



May 2017 Speaker

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30 pm. Meeting room officially 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: Daxin Liu, Mountain View, CA, *Fragrant Plants Throughout the Seasons*

Daxin Liu, our recent treasurer and WHS board member, has graciously agreed to speak to our group this month about his long-time passion, fragrant plants. He first started collecting fragrant plants in pots in his greenhouse and in his home garden and continues to incorporate them into the landscapes which he designs. He will share photographs and growing information about the many fragrant plants that he enjoys.



Fragrantopia, Daxin's former home garden with about 40 different fragrant plants scattered in pots throughout
Photo: <http://www.fragranthill.com>



Daxin Liu

photo:<http://www.fragranthill.com>

Daxin first came to California from China to study Applied Physics at Stanford University. After getting his Ph.D. degree, he worked at a couple of high-tech companies for several years. In 2003, when the tech economy was declining and his company was going down, he decided to take a chance to pursue his dream of working with plants. After two years of study of horticulture at Foothill College, he established his own a garden design business based in Mountain View.

This is our final newsletter for the year. Our annual potluck picnic will be **June 17 at Sierra Azul Nursery in Watsonville**. For potluck particulars, look at page 5 in this newsletter. Also see pages 5-6 for other horticultural events to keep you busy until we meet again. Thank you to all of you who have helped me to put together the monthly newsletters. Have a wonderful summer! ~Janet Hoffmann

*Join us for dinner with Daxin Liu on
May 10th ~ 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

April 2017 Speaker Notes

This is of course a busy time of year in the gardening business and Mark was unable to get the speaker notes to me in time for publication in this edition of the newsletter.

Bart O'Brian presented an extensive slide show of his travels through the many different floristic regions of Oaxaca, Mexico from the bromeliads in the mountainous cloud forests to yucca and cacti of the desert regions. I will publish speaker notes again in our fall edition of the newsletter. Those of you who missed the April or May meetings will have to wait until then for a synopsis.

April 2017 Plant Notes

John Hall from Los Altos brought:

Myrrhinium atropurpureum (Sweet flower) - This evergreen Brazilian plant can be a large shrub or a small tree. Sherry Austin gave it to him 15 years ago and it is now 12' tall. The opposite light green leaves are elliptical and have smooth margins. Red flowers start appearing in the spring and the petals are edible (taste like guava with some imagination). It needs very little water. It is hardy to 28°. It root sprouts, so if you want some you can go to his house and he'll dig some up for you.



Myrrhinium atropurpureum
photo:<http://jardinbotanico.montevideo.gub.uy>

Patricia Knight from Los Altos Hills brought:

x Chiranthofremontia lenzii 'Griff's Wonder' - This evergreen tree grows in full sun and well-drained soil. It is a cross between *Chiranthodendron pendadactylon* and *Fremontodendron 'Pacific Sunset'*



x Chiranthofremontia lenzii
photo: <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>

that was done at Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden in 1981. The ultimate size is unknown but may be 35-40' tall and wide. Patricia bought a 1-gallon plant in 2004 and it is now well over 20' tall. Although it prefers some summer irrigation Patricia has not given her tree any supplemental watering (it has only received rain water).

Birds go crazy for the nectar rich orange blossoms, which appear from January thru May. Her tree is smothered in blooms right now. Patricia brought her leaf sample in a

plastic bag because the fine brown hairs (trichomes) on the leaves can cause skin irritation for some people. It is

recommended that this tree be grown as a multi-trunked specimen or as an espalier, because many of the single trunked trees have tipped over because their weak root system has not been able to handle the weight of all of the blossoms.

Janet Hoffmann from Campbell brought:

Homeria collina or *Moraea collina* (Cape iris) - This deciduous South African bulb grows in full or part sun in clay or well-drained soil (zones 9-11). It is very easy to grow; she put it in the ground 10 years ago and forgot about it. Now it is a very big clump (since it has spread). She gives it no extra water. The 3” salmon or yellow 6-petaled flowers start appearing in the spring and have a light fragrance to them. Even though they only last one day, buds keep opening for many weeks.



