

MAY 2022 MEETING **May 11th, 7:30 PM In-Person Meeting**

This meeting is an in-person meeting at the Garden House in Shoup Park, 400 University Ave., Los Altos. *All attendees will be asked to provide proof of vaccination and to wear masks while indoors.* If possible please arrive early to help with set up at 6:30, meeting starts at 7:30 PM. A recording of the meeting will be available later for those who cannot attend in person. Meetings are free for members, cost for non-member in-person attendees is \$10. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

Speaker: Dave Muffly - Master Arborist

Topic: Resiliency; Choosing Trees for Climate Adaptation in Coastal California

Many people are asking which trees to plant in the face of sweeping climate change and are noticing the vast loss of all kinds of species worldwide. With dozens of new oak and other tree species, and a true climate change migration strategy, the fabulous success of Apple Park represents a high water mark in global ecological horticulture. Dave will be talking about key insights and lessons of 30 years on the cutting edge, and will be showing the trees that will be coming to our urban forests in decades to come.



Photo from Calflora website



Dave Muffly has been planting trees, especially oaks, in the Bay Area and other coastal California locations for more than 30 years. A graduate of Stanford University in mechanical engineering, Dave began his tree career with the non-profit Canopy, planting native oaks in a project that has yielded more than 4,000 established oaks in 40 years. He then “branched” into fruit trees, and urban plantings, especially street trees. As a Board Certified Master Arborist, he designed and oversaw the Highway 101 sound wall planting as part of the East Palo Alto Tree Initiative led by Canopy. This radical, 1,000 tree drought adaptation planting proved to be the proof of a concept for the even more radically diverse plantings at Apple Park in Cupertino. Dave spent seven years as Senior Arborist at Apple, where he oversaw and directed the planting of 9,000 trees, ranging from saplings to 60’ tall oaks and 100’ tall redwoods, in one of most ambitious landscapes ever created.

PLANT EXCHANGE TABLE We will continue our popular plant exchange table for upcoming meetings. It is an added incentive to attend our meeting in person. If you have extra plants that have been taking up too much space on your patio or greenhouse or wish to share cuttings, seeds, bulbs or other propagules of plants that you like, please bring them to the meeting to share with others. We also welcome books, tools, pots or other garden related items for which you would like to find a good home.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It has been a lovely April with all sorts of weather - including precipitation! This has made extracting weeds a little easier and allowed the inclusion of a few more native plants in the garden. Send your photos of gardens, hikes and anything plant-wise to WHSmembers@groups.io or post them at our Facebook feed, <https://www.facebook.com/westernhort>, where they will show up in the 'community' stream.

Please save the date for our picnic on June 5th. See page 5 for more information.

Also see page 3 for details of the May 14th tree tour on the periphery of Apple Park, led by our May speaker, Dave Muffly.

~ Grace Tsang

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Special Bonsai Auction July 9, 2022 - Saturday 11 AM - 4 PM located at the Lakeside Park Garden Center 666 Bellevue Ave., Oakland, California

Dennis and Joanne Makishima have donated their entire personal bonsai collection and related materials. Some 40 years of accumulation in bonsai history. (Long time WHS members may remember Dennis speaking at one of our meetings years ago.) This is the largest donation ever of bonsai trees and related materials to the Bonsai Garden at Lake Merritt, Oakland, California. This auction will feature legacy pines and more from the mid-1950's to early 1960's, significant to the Japanese American bonsai pioneers - Iseyama Furusawa, Mas Imazumi, Jimmy Inadomi, Toshio Saburomaru, Peter Sugawara, Johnny Uchida, and others. Most Japanese American hobbyists started their bonsai from seed in the 1950's after release from WWII imprisonment, making this an extraordinary, one of a kind auction.

