



WHS January Speaker

Wednesday, January 12

Doors open at 7:00 p.m.; meeting begins at 7:30 p.m.

Andrea Hurd, Mariposa Gardening & Design, Berkeley

Mallorcan Masonry: Dry Stacked Stone Walls for Beauty and Habitat

The use of plants in a landscape can make for a good design, but combining plants with other elements can make a garden truly special. Stones, whether as boulders, paving, or in walls, can bring the beauty of nature into our spaces. Andrea will show us how the use of stonework can add color, beauty, and function to just about any garden space.

Andrea Hurd has been designing gardens since 1990. Over the years her love for the natural world has influenced the way she designs. With an eye toward creating naturally peaceful and beautiful gardens, the landscapes she creates often incorporate dry-laid stone walls and patios and provide many ecological benefits to our urban areas. To see examples of stone work, go to **Mariposa Gardening & Design**, <http://mariposagardening.com>.

MEETING LOCATION Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. The location is the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, 94024.

You are invited to join our speaker for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Chef Chu's, located at the corner of San Antonio Rd. and El Camino Real, Mountain View. 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.



Lapageria rosea 'Collinge' (or 'Dr. Bullock')

Photo: strangewonderfulthings.com

February 2011 Speaker ...

Wednesday, February 9 7:00 p.m.

Don Mahoney, Curator/Nursery Manager, San Francisco Botanical Gardens at Strybing Arboretum, San Francisco

The Best New Plants For Shade

Plant of the Month:

Lapageria Rosea

This month let's take a look at a plant for the connoisseur, *Lapageria rosea*. This single genus/species evergreen vine is the national flower of Chile, known familiarly as Chilean bellflower or copihue. Bellflower indeed, since the 3-4" long trumpet-shaped flowers seem almost sturdy enough to use as bells. The tepals (you know, all those parts that look like petals) are incredibly thick and waxy; you can even make them squeak between your fingers. I've grown *Lapageria* (somewhat unsuccessfully in Gilroy) so I asked Dick Dunmire, a connoisseur of the rare and unusual in the plant world about his two plants. He's had his dark pink one for over fifty years, originally purchased at Bill Schmidt's nursery. Dick successfully germinated seed early on, and told me that this was his introduction to the world of wholesale. He sold his seedlings (in gallons) to Bill for 50 cents each, at the same time Bill was selling gallons for \$7.50!

Lapageria is happiest grown in a neutral or somewhat acid soil rich in organic matter. It likes ample moisture and shade at the base, though the vine may search out the sun as it grows. It's a wiry vine, with leathery leaves. It can be somewhat sparse, with stems that can appear dead, but be sure to follow them to the end and check for green leaves before pruning recklessly. The flowers range from pure white to dark red, and everything in between including white with picotee pink at the edges, and pink with light or dark pink freckles. *Lapageria* blooms almost any time of the year, and Dick tells me that the flowers will last quite awhile if you have the heart to cut them. They germinate reasonably well from fresh seed (I've done it myself), and the U.C. Botanical Garden, Berkeley website has thorough directions for propagation from layering and from cuttings.

~Nancy Schramm

Whatever landscape a child is exposed to...
That will be the sort of gauze through
which he or she will see all the world.

~Wallace Stegner

Western Hort News and Business

Scion Exchange

The California Rare Fruit Growers organization has many chapters sponsoring scion exchanges as the New Year starts. The Santa Clara Valley Chapter's exchange has become known for the exceptional selection available. Mark your calendars for January 15th at 11:00 am. If you belong to the statewide organization (CRFG) you may enter the scion exchange at 10:00 am. If you have something special to share, please label it and bring it along--that's what *exchange* means! There will be grafting demonstrations all day long. Emma Prusch Farm Park Multi-Cultural Center and Meeting Hall at the corner of King and Story in San Jose.

Raffle Table

We had a relaxing month off from the raffle, but with the New Year, the excitement starts up again! The board is traditionally responsible for the January raffle table, but as usual, if you have any cool plants or garden related items to share, join in the fun and bring them along. ~Nancy Schramm

Mediterranean Garden Society News

The Mediterranean Garden Society Northern California Branch will hold its annual meeting on Sunday, January 30, 1:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Park Garden Center, 666 Bellevue Avenue, Oakland 94610. Bernard Trainor will speak on *Designing Space for People and Plants in a Mediterranean Climate*.

Free to MGS members. The public is invited. There is a suggested \$10 guest donation. Parking is \$5. Refreshments and door prizes.

