

# WESTERN HORT

November 2020 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | [www.westernhort.org](http://www.westernhort.org)

## NOVEMBER 2020 MEETING

**November 11, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet**

Our meeting this month will once again be a Zoom presentation. **To get the link for the Zoom presentation you will need to register on Eventbrite.** (<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/restoration-of-a-summit-mt-umunhum-tickets-126451603149>) There is no cost for members but visitors will be asked to pay \$10. **Remember to save the Eventbrite confirmation email with the link to get into the meeting.** You may log on anytime after 7:00 pm. The meeting will start at 7:15pm with a virtual plant forum. If you have plants that you would like to share, please send photos to [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) by Nov. 10th. If you experience difficulties logging in or can not find your confirmation email with the link, please email us at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org).

**Speaker: Lech Naumovich**, Executive Director of Golden Hour Restoration Institute

**Topic:** Restoration of a Summit: Mt. Umunhum

Mt. Umunhum breathes incredible stories about American and First Nation People history. This talk will bring those elements into a conversation about restoration and site rehabilitation. Because this is one of the first summit restoration projects in the Bay Area, the planning around this site stretched for years to ensure it was done with the greatest inclusion and appropriateness. This talk will also investigate some of our strategies around plant selection, procurement (growth) and outplanting.



Lech has extensive experience in rare plant surveys, vegetation mapping, restoration ecology and conservation science in the state of California. He serves on the California Native Plant Society Conservation Committee, has served as a conference session chair for restoration four times, serves on the steering committee for the Conservation Lands Network (versions 1 & 2), and is an appointed

commissioner of the Alameda County Fish and Game Commission. He regularly teaches technical courses on restoration ecology and manages restoration projects throughout the Bay Area. He is the co-author of *Annotated Checklist of the Flora of the East Bay*, a CNPS/ Jepson Herbarium publication. He is the founder of Golden Hour Restoration Institute, and works as a conservation photographer in his spare time.

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Thank you to all who renewed your Western Hort memberships this season. We greatly appreciate your continued support during this challenging year.

Many of you used our Eventbrite registration and attended our October Zoom presentation. This system allowed us to keep track of our attendance and to send links and updates about the meeting. If you experienced issues with this process, feel free to send your feedback to the email below, which I monitor regularly.

We apologize for the internet issues that we experienced with our speaker, Barbara Hunt. Due to those issues, our recordings of her presentation were rather broken up and difficult to follow without a lot of editing. We have asked Barbara to post a copy of her PowerPoint to her Google docs. You can find the link to that in the October speaker notes in this newsletter. We will be working with upcoming speakers to try to ensure that their presentations will be shown without interruption on a computer with reliable internet service.

Our next board meeting will be November 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm on Zoom. If you would like to sit in on the meeting, feel free to email me and I will send a link for you to do so. As always feel free to email me at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) with your suggestions or questions.

~ Janet Hoffmann~

## OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Master Gardener Barbara Hunt filled us in on some of the information that the organization has gathered on fire resistant landscaping. She lives near Alum Rock Park in east San Jose and experienced fire in her neighborhood a few times including this past summer. The house in the photo below was that of one of her neighbors on Claitor Dr. which burned in the 2017 fire.

Barbara began her talk with statistics on fire in California. She showed a graph which she said illustrates that wet



winters reduce fire risk although I have read information in recent studies that disputes that interpretation [sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Will-wet-winters](https://sfchronicle.com/california-wildfires/article/Will-wet-winters).

She spent quite a bit of time discussing defensible space, which has been extended to 100' from your house. This space is divided into three zones allowing different degrees of flammability in a gradually expanding space spreading out from your house. The initial 5' from the house is best kept in nonflammable hardscape or very fire-resistant plantings. She called the next zone 6-30' from your house the "lean and green" zone with well-watered fire resistant plantings and non-flammable mulch materials. In the final 31'-100' more drought-tolerant but still fire resistant plantings are acceptable.

Barbara also emphasized that shrubs and trees on increasingly steeper slopes require additional spacing to prevent the "ladder affect" where fire will climb quickly from plant to plant. Limbing trees up appropriately will also reduce the risk of this happening.

Some of the fire resistant plants that she recommended included California live oaks, aloes, creeping thyme, lantana, California buckeye, toyon, *Ceanothus cuneatus*, *Arcotostapylos glauca*, *Rhamnus crocea*, *Aquilegia formosa*, *Eriophyllum confertiflorum*, *Achillea millifolium* and *Iris douglasiana*. To conclude her talk she shared a Google link with a collection of useful resources that she has collected on fire resistant landscaping. You can see an outline of her talk and entire PowerPoint slide set along with other resources suggested by our speaker here: [drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/).

