



EDEN

California Garden and Landscape History Society Journal

Vol. 1 No. 3

September 1997

Talks, Garden Visits Highlight Huntington Meeting In October

The next state-wide meeting of the CG&LHS will be held in San Marino on October 11-12, with a focus on the Huntington Botanical Gardens and historical landscapes in nearby Pasadena. Outstanding speakers will talk of the French influence on American gardens, including examples in California; the origins of the Huntington gardens themselves; the importance of the Wave Hill catalogue of landscape records.

Members will have the gardens to themselves from 8 a.m. on, after registration and morning coffee. Jim Folsom, director of the botanical gardens will give a tour from 8:30 to 10, when the meeting will begin in the Friends' Hall. Luncheon on the Garden Terrace at noon will be followed by afternoon talks, including a presentation of the photographic resources of the Huntington collection.

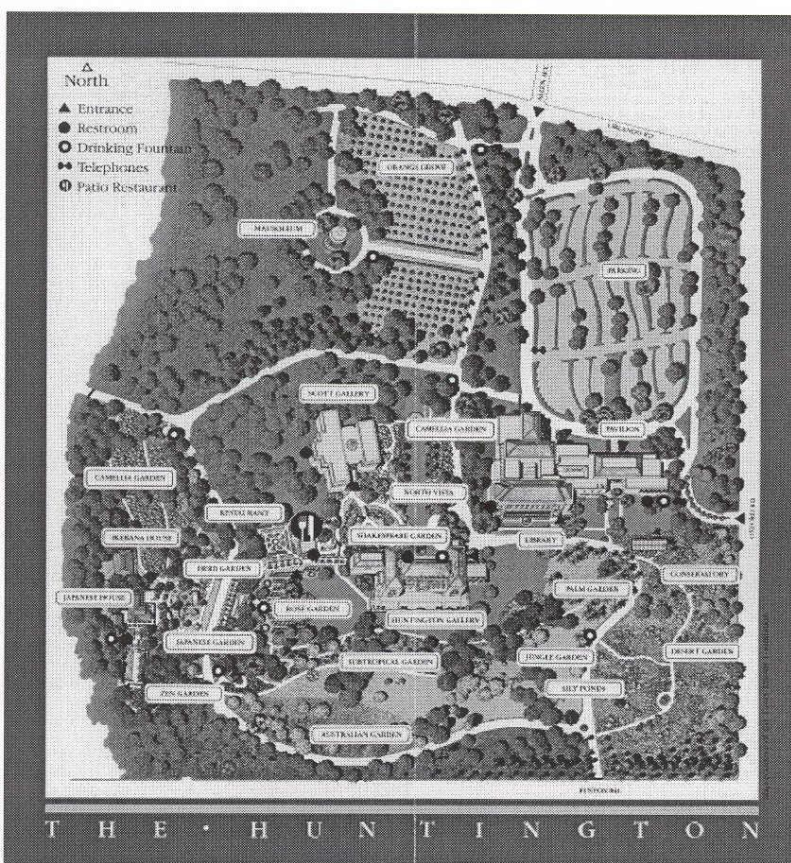
Until closing time at 4:30, members may stroll through the gardens or visit the large bookstore, the art gallery, and the library exhibitions. Dinner is on your own that night. On Sunday morning there will be garden tours in Pasadena with Shirley Kerins, ASLA

as our guide. Lunch is on your own, and the remainder of the day is free.

Those who have attended the previous meetings in Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, San Diego, and Berkeley will recall the superb arrangements made for the conferences, especially in the latter three cities. Peggy Park Bernal, director of the Huntington Library Press, is in charge of the San Marino meeting.

People from all over the state have found these weekend meetings inexpensive and fun. There are motels within walking distance of the Huntington along Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena. Your registration packet contains a list.

For those intending to make the visit a longer weekend, there are scores of nurseries in and around Pasadena as well as art galleries, theatres. Farther afield the offerings are limitless. There is a limited number of places available for this conference so don't delay sending in your registration. You should all have received the announcements mailed at the beginning of September. The fee is \$36 for members, \$56 for non-members. Make checks payable to CG&LHS and



mail to Peggy Park Bernal, Huntington Library, 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino, CA 91108. Payment must be received by October 1, 1997.

