

# WESTERN HORT

November 2019 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | [www.westernhort.org](http://www.westernhort.org)

## ***NOVEMBER 2019 MEETING***

**Wednesday, November 13, 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: Steven Murray**

### **Traveling the World in Search of Fruit**

Steven Murray knows fruit. He grows 2,000 varieties on the Murray Family Farms in Bakersfield, CA. The first part of his presentation will be about some of the best fruits grown on the farm. The second half of Steven's talk will be about rare and exotic fruits



from across the world that can be grown successfully in California. These are crops that Steven considers noteworthy and come from places such as Kazakhstan and Southern India.



A fifth generation Californian and second generation farmer Steven Murray has been passionate about growing fruit since he was in middle school. Growing up on his family farm helped his love of fresh, tasty fruit grow from an interest into a career. Membership in the California Rare Fruit Growers fed his interest in unusual fruits and led to three CRFG scholarships which help support his graduate work in China. Steven is fluent in six languages, a real advantage as he has traveled to 63 countries and visited many collectors

in search of rare and noteworthy fruit. He has been voted "Most Loved Farmer" at the Santa Monica Farmers' Market multiple times.

## ***UPCOMING MEETINGS***

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

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

February 12th, The Louisa Beck Speaker: Cynthia Sandberg— Tomato Mastery: Best Practices for Productivity and Healthy Plants

*Join us for dinner with Steven Murray on*

*November 13th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.

Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

I am going to get on my soapbox this month and reach out to all of you with an important message. Western Hort is an **all volunteer** non-profit organization. I currently work for 4 different non-profit organizations, one of them for over 30 years and another for over 17 years. I don't do any of this because I make a lot of money doing so. I do so because **I care** about the causes that these organizations support. I have seen how organizations rise and fall. All volunteer non-profit organizations like Western Hort are always just a few key people away from **not existing**. I know that many of you are your own independent business people and that if you don't show up for work, nothing gets done. Organizations are the same. Western Hort has been very lucky to have wonderful people who have stepped up at key moments to keep us going. Right now, we are in need of someone to step up to take on our e-mail communications and website. You do not need to attend meetings or serve on the board for this position. All that you need is access to a computer and the skills to use it. Please see the **Volunteers Needed** article to see what this position involves.

We also have had a void in our Vice-president position for over a year now. I am hoping that one of you will step up and join our board so that we can fill this key position in the future. I know that you are all busy and we all have families that take priority over just about everything else in our lives. Everyone who is currently volunteering to keep Western Hort going as well as many dedicated people over the years have taken time out of their own busy schedules to help keep our organization the vibrant group that it is.

Look at the box at the end of this newsletter where we are not only listing our board members but also several other key people who are helping. Please consider stepping up yourself and e-mail me at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org) for more information. ~ *Janet Hoffmann*

## ***SPECIAL MESSAGE***

Hello Western Hort Members,

As some of you are aware, our long-time friend and Cal Hort and WHS member, Ted Kipping, is in hospice care. At this time, Ted would very much like to hear from friends and acquaintances via cards and letters.

Send your cards and letters to:

Ted Kipping

257 Joost Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94131

Thank you for thinking of Ted at this time. Ted has done so much over the course of decades for Cal Hort. He is such a positive and vital force in the greater horticultural community that his impact stretches far beyond our state and continent.

Best Regards,

Bart O'Brien, President, California Horticultural Society

## ***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***

As mentioned in the president's message we are in desperate 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 helpful (domain/server management, html, etc.).

**E-newsletter:** Monthly newsletter messages sent and mailing list managed via Mailchimp, and occasional other messages to members as requested by the Board. Coordinate content with President. Coordinate current mailing list with Membership. Image adjustment needed occasionally.

**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.)

## SPECIAL THANKS

Mike and Elaine Marlow have been long time Western Horticultural Society Members and dear friends with many of you. Mike's passion for Mediterranean plants, roses, citrus, orchids, and many other plants drove his passion for gardening and he brought Elaine along for the ride. It is with deep sadness that Mike passed away this past June. We will miss his enthusiasm and joy for horticulture at our meetings and in the horticultural community.

Elaine has chosen to donate much of Mike's gardening equipment to Western Horticulture Society. His collection is large and encompasses many different kinds of tools. We want to give a huge thanks to Elaine for such a generous donation to our organization. Over the next several months, we will bring some of those tools to our meetings for the sale table. Come find a new gem for your garden tool collection and take with you a memento of Mike's spirit.

~Leslie Dean



Western Horticulture Society lost long-time member Lois McPherson on September 24, 2019. I got to know her best during the time I was a vendor at the Saratoga Farmers' Market. Because she loved her garden so much and was such a kind woman, she was invariably able to find a plant or two that she needed to buy from me. She was always cheerful and looking forward to her next adventure, telling me all about going to Nevada to attend Burning Man. I feel lucky to have known her.

