

## **MARCH 2020 MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 pm** **Los Altos Youth Center**, 1 North San Antonio Rd. Los Altos, CA 94022 *Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7 pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.*

*Meetings are free for members, non-members \$10. See page 6 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.*

**Speaker:** Juanita Salisbury, Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture

### ***Build It And They Will Come: Creating a Native Garden Buzzing With Pollinators***



A well-designed habitat provides not only food resources but areas for nesting and shelter for a variety of insects. At the heart of the habitat are native California plants, which provide the basis of the design.

California native plants provide a rich variety of food resources--nectar, pollen and vegetation--for native insects. We will first learn design techniques based on the foraging behavior of native bees and other insects.

This design technique starts with planting, but extends into observation and best practices for maintaining and enhancing habitat resources over time.

I always was a landscape architect although I didn't always know it. I grew up in California and Oregon and planted my first garden at age 11.

I first received a Ph. D. Biopsychology from the University of Florida (1988 ) as well as a Bachelor of Science (Summa cum laude) in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University (2000).

I established Juanita Salisbury Landscape Architecture in 2009 after working in commercial and residential design firms. More recently I have turned my focus to California native plant habitats. Interestingly, my early scientific research focused on ingestive behavior, an interest that carries on in the creation of habitat today.

In 2016 I established the Primrose Way Pollinator Garden, the first of four pollinator habitat gardens in Palo Alto. My focus is on teaching about and research of these habitats, as well as exploring opportunities to install more of them.



*Join us for dinner with Juanita Salisbury on*

*March 11th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.

Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We had a very nice turnout for the February meeting. Apparently, everyone wants to know the secrets to growing great tomatoes and Cynthia did not disappoint us! We also were able to pass two important measures with everyone present in agreement. Our bylaws are now in line with current practices and practicalities and we now are a non-profit partner with the Pacific Horticulture Society. We should be hearing more soon about the new programs that they are instituting including hiring a new executive director.

I misspoke at the last meeting, we currently have 7 board members not 5. However we are still looking for more, including someone to step into the very important position of vice-president. Current board members may be approaching you in the next few weeks about joining our board. Please consider their requests seriously. Involvement in the board does not entail a big commitment and is very important to keeping our organization going. Feel free to reach out to me at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) if you would like to attend our next board meeting on March 7 to see what it is all about. ~ Janet Hoffmann

### DONATION THANK YOU'S

We would like to thank Elaine Marlow for the donation of her late husband Mark's large collection of tools which we sold at the October, November, and January meetings. The donation netted over \$1000 for WHS.

We would also like to thank Annelise Krinsky for her generous cash donation in December in memory of her parents Dick and Helaine Dunmire.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

**April 8, 2020**—Jason Dewees, Palm Expert and Author. *Designing with Palms: From Understory Gems to Perfect Small-Garden Trees*

**May 13, 2020**—Dan Nolan, Garden Designer and Author. *Dry Gardens: High Style for Low Water Gardens*

**June 6th, 2020**—Annual Picnic—Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA.

## FEBRUARY PLANT NOTES

Lyn Dearborn from Portola Valley brought:

Salvia (sp?)— This evergreen Salvia grows in part sun, is dense and gets to be 7' tall. It blooms all winter and is loved by hummingbirds. It reseeds and is hardy to 30°. Lyn is not sure which cultivar it is and is asking for help identifying it.



*Mystery Salvia to identify*



*Trevesia palmata*

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

*Trevesia palmata* 'Snowflake Aurelia' - This evergreen tree grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. Let it dry out between waterings. It gets to be 30' tall x 12' wide, but for Katie it frost prunes itself to 2' every year for the last 20 years. Small yellow flowers start appearing in the spring that turn into ½" brown-black drupes. This plant is also monoecious. It is known for its HUGE 2' wide palmate lobed leaves that look like snowflakes, yet still give you a tropical feel. It can be grown in a pot. It was named in honor of the family Treves de'Bonfili of Padua, Italy. San Marcos Growers is a source.