--Bill Grant

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CG&LHS Members,

This is my first column as your President, and I want to thank all of you who encouraged me to run (and elected me) at the Berkeley meeting in April. We have an able group of Board Members who will be working to serve you and to further develop the Society over this coming year.

At the meeting in San Diego last fall, a number of us involved from the beginning were talking about how to further the Purposes of the organization (as stated in the bylaws) —

- (a) to celebrate the beauty, wealth and diversity of California gardens and landscapes;
- (b) to aid and promote interest in, study of, and education about California's gardens and landscape history;
- (c) to identify, document, and promote restoration and preservation of gardens and landscapes depicting California's diverse culture and history; and
- (d) to collect and/or coordinate resources and expertise about the history of California's gardens and landscapes.

One idea was to go back to our local historical societies to find out what materials they had in their possession relative to our interests, and begin to compile information on "what is where".

I did just that last week (only 8 months later), and began a conversation with several members of the Menlo Park Historical Association. I wasn't really sure what I would say to them, and I'm not sure I was very eloquent at first. I explained a little about our group, and asked if they were cataloguing materials according to "gardens" or "landscape history". The whole notion of landscape history was new to them. They did have a category "Gardens" but nothing relative to landscape, and they thought they had only one piece about a woman on a large 19th century estate who wrote about her garden as a hobby.

In retrospect, I think I would emphasize land-

scape (over garden) history, and explain it as history with the major emphasis on "place" rather than on "person". Once we were really talking to each other on the same wavelength, we all realized that they had a great deal of material on former estates: how they were laid out and managed, how they were subdivided, what was now built on former larger properties, etc. I mentioned our interest in the plans and writings of various Landscape Architects and Designers, and after offering Thomas Church as an example, found out a local church property had been designed by him, and that they were about to begin some modification to the grounds.

They were very interested in what our organization was about, and planned to talk at their next Board Meeting about our conversation. The woman I spent the most time with was Editor of their monthly newsletter, *The Gate Post*. We agreed to get together later, discuss the topic in more detail, and she was eager to write about it all in an upcoming issue. I was invited to come to a Board Meeting and give more information to the larger group.

I went into the whole encounter uncertain about what I would find, but came out of it feeling like I really had furthered our purpose. I encourage all of you to seek out your local historical society. Spend some time there finding out what materials they have, and bring that information back to our society. We are now forming a committee to work on documentation and preservation — perhaps you would like to serve on it. Please let me know — more details will be available at the Fall Meeting at the Huntington.

--Mitzi VanSant



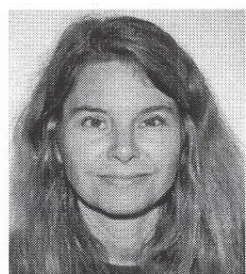
BIOGRAPHIES OF SOME OF OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Mitzi VanSant, President



My interest in garden history began 23 years ago when I began reading books on gardening for fragrance. I became obsessed with old garden roses, collected and studied them, and have served as one of the regional Co-ordinators for Heritage Roses Group since 1983. My interest widened to old-fashioned plants and gardens in general, and in 1993 I began a program in Landscape Architecture, finishing in January of this year. I've been involved in CG&LHS since the first meeting in Santa Cruz and feel honored to be elected its first President.

Laurie Hannah, Vice President



I am Librarian at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, where I have worked for six years. I have a Master's Degree in Librarianship and have completed a Certificate in Southern California Gardening from the Botanic Garden's certificate program. My interests are varied but always seem to be related to plants, books, and art. I enjoy gardening in Santa Barbara's mild climate and grow a variety of salvias and some great oranges in my small garden.

