Welcome to the March Cal Hort Meeting!









The Calochortis of California

featured presentation with

Kipp McMichael



active contributor of the Pacific Bulb Society, hortiphile, software developer.



Plant Forum

Thank you

- Richard Starkeson
- Mary Sue Ittner
- Jeff Harter
- Janet Hoffman
- Daisy Mah
- Beryl Golden
- Kathy Anberg
- Charlotte Masson

Thank you for sharing your gardens, your special plants, your gardening experiences, your questions and your advice at this month's Plant Forum. We love seeing what is happening in everyone's gardens and we can learn from each other!

And everyone who added to the conversation tonight!

Tulipa clusiana var. chrysantha

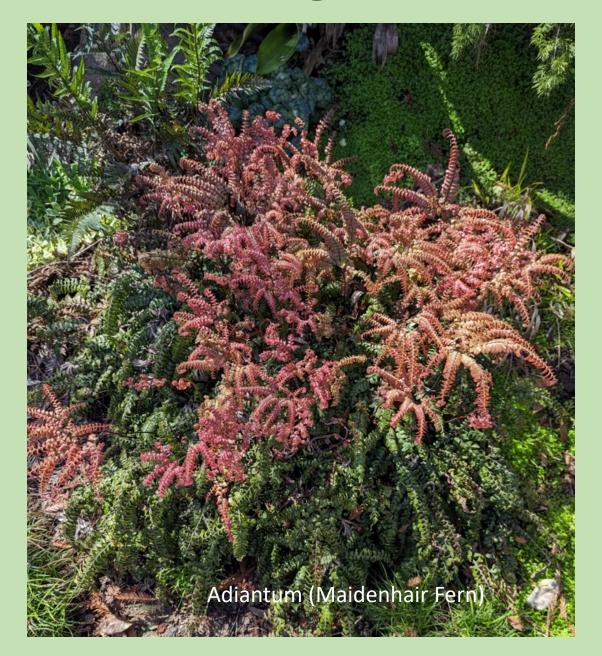
Annie's Annual description: "A reliably long lived and selfpropagating Tulip for warm Winter areas! Hailing from the Middle East, this eye-catching tulip starts flowering in early Spring. In full sun it will open up to reveal a pristine bright yellow star held above perfectly erect gray green leaves. It will top out at about 1' tall. *Naturalizing in* gardens, its offsets and stolon will produce a very fine colony over time. "





Beryl Golden gardens in Richmond

An interesting maiden hair fern





with pink new growth. (name unknown) Possibly?

Adiantum hispidulum 'Mt. Haleakala', Rosy Maidenhair Fern - rosy pink new growth (this possibility is a Plant Delights introduction in 2004). Anyone else familiar and know that name?

Beryl Golden gardens in Richmond

South African Irids Growing in pots



Oxalis obtusa



Oxalis obtuse & Tulipa clusiana - Not only some Oxalis obtuse forms, but a Michael Vassar numbered Oxalis obtusa MV7085 with Tulipa clusiana bending over into the midst.

Mary Sue Ittner gardens in Gualala

South African Irids growing in pots



Gladiolus tristus - Winter rain and summer dry. It is slightly fragrant at night



Romulea diversiformis – it is in the same subfamily as crocus. M.P.de Vos of the Pacific Bulb society says it grows in moist or waterlogged dolerite and clay in the winter rainfall area of South Africa.



Sparaxis Hybrid- Sparaxis evidently very prone to hybridize. Per the Pacific Bulb Society: hybrids are often grown and bloom in one to two years from seed. If you let the bees pollinate you get many unusual beautiful flowers

Tulips

Tulipa clusiana chrysantha





"I grow a number of Tulipa species in pots, unpotted when dormant and left in paper bags and then prechilled for 6 weeks and planted in December. Some of these may not need so much chilling and I'm experimenting with some in containers sunk into other containers in a raised bed and not repotted every year. Tulipa clusiana is the candystick tulip. One that used to be Tulipa chrysantha or Tulipa clusiana var. chrysantha is now included in the species. What was known as Tulipa linifolia and may still be sold under that name is now included in Tulipa batalinii. I've grown the yellow form of that for many years, but the flowers aren't open yet." Mary Sue Ittner South African Irids grow in the Ground

"These South African Irids (these and the next two slides) are growing in the ground.