~ Janet Hoffmann~

## 28 YEARS AGO

On November 11, 1992, Western Hort met at a new location. “The Board of Directors of WHS have reluctantly come to the conclusion that the Jennings Pavilion at Holbrook-Palmer Park is not fulfilling our needs as a meeting place because of space constraints and an inadequate public address system. We have been fortunate in finding an excellent facility in Los Altos, the multi-purpose room at Loyola Elementary School.”

There was a special double program that night. “John Fairey, owner of Yucca Do Nursery and Peckerwood Garden in Houston, Texas will talk on *Plant Explorations in North Eastern Mexico*. The garden has been featured both in the book *The American Man’s Garden* and on the television series *The Victory Garden*”. The second part of the program was “A panel of garden experts who will answer your questions” including “Dick Dunmire, moderator and retired editor of the *Sunset Western Garden Book*, Barrie Coate, arborist and community advisor, Larry Costello and Nancy Garrison, both from the U.C. Co-op Ext.”

The plant notes for October began: “At this time of year garden interest begins to shift from the excitement of bright colored flowers to the subtler but more lasting pleasures of foliage textures and color. Keith Bickford assembled a suite of plants, mostly shrubs, with variegated leaves from his and Fran’s elegant garden in Los Altos. *Hydrangea macrophylla* ‘Tricolor’, *Acuba japonica* ‘Picturata’ (does well in deep shade, tolerates a wide range of soils and will persist for years under conditions of neglect), *Abutilon hybridum* ‘Savitzii’ (leaves almost entirely white, shy bloomer), *Elaeagnus x ebbingei* ‘Gilt Edge’ (tough, evergreen shrub to 10-12’, tolerant of poor soils and little water), *Miscanthus sinensis* ‘Strictus’ (6-8’ tall grass with horizontal bands of yellow on green leaves), *Ligularia tussilaginea* ‘Aurea Maculata’ (large, rounded green leaves spotted with yellow, loves boggy situations) and *Tropaeolum majus* ‘Alaska’ (variegated nasturtium)”.

Sherry Austin brought in “*Sedum oxypetalum*, Mexican tree sedum pruned as a bonsai” and *Lycesteria formosa* “half-hardy deciduous shrub, easily grown, with reddish-purple berries that are relished by birds”.

Linda Gerber shared *Cestrum fasciculatum* “vigorous evergreen shrub to 10’, no frost damage in Woodside, with almost continual bloom and red fruits nearly year round too”.

Carol & Barrie Coate showed two deciduous trees, *Crataegus viridis* ‘Winter King’ (30’ tall, silvery bark, orange-red berries that persist through winter) and *Nyssa sylvatica* (common name tupelo, famous for fall color, needs sun and plenty of water and produces a dark blue drupe that is attractive to birds).

~ Nancy Schramm

## OCTOBER PLANT NOTES



*Haemanthus humilis albiflos* x *H. coccineus*  
Deep pink paintbrush



*Haemanthus albiflos*  
White paintbrush



Judy Wong from Menlo Park shared a *Haemanthus* hybrid and Janet Hoffmann shared a picture of a white *H. albiflos*. Judy got this South African bulb from Bill Kurtz. It is one of the 3 species of *Haemanthus* with evergreen leaves which may have little hairs around the margins. Yellow tipped white flowers appear in the fall. They really do look like a paintbrush. It grows in part sun to bright shade in well-drained soil and it needs regular watering. If started by seed, it will flower in 3-4 years. Judy just received some seeds and planted them so we’ll see. Janet grows hers in a 10” pot, in an enclosed patio with lots of bright light, but not much direct sun. It gets a slow release fertilizer a couple times per year and requires division every couple years to keep it from getting too pot bound.

***Haemanthus* hybrid** – These deep pink flowers are a cross between *H. albiflos* (white) and *H. coccineus* (red). This perennial bulb also has evergreen leaves.

Janet Hoffmann, Campbell, shared three roses:



*Rose 'Flutterbye'*

**Flutterbye**- a large shrub rose, it gets to be 8' tall and wide. It can be trained to grow flat against a wall, as Janet has done with hers. It's single-petaled fragrant flowers open up throughout the season, starting off yellow and then fading to pink-salmon colors. It is easy to grow and disease resistant, a real plus for cool or foggy areas.