## FEBRUARY PLANT NOTES

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

*Primulaceae juliae* x 'Snow White' (Primrose) - This semi-evergreen hybrid grows in partial to full shade (zones 4-9) in moist soil. Do not let it dry out! It gets to be 6" tall. Fragrant white flowers with yellow centers start appearing in early spring. Old leaves start falling away as new leaves are appearing. Used in bonsai arrangements as a companion plant.

*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Wilma or Wilma Goldrest' (Wilma Monterey Cypress, Lemon Cypress) – This evergreen conifer came from a witches broom mutation from 'Goldrest'. It grows in all light conditions (zones 7-10) in well-drained soil. It is growing really well in Palo Alto under redwoods. It gets to be 6-15' tall and 2' wide in 10 years. It makes a wonderful accent plant, with its tall columnar form and bright lime green foliage. When the soft scale-like needles are crushed, it smells like lemon. It is used in Railroad gardening, can be grown in a pot and is hardy to 10°.

*Gaultheria procumbens* (American Wintergreen, Eastern Teaberry) – This evergreen ground cover grows in shade (zones 3-9) in acid soil with regular watering. It gets to be 1' tall x 3' wide. White flowers start appearing in the summer turning into edible red berries in the fall. The plant is monoecious and is self-fertile (since it has both female and male parts), and insects pollinate it. It has shiny alternating elliptical 1"-2" leaves. Spreading by rhizomes, divide to propagate. The wintergreen flavor comes from the leaves as well as the edible berries.



*Primula juliae*



*Cupressus macrocarpa*



*Gaultheria procumbens*

Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought:

*Albuca* (sp?) - Liz found out from Judy that this is an *Albuca* but Judy was not sure which species it is since there are over 150. This South African bulb grows in full to part sun in well-drained soil. It starts flowering in February. It has no scent and it is not frost hardy. Many *Albuca* are pictured on the Pacific Bulb Society website: <https://www.pacificbulbsociety.org/pbswiki/index.php/Albuca>



*Albuca* (sp?)



Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought in 6 different South African bulbs. She does not water them at all during the summer but she does fertilize them.

Lachenalia 4 different types:

*L. quadricolor* – Formerly known as *L. aloides* var. *quadricolor*, it was changed in 2012 and got its own species. It grows in full sun (zones 9-10a) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 8” tall and wide. Tubular flowers each having 4 different layers of colors start appearing in late winter. Judy started it from seeds 2 years ago.

*L. mutabilis* – It grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. Sterile purple flowers start appearing in late winter. It is hardy to 32°.

*L. splendida* – It grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. Pale purple sessile flowers start appearing in late winter. It is hardy to 32°.

*L. ‘Namakwa’* – From the African Beauty Series, it grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. Tubular orange-yellow flowers with reddish edging start appearing in late winter. Its leaves are mottled. It is quite hardy, offsets readily and the bulbs have doubled every year for Judy.

All of these bloom for a couple of weeks, with the flowers opening from the bottom first and moving upward.



*Lachenalia quadricolor*



*Lachenalia mutabilis*



*Lachenalia splendida*



*Lachenalia ‘Namakwa’*

*Muscari macrocarpum* (Grape Hyacinth) – Judy got this deciduous bulb from Baldassare Mineo at his former Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery in Talent, Oregon. It is originally from Eastern Crete and SW Turkey and grows in rocky environments. It grows in full sun and well-drained soil. Fragrant purple flowers start appearing in the spring, turn to yellow as they mature. The fragrance will knock your socks off! It also can be grown in a deep pot and is hardy to 32°.



*Hesperantha vaginata*



*Muscari macrocarpum*

*Hesperantha vaginata* (Harlequin evening flower) - This very attractive bulb grows in full sun in clay or well-drained soil. It has bright yellow flowers with brown markings in the center and on the tips. The flowers only open in the mid-late evening on warm days as you can tell from its name, since hespero means evening and anthos means flowers.

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

Photos ~ Jennifer Doniach

## JANUARY LOUISA BECK GUEST SPEAKER NOTES

Our February speaker, Cynthia Sandberg was our special speaker for the year. Cynthia has been growing tomatoes and other vegetables for the past 10 years at Love Apple Farms. Many of us are familiar with her because of her spring tomato plant sales, see our What's Happening in this newsletter for information about this year's sale.

