



## HISTORY OF THE SONOMA PLAZA

In 1823, Mission San Francisco de Solano was established in what is now the town of Sonoma. It was the last and northernmost of a chain of 21 Spanish missions stretching up the coast from the south. In 1834, all the missions were secularized, and Lt. Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo arrived from San Francisco with orders to establish a town following the directives for building in New Spain. Vallejo surveyed the site and elected to follow the classic Renaissance checkerboard pattern, leaving an eight-acre plaza at the town's center. This remains the largest of all the plazas ever built in California, and has been designated a national monument. Vallejo also laid out the wide central avenue (now called Broadway/Hwy 12) leading from the south to the center of the plaza.

The Bear Flag Revolt of 1846 took place in Sonoma, and a statue in the plaza commemorates that event, but Vallejo failed in his efforts to make Sonoma the county seat, and for many years, the plaza remained nothing but a place for weeds to grow and cattle to graze.

The railroad came to Sonoma in 1880, and on the north side of the plaza, a replica of the depot houses the Sonoma Valley Historical Society Museum. Also on the north side, at 414 First Street East, is the home of the Sonoma League of Historic Preservation. Their library is open from 1:30 to 4:30 PM Friday through Sunday.

Several blocks west of the Plaza, is the 63-acre Sonoma State Historical Park site encompassing the Victorian-style home and gardens of General Vallejo, called Lachryma Montis. Early photos of this and other properties in Sonoma may be seen at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley. The web-site is <http://www.oac.cdlib.org>. Search for Sonoma, Sobre Vista, Buena Vista, Lachryma Montis, and photo albums by Carleton Watkins, James Phelan and others will come up. The Graves Collection, Volume 48 also has many photos of Sonoma, but they are not yet on the web. You must visit in person to see them.

A new landscape master plan for Sonoma Plaza was submitted to the City Council in 1999, by Glen Ellen arborists James and Don MacNair. It called for exten-

sive plantings, a complete duck pond renovation, the use of some wrought-iron fences to protect plantings and redirect traffic, and an extensive tree replacement strategy. One urban myth we heard recently was that the trees in the park were planted by Jack London and Luther Burbank and were a collection representing every country in the world. James MacNair has not been able to substantiate that claim. Evidence suggests that the earliest plantings were probably eucalyptus and Monterey cypress, followed later mostly by elms, silver maples and sycamores. However, there are some 57 varieties still extant in the park today.

At least one suggestion in the MacNair plan was summarily rejected by the council: the removal of the lava rock fountain that fronts city hall at the middle of the Plaza. "I still have to live in this town," said then Mayor Louis Ramponi, in an article appearing in the *Sonoma Index-Tribune*. The lava rock fountain is known to date from at least 1912, and local historian Bob Cannard Sr. felt it was historically important to keep

the now-scarce rock that was once common to the Sonoma area in place. "This stone formed the foundation of nearly every one of the first buildings in Sonoma."

A plaque suggests that the Italian-style fountain in the photograph at left was installed in 1951, but MacNair and others believe it may date from the 1930s. It was restored by the Kiwanis in 1985. The photographer, Alexander



J. "Zan" Stark, (1890-1967) moved to California from Michigan in his early 20's, first living in San Francisco and then settling in Mill Valley sometime in the mid-1920s. He specialized in postcard photography and worked from the 1920s into the early 1950s under the name of Zan of Tamalpais. He photographed Pacific Coast scenery from Big Sur to Oregon, also San Francisco, Sonoma, Napa and Santa Cruz counties, the Sierras, and Nevada. He moved to Sonoma around 1952 and died there in 1967. Pat Hathaway holds more than 722 different Zan postcards in his collection located at 469 Pacific Street in Monterey. His web site is: [www.caviews.com](http://www.caviews.com).

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

It is the eve of Labor Day as I write this, and summer is already drawing to a close. In just a couple of weeks we will be gathering in the Sonoma wine country under fall skies to celebrate the 9th statewide meeting of CGLHS. I am very much looking forward to hearing our knowledgeable speakers and seeing the fabulous gardens lined up for us to visit. A special feature of this year's meeting is the presentation by Karen Adams on preserving cultural landscapes. The occasion for her talk arose out of the Preservation Committee's desire for us to add a preservation training component to our meeting, to enhance our members' knowledge of what historic preservation is and how best we can learn to document the landscapes and gardens of our diverse state. In future, we hope to offer a longer pre-conference workshop on the subject.

At this year's meeting, we will again allow time for committees and discussion groups to meet and plan the next year's activities. There will also be ample time for networking and announcements throughout the day. I encourage you to join a committee if you have not already done so. A core group of about twelve people (the Dirty Dozen!) has put in countless hours over the last six years to grow and nurture the Society, but our organization will greatly benefit from new perspectives, new levels of enthusiasm, and new faces.

See you in Sonoma!



IMPORTED SWISS CHARLET  
BROUGHT AROUND THE MORN AND ERECTED IN 1850 BY  
GENERAL VALLEJO

## GARDEN RESTORATION PROJECTS – WHAT NEEDS SAVING NOW?

### San Francisco: Sutro Heights Park

In our last issue, we mentioned the need for volunteers to work at the Sutro Heights Park in San Francisco. Since then, Susan La Franchi has sent us some additional information. Volunteer forms may be picked up at the garden on the second Saturday of each month. The forms must be filled out because of the possibility of liability/Worker's Compensation issues. Work sessions are from 10 AM to 12 PM. Volunteer orientation begins at 1 PM, after a potluck lunch. The main entrance to the grounds

is on 48th Avenue at Point Lobos. Susan's work phone number is 415.556.4256. Her hours are M-F, 7 AM to 3:30 PM, but she is mostly out in the field, so leave a message and she will return calls. She advises using the email address sutropark@hotmail.com for any park communications. Bring a hat, gloves and some food to share. If Saturdays don't work for you, Susan says you're welcome to come and see her at the garden on any weekday instead.

