



## February 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, February 12, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

**Speaker: Jason Martinez**, Associate Curator, San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco

### “Magnificent Magnolias at San Francisco Botanical Garden”

Golden Gate Park is home to the world’s fourth largest magnolia collection. From the Americas to Asia, from the tropics to the temperate zones, evergreen to deciduous, fragrant and long blooming, magnolias can be found blooming from February to summer at the San Francisco Botanical Garden.

Jason Martinez is a SF City Gardener whose “beat” at Strybing includes the newly replanted Ancient Plant Garden, the brand-new Mediterranean Sea Basin Garden, and the mature Southeast Asia Garden. It turns out an intern in Jason’s area was the Chinese connection who twice organized travel with Jason and others to China for Strybing seed collecting trips!

At our meeting, Jason will discuss the SFBG Magnificent Magnolias Collection, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation that Don Mahoney put together last year with many magnolia photos. (Don is the Curator of Plant Collections at SFBG, the department responsible for cataloging and tracking all plants at the Botanical Garden. This catalog tracks details on over 20,000 plants located in 55 acres of gardens.) Jason’s presentation will not cover the trips to China, although perhaps that could be scheduled later on. And sorry ... the talk includes slides only, no seeds.

**February 15 Field Trip—Magnolia Collection at SFBG** Join Don Mahoney, Curator, San Francisco Botanical Garden, and your fellow WHS members for a tour of the Magnolia Collection at the San Francisco Botanical Garden on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Cost: \$10 donation for SFBG/Western Hort members; guests welcome for a \$20 donation. All proceeds go to support Don and the garden. Please sign up at the February 12 meeting (and pay), or contact Rosalie Shepherd at shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.

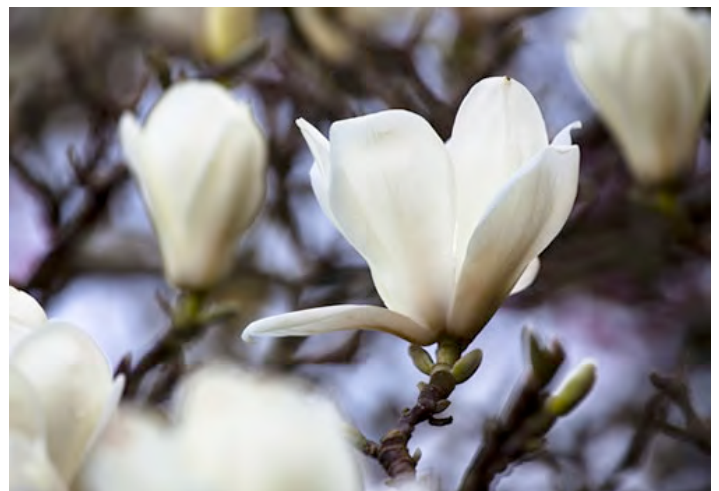
### About the SFBG Magnolia Collection

The Garden is proud to be recognized as having the world’s fourth most significant collection of Magnolia species for conservation purposes, and the most important outside China, where a majority of Magnolia species are found. The best time to visit the Garden to experience this collection is during their annual bloom from mid-December through the end of March.

**Right: Magnolia denudata. Photo by Saxon Holt.**



Magnolia dawsoniana at San Francisco Botanical Gardens. *Photo: David Kruse-Pickler.*



**March 2014 Speaker** Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Dr. Andrew Sutherland, Bay Area IPM Advisor, UCCE Alameda County Arboretum, "Invasive Exotic Pests in Urban Landscapes."

## **Congratulations to Leslie Dean, 2013 WHS Founder's Awardee**

"The Western Horticultural Society Founders' Award was established in honor of those who had the vision and dedication to create a fellowship of nurserymen, horticultural professionals, and avid gardeners."

