

Welcome to the April Cal Hort Meeting!





Thank you

Justin Thiel
Corinne "Tonie" Jones
Robbie Ridenour
Sara Malone
Charlotte Mason
Judy Wong
Mark Delepine
Jeff Harter

And everyone who added
to the conversation tonight!

Plant Forum

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!

Aloe there!!!

Look what are stealing the show at Justin's house.



Aloe reitzii



*Variegated aloe
maculata x striata*

Justin Theil
gardens in Pinole

What else is blooming in Justin's Garden?

*Agave
applanata*
and friends



Lewisia cotyledon hybrids



Mammillaria mystax



Pleiospilos nelii &
Lachenalia species

Justin Theil

Ferraria



Ferraria crisper

Ferraria crisper is widespread but mostly coastal, found on sandstone or granite rocks from [Namaqualand](#) and the northwest Cape to the southwest Cape, the southern Cape and the Little Karoo.



Ferraria divariacta is found in deep sands from [Namaqualand](#) to Langebaan in the southwestern Cape

Well-adapted to California, these corms grow in winter wet areas in South Africa.



Ferraria divariacata

Beschorneria yuccoides 'Flamingo Glow'

“My prize for the week is this show-stopper. Grown in Sonoma Valley. Native of Mexico, wants low water, drainage is important, 10-15' F. The flower will continue to about 6'. The best is that unlike its agave cousin, it does not die after flowering, and pups.”

Editor's note – *this was submitted for the March forum and was missed. (apologies). So This picture was from Mid-March.*



Corinne “Tonie”
Jones gardens in
Sonoma

Puya coerulea

Puya is in the Bromeliaceae and is native to Chile. Watch where you plant this guy however since it has very sharp teeth on the edge of the leaves. It gives a beautiful silver contrast in the garden and when these spectacular flowering spikes with rosy pink bracts and purple flowers come out, they add a whole other dimension.



“I LOVE this Puya! So gorgeous. I planted it six years ago as a 1 gallon. This is the biggest spectacle thus far. I have quite a few other Puyas—in a garden that is about five acres and is 25 years old. It’s quite a lot to see! “

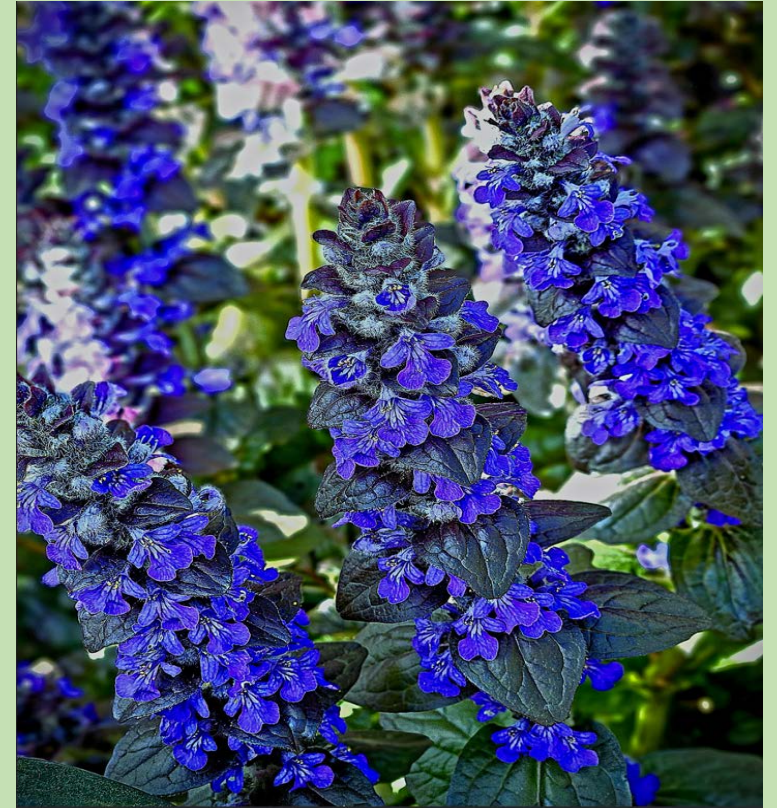
Sara Malone
Gardens in Petaluma

The blues are being showy in Robbie's garden



Hyacinthoides hispanica - Spanish Bluebell or Wood Hyacinth is a bulb that is native to Spain, Portugal and Northwest Africa. You can find white and pink ones as well.