Lucy Warren, Recording Secretary



I write a monthly gardening column in the **San Diego Union Tribune** on edible plants. I also contribute to other publications and maintain the Garden Forum on the San Diego Online website. I served as editor for **California Garden** magazine, in publication since 1909. My interests in gardens and history led me to volunteer as Historic Garden Consultant for the Stein Family Farm in National City. Currently I am on the Kate Sessions Statue Committee. The committee will be donating a statue of the noted San Diego horticulturist for placement in Balboa Park. I am a UCCE-trained Master Gardener

and Master Composter, secretary of the San Diego Horticultural Society, and member of Garden Writers of America Association. And my laugh is unmistakable.

Marlea Graham, Editor (Production)



Well, I'm off to a rocky start with this late and rather rough looking "August" issue, but I promise to deliver a more timely and finished newsletter for our next issue.

I've served as a Co-ordinator and Editor of the Heritage Roses Group newsletter for several years, and assist with maintenance of the old rose collection at Merritt College Horticultural Dept. in Oakland. I've been a gardener all my life, but have begun serious plant collecting only in the last 12 years. This avocation provided an excellent antidote to my work as an officer with the Oakland Fire Dept. Now that I have retired from that job, I look forward to spending the next 20 years expanding and cultivating my friendships in the horticultural world.

We'll have further biographies in our next issue.

HELP US SAVE THE HOTEL DEL CORONADO

While they are not going to tear down the historic Hotel del Coronado, the proposed specific plan essentially allows the new corporate owners to encase the building in high rise development on all four sides, (with a new convention center, parking structure, more hotel rooms, and a shopping mall), effectively "caging" the Del, and totally destroying its historic site and grounds. The original building will no longer even be visible from the beach or the public street. Because of this proposed alteration, the National Park Service Western Regional office has recommended the Del be placed on their "most endangered" list!

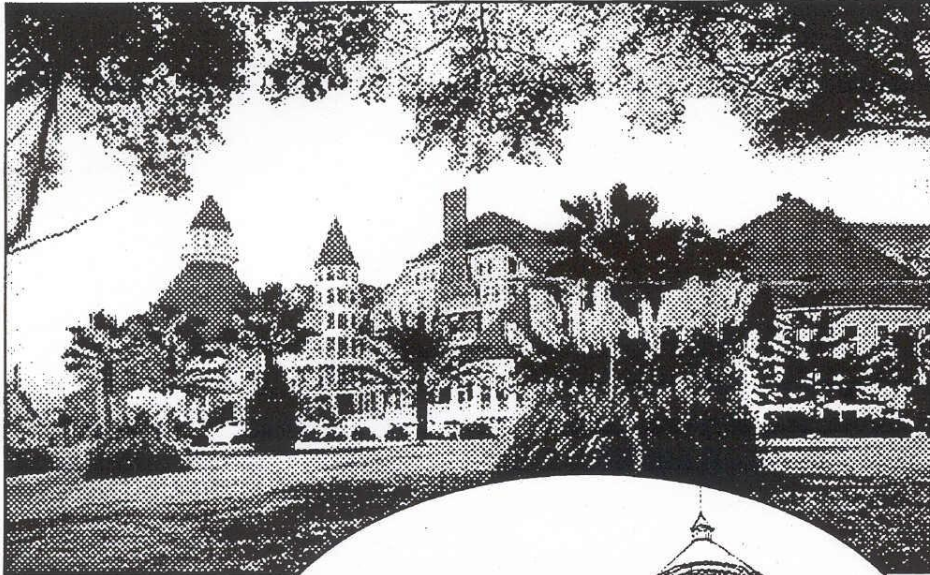
Of particular concern to historical gardeners and horticulturists is an area extending from the verandas of the hotel to the village of Coronado. This was previously compromised with asphalt, but at least while creating the parking lot from former lawn area, the mature specimen plantings were left in place. With the new plan, all will be removed.

