



# EDEN



California Garden and Landscape History Society Journal

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

We had a very successful, though small, gathering for our Annual Meeting in Sacramento in early May. You will read more about it below. Roberta Burke worked very hard to make it all come together, and we thank her heartily! Many thanks also to Susan Chamberlin, our Publicity Chair, who sent out all the press releases for this event.

Many important matters were discussed at our Board Meeting on Friday and then brought before the group as a whole on Saturday. I want to summarize them here for those who care about the direction the organization is taking, but were unable to attend:

1. We now have our financial records on the Quicken software program. This makes it possible to categorize our expenses both according to traditional tax categories (advertising, postage, etc.) and as to which committee or function within the organization is using funds (newsletter, Board, etc.). The newsletter is expected to take about half of our annual income, maintaining and serving current members will consume most of the rest, and conferences are expected to be self-supporting. We have \$4,230.75 as a current balance in the Treasury. We have forms that should be used for reimbursement to ensure collection of the information needed for proper accounting. Please request these forms from the Treasurer or pick some up at meetings if you expect to have group-related expenses.

2. We are now a tax-exempt non-profit corporation in California. We are continuing the process to become federally exempt as well. When we have cleared all hurdles, we will be able to accept donations and entitle members to claim them as deductions on their income taxes. We will let you know when we have all clearances on the matter.

3. We have 130 members current with their dues. We discussed, voted on and adopted a new Family or Household Membership category. People in the same household can join together, receive one copy of *Eden*, and pay only one-half more than a regular membership. Currently this will be \$30/year. All participants in the Household Membership will qualify for member discounts for conference registration fees. Renewal forms will now have boxes to check for Individual or Household Membership status.

4. We discussed and voted to amend the Bylaws so that Officers and Board Members-at-Large serve for two-year terms. The Editor will be appointed, rather than elected, and serve at the discretion of the Board. It was agreed that Marlea is doing an excellent job and we will keep her!

5. We discussed and voted to move our Annual Meeting to the fall to make it easier for those of us who have so many spring commitments to attend. We'll try this for several years and then re-evaluate as necessary. Our next meeting, in fall of 1999, will be at Rancho Los Alamitos in Long Beach, chaired by Mary Morrissey, Curator of the Rancho's Rose Garden.

**ATTENTION MEMBERS:** A few of the registration checks from the Fall conference at the Huntington have been mislaid. They've never cleared the banks. If you issued a check for Huntington conference registration and it is still outstanding, we ask that you now issue a new check and send it to the Treasurer, Box 1075, Palo Alto, CA 94320-1075. The lost checks, being over six months old now, should be safe from cashing if found. However, if you would prefer to place a stop on your original check, you may subtract the cost of doing so from your registration fee since this was the organization's error. Thank you for your assistance.

6. We elected (in most cases, re-elected) a new Board of Directors, including Officers and Members-at-Large. Bill Grant, our Founder, will remain as Board Member Emeritus. Other Officers are as follows:

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | Mitzi VanSant                                  |
| Vice President           | Laurie Hannah                                  |
| Membership Secretary     | Barbara Barton                                 |
| Correspondence Secretary | Thea Gurns                                     |
| Treasurer                | Kathleen Craig                                 |
| Editor                   | Marlea Graham                                  |
| Members-at-Large         | Roberta Burke<br>Margaret Mori<br>John Blocker |

Lucy Warren resigned as Corresponding Secretary because of an impending move to the Midwest. "To know her is to love her," and we are all very sorry (Lucy included) that she is leaving our fair Eden. We thank her for all her hard work, and hope to have her back with us soon!

All of us who serve as Officers of this organization look forward to meeting more of you at our next Annual Meeting. In the meantime, look for the possibility of smaller, regional get-togethers with minimal costs (and expenses), designed to introduce the organization to interested potential members.

For example, in September, the San Francisco preservation organization, Heritage, is putting on a retrospective tour of gardens featured in Joan Hockaday's book *The Gardens of San Francisco*. We are considering holding a Board Meeting to coincide with this event and inviting members of CG&LHS to participate in the garden tour as a mini-conference, possibly adding on a guest speaker, or just sharing lunch and perhaps a bit of show and tell. See the Events section for date and details of the tour, and also Laurie Hannah's article on working with the Garden Club of America.

