



February 2017 Speaker

Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 pm. Meeting room opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30-6:45pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Speaker: Frederique Lavoipierre, “The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Beneficial Insects in the Garden”



“Ladybugs”

photos: <https://biocontrol.entomology.com/ell.edu/predators/ladybeetles.php>

Did you know there are dozens of species of ladybugs (*actually ladybird beetles because they belong to the scientific group called beetles not bugs*), and that they don't all eat aphids? Beneficial insects like ladybird beetles and lacewings, flower flies, minute pirate bugs, and other garden allies can regulate populations of plant-eating insects. Learn how garden design and plant choice influences the community of beneficial insects in our landscapes. Meet some of the garden allies and their favorite plants, and the compelling reasons why including regionally native flora in our gardens makes a difference to our shared environment. Frederique Lavoipierre will share her passion for incorporating elements into our landscapes that welcome insects and other organisms that help our gardens to

survive and thrive without the use of harmful chemicals.

Frederique holds an MS in Biology from Sonoma State University, where her focus was on sustainable landscape practices and designing habitat for beneficial insects. She was the founding director of the SSU Sustainable Landscape Program and developed and coordinated the Entomology Outreach and Garden Classroom Programs. Frederique was the author of Garden Allies, a series for Pacific Horticulture magazine, and is compiling the ten years of articles into a book. In her current position as Director of Education at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, Frederique continues her quest to inspire people to take action to protect the environment.



Frederique Lavoipierre

photo: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lavoipierre>

*Join us for dinner with Frederique Lavoipierre on
February 8th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.
Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: alivensilk@aol.com, 408-251-2742

January 2017 Speaker Notes

With all of the recent (and much needed) rain we have received, no doubt there are more than a few WHS members with some “cabin fever”, itching to get outside and play in the garden. Egging us on was this month’s featured speaker, Nancy Garrison, Garden and Pruning Consultant.

A former UC Coop Extension Advisor, Nancy jumped right into her talk with types of fruit trees and favorite varieties that she shared with us. Peaches, nectarines, apples, and avocados were all covered, as well as slightly less common fruits like guavas, pears, pomegranates, and the now rare mulberry. Nancy’s mantra seems to be if there is a space in your yard for something edible to grow, plant it. If there isn’t one, tear out a section of lawn or remove that privet and create some space for edibles. No one would starve in a Nancy Garrison garden!

The presentation seemed to jump around a bit, as we moved to other types of edibles one could employ in the design: artichokes, fennel, mache, cabbage, kale, and chard as well as blueberries and blackberries. Sounds like a good salad to me.

Nancy is a fountain of knowledge and an enthusiastic speaker who patiently answered the many questions from the audience, many of whom were visitors from Foothill College.

She believes citrus are one of the most ornamental of edibles, with the added pleasure of year-round fruit (depending on the types planted.) Her enthusiasm for citrus was tempered with the warning of the threat of HLB disease and Asian Citrus Psyllid, which are migrating to N. California. Together with the Citrus Leaf Miner problem, these are real concerns we all must address, short of a present cure. Nancy also touched on some basic orchard practices such as proper spacing, pruning, and sanitation. Good ideas for all things fruiting!

Speaking of fruiting, after her talk, Nancy invited us to sample some fruit and vegetables tastings that she brought. Nothing like a monthly meeting with a sweet ending! ~Mark McCabe

November 2016 Speaker Notes

“Succulents for Every California Garden” was a rapid-fire slide presentation of 86 recommended plants that do well in our low-humidity climate in the Bay Area. Brian Kemble, Curator of the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek and featured newspaper garden writer smoothly moved through his slide presentation without missing a beat. He graciously provided us with a written list, all numbered and arranged by botanical family.

If you missed the November talk, not all is lost. Read the article “The Ruth Bancroft Garden” in the latest issue of Pacific Horticulture magazine. A fascinating read about a remarkable woman and her garden. Brian was (and is) a major reason the garden has become a Bay Area treasure, in no small part due to its emphasis on drought tolerant plants and the visual beauty that it displays to visitors.