Homeria collina
photo: <http://tryelixir.org>



Solanum wallecii
photo: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons>

Solanum wallecii (Wallace’s nightshade, Catalina nightshade, Northern island nightshade) – This Santa Catalina native is a sprawling evergreen perennial that grows in full or part sun (zones 7-10) in clay or well-drained soil. Just like the *H. collina* it is easy to grow, Janet put it in the ground 3 years ago and forgot about it. Now it is 2’ tall and has a spreading habit. Janet is growing it in partial shade and does not give it any additional water. With more water it can grow up to 4’ tall and spread widely. It has pretty purple flowers with a nice center that is almost baby blue. Her plant is covered with flowers right now and continues to bloom through the summer. All parts of the plant, including the blue-black berries are poisonous.

Chionanthus retusus (Chinese fringe tree) – This deciduous tree grows in full or part sun (zones 5-9) in clay or well-drained soil. It grows to 20’ tall and has attractive gray-brown bark. The 4” long leathery leaves are ovate to elliptical and have serrated margins. The tops of the leaves are bright green, but the underside has a white green downy appearance. The fragrant 4” fringe-like white blossoms appear in the spring and bloom for three weeks. Her tree is covered with flowers right now.



Chionanthus retusus
photo: <http://payload.cargocollective.com/1/2/75921/1255077/>

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Scleranthus biflorus (Australian astroturf) – The emerald green groundcover feels like a carpet. It grows in full or part sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained, sandy or rocky soil. With regular water it will keep growing and widening (since it is an alpine plant it is used to having plenty of moisture from rain or snow melt). It is hardy to 32°.



Scleranthus biflorus

photo: <https://wholesaleplantsauranga.co.nz.com>



Streptosolen jamesonii

photo: <http://anniesannuals.com>

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

Streptosolen jamesonii (Marmalade bush) – Judy really likes this South American evergreen shrub that grows in full to part sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. Her plant is 4' tall but it can get to be 6' tall and just as wide. It has oval bright green leaves. The multi-colored blossoms appear in the spring and may bloom for up to 18 months. Her plant is in full bloom right now. It needs to be protected from frost in the winter.

~Ana Muir

28 Years Ago

Western Hort met on May 10, 1989 to hear our perennial favorite, Ted Kipping's talk *Rocky Outcrop in a Cloud Forest*. His garden was two years old at the time, and was "an amazing example of what can be done with a small property." The raffle table was supplied by members, supplemented by plants from Wintergreen Nursery, Manthey's & Woolworths. 28 years later, Gene Cook still owns Manthey's and grows some truly glorious azaleas.

Members were advised to start taking "slides" of their gardens for a "members' night" in February 1990, "You will be invited to bring 10 or fewer slides of your garden illustrating how you accomplished a desired effect." A new UC Master Gardeners' home garden hotline for the north county area was announced, beginning May 5th, "operating from Gamble Garden Center".

The plant table included Barrie Coate's "beautifully trained bonsai" of *Sophora tetraptera* v. *microphylla* 'Little Baby'; Jan Mountjoy brought blooming branches of two small trees: *Styrax japonicus* and *Cornus kousa chinensis*; Carol Coate brought two David Austin roses: 'Yeoman' and 'Dove'. She also told how Mr Austin came to fame in 1964 with 'Constance Spry', the first of his crosses between old roses and modern hybrid teas.

Don Brandeau showed *Maurandya (Asarina) barclaiiana* with "rich purple blossoms"; Keith Bickford brought two unusual clematis, *C. cirrhosa* and *C. integrifolia*; Dick Dunmire showed "the new Fred Meyer hybrid... *Alstroemeria*", *Euphorbia sequierana niciciiana* "Chris Andrews drawing of it



David Austin Rose 'Yeoman'

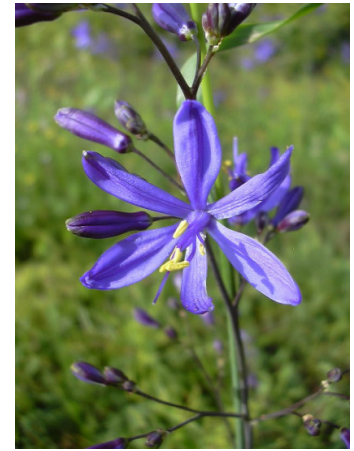
photo: by Martin Fletcher,

<http://www.californiagardens.com>

appears in our perennials book”, and *Pasithea caerulea*; and “Our veteran salvia grower, Betsy Clebsch, displayed two salvia of Mexican origin, *S. muelleri* from Nueva Leon and *S. coahuilensis* from Coahula and Saltillo.”

