

January
2010



Western Horticultural Society

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

WHS January Speaker

January 13: Saxon Holt, Garden and Horticulture Photography, CA “**The Aesthetics of Sustainability—What is ‘Good’ Garden Photography?**”

If you don't recognize the name Saxon Holt you surely have seen his work. Saxon's photographs have been featured in a number of diverse publications from Architectural Digest to Pacific Horticulture Magazine and with the help of fellow photographer, Joseph Greco, he maintains the PhotoBotanic garden library of more than 200,000 garden photographs. www.photobotanic.com.

A life-long gardener, Saxon Holt spent his professional time as a commercial photographer in San Francisco until 1985 when he discovered the gardening market and could no longer stay indoors. His work has more and more focused on the relationship between gardens and the land.

He has been the sole photographer for 21 garden books. His last two books, Hardy Succulents with Gwen Kelaidis (Storey 2008) and Plants and Landscapes for Summer-Dry Climates (EBMUD 2005) have won double awards from both The American Horticulture Society and Garden Writers of America.



He also was the photographer of Grasses (Storey 2002), with Nancy Ondra, and has just completed The American Meadow Garden with John Greenlee (Timber Press, fall 2009). His photographs are so luscious that a fan describes them as “garden porn.” Come learn the techniques of good garden photography and how to look at your garden in a new light.

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

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

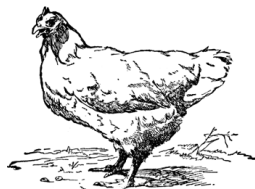
April 14: Deva Luna, Landscape Designer, Speaker, Master Gardener, Cupertino, CA “Alternatives to Lawns”

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

We Wish You a Very Happy New Year!

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 January 20th for the February 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.



Letter from our Outgoing President

To all Western Hort members: Janice Gilmore, Pat Knight and Claudia Stopp are retiring from the board. They have contributed so much to the club, including new ideas, hours of work and endless willingness to serve; they will be sorely missed. At the general meeting in January we will elect new board members; Jon Craig, Daxin Liu and Steve Staiger have been nominated. Election of new board officers will be at the January Board meeting. The following people have been nominated as board officers: Richard Tiede, President; Christine Bate, Vice President; Mark McCabe, Secretary; and Steve Staiger, Treasurer. Leslie Dean has been nominated to continue as our Pac Hort representative, as well.

My term of office ends in January, and I want to thank you for the wonderful experience I had as your President. Your support and encouragement made the job a joy. ~ *Chris Egan*

Call for Planters!

The plant propagation group has some wonderful succulents and now needs shallow planters to plant as dish gardens. Anything ceramic (or even other materials) about 2-4" high and 6 or more inches wide; any color or design. Do not worry about a drainage hole, we can drill them if needed. Please bring them to the next meeting. As the days grow longer keep your eyes on the goal, the sale in April. There is still time to divide plants. As you weed, check to see if you have any volunteers from your garden plants that you can pot up. Happy Gardening! ~ *Pat Knight*

More Western Hort Business and News...

Raffle Table

Our January raffle table is traditionally supplied by the board, but we gladly accept donations from the general membership as well. Keep WHS in mind if you've gotten a plant related gift that you just can't use. We don't complain about re-gifting!

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

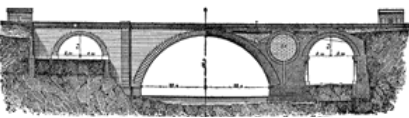
On January 11, 1982, WHS met to hear member Timmie Galagher talk about "The History and Flora of South Africa". It was a two-for-one night, since Rose Hand brought slides to show from her recent trip to South Africa.

Blooming plants on the discussion table included *Daphne odora*, *Prunus mume* and three kinds of *Hellebore*. Albert Wilson brought in a kumquat branch loaded with fruit.

