

OCTOBER 2018 MEETING

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

Speaker: Richard Hayden, Garden Director, Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden, Palo Alto, CA

Lush Landscapes with Little Water



Just because we have less water to irrigate our gardens doesn't mean that we can't enjoy a lush, verdant looking landscape. This plant selection and garden design talk will illustrate how your garden can look green and lovely in all seasons, while cutting back on precious water. Many native and Mediterranean climate plants will be discussed for their year-round appeal, and sustainable gardening techniques will be highlighted.

Richard Hayden is the new Garden Director at the

Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden in Palo Alto. Prior to moving to the bay area in October 2017, he enjoyed a 25-year landscape design career in Los Angeles and his work has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Décor* and *Martha Stewart Living* among others. He served for 5 years as the head gardener at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where he oversaw the Nature Gardens, a 3.5 acre wildlife habitat garden, and the landscapes for the La Brea Tar Pits Museum as well. He currently serves on the Bay Area District Board of the Assoc. of Professional Landscape Designers and was President of APLD, Los Angeles District from 2010-12. He is very pleased to serve on the board of Western Horticulture Society and is grateful to all the members of Western Hort for making him feel so welcome.



Reminder: We are back at our regular meeting location: Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos, CA 94022. For a map to this location, please see the last page of this newsletter.

*Join us for dinner with Richard Hayden on
October 10th ~ 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and to our new members. If you have not renewed your membership yet, please renew before or at our next meeting so we can update our membership list. A reminder for anyone who has already joined or renewed and wish to receive a printed newsletter; please send in \$10.00 to receive the printed copy. All unpaid subscriptions will be removed from the mailing list in October. Signing up online is very easy on our membership page (see membership information on page 7.) Thank you to members who can come early and stay after the meeting to set up our tables and chairs and put them away!

I am looking forward to our upcoming meeting with our very own Richard Hayden. I hope to see many of you there.

~Carrie Parker

PLANT TABLE

We will continue our so-far successful, member-grown, member-shared plant sale. We can't do this without you! Bring your potted plants, bulbs, or other garden related items for our October Plant Table. Please label with the botanical name of the plant. A picture and cultural information for your plants are also helpful. Let's continue this great way to share interesting plants and add a little money to the WHS coffers at the same time.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Pamela Berstler, the new executive director of the Pacific Horticulture Society, shared with us her passion for creating sustainable landscapes which she calls "The Watershed Approach". Pamela maintains that gardens are "ground zero" for climate change and that each of us can make a difference in our own small way in our home landscapes. She explained the important place that plants have in the water cycle by absorbing rainwater and transpiring it back into the atmosphere, creating more available water over terrestrial parts of our planet. She calls the interception of rain by plants "green water".

One of the most important aspects of Ms. Berstler's approach is to gather as much rainwater as possible in plants and soil. This can best be done by adding organic matter to the soil which will encourage microbial activity and help plants to build better root systems in order to absorb water. She calls this type of soil a "living sponge" She told us every 1% increase in soil organic matter helps the soil hold on to about 20,000 gallons more water per acre.

Pamela also shared with us her ideas about how "green water" can regulate our weather. As we all know, the sun is our plants' energy source. The 5-10% of the energy from sunlight that is not absorbed by plants is reflected back into the atmosphere as heat. Evapotranspiration of water from plants is what she calls the "small water cycle" and Pamela maintains that it helps to create "predictable" rain cycles. She compared this to hard surfaces like buildings and pavement that reflect 60-70% of the sun's energy back into the atmosphere as heat and almost all rainwater runs off of their surfaces to storm drains. She explained how she believes that reflected heat from urban areas can interfere with what she calls the "big water cycle" of evaporation of water over oceans which creates clouds that then move inland. She contends that urban areas create "heat umbrellas" that push rainfall back to the coasts, creating more unpredictable and violent storms like Superstorm Sandy. Ms. Berstler's approach to the climate problem is to encourage the creation of sustainable urban landscapes using climate appropriate plants. Her ultimate goal would be to eliminate the need for irrigation through a combination of absorption of water by plants and soil, and retention in the landscape by other means like catch basins, permeable surfaces, and cisterns. To read more about the Watershed Approach to landscaping I suggest the following sites:

1. <https://www.apld.org/design-sustainability/>
2. <https://greengardensgroup.com/watershed-approach-to-landscaping/>
3. <https://www.cnps.org/gardening>