BOOK REVIEW

Gardens of Alcatraz

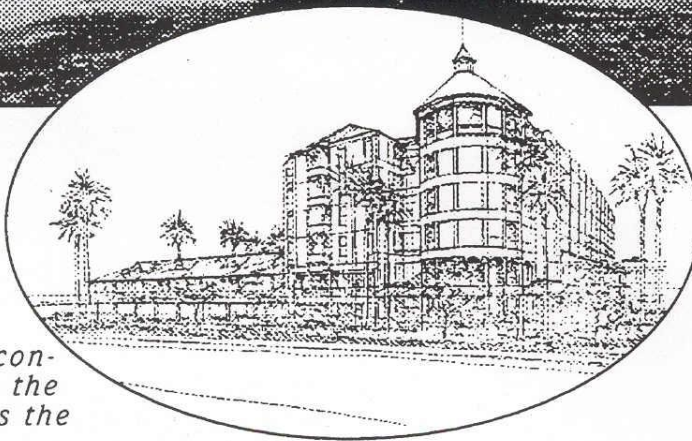
John Hart, Russell Beatty, & Michael Boland

Photographs by Roy Eisenhardt
Golden Gate National Park Assn.
Publisher 1996 96 pp. \$14.95
9 x 10



Above: the Hotel Del from a turn-of-the-century postcard.

Right: a proposed view showing new construction from the beach. Where's the Del?



It is obvious that the new owners have more regard for crass commercialism than for historical heritage. You can help by making it clear that even those outside of San Diego know and respect this marvelous building. We would like you to write letters to and/or call the Coronado City Council, 1825 Strand Way, Coronado, CA 92118 (619) 522-7350. Also please address comments to the CEO of Travelers Group, Sandy Weil, 388 Greenwich Street, New York, NY 10013 (212) 816-8888.

Save our Heritage Society (SOHO) in San Diego is spearheading the objection to the current specific plan. They would appreciate copies of any correspondence and will be delighted to answer any questions or provide additional materials. Donations are also welcome. SOHO, Box 3571, San Diego, CA 92163 (619)297-9327.

--Lucy Warren

In February 1989, Marion McKinsey of Sebastopol led nineteen members of the Bay Area Heritage Roses Group in an exploration of Alcatraz--looking for roses that had survived years of neglect. The group was given permission to visit every corner of the island. Their hopes of finding any roses were not high as February was hardly the best time of year--but nesting gulls made a trip there in spring too dangerous.

All of the explorers were well acquainted with old roses: Fred Boutin, who formerly had helped gather and establish the roses

that now make up the collection at the Huntington Botanical Garden; several rose nursery men and women, the founder of the international heritage rose movement, and keen collectors made up the investigating party.

They found roses--some very old varieties and a few from this century. They were astounded by the variety of other plants that were thriving on their own as well. The list of survivors serves as a guide to what will tolerate neglect, poor soil, drought, and salt spray. Cuttings of the roses were taken and later the plants were distributed among the group. I was a member of the party and recorded the day on film.

What a delightful surprise to discover that our amateur efforts have now been complimented by three authorities and a fine photographer in this beautiful paperback volume. It is a model publication for anyone wishing to record a historic landscape and the plants that remain.

The island itself has gone through several changes, from a military garrison, Civil War prison, Federal Penitentiary, to its current role as the jewel of the Golden Gate National Park. During all this time people lived on the island and, in some cases, cultivated most of the plants that survive. Prisoners were the main gardeners though wives of the prison guard staff were instrumental in introducing roses.

Some of the buildings that remain are falling apart, so most visitors are kept to the safe areas. The plant life has hidden much of the debris caused by neglect and occupation. People are always surprised to learn that there is no ground water on the island—all water had to be carried over by boat. This fact makes the gardens of Alcatraz all the more amazing.

What we must do now is to emulate such a publication. Our pioneer cemeteries, small town parks, nurseries—there is much fascinating horticultural history that needs to be recorded.

—Bill Grant

SAVING OLD ROSES IN OLD SACRAMENTO CEMETERY



Situated in an old cemetery and sheltered by ancient elms, the Sacramento Historic Rose Garden boasts a unique setting. The Sacramento City Cemetery dates

from 1849 when Sutter donated land on high ground several miles from his fort. As with many older cemeteries, a period of neglect and vandalism resulted in widespread damage. A re-awakening of interest in the historical importance of the cemetery led to an ongoing program of general restoration work.

