

## **APRIL 2020 MEETING**

**Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 pm** Presentation will be available via Zoom on your computer. It will not be an interactive talk so please turn off both your microphone and video of yourself when you tune in.

The presentation should run about 45 minutes with about 15 minutes at the end for you to submit written questions if you have any.

**INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO LOG-IN FOR THE PRESENTATION WILL BE E-MAILED EARLY NEXT WEEK.**

**Speaker:** Jason Dewees, Palm expert and author

***Designing with Palms: From Understory Gems to Perfect Small-Garden Trees***



Jason Dewees is the horticulturist and palm expert at Flora Grubb Gardens. He has consulted on palm collections at the Conservatory of Flowers, UC Botanical Garden and San Francisco Botanical Garden, trained volunteers and docents on the palm family, grown thousands of palms from seed, planted palms in gardens, consulted with gardeners, landscape architects and designers on using palms in the landscape and lectured on palms. Jason joined the Northern California Chapter of the International Palm Society at age 17 as their youngest member and offers a very local point of view on palms for Bay Area climates.



Jason Dewees, author of the AHS Book Award-winning *Designing with Palms* (Timber Press), will address the many inventive and essential ways palms can contribute to gardens and landscapes in California and the Bay Area. He will discuss less-common (and often better-adapted) species for local climates and the basic cultural needs many seasoned gardeners remain unaware.

The power of palms in landscape design arises from their iconic architecture. Palms occupy a place at the root of Western horticulture; date palms are the oasis tree. Naturally, the palm's beauty and utility earned it a place inside early Fertile Crescent gardens, the source of our Western garden traditions.

Instantly recognizable, palms get lost in the glare of their own beauty while dwelling in our historical unconscious. They are superior performers whose fame might distract from their roles were it not for a director's guidance. Our job with palms is to be that director in the garden. Too often we Californians have leaned on the symbolic value of palms, subjecting them to unconsidered uses. We've been passing over their particular aesthetic qualities and contributions, skipping the lessons of palmier parts of the world and ignoring the varied cultural needs and tolerances of the 100+ species that can be cultivated in Bay Area gardens.

***Dinner with Jason Dewees is Cancelled.***

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I know that these are difficult times for everyone, especially those in the landscape profession whose livelihoods are now threatened. I hope that you are all able to stay safe and well.

In an effort to improve all of our at home experiences we are experimenting with doing our presentation via Zoom this month. We hope that many of you will be able to tune in and we welcome any feedback that you have.

I can always be reached at: <mailto:info@westernhort.org>

If you are looking for another avenue for horticultural sharing, Grace Tsang, has launched a site where you can share photos of your gardens and plants as well as general gardening questions and advice. To join send an email to: <mailto:WHSmembers@groups.io>.

Take care,

*Janet Hoffmann*



Nancy Schramm shared a colorful view from her property

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**May 13, 2020**—Dan Nolan, Garden Designer and Author. *Dry Gardens: High Style for Low Water Gardens*

**June 6th, 2020**—**Annual Picnic**—Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA.



*Mystery Solved! Nancy contacted Warren Roberts and he identified her prunus as Prunus glandulosa, the non cultivar form which is the simple flowered form.*



*Ed Carman's cousin was a bit of a practical joker and he saved crab claws from dinner and sent them home with Nancy. He told her to "plant" them and she put the pot in her dad's greenhouse telling him they were bulbs from Gordon his cousin, but Gordon didn't know what they were. Nancy was to gradually expose them until her dad figured out what they were. After a short time she went out to the greenhouse and found a label that her dad wrote up. "Lobster claw lily or Dog tooth violet"*



*Here is some determined to grow corn that was discarded in Nancy Schramm's garden because it was not suitable for her corn meal. It sat in the garden all winter (2018-2019) and germinated last spring.*



*Iris douglasiana* treats Kathy Anberg to the best bloom ever!



*Streptanthus* bloom April 2019.  
Growing on a serpentine patch of  
ground at Nancy Schramm's garden.