There are more *Freesia lechtlinii* ssp. alba flowering than I've seen in a long time. Perhaps all the plants that got removed with the septic repair gave them more light. They are wonderfully fragrant. *Moraea aristata* is critically endangered in the wild, but happy in my garden conditions. The last two Sparaxis species are volunteers. After years of growing bulbs in pots, many of them are finding their way into the ground."



Freesia leichtlinii spp. alba

South African Irids growing in the Ground



Hesperantha cucullata

These are wonderfully fragrant, open late afternoon and get more fragrant as the night progresses.



Moraea aristata

Moraea aristata

Moraea aristata is critically endangered in the wild, but happy in my garden conditions

Mary Sue Ittner

South African Irids growing in the Ground



These last two
Sparaxis species are
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of growing bulbs in
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into the ground.



Sparaxis villosa

Some CA native Bulbs

"I wanted to include some natives since Kipp is going to talk about Calochortus, but Scoliopus bigelovii, Trillium ovatum, and Triteleia clementina are finished and most of the others I grow are not yet flowering. But I have a couple of Erythronium in flower. In my raised beds I often end up with more than one bulb in a pot buried in a pot. Sometimes that is planned, and other times bulbs and other things make their way into the pots and create surprising combinations, some pleasing, but not always. There is a Bellevalia dubia (with blue buds), a Mediterranean species in the Hyacinth family, flowering with the Erythronium multiscapideum and I also see Clarkia leaves. And a South African Geissorhiza in the Iris family, G. inaequalis, which is a bit weedy as it not only seeds itself about, but also has tiny cormlets around the main corm that seem to make their way into a number of pots if I ever reuse soil I've sterilized, has joined *Erythronium helenae*. The Geissorhiza isn't replacing anything and soon will disappear and sometimes makes for interesting contrasts with other bulbs.



Erythronium multiscapideum (Siera Fawn Lily - endemic to the foothills of So. Cascades & Sierra Nevada & bellevalia dubia (Mediterranean)

Some CA native Bulbs

And a South African *Geissorhiza* in the Iris family, *G. inaequalis*, which is a bit weedy as it not only seeds itself about, but also has tiny cormlets around the main corm that seem to make their way into a number of pots if I ever reuse soil I've sterilized, has joined *Erythronium helenae*. The *Geissorhiza* isn't replacing anything and soon will disappear and sometimes makes for interesting contrasts with other bulbs.



Geissorhiza inaequalis (so. African Cape) & Erythronium helenae (St. Helena Fawn Lily – endemic / rare)



"Muscari macrocarpum is another Mediterranean species that is wonderfully fragrant. It needs a very deep pot and spends time in and out of my greenhouse, getting extra heat in summer when dormant, and if we have days and days of rain I sometimes move it to give it shelter."

Erica species from So. Africa

"Finally in 1999 and 2000 I grew a lot of Erica species from South Africa from Kirstenbosch and Silverhill seed. Although not all of the seed germinated, a lot did and I was successful getting a number of species to live long enough to flower. Although some of them eventually died, I still have a lot of them and now many volunteers from some of the most successful species as well. They must like my low nutrient decomposed sandstone soil and my climate. I still have one plant of Erica walkeria. It is a Western Cape species that flowers in the spring with red to pink to white star-like flowers. It is in flower at the moment. Many of the species flower a long time and since they flower at different times of the year I often have one of them in flower."



Bromeliads in the garden



Richard Starkeson gardens in Novato

Unknown Bromeliad in the garden

Naturalized Osteospermum

Trailing African Daisy

Native to the coastal areas of South Africa, unfortunately is considered a weed in coastal north island of New Zealand and evidently in the San Diego coast.

Many new introductions to the trade are now available and they are flower machines. Some are bushy and very floriferous, some have spoon petals, different colors of yellow, pink, orange and multi-colored.



Osteospermum fruticosum syn. Dimorphotheca fruticosa

Does anyone know if the new introductions are different species, hybrids, sports or selections?

Richard Starkeson

Exodorda - Pearlbush

This Exocorda that I got at a Cal Hort meeting about 30 years ago. I think it was in a 4" pot and I won it in the plant raffle. It started out in the middle of my yard – ended up too big and moved a couple of the offshoots to the area along my fence about 6-8 years ago. This is one of those in bloom.

