

WESTERN HORT

January 2019 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

JANUARY 2019 MEETING

Wednesday, January 9th, 7:30 pm Shoup Park Garden House, 400 University Ave., Los

Altos Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7 pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Meetings are free for members, non-members \$10. See page 6 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

Speaker: Frank Niccoli, Foothill College, Merritt College, The Village Gardener Inc.



Planting Under Trees

We have all dealt with the Kings and Queens of the garden, the trees. They rule the garden with chemicals, density, root crowding, thirstiness, and a host of methods so that they rule without competition. Yet the kings and queens have princes and princesses. Find out what plants are the princes and princesses of the garden. They are allowed to be in the court of the rulers. Frank Niccoli will introduce you to The Royals and their court. Be prepared to bow and curtsy.

Frank Niccoli has been a gardener for over 55 years. He was seven when his grandmother taught him the magic in seeds. Frank has a degree in horticulture having studied at the Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and at the College of San Mateo.

Frank also has a degree in Business Psychology from the University of San Francisco. He has written the curriculum and teaches numerous classes at Foothill College including Turf Management, Ground Cover and Vines, Shrubs, California Natives, Landscape Lighting, Integrated Pest Management, Landscape Business, Sustainable Integrated Pest Management, and Grasses, Bamboos, and Palms, and Veggie Gardens. He has taught at Foothill since 1999 and began at Merritt College in 2014 where he teaches Integrated Pest Management, Insects, and Landscape Business at Merritt.

He teaches from the perspective of a contractor who had been in the business for 40+ years and with a passion for sustainability and environmental stewardship. He is a published poet and a black hat chef.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 13, 2019—Aaron Dillon, Four Winds Growers, Watsonville, *Citrus Varieties and How to Care for Them*

March 13, 2019—Dan Hinkley, Heronswood Nursery, Kingston, WA. *From Shadows to Sun, The Making of Windcliff*

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

Join us for dinner with Frank Niccoli on

January 9 ~ 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

Greetings Everyone! Thank you to all that came out to our holiday meeting and potluck! What a nice evening we shared together. Starting off with the beautiful greens for the table tops, brought in by Laurie Schofield and arranged on all our tables by our table top elves. The dishes that were shared by our members were delicious. Katie Wong cooked the turkey for us which was moist and juicy and Janet Hoffmann did the honors of carving it. Steve Staiger and his wife brought in the wine for all to enjoy. Thank you to all our members and guests for helping organize our dinner setup and cleanup afterwards. Our tribute to Bracey and honoring Bracey and Richard Tiede with the Founders Award was very touching. So many wonderful memories were shared. We will miss Richard as he moves on to his new adventures in Hawaii in the new year.

Our next meeting will be held at the Garden House in Shoup Park here in Los Altos. (We will be back at LAYC in February) January is our annual general meeting. It will be my last meeting as president. We will be voting in our new Board of Directors and introducing our current board members. At this time I want to remind you that we are actively looking for a few new board members including a Vice President. I will temporarily take over for membership but we will need a dedicated volunteer to manage our membership going forward into our 2019/2020 season. Please see me if you are interested.

It has been an exciting three years as co-president and president for our WHS. I have enjoyed being able to work behind the scenes with many of our members helping to make sure we are doing all we can do to make our meetings run smoothly for members and guests to enjoy. Another big shout out to all our members who help out in many ways to make our meetings, newsletter, website and all the other behind and in front of the scene tasks run smoothly.

Without everyone's help and contributions we could not have the amazing meetings that we do have.

It will be great to end my role as president in January by being able to introduce our guest speaker Frank Niccoli who is the reason why I am so interested in horticulture, as he was my first instructor at Foothill College. Until we meet again in the New Year, have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends. ~Cheers, *Carrie Parker*

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON DAN HINKLEY PRESENTATION IN MARCH PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED

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 lifelong 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.

MEETING ATTENDANCE REQUIRES REGISTRATION

Due to the anticipated demand for this meeting, it will be required for all attendees to register. Members are FREE and a \$20 fee will be charged for all guests and non-members. Registration is open to MEMBERS ONLY until February 1st when it will be open to the public. Members will 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. Each member can register up to 2 guests (non-members) before February 1st.



Judy Wong and Leslie Dean congratulate Richard Tiede

2018 Western Horticultural Society Founder's Award and Tribute to Bracey Tiede

Our 2018 Founder's Award went to Richard Tiede and his late wife Bracey. Leslie Dean researched and shared background information on the Tiedes and Judy Wong presented the award. I have excerpted some of what was shared in our recognition of these two outstanding individuals who formed a dynamic horticultural partnership.

