



March 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Andrew M. Sutherland, Bay Area IPM Advisor, UCCE Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara Counties

“Invasive Pest Species and the Urban Landscape: A Recipe for Disaster”

Come learn about the invasive arthropods and weeds threatening our environment, or already established within the State. The focus will be those invasives that are associated with the urban landscapes of the Bay Area.

Our speaker Andrew Sutherland will also address the challenges of managing these invasives in our yards and gardens where routes of pest entry are diverse and difficult to monitor.

Andrew Sutherland is the Urban Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area, serving Alameda, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties. Andrew serves as a conduit for IPM-related information and resources in all areas of pest management, including weed, pathogen, and vertebrate management. His primary emphasis is pest management of arthropods in urban areas: developing new IPM strategies, or adapting and implementing IPM strategies already available, in cooperation with UC Farm Advisors, Master Gardeners, pest control advisers, pest management professionals, pest control operators, public agencies, schools, parks, public housing, and regulatory agencies involved with both landscape IPM and structural / industrial IPM.

Personal specialties include integrated pest management, biological control, agricultural decision support, reduced-risk pesticides, vector ecology, sampling programs, environmental horticulture, pruning theory and practice of woody plants, arboriculture, experimental design, mathematical modeling, and insectary management.

Ph.D. Entomology, UC Davis, 2009.

M.S. Horticulture and Agronomy, UC Davis, 2005.

B.S. Environmental Horticulture, University of Florida, 2001.

Right: Virginia creeper leafhopper invades California (*Erythroneura ziczac*). Shown here: VCLH nymph. It is a new invasive pest on grapes. See <http://ucanr.edu/blogs/pestnews>.
Photo by Mike Poe, UC IPM.



Andrew M. Sutherland, Bay Area IPM Advisor. *Photo: cealameda.ucanr.edu.*



April 2014 Speaker Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m. CHRISTY O'HARA, Landscape Architecture Department, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. "Hearst Castle: The History and Design of the Gardens."

Speaker Notes—February 2014, Jason Martinez

Snapping us out of our winter doldrums and putting some color back into our lives was Jason Martinez with his dazzling presentation titled "Magnificent Magnolias."

A nine-year veteran gardener with the City of San Francisco, Jason shared with us an extensive collection of slides—and stories—of this amazing genus. Botanically speaking, Magnolia is the largest of the six genera belonging to the family Magnoliaceae. The family itself is divided into two subfamilies, Magnoliidae and Liriodendroideae. Within Magnoliidae are several genera containing anywhere from six to ten species (botanists are still sorting this out, with the genus *Michelia* being one of them).

Believed to be some of the most primitive flowering plants, Magnolias occur naturally in both the new and old worlds, as well as both hemispheres. For sheer number of different species, China is the place to go, as our speaker did, spending a month there studying Magnolias in their native habitat. Of most importance is the Yunnan province, a mountainous area with altitudes varying from 250 ft. to 22,120 ft. This vast variation in altitude gave rise to a wide selection of Magnolias seen in the wild as well as in cultivated gardens.

Closer to home, the San Francisco Botanical Garden contains a myriad of Magnolia species, and is ranked as the world's fourth finest collection. For conservation purposes—and SFBG is the most important Magnolia conservation program outside China—there are three designated walks in the park to view the collection. Most species (about ninety) bloom from January through March.

Jason finished his presentation with an impressive slide show of the many wonderful Magnolia species, describing unusual characteristics, usefulness and blooming habits. One does not need to plan a trip to China to see this winter display—we've got hundreds to view, not only in San Francisco, but all up and down the Peninsula. Magnificent! ~Mark McCabe

Hot Plant Picks It's that time of year again—Western Hort will once again organize the Hot Plant Pick exhibit at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show. You've probably already heard that the show has new owners. I've spoken with Maryanne Lucas and Sherry Larsen, and they tell me that they are re-focusing the show back onto plants—the reason we fell in love with the show in the first place. If you haven't attended in awhile, I think you'll enjoy the changes. I know that we're pretty excited about the plants we're gathering for the HPP exhibit! Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to staff the exhibit—I'll be in touch with you soon!
~Nancy Schramm



Unusual Magnolia brought to the February 2014 plant discussion. Photo:



Echeveria 'Etna', a Hot Plant Pick in 2013. Photo: Marianne Mueller.



