



Bulletin of the California Horticultural Society

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

Founded in 1933

May 2024

www.calhortsociety.org

Volume 91, Issue 5

CAL HORT MEETING

Monday, May 20, 6:30 p.m. in-person



Introduction to Ethnobotany

with **Dr. David Pepper, MD**

From childhood and family custom, Dr. David Pepper was destined to dabble in herbs and other plants, an orientation which found resonance in his medical practice. Many, even most of the drugs we use arise from plants' roots, leaves, and shoots, along with such organisms as molds and fungi. Even more broadly, for both our ancestors and ourselves, these same non-animal life forms are the source of food, shelter, and well-being, including the current resurgence of interest in psychedelic compounds.

With so much of modern life finding its origin in plants, Dr. Pepper will discuss indigenous American practices—today, at our remove, categorized as ethnobotany—along with current practices to provide benefits to our lives from botanical sources.

David Pepper is a semi-retired Family Physician who for more than thirty years practiced and taught Family Medicine with UCSF. His work ranged from delivering babies to assisting hundreds at the end of their lives, with a vast variety of medical approaches—ER, Obstetrics, Hospital and Clinic Medicine—always with a bent toward prevention and Community Medicine. His "end game" combines his interest to help people die well, where most want to be (at home) and in relative tranquility.



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>). 

Upcoming Speakers

CAL HORT MEETING

Monday, June 17, 6:30 p.m. *via Zoom or by phone*



The Secret Season or Year-Round Food Gardening

with Pam Peirce, gardener, author, photographer, and lecturer

When Pam Peirce created a plan for planting a year-round food garden, she realized that gardeners often miss one of the resulting four seasons—January through March. She named it The Secret Season. It's a time in which rain will supplement or replace your watering efforts and when pests are least active. The resulting harvests will give you delicious garden produce long before your summer harvest is underway. Pam will show you what to plant (including some unusual choices), how to avoid having to garden on cold, rainy days, and special tips for the best use of our region's Secret Season.

Based in San Francisco, Pam Peirce is a gardener, author, photographer, and lecturer. The fourth (30th Anniversary) edition of her classic regional gardening book, *Golden Gate Gardening*, was published in August 2023. It teaches year-round food gardening in mediterranean California from the foggy coast of Eureka to San Luis Obispo, to hot inland climates like Walnut Creek or San Jose. Her book *Wildly Successful Plants* covers botany and best use of 50 plucky, historic, mid-California ornamentals.

Pam earned a BA in plant science, taught horticulture at City College of San Francisco for nearly 30 years, and lectures and writes widely on gardening and food issues. You can follow her future appearances on her website:

pampeirce.com, which also provides a link to her blog.

CAL HORT MEETING

Monday, July 15, 6:30 p.m. *via Zoom or by phone*



with Rose Loveall, owner Morningsun Herb Farm

Before starting Morningsun Herb Farm almost 30 years ago, Rose attended U.C. Berkeley for Forestry and U.C. Davis for Environmental Horticulture. Following that she managed research greenhouses for the U.S. Forest Service. Today Morningsun propagates and sells over 600 varieties of culinary, medicinal and landscaping herbs, as well as many unusual perennials for hummingbird and butterfly gardening, and scented geraniums. 🌿

WESTERN HORT

Free to WH and CH members
\$10 each for guests

For full details visit:

[www.westernhort.org/
speakers-events](http://www.westernhort.org/speakers-events)

[Facebook group](#)

([www.facebook.com/
westernhort](http://www.facebook.com/westernhort))

Wednesday

May 8, 7:30 p.m.

In-Person

Gardening for Habitat With Native Plants

with Arvind Kumar



Why do we garden? Is it only for beauty and to enhance the curb appeal of houses? Or does the

garden also play a role in the local ecology?

A yard landscaped with well-chosen native plants cannot only look good but also provide unparalleled habitat value. 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.

A software engineer by training, Arvind Kumar has been growing native plants in his home garden in San Jose for 22 years. He coordinates volunteer workdays at the 2-acre Native Garden in Lake Cunningham Park. He is also a board member and former president of California Native Plant Society (Santa Clara Valley Chapter) 🌿

The next Western Hort meeting will be held in September.

Outings

WESTERN HORT OPEN GARDENS

Sunday, May 5, 1-4 p.m.

(Full details are in your email inbox and on page 3 of WH's May newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/WH-MayOpenGardens>)



Two Western Hort members are sharing their gardens—one in Mt. View, one in Campbell. At the second garden some plants from Betsy Clebsch's garden will be available for sale. (Proceeds go to support Western Hort programs, activities, and scholarships.) Water, tea, lemonade and light refreshments will be available in at least the second garden. Feel free to bring something to share. 🌿

COFFEE IN THE GARDEN



Saturday, May 25, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

(watch your email inbox for more details)

Jon Kaplan's extensive garden adorns a hill in Piedmont, CA. Close to the house is a formal parterre, shade plants line brick-paved paths down the hill, and there is a rose garden. Jon is currently focusing on constructing a rock garden which should be near completion by the time of our visit. 🌿

DAY TRIP



Calochortus Hunting with Kipp McMichaels

Sunday, May 26

(watch your email inbox for more details)

Following up on his in-depth presentation on the Calochortus of California for the March meeting* Kipp will lead us on a day trip to see Calochortus in the wild. 🌿

*available on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/@CaliforniaHorticulturalSociety)
(www.youtube.com/@CaliforniaHorticulturalSociety)

Suggested Reading

BOOK

The Essential Tree Selection Guide

For climate resilience, carbon storage, species diversity and other ecosystem benefits by Henrik Sjöman and Arit Anderson. Published in association with Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

ARTICLES

Learning how to garden a forest

<https://tinyurl.com/MitigatingWildfires>

The Most Beautiful Botanical Gardens in the World

<https://tinyurl.com/5372uyef>

Why is Everything an Orchid?

<https://tinyurl.com/DarwinsMystery>



Ruth Bancroft Garden Announces New Leader



The Ruth Bancroft Garden & Nursery has named Roger Ravenstad as their new Executive Director. He

will take part in the Annual Gala on May 8, and will officially join the team in July.

Born and raised in the East Bay, Roger first came to RBG as a volunteer and a board member. 🌿



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

New Faces for the Annual Seed Exchange



Mary Engle



Barbara Siegel

After many faithful years of service and following a year of transition, Dave Tivol will pass the torch for our Annual Seed Exchange to Mary Engle and Barbara Siegel, who take over as co-chairs of the Seed Exchange. Dave Tivol will retain communications with donors and our counterparts abroad. We all thank Dave for his years of stewardship and appreciate his continued help.

This has been another good year for spring flowers and many have begun to produce seeds ready for you to collect for sharing. You can collect and send in seeds as they become available.

Please mail cleaned seeds to:

Barbara Siegel
4424 Norton Avenue
Oakland, CA 94602.

Emails for the new co-chairs are:
maryengle@verizon.net and bfsiegel@gmail.com



Calling all kind hearts and eager hands!



Cal Hort needs you!
Join us in keeping this group a great resource by volunteering your time and skills. Every small effort makes a difference. Some of our volunteers have been holding multiple jobs for a long time and it's only fair to share that load. Contact any council member or write to us at CalHortInfo@gmail.com. 🌿

California Horticultural Society

COUNCIL

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