

Welcome to New Members

Welcome to more charter members of the Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). As of September 15, 2002, they are:

| | |
|----------------------|--|
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| Vicki Sironen | vrean@aol.com |

Book Review

Clivias By Harold Koopowitz

Photographs by James Comstock
With a Foreword by Sir Peter Smithers

"Cinderella has begun to come into her own, and a small but enthusiastic group of her admirers and breeders worldwide have brought her out from an undistinguished past to a lively present and promising commercial future." Sir Peter Smithers, from the foreword

Since the 1800s, *Clivias* have gathered about them an almost mystical allure, and inspired unusual devotion. The book begins with a tale of Elsie Grober, a farm woman living in the Transvaal, a former province of South Africa. On a journey by ox wagon, Elsie obtained a *Clivia* plant, which she planted in a half oil drum at home. The plant became one of her prized possessions, and she refused to share cuttings or divisions with such vehemence that people began to call it Elsie's

"Holy Plant." When war came to South Africa in 1899, Elsie's house was burned and she

and her children sent to prison camp. She survived the war, and when she returned home, the *Clivia* plant was still alive in its barrel on the charred veranda.

Clivias is the first practical book on this fascinating genus. The result is a comprehensive treatment that covers the history and biology of *Clivias*, and provides profuse information on cultivation, color, and breeding. A large portion of the book is devoted to an in-depth exploration of the different variations of *Clivias*, with descriptions accompanied by James Comstock's breathtaking photos. Koopowitz's writing is highly readable and personable, and delightful tales of *Clivia* lovers throughout history, like Elsie, spice up the book. The text finishes with a biography of *Clivias*' namesake, Lady Clive, and a list of sources for further information on *Clivias*.

Koopowitz has treated the subject of *Clivias* seriously while still making the text accessible to all. This is a book for everyone with an interest in *Clivias*, whether windowsill grower or expert cultivator.

Harold Koopowitz is professor of ecology at the University of California at Irvine, editor-in-chief for the *Orchid Digest*, and the author of *Orchids and Their Conservation*. Photographer **James Comstock** has been breeding *Clivias* for more than fifteen years and has won many awards for his photography.

384 pp., 118 color illus., 3 charts, 1 b/w photo, 2 keys, 1 map, 6 x 9", hard cover; ISBN 0-88192-546-2

List price: \$34.95 plus shipping and handling

Publication date: August 2002

Available from Timber Press, Inc.

www.timberpress.com

Timber Press provided this review. Harold is graciously speaking at our October meeting. See "Member Meetings and Outings" for details. Editor

Floral Artistry Autumn Sale 25% OFF all bulbs

Choose from *Canna*, *Crinum*, *Hippeastrella* 'Durga Pradhan', *Hippeastrum* xJohnsonii, *Zephyranthes* and more.

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jjingram@adelphia.net

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Garden Notes

Show off your hidden talents! We would love to receive your garden line drawings (color or b/w) and photographs. Inquire for details!

Fragrant *Narcissus* and Starting a New Bed

by Cathy Craig.

Cathy lives in USDA zone 9B, near the Pacific Ocean in Southern California. Editor

My favorite *Narcissus* for fragrance is 'Matador'. I got this from Bill Welsh (The Bulb Baron of Carmel Valley). Its fragrance is neither citrusy nor musky. Rather it reminds me of the perfume sold as "Jungle Gardenia". I never liked this perfume because it was way too strong - cloying even - but this *Narcissus*, while strong, is not overpowering. I believe this is a tazetta (division 8) *Narcissus*.

'Matador' is in a wide bed along the house growing in the middle of several clumps of *Hemerocallis* 'Mini Pearl' that I got from Oakes Daylilies. It is a winter dormant daylily. The emerging foliage of 'Mini Pearl' is just in time each year to hide the withering foliage of 'Matador'.

'Matador' seems to be somewhere between holding its own and diminishing a bit each year, but it is in rather inhospitable soil that likely remains moist all year. The bulbs are down about a foot, so that must help out a bit. I'd like to order more this fall so I can have enough to cut for the house. Heavenly!

Try them! Plant deeply, perhaps next to a cement or stone walkway or wall. Besides, they are cute too.

