

JANUARY 2020 MEETING

Wednesday, January 8th, 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: Aaron Ryan—*Professional Secrets for Successful Succulent Propagation*



Succulents are everywhere these days. They are easy to grow, and most, such as *Sedum* and *Sempervivum* are easily propagated. But what do the professionals do when they need to produce larger volumes or have succulents which prove difficult to produce via vegetative means? Join us as Aaron Ryan presents advanced propagation techniques for succulents that can be used by the home gardener to increase their personal plant collection and for sharing with others. He will perform a hands-on demonstration with plant material along with Power Point slides, first showing vegetative techniques: grafting, de-heading and apical core drilling. The second part of the discussion will focus on seed propagation of succulents.

My pathway into horticulture began in 2000, when I took up a position as a work study student at the UCSC Arboretum, eventually transitioning into a full-time employee focusing most of my time in the California

native garden. It was at the UCSC Arboretum where I met Steve McCabe, curator of succulents and where my interest in succulents first sparked. After several years of working in various retail nurseries and as production manager for a grower in the North Bay, I took on the position of General Manager at Succulent Gardens in Monterey County. Here I was able to utilize my propagation experience as a production manager to focus solely on succulents, and to acquire new tricks and techniques along the way. I currently work as Director of Inventory for Devil Mountain Wholesale Nursery in the North Bay, where succulents continue to play an active role in my life.

~Aaron Ryan



UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 12, 2020—Cynthia Sandberg, Love Apple Farm. *Tomato Mastery: Best Practices for Productivity and Healthy Plants*

March 11, 2020—Juanita Salisbury, landscape architect. *Build it and They Will Come: Creating a Native Garden Buzzing with Pollinators*

April 8, 2020—Jason Dewees, palm expert and author. *Designing with Palms: From Understory Gems to Perfect Small-Garden Trees*

Join us for dinner with Aaron Ryan on

January 8 ~ 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

I want to thank everyone who contributed to making our holiday party enjoyable and welcoming:

Richard Hayden, who came up with the speaker.

Laurie Schofield, who put together all of the table decorations and remembered to bring extra plates and cutlery for those who forgot them.

Leslie Dean, who, as always, got our audio system set up.

Grace Tsang, who helped with the room set-up and getting the projector working with our slideshow.

Carol Moholt, who as usual arrived early, got our room key, and helped start the table set-up.

Steve Staiger, who selected the nice array of wine.

Katie Wong, who as usual cooked a delicious turkey along with mashed potatoes and gravy.

Liz Calhoon, who stepped in to welcome some newcomers to the occasion.

All of the members who brought their holiday spirit, willingness to help with the smooth set-up and clean-up and so many wonderful dishes to share.

January is our annual general meeting, over the past year we have lost 5 board members: Carrie Parker, Mary Alice Reid, Jean Struthers, Laura Wilson and Katie Wong. We have had 3 additions to our board: Carol Moholt, Carol Dahout and Grace Tsang. We will be voting to confirm our current board as listed at the end of this newsletter. We would be happy to welcome any of you who want to step up and join us. Look at the volunteer opportunities on page 4 of this newsletter or email me at info@westernhort.org with your own suggestions for ways that you might help keep us the vibrant, collaborative organization that we are.

Looking forward to getting to know many more of you in the coming year. ~ Janet Hoffmann

28 YEARS AGO

January 8, 1992 Western Hort met to hear "Dennis Breedlove...speak on *Plant Hunting*. Breedlove is associated with the California Academy of Science and has spent more than 20 years working on a flora of Chiapas...Breedlove has traveled extensively in many parts of Mexico and will show slides documenting his plant hunting activities."

(I found a fascinating article about Breedlove who died in 2012. If you are interested you can find it here:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/289115438_Dennis_Breedlove_an_Appreciation. In the 1970's, Breedlove discovered an unknown plant in Chiapas, Mexico which later became known as *Deppea splendens*. It is through his efforts that the tree still exists. Since then it has become available commercially as described on the San Marcos Growers website:https://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=2386 ~NCS)

Other news from 1992 included "Congratulations to our President, Elizabeth Garbett" for her "successful negotiation of a new contract...for considerably less money...for rental of the WHS meeting place, Jennings Pavilion."

