

## **MARCH 2019 MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 pm** **Los Altos Youth Center**, 1 North San Antonio Rd. Los Altos, CA 94022 *Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7 pm .*

*Meetings are free for members, for this special meeting non-members \$20. Information about pre-registration below. See page 6 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.*

### **FROM SHADOWS TO SUN, THE MAKING OF WINDCLIFF**

*With Dan Hinkley*

Join intrepid plant explorer, passionate nurseryman and garden designer Dan Hinkley as he reveals his process for designing his latest endeavor, The Gardens of Windcliff. Dan and partner Robert Jones are famous for Heronswood, a nursery and garden in Kingston, Washington they created and ran for over 20 years. For their new garden located on 250' of south facing bluff overlooking Puget Sound, Hinkley has assembled a palette of Mediterranean and Southern Hemisphere plants arranged in a naturalistic style. Hinkley's presentation will take us through the development of the garden from inspiration to realization, including a discussion of plants that will translate to our San Francisco Bay Area gardens. Dan Hinkley is an in-demand horticultural lecturer and nationally recognized plant expert, with his own line of plants available from Monrovia Nursery. This talk is not one to miss!



**Dan Hinkley**, born in the zone 4 highlands of North Central Michigan, has had a life-long interest in all types of plants from trees to edibles, leading him to receive his B.S. in Ornamental Horticulture and Horticulture Education from Michigan State University in 1976, and his M.S. in Urban Horticulture from the University of Washington in 1985. In 1987, while teaching horticulture at Edmonds Community College north of Seattle, he and his partner, Robert L. Jones, began Heronswood Nursery, near Kingston, WA. Devoted to introducing rare and unusual plants to gardeners of North America, this endeavor has led Hinkley into the wilds of China, South and Central America, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Nepal, Vietnam, Taiwan, Sikkim, Bhutan, Tasmania and Canada numerous times a year for the past 22 years.

Dan Hinkley currently resides in Indianola, WA where he is in the process of realizing his latest endeavor, the Gardens of Windcliff. Among many and varied garden spaces the project includes a large greenhouse, raised beds, and a generous potager for research in edibles.



### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON DAN HINKLEY PRESENTATION IN MARCH**

#### **MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIRES REGISTRATION**

Due to the anticipated demand for this meeting, it will be required for ALL attendees to register. No walks-ins allowed if the event is sold out. Members are FREE and a \$20 fee will be charged for all guests and non-members. Registration is now open to Members and the general public. Register by clicking on the link to our Eventbrite site which can be found on our website. You will enter your name and email address and the number of members or guests you are registering. If you do not have access to Eventbrite and would like to attend, please contact Leslie Dean at 650 966-8364 for registration. Seating is limited so don't miss out on this opportunity.

Dinner with Dan Hinkley is full. No more requests can be accepted.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We want to thank Aaron Dillon for his helpful and informative presentation on citrus last month. I also want to inform those of you who do not already know, that WHS will not be participating in the San Francisco Flower Show this spring because it has been moved to the Cal Expo Event Center in Sacramento. It was too much of a move for us to coordinate the necessary volunteer resources. Thank you to all who offered up to help. Hopefully it will return to our area next spring.

I want to thank Grace Tsang who stepped up to join our board at the February meeting. I also want to thank Jean Struthers for her service on the board for the past year and understand her need to attend to other commitments. We are still looking for one more board member who would be willing to be my understudy in the Vice-president position. Board service is a great way to give back to the organization and get to know other members. If you are interested or have any suggestions for board members or other chapter functions, feel free to contact me at [janet@hoffmann.net](mailto:janet@hoffmann.net).

~Janet Hoffmann

## IN MEMORIAM

One of our long-time beloved members, Sally Casey passed away peacefully on February 5 at the age of 97. She had recently moved from San Jose to join her family in Henderson, Nevada and was with them when she died.

Sally was one of a kind -- active and sharp to the very end! She will be remembered as a botanist for her teaching skills and grass ID field trips, and also as a horticulturalist, for her backyard nursery, where she patiently raised annuals and shooting stars and for her skills in raising fruits and vegetables, a legacy from her youth on a farm in Illinois.

In 1972 she co-founded the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the California Native Plant Society along with several similarly inclined friends. She was the chapter's first Vice President and later held many positions in the chapter, including Field Trip chair and Gardening with Natives chair. Sally was named a CNPS Fellow in 1997, the highest honor bestowed on Society members. Sally had a Bachelor's degree in music, but went on to receive a Master's degree in botany from San Jose State, and later taught there and at Mission and Foothill Colleges. She was also a U.C. Cooperative Extension Master Gardener and active in the California Rare Fruit Growers and the Western Horticultural Society. She earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.C. Cooperative Extension.

