



September 2014 Speaker Annual Louisa Beck Guest Lecture

Wednesday, September 10, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7 pm.

Speakers: Bill McNamara, Executive Director, Quarryhill Botanical Garden, Glen Ellen, California, and Peter Raven, Director Emeritus of Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri

“Asian Flora”

This exciting double bill gives us an amazing opportunity to immerse ourselves in the plant material of Asia. **Quarryhill Botanical Garden**, founded in 1987 and recognized globally as a pre-eminent Asian botanical garden, features one of the largest collections of documented, wild-collected Asian plants in the world. The Living Collection at Quarryhill includes many rare and endangered species, a number of which are threatened with extinction in the wild, due to habitat loss caused by human expansion and the resultant deforestation, agricultural expansion, and resource consumption. The presence of these plants in the garden (as well as seed and herbarium specimens) helps to insure against total extinction, and provides a path for potential re-introduction into endemic areas. Check out the gorgeous webpage at <http://www.quarryhillbg.org> for great photos of what's currently of interest in the garden, event calendar, info on self-guided and docent tours, four-page e-newsletter, and more.

Bill McNamara, Executive Director at Quarryhill, received the esteemed Award of Excellence from the National Garden Clubs in 2013 and the Annual Award from the California Horticultural Society in 2012. He also received the prestigious 2010 Scott Medal and Award, presented by the Scott Arboretum and the 2009 Eloise Payne Luquer Medal from the Garden Club of America.

Founded in 1859, the **Missouri Botanical Garden** is the nation's oldest botanical garden in continuous operation and is a National Historic Landmark. With 79 acres, the Garden is a center for botanical research and science education. There is a 14-acre Japanese strolling garden, and a large collection of rare and endangered orchids. See <http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org> for “What’s Blooming,” events, research, and much more.

Peter H. Raven, Director Emeritus of the Missouri Botanical Garden, is one of the world's leading botanists and advocates of conservation and biodiversity. For four decades he headed the Missouri Botanical Garden, an institution he nurtured into a world-class center for botanical research and education, and horticultural display. Recipient of the National Medal of Science in 2000 and the MacArthur “Genius” Award in 1985 (among many other honors), and described by TIME magazine as a “Hero for the Planet,” Raven champions research around the world to preserve endangered plants and is a leading advocate for conservation and a sustainable environment. He is possibly best known for his important work *Butterflies and Plants: A Study in Coevolution*, coauthored with Paul Ehrlich, and he co-authored the widely used textbook *Biology of Plants*. The American Society of Plant Taxonomists established in 2000 the **Peter Raven Award** to be conferred to authors with outstanding contributions to plant taxonomy and “for exceptional efforts at outreach to non-scientists”.



What's in bloom at Quarryhill? (*Reprinted from their August 2014 e-newsletter*): **Schima sinensis**. This beautiful evergreen tree is closely related to Camellia and Polyspora (Gordonia) and is currently displaying its elegant blooms in the Lake View Island area at Quarryhill. It was collected as seed on Erlong Shan (mountain) in Sichuan, China in 1991 and planted in the garden in 2001, first blooming after only five years in the ground. It is native to elevations between 1,400 and 2,200 meters in south central China and blooms in July and August, with capsule-like fruits appearing in October and November.



What's in bloom at the Missouri Botanical Garden?
Victoria water lily, *Victoria* 'Longwood Hybrid' Yes, those are the leaves!

Victoria water lilies were first observed in Bolivia by the Bohemian botanist Thaddeus Haenke in 1801. The French botanist Aime Bonpland observed *Victoria* in Argentina in 1819. He sent seeds and a full description to France in 1825. In 1836 the German-born botanist Robert Schomburgk working under the direction of the English Royal Geographical Society found *Victoria* in British Guiana. He sent specimens and drawings back to Europe in 1837. From this data the English botanist John Lindley then established the genus *Victoria* and described the species *regia* in honor of Queen Victoria. The current nomenclature *Victoria amazonica* became the plant's official name in the early part of the twentieth century.

