



THE MEDITERRANEAN GARDEN SOCIETY

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH

An international forum devoted to furthering knowledge and appreciation of plants and gardens suited to the mediterranean climate regions of the world

Number 47
Spring 2016

UPCOMING EVENTS



photo by Dick Turner

Visit to San Francisco Botanical Garden's New Mediterranean Hill

Sunday, June 12, 10:00 AM

SFBG North Entrance

Join us for a visit to the new Mediterranean garden at San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing! The newly planted Mediterranean Garden is located on the hill and was designed and planted by Jason Martinez, the city gardener in charge of this area. We will tour the area and perhaps also check in on the Australian section that has grown up in the past few years. Following this tour will be a group lunch at a nearby restaurant. Please RSVP to me at braceytd@gmail.com if you would like to attend. There is a fee to enter the garden if you are not a resident or member and lunch will be no-host. I look forward to seeing you and the gardens.

— Bracey Tiede

BRANCH DATEBOOK

Other events of interest to our members:

- | | | | |
|---------|---|------------|--|
| Apr. 9 | Going Native Garden Tour , Northern Santa Clara County (Palo Alto, Los Altos, Mt. View, Sunnyvale)
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM | Apr. 29-30 | Gamble Garden Spring Tour
Palo Alto
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM |
| | Lawn to Garden workshop
Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM | | UC Berkeley Botanical Garden Spring Plant Sale
Berkeley
4/29: 5-7:30 PM, 4/30:
10:00 AM to 2:00 PM |
| Apr. 10 | Going Native Garden Tour , Southern Santa Clara County (Cupertino, Campbell, San Jose, Santa Clara)
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM | June 4 | A Designer's Living Laboratory
Raul Zumba's garden
Oakland
2:00 to 6:00 PM |
| Apr. 16 | Santa Clara Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market
History San José at Kelley Park, San Jose
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM | June 18 | Garden Life: Art, Flowers & Food
Marin Art & Garden Center, Ross
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM |

Stay up-to-date with our upcoming events at:
<http://sites.google.com/site/mgsnorcal/upcoming-events/>

More Northern California garden events are listed on the [Pacific Horticulture](#) website.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016

*Athens & Corfu,
Greece*

Registration for this year's AGM and its post-meeting tour will go live at noon EEST (2 AM, PDT) on the [MGS website](#) on May 10, on a strictly first come, first served basis. The tour can fill up early, so prepare to register as soon as you can.

This year's AGM begins in Athens from Thursday, Oct. 20 and concludes on Sunday, Oct. 23. After the AGM, a post-tour is planned for Corfu from Monday, Oct. 24 through the morning of Thursday, Oct. 2. There is no pre-AGM tour scheduled.

— Jean-Pierre Bouchez



photos by Judy Thomas of *Arctostaphylos pajarensis* 'Warren Roberts' flowers, above, and *Arctostaphylos refugioensis* bark, below.

We then braved the rain to take a tour of some of the newly renovated sections of the garden, including the desert section, areas of the sea-coast, and the new plantings near the visitor center. The pouring rain didn't dampen our enthusiasm, and the wet plants gave us a chance to take a few photos that were particularly nice. We really appreciated the chance to hear Bart speak, and share some of his vast knowledge of plants.

— Judy Thomas

Lake Merritt Mediterranean Garden

The Mediterranean Garden at Lake Merritt in Oakland, in the collection of specialty gardens that surround the Oakland-East Bay Garden Center, is a little gem. It is centered around a classical white marble well-head (fountain) that was a gift to the City of Oakland from philanthropist and bird-lover Nettie Stone Easterbrook 100 years ago. Its beds are arranged in a quartered circle design, which originated in the ancient Persian paradise gardens and spread to gardens throughout the Mediterranean. Each bed is planted according to a particular color scheme which is realized in the flower and leaf colors of its summer-dry plants. It's a great place to spend an hour taking the sun, reading, or chatting with a friend. It's also a fine place to visit once a month, on the first Saturday—to garden!

