

## MAY 2018 MEETING

**Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 pm** Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Speaker:** Pete Veilleux, Owner/Propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery, Garden Designer and Lecturer, Oakland, CA

### *Eriogonums*



Eriogonums (the buckwheat family) are a beautiful group of California native plants. Eriogonums are host and nectar plants for butterflies and moths and are a bonanza for bees and other pollinators looking for summer food sources. They are also versatile and attractive ornamental plants. Pete believes that they deserve a starring role in your garden. He will be showing us some of his favorites along with information on how to grow them successfully.

Pete is a master designer, nurseryman, and photographer. He creates gardens using native plants for long-lasting landscapes. He is a tireless advocate for native gardening and a reservoir of information on how to succeed with natives.

Meetings are free for members, non-members \$10. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

**Reminder:** Meeting location for this spring is the Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave, Los Altos.

Parking is limited, so please carpool with friends if possible. For map to the new location, please see the last page of this newsletter.



*Join us for dinner with Pete Veilleux on  
May 9th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.  
Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

This is our last newsletter for the season. Our next newsletter will be coming out in early September. The deadline for submissions for that issue will be August 25th. In the meantime we will have a nice opportunity to socialize with fellow WHS members at our annual picnic on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Please see the listing on page 5 for more information about the picnic. We will also send an e-mail reminder about the picnic in early June. Pre-registration will be required for attendance at the picnic this year.

Best wishes for a bountiful and beautiful summer of gardening!

~Janet Hoffmann

## APRIL 2018 PLANT NOTES



photo: [www.plantsondemand.com](http://www.plantsondemand.com)



photo: [www.viburnum.com](http://www.viburnum.com)



Lynn Chan from Burlingame brought:

*Cotinus coggygia* 'Royal Purple' (smoke bush) – This deciduous dioecious plant can be grown as a tree, a shrub, as a hedge or as a garden specimen. It grows in full to part sun (zones 4-9) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 10-15' tall and wide but can be kept to a smaller size by pruning it. The alternate elongated leaves have a dusky purple-red color in the spring and turn to scarlet in the autumn. Showy small pink flowers start appearing in the spring. Since most do not get fertilized you end up with only a few drupes and the rest turn into purple-pink plumes.

*Viburnum opulus* 'Roseum' (European snowball/cranberry bush or green pompom) – This deciduous shrub grows in full to part sun (zones 3-9) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 12' tall and wide and has a rounding habit. Its green leaves have 3 lobes and its large 3" white "snowballs" start appearing in the spring. These turn to a light rose color as they age. This cultivar is sterile so it will not produce any seeds or fruit.

*Weigela florida* – This deciduous shrub grows in full sun (zones 4-9) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 10' tall and wide. The opposite elliptical leaves are 4" long and have serrated margins. Small, funnel shaped five-petaled light pink flowers start appearing in the spring.

Daxin Liu from Mountain View brought:

*Osteomeles schwerinae* – This evergreen shrub from SW China grows in full to part sun in well-drained soil. It can take a lot of heat. Being part of the rose family, its very small leaves resemble those of a rose and its really cute white flowers look like those of a Hawthorne. The edible sweet fruits may be eating raw or used in making jam. Daxin just bought it a month ago.

Janet Hoffman from Campbell brought:

*Babiana stricta* hybrid (baboon flower) – This South African bulb can be grown as an accent or bedding plant. It grows in full sun to part shade (zones 4-10) in clay or well-drained soil and gets to be 1' tall and wide. Spikes of erect fragrant funnel-shaped flowers follow green sword-shaped leaves in the spring. Janet brought in magenta-purple ones and also has an off-white one. It is hardy to 15°.

*Babiana ringens* (rat's tail Babiana) – This interesting South African bulb (from the Iris family) grows in full sun to part shade (zones 8-10) in well-drained soil. Green sword-shaped leaves appear as a fan and are followed by gorgeous bright red tubular flowers in the spring. After the flowers have opened a longer sterile flowering stalk shoots up which resembles a rat's tail. An interesting thing is that this sterile stalk is needed as a landing perch for the Malachite Sunbird, which then dips its curved beak to get the nectar in the flowers, while at the same time getting a lot of pollen all over its chest. Janet bought her plant from Annie's Annuals.

