

WESTERN HORT

October 2025 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

OCTOBER 2025 MEETING

October 8th, 7:30pm

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

TOPIC: FLOWERS OR BUST: TURNING PASSION INTO PURPOSE

SPEAKER: CHARMAINE TURBOW

- Why and how we started our unique farm in the heart of Silicon Valley
- A summary of what we grow
- How we plan and utilize our space
- Display garden versus having a cut flower business
- How we share our flowers
- Hands on demo of designing a centerpiece with audience involvement!



In Charmaine's own words: "I was born and raised in Vancouver, BC and spent most of my childhood in our neighbors' gardens, running through forested areas and wetlands, and foraging roadside berries! My mother loved gardening and I credit her for instilling the same passion in me.

After finishing a degree at UBC in Cell Biology and a minor in Genetics, I came to California in 2001 to attend chiropractic college. Even though my career as a chiropractor flourished, I never lost the desire for earth and flowers.

In July of 2009, in search of a home, Dan and I set foot on a property in Los Altos and were sold by a quaint, well-kept garden and the sweet taste of fresh apricots. This became our home and foundation for starting a family and what we did not know at that time, a flower farm.

I am now the mother of three wonderful clowns, still a flower enthusiast and the "Head Farmette" of Turbow Farms, which was started in 2018. Along with my children (who are generally helpful with farm operations) and my husband (who is the de facto COO of the Farm), we grow common and not so common specialty cut flowers. We share our fresh harvest through our hands on collaborative workshops and team building events, flower bouquets, arrangements & seasonal offerings."

There will be a speakers dinner this month.

If you would like to join us, please email Western Hort member Carol Dahout at: caroldahout@yahoo.com by Monday, October 6th so we can make a reservation for the appropriate attendance. Dinner will start at 5:00pm. Chef Chu's is located at 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For most of our own sites or projects, our experience with hedgerows is the array of plants along a fence (or as a fence), or the screening shrubs separating us from neighbors or the street.

An excellent publication by Sam Earnshaw for the Community Alliance of Family Farms is also helpful in our suburban situations. (Ref: https://caff.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CAFF_Hedgerow_Manual_2018.pdf)

Some excerpts follow:

"Hedgerows can have multiple functions: they can serve as habitat for beneficial insects, pollinators and other wildlife; provide erosion protection and weed control; serve as windbreaks; stabilize waterways; reduce non-point source water pollution and groundwater pollution; increase surface water infiltration; buffer pesticide drift, noise, odors and dust; act as living fences and boundary lines; increase biodiversity; sequester carbon; and provide an aesthetic resource."

"Diversity in hedgerow species, especially when using native plants, assures a range of attributes, such as the attraction of multiple kinds of insects and wildlife, positive effects for soil and water resources, and success of individual plants under site-specific climatic and other environmental conditions. These plantings can also bring diversity and beauty to our sites, and most growers use plants that they personally like, reporting that they are pleased with the benefits."

"Hedgerows have habitat value for beneficial insects by providing nectar and pollen, alternate hosts and prey, shelter during winter cold and summer heat, wind protection, and nesting sites. Among the natural enemies attracted to many commonly used hedgerow plants are bigeyed bugs, syrphid flies, lady beetles, minute pirate bugs, green and brown lacewings, parasitic and predatory wasps, tachinid flies and spiders. Some of the many insect pests that fall prey to the above-listed natural enemies are aphids, mealy bugs, leaf hoppers, scales, mites, whiteflies, lygus bugs, thrips, squash bugs, stink bugs, codling moths, corn earworms, leafrollers and other caterpillars. Research and field studies have shown that hedgerows and habitat plantings can enhance pest control and pollination."

"Hedgerows, windbreaks, riparian areas, flowering plants and grasses provide habitat for many species of birds, which utilize these types of vegetation for roosting, perching, nesting, and acquiring food. Several studies report that birds can be effective in controlling many pest insects, including caterpillars, moths, ants, aphids, leafhoppers and scale, and in eating significant amounts of weed seeds. Common beneficial birds are Bluebirds, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Swallows, Flycatchers, Warblers, Bushtits and Wrens. Bird boxes for Bluebirds and other songbirds help increase bird populations. Some birds are only insectivores; others rely on insects during nesting season to feed their young and utilize plant resources at other periods. Consider what food sources your seedheads can provide (e.g. to warblers) and leave them in place as needed."

