



## *October 2017 Speaker*

**Wednesday, October 11, 7:30 pm.** Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30-6:45pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

**Speaker:** Roberta Barnes, Los Altos, CA, *Pruning: Making The Cuts That Count*

Long-time WHS member Roberta Barnes will be sharing some of her pruning expertise. The goal of proper pruning is to keep your plants healthy and beautiful. Roberta will be taking away some of the mystery of pruning shrubs. She will explain the different ways of pruning shrubs and how to know which techniques are best for your shrubs. She will also cover the two basic cuts, the best times to prune and how to get started.



*Rhus ovata, sugar bush, expertly pruned by our speaker*  
photo: Roberta Barnes

Roberta is a Santa Clara County Master Gardener and has gardened for many private clients. She has been active on the WHS board and was the WHS master propagator for many years.



*Roberta Barnes*  
photo: from Roberta Barnes

*Join us for dinner with Roberta Barnes on  
October 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

## September 2017 Speaker Notes

When it comes to plants it becomes apparent that western culture has an affinity towards China. This year's Louisa Beck Guest Lecturer, Corey Barnes, reinforced this notion with an excellent presentation "Seed Collection with the San Francisco Botanical Garden in Sichuan Province, China."



*Magnolia campbellii*  
photo: Joanne Taylor for SFBG

Mr. Barnes, who is the associate curator at SFBG, explained that the purpose of his 2½ week trip was to discover and, if possible, bring back seed specimens for possible introduction in the U.S. Responding to several members during the Q & A portion of the program, Mr. Barnes pointed out that it is indeed a rigorous process to clear USDA inspection.

*All seed had to be carefully cleaned of any fleshy material and dried before placing in plastic bags for shipment. Quite an endeavor in small hotel rooms in a humid climate. Genera that Corey collected seed from included Magnolia, Camellia, Rhododendron, Hydrangea, Euonymus, Begonia, Cornus, and Tiarella. They were unable to import Berberis seeds due to high incidence of phytophthora. ~Editor's note*

Why Asia? Mr. Barnes explained three key reasons for traveling there:

1. Our western culture's familiarity with Asian species of plants. About 30% of our "traditional" plant palate comes from temperate China.
2. Suitability for western cultivation and need for conservation by cultivation.
3. Western China is one of 35 currently recognized areas around the world that qualify as a biodiversity 'Hotspot'. Mr. Barnes noted in his lecture that China, almost equal in size to the continental U.S., contains two times the number plant species found here.

Another purpose of his trip, which has interesting possibilities, is the study of Chinese plants used in medicine. Traditional Chinese medical treatment relies heavily on plants. Perhaps it's time western medicine embraces a more comprehensive approach to safer cures and better health. ~Mark McCabe

## September 2017 Plant Notes

Katie Wong from San Jose brought in 3 easy to grow brain boosters:

*Bacopa monniera* or *Herpestis monniera* 'Bacopa' (Waterhyssop, Brahmi, Thyme-leaved gratiola, Herb of Grace) – This perennial medicinal herb grows in wetlands (zones 9-10). It will grow in dappled sun or shade and needs regular watering. Please don't confuse this medicinal Bacopa with the ornamental one (Sutera). This Bacopa helps relieve stress as well as improve brain function. It also produces small white flowers.



*Bacopa monniera* (Brahmi, Herb of Grace)  
photo: Jennifer Doniach





*Marsilea minuta* 'Sushni' (Clover Fern)  
photo: Jennifer Doniach

*Marsilea minuta* 'Sushni' (Clover Fern, European Watercress) – This 4 leaf perennial forms low mats and grows in full or part sun (zones 8-11) in sandy, well drained and even wet soils. The leaves can be used fresh in salads, steamed and even ground up. It has sedative (contains marsiline), anti-inflammatory, anti-cholesterol and anticonvulsant properties. Reproduction occurs from the sporocarps.

