



***JOIN US FOR A CELEBRATION of GOOD COMPANY  
AND GOOD FOOD***

Wednesday, December 9 – **6:00pm**

**Location:** The Parish Hall, Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Please see the last page of this newsletter for a map.

**Speakers:** Jane Stocklin and Susan Woodman,  
“Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism.”

PLEASE BRING a favorite main dish, salad or dessert to share. Also BRING plates and utensils for yourself and your guests. The Board will provide cups and glasses, wine and beverages AND appetizers.

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

***December 2015 Potluck Program***

Wednesday, December 9, **6:00pm**. Speakers: Jane Stocklin and Susan Woodman, “Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism.”

**Description** excerpted from <http://westernhort.org>; please see the online description for more details.

Jane Stocklin is a long-time volunteer at Gamble Garden, serving on numerous board positions in the last 25 years. Susan Woodman has volunteered at Gamble Garden for more than a decade and is author of the book *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism*.

In 1985, a group of energized citizens convinced Palo Alto to allow them to spearhead the revitalization of the Gamble family property as a public garden with a horticultural and educational mission. Their optimism and hard work paid off, and now *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism* celebrates the value of this community centerpiece, a model for urban residential space. Jane and Susan will share photos of early Palo Alto and the rehabilitation phase of Gamble Garden to its current plants, design and spirit. They will also share Gamble family history. They will bring copies of *Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism* for sale. ~Pat Knight

***Upcoming Speakers*** See [westernhort.org](http://westernhort.org) for descriptions

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

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

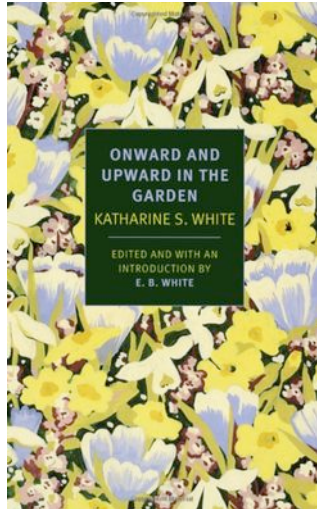
***March 9, 2016*** Wendy Proud, “Transforming the Landscape of Waterwise California.”

## WANTED! Volunteers for a few critical jobs

Plant Notes writer – Contact Jackie Doda, [jndoda@earthlink.net](mailto:jndoda@earthlink.net) or (650) 969-3983. You'll learn a lot!

Membership List Caretaker – Please contact Jessie at [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162. Not hard!

Host-a-Speaker – Contact Nancy Schramm at 408-847-2313 or Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364. Tons of fun!



**From December to March,  
there are for many of us  
three gardens –  
the garden outdoors,  
the garden of pots and bowls in the house  
and the garden of the mind's eye.**

~Katherine S. White, first Fiction Editor of the New Yorker and garden/horticulture writer. Her only published book (as Katherine White), titled *Onward and Upward in the Garden*, was published after her death in 1977. It is a compilation of her garden articles and journals. Horticulture magazine states, “Although she never claimed to be more than an amateur, her pieces, especially her famous surveys of garden catalogs, are remarkable for their fierce intelligence and crisp prose.” Her husband [E.O. Wilson] credits this book project with saving his own life after her death, as it gave him her words every day, and something to work on after she had died.

*Sounds like a book recommendation for that special horticulturalist on your list! Happy Holidays!*



**Ceratonia siliqua**, commonly known as the Carob tree. *Photo: wikipedia*

**28 Years Ago** Western Hort gathered December 9, 1987 for the annual holiday party and potluck supper, organized by Elizabeth Garbett. There was an announcement that Filoli was looking for an Estate Gardener and a Greenhouse Technician. And here is news of the developing perennial book — “green sheets” had been handed out for members to fill in with information about their favorite perennials. Bart O’Brien was in charge of collecting the sheets in the next step towards creating a book.

