

WESTERN HORT

MARCH 2018 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

MARCH 2018 MEETING

Wednesday, March 14, 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: Sue Bell, Garden Designer, San Jose, CA
Producing Food and Beauty Around Your Home

Would you like to create a welcoming environment and productive edible and ornamental garden? Sue will share what she has learned after years of experimenting with non-traditional agriculture. Her gardens share a dependence on natural systems for healthy plants and encourage biodiversity. She will show us how to make a beautiful and sustainable home garden.



Sue has been designing and building gardens for more than twenty-three years. She has an extensive home garden that is a laboratory for her productive and creative endeavors.



Note: New 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.

Another change for the year is that non-member fees will now be \$10 per meeting. If you are enjoying our line-up of speakers, please consider joining our group with a yearly membership of \$35. Visit our website for more information on joining WHS.

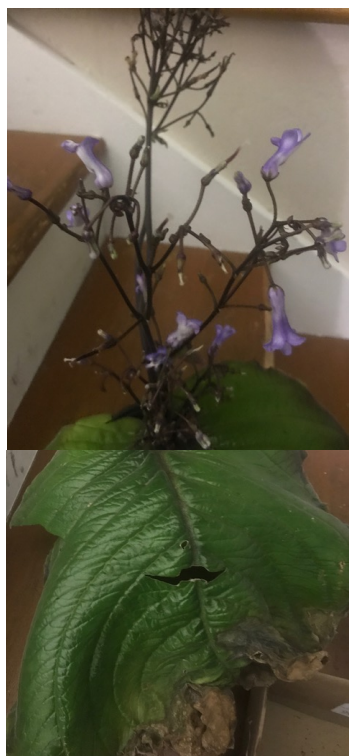
*Join us for dinner with Sue Bell on
March 14th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

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

FEBRUARY 2018 PLANT NOTES

Daxin Liu from Mountain View brought in:

Streptocarpus (possibly *elesyii* ssp *elesyii*) – Daxin bought this South African plant from Monterey Bay Nursery in November because it was so different; it only had 1 gigantic heart-shaped leaf (unifoliate). It grows in shade to part shade in moist soil with plenty of humus. Like many *Streptocarpus*, take care not to over or under water it. This species is monocarpic so it will die after it flowers. Flowers are typical of the genus approx. 1", 5 petal blue-purple trumpets. Daxin is hoping to get some seeds since this is the recommended way to propagate it. *Streptocarpus* need protection from frost and are best grown indoors or in a protected area.



Streptocarpus

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought in:

Babiana odorata – This S African bub grows in clay soils in Renosterveld in the northwest and southwest Cape. The late winter-early spring flowers are yellow to creamy yellow with broad yellow blotches on the lower tepals and with a spicy violet fragrance. Babiana are well suited to our climates (zones 9a-11), needing only occasional winter water and going dormant in the summer.



Babiana odorata

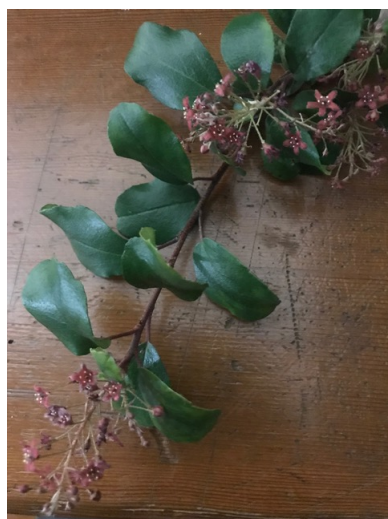
Muscari macrocarpum (yellow grape hyacinth) – Judy bought this bulb in Oregon. This bulb grows in full sun (zones 6-9) in well-drained soil. Bulbs should be planted 4" deep and 4" apart. The greyish-green leaves are followed by 8" flower stalks in late winter. Violet buds open to become yellow tubular flowers that are very fragrant with a smell almost like bananas. It is self-naturalizing and easy to grow with only winter water.



Muscari macrocarpum
yellow grape hyacinth

Jackie Doda brought in:

Ribes viburnifolium (Catalina perfume, evergreen currant) - The evergreen shrub grows in part sun to shade, in any type of soil. It can grow to be 3' tall x 8' wide, it's just perfect to cover an ugly fence. Dark green leaves have red venation that goes well with the red stems. The leaves also have a piney or grape scent to them. It starts to flower in the winter and it is now in full glorious bloom with tiny maroon flowers, which turn into beautiful tiny berries. This *Ribes* needs average watering in most well-drained soils but curiously uses less water (almost becoming drought tolerant) if grown in clay soil. It makes a good groundcover under native oaks. It is hardy to 10-15°.