### San Francisco: Golden Gate Park

In his book, *The Making of Golden Gate Park, The Early Years: 1865-1906*, Raymond H. Clary pointed out one the biggest problem with preserving our city parks. Certain people don't seem to understand that the point of parks is to provide open space for the citizenry. Instead, they keep wanting to put more buildings in them. When the book was published in 1984, Clary pointed out that more than 28 acres of parkland are occupied by buildings, exclusive of necessary facilities like comfort stations and horticultural nursery buildings, and that more than 200 acres have been paved over. While perusing a great private web site dedicated to the park, we discovered that parkland is once again under the gun. They now want a huge new parking garage to handle the traffic for the deYoung Museum, which park purists never wanted there in the first place. Take a look at [www.sfpix.com](http://www.sfpix.com). Site owner Chris Duderstadt has lived near the park since he moved here in 1972 and he loves it passionately. There are also some great old postcards and photographs of the park.

### San Francisco: Coit Tower's Pioneer Park

Phoebe Cutler has informed us the small park area at the base of Coit Tower is due for restoration. Joe Butler is the man involved in this project and because of our Ulrich research into Arthur Brown Sr., builder of the first Hotel del Monte, we were able to inform Joe of two further sources of information at UC Berkeley. The Environmental Design Library has a dissertation on tower designer Arthur Brown Jr., (the firm was Bakewell & Brown and they also did some garden hardscape design work at Filoli in 1919) by Jeffry Thomas Tilman; the Bancroft Library holds the ABJ papers: 2 cartons of glass plate negatives in the Pictorial Collection, copies of original drawings and plans for Coit Tower, Filoli and many other B&B projects, and several envelopes of unspecified items. The collection came to the Bancroft from Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Jensen of San Francisco (Mrs. Jensen is one of ABJ's daughters) and has not yet been completely catalogued, but there is a partial finding aid based on index cards from Brown's office. His original design for Pioneer Park was apparently rejected initially, though portions of it were later adopted. The Bakewell papers are held at UC Santa Barbara, in the Archival Drawing Collection. And, in case you were wondering, there is no evidence to support the urban myth about the tower being designed to resemble a fire nozzle. These sorts of speculations sprang to life even before the tower



Coit Tower, San Francisco (1961)

was finished, but Tilman says, "If any analogy was applicable to its design, it was that of a Medieval defensive structure, such as those at San Giamangio, or as a lighthouse—Brown hoped a gas jet would light the night sky from the top of the tower." The suggestion that the tower was actually designed by Henry Howard is also blasted by Tilman. Though Howard did write an article on the tower for *Architect & Engineer*, "office records demonstrate that Howard worked on the project for only about two hours in the two years the project was in the office."

### Palo Alto: Hanna House

In 1937, Frank Lloyd Wright built Hanna House at 737 Frenchman's Road for Stanford professor Paul Hanna and his wife Jean. The American Institute of Architects designated it one of 17 out of 450 of Wright's designs that are most representative of his best work. In 1975, the Hannas gave the house to Stanford University. After the '89 earthquake compromised the house's foundation, roof and fireplace, a \$2.2 million seismic retrofit was needed. Completed in 1999, Hanna House was then opened to the public three days a month with docent-led tours. We have now heard that an application for funding to restore the gardens in in the works. "We think of ourselves as two-thirds done," says campus archaeologist and Hanna House board member Laura Jones, "but the last third may take five or ten years." Hour-long tours of Hanna House are offered on the first Sunday and the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. The cost is \$8 per person, plus \$3 for each parking permit. (Carpooling is encouraged.) Children under 12 are not allowed. For more information, call 650.725.8352 (recording only) or see the web site: [www.stanford.edu/dept/archplng/hannahouse.html](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/archplng/hannahouse.html). To make reservations, call Alana Doyle at 650.723.7773 or email [alana2@leland.stanford.edu](mailto:alana2@leland.stanford.edu). Please note that Sunday tours are already fully booked through Spring of 2002. [Excerpts from "The Wright Angle" by Christopher Hall, VIA magazine, Sept/Oct 2001.]

### Monterey: Marsh's Oriental Gardens

George Turner Marsh (1855-1932) was an ex-patriate Australian who had spent some time in the Far East and made his fortune in this country by selling Asian art. The Monterey shop was one of several, and opened for business in 1927. In his article, "Rashomon: the multiple histories of the Japanese Tea Garden at Golden Gate Park" (*Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*, Vol. 18 No. 2, April-June 1998, pp 93-119), Kendall H. Brown emphasizes the important place Marsh occupies in California garden history. "As a businessman who sold Japan literally and figuratively from his shops, Marsh profited by supplying Japanese culture to Californians." But in order to profit, Marsh had to first create the demand. "Central to Marsh's business was the creation of a public knowledgeable about Japanese culture and desirous of acquiring Japanese art." He began in 1876 with G. T. Marsh & Co.: Japanese Art Repository, a shop located inside the prestigious Palace Hotel in San Francisco. This pattern was repeated with branches at the Potter Hotel/Pasadena and the Ambassador Hotel/Los Angeles. But somewhere along the way, Marsh must have concluded that the best way to sell garden art was from a garden. "Marsh's construction of gardens in Mill Valley, Pasadena, Coronado and San Diego suggests that Japanese landscape architecture was central in his plan to acquaint Americans with Japanese culture." This also explains his involvement with the Japanese Tea Garden built for San Francisco's Mid-Winter Fair of 1894. At the Monterey store, Marsh built two gardens. The store was divided into two showrooms, with one devoted to Japanese items, and the other having a Chinese theme. The matching gardens were lo-