Sale following immediately after the auction. <https://bonsailakemerritt.com>



Celebration of Old Roses Sunday, May 15th Veteran's Memorial Building , 1325 Portland at Carmel, Albany, CA 94706. Six tables of beautiful cut roses, rose experts to answer questions, heirloom and hard to find roses from specialty nurseries, vendors selling rare perennials, crafts books and much more all inspired by roses. Free Admission. For more information: <http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org/celebration-of-old-roses.php>

Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Show Saturday and Sunday June 4th and 5th 10am - 4pm The Sei Boku Bonsai Kai Club is hosting this show at the San Mateo Garden Center at Beresford Park, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo, CA. On Saturday at 1 pm there will be a demonstration by Steve Iwaki and on Sunday at 1 pm a workshop led by Jerry Carpenter and Valerie Monroe with a raffle for the "workshop tree" after. Free Admission. <https://seibokubonsaikai.org/activities/>

Bay Area Garden Railroad Open House Tour August 20th 9am - 4pm. Information will be available soon on the BAGRS website <https://bagrs.org> If anyone would like the guide book call Nancy Schramm (408-847-2313) and give her your email address.

Plant Share

You will once again have the opportunity to bring actual plants or cuttings to the May meeting for sharing information about with others in attendance. Please be ready with information about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water and other growth requirements. If you have plants that you would like help identifying or for which you want some cultural advice, feel free to bring these also.

APRIL SPEAKER NOTES

Patricia Rain gave a very interesting and informative overview of the cultivation and processing of vanilla beans as well as educating us on the socially conscious aspects of supporting the vanilla farmers worldwide. When asked how she got into the promotion of pure and natural vanilla and the writing of her book, *Vanilla: The Cultural History of the World's Favorite Flavor and Fragrance*, she said that she “fell down a rabbit hole!” It happened that a book she wrote about artichokes was a big hit which caused Hank Kaestner from McCormick and Company to ask her if she knew anything about vanilla beans. Would she write a book about vanilla? When he promised to buy 3,500 copies her publisher said “Okay!” She didn’t know anything about growing vanilla, but off she went to find out. Her first trip to a growing region was in 1992. Photos from trips to Mexico, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, India, Polynesia, Hawaii and Tahiti were shown.

Ms. Rain launched her Vanilla Company in 2001 as a socially conscious educational site and wholesale business focused on pure vanilla and the promotion of those who grow it worldwide. As farming can be difficult everywhere, it is even more so with the emerging countries of the world where farmers have difficulty receiving a fair wage for the work they do. She remains a supportive voice for the small vanilla farmers of the world.

It is with this concept in mind that in 2009, Patricia expanded the scope of her site by including detailed information about the communities, commodities, economies and the environment of the regions that fall 23 1/2 degrees north and south of the equator. Patricia said that these are the people who deserve our support.

Vanilla production is a very labor-intensive job requiring the farmer to hand pollinate the flowers, which open up at 5–6am, then they must finish before 10am when it gets too hot. Each flower is only open for one day. The vanilla orchid flowers in clusters and they do not all open at once, so hand pollination must take place every morning in order to pollinate all the flowers in each cluster. Once the beans turn yellow they must be harvested before they split open and lose their essential oils. Timing is critical. Once picked, the beans must be cured. Different regions of the vanilla growing world cure the beans differently from each other. One method requires soaking the beans in big pots of water, after which the beans are drained and then placed in burlap lined boxes to sweat. Next they are laid out to dry on straw mats. It takes up to six weeks to process a crop. After processing is completed the beans are hand bundled and stacked in boxes to be shipped around the world.

Propagation of vanilla plants is another challenge as they are difficult to start from seed. Commonly grown from cuttings it then takes 18 months before the first flowers buds form on the new vines. Patricia showed us how, in Madagascar, the vanilla vines wind up around the trunk of the trees. In some countries, the beans are grown on vertical mesh tubes filled with bark in greenhouses to protect them. They need 50% shade and 50% sun. The Bay Area could grow vanilla if we grew them in greenhouses as they do in Tahiti.

Her final comments were to be sure to know the source of your vanilla as there are some companies that take short cuts and use imitation vanilla in production of their extracts or paste. She encouraged us to use vanilla in anything we cook as it acts as a lifter and smooths the flavors. Finally, her favorite vanilla ice cream? Strauss Ice Cream hands down!

For other recipes: www.VanillaQueen.com or her book *The Vanilla Chef*. Her email: rain@vanillaqueen.com

~Rosalie Shepherd

Western Horticultural Society Field Trip Opportunity: Saturday, May 14 - Apple Park, Cupertino

Dave Muffly has graciously offered to give our members a tour of the perimeter trees at Apple Park where he directed the planting of 9,000 trees ranging from saplings to 60 foot oaks and 100 foot redwoods in one of the most ambitious landscapes ever created. This tour will provide insight into the landscapes of our future.