*Watsonia pyramidalis/borbonica* (bugle lily) – This South African bulb grows in full sun (zones 8-10) in full sun in well-drained soil. It gets to be 3' tall and wide. Green sword-like leaves and bugle shaped flowers appear in the spring on 4-5' tall flower spikes.

All of the above are summer dormant but come up every spring for Janet and don't need any supplemental water.





Photos ~Jennifer Doniach and Janet Hoffmann

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

(cup and saucer vine/cathedral bells) – This evergreen vigorous perennial vine grows in full to part sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. It grew 25 ft. in one year and grabs on by tendrils on the ends of its bright green oblong leaves. It just goes on and on. In the spring 3 ½” cup-shaped flowers start off chartreuse, change to lilac and finally turn a deep purple and sit upon a saucer-like calyx. Bats pollinate the flowers and Katie doesn't know where they are coming from. It is hardy to 28°

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

*Wisteria floribunda* (Japanese wisteria) – This vigorous, deciduous vine grows in full sun or light shade (zones 3-9) in most soils with adequate drainage. It needs little water (deep water weekly in heat of summer) and can cover larger areas with support or be trained as a weeping tree. The sample that Nancy brought in had long sprays of lightly fragrant, double violet flowers. Depending on variety one can get blooms from spring through early summer.

Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought:

*Heuchera sanguinea* (coral bells) – This evergreen perennial grows in best in part shade in our area. It is very hardy (zones 3-9) and needs little water once established. It tolerates most soils with adequate drainage. Low clumps of round leaves with scalloped edges are topped with sprays of tiny bell-shaped flowers on 1-2’ wiry stems from spring into summer. Liz’s flowers were a light orange color but available colors include many shades of pinks, reds, and oranges. (See photo in lower right on page 7 for some of the colors.)

~Ana Muir

## APRIL 2018 SPEAKER NOTES

Theresa Lyngso was our speaker last month and she shared her expertise on all things soil related. She especially emphasized the importance of the soil food web. She explained that healthy soils are teeming with microorganisms including billions of bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes. She further explained that plants and microbes need to live in a symbiotic community. To build healthy “living” soil Theresa recommended developing a high humus content and using nutrient cycling for plant food rather than added fertilizer. If fertilizers were added, Theresa recommends using organic ones. However in most cases she feels that one can let the soil feed the plants. This encourages deep root growth, protects plants from disease, sequesters carbon, and helps soils to retain moisture in micropores.

Getting down into the nitty-gritty of soil science, Ms. Lyngso explained that soil texture is the particle size of the mineral components of soil: sand, silt or clay (going from largest to smallest particles.) The mix of particles determines the physical structure of soil. Plants need soil with lots of micro- and macropores to hold water and air. Organisms like earthworms, ants, sowbugs, millipedes, moles, and even gophers help to create these pores aiding in water absorption for plant growth. Worms also help to mix subsoil with organic matter.

Theresa told us that fungi and bacteria are the foundation of nutrient cycling in soils. Nutrients will not leech out in healthy soils because they are held by these microbes and then broken down and released into the plant root zone. Protozoa and nematodes feed on bacteria and fungi and release nitrogen also. All of the other micro- and macro-organisms mentioned above also help to breakdown organic matter in the soil. Fungal mycorrhizae also extend the root zone of plants and help them to absorb nutrients from the soil. High phosphorus levels in the soil can inhibit mycorrhizal fungi. These fungi are especially important for growing many California native plants.

Ms. Lyngso brought her topic down to practical applications by discussing compost and mulch. She discussed both thermal and cold composting methods. She also told us about the benefits of aerated compost tea which they make at Lyngso Garden Materials. Worm castings were another very good soil additive that she

recommended. Mulch could be from a variety of sources including leaves, chippings of garden trimmings, wood chips and bark. She also said that green waste compost from cities could be used as long as there was no food waste. Sheet mulching is her recommended method for weed suppression. Mulching and dense plantings will help to protect the soil from compaction and also help to prevent regrowth of weeds.