cated on either side of the building, so customers could look out of the windows of the Chinese room onto the Chinese garden, and vice versa. Examples of Chinese gardens in California are as scarce as hen's teeth. And Marsh's of Monterey is the only remaining site where we know any of his gardens still exist. In 1911, the Pasadena Japanese Garden was purchased—lock, stock and moon bridge—and moved to the Huntington estate in San Marino. The Coronado garden is now covered by buildings. The Mill Valley property burned down in 1925. The Hotel Green in Pasadena has been changed into apartments for seniors. Does anything remain of the tea

house and garden? Somehow we doubt it. What about the miniature Japanese landscape at Mission Cliff Gardens in San Diego? The Monterey gardens are located at Fremont Avenue and Camino El Estero, and just across from the Royal Presidio Chapel on Figueroa. Last year, the Marsh family announced the business would close as of May 2001. Then G. T. Turner II, grandson of the founder, died in September. The art museum had an opportunity to purchase the property, but could not afford it, given the renovations that would be needed. The property was sold to the Catholic Diocese of Monterey, who already own most of the land between Church Street and Camino El Estero from Fremont to Webster. There is talk of building a cathedral campus. The city has tried to suggest that the Diocese has outgrown the space it presently occupies and that a different location would be more suitable. Those who have experienced Monterey's tourist traffic jams will understand the problem, but the Diocese is not interested in moving elsewhere. Local historians agree that the Marsh building and gardens represent a period in our history and a cultural landmark that is significant and worthy of preservation. The city has asked the Diocese to show them a master plan for proposed development. They seem to be in no hurry to provide one. There are still other properties to be acquired before their dreams can be turned into reality. In the meantime, the Marsh building is decaying and the gardens are neglected. There is a suggestion that the intention may be to simply wait until it is all damaged past the point of affordable recall. There are many questions still to be answered about the history of this property. Frances Grate enquired among the local Asian community whether anyone remembered who had designed the gardens, and found nothing. Historian Kent Seevey has some reason to believe an architect from Mill Valley named Orin Peck may have designed the building, but that remains unconfirmed at this time. If other members can add anything useful, please let us know.

### **Santa Barbara: Val Verde's Status**

Following Superior Court Judge J. William McLafferty's decision, which essentially overturned the supervisor's July 1999 denial of the late Dr. Warren Austin's plan to turn Val Verde into a limited access garden museum, the most recent step taken by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in the matter of Val Verde was to file a petition to the State Court of Appeal for a writ of mandate. The Court of Appeal denied the petition in June, indicating the move was premature, possibly because Judge McLafferty has not finished ruling on the matter of damages. The Board still has the option to appeal the final Superior Court decision. In the meantime, it remains to be seen how Judge McLafferty will rule on the question of whether the county should pay monetary damages and attorney's fees to the Val Verde Foundation. The Foundation is asking for reimbursement of property taxes (plus interest) totaling some \$130,000 it had to pay when tax-exempt status was denied. If the Foundation wins this judgement, it is expected they will

also ask for reimbursement of another \$100,000 in attorney fees. The county can then make its appeal. In an effort to reach an acceptable agreement with the county, the Foundation has now submitted an application for a new conditional use permit to address traffic concerns. This proposal involves the use of shuttle buses to transport all visitors to and from the estate. However, the Board is apparently holding the hard line on this matter, because they have asked that Judge McLafferty not enforce his order for new hearings until the damages issue has been decided and the county has the opportunity to appeal the entire case. That certainly seems to suggest they are not interested in any kind of compromise agreement. *[Excerpts from an article by Eric Firpo and a letter from County counsel Shane Stark, both appearing in the Santa Barbara News-Press.]*

### **Santa Barbara: Saving Santa Claus**

Also taken from the *News-Press*, is an update by Chuck Schultz on the progress of the quest to preserve Santa Claus in Santa Barbara County, this first reported in our last issue. Last year, the county advisory board declared the figure to be a "structure of historic merit." Now current landowner Steve Kent and his wife have filed a lawsuit alleging they have been treated unfairly by county planners, and challenging the ruling that Santa is a "structure" requiring a coastal development permit before it can be moved or demolished. Kent further argues that the roof of the building that supports the figure, Santa's Kandy Kitchen, leaks badly and can't be repaired properly with Santa in place. He also cites it as an earthquake hazard. This 22-foot high Santa is said to weigh in at 10,000 pounds. This may be yet another case where the lawyers end up richer and the County poorer. Letters in support of preserving Santa Claus at Santa Claus Lane should be addressed to: Supervisor Naomi Schwartz, 1st District, 105 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101. Phone: 805.568.2186. Email: nschwar@co.santa-barbara.ca.us. Also see the web site: [www.save-santa.com](http://www.save-santa.com).

These two issues are causing a ripple effect in Santa Barbara County, and the Francheschi project can only add to the turmoil. The same concerns about traffic apply there, with the additional complication of the narrow and winding streets being located on the side of a very steep hill. Another environmental impact study will be required. One resident has already told the council, "If you restore this house you will destroy our neighborhood." How unutterably sad it is that instead of being proud of the wealth of horticultural heritage Santa Barbara possesses, so many of its citizens react only in fearful ways. In July, the *New-Press* reported that the chair and vice chair of the Santa Barbara County Historical Landmark Advisory Committee had both resigned. The ex-chair, Lompoc architectural historian Lex Palmer, stated "This really has been starting since the Val Verde decision, and ramped up from the Santa Claus deal. These were their opportunities to encourage preservation in the county and that hasn't happened." Only four people

remained on the 11-member panel and another member who had served on the committee for nearly a decade was also planning to quit soon thereafter. Committee members are all volunteers appointed by the county supervisors so they should soon have the "do-nothing" committee Mr. Palmer says they want. *[Many thanks to Kathryn Lyon who provided all the cuttings from the News-Press on these issues.]*

## TWO INTERNSHIPS OFFERED

### I.

This is from a flyer picked up at the recent Society of American Archivists meeting in Washington DC. From the Smithsonian Institution, Horticulture Services Division:

The Archives of American Gardens internship is designed to provide an intern with the opportunity to experience various components of archival collection management. Under the direction of Smithsonian Institution staff, the intern will work on various projects in the Archives of American Gardens (AAG), a growing collection that documents American garden design, landscape history, and horticulture.