The tour will follow the public sidewalk so tour size is limited to 15 per tour group and for **members only** at this time. The tour is free but please note, due to the small size of the tour group, **we will be charging \$20 for no shows.**

PARKING: 10983 N. Wolfe Road, Cupertino in the shopping center at the corner of E. Homestead Road and N. Wolfe Road where the 99 Ranch Market is. **MEET:** We will meet at the South East corner of E. Homestead Road and N. Wolfe Road across the street from 99 Ranch Market. **See map on page 7.**

Choose from two tour times. Each should last approximately 2 hours and start promptly on time. Please show up a few minutes early so we can check you off our list of attendees. No walk-ins allowed.

TOUR 1: 9:00am to 11am **TOUR 2:** 1:00pm to 3pm **TO SIGN UP:** Register for tour of your choice at this Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-tour-of-the-trees-at-apple-park-with-dave-muffly-tickets-326248657517>

ONE person per registration and MEMBERS only. Contact Leslie Dean at lesliekdean@sonic.net or call her at 650 966-8364 to register if you have trouble with Eventbrite.

APRIL PLANT SHARE

Leslie Dean from Mountain View presented:

Callistemon 'Jeffers' (Purple Bottlebrush) – this drought tolerant evergreen shrub grows in full sun (zones 9–11) in well-drained soil and needs little water once established. It gets to be 6–10' tall x 5' wide, can be shaped as a small tree and takes pruning well. The green leaves are smaller than other Callistemons. Purple-magenta flowers bloom year-round, but there are more in the summer and fall. It is blooming right now and Leslie wonders if it is confused because of the fluctuating temperatures we've been having lately. Bees and hummingbirds love the flowers. It is hardy to 15–20°. The genus derives from the Greek word 'Kallos' which means beautiful and 'stemon' which refers to the very visible stamens that we all notice.



Callistemon 'Cane's Hybrid' (Cane's Bottlebrush) – this drought tolerant evergreen shrub grows in full sun (zones 9–11) in well-drained soil and needs little water once established. It gets to be 10–20' tall x 10–15' wide. It can also be trained into a tree. Its weeping branches have soft gray green leaves. Leslie loves the soft pale pink flowers, which appear mostly in the spring and summer. She first saw this plant in Roberta Barnes yard. It also attracts bees and hummingbirds and is hardy to 15–20°.

Manfreda undulata 'Mint Chocolate Chip' – this easy to grow succulent grows in full sun to part shade (zones 7–9) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 3' tall and wide. Leslie loves the amazing foliage. The leaves are long, wide, wavy, spineless, are a silvery blue-green color and have almost black mottled spots. It is drought tolerant once established and is hardy to 15°. Manfreda is named in honor of the Italian botanist Manfredus de Monte Imperiale. Undulata is a reference to the wavy-edged leaves.



Mangaves are crosses between agaves and manfredas which have the form of an *Agave* and the faster growth rate and colorful pattern from the *Manfreda*. Most are monocarpic (the mother plant dies after flowering) but they usually will send out pups. They all grow in full to part sun (zones 9–11) in well-drained soil and are drought tolerant once established.



'Catch a Wave'



'Red Wing'



'Whale Tale'

Mangave 'Catch a Wave' – Has thick, silvery grey foliage with many small burgundy spots and serrated margins. Tubular yellow flowers appear in the summer. It gets to be 20" tall x 30" wide and is hardy to 25°.

Mangave 'Red Wing' – Has light burgundy-red leaves with faint green undertones, but the colors can vary due to the sun it gets. It will have better color with more sun. The margins are finely toothed. It gets to be 16" tall x 26" wide and is hardy to 25°.

Mangave 'Whale Tale' – Has large, wide, blue-gray leaves with light burgundy spotting. Tubular yellow flowers appear in the summer. It gets to be 20" tall x 30" wide. It is hardy to 17°.

