

# American Fuchsia Society



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**'Autumnale'**

American Fuchsia Society Bulletin

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## **NEXT Bulletin Deadline** **Jan-Mar 2026 Bulletin** **01 November**

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## Table of contents

2025 AFS, Photo Contest - update	03
Search for Rose Quartet, Oops	04
First U.S. Fuchsia	06
Oct-Dec Winter Care	07
Fuchsia Facts	08
What makes leaves Change color?	09
POEM	11
Hummingbirds	12
Branch Directory	14
Branch Programs And Special Events	15



## 2025 AFS, Fuchsia Photo Contest - update

Bulletin editor received the following information from our AFS, President, Judy Bligh regarding this year AFS, Photo Contest.

Unfortunately this year only two people entered, which is not enough to make it a contest, so Judy, decided to hold this years contest entries and combine them with next years photo contest. The AFS Board of Directors appreciates this years entries & will try to come up with new ideas to entice more participation next year.

### 'Autumnale' Cover Tid Bits

Cover photo was entered in the 2014 American Fuchsia Society photo contest by Doug Mankin former member of the Sebastopol Branch. Photo did not place in the photo contest but was selected for the cover of this bulletin.

The single flowers are medium sized. Its tube and sepals are scarlet rose with the corolla being purple. Smallish leaves start as green and golden and with ample amount of light will change to dark red and salmon with splashes of yellow. The fuchsias can be trained as an upright or hanging basket. Name can be synonymous with 'Burning Bush' also could be 'Meteor' by Cornelissen.

Fuchsia created quite a sensation when introduced into Britain from France in 1862 and received a Certificate of Merit.



## The Search for 'Rose Quartet' Part II: Oops...

*Ted "Ahab" Spack  
(Santa Clara Branch, AFS)*

I expect that the percentage of fuchsia gardeners who have discovered that the fuch-



sia they brought home from a nursery or a friend was not what the label said it is pretty close

to 100%. On the other hand, I'm guessing the percentage of those who wrote an enthusiastic article about that great find in the last issue of the AFS Bulletin, only to discover that the plant was mislabeled, is much smaller. Oops...

In the last issue I wrote about my excitement upon discovering a gallon container labeled 'Rose Quartet' in a small Northern California nursery. After taking many cuttings for backup and friends, I finally let it bloom. It did indeed have petaloids, but instead of rose pink petaloids with a white sepal characteristic of 'Rose Quartet' it

had red petaloids and sepals. I suspect it is 'Nettala', an opinion supported by others who have seen it. I should have been suspicious as its growth habit didn't seem to match what I recalled about 'Rose Quartet', it was too tall and leggy, but gardeners are optimists, at least until the wrong flower blooms. Oops...

On the bright side, making some lemonade out of the error gives me a chance to talk about 'Nettala' and other sports. 'Nettala' (AFS #1090) is a striking fuchsia in its own right. It was registered by Francesca Stasko of Fort Bragg, California in 1973. She also registered two encliandras, 'Mendocino Mini' (AFS #1290) and 'Ocean Mist' (AFS #1422), and the dainty 'Oriental Lace' (AFS #1291). Unlike 'Rose Quartet', which arose from a deliberate breeding program, it was a sport, one of nature's happy accidents. 'Nettala' is a sport of the fuchsia 'Chang' and like 'Rose Quartet' it is distinguished by stalk-like petaloids. This may explain why the container I bought was mislabeled as 'Rose Quartet' rather than some other random



fuchsia, perhaps the nursery mistook the petaloids. Sports are variations that spontaneously arise on a plant, sometimes on flowers, sometimes on other parts, and sometimes alert gardeners find qualities worth keeping (and naming and registering). Nectarines are cited as a sport of peaches, an example of this phenomenon. Sports can arise from genetic mutation or changes in gene expression, and are not always stable, so reversions to the original are not uncommon. Not all sports affect flowers- several affect the foliage, and their names often refer to the parent plant, for example 'Golden Marinka' (a sport of 'Marinka'), 'Golden Swingtime' (a sport of 'Swingtime'), and 'Variegated Orange Drops' (a sport of 'Orange Drops'). According to a search of the AFS registration database 210 sports have been registered, though most of these are not commonly grown. However, there are several sports that gave rise to strikingly different flowers and may be familiar to gardeners today, including 'McGeez Princess Aba' (sport of 'Dollar Princess') and 'Vienna

Waltz' (sport of 'Heidi Ann'). Another example is 'Fokko's Katrientje' (sometimes called 'Shrimp Cocktail'; the commercial alteration of names is a subject for another article), whose striking corolla of light pink striped and splashed with red is a sport of the more demure fuchsia 'Beacon Rosa'. So, nature is full of surprises, as are nurseries. Some of them are worth keeping in your garden, even if the label is wrong.

