

OCTOBER 2019 MEETING

Wednesday, October 9, 7:30 pm **Los Altos Youth Center**, 1 North San Antonio Rd. Los Altos, CA 94022 *Meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7 pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated.*

Meetings are free for members, non-members \$10. See page 6 of this newsletter for information about joining WHS.

Speaker: Janet Sluis

New and Noteworthy Plants from the Sunset Western Garden Collection

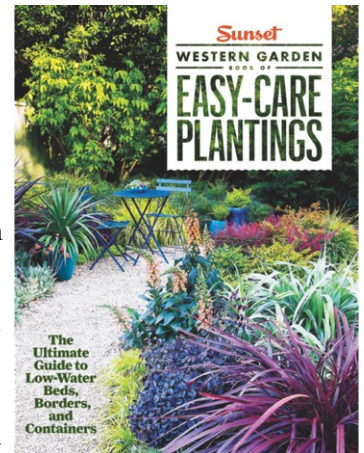
Gardeners are always on the lookout for that new amazing plant that will do it all – looks fabulous, requires little pruning and doesn't need much water. As curator of the Sunset Western Garden Collection, Janet Sluis is trying to bring those gems into the plant market place. The collection features a line of plants that are designed to thrive and shine in virtually every California garden. Each plant is chosen by Sunset editors in partnership with Janet for health, vigor and beautiful features. During her talk, Janet will review how plants in the collection are chosen and tested to be successful in the garden. She will cover some of the tried and true plants, her favorites, as well as recent must have introductions in the collection that you can add to your own garden knowing they will become stars in no time.



Janet Sluis is a Berkeley based horticulturist specializing in low water, regionally appropriate, easy care plants. As the collection's curator, she is responsible for selecting and evaluating which plants are ultimately chosen to carry the Sunset Western Garden Collection label. Focused on replacing thirsty, labor-intensive varieties with colorful, resilient alternatives, she works with breeders, hybridizers, and nurseries all over the world. Her plant collection test garden is featured in *The Sunset Western Garden Book of Easy Care Plantings*, and can be visited in person as part of the Sunset test gardens located in iconic Cornerstone in Sonoma, California.

As a sixth generation member of a Dutch seed family, Janet suspects that plants are in her DNA. By the age of six she was hybridizing ranunculus and growing kale in her garden.

After studying marketing, horticulture, and agricultural business, she spent twenty years in production and product development for large wholesale plant nurseries on the west coast. When Janet is not traveling in search of new plants, you can find her pulling weeds and battling slugs in her organic Berkeley test garden.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 13th, Steven Murray—Traveling the World in Search of Fruit

December 11th, Jennifer Jewell—The Earth in Her Hands: 75 Extraordinary Women Working in the World of Plants

January 8th, Aaron Ryan—Professional Secrets for Successful Succulent Propagation

Join us for dinner with Janet Sluis on

October 9th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.

Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: alivensilk@aol.com, 408-251-2742

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I enjoyed seeing many of you at our September meeting. We had an informative presentation on the timely subject of rain gardens as well as some unusual plants propagated by members for sale. I could not resist purchasing a few for myself.

We hope that all of you are sending in your renewals now to continue enjoying these great programs and support Western Hort. You can renew by mailing a check to our PO box listed at the end of this newsletter or with a credit card on our website: <https://www.westernhort.org/join-online>.

I also want to mention the collaboration that we have coming up this month with our sister organization, California Horticultural Society (see the Coffee in the Garden in What's Happening.)

Finally last but not least, we are looking for a member to take over our e-mail communications members and managing our web-site. We extend our thanks to Laura Wilson for getting this up and running and upgrading the web-site to the wonderful format that is its current form. However, Laura has served for 2 years on our board and has duties on the board of Pacific Horticulture Society as well as a young family to manage, so she will be stepping down this fall.

It is not necessary to join the board to take on this responsibility.

We would, of course be happy to have any of you join our board also. If you would like to see what it is all about feel free to attend one of our board meetings. The next one will be November 7th at a board members house. E-mail me at info@westernhort.org for more information.

~ Janet Hoffman

We want to hear from you!

Have you heard a speaker whom you think would be of interest to our membership? Is there someone you have always wanted to hear, whether an author, horticultural expert or designer? Is there a topic you would like us to cover?

The Speakers' Committee is always on the lookout for educational, informative, and dynamic speakers for our meetings. Our goals are to cover a variety of topics in hopes of finding a talk that appeals to just about everyone. With the success of our Dan Hinkley talk last March, we feel confident we can even consider some well known speakers. Please send your suggestions to info@westernhort.org and the Speakers' committee will look into it.

SEPTEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Apryl Uncapher, co-author of *Creating Rain Gardens*, was our speaker for the September meeting. Her book goes into great depth about the logistics and science of creating an area in your yard, to take advantage of the rain collected on your roof, called a rain garden. She began her talk with some of the reasons to create a rain garden in your yard, starting with the scarcity of fresh water on our earth. She showed us that the largest users of this fresh water were industries, followed by agriculture and close behind agriculture was home uses much of which is in our yards. She likes the saying instead of "Pave it, pipe it, pollute it" we should "save it, spread it, sink it" to describe her work.

Ms. Uncapher shared with us a number of inspiring photos of different sorts of rain gardens, including what she calls a "classic" amoeba shaped bed full of flowers to grasses and sedges with stepping stones through the winter wet areas. One of the selling points for these types of gardens is that they provide habitat for many species during dry periods.

Creating a garden involves first looking at your landscape and selecting a fairly flat area where water can collect. Then you need to calculate the area of your roof and use Apryl's tables to figure out how much water that area will collect. One also has to look at one's soil type in order to figure out how much water the soil will hold and the percolation rate.. Apryl showed us a variety of cisterns for holding rainwater as well as some very decorative downspouts for directing the water from the roof to planting areas, even including planter boxes attached to the house.

Soil preparation in the area for the garden comes next and Ms. Uncapher recommends amending the soil to a depth of at least 6-12" in a 18" depression and then using 2-4" of mulch. It is also important to poke holes in the bottom of the bed to provide for percolation especially if you have hardpan or heavy clay soil. The next step is getting the water from your house to the garden. This is accomplished with a trench with at least a 2% slope and a pipe to carry the water.

Apryl concluded her talk with what she calls the "fun part" which is selecting plants for your rain garden. She recommends using plants towards the center of the bed that tolerate having their roots in standing water in the winter such as *Mimulus gutatus*, *Juncas*, and *Carex*. Towards the drier edges you may use plants such as Pacific Coast Iris, thimbleberry and *Sisyrinchium*. She also likes the idea of getting the community or neighborhood involved in the planting project and spreading the word about the benefits of these gardens to encourage pollinators and collect and filter pollutants.

~ Janet Hoffmann

~ Janet Hoffmann

September Plant Notes



Richard Hayden from Gamble Garden brought in:

Salvia 'Amistad' - Introduced by Rolando Uria from Argentina this perennial (almost ever-green here) Friendship Salvia grows in full to part sun (zones 8-10) in well-drained soil. It gets to be 4' tall and wide. It has opposite deltoid shaped serrated leaves. Two inch deep purple tubular flowers with darker bracts start appearing on long spikes and bloom from early summer to fall with regular deadheading. It is hardy to 25 degrees. It attracts hummingbirds.

Salvia Amistad

S. x 'Allen Chickering' (Sage) - This is Richard's favorite plant. He thinks the gray-green leaves are great, loves the lavender flowers and how the plant smells. The parents of this dense mounding shrub that grows in part shade to full sun (zones 8-9) in well-drained soil are S. leucophylla and S. clevelandii. It gets to be 5' tall and wide. The gray-green leaves are 1" long. Whorls of light purple flowers start appearing in summer. It is a great habitat plant, attracting finches (in the fall), bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. It is hardy to 15 degrees. Please do not overwater.



Salvia Allen Chickering



Trichostema lantanum x purpusii 'Midnight Magic' (Midnight Magic Blue Curls) - This hybrid introduced by Suncrest Nursery results in an evergreen shrub that is less finicky and easier to grow than Woolly Blue Curls. It grows in part shade to full sun (zones 9b-10) in well-drained soil with plenty of humus. It gets to be 3'-5' tall and wide, almost the same as Woolly Blue Curls. Small non-fuzzy purple flowers start appearing in the summer and are attractive to many pollinators including hummingbirds and butterflies. Like its parent T. Lanatum, it does not like regular water during the summer. It is hardy to 25 degrees.

Midnight Magic Blue Curls

Leslie Dean from Mountain View brought in:

Sanseveria kirkii 'Silver Blue' (Star Sanseveria) - This evergreen succulent grows in part sun in well-drained soil and looks great in low light. The thick leathery blue-green leaves have a mottled pattern, darker longitudinal lines and very wavy edges. Most Sanseveria are not frost hardy and it might be hardy to 40 degrees.



Silver Blue Sanseveria



Katie Wong from San Jose brought in:

Cyclanthera pedata (Achocha, Wild Cucumber, Caigua) - This 40 foot long annual vine grows in part to full sun (zones 9-11) in well-drained soil. It has been grown in Peru in the high Andes (over 9,000' elev.) for 2000 years. They found a picture of this plant on a pot during a Mayan dig. The whole plant is edible, from the tips to the roots. All of the parts have been used to treat many illnesses such as high blood pressure, circulatory problems, diabetes and gastrointestinal problems. You can eat the leaves and young shoots raw, cook parts of the plant or even make a tea from the seeds. Now the Japanese are trying to bring it back. When Katie experienced some food poisoning recently she chewed on some of the leaves and ate the cucumbers and some of her symptoms went away. It fruits from summer to fall and Katie says it tastes like a cucumber. It dies back in the winter.

