

WESTERN HORT

October 2020 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

OCTOBER 2020 MEETING **October 14, 7 pm on Zoom via Internet**

Our meeting this month will once again be a Zoom presentation. New for this meeting, **to get the link for the Zoom presentation you will need to register on Eventbrite.** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/landscaping-for-wildfire-protection-tickets-122295303545> There is no cost for members but visitors will be asked to pay \$10. **Remember to save the confirmation email with the link to get into the meeting.** You may log on anytime after 6:30 pm. We will be starting the meeting with a virtual plant forum. If you have plants that you would like to share, please send photos to info@westernhort.org by Oct. 13th.

Speaker: Barbara Hunt, UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Clara County
Topic: Landscaping for Wildfire Protection



One afternoon several years ago I heard an odd noise outside my house, looked out my upstairs window and saw a wall of flame in the field below. Living in the wildland-urban interface, people and homes are at risk from wildfires. While there are no guarantees your home will escape, appropriate landscaping around your home can help protect it. Learn about how wildfires spread, what Defensible Space is, how to create it and which plants resist fire the most. Also what you can do right now and into the future with your landscape that will protect your home as much as possible. It doesn't take a Camp Fire to destroy homes. The San Jose Fire Department put out that fire in the field below my house. But, in July two years ago, a neighbor's house burned to the ground in a 100-acre grass fire.

Barbara Hunt is a Master Gardener and a member of the California Native Plant Society. She is most passionate about California native plants. Barbara loves to hike, and is a Docent and Preserve Steward with the Open Space Authority. In her spare time she fosters rescued German Shepherd Dogs. She first became interested in wildfires when she moved to the foothills and experienced her first fire which burned right up to her back door.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fall greetings to everyone. I hope that you enjoyed our first meeting of the season with “The Plant Lady” sharing her expertise on growing succulents in the garden. If you missed the meeting, it was recorded and will be available for viewing on YouTube for a limited time. Cal Hort members and current Western Hort members should have received a link along with the log-in information for the Cal Hort meeting last night. This is a wonderful collaboration and benefit of membership in either organization. We hope many of you appreciate the opportunity to share programs.

Our speaker this month is on the timely topic of landscaping for fire protection. Your board has been looking into ways to make the meeting links available to members as well as encouraging potential members to tune in and possibly join our organization. To that end we are going to be making the Zoom links available only through Eventbrite registrations. The registration is still free for members, you just need to log in to Eventbrite and click the member registration button. We are hoping that this will also give us a better feel for the number of attendees prior to our meetings and allow us time to increase viewing capacity if needed.

Another piece of exciting news that I want to share is that the society has come into the considerable sum of \$65,000 from the estate of Richard Tiede. As most of you know, he was very dedicated to Western Hort, serving as president for many years. We are deeply honored that we are one of the organizations that he thought was important enough to share his largess with after his passing. The board will be discussing ways in which to use these funds both to make sure that Western Hort will be a sustainable organization for many years and for horticultural promotion, education or enrichment for the community. Horticulture was one of Richard’s biggest passions and we plan to honor his commitment to it.

If any of you have suggestions or feedback on any of the above, feel free to email me at info@westernhort.org. Our next board meeting will be November 7th at 4:30pm on Zoom. If you would like to sit in on the meeting, feel free to email me and I will send a link for you to do so.

~ Janet Hoffmann

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Fall Online Plant Sale, California Native Plant Society-Santa Clara Valley Chapter, October 17, 2020. Due to COVID19 restrictions this annual plant sale will be via **online orders only** this year. Plants that have been ordered will be available for pick-up at pre-registered times outside the CNPS nursery at Hidden Villa. There will be no walk-in purchases allowed. For more information and to place orders starting October 10th, go to: [cnps2020plantsale](https://www.cnps2020plantsale.org)

Pacific Horticultural Society Digital Classroom, ongoing and available through their website: <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/digital-classroom/>. Our partner organization has this series of gardening videos as well as interesting gardening articles and still publishes their digital magazine every month. We urge everyone to join and help to support their ongoing work.

Get outside and enjoy the **San Francisco Botanical Garden** this fall. They are offering free admission daily 7:30-9:30am and the second Tuesday of every month. Advance ticket reservations are recommended to reduce wait times, monitor crowd size, and ensure enough space for social distancing. For more information go to: <https://www.sfbg.org/covid-19>.

