



November 2015 Speaker

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Bobby Markowitz, “Strategic Planning: How to Target Net Zero Water Use for Your Garden”

Bobby Markowitz is a landscape architect and pioneer of rainwater harvesting systems in Soquel, California. In our November talk, he will cover the basic principles and design for rainwater harvesting including case studies.

Bobby has studied rainwater harvesting in Australia, Singapore, Hawaii and New Mexico. In addition to his design work, he is involved in educational lecturing and in helping change current rainwater legislation for the State of California. Bobby believes that there are many ecological reasons for combining landscape architecture with rainwater harvesting.

Bobby Markowitz is a graduate of Rutgers University, Bachelors of Arts. In 1980, he studied landscape architecture and design in Japan. Upon returning to the United States, he established Earthcraft Landscape Design, first as a landscape contractor, and in 1990 as a landscape architect (<http://earthcraftdesign.com>). Over his 30-year career, Bobby has designed and built award-winning gardens and landscapes, both residential and commercial, with a naturalistic and sustainable flair.

Bobby has presented locally as well as internationally on rainwater harvesting. He is also an instructor on “Rainwater Harvesting System: Principles and Design” at Cabrillo College Extension, Aptos, California. ~Pat Knight, Webmaster, <http://westernhort.org>.



Bobby Markowitz.
Photo: <http://earthcraftdesign.com>.



5.1 million Australians love rainwater tanks, with good reasons. Photo: <http://blog.savewater.com.au>

Join us for dinner with Bobby Markowitz on November 11!

Contact Rosalie Shepherd to RSVP and for location: shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.

Upcoming Speakers

Dec 9, 2015 ~ Annual Potluck! Jane Stocklin and Susan Woodman, “Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism.”

January 13, 2016 Patricia St. John, “Garden Design Process.”

February 10, 2016 Drew Harwell, “Vegetables for All Seasons.”

Plant Table A big thanks to our regular propagators. We couldn't do it without you! Last month we had some attractive containers as well as plants for sale. What do you have in your garden shed? Call Roberta Barnes if you have questions, 650-949-0377. ~Roberta Barnes

Wanted: Plant Notes Writer

Our wonderful Plant Notes writer, Jackie Doda, is stepping aside so this is your opportunity to break into horticultural writing! Please contact Jackie or anyone on the Board if you are interested. See the last page for list of Board members. Jackie can be reached at jndoda@earthlink.net or (650) 969-3983.

Wanted: Membership List Caretaker!

Our current membership list guru will be moving on in a year or so, and we are looking for someone to take over the WHS membership list. Currently the simple setup uses a flat file on the PC platform, with Microsoft Access—nothing fancy. There are about 400 records.

Busy times are August/September (prepare and receive renewal forms and checks), and every other January (prepare info for the Roster). Monthly, you'd print labels for this newsletter (about 30 names). You'd also liaise with PacHort to cross-check their subscriber list of WHS members. Our system is not sacred and we'd love to "upgrade"! We very much welcome someone who can bring new skills, better ideas, and/or more tech expertise to the job! But that is not required—we are happy to train you in how we're doing it now. It's the attention to detail and meeting deadlines that's critical.

Maybe it's you??? Please contact Jessie at grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162. ~Jessie Shilling

Host-a-Speaker! Can we add you to our list?

Very occasionally one of our speakers would like to spend the night locally after speaking for WHS. Betsy Clebsch and Leslie Dean have very generously hosted speakers in the past, but we'd like to have options available in case Betsy's spare room isn't available. If you might be able to host a speaker (with advance notice), please contact Nancy Schramm at 408-847-2313 or Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364. Thanks very much! ~Nancy Schramm

28 Years Ago Western Hort Society met on Wednesday, November 11, 1987 to hear Dick Turner (pre-Pacific Horticulture editorship) give "An Update on Strybing". His program included "...some history of the Gardens, and the exciting new areas being developed now." Dick had been volunteering at Strybing (now the SF Botanical Garden) since 1977, and was Director of Education beginning 1984. He designed "...the Fragrance and Bible Gardens, the Eastern Australian Collection, and the mixed borders."