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

September meeting news:

At the September meeting WHS members in attendance voted to fund three \$1,500 scholarships this year. Also voted on and approved was to make a donation to the *Growing Natives Tour* event. This has the added benefit of giving our club exposure in their literature as a donor.

A possible tour to a Portola Valley Garden was mentioned by Jim Salyards. Watch your e-mail for updates on this tour.

REMEMBER TO PICK UP YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AT THE OCTOBER MEETING!

Your membership card has the list of vendors that offer discounts to members and they usually request to see your card when you are at the check out. It will be available to you at the check in table at the meeting, but only if you have already paid your membership.

DID YOU KNOW?



All the Pacific Horticulture magazine archives are open to everyone, including the articles going back to 1977! Please consider joining or donating to this valuable resource. pacifichorticulture.org

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Evolution of the New York City's High Line Gardens

with Richard Hayden

For our first-of-the-season talk at the Garden House, we had a marvelous presentation by a former WHS Board member and exceedingly accomplished horticulturist, Richard Hayden. After serving in several responsible roles in L.A. and the Bay Area, in 2022 he began as Senior Director of Horticulture at the High Line overseeing the design, care, and horticultural practices there. The improbable history of this 1.5 mile-long garden on an elevated structure running through the west side of Manhattan had its beginnings in the 10th Avenue rail line running since 1860. The structure was built in 1934 to a height of 30' to protect the streets below from the dangerous and sometimes fatal situation of trains running down the Avenue. When the last trains stopped in 1980, the derelict structure hosted a new wild ecosystem as nature took over, creating an inspiration for two men (Joshua David and Robert Hammond), with community support, to start the Friends of the High Line in 1999. Although it later became a New York City Park with more than 6 million visitors annually, it is largely funded through the Friends.

Planting began in 2009 with dense plantings of hundreds of thousands of new plants according to the designs of Piet Oudolf. A feeling for Oudolf's art was conveyed in the movie, *Five Seasons: The Gardens of Piet Oudolf*, which was shown at the WHS May, 2024 meeting. Rather than trying to emulate nature, the designs are an homage to nature, according to Oudolf. His oeuvre, along with the participation of James Corner Field Operations and Diller Scofidio + Renfro Architects, led to an overall goal statement of, "keep it simple, quiet, wild and slow," a winning antidote for crowded chaos of Manhattan.

Richard's slides were a tour of the gardens from the southern end at Gansevoort and Washington Streets to the northern end at West 34th Street. There are numerous sections, each representing an ecological habitat such as woodland, shrub thicket, grassland, or wetland with a few areas of lawn or playground. In that order, the sections are:

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|--|--|
| 1. Washington Grassland (Little West 12 th Street) | 11. The Meadow Walk |
| 2. Woodland Edge (Little West 12 th -13 th) | 12. The Flyover (24 th -27 th) |
| 3. Diller-Von Furstenberg Sundeck | 13. The Wildflower Field (26 th -30 th) |
| 4. Hudson Overlook (14 th -15 th) | 14. The Crossroads (30 th and Hudson Yards) |
| 5. Tenth Avenue Square | 15. The Tilt (30 th and Tenth Avenue) |
| 6. Northern Spur Preserve | 16. Moynihan Connector (30 th) |
| 7. The Oak Grove | 17. Eastern Rail Track (30 th to 11 th Avenue) |
| 8. Chelsea Grasslands | 18. Pershing Square Beams |
| 9. Chelsea Thicket | 19. Western Rail Yards (30 th -34 th) |
| 10. 23 rd Street Lawn | |