We will always remember hiking and camping with her all over the state (until very recently!), and we will miss her showing us \*exactly\* the best roads and trails to find interesting flowers. People who knew her describe Sally as an inspiration who knew how to enjoy life, simply; her teachings gave us a totally different perspective. She will be missed by many in the plant community that she helped to build!

Sally's memorial page can be found here: <https://www.legacy.com/>

~Judy Fenerty CPNS- Santa Clara Valley



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**April 10, 2019**—Ann Northrup, Foothill College, Merritt College. *Bugs You Hope to See Fewer of in the Garden*

**May 8, 2019**—Lara Hermanson, Landscape contractor, Farmscape. *Growing Community in Northern California Neighborhoods*

## PLANT TABLE

We had a great outpouring of books to sell at our last meeting. So many that we will have the remainder on our sale table this month. We also have gotten a generous donation of plants from Monrovia Nursery, who has a collection named after our speaker, Dan Hinkley. These books and plants should fill up our sales tables for the March meeting. If you have plants that you have been propagating, please save them for our April meeting. Being as we will not have plants from the SF Flower Show this year, we will appreciate your contributions next month.

## FEBRUARY PLANT NOTES

Richard Hayden from Palo Alto brought in 3 camellia from Gamble Garden, which has over 65 specimens blooming right now. Camellias are evergreen and can be grown as trees or shrubs in shade to part shade (zones 7-9) in well-drained soil. They start flowering in winter and are pollinated by bees.



*C. x williamsii* 'Coral Delight' - This was a cross between *C. japonica* 'Dr. Tinsley' and *C. saluenensis*. This slow grower gets to be 6-8' tall and wide but it is grown as a hedge with clipping and is growing in full sun at Gamble Gardens. It has medium sized semi-double coral pink flowers with yellow stamens which hummingbirds also love.

*C. reticulata* 'Emma Gaeta' - Its showy large semi double pinkish red flowers are splashed with white patches and it has yellow stamens.

*C. reticulata* 'Francie L' - Has very large rosy pink flowers with yellow stamens. Both of these reticulatas are taller growing camellias that prefer



*C. reticulata* 'Francie L'

*C. reticulata* 'Emma Gaeta'

*C. x williamsii* 'Coral Delight' more shade, tolerate clay soil and are growing under oaks at Gamble Garden.

Glenda Jones from Palo Alto brought:

*Allium* 'Walla Walla' onions starts. This onion is known for its sweetness and size. This onion is a long day grower and has a short shelf life so enjoy it soon after harvest. It should be ready to harvest in 3-4 months when you see that the tops and necks have fallen. Glenda brought them in because the head gardener where she works over-purchased them and she knew just where they would be appreciated.

Daxin from Mountain View brought:

*Citrus sinensis* 'Vaniglia Sanguigno' (Sweet Orange) - This semi dwarf evergreen tree grows in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It is an easy to grow small tree and gets to be 15-18' tall. He heard about it from Luen Miller (Monterey Bay Nursery) and has been growing it for 5 years and got a lot of fruit this year. The botanical name translates to Vanilla Blood and the inner pink color is due to the presence of lycopene. It flowers in the spring and has blood oranges starting in the winter that are almost acid free and have a hint of vanilla. Some people don't like it because it has no bite. Daxin read online that if you want some acid it should be mixed with lemon juice. Only when it is grown in areas with a lot of heat, does the fruit end up having a super sweet taste. It is hardy to 32° and can be grown in a pot. Daxin brought in some oranges for us to try.



Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

3 varieties of zonal pelargoniums that she grows because of their attractive leaves. These evergreen perennials grow in full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. They get to be 2' tall and wide and

*Citrus sinensis* 'Vaniglia Sanguigno'

start flowering in the spring and continue through summer. They tolerate light frosts.

P. 'Mrs. Pollock' is an old favorite fancy leaf pelargonium that was introduced in 1858. It is a tricolor with the scalloped leaves having a green interior and cream edged margins.

P. 'Platinum' - This fancy leaf pelargonium is a sport of 'Frank Headley'. Green scalloped leaves have soft cream margins that contrast nicely with the light salmon colored flowers.

P. 'Wantirna' (Meshed Leaf Zonal Pelargonium) - This unusual pelargonium has soft dark green velvety scalloped leaves with white reticulate venations that really stand out against the red flowers.