For more information contact Susan Bouchez at susanbouchez@gmail.com or Bracey Tiede at tiede@pacbell.net.

Mystery Plant ID'd

Do you remember my plant that was passed around for identification at the November meeting - the straggly plant with small nasturtium-like leaves? Many thanks to Joan Halperin for identifying it as *Senecio tropaeolifolius*. Look at it on Google images. ~Christine Bate

California Gardens: Beauty and Sustainability with Native Plants

A CNPS symposium on native plant gardening & design.

Saturday, February 19 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Foothill College Appreciation Hall, 12345 El Monte Road, Los Altos Hills

This California Native Plant Society symposium on native plant gardening & design includes talks by California's top horticulturalists and designers: **Bart O'Brien**, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, **Bernard Trainor**, Bernard Trainor & Associates, **David Fross**, Native Sons Nursery, **Dr. Glenn Keator**, Merritt College, **Judith Lowry**, Lerner Seeds, **Nevin Smith**, Suncrest Nurseries, and **Paul Kephart**, Rana Creek. Includes plant sale, book sale and more. Sponsored by Santa Clara Valley Water District, Bay Area Water Supply & Conservation Agency, and hosted by Horticulture Foothill College. For more information and to register, visit <http://symposium.cnps-scvc.org> or call 650-260-3450.

January Calendar of Horticultural Events

The Ethnobotany of California Native Plants by John Kipping, Cal Hort Society monthly meeting, January 17, 7:15 p.m. County Fair Building, San Francisco Botanical Garden, San Francisco. Guest fee: \$5.

37th Annual Santa Cruz Fungus Fair 2011. Presented by the Fungus Federation of Santa Cruz, <http://www.fungusfed.org> on three days: Friday, January 7, 4-7 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday, January 8 & 9, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Louden Nelson Community Center, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. Mushroom exhibits, Fun(gus) Kid's Activities, Food Booths, Vendors and Mushroom Identification. For info, see <http://SCFungusFair.org> or call 831-684-2275.

January is for Fruit Trees ... The Master Gardeners have six talks on fruit tree culture: planting fruit trees from bare root (1 class), pruning (4 classes) and pruning & grafting (1 class). The Jan 22 pruning workshop at Guadalupe Gardens (\$15) includes hands-on pruning practice in the 3.3-acre Historic Orchard. All other talks are free. See mastergardeners.org/events for details.

Free Rose Pruning Classes & Hands-on Pruning. Marianne Sugg and David Giroux are volunteer supervisors at the Heritage Rose Garden in San Jose. Along with their helpers, they give rose pruning lessons at the Heritage Rose Garden every Wednesday and Saturday starting the first Wednesday in January through mid-February. Lessons start at 9:00 a.m. After a short talk and demonstration, you can help prune roses at the garden.

The Heritage Rose Garden contains approximately 4,000 roses and is considered a botanical collection. There are approximately 3,000 different varieties, making it the largest varietal rose garden in the US. The garden contains many old, rare and one-of-a-kind plants. The garden is located at Spring & Taylor Streets in San Jose; see <http://heritageroses.us> for directions.

See pacifichorticulture.org for an extensive calendar of horticultural events

Commentary on December's Speaker: Jennifer Dungan

Yes, times are changing. Yesterday's phrase of "seeing the forest through the trees" has been replaced by "Can you see my garden from space?", the title of our December speaker's presentation.

Jennifer Dungan of NASA Ames Research Center offered the audience a captivating array of earlier and current digital imagery taken from roving space satellites. Aura, Terra and Aqua, the seventh set of satellites in orbit, cover every section of the earth's surface every day. Jennifer added that a new satellite called Landsat, scheduled for launch in 2013, will be tailored to look at vegetation.

Of specific interest to us, satellite sensors from space can see golf courses, urban gardens and lawns, agricultural fields and forests. It was quite amazing to see Jennifer's slides of the "urban forest" shot from space and the stark difference of Atherton vs. San Jose. On a larger scale, and of interest and concern of all, are the changes occurring (not all bad) on the earth's surface. Our speaker explained and showed foliage status over vast areas, which can be affected by growth/senescence, burning, volcanic eruptions, insect damage, mining, tree harvesting and deforestation.

