

WESTERN HORT

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

APRIL 2019 MEETING

Wednesday, April 10, 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: Ann Northrup, Foothill College, Merritt College. *Bugs You Hope to See Fewer of in the Garden; Can you tell them apart from the good ones?*

Maybe you are already familiar with the really common insect pests that infest our garden plants. But are there ones that you are not sure about? Some guidelines will be covered to help you decide whether to cherish, squash or just observe.



Ann spent her undergraduate years at the University of Michigan where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology. Her interest in plant pathology started there but she took a five year diversion working in the field of medical diagnostics and molecular biology research. After that long wait, she returned to plant pathology to earn a master's degree with Dr. Bob Raabe at UC Berkeley. Her work has been primarily in disease diagnostics of ornamental plants, first with Soil and Plant Lab in Orange CA, and then with Nurserymen's Exchange in Half Moon Bay. She currently works half time at Montalvo Art Center in Saratoga, consults privately in plant

pathology and arboriculture and teaches horticultural classes at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills and Merritt College in Oakland. One of her long time and current enjoyments is volunteering at the "Sick Plant Clinic" at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden. She is also an active volunteer in the UCCE Master Gardener program of Santa Clara County.



Join us for dinner with Ann Northrup on

April 10~ 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

Many of you were in attendance so you know that our speaker committee did an exceptional job in getting Dan Hinkley to speak at our March meeting. We had about 130 people in attendance for his entertaining presentation. Special thanks go to Leslie Dean for overseeing all of the arrangements, to Richard Hayden for transporting and housing Dan, to Laura Wilson for setting up and keeping track of the Eventbrite site that we used for registration, to Nancy Schramm for getting the donation of the Monrovia plants that we gave away and sold at the meeting, to Carrie Parker who helped transport and priced all of the plants, and to everyone who helped to make the meeting set-up and clean-up go so smoothly. It truly does take a village to make an organization like ours so wonderful. On that note we are looking for a few more board members because some of our long-serving members will be stepping down next season and we need others to take their places to keep things running smoothly. If you are interested or have any suggestions for board members or other chapter functions, feel free to contact me at janet@hoffmann.net. Hope to see many of you again at our April meeting. ~ Janet Hoffmann

MARCH SPEAKER NOTES

Dan Hinkley opened his talk appropriately with a photo of an unusual leaf-mimicking moth on his bed-stand from his travels to India. Dan has been traveling the world for most of his adult life looking for unusual plants appropriate for West Coast gardens. Amazingly he brings back only seeds of these plants, which he then propagates in his trial gardens and then shares the most promising ones with Monrovia Nursery for wider distribution.

Dan grew up in Michigan where his love of plants began. As an adult he migrated across the northern part of the US until he finally settled in the Seattle area. His first whimsical garden was called Heronswood. He gardened there from 2000-2006 when he was forced to move because the land was put up for sale. The property sat idle until it was purchased in 2012 by the native Port Gamble S'Klallam tribe. Dan has subsequently helped the tribe to revive at least some elements of his old garden and it is open to the public if you are ever in the Seattle area.

In the meantime Hinkley found a new location to garden and live across Puget Sound in Indianola, WA. He aptly calls his new garden Windcliff. It is much more open than the previous site and presents the challenges of gardening in a windy area near the ocean. He has transformed the almost 7 acre parcel that was originally home to kennels for German Shepherds. The site had so much lawn that one of the former lady owners spent an entire day just mowing it. Only about a ¼ acre of lawn now remains and he has planted trees in the remaining grass.

Dan loves to play with foliage contrasts in the landscape more than flower color. Having such a large palette allows him to plant masses of the same plant for greater effect. He even has been using the much-maligned *Agapanthus* to amazing effect. There are so many of them that they have cross-pollinated to create some new cultivars in different shades of blue and flower forms. In addition to plant forms he also likes to incorporate sculpture in his gardens and has several by Marsha Donahue.

