

SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING

Wednesday, September 11, 7:30 pm **Los Altos Youth Center**, 1 North San Antonio Rd. Los Altos, CA 94022 *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: Apryl Uncapher

Rain Gardens: Turning Your Yard Into a Living Landscape.

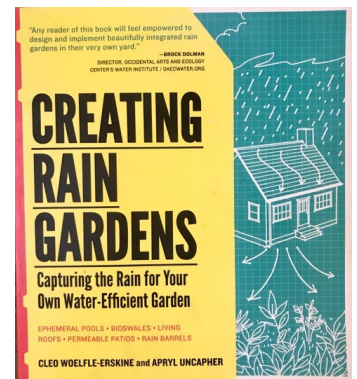
Come explore the ins and outs of rain gardens. Discover how rain gardens can help you achieve a beautiful landscape that goes beyond aesthetics, into an environment-conscious working system to mitigate runoff, reduce erosion, create habitat for native species, and more. We'll discuss benefits, planning and design considerations, installation tips and techniques, and maintenance recommendations. Feel free to bring your own rain garden dreams with you and we can enhance our time together with real-world examples!

Discussion led by rain garden designer, Apryl Uncapher. Apryl began Native Water Systems after a two-decade long career in innovative watershed management. She utilizes rain gardens, living roofs and walls, gray water systems, and more to promote the important responsibility landscapes and buildings have, to be active contributors to a healthy watershed.



Bio:

Living in Marin County, CA, Apryl recently completed the Mill Valley Library Smart Garden, which she is hoping to build into a city-scale project, PolliNation, to create a green belt of rain gardens throughout Mill Valley. The goal is to intercept over a million gallons of water per year, while highlighting the need of a migratory corridor for important native pollinators, like bees & butterflies.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

October 9th, Janet Sluis—New and Noteworthy Plants from the Sunset Western Garden Collection

November 13th, Steven Murray—Traveling the World in Search of Fruit

December 11th, Jennifer Jewell—The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants

Join us for dinner with Apryl Uncapher on

September 11 ~ 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

Welcome back to another season of great speakers and comradery with fellow gardeners! We hope that all of you are sending in your renewals now so you can enjoy the great benefits and continue your support of Western Horticulture Society. As always if you have any comments or suggestions for our organization, feel free to e-mail me at janet@hoffmann.net. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you over the coming year and hope that some of you will join us on the board to make the contributions that keep our organization running smoothly.

~ Janet Hoffman

MAY SPEAKER NOTES

Our final speaker for the season was Lara Hermanson talking about her company, Farmscapes, and the growing movement of “Agrihoods” which it is nurturing. Agrihoods are community agricultural projects that are springing up in many areas of California. They can range from a few raised beds for flowers and vegetables to small farms. Lara began her business in southern California, in 2008. They have recently expanded to the Bay area and provide about 50 full time green jobs installing and maintaining their projects. One Bay Area project is Bon Appetit Catering where they created a rooftop garden using foam blocks to grow 4% of the food for the restaurant. Foods grown include herbs, summer squash, blueberries and tomatoes. Another Bay Area project is a rooftop garden at Levi Stadium. In this case they created raised beds with 4-9” of soil and bio-char, a type of green waste with pores that allow root hairs to attach and hold water. The beds have turned out 10,000 lbs of food for the stadium restaurants in the past 2 years.

Lara developed her interest in food gardening from her mother who was born in Pullman, a self-sufficient company town developed on the shores of Lake Michigan in the late 1800's. Her grandfather took care of the cemetery in Pullman. From these early community experiments she developed the idea to build neighborhoods around food gardens. Some of her first neighborhood developments include Harvest at the Preserve, where they put in horse troughs for raised bed gardens; Springtime at Harvest, where they used redwood planters and Rancho Mission Viejo, where they put in a small farm with fruit trees and fields for crops. Residents can have a learning experience by helping in the garden. They may also just choose to enjoy the produce and sharing with other residents. Some of Farmscapes upcoming projects in our area include the residential plan for the old Bay Area Research and Extension Center site in Santa Clara. Lara hopes to create an intergenerational garden there to help support the planned senior housing. She also has plans for Patterson Ranch in Fremont, Veteran's Village in Colma, Lawrence Station in Santa Clara and the North 40 in Los Gatos. She told us about one of their more challenging recent projects at The Cannery in Davis where they had to rebuild heavily compacted soil with green manure and a soil drill before they could begin planting. Farmscapes handles every stage of the project from design to maintenance and have to be adept at working with developers and city officials. It was a truly invigorating talk about the future of urban farming and developing new interest in gardening.

~ Janet Hoffmann

For those of us concerned about the spread of lyme disease and other tick borne illness, Nancy Schramm shares a link to a fascinating article about something new they are researching to try and control ticks.