~Nancy Schramm

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**Free Garden Tour at Gamble Gardens**, November 9, 10 am –11:30 am. 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto, CA. 94301 Explore the unique three acre garden on a guided tour for adults or nature hunt for families. Hands on activities with the theme of "Sensational Seeds!" Tour the 1902 house and get a view into the early days. Drop off clean gently used winter coats which will be donated locally. **Registration is required for this event.** Go to [gamblegarden.org](http://gamblegarden.org) to sign up.

**California Horticultural Society hosts Brian Kemble and Walker Young** "Plants of Ethiopia", Monday, November 18, 7pm San Francisco County Fair Building 1199 9th Ave, San Francisco. Explore the incredibly diverse habitats encountered in Ethiopia. Brian and Walker visited various Aloe localities and found other interesting plants including tree-sized euphorbias, stapeliads and alpine kniphofias. [Calhortsociety.org](http://Calhortsociety.org)

## 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 since we are sure to have something interesting to add to your collection. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and scholarships.

## OCTOBER PLANT NOTES

Nancy Schramm brought:



*Scabiosa*

Scabiosa - Nancy brought in a scabiosa, which her dad had forever. She doesn't know the species and is asking for help. It has a lovely purplish-lavender color that has a nice full head. It gets to be 1' tall and it reseeds easily.

Aster. Her dad had it labeled as BBB but cannot find the note which did have the proper name. It gets to be 6' tall and it is covered with butterflies and bees.



*Aster*



*Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea'*

*Vitis vinifera 'Purpurea'* – This ornamental grape vine grows in full sun (zones 6-9) in well-drained soil. The green leaves that appear in the spring turn to a lovely purple in the fall. Small clusters of purple-black sweet grapes, with seeds can be eaten fresh off the vine or used to make jam. It is her go to grape in making grape jelly.



*Chrysanthemum Niponicum*

*Chrysanthemum Niponicum*, renamed to *Nipponanthum nipponicum* has large flowers and grows in full sun (zones 5-9). It gets to be 3' tall but it always falls over, so Nancy recommends doing a second pruning during the summer. It starts easily from cuttings.

*Chrysanthemum Pacificum* "Golden Silver" – This grows in full sun and gets to be 1' tall and wide. The backs of leaves are white and look like felt. Compact yellow flowers appear in the fall. It is used in bonsai and as an accent plant. You can shape it by pruning it.



*Chrysanthemum pacificum*

## OCTOBER PLANT NOTES CONTINUED

Judith Dean from Menlo Park brought:



*Citrus medica* var. *sarcodactylis* (Buddha's hand, Finger Citron) – Judith brought in the biggest one they've ever had and said it fragrances the whole house for weeks. Her husband fell in love with this horrible looking plant 10 years ago. It is very fussy about winter. An enclosure using PVC, Visqueen and some Christmas lights in it (to provide some warmth) were built. It flowers on and off all year round. She uses it to provide pectin for jam making, but she did not like the taste when she candied it (thought it was nasty). It is Hardy to 33° outside. It was warmer inside the structure by 4° (heat provided by the lights).

*Buddah Hand Citrus*

Photo: xaeminn on Reddit



Katie Wong from San Jose brought:

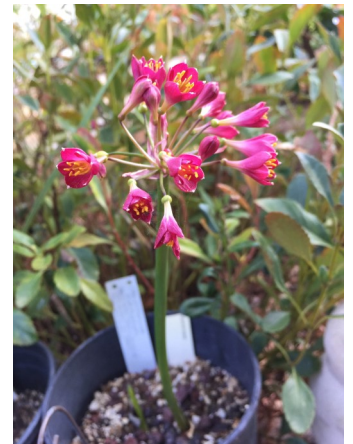
*Ganoderma lucidum* (Reishi Mushroom) – This mushroom of longevity is easy to grow indoors with sawdust or wheat bran. In nature it is found growing in the shade on dead decaying trees or in saprophytic well-drained soil. It is one of the best medicinal fungi to grow. Katie went to Far West Fungi at Moss landing which makes this tea and bought the kit from them. Unlike other mushrooms it does not have gills and it is not eaten fresh. This one has the antler form and not the conk shape. It makes for a beautiful household decoration and an interesting topic for visitors. It is woodier and it has pores. You wait until the white part turns brown and then you dry it,

powder it and use it in making tea. Some people think it tastes bitter but Katie thought it had a pleasant taste. Just remember that it is used for medicinal purposes not culinary.

