

MAY 2023 MEETING

May 10th, 7:30pm

The May 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 while indoors.* 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: ROSE LOVEALL

TOPIC: HARDWORKING HERBS

Hardworking herbs are the culinary stars, the medicinal marvels, the pollinator magnets and the landscape design workhorses. Learn more about incorporating basic and unusual herbs into your designs with the owner of Morningsun Herb Farm, Rose Loveall. She will speak about the extensive and sometimes unusual uses of some of the lesser known herbs that will add color, fragrance and texture to your planting designs. Starting from the soil up, she will discuss soil preparation, site selection and basic herb requirements for all of your favorite herbs. Learn about growing the basic herbs, plus many fun and unusual culinary and medicinal herbs, tea herbs, fragrant herbs and herbs to attract bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to your garden. Herbs are such great sturdy additions to your garden, not just relegated to your herb garden, but planted throughout your yard.

To pre-order plants to pick up at the meeting go to Morningsun Herb Farms website <https://morningsunherbfarm.com> and send the list of what you wish to purchase before May 7th to judygardnr@att.net.



A brief history of the nursery: Rose Loveall's family-owned nursery and display gardens have been in operation since 1995. They grow over 500 species of herbs, vegetables, unusual and drought-tolerant perennials and pollinator plants. They specialize in a huge selection of lavenders, propagating over 45 varieties in their greenhouses. Their display gardens, located in the family walnut orchard, are wonderful teaching tools for



gardeners, chefs, herbalists and crafters. If you visit, take a picnic to relax in the gardens and some extra treats to share with their donkeys.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

How many Earth Days (April 22) have blown past us? The first one was in 1970 and now we're past our fifty-fourth. An ancient and enduring principle is the trust doctrine. It asserts public property rights to crucial resources such as forests, rivers, minerals and fisheries. Its core logic compels government, as trustee, to protect nature and to safeguard the resources we rely on for survival. UN Secretary-General Guterres says, "We must end the merciless, relentless, senseless war on nature." (from Environmental Law & the Defense of Nature, <https://www.alternativeradio.org/products/woom001/>)

This year's Earth Day had a plethora of local events. The annual Wildflower Show at West Valley College featured tables of native bloom species in vases with labels, live music, a tour of the newly installed Moon Garden (where I became acquainted with the San Clemente Island Bush Mallow, *Malacothamnus clementinus*), student posters from the class 'Plants and Animals of California', invasive plant samples from the Park Management department and California native plants for sale.

There are so many blooms to be seen at roadsides and trailsides. What have you seen recently? Blue dicks, fiddleneck, red maids, lupines, violas, shooting stars, hounds tongue, warrior's plume, California buttercups, milk maids, buckbrush and Pacific pea were among those out in the gray pine habitat at Henry Coe State Park on April 21. May you also be enjoying these bloom-y times.

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

WHS MEMBER GLENDA JONES ART SHOW



Long time member Glenda Jones is sharing her art work until May 19th, Monday & Tuesdays from 9am to 7pm and Thursday & Fridays from 9am to 5pm at the Pacific Hearing Service in Los Altos, 496 First Street, Suite 120.

Between the 1960s and the 1980s, Glenda Jones produced an eclectic collection of political activist art. As an activist living in California at a time earmarked by the Vietnam war, women's rights and racism issues, Glenda found her natural artistic talent allowed her the opportunity to contribute to the movements that were important to her. Representing women's liberation and the feminist movement, anti-Vietnam war movement, Black Panther, organizing childcare at Stanford and organizing the union at Stanford, this historical art is in the form of line drawings, serigraphs, linoleum prints, posters, cartoons and more. Be sure to go see it if you are in Los Altos.

Plant Share at the meetings

Look around your garden and bring us a sample of what you love most. Share it with the membership! Don't be shy. Even if you think the plant you love most is too common or not interesting enough it could still be something new or inspiring to someone else. Or, it may just be so lovely we will all enjoy just looking at it. With all that rain we had your gardens have got to be bursting at the seams! Bring it, share it, let us all enjoy it. Thank you for sharing. Editor

Visit a Botanical Garden this summer, near or far!



