

WESTERN HORT

September 2025 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

SEPTEMBER 2025 MEETING

September 10th, 7:30pm

The September 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 9 of this newsletter for information about joining the Western Horticultural Society.

**SPEAKER: RICHARD HAYDEN, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF HORTICULTURE,
FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE**

**TOPIC: WILD BY DESIGN: THE EVOLUTION OF THE HIGH LINE
GARDENS**

The High Line gardens are world famous for their unique ability to evoke a natural beauty and four season interest in a very challenging urban environment. This talk will highlight the plants, techniques and planning – including recent input and new garden designs from High Line designer, Piet Oudolf – that allow the gardens to evolve, succeed and continually inspire.



Since 2022, Richard Hayden has been the senior director of horticulture at the High Line, an historic, elevated rail line on the west side of Manhattan. Richard began his career with 20+ years as a Los Angeles-based landscape designer. Following that he was director of horticulture at Gamble Gardens in Palo Alto and project manager at the La Brea Tar Pits Museum. He also found time to serve as board chair of the Pacific Horticulture Society, on the board of WHS, president of the LA District of the Association of Professional Landscape Designers and vice president of the Metro Hort Group.

There will be a speakers dinner this month.

If you would like to join us, please email Western Hort member Carol Dahout at: caroldahout@yahoo.com by Monday, September 8th so we can make a reservation for the appropriate attendance. Dinner for September will start at 5:00pm. Chef Chu's is located at 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kudos to Western Hort's speaker committee for this lineup of speakers on famed gardens, books and other newsworthy horticultural projects.

We look forward to seeing you at these meetings in the forthcoming year. As usual, doors open at 6:30pm for setting up. Please come help and hang out with your fellow attendees.

From 7pm until the start of the meeting is more time to catch up with Western Horties and guests while sipping tea and nibbling goodies provided by a member or two.

Consider signing up to host our table. And bring your friends and family!

September 10th, 2025, 7:30pm

Wild by Design: The Evolution of NYC's High Line Gardens by Richard Hayden, Senior Director of Horticulture, Friends of the High Line

October 8th, 2025, 7:30pm

Flowers or Bust: Turning Passion into Purpose by Charmaine Turbow, Los Altos flower farmer

November 12th, 2025, 7:30pm

Food Forests in Suburbia: How to Create a Micro-farm and Still Have a Life by Lisa Stapleton, Chair, California Rare Fruit Growers Santa Clara Valley Chapter

December 10th, 2025, 7:30pm

Holiday potluck and social evening (no speaker)

January 14th, 2026, 7:30pm

Our Winter is Different: Seasons in California Native Gardens by Helen Popper, author and CNPS member

February 11th, 2026, 7:30pm

Chanticleer Gravel Garden by Lisa Roper, Horticulturist at Chanticleer Garden on the Philadelphia Main Line

March 11th, 2026, 7:30pm

Landscaping for Fire Protection by Nikki Hanson of California Sisters Landscapes

April 8th, 2026, 7:30pm

Gardening for CA Pipevine Swallowtail and Other Butterflies in the SF Bay Area by Tim Wong, Senior Biologist at the California Academy of Sciences

May 13th, 2026, 7:30pm

Vendor and movie night: *Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind*, commissioned by David Attenborough

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird



**Almaden Valley Nursery
& Gift Shop**

Where Garden Dreams Come True

50th Anniversary Sale

Friday, September 5th - Sunday, September 14th Almaden Valley Nursery will have their anniversary sale to celebrate 50 years and share their gratitude with you for your support over the years! Every day there will be 30% off #1 and larger sized outdoor plants. Additionally, each day of the sale will have a bonus item listed with a discount! Check their website for full details. <https://almadenvalleynursery.com>

Located at 15800 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95120



2025 PICNIC HOSTED BY SHERRY AUSTIN

As soon as you drove past the spectacular gate and entered Sherry Austin's paradise, you knew you were arriving at a special place. Everyone attending the Western Horticultural annual picnic couldn't help but be impressed by what Sherry has accomplished at her home in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Carved out of the native shrub land is her amazing collection of unusual trees, shrubs and perennials. There was a lot to take in and I believe more time was spent walking the property and trying not to miss anything than was spent eating! An unheard of event in our society.

So many members brought delicious things to share that there was no shortage of food. Many thanks to those thoughtful members. The highlight was, without a doubt, the fabulous cake to celebrate Glenda Jones birthday! Leslie Dean procured this decadent chocolate confection from a Sunnyvale bakery and everyone agreed it was totally worth the calories. (Also, thank you Leslie for submitting wonderful photos of the event!)

But, in the end, the best part is always the good company, good conversations and sharing a beautiful day.



Don Polensky & Jim Salyards



Roberta Barnes & Rosalie Sheperd



Carolyn Craft, Judy Wong & Carol Dahout



**Happy Birthday!
Glenda Jones**



**One of the many little vignettes around the garden
that make it so special**



John Hammerschmidt



Glenda Jones, Sharon Winslow-Erickson & Rosalie Shepherd



Eva Huala & Marcie Hayden



**Intrepid Cal Hort Member
Ellen Frank admires the
garden**



**Milovan Milutin
Milo recently became a board
member!**



Nancy Schramm & Ellen Frank



Carolyn Craft, Linda Stremel and Carol Dahout

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort opened the 1997-8 season on September 10th with a talk entitled *Garden Maintenance—The Nitty Gritty*, presented by Lucy Tolmach, from Filoli.