*Centella asiatica* 'Gotu Kola' (Pennywort) - The perennial grows in full sun (zones 8-10) in humus rich wet soil. The consumption of one or two fresh chopped or liquefied leaves is thought to be enough to reinvigorate your brain cells, retard the aging process, decrease inflammation,

decrease your blood pressure and even increase your collagen production. As you can see the above 3 herbs help in many more areas than just the brain but they are known as the 'trinity' for improving brain function.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:

*Amaryllis belladonna* (Naked-lady, Belladonna Lily)– This frost hardy bulb from S Africa (zones 7-10) will grow well in our area in full sun. They are sometimes fragrant and you



*Centella asiatica* 'Gotu Kola' (Pennywort)  
photo: Jennifer Doniach

don't have to water them. They start blooming in the fall before the leaves appear, hence the common name. You might get 6-8 weeks of blooms if you have early, mid and late blooming cultivars. Nancy brought in good examples of the color range, which varies from pure white to many shades of pink. Nancy will not have them for sale but she is happy to share them and you can come and dig them out of her field.

~Ana Muir



*Amaryllis belladonna* (Naked-lady, Belladonna Lily)  
photos: Jennifer Doniach

## ***Barbar Worl, A Remembrance***

*We were all sad to lose long-time member, Barbara Worl, last month. Barbara was a world traveler and correspondent with horticulturalists from around the world. Many of us know her from her association with Bell's Bookstore in Palo Alto where she built an outstanding collection of horticultural books for sale. Some members were fortunate enough to visit her beautiful gardens. Western Horticultural Society will be having a remembrance for her at our December potluck meeting. If you have photos, letters, or remembrances that you would like to share, please contact Bracy Tiede, Virginia Kean, or Nancy Schramm. Nancy has provided the article below about a rose that she brought to the September meeting. ~Editor's note*

I brought in a *Rosa* 'Happenstance' flower to our meeting last month as a tribute to Barbara Worl. Barbara was a passionate plantswoman, generous gardener and dear friend who taught me how to get past the thorns and love roses. In 2013 when I wanted to write about 'Happenstance', she told me the stories that made the mystery come alive:

Happenstance *n* 1: a circumstance regarded as due to chance 2 *cap* : a rose with a story

I love a mystery. And what could be better than combining a mystery with a plant and turning it into a story?

How about a plant, born here in California, with a mysterious beginning? Let me tell you about *Rosa*

'*Happenstance*' and our local connection. To start with, I have to confess that I don't grow many plants that make me bleed. I do have one or two cactus and a few roses, but they have to be special for me to be willing to grow them. It's those thorns, you know? But the 'Happanstance' rose is a lovely thing, and won me over even before I heard about the mystery.

*Rosa* '*Happenstance*' has single, fragrant, creamy yellow flowers that are about two inches across. The petals drop cleanly and leave an attractive disc of golden anthers. It blooms on and off all summer long. The small pinnate leaves are grassy green, and have toothed margins, which gives the compact plant a delicate texture. If you don't treat it with kid gloves (and it doesn't need it) it will stay on the smaller side, around three feet tall and four feet across without too much pruning. However, I have seen reports of 'Happenstance' growing much larger when situated in the lap of luxury. It will tolerate a fair amount of shade and still bloom. It does have a lot of little thorns.

Now let me tell you about the mystery surrounding *Rosa*

'*Happenstance*'. It turns out that there are several stories about how this rose was discovered. Mabel Crittenden was a local botanist, teacher and author (her book *Wildflowers of the West* was published in 1975) and she told one friend that there was a very old *Rosa*

'*Mermaid*' growing at her parents home. Now, the 'Mermaid' rose is a monster. It can grow thirty feet tall and across, and the single light yellow flowers can reach six inches across. I've seen a bush along Santa Teresa Boulevard near Christopher High School that is easily the size of several mini-vans. So as the story goes, in 1950 Mabel and her parents attacked the rose bush, trying to bring it back to a manageable size, and after they pruned vigorously, discovered a very small, delicate rose plant growing underneath. They thought it was a chance seedling of 'Mermaid', which is a sterile (seedless) rose, thus they gave it the name 'Happenstance'.

But let's add some more mystery. I heard a story, probably fifteen years ago, that it was a fire that took the old 'Mermaid' rose down to the ground and either exposed the chance seedling, or caused enough stress that the rootstock sent up a miniature sport. And yet another friend was told that Mabel and her mom noticed an attractive plant growing at the side of the road somewhere, and that was the chance circumstance that discovered a new rose. Whatever might be the real story, it certainly was a happy chance that the keen eyes of Mabel and her mom that brought us *Rosa* '*Happenstance*'.