Dear Friends at Western Hort,

On behalf of everyone at [Pacific Horticulture Society](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org), **thank you for your generous support** of our organization! We are thrilled to have Western Horticultural Society as a non-profit partner and are deeply grateful for your timely contribution.

This is a pivotal year for Pacific Horticulture Society. We continue to transform our organization in order to provide you, and the greater public, with inspiring regional garden information and scientific solutions to landscape sustainably and help heal our planet.

We've begun executing the [Strategic Plan 2020-2023](#) published last October. If you haven't already, please take a moment to read about the vision for Pacific Horticulture Society's future.

As part of the strategic planning process, and in response to a steady decline in subscribers over the last decade, **we took a hard look at Pacific Horticulture Society's identity as a magazine** in the context of today's digital media. We concluded that in order to survive the organization had to change. In July 2019 the last print edition of Pacific Horticulture magazine was published for the foreseeable future; a bittersweet end to Pacific Horticulture Society's esteemed fifty-year heritage as a quarterly print journal.

So what's next? Pacific Horticulture Society's work to help people transform the world through resilient gardening is needed now more than ever before. **We will continue to publish new digital content**, which will be available online for free. Behind the scenes, our staff and board are working to bring the new Pacific Horticulture Society to life. I look forward to sharing our progress with you in the months to come.

If you are passionate about Pacific Horticulture Society and want to be a part of this exciting relaunch, we are currently looking for working board members with the following professional expertise: digital media, fundraising, marketing/PR, and finance. Please send a letter of interest and brief summary of your background to [office@pacifichorticulture.org](mailto:office@pacifichorticulture.org). We'd love to hear from you.

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,

Laura Wilson

*Board of Directors, Chair*

*(and fellow member of Western Hort)*

**SUBSCRIBE to our free monthly newsletter and get the latest articles delivered straight to your inbox. [Sign up online at pachort.org](https://www.pacifichorticulture.org)**



## 28 YEARS AGO

WHS met on April 8, 1992 for “the Third Annual Member’s Slide Presentation. Members will show slides of their own gardens or gardens that they have seen in their travels.”

(What a great idea! In the spirit of sharing beauty and joy during these anxious days, why don’t we all post our favorite plant or garden photo on the WHS members group site! Not yet a member? Request an invitation from Grace Tsang—nls)

Don Brandeau headed up the team designing and installing the WHS display at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show and was asking for loan of “nice specimen plants for our display. The show will run from Wednesday, April 8 through Sunday April 12.” (I believe the show was still being held at Fort Mason at that time—the real hey-day of a wonderful garden show. This year’s show, rebranded The San Fran-Nor Cal Flower & Garden Show, located in Sacramento and intended for April 2-5 has been cancelled due to the coronavirus—nls)

The Plant Notes for April began with a varied selection from Albert Wilson: *Euphorbia characias characias* “This is a tough and hardy plant, resistant to drought and impervious to deer and gophers. The milky sap is poisonous and, for some people, irritating to the skin”, *Exochorda korolkowii* (pearl bush, to 15’) “The species most available in nurseries is *E. macrantha*, a hybrid between *E. korolkowii* and *E. racemosa*. A more compact form is *E. macrantha* ‘The Bride’ (3-4’”, *Eleagnus pungens* ‘Maculata’ (variegated form, densely evergreen, very hardy, low water requirements and withstands heat and wind) and *E. angustifolia* (small deciduous tree, invaluable in dry, hot climates).

Keith Bickford showed *Azalea* ‘Koromo Shikibu’ (small, evergreen, slow growing azalea with elongated lavender petals), Marjorie Branagh brought *Muscari latifolium* (large, unusual grape hyacinth of intense color) as well as *Iris bucharica* (seldom seen iris, flowers of atypical form).