Ajuga reptans - nice groundcover with attractive leaves and flowers - in the Lamiaceae and native to Europe. Prefers moist, humusy soil and good drainage



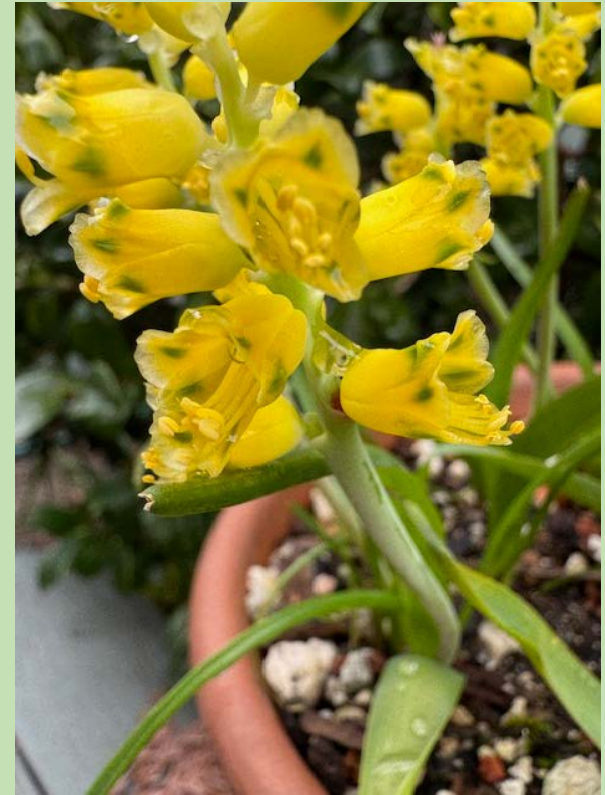
Robbie Ridenour
Gardens in
Southern Oregon /
Oakland

Phlomis purpurea



Judy Wong
Gardens in Menlo Park

Calendula "Snow Princess"



Lachenalia mathewsii

Judy Wong
Gardens in Menlo Park



Melianthus pectinatus, the bluish honey bush relative and the showy red-ish orange flowers.



Mark Delepine
Gardens in Berkeley



Fuchsia with the pink flower named Rijs 2001 - It was hybridized in The Netherlands by Jan de Boer. It is a cross of *Fuchsia obconica* (not familiar with this species) x *Fuchsia splendens* (a very vigorous grower).



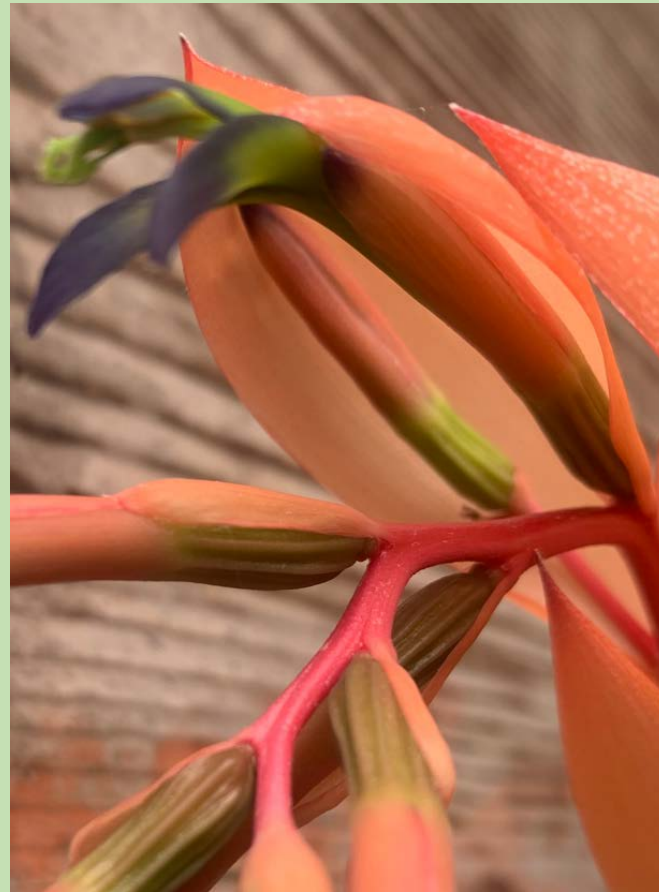
Plectranthus oertendahlii with the large whitish leaves