Fred Boutin saw the cemetery in the fall of 1990 when Jean Travis took him to see the surviving roses there. He met the manager and they discussed

the possibility of locating Fred's collection of "found" roses there. The discussion went on for months: the city wanted to beautify the east side of the Cemetery along Riverside Boulevard where it is too shady for roses. After more than a year of discussion the first roses were planted in March, 1992; the effort was coordinated by Jean Travis, with the help of members of the Heritage Roses Group and the Perennial Plant Club of Sacramento. There are now more than 300 roses as well as many other plants in place and plans have been made for the addition of still more.

Most of the roses in this collection have been found in cemeteries and along roadsides throughout northern California—thus "found" roses. Some have been identified by the names they were originally given, but others can no longer be accurately identified and are now named simply for the place or person connected with their re-discovery, e.g. "Sawyer Plot Tea," "Upper Lake Cemetery Pink," and "Sally's Grandmother Rose."

Although this is a collection, the roses have a lot of space to grow, and are allowed to "do their own thing" with a minimum of training. Some large climbers are trained up a structure or a tree, but others are allowed to form a great mound. There is an effort to space them out, both for the good of the roses, and to maintain views of the monuments—the sense of an old cemetery is sustained. Pictures of the cemetery from around the turn of the century show many plantings in the plots, so this collection of old roses and other plants fits the site well.

The goals for this garden are:

- * to save the old roses: so many of the old survivors are falling victim to herbicides, weed-eaters and bulldozers.
- * to restore and beautify the Sacramento Cemetery
- * to spread awareness of the virtues of the old roses, educating both the general public and the gardening community.

The Historic Rose Garden is in the Sacramento Cemetery at the 10th Street and Broadway entrance, and is open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the summer (6 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the winter). Mid to late April is the best time to see the roses at peak bloom, though many repeat bloom throughout the summer and fall. Guided tours of the garden, as well as a plant sale, will take place April 18, 1998 from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

—Barbara Oliva

INTERNET SITES OF INTEREST

For those of you who have Internet Web access, here are some very interesting sites related to California, which Laurie Hannah found one day by just following links:

The first site you *must* visit is the home page of the **San Diego Historical Society**.

http://edweb.sdsu.edu/edweb_folder/SDHS/HistSoc.html

The highlight of this site is the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. You can take a postcard tour of the exposition and see old postcards of the gardens of Balboa Park (where we met last October). If you have more time, you can read a comprehensive history by Richard Amero with links to the postcards. Finally, the Society has created a digitized copy of a 1915 map of the exposition. This is both an informative and entertaining site.

I got that site via the **Arts & Crafts Society** home page where I was browsing a list of architects related to the Arts and Crafts Movement and came across Irving Gill.

http://arts-crafts.com/_b35c69ed/archive/acarchs.html

Especially useful at this site are several bibliographies on bungalows and the Arts and Crafts Movement in general.

A search under the architect Bertram Goodhue (who also worked on the 1915 Exposition) led me to a Cal Tech site, which we will probably visit during our upcoming meeting at the Huntington.

