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May 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, May 14, 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m.

Speaker: Martin Grantham, San Francisco State University, Department of Biology

"Ferns for the California Garden and Under a Microscope"

Martin will present some of the best ferns for Bay Area gardens. He will describe their habit and culture, as well as show step by step how to grow them from spores. He will introduce some cheilanthoids and other species that could be good bets for future horticultural introduction.

Martin Grantham was born and raised in Santa Clara Valley. He studied botany at UC Davis and mycology at UC Berkeley. He lives in Emeryville, CA and works for San

June 2014 Picnic!

Betsy Clebsch has kindly volunteered to host the annual Western Hort picnic on **June 8 from 11am-3pm**. If you have not yet had the good fortune to visit Betsy's—you are in for a lovely drive, and a wonderful garden. Please bring a potluck dish to share and your own plates and utensils. Don't forget to label your potluck dish and serving utensils. Address and directions will be given at the May 14 meeting. If you cannot attend the May 14 meeting but would like to attend the picnic, contact Marianne Mueller after May 14 for the address & directions: mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

Francisco State University as Greenhouse Manager (Department of Biology), and also at UC Santa Cruz Arboretum as a Garden Scholar. He has taught plant propagation courses at community colleges in the East Bay and San Francisco, and teaches workshops for UC, San Francisco Botanical Garden, and East Bay Parks Botanical Garden.



Martin Grantham enjoys smelling his citrus, particularly a key lime tree in the greenhouse. As greenhouse manager at San Francisco State University's biology department, he grows plants used for illustrating principals of plant biology in the classroom and also grows experimental plants. Martin comments, "The plants can be checked out for classroom use-like a living library." Photo and caption from the San Francisco Chronicle article, "Greenhouse Chief Cares for Classroom Plants" by Edward Guthmann, March 25, 2013, sfgate.com.



Fronds of **Adiantum aleuticum** unfurling (Five-Fingered Fern; CA native.) *Photo: botanicalgarden.ubc.ca*.



Happy succulent evangelists, er, sellers! Left to right: WHS members Roberta Barnes, Leslie Dean, and Judy Wong. Plant Sale at Master Gardener Spring Garden Market, April 12, 2014. *Photo courtesy Roberta Barnes*.

Plant Sale April 12th It was a

perfect day for a plant sale at History San Jose! It was sunny but not too hot. Shoppers lingered and enjoyed all the wonderful vendors at the Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market. The strategy of propagating succulents and natives paid off. We sold over \$800 worth of plants. A big thanks to our great sales team of Liz Calhoon, Leslie Dean, Chris Egan, and Judy Wong. Also, thanks to Mark McCabe for the use of his big truck and strong arms!

Next year we will be looking for a new lead for the plant sale. The new lead will have support from me and other members who help with the plant sale. Consider volunteering—it's a great way to get to know members and help Western Hort with our biggest fundraiser of the year. ~Roberta Barnes

And thank you Roberta ... Thanks to all for helping with the plant sale!!! Especially to Roberta who outdid herself in propagation and organizing all the potting, delivering, scheduling, pricing and you-name-it!!! Glad to hear it was such a financial success as well as making lots of customers happy! ~*Liz Calhoon*

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May Plant Table At our April meeting, the Hot Plant Picks from the San Francisco Garden Show were sold to the highest bidder during our silent auction. Happy members went home with wonderful plants. May is our last regular meeting of our 2013-2014 speaker series, and your last chance to buy some plants until we meet again in September. We will have succulents from our April 12 plant sale and a few Hot Plant Picks that were overlooked! Look around your nursery —do you have something to bring in for the table? Thanks~Roberta Barnes

Happy 70th Anniversary, Elizabeth & Budge (Garbett) from all of us at WHS! (May 13th)

You're invited to drop by Sally's garden!

Sally Casey 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.



