



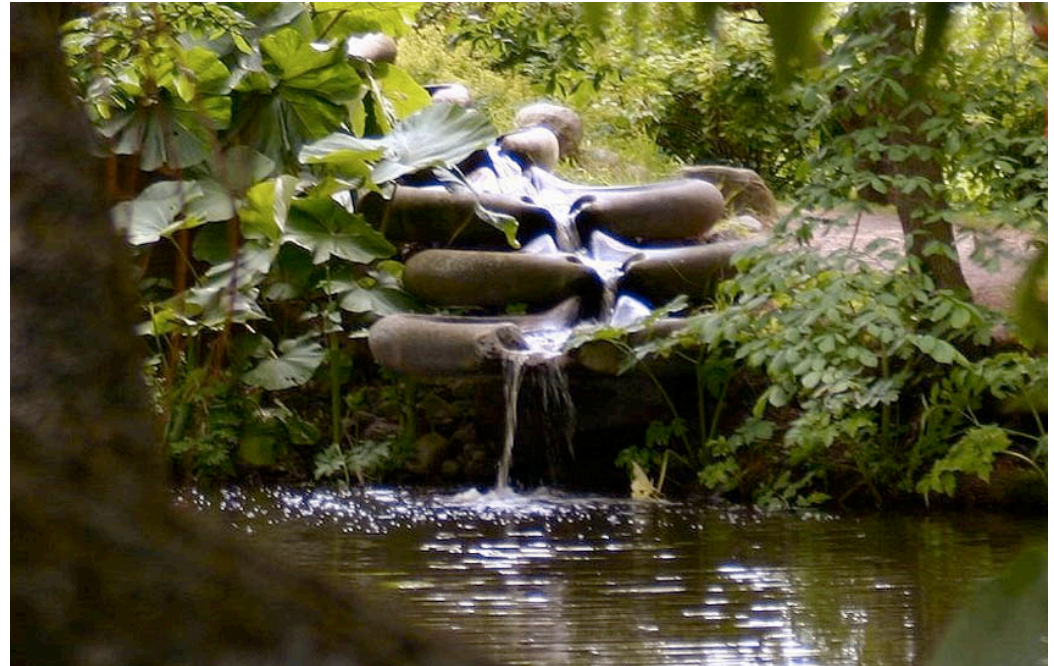
January 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, January 8, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.
Speaker: Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Curator and Director of Outreach, Denver Botanic Garden, Denver, Colorado



“The Great Gardens of Central Europe”

Americans are very much aware of the great gardens of Japan, and Great Britain is known for gardening. Most have heard of the Alhambra or Giverny—but even keen American garden connoisseurs are not aware that Germany alone has over one hundred ambitious botanic gardens. There, notable efforts have been made to preserve endangered plants and coordinate with other gardens to enhance the value of public gardens as arks for rare plants, and as powerful tools for taxonomic education.



Panayoti will share a spectacular trip to Sweden, Denmark and Germany touring botanic gardens, castle gardens and private gardens. For more information, please see the websites for Denver Botanic Gardens, <http://botanicgardens.org>, and Swedish Gardens, <http://swedishgardens.se>.

Kulturcentrum Järna “A garden-park in Sörmland, Sweden” – this is how artist, gardener, and inspirer Arne Klingborg (1915-2005) would describe the park. *Photo: Swedish Gardens, <http://swedishgardens.se>. Above: Banner for the Denver Botanic Gardens Orchid Show—“Hundreds of orchid blooms spread among our fragrant citrus collections will be sure to chase away any winter blues.” From <http://botanicgardens.org>.*

Many thanks to Renee Shepherd who is sponsoring this month’s speaker! Yes, *that* Renee, of Renee’s Garden: Heirloom and Gourmet Vegetable, Flower & Herb Seed, <http://reneesgarden.com>.

