



Annual Holiday Party

Wednesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m.

Please join us for a fun and festive evening breaking bread with friends and celebrating the season!

Bring a favorite main dish, salad, or desert to serve eight, and plates and utensils. The WHS Board will provide appetizers, wine and beverages, and cups and glasses.

We will collect canned and packaged food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

We will be honoring one of our members with the Founders Award. Past recipients include Dick Dunmire, John Coulter, Barbara Worl, Sally Casey, Elizabeth Garbett, Betsy Clebsch, Barrie and Carol Coate, and William Kurtz.

Read all about Past Founders Award Recipients at westernhort.org/events_FoundersAwardNight.html

December 2012 Speaker

Wednesday, December 12 (after dinner)

Nancy Norris, Owner of Garden Lines, Pleasanton

“Miniature Landscapes”

Nancy Norris is a garden designer, garden railway installer for Garden Lines, author of the *Miniature Garden Guidebook*, and horticultural editor and columnist of “Garden Railways Magazine.” As landscape contractor for her business Garden Lines, Nancy creates miniature gardens. She helps clients model a place in time or a fantasy land, replete with tiny-leaved plants, flowing water to show off bridges, and trains that chuff and smoke. Since 1998, she has been entertaining gardeners with slideshows detailing living scale scenery. She began writing about her methods in the national magazine *Garden Railways* in 2007.

Whether you want to run trains in a “real” scale world, or plant a few dwarf conifers in a trough, underplanted with a low ground cover, Nancy can show you how to pick the right plants and how to get scale perspective. Check out her website at gardenlines.net.

Smaller than Shohin I was a vendor at the Golden State Bonsai Federation (GSBF) annual convention in Sacramento, October 25-28. The vendor area opened at 8 a.m. each morning, and it was pretty quiet for a while on the Friday morning. In order to entertain myself, I wandered around looking at all the other items for sale, and found myself buying some itty bitty pots from Jim Barrett, an eminent bonsai potter. He wrapped them carefully, but when I got back to my tables I had to unwrap and look at them again. And, since it was still very quiet, I decided I had to ‘pot them up’ with something.

One got the tip of a variegated Westringia, one a piece from a Hedera helix ‘Congesta Glomerata’ plant that Sherry Hall gave me, and I filled one with a chunk of



Liverwort Bonsai. Photo: Kora Dalager.

liverwort taken from a gallon can that didn’t get weeded before it was loaded into the truck. I was so taken with the charm of a miniature ‘bonsai’ that I put it on the palm of my hand and showed it to Kora Dalager saying, “Here is a companion plant for your companion plants!” Kora, well known for the workshops she teaches, was so tickled she took this picture and sent it to me. I left the little pot of liverwort on display and heard later that Jim just about sold out of his itty bitty pots! ~Nancy Schramm



Propagate for our Spring Plant Sale

Take a break from the holiday bustle, and spend some time propagating in your garden! Easy to propagate plants for late fall include many of our cool season ground covers. You will find many already have small roots where the stems trail along the ground. Also, PCH Iris can be divided in the fall. When you see the new white roots forming, it's time to divide. Many volunteer seedlings have come up with our fall rains. Pick a few out and pot them up for our spring sale! Thanks for your support with our main fundraiser of the year. ~*Roberta Barnes*

28 (Plus!) Years Ago It's time for another special edition of this column since WHS didn't meet in December 1984. On Monday, February 13, 1978, David Hanson (UC Extension Service, Half Moon Bay) gave a talk called "The Complexities of Growing Chrysanthemums Commercially—How to Get a Chrysanthemum to the Store on Time." The newsletter welcomed twelve new members including Sally Casey, Dr. & Mrs. Allen Ream, James Sugai, and Saratoga Community Gardens, Inc.

Plant notes included an interesting discussion of *Correa*. A blooming sample of *C. pulchella* was on display. It was then noted that W. B. Clarke obtained a single seed of *C. neglecta* from Edwin Ashby in England, in 1940. "Ashby had described it as a new species the year before in the Linnean Society Journal. Nowadays, it is apparently treated as a synonym for *C. pulchella*." W. B. Clarke grew that single seed, and was given a prize for the plant in 1946 or 1947 when it was described in *The California Horticultural Journal*. It was further noted, "Victor Reiter has crossed *C. alba*, which blooms in summer, with *C. pulchella*, and the resulting hybrid is 'Ivory Bells'. This is being grown by Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, as is another hybrid, 'Crimson Bells'."

