

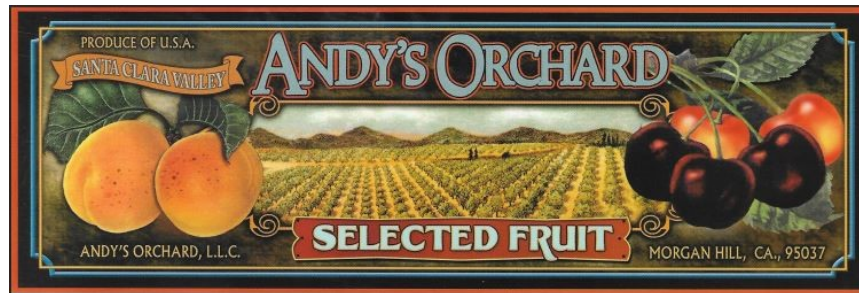
WESTERN HORT

October 2023 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

OCTOBER 2023 MEETING

October 11th, 7:30pm

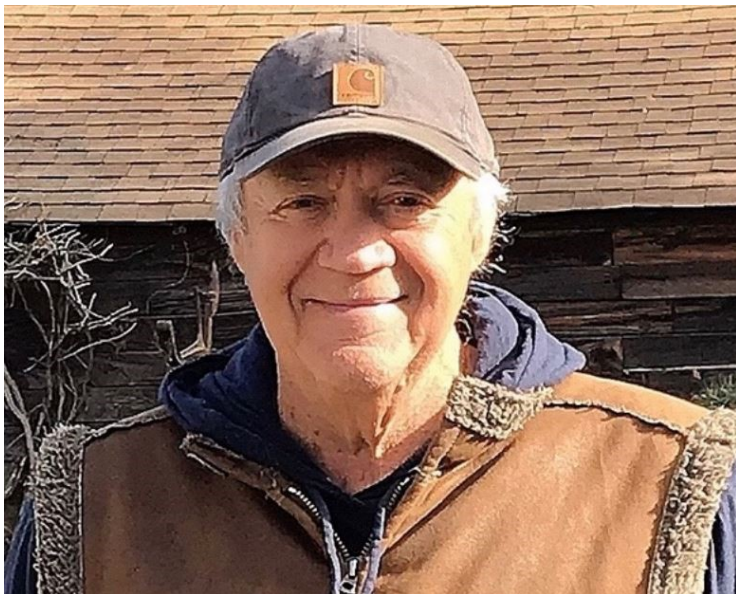
The October meeting will be in-person in the Garden House at Shoup Park in Los Altos. *The meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Masks are recommended but optional.* Meetings are free for members, non-member in-person attendees are \$10.00. See page 7 of this newsletter for information about joining Western Horticultural Society.



SPEAKER: ANDY MARIANI

TOPIC: GROWING STONE FRUITS IN THE HOME GARDEN

Those of us who were lucky enough to attend the October 2006 WHS meeting heard Andy Mariani's well-informed discussion of the best adapted and most flavorful varieties of stone fruit trees for the Santa Clara Valley. Back by popular demand, this month Andy will tell us how to care for those thoughtfully chosen stone fruit trees in order to harvest the highest quality fruit possible. Andy will cover topics like winter chill requirements, pollination, pruning/training, rootstocks, irrigation, fertilization and a special focus on diseases and pests of stone fruit.



Andy Mariani, educated in both horticultural and behavioral sciences, continues his family's tradition of growing specialty stone fruit along with persimmons and citrus in Santa Clara County. An innovative farmer, he practices Integrated Pest Management as an approach to fruit growing. As a member of the California Cherry Research Committee, he has helped initiate research in cherry growing. He has also authored a book on fruit varieties, several articles and lectures on various aspects of fruit growing.