The nominating committee comprised of Ed Carman, Daphne Dorney, and Robin Prouty were able to offer the names of four candidates to serve on the board. (Wouldn't it be great to have a full slate to offer the membership again? How about volunteering? Yes, I mean you! I had a great time when I served on the board! Go ahead and give it a try.) The plant notes were full of flowers and fall color. Dave Rodal showed *Sapium sebiferum*, the Chinese tallow tree, Daphne Dorney showed *Acacia iteaphylla* and *Senecio confusa*, Betsy Clebsch brought three *salvia* species just collected seven months previous in Mexico: *Salvia blepharophylla*, *S. canescens* and *S. mueller*. Bart O'Brien showed off two *Echeverias* (*E. subrigida* & *E. shaviana*) just purchased at the Cactus Gem Nursery in Cupertino. (I miss that nursery!) Ed Carman showed *Astelia chathamica* and *Haemanthus albiflos*, Bob Young brought in a large *Crassula teres* and there were two other plants shown: *Pimelia spectabilis* and *Evolvulus nuttalianus*. ~Nancy Schramm



May your Thanksgiving table be succulent! "An awesome centerpiece of 'Retro Succulents' from EuroAmerican Propagators — illustrates one HOT plant trend—"

Quote and photo: <http://www.debraprinzing.com/2007/11/>



IPSS

I joined the International Plant Propagators' Society almost ten years ago, and just went to my third annual meeting. It was an amazing three and a half days of tours, seminars, and talking with other plant nerds. Wednesday, September 23rd was the pre-conference tour lasting from 7am until 7pm. We started at Poots Cactus Nursery (which many Bay Area members mentioned seeing on the way to & from Yosemite) then Colorspot Nursery, toured California Seed & Plant Lab's spotless multi-million dollar high-tech facility (where tissue culture was the main attraction), viewed the prune packing business at Valley View Packing Company (one of the owners is so familiar with his business that when I asked, he was able to estimate that it takes the dehydrated fruit from about 40 trees to fill one of the standard—about 5'x5'x5'—wood boxes), a hayride took us around the USDA Clonal Plant Germplasm Repository in Winters, and the last stop was at the Four Winds Growers Nursery. Remember the Lake Berryessa fire during the summer? It burned within feet of the Four Winds facility.

All of that was only the first day. The next two days were each split into a half day of seminars and a half day of tours. Some of the highlights (for me) were: a talk by Douglas Justice, UBC, Canada about "The role of botanical gardens in plant conservation" including trials of *Acer pentaphyllum*, a tour of Zaiger's Genetics who's breeding program introduced Pluots and Apriums, a taco bar at Generation Growers, a tour, lunch & wine tasting at Duarte Nursery (yes, good food was important!) Loren Oki, UC Davis' talk about slow sand filters for treating nursery runoff (it works, but no one completely understands some of the details) as well as his talk about the UC Davis landscape plant irrigation trials, touring the Harris Moran Seed Company (I love seeds...), meeting the New Zealand Exchange visitor, Kat Scott (turns out she once worked for Paul Turner, NZ Liners, who patented and grows the wisteria named for my dad—*W. floribunda* 'Ed's Blue Dragon'), a talk by Chris Bonds from the CA Dept of Water Resources about 'California's groundwater and the path to sustainability' showing some areas of California where groundwater overdraft has caused land subsidence of as much as 30', and just for something to expand my mind, the presentation by Jeffrey Hartle of Weyerhaeuser Corporation of their efforts to develop synthetic seed with biodegradable plastic and paper elements.

One of the last sessions included "Nuggets of Knowledge", an opportunity for anyone to get up and talk for five minutes about a worthwhile topic. So I spoke about the Hot Plant Picks exhibit at the SF Flower & Garden Show (and had a plant patent attorney give me her card) as well as five minutes about the mature grapevine "cuttings" I was able to root and showed at WHS last year. Sure, there were topics that were totally out of my province (such as 'Propagating palms by tissue culture') but they were still interesting and educational. And who knows, maybe the WellPlant product samples I picked up at the trade show portion of the conference will help make my plants more healthy and less susceptible to transplant shock. And to help me remember those wonderful, crazy busy days, I won an old fruit label at the silent auction. From beginning to end, I'm delighted I went. And I want to thank WHS member Margery Edgren & her daughter Jean for going with me and sharing the experience. Everything is better with friends.

~Nancy Schramm



Photos above and below: At Poots Cactus Nursery, located on Hwy 120 in Ripon, California, just east of Manteca right on the way to Yosemite.

Photo: <http://www.pootscactusnursery.com>



Wanted: Your Nominations for Founders Award and for Board of Directors

We are looking for nominations of members who deserve the Founders Award, as well as nominations for the new Board of Directors. Please bring your nominations to the November meeting, or send to Richard Tiede at rtiede@pacbell.net or (408) 251-6618. The Founders Award will be made in December and the Board election will be held at the January meeting. ~Richard Tiede, President, WHS

October 2015 Speaker Notes

“The birds and the bees,” a subject our parents carefully approached us about as youngsters, was presented to us again as seasoned horticulturists. “Keeping Company with the Flowers” was this evening’s presentation by John Whittlesey from Oroville. A very engaging speaker with fantastic slides, Whittlesey showed the audience a wide variety of garden pollinators such as wasps, butterflies, beetles, moths, flies, bats, and yes – the birds and bees.