Budge & Elizabeth Garbett. *Photo: Golden Gate Live Steamers, goldengatels.org.*

Speaker Notes—April 2014, Christy O'Hara

Flowers and trees may not be the first things that pop into one's mind when the words "San Simeon" are mentioned, but April's speaker, Professor Christy O'Hara, put us on the right path with her presentation "Hearst Castle: The History and Design of the Gardens." Professor O'Hara, in addition to her primary occupation teaching in the landscape architecture department at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, is a recognized speaker and consultant on the restoration and preservation of historic landscapes. Her talk about this world-famous landmark certainly reflected her credentials.

Creating Hearst Castle was a 28-year experience of grandiose proportions, begun in 1919 by the (in)famous newspaper owner William Randolph Hearst, only child of mining magnate George Hearst and his wife Phoebe. After Phoebe's death in 1919, Hearst inherited the ten million dollar family fortune and

the San Simeon Ranch, about 250,000 acres. He got tired of roughing it sleeping in tents on La Cuesta Encantada (Enchanted Hill). So he hired a budding architect, Julia Morgan, to design a bungalow.

W.R. Hearst may have been many things, good and bad, but he knew what he wanted and was willing (and able) to pay for it. Selecting architect Julia Morgan was a stroke of genius, and her ability to fulfill his every whim and desire added to a life-long mutual friendship based on a deep respect for one another. Hearst had his hand in everything, right down to the selection of tiles (some made in San Jose). His plant selections were based on childhood experiences: an 1873 trip to Europe, the Del Monte Hotel in Monterey, and his mother's home in Pleasanton.

The overall philosophy of the gardens at Hearst Castle was to surround and unify the four buildings into a central Mediterranean village. The style could



William Randolph Hearst and Julia Morgan. Photo: Wikipedia

be loosely defined as "Spanish Revival," or more accurately, a pastiche of historic styles, with the gardens following suit. Hearst was adamant that no trees would obstruct future views of the Casa Grande from the three "cottages." He also requested drought-tolerant plants and edible fruit trees, particularly citrus, and insisted that the citrus planted near the houses had to have the fruit left on the trees, for ornamental purposes—a ban on harvesting that citrus!

Professor O'Hara pointed out that the gardens changed from opening day in 1926 to a more Italian Renaissance style by 1937. Full-grown plants were being planted more often, along with construction of a mile-long pergola. All of this lush vegetation had to be watered, of course. Julia Morgan, an accomplished civil engineer, devised a gravity-based water delivery system that moved water from three natural springs on Pine Mountain to a reservoir on Rocky Butte, a seven-mile transport.

By 1947, Hearst stopped living at "The Ranch," and died shortly after in 1951. In 1955, San Simeon became a state park as per its owner's intentions. It is a legacy, and an expensive one to maintain at that, but its sheer size, grandeur, and past fame have made it one of the most visited spots in California. Certainly its gardens have played a major part in keeping Hearst Castle a true world-famous destination for everyone to admire. \sim Mark McCabe

Western Hort Memories, Part VI Please see our online newsletter archive, http://westernhort.org/archive.html, for the collection of memories in Parts I-V, or refer to newsletter issues

http://westernhort.org/archive.html, for the collection of memories in Parts I-V, or refer to newsletter issues December 2013 and January-April 2014. Thanks to our website guru and archivist, Pat Knight! Interviews and article 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. I thought it would be appropriate to finish out this year of memories by talking with the rest of the Founders' Award recipients—but wouldn't you know I'd catch Barry & Carol Coate in the middle of packing for their move to their new home—so their memories will have to wait until September. I did catch up with several others, but what I've discovered is that most of our long-time members have such fond memories of so many speakers and WHS events that they are unable to pick out any in particular.

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?

