

MAY 2021 MEETING

May 12th, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet

Our meeting this month will once again be a Zoom presentation but **you will not need to register on Eventbrite**. The **meeting link will be sent to all members via email** the week before the meeting. Please remember to save the email or enter the link into your calendar so that it will be handy on the night of the meeting. To test your Zoom connection you can log on anytime after 7:00 pm. (The meeting will start at 7:15pm).

This meeting will be for Western Hort and Cal Hort **members only**. As an incentive to join Western Hort now your membership dues would cover the next meeting as well as the entire 2021-2022 program year. (See page 7 for information about joining)

Speaker: Steve Fennimore, Extension Specialist and Weed Scientist, UC Davis

Topic: When is a Weed a Weed? How to ID and Control Them

Weeds occur every day in our environment. Some species are natives and some are invasive. There are weeds that are highly poisonous like poison hemlock, and others that are delicious if properly prepared such as steamed burning nettle which tastes like spinach. We will discuss the characteristics of weeds that make them difficult to manage such as seed dormancy, dispersal and the perennial life cycle. Additional topics will be weed identification, weed competition and the damage that weeds inflict. We will discuss cultural, physical and chemical weed control methods, with a focus on how to control weeds using organic-compliant methods.



Steve Fennimore is an extension specialist and weed scientist with the University of California, Davis located at Salinas. Since 1997, Steve has conducted a research and extension program focused on weed management in vegetables, flowers and strawberries in coastal production areas of California.

His specialization is in non-chemical weed management for strawberry and vegetable crops.

Projects in his lab include automated weed removal and steam for soil disinfestation. Steve grew up on a vegetable farm in western Oregon. From 1983 to 1993, Steve worked in the agricultural chemical industry holding research and development positions in California, Mississippi and Indiana with ICI Americas/Zeneca. He left industry and returned to graduate school at Purdue University where he received his PhD in weed science in 1997.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are wrapping up our unusual virtual year with one more speaker this month. We are hoping to return to in-person meetings in September. The speaker committee is looking for input on your feelings on Zoom presentations over the past year and if you would be interested in continuing some virtual presentations in the future. You can email our program chair Leslie Dean <mailto:lesliekdean@sonic.net> with your thoughts about the virtual meetings.

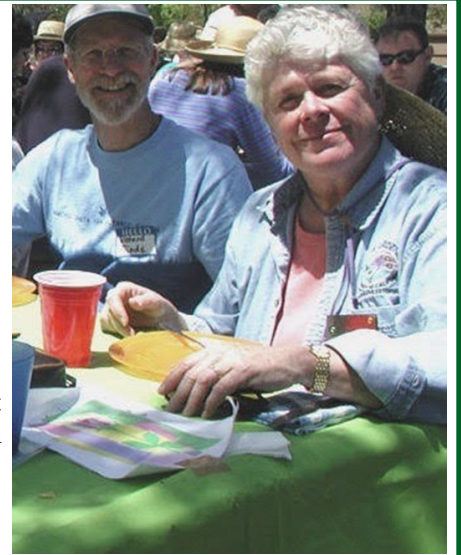
We are also still looking for people to help with our scholarship and grant committee. Please email Jennifer Doniach <mailto:jdoniach@gmail.com> or Grace Tsang <mailto:cosang@gmail.com> if you are interested in helping to evaluate potential candidates.

If we start in-person meetings in the fall, we will also be looking for people to help with our Welcome Table and meeting set-up. In the meantime, stay safe and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors. Have a good summer! I hope to see many of you in person in the fall.
~ Janet Hoffmann

A Big Thank You!

We wanted everyone to know that we received another generous donation from the estate of Richard and Bracey Tiede this spring. They were amazing supporters of Western Hort during their lifetimes, devoting many hours to us. Regular meeting attendees will remember that Richard was our president and served on the board for many years. Both he and Bracey helped out with meeting set-up, the Hot Plant Picks exhibit, bringing plants for the plant discussion and raffle table, organizing our June picnics, contributing pieces for the newsletter, suggesting speakers and taking photos of members at various events for our website.

They have continued their support posthumously with generous contributions that will help to keep us financially stable and allow us to support horticulture through grants and scholarships. They were recipients of our Founder's Award in 2018 after Bracey's passing but we owe them even more appreciation now. They will live on in our collective memories for a very long time.



APRIL SPEAKER NOTES

Saxon Holt was our thought-provoking April Zoom speaker. His topic of summer-dry gardens was taken from his latest book which he co-authored with Nora Harlow, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates*. This topic is one that Saxon feels passionate about and he hopes that everyone will participate as “stewards of the land” and garden in tune with our local environment.