Mark Delepine
Gardens in Berkeley

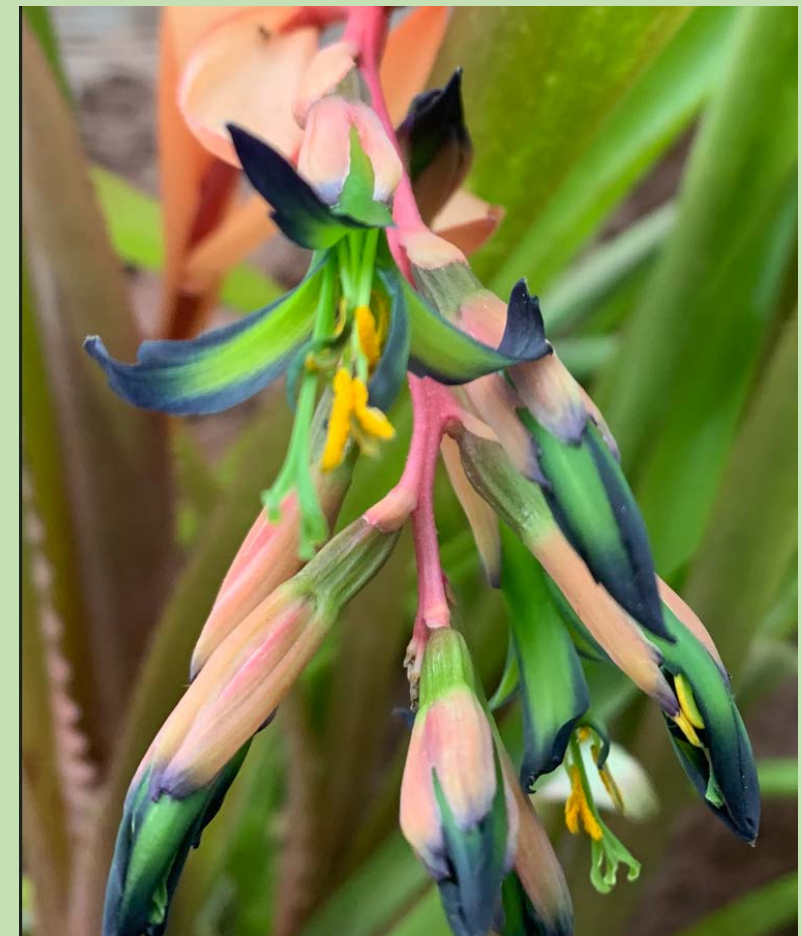
Bromeliad 'Diana'



"One of my favorite bromeliad cultivars, Diana" after dividing it into 3 plants.



This photo taken today,
just starting to bloom



Flower photo from May 2023

Mark Delepine

Ferula communis

Giant Fennel



This towering perennial is in the Apiaceae, the same family as the culinary fennel, *Foeniculum vulgare*, but don't eat this one, it is considered toxic.

Ferula gives beautiful winter foliage, vivid light green with the delicate fine foliage. It spikes up to a 12' tall flowering stalk in Spring and early Summer and goes dormant in mid-Summer.

Native to the Mediterranean area, the Arabian Peninsula and Tanzania.

Mark Delepine

Death Valley is alive



Death Valley – north end Hwy 190.
In front is the Desert Sunflower –
Geraea canescens.

Charlotte Mason is traveling
through Death Valley



Chylisima brevipes
– brevipes = short legs
Evening Primrose
Family



Phacelia calthifolia –
in the Boraginaceae.
Native to the Mojave
desert - Death Valley
(calthi= warm; folia=
leaves.



Eremalche rotundiflora, Desert five-spot– Hibiscus Family

These wildflowers are from the Pinnacles National Park



Indian Paintbrush – in the broomrape family, *Orobanchaceae*. It is most likely *Castilleja affinis* ssp. *affinis* or *Castilleja foliolosa*



Clematis lasiantha (Chaparral Clematis)(?)
or it could be *Clematis ligusticifolia* (?)

