



November 2016 Speaker

Wednesday, November 9, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Brian Kemble, "A Succulent for Every California Garden"



Brian Kemble

California's Mediterranean climate and increasing population means that our demands for water are outstripping what nature supplies and probably will continue to do so. Several years of drought have led to mandatory cutbacks in water usage for homeowners in many areas. This has led to an increased interest in succulents because of their low water requirements. Brian's presentation will feature an assortment of succulents suitable for Bay Areas gardens.

Brian Kemble is the Curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden and has been at the garden since 1980. He is Vice-President of the San Francisco Succulent & Cactus Society as well as Vice-President of the Institute for Aloe Studies.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden is located in Walnut Creek. It is a nonprofit public dry garden that was planted by Mrs. Ruth Bancroft in 1972. In the 1950s Ruth purchased her first succulent, a single potted aeonium. She quickly became fascinated with water-conserving plants and began collecting them. She amassed a huge collection of potted succulents, which were grown in lath-houses and greenhouses. Ruth's husband Phillip Bancroft, Jr. cut down the last walnut orchard on their property in 1971 and turned the land over to his wife to create the garden from her collection. The garden opened to the public in the early '90s.

In addition to helping to create and maintain this amazing garden, Brian has written numerous articles on succulents, and has a monthly column 'On the Dry Side' in the East Bay Times, the Oakland Tribune and the San Jose Mercury News.



Ruth Bancroft Garden from Garden Views

<http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/photo.html>

Please Note- Meeting location is still the same as last month

Los Altos Youth Center, 1 North San Antonio Rd., Los Altos, CA 94022

*Join us for dinner with Brian Kemble on
November 9th ~ 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

October 2016 Plant Notes

Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought 2 Salvias, a Cactus and a Goldfish plant:

Salvia 'Amistad' (Friendship Sage) – This fast growing, semi-deciduous perennial hybrid (*S. guaranitica* x *S. gesneriiflora*) was discovered in Argentina by Rolando Uria. It grows in zones 8-11 (both inland and on the coast) and can be grown in part shade or full sun, in well-drained soil that gets regular watering. It can be grown in a container or in the ground where it can reach 3-5' tall and 4-6' wide. It blooms from summer to fall and has huge violet-purple flowers with nectar that attracts hummingbirds, butterflies and other pollinators.

Salvia involucrata (Rosy Leaf Sage) – This tall and fragrant perennial has soft velvety leaves with a touch of purple along with racemes of red-pink flowers. This late blooming salvia blooms from late summer to early fall. It grows in zones 8-10 up to 6' tall x 3' wide and likes to be grown in full sun in well-drained soil.

Gymnocalycium mihanovichii (Chin Cactus or Moon Cactus) – This sun-loving cactus from South America is a short-lived plant because it is a composite of 2 plants. The top, pink flowering non-photosynthesizing portion (*Gymnocalycium*) has been grafted onto the photosynthesizing *Hylocereus*. It blooms in late summer or fall, likes very well drained soil, takes little water and will grow in temperatures > 33°. The plant will eventually separate into two, because the top and bottom of the graft grow at different rates.

Nematanthus gregarious – Old name of *Hypocyrtia glabra* (Goldfish plant, Clog plant or Guppy plant) - Is an epiphyte originally from South Mexico or Brazil (where it is endemic). This very slow growing evergreen houseplant was given to Judy as a cutting. It has beautiful thick shiny leaves that do not like direct sun but do very well in bright light as a hanging indoor plant where the temperatures are from 50-60°. The orange flowers resemble tiny goldfish and flower for a very long time. It needs well-drained soil to grow. Please let the soil dry completely between watering. *Columnnea gloriosa* is also called Goldfish plant because it also has flowers that resemble Goldfish, but is different than *N. gregarious*.

