



### **New Meeting Location for 2016-2017**

Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos, CA 94022  
(Same area as last meeting. just a few driveways east)

### **September 2016 Speaker**

Wednesday, September 14, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

**Speaker: Chris Woods**

Our 2016 Louisa Beck Guest Speaker, Chris Woods will present on

### **“The Spell of the Sensuous”**



In this illustrated lecture, Chris Woods will talk about gardens and landscapes that excite him and plants that please him. He will illuminate the intimate relationship between plants and humans, and why our brains are particularly attracted to landscape, gardens and flowers.

Chris will talk about the value of gardens in creating a healthy society, and what needs to be done to help our children overcome “nature deficit disorder”. He will discuss sexual attraction and its relevance to horticulture, and ask the audience to dig deeper and unearth their creative selves using gardening as a means to reconnect to the wild and deep magic of the senses.

Chris Woods trained at Kew Garden in England and in 1981 moved to Chanticleer Garden in Pennsylvania. He took it from being a private garden to an exuberant, world-class public pleasure garden. After many years as Director and Chief Designer at Chanticleer, Chris moved to California. Since 2003, he has held positions at Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, Ojai Valley Land Conservancy, VanDusen Botanical Garden in Vancouver; and was Executive Director of Mendocino Coast Botanical Garden.

In 2013, he returned to Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Meadowbrook Farm and was commissioned by the Society to design the central feature for the Philadelphia International Flower Show in 2013. He returned to California in December 2013 and is currently Advisor to the Flora of North America Association and consultant to Kids Growing Strong, a national non-profit to teach children gardening for health. Chris is currently engaged in writing a book on contemporary gardens around the world.

[http://www.chanticleergarden.org/garden\\_guide.html](http://www.chanticleergarden.org/garden_guide.html)

**Join us for dinner with Chris Woods on  
September 14th ~ Chef Chu’s Restaurant**

Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

## Transitions

**Marianne Mueller** From Rosalie Shepherd: Marianne had a stroke at the end of July and is currently in a rehabilitation center in Schenectady, New York. She is paralyzed on her left side and has other motor control problems. She is cheerful and is quite aware of what is going on. She will be rehabbing for at least several more months. Cards may be sent to Marianne Mueller, Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital, Rm. 361, 1270 Belmont Ave., Schenectady, NY 12308

**Jessie Shilling** We bid a fond farewell and a huge THANK YOU to Jessie as she moves out of the area. Jessie has been “behind the scenes” with management of membership, SF Garden Show plant signs and so many other tasks that keep WHS running smoothly.

**Julian Thomas “Bill” Parer, MD** With sadness we report that Robin Parer’s husband, Bill Parer passed away on August 3, 2016 while doing what he loved, hiking on Mt. Tamalpais near his home. Robin Parer is a friend of WHS and owner of Geraniaceae Nursery.  
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/marinij/obituary.aspx?page=lifestory&pid=181018722>  
~Judy Wong

## May 2016 Speaker Notes

If you can remember back about four months ago, Kora Dalager gave us a hands-on presentation: “Companion Plants: the Ultimate Small Container Garden”. Kora has been involved in the bonsai world for over thirty years, tending to bonsai and companion plants, leading tours, and teaching classes. She began by showing a few slides illustrating what companion plants are—the small potted plants that accent a traditional bonsai in a formal setting.

Kora went on to explain that while there are no hard and fast rules concerning companion plants, there are some conventions that make these small accents more in keeping with the mood of the display. In general, companion plants should: Be native to similar areas as the bonsai, Show flowers or fruit in the correct season (rose flowers in spring, rose hips in fall), Be smaller than the bonsai and not the exact same shape. Companion plants should not: Have the same color or texture of foliage as the bonsai or have the same shape or color of container as the bonsai.

And then came the hands-on part of the presentation. Kora brought a number of small plants and a variety of pots as well as the various elements of the “soil” mix used in companion plants as well as bonsai. Kora uses a combination of akadama (Japanese clay), hyuga (Japanese pumice), lava rock and very fine horticultural charcoal. Combinations of plants are often placed in one pot for a companion plant. Before potting up the plants, Kora bare-roots them and soaks the roots in a bowl of water with a small amount of Superthrive. She then proceeded to assemble a small companion planting while sharing other tips as she worked. Muck (a combination of clay or soil plus chopped sphagnum moss) can be used to cover the root ball which then can be covered by moss. You can use plastic embroidery canvas to cover the holes in a pot. Don’t fertilize a new planting until three or four weeks have passed. Charcoal can be a helpful addition to all container plantings. You should not be able to see the soil in a companion plant on display—it should be covered by plants or moss. Kora Dalager was able to share many practical tips as well as showing the art and artistry of combining plants into a pleasing, healthy companion plant. She then donated the finished container for a delightful door prize. ~Nancy Schramm