February 2014 Speaker

Jason Martinez from the San Francisco Botanical Garden at Strybing Arboretum is our speaker on February 12, 2014, on “Magnificent Magnolias at San Francisco Botanical Garden.”
<http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>



Graphic from Renee’s Garden website, <http://reneesgarden.com>

Plant Table After our winter cold last month, we all should have a few empty spots in our gardens for new plants. Come check out what is on the plant table! We are selling plants rather than having raffles and many members prefer it this way. The board will be providing many of the items on the plant table in January, but members are welcome to bring plants or other garden related items. ~*Roberta Barnes*

February 15 Field Trip & Curator's Tour of San Francisco Botanical Garden

Don Mahoney, Curator, San Francisco Botanical Garden, will give a tour at SFBG on Saturday, February 15th, 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m., to tour the magnolia collection. Cost: \$10 donation for SFBG/Western Hort members; guests welcome for a \$20 donation. All proceeds go to support Don and the garden. If interested, please sign up at the January 8 meeting (and pay), or contact Rosalie Shepherd ASAP at shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.



Magnolia campbellii. Photo by James Gaither. From <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>

Scion Exchange The California Rare Fruit Growers scion exchange is on January 11, 2014, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Prusch Park Cultural Center, King & Story Roads, San Jose. Master Gardener Bader Kudsi and other experts will be demonstrating how to graft scion wood onto your home fruit tree at 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. A great variety of fruit tree cutting are available, and some can be planted directly when you get home, such as figs, pomegranates, and grapes. See you there!

28 Years Ago Western Hort met on January 8, 1986 to hear Robert Kourik's talk *Pruning of Fruit Trees—Low Maintenance/High Yield*. "Robert Kourik of Santa Rosa ... is founder and director of the Edible Landscaping Program at the Farrallones Institute Rural Center in California. His experience is in edible landscape design, passive solar greenhouses and gray water systems." Definitely a man ahead of his time.

Boething Treeland supplied the raffle table. There was also a mention of botanical art (state flower watercolors) by Anne Ophelia Dowden at Strybing Arboretum. (SF Botanical Garden)

Plant notes included many plants with colorful fruit, including *Symphoricarpos* (white or raspberry berries) which is suitable for shade; *Aronia arbutifolia* (red chokeberry) and *Pittosporum*. Plants in bloom included *Mahonia lomariifolia* (Emily Brown) and *Daphne bholua*. Sue Johnson brought in *Correa reflexa*, Vivian Hawkins showed *Cyclamen coum* and a *Primula juliae* hyb. 'Tawny Port'. Lyn Dearborn brought a blue ribbon winner—*Paphiopedilum leeanum* 'Clinkerberryanum' a lady slipper-type orchid. Other contributors included Gerda Isenberg (*Sedum organum*), Elizabeth Garbett (a great variety of *Helleborus orientalis* seedlings) and Ed Carman (*Helleborus niger* 'White Magic'). ~*Nancy Schramm*



A Pair of Botanical Prints by Anne Ophelia Dowden, on auction for a starting bid of \$40 at <http://www.liveauctioneers.com/item/9163705>. You can search online for "Anne Ophelia Dowden" to find her art and books.

Western Hort Memories In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Western Hort, I thought it would be fun to ask a few members to share some memories, and to tell us why they joined WHS in the first place.

Dick Dunmire: For the few who might not know, Dick is former editor of the Sunset Western Garden Book as well as the garden section of Sunset magazine. Dick, one of our founders, has been a part of Western Hort from the beginning. He was the first to receive our annual Founders' Award. With such a history of association with WHS he found it difficult to single out individual favorite memories. He did agree with me that in general, the quality of the WHS speakers is so high, it seriously increases the difficulty. Dick probably enjoys the plant oriented talks the best, ones that focus on a single genera or class or group of plants. In recent memory he really enjoyed the bulb talk given by Dylan Hannon. And he said that for sheer fireworks, nothing can surpass the slide show assembled by Ted Kipping to accompany The Sherry Austin Band who entertained us at a Holiday Party a few years ago.

