

NOVEMBER 2021 MEETING

November 10th, 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>.

Speaker: Kenton Seth

Topic: Crevice Gardens: Stuck in the Cracks

Crevice Gardens are finding their way into gardening magazines, Pinterest pages and botanical gardens. But what the heck are these things? Presented by Kenton Seth, one of three people on earth he is aware of, who specialize in building crevice gardens professionally. We'll be learning about their history, advantages, construction and plants. This mountain inspired and erstwhile obscure garden style, saturated with stones and miniature plants, is an obsession of lifelong naturalists, mountain-lovers and plant nerds around the world. We will see how a current renaissance of it is expressed worldwide from New Zealand to the dry American West.



Photo: Barb Gorges



Kenton J. Seth is a Colorado based garden designer known as “the crevice garden guy”. He is currently exploring the full breadth of possibilities of rock garden design by trying new things in public and private gardens across the United States and overseas. He has built dozens of these rock gardens from back patios to public parks.

His book on the subject is due in June 2022. It is about permanently empowering the gardening world with this beautiful, versatile and powerful plant growing system so that any plant collection can include saxatile plants. At home, he is a slave to native plant work in his water-scarce region by making un-irrigated native gardens and meadows. An unrestrained plant enthusiast, he hunts seed from his home desert-steppe to that of Turkey, growing them in his own backyard nursery to supply his projects. He shares everything he learns on his blog: kentonjseth.blogspot.com

See his work at <http://www.paintbrushgardens.com/>

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We had a different kind of program last month with some horticultural history coming to us from Abra Lee in Georgia. If you missed the program, you can read my summary in this newsletter and see our recording on the Western Hort [YouTube](#) along with recordings of most of our other Zoom presentations.

Our Zoom meetings have been made possible through the efforts of several of your board members over the past year. As I said in my last message, our continuing viability depends on members like these who are willing to step in and keep our programs going. I know that I am starting to sound like a broken record but I am concerned because I really am going to step down as president next year. As yet no one has stepped forward to take my place. Joining the board would be an important first step in that direction. If you have some interest, you can sit in on our upcoming board meeting on November 3rd at 6:30pm. For the Zoom log-in or for other information, email me at info@westernhort.org.

At the start of our October meeting some attendees asked when we would start in-person meetings. To address this question, I have sent a survey to all of you to learn your feelings on the subject. Please take a couple minutes to fill out the survey at [In-person Attendance Survey](#). If enough members express an interest we will work on having an in-person meeting in December.

~ Janet Hoffmann

OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Abra Lee brought her wonderful enthusiasm and passion to us from Decatur, Georgia for this preview of her upcoming book, to be titled *Conquer the Soil*. Abra is an artist with extensive horticultural experience. She has been collecting accounts of African American people in the horticultural history of the United States. She shared many delightful anecdotes about what she has learned along with her colorful artwork.

Abra led off with the story of Mahalia Jackson, a famous gospel singer in the early to mid 1900's. She owned a flower shop in Chicago and would sing at an event if you bought flowers from her shop for decoration. Other female horticultural contributions that Abra mentioned also included poetry by the librarian and writer Effie Lee Newsome. In a poem titled, *Gladiola Garden*, Effie compares children to the multi-colored flowers in a garden.

Many of the horticulturalists Ms. Lee mentioned were community activists and involved in the politics of their times. If there is an African American garden style, Ms. Lee indicated that it would include vibrant colors and often the use of found objects for decorative elements like broken pottery lining garden beds.

Abra also mentioned a number of prominent African American men whose horticultural professions ranged from gardeners, landscapers, and nurserymen to architects and an entomologist artist, Charles William Costello. Several of her stories showed the contributions of these men to famous horticultural sites. Wormly Hugh was the head gardener for Thomas Jefferson and created his famous oval garden at Monticello. David August William designed the layout for the grounds of Tuskegee University. Malcolm J. Stubblefield was the head gardener at the New York Botanic Garden in the 1930's. Although her emphasis was more on eastern locations closer to her home, Abra did finish her talk with a Californian. Ham-mee Banks was a florist from Los Angeles whose floats won prizes in the Rose Parade for a number of years starting in the 1939.

There are way too many stories to share them all with you here but you can check out our [Youtube](#) or Abra Lee's website conquerthesoil.com and [Facebook page](#) for more about her work. Her book is due out in 2023.

~ Janet Hoffmann

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

28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, November 10, 1993, Western Hort met to hear “Brett Hall, Manager of the U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum...speak on *Gardening with Shrubs in Central Western California*”. The WHS group dinner at Chef Chu’s was organized by Sherry Austin and Judy Wong.

Two WHS members, Barbara Worl and Page Sanders each made presentations at Gamble Garden during the month. Western Hort had been meeting at Loyola School rent free for a year at this time and “In appreciation for the use of the room WHS made a donation of \$200 to the school. A thank-you note from the Loyola PTA states that our donation will be used for classroom supplies and equipment.”