Dan's partner, Robert is an architect and designed their home to incorporate the surrounding garden. They have a series of pools close to the house which create the affect of the marshlands that Dan fondly remembers from his childhood. Seattle winters can be harsh and Dan included pictures of recent snowfalls that they experienced. Their appreciation for wildlife in the garden was aptly illustrated during one of these cold events when they put up heaters and hummingbird feeders near the house to protect the birds.

The plants that Dan talked about were too numerous to list here but some that he recommended from the Dan Hinkley collection that Monrovia carries included *Holboellia brachyandra*, an evergreen vine with fragrant white flowers that they have planted in their front entryway. Also, *Helwingia chinensis*, an unusual shrub that produces small white flowers in the center of the leaves. A lovely ground cover for moist partially shady sites that he likes the texture of is *Beesia deltophyla*. Monrovia provided some of these plants which we sold after Dan's talk. We still have some *Helwingia*, which I will be bringing to our April meeting plant sale. ~ Janet Hoffmann

UPCOMING MEETINGS

May 8, 2019—Lara Hermanson, Landscape contractor, Farmscape. *Growing Community in Northern California Neighborhoods*

June, date to be determined (probably June 7th) Annual Picnic. Please contact any board members if you have suggestions for our picnic site this year.

MARCH PLANT NOTES

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

Daphne genkwa (Lilac Daphne) - This deciduous shrub native to China, Taiwan and South Korea grows in full or part sun (zones 5-9) in well-drained rich soil. It gets to be 3-4' tall and 2-3' wide. It has 1-2" opposite lanceolate dull green leaves with entire margins. Nancy saw it blooming last August at Suncrest Nursery and thought it was so lovely that she bought it (even though it is not fragrant). Its normal flowering season is now, in March, when clusters of 4 petaled lavender pink flowers open up. It is one of the 50 fundamental herbs used in Chinese medicine (flower buds) even though all of the plant is reported to be poisonous and it has even been used as a pesticide. It is hardy to -10° F.



Daphne genkwa



Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

Boronia megastigma 'Lutea' – This evergreen Australian native shrub grows in sun to part shade (zones 9-11) in very well-drained soil. It gets to be 2-3' high and 2' wide. Its chartreuse-yellow cup shaped flowers give off the most fragrant smell. It belongs to the Citrus family (imports have been banned) and is hardy to 25° F.

Boronia megastigma 'Lutea'
brought:

Lorena Gorsche from Santa Clara

Fuchsia magellanica var. *molinae* 'Maiden's Blush' (Maiden's Blush Fuchsia) – This semi-evergreen is a Dan Hinkley introduction that grows in full to part sun (zones 6-10) in any type of soil with regular watering. It gets to be 3-5' tall and wide (3' tall at Lorena's). It has opposite lanceolate light green leaves with serrated margins. It has started blooming and the hanging flowers have 4 spreading sepals and 4 erect light pink petals. It is a great hummingbird plant.



Fuchsia magellanica v. *molinae*

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

Photos ~ Jennifer Doniach

FREE INFORMATIONAL EVENT AT FILOLI

Wednesday April 10, 1:00PM. This is a community information session about Boxwood Blight as well as general information about what to do when encountering an unidentified pest or disease.



Kathy Kosta, Plant Pathologist will share how you can detect this pathogen at the earliest possible time and the best management practices to control it.

<https://filoli.org/event/boxwood>



There may also be some information about the new Plum Bud Gall Mite problem.