I'd like to mention that I was able to doublecheck some of this information on the San Marcos Growers website (smgrowers.com). I highly recommend that you take a look at this user-friendly and extremely informative website. ~*Nancy Schramm*

Discover Cuba with Pacific Horticulture

We invite you to join Pacific Horticulture Society on a People-to-People exploration of Cuba, January 18-27, 2013. PHS has received its license from the U.S. Treasury Department to take friends and members on what promises to be a rich cultural journey with a botanical slant. Join us as we explore Havana, several Cuban botanical gardens, Zapata National Park, the Escambray Mountains, and the historic cities of Cienfuegos and Trinidad. Throughout our journey, there will be a special emphasis on meeting the people of Cuba: botanists, environmentalists, teachers, scientists, students, and national park personnel. See pacifichorticulture.org for a detailed description. For a complete itinerary, registration deadlines, and costs, email office@pacifichorticulture.org. Note: this trip is filling up fast, so please indicate your interest right away. ~*Richard Tiede and Leslie Dean*

The WHS Board Wants You! Don't be shy. The Board meets every other month, and each person helps out in his or her own way. Contact Richard Tiede at rtiede@pacbell.net or 408-251-6618.



Just a few of the fun things the Board gets up to!*

* *Not true, but we do have fun!*

News from our Website, westernhort.org

Facebook Did you know that if you go to our website at westernhort.org, you can link to Facebook, and if you go to our Facebook page (go to facebook.com and search for "Western Horticultural Society"), you can link to our website? On Facebook, don't forget to click "Like". The number of hits is increasing and hopefully we are reaching younger people.

Wanted: Your Garden for Our Website Does anyone want to feature their garden on the website? What about a garden in containers, a garden in process or one that is just a crazy mess? We all can learn from your experience. Contact Pat Knight at deerproof@yahoo.com.

Read about Previous Founders Award Recipients at westernhort.org/events_FoundersAwardNight.html.

~*Pat Knight, Webmaster*

It's not often one can "taste" his way through a trip back in time. John Valenzuela, Chairperson of the Golden Gate Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers, treated us to such an evening with his talk, "Fruit Stories: A Cultural History of Some Northern California Fruit Varieties, People, and Places." John began with a look at our native fruits and nuts. Native Californian tribes found plenty to eat: huckleberries, manzanita, toyon, currant, elderberries, and rose hips (to name a few). While these indigenous fruits offer faint appeal to today's taste buds, they provided our natives people with a varied and healthy diet. Valenzuela then discussed the Spanish Catholic Mission Period (1683-1834). Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries brought from their native land some of the biblical fruits—figs, grapes, olives, and pomegranates. Many varieties are in production today. The missions largely succeeded in being self-sufficient, as designed, thanks to these Spanish settlers who found California remarkably similar in climate.

Next, we learned about the early pioneer and gold rush period and those souls who braved many a hardship to reach the promised land. One of these men, Henderson Lewellyn (later spelled Luelling), crossed into Oregon from Iowa with his "tree wagon." He brought seven hundred fruit tree whips on a 1,900-mile journey in 1847 over the old Oregon Trail; about half of the trees survived, allowing future generations to taste thirty seven varieties of fruits. Said to be the first man who grafted fruit west of the Rocky Mountains, Luelling died in San Jose in 1878, burned to death while clearing land. Henderson's brother Seth followed him to Oregon in 1850, working first in the family nursery and later traveling through the California gold rush country, collecting fruit tree seeds that he brought home. By 1854, the Luelling's nursery expanded to four locations, with over 100,000 fruit trees. For the rest of his life, he worked on grafting fruit trees and developing new cultivars, including Black Republican and Lambert cherries, and the most famous, the Bing cherry (named for his foreman, Ah Bing). He died in 1896.

Nut breeding also began in earnest during this period. One of the notable names associated with early walnut varieties was Felix Gillet, who founded the Barren Hill Nursery in Nevada City in 1871. His most famous introduction was the paradox walnut (also attributed to Luther Burbank).

