

February  
2010



# Western Horticultural Society

www.westernhort.org • PO Box 60507 • Palo Alto • California • 94306

## WHS February Speaker

**February 10: Kathleen Navarez, Horticulture**  
Instructor at Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA  
**“Propagation Methods”**

Have you ever had a friend or family member give you cuttings from a beloved plant and not know what to do with those cuttings? And then have the guilt set in for letting it die in that jar on the windowsill waiting for it to sprout roots? Learning the art of propagating plants can be a real advantage to all gardeners. Kathleen will show us different methods of propagation which are influenced by origin, time of year, quantity of material, growth type, health and age of the motherstock. As a horticulture instructor and member of the International Plant Propagators Society, Kathleen Navarez has plenty of experience in propagation. In the latest issue of

*Fremontia*, Kathleen describes how she tried a certain method (contrary to current information) to propagate our native *Romneya coulteri* with great success. Kathleen's other passion is for the genus *Salvia* and she is involved with the collecting and growing of sages from around the world. So come learn how you can turn those cuttings into new beloved plants of your own.

**March 10: Sherri Osaka, Owner, Sustainable Landscape Designs, San Jose, CA** “Sustainable Landscapes”

**April 14: Deva Luna, Landscape Designer, Speaker, Master Gardener, Cupertino, CA** “Alternatives to Lawns”

**May 12: Rosemary Foster, Landscape Designer and Horticultural consultant, Carmel, CA**  
“Lester Rowntree: Contributions to Native Plant Horticulture”

Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; doors open at 7pm and meetings begin at 7:30. The location is at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Please also join our speaker for dinner prior to the meeting at Chef Chu's at 5:30pm at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Avenue. This is a terrific opportunity for our members to get to know each other better, and to get to chat with our speakers. Please call Pat Knight to confirm at 650-941-6136. 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 if you are interested.

The next newsletter deadline will be February 17th for the March newsletter. Please call or email Michelle Bosch (editor) at 650-363-9244 or michelle@hunzikers.org for newsletter content.

Please contact Steve Staiger at 650-851-2248 with any changes of address.



## 2009 WHS Founder's Award Winners

Barrie and Carol Coate are a most deserving couple honored last year with our Founders' Award. Barrie is a nationally known arborist; he has worked with many different departments within cities, counties, and states throughout the U.S. You won't find a more knowledgeable person on the subject of trees than Barrie Coate. Carol is a consummate plantsperson; she designs, consults and constructs. The funds from Saratoga Horticultural Foundation (over \$1 million) reached UC Davis and the goals established by SHF are continuing today through Carol's dedicated efforts. The Coates love rare plants and antiques, many of which our members have spotted while visiting their garden. WHS is very pleased and honored to add the Coates to the list of Founders' Award recipients for their time, knowledge and support through the years. ~ *Claudia Stopp*

## It's Getting Nearer! WHS Plant Sale - April 10

We now have the firm date of Saturday April 10 for our plant sale, and the location is Kelly Park in San Jose. Thank you to all who brought pots to the last meeting. We could still do with a few more shallow containers for our sedum dish gardens. If you have any to donate please bring them to the February meeting. All our plants are doing well helped by the mild temperatures and the generous amounts of rain. Keep yourselves fit and help our budget by continuing to pot up your garden beauties. Remember to use 1 gallon and 4 inch pots and make sure you record the names of your plants. Is anyone growing herbs? We could use a selection of these. We have a page on the website about the plant sale, too; see the link on the “home” page and under “events”. For any comments, advice or questions please call Pat Knight at (650)941-6136. ~ *Pat Knight*

The WHS is looking for someone to serve as a web support person to help our current webmaster, Pat Knight. If you are interested, please call Pat at (650)941-6136. Thank you!

## *More Western Hort Business and News...*

### **Raffle Table**

Thank you board members for all your contributions to the January raffle table. The selection was outstanding. Special thanks also to several contributing nurseries: Al's Nursery, Alluvial Terrace, Carman's Nursery and Terra Sole Nurseries. The February table is traditionally supplied by the general membership, so bring your plants, books and garden tools so we can fill another tempting raffle. In January we started a new sub-section to the raffle table, the silent auction table. This area is for donated items of considerable value. Donors should specify a starting bid on paper that will be provided. The winners of the silent auction items will be announced immediately before our traditional raffle starts.

### **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.

### **Hot Plant Picks**

WHS will be carrying the torch for the Hot Plant Picks display at the San Francisco Flower and Garden Show on March 24-28th. Volunteers will be the first to see the coolest and the newest of plants just coming to market. A clipboard went around at the January meeting for volunteers, if you didn't get a chance to sign up, call or email Nancy Schramm (408)847-2313, edgreenthumb@att.net. We will have a sign up sheet with time slots for staffing the display at our February WHS meeting.