Victorias are delicate plants that crave the heat and humidity of the tropics. That makes them difficult to grow, since St. Louis cannot always supply their desired climate. Horticulturalists move the plants to the reflecting pools when the water temperature reaches 72 degrees. Plants grow in water from two to three feet deep. With the right conditions, the Victorias grow at an amazing rate, up to an inch an hour at their peak. Their night-blooming flowers can reach a diameter of 14 inches and are a creamy white color on opening the first night. The fragrance of the flowers tends to remind one of the tropics, with a combination of pineapple, oranges and jasmine.

Photo and description: missouribotanicalgarden.org.

It's that time of year— renew your WHS membership today

Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. It is important to renew without delay to ensure the smooth continuation of your subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine and to keep our coffer in the black.

Renewal applications with pre-addressed envelopes were mailed in August; we urge you to send in your dues now if you haven't already. **If you will be renewing at the WHS meeting, please bring your pre-printed form—this saves time as you won't need to fill out a form.**

Prompt renewal helps those who coordinate with Pacific Horticulture and the volunteers who put together the information for the roster, labels for mailing the newsletter, etc. We look forward to your participation in the activities we have planned for you this coming year. Please see page 5 for details on membership rates and where to send the form. If you have any questions, please contact our membership guru Jessie Schilling at grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162. **Thank you.**

September Plant Table Our plant table has an interesting selection of plants for sale. Most plants are \$5 for 1 gallons and \$3 for 4". We also have other garden related items. The containers are especially popular. The September table is the responsibility of the Board members, but everyone is welcome to bring plants to any meeting! ~Roberta Barnes

2015 Plant Sale For the last few years, we have been having a plant sale at the Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market, which is held at History San Jose. We usually raise about \$700 by selling plants that members have propagated. The sale is also a way to promote WHS. This year we need a new coordinator if the sale is going to continue. If you are considering volunteering for this job, talk or email any Board member! See page 5 for a list of Board members. ~Roberta Barnes

DINNER ON SEPTEMBER 10 WITH OUR SPEAKERS You are invited to join our September speakers, Bill McNamara and Peter Raven, for **dinner on September 10** at 5:30 p.m. at the Chinese restaurant, **Chef Chu's**, located at 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. **PLEASE NOTE! We are back at Chef Chu's this month! Don't go to the Italian place!**



Barrie and Carol Coate's garden 2013. *Photo: Patricia Knight*

From our website and Facebook Our website at <http://westernhort.org> is full of information for the 2014-2015 season. All the speakers are posted on the website with their photos so you can recognize them before they reach the podium. Also—a preview page of our exciting musical December party! Make sure you do not miss the “50th Anniversary page” with members’ stories, a must for every newcomer: “Western Hort Memories” at <http://www.westernhort.org/ANNIVERSARY.html>. Many thanks to Nancy Schramm for the inspiration (and work!) to interview people and collect their memories.

Facebook for the summer was kept going by Richard Tiede and myself. These photos got over one hundred hits: *Herb garden at the Fairmont Hotel*, *Lotus at Lotusland*, and *Botanical fireworks*. To keep Facebook active we need two photos per week. Do you want to join in? Send photos to me with some text and I will post them to Facebook. Also please “like” the WHS facebook page if you use Facebook. Just go to our webpage, <http://westernhort.org>, and click on the Facebook button. ~Pat Knight, deerproof@yahoo.com

Note — Carol Coate’s new email address ccoate3@gmail.com

You’re invited to drop by Sally Casey’s garden Sally extends an invitation to WHS members to visit her and her garden on an informal basis. She’ll be 93 this year and really enjoys visitors. Contact Sally at (408) 377-0989. Her address is 1847 Rochelle Drive, San Jose.

June 2014 Picnic—Thank you Betsy!

Betsy Clebsch hosted the annual Western Hort summer get-together on June 8 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm. What a wonderful garden, and delightful picnic in a restful setting under the canopies of majestic trees! Many thanks to Betsy for sharing her home and garden with us. *Photo: At Betsy’s, by Marianne Mueller*



Photo: At Betsy’s, by Marianne Mueller

Speaker Notes—May 2014, Martin Grantham



This fern is producing a new frond by the process of *circinate vernation*.