Some say never let an inconvenient fact get in the way of a good story, even though a red petaloid spoiled a good story about a long search. The quest for 'Rose Quartet' continues, and hopefully the story will yet have a happy ending. So, if you see a great white whale out there with white sepals and rose pink petaloids, please let me know! (And thanks Bobbie for the 'Velvet Crush' cutting- turns out the original story had a happy ending after all!)\*

Happy  
Holidays

## First Fuchsia in the U.S. It Is Simply Not Known

By Sali Dahl

Part III

The third and most important moment in Europe's fuchsia history and therefore



in American history would be when a fuchsia was cultivated, propagated, and distributed to

the public. The accepted date in England is 1788. That fuchsia was named *F. coccinea*, a red over purple species from Brazil, brought to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. In 1789 Botanical Magazine in England published the statement that, "Mr. Lee of Hammersmith we understand was the first to have this plant for sale.

*F. coccinea* was subsequently confused with its Chilean cousin, *F. magellanica*, which is also red over purple. To further confuse the issue, Editor J. Coultts of England's Gardner's Chronicle stated in 1930 that *F. coccinea* and *F. magellanica* were both in cultiva-

tion between 1786 and 1789. They were thought to be the same plant.

Would either *F. coccinea* or *F. magellanica* sail across the Atlantic and end up in some American garden, and if so, how long would that take 10 ,20...50 years?

Cultivation of the Fuchsia in its Native Lands? It is shortsighted to assume that the first cultivation of the fuchsia began in Europe. Cultivation of ornamental gardens, in areas where fuchsia species grow in the wild, have long histories.

In Preo-Columbian times, the Incas of Peru lived in huge area spanning 2700 miles from north or south along the west coast of South America. This included modern Chile and part of Argentina, which is home to *F. magellanica*, [called 'Thilco' and today 'Chilco'], It also included *F. lycioides*, north of *F. magellanica* in Chile. In Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, and Ecuador, Incas lived with 65 species of Section Fuchsia. *F. boliviana* and *F. denticulata* from that section are well-known today. In addition, Section Hemslyella and its 15 species



are also from this area as is *F. pachyrrhiza*. In short, the majority of fuchsia species were grown in the area that the Incas once controlled.

Around 2500 B.C., elaborate irrigation systems were built in the foothills of the Andes, and they led to horticulture which extended into the 16th century. ***The Incas gathered flowers for dyes and medicines and appreciated their beauty.*** A Short History of the Fuchsia, British horticulturalist and fuchsia hybridizer, John Wright, commented that the Incas used fuchsia in magico-religious rites and drew pictures on Inca pottery of *B. boliviana*, which they called 'Coapac Nucchcchu'. ***An old Inca death poem illustrates their sense of connection to the natural world:***

***I was born as a flower of the field, As a flower I was cherished in my youth, I came to my full age; I grew old, Now I am withered and die.***

When the Spaniards came, they raved about the Inca gardens, the royal palaces, and the great houses with shrubs and flowers. Could their gardens not have included fuchsias?\*

## October - December Winter Care

It's time to let your fuchsias prepare for the winter months. ***Mid-late October start reducing your watering, quite fertilizing and stop removing the seed pods.*** Plant will start preparing for colder temperatures by turning the green semi-hard plant material to a hard -gray wood. ***It's important to realize, while dormant or in winter storage, the top part of the plant goes dormant however, the roots are still alive and will occasionally need a drink of water to keep the roots moist.*** Late fall is a good time to decide which plants did well and need to be wintered over and which plants need to be replaced. It's also a good time to check all plant labels to make sure they will still be legible in the spring. Protect your plants from the cold winter winds & freezing temperatures. Putting container plants in a garage or patio will normally be adequate protection in California. In Colder climates your plants will need extra protection. ***Bottom line: If the roots freeze, the plant dies.\****

## Fuchsia Facts

Fuchsia is a bushy plant that belongs to the plant family, evening primrose. It originates from Central and South America. There are 108 species, 121 counting subspecies & varieties. Fuchsias can be found from sea level to the altitude of 13,900 feet.