*Reishi Mushroom*

Judy Wong of Menlo Park brought:

*Calostemma purpureum* (Garland Lily) – This interesting bulb from Australia comes from Jo O'Connell's nursery (Australian Native Plants). In the Amaryllis family it grows in full to part sun in well-drained soil. The arching narrow leaves get to be 2' tall. This is the only bulb that was carried by the nursery when she bought it in June and it flowered this fall for her. The purple flowers have no fragrance. It is hardy to 25°.



*Calostemma purpureum*  
Photo: Judy Wong



*Osmanthus fragrans*

*Osmanthus fragrans* (Fragrant Tea Olive, Sweet Osmanthus) - This large evergreen shrub or small tree grows in full to part sun (zones 8-11) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 10' tall and wide. The flowers have a lovely fragrance (maybe like apricot) and appear in spring and fall. It is tender to 30°.

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

## OCTOBER SPEAKER NOTES

Our October speaker was Janet Sluis, curator of the Sunset Western Garden Collection. She gave an excellent presentation about “regionally appropriate” plants for our area. She and Julie Chai, an associate garden editor, managed the Sunset test gardens in Menlo Park in 2011. Janet then moved along with the test gardens to the current location at Cornerstone in Sonoma in 2016.

Janet pointed out several insights which she has gained from her work at Sunset. She has found that growers use fewer chemicals in production of perennials than annuals. This makes them better choices for “sustainable” color in the garden. She has also seen that amateur gardeners get easily discouraged when they lose plants. Her goal in evaluating plants in the test gardens is to find plants that will be easy for people to grow, use fewer chemicals, are non-invasive, low water use and low maintenance. She is also on the lookout for plants that provide habitat for pollinators and other insects.

Plants in the test gardens are sourced from summer dry and winter wet climates like ours. These include CA native cultivars as well as plants from Australia and South Africa. They are also testing plants to find ones that are appropriate for smaller yards. Most test plants are grown for 3-4 years, so sizes that they quote are not necessarily the maximum that the plants could reach long-term under ideal conditions. The collection includes many patented cultivars which Ms. Sluis feels are well-worth the higher costs that pay for the work that growers put in to develop better plants.

Some of the plants that are featured in the Sunset Western Garden Collection are old favorites like *Agapanthus*, azaleas, *Fatsyhedera*, *Hydrangea*, *Lagerstroemia*, lavender, *Nandina*, *Cistus*, *Senecio* and even a *Ligustrum*. However those featured were new cultivars of these plants that have unusual colors and forms. Also included are some newer plants like *Dianella* ‘Cool Vista’ and ‘Clarity Blue’, *Mahonia* ‘Soft Caress’ and *Carex* ‘Everillo’ which would work well in the rain gardens that our speaker talked about last month.

Ms. Sluis ended her entertaining presentation with a preview of plants that Sunset is currently considering including in their collection: a dwarf pineapple guava, a columnar gardenia, a variegated *Podocarpus maki* and a better behaved *Tecomaria*.

We need to thank Richard Hayden for gathering a good selection of the plants that Janet mentioned to sell at our plant table after the excellent talk. I also want give a shout-out to Richard and the other members of our Speakers’ Committee: Leslie Dean (chairperson), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong and Glenda Jones who have done a terrific job finding Janet and our other recent speakers. They are always on the lookout for new speaker ideas, so if you have any please talk to one of the committee members or e-mail them to me. ~ Janet Hoffmann

### Tips about Boxwood Blight

Boxwood Blight is a fungal disease which is spread by spores carried on infected nursery stock, tools, clothing and even greens in holiday decorations. These spores can persist in the soil for up to five years. There is no cure but cultural practices and spraying with a fungicide containing chlorothalonil every 7 to 14 days during the growing season can suppress the disease. It is important to prune out any affected growth, clean up any debris on the ground and double bag the waste and throw in the trash. Do not compost it! Be sure to sterilize your pruning tools with a 1:9 bleach to water mix and wash any clothing that has come in contact with the spores. Too much trouble? Plant resistant varieties of boxwood such as North Star, Sprinter littleleaf, ‘Green Beauty’ littleleaf, or ‘Winter Gem’ Korean boxwood. Or, even better, plant Sky Box Japanese holly (*Ilex crenata*), Bordeaux Dwarf Youpon holly (*Ilex vomitoria*), Blueberry Glaze Blueberry (*vaccinium*), or Juke Box *Pyracomeles*. These plants do not get the blight and there will be a very similar look to boxwood.