Western Hort Plant Sale 2013. Left to right: Chris Egan, Leslie Dean, Wendy van der Linden, Liz Calhoon, and Lorena Gorsche. *Photo: Marianne Mueller.*

WHS Plant Sale—Save the Date! April 12 is the date! It's time to get organized. It's our biggest moneymaker and public contact of the year. We need members to help staff our booth. There are several ways you can help: set up, plant sales, cashier and promoting Western Horticulture. We will have a sign-up at the March meeting or you can contact any co-lead. For propagators, the spot to drop off the plants will be Roberta Barnes' driveway at 155 Alvarado Ave, Los Altos. You can bring the plants anytime the week before the sale. Please label the plants with their botanical name. Roberta will have some containers and plastic labels available at the March meeting for members who have propagated plants for the sale. Thanks! The co-leads this year are Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon and Chris Egan. ~*Roberta Barnes*

Plant Table Thanks to all the members who brought plants to the Plant Table in February. The plant table committee (the committee formerly known as the raffle committee) is responsible for the March table. Members are welcome to bring items for the table at any time. ~*Roberta Barnes*

Western Hort Memories, Part IV Please see our online newsletter archive (thanks Pat!) for Parts I, II and III, at <http://westernhort.org>. Look for the December 2013, January 2014, and February 2014 issues. Thanks to our website guru and archivist, Pat Knight! *Compiled by Nancy Schramm.*

Nancy Schramm: 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.

Questions: 1—How did you hear about and join Western Hort? 2—Favorite meetings or memories? 3—Have you made special friends because of WHS?

Sherry Austin is one of our long-time members, former board member, and was kind enough to bring her band with her for our wonderful, musical December potluck a couple years ago:

1—When I had my first little house in Menlo Park, I used to be a regular customer at Redwood City Nursery, long before I even worked there. I became friends with Mark Brown and he asked if I wanted to go to these meetings where they talked about plants and had a plant raffle. That meeting I walked away with a beautiful Yoshino Cherry tree from the raffle table, along with some other gems. What beginners luck! Mark was kind enough to tell me about everybody. "That's Betsy Clebsch- she grows Salvias. Over there is Emily Brown. She's active at Filoli and has a garden in Woodside. Ed Carman is the one holding up the plants for discussion. He's got a rare plant nursery in Los Gatos. Oh, and that's Dick Dunmire-the editor of the Western Garden book." I felt like I Cinderella being invited to the horticultural ball. This was probably around '77 or '78 when the meetings were still at Ampex.

2—It's funny to think that one of the meetings, out of so many good ones, that really stood out for me was a talk that Barrie Coate gave on freeway planting. I thought, "Oh Hell... that's going to be boring!.. At least there's the raffle table and plant discussion". I don't think I had heard Barrie speak up until that point, but it was one of the most informative and interesting talks I had seen. Barrie spoke about all the little ecosystems and the wildlife that were all dependent on those freeway cloverleaves that we flew by in our cars. He spoke about plants they thought would work, but failed, plants they thought would fail but thrived. All this was when he was consulting with CalTrans about the new 85 freeway that was being completed.

Another talk that was a life-changer was one by Ted Kipping on Pruning. I learned a lot from that one talk that impacted how I pruned after that. I decided that I would go anywhere, anytime to hear Ted or Barrie speak. Those two always had good pictures accompanied by well-planned, interesting and informative talks.

3—I've made many friends through Western Hort. over the years. I always felt warmly welcomed by everyone. I have many fond memories of so many people. Clayton Neece for seeing potential in me and asking me to be on the board, and bringing me out of my shell. One of my co-horts in crime with this crazy plant passion. I had many fun romps with Betsy Clebsch and Dorothy Rodal up to Western Hills, Vintage Gardens, East Bay Nurseries, and all the Hortisexual gatherings.. Carol Coate has been a dear friend and a huge help guiding me through the trials and tribulations of mountain living. This has always been a wonderful group of folks.



Unusual orchid? Plant discussion, February 2014. *Photo: Marianne Mueller.*

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Memories Part IV continued from page 4

Steve Staiger is another faithful WHS member, former board member and history buff. He & his wife have been the ones responsible for selecting the wonderful variety of wine for our December potlucks:

1—I was living in west Menlo Park, off the Alameda, when I first became aware of WHS. Not sure what first drew my attention, possibly a mention in the Alamanac newspaper. The meetings were in a park in Atherton, just east of the railroad tracks. This was in the early 1990s, possibly late 1980s. My only date point is that I moved to my present home in 1994, and was already familiar with and probably a member of WHS by that time.

