

April
2010



Western Horticultural Society

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

WHS April Speaker

April 14: Deva Luna, Landscape Designer, Speaker, Master Gardener, Cupertino, CA

“Alternatives to Lawns”

Tired of your lawn, but don't know what to put in instead? Come to this talk and be inspired to create a beautiful yard – no more mowing, edging or fertilizing! See a variety of no-lawn landscaping styles and ideas, get professional landscaping tips, and practical how-to notes on lawn removal. Sustainable landscape designer Deva Luna works for

EarthCare Landscaping, and has been teaching gardening for 12 years. She loves to help people remove lawns, increase habitat, and save water! Deva is the coordinator of the Santa Clara Teaching Garden and her interests include graywater systems, edible landscaping, California natives, medicinal uses of herbs, grafting and quirky garden art. She has a degree in Plants and Art from UC Davis.

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 April 21st for the May 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.



The Big Day is Here! The WHS Plant Sale

Saturday April 10 9am-2pm at Kelly Park, 1650 Senter Road, San Jose

For driving directions see our website www.westernhort.org and follow the “Plant Sale” link. On Thursday April 8 please take your plants to either Leslie Dean (650-966-8364) or Elizabeth Garrett (650-948-4001). Remember to include as much information as possible on your plants. Plant information sheets can be downloaded from the WHS website on the “Plant Sale” page. The Master Gardeners’ Spring Garden Market is lots of fun. While there you can choose from 80 different varieties of tomato plants! Besides the WHS stand there will be many interesting vendors including our own Sherry Hall, (Terra Sole Nursery) and Nancy Schramm, (Carman’s Nursery). Come and join us for interesting plants and garden activities! ~ Pat Knight

WHS Field Trip at Quarryhill Botanical Garden

Our field trip of the year will be at the Quarryhill Botanical Garden in Glenn Ellen. Quarryhill is home to one of the largest scientifically documented, wild-source Asian plant collections in North America and Europe, many of which represent ancestors of horticultural favorites found throughout the western world. Visit their site: www.quarryhillbg.org. We will be having a very knowledgeable Docent to lead our tour—it could be Bill McNamara himself if he gets back from China on time. Be sure to bring your lunch—see you on the 17th!

To sign up, please email Janice Gillmore at janicegillmore@yahoo.com or phone (408)867-9428. We plan to carpool.

Details: Saturday April 17th, 10am-2pm.

There is a \$5.00 required deposit which will go toward the admission fee, which is \$10.00.

28 Years Ago...

Looking back an extra month; in March 1982 WHS was fortunate to hear Lester Hawkins speak on “Drought Resistant Border Plants.” Hawkins and Marshall Olbrich were co-owners of Western Hills Nursery, and “...many of us can't get enough visits to this marvelous nursery/garden, where unusual plants from Mediterranean climates of the world are introduced, grown, displayed and sold.” Unfortunately hard times have hit the gentlemen who had hoped to be able to save the nursery. I'm sure we all wish them the best and have our fingers crossed for the preservation of all the marvelous plant material. ~ Nancy Schramm

More Western Hort Business and News...

Raffle Table

Our March table was full of some great plants, thanks to donations from both members and the following nurseries: Sakamoto Plants in Los Gatos (408)356-3864 is worth a visit not only for specimen plants, but for planted and empty containers as well. Alluvial Terrace Nursery (415)517-7693 grows many hard to find trees, and Carman's Nursery (408)847-2313 has a lot of little treasures. Coming to the raffle table in April: **2nd annual Hot Plant Picks Silent Auction!**

CEU Credits

The CANGC is no longer requiring CEU's from their CCN Pro's, but we still offer CEU's for the Association of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). ~ *Nancy Schramm*

Hot Plant Picks

I hope everyone was able to attend the SF Flower & Garden Show in March and see what a tremendous display of plants our volunteer members assembled for the Hot Plant Picks exhibit. Since this was our first year to present the exhibit, we had a lot to learn, but the plants were definitely exciting to see. It was a team effort all around, and would not have happened without Sherry Hall and Judy Mulenburg. Other volunteers helped gather plants, deliver them to the show and set up the display; some filled out information forms and will be sending thank-you's to all the donating nurseries. 38 volunteers staffed the exhibit during the show, coming from WHS, Cal Hort, Foothill and Diablo Valley Colleges, and the California Rare Fruit Growers. I'd like to thank everyone who stepped right in to help out when asked! ***Be sure to attend the April 14th WHS meeting where we will be having a silent auction of these wonderful and cool plants!*** Bring your friends and spread the word--there will be over 100 plants from which to choose! ~ *Nancy Schramm*

Commentary on Last Month's Speakers

Even with the year's "average" rainfall totals seemingly on the mark, the wise concern now, as in the future, will be about water. Sherri Osaka, owner of Sustainable Landscape Designs, drove the point home in her presentation 'Sustainable, Water-efficient Landscapes.' Ms. Osaka began her talk with simple suggestions for the average homeowner; using statistics of consumption, like 30% of a household's water use for gardening, she proposed starting at the water meter and checking for possible leaks. Learning to read and understand your water meter is imperative to sound water conservation. She delved further into landscape design practices such as eliminating high water-consuming trees such a birch, alder and redwood, the importance of hydro-zoning (grouping plants of like water usage wherever possible), and the effectiveness of drip irrigation.

Our Speaker cited a study where effectiveness of water savings according to the type of application was conducted. Hand watering was the winner, using 33% less water than spray irrigation. In addition, automatic watering of landscapes used 47% more water than manual. Clearly, irrigation controller management needs refinement.

Rounding out the evening's program, Ms. Osaka touched on the current sustainable landscape practices we should all be considering. Among these were the use of native plants, the installation of 'smart' irrigation controllers, and the application of compost and compost tea to our gardens. She also stressed the importance of healthy soils, which hold and drain water better as well as contain a thriving biology, which makes for healthier and happier plants. ~ *Mark McCabe*

Donation to WHS

The WHS has received a \$100 donation from James Cape as a thank you to us for helping him with the plant sale last Fall at Rosalie Cape's house in San Jose. I know several of us also bought plants and other garden items during the sale. And thanks again to everyone who participated at the sale. ~ *Richard Tiede*

Other Horticultural Events...

Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies: Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden

The Pacific Horticultural Foundation invites you to join us in Pasadena on September 23-26, 2010 for an inspiring and thought-provoking symposium titled *Gardening Under Mediterranean Skies: Style & Whimsy in the Sustainable Garden*. There is always room for fun and charm and joy in the garden, and this symposium will be a welcome break from the more serious-minded programs that are rarely focused on the lighthearted side of gardening in harmony with our climate. Nine engaging speakers will show you how to increase the fun and style in your garden. Bus tours to nine exceptional private gardens will demonstrate how personal and artistic a garden can be without necessarily breaking the bank and while following sustainable garden practices. Yes – it can be done, and we'll show you how!

For details & registration e-mail: symposium@PacificHorticulture.org or call (760)295-2173.

Other Horticultural Events...

7th Annual Bay-Friendly Garden Tour

Saturday April 24th, 10am-4pm

A self-drive tour featuring over 40 public and private gardens throughout Alameda County, all demonstrating some aspect of sustainable approaches to gardening that will not harm the ecology of the Bay; registration is free but required online before April 15; visit bayfriendly.org or call (510)444-7645 to register.



38th Annual Wildflower Show

Saturday & Sunday, April 24 & 25, 10am-4pm

The region's premier botanical/horticultural event displays over 400 species of wildflowers and native plants, each accurately labeled, many suitable for the home garden. Free classes on native plant identification, growing wildflowers, gardening with native plants. Location: Mission College, MT Buildings, 3000 Mission College Boulevard, Santa Clara. Parking free in Lot C only. For more information, visit www.cnps-scv.org, email cnps_scv@yahoo.com, or call (650) 260-3450.



Woodside-Atherton Garden Club Plant Sale

Saturday, April 24, 9am-2pm at the Woodside Library Native Plant Garden, 3140 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA. Questions? Call (650)366-4826 or email WAG-Cplantsale@yahoo.com. Hundreds of Native plants, kitchen plants, heirloom roses, free lectures and demonstrations about how to succeed in our gardens. Flora Grubb speaks about Mediterranean gardens at 12pm; demonstrations include How to Attract Pollinators and What to Plant under Oak Trees.

