

American Fuchsia Society



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'Old Berkeley' 'HeRi Mochara'

American Fuchsia Society Bulletin

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Cover Tid Bits
'HeRi Mochara'
'Old Berkeley'
Carlyss Van Ness
Sebastopol Branch

'HeRi Mochara'

This is a beautiful hanging basket plant that is very popular with visitors to my garden. I also grow one of its parent plants, 'Quasar'. It is very much a show-stopper too.

'HeRi Mochara' is a large double flower with trailing growth. Introduced by Henry Buiting of Netherlands in 2006

Tube color : light violet (84C)

Sepal color : light violet (84C)

Corolla color : purple (83B)

Flower : double

Habitus : trailing

Parentage : 'Leon Pauwels' X 'Quasar'

Note: '*HeRi Mochara*' cover photo was entered in the 2023 AFS, Photo contest Class C, by Karen Wilkson, Sebastopol Branch

'Old Berkeley'

I have grown this in my zone 9 garden in Sonoma County, CA for many years. It is a very reliable, hardy, gall mite resistant plant here in my area.

It consistently grows around 2 feet tall. The description from Annie's Annuals reads, "Brought to you by Fuchsia rustlers lurking around old Bay Area gardens. We're not sure of the real name here, but we do know that this is one gorgeous old-timer!"

Note: '*Old Berkeley*' cover photo was entered in the 2019 AFS, photo contest, Class C, by Fern Wilson, member of the Sebastopol Branch.*

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A Secret of Happiness

They came as strangers to a wild land, and none of them knew which day would be the last. Never in the Old Country had they known such a winter; the wind so cold, the food so scarce, the enemy night so filled with dread. Never had they worked so hard, paying with an aching back for every shelter raised against the cutting wind. Everywhere they went, Famine and Death watched them with pale, expectant eyes. And by the end of that bitter year there was hardly one among them who had not lost to the cold earth someone he could not live without.

Then these men and women, who had nothing, sat down to a hearty feast, filled with gratitude for what they had. We, who follow them, sometimes wonder why. Did they know some secret of happiness, denied to us, that made them so glad for so little? And then we think back—back to some personal wilderness we have all been through in our time. ***Perhaps there was once a day when we simply wanted to feel the sun again, to smell***

another morning's freshness, to hear a child laugh again was miracle enough—a time when just to find oneself alive was a gift beyond belief.

The Pilgrims had their lives; no man has more. They had freedom, too. They were where they wanted to be, they could go where they chose to go. All the days ahead were their's to use as they please. They owned themselves; no man owns more.

Remembering this, ***we join their feast, brothers to all wise men whom trouble has taught to look at what they have, and not at what they lack.*** —John Hancock.*

From: The Fuchsia Fan of the California National Fuchsia Society of November 1959



...GIVE THANKS...



*Special friends
Special memories*

Elsie Sydnor 1936 - 2024



The American Fuchsia Society has lost another one of our society leaders. Elsie Sydnor & Al Sydnor were for many years the respected, dedicated, appreciated and loved leaders of the American Fuchsia Society. They promoted fuchsias everywhere they went and were well known in the fuchsia world. Elsie was a member of the American Fuchsia Society from March 1, 1985 to 2024. She was a member of the American Fuchsia Society Board of Directors for many years, first serving as Correspondence Secretary in 1989. In 1990 Elsie became the American Fuchsia Society Bulletin Editor, editing and publishing the bulletin for seventeen years until 2007. Elsie Sydnor will be missed by family & friends plus the many fuchsia friends she made while promoting fuchsias everywhere she went.

Barbara Helsel June 6, 1941 - July 7, 2024



Barbara Helsel joined the American Fuchsia Society December 15, 2000. Barbara joined the AFS, Board of Directors in 2011. She had served as Crescent City Branch, Fuchsia & Epiphyllum Society, Treasurer for many years, so when the AFS, Treasurer position on the board became available, she volunteered to also be the AFS, Treasurer until 2024. The American Fuchsia Society appreciates the time and effort Barbara's provided in support of fuchsias and the American Fuchsia Society. Barbara will be missed by her family, friends and especially fuchsia friends.

