

WESTERN HORT

March 2025 | PO Box 166, Mountain View, CA 94042 | www.westernhort.org

MARCH 2025 MEETING

March 12th, 7:30pm

The March meeting will be an in-person meeting. Meetings are free for members, non-member attendees are \$10.00. The meeting room officially opens to members and the public at 7pm but if you can arrive by 6:30 pm to help with set-up, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Masks are recommended but optional. See page 9 of this newsletter for information about joining the Western Horticultural Society.

ANNUAL LOUISA BECK TALK

SPEAKERS: LISA & KATHLEEN PUTNAM

TOPIC: PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE FOR YOUR SUMMER VEGGIE GARDEN

The main goal for home vegetable gardeners is to produce abundant, tasty produce. Besides choosing the best varieties to grow, what can we do before planting to achieve this goal? Tonight, Lisa and Kathleen Putnam will tell us about the five main principles of regenerative agriculture and why they are important in a home garden. We will learn how the application of regenerative methods will reduce or eliminate the need for inputs (organic or inorganic), will sequester carbon and will help us determine soil health by looking at rhizosheaths. We will learn about the importance of cover cropping with a minimum of four plant families and how following these regenerative principles can lead to a complete lack of disease and pest load.



Lisa Putnam has a BS in Agricultural Economics from UC Davis and also studied nutrition science at Davis. She currently manages a small sustainable regenerative farm and orchard in Woodside (Mission Farm) and a home vegetable garden and orchard in Portola Valley. Lisa is a UC Master Gardener and Master Composter. Lisa's passion is soil and compost. Along with her sister Kathleen, she has been teaching gardening at Lyngso's, San Mateo County Fair, and Garden Clubs for the last 16 years.

Kathleen Putnam is a professional organic vegetable gardener serving the Mid-Peninsula and is an ISA Certified Arborist. Kathleen has a certificate in Environmental Horticulture from City College of San Francisco and is a UC Master Gardener. Kathleen's passion is fruit trees and soil. Along with her sister Lisa, she has been teaching vegetable gardening and pruning techniques at many venues for the last 16 years.

There will not be a speakers dinner this month.

CO-PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In consideration of this month's talk on how to better grow things to eat, let's consider the practice of agroforestry or forest gardens. There are the examples of shade-grown coffee and shade-grown cacao: <https://peakstatecoffee.com/en-ca/blogs/peak-state/what-is-shade-grown-coffee> and <https://silva-cacao.com/news/leafing-through-agroforestry-practices>, where the shade of native trees enhances the growth of cacao and coffee, reduces soil loss, and creates a rich habitat supporting many more birds and insects than would a monocrop plantation.

With reference to: <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/07/agroforestry-an-ancient-indigenous-technology-with-wide-modern-appeal-commentary> & <https://exhibits.library.cornell.edu/chocolate-food-of-the-gods/feature/shade-grown-cacao>, we can quote this about agroforestry, an ancient 'indigenous technology':

- *The highly climate- and biodiversity-friendly agricultural practice of agroforestry is now practiced widely around the world, but its roots are deeply indigenous.*
- *Agroforestry is the practice of growing trees, shrubs, herbs, and vegetables together in a group mimicking a forest, and its originators were indigenous peoples who realized that growing useful plants together created a system where each species benefited the others.*

This seems to be a type of companion planting but involving trees and shrubs. Have you tried any of these methods - a fruiting hedgerow, a tree guild? What did you find out?

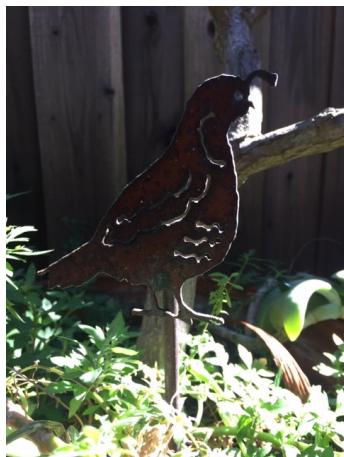
My UK sister-in-law forages for and makes our family hedgerow jams. A UK hedgerow can contain "crab apples, sloes, haws, plums, damsons, bullaces, elderberries, dewberries, bilberries, redcurrants, rowanberries, sea buckthorn berries, hazelnuts, sweet chestnuts and more".