One surprise was to discover that my neighbor (over the back fence) was a member, and an acclaimed plant person at that. Barbara Worl went from being a neighbor that I knew a bit to someone I would see and talk with on a regular basis.

2—There have been a number of great programs (and a few duds), but the one I remember with the most enjoyment was some guy from a commercial nursery specializing in fruit trees (do not remember his name or the company except that he was from the Central Valley). He talked, with great interest, in the fruit trees we as hobbyists ought to grow, and how to plant and grow them to maximize our pleasure and safety (keep them short, no ladders) perhaps at the expense of maximum production, which should not be our major goal. Kind of funny how such a talk would stay with me after all these years.

3—I have made friends with a number of WHS people, especially some of those who I come in contact with in other parts of my life. Unfortunately I have never been able to bring outside friends into the WHS world.

Judy Wong is currently a board member, also former board member and president, she's taken on the research for the Founders' Award, plus the history of WHS. I appreciate her willingness to say "yes, I'll help" and so have pulled her into the Hot Plant Picks team:

1—I saw an article in the local paper and WHS was meeting at Holbrook-Palmer Park which is quite close to where I live so I decided to attend. (Ampex would have been even closer but they had moved from there:)) I joined in 1992.

2—I had recently become a Master Gardener and I remember being impressed and learning so much about plants new to me from the plant discussion. I enjoy the plant raffle and have many plants from the raffle still in my garden including, Buddleia lindlayana, Weigela variegata, Salvias from Betsy's garden, South African bulbs and succulents from Bill Kurtz. Last but not least are the wonderful speakers. A couple that come to mind are Andrea Hurd's presentation on dry stacked stone walls and Shelagh Fritz's presentation on the Gardens of Alcatraz.

3—So many wonderful friends with a shared passion for gardening. I remember Betsy Clebsch called to invite me to join the WHS board which lead to my being "invited" to be WHS president 1997-1999! The late Linda Markell and my friend Lorena Gorsche have been long time WHS and garden touring companions. John Hammerschmidt, Vice-president, graciously lead the general meetings during the time I was president. I love learning about plants from the many "stars" of horticulture and regular backyard gardeners in WHS.



Huge leaves! Plant discussion, February 2014.
Photo: Marianne Mueller.

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Lorena Gorsche is a former board member and special friend. She started weeding (as a volunteer) at Carman's Nursery for my dad soon after her first visit. She was my mentor (and unpaid saleswoman) my entire first season as a Farmers' Market vendor:

1—I heard about WH in the newspaper about the time I heard about Carman's Nursery from (Horticulture magazine) they recommended his nursery for Buddlia! Which I promptly went to purchase and you know the rest...! I was interested in the topic WH mentioned in the paper, don't know what it was, but my sister went with me. It may have been when I won the 'spiral' aloe, no that was after I had been going for awhile, or when I heard about the Clematis talk and couldn't find the meeting place in the rain and had to go home, sniff so sad. No, it was a before that meeting. I don't know. I only know I went monthly as soon as I went to my first meeting. When I could justify joining, dollar wise, I did. I always added a few dollars to compensate for the time I didn't join. That was before we as a board decided to ask \$5.00 to non-members. Ha!

2&3—I became a board member when Judy left the board. She and Linda Markel were the reasons I joined. I was a board member when Chris ? was president and continued thru when Leslie Dean was president. I'm honored to have been on her board. Leslie and many others have been my friends ever since. It has been one of the best gifts I've given myself, to be a member of a horticulture group such as Western Hort!

Chris Egan is a former and current board member, also past President, and has been a faithful volunteer with the WHS plant sale:

1—Jean Fowkes invited me to come with her to WHS. We were both taking classes at Foothill. At that point botanical names were really foreign to me and I felt overwhelmed and out of place. Jean convinced me to continue to come. Now that seems funny to me because I now have more trouble with common names.

2—I really can't pick one thing that I remember most fondly. I love the plant discussions when members tell about things that they are growing. It is always very special to be with the Western Hort members who are very generous in sharing their knowledge and with whom one can talk "plants".

Another thing I remember most fondly was you and Sherry and John staying to the bitter end when a meeting was over so that I didn't have to close up the church alone. That was very sweet of you.

Almost every speaker is really interesting – they all are talking about something that is fascinating to them.

