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

April 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Christy O'Hara, Landscape Architecture Department California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

"Hearst Castle: The History and Design of the Gardens"

Hearst Castle was a decades-long collaboration between William Randolph Hearst and his architect, Julia Morgan. Appreciation of their work often focuses on the architecture, but the landscape architecture ties together the



Christy O'Hara. *Photo:* http://landscape.calpoly.edu

buildings with the site. Like the intense attention to detail in buildings, the gardens at Hearst Castle represent an equally intense design in the hardscape and weaving together native and ornamental plants into a sensuous California experience.



Rose at Hearst Castle.

Photo by Kenneth Moore, flickr.com

Christy Edstrom O'Hara received her Bachelor's degree from Stanford University in English and Art History and Master's from the University of Washington in Landscape Architecture and Preservation Planning. In 2002, she received the Douglas Dockery Thomas Fellowship in Garden History, studying the regional design of Palos Verdes Estates and Balboa Park. Prof. O'Hara has lectured both nationally and internationally on landscape preservation as well as its application to sustainable landscape design and construction. Her current research focuses on the California work of the Olmsted firm, especially the Olmsted brothers, and their approach to regionalism.

In addition to teaching, Prof. O'Hara's expertise includes the specialty niche of consulting on the restoration and preservation of historic landscapes by writing National Register Nominations, Cultural Landscape reports, as well as restoration and rehabilitation plans for such projects as Rancho los Alamitos (Long Beach, CA), Mountain View Cemetery (Piedmont, CA), Malaga Cove Park (Palos Verdes Estates, CA), Righetti House (San Luis Obispo), and Hollywood Bungalow Courtyards (North Hollywood, CA). She is on the advisory board for the restoration of the Dana Adobe in Nipomo, CA, board member with the California Garden and Landscape History Society, and trustee for the National Association of Olmsted Parks. Prof. O'Hara views history and contemporary design as companion ideas where history provides the framework for understanding the direction of the field of landscape architecture.

Prof. O'Hara teaches courses on Landscape Interpretation, Cultural Landscape Design, Historic Preservation of Landscapes, Design Fundamentals and Contemporary Design Practice.



PETER TEA, local Bay Area bonsai artist, began his bonsai career with Boon Manakitivitpart in 2003. After a intensive 3-year program with Boon, he traveled to Japan to study full-time under Junichiro Tanaka at Aichien Bonsai Garden. Please join us to welcome Peter back to the Bay Area!

Plant Table at April 9 Meeting

It's time to auction the Hot Plant Picks! Fresh from their debut at the San Fransisco Flower & Garden Show, these beauties await you. Come check them out and bring the checkbook! ~Roberta Barnes

Plant Sale April 12th We will be having our annual fundraiser at the Spring Garden Market in History San Jose. We still have room for more volunteers to help staff our booth. Call Roberta Barnes if you would like to help. Also, the week before the sale, plant propagators can bring their plants to Roberta Barnes' driveway at 155 Alvarado Ave, Los Altos. Or, they can bring the plants to the April 9 general meeting. ~Roberta Barnes

May 2014 Speaker Wednesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. MARTIN GRANTHAM, Biology Department, San Francisco State University. "Ferns for the California Garden and Under a Microscope."

Everyone is a Scientist: Be a Scientist on May 8 & Help UC Collect Data

The University of California is conducting three science projects on May 8, 2014 and we need your help collecting data. Pick one of the projects below to learn more about how you can participate.

Note: You must make observations on May 8. That day has been designated "a snapshot in time" to gather information on:

- 1. **POLLINATORS** Food depends on pollinators. For three minutes, count how many you see.
- 2. **WATER** In this record drought, UC has committed to reducing its water consumption by 20%. How are you conserving?
- 3. **FOOD** Where is food grown in your community? Fill out our California food map.

On May 8, go to http://beascientist.ucanr.edu and enter your information. Help UC build a more secure future for us all, as we work together to nurture our environment.

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Speaker Notes—March 2014, Andrew Sutherland

Invasion. The very word conjures up an image of warfare, of epic battles such as the Crusades, the War of 1812, or perhaps D-Day. Yet presently, a war against unwanted incursions is being fought in our backyards, according to our guest speaker Andrew Sutherland, Bay Area IPM Advisor. "Invasive Pest Species and the Urban Landscape" was the topic, and it was a fact- (and fun-) filled evening of information. Dr. Sutherland, the first *urban* pest advisor hired by the state, placed the emphasis of his talk on insect pests in urban settings and the impact they are having on the state's ecology.

A polished and engaging speaker, Dr. Sutherland kept the audience on their toes with slides and periodic interactive polls which tested our knowledge on the given subject. I'd say by the end of the evening, our speaker was rather impressed with our general knowledge, as we certainly were by his.

Dr. Sutherland began his presentation by defining the ecology of pest invasions, which simply is the extension of a species' range to areas not previously occupied by that species. Not all "invasions" are bad, our speaker pointed out, noting most all of the plant foods we eat are exotic. Invasive pests, on the other hand, are of significant concern. Lack of natural enemies and underdeveloped host defenses aid the spread of these unwanted guests, leading to undesirable consequences such as trade restrictions and increased pesticide use.

About six significant new pests invade California each year, Dr. Sutherland warned us. Some of the causes he listed were high population density, a growing international community, and greater rates of global travel. With about 50,000 international flights throughout the world occurring daily, it's no small wonder there are bugs at the border! Other routes of entry, however inadvertent the cause, could be firewood, ballast, water, soil, furniture, or pet trade.

Dr. Sutherland gave us some tactics to fight off theses nasty invaders. As an IPM Specialist, he listed the central tenets of Integrated Pest Management: education, prevention, monitoring, treatment thresholds, multiple tactics, integration, and evaluation. Dr. Sutherland added that pesticides, though sometimes necessary, should be considered a last resort. Biological control shows promise in some cases, as well as sound practices such as obtaining certified trees and budwood from reputable nurseries. Our speaker left us with a "Call to Action"—educating the public and remaining vigilant, something all of us WHS members are capable of doing. ~Mark McCabe



Going Native Garden Tour 2014

North: Saturday, April 26, 2014, 10:00am to 4:00pm South: Sunday, April 27, 2014, 10:00am to 4:00pm

A free tour of native gardens in Santa Clara Valley & Peninsula, San Francisco Bay Area.

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.

Free but registration required: please see http://gngt.org

Western Hort Memories, Part V Please see our online newsletter archive,

http://westernhort.org, for Parts I—IV. Look for the December 2013, January 2014, February 2014, and March 2014 issues. Thanks to our website guru and archivist, Pat Knight! Compiled by Nancy Schramm.

Nancy Schramm: In celebration of the 50th 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. **Questions:** 1—How did you hear about and join Western Hort? 2—Favorite meetings or memories? 3—Have you made special friends because of WHS?

Roberta Barnes is one of our board members, and most ably organizes the plant table. In addition she is part of the plant sale organizing team, as well as helping break down the Hot Plant Picks exhibit and baby-sitting many of the plants until our silent auction. She wrote:

When I first started working as a fine gardener, I did most of my plant buying at Garden Supply in Los Altos. Over time I got to know the nursery staff. Sherry Austin was working there at the time and she would always remind people when there was a Western Hort meeting. So, rather inconsistently, I started going to meetings. At that time, meetings were being held at Loyola School's multipurpose room. I remember how difficult it was at first to translate the botanical names being used at meetings into the common names that I was familiar with!

In retrospect, the raffle table was probably what kept me coming back. I was gradually landscaping my yard and there were always great plants on the raffle table. When I became a board member a couple of years ago, Nancy was retiring from the raffle table. She was trying to recruit someone to take it over for her. I was quick to volunteer for the position and I have enjoyed being involved in what we now call the plant table.



Roberta's *Ribes sanguineum* 'White Icicle', March 2014 Plant Discussion. *Photo: Marianne Mueller*.



