

APRIL 2021 MEETING

April 14th, 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 two meetings as well as the entire 2021-2022 program year. (See page 7 for information about joining)

Speaker: Saxon Holt

Topic: The Summer-Dry Garden: Beyond Mediterranean

Saxon Holt will present on his new book which he co-authored with Nora Harlow, *Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates* (Timber Press, January 2021).

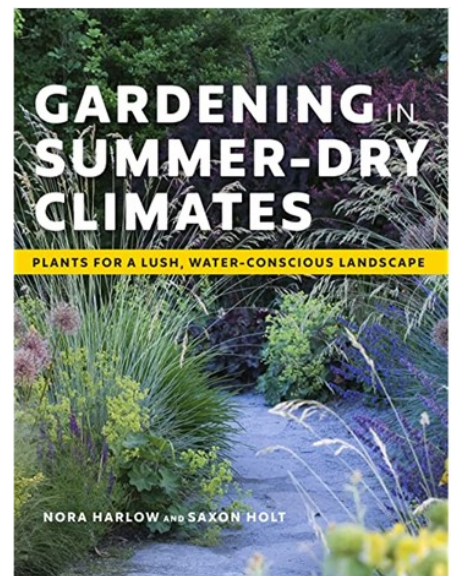
Against the backdrop of his acclaimed garden photography, Holt will explore how the entire Pacific coast can be described as a summer-dry climate, a broader description than Mediterranean, and applies to gardens from San Diego to Seattle.



Saxon Holt is a photojournalist who has spent more than 40 years exploring Kingdom Plantae and the fundamental importance of plants to the health of the planet.

A lifelong gardener, he abandoned commercial photography when he discovered garden publishers and could no longer stay in a studio.

His work has been featured in diverse publications, from *Architectural Digest* and *Pacific Horticulture* magazine, to *Smithsonian* and *Money* magazines.



For help on setting up and using Zoom visit our resource page, [ZOOM ASSISTANCE](#). If any of you are looking for some more Zoom help we are offering to hold Zoom practice sessions prior to the April meeting. If you are interested send an email to info@westernhort.org and we will work out a time for a session.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Spring is here and everything is warming up. We are still looking for more participants in our monthly plant share, so go out and take some pictures of what is in bloom or otherwise looking good in your yard or other places that you visit.

We thank you all for your patience and perseverance in joining us on Zoom this program year. As mentioned in the meeting notice, for the final two meetings we will be sending the Zoom link directly to our membership. We recognize that the new system has been frustrating some of you and are hoping that by eliminating the extra step of Eventbrite registration, that more members will join us for the upcoming meetings.

We are looking for members who would like to help on a Scholarship and Grants committee that we are forming. Jennifer Doniach and Grace Tsang are heading the committee and working on new application forms. Committee duties may include helping them with this but will mostly involve evaluating applications and deciding to whom to make the awards. If you are interested you may reply to info@westernhort.org and I will have them get in touch with you to discuss the committee further.

Happy Spring!

~ Janet Hoffmann

MARCH SPEAKER NOTES

Our March presentation by Sue Milliken and Kelly Dodson about their plant collecting adventures was so extensive that it is hard to encapsulate here. They covered rare and unusual plants from their exploration trips in southern China, Vietnam and Argentina. The genera that they collected included *Polygonatum*, *Disporopsis*, *Agapetes*, *Arisaema*, *Magnolia*, *Stewartia* and *Brassaiopsis* from the highlands of Asia and *Crinodendron* and *Polylepis* from Argentina. They also share some of the travails of international plant collecting in remote areas like rustic lodgings, unusual food and venomous snakes. Of course they also had stories about the amazing plant people whom they have come to know along the way. You can view their presentation if you missed it or want to see it again on our [youtube](#) channel.