IPPS North American Virtual Summit, October 27—29, 2020. Register now for the International Plant Propagators’ Society FREE event. During the Western Region presentation, virtually tour four diverse operations and see two presentations. The Denver Botanic Garden Steppe collection, J. Frank Schmidt and Son Nursery propagation to production, Rajat Biotech India tissue culture lab producing fruit trees for the Himalayan Belt and The Seattle spheres. The presentations are *Pollination in Indigenous Orchid Species* and *Studies on Mangrove Trees and Biotechnology*. To register : https://ksu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_eg_HewrgRX-r1-Ukzpqz0g NOTE: Live broadcast times are Eastern Daylight Times so be aware of the time difference.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on October 14, 1992. “Ed Carman of Carman’s Nursery in Los Gatos will speak on *Plant Propagation*.”

The membership was to provide plants for the plant raffle. There was also a free seed exchange. It was announced that “In November we will have a panel of experts to answer your horticultural questions. Please submit your questions in writing and give them to Mabel Crittenden at the October meeting.”

Another announcement: “At our October meeting, Dave Muffly who is the Director of *Magic, Inc.* will briefly bring us up to date on the status of native oak regeneration in the Stanford foothills. *Magic, Inc.* has been working for six years to reestablish these plants on Stanford land, however last summer there was a disastrous fire which burned 500 acres including some of the major area where regeneration was going on. Muffly will bring us up to date on the ongoing work.”

For the first time in years the WHS dues were increased “Regular dues for an individual or two in one household are now going to be \$25,” \$35 for a sustaining membership.

The Plant Notes for September 1992 stated “We were treated to a very full plant display table in September with lots of new and unusual plants.”

Judy Leong brought in *Dolichos lablab*, hyacinth bean, a “quick-growing, vigorous vine...perennial but treated as annual. The decorative flat, purple seed pods appear in fall and, in the tropics...provide an important food source.”

Barbara Worl created a lovely bouquet from her garden: *Monarda punctata* (purple spotted yellow flowers with large showy pink bracts), *Sedum* ‘Autumn Joy’ (rich pink flowers aging to coppery red), *Aster lateriflorus* (4’ tall, small, pale lavender flowers), *Salvia vanhouttii* (deep red flowers, needs shade) and *Rosa* ‘Souvenir de la Malmaison’.

Albert Wilson shared *Pyrocantha coccinea* ‘Lalandei’ (there are mixed messages about this plant, this selection appears to be part of the SelecTree while perhaps the straight species is classified as invasive by Cal-IPC) and *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* ‘Rosea’ (one of the most decorative eucalypts).

“Jean Fowkes brought two grasses, *Muhlenbergia dumosa*, a native grass of Arizona and *Carex flagellifera*, which is, of course, not a grass but a sedge.” Our plant note author Elizabeth Garbett further commented “It is still a mystery to me why so many New Zealand plants have brown foliage and I hope someone will explain this phenomenon to me someday.”

Betsy Clebsch brought *Salvia greggii* ‘Big Red’ (you guessed it—bright red flowers), *S.* ‘Cienaga de Oro’ (yellow flowers) and *S.* ‘Sierra San Antonio’ (peach flowers) all from Yucca Do Nursery in Texas, *Althea rosea* (perennial hollyhock with black flowers), *Hibiscus trionum* (flower-of-an-hour) and *Lavatera thuringeana* (long-blooming pink flowers).

“From Sherry Austin’s garden we saw *Parahebe catarractae*’ a good subject to drape over a wall or for the rock garden.” Also three roses: ‘Sombreuil’ (fully double, white with hints of cream), ‘Apricot Nectar’ (pale pink suffused with yellow) and ‘Golden Fleece’ (clear strong yellow) as well as *Thryptomene saxicola* (pinkish lavender flowers from autumn to spring), *Crowea exalata* (pink starry flowers throughout the year) and *Globularia indubia* (blue tubular flowers). ‘Elizabeth noted “It (the Globularia) was short lived with me but then, a lot of things are.”

“Barrie Coate brought a most interesting succulent, one that is a classic, almost exaggerated, example of adaptation to a harsh environment. *Lithops leslei*.

“Bill Kurtz, who has an interest in South African plants showed three blood lilies.” *Haemanthus coccineus*, *H. albiflos* and *Scadoxus multiflorus*.