Plant Table

Roberta Barnes has moved away and will no longer be bringing in all of the wonderful plants that she propagated for our monthly plant sale table. That means that the rest of us need to step up and do some propagating to continue this valuable resource for our society. Please bring in your surplus seedlings or rooted cuttings of some of your favorite plants. Please label plants with botanical names and any cultural or descriptive information that you can provide will be helpful. Books and garden related objects are also welcome. If you have suggestions on how to keep our plant sales going please speak with any of our board members at the upcoming meetings or drop us an email.



Pasithea caerulea
photo: <http://www.pacificbulbsociety.org>

Upcoming Meetings

Western Horticultural Society Annual Picnic - Saturday June 17, 2017

Many folks enjoyed Jeff Rosendale’s Presentation at our March meeting. Now Jeff and family welcome us to the nursery for our June Picnic with a chance to visit the demonstration gardens and the new sculpture exhibit in the garden that opens in early June. We’ll see about a tour. Oh.....there will be retail opportunities as well!

LOCATION for June Picnic: Sierra Azul Nursery, 2660 E. Lake Ave., Watsonville, CA. Ph:831-728-2532. Carpooling would be a nice option so more can attend who might not be able to drive that far. It is approximately 1 hour from Mountain View taking 101 south to Tennant Rd. exit and then left onto the Watsonville Rd. From Watsonville Rd. turn onto Hecker Pass Rd (HWY 152) . Another option would be drive over HWY 17, however beach traffic can make it difficult at times. Check for directions from your location.

Plan to arrive at the nursery at 11am for browsing and shopping. Lunch will start at noon. Please bring your own plate and silverware and a dish that will serve 8 people. Picnic tables will be available. WHS will supply cups, ice, water, soda and iced tea. Bring sunscreen, hat and walking shoes to enjoy the garden. **Don't forget to label your dish and serving utensils.**

Horticultural Happenings

Garden Conservancy Open Day(s), Peninsula: SAVE THE DATES! Sunday, May 7, 10am-3pm and Saturday May 13, 10am-4pm. Explore private gardens in Atherton, Palo Alto and Redwood City open to the public for self-guided tours as part of the Garden Conservancy’s national Open Days program. For garden locations and more information visit www.opendaysprogram.org

Celebration of Old Roses: Sunday, May 21, 11am-3:30pm, El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. Over 100 feet of beautiful roses in vases! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses from specialty nurseries. Rose experts will be available to answer questions. Vendors will be selling rare perennials, crafts, china, books, greeting cards, calendars, honey, jam, jewelry, and clothing, all inspired by roses. Tool sharpening on site, so bring your clippers and loppers. Talks

and demonstrations are scheduled. **Admission is FREE!** For more information:
<http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org/celebration-of-old-roses.php>

Sai Boku Bonsai Kai Annual Bonsai Show, June 3-4, 10am-4pm, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo. Demonstration by special guest, Matt Reel from 1PM – 3 PM on Saturday (tree will be raffled off at the conclusion of demo). Sunday open view workshop from Noon – 3 PM. Large club member plant sale, vendors, door prizes and raffles. Admission is free. Dr. Bonsai will be available to offer styling and care tips. For more information:
<http://www.seibokubonsai.org/?sec=show>

South County Open Garden Railroad Layouts, August 12 (South Santa Clara County & San Benito County), August 13 (Santa Cruz & Monterey County) Open house tours provide members with the opportunity to share their railroads and run trains for others who share their passion for the hobby. Visiting the open layouts is a great way to socialize with fellow enthusiasts, learn about the hobby, and exchange ideas. For more information: <http://www.bagrs.org>

National Heirloom Exposition, September 5-7, The Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Rd, Santa Rosa, CA. Featuring the nation's largest display of heirloom produce, many small gardeners and large farmers supply an abundance of fruits and vegetables for exhibiting and tasting. Like-minded vendors include seed companies, tool companies, accessories, food, produce, garden products, and much more. A not-for-profit event with all proceeds above expenses being donated to local school and educational garden projects. For more information: <http://theheirloomexpo.com/>

Natives for Cutting

If you want your garden to feature both cut flowers and native plants, here's what you can grow. For flowers that last a week or more, you can plant globe gilia or seep monkeyflower anytime and keep them watered. If you let it go to seed, globe gilia will come back on its own after the winter rains. In the fall, you can plant elegant clarkia and bird's-eye gilia to harvest long-lasting cut flowers in the spring. Cut clarkias when the top buds begin to open.