~Janet Hoffmann



Dierama pulcherrimum 'Merlin'
Photo: <https://www.farreachesfarm.com>



Asclepias physocarpa



Salvia splendens van houttei
'Dancing Flame'



Impatiens niamniamensis

SEPTEMBER PLANT NOTES

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

Dierama pulcherrimum 'Merlin' (fairy wand, angel's fishing rod) - This semi-evergreen plant comes from a corm. It grows in full sun (zones 8-10a) in well-drained soil and needs regular watering in the summer. It gets to be 2' tall and wide, green sword-like leaves, topped by 4-6' tall arching stems that are covered by pendulous clusters of funnel shaped flowers. This variety gets deep blackberry colored flowers from late spring to summer. It is slow to establish and it doesn't like to be moved so it may take a year or two before it starts to flower. It is hardy to 10°. Judy bought it from Annie's Annuals.

Alcea Rosea (double hollyhock) - This biennial grows in full sun (zones 2-9) in well-drained soil. It can grow to 6-8' tall and has large alternating, palmate leaves. The double blackberry colored flowers start appearing in the summer. Judy's plants didn't get too much rust this year and she will be saving seeds so they will be available in the future.

Asclepias physocarpa (hairy balls, family jewels tree, balloon plant, milkweed) This tender perennial grows in full sun (zones 7-10) in well-drained soil and moderate water. It gets to be 6' tall and wide. It has opposite elliptical leaves with simple margins. Its small 5-petaled white flowers with a mauve hood start blooming in the summer. The large light green 3" seedpods appear to have little green spikes coming out which leads to their funny name. In Texas they call it the scrotum plant. Judy brought in a branch that was loaded with them and she says she still has 25 more branches like that at home. They can be used in floral arrangements and florists will pay up to \$30.00 for a good stem. Judy recommends cutting it back in the fall to increase bushiness. It self sows. (Note that if you do buy it from Annie's Annuals I would recommend keeping it inside for 2 weeks so that no bees or butterflies could get to it since they have to treat all of their asclepias with BT per CA agricultural regulations.)

Salvia splendens van houttei 'Dancing Flame' (variegated scarlet sage) - This gorgeous looking perennial (got a lot of oohs when it was presented at the meeting) is semi-deciduous, short and compact. It grows in shade to part shade (zones 9-11), in well-drained rich soil and it needs regular watering. It gets to be 2' tall and wide. It has short serrated green leaves that are sprinkled with yellow mottling. Its brilliant red flowers contrast beautifully with the yellow/green leaves. It blooms from summer to fall and like many salvias it attracts butterflies, bees and hummingbirds. It is hardy to 20°. Judy bought it from Flowers by the Sea Nursery. This salvia has sterile flowers, so must be propagated vegetatively. If you would like to propagate it, ask Judy for a cutting.

Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought:

Impatiens niamniamensis (Congo cockatoo or parrot impatiens) - This African evergreen perennial is found naturally growing in shady forests so it grows in part sun to part shade in rich well-drained soil. It gets to be 3' tall and 1' wide. Its serrated green leaves have a cream border. The flowers do resemble a parrot having a yellow head with a curved vibrant red beak. It starts flowering in the summer. Liz is growing it in a container so it stays more compact. It is tender, hardy only to 35° (zones 10-11).



Amaryllis belladonna

Amaryllis belladonna (naked lady) – This South African bulb grows in full sun (zones 3-10) in most soil types. Elegant 2-tone pink flowers with a white throat start appearing in late summer and last for 6-8 weeks before strap-like leaves appear.

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Elaeagnus umbellata (autumn olive or Japanese silverberry) – This deciduous small tree can get to be 15' tall and wide and grows in full sun to part shade (zones 4-9). The alternating elliptical leaves are 3" long and bright green on top and like all elaeagnus, the bottom of the leaf is silvery with spots (brown lenticels). It has small yellowish-white flowers in the summer and round red fruit in the fall. Katie planted this small shrub in her parkway on the street and it is VERY LOW



Elaeagnus umbellata

maintenance, it is pest free, drought tolerant and it fixes its own nitrogen (it has nitrogen fixing nodules). The fall fruit hangs down heavy clusters and can be used to make jam or jelly. The fruit has 17x more lycopene than tomatoes. It is an all-around-winner except in areas with summer rain, where it can be quite invasive.

