

WESTERN HORT

May 2020 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

MAY 2020 MEETING

May 20th 7:30 on Zoom via Internet

Our meeting this month will be a slide presentation. You'll be able to see and hear the presentation via Zoom on your computer, tablet, or phone. [This month only it will be the third Wednesday of the month on the 20th.](#)

Zoom is quite user friendly, used by many and with built-in security/privacy protection. If you've not tried Zoom before, we suggest that you download and test the application a few days prior to the meeting using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/test>

If you have limited experience with Zoom you may also want to run a test of your device to make sure video and audio are working the way you'd like. If you do this and still have questions, please email to: <mailto:info@westernhort.org>, someone in our organization will try to help you out. You can also log into the meeting a few minutes early to make sure that you are on in time and everything is still working. However, if you have never used Zoom, we strongly suggest that you **do not wait until the last minute**. We can only handle a small number of questions during that time frame. If you have problems during the actual presentation, you may call Janet at: 408-374-0435.

During the presentation you'll be able to type in your questions which will be answered at the end of Juanita's talk. If time permits we will also have a short period after the written questions for face to face exchanges with the speaker and others.

Speaker: Juanita Salisbury, Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture

Build It And They Will Come: Creating a Native Garden Buzzing With Pollinators



A well-designed habitat provides not only food resources but areas for nesting and shelter for a variety of insects. At the heart of the habitat are native California plants, which provide the basis of the design.

California native plants provide a rich variety of food resources--nectar, pollen and vegetation--for native insects. We will first learn design techniques based on the foraging behavior of native bees and other insects. This design technique starts with planting, but extends into observation and best practices for maintaining and enhancing habitat resources over time.

I always was a landscape architect although I didn't always know it. I grew up in California and Oregon and planted my first garden at age 11. I first received a Ph. D. Biopsychology from the University of Florida (1988) as well as a Bachelor of Science (Summa cum laude) in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University (2000). I established Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture in 2009 after working in commercial and residential design firms. More recently I have turned my focus to California native plant habitats. Interestingly, my early scientific research focused on ingestive behavior, an interest that carries on in the creation of habitat today.

In 2016 I established the Primrose Way Pollinator Garden, the first of four pollinator habitat gardens in Palo Alto. My focus is on teaching about and research of these habitats, as well as exploring opportunities to install more of them.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thank you to all of you who participated in our first Zoom meeting last month. We had almost 25 members join us last month for Jason Dewees Zoom presentation. It wasn't the same as all being together in our meeting room but it was a pleasant way to spend the time. The photos in the Zoom format were truly gorgeous and were well described by Jason.

We hope you'll be willing to give Juanita's talk a try and hopefully we can all look forward to being together in the future. At this point getting together for a June picnic and garden tours seems doubtful.

Our originally scheduled May speaker, Daniel Nolan, was unavailable to convert his presentation into a form suitable for Zoom. However, we are pleased to announce that the Speakers' Committee has been able to reschedule Daniel Nolan for April 14, 2021. Fortunately, Juanita Salisbury, originally scheduled for the March meeting that was cancelled, has agreed to give her presentation to us on Zoom, on May 20th, a week later than our usual meeting date.

Thank you also for your patience and understanding as our Speakers' Committee, under the very capable leadership of Leslie Dean, has been scrambling to organize presentations given the limitations of our current shelter in place directives. We all owe them, and Leslie in particular, a great deal of gratitude for their efforts!

While many of us have more time on our hands, I am wondering if any of you might consider stepping up to join the Western Hort board? Our May board meeting will also be a Zoom meeting, on May 16th at 4:30pm. Email me if you are interested in participating info@westernhort.org.

~ Janet Hoffmann

APRIL PLANT NOTES

Janet Hoffman in Campbell has a lovely garden and has shared some pictures of it in case you have never had the opportunity to see it. Primarily natives and low water plants, it is so much fun to walk through it and try to identify what everything is!





28 YEARS AGO

WHS met on May 13, 1992 to hear Chris Hamilton from Finishing Touches in San Anselmo talk about greenhouses and atriums, what to put in them and how to manage them. He (is) “Vice President of the Marin Orchid Society, so naturally he will discuss orchids in the greenhouse.”