—Mitzi VanSant  
President

### SACRAMENTO - CITY OF CAMELLIAS: A REPORT ON OUR ANNUAL MEETING

Unfortunately, May is not the month to see the camellias blooming in Sacramento, but we did see and hear many other interesting things during this conference. Holding our meeting inside the historic Capitol building was an added bonus. This was

the first time many of us had ever been here, and the Editor, for one, felt that her tax dollars had been well-spent on the restoration. Many of the rooms have been set aside to serve as a museum of early state government. The office doors are kept open for viewing, and the furnishing are those which would have been seen in the early 1900's.

We listened to and learned from Maureen Gilmer, author of numerous gardening books, as she explained the development of "The California Mission Aesthetic - Rooted in Old World Religion." Her latest book, *Rooted in the Spirit*, demonstrates Western gardens spiritual connections with the past, beginning with the traditions of the Roman Empire, and extending through the development of Catholicism and the Garden of Eden concept to the California Missions. Maureen advised us her goal in writing is always to add the human connection, "...the stories which connect people to plants in ways which we find significant and memorable." In your travels around the state, you've no doubt noted and wondered about the many old farmhouses which have palm trees planted in their yards. We always thought they might have been door prizes at the World's Fair or something, but Maureen explained that, the Sacramento valley being covered with tule reeds growing well over six feet high in the 1800's, people planted tall palm trees near their houses to act as readily visible signpost indicators for people traveling on foot.

Noted botanist Fred Boutin, who, in conjunction with then Rose Curator John McGregor, established the famous collection of old roses at the Huntington in San Marino and began the tradition of biennial Symposia on Old Roses there, showed us what all the fuss over Heritage Roses is about. Fred was

#### DUES DUE???

Please check the date on your *Eden* newsletter label. Renewal dates are quarterly, relative to when you joined up. **If there is a big red star on your label and it shows 06/98 and it says "RENEWAL FORM ENCLOSED" next to your label and there is a colorful renewal form enclosed with your newsletter, guess what? Your dues are due now.** We want you to continue as a member of CG&LHS so please send your check for \$20.00 to Barbara Barton, Membership Secretary, Box 1338, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

responsible for successfully identifying and re-introducing the 1842 Hybrid Perpetual rose, 'La Reine', using old color plates from the Huntington's famous library collection. He also identified 'Belle Blanca', the white sport of the famous 1903 pink climber, 'Belle Portugaise', more commonly called 'Belle of Portugal'. 'Belle Blanca' now grows on one of several rose arches at the Huntington. Fred has distributed cuttings of roses he found in cemeteries and old homesteads to several specialist nurseries, thus ensuring the roses will be preserved, even if their original identities are never established again.

Such roses are given study names and sold under those names, listed in double quotes. The "Damask from Glendora" was one such rose Fred preserved. It remains widely popular due to its wonderful fragrance and repeat-blooming. Based on extensive research into old nursery catalogs and other sources, Fred now believes this rose may be the Portland Damask 'Joasine Hanet', listed by Sacramento's Washington Nursery as early as the 1850's. He has found it growing all over California and other parts of the Southwest as well. Fred supported Jean Travis in her idea of planting a collection of old roses at the

Sacramento Cemetery, and provided the Cemetery group with many of the old roses he has collected and preserved on his travels around California and other parts of the Southwest over a 30-year period.

Next, Canyon Creek Nursery's John Whittleston made us swoon with envy over his slides of beautiful and fragrant heritage violets. He brought along a posy of scented, antique violets and dianthus to delight our noses. Canyon Creek has extensive collections of both (as well as many other interesting perennials) and supplies plants to such national landmark sites as Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia. However, be warned that some of the most fragrant varieties of *Viola odorata* (the *Viola odorata* species) are also the

most susceptible to red spider mite and red gall midge damage. A systemic soil drench called **Merit** works but is costly. Plant stress (such as drought) makes the violets more susceptible to attack. *V. odorata* 'Royal Robe' is one cultivar which performs well and is not prone to attack, but it has little fragrance compared to the others in this class. Luckily, the Parma violets, which are considered the most fragrant of all, seem to be resistant to midges. 'Duchesse de Parme' is one of four Parma cultivars Canyon Creek stocks.