Leslie Dean, our Tenth WHS Founders' Awardee, was honored at the January 8th annual meeting. Leslie was welcomed to WHS in the November 1994 newsletter and quickly became active in society activities. She volunteered for the 1996 San Francisco Garden Show committee. Her design and organizational skills were evident starting with the 1997 WHS vignette "Splendor in the Grass" designed for the SFFGS. Leslie continued to dedicate her energy and enthusiasm as the WHS board president in 2002-2003. In 2007, she became the WHS representative to the Pacific Horticulture Board serving a stint as Vice President of the board. She was instrumental in the redesign of the Pac Hort Magazine, coordinating Pacific Horticulture's sponsorship of the seminar series at the San Francisco Flower and Garden show, and selection of the current Pacific Horticultural Magazine editor. She continues to share plants from her garden in our Plant Discussions and is active on the WHS speakers' committee.

What she likes about WHS is the people, the speakers, learning about new plants and the extensive knowledge of the many members, including the "stars of horticulture" that attend the meetings ... (her husband John says that he really likes the potlucks!) I really admire her collection of garden fence art as do the neighborhood kids! ~*Judy Wong*

**Hot Plant Picks** It's that time of year again—Western Hort will once again organize the Hot Plant Picks exhibit at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. You've probably already heard that the show has new owners. I've spoken with Maryanne Lucas and Sherry Larsen, and they tell me that they are re-focusing the show back onto plants—the reason we fell in love with the show in the first place. If you haven't attended in awhile, volunteer for a 2 hour 15 minute shift staffing the HPP exhibit and get in free for the entire day. I'll bet you'll be glad you did. Contact Nancy Schramm at 408-847-2313 or [greenthumb@carmansnursery.com](mailto:greenthumb@carmansnursery.com) to sign up now! ~*Nancy Schramm*



Founders' Award Recipients (left to right): Leslie Dean, Betsy Clebsch, Mary Kaye, Dick Dunmire, and Barbara Worl. Photo: *Judy Wong*.



Working the SF Flower & Garden Show in 2013: Sherry Hall (far right), next to the indefatigable Nancy Schramm, talking with Dan Heims (Terra Nova Nursery) and Kristin Yanker-Hansen. Photo: *Marianne Mueller*.





Unusual 3" acorn from a Bur Oak that Abby Garner brought to the January 2014 meeting. Nestled on a bed of happily germinating capers that Nancy Schramm brought in as evidence they will germinate! Using very fresh seeds is the key to success. *Photo: Marianne Mueller.*

## Plant Table—Membership's Turn in February!

Our plant table has been popular. Stop by at our February meeting and see what you might like to buy. We had an interesting collection of plants and pots at last month's meeting. Thanks to the board members and others for the great donations. The plant table in February is the responsibility of the membership. That's you! Plants and garden related items are always welcome. ~*Roberta Barnes*

**WHS Plant Sale—Save the Date!** Mark your calendars! Our plant sale will be held on April 12 at the Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market at History San Jose. We will be selling succulents and California natives. Also, this is a chance to tell a whole lot of gardeners about our wonderful organization! Interested in helping or just want to learn more? Talk to Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon or Chris Egan and find out how you can help make this a successful fundraiser. Thanks! ~*Roberta Barnes*

**28 Years Ago** Western Hort met on Wednesday, February 12, 1986 to hear member Timmy Gallagher's presentation *Gardens and Wildflowers of Australia*. "She is a lecturer and horticultural consultant ... chairwoman of Garden Tours for Filoli. While serving on the Horticulture Committee of the Garden Club of America, she organized member clubs to make postcards of their endangered species. For this she was awarded the Medal of Achievement by the GC of A."