Hakone Gardens, Saratoga



Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Fort Bragg

APRIL SPEAKER NOTES

Martin Quigley – The Ins & Outs, Ups & Downs of Succulent Container Gardening

There is a bit of a craze for succulents these days. Martin gave us wise guidance, definite “dos” and “don’ts,” to improve the chances of success with succulents in containers, in the garden, both inside and outside.

Succulents are a special class of plants that store large reserves of water in their stems (such as pelargoniums) and/or their leaves (such as crassulas). This is their adaptation to seasonal drought - some require a months-long period of total drought in their annual cycle. For some it’s a hot dry season (like our Mediterranean climate), for others it’s a cool dry season (a monsoon climate like Florida), depending on where a plant evolved. Therefore, Martin advises, give them a period of no water. You may even want to turn some outdoor potted succulents on their sides during periods of rain to avoid root-rot. Many won’t withstand freezing, but some of us can relate to Martin’s attitude that, “Every plant is perfectly hardy until I’ve killed it myself.”

Succulents are excellent plants for sharing, since most are extremely easy to propagate. They are surprisingly easy to grow from seed, which is much cheaper than buying plants, though that requires patience. Leaf and stem cuttings yield a quicker reward, but these must be dried out for a few days or weeks prior to planting to prevent rot. A Martin adage: “When in doubt, let it sit out.” Plants can be rearranged frequently. Newer plants produce better blooms and yield better cuttings, and they can be combined in creative and beautiful ways using structure, texture and color. Their root masses are usually not extensive, and so are easy to handle. Whether in pots or the garden, drainage is critical. Putting a handful of gravel in the bottom of a pot does not suffice. Plastic and glazed pots do not “breathe” so are not ideal. Martin showed pictures of his home’s front yard where he laid down four inches of gravel as a base before planting. Specific genres that he mentioned were *Euphorbia*, *Crassula*, *Yucca*, *Adenia* (from NE Africa called the “desert rose”), *Pachycormus* (native to Baja, called the “elephant tree”), and *Senecio*. Most like full sun, but there are exceptions such as *Lithops* and *Sinningia*. It’s best to refrain from using much organic material. Fertilizer will create more leaves, but fewer flowers. Martin has a huge plant palette and calls his garden design a “candy box” approach. His back garden is on a steep hillside and he also has a small conservatory. Specific plants he discussed included *Dorstenia foetida*, *Sansevieria* (which blooms spectacularly), and the infamous *Orbea variegata* (Starfish Plant or Carrion Flower).

Martin encouraged us to visit the UCSC Arboretum with its South African, Californian, New Zealand, Australian, and spectacular succulent collections. Norrie’s, the Arboretum’s nursery, sells plants which you will not find anywhere else.

~ Jen Dungan

APRIL PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought us samples of miniature versions of plants we all know. Many of these are favored by garden railroad enthusiasts as well as bonsai practitioners.

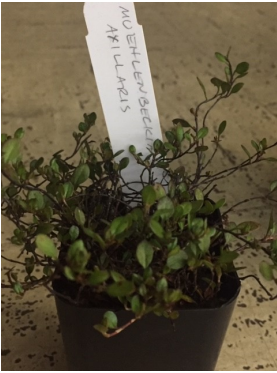
Betula nana – (Dwarf Birch, Arctic Dwarf Birch, Dwarf Alpine Birch, Bog Birch) This petite version of common birch trees grows two to four feet tall. It is a deciduous, dainty shrub that performs best with distinct winters. The foliage is petite round leaves with scalloped edges that turn red in the fall, catkins in spring last over a long season. Grow in part shade. Prefers a moist site but tolerates dry sites and is used in rock gardens. Hardy to USDA Zone 2. A quote from *Dirr’s Hardy Trees*: “This is a very dainty shrub that is both beautiful and provides a challenge for one’s plant material friends”.



***Wisteria* ‘Kofuji’** or *Millettia japonica* ‘microphylla’ – (Dwarf Wisteria) This pea family member is a deciduous shrub from Japan and East Asia. Most likely a member of *Wisteria sinensis* it grows four to five feet tall making thickets of 8-12 inch stems. A spring bloomer with pretty lavender flowers, but it can be difficult to get this dwarf version to bloom. Grow in full sun in well drained soil or in containers, as it is one of the best choices for bonsai. Hardy to 0 degrees F. USDA Zone 5-8 Here is an interesting post about a dwarf wisteria bonsai with pictures! <https://bonsaitonight.com/2018/12/25/a-dwarf-wisteria-bonsai/>