To clarify what he means by “Beyond Mediterranean” Saxon showed a few examples of ways that our climates are classified. The entire West Coast falls in the temperate main climate mode in the [Köppen climate classification system](#). This system further divides these main areas based on precipitation and temperature. We are a summer dry area but our summer temperatures can vary from hot to warm to cold. The [Pacific Bulb Society](#) also has a nice chart of average summer rainfall in summer dry climates around the world. There are also many regional microclimates. The common denominator being that the majority of our rainfall comes in the winter months.

Saxon went on to emphasize that in gardening practice, summer-dry does not mean no summer water. Judicious use of water is important to maintain an acceptable level of beauty as well as for fire resistance. Another important reason for irrigation is to replenish ground water. This is especially important during the winter months when the majority of our native plants are used to getting water. In his words we need to balance the big picture with smaller “niche truths”. Mr. Holt shared numerous photos to show how these principles could be applied in practical ways. Some included above ground water storage cisterns and ponds, some had bioswales to capture run-off from hard surfaces, and some had rain gardens with sunken areas to collect rainfall and prevent it from running off into the street.

The recording of Saxon's presentation as well as our plant share will be available only through the month of May on our [youtube](#). In response to the question during the presentation about the *Euphorbia* in the photo of the Huntington Garden, Saxon tells me that it is *Euphorbia* 'Nothowlee' (Blackbird Spurge) (*Euphorbia amygdaloides* and *Euphorbia martinii* cross).

You can purchase his book, subscribe to his blog or Instagram and learn more about Saxon Holt by going to his website <https://summer-dry.com/>.
~Janet Hoffmann

28 YEARS AGO

On May 12, 1993, Western Hort met at Loyola School to hear “Elizabeth Wilkinson from Marin Co. who wrote *Decorating Eden* will speak about garden structures, including fences, trellises, follies, gazebos, benches, etc. Barbara Worl will have copies of the book available to buy and Ms. Wilkinson will be glad to autograph them.”

There were a number of announcements:

Slides of past Landscape Garden Shows were requested for a “*short presentation*, possibly next winter when we need inspiration to get started on the next show”.

Carol and Barrie Coate invited WHS to their “open garden weekend...now is your chance to see that wonderful perennial border for yourself. We thank them for their generosity.”

“Gerda Isenberg has invited us to picnic at Yerba Buena Nursery on Sunday, June 13.”

“The board has agreed to plant a succulent section in the Gamble Garden.”

WHS members were asked to help at the “June 6th party for the Friends of Pacific Horticulture in Woodside.”

The annual plant sales at both UC Botanic Garden in Berkeley and Merritt College in Oakland were scheduled for May 8th.

The Central Coast Heritage Rose Group hosted the annual *Celebration of Old Roses* on May 16th followed by open gardens on May 22nd.”

There was also a page long description about the WHS participation in the 1993 Landscape Garden show which resulted in “...three awards: SF Landscape Garden Show Certificate of Excellence, Strybing Arboretum Society Education Award for best interpretation and display of unusual and uncommon plants, and Fine Gardening Magazine Award for Best use of new and unusual plants. The purpose was to recognize what nurserymen in this area had done to introduce new plants to the area and the world. Some of these people hybridized, some selected and some introduced plants here that had previously been grown only in other parts of the world.”

I wish I could include the whole article, it was a wonderful “thank you” to the many WHS members who conceived of, designed, built, spent time during the show, donated plants to and then removed the award winning display.

I’d like to encourage more members to participate in the plant discussion. The May 1993 table at Western Hort must have been absolutely glorious.

Dick Dunmire brought a four foot tall flowering stem of *Beschorneria yuccoides* (coral red with yellow-green flowers with red bracts that are held on drooping branchlets) and *Iris foetidissima* “...chief virtues are in its indestructible, tough, glossy, evergreen foliage accepting sun or shade and its seed pods that split open in the fall to reveal bright scarlet seeds...”

“Roz Bray showed us a stem of *Campanula persicifolia* ‘Alba’, a white flowered form of the peach-leafed bellflower.”

