rey

and 1854. He was the first grower of camellias in California while in Sacramento, and that city is still known as the camellia city. A. P. Smith also grew the camellia in Sacramento.

Among the men who found their way to California in 1849 was an attorney and later nurseryman, William C. Walker, of San Francisco. The manuscript of his nursery catalogue of 1848-1849 is owned by Miss Alice Eastwood of the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco and it shows that William C. Walker was among the first to bring in Australian plants, such as the acacia, eucalyptus, and many others. He obtained many of his plants and seeds from M. Guilfoyle, father of William Guilfoyle who helped found Melbourne Botanical Garden. The Doubleday Nursery of Guilfoyle was located in the suburbs of Sydney, Australia.

The 1854 flower show in San Francisco had many familiar faces of the flower world. Mrs. G. V. Gillespie, whose husband was on the Vigilante Committee, exhibited twenty-four kinds of fuchsias, four-

teen geraniums, seventeen roses, ten calceolarias, five kinds of acacias, and quite a few other kinds of flowers. William C. Walker had such acacias as *A. dealbata*, *A. decurrens*, and *A. verticillata*. He even exhibited *Calliandra tweedii* in 1854 along with *Pittosporum undulatum* and a surprising long list of other flowers. The Sonntag Company included among their roses in 1854 the 'Green Rose', [*Rosa chinensis viridiflora*] as well as 'Lamarque', 'Solfaterre', 'Agrippina', 'Safrano', and other popular roses of that day. The women helped decorate just as they do today. Mrs. Gillespie was the first to grow the Australian acacia from seed in California, according to Colonel Warren.

Among the common trees along the coast today in California is the eucalyptus, particularly the blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*). The eucalyptus is not a native tree, and was not in California during the Spanish period. Evidence shows it was first grown in California about 1855, since young trees were offered for sale by the Shellmound Nurseries of Oakland in 1856. William C. Walker of San Francisco, offered three kinds in 1858. Stephen Nolan of Oakland listed many kinds by 1871. M. Guilfoyle, of Sydney was among those who furnished seeds. Small growing plants came in by boat up to 1865 or later. In southern California, eucalyptus trees were found on the Sunnyslope Farm of Leonard J. Rose, near the present Pasadena, which he purchased from William Wolfskill about 1860.

William Wolfskill of Los Angeles is reported to have planted eucalyptus trees on Rancho Santa Anita, to furnish shade for cattle. The old trees about the Rancho Santa Anita adobe near Arcadia are said to have been planted by Wolfskill, although the trees along Baldwin Avenue to the south were planted by E. J. Baldwin after he purchased the rancho. In any case, the eucalyptus was first planted in California during the 1850's and 1860's and seed as well as plants came from Australia.

We should not assume that all Australian plants came directly to California from Australia. *Chorizema varium*, for example, was imported by William C. Walker from Vilmorin in France, and not from Australia. Nurserymen in the Eastern part of the United States as well as in England and France were much

interested in exotic plants and sent out plant explorers to bring back worthy plant materials. A good many tender plants were brought to nurseries on the Atlantic coast well before they came to California. John Saul of Washington, D.C., of the Saul family that took over the old Downing Nursery at New Rochelle, N.Y., established his nursery in 1852 and there grew many unusual ornamentals. For example, his 1893 catalogue listed *Oxera pulchella*, a winter-flowering vine seen in southern California. He also had *Myrica rubra*, *Aglaonema simplex* (Chinese evergreen), *Strelitzia augusta*, and *Cedrela sinensis*, ornamentals sometimes grown in mild parts of California. He had to grow these in a greenhouse but they are grown outside in frost-free areas of California, excepting the Chinese evergreen which is a house plant.

The pioneer nurserymen were followed by others who kept up the search for something new or something better. Edward L. Reimera, F. Ludemann, John McClaren, and others in San Francisco; James Hutchison and W. F. Kelsey of Oakland; E. O. Fenzi (Dr. Franceschi) of Santa Barbara; Theodosia B. Shepherd of Ventura; and Ozro W. Childs of Los Angeles continued interest in new ornamentals. Still later, nurserymen like Miss Kate Sessions of San Diego, E. O. Orpet of Santa Barbara, Hugh Evans of West Los Angeles, John Armstrong of Ontario, W. B. Clarke of San Jose, and many others have done a fine job of finding and

breeding new kinds of flowering plants. Members of the younger generation are continuing this important work and we will hear more from them. All of us in some measure can help maintain early garden traditions, regardless of where we live. Gardeners in each state should record the work of their pioneer gardeners and horticulturists, showing our horticultural background and who is who in this field. If we are to learn most efficiently we must stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before and make the most of the lessons of that horticultural records can furnish.

