

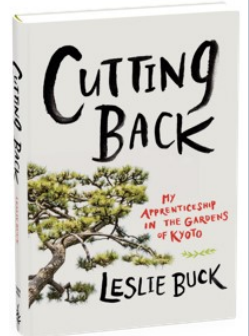
FEBRUARY 2022 MEETING **February 9th, 7:15 on Zoom via Internet**

The February meeting will be a Zoom presentation only. **NOTE: This talk will not be recorded at the request of the speaker.** The Zoom link will be sent out before the meeting for Western Hort and Cal Hort members only. When we are able to meet in person, members are free and there is a \$10 fee for non-members. See page 4 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

Speaker: Leslie Buck

Topic: Kyoto Garden Apprenticeship Adventures

Leslie Buck's photos will allow you to enter the gardens of Japan, meeting traditional craftsmen along the way as she describes her personal journey apprenticing with a Kyoto landscaping company. Leslie traveled from California to Japan where she carried out a three season apprenticeship in private homes, monasteries and an Emperor's garden working with "one of the oldest and most highly acclaimed landscape companies in Japan." (Sadafumi Uchiyama - curator of the Portland Japanese Garden). Working inside a tight-knit, elite pruning crew she learned how to balance strength with grace, seriousness with humor and technique with heart - scenes that became a best-selling garden memoir, *Cutting Back - My Apprenticeship in the Gardens of Kyoto*.



Leslie Buck is a natural garden designer and consultant specializing in natural pruning for California native gardens and the author of the Japanese garden memoir *Cutting Back-My Apprenticeship In The Gardens Of Kyoto* by Timber Press. Her book was reviewed by Alice Waters and the New York Times, "An unusual and entertaining memoir ... she learns...about durability and resilience. She learns to prune trees exquisitely..." ~New York Times Book Review

See her website lesliebuckauthor.com for a link to her podcast on NPR's Cultivating Place! Leslie currently lives in Berkeley and has a natural pruning and design consultation business for California native gardens.

Copies of *Cutting Back* can be purchased anywhere books are sold, including your local bookstore and Amazon.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As incoming president, I would like to acknowledge the service of our outgoing president, Janet Hoffmann. Since the beginning of 2019, Janet has been running the board meetings, general meetings, contributing to the Newsletter, making sure the website manager gets all the information she needs, helping run the equipment for our meetings and minding the myriad other details that help keep Western Hort operating, both before and during the pandemic. As a board member, I have seen the contributions of many WHS members to our organization and am grateful for the team play and Janet's presiding efforts.

Regarding February's meeting: The originally planned fruit tree panel of Andy Mariani and Charlie Olson, moderated by Robin Chapman, has been moved to October 2022. That panel is best as a live discussion among the participants and audience. With the present Omicron surge, the WHS board has decided to have a zoom presentation on February 9th with Japanese-trained aesthetic pruner and author, Leslie Buck from Berkeley, California. For more information on Leslie, see <https://www.lesliebuckauthor.com/about/>

The WHS board is happy to hear your ideas and would love to have you join us to keep the wheels on our bus.

~ Grace Tsang

JANUARY SPEAKER NOTES

In spite of our technical difficulties at the start of his presentation, Del McComb offered a thought provoking perspective on how to optimize our soil fertility in harmony with the environment. His overall philosophy comes from the founder of the Alan Chadwick Organic Garden at UC Santa Cruz. This philosophy is to give nature more than you take and you will be rewarded with bounty and beauty in your garden.

Del started by emphasizing that he likes to find a middle ground between no-till gardening and overworking your soil. He favors the double-dig method of soil preparation prior to the first time that he plants an area. After the initial preparation he favors keeping the soil healthy by using natural mulches or a cover crop. He never leaves the ground bare to minimize the need for additional tillage.

Mr. McComb spent a good part of his presentation talking about the importance of compost and shared his recipes for making good compost. He likes cow manure as a good starter for the composting process. A couple unusual ingredients that he uses in his compost are stale bread and grape juice. He also likes to add some of his own garden soil and said that helps propagate the microbes that exist on site.