Richard found his gardening interests start to bloom in his childhood home of Michigan. Both his parents grew up on farms and instilled the beauty and excitement of plants in him from an early age. Bracey's interest developed later in life but by the time that they were married in 1992 both had developed a passion for gardening.

Both Bracey and Richard had careers in the high tech world. Bracey graduated from UC Berkeley. Some of her early jobs ranged from office manager for the Harvard School of Design, working on the life science project for SkyLab3 at NASA Ames as well as at Metaphor Inc., IBM and Help Desk software companies. Richard worked in electrical, hardware and mechanical design

The search for plants for their hot dry garden in the eastern foothills of San Jose led them to the wonderful world of Salvias. They not only grew many different species but also experimented with hybridizing some of them. Their passion for salvias also led to a friendship with Betsy Clebsch and many visits to her home and garden. They also became friends with Kermit Carter of Flowers by the Sea. He says of them in his blog Sage Experts:

"Long before retirement, these two began gardening, an activity that Megatrends author John Naisbitt in the 1980's identified as being among the "high touch" humanizing pastimes that would counterbalance life in what was then becoming known as the digital "information age".

So these two are high-tech, high-touch folks whose volunteerism merges the two worlds. They've adapted their knowledge of digital technology, business management and xeric gardening to the needs of many garden organizations while also developing their own gardens as examples of sustainable landscaping."

The two found their interest in gardening pulling them towards organizations where they could learn by volunteering. A partial list of places they graced with their presence: Heritage Rose Garden of San Jose, Santa Clara Master Gardeners Program, Saratoga Horticultural Research Foundation, Mediterranean Garden Society, California Native Plant Society, Pacific Horticulture Society and our own Western Horticultural Society.

Not afraid to get their hands dirty, these two jumped right in to projects for these organizations that expanded their knowledge of the plant world while advancing each organization's reach. Neither were shy to join boards, or become officers. Both were active with Western Hort. They helped with sales events, the Hot Plant Picks exhibit, organizing our June picnics, contributing pieces for the newsletter, suggesting speakers and taking photos of members at various events for our website. Richard served as the Western Horticulture Society's President from 2011-2016 where he guided our organization with humor and wisdom.

They both made contributions both great and small to help keep Western Hort running smoothly. Bracey and Richard would arrive early to help set up the tables and chairs, and Richard helped with our AV set-up. Both of them brought plants to share for discussion and for the raffle table. No matter the task, they were ready to step up and help.

When not volunteering or working in their own garden, these two were avid travelers throughout the world, where they found exciting gardens filled with plants that piqued their interests. They traveled with a variety of groups, including friends from the Mediterranean Garden Society, they visited gardens in Australia, Borneo, Canada, England, France, Greece, Hawaii, Italy, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Singapore and throughout the U.S.

Richard's newest adventure will be moving to Hawaii to enjoy gardening in a completely new gardening zone and learning all about the plants that will thrive in the tropical environment.

Western Horticulture is lucky to have had them both as members. It is people like the Tiedes who make our organization run smoothly and so enjoyable for other members. They leave behind fond memories and many holes to fill.

It is with great pleasure and recognition that we honor Richard and Bracey Tiede as recipients of the 2018 Western Horticultural Society's Founder's Award.

~ Janet Hoffmann

PLANT TABLE

The plant table resumes with our January meeting. Please bring any potted plants, bulbs, or other garden related items for the table. Please label with the botanical name of the plant. A picture and cultural information for your plants is also helpful. Share the joy and help add a little money to the WHS coffers at the same time.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on January 9, 1991 to hear Marvel Sherrill of Rod McLellan Nursery in South San Francisco tell us about *Orchids and How to Raise Them*. Marvel brought "live specimens for demonstration and discussion and to sell."

Since January is our official annual meeting, new board members voted in included: Sherry Austin, Cecilia Christensen, Mabel Crittenden and Jean Struthers. Don Brandeau began his second 3-year term. There was applause and thanks given to Mary Kaye and Bill Kurz who had completed their second terms.

Plans were well under way for an exhibit at the SF Landscape and Garden Show, the core team consisted of Tom Andrews, Carol Coate, Elizabeth Garbett and Mary Kaye.