Thanks was given to "...Pat Ley, Clayton Neece and Jean Struthers who are leaving the board. A particular thank you to Clayton who has until recently acted as our president."

The January plant notes began with *Chimonanthus praecox*, appropriately nick-named wintersweet. Plant note author Elizabeth Garbett described the fragrance as "so pervasive a few stems will scent a whole room, yet the aroma is never overpowering or cloying but fresh and spring-like. But to get these treasures you must find space for a ten by eight foot shrub that is, let's face it, pretty unexciting the rest of the year." (Wintersweet, to me, is one of the fragrances of December. One of Dad's customers would bring a branch full of blossoms to the nursery each year after Thanksgiving and it would keep me company as I worked in the greenhouse each day. ~NCS)

Because of the mild December 1991 weather, Betsy Clebsch was able to bring in a slew of still-blooming salvias from her "unusually mild microclimate near Skyline Blvd." They included: *Salvia madrensis* (tall plant, butter yellow flowers), *S. blepharophylla* (1' tall, good candidate for dry shade groundcover), *S. elegans* (large scarlet flowers, pineapple-scented foliage), *S. (nanus?)* (chance seedling, another groundcover possibility), *S. purpurea* (9' tall! with magenta purple flowers), *S. iodantha*, *S. confertiflora* (dark reddish leaves and velvety orange & red flowers) and *S. gesneriiflora* (8' tall in one season with little water, large, showy scarlet flowers).

Sherry Austin "who has a keen eye for a good plant, found *Leucanthemum hosmariense* at Western Hills Nursery." Lyn Dearborn brought in *Utricularia livida*, *Paphiopedilum leanum* 'Clinkerberryana' and a "cymbidium with huge lavender and white flowers that were truly impressive." And Jean Fowkes "showed a beautifully grown specimen of a bromeliad...The flowers...look like tiny pineapples suspended in air."

~ Nancy Schramm

DECEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

If you missed the December meeting you missed a wonderful, dynamic speaker. However, do not despair, our speaker, Jennifer Jewel has a regular radio program. You can listen to past or current programs by subscribing to *Cultivating Place* on myTuner radio: mytuner-radio.com/podcast

Jennifer's talk, after dinner at our holiday potluck, was about her upcoming book, *The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants*. Ms. Jewell's mission in writing the book was to highlight a selection of women whom she felt were elevating horticulture as a "spiritual practice". Both in her radio program and in the book she wants to focus on "The human Impulse to Garden –which is not so much about how we garden, but rather very focused on why we garden, what we mean when we garden, what gardeners look like, what this human impulse offers the greater world."



Leah Penninam, Soul Fire Farm

Photo: James Mosely, Courtesy of Soul Fire Farms

The sampling of women whom Jennifer chose to highlight from her book included a diverse group of women who she thought had contributed something that stood out. She readily admitted that there were many more women whom she could have highlighted. She chose women for their unique under-represented voice in our society. She also tried to include a broad cross-section of women including young and old, women of color and from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds. Some of the latter were women instrumental in overcoming the cultural and social biases in horticulture and getting back to its roots which may have been lost and forgotten.

The women in the book are divided into a variety of horticultural focuses. These included:

Botany & Environmental Science
Landscape Design & Architecture
Floral
Agriculture
Writing & Communication

Photography
Herbalism & Medicine
Public Policy & Education
Plantswomen
Seeds



Kristen Wickert, Plant Pathologist

Photo: Jessica E. McDonald

Some of the women in the book included the names of familiar fellow Californians: Elaine Ingham, Flora Grubb, Annie Hayes, Janet Sluis, Carol Bornstein, and Renee Shepherd.

