

DECEMBER 2018 HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 12th, Los Altos Youth Center, 1 N San Antonio Rd, Los Altos
(Please arrive by 5:30 pm if you can help with set-up)

Program for the evening:

6:00 Hors d'oeuvres and wine provided by WHS board

6:30 Potluck Dinner (Please bring dish to serve 8-10 people.)

7:15 Tribute to longtime member Bracey Tiede and Founders Award presentation

7:30 Speaker Ryan Guillou: *Flora of Jordan-Diversity on the Edge*

8:45 Social time

9:15 Clean-up *(Please stay to help with this if you can.)*

9:45 Close the doors

WHS will provide a turkey along with hors d'oeuvres, wine, hot cider and non-alcoholic beverages. **Please bring a dish serving six to eight to share - side dish, salad, entrée, or a dessert. Please bring your own plate and eating utensils.**

Share the holiday spirit, bring canned or dried food for donation to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Ryan Gillou, *Flora of Jordan — Diversity at the Edge*

A journey through the varied habitats of Jordan and a discussion about why such a small country has such a diverse flora. Come join Ryan as he shares his four years of experience working with native flora in the Hashemite Kingdom.



Ryan Guillou is not complaining about the fog like many newcomers to San Francisco. Before joining the Garden as its new Curator, Guillou was the Nursery Manager at the Royal Botanical Garden of Jordan in Amman. His career has also included positions at Jerusalem Botanical Gardens located in Israel, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, and Smithsonian Gardens. Ryan identifies himself as a plant generalist, so he is excited to work with the incredibly diverse living collection at San Francisco Botanical Garden.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings - Our holiday meeting is just around the corner. It will be a special time for all of us to come together and enjoy good company, food, a tribute to longtime member Bracey Tiede, our WHS Founders Award and our speaker Ryan Guillou - *Flora of Jordan - Diversity at the Edge*.

With all the above we will have a very full program so we will not have a plant/book sale or giveaways at this meeting. Our January meeting will be at Shoup Garden House. It will start with our General Meeting where we vote in our 2019 Board of Directors and board members. Please consider joining our board. We need a few members to join the board as Katie and Mary Alice have stepped down. Diane has also stepped down from membership. I will be stepping down as President in January and taking care of membership for now. We also need volunteers to help set up equipment for our meetings.

Thank you Katie, Mary Alice and Diane for your contributions to our group. Thank you to our board and all our volunteers who help at the meetings. Thank you to all who have helped behind the scenes during the past year to make our meetings happen. Everything you do makes a positive difference for our group.

Please contact a board member or email: info@westernhort.org with questions or to let us know you would like to become a board member or volunteer.

PLANT TABLE

There will be no plant table at the December meeting. Please continue to propagate your favorite plants to share at our January meeting.

NOVEMBER SPEAKER NOTES

Antonio Sanchez brought a fresh twist to our monthly programs with both his informal style and ideas about the culinary potential of California native plants. He dedicated his talk to his deceased friend and colleague, Jessica Mae Orozco and asked for those who felt moved to donate to a fund for her adopted son James at [jessica-m-orozco-fund-for-james](https://www.gofundme.com/jessica-m-orozco-fund-for-james).

Mr. Sanchez has been a native plant food crusader for many years starting when he worked for Cal Flora Nursery in Fulton, CA. He feels that California's native plant foods deserve a place along with other newly "discovered" traditional foods like arugala, rooibos, quinoa and goji berries. He pointed out that with over 1500 endemic species there is much potential for new food discoveries amongst our native flora. One invaluable source that Antonio has found for native food information is California's "first people."

Antonio cautioned us that in most cases it is illegal to forage for native plant foods in the wild, so he encouraged us to grow favorable food species in our own gardens. He recommended using sources like calflora.org information about the natural distribution of native species to help in determining which species are most suitable for your garden. He suggested that native species with widespread distribution are usually the easiest to grow in the garden.

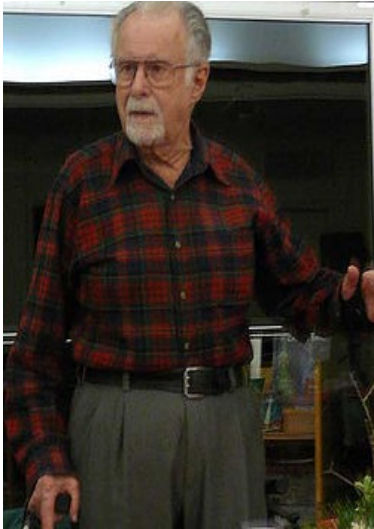
One of the easiest to grow species that he recommended was miner's lettuce, *Claytonia perfoliata*, an annual that self-sows readily in the right location. If seeded in the fall it can be cut and will come back again to produce more leaves for harvest from April through June. The leaves may be eaten raw in salads or cooked like spinach.