~Janet Hoffmann

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on April 14, 1993 for the Fourth Annual Member's Slide Night. Featured were: Ed Carman – *Garden Critters and Creatures* (spiders, insects, mushrooms, lizards and a leaf-cutter bee I remember spending most of an afternoon watching with Dad as he photographed it taking multiple trips into the greenhouse to cut and remove nesting material), Graham and Jane Wood – *Our Garden, Campbell* (a series of garden blossoms documenting a year in the garden), Joan Hockaday – *People, Plants and Places of England from 1990-92* (Christopher Lloyd & Great Dixter, David Austin & his roses at Chelsea Flower Show, Arabella Lennox Boyd, Charles Quest-Ritson, Exbury Gardens, Kew Gardens and Stourhead Garden), Elizabeth Garbett – *My Garden* (roses, campanula, ferns, hellebores; grass, rock and vegetable gardens, their vineyard and the garden railway), David and Dorothy Rodal – *Clematis and Combinations* (clematis at Sissinghurst Castle, Rudyard Kipling's home and elsewhere including the Rodal's garden, plus other garden combos), Clayton Neece – *Demonstration Gardens at You Bet Farms, Grass Valley, June 1992* and *New Garden in Los Altos Hills, designed by Clayton Neece, June 1992*.

There was an advance notice of a co-hosted program (October 18th with Cal Hort) “The meeting will feature Nori & Sandra Pope who are current caretakers of Hadspen House, Castle Cary, England. This garden was once owned by Penelope Hobhouse...”

WHS was asked by Filoli to participate in a non-judged flower show on April 22-25. “Their rules insist that we must have pint or quart Perrier bottles for the cut flowers.”

Continued...

28 YEARS CONTINUED

Plant Notes began with an impressive list of salvias brought in by Betsy Clebsch. *Salvia brandegii* (native to Santa Rosa Island & Baja CA) *S. sonomensis* x *leucophylla* (chance seedling discovered by Roger Raiche) *S. leucophylla* 'Point Sal Spreader' (forms a loose mat) *S. eigii* (from Tashkent: pink, purple & white flowers) *S. sp.* 'Big Pink' (from Chiapas and new to Betsy's garden) *S. greggii* 'Moonlight' (discovered at Nevin Smith's Wintergreen Nursery) *S. jurisicii* "altogether an odd member of the genus" and *S. austriaca* (often re-blooms).

"Sherry Austin brought in a bouquet of Pacific Coast Hybrid Iris that demonstrates the incredible range of color and form that have been produced in the past few years. ...Also seen was *Iris fernaldii*" as well as *Syringa myeri* 'Palibin' (dense, slow-growing to 4' mildly fragrant lilac) and *Jovellana violacea* "pale violet flowers with interesting markings".

Irene Ogawa brought *Parahebe perfoliata* "just starting to be seen more often lately".

Ruth Grey showed *Kolkwitzia amabilis* (highly recommended by Elizabeth Garbett) *Prostanthera rotundifolia* "not hardy outside of Zone 9 (and sometimes not within it), needs perfect drainage" and *Potentilla davurica* 'Abbotswood' "good shrub for rock gardens with plentiful small white flowers".

Mary Kaye shared *Penstemon barrettiae* "large blue-purple flowers on a small, elegant plant".

Elizabeth Garbett brought *Erysimum semperflorens* 'Wenlock Beauty' low mat, 18" wide with "a curious but lovely mixture of purple and various shades of muted yellows and oranges because the flowers change color as they age".

~Nancy Schramm

MARCH PLANT NOTES

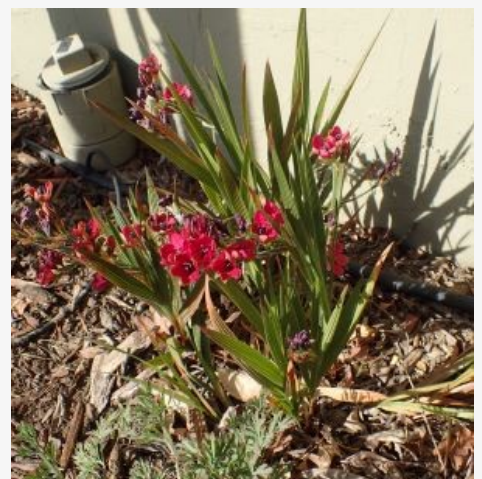
Janet Hoffman presented:



Exochorda x macrantha
'The Bride'

Exochorda x macrantha 'The Bride' (The Bride Pearlbush) – This deciduous nonnative shrub grows in full to part sun in well drained soil but it will tolerate clay soil. It gets to be 3-4' tall and wide. Many clusters of small pretty white non-fragrant flowers start appearing in the spring. The leaves turn yellow in the fall. Janet waters it every week.