Some included women working for racial and social justice through horticulture with names that may be less familiar to us: Jamaica Kincaid, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Yolanda Burrell, Rowen White and Leah Penniman. Being involved myself in getting the youth of today interested in science, I was especially impressed by some of the young scientists who are making their mark including Kristen Wickert, Tiffany Freeman, Milla Prince, and Ava Bynum.

Jennifer left us with the challenge of, “What do you want to do to contribute to the power of that network?” She encourages us to connect ourselves with others in horticulture and use “our gardens and gardening impulses” for “constructive creative positivity – for us individually and for us culturally”. ~ *Janet Hoffmann*

GET INVOLVED

As mentioned in the president’s message we are in need of one or more volunteers to take on the following tasks:

Website manager: Update through [Wix.com](https://www.wix.com), a cloud-based drag and drop web development tool that is super easy to use! Monthly task includes replacing current newsletter and adjusting speaker info. Annually updated to reflect new speaker schedule. Additional edits as needed by Board. Image adjustment needed occasionally. Basic understanding of web administration and publishing (domain/server management, html, etc.) **helpful but not necessary.**

Enewsletter: Monthly newsletter messages sent and mailing list managed via Mailchimp, and occasional other messages sent to members as requested by the Board. Monthly newsletter sent by editor and other content coordinated with President. Current mailing list maintained and provided by Membership volunteer. Image adjustment needed occasionally.

Both of the above tasks can be done in about **1 hour of your time** per month and anywhere that you have access to a computer. Your president learned how to do it last month and she is not particularly tech savvy.

Board members: Attend board meetings every other month from Sept through May. Help with coordination of set-up and take-down for monthly member meetings. Help with coordination of December potluck dinner and June potluck picnic. Assist with volunteer recruitment and other tasks as needed (program planning, plant propagation and sales, etc.)

SOMETHING SPECIAL

Here is a short write up about Ed Carman from an old friend and former Western Hort president, ClaytonNeece.

A Friend I'll Always Treasure—Ed Carman

I lived in San Jose, CA and I loved roses especially old roses, and I often went to Stockings Rose Nursery. George, who was operating that nursery, sensed that I had a wide interest in different kinds of plants including cacti, bonsai and beautiful blooming trees and shrubs. George told me that I should go visit Carman's Nursery in Los Gatos, CA. I paid the nursery a visit and I met Ed Carman. I was amazed about the variety of different plants he offered. It took me some time to get to know Ed and his wonderful nursery.

One thing that impressed me about Ed is that he encouraged me to take time to look at the plants he offered. Ed never pressured me to buy anything. If I found something that sparked my curiosity, Ed would take time to tell me the common name and the botanical name and history of the plants discovered.

I knew that Ed and I would be friends for a long time. I visited Ed at least 2 times a week and my collection of plants started to grow. I joined Western Horticultural Society and I started to get a clearer picture of Ed Carman and his family. His wife and family were very giving people and I always felt a lot of love from this wonderful family. Later I learned that Ed Carman was known and loved by many in the Horticultural Community. That included the people at Western Hills nursery, Suncrest Nursery and many, many others. Ed devoted his life to spread knowledge about beautiful and unusual plants. Unlike some others in the Hort Community, Ed didn't do a lot of traveling around the world, however Ed went to New Zealand. Also I met Ed's daughter Nancy and she also worked at Ed's nursery and she also educated me about different plants and she so much reflected the life of Ed and she shared her knowledge of plants just liked Ed and also his passion of the love of different plants. You know, so many things that we acquire in life are just not the material things but the love and passion that we experience from others like Ed and his family.

I'm always going to remember Ed and his family with love and affection. Also Ed's daughter Nancy Schramm continues Ed's legacy in Gilroy, CA where she owns and operates Carman's Nursery. A wonderful tribute to Ed. All this info. sent with love,
Clay Neece



Ed Carman Photo by George Waters

Clayton also included this poem he wrote:

Sending the Light of the Sun

In the dead of winter,

I look out my window, seeing no sun.

Feeling a bit down I know other people around me are in the dead of winter, also looking out their window.

There's something hidden in my heart and I can be "Sending the Light of the Sun" to all those people.

