

WESTERN HORT

FEBRUARY 2018 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

February 2018 Meeting

Wednesday, February 14, 7:30 pm Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Speaker: Mike Evans, President, Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, CA

Natural Gardens in Small Spaces

Note: New meeting location for this spring is **Shoup Park Garden House**, 400 University Ave, Los Altos
Parking is limited, so please carpool with friends if possible.

Another change for the year is that non-member fees will now be \$10 per meeting. If you are enjoying our line-up of speakers please consider joining our group with a yearly membership of \$35, (see last page for details on how to join.)



Mike Evans

For over thirty years, Tree of Life Nursery has been propagating California native plants and has been dedicated to the goal of returning hillsides and open spaces to their natural and beautiful forms. Mike has extensive experience in ecological restoration, habitat enhancement, authentic landscaping and horticulture appropriate to this beautiful region called California.

Bring your sweetheart or best gardening buddy and celebrate Valentines Day with this engaging talk on the art of bringing nature into a garden. The essence of Japanese gardening is to create a natural space where every visitor can be refreshed and made well. In this talk Mike Evans will consider the principles of designing, building, and caring for a Japanese garden, and apply them to our equivalent, the "California Garden," where our native plants and natural elements give each visitor a chance to engage with nature in a garden setting.



*Join us for dinner with Mike Evans on
February 14th ~ 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

Board Changes

At our January meeting longtime board members Liz Calhoun and Judy Wong stepped down from their positions as co-president and vice president. We thank them for their longtime dedication and service. They will still be around helping in many ways but have turned over the president position to Carrie Parker to handle on her own and your editor, Janet Hoffmann, will now also take on the duties of vice president. We were also lucky to have 3 new board members step up last month: Richard Hayden, Jean Struthers, and Mary Alice Reid. Please extend your thanks to all for helping to keep our organization going strong.

January 2018 Speaker Notes

Our January meeting was well attended for speaker Kate Frey's talk on habitat gardening. Ms. Frey has many years of experience managing numerous gardens. She showed slides of an exhibit that she worked on for the Chelsea Garden show that was one of the first American exhibits to win the People's Choice Award at the show. Her aim is to design gardens that take into account the natural environment around them. In some of her Sonoma projects, organic vineyards are surrounded by hedgerows of native flowers and clovers to encourage native pollinators.

She talked quite a bit about native bees, the majority of whom spend most of their lives underground as larva. Practices that encourage healthy soil are important for the bee's survival. She encouraged the use of organic mulch, not bark, as a soil cover to maintain nutrient cycling for healthy soils. Sunny spaces are best for most insect and bird pollinators. She avoids the use of any pesticides. Ms. Frey also discussed how cats can be a real menace to birds. She tries to provide shallow basin water features to make her gardens more bird-friendly.

Kate's designs use "impressionistic" plant schemes with large patches of each plant. She likes to use tiers of vegetation for good visual affect. With quality compost and adequate water, she finds that she gets 12 months of bloom in her landscapes. To maintain the natural appearance she discourages poodle or hedge pruning of plants. She encourages choosing suitable size plants for the space available instead. One of Ms. Frey's pet passions is using gardens as a community attraction for people to make connections with each other as well as with nature. This has happened at her mother's garden that she designed.

Kate Frey ended her talk with numerous slides of native insects and plants that are important to our California landscapes. If you wish to see some nice examples of her work visit Cornerstone Sonoma www.cornerstonesonoma.com or Lynmar Winery in Sebastapol lynmarestate.com/.

January 2018 Plant Notes



Salvia leucocephala (white-headed sage)

Richard Tiede from San Jose brought:

Salvia leucocephala (white-headed sage) - This stunning perennial comes from mountain cloud forest in Ecuador. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in rich, well-drained soil with plenty of water. It gets to be 6' tall. The silvery grey downy leaves against the maroon-red flowers makes for a stunning contrast. Richard got it from Flowers by the Sea (a mail order nursery) 2 years ago. It puts out thin branches that might fall down if not staked. Richard cuts off the low hanging flower heads. It has not yet been damaged by the frost in the east SJ foothills and was blooming in early January and will continue through March.



Salvia tuerckheimii (Dominican sage)

Salvia tuerckheimii (Dominican sage) – This large evergreen shrub comes from the mountains of the Dominican Republic. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in rich, well-drained soil. It gets to be 5’ tall x 5’ wide but Richard’s is only 2’ tall. It has large deep green, somewhat leathery leaves. Orange blossoms start appearing in the winter. Flowers by the Sea just started offering this plant last year.