~ Nancy Schramm

SEPTEMBER PLANT NOTES

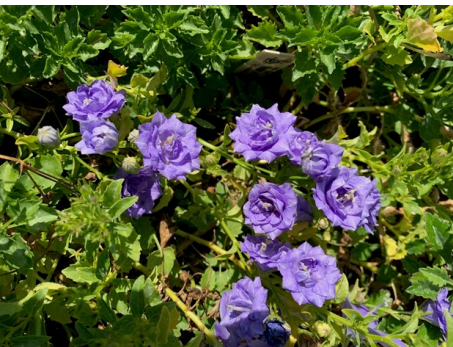


Janet Hoffmann, Campbell, shared a very nice Aster. **Symphyotrichum (Aster) nova-belgii** cultivar. Might be 'Lady in Blue' purchased at Yamagami's Nursery many years ago. Janet has divided it several times so now has three clumps in her yard. It stays less than a foot tall, blooms for a couple of months in the fall and gets once a week summer water. Cutting it back almost to the ground in the winter, it comes back in late winter-spring. Tolerates heavy soil and is fairly drought resistant. Zones 4-9.

Symphyotrichum nova-belgii



Campanula elatines v. elatinoides



Campanula x haylodgensis



Drimia maritima

Nancy Schramm, Gilroy, had lots to share this month.

Drimia (Urginea) maritima, Sea Squill has tall flower to five feet spikes emerging in late summer. This plant is very carefree and the gophers don't seem to bother them. Strap shaped foliage appears after bloom spikes fade. Full sun to light shade. Zone 8-10

Next was a wide assortment of one of her favorite genus, Campanula.

Campanula elatines v. elatinoides, wonderful for hanging baskets, blue-green somewhat fuzzy leaves blooming in late summer/ early fall. Star shaped flowers in a rich medium blue. This used to be Campanula isophylla 'Mayi' and Campanula isophylla is very similar but with green smooth leaves.

Campanula x haylodgensis 'Plena', has unusual, double lavender-blue flowers. Raised by Hay Lodge, Edinburgh in 1885. This one is great for hanging baskets or spilling over walls blooming in late summer and early fall. Very floriferous.

Campanula 'Pink Octopus' is a patented hybrid from Terra Nova Nursery. It is semi-deciduous, a generous spreader with serrated edges to its leaves. Blooms end of August.

Campanula poscharskyana commonly called Serbian Bellflower is a short mounding ground cover with a sprawling habit between 4" to 10" tall.

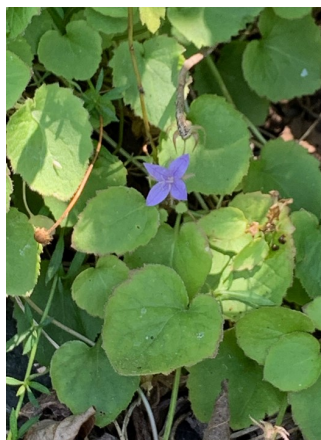
Campanula rotundifolia is a low growing plant with roundish basal leaves and has long, slender 18" tall flower spikes. Blooming summer into fall with delicate small blue bells. Goes somewhat dormant in the winter.



Campanula 'Pink Octopus'



Campanula poscharskyana



Campanula rotundifolia

SEPTEMBER PLANT NOTES



Campanula Poscharskyana
'Blue Waterfall'



Campanula x carpatica
'Peter Nix'



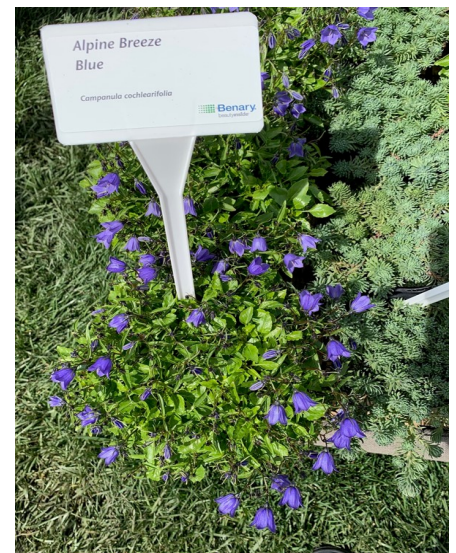
Campanula garganica



Campanula garganica
'Dickson's Gold'



Campanula cochlearifolia
'Alpine Breeze'



Campanula poscharskyana 'Blue Waterfall' is a spring/ through early summer bloomer, very floriferous and another great one for hanging baskets or walls. Grows to about 1 foot tall.

Campanula x carpatica 'Peter Nix' with fairly large, medium clear blue, open bell-shaped flowers has a low upright mounding growth habit. Late spring early summer bloomer.