## **Plant Table**

Come by and see the interesting plants that members have brought to sell. Our plant prices are \$3.00 for 4" containers and \$5.00 for 1 gallon plants. What a deal! This is our fundraiser for WHS and donated plants are always appreciated. ~Roberta Barne

## **28 Years Ago**

On Sunday, June 12th, 1988, Western Hort held their summer picnic at Allied Arts Center in Menlo Park. It was a dinner affair, everyone brought their own dinner and WHS supplied drinks and dessert. There was a program at 5pm presented by either "Gerda Isenberg or one of the Yerba Buena staff" featuring either "their favorite ferns or California natives" describing the plant culture. At the time, "Allied Arts gardens are undergoing an exciting restoration".

A summer field trip (Wednesday, August 3rd) took WHS members to Gilroy to see the Goldsmith Seeds field trials. "They grow many of the bedding plants they've produced next to varieties from other seed companies." Following a picnic lunch at Goldsmith (which I think has been purchased by a Chinese company following the tenure of ownership by Syngenta Flowers) the field trip continued on to Saratoga Horticultural Foundation in San Martin.

WHS inaugurated the 1988-89 season on September 14th with a Special 25th Anniversary Celebration. Charles Burr (who wrote a regular horticultural column in the San Jose Mercury News) and Dick Dunmire, Garden Editor of Sunset Magazine told "anecdotes about the early society's hopes and dreams." The primary speaker for the evening was Louise Blakey, author of *Our Hummingbirds*, eight editions published, starting in 1976. Louise was a hummingbird expert, having fostered an injured hummer she named Whiz, for eight months. She took Whiz out to her garden several times each day to offer him the opportunity to feed on flowers in her garden, learning firsthand which flowers were preferred nectar sources. Member brought flowers in from their gardens which were arranged by Marjorie Branagh in a vase donated by Margery Lindsay for an extra-special door prize. Pat Ley organized refreshments for the meeting. I'll catch up on the September plant notes next month. ~Nancy Schramm

## **Thank you to Judy Fulton: New Membership Chair!**

Judy has hit the ground running! She joined the WHS board in August and now has kindly agreed to manage the membership list and renewals.

Thanks to Judy we have a new email address: [westernhortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westernhortsociety@gmail.com)

General questions and specific ones about membership, address changes can be sent here.

Please add this to your contacts and addresses.

Western Horticultural Society is managed by a Board and a village of dedicated volunteers! We need a little of your time to sustain our many enjoyable and educational meetings, maintain our web presence and communicate with members. Please consider taking on a position with other horticulturally minded and fun folks!

## Current Open Positions

### Webmaster

Qualifications: Own a computer, web savvy, enjoy art, browsing web images and arranging pages

Time required:

Early summer. 9 hours to set up 9 speaker pages with photos for next season.

September to May, about 2 hours per month

Each Month load next Speaker's page to "Home" page, enter Plant notes and Newsletter to web pages

December post Holiday party, June picnic party

March post Hot Plant Picks photos

One hour per month throughout year to monitor sites, Events, Archives etc. and check link errors

E-mail to site is acknowledged and passed on to Board members.

Currently add photos and information to WHS Facebook at will. (I do it once a week) ~Pat Knight

### Newsletter Editor

As noted elsewhere in the newsletter, Marianne Mueller our gracious and capable editor is unable to continue writing and editing the WHS newsletter at this time. This is a great position for someone with computer savvy and creativity. Explore your inner journalist or writer!

Contact Judy Wong, [jwotr@att.net](mailto:jwotr@att.net) for more information.

### Board Members

We are looking for new members to join our board and bring new energy and ideas for our continued growth. We have five board meetings each year, often with wonderful potlucks and camaraderie. See any board member for more information!

## Upcoming Speakers

October 12, 2016 – Rolando Uria, *Salvias of Northern Argentina*

November 9, 2016 – Brian Kemble, *A Succulent for Every California Garden*

December 14, 2016 – *A Celebration of Dick and Helaine Dunmire with Music by the 27 Strings*

*Holiday Potluck for Members and Guests*

## **Partners since 1969: Western Hort and Pacific Hort**

A group of passionate gardeners from Western Horticultural Society, California Horticultural Society (San Francisco based) and the Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park sat down in 1968 to pool their resources and expand on a publication of the Cal Hort Society. Later they were joined by Southern California (Pasadena area) and Northwest (Seattle area) horticultural societies and *Pacific Horticulture* magazine made its debut in the spring of 1976.

This magazine is sent to each Western Hort member four times a year – January, April, July, and October.