Elizabeth Garbett: Elizabeth has been a dedicated volunteer for WHS for many years. She was the first to organize our December potlucks, volunteered as a board member, wrote our plant notes for years, and was a force behind the beginnings of our annual plant sale. She is also a Founders' Award recipient. Elizabeth writes: I think I joined WHS in 1980 when Budge retired and we moved back from eight years in Houston ... Marilou Vivanco, a longtime member of WHS, took me to my first meeting and I was blown away. That was when I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. There was so much to learn. Helping Emily Brown with the Plant Notes and doing them myself taught me a lot. Visiting gardens and nurseries was so exciting, especially nurseries like Ed Carman's that were full of plants I'd never seen before. I've always gardened but this was a whole order of magnitude beyond my experience. So you see, WHS has been a great and wonderful part of my life and it gives me much satisfaction to see it prospering and giving others the pleasure it has given me.

Glenda Jones: Glenda served on the WHS board for six years, 2001-2006, and was our newsletter editor five years—a real gift of time and love. Glenda writes: About the newsletter. I had told Jean Fowkes who had put out a typed announcement sheet for several years, that if she ever wanted to give it up I would be happy to take it over. When she got too sick to carry on, I was asked to step in. I couldn't do the first one, because my daughter had just died, and I was dealing with all that that entailed. My first issue was December 2001, a quickly put together single page issue and introduced page design and graphics for the first time. As a former graphic artist I enjoyed doing this because it helped me keep my graphic skills up to date with the new technology. As time went on the look changed and the size expanded. After the first issue it became a two-page issue printed on white paper, which was folded and inserted into an envelope. In September 2003 it changed to a four-page, single-fold issue printed on a bright chartreuse/yellow paper with the last page taken up by the map and address space. At the same time I started using the speaker's topic as a graphic theme. So if it was about Bulbs, I spread images of bulbs throughout the issue. Some of the topics were challenging to illustrate that way, but I liked that challenge. The topic "New Directions at S.F.'s Conservatory and Botanical Gardens" was challenging, but in addition to a photograph of the Conservatory I found drawings of other glass houses from times past. Sometimes I used my own photographs to illustrate, and a couple of times I did the drawings. My last issue was January 2006: Garden and Climate—History and Future of Energy Conserving Microclimates. That was challenging to illustrate. That also was when I announced that Michelle Hunziker would take over the editor slot.



Arisaema costatum, one of the Aroids favored by Dylan Hannon. Requires humus-rich and well-drained soil in a sheltered spot. Very large tri-foliolate exotic-looking foliage. Photo and caption:

<http://www.pinterest.com/pin/41017948531402154>

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Western Hort Memories, Continued from page 3

A favorite memory: being on the Board with Leslie Dean as President. She was such a pleasure to work with, always organized and on top of things. I liked my connections with everyone who was on the Board, but Leslie was a stand-out. By the way, Kathleen Craig and I joined the Board at the same time. And our routine with the newsletter was for me to deliver the finished copy to her. She took it to be printed and then took it to whoever had the envelope-stuffing party. That was done by Elizabeth Garbett for a long time. Sometimes I participated in the stuffing party and sometimes not.

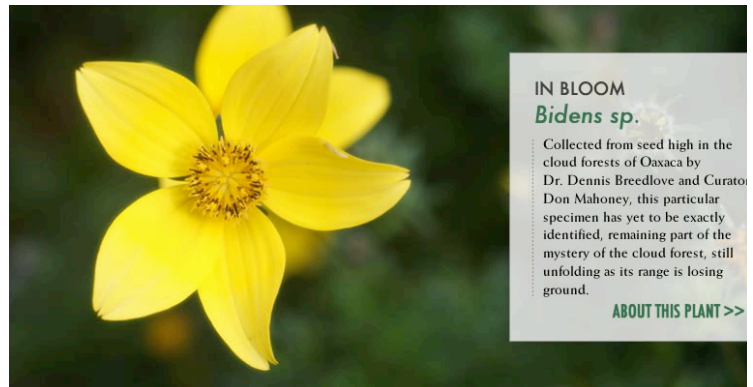
Here is a funny story about what happened to the September 2004 issue. I delivered the final copy to Kathleen, and then left on a two-week vacation. There was a last minute change of location for the meeting, and I wasn't around to make the change. Somehow, Kathleen had set the folder with the copy on top of her car, and it blew off into the San Francisquito creek bed next to her house. Roger raced down to recover it, which he did without too much damage, but they couldn't make the changes without redoing the entire front page, so instead they hand-wrote the change of address, covering up the graphic I had used with a change announcement. Oh, well. We do what we have to do.