8th Annual Going Native Garden Tour

Sunday April 18th, 10am-4pm

More and more Bay Area homeowners are turning to California native plants to save water and make their gardens aesthetically pleasing, attractive to birds and butterflies, and low maintenance. You can visit gardens landscaped with California native plants on this annual tour. Free admission; Registration required before April 17th at www.GoingNativeGardenTour.org.

New! California State Flower & Garden Show

April 8th, 9th, 10th & 11th

A new garden show at the Cal Expo Center in Sacramento, featuring garden and horticulture displays, floral arrangements, seminars and workshops, activities for all ages, and a marketplace for plants of all kinds; visit the website for details at www.calstategardenshow.com or call (559)322-2211



Gamble Gardens 25th Annual Spring Tour - Masterful Gardens Over Twenty-Five Years

Friday, April 23th & Saturday, April 24th, 10am-4pm at 1431 Waverley Street, Palo Alto (650)329-1356

Fee \$35.00; \$40 day of tour. Luncheon for \$15, reserved in advance.

This year's Spring Tour also honors the 25th Anniversary of Gamble Garden. There are two clusters of gardens for easy viewing across the city. Three gardens in Old Palo Alto are an easy drive or a leisurely walk between them. The second cluster of gardens is in Crescent Park, easily within walking distance of one another. There will be a gourmet box lunch available by pre-order, complimentary iced tea, cookies, and coffee cart, as well as crepe desserts available for purchase. See <http://www.gamblegarden.org/events/springTour.html> for more info.

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

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 for a membership form.

April Classes at Common Grounds, Palo Alto

Bountiful Spring - Medicinal Plants of California, Tellur Fenner
Saturday, April 3 10:30-5:30pm; \$65

Grafting. James Kern
Saturday, April 10 10:30-12:30pm; \$35

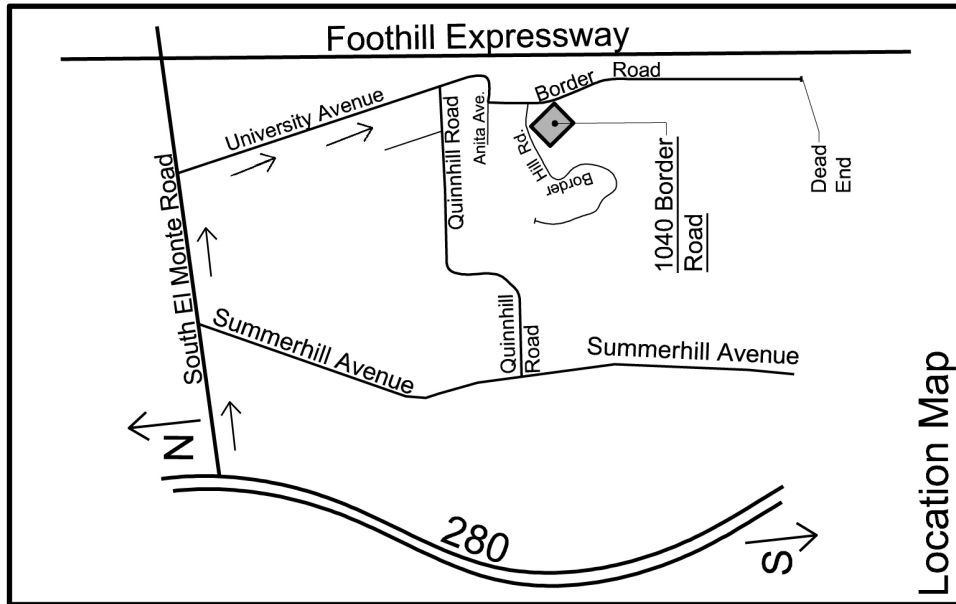
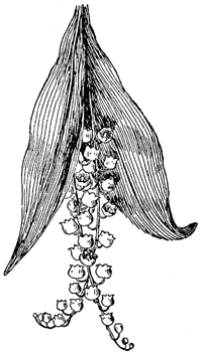
Start and Earth Day Salad Garden
Jody Main
Saturday, April 17 10:30-12:30pm
\$31 + \$5 materials fee

Complete-Diet Mini-farming
John Jeavons
Saturday, April 17 2-4pm + \$31

Eat Your Landscape, Nancy Garrison
Saturday, April 24 10:30-12:30pm; \$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



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, California
First Class Mail