~Mark McCabe

January 2017 Plant Notes

Ted Kipping who gardens in SF in the fog (cloud forest conditions) brought in:

Abutilons – Brought in 3 unnamed hybrids however their ‘mom’ is a hoop type that is 15’ tall.

Aeonium - Ted brought in a flower spike. It takes several years to flower. Bees love the flower spikes. The plant is 20-22" in diameter.

Blechnum occidentale (Hammock Fern) – This fern is just now showing off its new bright pink/crimson fronds, which usually start emerging in the spring. The leathery fronds are 3” wide and about 18” long and you might want to remove the older less colorful ones at the base. Every year it will increase in size by 3-6 inches. Like most woodland plants it requires good drainage with regular irrigation and is hardy to 20°.



Cuphea oreophila
 Photo: James Gaither
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/>

Cuphea oreophila (Bat-Faced Cuphea) – This mountain lover (oreo = mountain and phila=lover) shrub grows in sun to part shade (zones 9-10) in rich soil. It grows to be 6’ tall x 4’ wide, however mine is 7’ tall. It has 2-3” vibrant red tubular blossoms that have 2 bat ears on top. Hummingbirds love it.

Cuphea unknown species – This smaller one only grows to 1.5-2’ ft. tall and has orange tubular blossoms with a yellow throat.

to be 5’ tall and wide. It has elegant purple pendulous bell shaped flowers that look like they’re suspended on arching fishing rods.

Dierama pulcherrimum (Fairy Wand Flower, Angel’s Fishing Rod) – This purple selection comes from South Africa and grows in the sun (zones 7-10). It grows



Dierama pulcherrimum
 Photo: <http://www.sierrafoothillgarden.com>

Lepechinia hastata (Mexican Pitcher Sage, Baja Pitcher Sage) – This evergreen shrub from

Mexico (Baja California) belongs to the mint family. It grows in sun to part shade and gets to be 6’ tall and wide. It has large aromatic arrow shaped gray green leaves. It has beautiful magenta sage flowers that appear on 1-foot spikes. The hummingbirds love it.



Lepechinia hastata
 Photo: <http://www.sloatgardens.com>

Salvia ‘Indigo Spires’ (‘Indigo Spires’ Sage) – This fast growing Salvia hybrid perennial grows in sun to part shade (zones 8-11) and gets to be 6’ tall by 3’ wide; although it has only grown to be 3.5-4.5’ tall in SF for Ted. The green opposite ovate leaves have a serrated margin. It has 12-15” long spike of dark purple tubular flowers. It blooms for a very long time.

Tillandsia somnians (Bromeliad) – This is a climbing Bromeliad from the Cloud Forest. This tank-forming type (holds its own water) has beautiful 8-12” soft green leaves that become maroon or red; the closer you get to the center. The spike gets 2-4’ long and makes pups/offsets. It is a cousin of Spanish moss.



Tillandsia somnians
 Photo: <http://www.tropicalplantbook.com>

Liz Calhoon from Los Altos brought:

Abutilon ‘Victor Reiter’ – This medium sized evergreen shrub grows in sun to part shade (zones 7-10) and needs well-drained soil. It grows to be 8’ tall x 5-6’ wide. The alternating leaves are a deep green and maple like. The tangerine orange hibiscus-like flowers have a lighter center and yellow-green calyces, are 2.5-3” across and have 5 petals. It grows effortlessly, is hardy to 25°. Bees, birds and hummingbirds love the flowers.

Abutilon (Flowering Maple, Chinese Bell Flower, Chinese Lantern) - This large evergreen shrub started off as a cutting from Ted Kipping. It grows in part shade and gets to be 15’ tall x 10’ wide. It has reddish to coral flowers year round.

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

Camellia sasanqua 'Yuletide' (Yuletide Camellia) - This broad-leaved evergreen shrub grows in sun to part shade (zones 7-10) and needs moist, acidic and well draining soil. It grows to 8' tall and almost as wide, although it can spread to be 10' wide. The shiny dark green alternating leaves are 2" long with serrated margins. The single vibrant red 2-3" flowers have bright yellow stamens and begin blooming in late autumn and are still blooming now.

