WESTERN H@RT

January 2023 I PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 I www.westernhort.org

JANUARY 2023 MEETING January 11th, 7:30pm

January Meeting will be a Zoom Meeting only. Look for the link in an email from WHS.

Log on anytime after 7:00 pm. The meeting will start at 7:20 with a virtual plant forum. If you experience difficulties logging in please look at our Zoom Assistance page in Resources at <u>westernhort.org</u>. Please mute your sound and turn off your video when the speaker starts. Use the chat function to ask questions.

There will be no recording of this meeting per our speakers request.

SPEAKER: REBECCA SWEET TOPIC: REFRESH YOUR GARDEN DESIGN: SIMPLE STRATEGIES TO WAKE UP A WEARY GARDEN



Have you ever been to a garden and you're not quite sure why, but it reaches out and grabs your soul? Whether it's a brightly colored perennial garden, a

Rebecca Sweet is a landscape designer, author, and lifelong gardener based in Northern California. Rebecca's gardens have been featured in *Sunset, Fine Gardening, Woman's Day* and *American Gardener* and she has been a guest on the critically acclaimed PBS series Growing a Greener World. She is the author of *Refresh Your Garden Design with Color, Texture & Form* and the co-author of *Garden Up! Smart Vertical Gardening for Small & Large*





green and serene English garden or a minimalist contemporary garden, the effect is the same – you're emotionally transported to a different place. As you walk through this garden your pace slows as you catch yourself marveling at the smallest details. What is it about this garden and how can you create this feeling in your own? What you're experiencing is harmony at work, and believe it or not, you can have this experience in your own garden. Based off of her new book, *Refresh Your Garden Design*, Rebecca will share her secrets to reviving your garden in ways that are inspiring, informative, and easy to put into practice.

Learn more about Rebecca's designs, books and upcoming events at www.harmonyinthegarden.com



CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"The man who planted roses in 1936 wrote about flowers often. In his diaries, there were lists of flowers to buy, reports on the cultivation of domestic flowers, and mentions of wildflowers spotted." (from Orwell's Roses by Rebecca Solnit)

May your winter plantings be successful! I am putting in a *Chilopsis linearis* (desert willow) and *Trichostema lanatum* (woolly bluecurls though some say, 'blue woolly-curls') from Pete Villieux's East Bay Wilds Nursery. Pete Villieux and associates have recently finished a gorgeous landscaping project for the Oakland Museum of California.

In previous winters, the 'ridiculously resilient ridge' (RRR) of high pressure blocked the westerlies and winter rains from reaching California. This winter so far has seen the absence of RRR. Yippee for our rain! Now if that Sierra snowpack could just build back up, we all will be in less dire straits.

See you at our January meeting (only via Zoom) with speaker, Rebecca Sweet. She is speaking on topics from her book, <u>Refresh Your Garden Design</u>. The 2013 edition is available from our county library system, <u>https://sccl.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S118C392231</u>, though Rebecca doubtlessly will be updating some of those ideas.

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

DECEMBER PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy shared a *Pentzia incana* – (Karroo bush) Native to the Karroo Desert in South Africa, *Pentzia* is a small scale groundcover reminiscent of Santolina with cheerful, yellow button flowers. It can bloom year-round in mild climates. It grows about twelve inches tall and will spread two or three feet wide. It is



undemanding, growing in most soils; prefers full sun but tolerates filtered shade as well; is undemanding, growing in most soils; prefers full sun but tolerates filtered shade as well; is undaunted by any of our BayArea cold temperatures; and is quite drought resistant since once established *Pentzia* will be satisfied with water once a month or maybe even less often. The leaves are tiny, hairy and pleasantly fragrant. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has introduced *Pentzia incana* in Arizona as a non-aggressive species, which has shown some value to hummingbirds, small mammals, granivorous birds, butterflies, moths and other insects. Spreading by arching stems that touch the ground and root, *Pentzia* has been used to help revegetate disturbed areas. Nancy got her first cuttings courtesy of Michael Willets, a former WHS member who was renown for growing many South African bulbs and plants. ~ Nancy Schramm

