

WESTERN HORT

November 2025 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

NOVEMBER 2025 MEETING

November 12th, 7:30pm

The November meeting will be an in-person meeting. Meetings are free for members, non-member attendees are \$10.00. The meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Masks are recommended but optional. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining the Western Horticultural Society.

TOPIC: FOOD FORESTS IN SUBURBIA: HOW TO CREATE A MICRO-FARM AND STILL HAVE A LIFE

SPEAKER: LISA STAPLETON



Maybe I could grow more fruit in my garden? That's a key takeaway many visitors have when they visit Lisa Stapleton's home orchard on a Silicon Valley suburban tract-home lot of less than a sixth of an acre. Her small plot is home to more than 100 fruit varieties—including heirloom and rare varieties of apples and oranges, to exotics and tropicals like pineapple guavas, passion-fruit, palm berries, avocados, bananas and more. Join us if you've ever wondered if you could grow a lot of your own produce on a small plot of land. Lisa will cover how to plan, select and nurture fruit plants growing very close to each other.



Lisa Stapleton is the “Queen of Fruit Tree Dense-pack” and has written about plants, the environment and technology for more than two decades. She is a longtime member and current chair of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers, and has written for *The Fruit Leaf*, *The Fruit Gardener*, *Organic Gardening*, *Terrain environmental quarterly*, *InformationWEEK*, and *InfoWorld*. Her San Jose micro-farm is located on a 7,000 square-foot plot that provides year-round fruit, and she is currently working on a masters in environmental studies at San Jose State University. She grows unusual varieties of citrus, apples, pears, peaches, figs and pomegranates, as well as thornless blackberries, mulberries, palm berries, jujubes, serviceberries, peaches, avocados and pineapple guavas.



There will be a speakers dinner this month.

If you would like to join us, please email Western Hort member Carol Dahout at: caroldahout@yahoo.com by Monday, November 10th so we can make a reservation for the appropriate attendance. Dinner will start at 5:00pm. Chef Chu's is located at 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Do you know that Western Horticultural Society has a sister organization? (Aside: the California Sister butterfly's scientific name is *Adelpha californica*.)* As a Western Hort member, you can attend all California Horticultural Society general meetings and events, including private garden openings. (And vice versa for Cal Hort members participating in WHS activities.) Cal Hort emails are forwarded to WHS members via our email list, WHSmembers@groups.io. In order to participate, we urge you to join this list, which allows you to adjust the frequency of these emails. To join, email:

WHSmembers+subscribe@groups.io, then you will be able to receive and send out emails to WHSmembers@groups.io. As if you didn't have enough to read, check calhortsociety.org to stay abreast of their news. This past year I joined the rollicking Lake Berryessa Calochortus** Adventure, led by Kipp McMichaels, in May. Earlier, in March, I was fortunately able to visit Victor Reiter's garden in SF, an unbelievable site in the city. These were among the highlights of my year, ranking with a tree climbers' trip in the mountains and southern peninsula of Costa Rica, a birding odyssey in Taiwan and a botany workshop in the California White Mountains.

This past Sunday, WHS member (and greeter!) Pam Noyer generously hosted us all in her exquisite garden. We copied the Cal Hort idea, "coffee in the garden", with boxed coffee from Verve and less liquid goodies. Attendees were free to walk through, with Pam explaining the garden's evolution in its flow and plantings. Hanging out and re-walking Pam's garden allowed us to appreciate and savor more of the garden's details.

We benefit greatly with this WHS and Cal Hort link!

*As in the TV game show Jeopardy, What is the butterfly genus derived from the Greek word for 'sister'?

** More Greek: *Calochortus* is a genus of lilies primarily of the western US, derived from the Greek word meaning 'beautiful grass'. These are such jaw-droppingly stunning flowers, e.g. <https://jrpb.stanford.edu/files/05-calochortus-venustus-butterfly-mariposa-lilly.jpg>

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Special Request to all members:

If you have a permanent name tag that you can wear to the meetings, Please do so! This will help cut down on paper waste at the check in table. It may even be fun to design something to wear that is unique to you. Thank you.