Once again I would like to ask more members to participate in the plant share time. Using Elizabeth Garbett’s words: “The plant display is an important part of our program, from which we all benefit, so let me urge members to bring in whatever you have that is interesting to you. Chances are very good it will be interesting to us, too.” (I’d like to add that this is the perfect opportunity to share not only individual plants, but pleasing garden scenes as well. And if you are shy about speaking during our video presentation, just write out a simple description and our president, Janet Hoffman can do the talking for you. – NLS)

Bob Young braved a rainy November evening and brought in “*Echeveria gibbiflora* ‘Crispata’”. The rosettes of thick, succulent ruffled leaves are a wonderful mixture of purple, gray, pink and blue borne on short, stout stems. The three foot flowering stem is fall blooming with bell-shaped flowers, pink with yellow centers.”

“Betsy Clebsch brought an unnamed cosmos that had been collected near Oaxaca by botanists from UC Berkeley....It has dark pink flowers.” She also brought in an unnamed species of salvia “grown from seed by Ginny Hunt. It is a bushy plant, 4 ½’ high and 3’ wide. The flowers are a curious mixture of colors, the corollas orange, the hairy calyx purple.” The third plant Betsy shared was *Siderites candicans*, from the Canary Islands. (I wonder if the currently erupting La Palma volcano is covering some of these plants? – NLS) It has “densely white-hairy leaves” and “Foot long spikes bear verticillasters of yellow flowers, the bracts three times as long as the corollas.” Mention was made and good luck offered to Betsy for her “...forthcoming plant hunting trip into the wilds of northern Mexico.”

Ed Carman shared *Stauntonia hexaphylla*, a vigorous and evergreen vine. “Ed had to wait several years before his plant bloomed and bore fruit, which is described in the literature as purple and edible. But it turned out to be disappointingly palely pink and insipid, mostly seeds in a mucilaginous pulp. Maybe it is delicious to birds. I found the same to be true of *Akebia*, to which it is related.”

Elizabeth Garbett brought in four sasanqua camellias, which begin blooming earlier than *C. japonica*. ‘Yuletide’ (single red flowers) and ‘Hana Jiman’ (appleblossom flowers) were two named varieties, she also showed double white flowers from a recumbent plant and rose-colored semidouble flowers from a tall, bushy long-blooming plant. Elizabeth was known to be knowledgeable and fond of iris, and brought in ‘September Pastel’, one of the many remontant iris now available as a result of the hybridizing efforts that began in earnest in the early 20th century.

“There were so few plants on the display table that Ed raided the raffle table for some choice specimens.”
Buddleia lochin has “interesting white tomentose stems and leaves...that later become green and shiny on top but keep the gray pubescence beneath.” Scented flowers are very attractive to butterflies.
Chamaecyparis pisifera ‘Filifera Nana’ is a dwarf thread-leaf cypress, good for rock gardens.
Ajuga reptans ‘Catlin’s Giant’ is “twice as large in all its parts as the common ajuga”.
Actinidia kolomicta has green leaves “that can be variegated with white and pink, if conditions are right”.
Nepeta mussinii ‘White Wonder’ is “more compact and uniform than the species...is low maintenance and unthirsty... and can be kept blooming as well as tidy by a mid-summer shearing.”

~Nancy Schramm

Q & A WITH ANDY AND CHARLIE

Our February program, a discussion between Andy Mariani and Charlie Olson, will be a question and answer format. Members are asked to submit their questions for the speakers at least a week before the meeting to: info@westernhort.org. Put your thinking caps on and get those unanswered questions asked! February 1st, 2022 is the deadline, but send in your questions anytime before then!

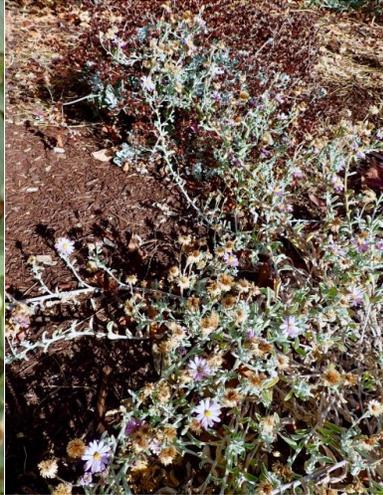
OCTOBER PLANT SHARE

Janet Hoffmann, Campbell, presented and commented on the following plants:

“These were all plants that were blooming and looking good in my fall garden in spite of our extremely dry year. They are all growing in reasonably heavy, rocky soil in full sun in my Campbell yard. All have been in the ground more than a year. The only ones receiving any water this summer were the *Salvia microphylla*, *Salvia greggii* and *Penstemon* and they received about a gallon per week on drip irrigation.”



Penstemon eatonii (Firecracker Beardtongue) This plant blooms on and off all season.