The fuchsia was named after Leonhart fuchs (1501 - 10 May 1566) He was a German physician and botanist. He was the author of a large book about plants and their uses as medicines. It was first published in 1542 in Latin. It has about 500 accurate and detailed drawings of plants. Fuchs' Herbal book proved and emphasized high-quality drawing as the most telling way to specify what a plants name stands for.

Charles Plumier, 20 April 1646 - 20 November 1704 Born in Marsille France. At age 16 he joined a religious order. He had many interests but began a study of botany. He became an Illustrator and writer. Exploring many countries, but during his 3rd journey on the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean he identified and described fuchsia. This description was published in 1703 as Fuchsia *F. triphylla*.

Fuchsia usually grows as a shrub that can reach 8 inches to more than 13 feet in height, depending on the variety. With *F. procumbens* being a ground cover, it may only be 1 inch.

Fuchsia has simple leaves that grow in pairs on opposite sides of a node. Leaf edges can be smooth or serrated.

Majority of species of fuchsia develop flowers of red sepals and purple petals. Fuchsia cultivars produce white, yellow, orange, dark red and purple-blue colored flowers.

The main pollinators for fuchsias are hummingbirds and bees.

Fruit of fuchsia are berries. They can be reddish green, red or purple colored, depending on the variety. Berries are filled with miniature seeds. \*



## What Makes the Leaves Change Color?

According to a pamphlet prepared by the Forest Service of the U.S Department of Agriculture, giving the scientific explanation of the phenomenon of why leaves change color, we quote the following:

***“Many people suppose that Jack Frost is responsible for the color change, but he is not.*** Some of the leaves begin to turn before we have any frost. The Indians had a fantastic idea that it was because the celestial hunters had slain the Great Bear—his blood dripping on the forests change many trees red. Other trees were turned yellow by the fat that spattered out of the kettle as the hunters cooked the meat. ***In reality, however, change in coloring is the result of chemical processes which take place in the tree during preparation for winter.***

“All during the spring and summer the leaves have served as factories where the food necessary for the tree’s growth have been manufactured. This food-making takes place in numberless tiny cells

of the leaf and is carried on by small green bodies which give the leaf its color. These chlorophyll bodies, as they are called, make the food for the tree by combining carbon taken from the air with hydrogen, oxygen, and various minerals supplied in the water which the roots gather. In the fall when the cool weather causes a slowing down of the vital processes, the work of the leaves comes to an end. The machinery of the leaf factory is dismantled, so to speak; the chlorophyll is broken up into various substances of which it is composed, and whatever food there is on hand is sent to the body of the tree to be stored for use in the spring. All that remains in the cell cavities of the leaf is a watery substance in which a few oil globules and crystals and a small number of yellow, strongly refractive bodies can be seen. These give the leaves the color yellow so familiar in the autumnal foliage.

“It often happens that there is more sugar in the leaf than can readily be transferred back to the tree. When this is the case the chemical

- Continued on page 10



combination with other substances produces many color shades, varying from brilliant red of the dogwood to the more austere red browns of the oaks. In cone-bearing trees which do not lose their foliage in the fall, the green coloring matter takes on a slightly brownish tinge which gives way to the lighter color in the spring.

While the leaf is changing, other preparations are being made. At the point where the stem of the leaf is attached to the tree, a special layer of cells develops and gradually severs the tissues that support the leaf. At the same time nature heals the cut, so that when the leaf is finally blown off by the wind or falls from its own weight, the place where it grew on the twig is marked by a scar.

“The shedding of leaves is another of nature’s wise provisions for winter. Broad leaf trees of the north shed their leaves so that their branches will more easily bear the winter’s burden of snow and ice. In the southern states where there is seldom snow

or ice, some broad leaf trees are evergreen. The conifers—pines, spruces, cedars, firs, and hemlocks—have no definite time for leaf shedding. Their leaves are either needle or scale-like, a form adapting them to the shedding of snow.

