WESTERN H@RT

September 2021 I PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 I www.westernhort.org

SEPTEMBER 2021 MEETING

September 8th, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet

This meeting will be available on Zoom for Western Hort and Cal Hort members. The link will be sent to members prior to the meeting date. For information about joining or renewing your membership, go to https://www.westernhort.org/membership or see page 8 in this newsletter.

Speaker: Renee Shepherd, Seed Developer, Gardener, Entrepreneur, Author

Topic: Winter Vegetables and Gardening for a Second Season



There is still time to start seeds to have a bountiful garden for late autumn, winter and early spring. You can plant now for a second gardening season that can be as productive as your major early spring plantings. Late planted crops have less competition from weeds and pests and grow beautifully with less garden work. In mild-winter areas of the country, many crops will hold perfectly through the low light winter months without bolting to seed or becoming bitter tasting as they would in the heat of early summer.

Renee will discuss specific veggies and herbs that need to be started soon, how to tend them, and which can still wait for later fall planting. She will also discuss how to plant and manage cover cropping some of your beds for both fertility and erosion control over the winter. More information on winter edibles at:

https://www.reneesgarden.com/blogs/gardening-resources/gardening-for-a-second-season

Renee Shepherd is widely regarded as a pioneering innovator in introducing international specialty vegetables, flowers and herbs for home gardeners and gourmet restaurants. After receiving her PhD from UC Santa Cruz and teaching in the Environmental Studies department there, she founded Shepherd's Garden Seeds company in 1985, which she ran until 1996. In 1998 she founded her current company, **Renee's Garden**, offering her selected choices of seeds for

exciting new and time-tested heirloom gourmet vegetables, culinary herbs and a wide range of fragrant and cutting flowers, sourced from seed growers both large and small around the world. Renee's Garden seed packets are available directly from www.reneesgarden.com and are offered through independent garden centers in the US and Canada.

Renee regularly writes gardening articles and creates recipes for **Renee's Garden** monthly e-newsletter, which reaches more than 170,000 gardeners monthly online.

"Renee's Garden is my practical way to spread the joy of gardening as a meaningful, productive and satisfying activity that connects us to each other and the earth." – Renee Shepherd



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome back to another season of Western Hort programs. You may have heard rumors about in-person meetings this fall. It has been hard to know what to do with the continually evolving nature of the COVID situation. We came to the difficult decision this week that it is too soon for most people to meet in person including many of our meeting volunteers and speakers. At this point we won't be meeting in person until at least December. If any of you wish to share feed-back on this topic or any other, feel free to contact me at info@westernhort.org.

The program committee has done a wonderful job finding speakers who are willing to pivot whatever way is needed in terms of in-person or virtual presentations or a combination of both. It has been an extremely challenging year for them and we owe them a big debt of thanks. They have once again come up with a great mix of speakers covering many aspects of current horticulture. The complete list of speakers and topics is listed in this issue of our newsletter and on the membership renewal forms.

We hope to see all of you returning to Western Hort for another year of sharing of our love of horticulture.

~ Janet Hoffmann

MAY SPEAKER NOTES

Weeds, everyone's nemesis, was the topic of our May presentation by Steve Fennimore. Steve is an UC Davis Extension Specialist in Weed Science. He shared some of his extensive experience dealing with weeds in the fields around Salinas. Knowing your weed is key to dealing with any "plant out of place", which is how Steve defined weeds.

From a growing standpoint, competition with desirable plants for space, sunlight, carbon dioxide, water, and nutrients can make weeds undesirable. Some garden plants can compete more successfully with alien plants trying to take over. Onions, which have more upright growth habits, can push up through lower growing weeds. Weeds can lead to other garden problems by attracting insect pests, providing cover for rodents or other destructive wildlife. They also can cause allergic reactions or be poisonous to humans or pets.

Aesthetic appeal is another consideration, although some weeds can be quite attractive. Weeds can also be beneficial by providing food for pollinators and habitat for other wildlife. Weeds can also provide a quick ground cover and as they break-down, they add organic matter to the soil. Some "weeds" like *Portulaca* or nettles are also edible.

Once you have determined that a plant is undesirable, you need to know more about it in order to control its spread in the garden. First of all, you should know the plant's lifecycle: is it an annual, biennial or perennial? Creeping perennial weeds like *Oxalis*, Bermuda grass, yellow nutsedge and field bindweed are the most difficult to control. Broadleaf annual weeds are probably the easiest to control because their growing point is above ground and cutting them off below the growing point will usually kill them. Grasses are harder because their growing points are at or below ground level.