Campanula garganica is also low growing and great for rock gardens. Spring bloomer, lots of flowers.

Campanula garganica 'Dickson's Gold' has great contrast between yellow/gold foliage and its blue flowers coming early in the summer.

Campanula cochlearifolia 'Alpine Breeze Blue' or **'Alpine Breeze White'** are spring into summer bloomers, low growing and great for rock gardens.

Give most Campanula decent garden soil and average water. Be cautious of the invasive varieties!

SEPTEMBER PLANT NOTES



Gomphocarpus (Asclepias) physocarpus
Balloon Plant



Neomerica caerulea
Walking Iris



Gloriosa superba
Flame Lily

Judy Wong, Menlo Park shared an unusual assortment starting with

Gomphocarpus physocarpus.

This Asclepias is called Balloon Plant for obvious reasons. Reaching six feet tall this milkweed member is from South Africa, semi-deciduous blooming with small creamy white flowers in summer with the balloon pods developing mid to late summer. Grown in the sun with low to average watering in a well-drained soil. It doesn't need fertilizer. Judy's plant self-seeded at the base of a foundation wall that gets winter heat from her radiant floor heaters which it seems to like. The blooming branches are great in floral arrangements. It is a host plant for Monarch butterflies. Annies Annuals is a source. Zone 7-11

Micro Tomatoes "House" and "Orange Hat"

Judy first saw Micro Tomatoes in Chile last year. They were growing in a five to six inch deep window box and were covered with tomatoes. Usually growing up to twelve inches tall hers were only seven inches or less. Growing two varieties her best luck was with the 'House' variety which has red tomatoes which she got seed for from Katie Wong. J.L. Hudson Seeds in La Honda was her original source for seed. The plant history is that someone's grandmother brought it from Russia. The flavor was good on House tomatoes. 'Orange Hat' is an upright grower with orange tomatoes and that seed came from Baker Creek. The original research and development of micro tomatoes was done at University of Florida. These tomatoes can be cut back and grown indoors during the winter. The person that supplied seeds to J.L. Hudson has been growing his plants for 12 years this way. These are great container plants.

Neomerica caerulea 'Walking Iris' reaches five feet tall. It is also called the Apostle Plant as it blooms when it has twelve or more leaves. This hardy bulb from Brazil blooms for six weeks in summer with each flower being four inches across. Each bloom lasts only one day but it blooms in flushes. Give this plant part shade or morning sun only and average water to start but once established it needs less. Offsets appear at tops of spent stems and are about ten inches which often bend the stem and touch the ground, rooting and giving it the ability to 'walk'. Zone 9-11



Micro Tomatoes 'House' and 'Orange Hut'

Gloriosa superba Rothschildiana. This Flame Lily is the national flower of Zimbabwe and is in the family Colchicaceae. A herbaceous tropical perennial it climbs via tendrils at the tips of the leaves up to nine feet. Judy's is four feet tall in a one gallon pot with a support pole. Deciduous, it flowers in summer in full sun and regular water. Prefers zone 10 – 11 but works in her zone 9 with winter mulching. It likes to be stored cool and dark for the winter and seems to not bloom well in cooler climates. Plant tubers 2-3" below soil level. Be careful if you have pets since all parts of it are poisonous if eaten.



**Austrocyllindropuntis subulate
'Cristata' - Eve's needle**

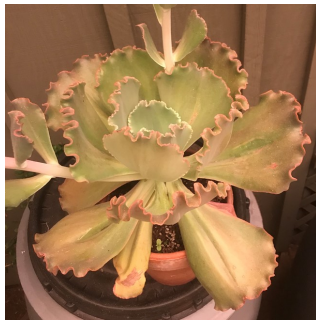
Liz Calhoun, Los Altos, shared her succulents and natives

Austrocyllindropuntis subulate 'Cristata' Eve's needle. This specimen is a crested form which is a naturally occurring mutation. In the opuntia family give full sun, good drainage and has low water needs. Grow in pots or in the garden. Zone 9-11

Echeveria 'Ruffles' flower stalks grow up to three feet long. Give good drainage.

Epilobium Commonly called California fuchsia. Liz loves the reliable summer into fall bloom of this California native plant. Growing about three feet tall she has two types. One has more gray-green foliage than the other. She mentions a variety called Everett's Choice is a lower growing variety. They do spread by underground runners and can become invasive.

