



New Meeting Place for March, April & May, 2016

Hillview Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave, Los Altos

In the multi-purpose room next to the parking lot

March 2016 Speaker

Wednesday, March 9, 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.

LOCATION: Hillview Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room, 97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos



Wendy Proud, California sales representative for Mountain States Wholesale Nursery based in Phoenix, Arizona
Photo: westernhort.org

*Join us for dinner with **Wendy Proud** on March 9, 5:30pm! Contact Katie Wong, alivensilk@aol.com or (408) 251-2742 to RSVP. Dinner will be at Chef Chu's, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (intersection of El Camino Real and San Antonio Road).*

Speaker: Wendy Proud

“Transforming the Landscape of Waterwise California.”

The landscape of California is changing with so many new plant choices and thoughts about waterwise practices. Learn how desert adapted plants can be an exciting group of plants perfect for the toughest situations without sacrificing beauty or wasting resources. See how plant combinations are changing with a new acceptance to the overall aesthetic and the dynamic landscape now available.

Wendy is a graduate of Cal Poly, Pomona with extensive experience in retail and wholesale nurseries including a stint as sales representative and later a grower in the production department of Monrovia Growers.

She co-owned and managed her landscape design and installation company in Pasadena, CA. Wendy enjoys sharing her knowledge of plants through seminars and broadcasted a weekly cable show, “The Proud Gardener.”

In her current position she hopes to inspire others about the beauty and diversity of plants from the Southwest and other arid regions.

For more information, see Mountain States Wholesale Nursery, <http://www.mswm.com>.



Spring flowers await us on the Going Native Garden Tour –see page 2 for info on how to sign up to attend and/or volunteer. Photo: <http://gngt.org>

Preview the Gardens on the 2016 Going

Native Garden Tour Click here to see the gardens that will be on tour April 9 & 10: <http://gngt.org/GNGT/Gardens.php?year=2016>

Upcoming Speakers See <http://westernhort.org>

April 13, 2016 Ted Kipping, “Victor Reiter’s Garden.”

May 11, 2016 Kora Dalager, “Container Plants: The Ultimate Small Container Garden.”

Plant Table Last month we had another successful plant table. Thanks to everyone. Donations of plants, garden books, containers and other plant related objects are always welcome. Any questions? Contact Roberta Barnes at (650) 949-0377 or robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com. ~Roberta Barnes



Waterwise garden in bloom, shown at <http://gngt.org>

Going Native Garden Tour Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To volunteer for the 2016 Going Native Garden Tour (or to attend, and request a booklet with garden descriptions and addresses), visit <http://www.gngt.org>; on the homepage, click on the volunteer registration form and fill out the form. On successful submission, you will receive complete details and directions for upcoming events.

Since 2003, the Bay Area's pioneering native garden tour has showcased gardens featuring California native plants. This community-based tour is free of charge to the public. Each tour features 40-70 gardens, most of them private home gardens, which are open on tour day in a do-it-yourself, open house format. The gardens on the tour demonstrate reduced water use, reduced chemical and pesticide use, improved habitat, and the

unique aesthetic appeal of gardens designed with California native plants. Our website also provides resources to help Bay Area gardeners to “go native” in their own gardens. On tour day, sponsoring nurseries will conduct native plant sales at select gardens. Part of the proceeds benefit Going Native Garden Tour. Please pay by cash or check.

A Little Bit of This and That

One of my very favorite columns in past years of *Pacific Horticulture* was the *Laboratory Report* by Robert D Raabe. After reading about the cover illustration and the editorial, it was the first thing I would read. In a little homage to Dr Raabe, here are a few interesting bits from the plant world that fit no category other than that they piqued my interest. A delegation from California led by Karen Ross, Secretary, CDFG recently visited the Netherlands. In Valthermond they met with Marc van Rijsselberghe, owner of Salt Farm Texel. Secretary Ross described how Salt Farm Texel produces salt-tolerant agricultural products: growing tomatoes, potatoes and sea kale with 50% seawater. “The products are truly amazing and are sold at a premium on supermarket shelves.” *Country Folks Grower West, January 2016*

San Francisco Flower & Garden Show,
<http://sfgardenshow.com>, March 16-20, San Mateo Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo. Tickets \$22 one day, \$40 entire show.

There have been recent conversations on the CRFG (California Rare Fruit Grower) e-group concerning the prudence of planting forage crops for bees in order to attract the bees to fruit trees in need of pollination. A local orchardist warned against this practice, stating “I suspect that it's been scientifically established that bees will work herbaceous cover crops almost

to the exclusion of fruit tree blooms. There are many references that stress this point: mow your cover crop BEFORE you introduce the beehives and bring the bees in after there is 20% bloom so that the bees lock into working the fruit tree blossoms instead of any other competing crops.” Supporting this insight is a recent study done by researchers at the Southwest Michigan Research and Extension Center. In the study, rows of cucumbers alternated with rows of crops known to be good forage crops for bees (yellow mustard, buckwheat & sweet alyssum). “The results of the study...have not fulfilled the researcher's expectations. The bees came to the flowers, but they tended to stay in the flowering strips...instead of moving out into the cucumbers.” Interestingly, in this case at least, pollination seemed to have been accomplished by “wild, ground-nesting squash bees”. *Country Folks Grower West, February 2016*

Vestaron Corporation is “a developer of peptide-based insecticides”. The U.S. EPA has approved the removal of bee toxicity warning statement from its SPEAR Biopesticide label. “The SPEAR family of bioinsecticides utilizes two new unique modes-of-action with no known resistance. This family of biopesticides is based on natural peptides that degrade to useful nutrients in the environment.” *GrowerTalks, February 2016. ~Nancy Schramm*

28 Years Ago

In the theme of “what goes around, comes around”, on February 10, 1988 we heard Erika Aschmann from East Bay MUD: *Does Your Landscape have a Drinking Problem?* She covered ideas for our own gardens as well as looking at “the bigger picture of the appropriate use of water in the landscape.” Betty Young was organizing a field trip to the Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz. “This guided tour will be free as WHS has a life membership at the Arboretum.” I’m curious if that still holds true? Everyone was encouraged to submit a “green sheet” with information about their favorite/best performing perennials for the upcoming WHS publication.