Maggie Gage brought one of her “charming assortments of flowers...in forget-me-not blues” including *Myosotis sylvatica* (annual forget-me-not), *Cynoglossum amabile* (Chinese forget-me-not), *Omphalodes cappadocica* “excellent non-invasive ground cover for light shade”, *Oxypetalum caeruleum* “star-shaped flowers in a unique and arresting shade of blue”, *Campanula rapunculoides* “...might well have been called rambunculoides. All authorities agree that this is an ineradicable weed that should never knowingly be introduced into the garden”, *Sollya heterophylla* “the Australian bluebell creeper, is an evergreen shrub with vining tendencies” and lastly “delphinium and aquilegia in shades of deep blue”.

“Sherry Austin showed the rose ‘Nozomi’, a Japanese hybrid between ‘Fairy Princess’ and ‘Sweet Fairy’...it is truly spectacular, covered with small, single, pearly pink flowers...the leaves are small and glossy...the thorns...are really ferocious”. Sherry also brought flowers from *Philadelphus mexicanus* “double and very fragrant, smelling and looking like a white rose with slightly ruffled petals”.

Dorothy Rodal brought in an ennead of heucheras: *Heuchera caespitosa* (CA native from 8000’ elevation in Kern & Tulare Counties), *H.* ‘Coral Mist’ (similar but with coral flowers), *H.* ‘Green Finch’ (green flowers & patterned leaves), *H. maxima* x *sanguinea* ‘Rosada’ (vigorous, pink flowers), *H. micrantha* ‘Martha Roderick’ (robust plant selected and named by Wayne Roderick, two month+ bloom), *H.* ‘Old La Rochette’ (large, warm pink flowers from Victor Reiter), *H.* ‘Patricia Louise’ (from Western Hills Nursery), *H.* ‘Crimson Cloud’ (intense, deep red flowers) and *H.* ‘Wendy’ “masses of sprays of light pink flowers on red stems that go on and on, for month after month.”

Adding to the profusion of beauty, there were also nine different clematis on display, mostly from Dave Rodal but two, also from Dick Dunmire:

Clematis vitacella ‘Mme Julia Correvon (four deep red narrow sepals with yellow stamens)

C. ‘Mrs. N. Thompson’ (4-6” violet purple blooms with red stripe down center of petal)

C. ‘General Sikorski’ (profuse bloomer, 6-8” lavender blue flowers w/center reddish stripe)

28 YEARS AGO CONTINUED:

Clematis integrifolia x *durandii* (a 'leaner' not a climber with blue flowers)

Clematis texensis 'Etoile Rose' (urn-shaped flowers, deep pink inside, lighter outside)

C. venosa violacea (flowers are pink outside and purple within)

C. vitacella 'Betty Corning' (bell-shaped blue flowers)

C. 'Etoile Violette' (deep violet 4" flowers)

C. vitacella 'Polish Spirit' (free-flowering with rich purple-blue blooms with a red central streak)

The last two plants shared were *Asarum caudatum* (western wild ginger, handsome ground cover for shade) and *Linaria alpina* found by Elizabeth Garbett at Dynasty Gardens in Soquel. "The purple flowers are two-lipped and spurred with the throat closed by a curious structure called a palate that is bright orange. Sounds like a wild combination but is actually very charming."
~Nancy Schramm



Barbara Worl

"A Rose of a Person"

Reflection by Clay Neece



Someone suggested that I should pay a visit to Bell's Books in Palo Alto. I visited Bell's and a nice lady named Barbara welcomed me. I saw some lovely cards, photographs of different flowers and gardens. Those cards were made by Barbara Worl. I came to look at the hort books and knew right away I'd come there often.

Barbara fueled my interest in old and modern roses, perennials, shrubs, grasses, trees and all the rest. Her interests went way beyond roses. She loved to talk to people about her experiences with beautiful plants, always giving of herself to educate those just beginning to study horticulture. Barbara never asked for anything in return, this was her passion in life.

There's so much more I could tell you about Barbara, however some of you know more about Barbara's life than I do. Everyone who was blessed with her friendship remembers her with joy and admiration.

Her work lives on in her photos which allow so many to enjoy the beauty that Barbara loved. These photos are filled with the art and knowledge that meant so much to Barbara.

A tribute to Barbara, a rose of a person.

APRIL PLANT SHARE

Judy Wong from Menlo Park presented:

Sonchus palmensis (La Palma Sow Thistle) - This endemic shrub from the Canary Islands has huge flower heads with 2" yellow flowers. It also has big 3' long palmate leaves. It is beautiful and in full bloom right now attracting all types of bees.

Judy admired the 8' tall specimen in Mark Delepine's garden. Judy is growing hers in a pot so it is only 6' tall. It is growing really well getting morning sun and bright shade in the afternoon with regular watering. Be careful when pruning if you're sensitive to the white latex it releases. Judy has not had any volunteers and Mark believes it might need to be crossed in order to set seeds. It is hardy to 25°.