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

Photos, except as noted ~Jennifer Doniach

28 YEARS AGO

October 10th, 1990, Western Hort met to hear "Marcia Donahue, garden designer and artist from Berkeley. She is a talented sculptor with a garden full of horticultural and artistic delights." Her talk was entitled *Playing*



Marcia Donahue in her garden

Photo: <http://quirkyberkeley.com/donahue/>

Around with Garden Design. I would encourage anyone who has not yet visited Marcia's garden to go do so immediately. She opens her garden to the public on Sunday afternoons. It is fascinating, inspiring and like nowhere else I've ever been. WHS had a special invitation to visit Marcia's garden in 1990 on Saturday the 20th, and continued the field trip to visit a garden on 10th Street, "He (Harland Hand) developed the garden for use by laboratory personnel working in an urban, industrial district."

There was an announcement of twenty-one new members since the previous May. I note that one remains a member, one's

husband is a member, and two dropped their memberships when they moved out of the area. (One of those is Del McComb, currently Director of Horticulture at Suncrest Nurseries)

It looks like the plant notes were written this month by Betsy Clebsch, she described three carnivorous plants, *Nepenthes merabilis*, *Sarracenia purpurea* and *Drosera* and warned that "Beware, these plants may eat your favorite fly!" Other plants on display were two introduced by Wintergreen Nursery and shown by Barbara Worl on behalf of Allcin Rauzin: *Allium splendens* and *Globularia x indubia*; Barbara also showed an aster sp. blooming about 2 1/2' tall, the colors changing from pale lavender to pale pink, but "The stamens are pink and stay that way giving the flower a sparkle." Day Bodderoff brought two grasses, *Carex elegantissima*



Globularia x indubia

Photo: <http://dryades.units.it/dryades/plants/foto/TS172334.jpg>

variegata and *Eragrostis trichodes* 'Bend'. Other plants and growers: Bob Plummer—*Aster ericoides*, Sally Casey—*Clerodendron bungei*, Lyn Dearborn—*Tricyrtis hirta* (variegated form), Ed Carman—*Pelargonium* 'Rouletta' (sport of P. 'Mexican Beauty', selected & named by member Bill Schmidt) and David Rodal—*Hypocalymma cordifolium* 'Golden Veil' (this one intrigues me, is anyone currently growing it?)
~Nancy Schramm

IN MEMORIAM

Unfortunately the horticulture community has suffered the loss of more of our friends in recent months.



Miniature Rose 'Lovely Lorrie'

Photo: <https://agrillife.org/rose/a-small-selection-of-moore-roses/>

Past Western Hort board member Lorrie Freeman passed away on 9/6/2018 in Newport Beach, CA. Lorrie served as WHS President in 1991 & 1992, and Vice President in 1989 & 1990. She was well known in the local horticultural community for her devotion to roses. Lorrie became an American Rose Society Consulting Rosarian in 1984. She also served in many leadership positions in the Santa Clara Rose Society from 1984-1992. In preparation for the 1991 ARS National Convention in San Jose, when she was SCVRS President, Lorrie chaired and was the driving force behind a San Jose Municipal Rose Garden renovation project which included the construction of a 12 foot by 63 foot pergola covered by Climbing Cecile Brunner. Later she was devoted to the creation of the rose garden in Guadalupe River Park where she volunteered, sometimes staying all night.

In the opinion of those who knew her she was "The reason the Guadalupe Rose Garden exists today" Read more about Lorrie's life and passing in [SJ Mercury News](#).

~ Lorena Gorsche and John Petrula, SCVRS, Vice President

The founding editor of the Pacific Horticulture publication, W. George Waters, passed away this past summer. Follow [this link](#) to read "Sunday in the Garden with W. George Waters (1925-2018)" by Richard Turner, Pacific Horticulture editor emeritus with additional thoughts by Russell Beatty.

