



WHS October Speaker

Wednesday, October 13, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

Richard Merrill, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture,
Cabrillo Community College, Cabrillo, CA.

“Managing the Garden and the Landscape as an Ecosystem”

Do you ever stop to think what goes on below the pretty flowers in your garden? How about all those organisms in the soil and how your plants need those organisms to grow or how those bugs keep your garden going — or not? Richard Merrill will describe the basic principles of ecology and then through examples show how these principles can be applied in landscape and garden management for long-term success.

Richard Merrill was the founder and Program Director of the Horticulture Department at Cabrillo Community College for 30 years where he was one of the principle designers of the 11-acre “Cabrillo College Environmental Horticulture Center and Botanic Gardens.” He has published 3 books on alternative agriculture, vegetable gardening and renewable energy systems as well as several articles on varied horticultural topics. In 2002 he received the Floyd Younger Award for outstanding lifetime achievement in education at Cabrillo College. Currently Richard is president of Merrill Associates, an environmental consulting firm in Scotts Valley.

MEETING LOCATION Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30. The location is the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos.

Please also join our speaker for dinner prior to the meeting at Chef Chu’s at 5:30 p.m. 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.

WHS Speakers 2010-2011

November 10 C. Todd Kenney, The Arboreum Company, San Francisco, CA. “The Unlimited Orchard of the Finest Fruits You Can Grow.”

December 9 Jennifer Dungan, Earth Sciences Division, NASA, Mountain View, CA. “Can You See My Garden From Space?”

January 12 Andrea Hurd, Mariposa Gardening & Design, Berkeley, CA. “Mallorcan Masonry: Dry Stacked Stone Walls for Beauty and Habitats.”

February 9 Don Mahoney, Curator/Nursery Manager, San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco, CA. “The Best New Plants for Shade.”

March 9 Cliff Low, Perry Laboratory, Watsonville, CA. “Fertilizers, Amendments, Organic, Conventional, Oh My! Testing to Decide What to Use for Improving Soil Condition.”

April 13 Jim Dixon, Jim Dixon Gardens, Kensington, CA. “Transforming the Sense of Place: Redefining with Shape, Color and Texture.”

May 11 Kristin Yanker-Hansen, Kristin’s Garden, Danville, CA. “Year-Round Cut Flowers from the Garden.”

Important – Have you renewed yet?

It is that time of year again! Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. It is important to renew without delay to ensure the smooth continuation of your subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine and to keep our coffers in the black. Renewal applications with pre-addressed envelopes were mailed in August; we urge you to send in your dues now if you haven’t already. Prompt renewal helps those who coordinate with Pacific Horticulture and the volunteers who put together the information for the newsletter, labels and mailing, etc. We look forward to your participation in the activities we have planned for you this coming year. Please see page 3 for details on membership rates and where to send the form (this is the same as on the mail you received in August). If you have any questions, please contact our membership guru at grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162. **Thank you!**

Western Hort News and Business

Native Plant Workshop in a Private Garden - Space Available

Saturday, October 16, 10 am - 12:30 pm

Join garden designer Katherine Greenberg for a fall native plant workshop in her garden. Started in 1980 on a 1.3 acre site in Lafayette, this waterwise garden reflects the character and diversity of the natural landscape and provides habitat for wildlife. Through an informal presentation, discussion, and a walk through the garden, you will learn about plants for seasonal interest in fall/winter, attracting wildlife, and design. Participants will receive a packet of handouts with ideas for planting, reading and resources, and light refreshments will be served. Sign up for this special workshop and get ideas for fall planting. Cost: \$20 for WH members, \$25 for non-members. Payment due upon signing up. Contact Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364 or email lesliekdean@mindspring.com to reserve your space. Directions to the garden will be provided closer to the workshop date. Make your check out to Western Horticultural Society and mail your check to Leslie Dean, 1019 Mountain View Ave., Mountain View, CA 94040.

Save Money With Your WHS Card!