Babiana villosa (Red Baboon Flower) – This carefree corm from SW Cape grows in full sun. It gets to be 7-14" tall. Vivid red flowers with contrasting purple stamens bloom over a long time starting in the spring. It naturalizes well. Do not water in the summer. Baboons in the SW Cape love to eat them which gives it the common name.



Babiana villosa
Red Baboon Flower

Continued....

MARCH PLANT NOTES



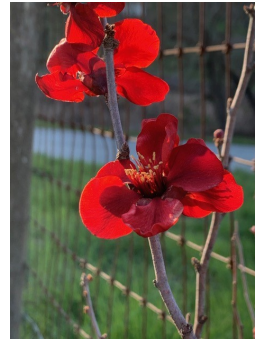
C. speciosa
'Toyo Nishiki'



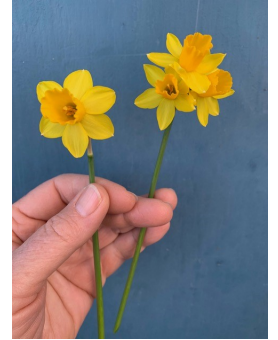
Chaenomeles
Double orange form



Chaenomeles
Single white hybrid



C. japonica
'Kuro'



Dwarf form daffodil

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy presented:

Four different **Chaenomeles**. These deciduous Quince shrubs are blooming right now. She is having trouble identifying the first two, which are older varieties, and Nancy would like some help. She's only able to find information about new cultivars on the web.

Chaenomeles double orange form - This deciduous shrub grows in full to part sun. It has beautiful double orange flowers. It does not have fruits or thorns. It looks like it will get at least 5' tall. Nancy is sure it's not 'Orange Storm' (from Double Take series) which was patented in 2021 since her dad Ed Carman had it growing in the 1990's. If you have any thoughts on what it might be let Nancy know.

C. x superba single white hybrid- Barbara Worl brought cuttings of this really pretty plant that has white flowers to Nancy at a meeting. Barbara was pretty sure she got it from W. B. Clarke nursery, and she thought 'Candide' had a familiar ring. He made a lot of crossings resulting in several new cultivars. It would be helpful to know more about the fruit, the flower shape and size to really narrow down the list.

C. speciosa 'Toyo Nishiki' – This is a favorite of people who do bonsai. It has large pink, white and variegated pink / white flowers. Not sure how to get all three colors to appear on the same plant from a cutting. It grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. It gets to be 8' tall and wide.

C. japonica 'Kuro' / C. speciosa 'Kuro' – This one has very dark red flowers with dark, forest green leaves. It grows in full sun in well-draining soil. It gets to be 3' tall x 4' wide. Jelly can be made from the green fruits.

Daffodils

Nancy also showed us her successful daffodil bed where she gets spectacular shows.

The white and yellow daffodils in the foreground are the most vigorous bloomers.

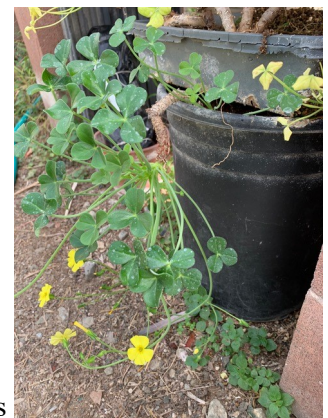
The dwarf form (above) only has singles on a stalk, however one split into 3 this year.

She loves the great color combination that's made with the yellow daffodils against the dark blue purple blossoms of 'Mozart' Rosemary (a selection made by her dad – Ed Carman). Also, gophers don't eat them.

Oxalis sp. – Nancy has no clue on the species. It is an evergreen woody plant that had been growing in her dad's greenhouse under a bench. It produces yellow flowers and has never set any seed. Lynn Chan thought it might be Oxalis stricta (Yellow Wood Sorrel) but Oxalis stricta is herbaceous (dies to the ground every year) and this plant has made a thick woody stem that grows longer every year.