Having done this, I feel the warmth kindle in my heart and I sense there's warmth kindling in their hearts.

Together we're all "Sending the Light of the Sun" to each other.

In a way we're sitting next to a warm fire together and we'll rejoice when we have the return of the spring and summer.

However "Sending the Light of the Sun" goes beyond the change of the seasons.

No matter the time, season, situation, we can all be "Sending the Light of the Sun".

~Clayton Neece

PLANT TABLE

January is a great time to start natives and any other plants that are not frost tender. Bring your favorite plants, propagules, books, garden décor or other items of horticultural interest to sell at our January meeting. Please label books and other items with prices that you think are appropriate and label plants with botanical names. Pictures and/or cultural information are also helpful in selling your plants. Bring your checkbook or cash, there may be something that you cannot resist trying. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and scholarships.

ON THE INTERNET

Read this article on the research to bring back the American Chestnut Tree by cross breeding it with the Chinese Chestnut tree which is resistant to the blight that killed four billion trees in just five decades in the Eastern United States.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/american-chestnut-tree-functionally-extinct-species-could-be-restored-researchers-say/>

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Rare Fruit Growers—Scion Exchange, January 11, 2020, 11am- 3pm, Prusch Park, Multicultural Center (MCC), 647 S. King Road, San Jose. There is no charge for this event, but they will happily accept donations! Great selection of scions for many unusual varieties of stone fruits, and pome fruits. (Scions of plums and other susceptible plants are prohibited this year due to the plum bud gall mite. Please check information on CRFG site before bringing in any scions) Cuttings for rooting of figs, grapes, mulberries and pomegranates. Also classes on grafting, and sale of supplies for grafting and training trees. Current CRFG members admitted at 10:00. For more info:

<https://scvcrfg.wordpress.com/>

Gamble Garden-Watershed Garden Ribbon Cutting and Second Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9- 11:30Am, 1431 Waverley St, Palo Alto. For more information about these and other events go to: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/events/>

Officers and Board Members:

President: Janet Hoffmann
Vice President: Open
Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield
Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach
Other Board Members: Richard Hayden, Carol Dahout,
Grace Tsang, Carol Mololt

Volunteers:

Plant Share Host: Katie Wong
Guest Speaker Dinner Host: Katie Wong
AV Co-Ordinator: John Hammerschmidt
Plant Sale Table: Richard Hayden

Welcome Table: Carol Moholt & Mary Alice Reid
Membership: Carrie Parker
Program Chair: Leslie Dean
Social Media: Grace Tsang
Website manager: Open
E-newsletter: Open

About Membership in Western Hort:

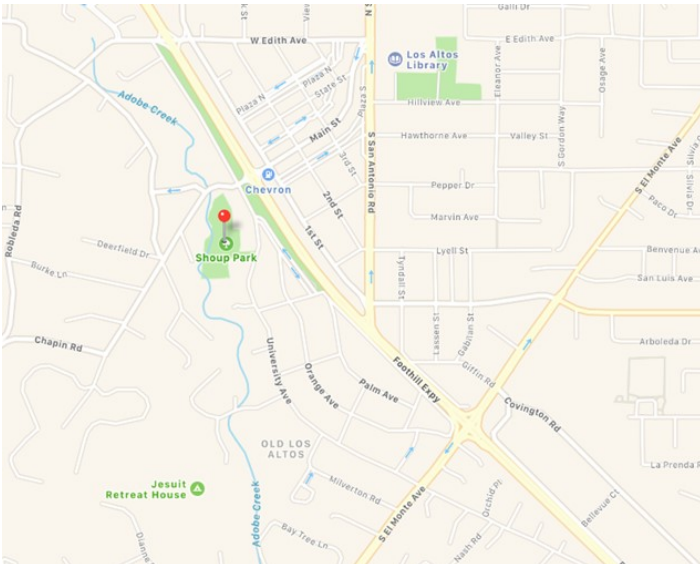
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail add \$10 to the membership fee listed above. Please visit Pac Hort page to read about changes in their organization: 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 location for January :

**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