



January 2017 Speaker

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Nancy Garrison, "Designing Fruit Trees into the Garden"



Nancy Garrison

Welcome the New Year with gardener extraordinaire, Nancy Garrison. Nancy will share with us her ideas of how to incorporate fruit trees into many garden settings. Nancy has been growing fruit in her own home garden for over 30 years as well as consulting to help others to grow and maintain their own fruit trees. She is also a long-time member of the California Rare Fruit Growers and guides orchard tours at Andy's Orchards in Morgan Hill. She has conducted seminars and participated in fruit tastings at many local nurseries and other events enabling her to build extensive knowledge of both the best tasting fruits as well as those that do best in local climates.

Nancy graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Crop Science. In 1980 she became the UC Cooperative Extension Urban Horticultural Advisor for Santa Clara County and started their Master Gardener program in 1982. Through her experience developing and managing the Master Gardener program she has nurtured hundreds of garden enthusiasts and helped them to solve numerous gardening problems. Since leaving the UC in 2004 she has continued her own consulting business and maintains a garden blog.



Nancy guides visitors on her urban farm

<http://nancysurbanfarm.com>

*Join us for dinner with Nancy Garrison on
January 11th ~ Chef Chu's Restaurant*

Enjoy a wonderful meal and intimate conversation with our speaker.

Contact Katie Wong to RSVP: alivensilk@aol.com, 408-251-2742

December 2016 Speaker Notes

Annelise Krinsky, Dick and Helaine Dunmire's daughter gave a very moving recap of memories of her parents. Her father's love of gardening played a big part in their home life and was eventually passed on to her, not directly but somewhat vicariously. Dick seemed to believe in the "learn by doing approach." He started out studying and teaching English, but figured out that teaching was not really his thing. He found his niche working at Montebello Nursery, which allowed him to get his hands in the dirt and learn about horticulture. He then put his knowledge of writing and well as horticulture to practical use as a writer and editor for *Sunset*.

Annelise remembered how her father used their home gardens as a testing ground for plants that interested him and her mother canned the produce. Annelise herself did not start gardening until she moved to Maine and opened an inn. She shared anecdotes about her father's "encyclopedic" memory and how he couldn't resist helping customers when visiting the local nursery in Maine. She was also able to tap into some of his experience and share her own as she developed her gardens.

Her father's wonderful dry sense of humor was played out in several anecdotes including this one: "Once at a horticultural meeting the participants introduced themselves and then introduced their wives, their help-mates, soul-mates and chroniclers of horticultural adventures from New Zealand to the Russian Steppes, and so on. The descriptions continued one more florid than the next until my Dad introduced himself and said, "and this is my paramour, Madame Pampadour." Apparently he was also "sometimes impervious to laughter around him". Annelise and her mother were sometimes rolling with laughter, as in her examples, watching a Carol Burnett skit about "Gone with the Wind" or reading Portnoy's Complaint, but her father did not get the humor of it.

She also had some fond memories of her mother, a teacher with a real knack for understanding and relating to children with learning disabilities. Both of her parents were well-loved and respected in their professional communities. Annelise shared memories of the family's relationship with other members of the horticultural community including botanist, Roxy Ferris who wrote *Native Shrubs of the San Francisco Bay Region* and Warren Roberts, past superintendent of the UC Davis Arboretum. The Dunmires also shared a special relationship with Ed Carmen and his family that continues today with his daughters.

Annelise concluded her talk with a financial gift to both WHS and Pac Hort. We greatly appreciate her generosity and well as her taking the time to join us for the holiday party and share her special memories of her family. ~Janet Hoffmann

(If you are interested in reading the complete text of Annelise's speech, we will publish a copy on the WHS website)



Yellow roses and heather, special flowers for Dick and Helaine Dunmire

Plant Table

We will be resuming our member-supplied plant table at the January meeting. Your donation of surplus or homegrown plants for our plant table will help to support WHS. Please label plants and a description or pictures are always appreciated. Pretty much any plants or garden related objects are welcome. Thanks for everybody's support this past year. Questions? Contact Roberta Barnes: robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com

28 Years Ago

Serendipity just hit me in the head...reading the newsletter from January 1989, I finally realized that history does indeed, repeat itself. Western Horticultural Society, currently meeting at the Los Altos Youth Center, was meeting at the same exact location 28 years ago. I looked at previous newsletters and remember reporting the meeting location change from the Ampex Corporation Cafeteria to the L.A. Youth Center, but since that switch originally happened in 1985, I told you about it three years ago. So you can see how (not long) my memory lasts!