When the Indian Tribal Council's speaker proved unable to attend due to a last-minute family emergency, Fred and John treated us to an impromptu discussion of "Plants, Nurseries, Collectors and Plant Breeders of Renown". Alice Orr and Nova Leech were two famous plantswomen mentioned. Fred himself is well-known in the plant world for his collecting, breeding and/or introduction of such famous plants as *Salvia elegans* 'Honey Melon' and *S. 'Purple Majesty'* (a cross between *S. guaranitica* and *S. gesneraeflora* 'Tequila' which Fred produced at the Huntington in 1977), and *S. 'Indigo Spires'* as well as the lavender named in his honor.



Following the lectures, we then adjourned to Capitol Park's Arboretum and had a chance to enjoy the more than 300 arboreal treasures to be found there. We also saw some modern rose introductions in the American Rose Society test garden. [See Roberta Burke's article in the Summer, 1998 issue of Pacific Horticulture.] A delectable dinner at Frank Fat's, where some of us gorged on REAL banana cream pie (yum!), ended a delightful first day.

On Sunday morning, Barbara Oliva, dressed in period costume, treated us to a guided tour of the antique rose collection at the Sacramento Cemetery. One of Sacramento's first nurserymen, A. P. Smith, is buried there. Barbara was enacting the part of his

sister, also buried in the family plot. Barbara and her small band of stalwart helpers have worked very hard to make this collection work, and they've done an excellent job. Her latest accomplishment was to complete a very handsome catalog of the roses in the collection. New CG&LHS member Michael Larmer has been helping with installation and repair of the rose irrigation system. It is badly needed in this very sandy soil during the hottest summer months.



Those members with the itch to buy plants wandered over to the city's Farmer's Market, and to the nearby home nursery of Robert Hamm, who manages to cram a remarkable selection of unusual plants into a minuscule corner lot. His "hell-strips" are fully planted too, and he has begun expanding over to the elevated freeway embankment across the street. We went on from there to see the amazing color display of bearded iris in full bloom at Roris Gardens, and few got away from there without finding some treasures to take home. Some went on to visit Michael's Roses nearby, while others took up the more serious matter of lunch!

The strongest of the strong then proceeded to scour local used bookstores for treasures of a different sort, and a few paid a late visit to Daisy Mah's wonderful "rock" garden at Land Park. What a delight to the senses. Cries of "Look at this!" and "Do you know what that is?" rang in the air for a considerable time.

Monday morning, those who were able to remain in town toured the Sacramento City Archives and saw their amazing collection of artifacts, everything from clothing to furniture, 78-rpm records to horse-drawn buggies, old photographs to Chinese opera costumes. The State Library's California Room, and the City Library's Sacramento Room both have different collections from those kept here. For details on using this collection, see the insert page to be

added to your California Garden Archives List (distributed with the December, 1997 issue of *Eden*). If you have not received one of these and want one, send a SASE to the Editor at 100 Bear Oaks Drive, Martinez, CA 94553.

If you missed the conference:

Free maps for self-guided tours of the Capitol Building and Park can be obtained from docents inside the building. There is no charge for admission to the building.

You may obtain autographed copies of all

Maureen's books through her mail order business, Maureen Gilmer Books, P.O. Box 40, Dobbins, CA 95935 530-692-1876.

Roris Gardens is open to the public between April and June, when the iris are blooming. They are located at 8195 Bradshaw Road in Sacramento, between Gerber and Calvine Roads, near the intersection of Hwy 50 and Hwy 99. Write for their color catalog (\$5). Shipping season is from July 1 through September 30.

Sacramento Cemetery (10th and Broadway) is open to the public every day during daylight hours. The 10th Street entrance is closest to the old rose collection. Parking space is available inside. Best bloom time is mid-April to mid-May, with some repeat bloom in the fall, less during the hot, summer months. Most roses are labeled. Plant sale and guided tour is held in April.

fallen into disuse, was completely redesigned and replanted by Sacramento City Landscaper Daisy Mah. It is a beautiful garden of unusual perennials, shrubs, trees, annuals, and bulbs, displaying great attention to texture and color. There is much to see here.

