

January  
2008



# Western Horticultural Society

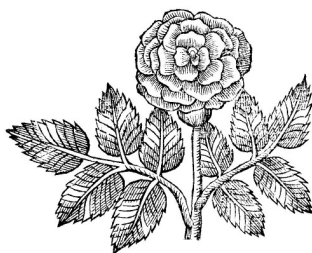
www.westernhort.org • PO Box 60507 • Palo Alto • California • 94306

## WHS January Speaker

January 9: Barbara Worl

Plantswoman, Owner of Sweetbriar Press and Photographer  
“Bits and Pieces of a Life in the Garden”

Most of you know Barbara as a longtime member of the Western Horticultural Society, where she frequently brings in the most beautiful roses for our plant discussion. Many of you also know her from Bell's Bookstore in Palo Alto, where she began working in 1950 and soon developed the Horticulture section of the store. Her employment at the store was a natural given her Undergraduate and Graduate degrees in English History and English Literature from Stanford University. But what many of you may not know is that Barbara is also the founder of Sweetbriar Press, which reprints books, plus postcards and desk calendars based on Barbara's own photographs. She learned to garden here in California from a fellow Stanford grad, Albert Wilson (gardening consultant, television personality and author of How Does Your Garden Grow?) and she applied Wilson's “crusade for good gardening.” Her style of gardening tends towards that of Gertrude



## Happy New Year from Western Hort!

Jekyll's, whose books she loves, and whose gardens she has visited in England. Old Fashioned roses became her passion and her garden shares with Jekyll's many of the same varieties with an abundance of perennials in between. There is even an aptly named ‘Barbara Worl’ rose, a beautiful shapely satiny pink flower. Come hear Barbara talk of her love of gardening, books and life's lessons learned amongst the flowers.

**February 13: Ernie Wasson**

Nursery and Garden Curator at Cabrillo College “Foliage Plants: The Backbones of the Garden”

**March 12: Rosemary Nightingale**

Educator, Artist, Co-founder of the Squaw Valley Herb Gardens, and author of Recipes & Remedies

“See, Smell, Hear, Taste and Feel: Herbs, the Useful Plants”

**April 9: Patrick Worley**

Hybridizer, Webmaster and Graphic Designer for Suncrest Nurseries “Peru, a Plant Lover's Journey”

**May 14: Jeff Rosendale**

Owner of Rosendale Nursery and Sierra Azul Nursery and Gardens, Watsonville, CA “Plants, People and Art – Putting Them all Together in a California Garden”

Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; doors open at 7pm and meetings begin at 7:30. The location is Covington School, 205 Covington 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 23rd. Please call or email Michelle Bond (editor) at 650-363-9244 or michelle@hunzikers.org for newsletter content. Please contact Claudia Stopp at 408-370-6936 or cjsubhi@sbcglobal.net with any changes of address.



## 28 Years Ago in the WHS...

The January 1980 WHS meeting featured Barrie Coate talking about Australian natives. Barrie was director of Saratoga Horticultural Foundation at the time, and “brought with him some very special plants from the Foundation for the raffle table.” New board members included three who still belong to WHS: Dick Dunmire, and Diana and Bob Plummer. Barbara Worl had arranged a tour of Filoli for WHS members, the date was set for March. There were comments by Emily Brown in the plant notes concerning what plants were appropriate to bring in for discussion. Her conclusion? Anything! She made valid arguments for bringing in “old favorites (that may have been forgotten) such as *Daphne odora*, **less common**, but ‘especially admired’ such as *Prunus mume*, also in bloom this time of year, and **the rare**,” (which in this case was) “*Canarina canariensis* is brought in by Ed Carman.” It may be rare, but WHS members were fortunate to see it once again, in bloom, last year when Todd Kennedy brought it in! ~Nancy Schramm

“The fair-weather gardener, who will do nothing except when the wind and weather and everything else are favorable, is never master of his craft.” ~ Henry Ellacombe

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

### **Raffle Table**

Our January raffle table is traditionally supplied by the WHS board, but if anyone has a gem of a plant they'd like to add to the donations, we welcome you to bring it along!