Roberta at the March 2014 Plant Discussion. *Photo: Marianne Mueller*.

Some of my favorite speakers have been people who combine a love of plants with an eye for design. I remember when Jeff Rosendale came and talked. This was when we were still meeting at Loyola. I have always been a fan of his nursery, Sierra Azul, and I was very excited to hear him speak about his favorite plants. Other speakers that have been exciting to me have been Marcia Donahue and Roz Creasy. How fortunate we are to have such passionate and creative gardeners come speak at our meetings.

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Memories Part V continued from page 3

My commitment to WHS deepened when I became a Master Gardener 10 years ago. As a new Master Gardener, Susan Bouchez was my mentor. Once again, I had someone reminding me of meetings. Then, I discovered that many Master Gardeners are also Western Hort members. It became fun to go to meetings. I could see my gardening friends, listen to an interesting speaker and get plants from the raffle table. What could be better! Becoming a board member has been my latest commitment. It is my way of giving back to WHS for all that I have learned over the years at meetings. I've enjoyed meeting other board members and helping with the running of committees. There are openings for prospective board members, think about joining us!

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Claudia Stopp is a former board member, treasurer, and one of the team (along with Bill Kurtz) who put so much time and effort into creating our Annual Founders' Award. She wrote:

Nancy, I first read of WHS in the San Jose Mercury and decided to check it out. I attended quite a few meetings before I officially joined. I do not recall when I first attended, but it was, I believe, in 2000.

2—Memories - I truly enjoyed being Treasurer, but happily relinquished it. I especially enjoyed several of our picnics - The gardens we visited on those occasions; Faith Duhring's home, Patti Hughes place, Maison du Lac on Summit Road and Barrie & Carol Coate's gardens, also on Summit Road.

3—I feel I have become close to Chris Egan along with many other acquaintances.



Pelargonium echinatum, Prickly-Stemmed Pelargonium. March 2014 Plant Discussion. Photo: Marianne Mueller.

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I first got to know **Cheryl Renshaw** when she offered to do some sidewalk art as a prize when we were doing some fund-raising brain-storming during my tenure as a board member. Since then she's cheerfully helped when needed, and especially with the Hot Plant Picks exhibit—from soliciting and picking up plants to doing paperwork for the plant labels. She wrote:

- 1—I first heard of WHS while attending Foothill's horticulture program (1999-2002); I probably heard of it a few years earlier than that from Bracey Tiede while working with her at the Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose, but I don't remember it "sticking" before I was at Foothill. I joined in the fall of 2001 (also when I started volunteering for Gamble Garden).
- 2—I remember a number of great speakers, but the memory that stands out for me is probably last year's forum with Dick Dunmire and Barry Coate. Dick kept Barry—and the rest of us—in stitches with his dry wit, and I really enjoyed learning the history of these two legends.
- 3—I have been fortunate to meet so many wonderful people through WHS, starting with you, Nancy, and Sherry and John Hall. And I've gotten to know others better than I would have without WHS, such as Betsy Clebsch and the Tiedes. I'm afraid of naming too many names for fear of leaving off someone important to me.

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Daxin Liu is a board member and our current treasurer. He has a particular love of and knowledge about plants from China, which is obvious from the fascinating plants he brings in for discussion. He wrote:

The first WHS meeting I went to was a talk by Luen Miller from Monterey Bay Nursery about flowering triggers. I remember that it was held at Covington school in Los Altos but I do not remember when, maybe 2005? (It was Feb 2006--ed)I do not recall where I learned about WHS or that talk, the garden section of Mercury News most likely. I joined WHS in September 2008.

It is very hard to pick one moment as my favorite memory with WHS, but getting to know Dick Dunmire is definitely rated near the top. I had been reading Sunset Western Garden Book entry by entry for a while before I joined WHS. Dick is so knowledgeable, friendly, and witty.

Again too many good friends through WHS. Everyone here is so enthusiastic about plants and horticulture. It is just a great organization that I am proud to be part of.