Kerry Barrs: Kerry has been a WHS board member (he ended up serving more than six years, since his first few years were counted as fulfilling another board member's unfinished term!), speakers' committee member, and long-time assistant and then leader of the plant discussion. Kerry writes: Probably Glenda Jones, whom I worked with for many years on many jobs, asked me to meetings and to join the board first. Glenda and her partner Dick Clark were also active with Common Ground as was I very early on in my garden beginnings mid-peninsula in the late 80's. I am sure I told Glenda more than once that I was not interested in getting involved at Strybing and Western Hort at the same time. Yet when my new mentor Bill Kurtz called in December 2006 and said I was needed, I just said yes, go figure.

My favorite speaker is one from Strybing. Golden Gate Park is a WORLD recognized tourist destination. The 'east end' of Golden Gate Park is where all the brain power and educational venues are; The Conservatory, Botanical Garden, de Young Museum, Academy of Sciences, and the Japanese Tea Garden. Hopefully people will then have a reason to visit the Botanical Garden and see the great job they do to educate people, get involved in your own area teaching garden, volunteer if you can, or become a member if you can't do anything else. Take advantage of every chance to remind or make people aware of the teaching aspect of their own garden—pointing out what works and what doesn't is a teaching moment. Western Hort is my place to learn and to share with others what I have learned. The speakers give me knowledge, the plant discussion shows a persons passion for a particular plant, my fellow members give me confidence to 'garden on', and volunteering is giving back for all the kindness others have showed me over the years.

Milovan Milutin: I'm not sure when Milovan joined WHS (I've written him into my 2010 roster) but I've known him a number of years as a dedicated member of the California Rare Fruit Growers. His love for plants continues to grow, and he's looking for a job in horticulture, hopefully in the New Year. (Let him know if you've got any leads!) Milovan writes: I probably first heard about WHS through the Pacific Horticulture magazine. I knew that it was comprised of professionals, garden designers, landscaper architects and horticulturists. So I was always hesitant about attending. Meanwhile I had joined The Mediterranean Garden Society, where I reconnected with Richard and Bracey Tiede. Bracey reassured me that I would fit in with the group, so I joined and am so glad I did. One of my favorite experiences was working the booth at the San Francisco Flower and Garden show over the several past years. It was fun talking with the public over the new Hot Plant Picks.

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Bidens sp. now in bloom at Strybing Arboretum.

Photo: <http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org>

Western Hort Memories, Continued from page 4

Marianne Mueller: Marianne is our current newsletter editor, and we all thank her for stepping in and taking on the job when Michelle Bosch retired so she could have more time with her new baby. Marianne writes: During my Initial Training to be a volunteer with the Master Gardener Program in 2007, veteran MGs encouraged me strongly to come to Western Hort meetings. “You’ll love them, you’ll learn so much, and a great bunch of people!” The first few meetings (at the place before the current location, Christ Episcopal) terrified me. I was blown over by the knowledge exhibited by people talking about beloved plants during “Show and Tell.” First-timer luck visited me for the first few meetings, as I won almost every plant I bid on, during the days of the Raffle Table, aka today’s Plant Table. I’m sorry to say most of those plants have passed away. However, cuttings from Barrie Coate’s home and other Western Hort members’ gardens are thriving! Over time I may have picked up a trick or two from MGs and Western Hort on keeping plants alive. I still don’t speak Latin and continue to be awed by Western Hort members’ knowledge. One of my favorite talks was Mallorcan Masonry. ~“*Western Hort Memories*” was compiled by Nancy Schramm—many thanks to Nancy for interviewing and collecting memories of Western Hort members for this issue and the December 2013 newsletter.

December Speaker and Holiday Party After being treated to a sumptuous spread of food and drink at our annual Holiday Potluck, wouldn’t it be fitting for our evening’s speaker to follow with a deserving presentation? We certainly were rewarded with one, as Warren G. Roberts, retired Superintendent of UC Davis Arboretum, served us a rich oral history with “trees and plants that have changed the Bay Area.”