—Harry M. Butterfield, *Pioneer American Gardening, 1951, produced by the National Council of State Garden Clubs*



3733. *Strelitzia Reginae*. (×¼)

## BOOK REVIEW

### ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

**Grandmother's Garden: The Old-Fashioned American Garden 1865-1915.** May Brawley Hill, (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 1995), 240 pp.

*Grandmother's Garden* is a book many of us may have overlooked simply because of a title suggesting family photographs and reminiscences. Instead, May Brawley Hill, an art historian, has written a fascinating account of the American cottage garden and demonstrates that between 1865 and 1915 it was independent of British precedents and did not rely on the writings of William Robinson, Gertrude Jekyll, and others. She also argues that it coincided with a remarkable number of paintings with titles such as 'The Old Fashioned Garden', 'Grandmother's Garden', and 'The Old Garden', hence, the title of the book.

The perennial borders, sequential plantings, and pictorial orchestration of color and structure in the cottage gardens of the period grew out of the nostalgia for colonial gardens. Hill has uncovered early photographs of the gardens which inspired the flowery paintings and draws parallels to literary sources as well. These were not grand Victorian gardens with bedding plants or the later recreations of French and Italian models. They were the gardens of comfortable, well-educated people with the leisure to pursue horticultural and aesthetic interests.

The book begins with discussion of colonial gardens and their nineteenth-century revival and includes chapters on the literary antecedents, artists' gardens, and the Arts and Crafts movement. This discussion primarily revolves around paintings and gardens from New York and New England, including Celia Thaxter's garden painted by Childe Hassam at Appledore Island, Maine. Most of the gardens and painters are less well known. Later chapters trace regional examples of these paintings and gardens in the mid-Atlantic states, the south, the midwest and frontier, and the Pacific coast.

Her final chapter focuses on gardens and paintings of northern and southern California. Cottage gardens abounded in California on a small scale in suburban situations and on a larger scale in rustic country properties and suburban farms. Garden paintings, however, are scarce in California, primarily, I suspect, because the painters were so entranced by the natural landscape of mountains and coastline that they

rarely looked inward. Hill only scratches the surface in California. The early interest in native plants and xeriscapes is discussed while the more popular nurserymen who developed varieties of hardy plants for the Mediterranean climate are ignored.

*Grandmother's*

*Garden* presents a marvelous view of a vernacular American tradition which historians have claimed does not exist. It is well written and beautifully illustrated. Its biggest shortcoming is that it does not frame the vernacular within a broader context of mainstream landscape designers. The California material is thin by comparison with other regions and Hill overlooks many sources, but the book is highly recommended as an introduction to these remarkable gardens.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

The Editor invite members to send in reviews of books such as the following:

*The Gardens of Filoli*, Christopher McMahon, soft cover, \$19.95, a photographic tribute?

*The Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1905-1949: Personal Recollections of William Hertrich*. Mr. Hertrich was Superintendent of the Huntington Botanical Gardens from 1905 to 1948. \$12.95

*Landscaping the American Dream*, James Yoch 1989, Harry N. Abrams, Inc./Sagapress, Inc. Mr. Yoch's biography of his cousin Florence. Price?

*The Golden Age of American Gardens: Proud Owners, Private Estates, 1890-1940*, Griswold and Weller. 1991, Harry N. Abrams, Inc., \$67.50. With specific reference to the California section.



DR. FRANCESCHI

## BOOKS FOR COLLECTORS

In December, the Editor received a copy of the current catalogue (No. XI) from Quest Rare Books, 774 Santa Ynez, Stanford, CA 94305 650-324-3119. Owner Gretl Meier is a member of our organization. Many of the books listed are first editions and thus a bit pricey, but may be just what you've been wanting. Pertinent titles found:

*The Garden Book of California*, Belle Sumner Angier, 1906; *Early Uses of California Plants*, Edward K. Balls, 1975; *Gardens Are For People*, Thomas Church, 1955; *Your Private World*, Thomas Church, 1969; *Gardens in America*, Marion Cran, 1932—includes "some decidedly distinctive chapters (and photos) on California gardens"; *Native Plants of California Gardens*, Lee W. Lenz, 1956; *Five California Architects*, Esther McCoy, 1960—includes Maybeck, Irving Gill, Charles and Henry Greene and R. M. Schinkler. "Gill, particularly was especially concerned with arcade walks, trellis structures that linked buildings to their gardens; the Greenes treated gardens as parts of the total design and a complete harmony of all elements"; *The San Diego Garden Fair*, Eugene Neuhaus, 1916 - the Panama California International Exposition.