Judy Wong from Menlo Park finally had her mystery salvia identified by

our December speaker. Salvia buchananii (Buchanan's Fuschia Sage) This perennial from Queretaro, Mexico was taken to England and grown by Sir Charles Buchanan. Judy bought it at a nursery near Applegate, Oregon many years ago. It grows in full sun to part shade (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It has glossy dark green opposite leaves and gets to be 2' tall x 1' wide. The pendulous magenta flowers are 2" long and fuzzy. They start appearing in the spring and will continue through the fall. Hummingbirds and butterflies are attracted to it. Cut it back in the fall. Recently it has started to travel a little bit for Judy. (May be available at Annie's Annuals and Perennials. ed)



~ Ána Muir

Our January plant share will happen via Zoom. To participate send photos of any plants that you wish to share to <u>info@westernhort.org</u> by January 9th. Please be ready with the botanical and common name (if you know them) information about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water needs and other growth requirements. If you have plants that you would like help identifying or for which you want some cultural advice, feel free to send photos of them also.

Upcoming Meetings

February 8th: Eric Hsu, Of Heartbreak & Flowers: The Domoto Family & Their Horticultural Legacy in the United States.

March 8th: John Tsutakawa, Making Hypertufa Troughs April 12th: Martin Quigley, The Ins & Outs, Ups & Downs of Succulent Container Gardening May 10th: Rose Loveall, Hardworking Herbs

January

DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES



Imagine, if you will, a time-traveling botanical artist from the early 1700's finding himself at our Dec 14th meeting. This artist, who lived at a time well before electric lights, would see his work brightly displayed on an enormous screen at the front of a large room wherein dozens of garden enthusiasts could all see it at the same time! Not only would he be floored by the technology, he might become envious of our speaker, Kristin Jakob, who illustrated a history of the development of botanical drawing using plates she has collected over the years, artwork dating from the 18th century through to the present day, including her own remarkably beautiful work. Examples of the early artists included Claude Abriet, Noel Antoine Pluche, George Ehret, William Curtis, James Sowerby, Sydenham Edwards, Henri-Joseph Redoute and



his more well-known brother, Pierre-Joseph Redoute. Copper-plate engraving was used extensively at that time. Coloring of the prints began in the second half of the 1700's. At the turn of the 19th century, grading color by stippling was developed and color printing was happening rather than hand-coloring. The blank backgrounds of the subjects began to be replaced with more elaborate and fanciful backdrops. 19th century artists included Alexander von Humboldt, John Sibthorp, John Curtis and Benjamin Maund. Women began to trickle in to the ranks of botanical illustrators. For example, Maund's two daughters did the illustrations for The Botanic Garden (1825-1842) by their father and *Edwards's Botanical Register*, a horticultural magazine that ran from 1815 to 1847, contained over a thousand illustrations done by Sarah Ann Drake.

Kristin continued with examples into the twentieth century including a Tridax gaillardioides (known to us these days as Lavia or tidy tips) plate by H.G. Moon from the book Flora and Sylva, species rose plates in The Genus Rosa (1910-1914) illustrated by Alfred Parsons, and Rosier des Cheins (1958) by Claus Caspari. Her own pieces capped off the evening, and many were available for sale to attendees. Kristin works indoors, as the work is very slow-going. She draws to actual scale, and uses only live specimens. A drawing begins as a loose sketch, which is then erased to leave a shadow. A pencil drawing goes on top of the erased shapes. Next, watercolor is applied using very small brushes, especially those with dry bristles. Rapidograph pens are used for pen and ink drawings. Her website, kristinjakob.com, catalogs her extensive body of work.

~ Jen Dungan



Cookies!

Members shared their favorite Christmas Cookies at the December meeting. It turned out to be a "sweet" success! The best part was that everyone was able to take home a selection to enjoy all through the holidays.