Lavatera maritima 'Bicolor' (Tree Mallow) – This fast growing evergreen shrub is medium sized and grows in sun to part shade. It grows to be 8' tall and wide. It has grey green palmate lobed leaves. The flowers have a magenta or dark pink center surrounded by a paler pink or even white area. Mine still is blooming even after the rains we've had. Because of its fast growth it is short lived and may only last 5 years. It is hardy to 20° and attracts birds and butterflies.



Lavatera maritima 'Bicolor'
Photo: <http://www.vivaiPriola.it>

Loropetalum chinense 'Razzleberry' (Chinese Fringe Flower) – This medium sized evergreen shrub grows in sun to part shade and needs well-drained soil. It grows to be 4' tall and wide. The green alternating ovate shaped leaves are 2" long with serrated edges and turn to a bronze color in the fall. The deep pink to magenta fringe-like flowers bloom during the spring, summer and fall, although Judy's is still flowering.

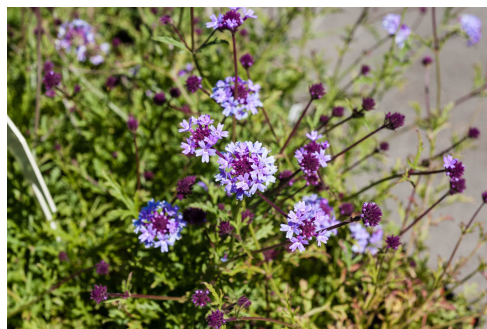
Narcissus papyraceus (Paperwhite Narcissus) – These bulbs (monocots) have fragrant white flowers on 12-18' stalks, which start blooming in the spring but are easily forced. The small flowers have 6 petal-like tepals and have a trumpet-shaped corona in the center. The foliage is blue-gray and they grow in sun to part shade.



Ribes sanguineum 'Icicle'
Photo: <http://www.joycreek.com>

Ribes sanguineum 'White Icicle' - This medium sized flowering currant shrub grows in sun to part shade. It grows to 8' tall x 6' wide. The leaves have 5 rounded nodes with shallow sinuses between them and serrated margins. Hanging racemes of white flowers appear in the spring followed by blue-black berries, although mine still has some flowers. Considered a native, so many birds, pollinators and hummingbirds are attracted to it.

Verbena lilacina 'de la Mina' (Purple Cedros Island Verbena) – This small evergreen grows in sun and part sun (zones 7-10). It forms a tidy mound that gets



Verbena lilacina 'de la Mina'
Photo: <http://www.mostlynatives.com>

to be 2' tall x 4' wide and grows in most soils but it must drain well. Fern-like dissected leaves are a light green color. It has fragrant dark purple star-shaped flowers that attract butterflies and blooms almost year round. This Mediterranean plant can go a long time without being watered. It is hardy to 20°.

Lyn Dearborn from Portola Valley brought:

Salvia – This perennial gets to be 15' tall by 10' wide. It likes well-drained soil and part sun. It is hardy to 40°.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

Camellia japonica 'Unryu' (Contorted Camellia) – This medium sized evergreen shrub grows in part sun to shade (zones 7a-9b) and needs moist, acidic and well draining soil. It grows to 6' tall and almost as wide, although it can grow to be 10' tall. The leathery, glossy dark green alternating leaves are 3-4" long with serrated margins. The pink to red flowers start blooming in October and are still flowering now. 'Unryu' means "dragons in the clouds" a reference to the twisted stems that appear to be a dragon reaching for the sky. Nancy loves twisted things.



Camellia japonica 'Unryu'
Photo: <http://plants.gardensupplyco.com>



Ranunculus cortusifolius
Photo: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Ranunculus cortusifolius (Canary Buttercup) – This herbaceous perennial grows in sun or shade and can get to be 5' tall. It will grow in almost any soil type. The 8-12" long bright green palmate leaves have scalloped margins. The bright glossy yellow flowers are 2" long and have a green center. It seeds all over, so it plant seeds right away or let it self-sow. Completely dies back (goes dormant) in the summertime so it does not need summer water but tolerates it just fine. It is hardy to 15°.