Given the inspiration of a self-seeded landscape and Piet Oudolf's design philosophy, many of the species represented in the garden are natives. Richard discussed many of the both native and non-native choices for the different sections, including *Asclepias purpurascens* and *A. tuberosa*, *Mertensia virginica* (Virginia bluebells), *Sesleria autumnalis* (Autumn Moor Grass, probably the most numerous plant in the beds), *Eurybia divaricata* (Woodland Aster), *Stachys hummelo*, *Cheilanthes lanosa*, *Cotinus x 'Grace'* and *C. obovatus*, *Gillenia trifoliata*, *Echinacea 'Vintage Wine'* (introduced by Oudolf), *Liatris*, *Knautia*, *Vernonia* (Ironweed), *Ruellia humilis*, *Rudbeckia subtomentosa*, and *Iris domestica*. Some of the trees highlighted were *Betula populifolia* (Grey Birch), *Cercis* (Eastern Redbud), *Amelanchier* (Juneberry), *Cornus* (Dogwood), *Juniperis virginiana* (Eastern Redcedar), *Nyssa sylvatica* (Black Tupelo), *Magnolia*, *Sassafras*, *Gleditsia triacanthos* (Honey Locust), and *Quercus macrocarpa* (Burr Oak). Possibly the most dramatic fact from Richard's story is that these plants are in an average of 18" of soil. There is variation in some sections (The Tilt has several feet, for example), but even there it is impressive to imagine some of the above majestic, tall trees perched on such a shallow substrate.

With the very harsh conditions of the urban environment, including the shallow soil, urban heat-island effects, radiation reflecting from glass windows, new development that completely changes the microclimate, and people pressure, strong plants are needed. Such "opportunists" can tend to swallow other plants and therefore much attention is devoted to balance the mixture of plants in any bed at any given time. Vigorous growth of plants like *Calamintha nepeta*, *Prunus virginiana*, *Sumac*, *Eutrochium purpureum* (Joe Pye Weed), *Hydrangea petiolaris*, *Wisteria frutescens* and *Amsonia hubrichtii* (one of Oudolf's favorites), have to be inhibited through pulling out, shearing or pruning. *Equisetum* and *Typha* had to be completely removed from the wetland section. *Calamagrostis brachytricha* (now declared invasive by the Chicago Botanic Garden) will probably have to be replaced despite its attractive year-round features.

Continued next page...

To achieve the naturalistic look and maintain good land-care including organic and recycling processes, coordinated efforts by eleven horticulturists, three gardeners, nine interns and a few hundred volunteers throughout the year are made to cultivate this dynamic landscape, including planting about 6,000 new plants per year. Great benefits for people as well as for insects and birds continue to accrue. New gardens are still being designed by Piet Oudolf for certain sections, including the northernmost reach at the rail yards which are still self-seeded and not yet remediated. Hearing Richard's excellent behind-the-scenes virtual tour through the High Line will stand you in good stead for your first (or next) visit to this unique gem in the most populous city in the United States. ~Jen Dungan

28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, October 8, 1997, Western Hort gathered to hear *New Color Schemes for the Garden* from "Bernard Trainor, from Australia, now HERE---his local garden design business is "BOTANIKA." He worked with Beth Chatto on an English foundation scholarship."

(Interesting bit of history, this was when the 415 area code was split and 650 was added.)

Later in the month (October 20th) WHS was "co-sponsoring ANN LOVEJOY with Cal Hort...at the Hall of Sciences, in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Mark your calendar – she's not to be missed – knowledgeable, funny, and a GREAT SPEAKER!"

Announcements included: A BBC garden broadcaster was scheduled for February 1998.

Plans were set in motion for a future meeting: "a SLIDE SHOW of members' gardens".

(A question from your speakers' committee: Would a slide show of members' gardens be of interest for a monthly program? – NLS)

Five new members were welcomed.

"SPECIAL LATE ITEM NEWS: Barrie Coate will be leading a tour to the new Getty Museum in Los Angeles on November 13. 10 seats available for WHS members."

The Plant Notes revealed many interesting plants were brought to the meeting.

Patricia St. John showed a "handsome and unusual container plant", a dwarf redwood she purchased at The Dry Garden Nursery in Oakland. *Sequoia sempervirens* 'Nana Pendula'.

Judy Wong brought blooms from her *Rhododendron* 'Pacific Mist', timing that was unusual but not uncommon.

John Hammerschmidt shared his pineapple sage *Salvia elegans* 'Freda Dixon', "introduced by Jon Dixon, a former Western Hort member, (with) pinker flowers than the usual scarlet of the species".

"John's *Clerodendron thompsoniae* is grown outdoors which shouldn't be possible for this tender plant, but John is a resourceful type and has found a niche between an outdoor heater and a fence where it does just fine." It is a vine with large, dark green leaves and flowers with "bright red tubular corollas protruding from large white calyxes". Plant notes author ends the description with her typical droll humor: "I can hardly bring myself to tell you that its common name is Bleeding Heart Glorybower, a new low in kitsch that should be instantly forgotten."