Want to keep up on horticultural events and exchange ideas with other members?? Join our online forum at:
<https://groups.io/g/WHSmembers>.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WESTERN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

December 10th– Annual Potluck Dinner
(No speaker)

January 14th– Helen Popper, *Our Winter is Different: Seasons in California Native Gardens*

February 11th– Lisa Roper, *Chanticleer Gravel Garden*

March 11th– Nikki Hanson, *Fire Safe(r) Landscaping*

April 8th– Tim Wong, *Gardening for California Pipevine Swallowtail and other Butterflies in the SF Bay Area*

May 13th– Movie and Vendor night, *Movie: Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind*

CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

November 17th, 7pm. Michael Horn will speak on *Carnivorous Plants for Beginners*. In-person meeting at San Francisco County Fair Building



Photos courtesy of Michael Horn

January 19th, 7pm Lisa Erdos, will speak about growing *Orchids– Tips for the San Francisco and Bay Area Climate*. In person at San Francisco County Fair Building



In Memoriam: Barrie Coate

December 1933-September 2025

I think “incorrigible plant lover” is the only way to sum up the many parts of the whole that comprised our very dear friend, Barrie Coate. The parts being, at one time or another: horticulturist, nursery owner, teacher, landscape design consultant (including the Getty Museum design), certified arborist, bonsai enthusiast (which included being a founding member of the Midori Bonsai Club), lecturer and strong supporter of both WHS and Cal Hort.

His encyclopedic knowledge of plants, especially trees, was shared with enthusiasm and the passion of a true teacher. Barrie and his wife Carol built three gardens of their own, generously opening them for many people to enjoy. (Photos from one garden tour in 2018 can be seen on the *Succulents and More* blog website by searching “Barrie Coate garden”).

Amongst other honors, Barrie was awarded the Young Nurseryman of the Year by the California Association of Nurserymen, and two awards that went to both Barrie and Carol, the Founders’ Award by Western Horticultural Society and the Horticulturist(s) of the Year by California Horticultural Society. But I think he might have been most pleased by these several personal tributes:

“Horticultural students who took pruning classes from Barrie Coate were lucky to be in the right place at the right time. I was one of those students. Besides the classroom teaching, he took us into gardens, sometimes his and his wife Carol’s very own orchard, to demonstrate pruning techniques. Not only was he a good teacher, but he was friendly and inspirational about all growing things. In a note he sent to me in September 2024, he said “My specialty is trees, as you know, but anything with chlorophyll is interesting.”

~ Glenda Jones

“Barrie was always a very kind person. He loved giving advice about trees. But my most poignant memory was when he came on the trip to Texas which I led. We were walking through the *Sephora secundiflora* forest which was in full bloom and smelled like grape-ade, and he turned to me and said that he would never have come to Texas, if I weren’t leading this trip. He was so surprised at the amazing flora of Texas.”

~Kristin Yanker-Hansen

“I first met Barrie in his pruning class through UC Santa Cruz Extension. But I will remember him most when I went to the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation plant sale down in San Martin, in the late 1990’s. I needed a feature tree for my front yard because the old apricot tree came down. He suggested *Arbutus unedo* ‘Marina’. It was one of their introductions to the horticulture world. I guess I was one of the first to have the tree in my neighborhood. People came by and wondered what kind of tree it was.

~Milovan Milutin

“A couple years ago I planted *Ribes sanguineum* v. *sanguineum* ‘Barrie Coate’ in a client’s garden in Occidental. Every week when I check it out, I of course, think of Barrie, and how he told me about collecting it in the hills above San Jose (“should be really good for hot, dry places”), (“and semi-shady ones, too”).

~Bob Hornback

“One WHS meeting that really stood out for me was a talk that Barrie gave on freeway planting. I thought “Oh hell... that’s going to be boring...! At least there’s the raffle table and plant discussion.” I don’t think I had heard Barrie speak up until that point, but it was one of the most informative and interesting talks I had seen. Barrie spoke about all the little ecosystems and the wildlife that were all dependent on those freeway cloverleafs that we flew by in our cars. He spoke about plants they thought would work, but failed, plants they thought would fail but thrived. All this was when he was consulting with Cal Trans about the new Hwy 85 that was being completed.”

~Sherry Austin

“The memory that I would like to share includes a giggle at one of Barrie’s foibles. At one of the Coate’s open gardens I attended, there was a greeting station with a stack of name tags. The sign, cleverly composed by Carol, read: “Please use a name tag. If you do not photosynthesise, Barrie does not recognize!”

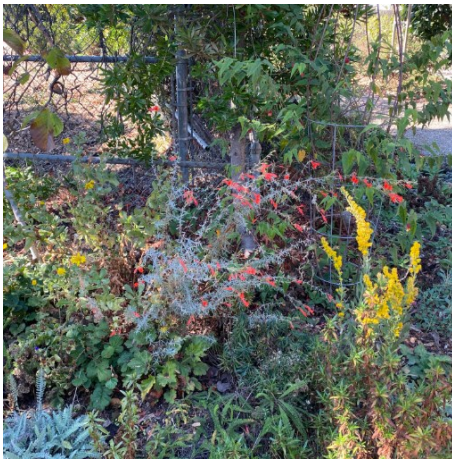
Thank you, Barrie, for sharing your love of plants with us all.