Cynthia did her best to condense the information from her tomato classes into a much shorter program for us. She began with a warning about planting tomatoes too early before the weather has warmed up adequately, recommending waiting until April 15<sup>th</sup> or later for most Bay Area gardens except those in warm coastal areas. Some of you may want to wait until May 1 if your area gets late frosts. She said that a 65°-75°F range is most ideal for tomatoes to produce. Much hotter or colder and they do not set fruit well. She recommends shade cloth over the beds in hotter areas to prevent sunburn.

Another important climatic consideration for tomatoes is the amount of sun that they need. The smaller the tomato, the fewer hours of sun they can get by on, ranging from 3 hours for cherry tomatoes to 7-8 hours for the largest tomato varieties. You should also consider the available space in choosing whether to grow indeterminate or determinate type tomatoes. Determinate tomatoes usually stay 3' or less in height and have a shorter harvest season than indeterminate varieties. She tends to prefer the latter.

Heirloom vs hybrid is another factor to look at in choosing tomato varieties. Heirloom tomatoes are open-pollinated and usually less prolific producers as well as subject to "green shoulders". Hybrids have more disease resistance and are more prolific, but are usually bred for shelf life vs flavor.

Cynthia grows her tomatoes at Love Apple Farm in raised beds that are 1' high and 4' by 12'. She "double digs" the beds down 18-24" into the soil below and recommends a minimum spacing of 2' between plants with 3' preferred, so she plants 8 plants per bed. Watering is done with 5 lines of drip tubing per bed with 1/2gal per hour emitters. She uses 7' tall concrete reinforcing wire for her tomato cages.

Finally Ms. Sandberg shared with us her very specific planting and fertilizing recommendations for tomatoes. She starts with a 2' deep hole and places fish heads and parts in the bottom (she said that ½ cup of fishmeal could be used if you don't have a good fish source.) On top of the fish she adds ½ cup of bone meal, ½ cup of 4-6-3 vegetable and herb fertilizer with Ca, 2 aspirin tablets, ½ cup of worm castings, and several crushed egg shells. She then sprinkles 1/3 cup of mycorrhizal fungi on the root ball and plants the tomato making sure to bury the plant about halfway up it's stem, removing the lower leaves with clippers.

Cynthia indicated that she grows her tomatoes plants year after year in the same beds. In order to prevent diseases she sprays the plants once a week with a worm casting tea (made with a handful of worm castings in a 5 gal bucket of water with 2Tbl. molasses and aerated with an aquarium bubbler for 24 hours before use.) She strains this through cheesecloth and dilutes the tea with 4 parts water and 1.5 aspirin per 2 gallons of dilute tea. She emphasized that the spraying should be done in the morning before it gets too hot.

As far as watering goes, Ms. Sandberg recommends watering only when the soil feels dry 3-4" below the surface. She said that watery tasting tomatoes are the result of overwatering your plants. Finally she recommends leaving on the sucker growth on the tomato plants until August 1st. After August 1st she pinches at the stem crotches to prevent the plants from becoming too dense. She also removes any leaves touching the ground. Towards the end of the season, after October 1<sup>st</sup>, she removes any growth over the top of the cages because new fruit produced after that time probably won't have time to ripen before cold weather sets in and remaining fruit benefits from the increased sun.

I am going to try her suggestions for my tomatoes this summer. Maybe we can all compare notes on how they work next fall.

*~Janet Hoffmann*

### PLANT SALE TABLE

Bring your favorite plants, propagules, books, garden décor, or other items of horticultural interest to sell at our meeting. Please label books and other items with prices that you think are appropriate and label plants with botanical names. Pictures and/or cultural information are also helpful in selling your plants. Bring your checkbook or cash; there may be something that you cannot resist trying. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and outreach..

## 28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on March 11, 1992 to hear a program presented by “Wally Wood who raises rock garden plants for Strybing Arboretum (who) will speak to us and show slides of cultivated rock garden plants and rock garden plants in the wild.”