Attention: There will not be a speaker dinner this month at the request of our speaker.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our September presentation, A 27 Year Wildflower Journey: The Making of Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change, had at least some of us questioning where climate change came into the mesmerizing slide show of native wildflowers. The Winter-Badger book is full of stunning photos, but amongst these are eighteen essays by conservationists, botanists, environmental scientists and educators, including renowned writers Robin Wall Kimmerer and Mary Ellen Hannibal. These essays are well worth our time, and many aspects of California's plant heritage are explained, including how endangered this is and what can be done. Essay #16, "Who is Taking the Earth's Temperature?" by Margaret Leinen is especially helpful and I advocate taking Leticia Gallardo's class at West Valley College, Climate Change, for a fuller understanding. Note that the [Santa Clara County Library District](#) has six copies of the book.

(Publisher's note)

Climate change and other human impacts on the environment are threatening wildflowers and the life that depends on them. In this special and timely work, conservation photographers Nita Winter and Rob Badger give us a spectacular view of California's extraordinary wildflowers as both a cause for celebration and protection.

"We created Beauty and the Beast because we realized most people don't know that wildflowers are especially vulnerable to climate change. Therefore we have dedicated our life's work to protecting them, and hopefully, inspiring others to do so." – Nita Winter and Rob Badger

This month, we welcome Andy Mariani back to the Shoup Park Garden to speak on 'Growing Stone Fruits in the Home Garden'. Please bring your interested friends for a great evening.

As ever, we could use your help on the Western Hort board. The more of us, the stronger and better functioning our organization. As Jean Struthers has said, If we each do a small part, it will all get done. If the evidence about the importance of social networks and contributing to your community for your own healthy life doesn't persuade you, consider that our board meetings (only once every two months) have such delectables as black sesame shortbread!

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Don't miss this!

The sale includes plants from the CNPS SCV Nursery as well as the [Grassroots Ecology Nursery](#). For the first time since the pandemic started, plant shopping will be in the nursery and at the Grassroots Ecology booth. No preorders!

Browse T-shirts, books, posters and note cards featuring native plants. **Coyote Brush Studios** will have a wide variety of products featuring California wildflower and wildlife, and **Emily Chin** will be there with pressed flowers art and more. Get help with your gardening questions at our **Native Plant Advice Table** where plant professionals and knowledgeable native plant gardeners will answer your questions about growing native plants.

Free Talk: Success with Native Plants by Kevin Bryant. Kevin is a native plant landscape consultant and a past president of our CNPS Chapter.

Volunteers Needed!

Help CNPS-SCV make the plant sale possible by volunteering. Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F49A9A729AAFD0-plant24#/>.

For more information about California Native Plant Society go to: <https://www.cnps-scv.org>

Native Plant Sale
October 21, 2023
10 AM - 3 PM



[cnps-scv.org/fall-plant-sale-2023](https://www.cnps-scv.org/fall-plant-sale-2023)

CNPS SCV Nursery
at Hidden Villa
26870 Moody Rd
Los Altos Hills

Credit cards only
Bring a box for plants

 Santa Clara Valley Chapter
CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

 GRASSROOTS
ECOLOGY

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

A 27 Year Wildflower Journey: The Making of Beauty and the Beast: California Wildflowers and Climate Change with Rob Badger and Nita Winter

Many of you have visited areas with abundant wildflowers and, if you've tried to capture the colorful and awe-inspiring spectacle using a camera, you have doubtless been disappointed with the results. Achieving harmony between the small and intricate beauty of the flowers, large swaths of plant stands and vast features of the landscape in one photograph is difficult to attain. Nita Winter and Rob Badger are masters of this art, and they shared stories of their decades of work to give wildflowers a voice through images and words.

Nita, originally from New York, moved to California and became the first female firefighter in Leggett in the 1980s. Later she became a photojournalist, winning many awards for her portraits. As Rob was originally also from the East Coast, he was unprepared for the magnificent sight of extensive wildflower vistas in California when he first moved here, also in the early 1980s. His 1984 photograph of a huge California buckeye with sky lupine in the foreground is a jewel. [The Trust for Public Land](#) hired Rob and he did about 35 projects with them. They began to work together as a team in 1998, each with different strengths. Rob claimed that, as a Capricorn, he is detail-oriented and patient in uncomfortable positions. Nita is an excellent spotter, noticing things that most people would be oblivious to. They think their photographs are “his”, “hers”, and “ours.” They reside in Marin County, where Ring Mountain Open Space Preserve is a favorite spot to return to for subject matter.