Plant notes included a timely comment that winter rains (I'm still hoping...) will often turn the blooms on flowering trees into "soggy mops" and that "The tougher petals of deciduous magnolias hold up better. More and more of them are appearing in our gardens and we welcome them." Beulah Hatter (among others) brought in a wide variety of natives: *Umbellaria californica* (California bay), *Rhamnus* (coffeeberry), *Dirca occidentalis* (western leatherwood), *Ceanothus* (California lilac), *Gallium* (bedstraw), *Cynoglossum grande* (hound's tongue), *Pityrogramma triangularis* (goldback fern) and *Ephedra nevadensis* (Mormon tea). California bay is now known to be a host plant for Sudden Oak Death—even though it will not succumb to the disease itself. ~*Nancy Schramm*



*Cynoglossum grande*, hound's tongue. *Photo: baynatives.com.*



Gold discovered at Jasper Ridge: spore print of a goldback fern on somebody's jacket. See [stanford.edu/~siegelr/flora/goldback.html](http://stanford.edu/~siegelr/flora/goldback.html) for context. *Photo: Robert Siegel, MD PhD, Stanford University, 2009* See his great photo collection, [stanford.edu/~siegelr](http://stanford.edu/~siegelr)



**Western Hort Memories, Part III** Please see our online newsletter archive (thanks Pat!) for Parts I and II at <http://westernhort.org>. Look for the December 2013 and January 2014 issues. *Compiled by Nancy Schramm.*

**Nancy Schramm:** In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Western Hort, I thought it would be fun to ask a few members to share some memories, and to tell us why they joined WHS in the first place.

**Betsy Clebsch:** Betsy needs no introduction, but for those reading these newsletters in 2044 (in thirty years!) I will say that Betsy is one of our Founders' Award recipients, author of two books about Salvias, and is one of the people who make WHS membership so much fun. I've discovered a theme when talking with long-time WHS members, they have so many great memories about Western Hort that it is difficult to single out individual memories that stand out. Betsy told me that Gerda Isenberg took Betsy to her first WHS meeting, sometime between 1967 and 1969. Gerda must have been a good ringleader, because she invited a whole group of friends, first to dinner and then to the WHS meeting. As Betsy recalls, every single one of the group joined Western Hort that very night! Betsy has very fond memories of the early years of WHS field trips. She said they were "extremely well thought out and conducted." One of the more unusual destinations was the Yehudi Menuhin estate in the hills above Lexington Dam, where Barrie Coate's parents were caretakers.

**Bracey and Richard Tiede:** These two people are on my short list of "favorite husband-and-wife teams", always cheerful, and always ready to lend a hand. Richard is our WHS president, and Bracey is on the PacHort board of directors. Bracey graciously emailed some WHS memories to me: "I first heard about the Western Hort meetings either from Elaine Levine or Nancy Garrison, both master gardeners. This was in 1999 or 2000. Richard came along with me to the meetings as we both are interested in plants and more. We have heard so many wonderful speakers that it's hard to pick one. Luen Miller, Matt Ritter, Don Mahoney, Martin Grantham, Ernesto Sandoval(!). The holiday pot lucks are great. Some field trips/picnics stand out – those French gardens off Summit Road, the Coate's lovely gardens and forest, a Villa Montalvo tour.

Richard adds: "Every board meeting is special now after the 4<sup>th</sup> year of leading and 5<sup>th</sup> year of attending them. The January 2014 board meeting was really nice because the directors stepped up to take on tasks without too much effort on my part."

(Nancy: Are there any special friendships that have come about because of WHS?)

Bracey and Richard: "Just too many to list here. Seems the horticulture world is interconnected in so many ways with meeting people at WHS, but then at the SF Flower and Garden show, Pacific Horticulture events, CNPS, Mediterranean Garden Society, SF Botanic, UC Berkeley Botanic, UC Davis, Ruth Bancroft, California Garden and Landscape History Society and more. Friendly faces everywhere! The late Susan Bouchez became a very close friend (along with Jean-Pierre) because of many of these connections. Leslie Dean and I met in my book club before I even joined WHS! Ted Kipping is everywhere with a smile. Barrie and Carol Coate, way back from Saratoga Hort and then WHS. And the lovely Betsy Clebsch, what can we say?"