Rosendale’s Nursery of Watsonville was one of the two nurseries that supplied plants for the raffle table. (Sierra Azul, Jeff & Lisa Rosendale’s retail nursery is well worth the drive to visit. Make an appointment with Sherry Hall to see Terra Sole while you’re at it, and stop by my place, Carman’s Nursery on your way home for a nursery trifecta!—ncs)

A field trip was announced for March 29<sup>th</sup> to the Fremont & Cora Older Open Space Preserve. “The property was purchased by the Open Space district in 1975 and leased to the Levines who have restored the house to as near it’s original design as possible and are now working on the garden.”

The plant notes began with a request from Elizabeth Garbett that I’d like to repeat: “I am confident that there are great masses of interesting plants that we would all like to learn about being grown by our members so, please, don’t be shy, bring in your treasures and share your discoveries with us.”

“Betsy Clebsch brought in a selection of currently blooming plants from her garden up on Skyline. *Heuchera americana* is taller and more robust than the garden coral bells.” *H.* ‘Bressingham Hybrid’ (pink and white), *H.* ‘Old La Rochette’ (tall and pale pink); *Echium vulgare* (3’ biennial, native to Europe & Asia), *Linum grandiflorum rubrum* (beautiful, red-flowered reseeding annual), *Lunaria annua* (3’ biennial grown for it’s translucent silvery ‘silver dollar’ seed pods) and *Calendula officinalis* (orange or yellow winter blooming annual).

Bob Young brought a blossom and offered seeds of *Dodecatheon clevelandii insulare* (shooting star).

Sherry Austin brought *Gnidia polystachya* purchased at Western Hills Nursery (Annie’s Annuals description says it is rare and practically ever-blooming), as well as three iris: *I. japonica* (a variegated form of crested iris), a dwarf bearded iris ‘Bright Buttons’ and an “outstandingly beautiful...unnamed Pacific Coast hybrid iris”.

Clayton Neece showed *Acer palmatum* ‘Higasayama’, Rose Hand shared *Banksia ericifolia* and someone else brought *Loropetalum chinense*.

Keith Bickford brought two Australian natives: *Acacia subporosa* and *Stackhousia monogyna*.

And finally, “Ed Carman brought the most unusual plant *Rechsteineria leucotricha* (*Sinningia leucotricha*) called the Brazilian edelweiss...Ed still has his original plant grown from seed obtained thirty years ago from Thompson and Morgan. He emphasizes that it is very, very slow growing.” (I regret to say that it was lost along the way. However I do still have the woody tuber formed by the plant—still hard after sitting out in the weather for over ten years!—ncs)

~ Nancy Schramm

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**California Horticultural Society Book Sale**, Monday March 16, 2020, 4-6pm, SF County Fair Bldg – 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco. This collection, assembled by the late Ted Kipping, covers virtually every subject in horticulture, including plant hunting and tree care. There are complete sets of books, some even in duplicate: general books on collecting, gardening, and propagation, as well as field guides and encyclopedias of general and specific plants, along with entire books on categories, such as ferns, and individual plants, such as salvias, hydrangeas, and rhododendrons. Benefiting the family of Ted Kipping. For more information go to: <https://calhortsociety.org/>

**Love Apple Farm- Tomato, pepper, and eggplant sales** Starting March 29,2020 M-F 11 am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-5pm, 5311 Scotts Valley Drive, Scotts Valley. For more information and variety lists go to: <https://www.growbetterveggies.com/growbetterveggies/love-apple-farms-2008-tom.html>

**San Fran-Nor Cal Flower & Garden Show** April 2—5, 2020. Cal Expo Center, Sacramento, CA. The new name change is intended to reflect that attendees come from all over California. Expanded to 4 buildings with an entire building dedicated to our display gardens. Internationally known speakers covering horticulture, edible gardening, floral arranging and cooking from the garden. The children’s gardening area is also expanded with lots of hands on fun. <https://www.expohour.com/san-francisco-flower-garden-show>

**UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County Spring Garden Market**, April 18, 2020, 9am-2pm, Martial Cottle Park, San Jose. Purchase volunteer grown tomatoes, peppers, herbs, flower seedlings and succulents. Plus vendor sales! For more information go to: <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/spring-garden-market/>