Ribes viburnifolium
evergreen current

March 2018



Plectranthus barbatus
Indian coleus



Salvia discolor
Peruvian black sage



Oemleria cerasiformis, Oso berry

Photos ~ Jennifer Doniach

Katie Wong from San Jose brought in:

Plectranthus barbatus/*Coleus forskohilii* (Indian coleus) - This tropical perennial grows in full sun in (zones 10-11) in well-drained soil. If grown in zone 9, treat it as a tender perennial and cover it up since it is not frost tolerant. It gets to be 6' tall and has beautiful blue/purple flowers. It is easy to grow from cuttings and it roots in water. It is used in Indian medicine to treat many things including Asthma and weight loss.

Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought:

Salvia discolor (Andean silver-leaf sage, Peruvian black sage) – This evergreen perennial grows in full to part sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil but Liz has it growing in clay soil. It gets to be 3' tall and wide. The opposite ovate leaves are green on top but are silvery underneath (because they are covered with wooly white hairs). The flowers, which begin appearing in the summer and continue into the winter, are an unusual almost deep black purple color that contrasts beautifully with the light green calyces. The powdery gray stems are a bit sticky. Like all *Salvias*, butterflies and hummingbirds are attracted to it.

Janet Hoffman from Campbell brought in:

Oemleria cerasiformis (Oso berry/Indian plum) – This native deciduous shrub grows in part sun to part shade (zones 8-10) in sandy or clay soil. It grows to be 6' and spreads by runners. The alternate 2-5" green leaves are elliptic to narrowly ovate. It is described as sometimes dioecious. The male flowers are showier with ½" off-white petals and can be fragrant. Flowering occurs winter and to early spring. Small ½" fruits appear from spring to summer on female plants, although they are not often seen on cultivated shrubs so nurseries may select male plants for propagation. It is a really easy to grow and an important nectar source for birds, moths and butterflies; since it is one of the earliest plants to flower in the winter.

~Ana Muir

FEBRUARY SPEAKER NOTES

Mike Evans began his talk on "Natural Gardens in Small Spaces" with his drought tolerant landscaping philosophy; "Ugly is not a turf replacement". He definitely does not agree with the Santa Clara Valley Water District's "Brown is the New Green" campaign. He also believes that natural is a more appealing term than native for the public to buy into. Throughout his talk he showed slides and shared ideas on ways to create appealing and inviting gardens without lots of water.

Mike believes that landscape design should begin with the question "What story do you want to convey?" Landscape should be places that invite us to slow down and should be "easy on the eyes, and easy places to be in." Too often he feels that drought tolerant landscapes are designed around efficient irrigation delivery. He derives his design philosophies from plein-air art. He sees "nature as complex but never complicated." He tries

to take nature and put it on a scale of a garden. This involves using plants to create depth, and paying attention to scale, perspective and shapes just like one would do in creating a painting.

Some of the specific recommendations that he made were to create an entry that welcomes you to the garden, rough paths to slow you down and places for visitors to sit and engage with the garden. Another point that he stressed was to use accent plants in areas where they will serve as focal points. He likes to provide surprise and interest to encourage visitors to spend time in the garden. All of the combined elements of a garden should make a statement. A garden should be a place with movement, sound, and interesting visuals. He wants visitors to feel restored by a visit to his gardens.

In his use of native plants in landscapes, Mike likes to create a “regionally authentic sense of place.” He practices what he calls “accessible tended nature” and emphasizes conservation of resources and energy by mimicking natural ecosystems. He believes that gardens should be “beautiful, purposeful, functional, experiential, and restorative.”

Another area that Mike spent some time discussing was irrigation. He has a link to information on his website on how to water native plants: [Tree of Life/wateringnative/](#). Mike finds the most success with mimicking rain by watering deep without runoff. He prefers occasional hand watering to drip irrigation because it spreads the water more reliably around the root zone of plants. He has also found native plants do better with light refreshing sprinkles that freshen the plants, wash the leaves, and keep the soil surface a little cooler and somewhat moist during hot, dry spells. Another water conserving concept that he finds effective is creating rain gardens to collect natural runoff to the best advantage for plants.

