

WESTERN HORT

NOVEMBER 2017 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, California 94042 | www.westernhort.org

November 2017 Meeting

Wednesday, November 8 at 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 7pm. Members who can help with set-up should arrive at 6:30-6:45pm. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated!



Photo: Heather Saunders

Flower House: Beauty From Blight

With Lisa Waud, Pot & Box (Detroit, MI)

In October 2015, 37 floral designers and over 100 volunteers from across the continent came together to fill an abandoned Detroit house with American-grown fresh flowers and living plants. An estimated 3,400 curious visitors explored the house over the 3-day exhibition, the installation hosted 3 weddings, 1 engagement, and dinner for 180, and the project received international media attention—with an estimated 287,000,000+ media impressions. Why did this project

touch so many people? Flower House creator Lisa Waud explores her thoughts on beauty, blight, and nostalgia, in regards to the project, as well as the planning and execution of the large-scale installation through the themes of risk-taking, logistics, collaboration.

This lecture describes the project from idea to exhibition, with a discussion on what about the installation was so magnetic to so many people across the world. Lisa will be presenting with a slideshow of gorgeous images from the project's official photographer, Heather Saunders.



Photo: Heather Saunders

Lisa Waud is the founder and owner of Pot & Box, a floral design and horticultural decor studio based in Detroit. Lisa is also the producer of Detroit Flower Week 2016, a Flower House-inspired design conference that featured over 30 floral design and botanical inspiration lectures and workshops with innovative designers from across the globe. Visit www.potandbox.com and www.theflower.house for additional info.

Join us for dinner with Lisa Waud on November 8th ~ 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

Upcoming Meetings

December 13, 2017

* HOLIDAY PARTY & POTLUCK *
TRIBUTE TO BARBARA WORL
RENOVATION OF A MISSION GARDEN
With Phoebe Cutler

January 10, 2018

A HABITAT GARDEN, BY DESIGN
With Kate Frey

February 14, 2018

NATURAL GARDENS IN
SMALL SPACES
With Mike Evans, Tree of Life Nursery

Have you renewed yet?

To RENEW your WHS membership:

- 1) Print out and complete the 2017-18 Membership Form online at www.westernhort.org/membership
- 2) Write personal check made out to WHS.
- 3) Mail completed form plus check to: WHS Membership, PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Individual	\$35
Family	\$50 (2 people at 1 address)
Student	\$20

Membership year is September-August.

WHS Membership benefits include an annual subscription to *Pacific Horticulture* magazine (published quarterly; a \$28 value!)

For more info about membership or to change your account info email westernhortsociety@gmail.com.

Western Horticultural Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

28 Years ago

1989

Since I'm still catching up, let's start with plants seen on the Discussion Table in September 1989. What a riot of color it must have been. First of all "Thanks to Dave Rodal, we got a look at several late-blooming clematises, including some species. Although these species are not as showy as the large-flowered hybrids, they have a quiet and dainty charm that is very appealing and they make up in profusion of bloom what they lack in size." Two recommended books (both entitled *Clematis*) for those wishing to learn more are authored by Christopher Lloyd and Barry Fretwell. Clematis flowers on display included: *C. brachiata*, *C. chinensis*, *C. connata*, *C. dioscoreifolia* (often sold as *C. paniculata*), *C. vitacella* v. 'Alba Luxurians' and 'Mme. Julia Correvan' ("Dave describes this as one of the longest blooming of his clematises"), *C. 'Ville de Lyon'*, *C. 'Comtesse de Bouchard'*, *C. 'Wada's Primrose'* and *C. orientalis*. Don Brandeau brought in a verbascum for id, it turned out to be a white flowered, purple stamened form of *Verbascum blattaria*. Bill Kurtz showed off blooming plants of *Eucomis comosa* and a *Haemanthus albiflos x coccineous* 'Minnie Belle'. Bart O'Brien's display of "...*Mimulus/Diplacus* attracted a good deal of attention...from Yerba Buena Nursery...they are 'somewhat deer proof'." Species *Mimulus longiflorus* v. *rutilus* is "one of the easiest to grow, with small, dark red flowers." Others shown, by color; white: 'Ivory White' (a Yerba Buena hybrid) & 'Sun Life', yellow: 'Sunset', 'Sunlight', 'Buff Ruffles', orange side of yellow: 'Soquel Orange'. But there were more, some bicolored, too: 'Fiesta', *x clevelandii*, 'Valentine' (red, developed by Warren Roberts at UC Davis).