PLANT SALE TABLE

We had a great outpouring of books to sell at our last meeting and along with the plants from Monrovia and fees and donations that we collected, we were able to cover all of our speaker costs! If you have plants that you have been propagating, please bring them to our April meeting. 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.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on April 10th, 1991 for a special members' night. Twelve different members shared up to 23 slides (yes, old-fashioned slides) of their gardens and favorite plants. The members and their presentations included: Roz Bray, *March of Time*, views of her garden from 1974-1990; Connie Gould, *A Tiny Garden, Somewhat English Plus Nature*, including "The best lily ever (till the gopher got it)"; Albert Wilson, many blooming trees and shrubs; Keith Bickford, another selection of perennials in bloom; Carol Coate, *Building of the "Color Chart" Perennial Border*, the 1988-1989 project start to finish of a 12-15' wide, 160' long border with blooms progressing through the colors of the rainbow; Jean Fowkes, *Design and Construction*, including "Moving boulder to pond. Boulder weighs 1100 pounds"; Bob Young, *A Garden With Deer*, with primarily CA natives, and yes, native deer as well; Mary Kaye, *Landscaping Without Lawn*, general views as well as individual plants and "Bird bath with frog"; Margery C. Lindsay, *Pictures Taken by Louise Blakey*, including blooming trees, rock and boulder work, and (a given if you knew Louise) "Two baby hummingbirds in Monterey Pine"; David and Dorothy Rodal, *A Very Untidy Cottage Garden with Clematis*, blooming trees, shrubs, vines and rock garden plants; Betsy Clebsch, *Shots of One Garden*, with salvias, penstemons and roses; Tom Andrews, *General Views of Garden*.

Newsletter news included mention of an upcoming change in meeting site from Hillview Community Center to Holbrook Palmer Park in Atherton; talk of the WHS "exhibit container gardening at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show April 17-21...at Fort Mason". That year the Show included "27 gardens, water conservation technology exhibits, 50 gardening shops, and horticultural exhibits by Bay Area plant societies." There was also a memorial: "Charles Burr died soon after his 85th birthday in February when he talked on small gardens at Western Hort. We feel so fortunate to have shared that occasion with him and we remember the many contributions he has made to horticulture, especially here on the Peninsula."

The plant notes indicated that a table full of spring blooms greeted the membership in April. Trees included *Prunus serrulata* 'Mt. Fuji', *P. caroliniana* and *Davidia involucrata* v. *vilmoriniana*; shrubs, sub-shrubs and vines included *Lonicera syringantha*, *L. sempervirens*, *Clematis Corona* and *Anisodonteia capensis*; other bloomers included *Scaevola aemula* Widener's Blue Wonder' (new to the trade at that time), *Dodecatheon clevelandii* 'Insulare', *Sarracenia purpurea*, *Tradescantia navicularis*, *Setcreasea pallida*, *Callisia fragrans*, *Rehmannia elata* and twelve different heucheras! Just to provide a breather from flowers, Day Boddorff from Baylands Nursery brought *Juncus effuses* 'Spiralis', *Festuca rubra* and *Muehlenbeckia axillaris*. It appears that Mabel Crittenden brought a Jojoba plant "found to produce an oil with such superior lubricating ability that it could take the place of sperm whale oil" and "turned her stock of seeds over to Ed Carman and if all goes well Ed will bring the young plants back for distribution to interested members." (As I recall, Dad did germinate a number of the Jojoba seeds, but there was less than overwhelming interest...I remember them languishing in the nursery)

Job Opportunity Posting

International Plant Propagators Society is searching for a Western Region Secretary/Treasurer. Applications will be accepted until May 1st or until the position is filled. This is a part-time position approximately 750 hours per year. You would work from your own office. Position requires ability to develop annual budget, keep financial records, process memberships, maintain on-line database and act as point person for the region among other duties. Current salary is \$15,000 USD per year plus reimbursement for travel, etc. Direct questions to: toddjones57@hotmail.com or 1-360-319-8968

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Edgewood Wildflower Walks, March 16-June 2, 2019, every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-1pm, Edgewood Park, 10 Old Stage Coach Road, Redwood City.