Through his pictures and insights Mike Evans left us with much to think about in terms of gardening more in sync with nature.

PLANT AND BOOK TABLES

At our March meeting, we are going to have a big book sale along with our usual plant table. We have a large selection of horticulture books that will be on the tables ready to sell after our meeting. Bring your money and be ready to go home with a few books to add to your collection or to share with your friends. As usual, please label plants with botanical names and bring pictures of mature plants and flowers if you have them.

At our April meeting we will be holding our usual Silent Auction of plants from the Hot Plant Picks at the SF Flower and Garden Show. Also bring in your extra vegetable seedlings to share with other members as this should be an ideal time for planting summer vegetables.

Don't forget: With your help, Western Hort is going to have a very special plant sale table in May. Sherry Hall and Nancy Schramm have been propagating many plants from Barbara Worl's garden. We need you to do the same with plants that have been given to you by other WHS members. Please label with both the plant name and the WHS member you got it from in the first place. Let's make our May meeting a time to share plants and friendships both.

28 YEARS AGO

How apt is this? On March 14, 1990, Western Hort met to hear Barbara Worl's talk *Using Roses in Mixed Garden Plantings*. 28 years later, on March 4, 2018, WHS members and many others who called Barbara a friend, mentor and artist will meet to honor Barbara and celebrate all the beauty that she brought to our world.

Getting back to 1990 an active schedule of field trips was announced: "Sunday, March 18th, we are invited to tour Hakone Gardens in Saratoga with head gardener, Jack Tomlinson." and "Saturday, April 14th we may visit the Kolak garden in Portola Valley to see a wonderful display of Rhododendrons." and, another coincidence with the memorial for Ruth Bancroft just passed, "Sunday, May 13th we are planning a trip to Ruth Bancroft's dry garden in Walnut Creek. Her garden has been featured in both *Pacific Horticulture* and *American Horticulturist* and will become the first garden sponsored by the newly formed Garden Conservancy. We will have a speaker at our May meeting who will tell us more about that organization."

In 1990 the CNPS was leading weekly spring wildflower walks through Edgewood Park. The wildflower tour tradition continues this year beginning March 10th, with the Friends of Edgewood Park as leaders. I'll never forget the wildflower display I saw years ago when I visited with my sister and her kids. But my most lasting

impression was captured on film when I had my niece Jenny act as a “hand model”, posed by some poison oak. Her entire hand, as a young teen, was the same size as just one of the three lobes of the magnificent poison oak leaf next to it. After my encounter with the evil oils last fall, it makes my skin crawl just to think about it.

Since I don't have the plant notes from 1990, let's look at what was on display in October 1973. Saratoga Horticultural Foundation brought samples of *Acer ginnala* (amur maple), *Cassia colutioides* (?), *Ceratonia siliqua* 'Cal Poly' (male form of carob with no fruit); Emily Brown showed *Callicarpa bodinieri* (beauty-berry), *Lycesteria crocothysos* (golden Himalayan honeysuckle), *Vitis vinifera* 'Purpurea'; both Emily and Barbara Worl brought in several *Salvia*; Barbara also showed *Buddleja weyeriana* (hyb between *B. davidii* and *B. globosa*); John Coulter brought *Agave victoriae-reginae*; Jean Carman brought in three or four different *Echeveria* and Frank Duveneck showed three different wonderfully fragrant *Osmanthus*.
~Nancy Schramm

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 12, 2018 – Theresa Lyngso, President, Lyngso Garden Materials, San Carlos, CA, *Improving the Soil*

May 9, 2018 – Pete Veilleux, Owner and Propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery, Garden Designer, Lecturer, Oakland, CA, *Eriogonums*

June will be our annual Members Picnic. If you have a suggestion for a location that will work for our group, please email your ideas to info@westernhort.org. In the past we have enjoyed picnics at members gardens and nurseries. We look forward to your ideas. If you want to help organize or help out also please let us know.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Barbara Worl Memorial, Sunday March 4, 2:00 pm, Christ Church, 815 Portola Road, Portola Valley, CA 94028. Faith Bell invites all of Barbara's friends to bring a small bouquet from their garden to the memorial, if they wish. An article about Barbara will appear in the April issue of Pac Hort magazine.