Preventing the introduction of weeds in the first place is the easiest means of control. Mr. Fennimore recommends that we make sure to use clean soil and compost. A thick layer of mulch can also discourage weeds from becoming established. Steve reminded us that removing weeds before they reseed can save a lot of headaches later.

Steve likes to say, "Sprinkle, mulch, and spade" to tell people how to control weeds mechanically. Making sure that weeds are up to a certain level makes hand-pulling and mowing more effective. Flaming works best on very young weeds. Well-managed herds of goats can be effective in clearing weeds in some areas.

Steve generally favors mechanical removal mechanisms before resorting to herbicide sprays. He reserves spraying for really hard to control weeds like the creeping perennials listed above. Glyphosate or Triclopyr seem to be the most common chemical control agents available at this time. He also recommends, Suppress, which is a fatty acid spray that can kill many annual weeds.

A recording of Mr. Fennimore's talk is available on the Western Hort <u>YouTube</u> if you missed the presentation or want to review what he said.

~ Janet Hoffmann~

September

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28 YEARS AGO

Summer 1993 was a good time to be a plant lover. Western Hort had our annual picnic, hosted on June 13th by Gerda Isenberg at Yerba Buena Nursery. On the way to the picnic, members were invited to stop by and visit Budge and Elizabeth Garbett's garden. "Not only will you be able to see her many lovely and unusual plants, but Budge's *Train Garden*...will also be available to view." "Gerda Isenberg was made an Honorary Life Member of WHS at a presentation by President Roz Bray during the picnic...Our other Honorary Life Member is Albert Wilson."

On July 8th at the Hall of Flowers in San Francisco, WHS co-sponsored (along with the Western Chapter of the American Rock Garden Society and Ted Kipping) "a lecture by Richard Dufresne of Greensboro, North Carolina...His mission has been for a number of years to get rare plants into botanic gardens and into the hands of growers. He is very interested in the rain forests of Mexico and opposes the World Bank plan to cut down these forests in order to give an income to the people of the area."

WHS members Dorothy Rodal and Page Sanders each gave talks about roses and companion plants during the summer as did Bill Grant, an expert on David Austin roses.

The September 8, 1993 WHS meeting was a grand event. Not only did "Robin Parer, owner of *Geraniaceae*, a small nursery in Kentfield which sells hardy geraniums, erodiums and angel and pansy-faced pelargoniums speak on *Recent Introductions into the Geranium Family*", but it was also the 30th Anniversary of Western Horticulture Society, marking "the first member meeting at the Methodist Community Church of Los Altos. The speaker at that first meeting in 1963 was P.H. Brydon, Director of Strybing Arboretum. At our September 8th, 1993 meeting, founding Board of Directors member Ed Carman will share memories of the formation of the Society."

Three fall plant sales were announced.

The Strybing Fall California Native Plant Sale with "A wide selection of choice plants...including *Styrax officinalis*, *Fremontodendron* 'California Glory' and *F*. 'Pacific Sunset' as well as native ferns, bulbs and grasses and plants for hummingbirds and butterflies."

The UC Botanic Garden in Berkeley on September 26th, and Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation on October 2nd with a myriad of activities: uncommon tree display, plant sale, book sale, tours, Tomato Variety Survey and my favorite, "The Great Zucchini Weigh-In with prizes for heaviest and ugliest zucchini".

I love Elizabeth Garbett's plant notes so much I'd like to quote the entire two pages...but I will restrain myself and just include her most creative comments.

"Albert Wilson, usually the most reserved and circumspect of men, brought not one but two naked ladies, *Amaryllis belladonna*, to the meeting, the usual pink form and a white." He also brought *Pyracantha coccinea* 'Lalandei'.

Mary Ann Leer showed *Begonia pearcei* as well as a potful of seedlings, crosses between *B. pearcei* and *B. boliviensis*. Elizabeth brought a species begonia as well, *B. gehrtii*.

The following paragraph is 'as written' by Elizabeth, and shows that plant names have long been a contentious activity:

"David Rodal calls the "Sweet Autumn Clematis" *Clematis dioscoreifolia*, meaning a clematis with leaves like the sweet potato, agreeing with *Hortus* and the *Sunset Garden Book* but differing from two clematis authorities, Christopher Lloyd and Barry Fretwell, who do not agree with each other. Christopher Lloyd calls it *Clematis maximowicziana*, which isn't going to win him any points with me, and Fretwell calls it *C. terniflora*. They all agree it is not *C. paniculata*, but Fretwell says it is the same as *C. flammula*. It is the Yugoslavia of the plant kingdom."