Moving right along, at the October 11, 1989 WHS meeting *The Very Latest in the World of Citrus Growing* was presented by Don Dillon, owner of Four Winds Growers. (I guarantee that was a fun and informative presentation! -ncs) The second printing of the WHS publication *Perennials* had arrived with a few corrections. A Heritage Rose Society meeting was announced with Betsy Fryberger presenting *The Iris and the Artist*, about Giverny gardens and a slide show on old roses by Miriam Wilkins.

Claire Steede (Cottage Gardens Nursery) announced a moving sale on November 4th. All plants at her wholesale perennial nursery would be marked down 25%. This was to help facilitate her move from Shasta Street in Redwood City to her new nursery (Meadowlark Nursery) in Hollister. Claire Steede Butler's nursery is still open (I consider this a real accomplishment! -ncs) and Claire was kind enough to open her beautiful garden and nursery to WHS for our annual picnic two years ago.

Also on tap for the plant lover was the Strybing Arboretum (now the San Francisco Botanical Garden) sale of native plants on October 28th, and the Fall Festival at Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, October 7th. Speakers included Australian horticulturist David Hockings, and our local Glenn Keator who was autographing his new book *Native Perennials for the Garden*. ~ Nancy Schramm

Newsflash!

The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show returns to the Cow Palace next year! Mark your calendars now: April 4-8, 2018. Western Hort will again present the highly acclaimed Hot Plant Picks exhibit at the show. This gives us the first look at some of the coolest plants around town. In addition, The SF Show is looking forward to welcoming a new highlight of the show—fourteen or more small, specialty nurseries. This exciting addition will pave the way to a renewed focus on plants at the Show. I have been working with show owner Sherry Larsen to create this new nursery area. If you have any suggestions for small nurseries you would like to see in attendance, please contact me!

~ Nancy Schramm 408-847-2313

Volunteer: New president(s) needed for 2018

Co-presidents Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon will be completing their terms at the end of December 2017 and **we are looking for a person or persons to take their place before the end of the year** (tick-tock!). We are also looking for more board members. This is a great way to get to know other WHS members and have a more involved role the organization. Please contact any current board member to learn more about how you can help out or email westernhortsociety@gmail.com.

Strolling Around the Internet

As plant lovers, I think most of us prefer to be outdoors whenever possible. But sometimes, like when the temperature is over 100 degrees or some illness keeps us inside, it can be refreshing to be able to look at beautiful gardens or learn about unusual plants via the internet. With that in mind, I've started asking friends for their favorite websites, blogs and plant-focused forums. Please share your favorites with me and I'll pass along these beautiful and enlightening sites. ~ *Nancy Schramm*

From Nancy Schramm:

When I need to know more about specific plants, I visit San Marcos Growers at <https://www.smgrowers.com>. For bonsai aesthetics, and for what to do when and how, check out Jonas Dupuich's <https://bonsaitonight.com>.

From Robin Parer:

I would like to recommend Donn Reiners' <http://www.geraniumpage.com/> He put his whole heart and soul into this site and it has excellent information on propagation and plant culture for pelargoniums. Moreover he is a superb photographer (he did the photos for *The Plant Lovers Guide to Hardy Geraniums*).

From Sherry Austin:

I enjoyed reading the plant descriptions from The Far Reaches Farm in Washington <http://www.farreachesfarm.com>. Their catalog lists a lot of very interesting plants and those that I ordered were in perfect condition. They get high marks from me on quality.

From Bracey Tiede:

The UC Master Gardener website for Santa Clara, full of local info <http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu>. And another UC site <http://ipm.ucanr.edu>.