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Abby Garner has an infectious enthusiasm for both plants and friendship. She has no fear of hard work, and is one of our Pacific Horticulture representatives. She wrote:

1—My first WH meeting was Carol Bornstein in 2006 or 2007? (Sept 2007—ed.) I was told by Chris Egan that it would be fun. I came and was completely taken by the plant talk before Carol spoke. Her talk was good but the members talking about their special plants was the hit for me.

2—In most recent talks I loved the talk by Ernesto Sandavol and Matt Ritter. Both were so engaging and spoke of plants that really interested me. I have never been very interested in trees but Matt Ritter made me a convert.

3—I have several exceptional friends from WH members. It has been an honor to be introduced to so many wonderful people some of which have become lifelong friends.



Aquilegia vulgaris, 'Winky Double Red White' Columbine, Hot Plant Picks 2014 at SFFGS.

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$28\ Years\ Ago\ {\tt Western\ Hort\ met\ on\ April\ 9^{th},\ 1986:\ "Ed}$

Carman, a longtime member of WHS, nurseryman from Los Gatos, and friend to many of us, will enlighten our membership with a talk and slide show about "Perennials for California". No need to tell you about Ed's expertise and excellent slides—you know it's going to be good! Bring your friends for a real treat."

Other newsletter announcements: A field trip on April 13th to see Emily Brown's garden in Hillsborough, a Friends of Pacific Horticulture sponsored field trip on May 17th to Ruth Bancroft's garden in Walnut Creek, a symposium on old roses at the U.C. Botanical Garden in Berkeley May 16-18, and Elizabeth Garbett was asking for a few more volunteers to staff the WHS booth at the San Francisco Landscape Garden Show at Fort Mason, April 16-21.

The plant notes included discussion of a number of plants with dramatically colored new spring growth. "In the spring the new leaves of many plants appear red, a condition that comes about because the plant has not yet produced enough chlorophyll to mask the red and yellow pigments that are also present in the leaves." Aralia elata 'Albovariegata', Pieris x 'Forest Flame', Corylus avellana 'Fusca Rubra', Cotinus coggygria 'Purpurea' or 'Willmottiae', Spiraea x bumalda 'Gold Flame' and Dryopteris erythrosora were all on display.

Not to be left out were plants sporting their spring blooms: Azalea 'Snowbird' & A. 'Ben Morrison', Eriogonum umbellatum, Crassula multicava, Centaurea montana 'Coerulea', Iris cristata and "I. tectorum, Japanese roof iris. (A story goes that centuries ago when a famine stuck Japan, the emperor decreed that land must be devoted only to growing food, not flowers. Dismayed by the edict because they used the roots of this iris to shampoo their hair, the women then planted the iris in the thatched roof of their houses, and that is how the plant got its name.)". ~Nancy Schramm



Ledebouria cooperi. *Photo: Marianne Mueller*.

Western Horticultural Society

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President: Richard Tiede Vice President: Judy Wong Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie

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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, 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

Please send info for the May 2014 newsletter by April 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

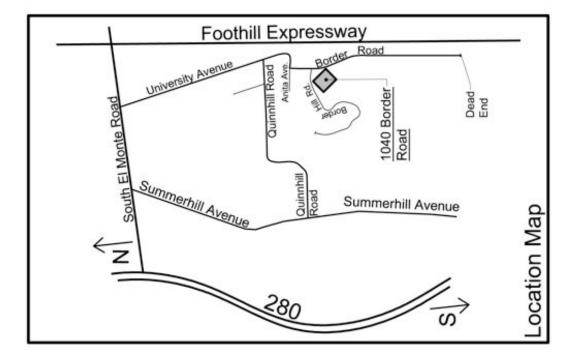
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507 Palo Alto, CA 94306

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

MEETING LOCATION Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 104 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

Join our speaker Christy O'Hara and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 9, at Bella Vita restaurant in Los Altos, 376 First St, Los Altos. Plenty of nearby street parking. Please RSVF to Rosalie Shepherd: 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.