This is not the only rose with a story, in fact, the history of roses has links to many events of historical



***Rosa* 'Happenstance'**  
*photo: Jennifer Doniach*

significance. If you love roses, I recommend a visit to two wonderful rose gardens. The San Jose Municipal Rose Garden, born in 1927, and the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden—a youngster conceived in 1988. Both gardens have active volunteer groups, and welcome newcomers. ~Nancy Schramm

## *28 Years Ago*

Sorry, I was AWOL last month (getting ready for the Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa) which, if you have not yet attended, you really should give it a try! It's like a really good county fair, without the rides.

Anyway...Western Hort met on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, 1989 (Father's Day) at Yerba Buena Nursery for the annual June Picnic. Everyone brought their own lunch, and wine, coffee and tea were provided. Brisk sales of the perennial book were announced, "As of 6-5-89, we have sold 592 books." A San Francisco field trip to visit the two-year-old garden of Ted Kipping was scheduled for July 16th. WHS was invited by the Rock Garden Society to attend a June 21st lecture entitled *10,000 Miles of Bulbs*, presented by Jim & Jenny Archibald. A quick internet search revealed this comment on the Lambley Nursery, Australia, website: "Jim & Jenny Archibald, were, to my mind, the most important seed collectors of the last decades of the 20th century and the first ten years of this one. From their base and garden in Wales they set out every year to collect seed from such places as the Atlas Mountains of North Africa, southern Turkey, Iran, South America, the USA and Central Asia." Also on tap was an exhibit and sale presented by the Association of CA Ceramic Artists of "outdoor sculpture such as birdbaths, fountains, gateway arches, ceramic animals and whimsical & abstract sculptures."

WHS started out the 1989-90 season in style with "Early Plant Explorers of the West", a presentation by Wayne Roderick, "retired...director of the Tilden Regional Park Botanical Garden for 8 years. For 17 years previous to that, he was museum scientist at the University of CA Berkeley Botanical Garden." Prior to the meeting "There will be an instruction on the division of perennials at 6:45 in the front courtyard of the building." Nightly rental of the Los Altos Youth Center was \$39, rising to \$57 in January. The July San Francisco field trip was "outstanding...inspiring! We are very grateful to Ted Kipping for hosting us in July as well as arranging for us to see the gardens of Sonny Garcia & Tom Valva, Virginia Feibush and Marjorie Harris." The perennial book written entirely by WHS members had sold out and was going into the second printing. The sixteen new members welcomed to WHS included Jessie S, our former membership maven who abandoned us for the wilds of Vermont and Patti H. who not so long ago hosted the June picnic.

Why don't we all invite a friend along to a Western Hort meeting next month. Any new member can become a welcome, valuable addition to our society—maybe even our next President! ~Nancy Schramm

## *Plant Table*

Roberta Barnes has moved away and will no longer be bringing in all of the wonderful plants that she propagated for our monthly plant sale table. That means that the rest of us need to step up. We are looking for a member or members who would be willing to form a **plant table committee** to coordinate the table for each meeting. In the meantime, please bring in your surplus seedlings or rooted cuttings of some of your favorite plants. Please label plants with **botanical names**. Any cultural or descriptive information that you can provide will also be helpful. Books and garden related objects are also welcome. If you have suggestions on how to keep our plant sales going please speak with any of our board members at the upcoming meetings or drop us an email.

## *Upcoming Meetings*

**November 8, 2017** – Lisa Waud, Pot and Box, Detroit, MI, *Flower House Project*

**December 13, 2017**– WHS Holiday Party and Potluck, Phoebe Cutler, San Francisco, CA,  
*Renovation of a Mission Garden*

**January 10, 2018**– Kate Frey, Sustainable Organic Gardens, Hopland, CA, *A Habitat Garden, By Design*



## *Horticultural Happenings*

**Harvest Festival and Master Gardeners Fall Plant Sale**, Saturday, Oct 7, 10 am-3 pm, Martial Cottle Park, San Jose, CA. Come celebrate the legacy and significance of your valley's rich agricultural heritage at this fun day on the farm! Family friendly activities, healthy food and fresh produce for sale, music and much more.