I believe the most significant part of Jennifer's wonderful presentation was her observation that we can't see our gardens up close with this sophisticated imagery, but we can see the changes of the earth's surface, both through nature and by the hand of man. That, my fellow gardeners, should give us pause for thought regarding our collective efforts as good stewards of the land. ~Mark McCabe

28 Years Ago

WHS met on January 10th, 1983 for a real treat. Our own Barbara Worl gave a slide presentation on "English Gardens." Pictures taken during three trips to England were included. I'll bet that many of the marvelous images could also be found on calendars and notecards published by Sweetbriar Press (founded by Barbara).

According to the January Board meeting minutes, Emily Brown provided the rough notes for the Plant Notes, and Dick Dunmire made the finishing touches. Also in the minutes was mention of a book that Emily was working on, *Perennials in the Garden*. Was this ever published?

The plant material shared sounds delightful for the fruit: *Acmena smithii* (lilly pillly tree), *Crataegus orientalis* & *C. stipulacea* (hawthorn) and for the flowers: *Arctostaphylos densiflora* 'Sentinel' & *A. refugioensis* (manzanita), *Chimonanthus praecox* (wintersweet), *Daphne bholua* and *Primula juliae* hybrids. Also on display was a branch of *Chaenomeles* 'Candida', a pure white flowering quince developed by W. B. Clarke in San Jose. Now is the time to cut and force branches of these lovely early bloomers. ~Nancy Schramm

Winter Bloom in San Diego ~ A Pacific Horticulture Tour

Feb 24 – 28, 2011. Led by Scott Borden and Jim Bishop. Escorted by Judy Bradley, President, Pacific Horticulture Society. Bright sunny days and winter showers bring San Diego gardens into early bloom. Join local hosts Scott Borden and Jim Bishop exploring a diverse collection of private gardens including large properties in semi-rural North County, a Sinjen-designed garden in the heart of the city, the hosts' own hillside Mediterranean villa and many more. Tour the rejuvenated San Diego Botanical Garden (formerly Quail) and take a stroll through the gardens of Balboa Park. Enjoy welcome & farewell dinners, garden lunches, and a few surprises! For more information please contact: **Sterling Tours - San Diego**, 619-299-3010, <http://sterlingtoursltd.com/SanDiego.html>, or see <http://www.pacifichorticulture.org>.

Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

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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, 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.

Newsletter Submissions & Address Changes:

Please send submissions for the February newsletter by Jan. 18th to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

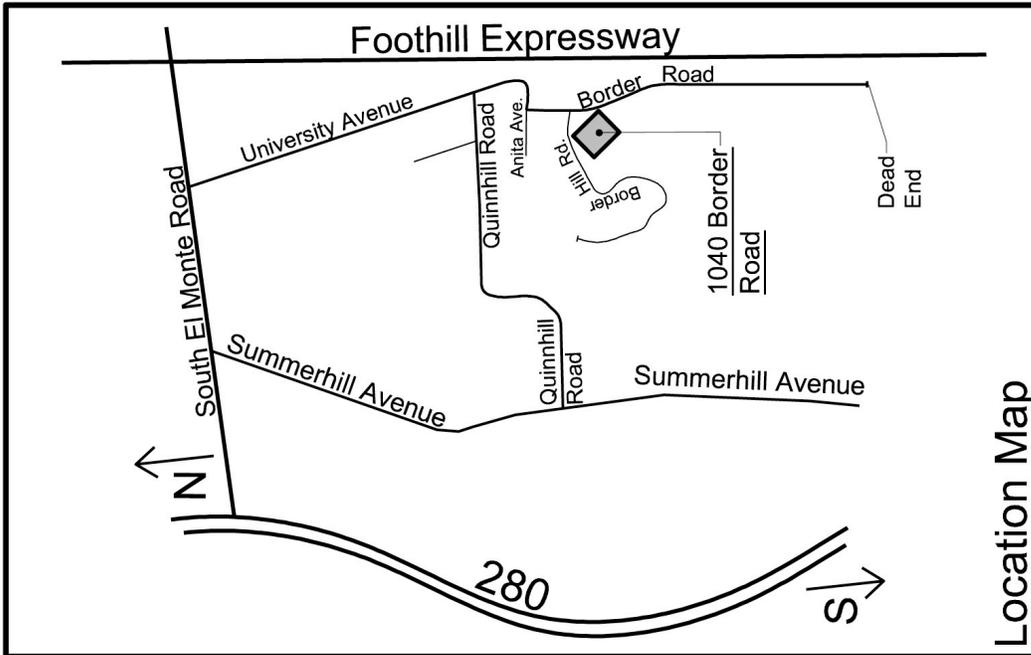
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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First Class Mail

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Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings
Christ Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
1040 Border Road, Los Altos 94024