http://www.caltech.edu/~development/virt_visit/arch_hist/arch_bgg.html

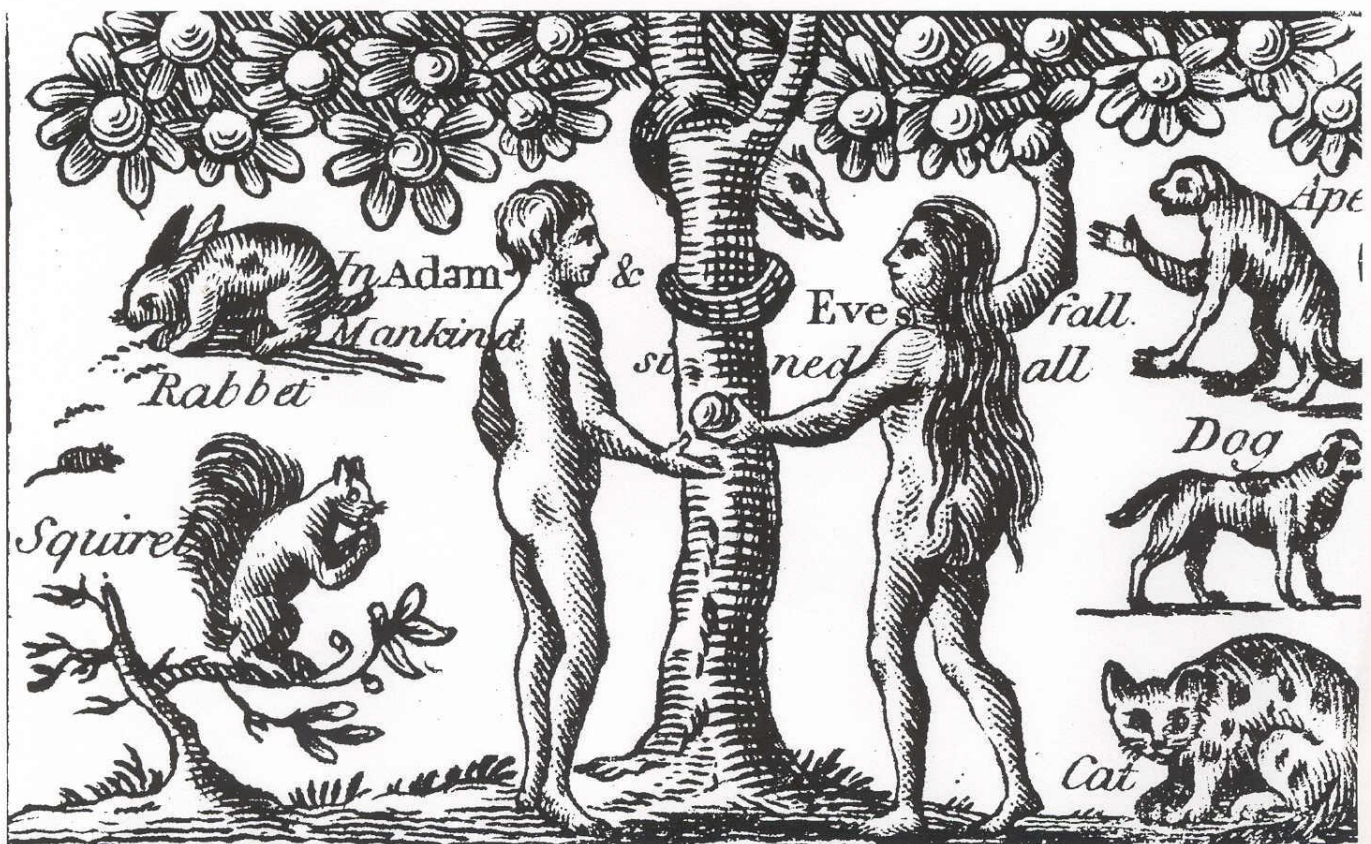
This address leads you to information on Bertram Goodhue's work on the design of the Cal Tech campus from 1916-1924. A nice aerial view of the building layout as he designed it is provided.

Of course, a visit (either real or virtual) to Pasadena is not complete without a trip to the Gamble House, and you can see that at its home page.

<http://www-bcf.usc.edu/~bosley/gamble.html>

I hope this will whet your appetites for our fall meeting, and I apologize to those of you who can't visit these Internet sites — you'll just have to come and see the real thing.

And for the gardening contingent, Laurie has provided this article by Thomas Christopher, whose book *In Search of Lost Roses*, contains an interesting segment on old roses and old cemeteries:



Gardeners venturing onto the Internet be warned: this is the ultimate vanity press. Nevertheless, there *are* worthwhile gardening sites, and not only can they provide you with useful information, they all contain links to virtually every other worthwhile site; if you make a good beginning, you'll be passed along from expert to expert in the greatest insider's club of all time.

The Garden Gate A most impressive private clearinghouse for horticultural information. You'll find virtual tours of extraordinary gardens all over the world, as well as a "Reading Room" that contains an extensive guide to gardening books, software and on-line magazines. Best feature: "The Gardener's Guide to Finding Answers on the Internet."

