



January 2018 Speaker

Note: New meeting location for this spring is **Shoup Park Garden House**, 400 University Ave, Los Altos **Wednesday, January 10, 7:30 pm.** 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.

Speaker: **Kate Frey**, Sustainable and Organic Gardens, Hopland, CA, *A Habitat Garden, By Design*



Kate Frey

Photo: <http://ucanr.edu>

Welcome the New Year with Kate Frey, noted garden designer and eloquent advocate for pollinators. Habitat gardens are gardens of life. Being in them is an experience not forgotten. Containing a profusion of flowers and foliage, they create a feeling of sanctuary around us, making us happy - while sustaining wildlife. Dueling hummingbirds, Hapropoda bees zipping like spaceships through the manzanitas, the perfume of mock orange, coffeeberry and common milkweed is everywhere. Flowers provide nectar and pollen nutritional resources that adult beneficial insects, bees and butterflies require. Shrubs and trees provide birds with plant structural diversity to nest and perch, and seeds and berries to feed on. Over 90% of birds feed insects to their young, so where there are enough insects for fledglings, there is more potential for successful nesting. If you are interested in filling your garden with life, this meeting is not to be missed.

Kate designed and managed the famous organic public garden at Fetzer Vineyards, the Melissa Garden in Healdsburg, and the gardens at Lynmar Winery in Sebastopol. Her gardens won 2 gold medals at the Chelsea Flower Show in London, a rare honor for an American designer. Kate currently writes for the *Press Democrat* newspaper and her book, *The Bee-Friendly Garden*, was published in 2016 by Ten Speed Press and in 2017 was selected as one of the best gardening books of the year by the The American Horticultural Society. Her newest educational venture, The American Garden School, made its debut in 2017.



Poppies and vines

Photo: Fetzer Vineyards and Bonterra Vineyards

The **2018 WHS Founder's Award Recipient** will be introduced at this meeting. This person joins Pat and Colin Knight, Leslie Dean, Nancy Schramm, Mary Kaye and a host of others who are past recipients. Yet another reason to attend!

*Join us for dinner with Kate Frey on
January 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

December 2017 Speaker Notes

Everyone enjoyed a delicious repast with appetizers, turkey, and a cornucopia of salads, side dishes and desserts. Thanks to all who contributed! After dinner we had time to digest an educational speech by Phoebe Cutler along with our meals. Phoebe is a horticultural historian and extensively researched the reconstruction of the mission gardens at Lompoc's La Purisma from 1934 to 1941 when the CCC was in charge of one of the first large scale reconstructions. The plans went through many iterations before the final plan which suited both the budget available and the interests of the diverse parties involved at the time. Her insights into the project painted an interesting picture of the challenges of working with bureaucracy and trying to maintain a horticultural vision. One has to admire the landscape designer in charge of the project, Edward Denys Rowe, who managed to locate many of the plants from the mission period and also incorporated many CA native plants. If you go to La Purisma today, you will still see some of the elements from this restoration project along with many additions like parking and visitors facilities.

In addition to our speaker, Faith Bell and Virginia Kean put together a wonderful retrospective on the late Barbara Worl. Faith read a moving piece about some of Barbara's history and accomplishments. If you would like to read more about Barbara's life go to <http://www.bellsbooks.com/about>. Barbara spent most of her adult life working for Bell's Books in Palo Alto. Bell's is one of the last independent book stores in the Bay area and a wonderful source for horticultural books. You may also want to look at Barbara's publications from Sweetbriar Press. Laura Wilson has shared some photos of the display table with mementos and photos:



Longtime friends Betsy Clebsch and Barbara Worl



A bouquet of flowers from Barbara's garden and photo of one of her roses.



Virginia Kean reads a tribute to Barbara in front of the display



One of Barbara's business cards from her publishing house

Plant Table

We will be resuming our member-supplied plant table at the January meeting. Your donation of surplus or homegrown plants for our plant table will help to support WHS. Please label plants and a description or pictures are always appreciated. Pretty much any plants or garden related objects are welcome. Thanks for everybody's support this past year. We are still looking for people to manage the plant table on an ongoing basis.

28 Years Ago

Western Hort met on January 10, 1990 to learn about *Cultivating Unusual Edibles*, from “Charlotte Glenn of LeMarche’ Seeds, International, in Dixon. The LeMarche’ Company has experienced extraordinary growth and popularity due to their distribution of unusual seeds.” My research shows that the company is no longer in business, but I found a fascinating article in the New York Times, 1987,

<http://www.nytimes.com/1987/06/17/garden/a-rainbow-of-produce-pots-of-gold.html?pagewanted=all>

which mentioned the company and talked about the “new” trend of edibles which were becoming available in colors that, at the time, were not common, and were still somewhat “edgy”.