Don't forget to pick up your membership card from the reception desk. It will save you 10% on your purchases at the following WHS partnership businesses. Summerwinds has six nurseries in Santa Clara County where you can buy plants, bulbs, pottery and garden ornaments. Lyngso Garden Materials in Redwood City has gravel, soil and mulch for your landscaping plans as well as an impressive selection of rocks. Terra Sole Nursery in Watsonville offers plants for Mediterranean climate gardens and provides a garden design service that will help you complete your plan. ~ *Pat Knight*

Wireless Assisted Listening System

The Board is considering purchasing a wireless Assisted Listening System to help members who have difficulty hearing the speakers in our large and long meeting hall that does not have good acoustics. A 6-headphone Hamilton system, similar to what is used in museums, is one of the systems being considered. It would connect to the PA system we use. We hope to keep the expense under \$500. This will be an agenda item at the next Board meeting. If you have comments, please contact Richard Tiede at rtiede@pacbell.net or 408-251-6618, or Christine Egan at chegan@pacbell.net or 650-948-4614. ~ *Richard Tiede*

Members' Turn to Stock the Raffle Table!

What a great selection we had for our first meeting of the year! Thank you Board Members (and everyone else, too) for such generous donations. October's raffle table is traditionally the responsibility of the general membership. Here's your chance to show off your propagation skills with some choice plants, or donate a few extra tools or gardening books. ~ *Nancy Schramm*

CEUs

WHS is pleased to be able to offer 0.5 CEU's for APLD members (Association of Professional Landscape Designers) at each of our meetings through May, 2011.

2011 Plant Sale: Looking for Chair

We are looking for a Chair for the 2011 Plant Sale, held every year in April. If you are a plant lover, want to help the Society and get to know the members, this is the job for you. There are lots of members who will help but we need a coordinator to organize the volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to be Chair, contact Richard Tiede (408-251-6618 or rtiede@pacbell.net) or Christine Egan (650-948-4614 or chegan@pacbell.net).

Website News: List Your Horticultural-Related Business on the Website!

Calling all garden designers, landscapers, nursery owners and other horticultural related businesses! WHS is developing a new page for our professional members. This will list your name, the name of your company and contact information: e-mail, phone number, and website. To be included, send your information and a brief description of your business to Pat Knight, deerproof@yahoo.com

Newsletter Submissions & Address Changes

Please send submissions for the November newsletter by Oct 20 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.

Commentary on September's Speaker

"The Evolution of a Native Garden" was our welcome back from summer topic at our September meeting. Katherine Greenberg, Garden Designer from Lafayette, described the history and design of her 1.3-acre "living laboratory" through the use of slides and printed handout.

Located in the Happy Valley district of Lafayette, the Greenbergs purchased their land in the 70's. The speaker's concept for plant selection included native plants and plants that would adapt to the local microclimate. Careful study and selection was made for the more permanent trees and shrubs. Ms. Greenberg, who grew up in southern Monterey county, drew much of her design inspiration from her childhood, and found similarities at her present home, which includes one- to two-hundred year old California bays.

Through trial and error, as well as keen observation, Ms. Greenberg has found what deer like and dislike to eat. Speaking in general terms, she noted that as frequent visitors to her garden, deer avoid plants with aromatic or prickly foliage. Our speaker noted that many areas of her garden are not watered or only watered once monthly. She also mentioned that years of mulching have led to little weeding.

Ms. Greenberg concluded her presentation by stating that she enjoys working in the garden, and has never had a gardener. Judging by her past work, current involvement in many horticultural groups and tours and overall enthusiasm, I felt her enjoyment to be genuine and inspirational to all those present. ~ *Mark McCabe*

28 Years Ago ...

Western Hort met on October 11, 1982 to hear Mary Dorra's talk: "Claude Monet's Giverny—A Painter's Garden." Dorra "made a special study of Monet's paintings in relation to his garden." It's a topic that hasn't waned in popularity. If you want to see the latest from Giverny, Elizabeth Murray will be one of the speakers at an event at the Ruth Bancroft Gardens on October 29th. She recently published a 20th anniversary edition of her book Monet's Passion. WHS also heard a five-minute talk by Gerda Isenberg about *Dryopteris arguta*, the coastal wood fern, native from Washington to Southern California. She said it should be better known. It stands some drought and keeps well when picked. ~ *Nancy Schramm*

Horticultural Events

Gamble Garden Community Day. Sun, Oct 3, 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., 1431 Waverley Ave., Palo Alto, 94301. See <http://gamblegarden.org>.