The internship will provide experience in the following areas: collections registration, cataloging and description, research, development of finding aids, inventory, and basic preservation practices. Projects focus on organizing and processing photographic images, maintaining archival records, locating and verifying data for research or exhibition purposes, editing and checking the accuracy of electronic records, cataloging images and describing their content according to recognized standards, assisting with basic references, image digitiza-



*Pavilion at Mission Cliff Gardens*

tion, computer automation of the records collections, and preparing reports.

This experience will help interns learn the techniques and practices necessary to prepare archival collections for curators, staff, and outside researchers. It will also provide opportunities to understand ways in which intellectual and physical control of museum collections is achieved. No deadline dates were given. Contact address: Lauranne Nash, Arts and Industries Building, 900 Jefferson Drive SW, Room 2282, Washington DC 20560-0420. Phone: 202.357.1928. Email: nashla@opp.si.edu. *[Our thanks to Laurie Hannah for this information.]*

### II.

Excerpts from the Garden Conservancy announcement:

Applications are now being accepted for the fourth annual Marco Polo Stufano Garden Conservancy Fellowship. The 2002 fellowship offers an opportunity to work in the dramatic setting of Ruth Bancroft's renowned dry garden in Walnut Creek, CA, just over the hills from the San Francisco Bay Area. The Bancroft garden rises above the status of a collection to an exceptional demonstration of the art of garden design. The flagship project of the Garden Conservancy, the Bancroft garden has been open to the public since 1992 and presents an active calendar of tours and educational events. The fellowship winner will gain experience in hands-on gardening and in the techniques of managing a distinctive public garden and helping preserve it for the public's enjoyment and edification. The fellow will also complete a special project that will be of lasting benefit to the garden. Allowance is made for travel to other newly emerging public gardens.

This nine-month assignment begins in March 2002. Application deadline is October 31, 2001, and candidate interviews will be conducted in late November. The fellowship includes a stipend of \$24,000, some benefits and project expenses. Candidates should have a bachelor's degree in horticulture or a related subject or sufficient relevant practical experience. At least five years' experience is preferred. Applications from indi-

## SUSTAINING MEMBERS

*Our heartfelt thanks to those members who have helped to put us on solid financial ground by changing to Sustaining Members. We wish to take this opportunity to again ask this quarter's renewing members to consider becoming Sustaining Members by paying \$50 or more when you send in your dues.*

Helen Babb	Gail Jansen
John Blocker & Thea Gurns	Glenda Jones
Susan Chamberlin	Annie White Jones
Carol Coate	Carol McElwee
Kathleen Craig	Margaret Mori
Besty G. Fryberger	Sandra Price
Virginia Gardner	Michael Rendeau
Marlea Graham	Roy & Janet Taylor
Bill Grant	Lucy Tolmach
Frances Grate	Dick Turner
Laurie Hannah	Chris Van Dyke
Judy Horton	Noel Vernon
Marge Howard-Jones	Jacquoline Williams

viduals who have demonstrated success in other fields and are establishing themselves in horticulture and garden management and preservation are welcome. Contact address: Maria Walton, Garden Conservancy, P. O. Box 219, Cold Spring, New York 10516. Phone: 845.265.2029.

Email: mwalton@gardenconservancy.org.  
Web site: www.gardenconservancy.org.

## BOOKS REVIEWS & NEWS

*Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast*, Kendall H. Brown, photographs by Melba Levick (New York: Rizzoli, 1999), 176 pp. \$45.00.

*Japanese-Style Gardens of the Pacific West Coast* presents twenty of the most notable Japanese gardens accessible to the public between Vancouver and San Diego. They are shown chronologically, beginning with the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park and ending with the California Scenario at the South Coast Plaza Town Center in Costa Mesa. Ironically, it is only this most recent garden, designed by Isamu Noguchi in 1980, which is threatened with destruction.

The life-style book format with dramatically lit photographs and carefully composed details belies the content. The author, Kendall Brown, is a Japanese art scholar and brings an interesting perspective to this material. His twenty-page introduction is an excellent overview of the phenomenal interest in Japanese culture and gardens throughout North America since the late nineteenth century.

Brown makes it clear that these Japanese-style gardens say more about us than they do about Japan. He explores the numerous exposition gardens throughout the United States and Canada since 1876 and their impact on both commerce and fashion. At the same time, he exposes the mixing of traditional styles within these gardens and demonstrates how the gardens and pavilions have completely lost their original cultural associations



Tea Garden at Chicago World's Fair, 1893

and become little more than stage sets. Brown also introduces the important subject of the influence of Japanese aesthetics on modern architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Richard Neutra and on American landscape architects of the following generations, many of whom studied in Japan.

Brown has been unable to explore the wealth of private gardens and some of the individuals who were so influential in the popularity of these gardens within the confines of a life-style book. Yet, the twenty gardens he has selected do provide a reliable history and guide to Japanese-style gardens of the West Coast. Short texts explain the origins and transformations of each garden. The excellent notes to the introduction and short bibliographies on the individual gardens will help those who want to pursue the subject further.

