

SEPTEMBER 2018 MEETING

Wednesday, September 12, 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: Pamela Berstler, new Executive Director, Pacific Horticulture Society, Berkeley, CA

Rehydrating US: The Watershed Landscape Approach

The Watershed Approach to landscaping seeks to rehydrate the soils of the United States by directing rainwater into landscapes that have healthy living soil and reducing the dependence upon irrigation water by restoring the naturally regulating water cycles. Landscapes play the most significant role in stabilizing climate, especially in urban and suburban settings. It's up to those of us who love gardens to spread the word.



This talk will explain how global weather patterns are affecting our ability to garden locally, and what actions we can take as passionate gardeners to mitigate these effects, such as creating rain gardens, capturing and storing rain water, building healthy, 'spongy' soil and using smart irrigation techniques. Once we understand how the watershed approach works, we can promote it in every aspect of our lives.

Pamela Berstler is excited to be the new Executive Director of Pacific Horticulture, a west coast based non-profit organization and publication dedicated to promoting and elevating the field of horticulture. Additionally she is a highly experienced landscape expert who co-founded and continues to manage G3, Green Gardens Group, an EPA WaterSense Partner and Professional Certifying Organization that conducts outreach and education on the Watershed Approach to landscaping for homeowners and professionals throughout the U.S. and Canada. Pamela is also a widely recognized thought leader in growing living soil as a solution to climate change.

Prior to founding G3, Pamela spent nearly a decade as a California licensed landscape contractor with her award-winning and innovative residential design/build firm.

Pamela has a BA in Psychology from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA and an MBA from the Anderson School of Management at UCLA. For the past decade, Pamela has been very active with the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and has won several awards in her field.



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 Pamela Berstler on
September 12th ~ 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

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

Starting this season there will be a few changes to your Western Horticultural Society membership. We have enjoyed a generous long-term arrangement with the Pacific Horticulture Society where a portion of our membership fees went to them and our members received the *Pacific Horticulture* magazine at a substantial discount. This arrangement has become unsustainable for Pac Hort. Beginning this fall our status will change to an Allied Member Organization with Pac Hort. This means that we will be able to send a **digital** copy of the *Pacific Horticulture* magazine to our members but not a paper copy. In addition they have offered our members a 20% discounted rate on a Pacific Horticulture Society membership. **If you wish to receive the next print copy of *Pacific Horticulture* magazine**, you must join by **September 10th**. Go to Pachort.org/join and use the discount code: IWANTPHS at your checkout.

Another change to preserve our own bottom line is that we are now charging a bit more for our members who wish to receive a paper copy of the *Western Hort* newsletter. There will be an additional \$10 charge for this service. Please watch your mail for a membership renewal form that you may mail back with your check or you may renew at the September meeting with a check or cash. You may also now renew your membership with a credit card online at <https://www.westernhort.org/membership>.

PLANT TABLE

We will continue our, so-far successful, member-grown, member-shared plant sale. We can't do this without member involvement. Bring your potted plants, bulbs, or other garden related items for our September 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.

JUNE PICNIC RECAP

Our final get together in June was at Betsy Clebsch's garden near Skyline Blvd in La Honda. After a rather cloudy week, the sun came out the day of the picnic and it turned out to be a very pleasant day for being outdoors. Betsy's garden showcased not only the sages for which she is justly famous but also roses and many perennials and blooming shrubs. Betsy shared many of her gardening secrets including a double layer of fences to keep deer from munching her roses. It was also a treat to see her house with its large deck overlooking the coastal mountains and a two story sunroom that passively helps with her heating bills. After the tour we all enjoyed our picnic lunch under Betsy's oak trees with delectable treats shared by many. It was a perfect wrap up to our horticultural program season and way to connect before dispersing to our own gardens for the summer.