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Brunfelsia americana (Lady of the Night) - This fast growing perennial is the most fragrant of the *Brunfelsias*. It grows in full sun and part shade but Katie has it growing in partial shade and it is 10' tall in partial shade. Unlike the more common *Brunfelsia pauciflora* 'Floribunda' (Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow), this species has large white flowers that fade to yellow. The blooms have a wonderful scent, a combination of jasmine and 5-spice and only open in the evening during the warmer months. It is easy to grow in well-drained, acid soil but is frost tender to 32°. Like the trumpet vine, all parts of this plant are poisonous if eaten.

Milovan Milutin from San Jose brought:

Io chroma cyaneum (Violet Churcu) - This evergreen and hardy shrub likes to grow in part sun or part shade and can grow to be 12' tall x 5' wide in zones 9-11. It likes moist soil but is doing well in Milovans's clay soil. It has deep blue-violet trumpet flowers and because it is a repeat bloomer, blooms for a long time beginning from spring to fall. Bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and birds are attracted to the flowers. It is hardy to mid 20°. All parts of this plant are poisonous if eaten (since it contains alkaloids and hallucinogens) and for some individuals, handling it might cause some skin irritation.

~Ana Muir

Plant Table

"*Succulents for the Bay Area*" is the topic of our November speaker. Any donation of hardy, succulent plants for our plant table would be really welcome. But pretty much any plants or garden related objects are welcome. Thanks for everybody's support this year. Questions? Contact Roberta Barnes: robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com

September 2016 Speaker Notes

(Editor's note: These were sent too late for publication in the October bulletin.)

Fall beckoned us back to our monthly meetings with our featured Louisa Beck Guest Speaker, Chris Woods. *The Spell of the Sensuous* could be an unusual, if not enticing topic, even to a group of garden savvy plant lovers like ourselves. I think this is what Mr. Woods had in mind.

Mixing knowledge, humor, and opinions, Chris got the evening rolling with the photos and statements that showed his awareness of the eroticism in plants. After a few slides illustrating his horticultural lust, his sense of humor became apparent, even engaging. I'll confess it took me a while to see where this evening was headed.

On a deeper and more profound level, Woods took the audience on a world-wide tour of gardens. Not shy of expressing an opinion, Chris used his slides as examples of what man is and is not doing right in the world. He noted that our romantic notion of our relationship with nature is cartoonish; we destroy our native habitat, only to inhabit and replant it again. He also expressed the importance of parks to a community, especially in a world becoming more populated, yet personally isolating. Woods also appeared to feel strongly that human contact with nature mitigates mental problems. That makes sense to me. As he noted at the beginning of his lecture, "our interest in the land is a basic human instinct".

Having been thinking more about the meaning of sensuous, I looked it up in the dictionary and found these definitions: "enjoyments derived from the senses" and "what is experienced through the senses", both applicable to the gardens as presented by Chris Wood. I learned a thing or two from this lecture.

~Mark McCabe

October 2016 Speaker Notes

It seems that WHS has an affinity for sages. Past speakers have included John Whittlesey, author of "The Plant Lovers Guide to Salvias" and our own Betsy Clebsch, author of "A Book of Salvias". This October our speaker was Rolando Uria, who spoke with authority about *Salvias of Northern Argentina*.

A professor, head gardener, plant explorer, and hybridizer, Mr. Uria presented some well known and lesser-known salvias from his native country. The speaker noted that there are 22 native *Salvia* species in Argentina, many of which he feels are well suited for growing in California. Rolando is currently undertaking a study aiming to evaluate the ornamental potential of some less known species. His impressive slide presentation certainly drove home the point of the huge variety of form and color this genus has to offer.

Mr. Uria focused extensively on the species *guaranitica*, which in its native habitat is found growing near streams in the rainforest region of northern Argentina. Many hybrids have sprung forth from the *guaranitica* fold, including 'Santa Maria', 'Los Cocos', 'Heirloom', 'Congestifolia', 'Short Form', 'Carioca', and the speaker's "signature sage", 'Amistad'. Rolando noted that not all botanists are in agreement about the different sub-species' of *guaranitica*. He also opined that *guaranitica* is in danger of being lost, as no one grows the straight species anymore.

