



Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

*Passionate about plants, the places they grow
and the people who grow them*

Founded in 1933

March 2024

www.calhortsociety.org

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Cal Hort Meeting, Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m.

via Zoom or by phone



The Calochortus of California

with **Kipp McMichael**, active contributor of the Pacific Bulb Society, hortiphile, software developer

The Bay Area is the center of diversity for the genus Calochortus, and California is home to the lion's share of species in this group of "beautiful grasses." These members of the lily tribe grow throughout the state, from alpine meadows to seaside bluffs, and from the desert to the temperate rain forest. Kipp will orient Calochortus in the larger scheme of plant taxonomy, discuss the biogeography of the genus, present a photo tour of species starting with Bay Area taxa and moving north, east, and south, using his photos and observations from years of calochorting about the state in search of these entrancing beauties. He will talk about more far-flung members of the genus outside California and the U.S. and conclude with a discussion of the cultivation of this genus, many of whose members are surprisingly easy to grow.

Kipp McMichael is a software developer and hortiphile who makes his home and garden in Berkeley, where he resides with husbands Patrick and Jean-Claude, as well as far too many succulents, cacti, and geophytes. Kipp has a lifelong interest in all kinds of natural history and has relished the biological and geological richness of the California landscape since he moved here in 2000. He has grown most of the Calochortus species native to California from seed and loves to cultivate appreciation of this cult-worthy genus.

We are working with Kipp on scheduling a field trip to see Calochortus in the wild. Watch your email and the Bulletin for updates.



Cal Hort Online

Please visit our website

(<https://calhortsociety.org>) for news, updates, articles, and resources.

Videos of our featured speakers and Plant Forum discussions can be found on our **YouTube channel**

(youtube.com/c/HorticulturalSociety)

Join us for conversations

on **Facebook** (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendswholikecalhort>)

Plant Forum

To share in the Plant Forum send images and any text to Ellen Frank,

ellenfrank@sbcglobal.net,

by Sunday prior to the monthly meeting. For full details along with the slide shows visit the

Plant Forums page (<https://calhortsociety.org/about/monthly-meetings/plant-forum>).

Did You Know?

Cal Hort is a member of **Mediterranean Gardening International (MGI)** an international group of like-minded horticultural groups. You can find links to the other member organizations on our **Links of Interest** page (<https://calhortsociety.org/links-of-interest>). 🌿

Trade Show Report



Photo: <https://norcaltradeshow.org/show-photos>

Seen at the show. ABOVE: Second from left, Nancy Schramm Carmen's Nursery owner and member of both Cal Hort and WH; third from left, CH member Tosh Phillips; Sherry Hall of Terra Sole Nurseries in Watsonville, in brown puffy vest with back to camera; Melanie Hamilton, a director of the San Francisco Succulent And Cactus Society, in black top facing Sherry.

Judy Wong Cal Hort/Western Hort member, attended the recent Nor-Cal Landscape & Nursery Trade Show as a guest. There were quite a few people in attendance but it was, reportedly, a much smaller show than in the past. Still there were lots of vendors. Here are some of her more interesting finds:

- My ECO Barrel™ makes a foldable rain barrel complete with separate spigot and drain ball valve. It can hold 132 gallons, folds up for storage, weighs only 10 pounds and no tools required for assembly.
- Regulators from the State of California talked about the citrus pests.
- She was surprised to learn that Sunset Plant Collection headquarters is now in Alabama.
- Judy has been having trouble finding her favorite Uni-Gro product locally. She learned from the Redi-Gro representative that many of the soil mixes, including the one she wanted, are produced by this Sacramento-based company, and sold under several brand names, including Uni-Gro, Sungro Black Gold, and Dr. Earth. 🌿



Collapsible 132 gallon rain barrel.
Photo: My ECO Barrel™

Western Hort

Free to WH and CH members
\$10 each for guests
For full details visit
[Western Hort's website](http://www.westernhort.org/speakers-events)
(www.westernhort.org/speakers-events)

Wednesday
March 13, 7:30 p.m.
In-Person

**Water in Your Garden:
Taking Control**
with **Lori Palmquist**



Irrigation and water-efficiency expert Lori Palmquist will detail a

veritable buffet of strategies for lowering water use in the landscape.

Wednesday
April 10, 7:30 p.m.
In-Person

Documentary Screening & Plants and Garden Art Sale

A screening of *Seasons: The Garden of Piet Oudolf* and a sale of plants, from some of the WH members who have nursery businesses, as well as works by a maker of hand-forged garden.