Sage is another plant that is easy to grow and many species have food potential. He brought pesto made from hummingbird sage, *Salvia spathacea* and Cleveland sage for us to sample along with some agave syrup infused with *S. spathacea* leaves. For the Cleveland sage he recommended hybrids like 'Aromas', 'Allen Chickering', 'Poza blue', 'Whirlyblue', and 'Winifred Gilman' over the straight species which he said was hard to grow in wet soil. Antonio brought several of these sage plants as well as some *Diplacus*, *Seriphidium* (formerly *Artemisia*) and a few other native plants in 4" pots for sale during the evening.

Other native plants with food potential for our area that he mentioned were *Allium unifolium*, with its edible flowers, leaves and bulbs and *Vitis californica* for its fruit and showy foliage, especially on the 'Roger's Red' hybrid between the native grape and *V. vinifera*. Other recommended fruits included native huckleberry, salal, Nevin's barbery, and elderberry. He explained that the chia seeds of commerce were close relatives to the native *Salvia columbariae*, whose seeds are also edible. Other native seeds he discussed included the slimjim bean, *Phaseolous filiformis*, which may also be harvested green and the amaranth-like seeds from saltbush, *Atriplex lentiformis*, which he had samples of for us to try. For those who want to broaden their taste buds with more native foods Antonia concluded his talk with a recommendation of the Café Ohlone in Berkeley and the Chia Café Collective cookbook from Heyday Books.

~Janet Hoffmann

IN MEMORIAM



A member whom many of you may have known because of his contributions to WHS over many years, Bill Kurtz passed away on November 17th. Bill was an active member of our board of directors in the 1990's and more recently from 2002-2009. During that time he shared his passion for involvement by encouraging others to join the board and share in the benefits of comradery and botanical knowledge that he gained during his volunteer service. Bill was justly recognized with our 2011 Founders Award. Bill was also a long-time member of the San Jose Cactus and Succulent Society and the Peninsula Succulent Society.

Bill Kurtz and Ed Carman led our plant discussions for many years. Bill's interest in succulents and South African bulbs yielded many interesting plants suitable for our dry climate. He was generous in sharing his plants at the raffle table as well showing samples from his collection and sharing his knowledge of how best to grow them. Several of us have *Haemanthus albiflos*, courtesy of Bill. Our sympathies go out to his wife Joan and his family. He will be missed in the horticultural community that he nurtured for so many years. If you wish to read more about Bill Kurtz, go to [https://](https://www.westernhort.org/archives/founders-award)

www.westernhort.org/archives/founders-award

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 12, 2018—WHS Holiday Party and Potluck with guest speaker Ryan Guillou, San Francisco Botanical Garden, *Flora of Jordan—Diversity on the Edge*

January 9, 2019— Frank Niccoli, Foothill College and Merritt College instructor, *Planting under Trees*

February 13, 2019—Aaron Dillon, Four Winds Growers, Watsonville, *Citrus Varieties and How to Care for Them*

March 13, 2019—Dan Hinkley, Heronswood Nursery, Kingston, WA. *From Shadows to Sun, The Making of Windcliff*

28 YEARS AGO

There wasn't much "news" in the WHS newsletter from December, 1990. I can tell you that we celebrated our annual holiday potluck dinner on the 12th of December at the Hillview Community Center. We spent the entire evening socializing, since there was no announcement of any formal speaker, nor was there a plant discussion. Party on!

I can also tell you that only eight days later California started getting cold, as in *really* cold. The freeze of 1990 is the longest, coldest weather that I've ever experienced in the Santa Clara Valley. Not only did the temperature drop to 16 degrees several nights in a row (as recorded at Carman's Nursery on Mozart Ave. in Los Gatos) but it didn't get above freezing during the daytime, either. Many plants (planted in the ground) did eventually recover, but nurseries all over the state suffered disastrous losses.

Interesting links:

[https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2018/11/barrie-coates-tranquil-green-valley.html?](https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2018/11/barrie-coates-tranquil-green-valley.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BambooAndMore+(Succulents+and+More+(old)))

[utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BambooAndMore+\(Succulents+and+More+\(old\)\)](https://www.succulentsandmore.com/2018/11/barrie-coates-tranquil-green-valley.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed:+BambooAndMore+(Succulents+and+More+(old)))

<https://techcrunch.com/2018/11/26/that-night-a-forest-flew-droneseed-is-planting-trees-from-the-air/>

END OF YEAR REMINDER

If you would like to contribute to Western Horticultural Society in 2018 with a charitable, tax deductible donation, please send in your check before December 31st. Your contribution helps us with our speaker fund that brings in the great speakers we enjoy. It also helps with our overhead costs including rent and other expenses. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Western Horticultural Society is a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Membership fees and contributions are tax-deductible as allowed by law (federal tax ID 94-6098162)

NOVEMBER PLANT NOTES

Katie Wong from San Jose brought:



Pyrostegia venusta

Pyrostegia venusta (flame vine, fire cracker vine) – This fast growing evergreen Brazilian native vine grows in full to part sun (zones 9-11) in almost any type of soil and can grow to 20-40'. Leaflets will either consist of three 2" oval green leaves or two 2" oval green leaves and will have a tendril instead of the 3rd leaf. Cluster of gorgeous 3" long tubular orange flowers start appearing at the tips of the branches and it blooms all year for Katie as long as the weather stays warm. Eventually the fruit will become 1' long capsules. Katie bought this plant from San Marcos Growers and has it growing in semi-shade. It is hardy to 25°.