- Continued on page 6



John Furnas

John Furnas has been a longtime Sacramento Fuchsia Society Branch member, from June 1982 to July 2024. John was the kind of member that every society loves to have. The Sacramento Branch of the American Fuchsia Society appreciated his plant knowledge and willingness to participate in all branch activities and was always glad to help others. John was always giving fuchsias and other plants from his garden to branch members. John enjoyed being apart of the fuchsia growing process, he always helped grow or care for plants needed for our annual fuchsia plant sale. He also delighted in being a salesmen and sharing his fuchsia knowledge at the plant sale. John was generous with his van transporting members on several branch field trips. He also prepared his special tasty corn beef & cabbage dinner every year for St. Patricks Day.

AFS, Bulletin Editors Note: When we lose members that care about the society, willing participate in AFS activities, they become special friends. These AFS, members will be missed by family, friends and especially fuchsia friends

New American Fuchsia Society website By Rodney Bergquist AFS, Bulletin Editor

Exciting news for our American Fuchsia Society members. For many years we had a wonderful AFS website, however the website got infected with viruses which caused the website to be shut down. Our special friend Tony Prodger, who lives in Gosport, England built and maintained our AFS website for over fifteen years. AFS owes Tony a huge thank you, for your many years of website design & maintenance support. As age catches up to all of us, Tony had some medical issues and had to give up the idea of rebuilding our AFS web-



site. Our old AFS website was enjoyed by many fuchsia folks for various reasons. The American Fuchsia Society maintains the International Registrar database for fuchsia names in the botany world, so it was important that we rebuild a new AFS website so fuchsia hybridizers could continue to registrar and have their newly hybridized fuchsia published. The American Fuchsia Society website provides a place for hybridizers to have their newly hybridized fuchsias listed in the international database of registered fuchsias, making the information available to the fuchsia world on our AFS website.

The new AFS website rebuild started to take shape when New 2024 fuchsia registrations were received from Ron Monnier our new AFS International Registrar. The Registration Database with past and new registrations were the first items to appear on the new website. We currently have over 8,000 registered fuchsias listed in the database. The registrations database still needs a few tweaks like a simple way to sort by cultivar names & hybridizers, as well as the ability to print your search results.

Last week our new webmaster John Zimmerman added all kinds of basic American Fuchsia Society information, to the website like AFS history as well as links to other fuchsia societies in the world. One of the areas we missed when the old website was shut down was having was the option for people to ask our fuchsia consultant questions. Sometimes we forget many fuchsia enthusiasts in the U.S. do not have local fuchsia branch meetings.

Recently, fuchsia culture articles were added, covering most fuchsia culture subjects. Many of the fuchsia culture articles previously appeared in our AFS quarterly bulletin over the last 15 years. The new AFS website is a work in progress, still needing some information updates. ***One more thing that's a significant improvement over the last AFS website is we are able to enjoy the new AFS website on our PC's, tablets, or cell phones.*** Thank you, John Zimmerman for building our new website and helping the American Fuchsia Society have a continued website presence in today environment where almost everything is done or searched on the internet.*

**What's in a
Fuchsia Name?
Ted Spack (Santa Clara
Valley Branch, AFS)**

In Shakespeare's Romeo and



Juliet, Juliet famously asked "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other

name would smell as sweet". Well, even though there are at least 100 fuchsias with "rose" in their name (according to FuchsiaFinder), we know that fuchsias, despite their many good qualities, don't have much of a scent. On the other hand, all have names and many of those names have an interesting back story. Just as we are in danger of losing varieties, nurseries, hybridizers, and gardeners we are also in danger of losing some of those stories. And like the wonderful diversity of fuchsias, the origins of their names are part of our heritage that we should strive to preserve. Hence the point of this occasional column. I'm pleased to discover that FuchsiaFinder now also

lists the origin of some fuchsia names and confirms the stories I heard and recount below.

To start, I want to share two stories I have heard over the years that add to my appreciation of the fuchsias themselves. 'Change of Heart' is a cute little double upright/trailer with magenta sepals and a reddish-purple corolla hybridized by Mary Cooke and registered in 2011 (AFS 7584). Mary was a cherished member of the Santa Clara branch of the AFS and as dear a friend as she was an extraordinary gardener and hybridizer. She especially liked to hybridize with 'Baby Pink'; 'Change of Heart' is a 'Baby Pink' x *F. regia* hybrid. No disrespect to this cute little fuchsia, but I think some of Mary's other 'Baby Pink' hybrids, such as 'Bright Morning', 'Coral Wings', and 'The Little Nipper', are more eye-catching. I wonder if Mary thought so too, for the story I heard from Rodney Bergquist a few years ago is that she almost tossed out the new hybrid but changed her mind, nurtured it, and registered it as 'Change of Heart'. Knowing the origin



of the name makes me smile every time I see it in the garden, thinking of Mary and her skill, kindness, and sense of humor.