In a refreshing departure from the normal slides and visual aids, Mr. Roberts stood and delivered a very educational and entertaining talk about some of California’s past “immigrants” from the plant kingdom. Plants are a very personal thing with this man, truly evident in the manner of his speech and his written notes (hand-written, two pages!) A native Californian, with some notable early state settlers in his lineage, Mr. Roberts conveyed a message, interspersed with opinion and humor, that struck a chord with all of those in attendance. Drawing from historical transcripts and personal observations, Roberts presented ten plant categories that have shaped our state’s landscape. Early explorers who made their home here on the Peninsula (De Anza, Vancouver, et al.) would hardly recognize the place today—once a verdant savanna woodland of oaks and grasses. Mr. Roberts’ message, rather than being judgmental, was simply that these introduced plants (some good, some not) dramatically altered our homeland, due to the efforts of the people of various countries to improve their lives.

The second part of Mr. Roberts’ presentation was a brief rundown of a dozen favorite plants the speaker had selected for us. Each plant was associated with a person or place, sometimes from childhood, that Roberts cherishes even today. To quote his written remarks, “When I see or visualize these plants, my response is often a gasp of delight or a sigh of pleasure, or a smile of happiness, or all three in sequence.” I think that neatly sums up a true plant lover’s persona, and reflects a lifetime of work in horticulture. Come to think of it, I wonder what kind of world we would have if we applied those words to our encounters with people—all people—in our lives? Happy 2014 Everyone. ~*Mark McCabe*

Western Horticultural Society

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Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes
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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

Please send info for the February 2014 newsletter by January 20 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

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

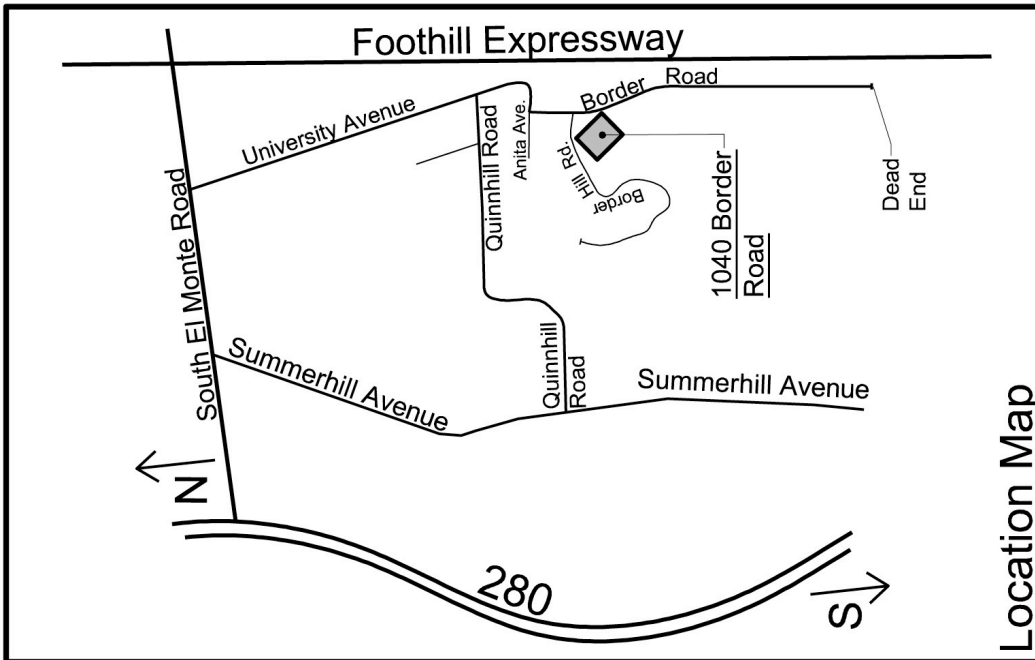


Western
Horticultural
Society

PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



Location Map

MEETING LOCATION

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

Join our speaker and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting, on January 8 at 5:30 p.m. We gather at Bella Vita restaurant in Los Altos, 376 First St, Los Altos. Plenty of nearby street parking.

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.

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