Until 2006, the pair used film cameras such as Hasselblads, and then moved to digital cameras with current models capable of 42 megapixels. Early work was with single plant or flower subjects, originally framing them on a black cloth background. Later, they began to use the cloth, either black or white, with soft folds to create interest in the background – this was called the “Wrapped” series. More recently, they've used very narrow depths-of-field with the lens in contact with the flower to achieve a soft and translucent effect. Once the subject has been selected, it usually takes an hour per photograph, including setting up the camera on the tripod, arranging diffusers and any backdrop cloths, and erecting shields to protect from the wind.

To access their subjects, they have been hardy backpackers, sometime carrying 40 pounds of lighting equipment, and 25 pounds of camera equipment in their packs. They usually set up just off a road or trail to minimize impact. Wind and other environmental conditions can often prove challenging. In one expedition to photograph penstemon at Capital Reef National Park, Rob received hundreds of no-see-um bites.

We were treated to many spectacular photographs, some of which can also be viewed at their [website](#) or in their 2020 book, “*Beauty and the Beast*.” A few of the specific plant subjects they showed were Tiburon Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus tiburonensis*), Franciscan Paintbrush (*Castilleja subinclusa*), Shasta Iris (*Iris tenuissima*) in Plumas National Forest; Sacred Datura (*Datura wrightii*) in Joshua Tree National Park; Pygmy Daisy (*Erigeron pygmaeus*) at Morgan Pass (at 11,000 feet!); Ground Iris (*Iris macrosiphon*), Prickly Poppy (*Argemone munita*) and Fire Poppy (*Papaver californicum*).

As for what has changed during their 27-year collaboration, the timing of blooms has become far more variable. What used to be called 100-year blooms are now called superblooms, because climate change has led to unpredictable conditions affecting when plants mature and flowers bloom. Also, communication through social media and websites has led to unpleasant and sometimes destructive crowds in the wildflower fields. Nita and Rob mentioned that the southern end of Anza Borrego is an area that has yet to be over-run. They recommended this website: <https://theodorepayne.org/superbloom/> for information on seasonal wildflower phenomena and advice on good practices when visiting.

~ Jen Dungan

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Master Gardeners Fall Garden Fair, October 7, 2023, 9 am–2 pm

Join us for our Fall Garden Fair, part of the [Martial Cottle Park Fall Festival](#). Our [Master Garden Demonstration Garden](#), located within the park, will be open and offering plants for sale, along with talks and opportunities to get answers to your gardening questions.

Master Gardeners Online Plant Clinic from 7–8:30 pm. Oct. 10th. Chat with a UC Master Gardener via Zoom to diagnose your plant problems. Priority will be given to questions that are emailed in advance; instructions are in the Zoom registration confirmation. <https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/?calitem=563365&g=84549>

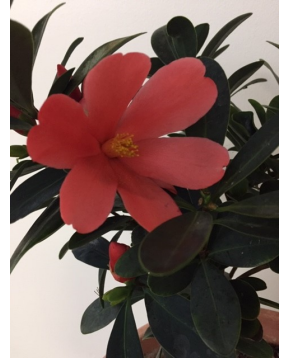
California Native Plant Society native plant sale, Hidden Villa, Los Altos Saturday, October 21, 10 am to 3 pm. See page 2 for full information.