—Margaretta J. Darnall

Elizabeth Mc Clintock has been writing articles for *Pacific Horticulture* on the *Trees of Golden Gate Park and San Francisco* for twenty-five years. Now seventy-one articles on 170 of these trees have been compiled into a softcover book published by Heyday Books. The list of others who contributed to this project reads like a *Who's Who* of horticulture for Northern California. Nancy Conner, who has a hand in so many worthy tasks, "tackled many parts of the project with her characteristic enthusiasm. Russell Beatty and Peter Ehrlich provided opening chapters giving readers the full history of the park's trees from the first plantings in the 1870s through the reforestation program begun in the early 1980s. Artists Nancy Baron, Lee Boerger, Kristin Jakob, Martha Kemp, and Mimi Osborne produced line drawings for approximately 100 of the trees that were not originally drawn for *PC* by Lee Adair Hastings, Leslie Bohm, Virginia Gregory, and Carolyn Mullinex. George Waters, Saxon Holt, Jerry Robinson, and Bill McNamara loaned color photographs of the trees to supplement those made available through the courtesy of the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture." We'll have a review of this book in our next issue. To order a copy, call the *PC* circulation desk at 510.849.1627. The book will also be available at the Strybing Arboretum Bookstore, through other sponsoring organizations, and at select bookstores in the Bay Area. Priced at \$18.95 plus tax, shipping & handling.

### New Titles of General Interest

*A Modern Arcadia: Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. and the Plan for Forest Hills Gardens* by Susan L. Klaus. Located in Queens, New York, Forest Hills Gardens is considered "a leading example of England's garden city transplanted onto American soil." Published by the University of Massachusetts Press in association with the Library of American Landscape History, Fall, 2001. This book may be ordered from the UMPress by phoning 413.545.2219 or by email: orders@umpress.umass.edu. Priced at \$39.95.

Two new releases from the ASLA's Centennial Reprint Series will be out this fall:

**Landscape Architecture, as Applied to the Wants of the West; with an Essay on Forest Planting on the Great Plains** by H. W. S. Cleveland (reprint of the 1873 edition), with a new introduction by Daniel J. Nadenicek and Lance M. Meckar to "illuminate Cleveland's distinctive 'organic' approach to landscape design." Priced at \$29.95.

**The Prairie Spirit of Landscape Gardening** by Wilhelm Miller (reprint of the 1915 edition) with a new introduction by Christopher Vernon. Priced at \$34.95.

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**A Brief History of Gardening** by Neil Fairbairn, 256 pages, full color photographs and illustrations throughout. Published by Rodale in 2001. Priced at \$30.00. Based only on our viewing of the ad in The Garden Book Club catalogue, this book appears to be formatted as a garden history time line, with small photos accompanying each brief paragraph on some more or less significant events in garden history.

**Landscape Architect's Portable Handbook** by Nicholas Dines and Kyle Brown, 443 pages, 300 b&w tables, charts, and drawings throughout. McGraw-Hill, 2001. Softcover, priced at \$54.95. This volume features field techniques, common rules of thumb, industry standards, codes, and energy efficiency guidelines, as well as dependable coverage of project administration, planning and design standards, analysis, site development, construction, and materials and unit costs. "An essential resource for all landscapers, planners, and contractors."

## COMING EVENTS

**September 22-23:** California Garden & Landscape History Society Annual Meeting and Conference, "Garden History of Sonoma County." Held at Trinity Episcopal Church, 275 East Spain Street, Sonoma. Contact address: Conference Chair Jenny Randall, 18403 Yale Court, Sonoma 95476. Email: jrandall@vom.com. Phone: Bill Grant 831.722.6836.

**September 27-29:** Thirteenth conference on Restoring Southern Gardens and Landscapes. "Cultivating History:

Exploring Horticultural Practices of the Southern Gardener." A distinguished list of speakers includes: Rudy Favretti, author of *Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings*; Peter Hatch, director of gardens and grounds for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation; Sally Reeves, whose latest book is a translation of Jacques-Felix Lelievre's *New Louisiana Gardener*, a French gardening manual published in New Orleans in 1838, and many more. The registration fee of \$250 includes all conference events, materials, tours, and three meals. Contact address: Conference Registrar Kay Bergey, Old Salem, Inc., P. O. Box F, Salem Station, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27108-0346. Phone: 336.721.7378.

Web site: [www.southerngardenhistory.org](http://www.southerngardenhistory.org).

**Plant sales abound in October.** If you're not already a subscriber, pick up a copy of the July/August/September issue of *Pacific Horticulture* for a complete list of these events.

**October 1:** The lecture at the Hotel del Monte has been postponed until sometime next spring.

**October 1-10:** Sandra Price's second tour this year is to the Gardens and Galleries of the French Riviera: Antibes, Menton, Monaco, Nice and more. The fee is \$3100, excluding airfare. Contact address: Galavant Price, 1275 Hudson Avenue, St. Helena, CA 94574. Phone: 707.963.9504. Email: pricea@interx.net.

**October 14-18:** 9th International Heritage Rose Conference at Charleston, South Carolina, followed by an optional two days (19th and 20th) of plantation garden tours. Speakers from around the world will focus on the history of the Noisette rose class, originating in Charleston, as well as other roses that thrive in Southern climates. Contact address: Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Box 975, Charleston, SC 29402. Phone: 803.853.8000.

**October 15-16:** The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is offering an updated Introduction to Section 106 Review, in partnership with the University of Nevada and Reno's Heritage Resources Management Program. This 2-day training program focuses on the requirements of Section 106 of NHPA, which applies any time a Federal or federally assisted project, action, program, or undertaking could affect a property listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Participants will learn the basic steps of the Section 106 review process and the procedures to follow in order to comply with the law. The course curriculum and materials reflect the revised regulations. Web site: <http://www.dce.unr.edu/hrm/sect106.htm>. Contact address: Heritage Resources Management Registration, College of Extended Studies/048, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89557-0024. Phone: 775.784.4062.