San Francisco Flower and Garden Show, April 4-8, returning this year to the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City. 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. For more information: sfgardenshow.com. Come to the show to see our booth and support all the small nurseries that will be there selling their plants. A couple of these nurseries are members of WHS.

Santa Clara County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market, April 14, 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. 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 and other events: mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/

Quarry Hill Botanic Garden, Earth Day Celebration, April 21, 11am-3pm, 12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen. Free admission, \$10 parking (cash only). Enjoy these exceptional gardens along with special events for the whole family including arts and crafts, face painting, Sonoma Reptile Rescue exhibits, music and dance and special speakers. For more info: quarryhillbg.org

Gamble Garden Spring Garden Tour, April 27-28, Tour five private gardens and enjoy once-a-year activities at Gamble Garden. At Gamble Garden there will be a Silent Auction, Vendor Marketplace, Over the Garden Fence, and Plant Sale. You may also get advice from garden experts, purchase lunch and refreshments, and listen to live music. All activities and events at Gamble Garden are free. For more information and to purchase tour tickets: gamblegarden.org.

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>

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.

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:

To join or renew visit our website at: westernhort.org/membership.

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 contact us: Please send email to: westernhortsociety@gmail.com
or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042



Our sympathies

It is with sadness that we share news of Bracey Tiede's passing on February 15th following a short illness. Bracey and her husband, Richard, have been active in Western Horticultural Society for many years. They have been involved in all areas of the organization, overseeing projects, taking the lead where needed, mentoring and providing a wealth of information.

Bracey's presence will definitely be missed in horticultural circles. She was active for many years as a Master Gardener of Santa Clara County. Recently she helped with the creation of a new Master Gardener Demonstration Garden is the Martial Cottle Park Community Education Center in San Jose.



Entrance to gardens at Martial Cottle Park

Bracey was a long time member of the Pacific Horticulture Society Board working on various large projects including a two-day symposium held in the Monterey/Carmel area and a huge project working with Carol Maholt to re-do their antiquated bylaws. For the latter project she volunteered in part because she'd done the same thing for the Master Gardener group. Carol could always count on her whether it was for a thoughtful response to a tricky question, time to work on something special, or generous financial support. She and Richard lent their expertise and muscles to help re-organize the

PHS office, devoting much weekend time.

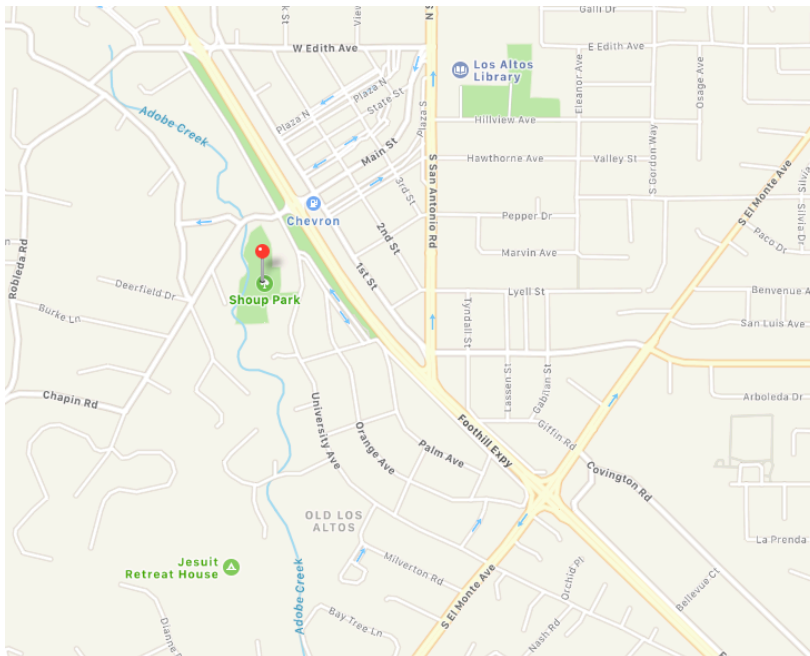
Bracy also chaired the local chapter of the Mediterranean Gardening Society and among other tasks put together a variety of fascinating field trips including a visit to Facebook's Rooftop Garden — only possible because of her wide network and many friendships.

Bracey and Richard enjoyed gardening and traveling widely in recent years. A memorial is planned at a later date. We extend our sincere condolences to Richard.



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, or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana Ct., Campbell, CA 95008