Sally Casey, more often than not, has celebrated her birthday at our December potluck. She was born on the family farm, one that had been in the family since being given as payment to her great-great grandfather, who along with his brother had done some of the surveying for the Louisiana Purchase. WHS members will remember Sally's yearly display of blooming shooting stars at our plant discussion—and the remarkable method she reveals about how to determine the age of the bulb by counting the leaves. Her heart may have been given to CA native plants, but she told me that she has enjoyed all the WHS speakers since joining about thirty years ago. I first met Sally when she visited my dad, Ed Carman at Carman's Nursery. I remember Dad and I both being quite impressed to hear about her plans for a driving trip to Alaska!

Bill Kurtz joined WHS in the early days—when meetings were held at Ampex. He told me that he would have probably heard about the society from Bill Schmidt, one of our founders, because Bill S. had worked for Bill K.'s parents at their nursery—Home Garden Nursery—in the late 1930's/early 1940's before starting his own nursery after the Kurtz nursery was closed. Bill has many fond memories surrounding the plant discussion. He was always amazed at the extent of knowledge possessed by Dick Dunmire & Ed Carman—and rarely saw them stumped by questions about the plants on display. He enjoys telling how Ed asked Bill to help with the plant discussion, and then took an extended leave of absence from the job! Some of Bill's favorite speakers have been Russell Wagner whose enthusiasm for his chosen topic (usually succulents) simply bubbles over, Ted Kipping who knows his plants and has the photos to prove it, and Albert Wilson, a great ambassador for plants to the people, who used to haunt the Home Garden Nursery when he was a student at Stanford.



Dodecatheon hendersonii, Broad leafed shooting star and Henderson's shooting star. *Photo: LasPilitas.com*.



Haemanthus deformis given to Judy Wong by Bill Kurtz, and brought for plant discussion in January 2012. *Photo: shieldsgardens.com.*

Barbara Worl doesn't remember when she first attended a WHS meeting (in the early days at Ampex) but she does remember being thrilled to find a group of people as plant crazy as she was. She remembers many members from those days, from the 'bird lady' who took her to her first meeting, to Betsy Clebsch who she first met when Betsy went to Bells Bookstore to buy a book about plants, to Vivian Hawkins who took her to see the garden of Branner Newson (did I get that name right?) the WHS treasurer at the time who owned the lot where Barbara ended up creating a delight of a garden. She also remembers being VP of WHS under Keith Bickford as President, but she drew the line at becoming president herself. One of Barbara's biggest joys of belonging to WHS is always being able to find someone to visit nurseries with her!



Heritage Rose 'Barbara Worl'. *Photo: westernhort.org*

Nancy Schramm: I first attended WHS meetings many years ago with my parents, Ed & Jean Carman. I vaguely remember going to the Ampex cafeteria, but attended more regularly when I was in high school in the early 1970's. I joined on my own, finally, in 2004. Some of my favorite WHS memories are: June picnics with Gerda Isenberg at Yerba Buena Nursery, hearing Dr. Mildred Mathias talk about exploring in the Amazon basin and wanting to join her next expedition, doing some of the pen & ink illustrations for the WHS vine book, attending the launch party, and getting autographs from other WHS members who contributed, Elizabeth Garbett convincing me to join the WHS board (and her subsequent retirement from!) and getting to know more current members, Stu Winchester's talk about the Convict Basin, December potlucks—especially the feast for eyes & ears with Ted Kipping's slides & The Sherry Austin Band, having the Cal Hort Hot Plant Picks team ask me for help with the exhibit and my luck to have Sherry Hall join in with ideas and enthusiasm, being asked by Betsy Clebsch to give a talk for WHS and then giving my slide show: "Nursery Child—Growing up at Carman's Nursery." I could go on, but I think you get the idea. Western Hort has been more than just a plant society to me, so many of you have known my parents, my sisters and me for so long that you truly feel like my extended family. Thanks to everyone who has shared their memories with me and with WHS.



Wisteria floribunda 'Ed's Blue Dragon', a cultivar named for Ed Carman—do an internet search on its name for a great article by Nancy that tells the backstory!