~ Nancy Schramm

### **28 Years Ago**

On Monday, February 8, 1982, WHS met to hear Gladys Smith "tell us of 'The Flora of Caucasus', a mountain range in Southern Russia between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea--an area spoken of as the 'center of evolution'." The newsletter thanked nine local nurseries for their donations to the January raffle table. Sadly, some of these nurseries no longer exist, but two (Al's Nursery & Yamagami's Nursery) remain faithful contributors. Be sure to shop there and thank them for their continued support over the years. Notes from the plant discussion are fascinating, and not just because of the plants discussed. John Dixon brought in one of the 50 or 60 Sansevierias that he grows. (I had no idea there were so many!) "Dick Dunmire displayed several interesting and unfamiliar plants obtained from UC Santa Cruz Arboretum". Comments were made about whether these plants from Australia and other new introductions would prove to be worthwhile and hardy. Certainly the freeze of 1990 answered one of those questions! Worthwhile introductions from Australia continue through the Koala Blooms project. And finally, Betsy Clebsch brought in "yet another Salvia" which prompted Emily Brown to mention that she'd seen Betsy's "want ad" (for salvias) "in the journal". And now I want to know if that ad in the Pacific Hort Journal helped Betsy add to her collection 28 years ago? ~ Nancy Schramm



### **Commentary on Last Month's Speakers**

"A picture is worth a thousand words", but there was plenty of both from this month's speaker Saxon Holt, who presented us with a captivating topic, "The Aesthetics of Sustainability – What is 'Good' Garden Photography?" Mr. Holt used this night's presentation as a trial run for future presentations. With stunning visual examples of composition, color and light, Holt asked the important question – garden photography can be 'pretty' but can it tell the real story? The speaker felt that his job was to be authentic as well as informative. Thus, he further revealed examples on the screen which, besides showing excellent technical quality, had traits he believed were essential to good garden photography: inspiration, communication, authenticity and sustainability. Mr. Holt, who is also a gardener, felt that many garden photographs, however 'pretty' are too overwhelming to achieve in practical terms. Our speaker also pointed out that the conventional lawn can be 'right' or sustainable in the proper geographic location, such as Western Oregon, where rainfall is plentiful, but perhaps not in other places with water concerns. Holt also felt from experience that the good gardens he photographed had a purpose and a certain amount of maintenance. He added that aesthetics differ from person to person - making photography and gardening a truly unique experience for all of us. I think it's safe to say that after a presentation of gorgeous gardens on screen and thought-stimulating words on microphone, Saxon Holt's 'trial run' will be well received in future presentations. ~ Mark McCabe

**Annual Camellia Show & Sale** Saturday Feb. 13th 11am-5pm & Sunday Feb. 14th 11am-3pm Featuring many unusual camellias, on exhibit and for sale, by the San Francisco Peninsula Camellia Society. Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City

## ***More Western Hort Business...***

### **Annual General Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30pm by the new WHS president Richard Tiede. The necessary quorum of 25 plus members was present. The slate of officers for 2010 are as follows: President, Richard Tiede; Vice-President, Christine Bate; Recording Secretary, Mark McCabe; Treasurer, Steve Staiger. Leslie Dean will continue as the Pacific Hort Rep for the WHS. Recognized members leaving the board were Janice Gilmore, Patricia Knight, and Claudia Stopp. New members nominated to the board were Jon Craig and Daxin Liu, both of whom were unanimously approved by the voice vote. Recent winners of the Founders Award, Barry and Carol Coate, were also recognized.

Former Treasurer Claudia Stopp reviewed our membership and financial status. In a 5-year span, we have averaged 152 members, a good showing considering present economic circumstances. Our financial condition is excellent, with a January 2010 bank balance of \$13,188. We are now paying less in rental fees for our meetings, receiving extra money from our plant sales, raffle sales have been strong, and the 'Hot Plant Picks' fetched \$500.00.

Pacific Hort Rep Abby Garner announced the 2010 slate of officers for the organization. She also touched on some of the more important business that transpired during the year, which included a re-designed magazine, decreased publishing costs of \$1,500 per issue, a name change to the society, and a newsletter available on the web. She also mentioned that past talks and tours sponsored by Pac Hort were very successful.

All in all, it appears Western Hort is sound, both financially and structurally; this can't happen without you, our members. Perhaps this year, you will consider investing some time and talent to keep our society strong and growing. Who knows, you might learn something new, make new friends, and have fun!  
~ Mark McCabe

## ***Other Horticultural Events...***

### **Landscape Plants and Combinations Design Class**

Fran Adams, a certified landscape designer and longtime member of our organization, will be teaching Landscape Plants and Combinations at the Palo Alto Adult School. The course will introduce students to hundreds of ornamental plants that are particularly suitable to our area, and explain the principles involved in designing beautiful plant combinations. Classes will be Tuesday and Thursday evenings, February 23rd to March 11th, plus a field trip March 13th (7 sessions, \$98). To register call (650)329-3752 or visit [www.paadultschool.org](http://www.paadultschool.org).