Yet another aspect is that humans can have a positive and persistent effect on biodiversity a century after they are no longer actively maintaining their agroforests. Check this out: <https://hakaimagazine.com/news/ancient-gardens-persist-in-british-columbias-forests>, in which forest gardens near archeological village sites are found to be more biodiverse than the surrounding forest.

There are surely some helpful and hopeful ideas among these articles, including for our current agricultural endeavors: <https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1918-2021.pdf>.

~ Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Back by popular demand!



We will be showing a special movie for our May meeting.

For your shopping desires, we will also have vendors at the meeting.

If you know any garden related vendors that might like to sell their wares, either plants, tools, art, etc... at our meeting on May 14 please contact Leslie Dean at lesliekdean@sonic.net and I will see if we can arrange for them to be there.



Want to keep up on horticultural events and exchange ideas with other members?? Join our online forum at: <https://groups.io/g/WHSmembers>.

28 YEARS AGO

On March 12 1997, Western Hort met to hear *Sustainable Gardens*, by “Owen Dell, landscape architect who teaches at the Santa Barbara Botanical Garden”. (A quick look on the internet shows he currently works out of Corvallis, Oregon and sustainable landscaping is still his primary focus. – NLS)

Latest news on the 1997 Landscape Garden Show is that “Leslie Dean has done the design and the theme *Splendor in the Grass* has been selected.” Kris Montague was in charge of organizing the volunteers.

It was announced that Filoli was going to host “J. Dean Nortin, horticulturist from Mt. Vernon” and his talk “*Research, History and Restoration of Gardens at Mt. Vernon* followed by tea and open garden”.

Elizabeth Garbett asked for “Volunteer gardeners being sought for Williams House Historic Garden in Palo Alto”. (Once again internet research rewarded with the interesting information that in 1997, the Museum of American Heritage moved into the Williams House. The museum highlights the history of technological innovation from 1750-1950, and looks like a fascinating place to visit. – NLS)

The Plant Notes revealed that a plethora of flowers was brought to the March meeting.

Niki Muller brought a “small sample” of the rhododendrons from her garden in Portola Valley. *Rhododendron* ‘Margaret Mack’ - “individual flowers grade from dark on the edges to lighter pink in the center”, *R. spinuliferum* – deep red tubular flowers, *R. linearifolium* – rose-lilac corollas, “The foliage of *R. ‘PJM’* is a deep wine color in winter, ...becoming green in summer and finally, gold in fall.” – compact habit, scented pinkish-lavender flowers, tolerant of heat, cold, sun or shade, *R. ‘Orchid Star’* – a dwarf azalea, *R. ‘F. Rogers’* – scented mauve flowers and *R. ‘Fran Sumner’* – scented pink flowers.

“Clayton Neece found his golden leaved buckeye, *Aesculus californica* ‘Monte Vista Golden’ among a group of seedlings he was growing in 1995.”

Barrie Coate discovered and named *Ribes sanguinum* ‘Barrie Coate’ on the way to Fremont Peak and was surprised to see it growing in full sun.

Rosalie Cape brought a huge flower from her *Paeonia suffruticosa*, deep purple with a boss of yellow stamens.

Mildred Hargrave brought *Scilla peruviana*, a white form, as well as “a stem of a particularly nice flowering peach called ‘White Icicle’.”

“Sally Casey showed two exquisite calochortus, *C. monophyllus* and *C. uniflorus*.”

Sherry Austin shared *Myrrhinium atropurpureum*, a small tree with “Clusters of tiny pink buds open to a flower with convex greyish-purple petals that look disturbingly like ticks and long red exerted stamens.” She also showed *Spirea japonica* ‘Magic Carpet’ – “recent introduction...smaller and more compact version of *S. ‘Goldflame’*...brighter spring foliage...flowers dark red...”, *Symphytum grandiflorum* ‘Variegatum’ – “contrasting creamy-white margins on fresh green leaves” and *Pulmonaria rubra* ‘David Ward’ – “creamy-white margins on pale green leaves”.

“Lyn Dearborn showed a large specimen of *Nepenthe sp.*” and *Ornithogalum dubium*.

“Bill Kurtz...brought in an assortment of lachenalias, bulbous members of the Hyacinthaceae with over 100 species in the genus, most occurring in the winter rainfall areas of South Africa.” (In 2016, the Ruth Bancroft Garden reported that the family Hyacinthaceae had been moved into the Asparagus family, and had once been in the enormous Lily family.) Bill’s colorful lachenalias included *Lachenalia aloides* ‘Vanzyliae’ – pale blue to white with green swellings at the apex, *L. aloides* ‘Aurea’ – golden-yellow flowers, *L. namaquaensis* – magenta flowers that shade to pale blue at the base, and *L. arbuthnotiae* – “a dense spike of bright yellow, oblong flowers, each subtended by a white bract.”