Cultural information here: Exochorda x macrantha 'The Bride'? Common name Pearlbush. A cultivar of the Exochorda genus that shares the positive traits of heat and drought tolerance, showy spring flowers, dependability and toughness with its parent, but is more compact at about 4 feet and retains a good shape and habit as it matures. It is an excellent spring-flowering shrub for small gardens. It is a dense and compact, upright, deciduous shrub with arching branches that is as broad as it is high. The pearl-like



flower buds in early spring are followed by an abundant late spring bloom of masses of one to two-inch bridal-white flowers (hence the common name). It is easy to grow in sun to partial shade (it is in part shade in my yard) and prefers well-drained, acidic soil, although it does well in more average soil. (i would say my soil is average.) It blooms on previous years' growth so pruning should be done immediately after flowering is over. ?



Janet Hoffman
Gardens in Campbell

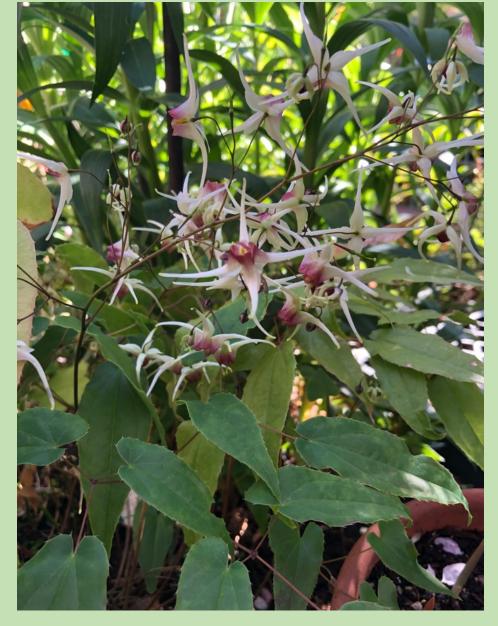


Fuchsia 'First Success', F. paniculata x F. splendens



Arisaema ringers
Japanese cobra lily
Plants are one sex, dioecious but
can change sex, monoecious,
fly pollinated

Daisy Mah Gardens in Sacramento



Epimedium 'Domino' 2004 hybrid by Darrel Probst

A couple of Epimediums

Epimediums like dappled sunlight or shade and protection from hot afternoon sun. The Seattle Times says they are deer resistant and thrive in dry shade. Their leaves should be cut to the ground in late winter before the flower stalks emerge.

Daisy, does that hold true in Sacramento?



Epimedium 'Amber Queen', barrenwort or bishop's hat

Daisy Mah





Huechera maxima, Island Alum root, Channel Island cliff dwellers

Daisy Mah

"I just dug this out today and am not sure what it is."





Charlotte Masson Gardens in San Francisco

Peonies are popping





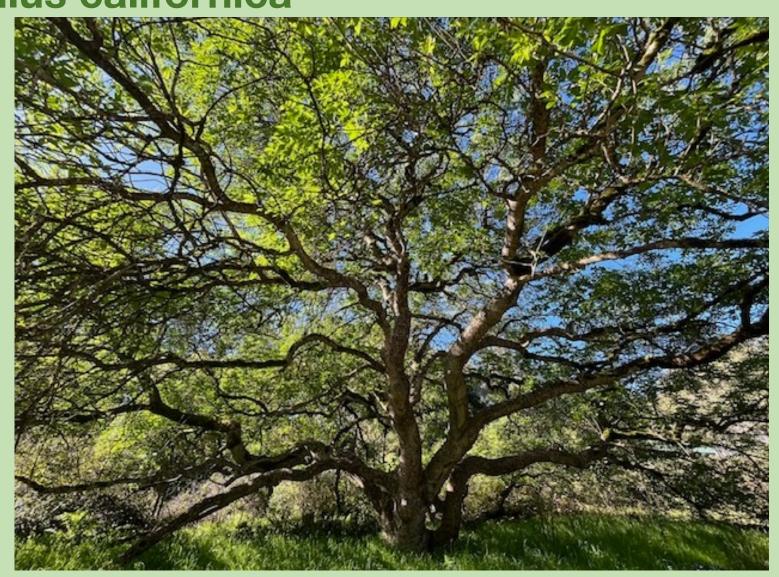




Jeff Harter gardens in San Francisco

Buckeye Aesculus californica





Jeff Harter

Begonias





Begonia fusca close up of variegated leaf.