The big freeze of 1990 "put a freeze on the plant display table in January and it's not surprising that those few that made it were nearly all shrubs." Albert Wilson brought "an old stalwart, *Chimonanthus fragrans*". Ed Carman showed *Elaeagnus pungens* 'Clemson Variegated', except at the time he had acquired it as *Elaeagnus clemsonii aurea variegata*. There is a card in Dad's plant file, but it doesn't say where he got the plant originally. Day Boddorff brought in *Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* 'Paradise' and *Luma apiculata*, neither of which were damaged in East Palo Alto, but Elizabeth Garbett notes that her *L. apiculata* was badly burned at 14 degrees F in Los Altos, west of Hwy 280. Bob Young shared *Viola* 'Molly Sanderson' "which is as black as your hat but interesting just the same", and *Chrysanthemum ptarmiciflorum* now known as *Tanacetum ptarmiciflorum* (unless the taxonomists are at it again); Lyn Dearborn "brought one of the prizes of her collection, *Paphiopedilum isigne* 'Harefield Hall' and a non-orchid that excited a lot of admiration, *Acalpha pendula*, called firetails" and related to, but "not half as attractive" as chenille plant.

~ Nancy Schramm



Viola 'Molly Sanderson'

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Native Plant Society

Bring a Neighbor Pop-Up Native Plant Sale, January 12, 10:30am-1:30pm, Peninsula Conservation Center, 3921 East Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA, 94303. Doug Tallamy will present a 1.5 hour Video and Discussion: Restoring Nature's Relationships, followed by a sale of popular native plants from the CNPS Nursery. Free and open to the public.

DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Ryan Guillou, curator of the San Francisco Botanical Garden, was our December speaker while we all digested the wonderful feast that everyone brought to share. Prior to joining the staff at our local garden, Ryan was employed in developing a botanical garden near Amman, Jordan. He shared some wonderful slides of the “Flora of Jordan” from his four years there as well as interesting anecdotes of his experiences. Ryan graduated from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo with a degree in horticulture and began his career at a nursery in Israel. After two years in Israel he heard about the job in Jordan, where one of the princesses was interested in establishing a botanical garden on 445 acres near the largest body of water in the country, formed by the King Talal Dam across the Zarqa River.

Guillou faced many challenges including teaching himself Arabic to communicate with his workers. He also had to develop and find materials for a suitable soil mix and to scrounge for suitable containers for growing. They started with plastic bags until he discovered plastic paint containers that were about the size of one gallon nursery pots. Of course they had to drill holes in the bottoms for drainage.

One of the perks of the job was a magnificent view of the reservoir. Another was the opportunity to interact with the locals and explore much of the country. He also developed a taste for the local beer, Carakale.

Ryan began by familiarizing us with the geography and topography of Jordan. It ranges from peaks rising just over 6,000 ft. to the lowest place on earth on the shores of the Dead Sea at -1,412 ft. Jordan shares borders with Syria, Israel, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. It also is situated very close to Lebanon and Egypt. As part of the Middle East with its long history of human habitation, migration and conflict, Jordan’s countryside has been devastated by years of cultivation, livestock grazing, deforestation and depletion of water resources.

The landscape for the botanic garden was ideal for establishing representative populations of its native flora because it encompassed an area with 985 feet of elevation change and some 650 existing native plant species that returned once the land was protected. It also included native fauna including scorpions, venomous snakes, chameleons, tortoises, striped hyenas, wild boar and numerous species of birds.

The garden is arranged like the flora of Jordan with examples of each of its major plant zones starting with the deciduous oak woodland. The oaks of this habitat were *Quercus ithaburensis*, Jordan’s national tree, which has very large acorns. Other trees include *Ceratonia siliqua*, our familiar carob trees, *Pyrus syriaca*, Syrian pear and *Amygdalus coummunis*, the wild almond. There are very few intact oak habitats remaining in Jordan because goats like to climb the trees and eat them. The perennial plants that grow in this habitat include many names familiar to us including *Lupinus pilosus*, usually a deep blue but sometimes seen in a coral color, *Anemone coronaria*, our familiar widely grown anemone that forms big fields of red flowers in the wild, *Fritalleria persica*, Persian lily, *Ranunculus asiaticus*, *Alcea setosa*, a pink hollyhock that grows like a weed in Jordan, *Tulipa agenensis*, a brilliant red tulip species native to the



View of King Talal Dam and reservoir from garden

Mediterranean, and the national black iris, *Iris nigricans*.