Since there was no plant discussion in December, here are some names (both plants & people) from the **October 8, 1973** meeting, **42 Years Ago**: Saratoga Hort Foundation displayed *Acer ginnala*, *Cassia colutioides* (exhibited as *C. bicapsularis*) and *Ceratonia siliqua* ‘Cal Poly’; Emily Brown brought in *Callicarpa bodinieri*, *Lycyteria crocothyrso*, *Salvia elegans* and *Vitis vinifera* ‘Painters’ (maybe the same as *Vitis vinifera* ‘Purpurea’); Barbara Worl showed *Buddleia weyeriana* and *Salvia azurea*; John Coulter exhibited *Agave victoriae-reginae*, Eva Werchshagen exhibited *Mandevilla laxa* and *Echeveria* ‘Perle von Nurnberg’, Frank Duveneck showed three *Osmanthus*, Charles Grimaldi displayed *Echeveria* ‘Butterfield’ and my mom, Jean Carman brought in *Echeveria crenulata* and *E. lindsayana*. (I had to include Mom since this is the only time I’ve seen her listed in the plant notes! ~Nancy Schramm

**2016 Is Upon Us** Once again a year is ending—my excuse to think about ‘the olden days’ and share some more stories and memories of a nursery child. Even when quite young, my sisters and I were required to work in the family business. I guess it was a family tradition, since back in the 1930’s and 1940’s when my grandparents owned Carman’s Nursery (named for my grandfather, Hugh Carman) my dad and his three sisters all had to work in the nursery. I asked Aunt Marge about her work experience, and she told me about how there were favorite tools (a special trowel, the sharp shears, etc.) and whoever got out to work first had their pick of the good ones. It was usually her sister, my Aunt Marie who got to use the favorites since Marge *much* preferred to sleep in! Dad had a little more fun doing his nursery chores—he had permission to miss his first morning class at Los Gatos High so he could make nursery deliveries in the old pickup around the Santa Clara Valley.



**Echeveria crenulata x carnicolor.**

*Photo: ardenbreizh.org*

During WWII my grandfather converted the nursery each spring to grow tomato transplants for the canneries. Raised beds were planted intensively with tiny seedlings. Since the seedlings were planted quite early in the season to give the canneries a head start on the growing season, a framework was built over the beds and covered nightly with linen sheets (regular bed sheets purchased from a department store) to protect the plants from frost. Sometimes kerosene lanterns were also lit to help keep the frost off. Aunt Marge still remembers the long board, studded with nails, that was used to mark the intended spot for each tomato seedling to be planted. Once the small plants were about 18” tall, they were dug and packed in mud in deep wood fruit boxes and then sold to the canneries to be planted out in their fields.

My sisters and I had our favorite tools to use in the nursery as well, but since we didn’t work the same hours, much of the squabbling was avoided. We all spent a lot of time in the greenhouse (at that time, truly a glass house) doing ‘cuttings’. We had wooden flats filled with a mixture of sand and perlite, moistened perfectly, so that a piece of sheet metal could cut into the medium and open a long, straight slice. Short lengths of the tips of plants (the cuttings) were placed in the slice, evenly spaced, and then the open slice was pressed closed. There were 10-20 cuttings per slice, 20-30 rows per flat, and yes, you’re right, it could get a little repetitive and tedious for a 14 or even a 20 year-old (always much better than weeding, however!) So we begged for, and got a radio. Let me remind you here, that this was the early 1970’s I’m talking about, no iPod, no Walkman. So the radio had a speaker in the greenhouse, but the tuner was in the office, therefore changing stations required two people, working together. My sister Diane’s favorite station at the time was KEEN, and, since she was older, she simply told me that I wasn’t allowed to change the station. In those days, some mornings and many afternoons the KEEN programming changed from music to baseball, broadcasting all the Oakland A’s games. By default, I became a well-informed A’s fan. To this day I remember the names of many of the World Series winning team members with their cute handlebar moustaches.

I still have fond memories of those days, which prompted me to impulsively enter a World Series contest recently, despite not having listened to a baseball game this century (or for twenty five years before that...) Believe it or not, I picked the Giants in five, and won a box of plants!

At one time or another, nursery workers included immediate and extended family, as well as a high school boy and/or girl who worked after school and during the summer. Looking back, I feel a little sorry for those kids, because when I was little I followed them around like a puppy dog. I remember watching them mix the sand, sawdust and dirt for the potting mix, hand water the plants in big cans in the field, and weed, endlessly. Poor kids had to be nice to the boss’s daughter! But some returned to visit, and we took great pleasure having known some great kids, as well as those employees who went on to fame and fortune after leaving the nursery. Howard Kaeding traded dirt for grease when he went on to found Kaeding Performance and become a racing legend. And singer songwriter Tom Jans thrilled us with his music (and looks) before joining up with Mimi Farina and recording the album *Take Heart*.