WHS was still meeting at Loyola School throughout the year.

There was a look back at the May 1997 raffle, which had been "...the biggest ever. Thanks to all who contributed and Kathy Echols who brought down all those salvias from Diablo College."

Six new members were welcomed, along with a timely reminder about membership renewals.

A plea concerning a lost (and hopefully) found banner: "We can't **find it!!!** Some years ago Carol Coate made a banner for our display at the Landscape Garden Show. It is about 10' x 3' and is probably rolled up into a tube. It's a beautiful thing; we can't have it LOST!"

The newsletter ended with a sad note "Gerda Eisenberg passed away in June, a few days after her 96th birthday. She is a legend! and very much missed."

Plant Notes began with three flowers shown by John Hammerschmidt. After his Easter lily (*Lilium longiflorum*) finished blooming in March, he "put (it) in the ground and cut it back, whereupon it resprouted and here it is blooming in September. After it settles in it will probably bloom in midsummer like other lilies do."

"*Mandevilla laxa*, Chilean jasmine, also has white trumpet-shaped flowers with a powerful gardenia-like fragrance." It is a deciduous vine, hardier than the evergreen species, and blooms all summer on new wood.

John's *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy', begins blooming with "rich pink flowers that progress to rose then brick red and finally to rusty brown..." Plant Note author Elizabeth Garbett commented that "in my garden a clump of pinkish-purple *Physostegia virginiana* grew up through the sedum—the effect is dazzling." She went on to report that "Graham Rice in his book *Hardy Perennials* says that while *Sedum* 'Brilliant', a much less vigorous plant with pink flowers, is attractive to both butterflies and bees, *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' attracts only bees. I haven't had time to research this yet, but I'd be interested to know if other members have observed this."

"Patricia St. John showed a really stunning group of *Crocasmia* 'Solfaterre', a hybrid with apricot-yellow flowers above bronzy foliage."

"Mildred Hargrave brought in a sample of *Liriope muscari*, sometimes called lily turf." It's a useful groundcover with lavender flowers, grows in sun or shade, needs some summer water.

"Lyn Dearborn showed a fascinating orchid, *Angreacum superbum* x *scottianum*, a species from Madagascar." It has an eight-inch nectary, pollinated by a night-flying moth.

She also brought *Epidendron porpax*, with small, thick, fleshy leaves and hidden purplish-green flowers.

Ed Carman's contributions were two blue-flowered *Thumbergia*. *T. grandiflora* 'Augusta', is a vigorous vine with sky-blue flowers. Being tropical in origin (India) it "may freeze back in winter, but well-established plants usually resprout. Ed grows this plant in an unheated greenhouse, where it has gone all the way to the ceiling and is looking for more space."

T. battiscombii is a scrambler with intense true blue flowers, blooming all during warm weather. Elizabeth reports "Frost cuts it down but it has always come back from the roots in my cold garden."

~ Nancy Schramm

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Audubon Native Plants Database. The Audubon Society has an online database listing the native plants that will feed wild birds in your area. You will have to share your email address to access it. It will tell you not only the plants but which specific bird specie it attracts as well as what the plant provides. (i.e.: nectar, fruit, seed, caterpillars and nuts.) <https://audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

For the Begonia fanciers. CalHort had a presentation on propagating begonias and has posted a link to directions on how to do this. <https://calhortsociety.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/25-04-01ch-begonias-rooted-propagations.pdf>

62nd ANNUAL BONSAI SHOW

bonsai style



Trees that captivate the eye.



MIDORI BONSAI

Quinlan Community Center
10185 N. Stelling Road
Cupertino, California

For more information,
visit midoribonsai.org

SATURDAY OCT 04, 2025

10am-5pm • Free admission
Demonstration • Beginner's Workshop
Dr. Bonsai • Ikebana

Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014 For additional info go to: <https://midoribonsai.org/2025-show> Free admission, 10am – 5pm Demonstration, workshop, Ikebana and vendors

!! RENEWAL TIME !!

Don't miss out on any of our informative and interesting speakers we have lined up for this season. Active members from last season should have received a renewal brochure in the mail. You can also renew online and the link is on our WHS website. <https://www.westernhort.org/join-online>

Membership benefits include the following discounts: 10% Vendor discounts from: Summerwinds Nursery, Terra Sole Nursery, Carman's Nursery and **New this year are Almaden Valley Nursery, Rasa Garden Supply and Filoli Gift Shop!** Lyngso offers a 5% discount on soils and amendments only.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!!

SNACKS!

More to enjoy at our monthly Western Horticultural Society Meetings.

September snacks are provided by the WHS board for your enjoyment! Thank you board members! Please sign up to bring something in the coming months. We're hoping for 2-4 contributions each month. Please email Jim Salyards (jsalyards@filoli.org) if you would like to bring something.