~ from PCS Sept Newsletter

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 14, 2018 – Antonio Sanchez, co-founder and owner of Nopalito Natives, a specialty native plant nursery in Santa Barbara County, *Inviting California to Dinner: with California Native Plant Foods*

December 12, 2018– WHS Holiday Party and Potluck with guest speaker Ryan Guillou, San Francisco Botanical Garden, *Flora of Jordan – Diversity on the Edge*

January 9, 2019– Frank Niccoli, Foothill College and Merritt College instructor, *Planting Under Trees*

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Midori Bonsai Show, Saturday, October 6th, 10am-5pm, Quinlan Community Center, 10185 Stelling Rd, Cupertino. View a formal display of fine bonsai and check out bonsai venders and club members' plant sale. Bring your bonsai tree for expert advice from Dr. Bonsai. 1pm, Bonsai demonstration by Jonas Dupuich with bonsai to be auctioned at end of show. 10am-1pm, Beginners workshop, make your own bonsai. Free admission. For more information: jackchristiansen@sbcglobal.net.

Master Gardeners Fall Garden Market at the **Martial Cottle Park Harvest Festival**, Saturday, October 6th, 10:00am - 3:00pm. We will have a wide variety of wonderful vegetable seedlings for sale that thrive in our cool season and provide fresh vegetables all winter long. Come talk to us and get tips for success with winter vegetables. Arrive early for best selection. Sales benefit the UC Master Gardener program. <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/fall-garden-markets/>

Dry Gardens: High Style for Low Water Gardens, Flora Grub Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Avenue, San Francisco, CA, Thursday, October 11th 6:00 pm, Book Release Celebration, Saturday, October 13th, 11:00 am, Plant Talk and Book Signing We are ecstatic to share with you Daniel Nolan's new book, *Dry Gardens: High Style for Low Water Gardens*. In 2008, Daniel joined our team, working as a salesperson. During his time at the nursery he became one of the Bay Area's top designers, and produced this gorgeous book! Recently Daniel left our staff to begin working as an independent designer, but he continues to be among our favorite collaborators. We will be hosting these two events in October to celebrate his amazing book. [Please RSVP](#)

Garden Goddesses: Four California Women and Their Legendary Gardens Sunday, Oct 14, 10-11:30 am, UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, Berkeley, CA, \$15 members, \$20 for non-members. Celebrate the achievements of great women gardeners! In his new talk, "Garden Goddesses: Four California Women and Their Legendary Gardens," popular garden writer Donald Olson takes you on an informative and entertaining tour of some spectacular California gardens and introduces you to the remarkable women who created them, Kate Sessions, Florence Yoch, Virginia Robinson, Ganna Walska. Registration and more information: <http://events.berkeley.edu/>

Fall Plant Sale, California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Saturday, October 20th, 10am - 3pm, CNPS Nursery at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Rd, Los Altos Hills. Our sale will offer many species of native plants suitable for California gardens. In addition to plants for sale we will have:

11:30am: A planting demonstration by Krzysztof Kozminski

1:00pm: A free talk: *Success with Native Plants for Beginners* by Kevin Bryant.

There will also be opportunities to speak to experts about native perennials, wildflowers, and grasses. Native plant books, posters, and note cards will be available from [Coyote Brush Studios](#)

Public plant sales occur once or twice a year at the nursery. Pop-up public sales are also held occasionally during Chapter events such as the Wildflower Show, Going Native Garden Tour and Native Horticultural Symposiums. For more information: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/plant-sale>

Sonoma Horticultural Nursery is alive and well! Mike Boss, of Rock & Rose Landscapes, saved the iconic nursery and gardens from real estate development. He is thrilled to carry the horticultural tradition that started in 1964 by Stewart Barber, Exbury azalea hybridizer, and continued, in 1976, by Polo De Lorenzo, rhododendron hybridizer and master garden-maker.

Mike's unique combination of skills as an award-winning landscaper, successful business owner, plant ecologist, and civic servant makes him an ideal person to be a steward of the botanical gardens that exist and to transform the nursery into a thriving garden center for the general public and the landscape professional. While he will continue to grow rhododendrons and azaleas, he will diversify the nursery's offerings in several significant ways. His horticultural passion will drive him to expand the selection of shade plants including such garden delights as hardy begonias, bromeliads, ferns, and campanulas. His drive to help people live sustainably on Planet Earth, surrounded by beauty, inspires him to propagate a line of perennial edible plants that can be used to make gardens with: trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials that can not only add beauty to a garden, but can also provide food, teas, herbs, and medicines. His plant ecology side led him to offer native and other plants that will provide habitat for bees, butterflies, and other wildlife.

