

WESTERN HORT

November 2024 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING

November 13th, 7:30pm

The November meeting will be an in-person meeting. Meetings are free for members, non-member attendees are \$10.00. The meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Masks are recommended but optional. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining the Western Horticultural Society.

SPEAKER: JILL SOWARD

TOPIC: SHADE PLANTS FOR THE DRY GARDEN

Join Jill Sowards of Violetear Studio to learn about growing a gorgeous shade garden. Jill will review the various types of shade, give tips on how to make the most of each shade zone, and provide planting combinations to enjoy throughout the year. Jill will discuss a variety of shade plants including a favorite shade lover, the hellebore. Hellebores are winter blooming, drought tolerant beauties which make a wonderful partner to other shade garden features. Jill will discuss different varieties, where to plant them and seasonal care.



Jill Sowards is a gardener and owner of Violetear Studio. She teaches classes and workshops on a range of gardening and design topics throughout the Bay Area and online. No matter the subject, her foundation is always on ecological gardening, waterwise practices and how to incorporate native plants. Originally trained as a public interest lawyer, Jill believes that all people can benefit from building a nurturing connection with the joy of the garden. Her own garden is based in the Berkeley Hills which she cultivates with the help (or hinderance) of her family and a rescue hound.



There will be a speakers dinner this month

Meet the speaker and enjoy a wonderful meal at Chef Chu's before the meeting. If you would like to join us, please email Western Hort member Carol Dahout at: caroldahout@yahoo.com by the Monday before the meeting so we can make a reservation for the appropriate attendance. Dinner for November will start at 5:00pm. Chef Chu's is located at 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Western Horticultural Society had a field trip on September 28 to Tera Farm near San Juan Bautista and to Los Arroyos Nursery near Watsonville.

Tera Farm is the non-profit venture of WHS member Sheena Vaidynathan. It is located among other organic farms in San Benito County and is neighbor to organic grower pioneer Phil Foster, <https://www.ediblemontereybay.com/online-magazine/summer-2012/edible-community-reimagining-san-benito-county/>. Sheena grows unusual apples and some citrus on five acres, while leasing land to other independent organic produce and flower growers. In addition, David Noble grows the starts for produce crops in large protected grow-houses. Sheena notes that he is an important part of their farming eco-system as he supplies the small to mid-size farmers.



We then had an apple tasting in the orchard and picked apples to take home. Among the apples were:

Organic Crimson Topaz - distinctive spicy flavor, a cross between two Czech variety apples.

Organic Winecrisp. Deep purple red, sweet, juicy, firm with tangy notes of citrus and spice.

Organic Sundance -sweet-tangy flavor with hints of lemon and pineapple. Parentage: Golden Delicious and 1050 NJ 1.

Sheena is involved with several organizations that help workers run their own farm businesses, <https://www.albafarmers.org/> and <https://www.kitchentableadvisors.org/>. She also started, during the pandemic shut-down, a produce-ordering website where customers choose the produce they want and their money goes directly to the grower. <https://www.terafarm.org/shop>.

After visiting Tera Farm, we drove to Los Arroyos International Wholesale Nursery. Their chief propagator, Leonel Morales-Bajarano, spoke to Western Horticultural Society last November (2023), so we were excited to be on site. We were wowed by a fantastic, surprise BBQ lunch, which we ate in a large barn with a gorgeous display of the nursery's California native and other Mediterranean-climate plants. The team at Los Arroyos spoke to us about their efforts.



Co-President's message continued:



I have never seen so many clearly-loved nursery plants. We all spent the afternoon happily shopping. I would recommend that you encourage your local retail nursery or landscape company to order from this wholesale business.



Los Arroyos Nursery contact information:

Luis Marquez: 831-535-9971
Manuel Morales: 831-345-2778
Send orders to:
Email: sales@losarroyosnursery.com
Fax: 831-348-0126

~Grace Tsang & Meri Beth Bird

OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Fun with *Moraeas*, the “Peacock Flowers” of South Africa with Michael Mace and Garry Knipe

The October meeting might have created an almost psychedelic experience for some, as Mike and Garry presented hundreds of individual flower pictures from their adventures in hybridizing *Moraea*. Mike has been working with these plants for about twenty years. More recently, he connected with Garry who already had a flourishing hobby hybridizing Pacific Coast Iris.

Together, they showed over 350 images, all unique, of the individual flowers produced by their crosses of *Moraea* species, including *M. aristata*, *atropunctata*, *bellendenii*, *callicole*, *debilis*, *gigandra*, *loubseri*, *lurida*, *neopavonia*, *tricuspidate*, *tripetala*, *tulbaghensis*, *unguiculata*, and most successfully, *M. villosa*. Though the color on these flowers is big and vibrant, their size is small (usually around 1-3” across). The flower structure is complex, with larger outer petals, called tepals, smaller inner tepals, and a central style structure with three branches, each having an anther underneath. Tepal and style shapes and patterns also vary delightfully, including dots, spots and splodges that can look like ink art. Mike is striving to create a cross that would have some true red color on the tepals. Garry, in contrast, values the true blue and admires those crosses that almost glow with a blue that is rare in the plant world.