~ Nancy Schramm



PAM NOYER OPEN GARDEN

Pam Noyer's East Palo Alto garden was open to visit on Sunday Oct. 19th. This garden was on the April CNPS *Gardening with Natives Tour* and was even featured on the event guide. Grace commented "It was nice to hang out for a while because the more I looked, the more I saw: as was probably your experience."



Thank you Pam for sharing your wonderful native garden with us!

Photo credit: Grace Tsang

OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Flowers or Bust: Turning Passion into Purpose

with Charmaine Turbow

Can you believe there is a specialty cut-flower farm in Los Altos? After profound experiences with the deaths of loved ones, Charmaine and her husband Dan were motivated to start an endeavor that would be exceptionally positive for their children and for the wider community. They had bought a house with an acre of property in 2008. Ten years later, they began growing for floral arrangements to help people both celebrate joy as well as mourn. Starting every year as early as late January, they begin with tulips and narcissus (for example, Ice King), Italian ranunculi, Japanese-bred ranunculi, peonies and bearded irises. In summer, they grow roselilies, zinnias, cosmos and dahlias. If you, like me, had never heard of roselilies, they were developed from Asiatic lily varieties in a breeding program to create multiple petals that started in 1993. The first roselilies were commercialized around 2011. They do not have stamens and therefore no pollen, have a much milder scent than other lilies, and last very well as cut flowers. Dahlias continue to be grown into the fall, along with chrysanthemums. Charmaine favors heirloom and unusual varieties of all of these flowers. To maximize production, she does close planting (for example, ranunculus every 6", dahlias 12" on center) and has to forgo cover-cropping. So, for soil care, she applies broad-spectrum fertilizer, Diestal compost, worm castings, humus, and sometimes bone meal. Pest control is done by the family's dog and cat. By coordinating with other local growers, Charmaine exchanges knowledge about what to grow and supplements plant material for arrangements. After the slide presentation, she amazed us with her effortless-seeming demonstration of flower arranging. For those desiring a plunge into the floral abundance, volunteer helpers at the farm are welcome on Fridays. The next public workshop, to make South African/Australian-inspired wreaths, will take place on December 6. There are luscious videos on YouTube at her channel <https://www.youtube.com/@turbowfarms> and more information at www.turbowfarms.com. If Martha Stewart was still on television, I'm sure she would be giving a spot and a big shout-out to Turbow Farms!



Photo credit Jen Dungan

~ Jen Dungan

28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, November 12, 1997, Western Hort gathered to hear “Don Mahoney, from Strybing Arboretum” talk about “New Plants in the Arboretum”. Strybing Arboretum is the original name of the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

Dues were due then, as they are now!

Most of the rest of the newsletter was repeat announcements, except for two new items. For the November meeting, members were asked to bring their favorite plant reference books in, for display and inspiration only. “We often wonder where Elizabeth finds the info for the plant notes and which books our members use and love most.”

Following that request for sharing favorite books, was information that foreshadowed the future of research. “WEB SURFERS: WHS member Carol Moholt’s The Bay Area Gardener, an information resource site for local garden enthusiasts, includes an extensive calendar of horticultural events. There is a new page for horticultural job openings, both paid and volunteer.”

Plant Notes filled three full pages, what a display there must have been at the meeting!

John Hammerschmidt shared rose-purple blossoms from *Malva sylvestris*, “a European native that has become naturalized in the US, a process that began early in our history for, according to John, it was grown in Thomas Jefferson’s garden”; *Nicotiana sylvestris*, with pure white flowers that “are fragrant in the evening”; and *Tulbaghia fragrans*, with “star-shaped violet flowers...that will bloom all winter if the temperature doesn’t fall too low”.

“Kris Montague brought two lepechinias, *L. hastata* (native to Mexico, purple flowers) and *L. fruticans* (CA native, lavender-pink flowers)”; as well as *Salvia discolor* “The flowers are dramatic; deep purple, almost black corollas just barely emerge from the pale green calyx.”

Bob Young showed *Tagetes lemonii*, “The finely divided foliage is notable for its pungent odor to which response is varied. Deadheading the flowers will prolong bloom but that involves getting closer to that foliage than you might like.” (I remember a very large plant in my dad—Ed Carman’s—front border that was so covered with the deep yellow marigold flowers in late fall that it seemed to glow with an inner light as dusk fell – NLS)

“Sherry Austen has left Los Altos and her wonderful garden there and has moved to rural Soquel. In exploring her new surroundings she came upon a toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) with yellow berries. It turns out this is not unknown. Jepson recognized a yellow-berried variant he called ‘Cerina’.”