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Eugenia uniflora (Pitanga, Surinam Cherry, Brazilian Cherry, Cayenne Cherry or Cerisier Carré) –

This wonderful, attractive, evergreen bush or tree grows in full sun or part sun (zones 9b-11) and will grow in all types of soil. It will only get to be 10' tall if grown in a container. However, it can get to be 25' tall in the wild. It is easy to care for. It has white flowers in the spring. It takes 7 years to get the small 1" round pumpkin-like shiny red to black (many different colors) fruit. These delicious berries are out of this world. It's 2" long leaves are fragrant. They are opposite, ovate shaped with entire margins. The top leaves turn red in the winter. You can make jam and jelly from them. The leaves can be spread on the floor and when crushed by being walked on release a compound that repels flies. It is hardy to 22°. It has some medicinal uses but please note that the seeds should not be fed to dogs since they might get diarrhea. ~Ana Muir



Eugenia uniflora
Photo: <https://commons.wikimedia.org>

Plant Table

Thanks for all your support by bringing plants to the table and buying plants from the table. We couldn't do it without you! Please label plants and a description or pictures are always appreciated. Just a reminder, any garden related items are welcome at the plant table. This is a good time to clean out the garden shed and see what you have! Questions? Contact Roberta Barnes:

robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com

28 Years Ago

Western Hort met on February 8 (Hey—same date as this year!) 1989. The speaker was "Lowell Cordes, Director of the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation...speaking on 'Current Research at the Foundation' ". At the time, the Foundation had a 4-acre trial ground with 70 species planted for observation. "Come and learn what new plants you may be seeing in the future as well as what plants you will not be seeing due to their behavior in professional trial conditions." Field trip chairperson Marilou Vivanco planned "A special trip to see the 16,000 bulbs in bloom at Filoli...Saturday, March 11th. In addition to the regular tour of the garden, we will also get to see the greenhouses."

Announcements included an open day, March 19th, at Kotani-En. (I had to look this one up).

"Kotani-En was built by 12 Japanese artisans over a period of 15 years. Winding paths, 300 year-old plants that were gifts from the

Emperor of Japan and a spring fed stream that follows the path of the sun contribute to the peace and serenity that is held within the Roji Walls."

That is the description from the newsletter. As it turns out, Kotani-En is one of three Japanese-style gardens in Saratoga, the others being Hakone Gardens and Nippon Mura (which became Hacienda Inn). Kotani-En is on private property and is rarely open to the public. I found a blog [paintspots blog kotani-en](#) with charming watercolors of the garden.

Now, of course, I want to visit Kotani-En!



Kotani-en Japanese Garden

Photo: <http://www.kotani-en.com/>

Plant notes began with *Prunus mume viridicalyx*, shown by Ed Carman. Elizabeth Garbett noted: "...small single blossoms of the palest pink, faintly scented. These trees are not a true apricot; their fruits are one-inch green-yellow globes, inedible freshly picked, being bitter as bitter can be. The Japanese pickle the fruit or use it to make a rich liqueur." Will Cunningham brought several nandinas, demonstrating the variability of the species. "The golden-foliaged specimen...was new to most of us. It was labeled *N. domestica* 'Nana' but bore no resemblance to *N. domestica* 'Nana Purpurea', that dumpy little plant, beloved of freeway landscapers, that looks diseased and feverish as if it had a terminal case of peach leaf curl." Also shown were *Coleonema pulchrum*, *Erica darleyensis*, *Hardenbergia violacea*, *Lachenalia aloides*, *Iberis sempervirens* and *Brassica oleracea*, "an important winter bedding plant". ~Nancy Schramm

Upcoming Meetings

March 8, 2017 – Jeff Rosendale, Sierra Azul Nursery, Watsonville, CA, *Mediterranean Climate: Create Beauty with Appropriate Plants and Less Lawn*

April 12, 2017 – Bart O'Brien, Tilden Park Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Oakland, CA, *Flora of the Oaxaca Region of Mexico*

May 10, 2017 – Daxin Liu, Mountain View, CA, *Fragrant Plants Throughout the Seasons*

Horticultural Happenings

Mammoth Fundraiser: The **Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt** is a national treasure in our own backyard. Half of the 200 bonsai in the collection are on display at all times. It is an amazing, all-volunteer exhibit. The most important fundraiser for the garden is the annual Mammoth Fundraiser, held this year on February 18-19. Saturday the Auction Preview opens at noon, and Sunday there are vendor and member sales. Go to gsbf-lakemerritt.org for more information.