**Leslie Dean:** Leslie is our most recent Founders' Award recipient, a landscape architect, and recently retired from the PacHort board of directors. Another plant lover who actively volunteers when and wherever needed. Leslie writes, "I was introduced to WH by Daphne Dorney. I met her through a hiking group and we became good friends due to our similar interests in gardening and the outdoors. I met Daphne in the spring of 1994 and I joined WH that same year. She took me to my first meeting which was at Loyola School on Berry Ave. in Los Altos.

*Continued on page 5*



Leucadendron x 'Wilson's Wonder', grown by Pat Knight and shown at the January 2014 meeting. *Photo with unfortunate lighting: Marianne Mueller*

## Memories ... Part III continued from page 4

**Leslie continues:** “One of my favorite memories. That is a tough one. There are so many. I guess I can say I look back with great fondness to the times when I was in charge of the garden vignette at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show. Over the seven years that I headed up that project, so many people would volunteer their time to work on the installation and break down of the vignette. I really enjoyed working with everyone. Installing the display at the show was great fun. A bit crazy at times but it always worked out perfectly. I remember the one year at the Cow Palace after we had finished our display, we all walked over to the main floor where the big garden displays were and watched with amazement the chaos of equipment and people everywhere rushing to get their gardens built. There were tractors, and large boulders and piles of mulch and big boxed trees everywhere. There were carpenters, masons, and every other skilled craftsperson there. There was such a liveliness about the whole place. It was exciting! We all wondered how they would ever finish, but come opening day, there would be these beautiful creative gardens for everyone to marvel over. Those were fun times.

“Oh my, special friendships that came as a result of being a member of Western Hort ... Where do I begin???? Well, outside of Daphne who was very dear to me, you and Diane of course, Sherry and John, Mary Kaye, Abby Garner, Betsy Clebsch, Liz Calhoon, John Hammerschmidt, Mark McCabe, Bill Kurtz, Elizabeth Garbett, Chris Egan, Claudia Stopp, Glenda Jones, Susan and Jean Pierre Bouchez, Lorena Gorsche, Judy Wong, The Tiedes, Cheryl Renshaw, Barbara Worl, and many more.”

**Pat Knight:** This is the woman who keeps the twenty-first century face of Western Hort up-to-date, while at the same time knows volumes about antiques. She presented a fascinating program for WHS about botanical art on porcelain in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Pat wrote: “I first learnt about Western Hort from Frank Duveneck while we were admiring the camellias at his Hidden Valley ranch near Los Altos Hills. At that time WHS was meeting in Redwood City and it was difficult for me to attend. When I heard that they had moved the meetings to Los Altos I joined about 1985 and attended regularly. I usually ducked out after the talk as I was awed by the professional gardeners and frankly scared by their easy use of Latin names !

“Later Janice Gilmore asked me to join the Board as a member of the Speakers’ Committee and this provided me with the perfect opening to get to know people. I jumped at the opportunity. I found it exciting to help plan a year of good programs and the people were such fun to work with. The meetings always involved lots of laughter and we bonded as a group.

“At the same time in 2006 I took over the WHS website which had been set up in 2005 and expanded it with photos and more material. When Daxin Liu set up the WHS Facebook page I became one of the administrators and enthusiastically added photos to draw in and involve the members

“I have two favorite meetings. The first one was the program by Marcia Donahue on her garden of whimsical sculpture and plants when I discovered gardening could be a fun artwork. My second favorite meeting was the panel discussion in 2013 between those good buddies and comedians, Dick Dunmire and Barrie Coate. My favorite event was the Holiday Potluck in 2010. We had toe-tapping music from the Sherry Austin Band that accompanied a firework explosion of slides from Ted Kipping. This was a feast for all the senses. I will never forget it.”



Swansea plate painted by Thomas Pardoe.  
*Photo: from the description on our website for Pat Knight's talk in February 2012.*



## *Salvia africana-lutea*

Excerpt from *The New Book of Salvias: Sages for Every Garden* (2003), by Betsy Clebsch. Transcribed from an online representation at amazon.com (i.e. book preview for Betsy's book).

