



Remember! May 11, 2016 Meeting Place:

Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos

In the multi-purpose room next to the parking lot

June 2016 Picnic!

Western Horticulture Society Annual Picnic Join us on **Sunday, June 26**, for our annual picnic for members and their guests, hosted by Claire Butler, owner of Meadowlark Nursery in Hollister. Meadowlark Nursery is a wholesale grower specializing in hardy and drought resistant perennials and grasses, both native and non-native, for our sometimes difficult interior California climate.

LOCATION for June Picnic: Meadowlark Nursery 824 Las Viboras Road, Hollister, CA 95023. Contact Claire at (831) 261-7146 or meadowlark1@razzolink.com. Carpooling would be a nice option so more can attend who might not be able to drive that far. It is approximately 1 hour from Mountain View taking 85 to 101 south to CA 25 S. Check for directions from your location.

The picnic will start at 11am until 2ish. Claire will give a tour of her garden and nursery at 11am. Lunch will start at noon. Please bring your own plate and silverware and a dish that will serve 8 people. Please bring your own chair to sit on and if you have a folding table you can bring along, please let us know. It will be very helpful. WHS will supply cups, ice, water, soda and iced tea. Bring sunscreen, hat and walking shoes to enjoy the garden. We hope you can make it. We will have a great time in this beautiful garden and nursery. ~Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon, WHS Co-Presidents

May 2016 Speaker

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

LOCATION: Hillview Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos

Speaker: Kora Dalager, Bonsai instructor and speaker, Concord, California

“Container Plants: The Ultimate Small Container Garden.”

The art of bonsai has been practiced for over a thousand years. By comparison, companion plants could be called the new kids on the block. Learn about the history of these delightful creations and how they are used to complement bonsai in an exhibit. Soil, containers, and types of plants suitable for companion plantings will be explained. Join us to learn techniques that can help keep container plantings of all types healthy.

Kora has been pursuing the bonsai obsession for thirty years. The creation, care and display of companion plants has become her special interest. Her frequent trips to Japan as tour leader of Bonsai Travel has given her the opportunity to view many bonsai shows in Japan, and she has been able to share what she has learned through many workshops and demonstrations.



Kora Dalager, Bonsai instructor and speaker, Concord, California. Photo: westernhort.org

*Join us for dinner with **Kora Dalager** May 11, 5:30pm! We'll meet at Chef Chu's, corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Road (1067 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos). Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: alivensilk@aol.com or (408) 251-2742*

Meeting Location for September 2016 Our Meeting Location for September is still pending. We will update you with our meeting location for September as soon as we know it. Thank you! ~Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon, WHS Co-Presidents

***Thank you to Jessie Schilling,
our Membership Database Guru for lo these many years.***

And ...

Western Horticulture Society Volunteer Position: Membership Database Guru

Our Longtime Membership Database Guru is retiring in a couple months and we need to have someone step up and take on the tasks involved for our Membership database. Someone with MS Access experience would be a huge plus, but solid experience with any database will help. There are crunch times to get things done but otherwise tasks can be done on your schedule. This is a great volunteer job for someone who is very detail oriented, a superb editor, self-motivated, a good proofreader and likes to work independently. If you are that person, we need you now to contact Jessie Schilling so she can start getting you set up and trained for our group membership data base. Please email Jessie Schilling at grew@pacbell.net. She can share more of the details of this amazing position. ***Thank you in advance.*** ~Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon, WHS Co-Presidents

28 Years Ago

Western Hort Society met Wednesday, May 11, 1988 to hear Barbara Joe Hoshizaki, Curator of ferns at UCLA, President of the SoCal Horticultural Institute, board member of Pac Hort and SoCal Botanists talk about ferns. "Barbara is the author of what is arguably the best book on the cultivation of ferns published in recent (and past) memory—the *Fern Growers Manual*." While the "official" meeting began at 7:30pm, "From 7-7:30 Betty Young (of Filoli, and our field trip coordinator) will give a brief lecture/question & answer session on starting plants from seeds." Western Hort was honored with "...a Certificate of Excellence at the San Francisco Landscape and Garden Show!" Elizabeth Garbett was head of the committee responsible for the WHS display.