Glenda Jones from Palo Alto brought:



Stapelia variegata

Stapelia variegata (carrion plant, toad plant, starfish cactus) – This succulent, a native from South Africa, grows in part shade (zones 9-11) in sandy soil and gets to be 1' tall. It should also grow in full sun but Glenda found that it did not thrive there so she moved it under the eaves and it is a lot happier there. The stems have sharp teeth on them. It has star-shaped flowers and the rotting meat smell attracts blowflies to pollinate it. It also doesn't like to be watered.

Nancy Schramm from Gilroy brought:



Ficus afghanistanica 'Silver Lyre'

Ficus afghanistanica 'Silver Lyre' (silver lyre Afghan fig) – this deciduous tree grows in full sun (zones 7b-10b) in well-drained soil and gets to be 20' tall and 10' wide. The leaves are very different than other figs in that the 4" long silver green leaves look like snowflakes and feel like sandpaper. Nancy thinks it makes for a fantastic landscape plant and recommends only eating the figs from this hybrid if you are really, really hungry since you can eat better figs during the fall. Sean Hogan of Cistus Nursery introduced this plant

Nancy also brought the mystery plant pictured below. She offered a reward to anyone who can identify it for her. She says that it is not *Muehlenbeckia*. E-mail her if you have ideas or want a larger picture

carmansnursery@gmail.com





Eriogonum arborescens



Eriogonum giganteum

Plant descriptions ~Ana Muir

Photos ~ Jeniffer Doniach

Liz Calhoun from Los Altos brought 3 eriogonums:

These California native buckwheats are all evergreen, they grow in full sun in well-drained soil, are drought tolerant and eventually they will not need any summer water once established.

E. arborescens– Native to Santa Cruz Island it gets to be 2-3’ tall and wide. (zones 7-10) The 1-2’ long leaves are very slim and are green on top but have a woolly white underside. Pinkish-white flowers start appearing in spring and it will continue blooming until fall resulting in brownish seed heads. It provides nectar for butterflies and the birds love the seeds.

E. giganteum– Native to Santa Catalina Island this big buckwheat gets to be 4-8’ tall x 5’ wide. (zones 8-10) The 2-3” oval woolly gray leaves are leathery. It is the longest blooming of all the buckwheats and its white flowers start appearing in April and go through fall. It is the nectar plant for California Blues and Hairstreaks.

E. x blissianum – Liz does not remember buying this and I believe her since this plant is a naturally occurring hybrid, and its parents are the ones above. It gets to be 3-5’ tall and 3’ wide, a size right in between its parents. The soft grey leaves are both narrow and oval in shape, and the plant almost looks like a sage plant when not in bloom. The white flower heads are wider and slightly bigger than those of its parents. It also attracts many beneficial insects.

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 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.

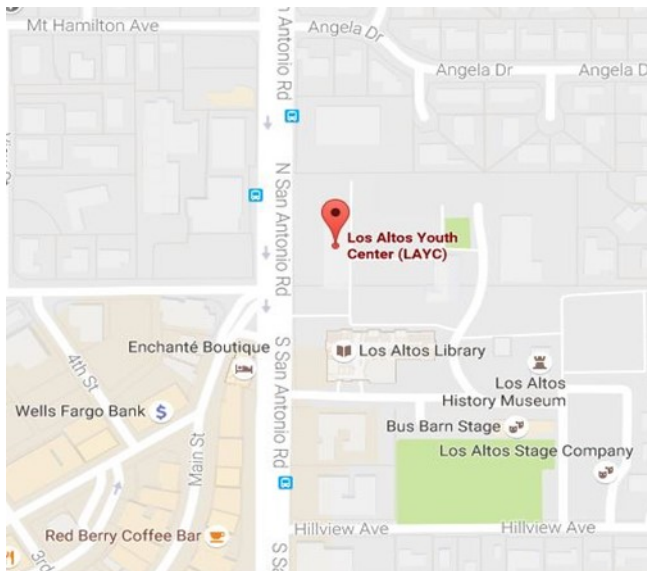
To join or renew visit our website at: <https://www.westernhort.org/membership> You may pay online with a credit card or print form and mail with your check to the contact us address below.

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:
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. Check-in starts at 7:00 pm. and meetings

Newsletter Submissions
The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. **Note deadline for submission for the next newsletter is the 18th of December.** 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