At the January meeting, being the official Annual Meeting, board members were named. Those serving for 1990: Dorothy & David Rodal, Elizabeth Garbett, Roz Bray, Bob Young, Marilou Vivanco, Clayton Neece, Will Cunningham, Don Brandeau, Bart O’Brien, Daphne Dorney, Pat Ley, Tom Andrews, & Margaret Bard. Leaving the board: Betty Young, Betsy Clebsch & Bill Duncan.

Elizabeth Garbett was spearheading a group purchase of spring bulbs from the Dutch Gardens, Inc. catalog.

Bart O’Brien was announced as the leader of a May tour to England and the Chelsea Flower Show, organized by Creative Travel Arrangers.

Following an announcement of several highly anticipated speakers, the newsletter ended with words that will strike a note of empathy in all our hearts:

“Looks like 1990 will be a very good year! Now if it would only rain...”

(Does anyone have plant notes from 1990 on that they would be willing to loan me?) ~Nancy Schramm

Strolling Around the Internet

Here is installment #3 of websites and blogs for plant lovers. Please send me YOUR favorite plant escape.

Where do YOU go to drool over plant pictures or learn about what’s new in the plant world?

Our new website guru, Laura Wilson has shared: <http://www.succulentsandmore.com> (the top banner reads: Embrace spikiness!)

My WA state garden geek friends added a couple blogs: <https://outlawgarden.com/category/blog/> (mix edibles with ornamentals!) and [Green Gardening with Ann Lovejoy](#) (for some reason I cannot copy the link, but this is a thoughtful, well-written blog, more words than pictures)

Bracey Tiede: Plant Idents (Facebook for plant id) and <https://fromseedtotable.blogspot.com/> (year round vegetable gardening in coastal CA)

and finally, from my friend Danny, newsletter editor for the Midori Bonsai Club:

<https://crataegus.com/blog/> - Michael Hagedorn's site, has some unique care information that I haven't seen elsewhere.

<http://www.evergreengardenworks.com/articles.htm> - Brent Walston up in Northern CA. He hasn't updated in a while, but some very good propagation information, especially grafting.

<http://carnivorousplants.org/grow/> - I've been growing carnivorous plants for a couple years now in addition to information, if you want to branch out this site has some useful info. ~Nancy Schramm

Upcoming Meetings

February 14, 2017 – Mike Evans, President, Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano, CA, *Natural Gardens in Small Spaces*

March 14, 2017 – Sue Bell, Garden Designer, San Jose, CA, *Producing Food and Beauty Around Your Home*

April 12, 2017 – Theresa Lyngso, President, Lyngso Garden Materials, San Carlos, CA, *Improving the Soil*
May 9, 2018 : Pete Veilleux, Owner and Propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery, Garden Designer, Lecturer, Oakland, CA, *Eriogonums*

Another Nursery Loss

After over 73 years, the LE Cooke Nursery bare root fruit tree production is coming to an end. They will cease operations after the spring 2018 shipping season. LE Cooke Supply Company that makes Miracle Garden Tie will remain in business along with a small nursery for grafted liner production for the nursery trade. Unless you have worked in the nursery trade like I have, you may not be personally familiar with this nursery, but you may very well have purchased trees that they introduced through other suppliers. Dave Wilson Nursery sells many of their fruit trees and Weeks Berry Farm sells their berries. I will always treasure my Anders apple that they introduced. ~Janet Hoffmann

Horticultural Happenings

SF Parks and Recreation has an opening for a plant propagator at the SF Botanical Garden. Interested individuals should contact Human Resources staff at those institutions. For an application and more information: <http://www.sfdhr.org/sites/default/files/documents/Classification%20and%20Compensation/Classification%20Actions/Final%20Posting%20%2365%20-%203428%203430%20Amend%20-%20031416.pdf>
Also a propagator position is open at The Bancroft Garden, 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, for more information call (925) 944-9352.

Registration is open for horticulture classes at Filoli Estate and Gardens, 86 Cañada Road, Woodside
Recognized as one of the finest remaining country estates of the early 20th century, Filoli welcomes continuing education horticulture students to this remarkable 654-acre property, including the 54,000 square foot Georgian country house, spectacular 16-acre formal garden, and 1-mile self-guided nature trail. The picturesque surroundings and lush gardens of Filoli make a wonderful venue to study horticulture, providing inspiration and a range of valuable resources. Topics include pruning, garden design, and the popular "A Year in the Garden" certificate program. Students experience one-on-one instruction from knowledgeable instructors and Filoli's Garden staff. View the class catalog and register at: www.filoli.org/classes.