Mr. Whittlesey began his presentation explaining the coevolution and complex relationships between flowers and insects. Over time, insects have adapted structurally to take nectar from flowers, which provide carbohydrates. Flowers also have developed in specialized forms to entice certain insects to visit and spread their pollen, a source of protein. This symbiotic relationship –the interplay of nourishment and reproduction—ensures the survival of both creatures.

Our speaker, former owner of Canyon Creek Nursery, walked us through the seasons starting in December with an impressive collection of slides. Focusing on California natives, Whittlesey paired the plant with the pollinator(s), with many slides of fascinating closeups (photography is a

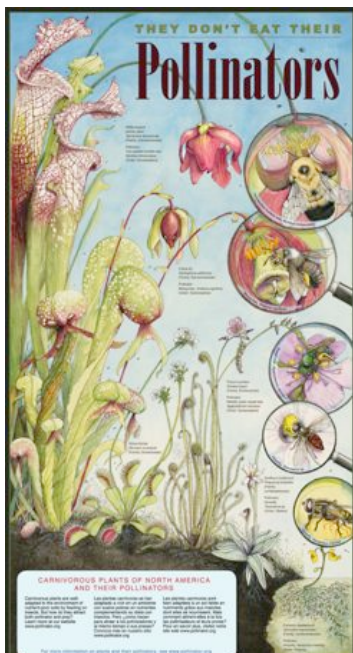
passion of his). He presented more than twenty examples of California native plants, all shown in bloom. No one in the audience left that evening uninspired or unwilling to try at least one new plant to attract a colorful butterfly or hummingbird to their garden. Wouldn’t our parents understand?

~Mark McCabe

“They don’t eat their pollinators” – The poster to the right pairs carnivorous plants with their pollinators.

White-topped Pitcher Plant, Cobra Lily... the Two-spotted Bumble Bee, the Metallic Green Sweat Bee...

For the plant and insects lists, check out the wonderful site, http://www.pollinator.org/poster2015_ab



Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Liz Calhoon
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Patricia Larenas, Carrie Parker, and 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 Horticultural 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 one-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 and Address Changes

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month; items received after the 25th likely will not make it into the newsletter but be published the following month. Send submissions to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

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

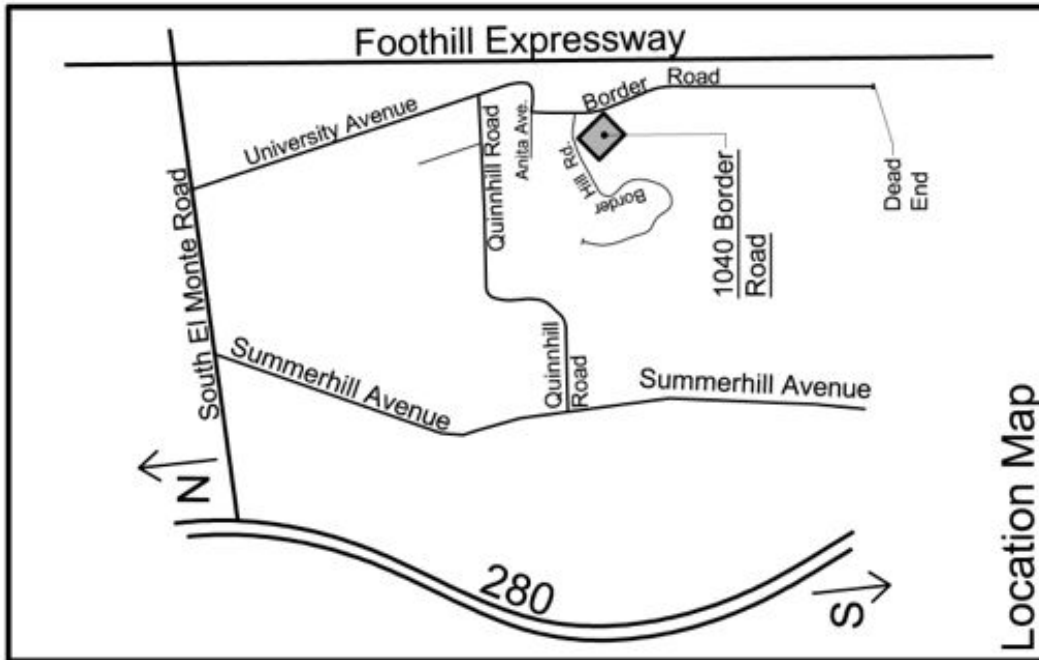




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Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings
Christ Episcopal Church
Parish Hall
1040 Border Road, Los Altos

MEETING LOCATION

Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos
Doors open at 7:00 pm. and meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

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.