Photo and caption: Wikipedia.com

If ferns are your thing, then May's general meeting was where you should have been when our guest speaker Martin Grantham of San Francisco State University treated us with a talk titled "Ferns for the California Garden and Under a Microscope."

Mr. Grantham, with the precision of a botanist and the passion of a horticulturalist, began his presentation with slides celebrating the beauty of fern foliage. Fronds (the entire leaf structure emerging from the rhizome) are curled up with young, then unfurl, which the speaker described as circinnate vernation. The leafy part (blade) comes in many shapes, divided or not.

As Mr. Grantham showed us slides from his trips to South Africa and Costa Rica, he described in vivid detail many of his favorites, particularly with emphasis on ones he believed had merit in California gardens. Xerophytic ferns, many which are native to arid parts of the southwestern United States, are excellent choices for our dry climate. Genera that we may recognize that belong to this group include Cheilanthes, Doryopteris and Pellaea.

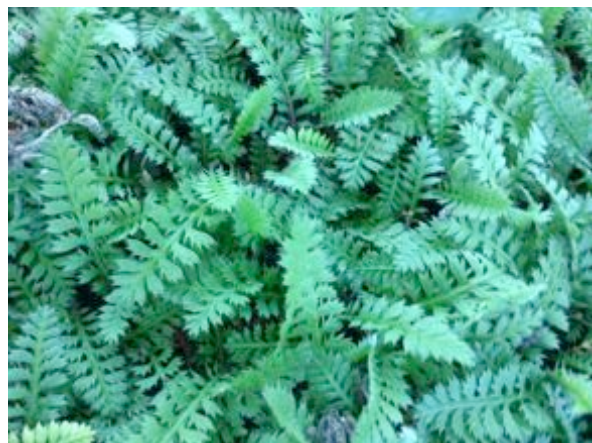
For those inclined to grow their own, Mr. Grantham provided useful tips.

Ferns can be reproduced vegetatively, or more commonly from spores. Mr. Grantham remarked that the fern life cycle presents a challenge to the horticultural industry. Propagating ferns from spores is not difficult, but it requires time and patience. As a rule, species are short-lived, but can be stored for up to one year under dry refrigeration. Our speaker provided slides showing steps of spore collection, release and storage, sowing and pasteurization.

With about 12,000 species worldwide, but only about 30 commonly cultivated, ferns appear to be a huge untapped family with unlimited potential, with many that could be used in our new "dry" landscapes. Thanks to our speaker, Martin Grantham, these possibilities may soon be realized. ~Mark McCabe



Above: **Doryopteris spp.**—Good fern choices for our summer-dry climate. Photo: thumbnail from internet search



Left and right: More plants at Betsy's! You'll notice I am carefully evading naming them! ☺

Photos by Marianne Mueller



Mark Your Calendar

See also *Pacific Horticulture's* online calendar at
<http://www.pacifichorticulture.org/events>

Heart of the City—Urban Garden Walk. Saturday, September 13, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Join the UC Master Gardeners of San Mateo and SF for a guided educational walking tour and plant sale in the heart of San Francisco. The 1.4-mile walk takes ~1.5 hours and begins and ends at UC Hastings Snodgrass Plaza (198 McAllister Street, San Francisco). Plant sale with locally grown plants and seeds for fall and winter gardens at the Plaza. \$20 for the tour (kids under 12 free). Tickets: <http://tinyurl.com/ox3wlmc>. Questions? Call 650-726-9059 x 108 or email MGHeartoftheCityGardenWalk@gmail.com. More details at <http://smsf-mastergardeners.ucanr.org>.

San Mateo/San Francisco Counties Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale

Saturday, September 20, 9:00 am-1:00 pm, at Ah Sam Greenhouse #11, 2645 South El Camino Real, San Mateo. Vegetable 6-packs, perennials and succulents, edible flowers.