Roz Bray shared flowers from her Palo Verde, *Parkinsonia aculeata*, yellow, “with a red spot that spreads as the flower ages”; and the blue flowers from her *Nicandra physaloides*.

“Betsy Clebsch brought in a selection of salvias from the Gamble Garden plot where she maintains a collection of her favorite plants.” *Salvia tubiflora* (7-8’ tall, velvety red & blackish green flowers accented by creamy yellow pollen); “*Salvia* ‘Frieda Dixon’ is a chance seedling of *S. elegans* found by Jon Dixon in Woodside” (erect growth & peachy red flowers); *S. involucrata* ‘El Cielo’ (“collected in Mexico by the Texas nursery Yucca Do.” Flowers can be variable, red to pink); *S. mexicana* ‘Limelight’ (“pale yellow-green calyces and deep blue-purple flowers”).

“Don Brandeau also brought in a salvia, *S. semiatrata*, native to Oaxaco Province” (violet & purple flowers); his other offerings included *Tibouchina granulosa* (large, rosy-violet flowers with pale centers, “easier to live with than the usual princess flower” according to Elizabeth Garbett); *Pogostemon cablin* (patchouli, “the perfume is made from a tincture of the leaves”); and “An interesting camellia with twisted stems” *Camellia japonica* ‘Unryu’.

Bill Kurtz brought in a densely blooming specimen of *Sansevieria dooneri*.

“Lyn Dearborn came with several exotics, the most spectacular of which was a dendrobium hybrid sporting three stems of seven or eight gorgeous purple flowers each.”; her *Anthurium* sp. featured a violet spathe and a deep purple spadix; and finally *Impatiens niamniamensis* (“This species is from Zaire and is called the ‘Congo cockatoo’, very appropriate to the parrot-beak shaped red and yellow flowers”).

“Ed Carman showed a precociously blooming cherry, *Prunus* ‘Accolade’, a cross between *P. subhirtella* and *P. sargentii*, probably fooled by the warm weather of early November.”

~ Nancy Schramm

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Rare Plant Discovered - After 68 years a population of once-lost caper-fruited *Tropidocarpum capparideum* has been found at Vasco Hills Regional Preserve

<https://patch.com/california/livermore/rare-plant-rediscovered-vasco-hills-regional-preserve-after-68-years>

OCTOBER PLANT SHARE

PLANT SHARE WRITER WANTED! Can be shared with a friend, expands your plant knowledge through research, an easy fun way to contribute to the monthly newsletter and the gratitude of your humble editor! Contact Kjanberg@gmail.com

Judy Wong from Menlo Park shared three very interesting plants:



Sternbergia lutea - Winter Daffodil, Autumn Daffodil

Origin - Wide distribution from the Western Mediterranean through to Central Asia

Summer dormant similar to other Amaryllidaceae

Height - 3 to 6 inches Width - 3 to 6 inches

Exposure - Full Sun

Soil - Well Drained in moderately fertile soil

Water - Dry to medium moisture

Plant in mid summer 5-6" deep and 4-6" apart. Bulbs will naturalize and form clumps as well as self seeding may occur. Genus name honors the Austrian botanist, Count Kaspar M. von Sternberg (1761 -1838)

USDA Zones 6 - 9



Haemanthus albiflos x H. coccineus - Paintbrush lily

Origin - South Africa

Height - 8 to 12 inches Width - 16 inches

Exposure - Part Shade, protection at temps below 32 degrees

Soil - Well drained, moderately fertile, neutral to alkaline

Water - Water during active growth, bulb will go dormant in winter

Xerosicyos danguyi - Silver dollar plant

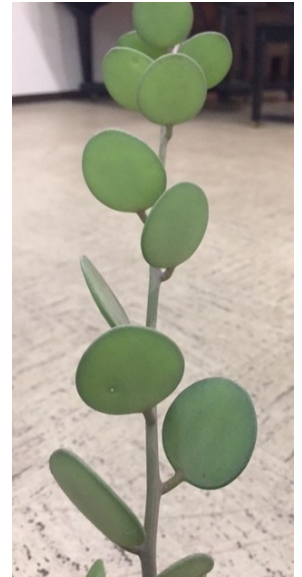
Origin - Southwestern Madagascar. This is an evergreen, dioecious, climbing (via tendrils) succulent with fleshy leaves.