For further information about building healthy soil Theresa recommends information from Dr. Elaine Ingham of UC Santa Cruz and a book by Jeff Lowenfel, *Teaming with Microbes*. ~Janet Hoffmann

## **BARBARA WORL WHS MEMORIAL PLANT TABLE**

It's not too late to propagate a plant for this member-grown, member-shared plant sale! Sherry Hall and I have grown cuttings from Barbara's garden and will be sharing them with members on our May plant sale table. We can't do this without **you**, too. Please propagate a plant that you've been growing because another WHS member originally gave it to you. It's not too late to root succulents or to dig up plants that have multiplied in your gardens and pot them for our plant sale table. Please label with the name of the plant, the name of the WHS member who gave it to you and your name too! Let's share plants and memories, and add a little money to the WHS coffers at the same time. ~Nancy Schramm

## **HOT PLANT PICKS—THE NAMES AND NUMBERS**

I have to send out a heartfelt thanks to all the WHS members who stepped up to take on the reins of the Hot Plant Picks Exhibit at the SF Flower & Garden Show. When Sherry Hall and I went crazy and decided to be vendors at the show, Leslie Dean, Janet Hoffmann and Carrie Parker volunteered to take on the major responsibility for soliciting plants, labeling them correctly and making sure they arrived at the Cow Palace in good shape and on time.



Photo: Lorena Gorsche

The rest of our usual team (Jessie Schilling, Judy Wong, Cheryl Renshaw, Jackie Doda & Krishna Penumarti) continued doing their magic and were joined by Laurie Schofield, Marylou Hadley, Ana Muir, Kerry Barrs, Richard Starkeson, Mark McCabe, Laura Wilson...all of these people had a part in in making the HPP exhibit a success, either before, during or after the show.

In addition, there were 24 WHS members (one took 2 shifts), 6 Cal Hort members (one took 2 shifts), 2 BAGRS members, 2 Sei Boku Bonsai Kai members, 4 CRFG members and one daughter of a former member who watched over the plants at the show and answered questions.

Twenty nurseries donated approximately 168 plants—the stars of our exhibit. Finally thank you to all who showed up early on our meeting night, set up our tables and plants for the big Silent Auction, and for those who bought all but two 4" plants.

I hope I have remembered everyone...if not, I apologize and blame it on my overflowing brain!

~Nancy Schramm

## **28 YEARS AGO**

Western Hort Society met on May 9, 1990 to hear Brian Kemble talk about *The Bancroft Desert Garden*. I expect he also told the WHS membership about "the Garden Conservancy, a newly formed organization whose purpose is to preserve exceptional American gardens". The Sunday following the meeting a busload of WHS members visited both the Botanical Garden at UC Berkeley and the Ruth Bancroft Garden.

May was (and still is) the month for plants sales: Strybing (SF Botanical Garden), UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, UC Santa Cruz and A Celebration of Old Roses all were mentioned in the newsletter. While both UC

plant sales have moved to April, the SF Bot Garden sale (May 4-5) and the Rose Celebration (May 20) remain in May. It appears that Yerba Buena Nursery and Elizabeth Garbett supplied most of the raffle table in May. The traditional June picnic landed on Sunday, June 10th, and was a late afternoon affair, preceded by two Woodside garden tours. Gardens visited were on Family Farm Road and Blue Ridge Lane in Woodside, then the membership gathered at 4pm at "the Edgewood Day Camp, part of Edgewood Park, for our picnic."

~Nancy Schramm

## **JUNE PICNIC**

Western Horticultural Society Annual Picnic - Join us on Sunday, June 10th for our annual picnic for members and their guests hosted by Betsy Clebsch in her beautiful garden. This will not be a potluck this year. Please bring your own lunch and something to share if you would like. Please bring your own plate, eating utensils and a chair sit on. Table space is limited so if you would like to bring a folding table to eat your lunch on, please feel free to bring.

WHS will supply ice, cups, water, soda and iced tea. We recommend wearing sunscreen, a hat, and comfortable walking shoes to wander through Betsy's garden.