Eriogonum giganteum x fasciculatum and Eriogonum giganteum. These buckwheats have different sized leaves but the flowers are very similar.



Echeveria 'Ruffles'



Epilobium



**Eriogonum giganteum x fasciculatum &
Eriogonum giganteum**

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

"The Plant Lady", Marlene Simon provided us with a very detailed and thorough talk on growing succulents in the garden. Marlene's definition of a succulent was any plant that stores a decent amount of water in its leaves or stems. She includes cacti, *Euphorbia*, *Crassula*, *Sedum* and even *Plumeria* in this category. She started her exploration of succulents with an explanation of the two growth hormones, auxin and cytokinin. Auxin is produced in shoot meristems and moves down the stem in the phloem. It inhibits axillary bud growth and promotes root growth. Cytokinin is produced in the roots and moves up the stem along with water in the xylem. It promotes axillary bud growth. Understanding how these growth hormones work is important in effective propagation of succulents. One example that she gave was the use of Keiki paste which contains cytokinin to force side shoots on cacti after cutting off the tops. Any portion of a cactus will root so these side-shoots can be used to propagate more cactus plants. Many succulents can be propagated from leaf cuttings.

After delving into propagation, Ms. Simon talked about soils for succulents. She recommends the following mix: 60% 5/16 Red Lava, 16.6% uniform coarse sand (she uses 2/12 mesh CEMEX Lapis Lustre Sand also known as sand blasting sand), 16.6% peat moss, 16.6% Redwood compost. She also adds 3lb oyster lime, 3lb dolomite 65, and 3lb single super phosphate per cu yd of soil. She also used the CEMEX #2/12 sand as "mulch" on the top of seedling pots which also decreases fungus gnat activity.

After these introductory hints on growing and propagating succulents, she got into the meat of her talk about where to plant succulents along with other perennials in the garden. *Aloe stricta* is one of the easiest to grow succulents for the garden, she said. It is attractive to humming birds and can take some shade. Marlene emphasized that not all succulents like full sun, some will respond to too much sun and drought stress with curled leaves, slowed growth and reddish coloration to the leaves. *Euphorbias* are a succulent that prefers some shade. She recommended several favorite *Sedum* including 'Autumn Joy' for its height and flowers and *Sedum cauticola* for hanging baskets. Some of her other favorites were *Eriosyce chilensis* (plant in her title slide), *Echinopsis*, *Opuntia*, *Hesperaloe parviflora*, *Plectranthus neochilus*, *Crassula perfoliata*, and *Cyphostemma juttae*.

For perennials that work well with succulents Marlene mentioned South African bulbs and CA native perennials like *Epilobium* and CA poppies. For those who missed the talk it will be available on our YouTube page for a limited time: [Marlene Simon video](#)

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 11th: Lech Naumovich, Executive Director, Golden Hour Restoration Institute. *Restoration of a Summit: Mt. Umunhum*

December 9th: Robin Chapman, Journalist and Author. *California Apricots: The Lost Orchards of Silicon Valley*

January 13th: Riz Reyes, owner of RHR Horticulture, *Houseplants: The Hottest Horticultural Trend*

PLANT SALE TABLE

This seems to be an idea that has not taken off. Katie Wong and Janet tried to revive the monthly plant sales by listing a few plants that they were propagating last month. Unfortunately, there was no response. You can still see the plants that are available if you look at the September newsletter. However, going forward we will put plant sales back on hold until we can again meet in person. If anyone wants to take on some form of plant exchange or has other ideas that they would like to implement, along that line, feel free to send them to info@westernhort.org.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

The White Garden Snail. UCNR has a pest note on this interesting snail. Go to: <https://ucanr.edu/blogs/blogcore/postdetail.cfm?postnum=43416> for more information.

American Iris Society Zoom webinars. Wednesday, October 7th: Bonnie Nichols on Growing Irises: The Basics! Part 1: Bearded Iris and Wednesday, November 4th: Jody Nolin on Growing Irises: The Basics! Part 2. Beardless Irises. Both events start time is 5:30 PM and duration is 90 minutes. These events are FREE of charge and will be recorded and can be viewed later on the American Iris Society YouTube Channel. To register email : aiswebinars@gmail.com and request an invitation.

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Volunteers:

Membership: Carrie Parker
Zoom Host: John Graybeal
Email and Website maintenance: Ursula Haschke
Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

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 location September 9

Zoom Meeting via internet

Meeting starts at 7:00 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 22nd 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