~ Nancy Schramm

Tour Famous Gardens, Hidden Gems and Intriguing Historical Places

Mentioned by Jim Salyards this is a link to the Rose & Heather Tours Page. Run by Gillian Gray, who is a docent at the UC Berkeley Botanical Gardens, this is a US based company that offers tours of gardens in England, among other events.

<https://www.rose-and-heather-tours.com/tourdetails.html>



FEBRUARY SPEAKER NOTES

A Garden Lover's Tour of English Gardens and the Many Lessons Learned with Jim Salyards

Jim treated us to a scintillating synopsis of his one-month sabbatical, August-September of 2024, during which he visited 63 gardens in England. I thought it would be worth listing those gardens here, since some readers may be interested in developing a garden itinerary of their own for future travels. As this list is in order of the presentation, you can use it as an index to the recorded talk on our YouTube channel. For each spot, he showed a beautiful photograph and related various tidbits on landscape design, horticulture, ecology and society. In addition to Jim's overall favorites, marked with an asterisk below, he made specific recommendations for each region (the southwest, Oxford area, Suffolk/Norfolk, Kent and Sussex, and Surrey and vicinity. See page 7 for a rough map of his travels).

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Wildside | 22. Snowhill Manor NT | 43. Ickworth House NT |
| 2. Dartington Estate | 23. Cogges Manor | 44. Beth Chatto's Garden |
| 3. The Garden House | 24. Waterperry Gardens* | 45. Helmingham Hall |
| 4. Cotehele NT | 25. Worcester College, Oxford | 46. Felbrigg Hall NT* |
| 5. Castle Drogo NT | 26. Studeley Castle | 47. Blickling Hall NT |
| 6. RHS Rosemoor | 27. Bourton House* | 48. East Ruston Old Vicarage* |
| 7. Stourhead NT* | 28. Hidcote NT | 49. Abbey Gardens |
| 8. Durslade Farm- Hauser & Wister | 29. Sezincote | 50. Wyken Hall |
| 9. Killerton NT | 30. Kiftsgate | 51. Chartwell NT |
| 10. Knightshayes NT | 31. Stockcross House (NGS) | 52. Sissinghurst NT* |
| 11. Dunster Castle NT | 32. Greys Court NT | 53. Gravetye Manor |
| 12. Lytes Cary Manor NT | 33. Cliveden NT | 54. Sheffield Park NT |
| 13. Tintinhull NT* | 34. Castle Ashby | 55. Wakehurst |
| 14. East Lambrook Manor | 35. Stowe NT | 56. Great Dixter |
| 15. Hestercombe | 36. Hatfield House | 57. Nymans NT |
| 16. The Newt* | 37. Knebworth | 58. Polesden Lacey NT |
| 17. Oxford Botanic Garden | 38. Cambridge Botanical Garden | 59. Mottisfont NT |
| 18. Rousham | 39. Saffron Walden | 60. Hinton Ampner NT |
| 19. Chastleton NT | 40. RHS Hyde Hall* | 61. West Dean* |
| 20. Upton House NT | 41. Sandringham | 62. Munstead Wood NT |
| 21. Packwood House NT | 42. Oxburgh Hall NT | 63. RHS Wisley |

These gardens are stewarded by the Royal Horticulture Society (RHS) which includes five botanical gardens and dozens of affiliate gardens; the Royal Oak Foundation/UK National Trust (NT) with over 500 historic properties; or privately as part of the National Garden Scheme (NGS), a charity which facilitates access to over 3,500 private gardens in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. Most of the gardens emphasize diversity in their borders and collections, but some plants appear again and again such as Medlar (*Mespilus germanica*), Persian mulberry (*Morus nigra*), *Ligustrum japonicum* var. *rotundifolium*, *Hebe glaucophylla* and California natives like ceanothus, garrya, fremontodendron, sequoia, epilobium, and carpenteria. Particularly interesting or unusual plants for Jim were espaliered quince, (the British really know how to espalier!), variegated-leaf sycamore, a charming dark orange marigold, and 29 varieties of bergenia (who knew there were so many!). Jim's trip was made possible by Filoli and the Chanticleer scholarship, and we are so fortunate that he shared his experiences with us.