Mark Your Calendar

Celebration of Old Roses Sunday, May 18, 11am-3:30pm, at El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito. You're welcome to bring a bouquet of Old Roses for display. For more info, call Kristina Obsorn at 510-527-3815 or see celebrationofoldroses.org. Over 100 feet of beautiful roses on display! Purchase heirloom and hard-to-find roses. Rose experts will be available to answer questions. Vendor Fair and tool sharpening on-site, so bring your clippers and loppers. Talks and demonstrations are scheduled. Free.

31st **Anniversary Bonsai Show** May 31 and June 1, 10am-4pm, at the San Mateo Garden Center, 605 Parkside Way, San Mateo (at Beresford Park). Special guest: Bonsai artist Peter Tea. Demonstrations on Saturday, noon-3pm. Tree clinic, plant sale, vendor fair, and door prizes. Free.

BAGRS (Bay Area Garden Railway Society) August 16, 10am-4pm. Open layouts and food drive. Multiple gardens will be open for a self-guided tour. For more information and to receive a free email guidebook, contact Dale at 408-848-1440 or dalemcanally@verizon.net. Free.

28 Years Ago

On Wednesday, May 14, 1986 WHS gathered to hear Robin Parer of Geraniaceae Nursery talk about "Hardy Geraniums for your Garden. Robin had just returned from a trip to South Africa and was fresh off lectures at both Cal Hort and Strybing (SF Bot Garden).

Thanks was given to Saratoga Horticultural Foundation for supplying many plants for the April raffle table—obviously some of the plants were on trial: "Don't forget—those of you who took the Hebes home—to report the results to the Foundation for their 'follow-up.' "I'd love to know which Hebe that was!

The first ever San Francisco Landscape Garden Show was deemed "a very successful and exciting event, beautifully presented with exhibits of very high standards. We hope it will become an annual event."

Thanks was also given to "All of you who arrive early and stay late and help with the setting up and taking down of chairs..." and I'd like to send out thanks in 2014 for John Hall who has set up more chairs than anyone else for the past several years! Thanks John!



Penstemon strictus 'Bentham' (Rocky Mountain Beardtongue), throat of flower ("gape-mouthed obese goldfish?") From Vascular Plants of the Gila Wilderness, wnmu.edu/academic/nspages/gilaflora.

Photo: Russ Kleinman, San Francisco Mountains, New Mexico; roadside along 180N, May 31, 2009. Plant notes included several blooming large shrubs: Calycanthus occidentalis (spicebush) and Philadelphus lewisii californicus (both CA natives), Psoralea pinnata (scurvy pea) and Stachyurus praecox 'Gracilis'. Bill Kurtz brought in a hybrid Cyrtanthus; also on display were several native Penstemon—P. rattanii and P. spectabilis. One flower description caught my fancy—it was taken from Harper & McGourty—"shaped like a gape-mouthed obese goldfish with silky whiskers." ~ Nancy Schramm

Western Horticultural Society

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

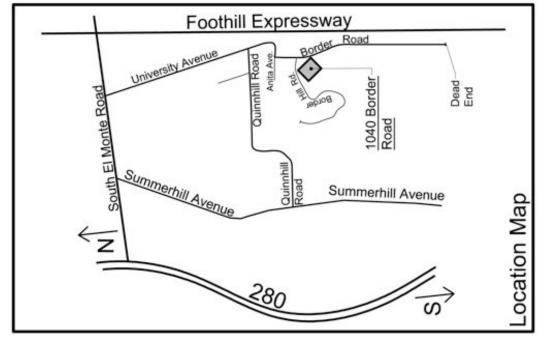
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Western Horticultural Society Monthly Meetings Christ Episcopal Church Parish Hall 1040 Border Road, Los Altos **MEETING LOCATION** Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

Join our speaker Martin Grantham and other WHS members for dinner before the meeting. Meet at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 14, 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.