Cyclanthera pedata

~Ana Muir

PLANT SALE TABLE

We will continue our tradition of offering member propagated plants for sale. Books and other garden related items are also welcome. Please label books and other items with prices that you think are appropriate and label plants with botanical names. Pictures and/or cultural information are also helpful in selling your plants. Bring your checkbook or cash we are sure to have something interesting to add to your collection. All money collected goes to support WHS programs and scholarships.

28 YEARS AGO

Western Hort met on October 9th for the second time of the 1991-92 season at the Jennings Pavillion in Atherton. The topic was *Fall Tree Color* and our speaker and local expert was “*Dick Dunmire, recently retired Senior Editor with Sunset Magazine, member of Western Hort and knowledgeable plantsman who has added so much to our plant discussions*”.

WHS hosted a monthly plant raffle table in 1991, and the twist in October was “*something new—especially fine plants will be offered by Silent Auction*” and “*There will be a seed raffle table also, so collect seed from favorite plants and bring them along, labeled, in envelopes.*”

Seven new WHS members were introduced, one has remained a member ever since.

“*Saratoga Horticultural Foundation is celebrating its 40th anniversary year...The Fall Festival on October 5...will feature a tour of the site and talks by Albert Wilson and Warren Roberts.*” In addition, in January 1992 SHF would be hosting “*...a seminar on selection, propagation and design in the native landscape entitled ‘Today’s California Landscape’ led by 10 panelists.*”

The September plant notes began with a list of nine old fashioned shrub roses. “*They are prolific bloomers and most are deliciously scented. Betsy Clebsch gave us a preview of some that we many expect to see in her garden on our field trip on the 28th.*”

Don Brandeau brought in *Portulaca oleracea* ‘Wildfire’ and *Scaevola aemula* ‘Weidner’s Blue Wonder’. Elizabeth Garbett showed off blooming selections of *Bulbine frutescens* and “*Among hardy cyclamens, none of which are very big, C. africanum is the largest of the smalls. The round, flat tuber can get eight inches across!*” And my mom, “*Jean Carman calls her dish of Sedum greggii a ‘moon garden’.*”

~Nancy Schramm

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Norrie’s Nursery Grand Opening, Oct 12, 10am-4pm, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, Santa Cruz. The nursery at the arboretum has been refurbished and will now be open year round for plant purchases as well as an assortment of plant related merchandise. Plants from Australia, S Africa, New Zealand, and California including many succulents. The California Native Plant Society, Santa Cruz Chapter will also be holding their fall plant sale next to the New Zealand garden on the same day. For more information go to: <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/news-events/events> or <http://www.cruznps.org>.

Native Plant Sale, Saturday, Oct 19, 10am-3pm, California Native Plant Society, Santa Clara Valley Chapter Nursery at Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Rd, Los Altos. Scores of species of California native plants well-suited for area gardens and wildlife. Experts from CNPS will be on hand to provide advice, native plant books, posters, t-shirts, and note cards will also be on sale. Grassroots Ecology, Coyote Brush Studios, and Emily Chin are among the other vendors who will be there. Free talk, “Success with Native Plants for Beginners” and a planting demo. Come early for the best selection, cash, check or credit cards accepted. Bring boxes to carry your purchases home. Free parking at a Hidden Villa, 2 miles west of I-280.

Cal Hort Coffee in the Garden, Saturday, November 2, Daxin Liu’s Mt View Garden, 9AM, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum around 11 AM. Designer and long time Cal Hort and Western Hort member Daxin Liu will host us at his own Mountain View Garden. This garden has something for everyone including a small pond with five koi fish, fragrant plants and a collection of palms and magnolias. After Daxin’s garden the tour will proceed to UC Santa Cruz arboretum where botanist, and long time Cal Hort member, Martin Grantham will show you around. Carpooling to the arboretum is recommended. Please RSVP by email to Mark Delepine at mdelepine@liacook.com

Open Farm Tours, Saturday and Sunday October 12 & 13th, 10 am to 4 pm Enjoy free self-guided tours of sustainable family run farms. There will be a fresh lunch available at Alladin Nursery with live music. Register online and download a map to all the farms.