Two other dealers in quality used books on horticulture who welcome your enquiries are:

VLT Gardner is owned by CG&LHS member Virginia Gardner, 625 East Victoria St, Santa Barbara CA 93103 805-966-0246. You may already be aware Virginia was responsible for getting two very important books reprinted: Victoria Padilla's classic work, *Southwestern California Gardens* (1961), and *California Gardens*, by Winifred Starr Dobyns (1931). Virginia's husband, Theodore Roosevelt Gardner II, is the author of another noteworthy book, *Lotusland: A Photographic Odyssey*. VLT Gardner does not put out a catalog, but you can call or write them with your shopping list, and from their selection of some 8,000 horticultural and botanical titles, they can probably come up with what you want.

Bell's Books, 536 Emerson St, Palo Alto, CA 94301 650-323-7822, also carries a wide variety of new and used books on horticultural topics. If you love horticulture and books, you will enjoy talking with Barbara Worl at Bell's. On their shelves in De-

cember were several of the Sydney Mitchell books, including *Gardening in California* (1923) and *Your California Garden and Mine* (1947). Barbara remembers that Mitchell was a librarian at UC Berkeley and one of the founding members of the California Horticultural Society. He was responsible for introducing *Cistus* and many other foreign plants to California gardens.

Also found at Bell's were *California Garden Flowers - Shrubs, Trees and Vines* (1914) by Wickson, and Albert Wilson's *Distinctive Trees, Shrubs and Vines in Gardens of the San Francisco Peninsula* (1938). Barbara, who was a good friend of Wilson's, recalls that he taught for many years at Stanford until he was kicked out for the cardinal sin of turning 65 in the days when mandatory obsolescence was the rule. So he moved to Cabrillo College, who took a more lenient view of the usefulness of the aged, until such time as Stanford came to their senses and lured him back. He was in his 90's when he died in 1996, after a fall in the creek area behind his garden, while making one of his periodic inspections of the many trees he had planted along the banks there over the years. Wilson's private collection of horticultural books has been acquired by the Sterling Library of Landscape Architecture at Filoli.

## TWO JOURNALS TO CONSIDER

You may find *Traditional Gardening - A Journal of Practical Information on Creating and Restoring Classic Gardens for Houses of All Ages* of some interest. It is oriented towards the east coast, but has some useful material, such as a recent article on wood fence and gate styles. The Editor is Michael D. Weishan, \$24 for four issues, c/o The Barn at 189 Cordaville Road, Southborough MA 01772. Their website is ([traditionalgardening.com](http://traditionalgardening.com)).

They are presently working towards a TV show, to be called *This Old Yard*™. "As currently envisioned, *This Old Yard*™ will be a half-hour program, based around a project house...Each show will be full of useful gardening tips, interesting plant lore, growing information and practical examples of everything from historic terrace designs, to how to plant an heirloom vegetable garden, to what to do with that eyesore of a fence by the garage. We also plan to talk about a wide range of landscape periods." If all goes well, the

show should air some time this fall, to be followed by a book in the spring of 1999 from Ballantine, *This Old Yard: A Practical Guide to Creating and Restoring Authentic American Gardens for Houses of All Ages*.

Would some member keep an eye out for these and review them for us when appropriate?

And do you know about the *Journal of Garden History*? It is described in Barton's *Gardening By Mail* as "...an international journal with a multi-disciplinary approach to garden history." Cost of membership (including four journals) is \$70 per year. We haven't seen it yet so don't know if you would consider it worth the expense. Any member who is already a subscriber or decides to take the plunge feel free to contribute comments for later publication. If interested in subscribing, write to Taylor & Francis, Inc., 1900 Frost Road, Suite 101, Bristol, PA 19007.

"It is not important for a garden to be beautiful. It is extremely important for the gardener to think it a fair substitute for Eden."

—Henry Mitchell

## ODDS & ENDS

### Errata

Please correct the address given for Laurie Hannah in our last issue to 644 Orchard Avenue, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

Also please note in your copy of our California Archives the following changes for our first listing, the Helen Crocker Russell Horticultural Library at the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park. They now have more than 18,000 volumes to choose from (not 14,000) and their correct phone number is 415-661-1316, ext. 303. Thanks to the Library for sending in these corrections.