John also showed off a branch of *Symphoricarpos rivularis* (snowberry) with exceptionally large berries.

"Jean Fowkes brought in an unusual euphorbia, *E. cyparissias* 'Orange Man', with soft ferny, linear leaves. ... members warn(ed) that it can become a tenacious weed."

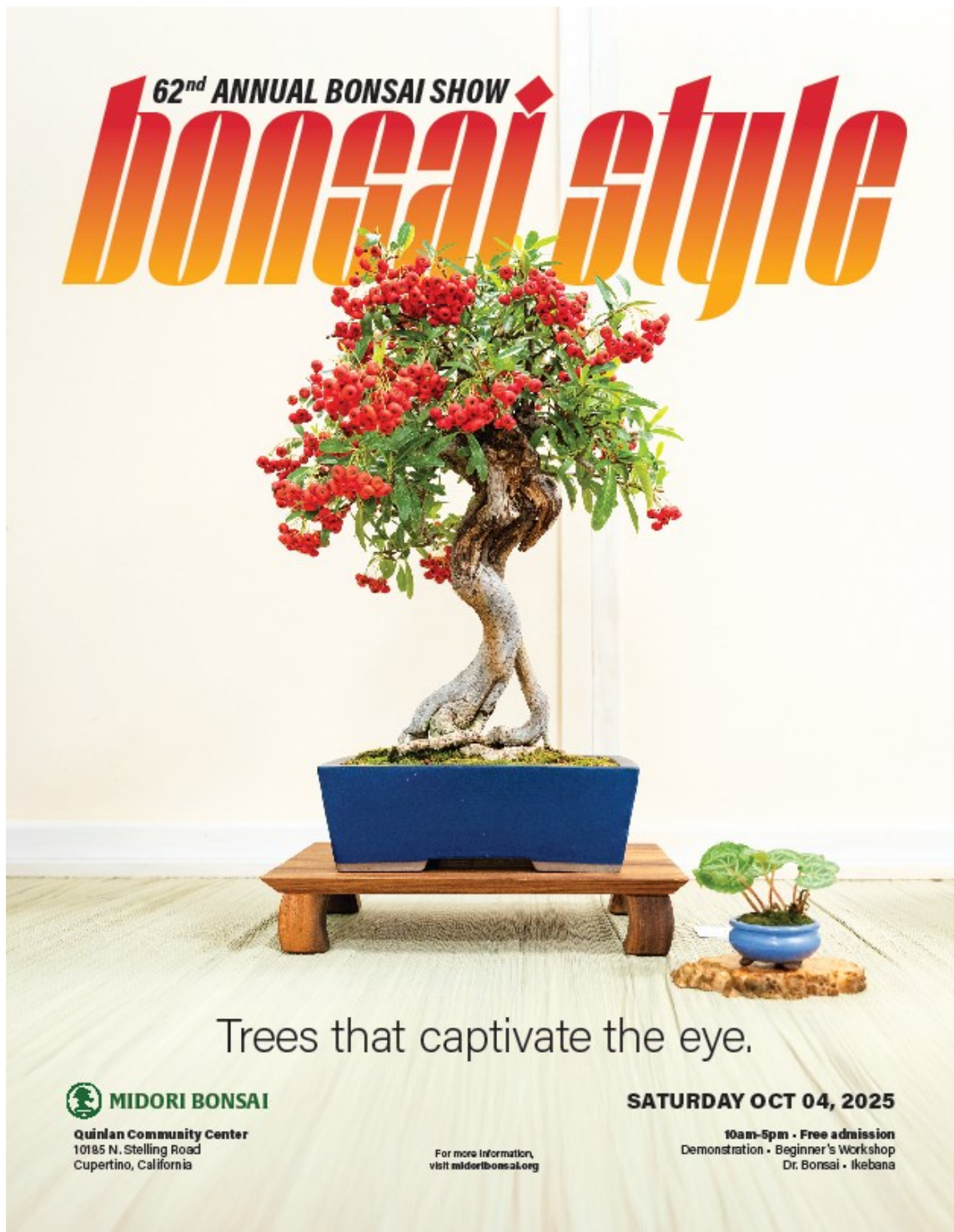
"Kristina Montague showed an oregano that she bought at Ed Carman's that was greatly admired". "*Origanum turnfordii* is an erect dwarf shrub, a prolific bloomer with soft pink flowers." (I'd love to get cuttings so I could grow this again—if anyone has it! NLS)