<http://www.openfarmtours.com/>

[Dos Aguilas Farm](#)

1855 Pleasant Valley Rd., Aptos, CA. 95003

[Thomas Farm](#)

1690 Pleasant Valley Rd., Aptos, CA. 95003

[Luz Del Valle Farm](#)

1875 Hames Rd. Aptos, CA. 95003

[Sol Seeker Farm](#)

1800 Hames Rd. Corralitos, CA 95003

[New Natives Nursery](#)

1255 Hames Rd., Aptos CA 95003

[Blossoms Farm](#)

358 Merk Rd., Corralitos CA. 95076

[Blue Heron Farm](#)

210 Merk Rd., Corralitos CA 95076

[Prevedelli Farms](#)

375 Pioneer View Rd., Corralitos CA 95076

[Terra Sole Nursery](#)

240 Pioneer View Rd., Corralitos, CA. 95076

[Live Earth Farm](#)

1275 Green Valley Rd., Corralitos CA 95076

[Fruitilicious Farm](#)

1881 Green Valley Rd., Watsonville, CA 95076

[Monkeyflower Ranch](#)

1481 San Miguel Canyon Rd., Royal Oaks, CA 95076

95076

[Nelson Family Farm](#)

2950 Freedom Blvd., Corralitos CA 95076

[Sierra Azul Nursery](#)



Open Farm Tours

Sat & Sun, October 12 & 13
from 10am - 4pm



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|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Dos Aguilas Farm 1855 Pleasant Valley Rd. | 5. New Natives Farm 1255 Hames Rd. | 9. Terra Sole Nursery 240 Pioneer View Rd. | 13. Sierra Azul Nursery 2660 E. Lake Ave. |
| 2. Thomas Farm 1690 Pleasant Valley Rd. | 6. Blossoms Farm 358 Merk Rd. | 10. Live Earth Farm 1275 Green Valley Rd. | 14. Monkey Flower Ranch 1481 San Miguel Canyon Rd. |
| 3. Luz Del Valle Farm 1875 Hames Rd. | 7. Blue Heron Farm 210 Merk Rd. | 11. Fruitilicious Farm 1881 Green Valley Rd. | Know Your Farmer Know Your Food |
| 4. Sol Seeker Farm 1800 Hames Rd. | 8. Prevedelli Farms 375 Pioneer View Rd. | 12. Nelson Family Organics 2590 Freedom Blvd. | OpenFarmTours.com |

AROUND THE INTERNET

Can Science save Citrus? Farmers, researchers try to hold off deadly disease long enough to find a cure. Citrus greening disease has decimated groves in Asia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Florida and is spreading to California. Follow this link to the full article. <https://caes.ucdavis.edu/news/can-science-save-citrus>

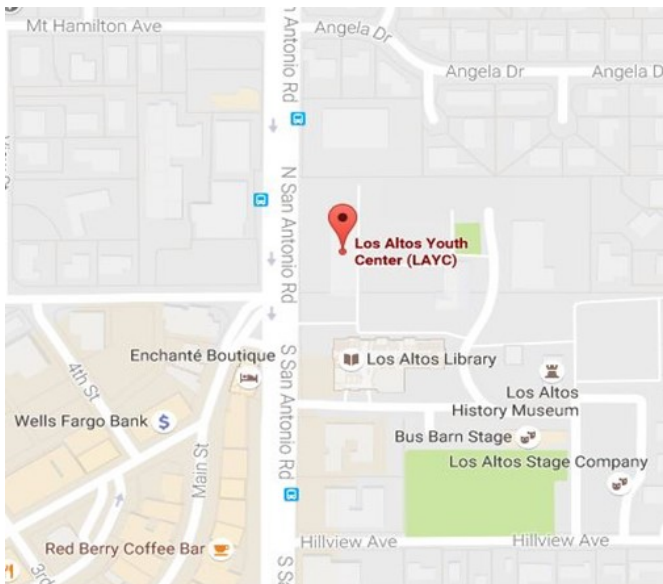
Officers and Board Members:
 We are still looking for someone to fill the Vice President position.
 President: Janet Hoffmann
 Vice President: Open
 Secretary: Leslie Dean
 Corresponding Secretary: Laurie Schofield
 Treasurer: Jennifer Doniach

Other Board Members: Richard Hayden, Laura Wilson, Carol Dahout, Grace Tsang, Carol Moholt
 Plant Discussion: Katie Wong

About Membership in Western Hort:
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and an e-mail copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine. 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. To receive a print copy of Pacific Horticulture Magazine you will need to join Pacific Horticulture at: pachort.org/join. WHS members can get a 10% discount on Pac Hort membership. Affiliate Organization Discount Code available by e-mailing us at contact e-mail below.
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 May:

**Los Altos Youth Center
1 North San Antonio Road
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.

Check-in starts at 7:00 pm. and meetings start 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. **Note: deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 24 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