Cactus and Succulent Society Fall Show and Sale Oct. 6-8. Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. Hours vary so go to: <https://csssj.org/>

SEPTEMBER PLANT SHARE

Judy Wong from Menlo Park shared:

Camellia Azalea ‘Changii’ – This Camellia is endemic to a small area of southern China in the Ehuangzhang Nature Reserve in the Guangdong province and is considered endangered. Nuccio’s Nurseries has propagated it by grafting cuttings onto a root stock. (Nuccio's current catalog does not list this plant). The special thing about this camellia is that it is summer blooming with lovely red blossoms. The foliage is a nice glossy, dark green and the leaves are more elongated and thicker than our common camellias. As a shrub it grows up to eight feet slowly. Judy container grows hers. Give this plant full to part sun in a moist well draining soil. (Be sure to follow the link to the story about Nuccio’s Nursery located on page 6)



Diane Chambers who gardens in Sunnyvale, brought a mystery plant:

We believe we identified this red flowering bulb as **Rhodophiala bifida** – Lily Oxblood or Schoolhouse Lily. This perennial bulb native to Argentina, grows 10-19 inches tall in late summer or early fall. These historic bulbs have been passed from one Texas gardener to another starting in the late 1800s. Bloom colors can range from pink, red or white. A location in full sun to part shade with medium water until established will help it naturalize. It makes a good cut flower and attracts bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Dormant in the summer, the plant blooms in fall before the foliage emerges and grows all winter long. Each bloom lasts two to three days but the flowering clump will produce for up to a month. Adaptable to many soils but will not tolerate soggy soil. Can be container grown. USDA Zones 7-11.



Nancy Schramm from Gilroy had galls!

She brought this interesting collection of galls on Valley oaks:



Convolutad Gall Wasp, caused by *Andricus confertus*. The convolutad gall wasp (*Andricus confertus*) is a cynipid wasp which induces pinkish, finely hairy gall clusters. Each cluster is actually comprised of multiple galls pressed closely together, resulting in a convolutad mass somewhat reminiscent of a brain.

Andricus quercuscalifornicus is the name of the wasp responsible for one of Nancy’s favorite oak galls. Some folks call them oak apples, the large tan colored galls that are so often seen on valley oak trees (*Quercus lobata*). This particular wasp lays its eggs into the stems of the valley oak. That is the stimulus that causes the galls to start growing, usually in the spring.

They start out greenish, sometimes with a rosy tint, and fairly round. But if several are growing close together, they often end up pear shaped. At first they are heavy and densely spongy, but by mid summer they dry, lose weight and develop a hard outer shell. As this is happening, the wasp larvae are developing inside the gall, and tunneling to the edge. They can hatch late summer/early fall that same year, or some may wait up to a year before emerging. But the oak apple gall has other uses! California Indians used them to make an eye wash and some used them to stop bleeding. Nancy tried it ground up on a cut and said it stung, but it worked. Throughout history they have been used to make ink and the Declaration of Independence was written with a type of oak gall ink.



Red Cone Gall Wasp *Andricus kingi* causes the gall you see here. The galls housing the parthenogenetic females are detachable red cones measuring about 5 mm tall. These form on either side of the leaves, often with many forming per leaf. Adults emerge in winter from the tip of the cone. These galls cause no real harm to the trees they grow on. If you would like to see more images of really interesting galls this site has wonderful closeups:

https://joycegross.com/galls_ca_oak.php



Making ink from Oak Galls

For those of you who would like to try making their own ink, the following story is from the blog of the Huntington Library, Art Museum and Botanical Gardens.

<https://huntington.org/verso/2019/05/making-ink-oak-galls>



Nancy also shared an oxalis that you don't need to be afraid of!

Oxalis gigantea - Giant Oxalis. Reaching up to 8 feet tall this plant is not invasive like our common oxalis weed. This species is found in the Antofagasta, Atacama and Coquimbo Regions of Chile. It was first described in 1845 and is pollinated by hummingbirds. The stems are slender, few branched, erect to curved and drooping and can mature up to two inches in diameter. The numerous short spur-like shoots are fleshy at first becoming woody with age. Bright green heart-shaped leaves are small and the bright yellow flowers appear in spring. Nancy reports that it is tender to frost especially if it has dried out. Cuttings root easily and if you are growing in a container it is recommended to use a low organic, well draining mix and to water from the bottom. USDA Zones 9b to 11b.