I also found the Jan 20th board meeting minutes interesting: It was announced that membership renewals totaled 132, there were 22 new members, with a final count expected up to 178. Ideas for the June picnic included a visit to Hakone Gardens with a catered Japanese meal. The board also commented that the membership was always interested in practical information, and planned on asking Mabel Crittenden to present more of her 5 minute talks. Also, a new member, ag inspector Floyd Sampson, might be asked for a 5 minute presentation on seasonal pest problems and controls. ~ *Nancy Schramm*



Bridge for Sale



WHS member Claudia Stopp has a cedar wood bridge for sale that is 7-1/2 ft. long, 30" wide, with posts that are 44" high. Would be great for a dry stream bed! She is asking \$300; call Claudia @ 408-370-6936 or email topstop47@att.net if you are interested. Thank you!

“Weather means more when you have a garden. There's nothing like listening to a shower and thinking how it is soaking in around your green beans.”

~ *Marcelene Cox*



New: Commentary on Last Month's Speakers

It is not often that WHS members are treated to an evening of sumptuous food and drink, followed by a captivating presentation. That's exactly what happened at our annual holiday fest, when fourth-generation nurseryman Aaron Dillon of Four Winds Growers of Fremont delivered his talk 'Nursery History in the Bay Area During the Post-War Era.' While that sounds like a mouthful, the main point of his presentation was identifying the key factors of change in the California nursery industry after World War II.

With favorable soils and climate, and an abundance of land, the golden state's nursery industry changed from agricultural offerings to a more horticultural industry, with ornamentals leading the way. Names like Smith, Rock, Burbank and Coates paved the way from in-ground growing to containerization, which began in about 1930. Dillon illustrated the drastic changes we have experienced since the war with examples of victory gardens, the interstate highway system, and urban sprawl. The development of the 'garden center', largely credited to landscape architect Ernest Wertheim, also began in this time period, the 1950's.

While the purpose of Aaron's 'Nursery History' documentation was to obtain his master's degree in geography, one couldn't help but notice his personal enjoyment and enthusiasm during the lecture. As a lover of history myself, his observations and comments struck a note with me, as having borne witness to changes in our homes, gardens, population, and economy. A look at the past gives us a glimpse of the future. More people with a higher median age, smaller yards and new housing developments around transit centers are the latest forecast, all with their own challenges and opportunities. Yet whatever history has and will show about ourselves and the world around us, we can be assured of one thing – man's unending love of plants, gardening and the people who care for the earth. ~ *Mark McCabe*

Other Horticultural Events...

Peninsula Orchid Society Show and Sale

Saturday and Sunday January 23 & 24th 10am-5pm
Featuring displays of magnificent orchids plus vendor and member sales.

Location: Community Activities Building, 1400 Roosevelt Avenue, Redwood City. Fee: \$5.00; seniors, disabled, and children 12-16 \$3.00.



Attracting Native Bees to Your Yard

Saturday January 16th, 10am-12:30pm



A lecture with entomologist and bee expert Dr Gordon Frankie.
Location: San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum
9th Avenue at Lincoln Way, San Francisco.
Fee: \$25. Call (415)661-1316 to register (pre-registration required.)

Aesthetic Pruning in Early Spring with Chris Ingram

Saturday, February 6, 9:30-11:30am

Fee: \$25 member, \$35 non-member; class limit 25. Location: Carriage House
Pruning trees and shrubs can dramatically enhance the beauty and value of your landscape, while improving the overall health of your plants.

To register, call Gamble Garden at (650)329-1356 weekdays from 9am to noon.

California Rare Fruit Growers

The CRFG scion exchange will be held January 9th at Prusch Park, corner of King and Story in San Jose. Everyone is invited to this free event from 11am-3pm. Members of the statewide organization may arrive at 10am. There will be grafting demonstrations during the day. It is free, but donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information call or email Nancy Garrison (408)298-5828, nancyg2@aol.com.

An 'Extinct' Manzanita Rediscovered

In the middle of December, a native manzanita that was considered to be extinct in the wild was found growing near the Golden Gate Bridge. *Arctostaphylos bookeri* spp. *francisciana* was found by botanist Daniel Gluesenkamp as he drove over the Golden Gate Bridge; he later visited the site to confirm his sighting, which was the first in nearly 70 years. According to newspaper articles, the last wild Franciscan Manzanita was removed in the 1940s to allow for neighborhood expansion in San Francisco. But when construction crews recently cleared eucalyptus trees in the city's Presidio area, it exposed the only specimen known to exist in the wild.