**October 16-21:** National Preservation Conference: Preserving the Spirit of Place. Providence, Rhode Island. Contact address: NTHP, 1785 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington DC 20036. Phone: 800.944.6847. Web site: <http://www.nthp.org/>.



The Grounds at El Venado Villa, Sonoma Co., Cal.

Lectures  
Luncheon  
and  
Garden  
Tours in  
Sonoma

Presented  
by  
the  
California  
Garden &  
Landscape  
History  
Society



GARDEN HISTORY  
of  
**SONOMA  
COUNTY**  
September 22-23

Saturday  
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& Sunday  
September 23  
2001

Contact  
Jenny  
Randall  
email:  
jsrandall@  
vom.com  
or phone:  
Bill Grant  
(831)  
722-6836

**October 18:** Fall Garden Medley in Sonoma County, a tour with Barbara and John Hopper from 8 AM to 6:30 PM, Strybing Arboretum Society. Fee \$130 (includes lunch); pre-registration required. Call 415.661.1316 ext 354, or see [www.strybing.org](http://www.strybing.org) for details.

**October 19:** "Creating a Mediterranean Garden with California in Mind—Inspired by the Wild," a slide lecture by Jeff Rosendale, proprietor of Sierra Azul Nursery in Watsonville. Jeff is this year's Dara Emery Memorial Lecturer at the Blaksley Library, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road, 6:30 PM. "A champion of regionally appropriate gardening in California, he is committed to the notion that gardening with the climate is easier than gardening against it." Proceeds from this lecture help fund a student internship in the Garden's Horticultural Department. Refreshments will be served in the courtyard preceding the lecture. Reservations are required. Please call the Garden Registrar at 805.682.4726 ext.102. Fee: \$15 for members; \$18 for non-members.

**October 20:** The 19th Annual South Coast Sustainable Landscape Fair, with experts on hand for demonstrations and recommendations, 11:30 AM to 4 PM, in the Garden Meadow at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road.

**October 25-28:** The 21st Annual Conference of the California Council for the Promotion of History, "2001: A Historical Odyssey," will be held at Long Beach. Contact address: Ellen Calomiris, Rancho Los Cerritos Historic Site, 4600 Virginia Road, Long Beach 90807. Phone: 562.570.1755. Email: [Elcalom@ci.long-beach.ca.us](mailto:Elcalom@ci.long-beach.ca.us).

**October 26-29:** The Australian Garden History Society's 2001 conference theme is "A Federation Odyssey: Australian Gardens and Landscapes 1890-1914." They are extending an invitation to other garden history societies around the world. In conjunction with the conference, the society is offering a 27-day tour of historic, native and contemporary gardens (October 11 through November 6). They're also offering shorter tours for those who can't take the whole month off. Keep in mind the seasons are reversed, so this is their spring. Contact address: Royal Botanic Gardens, Birdwood Avenue, South

Yarra, Victoria 3141, Australia.  
Web site: [www.vicnet.net.au/~aghs](http://www.vicnet.net.au/~aghs).  
Email: [georginawhitehead@bigpond.com](mailto:georginawhitehead@bigpond.com).

### Events in 2002

The directors of four historically significant Southern California landscapes are putting together a four-part educational program for next spring, called **Garden Heritage of Los Angeles County: Four Gardens, Four Stories, a Botanical Adventure**. Tim Lindsay, Director of the Virginia Robinson Garden writes:

"The four gardens are the Arboretum of Los Angeles County, the Virginia Robinson Garden, Descanso Gardens, and the South Coast Botanic Gardens. Each garden interprets its history within a specialized context of Southern California and each site has its own special and noteworthy botanical collection. It is however, when they are viewed as a single entity that the entire historic relevance is revealed.

The visual narrative begins at the County Arboretum with a rancho-era adobe and remnant landscapes of the first European settlers of Rancho Santa Anita in 1839 and follows further developments by a later owner into a world-class arboretum, from late 1800 until the mid-1900s. The chronology next goes to Beverly Hills, a boom town with towering palms lining gently curving streets and the opulent 1920s-era Virginia Robinson Estate and Garden. The owner of the first major dry goods store in Los Angeles built this Beverly Hills estate and garden. This Italian home and garden represents one of the West Coast's greatest examples of the estate-building era in the United States.

The next marker on our time line is Descanso Gardens. It represents one of the finest mid-20th-century gardens in Southern California. Central to this story are a visionary newspaper publisher, his long-time relationships with the Japanese community, and his conservation of many imported camellias brought to the West Coast by Japanese-Americans who were later relocated to inland camps for the duration of World War II. The final stop on this narrative is the South Coast Botanic Gardens—a coastal arboretum built on top of a municipal landfill. This garden tells the story of the late-20th-century environmental ideals of land reclamation and the many challenges associated with operating a public garden on such a site."

The program is planned for spring of 2002, and will take place on Saturdays, with the exception of the Virginia Robinson Garden, which will be held on Friday. *[Excerpt from the ASLA Historic Preservation newsletter. Our thanks to Margaret Mori who sent it. Tim Lindsay, who created the time line for this regional historical narrative, will keep us informed as more definite details become available.]*

**June 17-July 5:** Bill Grant's Last English Garden Tour. Nearly all of the 22 gardens feature roses. Penelope Hobhouse will entertain the group at her new garden. Roger Phillips will show his country garden. Charles Quest-Ritson, whose new book on climbing and ram-

bling roses is to expected to be published next year, will lead us through a garden of these roses. Other English gardeners will also take part in the tour. Contact address: Port of Travel, 9515 Soquel Drive, Suite 204, Aptos, CA 95003. Phone: 831.688.6004. Email: heidi@portoftravel.com. Bill is currently helping Phillips & Rix put together their new web site on roses.