Mike made several disclaimers on his botanical knowledge, but he is likely this country’s foremost expert on the horticulture of this genus. His passion took him to South Africa eight years ago where he succeeded in finding many blooming stands, including *Moraea tulbaghensis* and *Moraea villosa* ssp. *elandsmontana* in the Elandsberg Nature Reserve which have red-orange hues. It is hard to find commercial sources of *Moraea* – in season in the U.S. it’s possible to purchase from Telos Rare Bulbs, Illahe Rare Plants or directly from South Africa from Silver Hill Seeds and Books.

Enthusiastic members clustered around Garry and Mike at the end of the meeting as they generously shared mixed seeds from their hybrids. Explicit growing instructions can be found on Mike’s blog here:

<https://growingcoolplants.blogspot.com/2021/10/how-to-grow-moraea-and-other-summer-dry.html> (note: When you open this link you will get a message it can not be found. Just look to the right and click on “How to grow these bulbs”)

Patient gardeners will be rewarded with exciting flowers in two years or so.

~ Jen Dungan

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 11th – *Potluck Social* - No Speaker - Lots of socializing!

January 8th – Hadley Dynak, *An Exquisite Risk - Western Hills Garden, Past, Present and Future*

February 12th – Jim Salyards, *A Garden Lover’s Tour of English Gardens and the Many Lessons Learned*

March 12th – Lisa and Kathleen Putnam, *Preventative Medicine for your Summer Veggie Garden*

April 9th – Michael Uhler, *Plants of California’s Sierra Nevada*

May 14th – Movie and vendor night, *The Gardener, Frank Cabot’s Les Quatre Vents*

California Horticultural Society Meeting for November 18th, 6:30pm-in person. *Gardening for Hummers*. Glenn Phillips the Executive Director of the Golden Gate Bird Alliance will introduce the members of the hummingbird family and explore how to make your garden friendly for these jewel-like visitors. Meet at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Free parking is available behind the SF County Fair building on Lincoln Way.

OCTOBER PLANT SHARE

Judy Wong from Menlo Park:

Haemanthus albiflos

Shaving Brush Plant

Got her plant from past WH member Bill Kurtz

Amaryllidaceae family (onion family)

South African bulb

Evergreen to semi evergreen

White Flowers in fall/winter. Attractive red fruit can form if pollinated.

12" ht. x 1-2' width

Light shade part sun

Hardy to 25-30 deg

Regular Water

Well Drained Soil

Broad 12-18" long leaves that lie over flat to the ground – it produces two leaves held opposite each other every year and can have multiple years of leaves present. The flowers are a tight umbel on top of a 1' stalk composed of a brush of many small white flowers with extended white stamens holding yellow anthers. Plant is considered to be poisonous due to having Lycorine and other alkaloids.



Nancy Schramm from Gilroy:

Campanula truegeri (C. troegerae)

Campanulaceae family

Critically endangered

From N.E. Turkey in rocky mountainous areas between 1150 -2720' elevation

White open flowers



Campanula topaliana

From southern Greece. Grows on limestone

Full sun to part shade

25 cm ht. x 30 cm spread

Conflicting information on whether this is a biennial, short lived perennial or a perennial
Flowers 1" tubular bell shaped lilac blue late spring to early summer

Leaves are densely silky hairy and hirsute or tomentose. Silver gray colored.

Suitable for alpine gardens

Use as a groundcover

Will naturalize

Attracts bees, butterflies, hummingbirds



Campanula incurva (curved inwards)

From Greece and Aegean Islands

Zone 6 to 9

Gets 12"-18" ht. Width 1'- 1.5'

Pale lilac blue to white, quite large bell flowers May to July

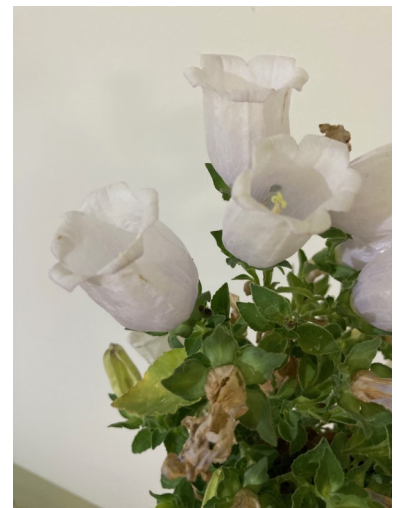
Full sun to part shade

Medium water

Reseeds/naturalizes

Well draining soil

Dies after blooming (2-4 yrs) monocarpic (plant will grow in a vegetative state for several years before flowering once and then dying)



***Campanula carpatica* ‘Peter Nix’**

Lavender Blue flowers in summer. Long blooming time
4-6” ht. x 12” wide
Zone 5b-9b
Semi evergreen perennial
Green leaves.
Full sun
Regular water
Well drained soil



Campanula elatines elatinoides

Adriatic Bell flower
Native to southwestern Alps, northwestern Italy
Full sun to part shade.
Good rock garden or hanging basket plant
Serrated grayish rounded to broadly ovate, cordate, glabrous to grey-downy leaves. Pale to rich blue sometimes white starry with pointed, wide-spreading lobed flowers. Fall blooms.
Photo credit: Alpine Garden Society