Sonchus palmensis



Pelargonium echinatum



Pelargonium echinatum (Prickly-stemmed Pelargonium) - This summer deciduous South African perennial has spines on the stems. It gets to be 1.5' tall x 3' wide. It grows in full sun in well-drained soil. Judy starts watering in September and beautiful white flowers bloom from February to April. Flowers come in white, pink or purple with dark red markings on all of the 5 white petals or just the top two. Please remember to not water in the summer.

PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

Camassia leichtinii ssp. *suksdorfii* - Judy got this bulb at a WHS plant offering many years ago. It grew for many years but never bloomed until Judy started giving it more water assuming it needed it since it normally grows in the Pacific Northwest. It grows in full sun with summer watering. It only blooms from early to late spring but it can become invasive since every seed germinates and develops into a bulb. Judy checked the Pacific Bulb Society website and narrowed it down to ssp. *suksdorfii* because the flowers are dark violet.



**Camassia leichtinii
ssp. suksdorfii**



**Erysimum
'Bowles Mauve'**

Ben Spencer Cooke from San Jose shared:

Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve' (Bowles' Mauve Wallflower) - This perennial grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil with regular watering. It gets to be 2' tall and wide. Scented light purple flowers with 4 petals appear from spring to summer. If cut back in the late summer, it will possibly bloom in the fall giving you flowering throughout the year.

Janet Hoffmann saw on Mt. Tamalpais:

Calypso bulbosa var. *occidentalis* (Fairy Slipper) - This forb grows in shaded or semi-shaded coniferous forests in moist soil. It is identified by its single basal leaf and solitary white to pink flowers to about 6-10" tall. It grows from a corm with fibrous roots and blooms March to June. It is generally found north of SF but has been seen as far south as Big Basin Redwoods State Park.



Calypso bulbosa

Janet Hoffman presented for Kathy Anberg from Campbell:

Ipheion uniflorum (Spring Starflower) - This is one of the easiest bulbs to grow. It needs sun and some water but it tolerates clay soil and naturalizes. It is very short only growing to 6" tall x wide. Star shaped flowers can be white or some form of blue. The light blue one on the left is from Kathy's yard and might be 'Froyle Mill'. The darker blue one is from Kathy's neighbor's yard and looks similar to 'Roy Fiedler' which Janet has gotten from Nancy Schramm. Janet grows both with no summer water and they bloom for about a month in the spring.

Cynoglossum grande (Pacific Hound's Tongue, Western Houndstongue) - This perennial was seen at Rancho San Antonio. It grows in shade in well-drained soil and gets to be 3' tall x 1' wide. It has large basal oval leaves. Blue, five-petaled flowers with a white center start appearing in winter and flower over a long time.

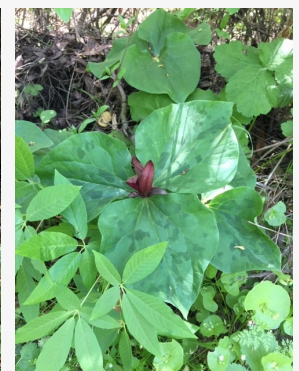
Trillium chloropetalum (Giant Wakerobin) - This monocot perennial is usually recognized by its 3 ovate mottled leaves. The three-petaled flowers can be red, white, pink, yellow or green and appear late winter through spring. It grows in shade in well-drained and rich soil. It can get to be 1' tall and wide. Seen at Rancho San Antonio in April.



Ipheion uniflorum



Cynoglossum grande

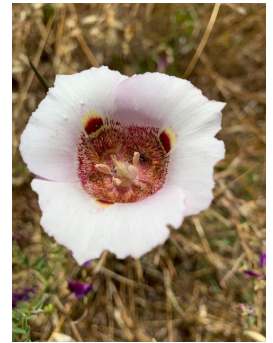


Trillium chloropetalum

PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy showed a selection of wildflowers from her area:

Calochortus venustus (Mariposa Lily) - This summer deciduous perennial grows in full sun to part shade in clay soil. It gets to be 2' tall x 0.5' wide. The bell shaped flowers have a dark marking in the center.



Calochortus venustus



Plagiobothrys nothofulvus

Plagiobothrys nothofulvus (Common Popcorn Flower) - This annual found in many communities has basal leaves and small white flowers. It blooms from March to May. Many animals eat the seeds.