Juke Box Pyracomeles

Photo: Proven Winners



Bordeaux Dwarf Youpon Holly

Photo: Plants.newgarden.com



Sky Box Japanese Holly

Photo: plantaddicts.com

## 28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on November 13<sup>th</sup> in 1991 to hear Bill Grant of U.C. Santa Cruz Arboretum talk about *Grevilleas*. Members were thanked for the ‘*donated plants to the October meeting’s raffle table! Last month’s Silent Auction netted \$60 which went a long way towards paying the rent on our beautiful new meeting hall.*’ (According to an internet calculator, that would be worth \$112.66 today, in case you wondered) Besides the ‘*books, containers and specimen plants*’ on offer, members also shared seeds: ‘*The seed exchange was popular and will be continued...(and will be freely exchanged.*”

Once again, content of the plants notes indicates a varied and colorful selection of plants. Betsy Clebsch brought in three new salvias: *Salvia recognita* (from Greece & Turkey, pale lavender-pink flowers from May ‘till winter), *S. penstemiodes* (red flowers late summer into fall) and *Salvia* ‘Frieda Dixon’ (chance seedling from Jon Dixon, deep pinky rose flowers with peach colored tips); Bob Young showed seed bearing branches of *Fallugia paradoxa* (Apache Plume) grown from seed he collected in New Mexico; Don Brandeau recommended two drought tolerant plants: *Ceratostigma abyssinicum* (unfortunately the Missouri Botanical Garden website indicates that it is frost intolerant with the “least amount of winter hardiness of the five species in the genus *Ceratostigma* that are grown in gardens) and *Teucrium hyrcanicum*...*a pleasant and useful plant...propagates easily from seed.* (And here is a mystery to me—Digging Dog Nursery lists *T. hyrcanicum* ‘Purple Tails’, but *T. hircanicum* ‘Paradise Delight’ and it makes me wonder where the difference in spelling originated); Dick Dunmire brought in the ‘*brilliantly scarlet Rhus copallina*’ (dwarf sumac) as well as the two Chrysanthemums I brought to the table last month: *C. pacificum* ‘*hailed as the perennial plant of the year in several horticultural journals here and in England*’ and *C. nipponicum* (now known as *Nipponanthemum nipponicum* and doesn’t that sound repetitive); Ed Carman showed an *Acer pentaphyllum* ‘*a rare and elegant small tree of upright habit and open structure*’; Lyn Dearborn was thanked ‘*for a great presentation of a fascinating group of plants...her son Kevin’s insectivorous plants*’. *The mechanism of capturing the prey fall into three main categories; the mousetrap, the flypaper and the pitfall, and Lyn showed us examples of all three*: *Drosera capensis* and *D. spatulata* ‘Kansai’ (flypaper), *Sarracenia purpurea*, *S. leucophylla* and *Darlingtonia californica* (pitfall) and *Utricularia livida* (mousetrap). With the November 1991 plant discussion as our example, let’s do our best to share suggestions of new, beautiful and useful plants for 2019 with other members.

## AROUND THE INTERNET

[debraleebaldwin.com](http://debraleebaldwin.com) For all succulent lovers this is a very informative site with many great tips on growing succulents. Many of you will recognize the name Debra Lee Baldwin. If you sign up for her newsletter you get timely tips sent about every two weeks.

### 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

### 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

Website manager: Laura Wilson (retiring soon!)

E-newsletter: Open

### About Membership in Western Hort:

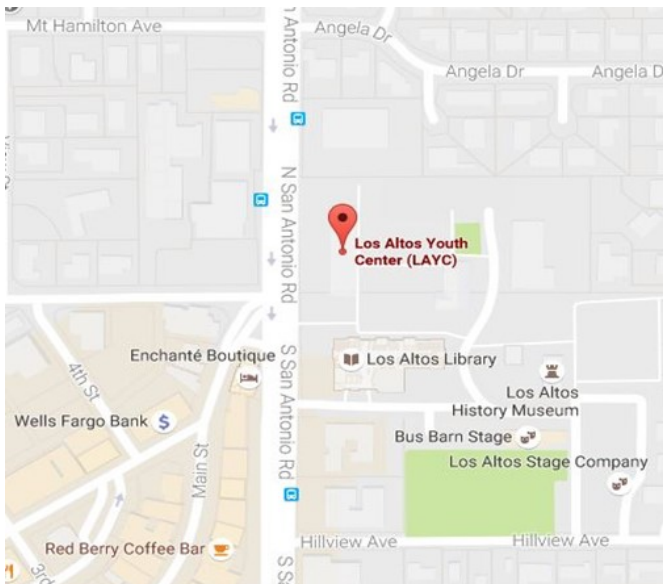
**Membership Rates:** A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive 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](http://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](mailto: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 22 of November.** Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: [Kjanberg@gmail.com](mailto:Kjanberg@gmail.com) or snail mail to Kathy Anberg, 1332 Peggy Ct. Campbell, CA 95008-6342