Redwood City Nursery and Roger Reynolds Nursery, two wonderful nurseries which are no longer in operation, furnished the plants for the monthly raffle.

Plans for the annual June picnic were revealed, “a field trip to Bee Brown’s extensive English garden” followed by “an invitation to picnic at Yerba Buena Nursery.”

Kudos were given to the design and installation team for the WHS exhibit “Boardwalk on the Beach” at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show. The exhibit won “two awards; the Award of Excellence from Friends of Parks and Recreation and a Strybing Arboretum award for best educational use of plants.”

WHS members had the opportunity on April 22, 1992 to hear a “lecture by Roy Lancaster on his experiences plant hunting in China and Bhutan. Mr. Lancaster is an accomplished plantsman of vast knowledge and experience and a stimulating and amusing speaker.”

The Plant Notes for May 1992 tell the story of a profusion of blooms.

Elizabeth Garbett brought two *deutzia*, *Deutzia gracilis* (6’ tall, arching stems; pure white, double, fragrant flowers) and *D. gracilis* ‘Magician’ (3-4’, larger single pink flowers with hint of purple on reverse).

Jean Fowkes showed *Parahebe perfoliata* (sprawling sub-shrub, bluish purple flowers & eucalyptus-like leaves). Plant note author Elizabeth Garbett shared the information that “This genus (*Parahebe*) was erected to contain those herbs and sub-shrubs that fall between *Hebe* and *Veronica* in habit and one or two other characteristics.”

Marjorie Branagh shared blooms and seeds of *Nigella hispanica* ‘Curiosity’, similar but a coarser plant to it’s cousin *N. damascena* (Love-in-a-mist). “The seedpods of both are very decorative and useful in dried arrangements.”

Don Brandeau brought two forms of *Lotus bertholotii* (parrot’s beak), both the usual red-flowered and an unusual yellow one. (I have to admit that I may never be particularly fond of this plant. I had to take endless cuttings when I worked for my dad, Ed Carman, and more often than not when I tried to strip the lower leaves, the entire bottom of the cutting would break—NLS)

Elizabeth Garbett wrote about the thoughtful display of flower combinations Dave and Dorothy Rodal created for the plant display table. She was so intrigued by the display, she visited the garden and wrote “trellis by trellis descriptions of the plant combinations they have used.” There were nine different trellises, with different plants on each one. Several had different selections of roses and clematis growing together. One had the prerequisite roses plus clematis with the addition of a *Brugmansia sp.* sporting golden yellow trumpets (probably *B. ‘Charles Grimaldi’*—NLS), one had a ‘lush, pale pink rose paired with *Solanum crispum* ‘Glasnevin’, another rose/solanum combination paired *Rosa ‘Kathleen’* with *S. ‘Dulcamara’*. I had to giggle at Elizabeth’s comment that “This solanum seemed a little less rampageous (though perhaps it was just younger) and ‘Kathleen’ is no slouch in the territorial expansion business so they are well-matched.” One trellis “takes up nearly one entire wall of the house up to the second story...twining through this jungle” is *Lonicera japonica* ‘Purpurea’, *Thunbergia alata* (both the all orange and the black throated selections) and *T. grandiflora* (large, tubular blue flowers). The last combo trellis included *Rosa ‘Swan Lake* (creamy white buds flushed with pink), *Solanum jasminoides* (white potato vine) and *Clematis vitacella* (small flowered species with purple flowers) “The four narrow sepals of this clematis are so recurved the tips nearly touch the back, making them look like little pinwheels.”

~ Nancy Schramm



Photos: Juanita Salisbury

APRIL SPEAKER NOTES

Jason Dewees bravely stepped up to do his first Zoom presentation for Western Hort on April 8th. His presentation went off very well with very few glitches. Jason worked with Caitlyn Atkinson to photograph palm gardens throughout the United States. Their slides of palm gardens were stunning! They included the Atherton garden of Edith Bergstrom, which hopefully we will get the opportunity to visit at some future date when we are not all sheltering in place. The other gardens photographed ranged from tropical gardens in Hawaii and south Florida to more temperate ones in Charleston, South Carolina and Texas. Some famous gardens, to add to our bucket lists, included Casa de Las Palmas near Hilo, Hawaii, Lotusland near Santa Barbara and in Florida the Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, Bullis Bromeliads and Naples Botanic Garden.