The other story comes from the hybridizer himself, our dear friend Michael Brene-man. While a nurseryman with Antonelli's Nursery in Capitola, California, Michael, and Chip Antonelli crossed 'Quasar' with 'Sebastopol' to produce the spectacular trailing fuchsia 'Pinto de Blue' (AFS 3483, registered in 1996). 'Pinto de Blue' is a double with a white sepal and dark violet corolla that commands attention in any garden. It makes me wonder if their other registered hybrids, 'Holy Mackerel' and 'LavaLou', approached the same level of perfection because for years Michael asked if anyone had 'LavaLou', I fear we may have lost both forever. But it's hard to imagine a world without 'Pinto de Blue'. Michael told me once that the name came from a Dean Martin song, *Volare* (Nel Blu, Dipinto Di Blu). The title translates as "in the blue painted in blue". The song was originally written and recorded by the Italian

singer-songwriter Domenico Modugno in 1958. According to my authoritative source on all things, Wikipedia, Modugno woke up from a vivid dream and saw two paintings by Marc Chagall, one of a man with a face half painted blue flying through the sky- hence the title "in the blue painted in blue". The alternative title, *Volare* (Italian for "Fly") was added to the song later. Michael must have liked the song, but his spelling lagged a bit behind his gardening skill, so now we can enjoy a stunning basket of his 'Pinto de Blue' flying through the sky.

If you know a story about the origin of a fuchsia name, please send it to me at egspack@comcast.net or write an article about it yourself. Knowing what's in a name can enhance our enjoyment of these flowers and add to our fuchsia heritage.*



Cathie MacDougall

**Crescent City
Garden Tour 2024
Crescent City Fuchsia
& Epiphyllum Club**

Every year the American Fuchsia Society, board of directors look forward to holding our annual board meeting in Crescent City. It's the one AFS board meeting a year where we all travel 300 plus miles to meet in person to discuss American Fuchsia Society business. The other benefit of holding our meeting every August in Crescent City is we get to enjoy their yearly garden tour and meet the wonderful Crescent City club members that did a lot of work in their yard and wanted to share their garden with other members. Janis & I have been making this annual trip for over 20 years so we allow some extra time to spend with some special friendships we have made over the years. We arrived on Friday and Crescent City was in the process of getting three inches of rain. We were of course concerned that the garden tour might be cancelled because of the rain but it stopped raining during the night and Saturday was a perfect day for the

garden tour. The AFS board of directors would like to thank the following members who shared their gardens.

Bev Overstreet's Garden, founding member of the Crescent City branch. Bev's has many old-time fuchsias and one of the few *F. excorticata* trees in the U.S. It's a fuchsia tree which is at least 25 feet tall. Bev provided coffee, tea, and morning delicious breakfast pasties.

Glady Erickson's Garden was a first-time viewing. Glady was excited about the progress she had made in her garden which she says is still a work in progress, and her secret garden offers critters to view.

Mr. Akio Yamada's Garden was also amazing, it was well manicured and enjoyable. We have seen this garden before and it's always enjoyable. We also got to visit with "Happy" the parrot who was keeping an eye on us fuchsia folks.

Moni and Paul Higgasons yard was where we enjoyed lunch. Lots of enjoyable pizza was available. We have been to this garden several times over the years. It's amazing. We were allowed extra time to



socialize and walk the garden and appreciate all the many hours of love that had been put into creating this unique landscape.

Elkhorn Herbals & Plant Nursery. This nursery specialized in growing vegetables, culinary and medicinal plants.

Kaye and Bill Bethea's Garden was by the ocean with a wonderful view for us to enjoy with lots of fresh air. They had many different colorful plants in the ground and many other plants were on the upper deck for us to enjoy. I did love the ocean view.

