WHS December Potluck Party and Program

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos

Please bring a favorite main dish, salad, or desert to share, including plates and utensils for you and your guests. The WHS Board will provide cups, glasses, wine and beverages, appetizers and Jeanne’s special turkey that we all know and love to eat.

Our special December program featuring Aaron Dillon’s talk about the history of local nurseries starts at around 8pm. Come and find out who will be the recipient of the WHS Founders Award this year!

Join us for a celebration of good company and good food! Please also bring nutritional food in cans or sturdy containers to help struggling food agencies feed the growing number of needy people in our communities, if you are able. Thank you – we hope to see you all there!
More Western Hort Business and News...

Raffle Table
Thank you everyone for your contributions to the October Raffle Table. There were many happy faces leaving after the meeting. The November table is the responsibility of the raffle committee, but if you have any little (or big) treasures you'd like to share, please bring them along and share the joy.

CEU Credits
The WHS is pleased to be able to offer Continuing Education Credits for CCN Pro's (CANGC) and for the Assn of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). You know who you are—bring your fellow members with you and sign in at the registration desk. ~Nancy Schramm

28 Years Ago
The October 12, 1981 WHS meeting featured Mildred Mathias, Emeritus Professor of Botany at UCLA bringing her "extensive knowledge of tropical America to us in her talk on AMERICAN RAIN FORESTS". (On a personal note, I heard this talk, or perhaps one a few years previous, and was so carried away by the enthusiasm showed for the topic, I seriously considered how I might join one of the Mathias expeditions into the jungle) October was a good month for plant sales that year with announcements of one at UCSC Arboretum on Oct 10th, and Saratoga Horticultural Foundation on October 31st. Plants on the discussion table included a "Salvia guaranitica, nutmeg sage, twice as big and lush as we have ever seen it before, the specimen was almost unrecognizable" (Question: should this have said S. guaranitica, anise-scented sage?) brought by "Bartley Schwartz from his nursery in Concord", a great collection of natives from Yerba Buena Nursery brought by Gerda Isenberg, and two Osmanthus by Albert Wilson. ~Nancy Schramm

WHS Plant Sale Update
A new page has been added to the website for the Plant Sale. Information on suggested plants and propagation workshops has been posted. Just follow the link from the “Home” page.

Last Call: Dues Renewal Reminder!
DID YOU REMEMBER? There is only a short time before all subscriptions to the Pac Hort Magazine are switched to the new membership lists…those who have not renewed membership in WHS will be dropped. Our membership renewal year starts in September and runs thru the following August. You will no longer be a member of WHS as of December 1 if dues are not received by our treasurer by that date. We would like to keep you around and involved in our pleasant, fun and informative gardening activities, so please write that check and send it in. Thank you! ~ Claudia Stopp

Other Horticultural Events...
Finale to The Australians—2009 Ruth Bancroft Garden Horticultural Series
November 6–7, Berkeley, CA “Refresh Your Australian Repertoire: how to mix exciting and appropriate Australian native plants in Bay Area gardens”
Presented by The Garden Conservancy and The Ruth Bancroft Garden; Cosponsored by Pacific Horticulture magazine and the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley. Full-day Friday Seminar: 8:30am-5:30pm at the Conference Center at the University of California Botanical Garden at Berkeley
Half-day Study Tour on Saturday: 8:30am-3pm in Oakland (three private gardens)/Flora Grubb Gardens, SF/San Francisco Botanical Garden
For this seminar series we have gathered together two excellent panels of speakers to lobby for mixing Australian native plants with California natives and plants from other Mediterranean climates. These advocates know a lot about the growing conditions favored by Australians and how to mix their bright colors and strong forms in tantalizing garden compositions. The Australians speakers include: Randy Baldwin, Hank Jenkins, Dr. Glenn Keator, Dr. Matt Ritter, and Bernard Trainor. Call 415-441-4300 for more information.

“It is good to be alone in a garden at dawn or dark so that all its shy presences may haunt you and possess you in a reverie of suspended thought.”
~James Douglas
Other Horticultural Events...

Cal Hort Society November Program
Monday November 16th, Ernest Wertheim, internationally acclaimed landscape architect will share his decades of experience with garden design changes over the years.
Meetings start at 7:15pm in the County Fair Building at the San Francisco Botanical Garden. If you’re not a member, there is a Guest Fee of $5.

Hortecology: The Garden as an Ecosystem
A lecture with Richard Merrill, former director, Cabrillo Horticulture Department.
Thursday November 19th, 7-8:30pm Fee $10.00; series discount available. Location: Cabrillo College Environmental Horticulture Center, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos Call (831)479-6100 for more information or to register.

The American Meadow Garden
Thursday November 12th, 5:30-7:30pm. A book launch party and book signing with John Greenlee, author of The American Meadow Garden: Creating a Natural Alternative to the Traditional Lawn (Timber Press, October 2009), and photographer Saxon Holt; light refreshments will be served.
Where: Flora Grubb Gardens, 1634 Jerrold Avenue, San Francisco. Parking is available.
Fee: $25 per person with advance registration before November 6; $30 per person after November 6 or at the door.

Introducing California Native Plants into your Garden - with Glenn Keator
Saturday, November 7, 9:30-11:30am at the Elizabeth F. Gamble Garden Center
This class will look at using California native plants in existing gardens. It will be taught by Glenn Keator who will show how he transformed his garden into one more ‘appropriate’ for the Bay Area’s climate. To do this he incorporated native plants into the existing plantings. You will learn how to evaluate your garden for similar changes.
Price: $25 members/$35 non-members
Gamble Garden is located at 1431 Waverley St., Palo Alto; call (650)329-1356 to register or for more information.

Starting or Enlarging a Water-wise Garden
Tuesday, November 24 7:30-8:30pm at the Los Altos Library, Los Altos
Free lecture - Fall is the best time to plant perennials, especially water-wise and drought-tolerant native plants and plants from Mediterranean climates. Join Master Gardeners for a talk on why this is and how to plant for best success. Need ideas for what to plant? Plant options will be discussed and we’ll have a water-wise plant list handout. Call (408)282-3105 for more information.

~Betsy Cañas Garmon