“Through fallen leaves, nature has also provided for a fertile forest floor. Although the food prepared in the cell cavities of the leaves is returned to the tree in the fall, mineral substances with which the walls of the cells have become impregnated during the summer months are retained. Therefore, fallen leaves contain relatively large amounts of valuable elements which were originally a part of the soil.”\*

*From Fuchsia Fan of December 1958*



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## POEM Sixty-Three Varieties

By Tola Jones

We have sixty-three varieties,  
I'll name them one by one.  
First we'll visit 'Minnesota' to hear  
The 'Cardinal' sing,  
Then back to 'California' to hear  
the 'Mission Bells' ring.  
We'll visit 'Costa Mesa', the city of  
the Fish Fry,  
Say hello to shy little 'Ruthie' and  
goodnight to 'Lullaby'.  
Then there is 'Violet Gem', 'Vogue',  
and 'Marinka',  
And 'Blue Petticoat', so warm,  
Nodding to 'Mrs. Victor Reiter' and  
'Queen Elizabeth' with all her  
charm.  
We will stand and sing 'America'  
While 'Lilibet' listens in.  
As 'Jack Shahan' winks at  
'Georgana'  
And 'Cover Girl' winks at him.  
We will go to 'San Mateo' to visit  
'Bernadette'  
Then over to 'San Leandro' to see  
our lovely 'Bluette'.  
'Rosecrest' is very petty,  
'Wadsworth' pure and white  
With 'Golden Marinka' beaming,  
White 'Snow Flakes' also are white.  
'Aunt Juliana' dances with 'Uncle  
Charlie'  
While 'Display' puts on a Show.  
'Fluorescent' glowed in beauty,

'Dusty Rose' put out her glow.  
We waved at pert Miss 'Butterfly'  
Threw a kiss to 'Blue Dancing Doll',  
Gave 'Nonpariel' a little touch  
And smiled at 'Fireball'.  
Then we have 'Monstera', 'Moles-  
worth', and 'Moth Blue'  
'Whitemost', 'Swingtime', and  
'Vagabond'.  
'Cascade', 'Lady Beth', 'Swanlee  
Yellow' to carry on,  
We love 'Corpus Christie', silver blue  
and lovely pink.  
'Black Magic' and 'Sierra Blue' will  
make you stop and think  
'New Cardinal' and 'Gay Fandango'  
join with 'Claret Cup'.  
'Autumnal' and 'Show Boat' too,  
will make your eyes light up.  
White 'Sleigh Bells' tinkle merrily to  
chase away the tears.  
For each is every so pretty, we Treas-  
ure them thru the years.  
'Checkerboard' and 'Amy Lye' are  
regular 'Little Beauty'  
'New Fascination' tries so hard to  
make it all her duty.  
We have two more I cannot name,  
but they are very pretty,  
Now you may print this if you like,  
It is our Fuchsia Ditty.

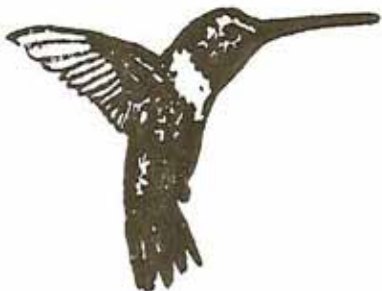
From National Fuchsia Fan Jun1964



## HUMMINGBIRDS

*By David L. Weiss  
Salem Area Branch*

Wear a red hat or cap to attract hummingbirds when you work in your garden. These little birds are drawn to brilliant reds, whether it is flowers or clothing.



In fact, they seem to be attracted by color more than fragrance and will check out your red hat, hoping it to be flowers on which to feed. If you are quiet, the hummingbird may hover just a few inches from your head while looking you over for a meal, its wings making a steady whirring sound. Discovering your hat is not a flower, it will suddenly dart away, often with a sharp chirp as if to let you know what it thinks of you.

There are about 320 species of hummingbirds known to

us, the most tropical, but some have adapted to the temperate conditions of North America. Only one North American species lives east of the Great Plains while about a dozen range through the western United States. Of this dozen, only a few are summer breeding residents along the Pacific Coast.

Hummingbirds usually winter in Mexico although the increasing use of feeders is encouraging them to stay in their summer ranges year-round. On their spring migrations birds usually arrive in western Oregon and Washington early in March and appear in British Columbia about late March or early April. By late September they will start their southward travels to winter ranges.