Betsy Clebsch showing her garden to picnic attendees
photo: Richard Tiede

~Janet Hoffmann

MAY SPEAKER NOTES

Pete Veilleux, owner/propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery and garden designer provided an engaging and enlightening presentation about his extensive experience growing Eriogonums and other CA native plants. He presented photos of a number of locally suitable species of buckwheats. One of his favorites is CA buckwheat, *Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *foliosum* which generally has white flowers and gets about 3 feet tall and up to twice as wide. Like many buckwheats, he has found the species to be quite promiscuous with many crosses and color variations from pinks to salmons. Other buckwheats that he has been successful growing in east bay landscapes include the locally endangered *Eriogonum luteolum* var. *caninum*, Tiburon buckwheat and *Eriogonum latifolium* which inhabits coastal cliffs, combined with *Eriogonum grande rubescens* from the same habitats. He has found success with these buckwheats requires well-drained soil made with the addition of decomposed granite or potting soil. He also recommends no mulch or overhead watering. Buckwheats planted in late spring will need weekly drip irrigation for the first summer in order to get established. After that most Eriogonums will survive with deep watering once a month. To keep them looking their best, Pete recommends cutting them back heavily in winter.

Two sturdy, easy to grow buckwheats that he recommends for most garden conditions are *Eriogonum parvifolium*, the Seacliff buckwheat that varies in shades of pink to salmon and *Eriogonum umbellatum polyanthum* 'Shasta Sulfur' with it's showy yellow flower clusters. He has also grown *Eriogonum arborescens* in Livermore in full sun, where it will grow to 7' tall and wide. Another of the larger buckwheats he favors is *Eriogonum elongatum*, which will grow quickly to 8' tall. Some companion plants that Pete recommended for buckwheats include manzanita, *Dudleya*, *Artemesia*, and seaside daisy. Pete's presentation should inspire those who have not tried them to add buckwheats to their gardens as well as presenting some new species to try for those who have already fallen in love with them. Their long lasting blooms followed by attractive dried flowers can make them a welcome addition of color to the garden for most of the year.

~Janet Hoffmann

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2018/2019 season for WHS. We have a great lineup of speakers for all to enjoy. Thank you to our Speaker committee for scheduling our speakers for this upcoming season. The complete lineup with details is posted on our website under Speakers and Events. <https://www.westernhort.org/speakers-events>

I would like to thank **All** the volunteers who have helped throughout the past year in front and behind the scenes to make meetings, membership, newsletter, website, speakers, plant sales, the Hot Plant Picks at the SFFGS, holiday party and summer picnic and more...memorable for all to enjoy.

With our big group of plant lovers, we all need to volunteer or help out where we can so all can enjoy our WHS events together. With a couple board members stepping down, now is your chance to join our board and/or nominate someone you would like to be part of our board. (More details on page 5.)

Finally, please look for your membership renewal form in the mail. To enjoy another full year of WHS meetings and events, renew your membership early. See you in September...

~Carrie Parker

28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, September 12, 1990, Western Hort met to hear Gerry Uenaka of Alstro Horticultural Services talk about *Designing with Drought-tolerant Perennials*. As ever, WHS was at the forefront of thoughtful and appropriate gardening. We met at a new location (the Hillview Community Center) one more in a long list of "permanent" meeting places. There was an announcement of the passing of "Mrs Alexander Pontiatoff of Atherton, one of our founding members. She left 9 bonsai specimens and a few other plants to our organization" which were offered "to our membership at a silent auction during our September meeting." Another announcement concerned the WHS exhibit at the spring 1991 Landscape Garden Show in San Francisco. Elizabeth Garbett organized the effort. She also arranged for a WHS group order from the Dutch Bulb Farm with a 10% discount.

The September Plant Notes, two full pages both sides, marked the beginning of Elizabeth Garbett's tenure of complete responsibility for the notes since the newsletter also noted that Marilou Vivanco (Elizabeth's former cohort) had moved to Virginia. Elizabeth noted "Our first plant table of the season held a veritable feast, so