The goal was to help gardeners on the west coast learn about the opportunities and constraints inherent in gardening in this unique region, distinctly different from the rest of North America, and, particularly, from the East Coast, where most of the books and magazines on gardening were written and published.

In the beginning, each of the founding societies provided volunteer board members to manage the PHS business and to help with fund raising. (Membership fees cover only about 1/3 of the costs to publish *Pacific Horticulture* magazine — note that our founding societies pay discounted rates).

These past few years informal communication between PHS and some of our founding partners has lessened due in part to it being more difficult for volunteers to work on their own boards and participate on the PHS board, too. But that doesn't mean we can't continue the spirit of cooperation and information sharing started in 1968.

Strengthening these relationships is high priority for us during this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. I look forward to attending meetings, sharing PHS information in your newsletter and talking chatting with you informally during 2016-2017 and beyond.

Best regards,  
Carol Moholt, Executive Director  
Pacific Horticulture Society

PS: Remember, too, that in addition to receiving *Pacific Horticulture* magazine at a substantial discount, you are automatically considered a PHS member and receive discounts on all our tours and events.

## **Horticultural Calendar**

September 6,7,8,

**National Heirloom Expo, Santa Rosa, CA.**

For more information see <http://theheirloomexpo.com>

September 23 and 24

**Succulent Extravaganza, Watsonville, CA**

For more information see [www.sgplants.com](http://www.sgplants.com)

October 2, 2016

**PacHort Benefit Garden Party, Atherton, CA**

For more information see <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/events/artists-open-garden/>

October 1, 2016

**Midori Bonsai Club's 55th Annual Bonsai Show, Cupertino, CA**

For more information see [www.midoribonsai.org](http://www.midoribonsai.org)

October 15 and 16, 2016, Russian River

**Changing Times, Changing Gardens, PacHort Summit**

For more information see [www.pachort.org/summit](http://www.pachort.org/summit)

October 15, 2016

**CNPS Fall Native Plant Sale, Hidden Villa Ranch, Los Altos, CA**

For more information see [www.cnps-scv.org](http://www.cnps-scv.org)

## **It's that time of year—Renew your WHS Membership TODAY!**

Please see the box **on the next page** for additional membership information.

Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. It is important to renew without delay to ensure the smooth continuation of your subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine and to keep our coffers in the black.

Renewal applications with pre-addressed envelopes were mailed in August; we urge you to send in your dues now if you haven't already. If you will be renewing at the WHS meeting, please bring your pre-printed form—this saves time as you won't need to fill out a form. You can also print out the membership form found online at [http://westernhort.org/membership\\_form.pdf](http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf).

Prompt renewal helps those who coordinate with Pacific Horticulture and the volunteers who put together the information for the roster, labels for mailing the newsletter, etc. We look forward to your participation in the activities we have planned for you this coming year. Please see the box to the right for complete details on membership rates and where to send the form. If you have any questions, please contact our membership guru at [westernhort@gmail.org](mailto:westernhort@gmail.org)  
Thank you. ~ Judy Fulton

### **Eight reasons to join or renew your WHS membership**

- \* Lectures by top plant, garden, landscape and nursery people
- \* A monthly newsletter (Sept thru May)
- \* 10% off when buying at Carman's, Summerwinds, Terra Sole Nurseries & Lyngso Garden Materials
- \* Includes Pacific Horticulture magazine subscription and discounts to PacHort events
- \* June picnic at special locations & December potluck dinner
- \* Occasional field trips to local gardens, etc.
- \* Meeting members who are landscapers, designers & hort. enthusiasts
- \* Plant discussion & sale at most meetings

~Richard Tiede

**May 2016 Plant Notes - Jackie Doda** brought in *Pitcairnia*, a terrestrial bromeliad from Mexico. She brought it 9 years ago from Martin Grantham. Grown in a container – this is the first time it has bloomed while WHS is in session. *Salvia 'Celestial Blue'* - Bert Wilson introduced this hybrid after growing it from a seed that he collected in the Las Pilitas Nursery demonstration garden. It is easy to grow in any type of soil and even gravel. It will grow in extreme heat but also in part shade. It has pretty large fragrant blue purple flowers with a pretty potent smell. It grows to a 5' X 5' mounding form and attracts hummingbirds, butterflies (including swallowtails) and moths.

**Judy Wong** brought in *Manfreda maculosa* (Texas Tuberose). This succulent belongs to the Agave Family will grow in sun or shade. It has narrow variegated 1 ft long leaves with red-purple spots, it has unusual 2" fragrant cream flowers whose flower spikes can be up to 7 ft tall. Its pistils have a lot of honeydew. For Judy it flowers in the winter but it should flower in the spring and summer. It comes back every year. If grown in a pot make sure it has a deep base so that the roots have room to grow. In southern Texas and northern Mexico it is a primary host plant for the rare Manfreda Giant Skipper butterfly. Indigenous North American people made soap and shampoo out of the rhizomes.