This fascinating and ever-popular genus seems to increase in popularity every year with people like Rolando continuously discovering new varieties. It's a plant that is going to be around in gardens for generations.

~Mark McCabe

Upcoming Meetings

December 14, 2016 – Holiday Potluck, *A Celebration of Dick and Helaine Dunmire*
with Music by 27strings

January 11, 2017 – Nancy Garrison, *Designing Fruit Trees into the Garden*

February 8, 2017 – Frederique Lavoipierre, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Beneficial Insects in the Garden*

28 Years Ago

Western Horticultural Society met November 9, 1988 at the Los Altos Youth Center to hear Bart O'Brien talk about *Unusual Plants for Your Garden*. At that time he was manager of Yerba Buena Nursery (several jobs ago!) and included both natives and exotics in his talk. There was also an announcement about the upcoming December potluck, organized by Mary Kaye.

The plant notes from October included some brand new yarrow hybrids (Galaxy series—seen recently on the field trip to Goldsmith Seeds) A. 'Apple Blossom' and A. 'Paprika' (Ed Carman), *Haemanthus albiflos* in full bloom (Bill Kurtz), a white *Bergenia* (Bart O'Brien) that seemed to have the foliage of *B. ciliata* 'Alba' but the flowers of *B. stracheyi*. "Betsy Clebsch assembled a bouquet of (eight different) shrub roses from her garden. There were lush pastel pinks, creams and buffs, some great sprays, some super doubles, crimped and ruffled, fragrant and all looking as if October were their favorite time of year." Yerba Buena Nursery showed *Rubus spectabilis* for moist areas and *Solanum umbelliferum* 'Blue Witch' for hot, dry or most garden conditions, full sun or part shade, plus the deer usually only nibble it. "Ted Kipping brought an assortment of drought-tolerant plants from his very remarkable garden in SF" *Lupinus albifrons v. collinus*, *Sideritis dasyygnaphala*, and *Verbena rigida*. Also shown were *Salvia elegans* and one of its seedlings that looked entirely different (Louise Blakey) *Houttuynia cordata* and *Aconite carmichaelii*.

Bart responded to many requests for a plant list (from his talk) with the following. How many of these plants are growing in YOUR garden? ~Nancy Schramm

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UNUSUAL PLANTS FOR YOUR GARDEN
by Bart O'Brien
Western Horticultural Society; November 9, 1988

<u>EXOTICS:</u>	
Lapageria rosea	L. n. 'El Vergel'
L. n. 'Mission Lace'	L. n. 'White Cloud'
L. n. 'Dr. Bullock'	Phillesia mageffanica
Bomarea patacocensis	Aistrooemeria - Ligtu hybrids
A. 'Tanager'	A. peruviana
A. hookeri	A. sierrae
A. sp.	Embothrium coccineum
Bocconia latisejala	Bocconia sp.
Calceolaria integrifolia 'Golden Nugget'	Tagetes lemmonii
Heterocentron elegans	Eryngium eburneum
Puya raimondii	P. bertoniana
P. chilensis	P. alpestris
P. dyckiioides	P. mima
P. macrura	Comarostaphylis polifolia
Melianthus major	Greyia radkofferi
G. sutherlandii	Leucospermum cordifolium - Apricot Clene
Telopea speciosissima	Verticordia nitens
V. monodelpha	V. chrysantha
Lechnaultia formosana - red	L. f. - yellow/orange
L. f. - yellow/red	L. f. - prostrate orange
L. f. - large deep red prostrate	L. bitoba
Wahlenbergia gloriosa	Pimelea spectabilis
Solanum rantonnetii	Ranunculus cortusifolius
Hedychium gardnerianum	Linaria maroccana
<u>NATIVES:</u>	
Nemophila menziesii	Stylomecon heterophylla
Clarkia rubicunda	Clarkia - hybrids
Mentzelia lindleyii	Lupinus sericatus
Sanicula arctopoides	Delphinium luteum
D. patens	D. nudicaule
D. cardinale	Draperia systyla
Erigeron glaucus	Grindelia arenicola (G. stricta ssp. venulosa)
Monardella macrantha	Cirsium proteanum
Asclepias fascicularis	A. cordifolia
Allium falcifolium	Iris macrosiphon
I. 'Canyon Snow'	Styrax officinalis var. californica
Ceanothus pumilus	C. nearcticum
C. maritimus	Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - San Bruno Mountain
A. densiflora 'James West'	A. glandulosa x stanfordiana
A. pajaroensis 'Paradise'	A. regismontana and A. pallida