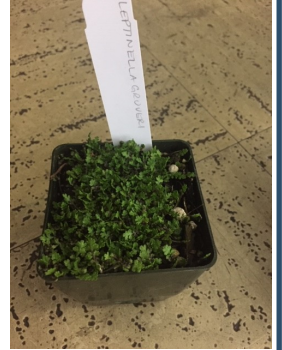
APRIL PLANT SHARE

Nancy Schramm sharing continued:



Muehlenbeckia axillaris (creeping wire vine) is the dwarf replacement for *Muehlenbeckia complexa* – (Nancy called *Muehlenbeckia complexa* a monster vine that grows 20 to 30 feet. It is easy to see why a dwarf version is preferable!) *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* is a New Zealand native and is drought tolerant and grows in sun or shade. Thin wiry stems with small leaves and insignificant flowers, it spreads by rhizomes 18” to 2’ wide. Keeping it on the dry side will slow spreading. Shear it off close to the ground once a year to keep it attractive. Adaptable to rocky ground and garden soils and is excellent for rock gardens and as a potted plant. Hardy to USDA Zone 6.

Leptinella gruveri – (*Cotula squalida*) New Zealand Brass Buttons. *Leptinella gruveri* is smaller than *Leptinella minor* and takes regular water, part sun to part shade Zones 6a to 9b. These feathery-looking black and green plants are easy to grow. Native to New Zealand, South America and the Falkland Islands, they form dense mats of foliage making them a perfect ground cover plant. This delicate-looking plant will withstand foot traffic and can be used between stepping stones and pavers. Growing ½” to 2” tall and 12” wide with small yellow or greenish flowers it blooms from early summer through mid-summer making this a favorite for Fairy Gardens and Garden Railroads. USDA Zones 7-9



Ulmus parvifolia ‘Seiju’- A dwarf version of Chinese Elm, it is a sport of *Ulmus parvifolia* ‘Hokkaido’ and is native to China, Korea and Japan. This deciduous tree is noted for its excellent foliage, multicolored bark that becomes corky with age and good resistance to Dutch elm disease. The tiny leaves turn yellow to burgundy in the fall with inconspicuous reddish-green flowers appearing in late summer. Superb exfoliating bark flakes to reveal patches in shades of gray, green, brown and orange. This tree can grow 2-10 feet tall and wide especially if grown in rich, moist, well drained loam. Adaptable to a wide range of soil conditions including wet and dry sites. It is drought tolerant. Grow in full sun but it will tolerate light shade. USDA Zones 4-9. This plant makes a wonderful bonsai subject.

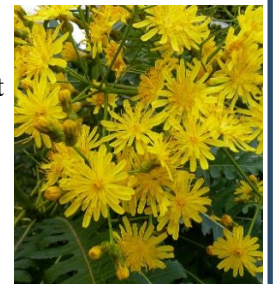
Judy Wong from Menlo Park shared:



Sonchus palmensis – (La Palma Sow Thistle) This Asteraceae family member is endemic to the island of La Palma in the Canary Islands and is a large semi-deciduous perennial which blooms in spring to early summer. Growing six to eight feet tall, this gigantic dandelion relative has fern-like leaves that arch out to three feet. Large flower heads up to 4’ across of small, yellow aster-type flowers are loved by bees. It does not self sow. Tolerating mild frost, it is hardy to 25 degrees F. Judy’s grows in morning and early afternoon dappled sun with regular but frugal watering. This plant is a fast grower and has broken out of plastic pots. It makes a good background plant. Sensitive gardeners should be cautious of the milky sap from broken stems and leaves as it can be an irritant.

San Francisco Botanical Garden has interesting things to say about *Sonchus* species:

“While there are close to 100 species of *Sonchus* in Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe, there are only 24 species in the Canary Islands, and only 5 on La Palma. The *Sonchus* species of the Canary Islands, along with a handful of other genera in the family, show significant differences in their morphology, anatomy, and ecology, but have been found to have all developed from a single colonization event in the late Miocene or early Pliocene eras.”



***Sonchus palmensis* photo credit Annie’s Annuals**

A wise person will never plant more garden than their significant other can take care of.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on May 10, 1995 to hear Howard Oliver's talk *The Best Rhododendrons and Magnolias for the San Francisco Peninsula*. "He is past President and member of the Board of the De Anza Rhododendron Society, member of the Magnolia and Camellia Societies, and has presented a paper at the International Congress of Magnolia Societies in Switzerland."

Many thanks were given to Dorothy and David Rodal who were moving to Sauvie Island to start a new nursery called Exuberant Gardens. They donated garden equipment which was auctioned at the April meeting, grossing \$95.

The first Spring Garden Flea Market, held at Guadalupe Gardens was also called a success, with the WHS booth grossing \$119. Donors included current members Mary Kaye and John Hammerschmidt.

Upcoming events were announced, and included:

Painterly Gardens – Art for Garden Makers by Ann Lovejoy, cosponsored by Cal Hort and Strybing (now the SF Botanical Garden) on June 19th at the Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park; a wildflower show at Foothill College on April 29th, cosponsored by the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS and Ornamental Hort Department of Foothill College.

Plant sales, always of great interest, included one in Berkeley on May 13th hosted by the Friends of the UC Botanical Garden and a second one at the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum on May 20th.

Plant Notes from May began: "From the annual Strybing Arboretum plant sale Jean Fowkes brought home several treasures that she shared with us via the display table. The most impressive was *Begonia* 'San Miguel', a shrub-type begonia with large, felted leaves." She also shared *Serissa foetida* 'Mt. Fuji', a small evergreen shrub with "green leaves margined in creamy white. The star-shaped flowers are pure white." Also from the sale came *Hemionites arifolia* with arrow-shaped leaves, "a small terrestrial fern from tropical Asia".

Two CA native shrubs were on display: *Physocarpus capitatus*, ninebark which is "a deciduous riparian shrub, 5 to 8 ft. tall with toothed and lobed 2" leaves". *Carpinteria californica* 'Elizabeth' is "an evergreen shrub native to a small area in the dry, rocky terrain in the foothills of the Sierra east of Fresno. Considered by many to be the most beautiful of our native shrubs, it has leathery dark green foliage, glossy and smooth above, white tomentose beneath, and anemone-like white flowers with a central boss of yellow stamens." It is a selection made by Wayne Roderick.

Ellie Hawkins brought *Buddleia* 'Lochinch', a medium to large evergreen shrub with scented flowers of violet-blue with a deep orange eye. The flowers are held in dense, conical panicles. Ellie was also successfully growing *Trichostema lanatum*, woolly blue curls. Check out the Las Pilitas website <https://www.laspilitas.com/nature-of-california/plants/680--trichostema-lanatum> for an ode to woolly blue curls complete with a gorgeous photo of the magenta buds and dramatic blue flowers.

"Cam Ainsworth showed a truly spectacular flower from an epiphyllum hybrid he grows. The flowers can be very large, up to 10", and any of a variety of delicious sherbet colors, in this case, a sort of pinky scarlet."

~ Nancy Schramm

PLANT SALE TABLE

The May meeting is your **last chance** to participate in the Plant Sale Table! Be sure to bring all the plants you have been propagating, any cuttings (especially those extra succulents to make Martin Quigley proud) also books or tools that members may want to add to their collections. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and the scholarship fund. Be sure to say hi to Carol Dahout the manager of the table! If you would like to get involved and help out with the plant sales table next season contact Carol or any board member for information.

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Composting Basics Workshop—San Jose, May 4th, 5pm—7 pm Sponsored by Santa Clara County Composting Education.
Environmental Innovation Center
Las Plumas Avenue
San Jose, CA 95133

The art and science behind composting from a local Master Gardener. For more information visit: www.ucanr.edu/compost

Integrated Pest Management - a talk by Frank Niccoli, Friday, May 5, 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Los Altos Library, Orchard Room, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

To spray, or not to spray, that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous insects,

Or to take arms against a sea of aphids

And by spraying, end them.

The bard asks the same questions we ponder regarding pesticide use. Did you know that there is a method of pest control that is much safer for you and the environment? Join Frank Niccoli for two tantalizing hours to learn about Integrated Pest Management.

Frank Niccoli has been a gardener for over 55 years. He has written the curriculum and teaches numerous classes at Foothill College.

Please note that this talk is in-person only. It will not be recorded or live-streamed.

Worm Composting Workshop—Palo Alto, May 6th, 10am—12 pm Another UCCE Santa Clara County offering

Lucie Stern Community Room

1305 Middlefield Road

Palo Alto, CA 94301

Join them for an exciting journey into the world of rot! For many more educational opportunities check out the offerings on the UCCE website.

https://cesantaclara.ucanr.edu/Home_Composting_Education/?calendar=yes&g=131179

Saturday and Sunday, May 13-14, 2023 Carmel Valley Flower Show

Hidden Valley Music Seminars in Carmel Valley Village

104 W Carmel Valley Road

Carmel Valley, CA 93924

10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday: Competitive Flower and Plant Show, Vendors, Silent Auction, Photography Contest and more!
Free! Rain or Shine! <https://cvgc.clubexpress.com>

Sunday, May 21, 2023 A Celebration of Old Roses Veteran's Memorial Building - Albany

1325 Portland at Carmel

Albany, CA 94706

11am-3:30pm: Hundreds of roses on display for both the eye and the nose, plus vendors! Free! Rain or Shine!

<http://www.celebrationofoldroses.org>

Saturday and Sunday, June 3-4, 2023 Sei Boku Bonsai Kai's 38th Anniversary Bonsai Show

San Mateo Garden Center

605 Parkside Way

San Mateo, CA 94403

10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday: Saturday Demo from 1-3pm, Sunday viewing workshop from 1-3pm Door Prizes, Raffle Prizes, Tree Clinic, Vendor Sales, Plant Sales Free! Rain or Shine!

<https://seibokubonsaikai.org>

Thursday through Saturday, July 6-8, 2023 38th National Garden Railway Convention hosted by BAGRS: Bay Area Garden Railway Society

Santa Clara Convention Center

5001 Great America Parkway

Santa Clara, CA 95054

10am-4pm Saturday: Vendor and Exhibit area open to the general public, \$20 (but 2 for 1 coupons readily available)

If you sign up for the whole convention, vendor area is also open 3-9pm Thursday and noon to 6pm Friday. In addition, Nancy Schramm will be giving a plant clinic from 5-6pm on Thursday the 6th. www.ngrc2023.org/

GET INVOLVED

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 at our meetings.

Upcoming Meetings

June Picnic is still in the planning stages. Watch for updates!

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden has a Plant Database you should check out at this website:
<https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/plant-database>

Los Pilitas Nursery has a listing of **California Native Herbs** on this site:
<https://www.laspilitas.com/classes/herbs.htm>

Yerba Buena Nursery has a new website with updated inventory and pricing. Check out their list of gardening guides too. <https://www.yerbabuenanursery.com/>

UC Santa Cruz Arboretum has *Plant Uses: California Native American Uses of California Plants—Ethnobotany*
This is an interesting read! <https://arboretum.ucsc.edu/pdfs/ethnobotany-webversion.pdf>

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: Carol Dahout,
Jennifer Dungan and Eva Huala

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

About Membership in Western Hort:

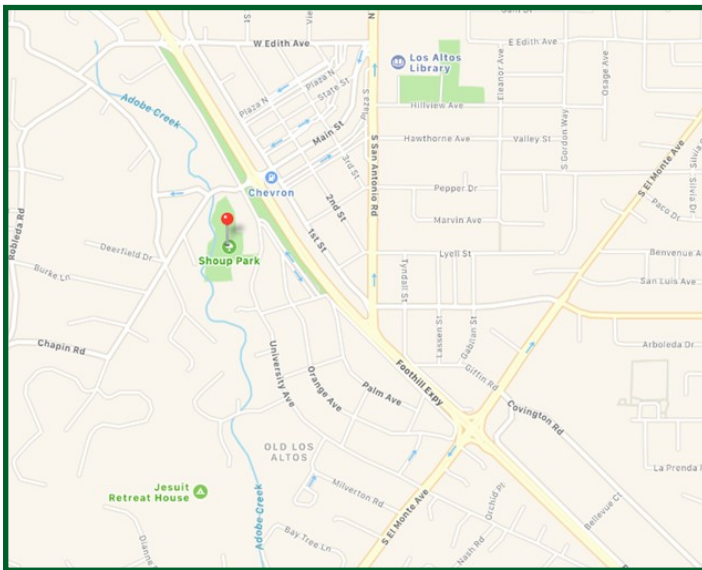
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print 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 : May 10th
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 22nd of July** 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