Successful Bulbs for our Mediterranean Climate. Wednesday, September 24, 7:30-8:30pm, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Speaker: WHS member and Master Gardener Roberta Barnes. Now is the time to buy and plant cool season bulbs. Come learn about the wonderful bulbs that come from Mediterranean climates around the world. Roberta will discuss different types of bulbs, design ideas, shopping strategies, and how to care for bulbs. *Come with your questions!*

Santa Clara County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale at the 21st Annual Prusch Harvest Fair, Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Prusch Farm Park, 647 S King Rd., San Jose. **Vegetables:** Arugula, beets (2 varieties), broccoli (7), cabbage (5), cauliflower (5), chard (4), chicory, collards, cress, escarole, fennel, frisee, kale (4), kohlrabi, lettuce (14 varieties!), mâche, mustard (5), pak choi, peas (2), radicchio, spinach, turnip. **Flowers:** Agrostemma, larkspur, snapdragon, sweet pea (4). **Also:** Information Table, Children's Activities, talks on growing cool season vegetables, Hotline LIVE! Plant Diagnosis Table, and a 'Brag Table' of summer produce and flowers. The Harvest Fair is a large family-friendly day-long event with many activities, food booths, and ornamental plant sales. See the Prusch website for details and directions: <http://pruschfarmpark.org>. Check out the Veggielution Community Farm when you visit! (<http://veggielution.org>)

CNPS Fall Plant Sale (California Native Plant Society) Saturday, October 18, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, at Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Scores of species of California native plants well-suited for our gardens and wildlife will be on sale as well as native plant books, posters, and note cards.

Medicinal Plant Walk October 19, 10:00 am-11:30 am, Quarryhill Botanical Garden, 12841 Hwy 12, Glen Ellen (Sonoma County). Fee. \$15 (\$10 members).

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 October 2014 newsletter by September 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

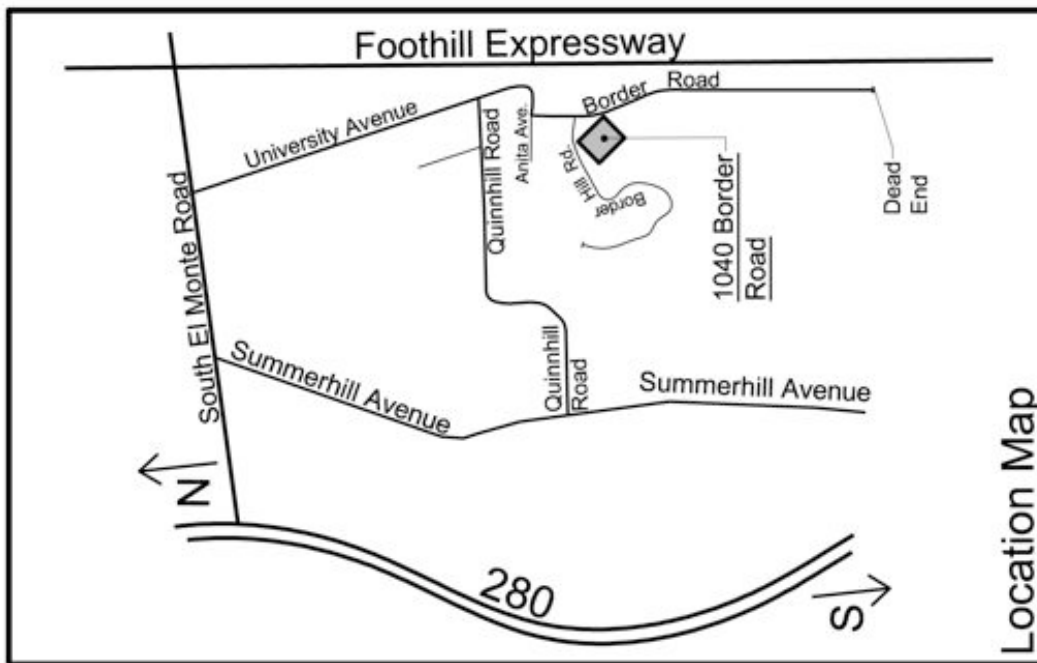
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306

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

Join our speakers Bill McNamara and Peter Raven and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10 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.