In our last issue, the Editor made reference to Charles Francis Saunders as a horticulturalist from Santa Barbara — a result of some muddled note-taking at the Huntington conference. Laurie Hannah kindly pointed out he was, in fact, an amateur botanist, naturalist and writer of such books as *Trees and Shrubs of California Gardens* (1926), who lived in Pasadena.

### Horticultural Colleges In Your Area?

If your local college has a horticulture department,

please send the name and address to the Editor. We'd like to send a copy of **Eden** to each of these departments to let them know of our existence. Could we get a list of colleges who offer degrees in Landscape Architecture and/or related areas too? We already know about the hort. dept. at Merritt College in Oakland and the one at Diablo Valley College in Contra Costa. UC Davis is already a subscriber. Others??

## INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

Kathleen Craig directs webbies' attention to the Bay Area Gardener, an information resource site for local gardening enthusiasts. It includes an extensive calendar of horticultural events, and there is a page for horticultural job openings, both paid and volunteer. Set your browser to <http://www.gardens.com>.

## COMING EVENTS

**March 26 - March 29:** The **1998 San Francisco Garden Show** (formerly the SF Landscape Show) has been moved to the Cow Palace this year. The Board decided CG&LHS could not create and man an entire exhibit this year, but we will "sub-let" a portion of the educational exhibit for Heritage Roses Group and distribute brochures for CG&LHS. The booth number is 1706 and that is in the northeast corner of the North Hall. Stop by and say hello.

On **June 1st**, the Museum of San Diego History, Casa de Balboa Park, will open an exhibition featuring "**Samuel Parsons, Jr. — The Art of Landscape Architecture**," curated by Charles A. Birnbaum and originally sponsored by the Catalog of Landscape Records at Wave Hill, NY. Parsons, Jr., the son of Samuel B. Parsons, New York nurseryman and author, (*Parsons On The Rose*, 1882), was the first landscape architect to design a plan for Balboa Park.

In her book, *Southern California Gardens* (1961), Victoria Padilla says only that George Marston, the wealthy owner of the city's leading department store, "...hired at his own expense one of the leading landscape architects in the United States to come West to draw up the preliminary plans for the proposed park and to inaugurate its development." Parsons, Jr. served the City of New York for some 30 years, (primarily in the Parks Department), maintained his own

private practice, Parsons & Co., was a prolific writer of both articles and books, and is credited with being the main force behind the establishment of the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1899. He was elected its first Vice President, and later served two terms as President.

This exhibition is to be just one part of a larger show, **THE PARK, THE PLANS, THE PEOPLE: A Retrospective Exhibit of Balboa Park, 1868 - 1998**, curated by Sally West, Assistant Archivist at the Museum.

"In the Spring of 1998, the City of San Diego will celebrate the horticultural heritage of its world-famous park. With the dedication of a statue honoring Kate Sessions, 'The Mother of Balboa Park,' the recent completion of extensive restorations to the Plaza de Panama, House of Charm and the House of Hospitality buildings and gardens, the Museum of San Diego History joins in commemorating the visionaries who helped shape the evolution of the park. The Museum will not only host the [Parsons] exhibit, but will enlarge it to include photographs, plans and other artifacts from our collections interpreting the work of the many botanists, planners, landscape architects and horticulturalists who have made our park what it is today."

The exhibit will run through February 15, 1999. The Museum is open from 10 am to 4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 619-232-6203.

## PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISIT

Christy O'Hara has already increased the scope of the Correspondent's job by providing us with a list of Central Coast gardens of historical interest. It seems to us this could be another list or brochure, unless something like it already exists somewhere? Of course, there are many booklets on California gardens to visit, but with a historical accent? If such does exist, notify the Editor. If not, would the other Regional Correspondents please provide us with similar lists, and other members please chip in with your own contributions to the list.

We could also feature one garden in depth per issue, describing the particular things of interest known about each, if somebody is willing to write them up. If there are already known articles on any of them in other publications, perhaps we could reprint those here.

We already have the beginnings of lists for Berkeley, San Marino, Pasadena, Arcadia, La Cañada-Flintridge and Los Angeles from the handouts given us at previous conferences. We could include them in future issues if members are in favor of the idea.

Here is Christy's list:

### San Simeon:

#### **Hearst Castle**, Highway 1, San Simeon

Daily guided tours of house and gardens. Christmas evening tours begin in mid-December. The estate is decorated for Christmas, with actors interacting within house in period dress.