Location and directions for our picnic will be sent to you when you RSVP to [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) or call Carrie @ 650-450-8122. (Email preferred if you can.)

Betsy's home is located off Skyline Blvd near Thomas Fogerty Winery down a dirt road.

Parking is limited at Betsy's so please carpool if possible. We will be parking in a field.

Please arrive at 11am so you can wander through her garden before and after lunch. We will enjoy our lunch together at noon. We are looking forward to our annual picnic in Betsy's garden with our members and guests.



Betsy amongst her salvias  
photo: [www.gardensonline.com.au](http://www.gardensonline.com.au)

## **HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS**

**San Francisco Botanical Garden Annual Plant Sale**, Saturday, May 5, 2018, 10am-2pm, SF Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, 1199 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Francisco. Succulents, cacti, unique edibles, native plants, special rock garden plants, mounted staghorns to large ferns, perennials, houseplants, shrubs, magnolias, bonsai trees and much more. Short lectures on subjects ranging from container gardening to houseplant care. Master Gardeners of San Mateo and SF Counties available to answer your gardening questions. Free garden tool sharpening. Botanical Library used book sale. Family-friendly activities including succulent planting and leaf art. Biologist Tim Wong with CA pipevine swallowtail caterpillars and butterflies. Member preview and silent auction Friday night May 4. More information: [SFbotanicalgardenannualplantsale](http://SFbotanicalgardenannualplantsale)

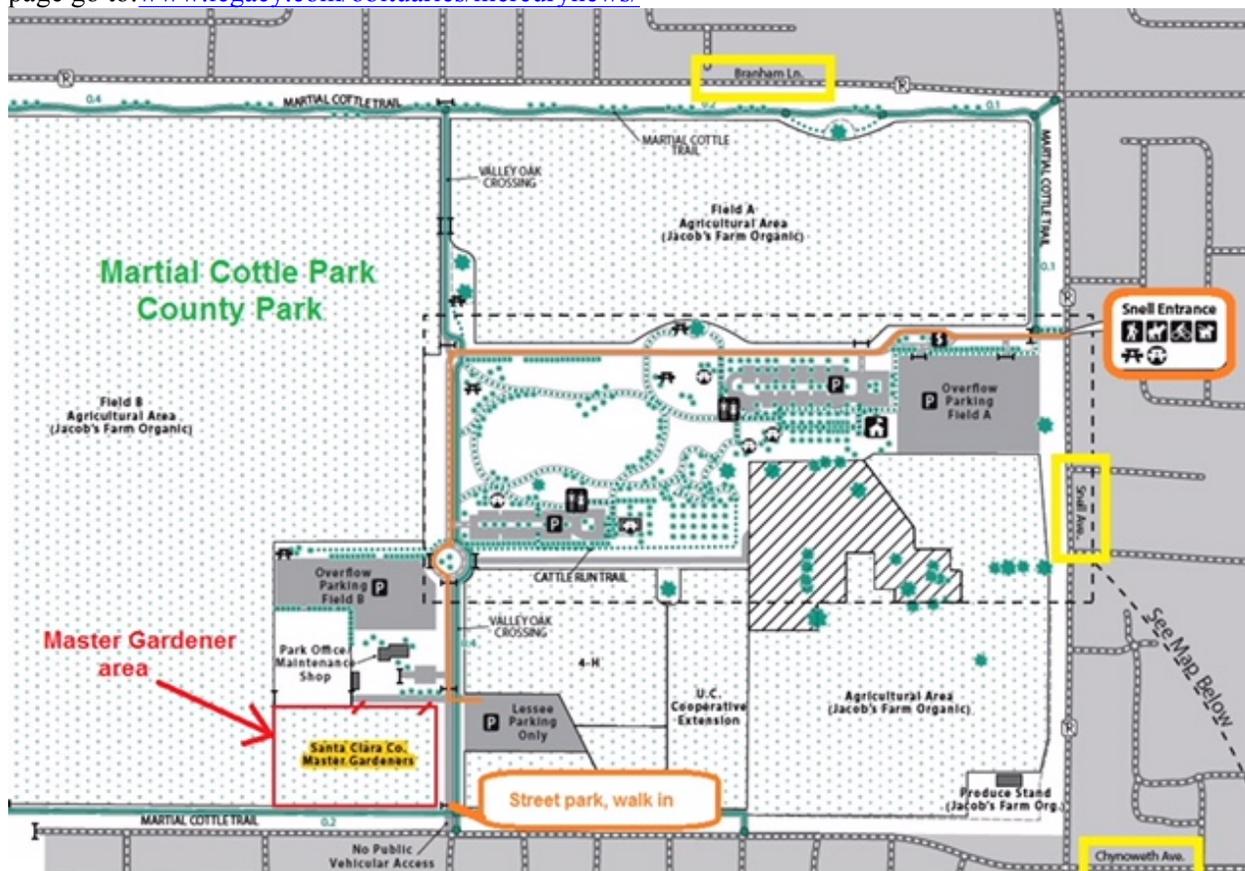
**Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, May 6, 2018, 10am-5pm. This is a self-guided tour of 40 fabulous private gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 60% or more native plants. A number of nurseries will be selling native plants on the weekend of the tour. Art will be sold, and music performed at various gardens; the schedule will be included in the garden guide and it will be on the website in March <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/view-gardens>