<http://www.prairienet.org/ag/garden/homepage.htm>

The Virtual Garden Time Inc. New Media's hardworking site is fully interactive: type in your zip code and particulars about your garden, and this site responds with local weather forecasts, lists of adapted plants and advice on plant hardiness in your area.

<http://www.pathfinder.com/vg/>

The Complete Guide to Garden Stuff A cyberencyclopedia with details on every sort of garden tool and accessory — from cactus soils to poacher's spades.

http://www.btw.com/garden_archive/toc.html

Horticulture Solutions Service The Illinois Cooperative Extension Service's answers to hundreds of gardening dilemmas. Alas, no links here.

<http://www.ag.uiuc.edu/~robsond/solutions/hort.html>

Promenade A feast for the horticultural voyeur that offers the practical — a photographic diagnostic guide to garden pests — and the aesthetic: an incomparable collection of 1,000 glorious hand-colored prints from *Curtis Botanical Magazine*, 18th-century England's greatest gallery of botanical and horticultural art.

<http://promenade.lis.pitt.edu>

Bloom! This site will take you to a monthly selection of tips on gardening tools, techniques and plants; a nationwide schedule of gardening events; and a gardener's forum that allows you to consult with others on the horticultural topic of your choice.

<http://homearts.com/depts/garden/00gardcl.htm>

The Neighborhood's Gardening Launch Pad Nothing but the links: an index of 1,300 first-rate gardening sites organized into forty-two categories.

<http://www.tpoint.net/neighbor/>



DUES DUE???

Please check the date on your *Eden* newsletter label. Renewal dates are quarterly, relative to when you joined up. Dates of 6/97 or earlier mean your dues are overdue. If you show 9/97, your dues are due now. We want you to continue as a member of CG&LHS. Please send your check for \$20.00 to Barbara Barton, Membership Secretary, Box 1338, Sebastopol, CA 95473.

NOT GETTING YOUR COPIES OF EDEN???

Well, if you *never* get your copies you won't see this notice, unless you borrowed a friend's, but if delivery has been intermittent, contact the Editors: Marlea Graham, 100 Bear Oaks Drive, Martinez CA 94553; or Bill Grant, 1678 Pleasant Valley Road, Aptos CA 95003.

ODDS & ENDS

Well, it's the end for Director at Large, Peter Hockaday. He's been asked to open and direct a new branch of his SF architectural office in Seattle. That means he can no longer serve on the Board. He did a great job in helping to plan the Berkeley meeting, and we know he would have been a big help to us over the next year too. We thank him for his short tenure, and hope he and Joan will continue as members. Best wishes to both.

We will hold an election for another Director at Large at the Huntington meeting. Come with recommendations in mind, or prepare to volunteer yourself for the post!

Laurie, Lucy and Mitzi are working on a brochure which can be easily duplicated by individual members to have on hand and share with friends/acquaintances who are interested in our group. We hope to have the prototypes available for distribution at the San Marino meeting.

The SF Landscape Show management and production has been taken over by the same group who do the Seattle NW Garden Show each year. They have moved the venue to the Cow Palace and moved the date up from late April to late March (3/26 thru 3/29). We are not yet committed to participating in next year's show, but be prepared to discuss the issue of our attendance at this show and others in the state to increase awareness of our organization and bring in new members. Keep in mind this requires a commitment on the part of several members to create and staff the show display.

COMING EVENTS

Our spring meeting will be held at UC Davis, probably in March. Details in the February issue.

The Museum of San Diego History will present an exhibit, **SAMUEL PARSONS, JR. - THE ART OF LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE**, in June of 1998. Parsons was the first landscape architect to design a plan for Balboa Park in San Diego. We will have more about this exhibit in our next issue.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We have reached the stage in our development that as "custodians" of garden history we should begin publishing articles in *Eden*. So this is a formal request to all members and others to submit material for future publication.

For the present, they should be between one and two thousand words. Art work and photos are important as well. Of special interest to readers is the current status of gardens under threat, plans for the restoration of important landscapes, and places open to the public for the first time.

Calendar notices are important to notify members when local events are taking place. As we grow and develop regional chapters, these groups should have a regular column in our publication.