There were so many special and creative cookies that it is fair to say our members are not only good gardeners but also good bakers.

I think the cutest cookie award has to go to the Santa Claus cookies. I know they made me smile. But would I have the heart to eat them? You better believe it!! (ed)









2022 FOUNDERS' AWARD

Judy Wong, the recipient of this years Founders' Award, is a long time active member of Western Horticulture Society. She joined the Western Hort board in 1993, and was President in 1998 and 1999. She was Vice President from 2015 to 2018 when she joined the Board for the second time. She was involved in Founder Award research for a number of years. She has also been an important contributor to the Western Hort Speakers Committee for several years. Around 1993 she graduated from the Master Gardeners Program, and

later took plant ID classes. Judy started her working career as an occupational therapist, studying for this career first at California State in Fresno, then the University of California in Santa Barbara (where she is from) and finally graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from San Jose State University. Her first job was working for San Francisco's Pacific Medical Center hospitals for 15 years. Her next job was at Stanford Hospital where for 21 years and 10 months, now a Senior Occupational Therapist, Judy was mainly in the ICU working with heart transplant patients, helping them get back on their feet and on with their daily lives. Hiking and backpacking are favorite activities. This is how she met her husband Jack Kuhn when they were both students at San Jose State. For her 50th birthday, they hiked the John Muir Trail for two weeks from Yosemite to Mt. Whitney. Judy loves California native plants, especially the spring flowers, and on her wildflower hikes she calls their names out loud. She gets plenty of opportunity to do this as a docent on wildflower hikes in Edgewood Park Natural Preserve. She also volunteers in the visitor center at Edgewood. Native plants grow throughout her own low water usage garden. Judy also volunteered weekly at the San Francisco Botanical Garden in the South African Bulb section. Her interest in South African bulbs began when she took a trip to South Africa, and she now has a collection of South African bulbs in her own garden. When Judy and her husband first moved in together, it was in an apartment off of Ravenswood Ave. in Menlo Park. There was a small balcony that quickly filled up with potted plants. She had always had an interest in plants. The more serious gardening started in 1986 when they bought a house in Menlo Park that had a garden full of weeds, a front lawn and about 500 sq. ft. in the back. It has been transformed, of course, and includes a fence full of succulents that is a must see. Traveling is a passion, and



Judy has visited four continents, including the South Pole in 2018. She travels with the Hortisexuals, her friends and her sister. This passion coincides with and augments her passion for cooking and eating. Judy is a Foodie. She was traveling in Spain, for example, and remembered a restaurant she and her sister discovered 12 years earlier. Then she convinced someone to help her find it again. And they did find it and had a fabulous meal! When in Spain it helps to be able to do this if you speak Spanish, which she does. She can name favorite eateries up

and down the West Coast, and you will be wise to rely on her recommendations. Like where to get the best sandwiches or ice cream in Ashland, Oregon. Judy loves to cook and never misses an opportunity to create something wonderful for a small gathering, or for a committee meeting. She can make such delicious specialties as white peach butter, mango chutney (a secret recipe) and various salsas. Along with these treats comes the tea kettle. Tea is her favorite drink. She knows and steeps many different teas! Judy has a reputation for being a very caring and helpful person. As an example, her husband remembers being at a slide show once when the bulb burned out. She was the one who offered to go buy another one. Around 2017 Judy was one of the people responsible for getting the plants for the Hot Plant Picks at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. She is most generous in sharing divisions, seeds and seedlings with anyone taking an interest. For years she has been a major contributor to the Western Hort plant sale table. She can be relied upon to bring plants for the show-and-tell portion of our meetings. Judy cares about people as much as she cares about plants. Generous and caring are the words Lorena Gorsche and other friends use to describe her. She is proactive in getting people together. Like asking Ellen Frank to room with her on a trip to Chile. And organizing friends to visit Betsy Clebsch. She goes out of her way to make people she meets feel welcome, appreciated and heard. She has recruited many people to become involved with Western Hort. Without her generosity, I would not still be attending these meetings, because I do not drive at night. She called me up one day in 2015 and asked if I needed a lift. If you have ever received an email from her, you will know her sign off is: "If I rest, I rust." That is a perfect motto for this energetic, caring, very active contributor to the well being of Western Hort.