*Lathyrus odorata* 'Father Cupani'. This is the first recorded Sweet Pea to be cultivated and was discovered in Sicily in 1695. It has 3 to 4 small deep purple-blue and violet bi-colored flowers per stem but they are highly scented. It self seeds.

**Nancy Schramm** brought in several different types of galls: Her *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak) had Oak Apple galls this year. Last years galls were big and shell-like. California Gall Wasp (*Andricus quercuscalifornicus*) is a small wasp which induces the oak apple galls to form. Some galls might have multiple wasp larvae with different stages all living in the same gall. The galls get sooty from the rain. Local Indians would crush the galls and make an eye wash or used it to stop bleeding (but it stung). One can make Oak gall ink from them. Brown hard galls were used in art work while black ones were crushed and used in tattoos. Calligraphers and people who dye their wool buy galls from Nancy! Nancy recommends the best book to buy for further study is Field Guide to Plant Galls.

**Katie Wong** brought in *Goumi Elaeagnus multiflora* (Cherry Silverberry). This shrub is an evergreen in our region and grows at a medium rate to 9 ft tall and 6ft wide. It is a nitrogen fixer and its hermaphroditic flowers (have both male and female) are pollinated by bees. It prefers well drained dry to moist soil, is not frost tender and can be grown in semi-shade, no shade or on the coast. Its red scarlet fruit and seeds are edible. Fruits can be used to make jam, jelly and sorbets. 'Red Scarlet' variety is full of fruits. It will come true from seed. Cora used it for Bonsai. *Amelanchier alnifolia* (Juneberry, Pacific/Western serviceberry, Pigeon berry) is a deciduous, an understory shrub or small tree that can grow anywhere from 3 to 26 feet tall. It has small purple fruit like a blueberry (but it doesn't taste as good) and ripens in May. It is native to N. American and can be found growing at 8,530 ft in California. It produces well, has beautiful white blossoms and is a very attractive bush.~Ana Muir

#### Officers and Board Members

CO-Presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon  
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 [westernhortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westernhortsociety@gmail.com), 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 [http://westernhort.org/membership\\_form.pdf](http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf) for a membership form.

#### Newsletter Submissions:

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 18<sup>th</sup> of the prior month; items received after the 25<sup>th</sup> likely will not make it into the newsletter but be published the following month. Send submissions to Judy Wong, [jwotr@att.net](mailto:jwotr@att.net) or 747 15<sup>th</sup> Ave., Menlo Park, CA 94025.



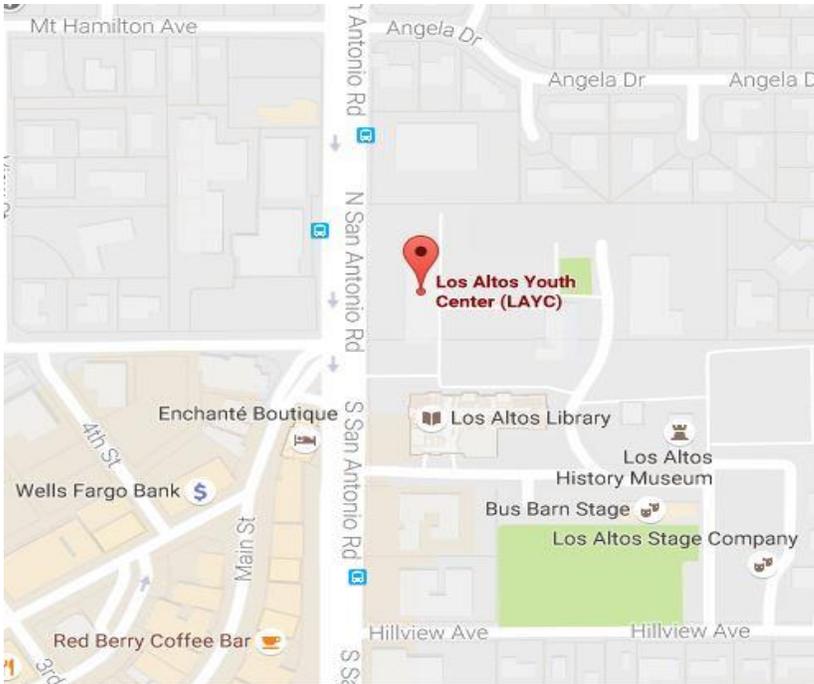
PO Box 60507  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

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VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

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**NEW MEETING LOCATION**

**Los Altos Youth Center,  
1 North San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Doors open at 7:00 pm. and  
meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

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  
Los Altos Youth Center  
1 North San Antonio Rd.  
Los Altos, CA