We are running a series of profiles on those who are shouldering the work of running the society at the present time—but we also want to publish portraits of people who have achieved important goals in garden and landscape history.

We desperately need a full-time editor for this journal. Can you help us find one? There is no pay, the work is seasonal, and the people grateful and cooperative.

If you have any suggestions for the journal, please write or call Bill Grant, 1678 Pleasant Valley Road, Aptos, CA 95003 (408) 722-6836 Fax (408) 722-6562.

—Bill Grant



APRIL IN BERKELEY

The Berkeley Conference in April was a great delight for me as a new member to the group. I was pleased that the meeting started off with garden tours rather than leaving them for last. We began with native plants at the Fleming's. You have to be part mountain goat to get the full benefit of this amazing garden carved out of the the side of a very steep hill. The view is incredible.

The Blake Garden provided us with an assortment of garden styles from very formal to natural, and included more spectacular views of the Bay. I have seen Marcia Donahue's garden in many gardening magazines over the years, but this is the first time I've been there in person. A garden with a sense of humor is always a delight, and Marcia had one or two semi-tropical plants which I viewed with envy.

The late afternoon visit to a 1921 Willis Polk house provided us with a chance to refresh ourselves with afternoon tea combined with garden strolling. Who could ask for anything more?

I thought the food was excellent on both days. My thanks to whoever did all the work of arranging the catering. Well done.

On Sunday, we got a personal tour of the UC library facility from Professor Steven Tobriner of the College of Environmental Design. We saw not only a very large collection of books and doctoral papers, but also the library's collection of landscape architects furniture, tools, and other office appointments. There were original sketches of designs as well. I never imagined anybody was saving the actual desks and filing cabinets.

Professor Tobriner advised us that some of the original drawings were very fragile and that the college has no proper funding to preserve them at this time. It was due to this lack of funding that the Gertrude Jekyll papers were "lost" for several years. There was nobody available to document what was in the collection.

Naturally I went first to the rose book section, to see if there were any "finds". It is a respectable representation of the genre, though perhaps not quite as complete as that at the Strybing Arboretum library in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Anyone interested in gardens could while away many a rainy day here with ease.

The business meeting was a long one, as there were many important items to cover. Elections of officers were held and you may see the results in the enclosed meeting minutes. Further progress was made on getting the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation accepted, but we later ran into a roadblock when the member who was handling the legal aspects suddenly moved on to another part of the country. If any member knows of a lawyer who can assist us with finishing this process, please bring that information to the fall meeting, or contact President Mitzi VanSant.

Phoebe Cutler's afternoon slide lecture on "Historic Gardens of the East Bay gets the ultimate accolade—I did not fall asleep, even though I was full of good food and tired from the rigors of the morning! I was so interested to hear her commentary on assorted landmarks of the East Bay which I've long known and little understood that staying awake was easy.

I look forward to the fall meeting at the Huntington. Though I've been there many times before, (for the Biennial Symposium of Old Roses) I must confess I've never had time to look at anything but the roses. On this trip, I will make a point of looking at everything I've missed up 'til now. Hope to see you there as well.

--Marlea Graham



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.

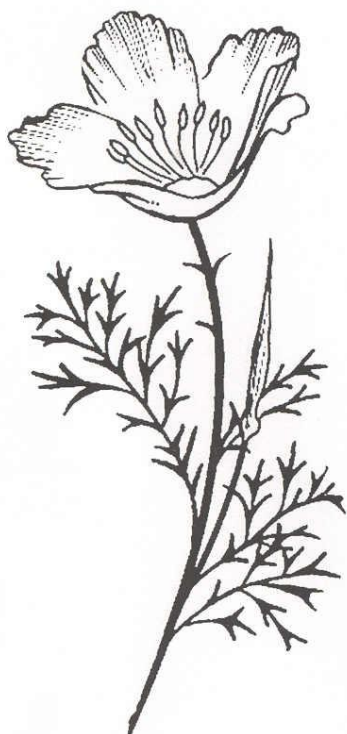
*

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL