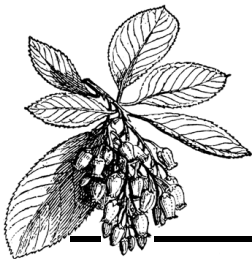


December
2009



Western Horticultural Society

www.westernhort.org • PO Box 60507 • Palo Alto • California • 94306

WHS December Speaker

December 9: Aaron Dillon, Four Winds Growers, Fremont, CA “Nursery History”



Most of us would not recognize the San Francisco Bay area as it appeared in the 19th century. Ranches and farms dominated the landscape with our abundant natural resources and rich soils. It didn't take long for the state of California to become the “Bread Basket” of the country and with that a mighty agricultural industry arose. From that industry grew nursery operations which mainly produced vegetables and fruit trees that were used to plant in orchards across the state. Soon those nurseries expanded to ornamental offerings in order to cater to the growing state population of home gardeners. Today the nursery business is very different than that of the 50's. Aaron will focus on the how and why of the changes in the industry over the years. A fourth generation citrus nurseryman at Four Winds Growers, Aaron has been around the nursery business all his life. Four Winds Growers was started by Aaron's great grandfather, Floyd Dillon, in 1948.

Aaron studied Environmental Horticulture at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and US History at San Francisco State University. He is currently in the process of finishing a Master of Arts degree in Geography, with a focus on changes to the form and function of Bay Area Nurseries since WWII. I think we can all agree when Aaron states “*I am constantly inspired and motivated by the power of Gardening and its ability to create positive change. I believe that simply by Gardening it is possible for all of us to change the world.*”

January 13: Saxon Holt, Garden and Horticulture Photography, CA “The Aesthetics of Sustainability—What is ‘Good’ Garden Photography?”

February 10: Kathleen Navarez, Horticulture Instructor at Cabrillo College, Aptos, CA “Propagation Methods”

March 10: Sherri Osaka, Owner, Sustainable Landscape Designs, San Jose, CA “Sustainable Landscapes”

April 14: Deva Luna, Landscape Designer, Speaker, Master Gardener, Cupertino, CA “Alternatives to Lawns”

May 12: Rosemary Foster, Landscape Designer and Horticultural consultant, Carmel, CA “Lester Rowntree: Contributions to Native Plant Horticulture”

Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; doors open at 7pm and meetings begin at 7:30. The location is at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Please also join our speaker for dinner prior to the meeting at Chef Chu's at 5:30pm at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Avenue. This is a terrific opportunity for our members to get to know each other better, and to get to chat with our speakers. Please call Pat Knight to confirm at 650-941-6136. 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 if you are interested.

The next newsletter deadline will be December 16th for the January newsletter. Please call or email Michelle Bosch (editor) at 650-363-9244 or michelle@hunzikers.org for newsletter content. Please contact Claudia Stopp at 408-370-6936 or cjsubhi@sbcglobal.net with any changes of address.



WHS December Potluck Party and Program

Wednesday, December 9, 6:30pm at Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our annual potluck! Please bring a favorite main dish, salad, or desert to share, including plates and utensils for you and your guests. The WHS Board will provide cups, glasses, wine and beverages, appetizers and Jeanne's special turkey that we all know and love to eat.

Our special December program featuring Aaron Dillion's talk about the history of local nurseries starts at around 8pm. Come and find out who will be the recipient of the WHS Founders Award this year!

Join us for a celebration of good company and good food! Please also bring nutritional food in cans or sturdy containers to help struggling food agencies feed the growing number of needy people in our communities, if you are able. Thank you – we hope to see you all there!

“Everyone must take time to sit and watch the leaves turn.” ~ Elizabeth Lawrence

More Western Hort Business and News...

Raffle Table

The November raffle table had something for everyone. Our speaker Patrick Anderson brought many cactus and succulents from his own garden, and board member Kerry Barrs kept the daffodil lovers happy with a couple dozen selections. We would especially like to thank the nurseries who donated plants this month: Yamagami's Nursery (408) 252-3347, Terra Sole Nurseries (831) 724-0802, Carman's Nursery (408) 847-2313, and (newly nominated WHS board member) Jon Craig--Alluvial Terrace Nursery (415) 517-7693. There will be no raffle in December.

CEU Credits

The WHS is pleased to be able to offer Continuing Education Credits for CCN Pro's (CANGC) and for the Assn of Professional Landscape Designers (APLD). You know who you are—bring your fellow members with you and sign in at the registration desk. ~Nancy Schramm

28 Years Ago

WHS met on November 9, 1981 to hear Roger P. Scharmer talk about "The English Landscape Style." He focused on the contributions to the English design concept by leaders in the field such as Capability Brown, Humphrey Repton, Lawrence Johnston, Harold Nicolson, and Vita Sackville-West.

It sounds like many flowers were on the discussion table, despite the time of the year. Mabel Crittendon brought in *Lesche-naulia formosa*. Emily Brown noted that "... (this) species was not known by the authors of Hortus III." Additionally, the species name *formosa* was explained to have the definition of beautiful, not that it was a native of Formosa. Gerda Isenberg promised that she was not abandoning her beloved natives, but did bring in "a chocolate orchid, a stanhopea, with an extraordinary bloom." Dick Dunmire brought in "a gingerlily from India, hardy to about 20 degrees, with an amazing fragrance." And Richard Terril brought in (my own very favorite) *Camellia 'Yuletide'*. ~Nancy Schramm

“Science, or para-science, tells us that geraniums bloom better if they are spoken to. But a kind word every now and then is really quite enough. Too much attention, like too much feeding, and weeding and hoeing, inhibits and embarrasses them.”

~Victoria Glendinning

New: Commentary on Last Month's Speakers

Our October meeting's speaker was the author of *Roots Demystified*, Robert Kourik. Mr. Kourik, who was scheduled to talk earlier this year but became ill, was re-scheduled with much anticipation, and he did not disappoint us.

His main topic was to dispel the myths and older horticultural planting practices that still occur today. Most plants do not possess a true taproot, but rather a primary root that, after time, grows slowly or ceases to grow altogether. It is the fibrous system, growing horizontally, where the plant receives its support, water and nutrients. Roots can grow well beyond the drip line of a tree, and sometimes five times or more the distance of the canopy. Mr. Kourik touched on the importance of humus, mulching and proper planting practices (he prefers planting on a mound) and other unconventional ideas such as no added amendments or fertilizers, and his preference for tube-grown plants.

He is also the author of *Drip Irrigation for Every Landscape* and a book on the genus *Lavandula*, both of which, along with his 'Root' book were available at the meeting for sale and signing. I would recommend any and all for the serious gardener's library.

An enthusiastic and engaging horticulturalist was November's featured guest, Patrick Anderson of Fallbrook, California. Mr. Anderson's topic was *Bringing Succulents Into the Garden*, which, to the uninformed, seems a daring, if not difficult task. Yet the speaker's informative and enlightening slides and words showed the wide range of colors, shapes, and textures cactus and succulents can offer us.

Using his garden as a prime example of the use and care of succulents, Mr. Anderson showed his slides of an old citrus orchard transformed into a premier garden. It seems that Patrick's forte is design, based on the wonderful examples of succulent combinations he offered us. Patrick prefers introducing species that are appropriate to the climate and architecture of the house. He reinforced this notion with some humorous slides of out of place cacti in the landscape.

As a gardening audience, it is always a treat to receive some printed information for future reference. Mr. Anderson obliged with three excellent handouts that we will surely refer to for years to come. Judging from the way our group received Patrick Anderson's lecture, it seems there will be quite a few more Western Hort gardens with cactus and succulents making a home.

~ Mark McCabe

Other Horticultural Events...

Principles of Grafting

December 12th 1:00-3:00pm

Location: Erikson Adult Ed Center, 4849 Pearl Avenue, San Jose
Master Gardener Bader Kudsi will again share his knowledge of grafting at our free World Garden Workshop. Come learn how to collect scion wood from one tree and graft it onto another to extend the harvest by growing fruits that ripen at different times. Bader will teach us how collect and store the scion wood, when and how to graft and how to care for the graft for the best chance of success. To sign up for this free workshop, please phone our office during regular business hours (408)723-6450 or email ritab@metroed.net. Space is limited and this workshop has been very popular.



Sudden Oak Death Preventative Treatment



A free training session for professionals and home owners; register by email.

Wednesday December 9th 1:00-3:00pm

Held by the California Oak Mortality Task Force

Location: Tolman Hall Portico, UC Berkeley, Hearst Avenue at Arch/Le Cont, Berkeley. Call (510)847-5482 to register or email SODtreatmentnature.berkeley.edu

Trees in Containers

A class and demonstration on growing trees and shrubs in containers, with aesthetic pruner Grant Foerster.

Saturday December 12th 10:00am-1:00pm

Location: The Gardens at Heather Farm, 600 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek. Fee \$25.00; pre-registration required; call (925)947-1678.

Annual Holiday Wreath Making

December 12th 10:00am-12:00pm and 1:30-3:30pm (two sessions, one in the morning and one in the afternoon)

Fees: \$15 members/\$25 non-members

Location: Guadalupe River Park and Gardens, 438 Coleman Avenue, San Jose
This annual workshop is so popular, we've added an additional time slot. Join us in the morning at 10am or in the afternoon at 1:30pm for a two-hour hands-on workshop.

Get ready for the holidays the old-fashioned way by making your own wreath to adorn your front door! Master Gardener Milli Wright and friends will show us how to look through our gardens to find unusual items that can be incorporated into the wreaths. After a basic design lesson, and examples of other clever projects, you will be ready to create your own personal gift for your home. All basic materials will be provided, but if you have some special greenery, lights or ornaments that you would like to incorporate onto your wreath, feel free to bring them along.



Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Chris Egan

Vice President: TBD

Recording Secretary: Judy Mulenberg

Treasurer: Claudia Stopp

Other Board Members: Kerry Barrs, Christine Bate, Michelle Bond, Abby Garner, Janice Gillmore, Sherry Hall, Patricia Knight, Mark McCabe, Niki Muller, Nancy Schramm, Richard Tiede, Katie Wong

To contact us, please email us at:
info@westernhort.org

Membership in Western Hort:

To join, send in your name, address, phone number and a check made out to:
Western Horticultural Society

PO Box 60507 Palo Alto, CA, 94306

Membership rates: A 1 year membership (Sept-Aug) of \$35 includes 4 issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine; Sustaining is \$45; Contributing is \$60 and Plant Lover is \$100+. We have also added a family membership rate of \$50 for two or more members of the same household, and a Student rate of \$20.

Please visit our web site at www.westernhort.org for a membership form.

December Classes at Common Grounds, Palo Alto

Soil Foodweb

Alane Weber Saturday, December 5
10:30-12:30pm, \$30

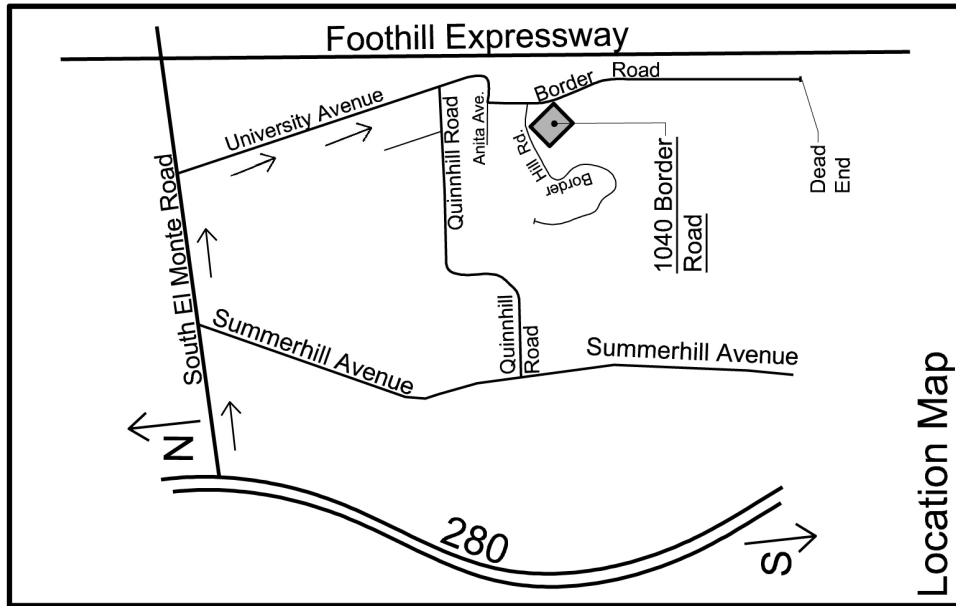
Rainwater Harvesting

Sherri Osaka Saturday, December 12
10:30-12:30pm, \$30

This class explores methods of rainwater harvesting and storage from roof materials, to tanks and their costs, to landworks, and finally to using rainwater in your garden. We'll discuss permitting, mosquitos, and calculating the amounts of rainwater against the cost of storage. We'll show how rainwater harvesting not only saves water, but energy and infrastructure as well, and how it can be a part of every garden.

To register for classes call (650)493-6072.

“Gardening is a matter of your enthusiasm holding up until your back gets used to it.” ~ *Author Unknown*



Location Map

Western Horticultural Society
 Monthly Meeting
 Christ Episcopal Church
 1040 Border Road, Los Altos

VISIT US AT WWW.WESTERNHORT.ORG

Western Horticultural Society
 PO Box 60507
 Palo Alto, California
 First Class Mail