.....NEWS FLASH !!! >>>>>

MEMBER OPEN GARDENS: Sunday, October 15th WHS members Leslie Dean and Eva Huala have opened their gardens for touring. You need to RSVP to attend. Times are 2-3 pm at Leslie Dean's Mountain View garden and 3-4 pm at Eva Huala's Palo Alto garden. Check your e-mail (delivered Sept. 21) for the addresses and link to RSVP.



Here is your opportunity to participate in Cal Hort's seed exchange. The timeline for this is:

July–end of November: Members submit properly prepared seeds collected from their gardens. If you plan to submit seeds that ripen later send Dave Tivol (130 Locksunart Way #2, Sunnyvale CA 94087-4666) a list so he can prepare for them.

January: A list of the donated seeds with a request form is made available to members.

February: Completed request forms along with \$5 for supplies and postage must be received by the end of the month.

March: Seeds are distributed by mail.

If you would like to help with cataloging and mailing the seeds please email us at calhortinfo@gmail.com and type "Volunteer" in the subject line. For more information on how to harvest and save seeds go to:

<https://calhortsociety.org/about/annual-seed-exchange/>

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on October 11, 1995: “David Fross will speak on *Finding a Home – The Evolving Native Garden*. He is the owner of Native Sons Nursery in Arroyo Grande, where he grows native plants and other wonderful things. He also puts out a delightful Plant List.”

New members were announced including Kathy Crane (more about Kathy later) and Patricia St. John, who gave us a talk about garden design a few years ago.

I have to brag a bit, there was a note of congratulations for the then-current WHS President Ed Carman (my dad) for receiving the award of Pacific Coast Nurseryman by the California Association of Nurserymen. “This is the highest honor the professional organization awards to anyone in the horticultural field.”

A field trip was organized to visit the garden of Cevan Forrist, and included a “carpool to Guadalupe Gardens for a picnic lunch, before going on to view his garden”.

Lectures elsewhere were announced: Carole Ottensen was hosted by the California Academy of Sciences and Strybing Arboretum Society. Her slide lecture was entitled *Bloom Across North America – Following Wildflowers and Other Native Plants*;

“Dr Dennis Breedlove and Dr Don Mahoney will present a Workshop/Field Study...on *Flowers from Mexico*”; and “Friends of UC Botanical Garden, Berkeley present(ed) a slide lecture by Dr Robert Ornduff on *Plants of the Cape Floral Kingdom*”.

Ongoing plant sale announcements included Liggett’s Rose Nursery and Strybing Arboretum.

And as promised above: “As many of you know, Yerba Buena Nursery has been sold. The new owner, Kathy Crane, wants to assure members that she intends to continue with the same philosophy practiced by Gerda Isenberg for so many years.”

The October 1995 plant table included WHS’ first exposure to *Aloe polyphylla*, showed by Al Beverly, who was one of the first to grow this aloe from seed and offer it to the public (in 1992). This is the aloe that grows in an “intriguing spiral pattern”.

Bill Kurtz brought three blooming nerines: *N. bowdenii* with “...a 15” stout scape topped by a loose, globose flowering head of funnel-form pink flowers”, *N. sarniensis*: “The scarlet flowers have a peculiar iridescence that makes them sparkle in the sunshine.”, and *N. humilis* which is much smaller, with pink flowers. Bill also showed *Haemanthus albiflos*, with white flowers that look like shaving brushes.

Doug Heimforth shared *Artemisia californica* ‘Canyon Gray’ “a prostrate form of the native coast sagebrush”. It was growing happily in “his Mediterranean-type garden in Los Altos”, in company with two salvias, *S. canariensis* and *S. uliginosa*. The former has “white-wooly” stems with “purple flowers subtended by rosy purple bracts” and the latter has sky-blue flowers.