<https://www.parkhere.org> Also check out the Master Gardeners' huge plant sale 9am- 2pm, educational talks on growing garlic, succulents, cool season veggies, and California Native plants, information tables and children's activities! Bring flats or boxes for plant purchases. [mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu](https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu)

**Bay Area Gardening with Chinese Herbs**, Wednesday, Oct 11, 10 am-12 pm, UC Berkeley Botanic Garden, Berkeley, CA, \$30 members, \$35 for non-members. In honor of the 30th anniversary of the Chinese Medicinal Herb Garden, join Peg Schafer for a lecture on growing Chinese botanicals for beauty and medicine as well as medicinal edibles that grow well here in the bay area. This slideshow presentation is followed by a one-hour walk in the Chinese Medicinal Herb garden. Peg Schafer has a background in nursery management and farming and is the owner/operator of the Chinese Medicinal Herb Farm outside Petaluma, in Northern California. She is a frequent lecturer at colleges of Oriental medicine, conferences and farming events, where she addresses herb quality, cultivation and conservation, and issues affecting Chinese herbs.

<http://botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu/>

**Renovating the Mature Landscape**, Thursday, Oct 12, 10 am-4 pm, The Gardens at Heather Farm, Walnut Creek, CA, \$100 members of participating organizations, \$120 for general public. Join the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, The Gardens at Heather Farm and Pacific Horticulture for a day filled with inspiration and valuable takeaways for your work with clients or in your personal garden. Each of our speakers will examine various aspects involved with renovating a mature landscape. Our program takes place at The Gardens at Heather Farm were first developed on a rolling hillside in Walnut Creek's Ygnacio Valley in the early 1970s. With input from APLD designers, one of the gardens was recently updated to meet today's standards for beauty and sustainability. The now-refreshed demonstration garden will serve as a living case study for our day's topic. Our program will conclude with a wine and cheese reception and a self-guided tour of the newly renovated project at The Gardens at Heather Farms. Staff, designers, and installation technicians involved with the project will be available to explain their role and answer questions.

<http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/events/renovating-mature-landscape/>

**Fruit Tasting Tour**, Saturday, Oct 14, 11 am-12:30 pm and 2 -3:30 pm, Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek, CA, \$30 members, \$35 for non-members. At the Ruth Bancroft Garden enjoy tasting a variety of cactus fruits, palm fruits and other delectable items harvested from the garden. Brian Kemble, curator, will be leading the walk through the garden. <http://ruthbancroftgarden.org/index.html>

**Fall Planting for Spring Colors**, Wednesday, Oct 18, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, Filoli Estate, Woodside, CA, \$55 members, \$65 for non-members. Fall is the time to plant for a beautiful spring display. Learn Filoli's tricks for selecting and planting spring pots and beds. Each participant plants a pot of annuals to take home for a delightful spring bloom. This is a hands-on workshop led by Filoli Horticulture Staff member Mimi Clarke.

<https://filoli.org/>

**California Native Plant Society Native Plant Sale**, Saturday, Oct 21, 10 am-3 pm, Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Rd, Los Altos Hills, CA. Purchase plants propagated at the Jean and David Struthers Native Plant Nursery also Coyote Brush Studios notecards, books and t-shirts, planting demonstrations and more! All proceeds benefit the programs of the Santa Clara Valley Chapter of CNPS. Free parking. Bring cash, check or charge card to pay for your purchases and boxes to carry them home. <http://www.cnps-scv.org/index.php/events/plant-sale> Current plant availability list: <http://www.cnps-scv.org/images/stories/nursery/current-plant-list.pdf>

**Cal Hort Garden Tour**, Saturday, Oct 21, New Cal Hort member Gerhard Bock of the blog <http://www.succulentsandmore.com>, will be sharing his Davis garden. We are welcome to arrive anytime after 9 a.m. to view Gerhard's collector's garden. We will leave in time to be at the UC Davis Botanic Garden's fall sale which starts at 11 a.m. In between we can be inspired by his many choice succulents and other plants and enjoy the company of our fellow plant nerds. All who are interested may decide to visit more of the Botanical garden before they head home. An RSVP to [mdelepine@liacook.com](mailto:mdelepine@liacook.com) will not only get you a return email with the address but also help assure that an adequate supply of coffee will be on hand as well as hot water and an assortment of teas. Please tell her how many will be in your party and, if you are interested in carpooling, where you will be starting from so we can help connect you. Attendees are encouraged to bring just a little of something nice to have with the coffee. Many will bring sweets but some have brought savory treats or fruit. Please feel free to bring something to share that you yourself would like to have.