***Campanula* ‘Pink Octopus’**

Hybridized by Dan Heinz of Terra Nova Nursery
From Dallas Arboretum perennials for purgatory trials
where it did well
Zone 5-9
Deciduous
Full sun or part shade.
Average to medium well-drained soil.
Regular water
10” ht. spreading. Vigorous plant.
Pendulous pink flowers with very narrow petals (like an octopus!). Dark spots on underside of petals and hairs. Not your typical Campanula flower. Lots of flowers cover the plant. Long bloom time during summer months.
Deeply cut green foliage
Used as accent plants in Bonsai shows.



Janet Hoffmann, Campbell

Campanula poscharskiyana

Serbian Bellflower
1’ ht. Spreading
Lavender blue star shaped flowers Spring – Fall. This was Janet’s second bloom of the season.
Full sun to part shade
Low to Regular water
Zone 4-10
Evergreen
Dry shade
Drought tolerant
Attracts hummingbirds



~Leslie Dean

Many thanks to Leslie Dean for stepping up and doing the plant notes in October! Editor

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Native Plant Society invites everyone to the Annual Chapter Potluck and Program.

Saturday, November 2, 5pm setup, 6pm dinner, 7pm program featuring Brenda Butner Memorial Lecture: *Calochortus Treasure Hunt!* By Dee Himes The meeting is at the Shoup Park Garden House 400 University Ave, Los Altos. This video trailer provides a preview of her talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jRpI261ywgQ>. There will be a silent auction, book sales and opportunity drawing for plants!

Our City Forest, Fall Fest: DIY Lawn Conversion Workshop, Saturday Nov. 9th 11am-12pm, Our City Forest Community Nursery, 1000 Spring Street, San Jose, 95110 This event is free but reserve a spot!

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-fest-diy-lawn-conversion-workshop-tickets-1055473111489?aff=ebdssbdestsearch&gl=1*erdwfv*up*MQ..&gclid=Cj0KCQjw7Py4BhCbARIsAMMx-LbhYAJqKwJaTeO2UgZ9iusS0HI6P_YUifPn50XAbkAtReY2y7G4ykaAgZfEALw_wcB&gclsrc=aw.ds

Checkout other ongoing events, Plant Sales, Talks and Workshops at the Master Gardener website:

<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/>

Want to keep up on horticultural events and exchange ideas with other members?? Join our online forum at:

<https://groups.io/g/WHSmembers>

Strolling around the internet

Extinct Biblical Tree Resurrected From Ancient Seed Found In Cave

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/grrlscentist/2024/09/27/extinct-biblical-tree-resurrected-from-ancient-seed-found-in-cave/>

Merlin Bird ID. This free app was developed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Cornell University. Find it available in your app store or online at: <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: **Open Position**

Secretary : Jennifer Dungan

Corresponding Secretary: **Open Position**

Treasurer: Eva Huala

Other Board Members: Jim Salyards, Carol Dahout
(More board members welcomed and needed)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Membership: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Meeting Tech: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,

Janet Hoffmann & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Pam Noyer

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),
Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones, Eva Huala &
Meri-Beth Bird

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Dungan & Nancy
Schramm

Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,
Meri-Beth Bird, & Janet Hoffmann

About Membership in Western Hort:

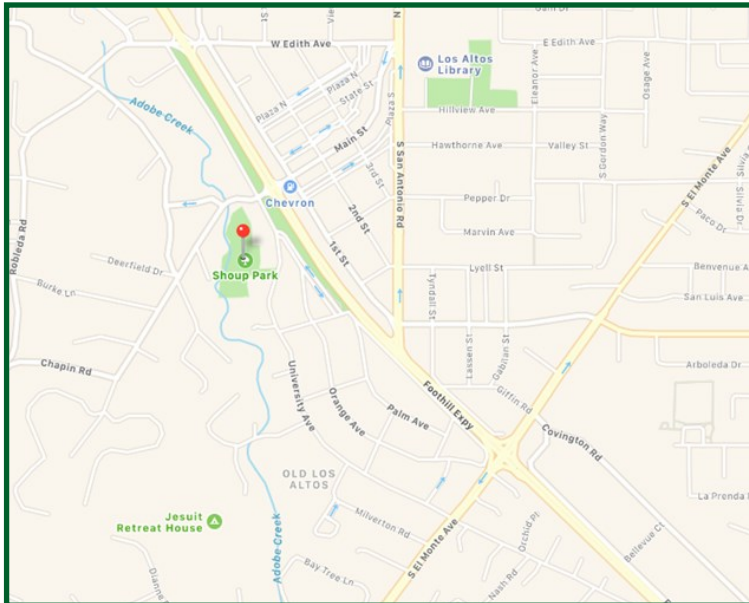
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. Please visit the Pac 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 the 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 date & location : November 13th, 2024

In Person at Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave., Los Altos

(Masks optional)

Meeting starts at 7:30 pm.

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 20th of November.** 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