"Another of Kristina's plants is *Aster ericoides*, a real charmer with a profusion of tiny, white, star-like flowers only 1/2" in diameter. Kristina's plant has been in bloom since early September and the flowers last well in water." I hesitate to include the last of Kristina's offerings, *Dipsacus fullonum*, common teasel. It's a very invasive weed, but it sounds like Kristina grew some for dried arrangements. And it truly is quite attractive.

"From Bill Kurtz' garden of unusual plants we saw *Stapelia gigantea* 'Pallida', the giant starfish or carrion flower." "The fetid odor of the flower attracts the flies that are its pollinators and there, sure enough, on the stamens were clusters of fly eggs laid that morning."

"Both Bill Kurtz and Ed Carman brought (fall-blooming) nerines to the plant table." *Nerine masonorum* and *N. filifolia* are evergreen with grassy foliage. Both have clusters of small pink flowers...Stems are about one foot tall, *N. filifolia* being slightly the taller of the two, and...deeper pink flowers...". "*N. sarniensis*, the Guernsey lily, is deciduous, the leaves coming after the flowers. ...and is altogether a sturdier looking plant...". "The flowers are usually crimson but Bill's 'Radiant Queen' had purple petals with central pink stripes."

~ Nancy Schramm



Saturday, October 4th

Quinlan Community Center, 10185 N. Stelling Road, Cupertino, CA 95014 For additional info go to: <https://midoribonsai.org/2025-show> Free admission, 10am –5pm Demonstration, workshop, Ikebana and vendors.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

Invasive borers in native oaks https://localnewsmatters.org/2025/08/24/the-loss-will-be-significant-invasive-beetles-spread-through-mendocinos-valley-oaks/?utm_source=flipboard&utm_content=user/BayCityNews

SEPTEMBER PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy

Drimia maritima (Sea Squill) Widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean Sea and Southern European area this bulb was first described in 1872.

Deciduous - similar to amaryllis, the foliage dies down and then the flower spike appears in fall.

Height - foliage grows 12 to 18 inches long, flower stalks 3 to 4 feet tall.

Width - recommended to plant bulbs 18 to 24 inches apart.

Exposure - Full sun to light shade

Soil - well-drained sandy soil or plant in mounds or on a slope.

Water - Drought tolerant in coastal areas but accepts more regular irrigation when not dormant.

Protect from temperatures below 28 degrees. Gophers will not eat this bulb as it is considered a low level toxin.



Judy Wong from Menlo Park

Callisia repens 'Pink Panther'

Evergreen perennial grown as a houseplant or outdoors in warm climates. Judy saw this in New Zealand.

Height - Judy reports 5 to 12 inches.

Exposure - Bright indirect light

Soil - Well-drained

Water - moderate watering, thrives in high humidity

Maintain in temperatures of 65 to 80 degrees



Talinum paniculatum - (Jewels-of-Opar or fameflower)

Native to much of North and South America and the Caribbean countries. Good for rock gardens and hot areas.

Shrubby succulent that grows from a tuberous root. Judy saw this while at Cistus Nursery.

Height - 1 to 3 feet

Exposure - Sun

Soil - Well-drained

Water - Moderate

USDA Zones 9a to 11b



John Hammerschmidt shared seeds of "Real Swiss Chard" and an old fashioned Sweet Pea 'Purple Prince' with wonderful fragrance. Thank you John for your generosity!

PLANT SHARE WRITER WANTED! Can be shared with a friend, expands your plant knowledge through research, an easy fun way to contribute to the monthly newsletter and the gratitude of your humble editor! Contact Kjanberg@gmail.com

SNACKS!

More to enjoy at our monthly Western Horticultural Society Meetings.

September snacks were provided by the WHS board for your enjoyment! Thank you board members! Please sign up to bring something in the coming months. We're hoping for 2-4 contributions each month. Please email Jim Salyards (jsalyards@filoli.org) if you would like to bring something.