Wednesday
May 8, 7:30 p.m.
In-Person

Gardening for Habitat With Native Plants

with **Arvind Kumar**

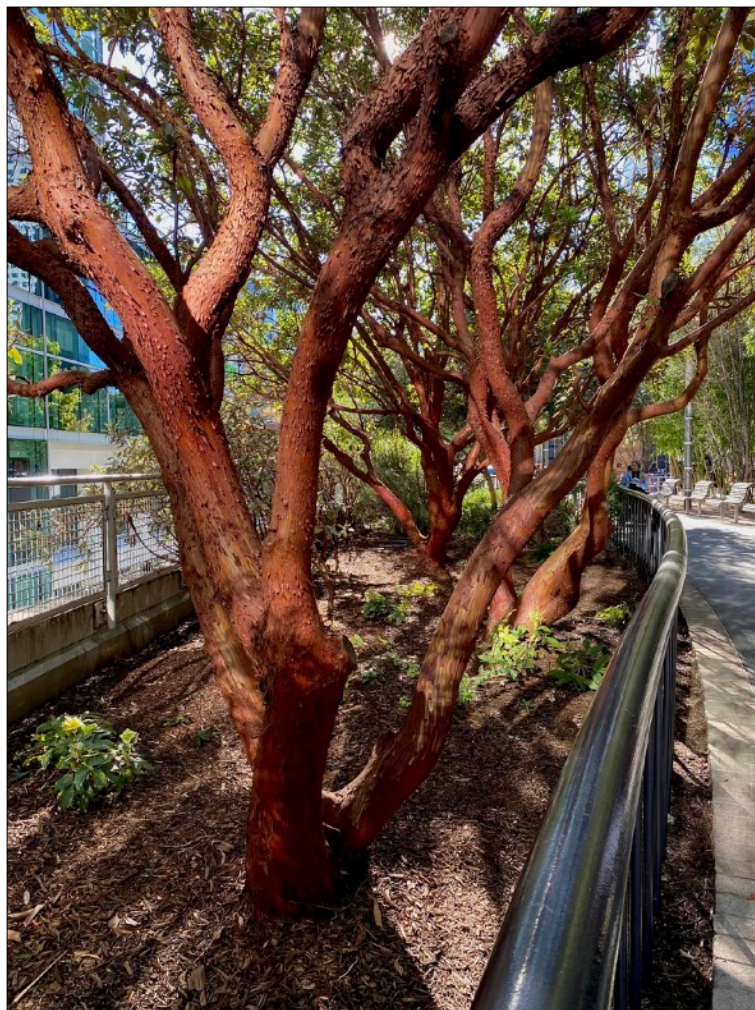


Learn the basics of habitat gardening and which native plants in our

area are particularly suited for attracting birds and butterflies. A plant list will be available. 🌿

Highlights From Our Facebook Group

Cal Hort member and Membership Chair Charlotte Masson always has lots of great photos to share on our Friends Who Like Cal Hort Facebook group. You can share your own images on our Facebook page and/or in our in the upcoming Plant Forum. (See page 1 sidebar for details.)



Scenes found in Salesforce Park.

CLOCKWISE from left: The palm garden. Arbutus trunks. Aloes.

Plants in an Urban Setting

These photos are from a series Charlotte took at Salesforce Park in downtown San Francisco. The effect can be striking. If you've not been to this park you should consider a trip. This 5.4 acre public park sits atop the Sales Force Transit Center and is home to "600 trees and 16,000 plants, arranged in 13 different botanical feature areas" according to the [official site](http://www.tjpa.org/salesforce-transit-center/salesforce-park) (www.tjpa.org/salesforce-transit-center/salesforce-park) where you can learn much more about this urban green space and the events and amenities available.

Cal Hort member Mike Sullivan has also written about the park on his blog, [San Francisco Trees](http://www.sftrees.com/salesforce-roof-park-walking-tour): (www.sftrees.com/salesforce-roof-park-walking-tour)





California Horticultural Society
San Francisco County Fair Building
1199 9th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122

NEXT MONTH

Cal Hort Meeting, Monday, April 15, 6:15 p.m.

via Zoom or by phone



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*

Jennifer will be speaking about her new book “What we Sow” on the personal, ecological and cultural significance of seeds. She focuses on why gardening matters. *What We Sow* takes readers on an insightful, year-long journey exploring the outsize impact of one of nature’s smallest manifestations—the simple seed. Jennifer examines our skewed notions where “organic” seeds are grown and sourced, reveals how giant multinational agribusiness has refined and patented the genomes of seeds we rely on for staples like corn and soy, and highlights the efforts of activists working to regain legal access to heirloom seeds that were stolen from Indigenous peoples and people of color.

Jennifer’s weekly public radio podcast, *Cultivating Place: Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden* looks at gardens and gardening as integral to our natural and cultural literacy. It is a co-production of North State Public Radio (KCHO 91.7 FM in Chico, CA and KFPR 88.9 FM in Redding, CA) and [Jewellgarden](http://www.cultivatingplace.com) (www.cultivatingplace.com).



Plants and Our Planet

Botanical gardens can cool city air by an average of 5° C.

tinyurl.com/y2pkm3em

Understanding soil to understand climate change.

tinyurl.com/soil-lives

Why biodiversity is the key to our future and how UC’s reserves are its best-kept secret.

tinyurl.com/usc-wild-reserves



California Horticultural Society

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