Plant Note author Elizabeth Garbett talked Allicin Rauzin (Green Sun Nursery) into displaying a glorious selection of Pacific Coast hybrid iris. “These are undemanding plants, retaining much of their native toughness. The one thing they do dislike is being moved in their resting state. When they start into active growth in late winter or early spring it is possible to divide and transplant them successfully. I have learned from Ted Kipping that one can recognize this condition by the appearance of new white roots on the circumference of the clump. The old roots are brown and stringy.” Also from Allicin’s nursery were two hardy geraniums. *G.* ‘Russell Pritchard’ (magenta flowers from June throughout the summer) and *G.* ‘Mavis Simpson’ (Kew Garden seedling with chalky pink flowers).

Dave Rodal brought clematis flowers from his garden which prompted an educational discussion of the different forms and growth habits: *C. montana* ‘Alba’ (white, 4-sepalled and vanilla scented) *C. m.* ‘Elizabeth’ (clear, light pink and young foliage tinged with purple) *C. m.* ‘Freda’ (deeper pink, darker margins and bronzy foliage) *C. spooneri* (this one has had at least six different names) *C. macropetala* (bell shaped double flowers, lavender blue and white) and *C. lasurstern* (large deep blue-lavender flowers).

Pat Ley brought a seedling *Chrysanthemum parthenium* ‘Aureum’ “in which the green sepals seem to invade the white daisy flowers” in hopes that someone might be able to explain the curious mutation.

Steffy Reader brought in *Mentzelia lindleyi* (CA wildflower) and asked about how to grow them successfully. Sue Addicott showed “Two elegant Japanese maples” *Acer palmatum* ‘Goshiki Shidari’ and ‘Koto ito Komachi’. And Ellie Hawkins shared *Abutilon x suntuense* ‘Ralph Gould’s Seedling’ from her garden.

~ Nancy Schramm

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**Cancellations:** Master Gardener Plant Market  
San Fran-Nor Cal Flower and Garden Show at Cal Expo in Sacramento

**Log in for lectures at Foothill** Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/926360449>

**Master Gardeners’ Spring Market - Online Sales coming** The Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County are actively working on an online sales site that will allow you to order and pay for plants in advance and choose a pick up time. Details will be posted on Nextdoor, Facebook and their website:” <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/>

## ***STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET***

### **South African succulent for absorbing carbon**

Portulacaria afra, a South African succulent, is very good at absorbing carbon relative to the water it uses. Here is a link to the story: [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/spekboom-plant-save-the-world\\_n\\_5e60daefc5b6bd126b767284](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/spekboom-plant-save-the-world_n_5e60daefc5b6bd126b767284)

**Disinfectants are pesticides-so use safely!** Here is an informative article from the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program originally posted by Mike Merchant on *Insects in the City*.

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=40929>

**Museums share virtual flowers to spread joy** If you love pictures of flowers by famous artists here is a link you will enjoy. <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/museums-closed-due-to-coronavirus-crisis-send-each-other-virtual-flowers-to-spread-joy-on-social-media/>

### **Officers and Board Members:**

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Grace Tsang, Carol Moholt

### **Volunteers:**

Plant Share Host: Katie Wong

Guest Speaker Dinner Host: Katie Wong

AV Co-Ordinator: John Hammerschmidt

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Welcome Table: Carol Moholt & Mary Alice Reid

Membership: Carrie Parker

Program Chair: Leslie Dean

Social Media: Grace Tsang

Website manager & E-communications: Steve Souders and Ursula Haschke

### **About Membership in Western Hort:**

**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail add \$10 to the membership fee listed above. Please visit the Pac Hort page to read about changes in their organization: [pacifichorticulture.org](http://pacifichorticulture.org).

**To join or renew visit our website at:** <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

**To contact us:** Please send email to: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



PO Box 166  
Mountain View, CA 94042  
First Class Mail  
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

**Meeting location April:**

Meeting will be via Zoom in the comfort of your own home. An e-mail explaining how to log in will be emailed early next week.

**Newsletter Submissions**

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. **Note deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 22nd of April.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanberg@gmail.com) or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342