Snacks can be home baked sweet or savory bites. They can be purchased at your local market. Fruits and vegetables are great too.

Here is a link to sign up:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/19rOJXS374RI3aV3sSG-3RfALQWOq-D0Ps5AdaKR81Bg/edit?tab=t.0>

Thanks to Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans for their participation and for setting up the snack table each month!

WHS UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 12th— Lisa Stapleton, *Food Forests in Suburbia: How to Create a Micro-farm and Still Have a Life*

December 10th— Annual Potluck Dinner (No speaker)

January 14th— Helen Popper, *Our Winter is Different: Seasons in California Native Gardens*

February 11th— Lisa Roper, *Chanticleer Gravel Garden*

March 11th— Nikki Hanson, *Fire Safe(r) Landscaping*

April 8th— Tim Wong, *Gardening for California Pipevine Swallowtail and other Butterflies in the SF Bay Area*

May 13th— Movie and Vendor night, *Movie: Sexual Encounters of the Floral Kind*

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Checkout other ongoing events, Plant Sales, Talks and Workshops at the Master Gardener website:

<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/>

Ed Laivo at Summerwinds Nursery in Cupertino, Sunday, October 5th, 10am to noon. **High-Density Fruit Tree Planting.** Ed is well known from his time at Dave Wilson Fruit Tree Nursery and with 35 years in the horticultural industry he is a fountain of information on all things fruit trees! Register for this free presentation:

<https://www.summerwindsnursery.com/ca/events/>

California Horticultural Society, November 17, 6:30pm - In person with Michael Horn, *Carnivorous Plants* Meet at the San Francisco County Fair Building, Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Free parking is available behind the SF County Fair building on Lincoln Way. 6:30PM

Gamble Gardens Events link: <https://www.gamblegarden.org/events/> Too many to list but starting on October 11th everything from floral design to learning about the soul of the garden: soil!

Want to keep up on horticultural events and exchange ideas with other members?? Join our online forum at:

<https://groups.io/g/WHSmembers>.

GET INVOLVED

Vice president, Board members and Corresponding Secretary: 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 at our meetings.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: **Open Position**

Secretary: Jennifer Dungan

Corresponding Secretary: **Open Position**

Treasurer: Eva Huala

Other Board Members: Jim Salyards, Carol Dahout, Gabrielle Sala, Marci Hayden & Mil Milutin.
(More board members welcomed and needed)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Eva Huala

Membership: Eva Huala & Kathy Anberg

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Meeting Tech: Jennifer Doniach, Eva Huala, Jennifer Dungan, Meri-Beth Bird & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Pam Noyer

Treat Table Set up: Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair), Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Meri-Beth Bird, Jim Salyards & Marci Hayden

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Dungan & Nancy Schramm

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

About Membership in Western Hort:

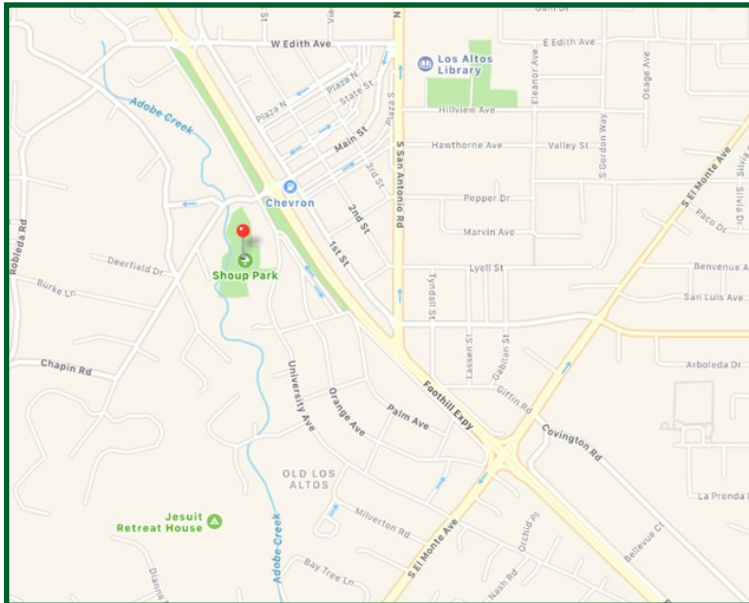
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. Please visit the Pac 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 the 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 8th, 2025

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.