**September 27-29** at Strybing in San Francisco and **October 4-6** at the L. A. County Arboretum. "Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies III." We have been informed that the Annual General Meeting of the Mediterranean Garden Society will be held in SoCal during the week between these two symposia.

## ENQUIRIES

Laurie Grano is writing a book on the subject of "lost" or abandoned gardens in the United States. She needs some suitable subjects from California to add to the book, preferably some that still have remaining hardscape that is photogenic. If you know of such a property, please contact her by email: LGRANO@aol.com or contact the Editor and the information will be passed along that way, Marlea Graham, 100 Bear Oaks Drive, Martinez 94553. Phone: 925.335.9156.

So far, no one has had anything helpful to pass along to Linda K. Melzer, who was looking for information on William Young Earle's home and garden in Azusa, near Pasadena. Do keep this name in mind if you are doing any research that impinges on that area. You may come across something useful for her along the way.

And Kim Hernandez, Research Historian for Heritage Square Museum in Pasadena, reports that she did get a couple of helpful responses to her enquiry for information on whether or not early Angelinos did much kitchen gardening. "My focus was specifically on gardening in Los Angeles in 1900. The eastern orientation of most late 19th century gardening literature created obvious



Wilcox Avenue, Los Angeles (1905)

difficulties for my project. What I did learn about the area came from early photographs, magazine articles, newspaper articles, and articles in historical journals. The most popular type of gardening in Los Angeles was floral and landscape gardening. People were obsessed with anything "tropical." Many different types of palm trees, yucca plants, pampas grass, and anything exotic were all very popular. Most of the city's fresh produce was being supplied on a daily basis through Chinese vegetable peddlers, who went from door to door and sold their products for very inexpensive prices. There were market and truck gardens all around the city. It is unlikely that there were many in the urban Los Angeles setting who kept a large kitchen garden at the time. Many thanks to those who responded."

## ODDS & ENDS

The July/August/September issue of *Pacific Horticulture* contains an article by CGLHS member Pamela Waterman on Nancy Goslee Power's new design for the Norton Simon Sculpture Garden in Pasadena. Based on what Pam has to say about the garden and the wonderful photographs that illustrate it, we suggest this is a garden you will want to see. "When the museum finished the lengthy remodeling, visitors came in the front lobby, looked out, and headed straight for the garden...The new garden is a great success, providing a lovely setting for the art collection and a comfortable place for people...Power is now planning a book on the project." The Norton Simon Museum is located at 411 West Colorado Boulevard, Pasadena. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 11 AM to 5 PM. There is an admission fee. Pam is currently working with Lisa Krueger on a book about the gardens of Pasadena.

Old House Gardens-Heirloom Bulbs new catalogue is available now. Scott Kunst ships in November, and they're already sold out of some rare gems, so don't delay. Sent \$2 to Old House Gardens-Heirloom Bulbs, 536 Third Street, Ann Arbor MI 48103. Or see the on-line catalogue at [www.oldhousegardens.com/](http://www.oldhousegardens.com/).

We must be doing something right. Three California gardens made "America's 10 Most Beautiful Gardens" in the April 2001 issue of *Homestyle* magazine. A panel of experts headed by the retiring director of Wave Hill, Marco Polo Stufano, listed Ganna Walska's Lotusland, Filoli Center in Woodside, and California Scenario, the threatened Noguchi sculpture garden in Costa Mesa, among the top ten. Santa Barbara's Botanic Garden was included in the list of "More Top Choices."

The Library of American Landscape History was founded in 1992, after Robin Karson's *Fletcher Steele, Landscape Architect* inspired preservation work at several properties designed by Steele. "We reasoned that well researched and engagingly written books would foster appreciation of American landscapes and thereby

encourage preservation of them. Nearly ten years—and ten books—later, LALH continues to educate an ever-widening circle of gardeners, land stewards, historians, and students of American landscape history.” The LALH exhibition featuring seven artistically significant American country places is titled “A Genius For Place: American Landscapes of the Country Place Era.” The tour is already booked in eastern locations for the next two years, though they hope to book a West Coast venue or two at some later point. Val Verde in Santa Barbara is one of the featured gardens. From October 6, 2001 to February 18, 2002, they are booked into the National Building Museum in Washington, DC, and for the spring and summer of 2002, they will be at Longue Vue House and Gardens in New Orleans. “A fully illustrated companion volume, written by Karson and published by University of Massachusetts Press in association with LALH, is planned for the near future.” Recently issued is the new Summer 2001 edition of their newsletter, titled *View*. While the newsletter is mailed free of charge on request, the LALH needs your help to support it and their publishing programs. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to LALH, 205 East Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA 01002.

## DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

*Please welcome these new members:*

*Edgehill Winery, 2585 Sulphur Springs Ave., St. Helena 94574*

*Tamara Hadley, 201 South 4th Street #428, San Jose 95112*

*Nancy Higgins, 2977A Woodgate Court, San Jose 95118*

*Richard A. Johnson, 4045 Bajada Lane, Santa Barbara 93110*

*Michelle Kazeminejad, 3395 Summerfield Rd, Santa Rosa 95405*

*Shirley Meneice, P. O. Box 1520, Pebble Beach 93953*

*Marde Ross, 3382 Warm Springs Road, Glen Ellen 95442*

*Anne Marie Tipton, 6730 Mohawk Street, San Diego 92115*

*Moved to a new address:*

*George Dobbins, 19787 Cottonwood Street, Groveland 95321*

*Debra Meager, 3649 Schaub Road, Seville OH 44273*

*Michael Reandeau, 525 South 6th Street, San Jose 95112*

*Mitzi Van Sant, 1729 SE 38th Avenue, Portland OR 97214*

*Jacqueline Williams, 223 Mission Ln, San Luis Obispo 93405*

*Directory correction:*

*The zip code for the Garden Conservancy is now 10516.*

### HOW TO JOIN CGLHS

To become a member of  
California Garden & Landscape History  
Society,

send a check or money order to the  
Membership Secretary, Box 1075, Palo  
Alto, CA 94302-1075.