3—All the Board Members have been exciting to know. I wish I could see more of them. Claudia and Elizabeth. Frankly Western Hort is a very special club.



Left: Ceonothus 'Dark Star': Crime against horticulture, or, acceptable pruning of architectural shrub into almost-ordinary tree form? Your call!

Photo: flickr.com/photos/eastbaywilds

28 Years Ago Western Hort Society met on March 12, 1986 at the Los Altos Youth Center to hear “South African Bulbs” by Stan Farwig. Stan was described as a “gardening hobbyist” but with the disclosure that he was growing over 600 species of South African bulbs from seed, I think that puts him in an entirely different category! Stan offered a two-page hand-out that (I think) listed many of the bulbs he was growing—thirty-four genus and many species long.

Harland Hand’s East Bay garden was the destination for WHS’ March 9th field trip. I’ve seen some pictures my mom, Jean Carman took that day and the garden was full of glorious flowers. It’s also one of the steepest gardens I’ve ever seen!

Plants on the discussion table were brought in by the usual suspects (Emily Brown, Ed Carman, Betsy Clebsch, Dick Dunmire, Gerda Isenberg) as well as other members (Allan Reid, Page Sanders, Richard Terrill). Blooming natives were the stars (Ceanothus, Ribes, Vancouveria, Dicentra) but non-natives added to the display (Magnolia, Akebia, Exochorda, Rhododendron, Viburnum, Olearia, Salvia & Iris). Blooming bulbs (in honor of the speaker) included Rhodohypoxis, Freesia refracta, Tulipa clusiana, T. eichleri, and Fritillaria persica. ~Nancy Schramm



Ted Kipping’s collection of self-hybridized Abutilon. February 2014 Plant Discussion. *Photo: Marianne Mueller.*

Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Virginia Kean, and Wendy van der Linden.

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 April 2014 newsletter by March 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

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

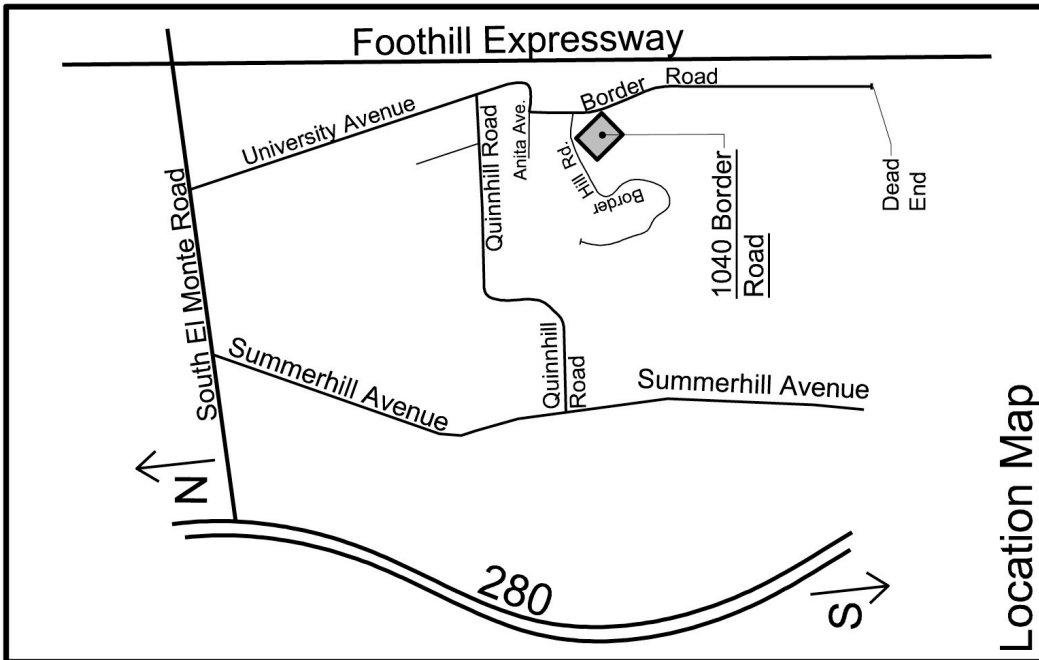


Western
Horticultural
Society

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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 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

Join our speaker name and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 12, at Bella Vita restaurant in Los Altos, 376 First St Los Altos. Plenty of nearby street parking. Please RSVP to Rosalie Shepherd: shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.

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.