I found the re-discovery of this plant very interesting, and in doing a little research, I can across the following information from the CPC National Collection Plant Profile website:

“The Franciscan Manzanita was historically known to exist in three populations in San Francisco, two in cemeteries and one at Mt. Davidson. Unfortunately for this plant, it was found on lands that were highly valued for commercial and residential property in the rapidly expanding city of San Francisco. As a result, these three sites had been developed even by 1978, despite efforts by one woman in particular, Lester Roundtree, who lobbied intensely for one of the cemeteries to be maintained as a park in order to preserve this beautiful plant and its unique habitat. In a strange twist of fate, this plant now exists only in botanic gardens and home gardens. Those individuals who lobbied for the plants protection began propagating the species in the 1940's, an initiative that was spearheaded by Louis L. Edmunds of Danville. Mr. Edmunds was successful in his propagation efforts, producing plants that formed visually interesting mats three to four feet broad and six to eight inches high that were capable of surviving the dry California summer with absolutely no water. (Schmidt 1978)”

I wanted to mention this in our newsletter because our upcoming May speaker, Rosemary Foster, will be talking about Lester Roundtree and her contributions to the horticulture of native plants; I am sure that Lester would have been very pleased to hear that the manzanita she tried to save has been rediscovered in the wild after all of these years. ~ Michelle Bosch

Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Chris Egan

Vice President: TBD

Recording Secretary: Judy Mulenberg

Treasurer: Claudia Stopp

Other Board Members: Kerry Barrs, Christine Bate, Michelle Bond, Abby Garner, Janice Gillmore, Sherry Hall, Patricia Knight, Mark McCabe, Niki Muller, Nancy Schramm, Richard Tiede, Katie Wong

To contact us, please email us at:
info@westernhort.org

Membership in Western Hort:

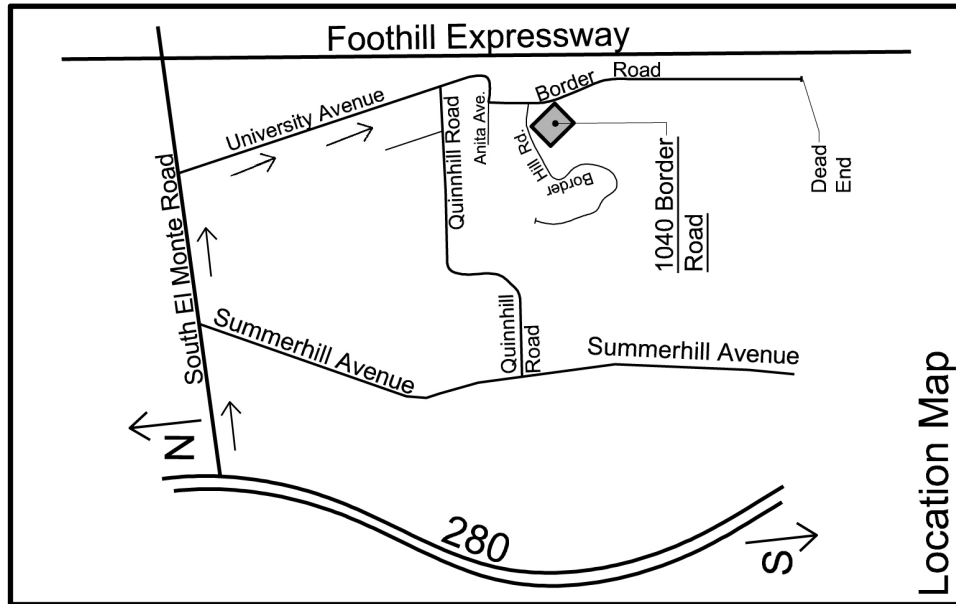
To join, send in your name, address, phone number and a check made out to:
Western Horticultural Society

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.

Welcome to new & returning WHS members Madeline Bakarich, Roz Bray, David Brenner, Ray Deutsch, R.K. Georgia, Joshua Thayer, Jacqueline Turner, and Ralph Lowd!



Location Map

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

VISIT US AT WWW.WESTERNHORT.ORG



 Western Horticultural Society
 PO Box 60507
 Palo Alto, California
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