At 3:15 the garden tour group gathered at Mario and Margarites home for a potluck. Time to socialize, enjoy a barbecue, with turkey & brisket, potluck dishes and desserts brought by the members. This was a great garden tour, we enjoyed and appreciated the effort that the Crescent City Fuchsia & Epiphyllum Club members put into making this a great day. ***Special note:*** *Most of the information used in this write up was taken from a handout provided by Delfie Danner.**

November Fuchsia Culture

This year's fuchsia season comes to an end this month in most gardens. It is natural for fuchsias to go into a dormant period. The leaves turn yellow and drop off, leaving the plant structures bare. This is Mother Nature's way of changing the cycles of life.

Now fuchsias need preparation for winter, but only general information can be given as the climatic conditions with the membership are so varied.

WARNING—In areas where the temperatures drop to freezing or just below, do not let plants dry out. A dry plant is more susceptible to freezing than a wet one.

MULCHES—In areas with temperatures at freezing or below, a good insulating material should be placed three to four inches thick to keep the root systems of the plants warm. Suggested materials are dry leaves, peat moss, redwood shavings or sawdust, straw, pine needles, and sand. Be sure the mulch is loose and does not compress with the seasonal rains. Fill the tops of

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- Continued from page 11

pots or tubs with mulch and around small pots to keep out the cold. For large plants or standard varieties in cold areas, it is good practice to wrap the trunks with burlap and straw just as is done with your fruit trees in orchards.

STORAGE—Protect plants from winds and drafts. If you do not have a lath house, green-house, or shelter, then store the plants against a fence or under evergreen trees or shrubs out of wind currents.

CLEAN UP—To avoid insect infestation, all old blossoms, seed pods, and dried or yellow leaves should be picked off and destroyed. Avoid the deposit of such waste on the compost pile. Now would be a good time to give the garden a thorough dormant spray to eliminate any bugs or insects that might winter over around the base of plants, under loose soil or mulches.

SPECIAL CHORES—Replace weak or broken stakes and ties. Be sure to check ties that may have become too tight during the summer. Tight ties will injure plants and make them weak to withstand

winds. Insects often seek areas with tight ties to establish their winter homes. Check or replace all name tags.

PRUNING—In warm winter areas, pruning can be started this month as plants show signs of hardening off for the dormant period. However, in frost or freezing areas, do not prune now, because frost will kill the new growth forced out by this early pruning. Let Mother Nature prune first. Then, when the warm spring season comes and the plant begins to put forth new growth, you will have good tip-cuttings to take as you prune the plant structures into the desired shapes.

GREENHOUSE CULTURE—Fuchsias will do well, as any other plants, when given the proper temperature desired for out-of-doors culture. Plants must not be too close together. Give them good circulation of air and proper humidity.*

*From: National Fuchsia Society
Fan Fanfare of November 1962*



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Rodney Bergquist, Editor, 31 July, 2024 (Signed)

Branch Directory

Crescent City: 3rd Wednesday,
Potluck at 6:00 p.m. before every meeting, Del Norte County Fairgrounds Dining Room, Hwy 1, Crescent City, CA. Mailing Address:
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<egspack@yahoo.com>

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<berrydelight80@yahoo.com>

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(541) 935-2482 <sfuchsia@gmail.com>



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contact AFS President



2024 Branch Programs

- Nov 20 Crescent City-Meet @ 5:00 pm - Thanksgiving Feast
Nov 22 Sebastopol -Elect officers for 2025
Dec 11 Crescent City-Meet @ 500 pm - Christmas Celebration

Garden Lovers Quotations

“When in these fresh mornings I go into my garden before anyone is awake, I go for the time being into perfect happiness. In this hour divinely fresh and still, the fair face of every flower salutes me with a silent joy that fills me with infinite content; each gives me its color, its grace, its perfume, and enriches me with the consummation of its beauty”

Celia Thaxter (1835-1894)

Mark your Calendar - Special Events

Merry
Christmas



WANT MORE FUCHSIA CULTURE INFORMATION?

Contact AFS Fuchsia Consultant
Janis Bergquist by e-mail or phone.
Contact info is on page 2 of every AFS Bulletin.

AFS has a Facebook page. Within Facebook search American Fuchsia Society. AFS members can post branch activities, photos, plant sales etc. The Sebastopol Branch also has a Facebook page called Sebastopol Fuchsia Friends.



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Membership is \$19 plus \$3 for each additional family member (outside U.S. foreign airmail \$25) for 12 month's membership, which includes a subscription to our quarterly American Fuchsia Society BULLETIN. Checks or drafts must be drawn on a U.S. Bank in U.S. dollars. U.S. Postal money orders are also accepted.

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