~ Glenda M. Jones, Dec. 2022



The 2023 Show will not be held.

Many of you have contacted us about the 2023 San Francisco Bay Flower & Garden Show. Unfortunately, the Alameda County Fairground notified us in September of a date conflict for 2023. We have looked at all possible date options and also contacted alternate venues. Although other venues were suitable, the dates were not. It is not an easy decision to forgo the 2023 Show, but for the success of the Show going forward, we feel it is the right decision.

Now for the good news! We do have confirmed dates at the Alameda County Fairgrounds for APRIL 4-7, 2024

If you complete the RSVP below, we will send you the requested information as soon as it becomes available.

We hope you have a wonderful Holiday Season and Thank You for your support throughout the years!

RSVP:

LOCATION Alameda County Fairgrounds

DATE AND TIME 04/04/24 10:00am - 04/07/24 6:00pm US/Pacific

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Great News! San Luis Obispo Seeing More Monarch Butterflies Than Over the Last 20 Years https://blog.theanimalrescuesite.greatergood.com/more-monarch-butterflies/

Ancient farming practice makes a comeback as climate change puts pressure on crops. https://apple.news/AgpuO73FDTjWBMmpGXn4RCg

28 YEARS AGO

On January 11, 1995, Western Hort Society was fortunate to hear Bob Hornback talk about *Variegated Plants*. (Anyone who was there would have learned that Bob is definitely passionate about plants with multi-colored leaves. – NCS) "Hornback lives and gardens in Occidental, CA, is co-owner of Muchas Grasses Nursery in Santa Rosa, and teaches horticulture at Merritt College in Oakland."

The nominating committee for Board of Directors submitted a list of six members to fill a vacancy on the board and to continue for their second three year terms, including (still a member!) John Hammerschmidt.

A planning meeting for the April 26-30 Landscape Garden Show was announced to be held at long-time member Roz Bray's home. The theme for the 1995 show was *A Garden Party*.

There was a list of more video tapes available for rental at meetings, not only *The Great Gardens* series but a number of *How to-* tapes by Jeff Ball.

Carol Coate wrote another erudite review of one of the *Great Gardens* series: "Though the gardens are superb and the gardeners charming, I found I was tantalized but unrewarded for there wasn't enough time devoted to the worthiest of them. The plant list provided is especially nice, but make your own copy if you want to keep it. This video is graced with clematis galore in case you love them. **** of five possible."

The last announcement was that a new newsletter editor had been found!

The plant notes began with a thanks to "Dick Dunmire who was inspired by our speaker's topic to bring several variegated plants to our attention."

Agave americana 'Medio-Picta' has a "central broad white stripe down the center of each leaf...and at maturity is a sizable plant."

"Rohdea japonica is native to Japan and has been widely grown and valued as a potted plant in that country for over 500 years." "Dick showed two rohdeas; one with broad leaves tapering to a point and having cream-colored margins, the other, the so-called dragon type, with a raised ridge along the midrib."

"*Ligularia tussilaginea* is grown for its bold, handsome foliage." "One of Dick's plants called 'Argentea' had a broad white margin; the other, which came from Pete Sugawara, had the narrowest of gold margins." "Gophers consider it a delicacy."

"Sasa veitchii is a running bamboo native to Japan and could be called variegated if one stretches the definition a bit."

"Dalechampia dioscoreidifilia is a vigorous subtropical vine in the same family as Bougainvillea." "As Dick mentioned, the specific name means 'leaves like a yam'."

There were two wintersweet branches on display, the species; *Chimonanthes praecox* with "the advantage of stronger scent" and *C. p.* 'Grandiflora' "whose flowers are larger and deeper in color than the species".