From my avid gardening friends Terri & Sherri in WA:

The eye candy of <http://www.thedangergarden.com>

WHS OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

Co-President: Carrie Parker
Co-President: Liz Calhoon
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Leslie Dean
Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield
Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach
Other Board Members:
Katie Wong, Janet Hoffmann,
Laura Wilson, Chris Egan



CLAY POTS AVAILABLE

Jean Struthers has dozens of clay pots to give. Anyone interested? They are about 6-8 inches diameter. Contact jeanstruthers@att.net.

SAVE THE DATE! * WHS HOLIDAY * PARTY & POTLUCK Wednesday, December 13th

Featuring:

Tribute to Barbara Worl, and
Renovation of a Mission Garden
with speaker, Phoebe Cutler

Come at 6PM for hors d'oeuvres
and wine from the WHS Board!

Bring a dish of your favorite entree,
side, or dessert to serve 6.

Enjoy each other's company
and bring the 2017 season to
a close together!

Can you please help? Please come
at 5:30pm to help set up the tables,
chairs and decorations.

Questions? Call Liz Calhoon 650-823-8270



Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought:

Haemanthus albiflos (White Paintbrush/Dappled Snowbrush) – This evergreen bulb from S. Africa belongs in the Amaryllidaceae family. It grows in part or dappled shade (zones 9-11) in any type of well-drained soil. The strap-like leaves can get to be 18” long and a single pair of 2 opposite leaves is produced each year. The snails always eat Judy’s leaves before she puts out Sluggo. The flowers start appearing in May and become more attractive as the yellow anthers become more prominent as the bracts retract. It attracts bees

and butterflies and is hardy to 30°. It can also be grown indoors.

Rosa ‘Felicia’ (Hybrid Musk Rose) - This fast growing, repeat blooming, climbing rose is very floriferous. It grows in full sun to part shade (zones 6-10) in fertile well-drained soil. It is supposed to grow to be 6’ tall and wide but hers is 12’ high and grows along a fence. It has 3” small fragrant leaves. Its many pink double flowers start appearing in the spring. Each double flower may have 16-25 pink petals and is very fragrant. It is disease free and easy to care for. It’s re-blooming right now for her and it is hardy to 30°. Nancy Schramm thinks *Rosa ‘Felicia’* is hardy to at least 0°.



Katie Wong from Los Altos brought:

Mespilus germanica (Medlar) – This small deciduous self-fertile tree or shrub from Europe belongs in the rose family. It grows in full to part sun (zones 5-9) in well-drained soil and can get to be 8-10’ tall but you can prune it back to 6’ tall. It has 5” long dull-green simple leaves, which are oblong to lanceolate in shape. The whitish pink flowers start appearing in the summer and in Europe the fruits which taste like cinnamon applesauce are left on the tree until they are bletted (overly ripe, almost rotten) and then usually picked

after all the leaves (which have gorgeous fall colors) have dropped or after the first frosts. It is a good fruit-bearing tree and the fruit may be eaten raw or made into jelly. Some cultivars are bigger and you may purchase them from Raintree Nursery. Katie has never seen any seedlings at her friends’ house and doesn’t know how one should start it from seed.

Crataegus pinnatifida ‘Big Golden Star’ (Red Sun Chinese Hawthorn, Chinese Hawberry, Chinese Haw).

This deciduous small tree from northern China grows in full to part sun (zones 5-9) in well-drained soil with regular water since it normally grows along riverbanks, which have sandy soils in China. It can grow to 10-12’ tall. This cultivar has the added advantage of being nearly thornless. Very large, green lobed leaves appear in spring and are followed by white flowers in the summer. This tree has both male and female parts and the edible red fruits are 1 ½”. Katie doesn’t spray her trees, so she throws 1/2 of the fruit away. You can eat the fruit, dry it, make it into syrup or use it in pies. The leaves turn a golden yellow in the fall. You can see it in Beijing and Shanghai and it looks like a candy on a stick. It is very hardy and easy to grow.