Plants with sweet nectar flowers will attract hummingbirds to your garden. There are too many such flowers and shrubs to list here, but in general, plants bearing small red flowers draw them best. Grow several different plants so as to provide food all through the summer.

Protective of their nesting and feeding territory, they



will attack and drive off larger birds and are not afraid to attack a human. However, a couple of racing zooms past your head usually will satisfy the bird that it has driven you away.

The Rufous Hummingbird is perhaps the most pugnacious creature for its size. Upon finding a source of food, this bird will defend the food even though it has eaten its fill, perching in a nearby tree and driving away all late comers. Males and females give distinct but different warning signs. The male faces the intruder with a display of the gorget, its iridescent throat patch, while the female signals with a display of fanned out tail feathers.

For birds that pair only at the mating season, quickly finding a mate is of utmost importance. Male hummingbirds use extraordinary means of attracting the attention of an unattached female. Some species only flash their gorget, the reflected light changing color and even disappearing at times. Others perform fascinating aerial displays sweeping up and down in spectacular climbs and zooming dives

before an undecided female. Some will climb to where they are out of sight before diving. May is generally the breeding month.

A dainty lichen-covered cup saddled on a tree branch, spun of fine vegetable fibers, spider webs, and occasionally bark fibers become the nest of the hummingbird. The female, left to incubate the two white eggs, takes complete care of the young as the sexes come together only at mating time.

***If startled while feeding, hummingbird's birds can flip over backwards and race away upside down, righting itself after a few yards of flight.*** Their unique flying ability comes from a variation in their wing structure compared to other birds.

A red hat, red flowers and a feeder will bring these fascinating little birds to your garden for your enjoyment.\*

*From AFS Bulletin July/August 1992*



## 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: Crescent City, Fuchsia Society  
2035 Old Mill Road  
Crescent City, CA 95531  
(916) 213-3941  
<n2flowers@comcast.net>

Sacramento: Location, Days & Times. change  
Contact (916) 207-1428  
<Jose@JoseRodriguezHomes.com>

Salem Area: 2nd Tuesday, 1:30 p.m.  
13th St. Nursury  
1298 13th St. SE, Salem, OR. 97302  
Mailing address: 4543 Brock Loops ,  
Salem, OR 97302 (503) 584-1786  
<knighten\_g@yahoo.com>

San Mateo: First Sat, every other month, 10:00 a.m.  
Presbyterian Church, 1500 Easton dr.  
Burlingame, CA (650) 875-1938  
<oscarcolin@sbcglobal.net>

Santa Clara Valley: 1st Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.  
323 Pine Lane A-302,  
Los Altos, CA 94022 (650) 793-7447  
<egspack@yahoo.com>

Sebastopol: 4th Friday, 11:00 a.m.  
(Potlucks TBA)  
Wischemann Hall,  
465 Morris St, Sebastopol, CA  
locations occasionally change,  
contact (707) 838-9429 for location  
<berrydelight80@yahoo.com>

## Affiliated Society

Eugene Fuchsia & Begonia Society  
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(541) 935-2482 <sfuchsia@gmail.com>



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If there is a problem,  
contact AFS President



## 2025 Branch Programs

- Oct. 25 Sebastopol - Annual Luncheon @ Sunshine Cafe  
Sebastopol, Time 11:30
- Nov. 22 Sebastopol - Wischemann Hall - Elect Officers &  
determine programs for 2026
- Jan. 23 2026 Sebastopol - Wischemann Hall

## Mark your Calendar - Special Events

### *Be Thankful.*

At this time of year with Thanksgiving just around the corner it kind a triggers a feeling of being thankful. Most of us wouldn't have to look to far to see someone less fortunate then we are. At my age I'm feeling thankful every day. Even though for many of us life could be a lot better, it could also be a lot worse.

***Be grateful, be kind, be caring, be a good friend to someone.***

Rodney & Janis, your AFS, Bulletin Editors, wish everyone

***A Happy Thanksgiving.***

***NEW AFS website: [americanfuchsiasociety.org](http://americanfuchsiasociety.org), has close to 100 fuchsia culture articles which cover most fuchsia culture subjects. Articles can be downloaded and printed.***

***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.***

### **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.

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Send to Membership Secretary: New Member  Renewal

**Karen Wilkinson, 119 Alden Ave  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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