Each year I try a new approach when I am planting my spring blooming bulbs. This year I have again cleared out parts of several beds. This is how I planted the new half of one of those.

I interplanted purple and solid yellow Dutch *Iris* bulbs with *Centranthus rubra* (light pink form) at the back of the bed. These will grow to about 40 inches here. Next to this group I have placed two *Fritillaria imperialis*. These will reach about three feet and surrounding them I put half a dozen 'State Fair' zinnias that grow to about 40 inches.

I planted mixed-colored *Anemone coronaria* (poppy anemone) with yellow snapdragons over and among the *Anemones* in front of the *Iris* row. In an adjacent area I planted *Narcissus* 'Matador' at a depth of about 8 inches with white snapdragons on top. As these areas are about midway in the bed, I used snapdragons that will ultimately grow to just under 40 inches. Closer to

the front I planted *Narcissus* 'Pipit' with 'Dreamland' zinnias over them. Both of these will bloom at about 10 inches.

At the front I planted a grouping of *Verbascum thapsus*, a mullein that, when not in bloom, stays a diminutive 4 or 5 inches tall and looks very white because of the short very soft white hair covering the leaves. All round the mulleins I planted *Ipheion* 'Rolf Fiedler'. This is a bulb that will bloom a rather cornflower blue here and stays very short. Also up front are *Crocus sativus* (saffron crocus) that will bloom a light purple and another solid yellow *Crocus*. Yellow pansies are planted over the *Crocus*. These are already in bloom with the start of pansy season here.

My theory is that the annuals (*Centranthus*, snapdragons, zinnias, and pansies) will bloom from now through winter and then the bulbs will take over. The *Crocus* will bloom from late winter to early spring. In spring, the *Narcissus*, and if I'm extremely lucky, the fritillaries will start. The Dutch *Iris* and *Anemones* will show color well into late spring. Later on I can pull out any annuals as they come to the natural end of their life cycle and replace with other annuals that bloom during warm and hot weather.

This only covers half the year; and the rest of the year might even make another short article later! Get out there and plant those spring bloomers now!

REACH Folks who are likely to purchase books, bulbs and plants!

ADVERTISE in 'The Bulb Garden'.
Only \$10 per single column inch for each issue.
Request information from Marguerite.

Vivid Companions

by Marguerite English

Marguerite lives in USDA zone 7B at 3700 feet in the mountains east of San Diego, California. Editor

Now is the time to order one of the pleasing combinations that I found in one of my flower beds last spring. There were four vivid *Ranunculus* left over from the 'salmon shades' collection sold by Van Engelen and scattered right next to a deep purple *Geranium himalayense*. The purple next to the vivid orange really 'popped'! Even if you aren't into such bright colors, this combination brightened the dull spring days during which they bloomed.

Treasurer's Report

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Beginning balance: | \$365.23 |
| Deposits from BX and memberships | 604.00 |
| Disbursements: | |
| BX expenses | \$149.52 |
| Newsletter: Issue 2 | 44.62 |
| Final balance 9/23/02: | \$775.09 |

PBS News and Events

Officers

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
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Member Meetings and Outings

July: Nursery Outing in Southern California

On July 13th of this year, The Pacific Bulb Society visited the small but lovely garden/nursery of Jim Duggan at Encinitas Gardens in Encinitas, Ca. We arrived late so the small parking lot was filled but we were able to locate parking within a short walk to the nursery entrance. When I arrived, I met other PBS members with whom I had previously corresponded by E-mail. It is always a joy to put faces to names.

I quickly understood the vast knowledge our host has for growing bulbs. He took us to the back of the nursery where he propagates seeds, bulbs and plants for sale in the nursery and for his mail order business. He has specialized in drought resistant plants and South African bulbs for the last 10 years. He started by purchasing the bulb collection from BioQuest International.

Though I have been collecting and growing bulbs for more than 15 years I never thought much about the soil in which they were growing. If they never bloomed I either stopped purchasing them or I moved them somewhere else in the garden. Jim has researched varying types of soil, sand, and mulch combinations to come up with the perfect medium for bulb survival. I took his ideas home with me along with a dozen or so bulbs and put them to the test. We'll see if I was paying attention enough.