Canyon Creek Nursery is a family-run operation. The nursery is open to visitors, but call first for a map or directions as they are somewhat out of the way. For a copy of their catalog, send \$2 to Canyon Creek Nursery, 3527 Dry Creek Road, Oroville, CA 95965 (530)533-2166. Fall shipping begins when the weather cools, September through November.

Those who find themselves violently attracted to violets should consider joining the International Violet Association. They publish a quarterly called *Sweet Times*. For more information, write to the Editor, Norma Beredjiklian, 12602 Millbank Way, Herndon, VA 20170.

Michael's Premier Roses is at 9739 Elder Creek Drive, Sacramento, CA 95829 916-369-7673. Write for a list of roses for sale, including some old rose types. He ships year-round in liners and one-gallon pots. Send a SASE to the Editor if you want a list of other nurseries supplying old roses.

—Marlea Graham  
Editor

*P.S. — Apologies for the June issue arriving in July! No valid excuses to offer, just mental and physical sloth induced by the end of rose season. Sorry.*

### **WORKING TOGETHER - ANOTHER POSSIBILITY FOR REGIONAL MEETINGS**

In an effort to preserve information and images of American gardens, the Garden Club of America encourages its members to photograph gardens in their communities. Those of you who attended our 1996 meeting in Santa Barbara may remember Anne Jones speaking about the Garden Club of America glass slide collection of historic gardens which is archived at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. In their June, 1998 newsletter, GCA chapters were encouraged to hold yearly meetings on garden design and garden history to make sure that documentation is an important activity nationwide.

This is where our organization can be of use. We have discussed the need to have smaller, regional meetings in addition to our annual, statewide meeting. Why not get together with your local GCA chap-

ter and jointly sponsor a meeting on some facet of local garden history with them? This will not only further the goals of both organizations but also serve to give our society further exposure and a chance to recruit new members. Don't forget to write me for copies of our brochure to distribute.

—Laurie Hannah

### **THOMAS CHURCH: THE GARDENS AND THE GARDENERS**

*Report on a symposium organized by Marc Trieb at the University of California at Berkeley, February 28.*

Thomas Church (1902-1978) is among the most widely known California landscape architects. His San Francisco office was the training ground for the generation of Douglas Baylis, Robert Royston, Lawrence Halprin, and many others. His books, *Gardens Are For People* (1955) and *Your Private World: A Study of Intimate Gardens* (1969), were highly influential, and frequent publication of his work in *House Beautiful*, *House and Garden*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, *Sunset*, and professional journals brought further acclaim.

Church was, without question, a talented designer. He studied at the University of California and Harvard in the 1920's. He thoroughly understood the principles of space in the landscape as well as the integration of house with garden, garden with landscape, and all that they imply. Church brought these concepts, which have driven great gardens throughout history, down from the heights of popes and princes into the world of affluent suburbanites and city dwellers. He designed as many as 2,000 private gardens in the San Francisco Bay Area alone. In the best of these, his hand is nearly invisible.

Marc Trieb, Professor of Architecture, presented a symposium in Berkeley to honor Church. Many of the houses in Trieb's 1995 exhibition of William Wurster's architectural work at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art were complemented by Church's gardens. In addition to Mr. Trieb, the morning participants included the landscape architect and writer, Dorothe Imbert and *Sunset* editor, Dan Gregory, talking about different aspects of Church's gardens. The afternoon was devoted to his gardeners, and began with a discussion among caretakers of well-known Church commissions: Jim Mace, gardener for the Meins in Woodside, David Sheppard, gardener for the Donnells in Sonoma, and Ron Herman, a landscape

architect who has restored and adapted several of Church's gardens in the 1990's. Charles Birnbaum, coordinator of the National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative concluded the day, stressing the fragility of work such as Church's and outlining his strategy for the preservation of modern gardens.