<https://phys.org/news/2019-08-saliva.html>

Also:

National Heirloom Exposition in Santa Rosa, CA., September 10—12 <https://theheirloomexpo.com> You will see Nancy there with many other vendors.

JUNE PICNIC NOTES

If you missed our June picnic you missed a truly lovely day at Terra Sole Nursery and the hospitality of Sherry and John Hall. The coastal weather was a wonderful escape from the heat we were experiencing inland and the nursery offered a beautiful view of the coast south of Santa Cruz. It was hard not to purchase some of the many interesting plants that the Halls are growing. I got an unusual variegated *Scrophularia auriculata*, a vine that is an *Alstroemeria* relative called *Bomarea multiflora*, a new to me rose called *Sparrie Shoop*, a *Bauhinia corymbosa*, an *Agastache aurantiaca*, and a tiny ornamental oregano. Everyone enjoyed walking through the extensive gardens around the Hall house which included many well-coordinated groupings of most of the plants that they grow. We also enjoyed a nice selection of goodies presented in their newly renovated “barn” at tables set up strategically in shaded areas around the nursery and garden. Thanks to all who attended and brought food to share and to Sherry and John for their hospitality!
~ Janet Hoffmann



Sherry & John Hall



Lorena Gorsche & John Graybeal



Sherry with new members Ben & Jessie

THE PEOPLE MAKE THE PICNIC!



John Dean, Dick Clark & Glenda Jones



Ellen Frank, Liz Calhoon, Roberta Barnes, & Judy Wong



Nancy Schramm & Diane Chambers



Buffet in the Barn



MAY PLANT PICTURES



Bletilla, Statice, Columbine, Gladiola



Sweet Peas



Mimulus



Gladiola and Statice



Jupiters Beard

PLANT SALE TABLE

We will continue our tradition of offering member propagated plants for sale. Books and other garden related items are also welcome. 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 as we are sure to have something interesting to add to your collection. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and scholarships.

28 YEARS AGO

Since my last report on WHS happenings from 1991 was in the May newsletter, I've got some catching up to do! First, a correction is in order. I reported that May's program was to be *The Land of the Fireweed* with Mabel Crittenden, but it turned out that "*Mabel was home recovering from bruises obtained on a ski trip.*" Ed Schwabecher filled in for Mabel with "*an in-depth talk about fuchsias, illustrated with slides and interspersed with jokes about how the native climate of fuchsias was not 'The Land of the Fireweed'.*"

May's raffle table was filled through the generosity of "*...the contributions of Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, Wintergreen Nursery and Meadowlark Nursery and Landscaping (formerly known to us as Cottage Gardens)...*"

The WHS annual June Picnic was held Sunday the 23rd at "*Sanborn Youth Hostel, built in 1908 as a summer cabin for 1st Superior Court Judge James Welch.*" Western Horticulture had "*...the use of all the outside facilities from 9am to 4pm. There are walks around the hostel and hikes can be taken in Sanborn Park to work up appetites before (or after) lunch.*"

Western Horticultural Society's 1991-92 season began on September 11th at a "*new, permanent meeting site*", the Jennings Pavillion, Holbrook-Palmer Park in Atherton. "*Michael Barclay, horticulturist and designer at Really Special Plants and Gardens, Kensington, CA, will illustrate his talk with his special plants, some of which are to be for sale.*"

In other news, "*Jean Struthers will co-ordinate bulb orders from the Dutch Bulb Gardens at September's meeting. By placing a group order we receive a 10% discount.*"

And: "*Program Co-Ordinator, Mabel Crittenden, has lined up an impressive list of speakers for up-coming meetings.*"

Also: "*Field Trip Co-Ordinator, Roz Bray, has arranged a visit to Betsy Clebsch's garden for Saturday September 28 from 10 to 12 and, afterwards, a visit to nearby Yerba Buena Nursery where we can bring our own picnic lunches.*"

One sad note: "*A memorial will be held for Marshall Olbrich on September 22 between 1 and 4pm at Western Hills Nursery...Occidental, CA. All friends are invited to this celebration of Marshall and Lester Hawkins' garden.*"

Since the October 1991 newsletter is much slimmer on the newsfront, I'm going to save the September 1991 plant notes for next month. Stay tuned!

~Nancy Schramm

A New Product for Poison Oak Sufferers

Last spring I picked up a sample of Zanafel at the NorCal Trade Show. It promised to relieve the symptoms of contact with poison oak. I was pretty skeptical, but after an extreme poison oak reaction a couple years ago (blisters the size of a quarter) when I felt that unique rash, I figured it was worth giving Zanafel a try. I was 24 hours into the itching when I washed as directed, and I'm still amazed, but it really did work. Within a few hours, the itching gradually went away. I still had a pink spot with a slightly raised area in the middle, but my typical, very blistering reaction, simply did not happen. I certainly can't guarantee it will work for others, but I recently had a talk with one of Betsy Clebsch's neighbors who told me that she is extremely allergic to poison oak and Zanafel has saved her many times since she can no longer use steroids. She said she can even use this stuff on her eyelids. Reviews online are mixed, but if you suffer as I do, it might be worth trying.