The second plant zone that Ryan discussed was the Aleppo pine zone, named after *Pinus halepensis*, the signature pine species. This zone occurs naturally at the higher elevations and also includes other trees like *Quercus calliprinos*, evergreen oak, *Arbutus andrachne*, one of the parents of *Arbutus ‘Marina’* and *Crataegus azorolus*, another tree with fruit that the goats like to eat. Herbaceous perennials of this zone include the unusual tall, fuzzy *Ajuga orientalis*, *Iris bismarckiana*, the Nazareth iris, *Geranium tuberosum*, and our familiar *Cyclamen persicum*.

The flora of southern Lebanon near Petra is a juniper forest similar to some of our eastern California high desert habitat. However their



Juniper forest habitat

native species is *Juniper phoenicea*. Other trees in these high elevation forests include our familiar *Cupressus sempervirens*, which grows much lower and broader in these windswept locations, and *Pistacia atlantica*. Other plants from these stark landscapes include *Phlomis syriacus*, *Iris reis-uzziae*, several *Allium* species, *Anchusa strigosa*, a borage with small bright blue flowers, *Consolida rigida*, a native larkspur, *Achillea arabica*, a yarrow with yellow flowers, *Astragalus spinosus*, a spiny shrub in the pea family, and *Globularia arabica*, with purple flowers similar to our globe daisies.

Another plant group that he explored for the garden was the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea habitat. One of the common trees of this habitat that we would recognize is the date palm, *Phoenix dactylifera*. The flora also included another palm which is endangered in Jordan, *Hyphaene thebaica*. Other desert plants included *Acacia raddiana*, the common acacia of African desert regions, *Calligonum comosum*, an Egyptian desert plant with interesting fuzzy seed pods, and *Caparis decidua*, also known as tree caper with interesting orange flowers followed by edible fruit.

Hard to imagine anything more inhospitable, but the starkest habitat yet was the Badia and Wadi Run areas in southern Lebanon. Some interesting vegetation manages to survive here including *Ficus palmate*, *Cleome arabica*, *Asphodeline*, *Pankratium*, *Mathiola arabica*, and some *Euphorbias*.

If you are interested in visiting Jordan yourself, Ryan recommends late February to March for the best flowers. The botanic garden is not yet open to the public but they do have a very informative website with pictures of many of the plants discussed here as well as more information about the flora of Jordan. Photos included here and more information: <http://royalbotanicgarden.org/>

~Janet Hoffmann

GET INVOLVED

We are actively looking for a few new board members including a Vice President. Yes, to your question, “If I was on the board in the past, can I join again?” We enjoy having new board members and members who have served in the past. It makes for a well rounded board. Volunteer and get to know other WHS members and keep our organization growing.

Available Positions:

Vice president: In addition to board member duties below, the vice president runs the general meeting or board meetings when the President is unavailable. Helps the President as needed and updates new board members on duties and functions of the organization.

Board Members: Position involves regular attendance at monthly meetings Sept.– 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 equipment between meetings and one or two members who can set up our projector, laptop and speaker microphones for the presentations.

Membership manager: Records and updates member information for the Membership Roster.

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

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:

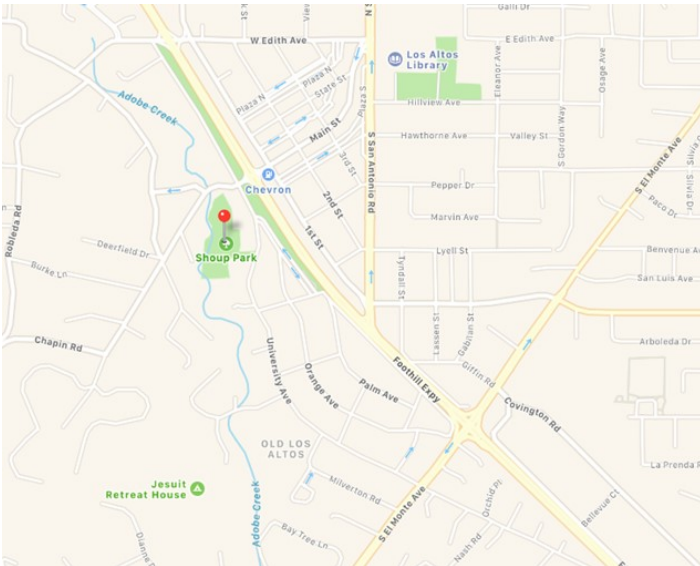
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a 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. 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.

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



Meeting location January ONLY:

**Shoup Park Garden House,
400 University Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Located off west side of Foothill Expressway
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 22nd of January.** 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