many offerings, in fact, that it may be impossible to cover them all in these notes. I'll try to concentrate on plants we haven't seen before." Dave Teuchler of Boething Treeland Nursery showed *Nerium oleander* 'Petite Salmon', a new, very floriferous dwarf form; Bob Young shared *Amaranthus caudatus* with the slightly gruesome common name of Love Lies Bleeding; Day Boddorff, owner of one of the many wonderful, independent (former) local nurseries, Baylands Nursery, brought three of the ornamental grasses in which he specialized: *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hamelin' (a desirable dwarf form), *Miscanthus floridulus* (giant Chinese silver grass) which can get 10' tall (John Greenlee "advises caution in planting this one. It can be hard to eradicate once it is established") and *Calamagrostis acutiflora stricta*; Lori Hubbart of Yerba Buena Nursery showed *Sphaeralcea munroana*; Albert Wilson shared a variegated Japanese privet *Ligustrum lucidum*; Carol Coate brought the recently re-introduced *Rosa* 'Sally Holmes'; Sherry Austin showed the awesomely thorny *Solanum pyracantha* and *Savia discolor*; Ted Kipping filled the table with late-blooming plants: *Cestrum spendens*, *C. aurantiaca*, *Iochroma fuchsoides*, *Fuchsia venusta*, *F. x 'Fanfare'*, *Rusellia equisetiformis*, *Thunbergia gregorii*, *Eriogonum latifolium* 'Fireworks' (Ted's own, new cultivar) and *Salvia guaranitica*; Dave Rodal shared *Talinum paniculatum* 'Jewels of Opar'; Bill Kurtz brought *Stapelia sp.*, the stinky carrion flower (a note from Elizabeth exhibits her typical humor "The flowers emit an odor of rotting meat that attracts flies who lay their eggs on the flowers, incidentally fertilizing them. The maggots die of starvation after hatching which must be frustrating to the flies if they hang around to watch.") and Betsy Clebsch showed a selection of "the last roses of summer".
~Nancy Schramm

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

National Heirloom Expo, Sept 11-13, Sonoma County Fairgrounds, Santa Rosa, CA. Come and walk the aisles at an event for pure food enthusiasts, home growers, farmers, school groups, and the general public. The event has been dubbed the "World's Fair" of the heirloom industry! This is a non-profit event and all funds above costs will be donated to school gardens and food programs. Find out more at: <http://www.theheirloomexpo.com>.

The Mexican Cloud Forests of Oaxaca and Chiapas, Monday, September 17, 7:00pm, SF County Fair Bldg, 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco. Ted Kipping will be showing photos and sharing his experiences from a trip to this region with Dr. Dennis Breedlove of the California Academy of Sciences. For more information go to: <https://calhortsociety.org>.

Poaching of Cedros Island Dudleya, California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Friday, Sept 21, 2018, 7:30pm, Los Altos Library Program Room 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Michael Uhler has been a Gardener at Tilden Botanic Garden for 13 years. Michael has been seeking wild places his entire life and Isla de Cedros is his favorite wild place in Baja California. Michael invites you to share his favorite images from this insular treasure as well as a tragic tale of loss related to *Dudleya pachyphytum*. For more information go to: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/events>.

Celebration of Life, Saturday, September 22, 6-9pm, Yamagami's Nursery, 1361 S. De Anza Blvd, Cupertino. Some of you like me (your editor) may have had the pleasure of knowing Carolyn Villa Scott who worked at Yamagami's Nursery in Cupertino. She was the person who introduced me to Cal Hort and Western Hort many years ago. Unfortunately health issues precluded her attendance at meetings in recent years and she passed away this past spring. Her husband Rus Scott and Yamagami's Nursery are hosting this celebration of her life and have invited all who knew her. The evening will be casual open house style, with finger foods and beverages provided. If you would like to share memories with other friends for an evening please RSVP to Rus, russcott@cruzio.com or text 831-234-9283.

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/>

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-scvc.org/index.php/events/plant-sale>

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, 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.

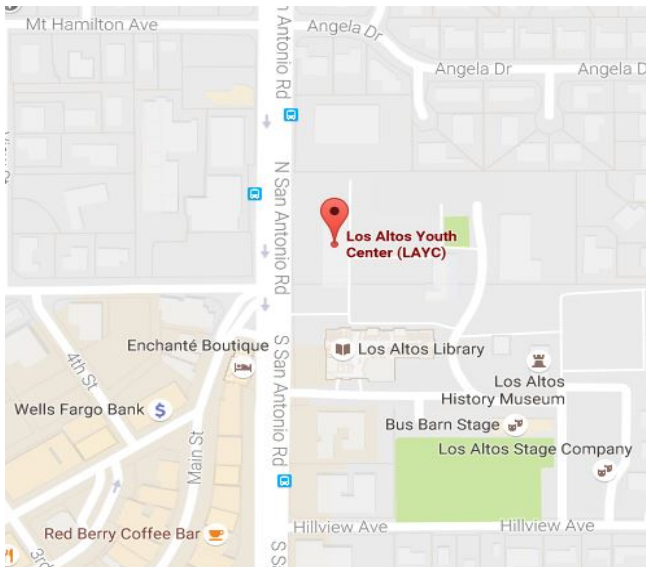
To join or renew visit our website at: <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

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