### **CEU Credits**

WHS offers Continuing Education Credits for the CCN Pro—a program of the California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers. One CEU credit is earned per monthly WHS lecture attendance. Just sign in at the registration desk after the program. Stay tuned CLCA members! We hope to be able to offer CEU's to you, soon too! ~Nancy Schramm

## ***Update on Western Hort Spring Plant Sale***



We have planted many cuttings for our Spring Sale thanks to Niki, her greenhouse and grounds, and all the dedicated WHS members who have helped out. We had a very stimulating afternoon propagating over 200 plants. Now, if any of you members could create a little greenhouse and start growing plants at home, too, that would be a real plus. Also if you have some unusual plants, they are always a big attraction. Keep on growin! ~Janice Gilmore

## ***Items Wanted from the Potluck***

Two people are missing items of sentimental value from our WHS potluck at Shoup Park, and they are hoping one of you may have found their items! Claudia Stopp is missing a silver, bow-shaped clip-on earring, and hopes you may have found it. Also, Betsy Clebsch called to say she brought home someone else's set of serving spoons instead of her own, and she hopes someone has her spoons, instead. If you found or have any of these items, can you please bring them to the next meeting or contact the owners of the items directly? Thank you!

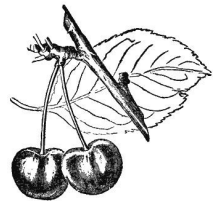
**“January is the quietest month in the garden... But just because it looks quiet doesn't mean that nothing is happening. The soil, open to the sky, absorbs the pure rainfall while micro-organisms convert tilled-under fodder into usable nutrients for the next crop of plants. The feasting earthworms tunnel along, aerating the soil and preparing it to welcome the seeds and bare roots to come.”**

~ Rosalie Muller Wright, Editor of *Sunset Magazine*

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

### **California Rare Fruit Growers**

The CRFG has their annual scion exchange on Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> at Emma Prusch Park on the corner of Story and King in San Jose. This is an exciting opportunity to get scion wood and cuttings from unusual fruiting plants. You can also learn grafting techniques at several grafting demos during the day, at 11:30am and at 1pm. The exchange runs from 11am-3pm, but by joining the local CRFG chapter you can enter the hall an hour earlier, at 10am! It is a good idea to bring plastic bags & labels for the scions you select. ~Nancy Schramm



### **Looking at Light Through Flowers**

The photographic work of Western Hort member Joanne Koltnow will be on display at the Helen Crocker Russell Library at the SF Botanical Garden from January 2 through the end of March. Although people often think Joanne's images are real plants or watercolor paintings, they're actually made using the most modern of digital technology. The exhibit includes small botanicals as well as flowers and leaves in containers.

Join artists and plant lovers at the reception on Thursday January 17, 5 to 7 pm. For more information about the show, go to [www.sfbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org). Joanne's work is at Modernbook Gallery in Palo Alto. To see her work online, go to [www.modernbook.com/joannekoltnow.htm](http://www.modernbook.com/joannekoltnow.htm) and click on the flowers to see more.

## ***Something New...***

Bring your business cards to the meeting. We are going to initiate a drawing of all members' business cards at each meeting and the one drawn will have the business's name, address and a brief description of their business appear in the next WHS newsletter. You must be in attendance at the meeting. Advertisement for our members could help your business and your participation is always welcome. ~ Claudia Stopp

## Other Horticultural Events...

### Guadalupe River Park & Gardens, San Jose

#### Free Rose Pruning Clinics

Every Wednesday and Saturday, starting at 9:00am, January 5 through February 16, 2008. Here's a way to contribute to the beauty of the Heritage Rose Garden while gaining some valuable skills to use in your own garden! Sign up for one of our free rose pruning clinics and donate 2-3 hours of your time. Experienced volunteers will instruct you on the proper techniques, while you help prune a section of the Heritage Rose Garden under their direction. For more information please contact our Education Department at [education@grpg.org](mailto:education@grpg.org) or 408-298-7657.

### Cal Hort Society January Program

Monday January 21, 2008 "Pollination Ecology and the current concerns regarding Honey Bee Populations" Presented by Gordon W. Frankie, PhD



of the Division of Insect Biology, University of California Berkeley. He is studying the affect of honey bee diseases on their populations and the serious threat they present to the success of many insect pollinated crops.

Meetings start at 7:15pm in the County Fair Building at The San Francisco Botanical Gardens.


### The Arboretum at University of California Santa Cruz

Wednesdays, Jan 9 - Feb 13, 9:30am-12 noon

#### Training Sessions for Volunteers at the Arboretum

These classes are open to anyone who has an interest in gardening and volunteering; there is a niche for almost everyone. Presentations will cover Arboretum gardens & plant collections, plant conservation, gardening tips, plant propagation and much more. Volunteer possibilities include: Garden Work, Tours, Special Events, Library, Gift Shop, Education Program, and Propagation! Attend all or just a few sessions. Call Susie Bower at (831) 427-2998 for more information.