Ficus carica ‘Black Jack’ (Black Jack Fig) – This deciduous shrub can be grown in the ground or in a container in full sun (zones 7-9) and need regular water. Roberta has it and the fruit is very very sweet. It almost rivals mission fig in its sweetness. Roberta’s is 6’ by 8’ wide and rounded.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:



Russelia equisetiformis (Coral Fountain or Firecracker Plant) – This evergreen ornamental shrub from Mexico grows in sun to part shade (zones 9-11) in well-drained moist soil. It gets to be 5’ tall and wide and has slender horsetail like stems. The typical form has bright red tubular flowers, spring through fall, that hummingbirds love. Lorena Gorsche gave Nancy the yellow-flowered form shown at the meeting.

Calocephalus/Leucophyta brownii (Cushion Bush or Silver Cushion Bush) – This small evergreen mounding Australian perennial grows in full sun or part shade (zones 9-10) in sandy or gravelly well-drained soil. It can grow to be 3’ tall and wide and has soft velvet-like grey-green almost silver appearing foliage. In the spring very tiny button-shaped little pale yellow flowers appear. It is hardy to twenty degrees. It is grown as hedges in Hawaii. Nancy has a Calocephalus that had a seedling Trachelium grow up through it, and the color combination is fantastic.



Trachelium caeruleum (Blue Throatwort) – This herbaceous Mediterranean perennial grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in slightly acidic, moist and well-drained soil. It can get to be 3’ tall and wide and has large dark green to reddish bronze lanceolate leaves with serrated margins. Tiny clusters of star-shaped violet-purple, pink, white, or mauve flowers start blooming in the summer. Even though they are small, there are hundreds of them in each 4-5” flower head. They are slightly fragrant and attract bees and butterflies and make a good cut flower. Both the botanical name (Trachelium = neck in

Greek) and its common name Throatwort refers to its medicinal use in treating throat problems.

Plectranthus amboinicus (Cuban Oregano, Mexican Mint, Indian Borage, Caribbean Oregano) – This evergreen perennial grows in full or part sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It can grow to be 3’ tall and its small ovate green opposite leaves have serrated margins. Trumpet-shaped flowers begin flowering in the spring and may be white, pink or lavender. It is tender to frost and can be grown indoors. The leaves taste like oregano but also have a mint-like pepperiness taste to them.



Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought:

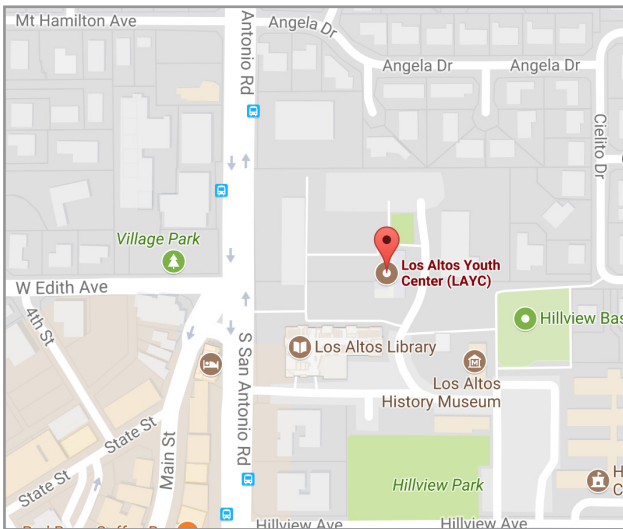
Gomphocarpus physocarpa (Family Jewels Tree, Balloon Plant, Hairy Balls) – Since this perennial milkweed is from SE Africa its name was changed to Gomphocarpus to distinguish it from other milkweeds. It grows in full sun (zones 7-10) in well-drained soil. It grows to be 6’ tall and wide. It has slender narrow opposite simple leaves with entire margins. The umbel flowers are white with a light mauve center and start blooming in the summer which then become 2-3” round hairy seed pods. They are good in flower arrangements

but like other milkweeds host Monarch caterpillars and the plant is toxic.



PO Box 166
Mountain View, CA 94042
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



MEETING LOCATION

**Los Altos Youth Center
1 North San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio Rd at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept. Doors open at 7:00pm and meetings begin at 7:30pm.

Would you like to sponsor a lecture for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated!

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