Our March 9th speaker was Jim Daniel, owner of the wonderful Cactus Gem Nursery. He spoke on *Succulents of Baja California*. The newsletter mentioned that Jim was quite a photographer, taking 950 slides during his plant hunt in Morocco and the Canary Islands. “He promises, however, to show only one carousel of his slides from Baja” ! I don’t have room to talk about all the plants shown in February and March, so let me just share a few of my favorite comments from Elizabeth Garbett; talking about the confusion about what to call wallflowers (six species shown by Connie Gould): “I favor *Erysimum*, myself, because I can pronounce it and I’m never sure about *Cheiranthus*.” About a *Sinningia canescens* from Brazil shown by Ed Carman: “In its native home it lives on the brink of waterfalls. The flowers and leaves arise from a thick, swollen base called a caudex. It needs a summer dormant period. (How do they turn off the waterfalls?)” About the foliage of *Boronia megastigma*: “It is reputed to be exquisitely scented but this fragrance can be perceived by some and not others, among whom, alas, I am numbered.”



California Pipevine (*Aristolochia californica*), from Saxon Holt’s new website, Summer-Day plants, <http://summer-dry.com>. Saxon Holt writes, “Summer-Dry plants is an on-going project to provide gardeners in summer-dry climates **authentic photos** that encourage sustainable garden practices. You will find a searchable database of photos, all taken in mature gardens that illustrate how plants grow in real settings.” (*Emphasis mine!* ~Editor)

Don’t miss his blog with (as you know!) fabulous photos: <http://summer-dry.com/blog>.

Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

Co-Presidents: Liz Calhoon and Carrie Parker
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Patricia Larenas
Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Chris Egan, Judy Fulton and Katie Wong.

To contact us, please send email to info@westernhort.org, or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

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 PO Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062-0673.

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Sustaining is \$45, Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a Family membership of \$50 for two or more members at the same address, and a Student rate of \$20.

Please visit our website at westernhort.org for a membership form.

Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month; items received after the 25th may not make it into the immediately upcoming newsletter but will be published the following month. Send submissions to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

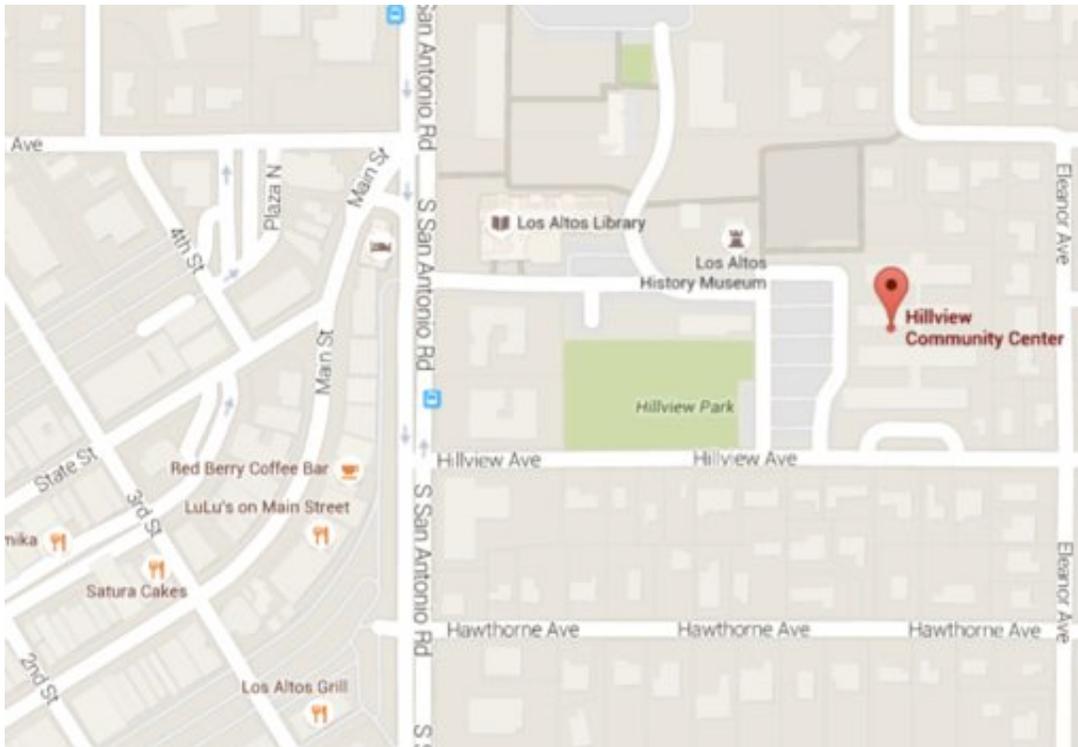
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



Would you like to **sponsor a lecture** for the WHS that is of particular interest to you? It would be much appreciated! Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136.

Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings

LOCATION Hillview Community Center, Multi-Purpose Room,
97 Hillview Ave., Los Altos