The coast of the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa is the native habitat of *Salvia africana-lutea*. It grows within a limited area at close to sea level on coastal sand dunes, arid and rocky banks, and low hills. This plant was known as *Salvia aurea* until the 1990s.

*Salvia africana-lutea* is a shrubby, evergreen plant, with numerous woody stems growing out of the rootstock that reach 3 ft (1 m) or more in height and 3-4 ft (1-1.3 m) in width. Young plants are amply covered with small, gray-green, elliptical leaves, but by maturity the leaves have become sparse, giving the plant a twiggy appearance. Flowering begins in early spring, with flushes occurring periodically throughout the summer. Flowers appear in whorls and are held erect. The calyx is large, campenulate, and a dark rusty color on the side that faces the light and olive-green on the opposite side. During fruiting the calyx persists and is an added attraction for a long time. The flowers, when first emerging from the calyx, are a bright, glowing yellow, but as they develop in size they turn a rusty orange. The word *africana* in the specific epithet describes the yellow color of the emerging flowers. The mature, rusty orange flowers are 1 in (2.5 cm) or more in length and are held within a showy, funnel-like, tan calyx that resembles paper with age. The flowers are both an attraction and a curiosity. Hedge (1974) says the flowers at maturity give the impression of being withered. He describes them as golden brown or khaki colored, often with a trace of purple at their base.



*Salvia africana-lutea* flowers in early spring and has a shrub-like habit. Photo: Don Mahoney. Shown in the "book preview" on amazon.com.

Light, well-draining soil and full sun are desirable for *Salvia africana-lutea*. Plants need deep watering at least once a month, and a mulch at their base is helpful. Some pruning should be done to keep the plant shapely, but over time, usually about five years or more, a build-up of wood is inevitable. At that point, I recommend a fresh start with a young plant. Propagation is accomplished easily by cuttings.

*Salvia africana-lutea* is generally accepted as hardy to approximately 20 degrees F (-7 degrees C). One one occasion in my garden, a specimen's top growth was completely killed when the temperature fell well below that, but during the following summer, new growth emerged from the rootstock and the plant regained its pleasing shrubby habit within a few years.

*Salvia africana-lutea* is rarely seen in gardens or nurseries in my home state of California. It is not clear when it was introduced to horticulture, but William Robinson grew the plant and wrote about it. A famous English gardener and horticultural journalist, Robinson is regarded as the instigator of the herbaceous border, the wild garden, and the alpine rock garden. In his book *The English Flower Garden*, Robinson (1933) describes 38 salvias for the border.

Because of its foliage and growth habit, *Salvia africana-lutea* combines nicely with many different manzanitas. For example, *Arctostaphylos stanfordiana* subsp. Bakeri 'Louis Edmunds' at 6 ft (2 m), *A. pajaroensis* at 4 ft (1.3 m), and *A. "Winterflow"* at 2 ft (60 cm) make outstanding companions in a shrubby border. Only *Salvia africana-lutea* will require summer water. A dry border of flowering shrubs might include the 3 ft (1 m) tall *Cistus palhinhae*, which has gold-centered white flowers, the 4 ft (1.3 m) tall *Eriogonum giganteum*, St. Catherine's lace, which has creamy white clusters of flowers that turn rust-red, and the 4ft (1.3 m) tall *Phlomis fruticosa*, with its whorls of yellow flowers. All these plants require the same growing conditions. Some blooming will occur from early spring until frost.

## Annual General Meeting Report, January 8,

**2014** At 7:35 p.m., President Richard Tiede called the annual WHS meeting to order. The required quorum of 25+ members was present. Tiede announced that this is our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and that we currently have 160 members. Treasurer Daxin Liu reported that our current balance in the checking account is \$21,556.23. Our CDs are maintaining their value. For members interested in WHS profit and loss detail, they can contact Daxin Liu for more information. Outgoing board members Christine Bate and Katie Wong were thanked and presented with a gift. Judy Wong was also voted in as a new board member. Tiede encouraged members who are interested in being on the board to talk to a board member and find out what the job entails. A round of applause was given to the holiday party committee for the successful event last month. Judy Wong presented the Founders' Award to Leslie Dean for her many contributions to WHS. Thank you, Leslie!

