



November 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, November 12, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm.

Speaker: Thomas Saucedo, Botanical Curator of the New Zealand Collection, UCSC Arboretum, Santa Cruz, California.

“New Zealand Plants: How to Use Them in Coastal California Gardens”

Tom will share tried and true New Zealand plants (as well as some experimental plants) you can incorporate in your home landscape’s plant palette.

The Edward D. Landels New Zealand Garden in the UCSC Arboretum was dedicated in 1984. Many unusual and fantastic plants await the visitor, their odd forms revealing much about the forces that shaped their evolution. Because of New Zealand’s isolation, it is estimated that an overwhelming 85% of its seed plant species are endemic to New Zealand. See <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/visit/garden/new-zealand>.

The UCSC Arboretum is a research and teaching facility with more than 300 plant families and collections of rare and threatened plants, specializing in world conifers, primitive angiosperms, and bulb-forming plant families. The Arboretum imports, selects, and breeds choice ornamental plants, especially those that are drought tolerant and pest resistant. To date, they have imported 1,500 selections. Large assemblages of plants native to Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and California are displayed on the grounds; many are not otherwise available for study in American botanical gardens and arboreta.

Thomas Saucedo received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and Environmental Studies, UCSC 1985. He began to work at the Arboretum as a student in 1981, and in 1987 became the Curator of the New Zealand Collection (and also works with the Chilean collection). In addition to developing the collections, his work includes anything from noxious weed removal to giving tours of the garden. He has traveled to New Zealand and Chile to collect plants and to gain a better understanding of native plant communities. *Banner photo above: S. African Protea, from UCSC Arboretum website.*

Dinner before the November meeting— You are invited to join our November speaker, Thomas Saucedo, for **dinner on November 12** at 5:30 p.m. at **Chef Chu’s**, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (corner of San Antonio and El Camino). Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.

October 2014 Speaker Notes A former WHS member returned to the scene of the crime as our guest speaker with “Your Garden: Drought, Climate Change, and Native Plants—What’s New?” Bart O’Brien, who is Director of the Regional Park Botanic Garden, Tilden Park, Berkeley, had plenty of evidence to share with us to help our water-challenged gardens thrive.

Mr. O’Brien began his talk with the observation that climate change means more climate fluctuation. He pointed out that success with plants rests with the basic knowledge of plant selection, soil type, and (amount of) water. Speaking of water, Mr. O’Brien found that most gardens, including ones with exotics, are overwatered. For proof, he suggested the newly published “WUCOLS IV – 2014,” easily downloaded, which lists thousands of plants and their water needs (**Water Use Classification of Landscape Species** from UC ANR). The list is based on a CIMIS Reference Evapotranspiration Map corresponding to six Sunset climate zones (California Irrigation Management Information System, part of our state government’s Water Use and Efficiency Branch, in the Department of Water Resources).

Generally speaking, Mr. O’Brien said that our local climate is identified as “Californian,” or perhaps more readily referenced as “Mediterranean.” As a plantsman, O’Brien felt that one of the most drought-tolerant groups of plants is the chaparral community, prominently grown at Tilden Park.

The second half of Bart O’Brien’s presentation was a rich and varied slide show of his personal recommendations of plants worthy of growing in our locale. His lineup included Lyonothamnus, Rhus, Ribes, Mahonia, Ceanothus, Arctostaphylos, and Salvia, to name a few genera. If Mr. O’Brien ran short of time for more slides, we certainly didn’t run out of ideas for new candidates to grow in a thirsty garden! ~Mark McCabe

COMING SOON AT UCSC ARBORETUM!

California Native Plant Garden Phenology Workshop: The Science of the Seasons

Saturday, November 15, 2014—2:00-4:00pm

Saturday, December 13, 2014—2:00-4:00pm

Instructor, Juliet Oshiro

Calling All Citizen Scientists! Hikers! Families! Students! Educators! Do you enjoy watching plants change through the seasons? Would you like to help researchers study the effects of climate change? This workshop will teach volunteers to monitor and gather data on when native plants leaf out, flower, form fruit and other seasonal changes through hands-on training. No experience necessary. Details can be found on the workshop's webpage: <http://arboretum.ucsc.edu/education/phenology-walk/workshops>

November Plant Table Thank you, everyone who brought plants for the table in October. Once again, we had an interesting selection of plants and good sales. Let's keep up the good work! Anything garden related is always appreciated. Any questions? Contact me at robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com or 650-949-0377. ~Roberta Barnes

Holiday Party Decorations! Interested in helping with decorations? It is a fun way to get to know other members. Contact me at robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com or 650-949-0377. Thanks! ~Roberta Barnes