Daffodil display at
Carman's Nursery



Oxalis

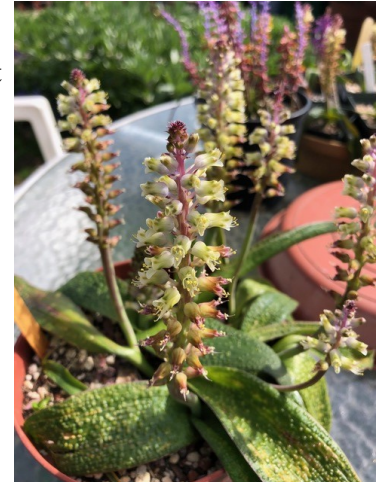
Judy Wong from Menlo Park presented:



**Chasmanthe floribunda
var. duckittii**

Chasmanthe floribunda var. duckittii (Yellow Cobra Lily) – This S. African corm was discovered in the 1920s on the Duckitt property, near the town of Darlene. It needs a sunny and dry spot to grow in. It can grow to be 6’ tall. It has pale yellow tubular flowers and is not as weedy as the orange variety. Prune it to 3-5” after the flowers have faded. It grows true from seed and will bloom in the 3rd year. Divide every 3 years.

Lachenalia pallida formerly *L. pustulata* – This South African bulb from the SW Cape grows in full sun to part shade and naturalizes very well forming large colonies there. Judy started it from seed and every seed came up. Cream, blue or pink narrow bell shaped flowers on 7-14” stems start appearing in February and flower through April. The leaves may be pustulated. Do not water in the summer.



Lachenalia pallida

From Edgewood Park:



Fritillaria Liliacea

Fritillaria liliacea (Fragrant Fritillary) - this California native bulb grows in serpentine grassland soils. Serpentine soils have low amounts of essential nutrients and high levels of heavy metals, which are toxic to many plants. It grows in full sun. White bell-shaped flowers with a light green cast appear from February to April. It gets to be 6” to 12” tall. It is frost tolerant, rare and endangered.

Mimulus douglasii (Purple Mouse Ears) – This California native annual can also be found growing in serpentine soil. It gets to be 1-2 INCHES tall (height is the size of a penny). Purple flowers appear from February to April but the blooms only last for 1-2 days. You can see a cultivated 6’ x 4’ raised bed totally covered with these at Tilden Park in Berkeley. Janet also saw large patches of these at Table Mountain – north of Oroville. This plant may reproduce asexually in adverse conditions allowing it to live on. It is a host plant for Variable Checkerspot and Edith’s Checkerspot butterflies.

~Submitted by Ana Muir



Mimulus douglasii

HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

California Horticultural Society presentation, April 19, 6:30 pm via Zoom, *Creating Windcliff: The New Garden, Mistakes and Miracles Found Along the Way* with Dan Hinkley, an award-winning teacher, writer, lecturer, consultant, nurseryman, naturalist and gardener. (His latest book, *Windcliff, A Story of People, Plants and Gardens* was released just last year.) Above all, he is committed to solid and sustainable horticultural practices, above average garden plants, landscapes of distinction and raising the collective awareness of the diversity of plant life on Earth as well as the magic and mysteries of our natural world. Watch your email for a link to this presentation. More information at <https://calhortsociety.org/>.

Gamble Garden Vendor Marketplace, April 22—May 21st. This online virtual event is limited to 25 vendors and Carmans Nursery will be one of the participants. Visitors will look through a vendor directory and be able to pick which vendor website they would like to visit. There will also be an ‘Over the Garden Fence’ estate sale, plant sale, and silent auction online during this time. For more details check the Gamble Garden website for updates. www.gamblegarden.org

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Walking, talking and showing off—a history of Roman Gardens. Explore how to tell about a person from the look of their garden in ancient Rome.

<https://theconversation.com/walking-talking-and-showing-off-a-history-of-roman-gardens-138902>

On YouTube—Paul Hollywood eats a really expensive Japanese strawberry!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZ1HwqrQ-PM>

Savvy Gardening article on New Plants for 2021 <https://savvygardening.com/new-plants/>

Proven Winners Perennials for 2021 https://www.waltersgardens.com/photo_essay.php?ID=428

Tour the Rojas Succulent Nursery, Fallbrook, CA. with Debra Lee Baldwin on YouTube. Interesting hybrid succulents and a recipe for preventive care by watering with an apple cider, lemon scented joy and water mixture.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eXcXfmNbV4>

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann
Vice President: Grace Tsang
Secretary : Leslie Dean
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Carol Moholt,
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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
Mountain View, CA 94042
First Class Mail
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

Meeting location April 14th

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 April.** 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