A subshrub whose cut flowers last at least a week is sticky monkeyflower. You may have seen this plant on steep road-cuts covered with flowers. It's a great plant for a well-drained spot that gets little to moderate water. Pinch it back lightly to keep it covered in flowers through summer -- with lots to spare for indoor arrangements.

Flowers that last 4-6 days include yarrow, blazing star, single-leaf onion, and hummingbird sage.

Yarrow can also be dried as an everlasting, and it's widely available and easy to grow. If you live near wildlands, choose a yarrow that was grown from local seedstock. In suburbia, try Island Pink yarrow from the Channel Islands. Single-leaf onion is available as a bulb from many seed and plant catalogs. It's easy to grow and spreads readily from bulblets and seeds, so once it's established, you will have plenty to use for cut flowers.

Most flowering natives prefer full sun, but



California native flower bouquets with penstemon, sticky monkeyflowers, & yarrow
photo: by Alisa Varney, gardencelebrations.com

hummingbird sage will flower in part shade or high shade. With water, it will spread by underground rhizomes. If you don't want it to spread, harvest the leaves for a delicious tea or pot up the extras and give them away. In addition, try it as a dried flower.

To create a bouquet, start with some foliage. According to the Santa Clara Valley chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS-SCV), the following greens will last a week or so in bouquets:

- * shrubs -- coffeeberry, creek dogwood, coyote brush
- * subshrub -- coyote mint (before it flowers)

Add 1-3 types of flowers to the foliage, then, if needed, add a vertical accent with blue wild rye grass, common scouring rush, or California Dutchman's pipe vine.

Some natives that last only a few days as cut flowers, according to CNPS-SCV trials, include

- * California poppy, 2-4 days
- * Arroyo lupine, 3-4 days
- * Ithuriel's spear, 3 days
- * Black sage, 3 days

If you have other natives blooming in your yard, you can try them out as cut flowers. Choose young flowers and cut them in the morning.

For dried arrangements throughout the year, in addition to yarrow and hummingbird sage, some of the more decorative native plant materials include

- * shrubs/perennials -- spicebush flowers, mountain mahogany feathered seeds, milkweed pods
- * sages -- whorled stems of white, purple, cleveland (and some cultivars/hybrids of cleveland)
- * buckwheats -- dried flowerheads of Santa Cruz Island, California, Saint Catherine's lace
- * grasses -- flowering stalks of wild rye, grama grass, deer grass
- * vines -- fluffy fruits of clematis

~Tanya Kucak, columnist Los Altos Town Crier



California buckwheat
photo: by Martin Fletcher, www.californiagardens.com

NOTE FROM YOUR EDITOR: I am looking for the person or persons who bought Bailey Journals at the December meeting. I bought the March 1958 journal and discovered that it was the start of an interesting 4 part series on Liberty Hyde Bailey's journeys throughout the world. I am looking to borrow the subsequent issues with his travels through the Carribean, S. and C. America, the US and Mexico. I will repay you by including a synopsis in future newsletters. Please bring to May meeting or contact me using information on the last page.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon
Vice President: Judy Wong
Secretary: Patricia Larenas
Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede

Treasurer: Chris Egan
Other board members: Janet Hoffmann, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

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.

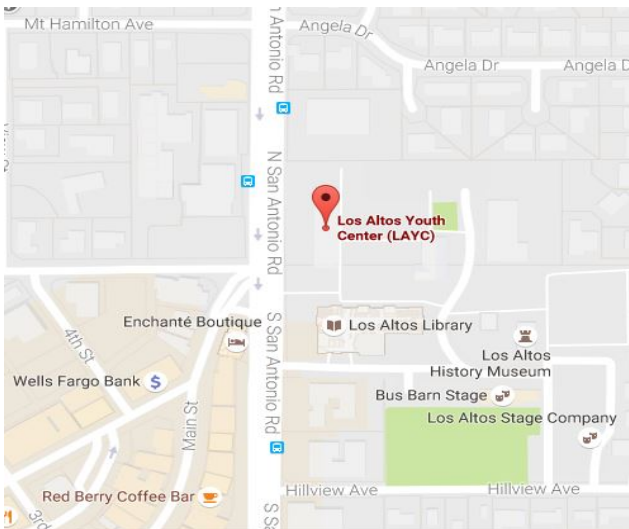
Please visit our website at http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf for a membership form.

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