



2009 Ruth Bancroft Garden Horticultural Series

The Australians, Part I

Refreshing Your Australian Repertoire: how to mix exciting and appropriate Australian native plants in Bay Area gardens

Seminar: Friday, November 6, 2009, 8:30 am – 5:30 pm | Civic Arts Education Center, Shadelands Campus, Walnut Creek
Study Tour: Saturday, November 7, 2009, 8 am – 1:30 pm

(Part I of The Australians was originally scheduled for May 15 – 16, 2009. It was postponed at that time and we look forward to presenting it in its entirety on November 6 – 7, 2009.)

Cosponsored by *Pacific Horticulture*

Abstracts & Bios

➤ New Australian Plants for California Gardens

Randy Baldwin, horticulturist, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara

Presentation: A discussion of newer selections of familiar species and some plants that are completely new to cultivation in California. There will be a focus on strap-leaved plants such as mat rushes (*Lomandra* sp.), Flax Lilies (*Dianella*) and Kangaroo Paws (*Anigozanthos*) and also on some great new Australian shrubs and trees, including those coming out of the UC Santa Cruz Koala Blooms Australian Plant Introduction Program.

[Read more about Kangaroo Paws](#), notes from a talk by Randy Baldwin in 1991 at UCSC Australian Plant Symposium.

BIO Randy Baldwin

Randy Baldwin got to San Marcos Growers in 1981 via his academic education in environmental studies with a botany concentration, and practical experience at the Theodore Payne Foundation and La Sumida Nursery in Santa Barbara. Currently a partner, general manager and horticulturist for San Marcos Growers, a wholesale known for the diversity of plant material. San Marcos actively seeks out plants suitable for cultivation in California and introduces them in the nursery trade.



Contact: Randy Baldwin, San Marcos Growers, Santa Barbara, CA, www.smgrowers.com

➤ Outback Exotica: showcasing Australian plants in Bay Area gardens

Hank Jenkins, garden designer/horticulturist, Berkeley

Presentation: Expect the unexpected from the ordinary to the spectacular with vibrant color palettes and alluring textures! Hank will share his stylish ideas about how to elevate out-of-the-can nursery plants to unique specimens in fashionable containers, as tracery on walls, and colorful mixtures of succulents and broadleaved perennials and shrubs.

BIO Hank Jenkins

Hank Jenkins of Lushland is a planting designer based in Berkeley, California. He has a degree in Landscape Architecture, been an intern at the Ruth Bancroft Garden, and is passionate about plants. He travels often to Australia and is fascinated by its flora. When he's not in the garden he can be found speaking on subjects ranging from Australian plants to succulent gardening, or contributing, as a part-time merchandising manager, to the visually stunning vignettes at Flora Grubb Gardens in San Francisco, or developing his garden and design series for television. He has also been a featured guest on DIY Networks' "The Dirt On..." and been featured in *This Old House* magazine.



Design Philosophy: "The power of exterior spaces and their ability to be evocative and transportive and other-worldly is fascinating to me. I feel that in order to achieve an environment that resonates, you must allow it to evolve at a natural pace. I am further influenced by my love of architectural plants like those from Australia or succulents in combination with engaging design."

Contact: Hank Jenkins, Lushland Design, Berkeley www.lushlanddesign.com, hank@lushlanddesign.com

➤ **Around the World and Down Under: California and Australian habitats and climates, Part I**

Dr. Glenn Keator, botanist/author, Berkeley

Presentation: Grow Australian plants in your garden more intuitively by understanding their native habitats as compared with our California native habitats. Find the clues that will help you mix these plants with better results. As a bonus, from a botanist's perspective, salivate over the many deserving and beautiful Australian plants little known to us in California.

BIO Dr. Glenn Keator

Dr. Glenn Keator is a freelance botanist, writer, and teacher specializing in native plants and related floras. He received his doctorate in botany at UC Berkeley and currently teaches at San Francisco Botanical Gardens, Regional Parks (Tilden) Botanic Garden, and Merritt College in the Landscape Horticulture department. Glenn has had a life-long interest in growing plants and has many trips to various parts of Mexico over the last 35 years. He has written several books on California natives as well as others including *The Life of an Oak: an intimate portrait* (Heyday Books), *Introduction to Trees of the San Francisco Bay Region* (UC Press), *Complete Garden Guide to Native Perennials of California*, and *Complete Garden Guide to Native Shrubs of California*. His most recent book, co-authored with Alrie Middlebrook, is *Designing California Native Gardens: The Plant Community Approach to Artful, Ecological Gardens* (UC Press 2007).