Del also shared the ingredients that he uses for making his own container soil mixes. One organic component that he favors is broken down leaf mold from naturally occurring fallen leaves on the site. Like his compost recipes, the ingredients in his soil mix can vary depending on what he has available to work with. He recommended marijuana growers and bonsai growers as good sources for information about soil mixes.

Del has also developed home recipes for plant growth, biological exchange, and control of diseases and pests. You can see the recipes that he shared as well as more specifics of what he uses by watching the recording on our [Youtube](#) channel. In addition he shared a few online resources: jpibiodynamics.org for other recipes for biodynamic soil ingredients, [dennisklocek video series](#) for formulas for natural growth hormone sprays and buildasoil.com to purchase soil amendments rather than make your own. You can also visit [Blossoms Farm](#) to learn more about Delmar and his partner Carin and their herb business.

~ Janet Hoffmann

Upcoming Meetings

March 9th: Kipp McMichael, web developer and passionate horticulturalist, Berkeley, CA, *Succulents at Large: Designing with Larger Succulents*

April 13th: Patricia Rain, Vanilla Queen, author, educator, culinary historian and owner of *The Vanilla Company*, Santa Cruz, CA, *Vanilla: The Botany, The History and The Culture*

May 11th: Dave Muffly, arborist, horticulturalist and ecological engineer, Santa Barbara, CA, *Resiliency: Choosing Trees for Climate Adaptation in Coastal California*

28 YEARS AGO

On Wednesday, February 9, 1994 Western Hort met to hear “Wayne Roderick, now retired director of the East Bay Regional Park District Botanic Garden at Tilden Park in Berkeley, CA...speak on *365 Days of Color with Bulbs*.”

John Hammerschmidt was gathering materials for the WHS garden vignette at the SF Landscape Garden Show. Our design was for a Japanese garden using California native plants. An interesting list of materials needed included: “California native plants in pots, especially bonsai, manzanita and native pines, but others are needed too. It would be nice to have plants in 15 gallon pots or larger, but smaller would be considered. Also needed are boulders (feather rock or Styrofoam), Gorilla hair, shredded, 3’ tall Japanese lanterns, old bamboo screen to cut up.”

There was an apology which I will include in its entirety: “Ted Kipping did a magnificent job last time in spite of very adverse circumstances caused by a confusion of schedules permitting a group of girls to sign up for Bobby Sox baseball while Ted was speaking. This sounds like a good reason for a speaker to have a permanent nervous collapse. But it has been reported that Ted was never better. Maybe having your picture on the cover of last month’s *Fine Gardening* gives you nerves of steel.”

Plant notes began with: “Albert Wilson collected his sample of *Michelia doltsopa* from a tree on Bryant Street in Palo Alto. There is also a fine specimen at Filoli.” (I wonder if Albert asked permission first? I believe the correct botanical name is now *Magnolia doltsopa*, but for all I know it’s been changed back. – NLS)

Brenda Butner brought two plants from Yerba Buena Nursery to share, “*Malacothamnus clementinus*, the chaparral mallow...with dense clusters of deep pink buds opening to almost white flowers with pink edges...blooming nine to ten months of the year.” She also brought “*Arctostaphylos pajaroensis* ‘Myrtle Wolf’, a mounding shrub manzanita to five feet...new foliage opens bronzy red, later becoming gray-green. The flowers are a deep pink and slightly fragrant.”

“*Chaenomeles cathayensis* superficially resembles Japanese flowering quince (*C. speciosa*) but it is a Chinese native with quite different characteristics. This species is an upright shrub to ten feet with long, straight, heavily armed stems, the leaves lanceolate rather than ovate as in *C. speciosa*. The form Ed Carman showed is ‘Contorta’ in which the stems are twisted in a zigzag fashion which makes it a natural for bonsai. The flowers are variable in color from rose to white, most with deeper rose in the throat.”