P. 'Mrs. Pollock'



P. 'Platinum'

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

Photos ~ Jennifer Doniach

Jean Struthers from Los Altos Hills brought:

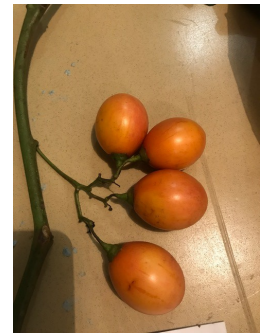
*Darlingtonia californica* (Cobra Lily, Cobra Plant, CA Pitcher Plant) - This carnivorous 2-3' tall perennial grows in full sun in wet/moist areas and can be found in nutrient poor swamps from Northern California up through Oregon. Jean's lives on the kitchen windowsill and she is hoping it will eat the fruit flies in her kitchen. Its leaves have a distinctive curved inflated tubular appearance and reddish spots on what appears to be a cobra head. Jean bought it at a CNPS nursery where it had been grown from seed. It can be found in redwood and red fir communities up to 6000' in elevation. It is difficult to keep alive since it prefers cool and clean water with enough humidity.



*Darlingtonia californica*

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

*Solanum betaceum* (Tamarillo, Tree Tomato) - This South American native is a fast growing evergreen which can be grown as a tree or shrub in full sun to part shade (Zones 8-11) in well-drained soil. It can get to be 4-9' tall. It has glossy heart shaped green leaves with entire margins which aren't damaged by 38° weather. Self-pollinating pinkish white flowers start appearing in the spring. Some people think they have a pleasant fragrance but others think it has a malodorous smell. Katie also doesn't think the leaves smell like peanut butter when they are rubbed between your fingers but have more of a burnt tar smell. Even though it looks like a tomato plant, Katie thinks the fruits have the tropical flavors of pineapple, banana and tomato and the fruits are loaded with antioxidants. The fruit is thought to prevent diabetes and high blood pressure. It is easily started from cuttings, but frost at 28°F kills the small branches and foliage of mature trees and will completely kill seedlings and cuttings in their first year. Katie brought us some of the 2-3" ripe red fruits to try.



*Solanum betacea*

~Ana Muir

## PLUM BUD GALL MITE—A NEW PEST IN TOWN

The Santa Clara Valley Chapter of the CRFG has discovered a mite here in CA that previously had been mostly seen in Europe and the Middle East. It seems to prefer Asian plum varieties and has been seen on many. CDFG has identified it as *Acalitus phloeocoptes*. It is being considered, at least temporarily, as “An organism of known economic

importance...” that might require actions such as eradication, quarantine, containment, etc. The status is uncertain because of inadequate information.

What that means to us is that this has the potential to be a bad pest, and our best approach is to gather data. Susan Casner-Kay is collecting the locations where the Plum Bud Gall Mite has been observed. Please check all plum, almond and apricot trees for this pest, and email Susan at [scasnerkay@gmail.com](mailto:scasnerkay@gmail.com) with the city location and the varieties on which you see the pest.

The mite does not have wings, so it travels by bird, other insects, wind or scions or tools. It appears mostly on fruiting spurs and at the base of smaller shoots. The mites are protected inside their galls which pesticides cannot penetrate. It is when the adults emerge and begin migration that the sprays should be applied. In Europe that happens in May or June but it may be earlier here. Galls have been found in

Sunnyvale, Cupertino, Campbell, Willow Glen and Morgan Hill. Burgundy plum trees have been noted as commonly infected. At first glance the galls appear to be swelling bud wood, but they are not. They gradually get bigger.

Small numbers of infected wood can be baked or nuked in the microwave as a way of disposing galls. A high analysis (80-90% elemental sulfur) wettable sulfur applied when the mites emerge from the galls, usually in March to April is possibly effective. Several sprays may be necessary during the period of migration to new host sites and the timing is critical. Apricot foliage is very sensitive to sulfur so the treatment on apricots should only be applied before the leaves appear.

We will share more information as it becomes available.

~Nancy Schramm

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**San Francisco Flower and Garden Show** March 21—24, **MOVED to SACRAMENTO**. CAL EXPO Pavilion Building, 1600 Exposition Blvd., Sacramento, CA. 95815

The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show features fabulous display gardens as well as beautiful floral arrangements, informative workshops and seminars and more than 250 vendors of everything for your garden. It has been one of the top shows in the nation and internationally. <https://www.sfgardenshow.com/the-show> for tickets and more information.

**Edgewood Wildflower Walks**, March 16-June 2, 2019, every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-1pm, Edgewood Park, 10 Old Stage Coach Road, Redwood City.

Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned throughout California for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk! Free walks are led by docents at Edgewood Park every Saturday and Sunday from March 16 through June 2 and vary according to what's in bloom. The walk covers about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops. Walks start from the Bill & Jean Lane Education Center and, on Saturdays in April, also from the Clarkia trailhead. Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish. Walks don't stop for lunch, but picnic tables are usually available after the walks in the Old Stage Day Camp area.

<https://parks.smcgov.org/edgewood-wildflower-walks>

**Santa Clara County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market**, Saturday, April 13, 9am-2pm, Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose.

The [Spring Garden Market](#) is their annual spring extravaganza that you do not want to miss! It's a huge plant sale with educational talks and information tables. Outside Vendors are returning to the Market after last years absence! Full details can be found on their Spring Garden Market page. The event is on rain or shine! Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. For more information about classes [mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/](https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/)

### SHRE Call for Proposals 2019-2020

The Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment is pleased to invite representatives of California institutions of higher learning and California horticultural organizations to submit proposals for funding from the endowment for the period beginning **July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**.

The goal of the Saratoga Horticultural Research Endowment is to support research that fosters the introduction of new and improved plants for California gardens and ornamental landscapes. Research proposals for funding should address this goal and include educational components that enhance western ornamental horticulture through the introduction of shade trees, California natives, or other drought-tolerant plants suitable for landscape use in California.

[Link for more information](#)

## 28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on March 13, 1991 to hear "Bob Hornback, nurseryman specializing in grasses and herbs" give a talk titled *Ornamental Grasses*. Bob no longer maintains a nursery, but shares his consuming love of plants through teaching, including a Spanish language class that he has developed. He is also known for his collection of variegated plants.

WHS hosted an exhibit at the SF Landscape & Garden Show April 17-21 at Fort Mason. Maggie Gage was in charge of the volunteers at our exhibit. It's too bad this year's show has been forced to move to Cal Expo in Sacramento, that's a longer drive, for sure!

The freeze of December, 1990 was still big news as "WHS board of directors have been asked to have their gardens, such as they are in this freeze-dried year, open for tour." And speaking of tours, WHS rented a vehicle for a group tour on "April 28, Sunday, to Western Hills Nursery and two private gardens in the vicinity."

The Plant Table was full of samples of spring blooming trees and shrubs. Albert Wilson brought in *Malus coronarius*, native to the eastern U.S. and covered with pink flowers. Albert mentioned that birds appreciate the small, abundant fruit, and that the tree comes true from seed. "Barrie Coate showed *Malus* 'Liset', a very different crabapple...it has purple foliage, large single red flowers and large maroon fruit." *Prunus* 'Okame', a hybrid of *P. campanulata* and *P. incisa*, also came from Barrie's garden.

Three more large blooming shrubs on display were *Syringa persica*, *Viburnum burkwoodii* and *Rosa chinensis mutabilis*. Dorothy Rodal brought in the rose, as well as *Clematis macropetala* which has lovely blue flowers.

"Betsy Clebsch has a salvia for all seasons...here is *Salvia candidissima* in full bloom in March!" She also showed a "hybrid white hellebore 'White Magic' from Duncan and Davies in New Zealand that has white flowers of good substance that look you right in the eye." At that time, "breeding programs" were somewhat recently "underway to improve

upon nature”...the “annoying way that *Hellebores orientalis* flowers tend to face the ground instead of facing outward.” It brought me many fond but bittersweet memories to see that “Sally Casey, apropos of the subject of our speaker, brought a collection of native grasses. All are members of genera that are being grown as ornamentals.”

With the benefit of hindsight, it gave me a shiver to read “*Stipa tenuissima* (not a California native) is one of the most satisfactory of the ornamental grasses. It is easily grown from seed and should become one of the most popular ornamental grasses.” True, but! In some areas it can be invasive and has a ‘watch’ rating from California Invasive Plant Council because of that phrase: easily grown from seed!  
~Nancy Schramm

## FEBRUARY SPEAKER NOTES

We welcomed the next generation of the Dillon family, Aaron as our speaker for our February meeting. Coming from the family business of Four Winds Citrus Growers, he had a wealth of information to share with us about citrus. He began with a recap of the family history starting with his great-grandfather, Floyd, who recognized a niche market for citrus trees that were small enough for people to grow in suburban gardens or in pots. He started his first citrus nursery in Ventura in 1954, growing citrus in the metal cans that some of us remember from our early days in the nursery business. He soon moved his business to Fremont to escape the Tristeza virus which was attacking citrus in Southern California in the 1950’s. Since then the family has expanded their operations to Winters and then to Monterey County. Four Winds Growers were able to find Tristeza resistant rootstocks for citrus as well perfecting a unique propagation method that involved grafting scion-wood to rootstock cuttings. They use mist tables with bottom heat to develop roots on the rootstock cuttings at the same time that the scions are taking. The 2008 discovery of Huanglongbing disease (HLB or citrus greening) in San Diego caused them to work with other growers to come up with protocols to control the spread of this disease in California. They have now built extensive greenhouses with measures to ensure exclusion of disease carrying Asian citrus psyllid or infected citrus parts.