Jason emphasized the versatility of palms. There are 2500 species of palms throughout the world growing from sunny tropical shores to 1150 feet in elevation near the equator. They have surprising diversity of form. Tall, slender palms like *Jubaea chilensis*, *Trachycarpus fortunei* or *takil*, *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana* and our native *Washingtonia filifera* all have vertical forms that draw the eye upwards to expand a sense of space. Other palms make nice low hedges, fillers or screens like the *Chamaedorea* palms, *microspadix* or *metalica*. There is even one species he mentioned that makes a nice ground cover, *Chamaedorea stolonifera*.

Mr. Dewees sees two different uses for palms in the landscape. One is to expand the pallet like using colors in a painting. Palms are frequently used to create a tropical effect along with other similar looking plants like bromeliads, tree ferns and sago palms. Jason showed that in some of their native habitats palms typically grow near pine trees. They can also grow with deciduous trees and clumping grasses. They can be used effectively in landscapes with similar contrasting plants to create different pallets.

The other uses of palms is as a design element. Vertical palm trunks can create a nice statement against a blank wall or lead the eye through the landscape. A clump of *Phoenix robelenii*, the pygmy date palm can create a nice focal point or specimen in gardens. Jason would like see palms used more like other plants to create a “mood or story telling agent in landscapes.”

How palms are pruned and maintained can also affect how they contribute to an overall landscape. One technique that Jason discussed was “skinning” which involved removing the basal attachment point of the palm leaves from the trunks to leave a smooth shiny surface behind. This also changes the proportion of trunk to crown, making the trees look skinnier. Leaving the “skirt” of dead leaves or leaf bases creates an entirely different effect. Jason told us that in nature this “skirt” attracts birds whose droppings help to fertilize the tree.

Palms are adaptable to a wide variety of microclimates but usually prefer well-drained soils. Some problems to watch out for include fusarium wilt, which has become a problem with *Phoenix canariensis* in San Francisco. The South American palm weevil has also been devouring the crowns of palm trees in San Diego and is slowly making its way north.

If you missed the presentation or want to see more of Caitlyn’s photos and learn more about using palms in a landscape, you should look into getting copy of Jason’s book, *Designing with Palms*. It is available at: <http://www.workman.com/products/designing-with-palms> or look for it in your local bookstore or library. In addition, we hope to be able to welcome Jason to one of our meetings next season when he will be able to sell his book in person.

~ Janet Hoffmann

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 20, 2020—Zoom meeting with Juanita Salisbury, Landscape Architect. *Build it and They Will Come: Creating a Native Garden Buzzing with Pollinators*

June 6th, 2020—Annual Picnic— Doubtful this will happen. Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA.

Support Your Local Independent Nursery

I imagine that many of you like me, have been gardening for many years and have seen many small local nurseries go out of business. I am sure that you are aware that the shelter in place situation is especially hard on small businesses. Rules also seem to vary from county to county. Currently in Santa Clara county small nurseries can only sell merchandise via delivery to customer's homes. In San Mateo county, they seem to be able to continue curbside service. In any case, there is no way that they can handle the volume of sales that they usually have this time of year. This is when most independent nurseries make over half of their income for the entire year. In the meantime, big box stores like Home Depot and Lowes are considered essential businesses because they sell hardware. Their nurseries are being allowed to remain open with no restrictions.

If you, like me, would like to see our small local nurseries survive please support them any way that you can. Some of our loyal members work at local nurseries or have their own small businesses like Alvis Iris Gardens, Alluvial Terrace Nursery, Meadowlark Nursery, San Marcos Growers, and Terra Sole Nursery.

Please support them by placing orders for your garden needs for delivery or curbside pick-up or purchase gift certificates for future needs. Also consider contacting your local officials to tell them that you are not happy with the inequitable treatment of smaller nurseries over the garden centers in big box stores.