Edgewood's serpentine grasslands are renowned throughout California for their lush wildflower carpets and rich biodiversity. You might see dozens of species of flowers on a single walk! Free walks are led by docents at Edgewood Park every Saturday and Sunday from March 16 through June 2 and vary according to what's in bloom. The walk covers about 3 miles, at a moderate pace, with frequent stops. Walks start from the Bill & Jean Lane Education Center and, on Saturdays in April, also from the Clarkia trailhead. Bring water, a hat, sturdy shoes, sunscreen, and a snack if you wish. Walks don't stop for lunch, but picnic tables are usually available after the walks in the Old Stage Day Camp area.

<https://parks.smcgov.org/edgewood-wildflower-walks>

Santa Clara County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market, Saturday, April 13, 9am-2pm, Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose. The Spring Garden Market is their annual spring extravaganza that you do not want to miss! It's a huge plant sale with educational talks and information tables. Full details can be found on their [Spring Garden Market page](#). The event is on rain or shine! Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. For more information about classes and other events: mgsantacleara.ucanr.edu/events/

UC Santa Cruz Spring Plant Sale, Saturday, April 13, Members 10am—12pm, Public 12pm—4pm. Silent Auction with new offerings and rare plants with the California Native Plant Society.

<https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/pdfs/plant-sale-poster-final.pdf>

Gamble Gardens Spring Tour, Friday, April 26 & Saturday April 27, 10AM—4PM. Tickets are \$30 in advance for members and \$35 in advance for non-members, \$40 the day of the event. Silent Auction, marketplace vendors and plant sales at the spring tour. <https://www.gamblegarden.org/support-us/spring-tour-2/>

California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter, Wildflower Show, Saturday, April 27, 9:30am-4pm, West Valley College Biology Department, 14000 Fruitvale Avenue, Saratoga. Come see wildflowers labeled and displayed on site, attend educational workshops, tour the native plant garden, purchase native plants, books, and other plant related items. For more information westvalley.edu/events/wildflower-show/

Going Native Garden Tour, Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5, 10am-4pm, Visit native plant gardens in the southern parts of Santa Clara County on Saturday and in the northern parts and further up the peninsula on Sunday. For more information and required free registration or to volunteer to help go to gngt.org

Carmel Valley Garden Show, Saturday and Sunday May 4 & 5, 10am—4pm, Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley Village, 104 West Carmel Valley Road, Carmel Valley, CA. Proceeds from this event are used to make grants to nonprofit organizations in Carmel Valley that contribute to the natural beauty and sustainability of their area.

https://cvgc.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=324042&module_id=330668

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, Jean Struthers, Laura Wilson, Carol Dahout, Carrie Parker, Grace Tsang
Plant Discussion: Katie Wong

About Membership in Western Hort:

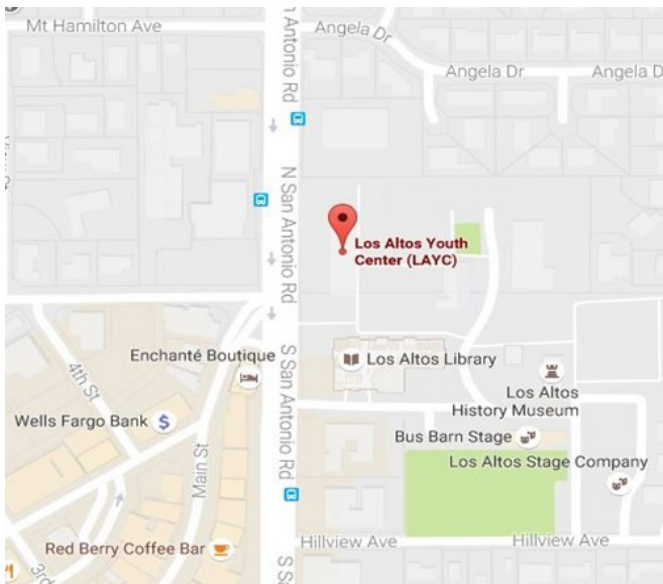
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a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



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VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



Meeting location February:
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 25 of April.** 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