### **Classes at Gamble Gardens, Palo Alto**

#### Beginning (Again) in the Garden with Hazel White

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10am-noon; Fee \$30 member, \$40 non-member; class limit 25. Location: Carriage house

#### Gardens of the Heart's Delight with Katsy Swan

Sunday, Feb. 28, 2-4pm; Fee \$30 member, \$40 non-member; class limit 25  
Location: Carriage House. To register, call Gamble Garden at (650)329-1356 weekdays from 9am to noon.

### **Free Rose Pruning Clinics All Month**

February 3rd, 6th, 10th, 13th, 17th, and 20th

Free rose pruning clinic every Wednesday and Saturday at 9am until February 20th at the Heritage Rose Garden on West Taylor (between Hwy 87 & Coleman Ave.) Call Volunteer Coordinator Lucy Perez at (408)298-7657 to sign up. Sponsored by the Friends of Guadalupe River Park & Gardens.

#### **Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members**

**President: Richard Tiede**

**Vice President: Christine Bate**

**Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe**

**Treasurer: Steve Staiger**

**Other Board Members: Kerry Barrs, Christine Bate, Michelle Bosch, Jon Craig, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Sherry Hall, Daxin Liu, Niki Muller, Nancy Schramm, Katie Wong**

**To contact us, please email us at: [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org)**

#### **Membership in Western Hort:**

**To join, send in your name, address, phone number and a check made out to:**

**Western Horticultural Society**

**PO Box 60507 Palo Alto, CA, 94306**

**Membership rates: A 1 year membership (Sept-Aug) of \$35 includes 4 issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine; Sustaining is \$45; Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a family membership rate of \$50 for two or more members of the same household, and a Student rate of \$20.**

**Please visit our web site at [www.westernhort.org](http://www.westernhort.org) for a membership form.**

### **February Classes at Common Grounds, Palo Alto**

#### **Sprouts Are Good**

Jody Main and Nancy Jamello Saturday, February 6 10:30-12:30  
\$31+\$10 materials fee

#### **Composting**

Mark House Saturday, February 13 10:30-12:30; \$31

#### **Fruit Tree Varieties for Our Area**

Nancy Garrison Saturday, February 20 10:30-12:30; \$31

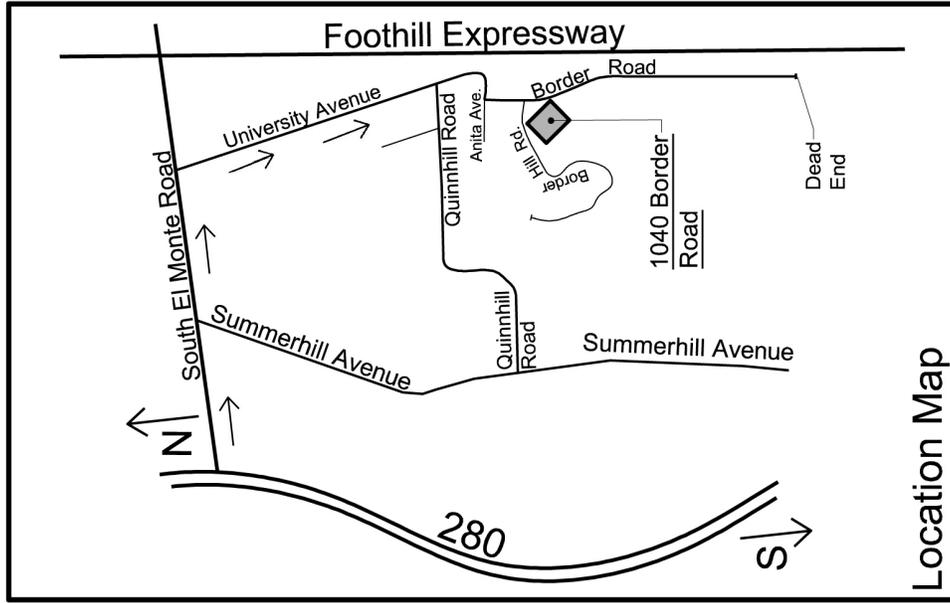
#### **Introduction To Grow Biointensive**

John Jeavons Saturday, February 27 10:30-12:30+; \$31

#### **Companion Planting**

John Jeavons Saturday, February 27 2-4pm+; \$31

To register for classes call (650)493-6072. Seniors and low-income persons may request a \$4 discount on classes.



Location Map

Western Horticultural Society  
 Monthly Meeting  
 Christ Episcopal Church  
 1040 Border Road, Los Altos

VISIT US AT [WWW.WESTERNHORT.ORG](http://WWW.WESTERNHORT.ORG)


 Western Horticultural Society  
 PO Box 60507  
 Palo Alto, California  
 First Class Mail