Despite four pages of plant notes, there were still more plants left undiscussed. Two of which Ed Carman showed and were only briefly mentioned: "...a diminutive purple-flowered *Aquilegia* 'Blue Berry', and a very small ranunculus, bright yellow, called 'Molten Gold'." Ted Kipping showed *Fuchsia* x 'Fanfare', a hybrid developed by Victor Reiter along with "a great armful of stems of other perennials for us to see". Don Brandeau showed a collection of *Heuchera* including *H. rubescens* v. *glandulosa* and *H. hirsutissima* which gave Elizabeth Garbett the opportunity to comment "All heucheras are hairy to some extent on stems and leaves, if there is any logic to botanical names, presumably this is the hairiest of all." Mention also was made of seeing at the previous WHS meeting: *H. micrantha* 'Martha Roderick' "...now being propagated and soon will appear in retail nurseries." This may be a historically important mention, nowhere else have I been able to find when Wayne's chance garden hybrid heuchera first became commercially available. "Bill Kurtz brought in several example of new *Lewisia cotyledon* hybrids known as 'Sunset Strain' that are garden-hardy and have become available in better nurseries." Betsy Clebsch showed *Senecio leucostachys* "able to get along without any summer water"; and "interesting ferns" included *Pteris cretica* 'Albo-lineata' (Gerda Isenberg), *Pyrrosia lingua* 'Obake' (Dick Dunmire), and *Pteris tremula*, *Microlepia firma*, *Woodwardia orientalis*, and *Polystichum dudleyi*. Finally, Bob Young showed "an especially well-grown example of *Mentzelia lindleyi*, our annual blazing star."

A hand-out included with the newsletter "Nurseries of the Peninsula" lists fourteen nurseries from Cupertino to Millbrae. Alas, only six remain in existence, one of which has moved. ~Nancy Schramm

Wildflowers Shown by Nancy Schramm

Ahh, choices, choices ... Here is my list of the wildflowers I brought to a recent meeting. As I was bringing them back to mind, I stumbled on a spectacular website of wildflower pictures. The quality of the photos is amazing – check it out: *Guide to California Wildflowers*, <https://www.flickr.com/groups/574297@N21>

Eschscholzia californica – California poppy
Dichelostema capitatum – blue dicks, plus the white form
Triteleia laxa – Ithuriel's spear
Platystemon californicus – creamcups
Streptanthus – jewel flower
Sisyrinchium bellum – blue-eyed grass
Calandrinia ciliata– red maids
Gilia tricolor
Ranunculus californicus – California buttercup
Castilleja – owl's clover
Polypodium californicum – California polypody fern
Amsinkia intermedia – common fiddle neck
Lupinus bicolor– dwarf lupine
Cryptantha
Claytonia – miner's lettuce



Ithuriel's spear, *Triteleia laxa*. © Margo Bors.

Lily family, *Liliaceae*.

Graphic: http://www.margobors.com/zl_ithspear.html

March 2016 Plant Notes

Judy Wong brought in two bulbs:

Lachenalia 'Rupert' (Wild Hyacinth, Cape Cowslip) a South African native has large 10" lavender flowers and starts blooming in the spring. It is suited to a Mediterranean climate and needs no summer water during its dormancy. It makes an excellent container plant attracting many hummingbirds to its long-lasting flowers. This east to grow bulb prefers full sun but it will grow in partial shade with good drainage.

Gladiolus alatus, also a South African native has large orange (upper petals) and green (lower petals) flowers that contrast beautifully with the 6-8" stems and they emit an apple fragrance. Just like the Lachenalia they also do not like any summer water, make a good container plant, take full sun, like good drainage and they start blooming in the spring.

Both are available at Annie's Annuals. ~Ana Muir

April 2016 Plant Notes

Katie Wong brought **Gynura procumbens** (Longevity Spinach, Cholesterol Spinach, Mollucan Spinach and Leaves of the Gods). This evergreen plant produces year round leaves that have Vitamin A, iron, calcium and antioxidants. This plant is believed to heal all illnesses, have anti-viral as well as anti-cancer properties and is good for high BP, cholesterol and diabetes (regulates blood sugar). A man who had Gout reported that after eating 1 leaf a day for 30 days he was healed. Eat 1-2 fresh leaves every day. You can juice it, eat it raw, cook it and even make tea with it. Katie pan-fries it with a little bit of oyster sauce. It is related to (but is not) Okinawan Spinach, which has helped ladies in Okinawa live to be over 100 years old. It grows in full sun or part shade, likes moist rich soil and is easy to propagate. I would recommend growing it in a container since it is a fast grower. ~Ana Muir



I hope you're having a great spring! Here's a little bit of mine. ~Nancy Schramm

Plant Table Last chance for the 2015-2016 WHS year! We may have some Hot Plant Picks for the table as well as member donations. Bring your plants that are ready for a new home! A big thanks goes to the Hot Plant Picks team headed by Nancy Schramm. We had another successful silent auction in April with truly wonderful plants. ~Roberta Barnes

March 2016 Speaker Notes Change. A word that excites some, is abhorred by others, or is met with a shrug of the shoulders. Like it or not, change occurs in our lives every day and in every profession, and the nursery industry is no exception. This was ably pointed out by our invited guest speaker Wendy Proud, Sales Representative of Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, in her talk "Transforming the Landscape of Water-Wise California."