According the CalScape website. *C. lasiantha* can be distinguished from the similar (but much more widely ranging) Virgin's Bower (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) by the fact that *C. lasiantha* normally only has one flower on each stalk, and at most three, whereas *C. ligusticifolia* has multiple flowers on each stem. Virgin's Bower is more likely to be found along streams or in other wet places, while the *C. lasiantha* tolerates more open, drier places.

Texas Wildflowers

These wildflower photos from my trip to Texas to see the eclipse



Eclipse destination: Longhorn Cavern State Park in Burnet, TX, just west of Austin. This is the cavern's entrance.

The viewing area was an idyllic wildflower meadow.



Jeff Harter gardens in San Francisco

Texas Wildflowers

These wildflower photos from my trip to Texas to see the eclipse



The dominant species was *Lupinus texensis*, (Texas bluebonnet or Texas lupine).



Gaillardia pulchella (firewheel or Indian blanket).



Phacelia congesta (Blue curls) with *Strymon melinus* (Grey hairstreak).

Texas Wildflowers

These wildflower photos from my trip to Texas to see the eclipse



Pyrrhopappus pauciflorus,
(smallflower desert-chicory
or Texas dandelion).



Tradescantia occidentalis (prairie
spiderwort or
western spiderwort).



Cirsium texanum (Texas
thistle).

Texas Wildflowers

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Assuming the position.....



Almost there....



Cha-ching!!!

WESTERN HORT

Two private gardens open Saturday April 20

Our Western Horticultural Society Spring Private Garden Tour will be held on Saturday, April 20, with gardens in Woodside and Portola Valley. These gardens are open to Western Hort Members and spouse/partner only. One car per member only. For both gardens, carpooling is encouraged. Please see the [latest WH Newsletter](#) for full details and parking instructions.

Schedule:

10am-noon: Karen and Ned Gilhuly garden

12:30-2:30pm: Lori and Deke Hunter's garden

Cal Hort is invited to!!!!

Look for an email this week with the addresses and who to call if you have questions. If you want to carpool and don't know anyone, email Ellen at ellenfrank@sbcglobal.net and if you can drive, please also email Ellen and hopefully people can connect, but Cal Hort cannot be responsible, but it is encouraged and you get to meet other members. There is always something to talk about with plant people.



WESTERN HORT

Sunday, May 5, 2024 • 1-4:30 p.m.

Members Open Garden Day

(watch your email for details)



Janet will also have some plants from Betsy Clebsch's garden available for sale at her garden.

Coffee in the Garden

Mark Delepine's Garden

Sunday April 28th 10am to 12pm

“I've been making this garden since about 1993 and its the only garden I've ever made. My initial interest in gardening here was for the sake of enhancing the landscape as habitat for birds and insects. In part, I've placed plants ... transitional zones between open areas and 'wooded' areas to make it more appealing to birds. Grouping plants by water needs is necessary here in drought-prone California. I find I lean toward making a garden which feels plausibly like a natural landscape, though I appreciate looking at many kinds of gardens.

While I've worked on lots of projects here over the years, I've probably spent more hours in the garden just looking at it, reading in it, playing with the dogs, napping or drinking tea. Too many non-gardeners seem to have the impression that gardening is all about toil. Some have asked if I ever sit down. I like to answer that I do that all the time, but only until the urge to 'play' some more becomes too strong.”



Save the Dates:

Upcoming events:

Sunday April 28 – 10 am to noon – Coffee in the Garden at Mark Delepine's garden. Many other gardens to visit in the area: Marsha Donahue's, Kipp McMichael's front garden, the Wave Garden,

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.





The Calochortis of California

THE FIELD TRIP

Sunday May 26th (limit 6 cars)

Kipp McMichael

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



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 – May 20th



In Person!
Live!
Dr. David
Pepper



Introduction to Ethnobotany presented by Dr. David Pepper

Ethnobotany equals Man plus Plants. Plants support all animals directly or indirectly, providing food, shelter, medicine, fiber, dyes, materials for tools, vessels, musical instruments, jewelry, and clean air. - in one word - life! Pepper will discuss early Native American and modern-day uses of plants

4 pm – walk the SF Botanical garden with our speaker Pepper and Andy Stone

Dinner – We plan on bringing in pizza, or you can go across the street to eat in the many restaurants

7 pm – live plant forum

7:30 – Special Presentation

**In Person – SF county fair building at the corner of 9th and Lincoln
– Parking behind building – driveway is just west of 9th off 9th**