(I read the above and thought “What???” So I looked through seven different reference books – six of which didn’t even mention the selection ‘Contorta’ until I came to Gerd Krüssmann’s *Manual of Cultivated Broad-Leaved Trees & Shrubs*. This tome indicates that the contorted form is actually *C. speciosa* and was imported to the U.S. from Japan in 1929. I’ll have to look at the leaf shapes when they appear. – NLS)

~Nancy Schramm

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

California Horticultural Society- Monday, February 14th at 6:30 pm via Zoom, *What The Theodore Payne Foundation Offers to Northern California Gardeners*, Though located in Southern California at the northeast edge of Los Angeles, the Theodore Payne Foundation for Wild Flowers & Native Plants (TPF) has much to offer Northern California Gardeners. TPF is dedicated to the understanding, preservation, and use of California native wild flowers and plants across the State. In this presentation we will hear more about how TPF is relevant to us here in Northern California. The Zoom link for this meeting will be sent to Western Hort Members prior to the meeting. For more information go to <https://calhortsociety.org/>.

California Horticultural Society Seed Exchange- The Cal Hort seed list for 2022 has been published and is on line at <https://calhortsociety.org/about/annual-seed-exchange/> All Western Hort members are welcome to participate!

American Horticultural Society- “Gardens of Provence” is an upcoming trip sponsored by AHS which will take place from May 18 to 27, 2022. Lead by AHS Board Member Laura Dowling . More about this trip can be found at: <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/travel-study/gardens-of-provence/> Information on other trips can be found at <https://ahsgardening.org/gardening-programs/travel-study/>

JANUARY PLANT SHARE

Due to time constraints there was no plant share at the January meeting.

Plant Share

We are going virtual again this month so we are back to sharing plant photos as part of our Zoom presentation. Please submit your photos to share interesting plants in your own yard or ones that you have seen in other places. Be prepared to discuss your submission on Zoom or send information about the plant's geographical location, exposure, soil, water and other growth requirements so that they can be presented with your photos. If you have plants that you would like help identifying or for which you want some cultural advice, feel free to submit these also. Please send photos to info@westernhort.org by Monday February 7th.

STROLLING AROUND THE INTERNET

15 of the Most Beautiful Botanical Gardens in the United States, With botanical gardens becoming more important than ever to teach about biodiversity and inspiring environmentalism, as well as being eye candy for the horticulturally inclined here is an article you may enjoy from the Treehugger site:

<https://www.treehugger.com/most-beautiful-botanical-gardens-5194474>

Monarch butterfly conservation efforts improve. Are they enough? The devastating lows of the 2020's are showing some improvement with some migrating populations. Here is a story from Greenwire:

<https://www.net/articles/monarch-butterfly-conservation-efforts-improve-are-they-enough/>

Officers and Board Members:

President: Grace Tsang

Vice President: Open Position

Secretary : Leslie Dean

Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd

Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Carol Dahout,
Michael Craib and Janet Hoffmann

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Zoom Host: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Membership: Ursula Haschke

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),
Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Scholarships: Grace Tsang and Jennifer Doniach

About Membership in Western Hort:

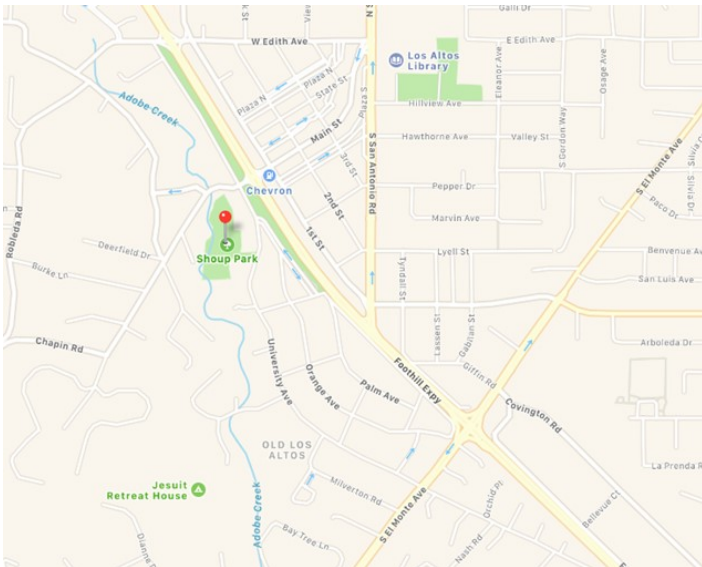
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. To receive a print 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 : February 9th
Zoom Meeting via internet
Meeting starts at 7:15 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 February.** 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