### San Luis Obispo:

#### **Dallidet Adobe**, 1853 San Luis Obispo

Adobe with restored gardens. The garden is shaded by redwood trees; it features California native plants and also a collection of horse-drawn vehicles. Events include Victorian Christmas and Heritage Day, July 4th-ish. Pacific and Toro Streets, June through September, Sundays only, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm. Admission by donation.

#### **Jack House and Gardens**, 536 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo

1880 Victorian house built

by Robert and Nellie Hollister Jack. The gardens are described as "old-fashioned" and "Victorian", with the historical assets consisting of the many large, unique and unusual 100-year-old trees in the garden, including *Citrus x limonia* (Rangpur Lime), *Bauhinia forficata* (Brazilian Butterfly Tree) and *Ginkgo biloba*.



1641 Ginkgo leaves and fruit.

**San Luis Obispo Botanical Garden**, Dairy Creek Road, off Highway 101, San Luis Obispo

This is a new 150-acre botanical garden slated to be completed in 2003. Currently there is a one-acre Preview Garden on exhibit. Interpretive plans indicate there will be a representation of the five Mediterranean climate regions, the human interaction with Mediterranean climate plants and water conservation. There are on-site educational workshops as well as an October plant sale and a Garden Festival on Mother's Day weekend. See their web site at [www.fix.net/~cdills/slogarden/](http://www.fix.net/~cdills/slogarden/)

#### Lompoc:

**Mission La Purisima Concepcion**, Junction of Route 246 and Lompoc-Casmalia Road, 805-733-3713

Open daily from 10 am - 5 pm. Annual Founding Celebration in December.

#### Santa Barbara:

**Lotusland**, 695 Ashley Road, Santa Barbara, CA 805-969-3767

Open Wednesday - Saturday by group appointments only. Closed from November - February.

**Casa del Herrero**, 1387 East Valley Road, Montecito, CA 93108, 805-565-5653

This 70-year-old estate is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has been noted as one of the finest examples of a Spanish Colonial Revival style, having been designed by architect George Washington Smith. Beginning in 1925, the Moorish-style gardens were designed by landscape architect Ralph Stevens and horticulturist Peter Reidel. They display a series of walled gardens, paths, fountains and terraces aligned with the house to provide outdoor "rooms" while also offering views of the ocean and mountains from the estate. Docent-led tours offered twice weekly on Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 am and 2 pm. Reservations are required at least two months prior to tour date.

**Val Verde**, Montecito — not yet open to the public

This private estate's gardens were designed by Lockwood de Forest between 1926-39 and much of the original design is extant. It was described as follows in the Garden Conservancy's newsletter:

Val Verde is a 17-acre estate listed on the Na-

tional Register of Historic Places and State Landmarks located near Santa Barbara. The house was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in 1869. The estate passed from owner to owner, each contributing to the development of the property. The magnificence of Val Verde's gardens, however, can be attributed to Wright S. Ludington, who commissioned Lockwood de Forest, Jr. to revamp the grounds in the late 1920s. De Forest worked on Val Verde the rest of his life, creating the masterpiece of his career.

**Update:** The planning process continues as preservationists hope to make this estate into a publicly visited historic site. Homeowners near the estate recently hired an attorney who claimed to have a conflicting expert opinion from Cal Trans with regard to initial permit allowances such as the effect of traffic into the neighborhood. Now, due to the conflict, an Environmental Impact Report is required by law with a hopeful completion date of March, 1998. Letters of support for the Val Verde application may still be sent to the Planning Commission, County of Santa Barbara, 123 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101.

#### **Addresses For Board Members**

President:

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#### **Illustrations In Order Of Appearance:**

Cover Photo: Kate Sessions, Horticulturalist,

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Page 3: Original Pepper Tree at Mission San Luis Rey,  
planted c. 1830

Page 4: *Strelitzia Reginae*

Page 5: Dr. Franceschi, Horticulturalist

Page 8: Ginkgo leaves and fruit

Photos are reprinted courtesy of Padilla's *Southern California Gardens*, (1961), and drawings from Bailey's *The Standard Encyclopedia of Horticulture* (1958).

*California Garden and Landscape History Society*  
*Aims and Purposes*

To celebrate the beauty, wealth, and diversity of California gardens and landscapes.

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To aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California garden and landscape history.

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To identify, document, restore, and preserve gardens and landscapes depicting California's culture and history.

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To collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

\*

To visit on various occasions historical gardens, landscapes, archives and libraries in different parts of the State.

\*

To enjoy one another's company at meetings, garden visits, and other get-togethers.

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