The symposium coincided with the gift of Church's papers to the Documents Collection of the College of Environmental Design at the University of California at Berkeley. These are being catalogued by their new archivist, Waverly Lowell, and should be available to researchers within a year. As Mr. Trieb pointed out, the study of Church is just beginning. Over the next two years, the College has plans for further symposia and traveling exhibitions, culled from the collection's thousands of Church drawings and photographs.

Although the speakers addressed important themes in his work, they did not fully explain Church's phenomenal success or how he captured the admiration of professional designers and clients alike. Perhaps Mr. Gregory came closest when he said Church offered "design without dogma," approaching each site and each client with a fresh view. A critical appreciation of Church's work is long overdue, particularly one which focuses on the force of his charisma and talent.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

## THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE

In the May, 1997 issue of *Landscape Architecture* magazine, author Jane Brown Gillette interviewed Charles Birnbaum, FASLA, and coordinator of the Historic Landscape Initiative, regarding the goals and objectives of the Initiative. Its "...chief product, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (called the *Guidelines* for short)[!]...establishes a continuum of treatments that correspond to the actual existing condition of the landscape and the desires and needs of contemporary users...The Historic Landscape Initiative 'was largely created because the *Guidelines* needed to be produced,' says Birnbaum." The *Guidelines* warn of the need to look at *all* landscapes historically, though to look historically does not necessarily mean to save everything automatically. Though they have been re-worked

in an attempt to make them more user-friendly, the *Guidelines* are still fairly stiff with bureaucratic language. "...A great deal of definition and repetition are necessary because the *Guidelines* are a policy statement...The introduction, explains Birnbaum, 'gets into issues that everyone needs to be thinking about: change and continuity, interpretation, management and maintenance, significance in history. These are the broader questions that we should ask ourselves about any landscape-preservation project.'"

The article sets out and defines the four "treatments" for landscape projects: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. It further describes how one decides which treatment is called for on a particular project. The four cultural landscape types are also defined and examples of each are given: historic site, (battlefields, presidential homes), historic designed landscape, (parks, campuses, estates), historic vernacular landscape, (rural historic districts, agricultural landscapes), and ethnographic landscape, (sacred religious site, massive geological structure).

"...As Birnbaum points out, 'we're very good at talking to ourselves. What we need to do now in preservation — especially because landscapes are so personal — is to get the message to the general public.' The most general audience imaginable is the target of *Connections: Preserving America's Landscape Legacy*, a one-hour film narrated by Angela Lansbury, directed by Gina Angelone, and produced by Birnbaum with the cosponsorship of the NPS, the ASLA, The Garden Conservancy, and the NPS Foundation among others...We hope that the message people will take away from the movie — the tag line, if you will — is that by looking at the land we can understand who we are, where we come from, and where we're going,' says Birnbaum. 'Embedded in that expression is the acknowledgment that we need to analyze the land to understand how it happened; then there will be a connection that will assure authenticity and honesty in the preservation work.'"

## A CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

Volunteers are needed to design, plant and maintain a Victorian-era flower and vegetable garden on the grounds of the Cohen-Bray House in the old Fruit Vale district of Oakland, named for the estate of pioneer orchardist Henderson Luelling, planter of California's first cherry and apple trees in the Sausal

Creek watershed. Local history buff Tom Armour says, "The Cohen-Bray estate is an amazing house and garden - almost untouched for the past 100 years. Kenneth G. Gilliland is a descendent of the Cohen-Bray family and still lives on the premises with his wife and grown son. The garden could be a knock-out with a little help and guidance." Expert horticulturalists are being recruited to participate, to offer their expertise on the use of late 19th-century gardening methods. If you can donate money, services or skills to this project, please contact the Victorian Preservation Center of Oakland, 5337 College Avenue, Suite 145, Oakland, CA 94618 510-532-0704. The Cohen-Bray House is located at 1440 - 29th Avenue in Oakland.

[Thanks to Tom Armour and the VPCO newsletter for information about this project.]

## BOOK REVIEWS

### ***The Gardens at Filoli***

Photographs by Christopher McMahon, text by Timmy Gallagher. Pomegranate Artbooks, San Francisco, 1994. 128 pages, 100+ color photographs. Available in hard cover, \$29.95, or soft cover, \$19.95 from the Filoli gift shop, and some book stores. [The Editor came across a copy at Black Oak Books in Berkeley recently. ISBN 1-56640-993-4.]

Filoli, the 654-acre Woodside property built for William Bowers Bourn II in 1915, has northern California's most intact showcase garden. Unlike many formal gardens of this date, Filoli is a country garden, not a suburban estate. This is emphasized by both the text and the photographs in this admirable book.

The author, Timmy Gallagher, has come to know Filoli well over a period of more than 50 years. Her research into its origins, done originally for the docent training manual, is presented here in a wonderfully succinct and enthusiastic essay introducing the history, design, and plants of the garden. She leaves us wanting more information about life at Filoli, a more critical analysis of its design, and certainly more about the astonishing plant collection.

The photographer, Christopher McMahon, was a member of the Filoli garden staff for nine years. More than 100 of his extensive collection of color photographs have been beautifully reproduced here. Many were taken at dawn, and all are heavy with

atmosphere. They are organized by season. Each is a work of art, and collectively they give a sense of the garden throughout the year. Filoli's architectural spaces and sequences are, however, lost.

The entire property is now owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and is open to the public, by appointment, most of the year. Their policies allow the garden to evolve, and the site now includes a separate visitors center and a landscape research library on the second floor of the house. [See the Archives List for details.]

—Margaretta J. Darnall

### ***Rustic Garden Architecture***

by Ralph Kylloe. Gibbs-Smith Publishing, Salt Lake City. Hard cover, 240 pages, 100 color photos, \$38.

This isn't really a review - we just want to let you know the resource exists in case it is what you happen to need for a design job or for your own garden. Mr. Kylloe is a professor at Tufts University, is regarded as the leading authority on rustic furniture, and has, apparently, written several other books on the subject. The current one includes an easy-to-follow section on making your own rustic furniture and architecture, from gazebos to garden benches. It also has information on where to obtain ready-made pieces.

### ***Gardening By Mail — A Source Book***

by Barbara J. Barton, Fifth Edition, October 1997, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, \$24.00, 400 pages, soft cover. If not available in your nearest bookstore, you may order direct from Tusker Press, Box 1338, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

The new *Gardening by Mail* is out!! The new *Gardening by Mail* is out!! The new *Gardening by Mail* is out!! Pardon us while we calm down, this is truly a momentous event. For us and many, many other gardeners, Barbara Barton's labor of love has been, in each of its incarnations, *absolutely indispensable*. The title page says it all: "A directory of mail-order resources for gardeners in the United States and Canada, including seed companies, nurseries, suppliers of all garden necessities and ornaments, horticultural and plant societies, magazines, libraries, and a list of useful books on plants and gardening." Actually, it doesn't *quite* say it all. Barbara Barton's experience as a librarian helped to make *Gardening by Mail* extremely "user-friendly," and the accuracy of the citations is outstanding. In short, we have nothing but the highest praise for this book.

There have been a few attempts to publish competing garden source books, but none has matched *Gardening by Mail* - the original and still the best! [Review reprinted from Hort Ideas, February, 1998]

### ODDS & ENDS

#### Found at the S.F. Garden Show:

Moore-Tinay Studio, 1609 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley 510-595-1884 specializes in fully restored wicker furniture circa 1890-1930. They offer a wide selection of arm chairs, rockers, planters, library tables, day beds, and full wicker suites. They will do searches for special pieces. Open weekdays by appointment, Saturdays from 9-5 and Sundays from 11-4.

We also found out that Foothill College, in Los Altos Hills, has a department of Ornamental Horticulture. They offer associate of science degrees in Nursery Management and Landscape Horticulture. To enquire about their program, you may call them at 650-949-7402. We've since learned there is a program at Marin JC too, and will tell you about it in our next issue.