Autumn at Filoli Festival. Sat, Oct 2, 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., 86 Canada Road, Woodside, 94062. \$25.00. See filoli.org or call 650-364-8300

Tom Ballinger on "Plant Hunting in Borneo." Cal Hort October Speaker, Oct 18, 7:15 p.m., San Francisco County Fair Bldg, 9th Ave at Lincoln Way, SF. See <http://calhortsociety.org> or call Kristin Yanker-Hansen at 925-831-9499.

Fourth Quarter Gardens: An August to December Romance, a Pacific Horticulture featured event. Fri, Oct 29, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Lafayette Public Library. \$85. Presented by the Garden Conservancy and Ruth Bancroft Garden, co-sponsored by Pacific Horticulture with additional support from Monrovia. See <http://gardenconservancy.org> or call 415-441-4300.

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, Jon Craig, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Sherry Hall, Daxin Liu, Niki Muller, Nancy Schramm, Katie Wong.

To contact us, please send email to info@westernhort.org, or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticulture 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 1-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.

Fall Plant Sales

UCSC Arboretum Fall Plant Sale—Oct 9

10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (members), noon- 4 p.m. (general public).

UCSC Arboretum, Santa Cruz.

Memberships available at the gate. See <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/events/fall-plant-sale> for an extensive list of plants that will be posted a few days before the sale.

Strybing Arboretum Plant Sale – Oct 9

10 a.m. – 1 p.m. 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way, San Francisco, 94122.

CNPS Native Plant Sale – Oct 16

10 a.m. – 3 p.m. (members), noon – 3 p.m. (general public). Memberships available at the gate. Hidden Villa, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills, 94022.

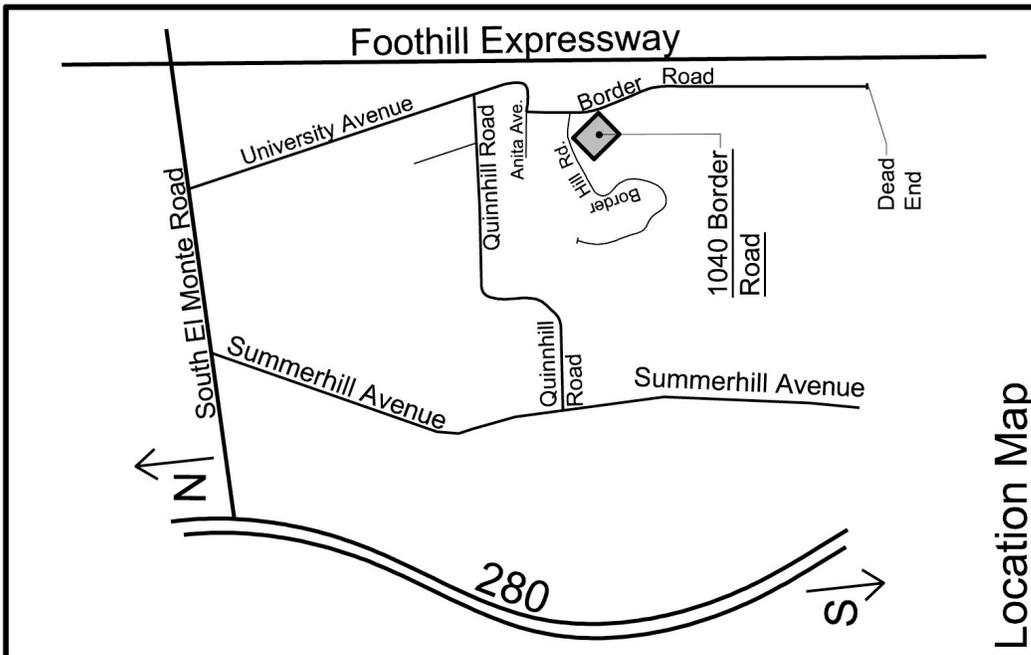
"You're doing it right if your plant leaves are being eaten." ~Travis Longcore



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



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