~ Nancy Schramm

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Silicon Valley Tour De Coop, September 14, 9am—4pm, assorted locations from San Jose to Menlo Park. This self guided bike ride tour is an opportunity to see backyard ecosystems that support the residents with organic vegetable gardens, honey bees, worm composting, and chicken coops. This event is free but you must register on Eventbrite and then you will receive a printable map showing the tour route. For full details go to <http://tourdecoop.org>

California Native Plant Society Santa Clara Valley Chapter Native Horticulture Symposium: Gardening for Biodiversity in a Climate Crisis, Saturday, September 21, 2019, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Foothill College, Los Altos Hills. The Insect Armageddon, the collapse of the western Monarch butterfly, The Sixth Extinction—we are losing species at an alarming rate. Contributors to this crisis include invasive species, the ubiquitous European lawn, non-native landscapes and the loss of wild areas. Landscape professionals and home gardeners can act to turn this trend around. This one-day symposium shows you how to be part of the solution. We have a fabulous lineup of presenters, starting with our keynote speaker, Doug Tallamy, author of Bringing Nature Home. He'll be followed by:

Angela Laws, Monarch & Pollinator Ecologist, The Xerces Society

Lian O'Brian, Lepidopterist, The Green Hairstreak Corridor Project

Kimberly Chacon, UC Davis PH.D Student, Bee Habitat Analysis and Design

Concluding remarks from Bart O'Brian, author and Director, Regional Parks Botanic Garden

Register now, symposium is getting close to capacity. For more information and registration : <http://cnps-scv.org/symposium>

Autumn Celebration at the UC Botanical Garden in Berkeley, Tuesday September 10, 5:00 PM—8:00 PM. At the UC Botanical Garden , 200 Centennial Drive, Berkeley CA. Food, drink, live music and exciting speakers. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/apld-bay-area-autumn-celebration-registration-54980590426>

Save the date in October: Dry Garden Design Symposium at Ruth Bancroft Garden and Nursery, October 26-27
Tickets \$195 for Non-members /\$175 for Members of Ruth Bancroft Garden. Includes breakfast and lunch both days

AROUND THE INTERNET

Hand reared Monarch butterflies don't migrate

From the Atlantic Magazine this article refers to a study on how well hand raised Monarch butterflies migrate in comparison to the wild butterflies.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/06/hand-reared-monarch-butterflies-dont-migrate/592423/>

Peach Fruit Fly

Recent new arrival to our area, the Peach Fruit Fly, is a pest of more than just peaches. It infests apples, apricots, citrus, and tomatoes among others. California Dept. of Food and Agriculture has information on this pest at their website.

https://www.cdffa.ca.gov/plant/pdep/target_pest_disease_profiles/peach_ff_profile.html

Officers and Board Members:

We are still looking for someone to fill the Vice President position.

President: Janet Hoffmann

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Richard Hayden, Laura Wilson,
Carol Dahout, Grace Tsang, Carol Moholt
Plant Discussion: Katie Wong

About Membership in Western Hort:

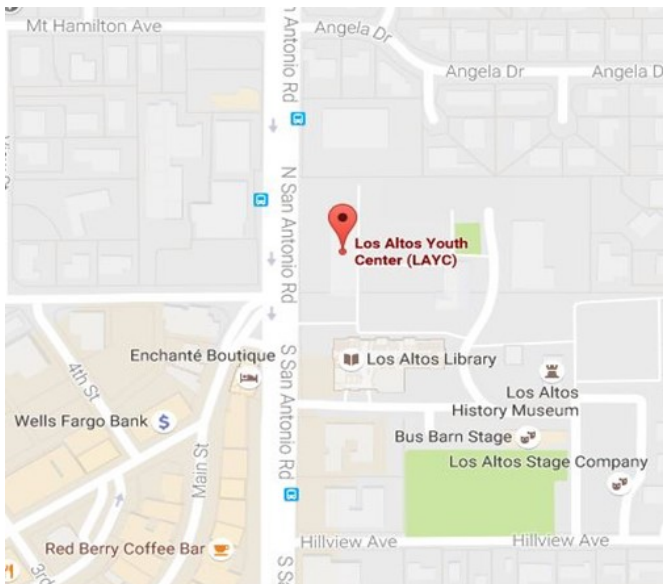
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a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

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 May:

**Los Altos Youth Center
1 North San Antonio Road
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 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 24 of September.** 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