**Rare Plants of the East Bay**, Saturday, Oct 21, 9 am-3 pm, Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Berkeley, CA, \$30 members, \$35 for non-members. Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are endowed with an incredible richness of native plant species. This richness is due partly to our location at the convergence of the North and South Coast Ranges, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Joaquin Valley. This convergence of botanical regions provides for a unique congregation of ecological conditions and native plants. With this richness also comes an abundance of rare plants — 132 species to be exact. During this one-day classroom-based course, taught by Heath Bartosh, you'll learn about a select set of these rare plant species, focusing on regional and difficult to identify endemics, the habitats that support them, the regulatory framework that protects them and where to see them. <http://www.nativeplants.org/>

## *Volunteer*

The Western Horticulture Society is a dynamic group of plant loving folks. We have a great lineup of guest speakers for each of our meetings and we have ongoing plant sales all thanks to our **member volunteers**. Without the help of our members, we cannot do what we do to make our meetings as great as they are. Our co-presidents Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon will be completing their terms as of the end of December so we will also be looking for a person or persons to take their place before the end of the year. We are also looking for more board members. This is a great way to get to know other WHS members and become more a part of the organization. Please contact any current board member to learn more about how you can help out.

### **NOTES FROM YOUR EDITOR:**

**I have a *Dasyliirion wheeleri* in my back yard in Campbell that I wish to remove.** It just bloomed this past summer, so that I know that it is a male plant. The plant is currently about 4' x 5' in size. I moved it to the current spot from another in my yard 5 years ago. It has gotten too big for the corner that is in and I am planning on removing it this winter. If you are interested in the plant, let me know and we can work out how you can get it. I am also still looking for the person who bought Bailey Journals at the Dec 2016 meeting.

#### **Officers and Board Members:**

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon

Vice President: Judy Wong

Recording Secretary: Jennifer Doniach

Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield

Treasurer: Mary Kaye

Other board members: Chris Egan, Janet Hoffmann, Laura

Wilson, Katie Wong

#### **About membership in Western Hort:**

To join or renew, send your name, address, phone number and a check made out to "Western Horticultural Society" to: Western Horticultural Society, **PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA, 94042. (Note: we have a new PO address)**

**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.

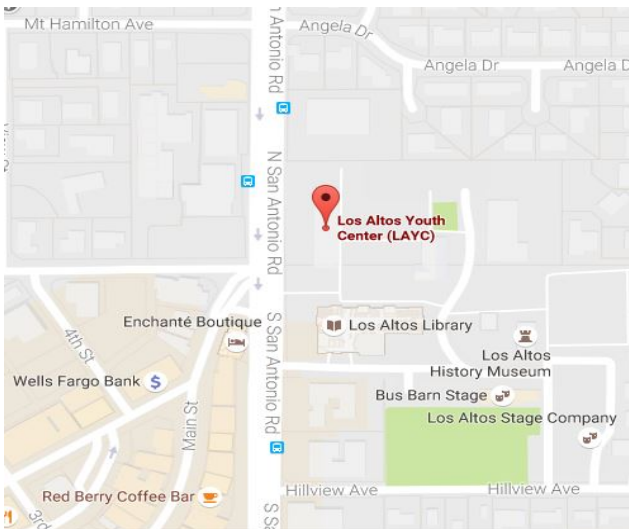
**Please visit our website at** [http://westernhort.org/membership\\_form.pdf](http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf) for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: [westernhortsociety@gmail.com](mailto:westernhortsociety@gmail.com) or snail mail to address above.



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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 at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept. 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!

**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