~ Jen Dungan

(Possibly Jim's biggest regret was that he didn't see a hedgehog! Ed.)

FEBRUARY PLANT SHARE

Janet Hoffmann from Campbell brought in two interesting plants.



Aristolochia californica (California pipevine, Dutchman’s Pipe)
Deciduous vine flowering in late January—March before leafing out.
In nature it grows in moist woods and along streams, however it does well on Janet’s west facing fence in her Campbell garden (to 30’) with very little summer water. Having a somewhat unappealing odor it is pollinated by flies. It seems to spread quite readily, and is a beneficial plant for butterflies to lay their eggs on. It is the only host plant of the pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly.



Pipevine Swallowtail - Photo by William Vance

Babiana odorata (Baboon Flower)

This is a summer dormant perennial that grows from corms. Plant in full sun or partial shade. This species grows in clay soils in the Northwest and Southeast Cape of South Africa. Lightly fragrant flowers appear in January and February. Start watering in October and let dry when the flowers fade in spring. Grows three to six inches tall and is a good pollinator plant as it attracts bees.



Judy Wong from Menlo Park shared a nice selection from her collection.



Lachenalia mutabilis

This easy to grow bulb is summer dormant, blooming in early spring. From South Africa it prefers full sun in the winter but part shade when dormant. Plant in well drained soil, it can be a little tender to frost. Grows 12 to 18 inches tall and can naturalize. Judy wondered why this particular variety seems to have its leaves chewed on by some unknown pest when her other *Lachenalias* do not seem to be bothered.

SNACKS!

More to enjoy at our monthly Western Horticultural Society Meetings.

In the hopes of creating an even more festive atmosphere during our monthly meetings, we’ve embarked on rolling out a program to have a snack table for all to enjoy. For now, we want to keep this easy and casual! We’ve created a sign up sheet that we’ll have out at each meeting for members to sign if they are interested in contributing a snack to the table. We’re hoping for 2-4 contributions each month. Please email Jim Salyards (jsalyards@filoli.org) if you would like to bring something.

Snacks can be home baked sweet or savory bites. They can be purchased at your local market. Fruits and vegetables are great too.

For the remaining meeting we currently have the following contributors:

March: Pam Noyer, Grace Tsang **April:** Judy Wong, Grace Tsang (tea) **May:** open, Grace Tsang (tea)

Thanks to Lori Tuttle and Alicia Evans for their participation and in setting up the snack table each month!

Upcoming Event : Mark your Calendars now!

Clara B. Rees
Iris Society
Annual
Spring
Show

A Symphony of Iris

Sunday
April 6
12pm - 5pm

Joan Pisani
Community Center
19055 Allendale Ave
Saratoga, CA 95070

Save the date for our April Western Horticultural Society Spring Field Trip.

Sunday, April 13th 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Western Sonoma County!

We will be visiting two gardens. Hog Hill, a private garden, and Western Hills Garden, a public garden and nursery. Hog Hill is the home of Mary and Lew Reid and features lovely beds and borders of trees, shrubs and perennials that are beautifully designed and takes advantage of the views of vineyards and chaparral from its hilltop location. Western Hills Garden, as we learned in our January lecture given by co-owner Hadley Dynak, is an incredibly special Bay Area garden originally built by Lester Hawkins and Marshall Olbrich.

More field trip logistics will be available in the April newsletter. Feel free to contact Jim Salyard with any questions. jsalyards@filoli.org



Hog Hill Private Garden



Western Hills Garden

Map of Jim Salyards British Gardens Tour. Brave man driving on the left side of the road for all these miles!





**UC Master Gardeners
of Santa Clara County**



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Agriculture and Natural Resources

SPRING GARDEN FAIR



**SATURDAY
APRIL 26
9 am — 2 pm**

Master Gardener Demonstration Garden — Martial Cottle Park

ACTIVITIES

PLANT SALES

- Tomatoes
- Peppers
- Natives
- Ornamentals
- Succulents

RESOURCES

- Help Desk
- Tool Sharpening
- Seed Swap
- Green Elephant Sale
- Kids' Activities

TALKS/DEMOS

- Irrigation
- Composting
- Growing Tips
- Demo Gardens
- And much more

See QR code for all activities, schedule and map

Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, located adjacent to Chynoweth Ave.
Martial Cottle Park, 5283 Snell Ave, San Jose



2015 - 2025

Free Admission

Onsite Parking \$6 (Lot B is Nearest Garden) Limited Street Parking on Chynoweth Ave.