**Hot Cocoa** - this floribunda gets to be 4' tall and wide. It was a AARS selection in 2003. Janet saw it in a rose garden in Oregon a few years ago and liked its form and color, a burnt red. She found hers at Emerisa Gardens in Santa Rosa. It has been in her garden for a couple years and seems fairly disease resistant and well behaved. This rose can be found locally. I bought it at Regan Nursery but have also seen it elsewhere. I bought it because of its fragrance and unique flower color.



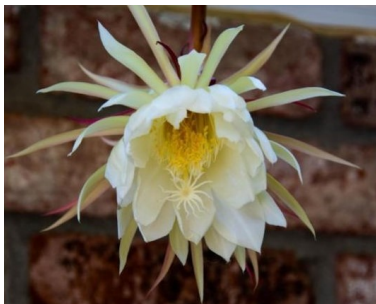
*Rose 'Hot Cocoa'*



*Rose 'Sceptor d' Isle'*

**Sceptor'd Isle?** – Janet is not positive of the name, being this is one of the English hybrids by David Austin. She sold some of them when she worked for Skylark Nursery in Santa Rosa about 20 years ago and that is when she got this. The tight cluster of soft-pink flowers form a nice cup shape. It has a light sweet fragrance, which is described as myrrh-like.

**Epiphyllum oxypetalum** (Queen of the Night) A rather large growing epiphyllum, it is about 3' tall and spreading about 6' in the pot that Janet has it growing in. She keeps hers in an enclosed patio with windows all around and skylights to protect it from frost at her Campbell home. The friend whom she obtained it from grew it outdoors in her backyard in the east foothills of San Jose. It blooms a couple times each summer for her, having just finished its second bloom. Each large white bloom is very fragrant, but lasts only one night. Usually setting several flowers at once, they don't all open together so you can get a few nights of blooms.



*Epiphyllum oxypetalum*

Queen of the night



Nancy Schramm, Gilroy, shared:

**Mamillaria gracilis fragilis** (Thimble cactus) This small, mounding pincushion cactus is native to Mexico and grows in full sun. It is densely covered with tiny white spines and produces offsets that can be used to start new plants, but grows fairly slowly for Nancy. It doesn't need a lot of water, especially if grown indoors. It is hardy to 30°.



*Mamillaria gracilis fragilis*  
Thimble cactus





*Chamaecereus silvestrii*  
Peanut cactus



**Nancy continued:**

*Chamaecereus silvestrii* (Peanut Cactus) – This cactus from Argentina blooms in the spring. The little nubs of this peanut cactus fall off and root easily. Just put 3-4 in a pot and they will fill in nicely. It really is easy to grow. Nancy showed a flat of them that she started last winter. There are some hybridized varieties that have large red, pink or yellow flowers but they also have bigger spines. She likes that she can handle this one and not get stuck by any spines while wearing thin nitrile gloves. It is frost hardy to 20° and it will scorch in hot sun. She found some good information online from Central Ohio Cactus and Succulent Society, which features a succulent of the month.



*Titanopsis (schwantesii?)*  
Warty living stone



*Titanopsis* – Nancy is not sure which species this might be. She thought it might be *T. calcareum* but the Ruth Bancroft website states it has larger leaves. This one is really tiny. It looks like a Lithops. She kept watching to see when it would bloom but it never did during the day. Finally she saw flowers open in the evening and during the night. It is hardy to 30° and divides easily. It tolerates her watering schedule, which is twice a week during the summer and once a week during the winter.

*Rhipsalis mesembryanthemoides* - Carrie Parker probably remembers this as a hot plant pick that she and Nancy both fell in love with, donated by Succulent Gardens about five years ago. There are perhaps 60 species of *Rhipsalis* native to South America, mostly epiphytic and mostly from Brazil. This species is not epiphytic and potentially extinct in the wild. Nancy grows it for the foliage since the tiny white flowers are not showy, but are often followed by tiny white berries, hence the common name.

*Opuntia rufida minima* – Nancy thinks this one is evil because of the tiny and annoying spines that get on her. However, it's a cute cactus that gets to be 5" tall. It's great for garden railroads and for anyone who likes super small cacti. It does well indoors.



*Rhipsalis mesembryanthemoides*  
Clumpy mistletoe cactus



*Opuntia rufida minima*  
Cinnamon cactus



**One more from Judy:**

*Sternbergia lutea* (Autumn Daffodil) – Judy first saw this perennial bulb in Roz Brays' garden many years ago. It is from the Mediterranean basin and it blooms in the fall. The 6-petaled sunny yellow flowers appear before the leaves (hysteranthous). Grow it in the hottest and driest spot that you have. It needs well-drained soil to grow in, it makes offsets and it tolerates frost. Judy has shared offsets with several friends who told her it flowered for them in the first year in the ground. It is summer dormant. Janet has 3-4 clumps in her yard and has been successful in dividing and moving them. They just pop up as the fall nears. They require no care whatsoever.