**Adopt a Rose for Mother's Day**, Give your mother something unique, personal, and truly meaningful this year! Guadalupe River Park Conservancy's Adopt-a-Rose program includes a personalized plaque in the rose garden and a very attractive gift package including: potpourri from the Heritage Rose Garden, chocolate from Schurra's Find Confections, a bar of scented soap from Renee's Handmade Soap, and a gift card for one free long-stem red rose a month from Citti's Florist. To order a rose package visit the Conservancy's website <http://www.grpg.org/adopt-a-rose/>. Gift packages cannot be shipped, they must be picked up at the Conservancy's Visitor and Education Center, 438 Coleman Ave., San Jose. Rose adoptions are partially tax deductible and help to support the upkeep of San Jose's Heritage Rose Garden.

**Mother's Day Rose Show**, May 13, 2018, 12:30 to 4 p.m, County Fair Building at Golden Gate Park. See all kinds of roses (hybrid teas, grandifloras, miniatures, David Austin roses, and old garden roses from the 19th century) at the [Mother's Day Rose Show](#) in the County Fair Building at Golden Gate Park. Free.

**Celebration of Old Roses**, May 20, 2018, 11am-3:30pm, Veteran's Memorial Building, 1325 Portland at Carmel, Albany. Over 100 feet of beautiful roses! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses from specialty nurseries. Rose experts will be available to answer questions. Vendors will be selling rare perennials, crafts, china, books, greeting cards, calendars, honey, jam, jewelry, and clothing, all inspired by roses. Free. More information: [www.celebrationofoldroses.org](http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org)

**Memorial Celebration for Bracey Tiede**, Saturday, May 26, 10am-1pm on the Master Gardener parcel at Martial Cottle Park, San Jose. Please save this date for a memorial/celebration of Bracey Tiede's life. You may share reminiscences of Bracey if you like. If you would like to bring something for the potluck table that would be fine, too. The Martial Cottle Park is near the Blossom Hill Road and I-85 interchange. A map of the park can be found below and indicates where the Master Gardener site is. To view her obituary/memorial page go to:[www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercurynews/](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mercurynews/)



**Bonsai Show**, June 3-4, Demonstration, Saturday 1-3pm and Open Viewing Workshop, Sunday, noon-3pm, San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo at Beresford Park. Bonsai demonstration by Matt Reel from Portland, OR, who studied for 8 years in Japan under Shinji Suzuki. Door prizes, plant sales, vendor sales, and tree clinic. More information [seibokubonsai.org](http://seibokubonsai.org).