SANTA CLARA
COUNTY PARKS

In partnership with Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation

HORTICULTURAL HAPPENINGS

Checkout other ongoing events, Plant Sales, Talks and Workshops at the Master Gardener website:
<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/>

The Clara B. Rees Spring Show, "A Symphony of Iris", will be held on Sunday, April 06, 2025 at the Joan Pisani Community Center, 19655 Allendale Ave., Saratoga. Free and open to the public 12 pm - 5 pm. This is an American Iris Society judged show. Horticulture and artistic displays. We will have our most beautiful specimens on display - Pacific Coast, tall bearded, intermediate, border bearded, space age, novelties and historic.

UC Master Gardeners of Santa Clara presents their annual Spring Garden Fair on April 26th from 9am to 2pm at Martial Cottle Park in the Master Gardener Demonstration Garden. Click link for details for the days events.
<https://mgsantaclara.ucanr.edu/events-calendar/spring-garden-fair/>

UPCOMING MEETINGS

April 9th – Michael Uhler, *Plants of California's Sierra Nevada*

May 14th – Movie and vendor night, *The Gardener, Frank Cabot's Les Quatre Vents*

California Horticultural Society

March 17th, 6:30. Online meeting with Susan Karasoff from the California Native Plant Society. ***Shade Gardening with Native Plants in San Francisco***. The talk will include San Francisco's native plants, what to plant in the shade in San Francisco as well as shallow rooted plants that thrive in containers.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-Presidents: Grace Tsang & Meri-Beth Bird

Vice President: **Open Position**

Secretary: Jennifer Dungan

Corresponding Secretary: **Open Position**

Treasurer: Eva Huala

Other Board Members: Jim Salyards, Carol Dahout & Mil Milutin

(More board members welcomed and needed)

Volunteer Committees and Responsibilities:

Plant Sale Table: Carol Dahout

Email and website maintenance: Ursula Haschke

Membership: Ursula Haschke

Publicity and Outreach: Grace Tsang

Meeting Tech: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,

Janet Hoffmann & John Hammerschmidt

Welcome Table: Pam Noyer

Speaker Program Committee: Leslie Dean (chair),

Nancy Schramm, Judy Wong, Glenda Jones, Eva Huala,

Meri-Beth Bird & Jim Salyards

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Anberg

Newsletter Contributors: Jennifer Dungan & Nancy Schramm

Scholarships: Grace Tsang, Jennifer Doniach,

Meri-Beth Bird, & Janet Hoffmann

About Membership in Western Hort:

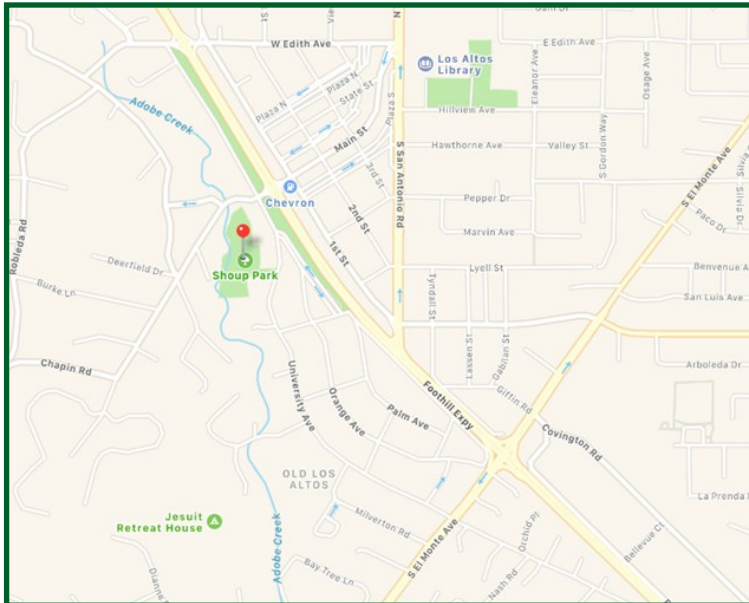
Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes an e-mail copy of this newsletter and admittance to all of our monthly meetings. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership for two or more members at the same address is \$50, and a discounted rate for students is \$20. Please visit the Pac 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 the 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 : March 12th, 2024
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 20th of March.** 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