Membership rates:

Individual \$20; Household \$30;  
Institution \$40; Sustaining \$50 and up.



## WEB-SITES TO VISIT

### We Have A New Web Site

At our Board meeting in spring 2001, Bill Grant offered to provide CGLHS with the prototype for an expanded web site presence, something beyond that so generously donated by Mitzi Van Sant on her business site, The Fragrant Garden. With the help of his friend, Andrew Hartmann, Bill put together several pages of information about CGLHS, including details of our upcoming conference in Sonoma. You may visit us at <http://members.cruzio.com/~grant/cglhs/>.

### Google Rules

If you haven't tried researching via google.com yet, we highly recommend it. Just type [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) into your browser address line, and the search page for Google will come up. Using it to further our continuing pursuit of (guess who?) Rudolph Ulrich, we've found several useful things that didn't show up with other search engines. Two we think everyone will enjoy viewing are:

[www.downthepeninsula.com](http://www.downthepeninsula.com)

and

[www.tomruley.com/The\\_Peninsula/Homes.html](http://www.tomruley.com/The_Peninsula/Homes.html)

In 1915, A. G. C. Hahn created a collection of hand-colored glass lantern slides for a display to represent San Mateo County at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco. In addition to images of schools, industry and scenic landscapes, there are several of Peninsula estates, including one of Hahn's own home in San Mateo. The Henry P. Bowie Japanese Garden (see below) is discussed in Kendall H. Brown's article cited earlier. Bowie was a Japanese art specialist, and it is believed he started work on his Japanese garden as early as the 1880s and expanded on it when



*Henry P. Bowie Japanese Garden (1915)*

he returned from a trip to Japan in 1902. He is thought to have sold a portion of his estate to Eugene de Sabla around 1905, and may have helped de Sabla develop a Japanese garden of his own. Though Ishihara and Wickham [*The Japanese Tea Garden in Golden Gate Park (1893-1942)*] credit Makoto Hagiwara as having a connection with this garden, Cheryl Widdell, who studied the garden for the National Register of Historic Places, could find no evidence linking Hagiwara to the site.

When we emailed the owners of these two sites for more details about them, we were informed that there are a total of 370 slides in this private collection. Collection owner Tom Metz hopes to finance a self-published book on the subject through the sale of licensing for use and/or purchase of photographic prints of these slides from Down the Peninsula Productions. Metz will provide 36" x 48" custom prints. You may contact him at 650.335.4778 or [tometz@flash.net](mailto:tometz@flash.net). Metz's web site has just a few images, mainly of natural landscapes, but Tom Ruley's (Tom Ruley Consulting) site has 100 images, including the estate shots. He is asking for a pay-per-visit donation via Paypal of \$5 to finance the display. Not an unreasonable request in our view.

## Two Other Sites You May Find Useful

[www.topiaryart.com/howto/1.html](http://www.topiaryart.com/howto/1.html)

Have you ever yearned to create a topiary garden for yourself or a client? This is a site put together by Chris Crowder, the head gardener at Levens Hall in England, one of the oldest and most extensive topiary gardens in the world. Chris has created an on-line course in how to do topiary. You can take the 300-hour course at your own pace, starting with the history of topiary.



Hunnewell Topiary Garden, Boston MA (1894)

[www.rogersroses.com](http://www.rogersroses.com)

Some of you have already received an email message about this site. For the email deprived, it is an illustrated rose dictionary being put together by Roger Phillips and Martin Rix, authors of *Roses* and *The Quest for the Rose*. They are being ably assisted by Bill Grant who has been taking photos of roses in gardens all over the world for many a year. At present, the site is free to all viewers, though they eventually expect to turn it into a pay-per-view or subscribers-only type of site. So enjoy the pretty pictures while you can. And if you notice they've made any mistakes while entering their data (even experts can make typos), don't be shy about emailing them accordingly. The more accurate the data, the more valuable the site will be to all.

### List of Illustrations

1. Sonoma Plaza, Zan of Tamalpais. (M. Graham)
2. Imported Swiss Charlet [sic], Art Bay #534. (M. Graham)
3. Coit Tower Aerial View (1961) AAC-1484, San Francisco Public Library.
4. G. T. Marsh's Japanese Tea Garden, Coronado, Cal. (M. Graham)
5. Pavilion at Mission Cliff Gardens. (M. Graham)
6. Tea Garden at Chicago World's Fair (1893). Shepp's World's Fair photographed (1893). (M. Graham)
7. The Grounds at El Verano Villa, Sonoma County, Cal. (M. Graham)
8. Wilcox Avenue, Los Angeles, 1905. (M. Graham)
9. H. P. Bowie Japanese Garden, A. G. C. Hahn. (Tom Metz Collection)
10. Address Cover: Japanese Tea Garden, Cory Ranch, Lodi, CA. (M. Graham)

### Eden

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Deadline for copy for the next *Eden* is: December 01, 2001

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

\*

To visit on occasion 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**  
**Membership Secretary**  
**P.O. Box 1075**  
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**Address Correction and Forward Requested**

*Can anyone tell us about the Japanese Tea Garden at Cory Ranch, Lodi, CA  
ca. 1907-1915 ?*