Carol Dahout from San Jose presented:



'Premonition of Spring'



Candy Apple Classic

'Candy Apple Classic'



Sand Dancer - AB

'Sand Dancer'

Iris 'Premonition of Spring' – Garry Knipe introduced this Pacific Coast native iris in 2012. It has slightly ruffled white standards with lavender purple venation. The falls are medium lavender with dark purple venation and signal. It gets to be 1' tall, flowering in early to mid season.

Iris 'Candy Apple Classic' – William Maryott introduced this tall bearded Iris in 1999. It has maroon standards and fall that also have a purplish band in the center and extend to the edge of the petals. It gets to be 3' tall flowering in the early midseason.

Iris 'Sand Dancer' – Richard Tasco introduced this Arilbred Iris in 2010. It has tan standards with reddish venation. The falls are a spotted tawny brown with a light interspersed splattering of light brown. It gets to be 32" tall flowering in the midseason.



Heart of Hearts - AB

'Heart of Hearts'

Iris 'Hearts of Hearts' – Paul Black introduced this Arilbred Iris with ruffled flowers in 2015. It has white standards and light blue lavender falls with a rusty chocolate signal. It gets to be 2' tall flowering in the mid to late season.

Carol also presented some Pacific Coast native seedlings that have not yet been introduced.

~ Submitted by Ana Muir



1702_1

Unnamed seedling

Upcoming Meetings

June Picnic - Sunday June 5th, Williams House Garden at the Museum of American Heritage, 351 Homer Ave., Palo Alto.

The WHS picnic will be from 12:00–3:00pm. Everyone should bring their own lunch with extra if you have something you wish to share. There will be tables set up under an arbor for eating.

Homer Ave. is a one way street and best accessed from Waverley St. All parking is on the street which has unlimited parking on the weekends. Parking can be a bit tight so carpooling is probably a good idea.

A Brief History of the Garden

Bequeathed to Palo Alto in 1997 the garden reopened after a significant restoration. This garden is representative of an early 20th century residential landscape. Featuring “outdoor rooms”, fountains and ponds, it is probably the only preserved landscape in Palo Alto that is historically accurate. There is also a Victory Garden at the Museum of American Heritage based on the 1943 Sunset Vegetable Garden Book. All plants are period appropriate including only varieties of vegetables, flowers and fruit trees available to Californians in the early 1940's.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on May 11, 1994 to hear “Trevor Nottle, Australian author of several books...speak on *Perennials in the Garden*. Bill Grant tells me that he is a very engaging speaker.”

Announcements included:

- Plants for last month’s raffle were supplied by Ed Carman and Tiedemann Nursery, Soquel.
- Keith Bickford’s sculpture garden will be open June 5th.
- Field trip on May 15 to gardens in the East Bay will include that of Sharon Osmond, Roger Raiche, Harland Hand and Michael Barclay.
- A small group of enthusiasts worked very hard on our exhibit for the S.F. Landscape Show. They did a superb job and our *Japanese Garden with California Manners* was much admired.

May’s Plant Notes proved that spring was in full swing!

Lyn Dearborn brought a *Hippeastrum x johnsonii* blossom and recommended her method of care: “dig a hole somewhere in the garden, plunge the pot in and forget it, until lo and behold one day, if you are lucky, you will be surprised by brilliant scarlet flowers.” She also brought *Linaria purpurea* (our Plant Note author Elizabeth Garbett mentioned that while this is not one of her favorite plants, she recently “saw some new hybrids that really interested me, they are called the Hartwood hybrids and come in a wide variety of colors and color combinations, have larger flowers and more of them.”). In addition, “A charming little late-flowering bulb from Lyn’s garden is *Lapeirousia laxa*, a member of the iris family from South Africa.” (This small bulb is also known as *Anomatheca laxa* and *Freesia laxa*. – NLS)

From Bill Duncan’s garden came “*Heracleum spondylium* v. *montanum* (*H. lanatum*), good old cow parsley. The tiny creamy white flowers are borne in enormous flat umbels, much prized by flower arrangers.” Bill also brought a white form of *Thalictrum aquilegifolium* (so called because its foliage resembles that of columbine) and a “corn cockle, *Agrostemma githago* ‘Milius’...an annual...with exceptionally deep reddish purple flowers.”