Ah yes, Burbank. The man, perhaps larger than life in his time, was the giant of the final segment of John Valenzuela's presentation—the "modern" breeding era. This rich period of our state's history, which put us on the map as far as fruit production nationwide was concerned, ushered in a scientific process of collection: crossing, growing out, selecting, propagating, and distributing. Luther Burbank (1849-1926), the "Wizard of Horticulture," the "Sage of Santa Rosa," was at the forefront. A native of Massachusetts, he arrived in California at the age of 26 after a brief but remarkable career in his home state, developing the Russett Burbank Potato that helped him launch his career as America's most famous horticulturalist.

After settling in Santa Rosa, Burbank began a life-long endeavor to breed, cross-breed, select and cultivate plants in an unprecedented way (and perhaps still unmatched way). Unschooled in botany, he nevertheless was extremely successful (and controversial). He developed more than eight hundred strains and varieties of plants. The spineless cactus, plumcot, Santa Rosa plum, and the Wickson plum number among his notable fruits.

A little closer to home, John Rock founded the California Nursery Co. in San Jose in 1865. In 1884, Rock moved it to its present location in Niles (now a park). George C. Roeding (another Burbank colleague) previously founded the Fancher Creek Nursery in Fresno. A 158-acre giant, the California Nursery Co. became the west coast's largest nursery, both in mail order sales and in-house sales. Thousands of their trees, including some still-thriving fruit trees, dot Bay Area lots, testament to Roeding's efforts.

It was a long journey through time, and a lot of fascinating history to savor, but John Valenzuela did it masterfully. A final reward was ours—he graciously brought many delicious heirloom fruits for us to sample. How sweet is that? ~Mark McCabe

Western Horticultural Society ~ December 2012

Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede

Vice President: Christine Bate

Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon, Jon Craig, Abby Garner, Rosalie Shepherd, Steve Staiger, Judy Wong 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 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 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

Send submissions for the January 2013 newsletter by December 18 to Marianne Mueller: mrm@sonic.net, 650-326-2029, or 333 Kingsley Ave., Palo Alto 94301.

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

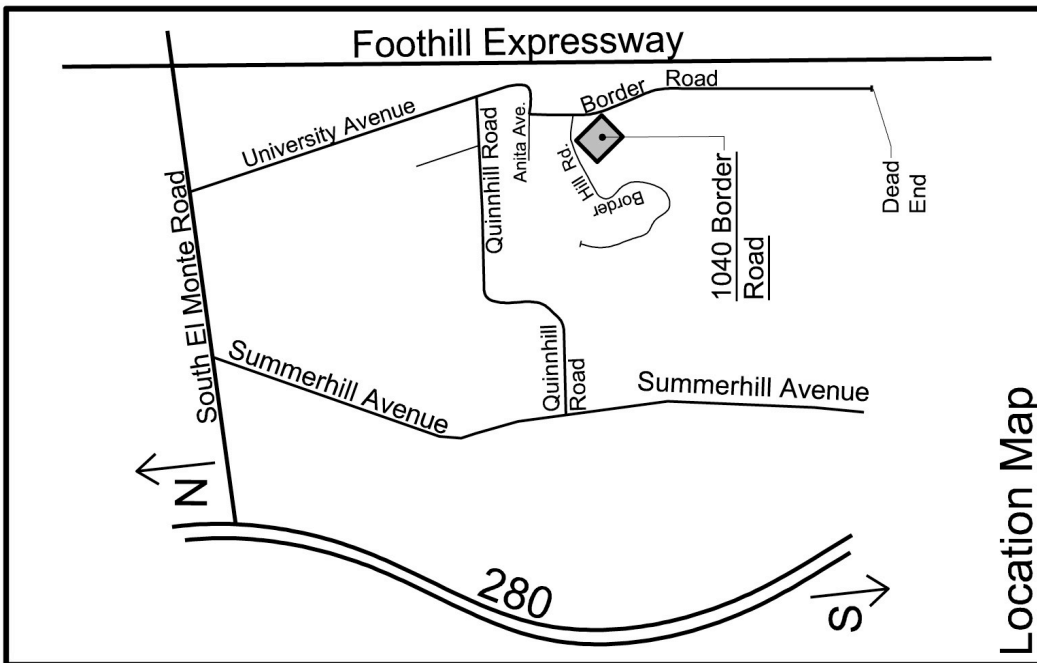
Contact John Valenzuela at johnvalenzuela@hotmail.com or cornucopiafoodforest.wordpress.com.



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First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



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