California Rare Fruit Growers—Scion Exchange, January 13, 2018, 11am- 3pm, Prusch Park, Multicultural Center (MCC), 647 S. King Road, San Jose. There is no charge for this event, but we happily accept donations! Great selection of scions for many unusual varieties of stone fruits, and pome fruits. Cuttings for rooting of figs, grapes, mulberries and pomegranates. Also classes on grafting, and sale of supplies for grafting and training trees. Current CRFG members admitted at 10:00. For more info: <https://scverfg.wordpress.com/>

California Native Plant Society Conservation Conference, February 1-3, 2018, Los Angeles Airport Marriott, Los Angeles, CA. Whether your career centers around natural resources or you just love native plants, the CNPS Conservation Conference will have something for you. Pre-conference workshops provide professional skills training, while field trips allow you to get to know local plants with local experts. Three days of scientific sessions and special events provide a forum for collaboration, discussion, and networking. You'll have opportunities to connect with like-minded others, while learning about current research and trends, and contributing to future plans for California's native plants and natural habitats. For more information and to register: <https://conference.cnps.org>

An all-day celebration of Ruth Bancroft's life will be held in the Garden at 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, Saturday, February 17th, 2018. Open to the public, for more information: <https://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/ruthslifecelebration.html>

Pacific Horticulture Society Tour, Eastern Cuba: Natural and Horticultural Wonders, February 18-March 1, 2018. Join Pacific Horticulture on their return to Cuba to explore the eastern end of the island. With a vibrant history and culture, eastern Cuba is home to an abundance of endemic species and pristine natural preserves. Accompanied by expert in-country guides, you will explore forests, beaches, waterfalls, and breathtaking landscapes, as we visit some of the region's most historic cities.

<http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours/eastern-cuba/>

Volunteer

Make a New Year's resolution to become more involved! The Western Horticultural Society is a dynamic group of Plant loving folks. Without the help of our members, we cannot do what we do to make our meetings as great as they are. Due to the impending departure of Liz Calhoun and Judy Wong, who are at the end of their terms, we are currently looking for more board members. We have 5 board meetings per year (every other month from Sept through May.) Please feel free to contact any of our board members for more details if you are interested.

We will also need to nominate a new president and vice-president.

If you are a regular attendee we also have some important roles at our monthly meetings that we need filled.

We need someone to set up the AV equipment (projector and sound system) at and store it between meetings.

You will be shown how to do the setups and will always have support from our members to help as needed.

We also need a person or persons to manage the Plant table. Please let any of the board members know if you would be willing to help in any of these capacities. With more volunteer help with our monthly meetings jobs, we can all enjoy the get-togethers more.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoun

Vice President: Judy Wong

Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other board members: Janet Hoffmann, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong, and Richard Hayden

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: Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership is \$50 for two or more members at the same address and a Student rate is \$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 snail mail to address above.



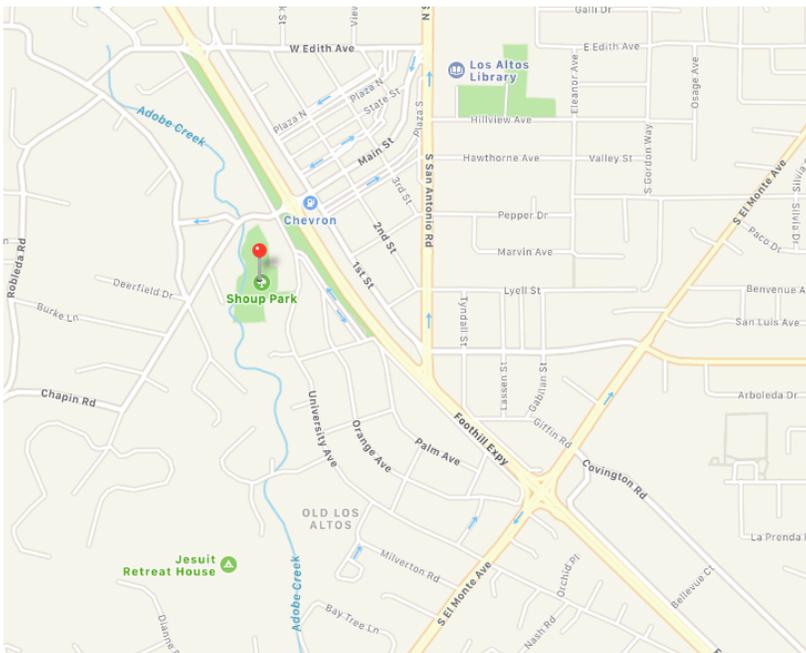
Anyone interested in this *Dasyliirion wheeleri* (approx. 4' X 4', male plant, w/ bloom spike now removed) in my back yard in Campbell. I need to remove it this winter. Please contact me using information on the last page if you are interested.

~Janet Hoffmann



PO Box 166
Mountain View, CA 94042
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



NEW MEETING LOCATION

**The Garden House at Shoup Park,
400 University Ave.
Los Altos, CA 94022**

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!
Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136.

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