Other plants from the Rodals included *Clematis chinensis* and *Talinum paniculatum*.

Ed Carman showed *Zauschneria arizonica* and *Z.* 'Sierra Salmon' which was hybridized by Nancy Wilson. (I steadfastly stand by the use of *Zauschneria* rather than *Epilobium*, agreeing with Carol Coate that there are simply not enough plant names that begin with the letter 'Z' – NLS) "Ed also brought a real oddity, a pot of variegated baby's tears, *Soleirola soleirolii.*"

Dick Dunmire brought Dalechampia dioscoreifolia, purchased at Buena Creek Nursery in San Diego County.

Carol Coate showed a bouquet of *Tithonia rotundifolia* "a tall, vigorous annual, definitely for the back of the border with probably the most saturated orange of the plant world", as well as *Phlox paniculata* 'Mount Fuji'.

28 YEARS AGO CONTINUED:

"Maggie Gage brought one of her charming arrangements in her favorite color, purple, with the addition of *Oxypetalum caeruleum* to demonstrate her frustration in trying to integrate this unique shade of blue with the blue-purples of her garden...So I'm afraid Maggie will have to harden her heart and bid goodbye to *Oxypetalum*, for as one book has put it "only its glorious blue flowers redeem this ungainly plant." I'm pretty sure she is going to regret her association with *Solanum pyracantha*, too. It has spines in all the usual places and in some unusual ones, too, on the surfaces of the leaves, for example."

"Jean Struthers found some unusual salvias recently at The Dry Garden Nursery in Oakland... Salvia caccaliifolia and S. buchananii." She also brought Lavendula lanata.

~Nancy Schramm

MAY PLANT SHARE

Ben Spencer-Cooke from San Jose presented:

Iochroma cyaneum 'Royal Blue' (Royal Blue Iochroma) – This fast growing tender shrub from S. America is growing in a hoop house. It grows in full to part sun and can get to be 10' tall x 6' wide. However, Ben is growing his in a small container so it is only 2' tall and wide. Large pendent clusters bearing up to 20 purple tubular flowers start appearing in April. It needs regular watering and dies back in the winter. Ben thinks it's a beautiful and interesting plant to look at.





Phlomis purpurea (Purple Phlomis, Purple Jerusalem Sage) — This tough perennial is native to Spain, Portugal and Morocco. It grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. It gets to

be 6' tall and wide. It has fuzzy grayish woolly leaves and stems. Whorled light lavender pink flowers start appearing in April. It is heat and drought tolerant and Ben says it needs no attention and no irrigation. However, if you have sandy soil, I would recommend watering it once or twice a month initially. He prunes it only if it gets a little bit leggy. Judy Wong cuts hers back 1/3-1/2 after it has finished blooming. Pollinators love it and it is deer resistant. It is hardy to 15°.

Rosa 'De la Grifferai' Rootstock — Ben planted standard roses having this rootstock that is from a Vibert patent in 1845. Although the standard grafts have died, the flowers from this rootstock are beautiful and scented. It puts on a great show every year for one month in the spring and does not re-bloom. Climbing up through a Chinese Pistache tree it gets quite tall.



PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

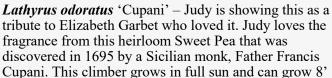
Judy Wong from Menlo Park presented:

Triteleia laxa 'Butte County Form' - Jackie Doda brought this to a WHS meeting many years ago and Judy liked it so much that she ordered the bulb from Telos Rare Bulbs. Unfortunately she killed the bulb but was able to get seeds from it and finally after 4 or 5 years, it is blooming for the first time. The summer dormant bulb is 12" tall and has very large open umbel sky blue flowers.



Dudleya brittonii -(Giant Chalk Dudleya) – Judy got this native evergreen succulent from Annie's Annuals. It grows in full to part sun in well-drained soil and has a rosette that gets to be 18" in diameter (hers is only 12"). The beautiful whitish leaves have a chalky powder that can come off with heavy watering or can be rubbed off

when touched by fingers, so please be careful. Long arching stems bearing yellow flowers appear in the spring through summer. It is hardy to 15°.



tall and spread 1 foot. Gorgeous flowers having deep red and purple petals start appearing in the spring. The two flowers per stem can help you identify it against 'Matucana', which has 4 flowers per stem. Judy lets it reseed and it comes true from seed.