**Gamble Garden-Spring Garden Tour**, Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25, 2020, 10AM-4PM, 1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto. Tickets are now available for 2020 Spring Tour. Each destination on Gamble Garden's Spring Tour will inspire. In addition to the tour gardens there will be a silent auction and gently-used garden furniture, antiques, home decor, china, and linens – all at great prices for sale in the Carriage House as well as a Market Place of garden vendors selling home and garden merchandise and a plant sale of hard-to-find species, unique plants, and edibles – many featured in the gardens on the tour – available for purchase. Container gardens designed by Gamble garden staff and volunteers may also be purchased. For more information about the tour and other events go to: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/events/>

**CA Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley, Spring Wildflower Show**, Saturday April 25, 2020, West Valley College, 17000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga, CA. The show will feature hundreds of species of wildflowers and native plants from Santa Clara, San Mateo and surrounding counties. In addition to local plants, we will have a section featuring flowers from native plant gardens in our Chapter. Experts will be on site to describe different samples and answer questions. For more information go to: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/events/wildflower-shows>

## ***STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET***

Although citrus greening disease has not yet arrived in our part of the world, there is some exciting news. Just recently we learned that oak leaves may have a "cure"...now I just learned that scent dogs are being used to identify infected trees...they are able to smell the bacteria way before it would be able to be detected in the lab. Super cool. I am a wildlife biologist and we have hired scent dog teams to look for endangered species scat, and I knew they were also being trained to find particular plants (think drug dogs), but I never thought they would be trained to find a specific kind of bacteria inside of a tree! Perhaps this opportunity will grow to look for other plant conditions (i.e. our area's recent and developing plum/apricot issue?). Here is a link to the online article.

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90461484/these-bacteria-sniffing-dogs-are-protecting-your-orange-juice-from-a-global-plant-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR0VFmIRsLGD7u3qDnx3HjWQitz1OLsmf96KJDDitRsIg9VVgGFkLFAWiYY>

### **Officers and Board Members:**

President: Janet Hoffmann  
Vice President: Open  
Secretary: Leslie Dean  
Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach  
Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Grace Tsang, Carol Moholt

### **Volunteers:**

Plant Share Host: Katie Wong  
Guest Speaker Dinner Host: Katie Wong  
AV Co-Ordinator: John Hammerschmidt  
Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Welcome Table: Carol Moholt & Mary Alice Reid  
Membership: Carrie Parker  
Program Chair: Leslie Dean  
Social Media: Grace Tsang  
Website manager & E-communications: Steve Souders and Ursula Haschke

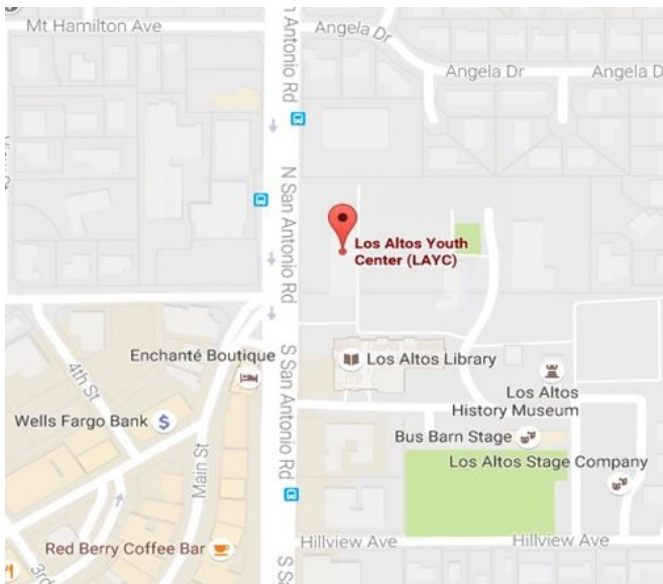
### **About Membership in Western Hort:**

**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 to read about changes in their organization: [pacifichorticulture.org](http://pacifichorticulture.org).

**To join or renew visit our website at:** <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> 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: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



PO Box 166  
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**Meeting location March:**

**Los Altos Youth Center  
1 North San Antonio Road  
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.

Check-in starts at 7:00 pm. and meetings start 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!

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 March.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanberg@gmail.com) or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342