**Pacific Horticulture Santa Fe Folk Art, Gardens and Culture tour**, July 11-17, 2018. Retired Pacific Horticulture executive director, Carol Maholt, whom many of you know from our monthly greeting table, will be leading this trip to Santa Fe, NM. The tour will explore private gardens as well as the Santa Fe Botanic Garden and include a visit to International Folk Art Market and a private tour of the Georgia O'keefe Museum. For more information on this and other Pacific Horticulture sponsored tours go to: <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours/>

**Festival of Fruit**, The California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) celebrates all types of rare fruit at the annual Festival of Fruit. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter will host the event July 27-29, 2018. You are invited to join CRFG and attend the many tours (July 27th & 29th) and hear the speakers & visit the vendors on July 28th at the Campbell Community Center. The vendors will be open to the general public. For more information visit <http://festivaloffruit.org>

**Bay Area Garden Railroad Society Annual South County Railroad Days**, August 18, 2018 Model railroad enthusiasts allow access to their wonderful layouts for the benefit of the local food bank. This is not a BAGRS sponsored event but many of their members participate for this worthy cause. Hundreds of families attend every year. This event is open to the public and you do not have to be a BAGRS member to attend. More information: [bags.org/event](http://bags.org/event)

## ***VOLUNTEER***

If you are a regular attendee we have some important roles at our monthly meetings that we need filled. We need someone to set up the AV equipment (projector and/or sound system) at and store it between meetings. All that you need to do is show up by 7pm or arrange for someone else to fill in if you are unable to attend. You will be shown how to do the setups and will always have support from our members to help as needed. Please let any of the board members know if you would be willing to help in any of these capacities or e-mail us at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org).

### **Officers and Board Members:**

President: Carrie Parker  
Vice President: Janet Hoffmann  
Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other board members: Richard Hayden, Mary Alice Reid, Jean Struthers, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

### **About membership in Western Hort:**

**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership is \$50 for two or more members at the same address and a Student rate is \$20. **To join or renew visit our website at:** [westernhort.org/membership](http://westernhort.org/membership).

**Contributions also welcome on our website.** Contributions and memberships pay for all our great programs.

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

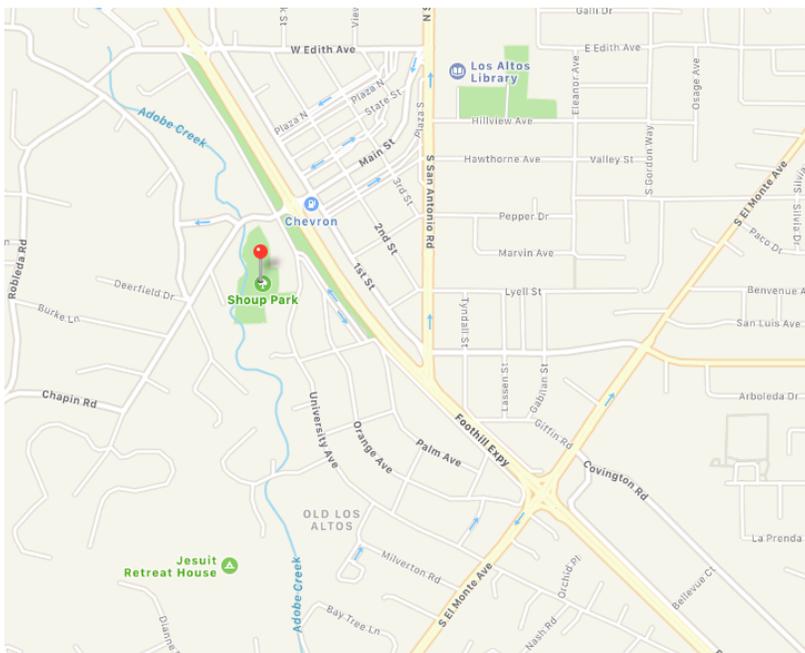


Some spring photos of my garden in Campbell that I thought that I would share with you being as I had the space ~Janet Hoffmann



PO Box 166  
Mountain View, CA 94042  
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



**NEW MEETING LOCATION**  
**The Garden House at Shoup Park,**  
**400 University Ave.**  
**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 Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

**Newsletter Submissions**

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior. Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Janet@hoffmann.net](mailto:Janet@hoffmann.net), or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana Ct., Campbell, CA 95008