Butterflies and Blooms, through June 30, 2017, Tues-Sun, 10am- 4pm, Conservatory of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. The conservatory has transformed a gallery into a cottage garden filled with hundreds of living butterflies including monarchs, western swallowtails, painted ladies and more. A Butterfly Bungalow at the entrance to the exhibit allows you to observe butterfly chrysalises and possibly witness butterflies emerging. More information at:

<http://www.conservatoryofflowers.org/special-exhibits/ButterfliesandBlooms2016>

While you are in Golden Gate Park you may also want to visit the SF Botanical Garden where many magnolias are now in bloom. Your WHS membership allows you free admission to the garden; just show your card at the entry kiosk. <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/visit/index.html>

Hot Plant Picks

It's that time of year again! WHS is again sponsoring the Hot Plant Picks exhibit at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show in San Mateo. The event runs from **April 5th - 9th**. As you may remember, we need volunteers to babysit the plants at the exhibit. In return for just over a two-hour commitment, you get into the show for the entire day for free! Sign up at the February meeting or call Nancy Schramm to get a jump on your favorite time slot. 408-847-2313.

Volunteer

Hello WHS members, we need your help to keep our chapter running smoothly. Patricia Larenas is planning to step down as our board Secretary. Taking this position would mean attending 5 board meetings per year, taking notes, and compiling the notes to send out to the rest of the board. We can also use help with setting up the computer/projector and microphone/sound system at meetings. In addition to being your chapter Co-president, I am handling our membership database after the departure of Judy Fulton. If someone would be willing to step up to manage the membership database it would make my duties much more manageable. Talk to me, Liz, or other board members for more information about these or other ways that you could contribute. We will greatly appreciate any help that you can offer. ~Carrie Parker

Officers and Board Members:

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon

Treasurer: Chris Egan

Vice President: Judy Wong

Other board members: Janet Hoffmann, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

Secretary: Patricia Larenas

Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede

About membership in Western Hort:

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to "Western Horticultural Society" to: Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA, 94042. (Note: we have a new PO address)

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership is \$50 for two or more members at the same address and a Student rate is \$20.

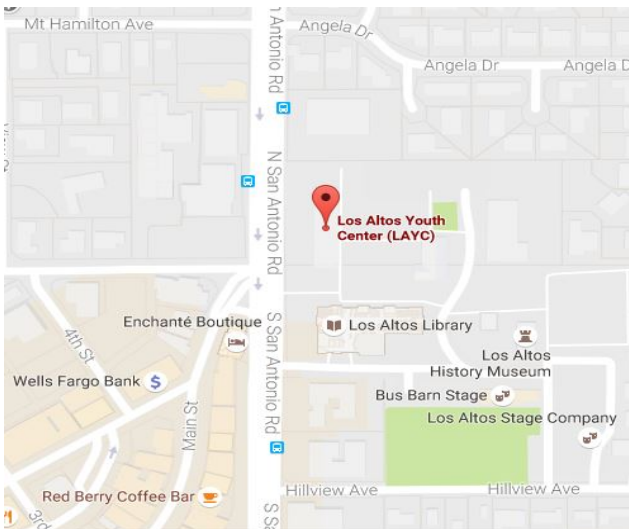
Please visit our website at http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: westernhortsociety@gmail.com or snail mail to address above.



PO Box 166
Mountain View, CA 94042
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



MEETING LOCATION
Los Altos Youth Center,
1 North San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022

Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept. Doors open at 7:00 pm. and meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated!

Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior. Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Janet@hoffmann.net, or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana CT, Campbell, CA 95008