Prominent California Trees: where they grow, their uses, their key features, how they reproduce, and more
Date: Ten Tuesdays, February 23 through April 27. Time: 10 am to noon
Instructor: Glenn Keator; Location: Zoom
Cost: $250 for the series.
Suitable for docents, docent trainees, and anyone interested in California trees. This series will highlight many of California’s wonderful and varied trees from redwoods and giant sequoia to the myriad oaks, riparian corridor trees, buckeye, madrone, tanbark oak, and more.

Island Botany: Why are Island Floras Special?
Date: Sundays, February 28, March 7, March 14. Time: 10 am to noon
Instructor: Glenn Keator; Location: Zoom.
If the Garden opens in time, we may be able to visit the Channel Islands section.
Cost: $90 members; $100 non-members.
In the world of plants there are many kinds of “islands” besides the obvious ones in bays and oceans. But we will focus on three examples to explain some of the phenomena of island floras. First, we will travel to the Channel Islands off the southern California coast, then visit the volcanic Hawaiian Islands, among the most isolated areas in the world. If time allows, we will also have a brief encounter with New Zealand.

The Franciscan Manzanita Story: from Saving “one last plant” to Protecting California’s Bountiful Biodiversity
Date: Saturday March 20. Time: 10:00 to 11:30 am
Instructor: Dan Gluesenkamp; Location: Zoom
Cost: No Charge; (Registration required; donation to the Regional Parks Botanic Garden appreciated)
For more than a century, the Franciscan manzanita has been surprisingly central to key moments in California botany: its “Perils of Pauline” history stars trailblazing woman botanists, includes the 1906 earthquake and ghoulish nighttime raids on Gold Rush cemeteries, and features walk-on roles in the fight to save the Regional Park Botanic Garden and establish California’s Native Plant Society. This talk explores the history of the Franciscan manzanita, its rediscovery, and the dedicated humans who work to save it once again, forever. It is a story of politics and public perception, as much as botany and beauty.

Mediterranean Regions of the World Part 1: The California Floristic Province
Date: Sundays, April 18 and 25. Time: 10 am to noon
Instructor: Glenn Keator; Location: Zoom
Cost: $60 members; $70 non-members
This presentation will focus on the truly Mediterranean-climate plants of California from the coast to the foothills and middle elevations of the mountains, where the typical regime of wet mild winters and hot dry summers prevails. This includes oak woodlands, mixed-evergreen forest, grasslands, chaparral, and coastal scrub. The presentation will exclude the high mountains, the deserts, and the strip along the north coast, areas which are not strictly Mediterranean-climate areas.
Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates featuring California Natives
Date: Tuesday, April 20. Time: 7:00 to 8:30 pm
Instructor: Saxon Holt; Location: Zoom
Cost: $25 members; $30 non-members, with a discount coupon to buy Saxon’s new book.
This two-part presentation based on the new book Gardening in Summer-dry Climates will begin
with a lecture with maps and slides of native habitats, defining summer-dry climates more broadly
than mediterranean, in locales that occur across the entire Pacific West Coast from Baja to BC. The
discussion of climate will be followed by a presentation of plants and gardens up and down the West
Coast (especially California natives) taken from the book that illustrates that climate tolerance is a
more useful concept than drought tolerance.

Mediterranean Regions of the World Part 2: Western Australia
Date: Sundays, May 2 and 16. Time: 10 am to noon
Instructor: Glenn Keator; Location: Zoom
Cost: $60 members; $70 non-members
Only the southwestern corner of the huge state of Western Australia has a mediterranean climate, so
the presentation will focus on that area alone.
Mediterranean Regions of the World Parts 3 and 4 will continue in the fall.

Instructor Bios

• Dan Gluesenkamp
Daniel Gluesenkamp is Executive Director of the California Institute for Biodiversity (CIB). He
formerly served as ED of the California Native Plant Society, ED of Calflora, and Director of Habitat
Protection and Restoration for Audubon Canyon Ranch’s 31 preserves. Dan earned a PhD in ecology
from UC Berkeley with original research on plant-insect interactions, helped found the California
Invasive Plant Council, and in 2009 Dan discovered a presumed-extinct Franciscan manzanita plant
growing on a traffic island at the Golden Gate Bridge.
Recent work includes helping Gov Brown establish and Gov Newsom advance California’s ambitious
California Biodiversity Initiative. He recently secured new funding to seed bank all California’s rare
plants, settled litigation that yielded $36M in conservation funding, and led efforts that update
pesticide regulations to protect pollinators and advance environmental equity. Now he is leading
CIB, a 25-year-old California conservation nonprofit, in securing systemic change to empower all
Californians to save our remarkable biodiversity hotspot, now, forever.

• Saxon Holt
Saxon Holt is a photojournalist and sole photographer of more than 30 garden books. He is the
Director of the Summer-Dry Project, a Board member of Pacific Horticulture Society, and owner of
the PhotoBotanic Garden Library. His recent book Gardening in Summer-Dry Climates is published
by Timber Press.

• Glenn Keator
Glenn Keator is a popular freelance instructor of botany in the Bay Area. He currently teaches, leads
field trips in non-Covid times, and provides docent instruction in botany for the Regional Parks
Botanic Garden. He is the author of many books on California native plants.

For class registration and membership information, see: https://nativeplants.org/
Contact for Classes: bgardenreg@gmail.com