Herb Fong, who at that time had been Managing Horticulturist of Stanford University since 1973, spoke about *The Trees of the Stanford Campus*. Newsletter announcements included three major events. A conference at UC Santa Cruz: *Plants of the Pacific Rim* (Western Regional meeting of the American Assn of Botanical Gardens & Arboreta), a National Convention of the American Daffodil Society in San Francisco (English daffodil breeder Clive Postles—featured speaker) and at UC Irvine, the International Symposium on Bulbous and Cormous Plants.

Plant Notes started with a paragraph about cuttings of *Aptenia cordifolia* being shared around. Now, 28 years later this iceplant (according to Cal-IPC) is considered invasive in a number of coastal California counties. Read this from the Cal-IPC website: "The author's first introduction to this plant was at a hilltop residence in San Luis Obispo County, where it had been planted under oak trees and



Banksia media

http://www.specialeffectsnursery.com.au/images/banksia/banksia_media_shrub_form.jp

watered daily. It had grown five to six feet (2 m) up the oak trees, cloaked three-foot (1 m) Ceanothus shrubs, and formed a thick mat by growing over itself. Distinctive features of the landscape had surrendered to an unbroken cloak of red apple. As testimony to its vigor against other invasive monocultures, it has been seen overgrowing *Vinca major*." This just shows how much we learn as we grow. Other plants in the Plant Notes included five species of *Arctostaphylos* (Bart O'Brien), *Banksia media* (Ed Carmen) and *Hydrangea macrophylla* (Albert Wilson). ~Nancy Schramm

Upcoming Meetings

February 8, 2017 – Frederique Lavoipierre, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA, *The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Beneficial Insects in the Garden*

March 8, 2017 – Jeff Rosendale, Sierra Azul Nursery, Watsonville, CA, *Mediterranean Climate: Create Beauty with Appropriate Plants and Less Lawn*

April 12, 2017 – Bart O'Brien, Tilden Park Regional Parks Botanic Garden, Oakland, CA, *Flora of the Oaxaca Region of Mexico*

80 Years Ago

I've been thinking a lot about the history of the California nursery industry recently—especially dating back to 1937—because that's the year that my grandfather, Hugh Carmen, established Carmen's Nursery. It's pretty amazing to consider how nurseries have changed over the years.

If you wanted to visit a nursery in pre-WWII Northern California, first you'd have to find one. There just weren't very many of them around in those days. Southern California had more, but that's not saying much. So, supposing you walked into Carmen's Nursery at 2640 San Jose Los Gatos Road (now Bascom Ave) in 1937, what would you find? Definitely not your modern garden center! Small plants (in those days mostly bedding plants and herbs) were either sold individually in clay pots, or collectively in wooden boxes called 'mud flats'. If you only wanted part of a flat, my grandfather would use a small triangular trowel to slice between the rows of plants, lift out a wedge of as many plants as you wanted—and that's what you'd get—no frills! Shrubs and trees were either 'B & B' (Balled and Burlapped) or 'heeled in' (not actually planted, but temporarily tucked into the ground). The selection of plants was limited as well, aimed more towards agriculture and the landscaping of large estates than to the fancies of plant collectors. And that's pretty much all you could buy at a nursery—plants! If you wanted tools or chemicals you'd have to visit your local hardware store. Not much was available in the way of chemicals, either. According to my father's Oral History, your choices amounted to Bordeaux, Volk Oil, or Black Leaf 40 which was a nicotine sulphate.

World War II brought about many changes to Carmen's Nursery and to the nursery industry as a whole. During the war, my grandfather converted the nursery to growing tomato plants for the canneries, and continued doing that until 1945. Once the war ended, Santa Clara County and much of the Bay Area saw a housing boom to meet the needs of everyone moving to the area. And of course, all of these new houses needed completely new landscaping. Nurseries sprang up to supply all the



Young Nancy Schramm(Carmen) at Carmen's Nursery with lard can pots

plants and tools that were needed. According to my dad, "between 1945 and 1950 there were probably fifteen nurseries within five or ten miles of San Jose that opened up". That's when nurseries started selling more than just plants. Dad said that in the '50's and '60's, Carmen's Nursery was "a small, general nursery. We were buying and selling things, all the plants that were being used for landscaping at that time of the big boom of building in the valley. It was a small, general nursery—it had insecticides, fertilizers, soil amendments, fruit trees, shade trees in five-gallon cans."

And that brings up another change—the containers that plants were grown and sold in. After the war, the local canneries had loads of used, one-gallon 'tin' cans that became the container of preference for medium sized nursery stock. Larger containerized plants were planted in five-gallon egg cans to avoid having to dig them out of the 'heeled in' holding areas. In the late '50's or early '60's all the war research into plastics resulted in the first small plastic nursery pots. Among the earliest I remember were called plant bands. They were slightly rectangular and the nicer ones had an x-shaped bottom, but some

had slightly tapered sides only, with no bottom at all! Chemicals to kill pests and feed your plants

were being promoted as the way to a bright new future. I may not be old enough to remember the beginnings of the nursery, but as the photo on the previous page, taken in summer, 1960, shows that I was there when used, “Pure Lard” cans were still being used as 5 gal. nursery cans!