#### What You Can Do To Help Make *Eden* Better

- Ok, ok, so you're not a writer. But you know about things, you hear about things, you receive notices of things to come, maybe have ideas about future articles you'd like to see. We'll call these tidbits. Enclosed with this newsletter is your very own Tidbit Postcard. It is already stamped and addressed to the Editor. All you have to do is write a few pertinent details about your tidbit and chuck it in the post office box. Who, when, what, where, why, how. Just the facts, or as many of them as you can squeeze onto one little card. A follow-up phone number so we can investigate further would help too. If you don't have an immediate tidbit to send, put the card in a safe place where you can easily find it again when wanted, and save it up until you have a tidbit for us. Thanks.

### COMING EVENTS

**Now through August 2, 1998** — The Western Sonoma County Historical Society presents a new exhibit at the West County Museum on **Goldridge Farm: Luther Burbank Comes to Sebastopol**. "Luther Burbank purchased Goldridge Farm near Sebastopol in December, 1885, and made it into one of the most famous farms in the world. Here he developed the Shasta daisy, thornless blackberries, the 'Santa Rosa' plum and

hundreds of other new fruits, vegetables and flowers. Historic photographs, original artifacts such as his bicycle and a huge 1916 wall map, and video copies of old newsreel footage tell the story of Luther Burbank and the Farm."



Bob Hornback, formerly with Muchas Grasses and curator of this exhibit, writes, "In 1885, Luther Burbank purchased a cottage and ten acres of farmland outside the township of Analy (now Sebastopol). He frequently stayed overnight at the Farm — where he conducted most of his plant breeding experiments — instead of making

the one and a half hour drive to his home in Santa Rosa, eight miles away. When the cottage was badly damaged in the 1906 earthquake, he replaced it with the present structure on the same site. After Burbank's death in 1926, his farm and cottage gradually deteriorated until the Western Sonoma County Historical Society began restoration work in 1980. The restored cottage and remaining three acres of Goldridge Farm are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

You may visit the farm and see up to thirty plantings of Burbank's unique hybrids. The farm is located next to the cemetery at 7781 Bodega Avenue (Hwy 12) at the intersection of Robinson Avenue. Off-street parking is available from Robinson Ave. Group tours are available by appointment (donations requested). Call 707-829-6711.

The Western Sonoma County Historical Society is located at 261 South Main Street (the old railroad station), Sebastopol, CA 95472 707-829-6711. Call for hours open. Donations welcomed.

**Now through February 15, 1999** — The Museum of San Diego History, Casa de Balboa, Balboa Park, is having an exhibition featuring "**Samuel Parsons, Jr. — The Art of Landscape Architecture**," curated by Charles A. Birnbaum of the NPS. This exhibition is 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. The Museum is not only hosting the Parsons exhibit, but has enlarged it to include photographs, plans and other artifacts from their collections interpreting the work of the many botanists, planners, landscape architects and horticulturalists who have made the park what it is today. [See complete write-up in March, 1998 issue of Eden.] The Museum is open from 10 am to 4 pm on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. 619-232-6203.

**August 8 & 9** — You are invited to a tour the world-famous **Thompson Heather Garden at the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. High Tea will be served, including sandwiches, sweets, tea, wine and beer. Entrance fee, \$15.00 — a benefit for the Coast Community Library Building Fund. For advance ticket sales, call 707-882-2825. The garden has several other collection interest: heritage roses, salvias, species fuchsias and ivy. There is a nursery next to the gift shop and a restaurant adjacent to the gardens. Also go see the great demo garden at Cafe Beaujolais in Mendocino while you're up there. It's intended to show which plants grow well under the soil and weather conditions of the area.

**August 17 thru 20** — The Golden Gate National Parks Association invites you to register for the **1998 Historic Landscape Preservation Conference: Making Maintenance a Priority**. Please note the **deadline for registration** was supposed to be June 12, then was moved to July 1, but the conference is still not full, so if you contact them immediately, you may be able to get in. The conference is aimed at field maintenance personnel involved in the stewardship of cultural landscapes, but any interested party is welcome to attend. There will be a pre-conference "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (Presidio), and a choice of seven destinations for the Field Workshop (Golden Gate Park; Alcatraz Island/Presidio; Ardenwood/Dunsmuir House & Gardens; Filoli; John Muir/Eugene O'Neill Sites; Olema Valley/Point Reyes). Two days of classroom workshops will cover everything from "Rejuvenating Older Shrubs and Hedges" to "Maintaining Historic Pavements." Cost is \$75 including opening night reception and three lunches. To register, call 415-561-3030, ext. 2271, Maggie Perry, FAX: 415-561-3003, or write GGNPA, Attn: Landscape Workshop,

Building 201, 3rd Floor, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123.

**September 19 — The Gardens of San Francisco — 10 Years Later**. Heritage, San Francisco's preservation organization, is offering a tour of gardens and historic houses to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the publication of *The Gardens of San Francisco* by Joan Hockaday. A natural link exists between Heritage's goal of the preservation of San Francisco's historic fabric and the preservation of the natural beauty which these gardens embody. Here is a sampling of some of the sights you will see on the tour:

The tour will be held from 12:00 to 4:00 pm, followed by a reception from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at one of the houses which will be open for the tour. Some of the garden designers will be there to talk about their designs, and others will be on hand in the gardens you will visit. For admission fees and transportation information, call Heritage at 415-441-3000 or visit our website at <http://www.sfheritage.org>. Reservations are required. Checks must be received by September 13, and places will be reserved in the order they are received. You are advised to wear safe and comfortable shoes, as there are many stairs at some of the sites.

—Marty Gordon

#### Addresses For Board Members

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Editor:

Marlea Graham, 100 Bear Oaks Dr, Martinez, CA 94553

#### Illustrations In Order Of Appearance:

COVER: Camperdown Elm at Filoli - Christopher McMahon in *The Gardens at Filoli*

*Viola odorata*, Major J.R.G. Gwatkin, The Linnean Society Library, London & *The Art of Botanical Illustration*, Lys de Bray Group Photo from Sacto Cemetery - Forget which member sent it, but thank you!

Luther Burbank, **Pacific Horticulture**, issue not noted.

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

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

\*

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

\*

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

\*

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

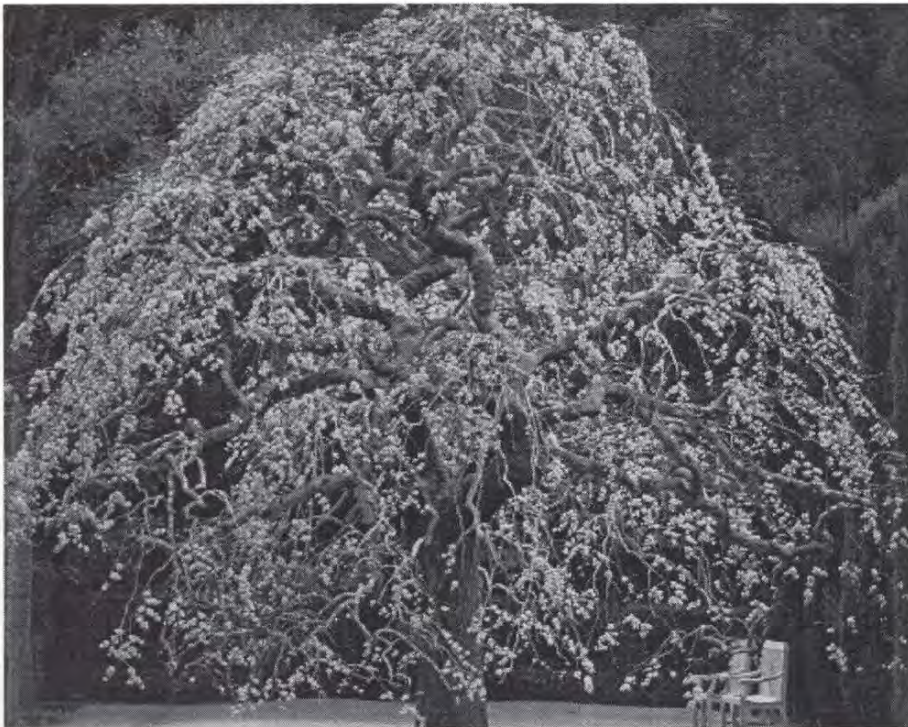
\*

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.

**California Garden & Landscape History Society**  
**P. O. Box 1338**  
**Sebastopol, CA 95473**



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