Ted Kipping from SF in full fog (cloud forest conditions) brought in: *Abutilon* (flowering maple, Chinese bell flower, Chinese lantern)
Ted has over 45-60 unnamed hybrids growing in his backyard. He brought in several today and mentioned that he has no need for hummingbird feeders since his *Abutilon* flowers are a natural sugar source for them.



Abutilon



Pelargonium ‘Wantirna’ (meshed-leaf zonal geranium)

Pelargonium ‘Wantirna’ (meshed-leaf zonal geranium) - Ted bought this unusual evergreen geranium many years ago from Lawrence Lee at the SF Flower show. It has soft velvety leaves with whitish reticulate venations that really stand out. The red flowers start appearing in the spring. I’m hopeful that Sherry Hall will be successful in propagating this and bringing some to a WHS plant sale later this year.

It grows to be 1’ tall and wide. It has 4” evergreen 3-5 lobed maple-like leaves. White starry flowers on 8” simple racemes start appearing in early spring and will continue for one month. Ted bought it from Annie’s Annuals.

Tiarella wherryi (foam flower, coolwort) - This small, non-creeping, perennial grows in part sun to shade (zones 3-10) in moist, well-drained soil.



Tiarella wherryi (foam flower)



Cotyledon orbiculata (pig's ear)

Cotyledon orbiculata (pig's ear, white lady) – This showy, hardy succulent is from the deserts of South Africa. It grows in full sun to part shade (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil with very little water. It can grow to be 7' tall x 3' wide, almost shrub-like. It has silver ovate fleshy leaves that are trimmed in red. Showy bell shaped pink-orange flowers on upright silvery stems start blossoming in summer and continue until fall. It is hardy to the low 20's.

Oxalis frutescens (shrubby woodsorrel) – This subwoody perennial grows in full sun to partial shade (but not full shade) in well-drained soil. It grows to be 2' tall x 1-2' wide. It has pale yellow flowers, which are hermaphroditic (separate male and female flowers on the same plant).



Oxalis frutescens (shrubby woodsorrel)



Aechmea gamosepala (matchstick bromeliad)

Aechmea gamosepala (matchstick bromeliad, matchstick plant) – This semi-epiphytic plant is native to Argentina and Brazil. It grows in shade to partial shade in (zones 8b-11) and gets to be 2' tall x 2' wide. It will grow mounted on bark, in a tree and in light well-draining soil. Just fill its cup/basin with water. Purple/bluish tipped, pink matchstick-like flower spikes start appearing in the winter and are followed by pink berries. It is hardy to 20°.

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Pyrostegia venusta (flame vine) – This vigorous, evergreen, climbing vine from San Marcos Growers in Santa Barbara grows in full sun to shade (zones 9-11) and likes regular water. It can grow to be quite high (up 75'

tall) but 20' tall x 6-8' wide is more likely and it can be kept smaller with regular pruning. *Pyrostegia* means "red roof" and it really does look like a red roof that is hanging over whatever structure it is climbing. "Venustus" means beautiful which aptly describes its beautiful 2-3" orange, trumpet shape flowers. They start appearing in the fall and continue through winter before turning into 1' long slender capsules. It is hardy to 25° and if it dies back it will spring back quickly.



Pyrostegia venusta (flame vine)



Limonium perezii (sea lavender)

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

Limonium perezii (sea lavender, statice, straw flower) – This tough evergreen perennial is a native from the Canary Islands and grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 2' tall x 2' wide. Large flower clusters with purple calyces and white corollas are most abundant in the summer but it will have some flowers year-round. The small papery flowers last a long time without losing any color. It is hardy to 25°.



Lavatera maritima 'Bicolor' (tree mallow)

Lavatera maritima 'Bicolor' (tree mallow) – This medium size (to 8' tall and wide), fast growing evergreen shrub grows in sun to part shade. It has grey-green palmately lobed leaves. The flowers have magenta or dark pink centers and radiating veins on paler pink to white petals. Judy's 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.