~ Ana Muir

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**Pacific Horticultural Society Digital Classroom**, ongoing and available through their website: <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/digital-classroom/>. Our partner organization has this series of gardening videos as well as interesting gardening articles and still publishes their digital magazine every month. We urge everyone to join and help to support their ongoing work.

Many of our local public gardens have reopened this fall, allowing us to get a breath of fresh air and enjoy the rejuvenating power of plants. Some of the ones to check out:

Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek [ruthbancroftgarden.org/visit/](http://ruthbancroftgarden.org/visit/)

San Francisco Botanic Garden [sfbg.org/visit](http://sfbg.org/visit)

Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glen Ellen [quarryhillbg.org/visitor.html](http://quarryhillbg.org/visitor.html)

Tilden Park Botanical Garden in Oakland [ebparks.org/parks/tilden/botanic\\_garden.htm](http://ebparks.org/parks/tilden/botanic_garden.htm)

Hakone Gardens in Saratoga [hakone.com/visit-us/visitor-info.html](http://hakone.com/visit-us/visitor-info.html)

Filoli Estate in Woodside [filoli.org/visit/](http://filoli.org/visit/)

These are just a few of the many possibilities. Share your favorites by sending information about them to our newsletter editor at [kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:kjanberg@gmail.com).

**California Horticultural Society** is sharing their monthly Zoom programs with us. Watch your email for links to their programs every month. This year they are also inviting Western Hort members to participate in their yearly **Seed Exchange**. See the flyer below for seed information and the address to send your seeds. If you have any questions you may email Dave Tivol at [dtivol@yahoo.com](mailto:dtivol@yahoo.com).

**The North American Rock Garden Society (NARGS)** will present *Troughs Coast to Coast: Celebrating Gardens with Rock Plants in Containers*. This is a virtual International Study Day, **November 14th at 2pm EST**. The cost is \$25 for NARGS members and \$50 (which includes the pleasure of joining NARGS) for non-members. For more information go to: [nargs.org](http://nargs.org)

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**December 9th: Robin Chapman**, Journalist and Author.  
*California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*

**January 13th: “Riz” Reyes**, Horticulturist, Designer,  
Lecturer. *Houseplants: The Hottest Horticultural Trend*

**February 10th: Toni Gattone**, Author, Blogger, Speaker.  
*You CAN Garden for Life!*

# SEEDS

**Do you Grow These?**

If you have enjoyed growing the following types of plants which our members have requested, please collect and contribute seed for our annual exchange.

**Specific:**  
*Humulus japonicum* ‘Variegatum’  
*Delphinium nudicale*  
*Hesperis matronalis*  
*Ceanothus leucodermis*


**Category:**  
conifers  
acacias  
aloes  
edible plants

**Geographic:**  
California natives in general, particularly wild flowers  
South African native bulbs and shrubs  
Mediterranean natives

**Tolerances:**  
drought, heat, shade

Of course, donations of any and all kinds of seeds are welcome! Plants which have given you pleasure will please others of our members, too, especially in these times of epidemic and fire, when our gardens can be a source of refuge and comfort. Please mail your seeds to:

Dave Tivol  
130 Locksunart Way #2  
Sunnyvale CA 94087-4666



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

**Gerald the turkey removed from Oakland's Morcom Rose Garden after terrorizing visitors**

Since Thanksgiving is coming you might like this story.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Gerald-the-turkey-removed-from-Oakland-s-rose-15671600.php>

**Success stories** of young people in the UCLA Extension Program. I enjoyed this as it gives me hope that there are youngsters out there who will take up the cause of great horticulture. <https://horticulture.uclaextension.edu/success-stories/>

**Plant Select Plant Smarter** site for plant selections or just to look at plants since we all like to do that.

<https://plantselect.org/learn/plant-stories/>

**Herbaria 3.0** , Write a story about a plant! <https://herbaria3.org/2020/04/02/stay-at-home-plant-stories/>

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

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Grace Tsang

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout, Carol Moholt,  
Michael Craib

### **Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:**

Zoom Host: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Membership: Carrie Parker

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),  
Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

### **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: [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  
Mountain View, CA 94042  
First Class Mail  
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

**Meeting location November 11th**

**Zoom Meeting via internet**

Meeting starts at 7:15 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 November** 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