Snacks can be home baked sweet or savory bites. They can be purchased at your local market. Fruits and vegetables are great too.

Here is a link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19rOJXS374RI3aV3sSG-3RfALQWOq-D0Ps5AdaKR81Bg/edit?tab=t.0>

Thanks to Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans for their participation and for setting up the snack table each month!

Open call to a dedicated member (or members) who would like to contribute to the WHS newsletter.

Asking for a member to step forward to take on the Plant Notes Column in the newsletter. You could even share this little job with a friend.

This is a great way to learn more about the plants the members share!! Here is what it entails:

- Come to the meetings and take notes on what the plant presenter has to say about the plant
- Take photos of the plants that members share
- Collect the information sheet from the presenters about the plants shared for reference
- Write up a description of the plant using reliable sources for reference. Email the presenter of the plant with any questions you may have to fill in any gaps.

Required items for the write-up include:

- 1) Name of presenter, where they live and where they got the plant if they mention it
- 2) Botanical name and common name(s)
- 3) Mature size (height and width)
- 4) Any distinguishing things about the plant. Flowers, foliage, what time of year it is interesting and any comments about ease of care or difficulty.
- 5) Growing conditions – preferred soil type, sun exposure, watering requirements, Temperature zones (USDA or Sunset Western Garden Book zones)

Format the information in Word and in a layout that will look nice in the newsletter. You can refer to old issues for ideas. Use Sunset Western Garden Book, Hortus, any other books you may have on the subject i.e. native plant books, exotic plants, trees and shrubs, bulbs and salvias. Books on any of these subjects tend to come in handy. There are also good websites for information such as Pacific Bulb Society, California Native Plant Society and the growers' sites like San Marcos Growers.

Email the word document and the pictures of the plants taken at the meeting to the newsletter editor by the 20th of the month. This gives about 12 days for the project.

This is a great way to learn more about the plants presented and contribute to the organization. Contact the editor with any questions at Kjanberg@gmail.com.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

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

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

California Horticultural Society, September 15, 6:30pm - In person meeting with Mary Werthman, UC Master Gardener of Santa Clara County. Join them to find out how we can keep gardening and be part of the solutions to climate change. Location – San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. For more information from Cal Hort go to their current bulletin:

https://calhortsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/bulletin-v92v8_august-f.pdf

Ed Laivo at Summerwinds Nursery in Cupertino, Sunday, October 5th, 10am to noon. Ed is well known from his time at Dave Wilson Fruit Tree Nursery and with 35 years in the horticultural industry he is a fountain of information on all things fruit trees!

California Horticultural Society, November 17, 6:30pm - In person with Michael Horn, *Carnivorous Plants*

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

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

GET INVOLVED

WHEN YOU'RE NERVOUS ABOUT STEPPING OUTSIDE OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE, REMIND YOURSELF; "IT FEELS SCARY BECAUSE IT'S UNFAMILIAR, NOT BECAUSE I'M INCAPABLE."
~MICHELLE C. CLARK

Vice president, Board members and Corresponding Secretary : These positions are still open. Get to know your fellow WHS members and help keep the society vibrant and well rounded. 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:

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, Gabrielle Sala & Mil Milutin.

(More board members welcomed and needed)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Eva Huala

Membership: Eva Huala & Kathy Anberg

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Meeting Tech: Jennifer Doniach, Eva Huala, Jennifer Dungan, Meri-Beth Bird & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Pam Noyer

Treat Table Set up: Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones, Meri-Beth Bird, Marcie Hayden & Jim Salyards

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:

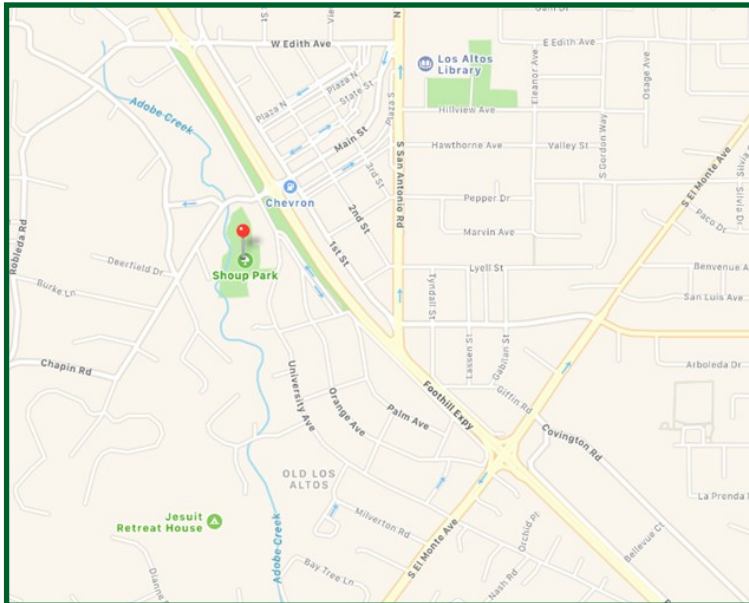
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. Please visit the Pac 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 : September 10th, 2025

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 September.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Kjanberg@gmail.com.