Eriogonum crocatum (top)
Corethrogyne flaginifolia
‘Silver Carpet’

The saffron yellow of the buckwheat was a nice contrast to the purple daisies and still has attractive brown seed heads



Pertioama arborea, bladderpod (front left),
Kniphofia ‘Border Ballet’ (front right),
Salvia greggii (magenta flowers middle right),
Ceratostigma willmottianum (middle of photo),
Berberis aquifolium repens (behind *Ceratostigma*). Janet also shared that she was puzzled by the *Berberis* as it stayed repeat for the first 20 years in her yard but has grown taller than the *Ceratostigma* within the past few years.



Salvia microphylla ‘Red Velvet’, ***Salvia chamaedryoides***, ***Salvia greggii***,
Xerochrysum bracteatum, ***Eriogonum fasciculatum var. foliosum***

The strawflowers seem to bloom pretty much perpetually without any supplemental water.

Bulbine frutescens and ***Epilobium canum ssp. canum*** ‘Etteri’ provide summer into fall color. A South African and California combination that seems to combine well both in color and culture.



PLANT SHARE CONTINUED:

Judy Wong, Menlo Park presented:



Rhodophiala bifida (Oxblood Lily) - This bulb from Chile is a member of the Amaryllidaceae family and can have red, dark red or pink flowers. Judy has the pink one. Growing to about 1' tall, the narrow 8 to 10 inch long grass-like green leaves emerge in fall and grow through mid spring and then dry up with the plant going dormant in summer. She saw it at Sierra Azul and begged until she got a pot from them. It grows in full sun and needs year round water. Judy watered it regularly this summer and believes this is why she got flowers this year since it hadn't bloomed in many years. (Cal Hort member Bart O'Brian says he only waters when the foliage comes up) Both Judy and Bart grow in containers. It doesn't have much seed.

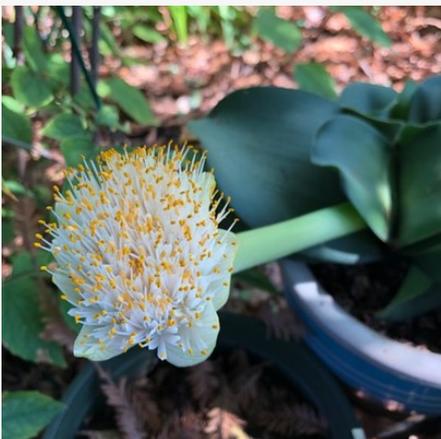


Sternbergia lutea (Autumn Daffodil) - Originating from Europe and Asia this is a fall blooming species. It grows in full sun in well-drained soil. Bright yellow flowers emerge first and then the leaves follow (hysteranthous). Seeing it first in Roz Bray's garden, Judy has it growing in the hottest and driest part of her yard with it receiving absolutely no water. It is frost tolerant and provides a nice surprise each fall.



Zephyranthes candida (Rain Lily) - Thought to be native to Argentina and Paraguay it is found along rivers and in marshes where it gets year round rainfall except for a brief time in late summer. It blooms in response to rainstorms so Judy usually starts drenching her pot in early September and then lets it dry out and then drenches it again. This cycle of keeping the soil

dry and then drenching it triggers blooming in the fall. Growing to 1' tall with a spread of 1 to 2 feet in sun or shade it tolerates a variety of soils.



Haemanthus albiflos (White paintbrush or shaving brush) - This African bulb was given to Judy by Bill Kurtz. It has tongue-like leaves and is growing under her Redwood tree since it prefers bright light. It is not drought tolerant. It offsets readily and grows to flowering size of 1' tall and 1 to 2' wide in two years. It likes to be crowded in the pot and if snails eat the leaves it will not recover until the following year. Bloom starts in late summer through early fall and was blooming in October.

***Haemanthus* hybrid**—Judy is not sure where this red one came from and believes it might be a hybrid. (Possibly a cross of *H. albiflos* x *H. coccineus*) It hasn't given any offsets yet but Janet has first dibbs when it does.



~Ana Muir

Upcoming Meetings

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 Horticulture Society is still accepting seeds for their annual Seed Exchange. To share seeds please place them in a paper envelope with the botanical name on the outside and send them to: Dave Tivol, 130 Locksunart Way #2, Sunnyvale CA 94087- 4666 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/>.



**Next Month –
Sunday, November 14th**

**SPREAD THE WORD
PLANT AND BOOK SALE**

PLANT AND BOOK SALE!

CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

**Where: San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue and Lincoln**

**When: Sunday, November 14, 2021
11 AM – 3 PM**

Over 400 plants of all sorts for sale.

Many unusual plants that are hard to find elsewhere.

Hundreds of horticultural books from
Ted Kipping's unique botanical and gardening collection.

Cash and check accepted.

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. Submit your photos of plants that you wish to share along with the botanical and common name (if you know them) to info@westernhort.org by Monday, November 8th. Either send or be prepared to speak online about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water and other growth requirements. If you have plants that you would like help identifying or want some cultural advice on, feel free to submit those also.

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 Shepherd

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: Ursula Haschke

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),

Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Scholarships: Grace Tsang and Jennifer Doniach

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 : November 10th

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 or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342