Pacific Horticulture representative Abby Garner gave us an update on last year's progress. Sairus Patel is our second representative to Pacific Horticulture. The new magazine format has been rolled out, monthly email newsletters have begun and an endowment for the website has been received. Four new board members have been recruited and will begin in February. Executive Director, Carol Moholt, will be directing fundraising. A number of events and tours are being planned. PHS is currently solvent and viable. ~*Roberta Barnes, Recording Secretary*

Right:  
A decoction or infusion of the leaves and flowers of the toothache plant is a traditional remedy for stammering, toothache, and stomatitis.



*Acmella oleracea*, toothache plant, from the January 2014 Plant Discussion, grown by Katie Wong. *Photo: Marianne Mueller.*

### Western Horticultural Society

#### Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede  
Vice President: Judy Wong  
Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes  
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd  
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Virginia Kean, and Wendy van der Linden.

**To contact us**, please send email to [info@westernhort.org](mailto: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](http://westernhort.org) for a membership form.

#### Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

Please send info for the March 2014 newsletter by February 20 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 650-326-2029.

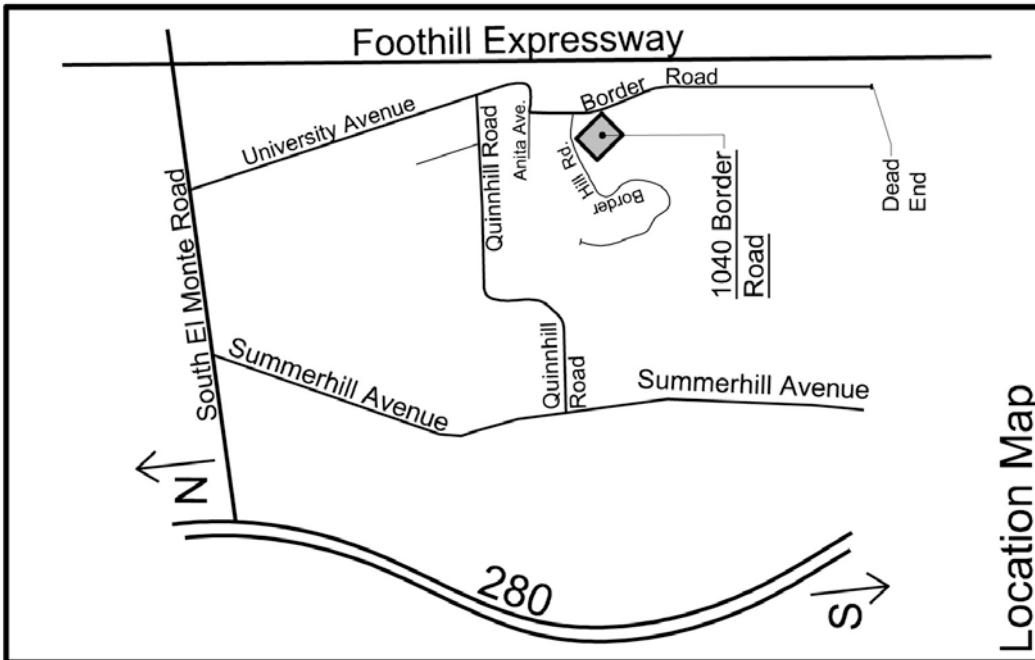
Please send address changes to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



Location Map

Western Horticultural Society  
Monthly Meetings  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos

**MEETING LOCATION** Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

Join our speaker Jason Martinez and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 12, at Bella Vita restaurant in Los Altos, 376 First St, Los Altos. Plenty of nearby street parking. Please RSVP to Rosalie Shepherd: [shep8283@comcast.net](mailto:shep8283@comcast.net) or 650-321-8283.

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.