Jean Fowkes showed *Choisya ternata* ‘Sundance’ recently purchased at the Saratoga Horticultural Foundation plant sale. Joe Solomone had brought it back from England in about 1992, and said it had been “in cultivation in Europe for maybe ten years”. It’s interesting to learn when a plant, currently considered somewhat conventional, was first being introduced to the Bay Area.

~ Nancy Schramm

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Genetically modified trees. A good idea or not?

<https://www.cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco/news/living-carbon-biotech-startup-climate-change-carbon-dioxide-co2/>

Nuccio’s Nurseries is closing, but when?

<https://www.latimes.com/lifestyle/story/2023-07-19/where-have-all-the-camellias-gone-l-a-s-plant-tastes-are-changing-nuccios-nurseries>

Poisonous Plants in the Landscape

<https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=57902>

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 : 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

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 8th: Leonel Morales-Bajarano, Plant Propagation Tips from A-Z

December 13th: Ken Litchfield, All Mushrooms are Magical—Experiencing the Phantasmagorical Realm of Fungi

Some of the Speakers scheduled for 2024

January 10th, Fergus Garrett, Plant Combinations for a Long-lasting and Resilient Garden

February 14th: Jennifer Dungan, Memories of an Extraordinary Garden

March 13th: Lori Palmquist, Water in Your Garden—Taking Control

Hello WHS members,

Our new year is just starting. WHS has a great list of speakers for the year. Don't miss any updates. Please submit your renewal and payment using the Membership form found on our Membership page and mail to:

WHS PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042.

Membership forms were also mailed out in August and are available at the sign in table at the meetings. You can also pay online. Please go to our membership page on our website <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> and complete the information in Part 1 and 2 in the Pay by Credit Card section. Thank you in advance to everyone who has renewed their membership. Any questions, please contact membership@westernhort.org

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: Open Position

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Jennifer Dungan

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Jim Salyards, Carol Dahout, Jennifer Dungan and Eva Huala (Open Positions here)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Membership: Ursula Haschke

Meeting Tech: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,

Janet Hoffmann & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Meri-Beth Bird & Eva Huala

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones, Eva Huala & Meri-Beth Bird

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Dungan & Nancy Schramm

Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach, Meri-Beth Bird, Janet Hoffmann & Nancy Schramm

About Membership in Western Hort:

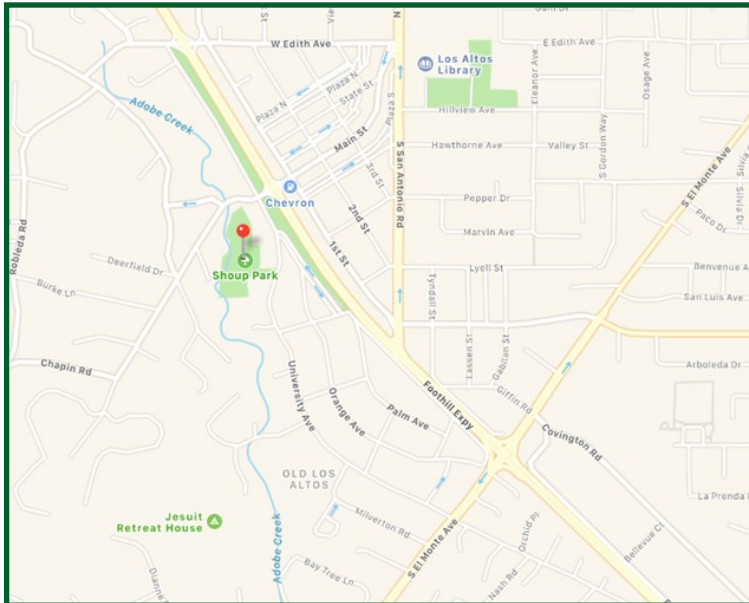
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print copy of this newsletter by mail add \$10 to the membership fee listed above. 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 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 : October 11th
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 October.** 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