Digitalis purpurea 'Monstrosa' – Judy got this short-lived Peruvian biennial from Annie's Annuals. It grows in full sun to part shade in well-drained rich soil and gets to be 5' tall x 1' wide. In the early 1800s it was discovered having a rare peloric mutation, giving

the radial symmetry to the huge 3" terminal flower instead of the lower regular foxglove flowers which have bilateral symmetry. The genus name is derived from the Latin, digitus, since these flowers were thought to resemble fingers or digits. It will reseed true to type if crossed with another 'Monstrosa'. If crossed with a normal *D. purpurea* you will not get the peloric mutation. It also comes in lavender and cream colors. Judy has a second 'Monstrosa' whose terminal flower is much darker.

Philadelphus lewisii 'Covelo'? (CA Mock Orange) – This semi-deciduous shrub has a wonderful scent and grows in full to part sun in well-drained soil. It can get to be 12' tall x 5' wide but Judy has hers growing on the edge of a Redwood tree so it is smaller and only 7' tall. When Judy bought this it was mislabeled as 'Goose Creek', which has double flowers. However, it has never had double blooms. It flowers from late spring to early summer. It is very floriferous and it scents the whole yard. It mostly receives rainwater with maybe an occasional sprinkling here and there. Janet Hoffman mentioned hers also only received rainwater.





PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

Leslie Dean from Mountain View presented:

Agave vilmoriniana (Octopus Agave) - Leslie has 2 of these Mexican succulents. One is in the back yard and has grown to be 4' tall x 5' wide. The long slender green leaves resemble octopus tentacles. Leslie likes the fact that it is unarmed (has no spines) although it does have soft serrations on the leaf margins. Now, the one in the front is putting on a show since it has started to flower. She has taken a succession of pictures, showing how quickly the flowering stalk grew to 12' tall in just 3 weeks and currently is about 14' 8" tall now. She has also been amazed at the progression and the way the yellow flowers have opened up, appearing first on the south side before opening and wrapping around. The top 2' still have not opened yet. She believes the flowering might last another 3 weeks but is unsure since this is the first time she is witnessing this. Being monocarpic the plant will die after flowering. Hopefully the flowers will be pollinated by birds or hummingbirds (which she hasn't seen) forming bulbils/plantlets and should flower in 7-10 years. It is hardy to 25°.



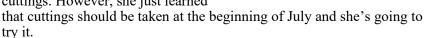
Nancy Schramm from Gilroy presented:

Nancy showed us 2 different roses to illustrate their differences.

Rosa 'Mermaid' has bigger blooms and grows very tall. Ben said he saw it get to be 20' tall growing over a Pine tree. 'Happenstance' on the other hand has smaller flowers and only gets to be 3' tall and wide. It is believed to have come from 'Mermaid' and there are a couple of possible stories. One is that 'Happenstance' was a chance seedling of 'Mermaid' and the other is that the house where 'Mermaid' was growing at burned down and 'Happenstance' is what came up. Both plants have blossoms that are very attractive even when the stamens fall off, and both have many downward facing thorns.



Daphne jasminia – Nancy's dad always grew this small rock garden plant. It grows in full sun and is a really tiny thing just measuring 3" across. It is not fragrant but it blooms constantly. The new growth is very short so it is difficult for Nancy to get cuttings. However, she just learned





WHS Scholarships

Western Horticultural Society is pleased to announce the creation of two new \$1000.00 horticultural scholarships to be given to two inspired, deserving students who show a keen commitment to their horticultural studies. The first is the Richard & Bracey Tiede Scholarship. This will be given to a student who wants to make a difference in the horticultural world. The other is a general WHS Scholarship to be given to an equally deserving student. We plan to open up the field to all Bay Area horticultural students. We need help in contacting schools to notify students about these scholarships and in early December would like three additional members of WHS to sit on the evaluation committee to determine the recipients of these two scholarships. Scholarship information and the application is available on our website. You can use this link: https://www.westernhort.org/scholarships. Please contact Grace Tsang for further information. 650-391-4654 or e-mail cosang@gmail.com

Plant Share

A fun part of our Zoom get-togethers is seeing what is happening in your gardens. The ability to send photos of the plants that you want to share is one benefit of the virtual meeting format. Send photos of plants that you wish to share along with botanical and common name to <u>info@westernhort.org</u> by Sunday September 5th. Either send plant details or be prepared to speak during the meeting about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water and other growth requirements.