Contact: Dr. Glenn Keator, gkeator@aol.com

➤ **Hot Gum Trees: small eucalyptus for California gardens**

Dr. Matt Ritter, biologist/professor, California Polytechnic State University, Leaning Pine Arboretum, San Luis Obispo

Presentation: Of all the foreign trees that have affected California landscapes, eucalypts are undoubtedly the foremost, and since their introduction into the Western United States in the mid 1850s they have suffered their fair share of controversy. The genus *Eucalyptus*, however, is large and diverse, with over 700 species. Many species never exhibit any of the problematic characteristics so commonly, and incorrectly, attributed to the entire genus. Drought tolerant eucalypts from desert and Mediterranean climates of Western Australia rarely grow larger than small trees or large shrubs, shed little bark, rarely become weedy, and develop large, brilliantly colored flowers and interesting foliage. I will be discussing the genus *Eucalyptus* as a whole, the ecology and habitat of the smaller Mediterranean and desert species, and giving a survey of the most beautiful and useful species for California gardens.

Read Dr. Ritter's article on Eucalyptus in the April 2009 issue of *Pacific Horticulture*, p. 40, *Small Eucalyptus for Western Gardens*.

BIO Dr. Matt Ritter

Dr. Matt Ritter is a botany professor in the Biological Sciences Department and Director of the Cal Poly Plant Conservatory at Cal Poly. He holds a Kenan Fellowship at the National Tropical Botanical Gardens and is the Ray Collett Visiting Scholar at the U.C. Santa Cruz arboretum. He teaches courses in general biology, general botany, plant diversity and ecology. He has authored a number of scientific papers about plants and contributed to botanical references including the upcoming second edition of the Jepson Manual to California flora. He studies trees, particularly those is the genus *Eucalyptus*.



Contact: Matt Ritter, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Biology, Cal Poly Plant Conservatory; Director, Biological Sciences Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA, 805/756-2775, www.plantconservatory.calpoly.edu, mritter@calpoly.edu www.calpoly.edu/~bio/FacultyStaff/Faculty/Ritter.html

➤ **What's New in Garden Design in Australia?**

*Bernard Trainor, landscape designer/an Aussie himself!
Pacific Grove*

Presentation: California landscape designer Bernard Trainor will highlight some of the new exciting designers and gardens that are emerging in Australia. More recently, there are a variety of gardens happening in Australia that fuse a wide ranging cultural history with the melting pot of contemporary Australian culture. It is fascinating to see a range of styles by designers; some are steadfastly adhering to the European influenced gardens of the past two centuries and others attempting to look beyond this by exploring new design ideas and a new Australian identity. Bernard will show some of his own work here in California with reference to his Australian heritage.

BIO Bernard Trainor

Bernard Trainor brings over twenty years of academic and practical experience, as the founding principal and design director at Bernard Trainor + Associates based in Monterey, California. Bernard has completed four landscape-related academic programs, practiced professionally in three countries, lectured and written extensively, and won numerous awards in the process.



Between 1985 – 1995, Bernard practiced and studied landscape design in Australia and Britain, including training with internationally renowned planting designer Beth Chatto. Since 1995, California has been his home and the focus of his work. The geographical diversity of these work/study experiences have in turn allowed him to appreciate the regional qualities and cultures of a place. Bernard continues to advance the ecologically-minded, contemporary landscape.

Bernard Trainor + Associates designs contextual landscapes that respond to the client, the architecture, and the inherent site conditions. Their designs explore pragmatic and poetic solutions, revealing a visual simplicity that celebrates the essence of materials, space, and light. These outdoor spaces express a regional quality and engage and inspire people every day.

Design Philosophy: “My early landscape experiences in Australia and Europe have in a sense allowed me to see California with extremely inquisitive eyes. I have found that whilst the vernacular varies, the same design principals apply: observe the place, connect with the architecture, and respond to the personality of the client. I see the arrangement of outdoor space as both a technical and artistic endeavor—one that evolves into a unified land art composition. Ultimately my aim is to design spaces that will inspire people to connect with a place.”

Contact: Bernard Trainor + Associates,
Pacific Grove, CA, 831/655-1414, Fax 831/655-3462,
www.bernardtrainor.com, bernard@bernardtrainor.com