"Bill Kurtz has a special interest in South African plants, many of which are winter blooming and summer dormant." He brought two SA bulbs to show.

Lachenalia viridiflora has "flowers that are tubular and pendant" and of a color "which has been described as aqua or viridian green."

Massonia pustulata has "just two leaves per bulb, but in this case short and broad and the flower cluster that emerges between them is sessile and seems to be just a mass of stamens." "Bill's pot of three perfect little plants was an elegant presentation."

Lyn Dearborn brought *Lycaste lucianii* which "is kept outdoors in shade all summer and brought into the greenhouse for the winter". "The flowers have rosy pink sepals, lighter pink petals which form a tube with deep pink throat."

"I think we all felt very proud to be introduced to *Salvia clevelandii* 'Betsy Clebsch', named after our own 'Lady of the Salvias' – recognition well deserved! This new cultivar was collected from the wild and named by Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. It is only half as big as the species, with smaller leaves as well, and will be a better fit for many of our gardens. We are looking forward with great anticipation to Betsy's forthcoming book on salvias which is being published by Timber Press."

Ed Carman brought a 25 year-old bonsai specimen of *Coccoloba uvifera* (sea grape). "The leaves are roundish, 8" long, leathery, glossy and veined red. The flowers are white in dense pendant racemes about 10" long. The round purple fruits resemble bunches of grapes, and while they are edible, Ed reports that they are not very tasty."

 \sim Nancy Schramm

GET INVOLVED

We are actively looking for a few new board members including a Vice President. Yes, to your question, "If I was on the board in the past, can I join again?" We enjoy having new board members as well as members who have served in the past. It makes for a well rounded board. Volunteer and get to know other WHS members and keep our organization growing.

Available Positions:

Vice president: In addition to board member duties below, the vice president runs the general meeting or board meetings when the President is unavailable. Helps the President as needed and updates new board members on duties and functions of the organization.

Board Members: Position involves regular attendance at monthly meetings Sept – June and regular attendance at bi-monthly board meetings as well as helping on committees as needed to carry out Western Hort activities.

Plant Sale Table Assistant: Set up and help with the sale of donated plants at the meeting.

If you have an interest in helping in any one of these capacities, or feel you can help in any other way, feel free to e-mail us at <u>info@westernhort.org</u> or speak to any of the current board members at our meetings.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Cal Hort Society: General Meeting on Monday, January 16th . https://calhortsociety.org/

PLANT SALE TABLE

The popular Plant Sale Table will resume in February at our next in-person Shoup Park Garden House meeting. Keep propagating those plants! All money collected goes to support WHS programs and the scholarship fund. A very special thanks to Carol Dahout for becoming the manager of the table! If you would like to get involved and help out with the plant sales contact Carol or any board member for information.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird Vice President: Open Position Secretary : Leslie Dean Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Jennifer Dungan and Eva Huala

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang Membership: Ursula Haschke Meeting Tech: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach, Janet Hoffmann & John Hammerschmidt Welcome Table: Meri-Beth Bird & Eva Huala Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach, Meri-Beth Bird, Rosalie Shepherd, Janet Hoffmann & Nancy Schramm

About Membership in Western Hort:

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail add \$10 to the membership fee listed above. Please visit the Pac Hort page for more information or to join Pacific Horticulture Society, for whom we are now a sponsoring organization, go to: <u>pacifichorticulture.org</u>.

To join or renew visit our website at: <u>https://www.westernhort.org/membership</u> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below. **To contact us:** Please send email to: <u>info@westernhort.org</u> or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



PO Box 166 Mountain View, CA 94042 First Class Mail VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

Meeting location : January 11th Online

This is an online Zoom Meeting only this month

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** or suggest a speaker for the WHS that is of particular interest to you?

It would be much appreciated!

Please call Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. **Note: deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 22nd of January.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Kjanberg@gmail.com or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342