There is a small, dedicated group of volunteers that helps maintain this charming space, but there's always room for more! Everyone, espe-



photo by Nancy Swarengen

January Visit To East Bay Regional Parks Botanic Garden

On 1/17/16, Bart O'Brien of the EBRPBG in Tilden Park talked with us about some of his favorite native California plants from our mediterranean climate. The talk was presented in the original meeting room toward the back of the garden, in an informal setting that turned Bart's speech into more of a forum, with the mutual sharing of experiences we've had discovering and growing some of our favorite plants. His excellent images, coupled with the lively conversation, made for a wonderful time.

cially MGS members, is invited to come tease weeds and snip unruly shrubbery, gossip with fellow Mediterranean plant nuts, and cement our presence in this magical urban place.

For information, please contact Nancy Swarengen at nswarengen@hotmail.com or 510-547-2548.

— Nancy Swarengen

Upcoming workdays:

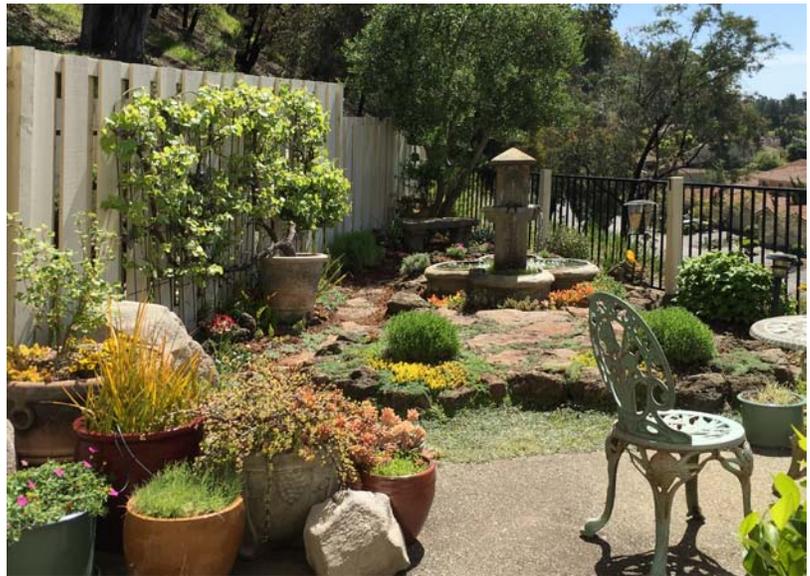
Apr. 2	*July 9
May 7	August 6
June 4	*Sept. 10

*July's workday is delayed due to Independence Day, and September's is delayed due to Labor Day.

photos by Cheryl Renshaw of Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris 'Around The Bay' (below), *Hermannia verticillata* (right), and *Aeonium escobarii* with *Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Ravenswing' (right, below)



WELCOME
TO OUR
GARDENS!



photos by Bracey and Richard Tiede of California natives: a Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris (above), and *Clematis lasiantha* (right)



photo above by Judy Thomas of her garden



photo above by Dick Turner of *Canarina canariensis*

We thought you might enjoy some photos of our gardens this spring. If you have photos to share, bring them to our Facebook page! Look for "Mediterranean Garden Society - Northern California Branch." See you there!



— the MGS-NorCal Executive Committee

photo at left by Nancy Swearngen of an *Arisema*

PLANT PROFILE:

Phyllica plumosa

This attractive South African plant is prized for its appearance but is also known to be difficult to grow. A native of the Cape Town hills, it is accustomed to dry summers in full sun. Its fall and winter flowering habit adds interest to a garden with California natives that are beginning to awaken. As a multi-stemmed shrub, four to five feet high and four to six feet wide with gray-green to yellowish-green narrow leaves, it is stunning when light shines through. The flowers are unique: they change from soft, feathery, whitish bracts to plumose, pale yellow heads that hide tiny flowers. It is a show-stopper. The flowers do well when cut for a bouquet, too. It is hardy to 20F or -5C. Fast draining soil with a bit of limestone and sandstone is suggested. You may be able to find it at Annie's Annuals & Perennials, but do phone ahead as it flies off the shelf when available.

— Richard Tiede



photos by
Richard Tiede



BRANCH OFFICERS

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Payment of dues for the Mediterranean Garden Society includes you in this Branch if you specify branch inclusion directly on the membership form. You can join at any of our events or send your application separately. For a membership form, visit the MGS web site:

www.MediterraneanGardenSociety.org

This newsletter is published in the FALL, WINTER, & SPRING (dormant in SUMMER!) to announce the events and news of the Northern California Branch of the MGS.



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