See you next year—more plants, I promise! ~Nancy Schramm

## *Italian Stone Pine: Heritage Tree of Saratoga*

Excerpted from [http://www.saratoga.ca.us/whatsnew/italian\\_stone\\_pine.asp](http://www.saratoga.ca.us/whatsnew/italian_stone_pine.asp)

After approximately 100 years of providing oxygen, shade and a beautiful canopy to visitors of Blaney Plaza, the last Italian stone pine tree in the entranceway of the Saratoga Village is set to be removed this June due to its declining health. The City's signature pine tree has suffered from the harsh drought conditions and is currently infested with wood boring beetles.

The beetles lay their eggs on the tree just under the bark. When the eggs hatch, the larvae feed on the tissue of the tree, creating tunnels as they eat the wood. These tunnels cut off the flow of food and water and eventually kill the tree.

Italian stone pines are normally drought tolerant and do not suffer from wood boring beetles. However, when there is a prolonged drought—such as the one occurring now—the beetle population increases dramatically and can overwhelm even a vigorous tree. The Blaney Plaza Italian stone pine is a century old and at the end of its normal life span, so fighting off an infestation is more difficult.

The City plans on planting and dedicating a new signature tree in the near future at Blaney Plaza that will hopefully bring the same beauty and charm to Downtown Saratoga for another hundred years.

See the web page listed above for the rest of a brief history of the Three Italian Stone Pines of Saratoga, California. *~Information for this page was provided by the Saratoga History Museum, City Arborist Kate Bear and local arborist Blair Glenn.*



**Italian Stone Pine.** Picture courtesy of the Saratoga History Museum  
December 2015

## **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](mailto: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](http://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 18<sup>th</sup> of the prior month; items received after the 25<sup>th</sup> likely will not make it into the newsletter but will be published the following month. Send submissions to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

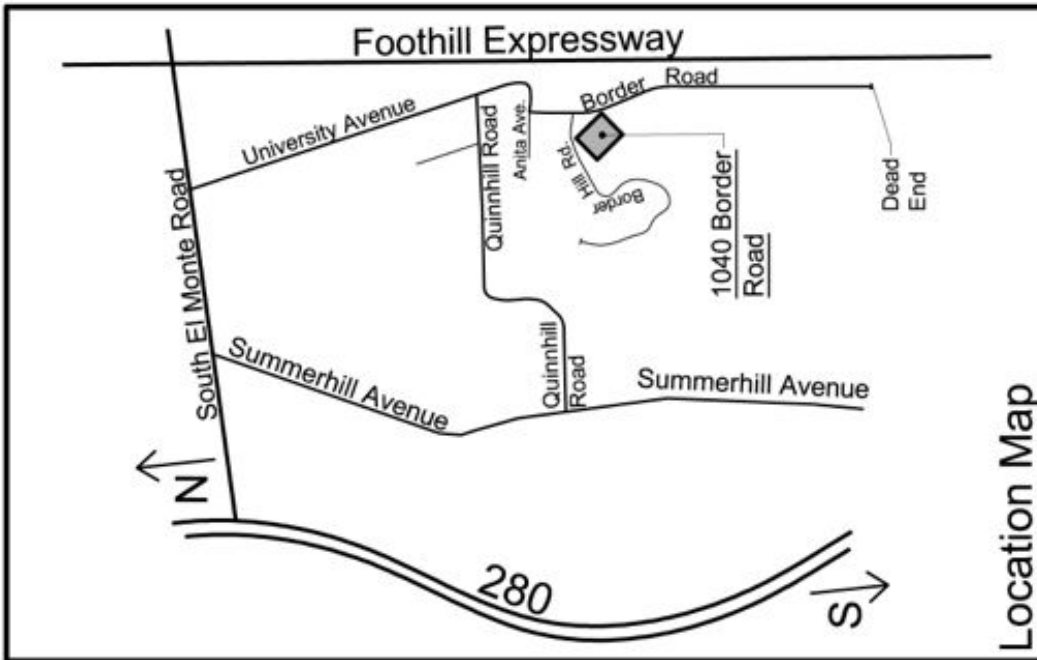
Please send address changes to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



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.