Exposure - Full Sun to part shade, protect from frost

Soil - Good drainage is desirable

Water - Let dry between watering and withhold water in winter unless leaves begin to shrivel.

USDA Zones - 9b to 11b



Sherry Austin from Santa Cruz Mountains shared:

Lomandra obliqua 'Mat Rush' - Fish Bones

Sherry found this nice *Lomandra* at the Santa Cruz Arboretum.

Origin - Australia

Height - Low growing ground cover 7 to 24 inches Width - spreads by rhizomes up to 30 inches

Exposure - Full sun to part shade in hot areas

Soil - Well-drained sandy soil

Water - Moderate during growing season and sparingly in winter

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy shared:

Geranium X antipodeum 'Chocolate Candy'

Origin - This seedling was discovered in Dalfsen, Netherland in 1992. A spring - fall bloomer Nancy finds it is a favorite with Bonsai collectors and Garden Railroad aficionados.

Height - 3 to 6 inches Width - 12 inch clump

Exposure - Full sun to Part shade or afternoon shade in hot areas

Soil - well-drained

Water - Medium to regular

Herbaceous perennial, Attracts butterflies

USDA Zones 4 to 7



Many thanks to these members who brought plants to share!

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Checkout other ongoing events, Plant Sales, Talks and Workshops at the Master Gardener website:

<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/>

California Horticultural Society, November 17, 6:30pm - In person with Michael Horn, *Carnivorous Plants*. Meet at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Free parking is available behind the SF County Fair building on Lincoln Way.

Gamble Gardens Events link: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/events/> Too many to list but starting on November 8th everything from saving seeds and Indigenous History (Nov. 8th) to learning about plaster bas-relief (Nov. 13th) or taking a tour of the house and garden (Nov. 18th).

SNACKS!

Bring your own mug to better enjoy the beverages at the treat table and cut down on disposable cups!

October snacks were provided by Judy Wong, Carrie Parker and Marci Hayden for your enjoyment! Thank you! Please sign up to bring something in November. We're hoping for 2-4 contributions each month.

Snacks can be home baked sweet or savory bites. They can be purchased at your local market. Fruits and vegetables are great too.

Here is a link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19rOJXS374RI3aV3sSG-3RfALQWOq-D0Ps5AdaKR81Bg/edit?tab=t.0>

Thanks to Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans for their participation and for setting up the snack table each month!

GET INVOLVED

Vice president, Board members and Corresponding Secretary: These positions are still open. Get to know your fellow WHS members and help keep the society vibrant and well rounded. If you have an interest in helping in any one of these capacities, or feel you can help in any other way, feel free to e-mail us at info@westernhort.org or speak to any of the current board members at our meetings.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: **Open Position**

Secretary: Jennifer Dungan

Corresponding Secretary: **Open Position**

Treasurer: Eva Huala

Other Board Members: Jim Salyards, Carol Dahout, Gabrielle Sala, Marci Hayden & Mil Milutin.
(More board members welcomed and needed)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Eva Huala

Membership: Eva Huala & Kathy Anberg

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Meeting Tech: Jennifer Doniach, Eva Huala, Jennifer Dungan, Meri-Beth Bird & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Pam Noyer

Treat Table Set up: Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Meri-Beth Bird, Jim Salyards & Marci Hayden

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Dungan & Nancy Schramm

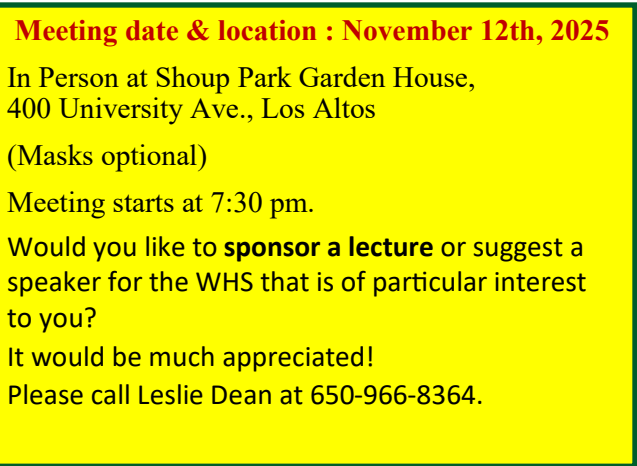
Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach, Meri-Beth Bird, & Janet Hoffmann

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. 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.

To join or renew visit our website at: <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print the form and mail with your check to the contact address below.

To contact us: Please send email to: info@westernhort.org or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. **Note: deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 20th of November.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Kjanberg@gmail.com.