Jim also mentioned that he has a lot of trouble with rodents. I'm thankful I don't have this problem; at least they don't eat my bulbs, just the fruit from my trees. He staples shade cloth over the pots of bulbs or places wire mesh in them or on top of the pots, just to keep them out. This makes for a lot of work for him just to get the bulbs out to sell.

August: Presentation and Bulb Exchange in Portland

Information for this article provided by Paige Woodward.

Editor

The PBS get-together in Portland, Oregon was a great opportunity for local bulb lovers to meet and share ideas and plants. Frank Callahan gave a wonderful slide presentation on *Calochortus*, featuring dozens of species with panoramic views of them in their habitats and sumptuous close-ups showing their distinguishing traits. Frank authored the chapter on *Calochortus* in *Bulbs of North America*.

John Irwin took many of the photographs which Frank uses. He showed a binder of images shot through an electron microscope that truly make a bulb lover's heart go pit-a-pat.

Loren Russell showed slides of some bulbs he encountered in Europe, among them the delectable *Panocratium illyricum*.

Jane McGary, who organized this meeting, showed slides of those bulb frames she so often mentions in emails to this and other plant groups. Yes, they are vast; yes, they are tidy; and yes, they are brimming.

Jane also contributed beyond generously to the bulb exchange. She provided many treasures including *Triteleia dudleyi*, a yellow, alpine *Brodiaea*; and *Fritillaria liliaceae*, rare but from cultivated seed. Others provided many treasures including a *Panocratium illyricum*, and *Ranunculus calandrinoides*. Ernie O'Byrne, could not be present but sent several contributions for the exchange.

Cathy Craig traveled from California -- it was great to meet her, so full of energy. Jay Lunn, who is a Penstemoniac and a bulb lover, was also there. Also attending were Elizabeth Peters, Paige Woodward, and her mother. Those of you, who didn't make it, missed a lot.

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The Bulb Garden is the newsletter of the Pacific Bulb Society (PBS). It is published quarterly and is sent to PBS members. Current circulation is 42.

This newsletter will provide news and articles of interest to members. It will also report the news and announcements of the PBS organization.

The Bulb Garden
Volume 1 Issue 3
Fall, 2002

September: Board meeting in Cyber-space

PBS officers met online using AIM software on Sept 15, 2002. Cathy Craig, Mary Sue Ittner, Vicki Sironen and Marguerite English were present. They decided the following:

1. Accepted Vicki Sironen as membership officer.
2. All members who join during 2002 are considered charter members.
3. All memberships are for the Calendar year. That is from Jan-Dec. If someone joins during the first nine months of the year, the newsletter editor will send all the newsletters for that year to date. The member will be eligible to receive all BX offerings that follow the receipt of dues.
4. If someone joins during the last quarter, the membership will be good through the end of the following calendar year. This member will receive the last newsletter of the year by E-mail, and will be eligible to receive all BX offerings that follow the receipt of dues.
5. All receipts are to be paid in US dollars or US cash. We cannot currently accept credit cards. Provisions for folks who cannot send US funds will be made on a case-by-case basis, with board approval.

6. Member names and ~~e-mail~~ addresses will be published in the newsletter for the ~~quarter~~ following the date on which they join. Permission to publish will be assumed, unless the member requests that the information be withheld. Vicki will update the membership form to cover this situation.
7. Membership is due Jan 1. The membership officer will send renewal notices and a second reminder with final cut off on Feb 1. The member directory will be published March 1. The directory will contain name, address, E-mail address, phone and designate charter members. Members who wish to have their name and address withheld from publication must notify the membership officer annually.

October: Dinner, Presentation and Book signing in San Clemente

A Potluck dinner meeting is planned for Saturday, October 5, 2002 at 4:00 p.m. It will be held at the home of the president, Cathy Craig. There will be a hot NEW slide presentation and book signing by Dr. Harold Koopowitz. His recently released book "Clivias" will be available there for purchase. Everyone is welcome, member of PBS or not. If you plan to come, please RSVP to Cathy at 949-369-8588 or by e-mail Batlette@cox.net

"The Bulb Garden"

c/o M. English
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May 2003: Plan to attend the annual meeting in Seattle.