In 1970-71, Dad moved the family, nursery and house (cut in half and then re-attached) to 16201 East Mozart Avenue. This is where he decided to indulge his interests in more unusual plants, and travel a different path than the general, all-purpose nursery. Dry good sales were dropped, and plants became the total focus. This was the beginning of the growing interest in perennials, and they became a mainstay of the nursery. About this time is when Dad first started offering kiwi plants for sale to the general public—the first such offering in Santa Clara Valley. And gardeners looking for unusual plants found their way to the nursery, from California, from across the U.S. and from around the world.

Within twenty years, Carmen’s Nursery was lucky to be located slightly off the beaten path. As land was developed throughout the valley, land values skyrocketed, and one independent nursery after another closed when the land it sat on became more valuable than the business was worth. Chain nurseries became the norm. By the end of the 1990’s, Dad figured that the golden age of the independent nursery in Santa Clara Valley was over. And perhaps it was, but that didn’t mean the end of Carmen’s Nursery along with it. I inherited the nursery when my father passed away in 2002 and with my husband’s help, spent the next two years building and moving it to 8470 Pharmed Road. P.S. This column originally appeared in Out & About Magazine, December 2011, which means that Carmen’s Nursery will be celebrating our 80th Anniversary in 2017. ~Nancy Schramm

Horticultural Happenings

California Rare Fruit Growers—Scion Exchange, January 14, 2017, 11am- 3pm, Prusch Park, Multicultural Center (MCC), 647 S. King Road, San Jose. This is a great opportunity to get scion wood and cuttings for rooting for many types of deciduous fruiting trees, as well as some shrubs and vines. There will also be grafting demonstrations and supplies for sale along with CRFG members available for questions. <https://scvrfg.wordpress.com/2016/12/20/january-2017-events/>

Volunteer

Make a New Year’s resolution to become more involved! The Western Horticulture Society is a dynamic group of Plant loving folks. Without the help of our members, we cannot do what we do to make our meetings as great as they are. Due to the impending departure of Judy Fulton we are currently looking for someone to manage the membership database. We can also use help with AV at meetings or managing the WHS website. Talk to any Carrie, Liz, or other board members for more information about these or other ways that you could contribute.

Officers and Board Members:

Co-presidents: Carrie Parker and Liz Calhoon
Vice President: Judy Wong
Secretary: Patricia Larenas
Corresponding Secretary: Richard Tiede

Treasurer: Chris Egan
Other board members: Judy Fulton,
Janet Hoffmann, Laura Wilson, Katie Wong

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: Western Horticultural Society, PO Box 60507, Palo Alto, CA, 94306.

Membership Rates: A one-year membership (Sep-Aug) includes four issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine. Regular membership is \$35, Family membership is \$50 for two or more members at the same address and a Student rate is \$20.

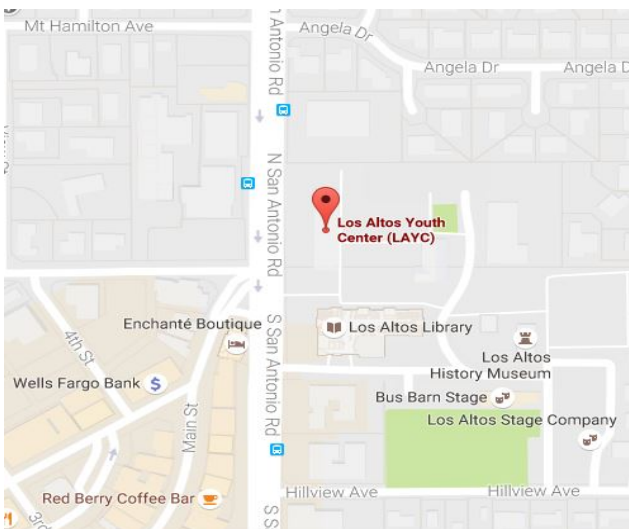
Please visit our website at http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf for a membership form.

To contact us, please send email to: westernhortsociety@gmail.com or snail mail to address above.



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306
First Class Mail

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG



MEETING LOCATION

**Los Altos Youth Center,
1 North San Antonio Rd.
Los Altos, CA 94022**

Main entrance and parking are on the north side of the building. Turn off San Antonio at the sign for the City Hall and Police Dept. 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!

Newsletter Submissions

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 25th of the month prior. Submissions after this date will likely appear in the next month's newsletter. Send submissions to: Janet@hoffmann.net, or Janet Hoffmann, 826 Lana CT, Campbell, CA 95008