2015 SF Flower & Garden Show—Help with our fabulous Hot Plant Picks exhibit!

Western Hort will be organizing the Hot Plant Picks exhibit at the San Francisco Flower & Garden Show again in March 2015. The show theme is “Going Wild”, and there will be special events to celebrate the 30th anniversary. This year our team needs a new volunteer to be a liaison with the Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay nurseries, and to collect the plants the nurseries will be donating. We will make the initial contact, so this new volunteer doesn’t need to ask for plants—he or she will just need to follow up with the nurseries that agreed to donate plants. How about it? You could be the first to see the exciting new plants that will be featured at the Hot Plant Picks exhibit! Please contact Nancy Schramm at 408-847-2313 or greenthumb@carmansnursery.com. ~Nancy Schramm

What's in Bloom: SF Botanical Garden



Tree Dahlia in the Mesoamerican Cloud Forest garden at the San Francisco Botanical Garden (Asteraceae family), Fall 2014. Prefers shade, moderate water and well-drained soil. Great for areas where you want to have some growth and color within a year from planting. Best when planted with other shrubs and trees for protection from wind. *Caption: David Kruse-Pickler. Photo: James Gaither.*

Quotes from text written by Kathy McNeil (see http://www.sfbotanicalgarden.org/garden/bloom_14_10.shtml for full text):

[Tree Dahlias] bloom at the top of slender 20-foot stems. The petals are up to six inches long and ray-shaped, and can be found in shades of pink and purple with golden disc florets in their centers, which physically define their lineage to the daisy family (Asteraceae). [...]

Each spring the Tree Dahlias grow rapidly from underground tubers, developing compound leaflets often 36" long. By late fall, they have reached 15' or more and are ready to bloom. [...]

Dahlias originated in the highlands of Mexico and were nurtured in the fabulous gardens of Montezuma, the Aztec king, whose civilization reached its peak in 1200 A.D. Cortez conquered the Aztecs in 1552 and brought many plants from Mexico back to Spain for propagation, including tree dahlias. The Aztecs called tree dahlias "cocoxochitl" or "water pipes," because their hollow 4" thick stems were used to transport water from the mountains to the lowlands. In our nursery, Curator Don Mahoney propagates tree dahlias by planting 12" sections of these "pipes" with nodes, standing upright or lying flat in potting soil. In just nine months a stem can be ready to bloom.

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, Wendy van der Linden, 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

Please send info for the December 2014 newsletter by October 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

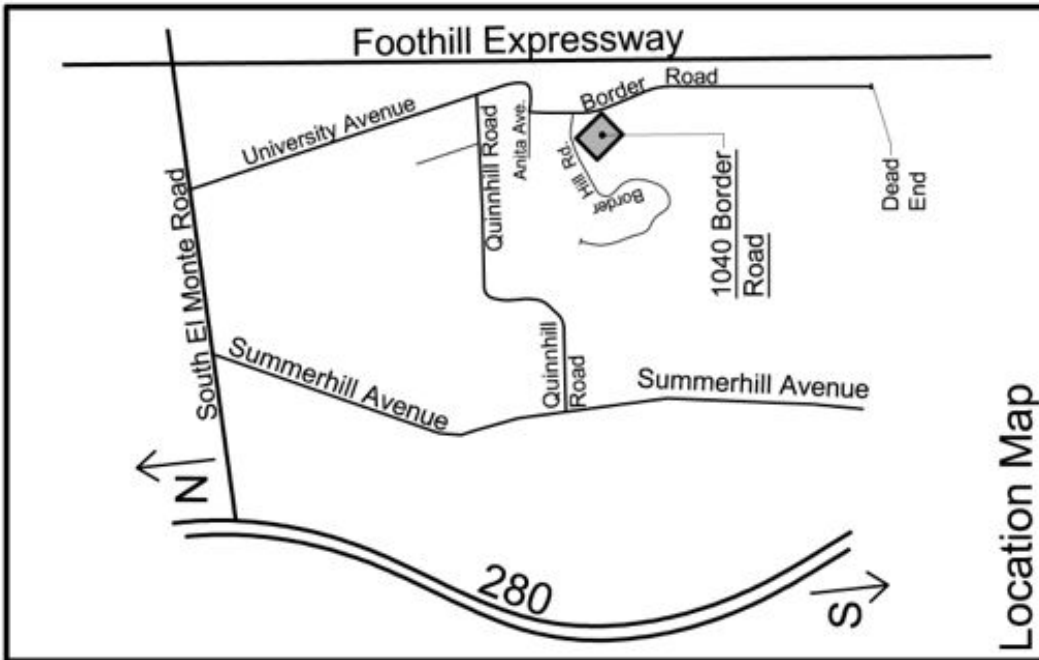
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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.

Join our speaker **Thomas Saucedo** and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 12, at Chef Chu's restaurant, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (corner of San Antonio and El Camino). 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.