Horticultural Happenings

November 26-27 Holiday Plant Sale and Art Fair

Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek

More info at: <http://www.ruthbbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/events.html>

California Native Plant Society, Annual Meeting and Potluck

Saturday, November 12th at 6:00 PM

Shoup Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos

Speaker: John Muir Laws, naturalist, educator, and artist

More info at: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/images/BlazingStar/bs1116.pdf>

Update

Marianne is still recuperating from her stroke, she would be very happy to hear from any of you.

Here is her current contact information:

Marianne Mueller

Florida Hospital Oceanside, Room 228

264 S. Atlantic Avenue

Ormond Beach, FL 32176

The phone is 386-231-6000. This takes you to the main switchboard. Then you tell them Room 228 in the Transitional Care Unit of Florida Hospital Oceanside. ~*Rosalie*

Volunteer

The Western Horticulture Society is a dynamic group of Plant loving folks. We have a great lineup of guest speakers for each of our meetings and we have ongoing plant sales all thanks to our member volunteers. Without the help of our members, we cannot do what we do to make our meetings as great as they are. Right now, we especially need volunteers to help with arrangements for our

December Party. Please contact Liz Calhoun for details: garden_lizard@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Daxin Liu's term ends on December 31. We need someone to step up and take his place.

Please contact Daxin, or any board member if you think that you could volunteer for this important job. All that is needed is good organizational skills and the ability to manage a checking account.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoun

Vice President: Judy Wong

Secretary: Patricia Larenas

Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tied

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other board members: Chris Egan, Judy Fulton,
and Katie Wong

About membership in Western Hort:

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to "Western Horticultural Society" to PO Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062-0673.

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Sustaining is \$45, Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a Family membership of \$50 for two or more members at the same address, and a Student rate of \$20.

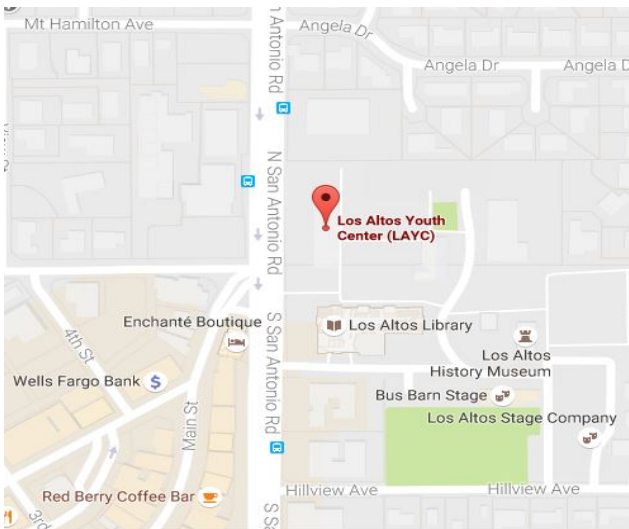
Please visit our website at http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: westernhortsociety@gmail.com, or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



NEW 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. Doors open at 7:00 pm. and meetings begin 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!

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