Liz Calhoun brought in two plants, looking for information about them. (This is a great idea and another great motivation to participate in our plant share! – NLS) She wanted to learn about propagation of *Romneya coulteri* (matilija poppy) and needed help getting her *Salvia leucophylla* to bloom.

“Chris Egan showed two forms of *Carpenteria californica*, the regular species and the cultivar ‘Elizabeth’, showing the superior size of the latter’s flowers.”

“John Hammerschmidt showed a great pot of a very double pink pelargonium called ‘Granny Rose’ with flowers like little old-fashioned roses. But the identity of ‘Granny’ remains a mystery. Was she a person or does the name refer to the sort of roses that would grow ‘round the cottage door? One can only speculate.” (I’m wondering if this is the pelargonium shared by Judy Wong —one that she and John have traded back and forth from time to time? – NLS)

Sherry Austin shared a white blooming *Clematis albicoma*, which Elizabeth theorized might be somewhat confused with *C. ochroleuca*, another northeast U.S. native.

“Maggie Gage brought a little of everything in her garden. It is quite astonishing how much she grows in her tiny patio garden, there were a full dozen flowers in her bouquet.” Blossoms included: *Oxypetalum caeruleum* (unique shade of blue), *Campanula rampunculoides*, *Alyogyne huegelii*, “The display of flowers from *Asarum caudatum*, our native ginger, looked like a dish of mice”, and *Liriodendron tulipifera*. Elizabeth added “I liked her perennial scabiosa which was a deeper blue than most I’ve seen.” (I suspect this scabiosa may have come from Carman’s Nursery, a seedling grown selection originally made by nurseryman Bill Schmidt. I’ve since lost the plant and would be ever so grateful if someone might still be growing it? – NLS)

And finally, Elizabeth Garbett brought “the rose ‘Sparrieshoop’, a very vigorous climber that has outgrown its trellis in just two years. It is a single pink, the flowers borne in clusters that open successively so that each cluster has several shades of pink at any one time.” She also brought *Deutzia x hyb* ‘Magician’. “The flowers are large for a deutzia, a mauve-pink edged in white, purple on the outside...every year it enchants me all over again.”

There was one final newsletter for the 1993-1994 WHS season, primarily to announce the Annual Picnic that was to be held at Yerba Buena Nursery on June 12th.

~Nancy Schramm

Apple Tree Walk with
Dave Muffly

Park in the store parking lot at
99 Ranch Market

Meet at the corner of
Homestead Road and North
Wolfe Road across the street

Be sure to check in with the
WHS member holding the
clipboard!



Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird
Vice President: Open
Secretary : Leslie Dean
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout,
Michael Craib and Janet Hoffmann

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:

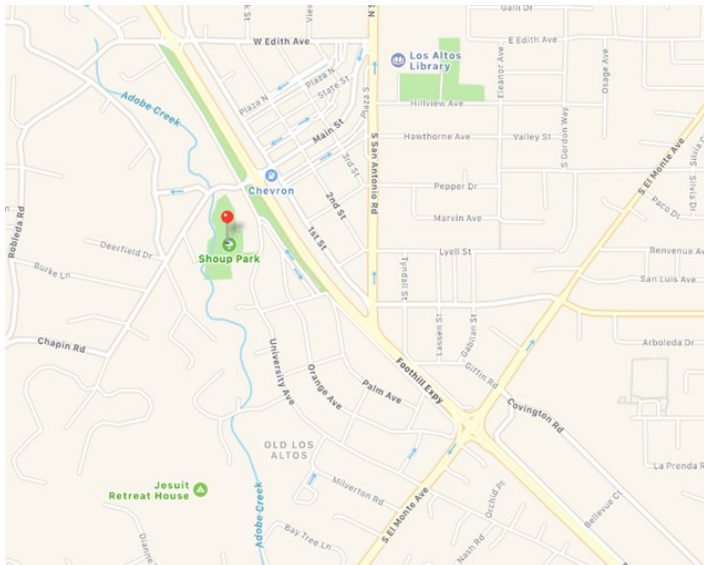
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print 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 : May 11th
In person meeting at the Garden House in Shoup Park, 400 University Ave., Los Altos
Doors open at 6:30 meeting starts at 7:30
Bring proof of vaccination and wear a mask
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 August.** 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