Aaron continued his talk with advice for homeowners on how to grow citrus successfully in their own gardens. Planting recommendations can be found on the Four Winds website: [www.fourwindsgrowers.com/](http://www.fourwindsgrowers.com/). His main advice was to make sure to plant citrus high to improve drainage around the base of the tree. He also recommended frost protection fabric or Christmas lights to protect trees in frost prone areas. He indicated that most pests on citrus are sucking insects like scale, aphids, whitefly or mites which are often carried to citrus by ants. He recommends first controlling the ants with Boric acid baits and then spraying with horticultural oil if needed to control the pests. Earwigs are another common problem that can be controlled with diatomaceous earth. Snails and slugs can also damage citrus leaves and can be controlled either with baits or copper strips around the tree trunk. Another newer pest that can disfigure citrus leaves is citrus leafminer. Aaron indicated that the damage from these insects is mostly cosmetic and can be prevented by pruning in the spring so that the new growth hardens off before late summer when the insects are most active.

Aaron concluded his talk with descriptions of some his favorite citrus which included new favorites such as Cara Cara Orange and Australian Finger Lime as well as some more unusual citrus like Keiffer Lime, whose leaves add citrus flavor to dishes and the Cocktail grapefruit which is a mandarin/pummelo hybrid. Aaron recommended the information from the Lindcove Field Station of UC Riverside ( <https://citrusvariety.ucr.edu/> ) and said Four Winds personnel attend the Lindcove citrus tastings to evaluate new varieties. Unfortunately, we not only ran out of time at the meeting, but I do not have the space to share all of the wealth of information that Mr. Dillon shared with us. ~Janet Hoffmann

### Officers and Board Members:

The board welcomes our newest addition Grace Tsang, who stepped up to join the board at our February meeting. We are still looking for someone to fill the Vice President position.

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Richard Hayden, Laura Wilson, Carrie Parker, Carol Dahout, Grace Tsang

### About Membership in Western Hort:

**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. 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. To receive a print copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine you will need to join Pacific Horticulture at: [pachort.org/join](http://pachort.org/join). WHS members can get a 10% discount on Pac Hort membership. Affiliate Organization Discount Code available by e-mailing us at contact e-mail below.

**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.

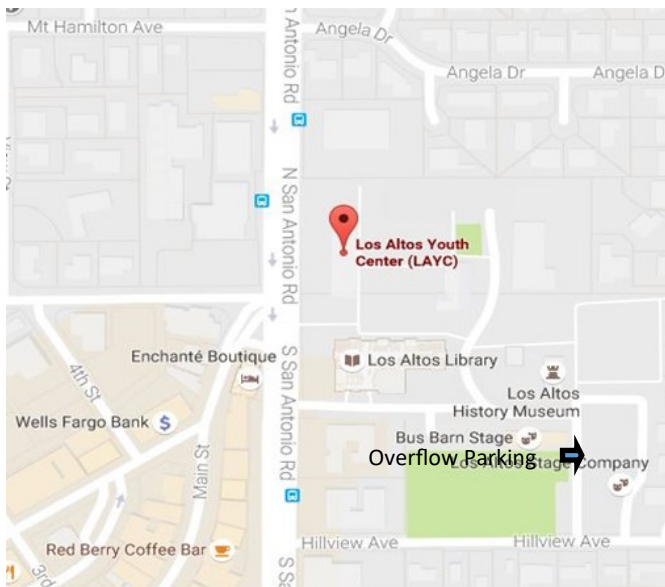
**To contact us:** Please send email to: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042

## Special Request

Due to the big turnout for this meeting please try to carpool if you can. Overflow parking will be available at the Hillview Community Center parking lot located off Hillview Ave. It is a short walk to the meeting from there.



PO Box 166  
Mountain View, CA 94042  
First Class Mail  
VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



**Meeting location March:**

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

Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept.

Overflow Parking at the Hillview Community Center off Hillview Ave. **PLEASE CARPOOL !!!**

Check-in starts at 7:00 pm. and meetings start 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. **Note: deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 25nd of March.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanberg@gmail.com) or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342