Streptanthus glandulosus ssp. glandulosus (Purple Jewelflower) - This annual grows on serpentine soil and gets to be 18" tall. Purple alternating flowers on the stem appear in the spring.

Castilleja exerta (Purple Owl's Clover, Common Owl's Clover) - This semi-parasitic annual can be found growing on open fields and grasslands. It gets to be 1' tall and wide and the flowers have a purple paintbrush appearance. The stems are hairy. It blooms from March to June.

Platystemon californicus (Cream Cups) - This annual grows in full sun in sandy soils. It gets to be 8" tall. The 1" flowers can be cream, yellow or bicolored.



Streptanthus glandulosus



Castilleja exerta



Platystemon californicus

Other wildflowers shown included:

Ranunculus californicus (California Buttercup), *Amsinckia intermedia* (Common Fiddleneck), *Plectritis congest ssp.*, *brachestemon* (Pink Plectritis) and *Caladrintia ciliata* (Red Maids).

Matricaria discoidea (Pineapple Weed), *Lomatium utriculatum* (Bladder Parsnip),

Viola pedunculata (California Golden Violet), *Taraxia ovata* (Coast Suncup), *Eschscholzia californica* (California Poppy), *Diplacus aurantiacus* (Sticky Monkey Flower) and *Crassula connata* (Pygmyweed).

Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum (Blue Dicks), *Lupinus bicolor* (Miniature Lupine), *Gilia Tricolor* (Bird's Eyes), *Gilia archilleifolia* (California Gilia), *Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue Eyed Grass), *Triteleia laxa* (Ithuriel's Spear) and *Brodiaea elegans* (Elegant Brodiaea).

Claytonia perfoliata (Miner's Lettuce), *Plantago erecta* (Dwarf Plantain), *Collinsia sparsiflora var. sparsiflora* (Few-flowered Blue-eyed Mary), *Galium aparine* (Bedstraw), *Cuscuta californica* (California Dodder)

~Ana Muir

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Gamble Garden Online Plant Sale continues through May 22nd! This online sale includes partnerships with Suncrest and Alluvial Terrace. Follow this link for the sale: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/commerce/products/plants/>

Gamble Garden is once again opening up for visitors with a Mother's Day Second Saturday on May 8th from 10am-12pm. More information about this and other programs at gamblegarden.org/event/.

Want to explore more gardens? The [UC Davis Arboretum and Garden](http://ucdavisarboretum.org) has also remained open for visits at any time. Quarry Hill is now the [Sonoma Botanical Garden](http://sonoma-botanical-garden.org) and is also open for visits as is the [Ruth Bancroft Garden](http://ruthbancroftgarden.org). Other gardens in the bay area are allowing visits only by reservation including the [SF Botanical Garden](http://sfbotanicalgarden.org), [UC Berkeley Botanical Garden](http://ucberkeleybotanicalgarden.org), [Tilden Park Botanical Garden](http://tildenparkbotanicalgarden.org),

California Horticultural Society will be sharing two more presentations with us. The next one is May 17, 6:30 pm via Zoom, *Gardens of the Coast of Chile* with Cristóbal Elgueta, a forestry engineer and has worked as a landscaper for more than twenty years, inspired by the dynamics and ecology of the plant communities of central Chile, color, texture, and wildlife accompany a rugged and imposing landscape. His current goal of work and research is that the garden connects whoever lives it with the richness and extraordinary dynamism of nature. Their June program has yet to be announced. Watch your email for a link to these presentations. More information at: <https://calhortsociety.org/>.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

The forgotten medieval fruit with a vulgar name. This strange fruit could only be eaten rotten. Find out why the medieval Europeans loved it so much.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210325-the-strange-medieval-fruit-the-world-forgot>

Check out the plant search database for plant water use classifications: https://ucanr.edu/sites/WUCOLS/Plant_Search/

Did you see a wildflower you want to ID? Go to <http://www.calflora.org> OR <https://calscape.org>. Nancy Schramm also recommends <https://coepark.net/natural-sciences/wildflowers>

Pacific Bulb Society for great ID help and pictures, descriptions and information. <https://pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/HomePage>

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Grace Tsang

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shephard

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Carol Moholt, Michael Craib

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Zoom Host: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Membership: Carrie Parker

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),

Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

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 for more information or to join Pacific Horticulture Society, for whom we are now a sponsoring organization, go to: 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 or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



PO Box 166
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First Class Mail
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

Meeting location : May 12th
Zoom Meeting via internet
Meeting starts at 7:15 pm.
Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** or suggest a speaker for the WHS that is of particular interest to you?
It would be much appreciated!
Please call Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

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