Mountain States, started in 1969, is a leading Western nursery specializing in water-efficient plants. Ms. Proud mentioned that her company grows all of their material in heavy clay soil, which helps their stock adapt better to the various (and usually heavy) soil conditions their customers have. Located in Glendale, Arizona, Mountain States is a family owned affair with over 600 combined acres of growing grounds. Shipping to nine states, Ms. Proud, whose territory includes the Bay Area, said our area is the second strongest for the company in sales. Proud suggested that people should keep an open mind on the aesthetics of water-wise plants. She showed our group several slides of desert native plants used in non-desert settings, often with dramatic and pleasing visual results. Speaking prophetically, Ms. Proud stated that the product mix that nurseries are offering now is or will be radically changing in the near future. Like the climate, change is in the air (and ground). Are you ready? ~Mark McCabe

April 2016 Speaker Notes When a life member of Western Horticultural Society delivers a presentation about a founding members of CHS, you can bet it will be a premiere event steeped in history. Our own Ted Kipping did just that with his talk of "Victor Reiter's Garden."

Just who was Victor Reiter? As Ted described him, he was a nurseryman (as was his father), a plant breeder and a plant collector who travelled the globe searching for new and unusual plants to introduce to the Bay Area. One might suggest this is an identical description of Ed Carman!

Reiter and his father, an immigrant of Luxembourg, started La Rochette Nursery in San Francisco on Stanyan St. in the Parnassus District. The father/son team were primarily famous for putting fuchsias on the map, arguably making S.F. the fuchsia capital of the U.S. This continued for years until the city fathers deemed La Rochette an inappropriate agrarian enterprise in the early 60's. So Victor closed up shop, but not his passion for collecting and growing things.

Ted's wonderful slide presentation and oration richly showed a man's life and life's work that has been passed down to us. We are extremely fortunate to have the Reiters, the Carmans, and yes the Kippings in our horticultural world. For it is through their passion and hard work we have truly enjoyed the fruits and flowers of their labor. ~Mark McCabe

Armeria maritima 'Victor Reiter' has very tiny pink flowers on this rock garden treasure. Late spring into early summer. 3 in. x 6 in.

Photo: Joy Creek Photo Archive © All rights reserved. <http://www.joycreek.com>





The National Garden Railway Convention runs from July 4-10 at the Santa Clara Convention Center. Over 60 layouts open for registrants!

Horticultural Calendar

A Celebration of Old Roses. Sunday, May 15, 11am – 3:30pm. El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530.

<http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org/celebration-of-old-roses.php>

33rd Annual Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Show, June 4 & 5, 10am – 4pm, at the San Mateo Garden Center. 605 Parkside Way (next to Beresford Park).

Demonstration by Dennis Makishima (has been WHS speaker) from noon – 3pm on Saturday; the bonsai tree used for the demo will be raffled off at the end. On Sunday, Dennis will lead an open view workshop from noon – 3pm. Large plant sale by club members, vendors, door prizes and our always popular raffles. Admission is free. Dr. Bonsai will be available to offer styling and care tips. For more information contact Marsha Mekisich at eclectic.gardener@yahoo.com. For more info, see <http://seibokubonsai.org>.

For more events, check out <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/events>

Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents: Liz Calhoon and Carrie Parker

Vice President: Judy Wong

Recording Secretary: Patricia Larenas

Corresponding Secretary: Richard

Tiede

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Chris Egan, Judy Fulton and Katie Wong.

To contact us, please send email to info@westernhort.org, or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

About membership in Western Hort:

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to "Western Horticultural Society" to PO Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062-0673.

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Sustaining is \$45, Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a Family membership of \$50 for two or more members at the same address, and a Student rate of \$20.

Please visit our website at westernhort.org for a membership form.

Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month; items received after the 25th may not make it into the immediately upcoming newsletter but will be published the following month. Send submissions to Marianne Mueller, mrmm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507
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Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated! Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136.

Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings

LOCATION Hillview Community
Center, Multi-Purpose Room,
97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos