

# WESTERN HORT

APRIL 2018 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | [www.westernhort.org](http://www.westernhort.org)

## APRIL 2018 MEETING

**Wednesday, April 11, 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:** Theresa Lyngso, President, Lyngso Garden Materials, San Carlos, CA  
*Improving the Soil*



The soil in your garden is alive with microscopic organisms. They are essential to the health of plants. In addition to cycling nutrients and protecting plants from pests and disease they also build soil structure, filter water and break down toxins.

Learn a little bit about what they are, what their relationships are to plants and how you can encourage them in your garden.

Theresa and her sisters grew up along with the family business, where they all helped work at the sales counter, administration and on various projects from an early age. Theresa went on to run Lyngso's first concrete batch and from there, she went into sales and accounting. Theresa has always been interested in gardening and helped develop Lyngso's passion for organic gardening. She is a master gardener and student of the soil food web. She has made her business an exceptional standard for sustainable and organic landscapes.



This month's meeting is also your opportunity to pick up some of the **Hot Plant Picks** from the **SF Garden Show**. There will be a silent auction after the speaker. Bring cash or your checkbook and bring home some special plants for your garden!

**Note:** New meeting location for this spring is the Garden House at Shoup Park, 400 University Ave, Los Altos

Parking is limited, so please carpool with friends if possible. For map to the new location, please see the last page of this newsletter.

Another change for the year is that non-member fees will now be \$10 per meeting. If you are enjoying our line-up of speakers, please consider joining our group with a yearly membership of \$35. Visit our website for more information on joining WHS.

*Join us for dinner with Theresa Lyngso on  
April 11th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.  
Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: [alivensilk@aol.com](mailto:alivensilk@aol.com), 408-251-2742

## MARCH 2018 PLANT NOTES



Judy Wong from Menlo Park brought in:

*Ferraria crispa* – This S. African bulb grows in full sun (zones 9-10) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 1.5' tall and wide. Judy has been growing it for many years but this is the first it has bloomed and Judy thinks the flowers look like a starfish, and that it has a lovely fragrance. It does not like summer water.

*Calendula officinalis* 'Snow Princess' - Judy bought the seeds from Thompson and Morgan when she was in Europe last year. It grows in full sun and gets to be 1' tall and wide. It has 3" semi-double, pale, yellow cream flowers that start appearing in early spring and continue till October. Even though it is listed as an annual it has been growing like a perennial for Judy. The flowers are edible and have a light peppery taste.



Liz Calhoon from Los Altos brought:

*Pieris japonica* (lily of the valley) - This medium-sized evergreen shrub grows in part sun to part shade (zones 3-9) in well-drained and acidic soil. It is a slow grower but can get to be 8' tall and wide with time. Alternate green ovate leaves have finely serrated edges. Long pendulous 6" white inflorescences start appearing in early winter.



*Geranium pyrenaicum* 'Bill Wallis' – This evergreen, true and hardy geranium grows in sun to part shade (zones 5-11) in well-drained and enriched soil. It gets to be 1.5' tall x 2' wide. The mid-green lobed leaves have red stems. It is very floriferous and clouds of purple-blue flowers start appearing in spring and continue until fall. It is very drought resistant and it reseeds.

*Spiraea prunifolia* (shoe button spirea) – This tough and hardy deciduous shrub grows in full sun/partial sun to light shade (zones 5-9) in well-drained slightly acidic soil. It gets to be 8' tall and wide. The alternate ovate leaves are finely toothed and are a dark green in spring but become red-orange-yellow in the fall. Small white pompom shoe button like flowers start appearing in early spring.



*Myosotis sylvatica* (forget-me-not) – This annual flower grows in partial shade in well-drained and enriched soil. It gets to be 1' tall x 2' wide and has 4" soft, non-glossy lance-shaped leaves. Five-petaled light blue flowers start appearing in early spring. Liz can't forget it because it reseeds everywhere.

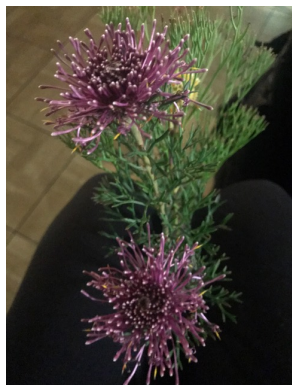


*Ceanothus* 'Dark Star' – The evergreen shrub grows in full to partial sun (zones 8-10) in well-drained soil and needs very little summer watering. It gets to be 6' tall x 8' wide. It has tiny leathery green leaves. Deep-purple flowers start appearing in February. Introduced in 1971 by the Ken Taylor Nursery, it has one of the deepest purple flowers that are found amongst the Ceanothus, and like all of them it attracts birds, insects and spiders. It is hardy to 15°.



April 2018





Pat Knight from Los Altos Hills brought:

*Isopogon formosus* (rose cone flower, drumsticks) – This evergreen shrub from the protea family is from SW Australia. It grows in full sun to part shade (zones 9-11) in well-drained/gravelly poor soil with minimal watering. It grows to 3' tall and wide. The soil in its native location is sandstone and Pat is lucky that her soil is on a greenstone belt, which is somewhat similar to the sandstone soil. Be careful not to fertilize with Phosphorus. It has alternate, dissected glabrous leaves. It starts blooming in late winter and has pink-mauve flowers and whose fruit looks like drumsticks. It is hardy to 20-25°.



*Isopogon anethifolius* 'Curra Moors' (drumsticks) – This cultivar needs the same growing conditions as *I. formosus* but it gets to be 6' tall x 3' wide and has yellow pompoms growing at its branch ends. This one is more rare than *I. formosus* and is great to use in floral arrangements. It is named for the Curra Moors track in the Royal National Park near Sydney.

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:



*Chrysanthemum coronarium* (chop suey green, garland chrysanthemum, shingiku, tong hao or crown daisy) – This deciduous edible perennial, native to East Asia grows in full sun in Mediterranean climates, in well-drained and enriched soil. The finely dissected edible leaves are used in salad and Katie also adds them to her soups. They are rich in carotene, flavonoids, potassium, vitamins and chlorogenic acid. The benefits from eating the leaves are thought to include reduction of the risk of lung cancer, cellulite, bloating, hypertension and bone loss and aiding weight loss. It is also grown as an ornamental plant because it has pretty yellow flowers.

~Ana Muir

Photos ~Jennifer Doniach

## MARCH 2018 SPEAKER NOTES

Sue Bell began her garden career in the 1970's by reading and following Rodale's organic gardening principals. After many years practicing on her own yard she became a Master Gardener in 1996. She created her current home landscape by creating raised mounds with flowers, fruit trees, and vegetables in the middle of swaths of existing lawn that work well for access walkways. She waters in summer using a combination of drip spray heads on the beds and her husband's impact sprinklers for the lawn. She has also created trenches from her downspouts to transport rainwater to trenches around the bases of some of the beds. In addition, Sue cuts up most of her yard clippings and uses them along with mulch from other sources like Christmas trees to help hold moisture and improve the soil.

Sue has picked up many garden insights over the years by sitting in the garden and observing. She has observed many happy animal and plant relationships like Monarch butterflies on her *Asclepias*, hummingbirds on *Abutilon* and *Cestrum*, bees and bumblebees on peonies, and many nectar-seeking insects on *Scabiosa*. Other insect life that she has observed in her garden include: lacewing eggs with their thread-like pedicles to protect them from ant predation, soldier beetles, wolf spiders under boulders, jumping spiders eating aphids and scale, rogue beetles in her mulch eating slugs, lizards eating fruit flies and song birds eating snails. (She warns against using snail baits that can poison the birds.) After a crab feast with her friend Nancy Garrison, Sue observed that vegetables planted on top of the buried crab shells grew remarkably well.

Sue shared many photos of her favorite vegetables, fruit trees and flowers and how she uses them together in her garden beds. She likes to use *Polygonum orientale* (with the wonderful common name kiss me over the garden gate) to shade her pepper plants to protect the fruit from sunburn. She plants *Nicotiana sylvestris* to kill codling moths around her apple trees. She is very fond of a Garden Prince apricot that she started in a pot and then transplanted into the ground when the pot became infested with grubs. Sue collected seeds from a 125-year-old apricot that she saw in Great Basin National Park and is growing it in the hopes of having the wonderful fruit in her garden someday. A couple of her favorite tomato varieties are Early Girl and Indigo Rose. She also likes to plant purple potatoes and hard garlic (she shared some seed heads from the garlic with the group to grow their own). She also loves sunflowers, but warns that squirrels love the seeds too. Her advice on dealing with squirrels was to plant more than you can use so they can have some also.



*Polygonum orientale*  
Photo: [www.anniesannuals.com](http://www.anniesannuals.com)

Sue Bell's aim in her garden is to have year-round color as well as produce. *Parrotia persica*, Persian ironwood is a favorite shade tree with nice fall color. She plants tulip bulbs in a bed of *Ceratostigma plumbaginoides*. The flowers on her Dragon fruit, *Pitya*, are lovely to admire at night. The dramatic flower spikes of amaranth are also a striking addition. 'Glowing Candles' is a favorite peony for spring bloom. All in all, the photos of her garden reflected one of Sue's favorite sayings from John Muir that goes very well with her landscape "All the little pieces of nature work together beautifully."

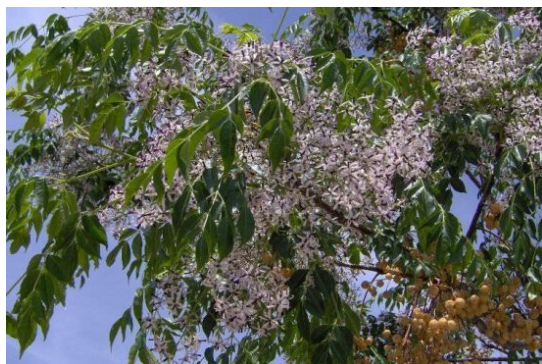
## PLANT TABLE

At our April meeting we will be holding our usual Silent Auction of plants from the Hot Plant Picks at the SF Flower and Garden Show. Bring plenty of cash or your checkbook and bid high and bid often! Also bring in your extra vegetable seedlings to share with other members as this should be an ideal time for planting summer vegetables.

Don't forget: With your help, Western Hort is going to have a very special plant sale table in May. Sherry Hall and Nancy Schramm have been propagating many plants from Barbara Worl's garden. We need you to do the same with plants that have been given to you by other WHS members. Please label with both the plant name and the WHS member you got it from in the first place. Let's make our May meeting a time to share plants and friendships both.

## 28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on April 11th, 1990 for a "...members' night. Those members who turned in slides last



*Melia azedarach* Chinaberry  
Photo: <http://luirig.altervista.org/>

month will have 5 minutes to show us their gardens and tell us how they were achieved." (I'm curious—are there any current members who remember that meeting? Was it successful?—Nancy)

WHS was a busy society that spring, throughout April and May almost every weekend there were open gardens to visit, seven of which belonged to WHS members.

Fort Mason was the site for the SF Landscape Garden Show, open April 25-29. "Our exhibit is entitled *Gardens for Bay Area Climates* and is truly a work of art. Many thanks to Keith Bickford for his beautiful design."





*Leptodactylon californicum*  
Photo: [www.tozzofrias.com.br](http://www.tozzofrias.com.br)

*californicum*. Betsy Clebsch and the Gages brought in several succulents, Albert Wilson & Eva Werckshagan shared branches of small trees in bloom and Frank Duveneck presented two species of *Sarcococca* (attractive in deep shade). ~Nancy Schramm

Looking farther back at the January 1974 plant notes: Saratoga Horticultural Foundation brought in *Acer morrisonense* (a snakebark maple), *Ceanothus cyaneus* 'Sierra Blue' & *Garrya elliptica* 'James Roof' & *G.* 'Lime'; Barbara Worl shared *Chimonanthus praecox* (very fragrant) & *Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis' (long-blooming & flowers change colors as they mature); Emily Brown brought in *Eriobotrya deflexa* (not drought tolerant) & *Melia a zedarach* (showy fragrant flowers); Ed Carman shared *Lophomyrtus obcordata* (NZ native) & *Sedum spathifolium* 'Cape Blanco' (CA native); Gerda Isenberg showed *Isomeris arborea* & *Leptodactylon*



*Lophomyrtus obcordata*  
Photo: <http://nzpcn.org.nz/>

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**May 9, 2018** – Pete Veilleux, Owner and Propagator of East Bay Wilds Nursery, Garden Designer, Lecturer, Oakland, CA, *Eriogonums*

**June 10, 2018** will be our annual Members Picnic at Betsy Clebsch's garden. Betsy has generously volunteered to let members visit her garden but we do not want to intrude too much with the preparations for a potluck so this year we are suggesting that attendees bring their own bag lunch with finger food to share if they want to do so.

## HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

**San Francisco Flower and Garden Show**, April 4-8, returning this year to the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave, Daly City. The San Francisco Flower & Garden Show features fabulous display gardens as well as beautiful floral arrangements, informative workshops and seminars and more than 250 vendors of everything for your garden. It has been one of the top shows in the nation and internationally. For more information: [sfgardenshow.com](http://sfgardenshow.com). Come to the show to see our booth and support all the small nurseries that will be there selling their plants. A couple of these nurseries are members of WHS.

**Growing Native Spring Garden Tour** April 7-8, see flyer on last page for details. Register prior to the tour dates to receive a list of garden locations: <http://www.gngt.org>.

**Santa Clara County Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market**, April 14, 9am-2pm, Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose. The Spring Garden Market is their annual spring extravaganza that you do not want to miss! It's a huge plant sale with educational talks and information tables. Full details can be found on their [Spring Garden Market page](http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/). The event is on rain or shine! Cash, checks, and credit cards accepted. For more information about classes and other events: [mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/](http://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events/)

**Quarry Hill Botanic Garden, Earth Day Celebration**, April 21, 11am-3pm, 12841 Sonoma Hwy, Glen Ellen. Free admission, \$10 parking (cash only). Enjoy these exceptional gardens along with special events for the whole family including arts and crafts, face painting, Sonoma Reptile Rescue exhibits, music and dance and special speakers. For more info: [quarryhillbg.org](http://quarryhillbg.org)

**California Native Plant Society Spring Wildflower Show**, April 28, 9:30am-4pm, West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga. The show will feature hundreds of species of wildflowers and native

plants. Expert botanists and gardeners will be on site to describe different samples and answer questions. For more information go to: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/wildflower-shows>

**Gamble Garden Spring Garden Tour**, April 27-28. Tour five private gardens and enjoy once-a-year activities at Gamble Garden. At Gamble Garden there will be a Silent Auction, Vendor Marketplace, Over the Garden Fence, and Plant Sale. You may also get advice from garden experts, purchase lunch and refreshments, and listen to live music. All activities and events at Gamble Garden are free. For more information and to purchase tour tickets: [gamblegarden.org](http://gamblegarden.org)

**Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour**, May 6, 2018, 10am-5pm. This is a self-guided tour of 40 fabulous private gardens that provide habitat for wildlife, are pesticide-free, conserve water, and contain 60% or more native plants. A number of nurseries will be selling native plants on the weekend of the tour. Art will be sold, and music performed at various gardens; the schedule will be included in the garden guide and it will be on the website in March <http://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/view-gardens>

**Mother's Day Rose Show**, May 13, 2018, 12:30 to 4 p.m, County Fair Building at Golden Gate Park. See all kinds of roses (hybrid teas, grandifloras, miniatures, David Austin roses, and old garden roses from the 19th century) at the [Mother's Day Rose Show](#) in the County Fair Building at Golden Gate Park. Free.

**Iris and peonies in San Jose**, April-May, for those of you who may not be familiar with these two gardens on Sierra Rd in east San Jose, they are definitely worth a visit in the next couple of months: Nola's Iris Garden, 4195 Sierra Rd, plant list and more information: <http://www.walking-p-bar.com> and Chateau CharMarron Peony Gardens, 5335 Sierra Rd, <http://www.4peonies.com/>

**Pacific Horticulture Santa Fe Folk Art, Gardens and Culture tour**, July 11-17, 2018. Retiring Pacific Horticulture executive director, Carol Maholt, whom many of you know from our monthly greeting table, will be leading this trip to Santa Fe, NM. The tour will explore private gardens as well as the Santa Fe Botanic Garden and include a visit to International Folk Art Market and a private tour of the Georgia O'keefe Museum. For more information on this and other Pacific Horticulture sponsored tours go to: <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/tours/>

**Festival of Fruit**, The California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG) celebrates all types of rare fruit at the annual Festival of Fruit. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter will host the event July 27-29, 2018. You are invited to join CRFG and attend the many tours (July 27th & 29th) and hear the speakers & visit the vendors on July 28th at the Campbell Community Center. The vendors will be open to the general public. For more information visit <http://festivaloffruit.org>

## VOLUNTEER

If you are a regular attendee we have some important roles at our monthly meetings that we need filled. We need someone to set up the AV equipment (projector and/or sound system) at and store it between meetings. All that you need to do is show up by 7pm or arrange for someone else to fill in if you are unable to attend. You will be shown how to do the setups and will always have support from our members to help as needed. Please let any of the board members know if you would be willing to help in any of these capacities or e-mail us at [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org).

### Officers and Board Members:

President: Carrie Parker  
Vice President: Janet Hoffmann  
Secretary: Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other board members: Richard Hayden, Mary Alice Reid, Jean Struthers, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

### About membership in Western Hort:

**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. **To join or renew visit our website at:** [westernhort.org/membership](http://westernhort.org/membership).

**To contact us:** Please send email to: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org)  
or snail mail to: PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042





Visit any of over 50 beautiful home gardens featuring:

California Native plants  
Water-wise landscape  
Low maintenance  
Habitat-rich environments



**Free admission**

**Register to receive the list of gardens: [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org)**

Garden information, maps and directions will be available the week of March 19.

Registration will be accepted until noon on April 8.

For more information visit [www.gngt.org](http://www.gngt.org) or email [info@gngt.org](mailto:info@gngt.org)

**Saturday,  
April 7, 2018**

*Northern Gardens:*

*San Mateo, Redwood City, Palo Alto, Los Altos,  
Mountain View, Sunnyvale*

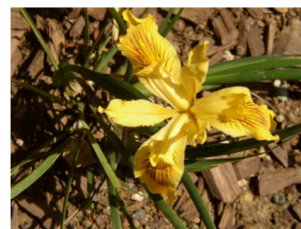
**Sunday,  
April 8, 2018**

*Southern Gardens:*

*Cupertino, Santa Clara, Los Gatos, Campbell,  
San Jose, Morgan Hill, Gilroy*

Plants for sale at some gardens

Talks about native plants at some gardens



**SPONSORS:**

- Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency
- Lyngso Garden Materials
- California Nativescapes
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program
- Friends of Master Gardeners
- Gold Rush Nursery
- Yerba Buena Nursery
- East Bay Wilds
- Middlebrook Gardens & Nursery
- Almaden Valley Nursery
- Mediterranean Garden Society

**SUPPORTERS:**

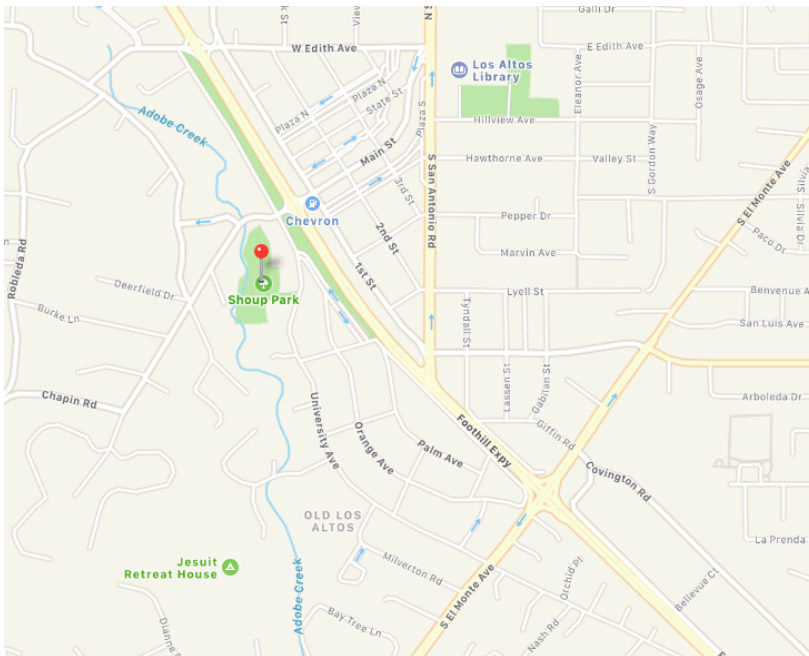
- Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- Capital Wholesale Nursery
- Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society
- Gardening with Natives
- Native Revival Nursery
- Our City Forest
- Lerner Seeds
- Western Horticultural Society

To sponsor or support the tour, contact  
[info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org](mailto:info@GoingNativeGardenTour.org)



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 Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364.

### **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](mailto:Janet@hoffmann.net), or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana Ct., Campbell, CA 95008