### Worm Composting: Reduce Waste, Improve Your Garden!

 San Mateo County's Recycle Works program has a wonderful site full of information on worm composting, along with a special offer to residents for the 'Wriggly Branch Vermicomposting Bin'. Here is some information on worm composting from their site; more can be read at: <http://www.recycleworks.org/compost/wormcomp.html> Some of the benefits of vermiculture (worm composting) are:

- kitchen scraps are quickly converted into nutrient-rich worm castings
- Because it is low-odor, it can be used indoors, in a garage or on a covered porch and takes up little space.
- Worm castings are an organic plant food, and an excellent soil conditioner.

You need a place for your worms to live. You can purchase a worm bin, build your own wooden bin or purchase a plastic container with a lid and make a bin. Once the bin is properly prepared (see the site for more details), you can feed your worms foods including most fruits, vegetables, cereals and grains, and other organic items like cardboard and tea bags. San Mateo County has a special offer for San Mateo County residents of only \$29 per household, which includes a workshop and the bin. The link to order form is:

[http://www.recycleworks.org/pdf/worm\\_compost\\_form.pdf](http://www.recycleworks.org/pdf/worm_compost_form.pdf)

Residents of San Jose can purchase their own Wriggly Branch for \$50 each at:

[http://www.sjrecycles.org/residents/home\\_compost.asp](http://www.sjrecycles.org/residents/home_compost.asp) ~ Michelle Bond

#### Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

**President:** Chris Egan

**Vice President:** Steve Staiger

**Recording Secretary:** Jackie Doda

**Treasurer:** Claudia Stopp

**Other Board Members:** Kerry Barrs, Michelle Bond, Janice Gillmore, Sherry Hall, Patricia Knight, Bill Kurtz, Niki Muller, Nancy Schramm

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.

Please visit our web site at [www.westernhort.org](http://www.westernhort.org)

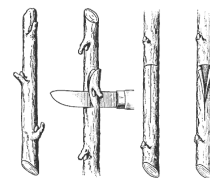
for a membership form.

## January Classes at Common Grounds, Palo Alto

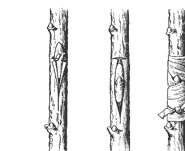
**Introduction to Grow Biointensive**  
Dan Royer-Miller Saturday, January 5,  
2008 10:30am-12:30pm \$25

**Composting**  
Margo Royer-Miller Saturday, January 5  
2:00-4:00pm \$25

**Fruit Tree Pruning**  
Kevin Raftery Saturday, January 12  
10:30-2:00pm \$39

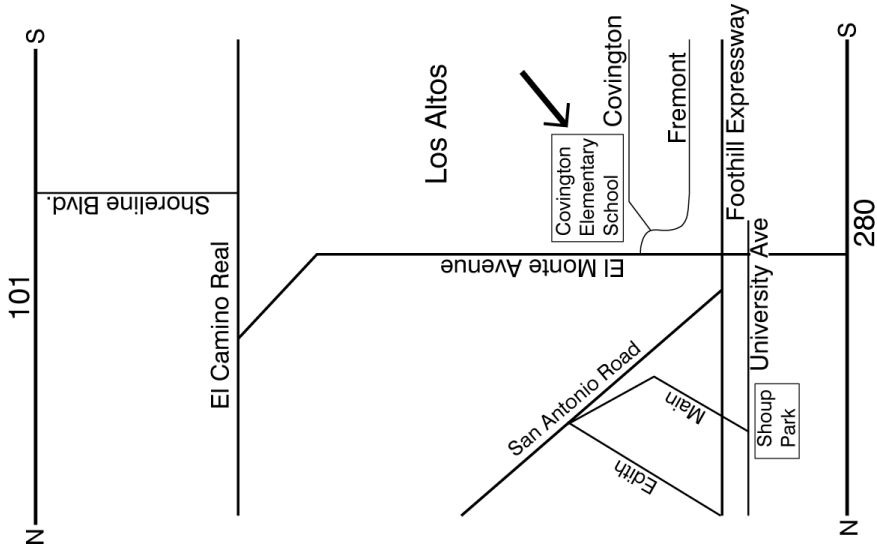


**Rose Pruning & Care**  
Carole Kraft Saturday,  
January 19  
10:30-1:30pm \$35



**Grafting Fruit Trees**  
James Kern Saturday,  
January 19  
1:30-3:30pm \$26

First Class Mail



Western Horticultural Society  
Monthly Meeting  
Covington School  
205 Covington Road, Los Altos



PO Box 60507  
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