Mike wants you to come visit! Come see what's happening in the gardens and help him execute his vision. To help you help him, Mike is offering Western Horticultural Society members a 30% discount on plants (except perennial edibles) through the end of October. Password: Western Hort to receive your discount. There are many large specimens available for clients who demand instant gratification, as well as smaller sizes for people with patience.

The nursery is open Thursday through Monday, 9am-5pm. Winter hours (Nov-Jan) are 9am-3:30pm. Closed July 4, Thanksgiving, and Dec 18-Jan 9. Mike is typically there Friday-Sunday and would love to see you!

Gardenlust: A Botanical Tour of the World's Best New Gardens, Christopher Woods

You may remember Chris from his September 2016 presentation to Western Hort. He has come out with a new book that takes readers on a sumptuous global tour of modern gardens from the Americas and Europe to Australia and New Zealand, with stops in Asia, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Along the way, you'll learn about the people, plants and stories that make these iconic gardens so lust-worthy. To order or for more information: <http://www.timberpress.com/>

GET INVOLVED

If you are a regular attendee at our meetings, we would like to encourage you to become more involved in our organization. It is a great way to get to know other WHS members and will keep our organization vibrant and viable.

We have some duties for which we currently looking for volunteers:

- **Newsletter Editor:** Position involves gathering articles, information, and photos for our newsletter and then editing and formatting them into the newsletter and sending it the printer and our web-master by the first of each month, September-May. Desktop publishing skills would be helpful for this position, but are not necessary.
- **President:** Position involves leading our regular monthly meetings, September-June and bi-monthly board meetings and organizational oversight of all other Western Hort activities.
- **Board members:** Position involves regular attendance at monthly meetings September-June and regular attendance at bi-monthly board meetings as well as helping on committees as needed to carry out Western Hort activities.
- **Video set up for meetings:** Position involves storing between meetings and setting up projector at monthly meetings.
- **Meeting place set-up coordinator:** This could be one or more people who would commit to arriving by 6:30 pm to open our meeting place and make sure that chairs and tables are set-up for the meeting.

If you have an interest in helping in any of these capacities, or feel that you can help out in any other way, feel free to e-mail us at info@westernhort.org or talk to any of the current board members at our meetings.

If your time is short but you feel that you can contribute financially, you might like to sponsor one of our speakers! Your contribution to our Speaker Fund helps cover the costs of hosting a lecturer and we will note your name as a sponsor in our newsletter. You can choose the month, speaker of your choice, or perhaps you have someone you would like to propose (for our 2019/2020 season)?

Contact Leslie Dean, <mailto:lesliekdean@mindspring.com> with speaker questions or suggestions.

Contributions may be made at any of our monthly meetings or by mail at the address below or use the Contribution button, coming soon to the *Get Involved* page on our website.

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 an e-mail copy of this newsletter and the Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership, for two or more members at the same address, is \$50 and our discounted rate for Students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail, add \$10 to the membership fees listed above. To receive a print copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine, you will need to join at 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.

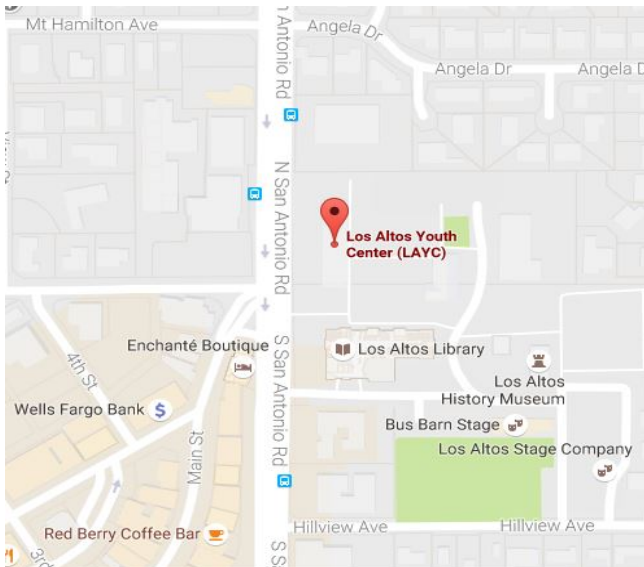
To join or renew visit our website at: <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

To contact us: Please send email to: info@westernhort.org 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



We are back to our regular meeting location:

**Los Altos Youth Center,
1 North San Antonio Rd.
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. Check-in starts at 7:00 pm. and meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

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