Begonia fusca at the San Francisco Botanical Garden



Begonias





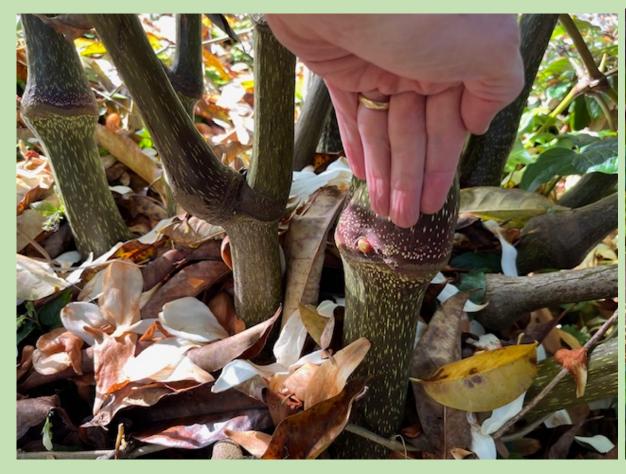


Begonia longifolia at the SF Botanical Garden

Jeff Harter

Begonias







Begonia longifolia at the SF Botanical Garden

Jeff Harter

Some other fun observations at the SF Botanical Garden



Dasylirion longissimum, producing its flower stalk. at the SF Botanical Garden

Jeff Harter

Some other fun observations at the SF Botanical Garden

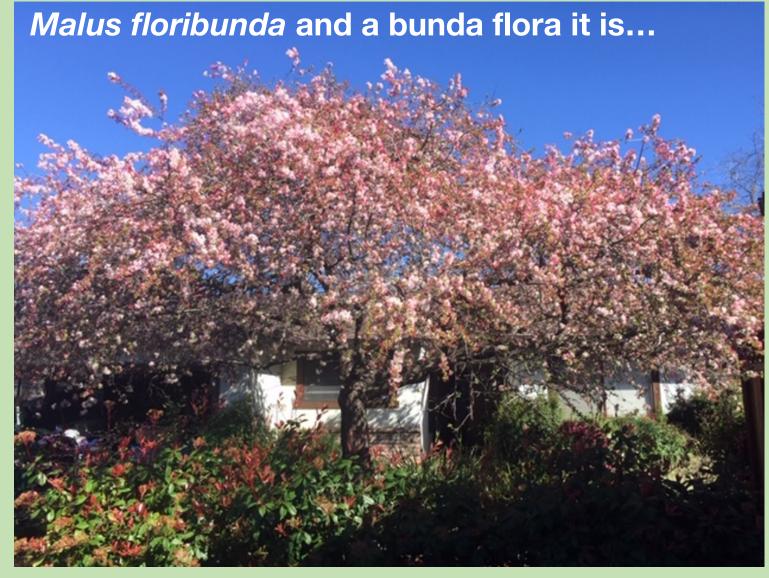


Puya chilensis with Dracaena 'Dragon tree'





Puya chilensis



"This tree is in Campbell, 35 + years old. Just started blooming last week. Neighbor loves it, bees love it and so do I. It gets monthly water during the dry months. Occasional fire blight but never very bad."



Save the Dates:

Upcoming events:

Saturday May 25 – 9am to 1pm - Coffee in the Garden at Jon Kaplan's garden. Stay tuned form more information.

Sunday May 26 – all day – Calochortis hunting with Kipp. Field trip. Stay tuned for more information.



Host a Coffee in the Garden event...

Cal Hort brings the coffee and tea Potluck on the morning snacks

If anyone would like to share their garden and host a Coffee in the Garden on a Sunday or Saturday morning with members, please let us know. calhortinfo@gmail.com

Would you like to help organize a field trip? Do you have ideas for field trips or gardens with gardeners that may be open to sharing their gardens with Cal Hort?



Next Month – April 15 Jennifer Jewel

April 2024







What We Sow

with **Jennifer Jewell**, gardener, author, producer, award-winning podcaster of Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden

April 15, 2024 – 6:15 p.m. via Zoom or phone