Iris unguicularis (winter-blooming iris, Algerian iris) – This evergreen perennial is one of Judy's favorite plants. Its narrow green leaves form an 18" x 18" clump and it has

fragrant, delicate, 2" purple flowers with a yellow striped fall and white netting on the throat. It flowers from late summer through winter in zones 7a – 9b and can tolerate temperatures down to 15°. It prefers dry but well-drained soil. Judy doesn't water it at all; she totally ignores it and grows it in part sun. Cut leaves down to 1/3 to 1/2 to show off flowers.



Iris unguicularis (winter-blooming iris)



Lachenalia viridiflora (turquoise hyacinth)

Lachenalia viridiflora (turquoise hyacinth)-This unusual bulb is in the Hyacinthaceae family and is found in the Southwest Cape area of S Africa. The tubular turquoise flowers appear on 3-5" stalks in winter. Start watering in fall when the dark green strap-shape, succulent foliage starts to appear and allow to dry when the foliage starts to die back after flowering. It is found on granite outcrops, so is best grown in a pots with gravelly soil. It does best with temperatures of 50-70°F and at least partial sun during flowering. Judy keeps hers in a pot on the N side of her house.

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



Verbena lilacina 'de la Mina' (purple Cedros Island verbena)



Aeonium 'Mardi Gras'

Aeonium 'Mardi Gras' – This is Judy’s favorite *Aeonium*. She bought this very colorful evergreen succulent at Home Depot. Vista Growers introduced it a couple of years ago. It derives its name from the wonderful color it displays in late fall to winter. Its stunning leaves usually have a thick middle green band that is surrounded by a yellow band and the edges can be a hue between rose to burgundy. Like all succulents it needs well-drained soil and it is hardy to 32°. Judy has it growing in part-sun.

Aeonium 'Sunburst' – This succulent is native to Canary Island. It grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It grows to be 24” tall x 18” wide. The serrated leaves have a green band down the center and are flanked by creamy yellow stripes with the leaf edges being trimmed in red. It really does look gorgeous. Pale yellow flowers start appearing in the winter through spring on older plants. It is hardy to 25°.



Aeonium "Sunburst"



Aeonium "Starburst"

Aeonium 'Starburst' – This succulent grows in full to part sun (zones 9-11) in well-draining soil. The serrated leaves are pointed at the end. They are mostly green with a thinner splotched creamy yellow center and there is a distinct red band around the edges and at the point. It is hardy to 25°.

(Please remember that Aeoniums are monocarpic and stems will die after they flower.) ~Ana Muir, Photos ~ Jennifer Doniach

Plant Table

We had a great collection of plants last month. Thank you to all brought them! Let’s keep up the momentum with more homegrown plants for our plant table this month. Please label plants with botanical names and a description or pictures are always appreciated. Pretty much any plants or garden related objects are welcome and proceeds all go to help WHS. *PS- WHS will be receiving a donation of 72 liner plants for our Hot Plant Picks. We are in need of 4” pots to pot them up. If you have used 4” plastic pots that you are willing to donate, please bring them to the February meeting.* ~Janet Hoffmann

Get your propagating gloves on! Don’t forget: With your help, Western Hort is going to have a very special plant sale table in May. Sherry Hall and I have been propagating many plants from Barbara Worl’s garden. We need you to do the same with plants that have been given to you by other WHS members. Please label with both the plant name and the WHS member you got it from in the first place. Let’s make our May meeting a time to share plants and friendships both. ~Nancy Schramm

Plant Exchange

I was talking to Katie Wong at the Rare Fruit Growers scion exchange this past month and she suggested that I start a spot in our newsletter for members to look for and offer plants from their garden. To start things off, I am looking scions from an *Akane* apple. If anyone has one in their garden that I could take a few cuttings from, please let me know. I have *Empire* and *Anders* apple trees as well as *Flavor Supreme* pluot, *Warren* and *Shinseiki* pears, and *Lambert* cherry trees if anyone would like cuttings from these in exchange. I also still have a large *Dasylyrion wheeleri* that I am going to remove this month if anyone would be interested in this specimen plant.

Feel free to send me your requests or offerings that might be of interest to other members. Requests could become suggestions for members to propagate plants of special interest for our plant table. ~Janet Hoffmann

28 Years Ago

My plea for plant notes & vintage newsletters has been answered by Judy Wong and Leslie Dean. Thank You!

One series of newsletters came from our dear former member Daphne Dorney, and I'm pleased to see that she wrote comments about the speakers and programs. For instance, the November 1989 speaker about succulents in Madagascar evidently did not show, and Ed Carman gave a slide show about perennials. Daphne even saved the plant list provided by Ed. (If you're interested in the list, I can send it to our website guru).

On Valentine's Day 1990, Western Hort was treated to a talk on *Mediterranean Bulbs* by Nevin Smith, owner of Wintergreen Nursery in Aromas. Despite a degree in political science from UC Berkeley, Nevin's upbringing (his dad owned a nursery) took hold and Nevin entered the nursery business via some time spent as manager of the Leonard Coates nursery in Watsonville.

It was announced that "Betsy Clebsch, our expert on salvias, will be giving a talk at UCSC in February" titled *Salvias Grown in Mediterranean Climates Discussed According to Season of Bloom*. Also, the "Associates of Saratoga Horticultural Foundation will be holding a plant sale and open house on February 17...in San Martin". Plus, news broke that Bart O'Brien would be leaving Northern California for "...a position as Director of Horticulture for the gardens at Rancho Santa Ana, beginning on March 5."

(I am still missing plant notes for 1990-91 and others here & there, so if you have some hidden away that I might borrow & copy, please let me know.) ~Nancy Schramm

Strolling Around the Internet

Whether I'm stuck in traffic, washing dishes, or just want to listen to something while gardening, **Cultivating Place, Conversations on Natural History and the Human Impulse to Garden with Jennifer Jewell** is always #1 on my playlist. "Through thoughtful conversations with growers, gardeners, naturalists, scientists, artists and thinkers, *Cultivating Place* illustrates the many ways in which gardens and gardening are integral to our natural and cultural literacy." A co-production of [North State Public Radio](#), the podcast is available through [iTunes](#) or you can listen directly through the [NSPR website](#) or at <https://www.cultivatingplace.com/>

Gerhard Bock, at [Succulents and More](#), is one of my favorite bloggers covering Northern California. Based in Davis, CA, Gerhard is an enthusiastic garden tourist and succulent fan who regularly reports on both, along with progress in his own personal garden. CalHort recently visited Gerhard's garden and recruited him as a member, so you may cross paths at an upcoming event or meeting! <http://www.succulentsandmore.com/>

As a new-to-the-Bay-Area gardener, trying to learn about the local garden community - people, places, plants and history - [Pacific Horticulture](#) magazine's online archive of articles has been an invaluable resource for getting to know my new garden home. <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/>

Armchair gardeners will rejoice to discover the many **Monty Don videos available on YouTube**. His guided tours of the world's finest gardens are an absolute pleasure, I could hang out with Monty Don all day! <https://www.youtube.com/>

If you've been wondering lately where the online gardening community has disappeared to, then it's time to finally get on [Instagram](#). I follow garden-only content (sorry friends, family, news, and corporate America), and it's one long gorgeous feed populated with snapshots by public gardens, horticulturists, nurseries, and more. Occasionally *so many* perfectly pretty photos can get tedious, a sure sign the gardener should put down their device and get back outside! <https://www.instagram.com> (Follow me at @garden0n) ~Laura Wilson

Upcoming Meetings

March 14, 2018– Sue Bell, Garden Designer, San Jose, CA, *Producing Food and Beauty Around Your Home*

April 12, 2018 – Theresa Lyngso, President, Lyngso Garden Materials, San Carlos, CA, *Improving the Soil*

May 9, 2018 – Pete Veilleux, Owner and Propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery, Garden Designer, Lecturer, Oakland, CA, *Eriogonums*

Another Nursery Loss

I am hoping that this does not become a monthly addition but we did lose another local nursery this month. Native Revival closed their retail nursery in Aptos on January 31st. They are still maintaining online nursery sales at nativerevival.com ~Janet Hoffmann

Horticultural Happenings

Job Opening, Pacific Horticulture Society, Office Manager, Berkeley CA. Pacific Horticulture is looking for a person with competency in general office productivity and database programs to work with senior staff members to administer tasks associated with various activities and as a member of staff or board teams, provide support for specific programs. Remote and in-office hours to be negotiated. Send request for full job description to: office@pacifichorticulture.org. Candidates must send a cover letter and resume to that same address by February 9, 2018.

Gamble Garden-Lunar New Year, Second Saturday, February 10, 1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto. Enjoy activities for the family including: Tours of their famous Camellia beds, learning and speaking Chinese characters, Chinese paper folding and cutting, Red packet craft, Chinese New Year Story Telling
This event is free but registration is requested. For registration information and updates on other events and classes: gamblegarden.org

An all-day celebration of Ruth Bancroft's life will be held in the Garden at 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, Saturday, February 17th. Open to the public, for more information: ruthbancroftgarden.org

Mammoth Bonsai Auction and Fundraiser, February 17-18, Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Ave, Oakland. On Saturday bid on member donated bonsai and related materials at this fundraiser for the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt. Vender sales only on Sunday. For more information: gsbf-lakemerritt.org

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, April 4-8, returning this year to the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City. The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show features fabulous display gardens as well as beautiful floral arrangements, informative workshops and seminars and more than 250 vendors of everything for your garden. It has been one of the top shows in the nation and internationally. For more information: sfgardenshow.com.

WHS sponsors a **Hot Plant Picks** display at the SF Flower and Garden Show and there are just a few spaces left on the HPP volunteer schedule! Get in touch quickly if you neglected to sign up to help at the coolest all-volunteer exhibit at the show! Call Nancy Schramm: 408-847-2313.

Santa Clara County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market, April 14, 9am-2pm, Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose. The Spring Garden Market is their annual spring extravaganza that you do not want to miss! It's a huge plant sale with educational talks and information tables. Full details can be found on

their [Spring Garden Market page](#). The event is on rain or shine! Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. For more information about classes and other events: mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/

Festival of Fruit, The California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) celebrates all types of rare fruit at the annual Festival of Fruit. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter will host the event July 27-29, 2018. You are invited to join CRFG and attend the many tours (July 27th & 29th) and hear the speakers & visit the vendors on July 18th at the Campbell Community Center. The vendors will be open to the general public. For more information visit <http://festivaloffruit.org>

Volunteer.

If you are a regular attendee we have some important roles at our monthly meetings that we need filled. We need someone to set up the AV equipment (projector and/or sound system) at and store it between meetings. All that you need to do is show up by 7pm or arrange for someone else to fill in if you are unable to attend. You will be shown how to do the setups and will always have support from our members to help as needed. Please let any of the board members know if you would be willing to help in any of these capacities or e-mail us at info@westernhort.org.

Officers and Board Members:

President: Carrie Parker

Vice President: Janet Hoffmann

Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other board members: Richard Hayden, Mary Alice Reid, Jean Struthers, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

About membership in Western Hort:

To join or renew visit our website at: westernhort.org/membership.

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.

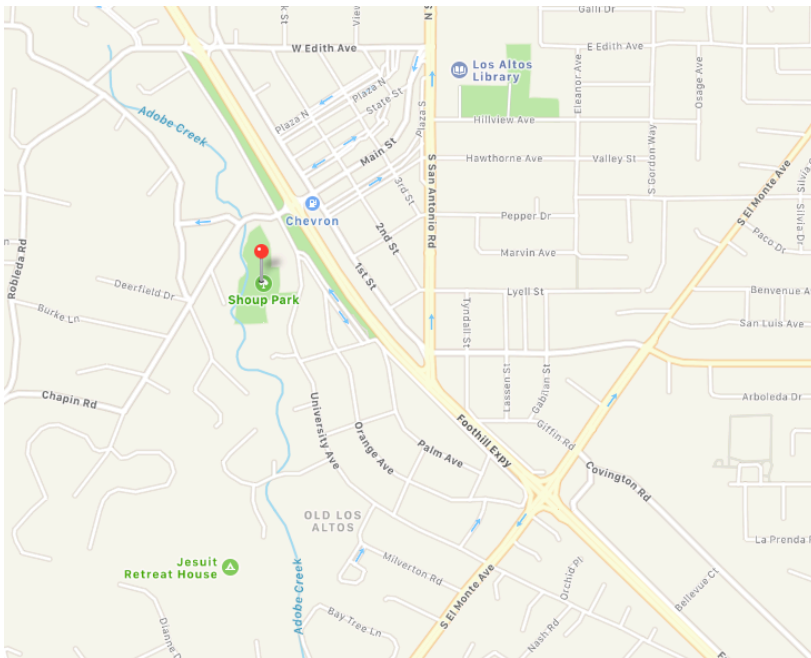
To contact us: Please send email to: westernhortsociety@gmail.com

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



NEW MEETING LOCATION

**The Garden House at Shoup Park,
400 University Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022**

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!
Please call Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

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