~ Janet Hoffmann

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Bringing Back the Natives Tour Virtual Tour, CA Native Plant Society, East Bay Chapter, 3 Sundays, April 26, 10am –3pm, May 3, 10am– 3pm, May 10, 10am – 2pm. This year the tour is online, instead of in-person. Three days, instead of one. Free. Don't miss the chance to hear inspiring speaker and author Douglas Tallamy, who will kick off this event on Sunday, April 26 at 10 am! Following that talk will be a series of live, on line garden visits. This program will be hosted on Zoom, and livestreamed on YouTube. Join us for any or all of these free, online events. Pre-registration is required at: <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/reg-virtual>. Once you register, you will receive an email listing the gardens to be shown and what time.

Going Gondwanan-Aussie and S. African Plants in Your Garden, (Part 1) Thursday, April 30, 10 am - 11am, **(Part 2)** Thursday May 7, 10 am-11 am, Ruth Bancroft Garden Webinar, Discover some of the best plants from the summer dry regions south of the Equator. Join Troy McGregor for a webinar about how to incorporate plants from these regions in your landscape. Cost \$10-15. To register or for more information go to: <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/events/>.

Join the **Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society** for their **Virtual Native Garden Tour**, 50+ native gardens. The 18th annual Going Native Garden Tour previously scheduled for Saturday, May 2 and Sunday, May 3, 2020 will be online only this year to ensure the health and safety of visitors, garden owners and volunteers. Connecting people to nature and California native plants is more important than ever. Selected GNGT gardens located throughout Santa Clara and San Mateo counties will have virtual tours that you can view anytime with lots more photos and some videos. Virtual tours are still free, but no registration is required this year. For more information and to be notified of tours go to gngt.org.

The Clara B. Rees Iris Show and sale scheduled April 25 at Westgate Mall has been cancelled due to the virus. The good news is that their 2 gallon potted iris are for sale! Email Carol for names and all pictures of available iris at \$7 per pot. If you are interested, please let Carol know at caroldahout@yahoo.com and you can pick them up on her driveway. You can pay by check made out to Clara B. Rees Iris Society or CBRIS or cash.



STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Smithsonian Magazine has posted a nice link for garden lovers. You can watch 6 flower bloom events from your couch! The NYBG orchid show is really good!

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/travel/watch-these-six-flower-bloom-events-from-your-couch-180974562/>

Plant and Weed ID

Here is a site Janet Hoffmann found useful for identification of weeds:

<https://weedid.wisc.edu/weedid.php> This site is administered by the University of Wisconsin and you select your state in a drop-down menu.

Also, another recommended resource would be *Weeds of the West*. It is currently not in print but can be accessed as a pdf or ebook at:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/uw/news/2016/05/hundreds-of-weeds-identified-in-free-weeds-of-the-west-guide.html>

To help with plant identifications Carol Dahout recommends PlantSnap. This app can be found for use on iPhone and iPads. You take a picture of the plant and search results.

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:

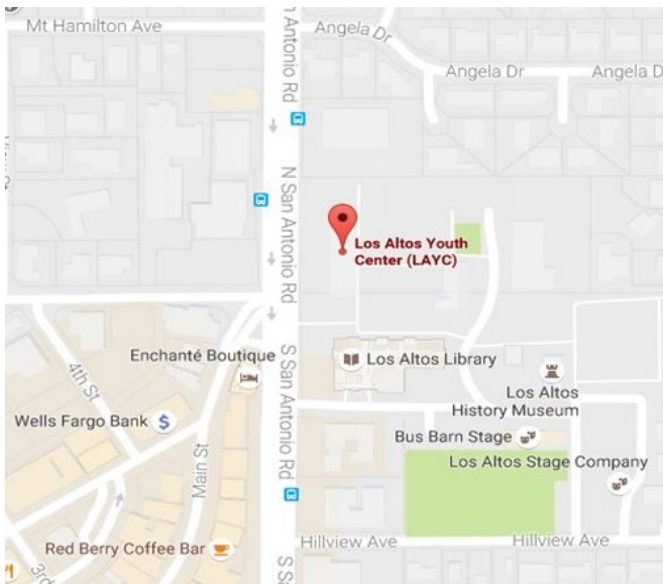
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print 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.

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.

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First Class Mail
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



Meeting location May 20
Zoom Meeting via internet
Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.
Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** 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