Upcoming Meetings

October 13th: Abra Lee, speaker, writer, horticulturalist and founder of *Conquer the Soil*, Atlanta, GA, *Culture and Gardening Lift Ev'ry Voice!*

November 10th: Kenton Seth, garden designer and author, Fruita, CO, Crevice Gardens: Stuck in the Cracks

December 8th: Lynn Chan and David Eger, avid gardeners and travelers, Burlingame, CA, Gardens to Lure You Out of California

January 12th: Del McComb, horticulturalist, consultant, designer and co-owner of *Blossoms Farm*, Corralitos, CA, *Growing Gorgeous Gardens from the Ground Up*

February 9th: Andy Mariani and Charlie Olson, longtime Santa Clara Valley orchardists, **with Robin Chapman**, author of *The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley,* moderator, *Olson and Mariani: Farming in The Valley of Heart's Delight*

March 9th: Kipp McMichael, web developer and passionate horticulturalist, Berkeley, CA, Succulents at Large: Designing with Larger Succulents

April 13th: Patricia Rain, Vanilla Queen, author, educator, culinary historian and owner of *The Vanilla Company*, Santa Cruz, CA, *Vanilla: The Botany, The History, and The Culture*

May 11th: Dave Muffly, arborist, horticulturalist and ecological engineer, Santa Barbara, CA, *Resiliency: Choosing Trees for Climate Adaptation in Coastal California*

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Horticultural Society will be continuing to share their virtual presentations with us this fall. The next one is Sept 20 at 6:30 pm via Zoom, *Gardens of the Coast of Chile* with Cristóbal Elgueta, a forestry engineer who has worked as a landscaper for more than twenty years, inspired by the dynamics and ecology of the plant communities of central Chile, where color, texture, and wildlife accompany a rugged and imposing landscape. His current goal of work and research is that the garden connects whoever lives it with the richness and extraordinary dynamism of nature.

Cal Hort is launching their annual Seed Exchange. To share seeds please package them with botanical name of plants and send them to: Dave Tivol, 130 Locksunart Way #2, Sunnyvale CA 94087 by November 30, 2021. The seed list will be published in January 2022. You do not have to donate seeds in order to participate but donations are always welcome.

More information about California Horticultural Society and their programs at https://calhortsociety.org/.

California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Native Plant Sale, Saturday, October 9, outdoors at the Dana Center in Hidden Villa. The sale will include Grassroots Ecology Nursery and other vendors plus a member-collected seed exchange table.

As the nursery area is too small to allow for social distancing while browsing, all plant purchases from the CNPS nursery and Grassroots Ecology must to made **online in advance. You will select your entry time** when you make your purchases. Your plant order will be prepared by volunteers and be ready for pickup at your entry time on October 9. When you arrive to pick up your plants, you will have the opportunity to purchase books, posters, t-shirts and other items from some of your favorite vendors, who will be onsite.

All attendees will need to wear masks; entry will be timed and ticketed to limit the number of people present at any one time and keep the event safe for everyone. For the latest information about the sale, please visit www.cnps-scv.org.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Black Fig Fly has appeared in Pasadena, Goleta, Semi Valley and possibly Santa Cruz California. Immature fruit often drops and larva can be found inside. Fruit imported from Mexico is believed to be the source and the USDA is actively engaged in identifying infestations. Here is a link to a downloadable pdf detailing life cycle and biology of this pest.

https://www.academia.edu/22734970/Field observations on the biology and behavior of

Follow the conversation of fellow fig growers at https://www.ourfigs.com/forum/figs-home/995540-wow-jumping-worms-inside-my-figs

Hello WHS members,

Our new year is just starting. WHS has a great list of speakers for the year. Don't miss any updates. Please submit your renewal and payment using the Membership form found on our Membership page and mail to WHS PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042. Membership forms were also mailed out the end of August to those who have not renewed. You can also pay online. Please go to our membership page on our website https://www.westernhort.org/membership and complete the information in Part 1 and 2 in the Pay by Credit Card section. Thank you in advance to everyone who has renewed their membership. Any questions, please contact membership@westernhort.org

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann Vice President: Grace Tsang Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shephard

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.

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 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 : September 8th

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