



## **WHS September Speaker**

Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

### **The Annual Louisa Beck Lecture**

Bart O'Brien, Special Projects Director, Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Claremont, California

#### **“Reimagining the California Lawn”**

As Director of Special Projects at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden, Bart O'Brien has been involved in the research and conservation of California native plants. He is the co-author of two previous books, *California Native Plants for the Garden* and *Care & Maintenance of Southern California Native Plant Gardens*. He is now working to save the endangered plants of Baja California.

If you are looking for inspiration or help in shrinking or replacing your lawn, the more durable plants and sustainable garden practices described in this lecture will provide the answer. By identifying the best of the California native plants and those plants from similar Mediterranean climates you will have many choices. Multicolored groundcovers form “tapestry gardens” and areas of meadow and grasses in the shade of trees all provide the image of the new California garden.

Along with Carol Bornstein and David Fross, Bart O'Brien is co-author of the 2011 book, “Reimagining the California Lawn: Water-conserving Plants, Practices and Design.”

*Guests are welcome! Fee for non-members \$10. New guests are invited to join at the door!*

**MEETING LOCATION** Our monthly meetings feature the speakers listed above; doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30. The location is at Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos.

You are invited to join our speaker for dinner on September 14 at 5:30 p.m. at **Bella Vita, 376 First St., Los Altos**. This is a terrific opportunity for our members to get to know each other better and to get to chat with our speakers. Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: shep8283@earthlink.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 if you are interested.

## **WHS October Speaker**

**October 12** Nan Sterman, “Garden Treasures from Arid Mexico and the Southwest”

## **May 2011 Speaker Notes**

You have undoubtedly read and studied numerous garden design philosophies of “bringing the inside of the home outdoors,” or “outdoor garden living.” A twist to these concepts was the May topic “Year-round Cut Flowers from the Garden,” delivered by Kristin Yanker-Hansen of Danville. Ms. Yanker-Hansen, a New Jersey native but long-time California resident, knows her posies – and brought a truckload for us to look at.

Our speaker began her talk by explaining the difference between floral arranging and bringing flowers in from the garden. The former, while a well-respected talent in its own right, tends to be rather constrained by the methods and materials it uses to convey its feeling. Bringing flowers in from the garden, a more informal practice, allows one to simply bring the garden inside – a welcome respite from dreary winter months or the hectic schedule of a working week.

Ms. Yanker-Hansen, the East coast native, feels our bay area climate is “paradise,” allowing any of us to grow and cut flowers at any time of the year. Our speaker is a very big fan of fragrance and of seasonal color themes such as Mardi Gras or Independence Day. Whatever your whim or fancy may be, try some flowers from the outside – you may discover a little joy even within the house. ~Mark McCabe

### **Important - Dues Renewal Reminder!**

It is that time of year again! 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. Prompt renewal helps those who coordinate with Pacific Horticulture and the volunteers who put together the information for the newsletter, labels and mailing, etc. We look forward to your participation in the activities we have planned for you this coming year. Please see page 3 for details on membership rates and where to send the form (this is the same as on the mail you received in August). If you have any questions, please contact our membership guru at [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162. **Thank you!**

## ***Western Hort News***

### ***Raffle Table***

In September, the Raffle Table plants are supplied by the Board members. We have some great plants that we hope you will enjoy. We welcome donations from the general membership as well! ~*Roberta Barnes for the Raffle Committee*

### ***WHS Membership Card Discount***

Make sure you collect your discount card for 2011-2012 for 10% off purchases at Lyngso Garden Materials, Roger Reynolds Nursery, Summerwinds Nurseries (all six locations!) and Terra Sole Nurseries. Scroll to the bottom of the home page of our website, [westernhort.org](http://westernhort.org), for more information and directions to all the nurseries. ~*Pat Knight*

### ***2012 Western Hort Plant Sale & Propagation Workshop***

It's not too late to begin thinking about plants you can propagate for our annual plant sale. Western Hort will be a vendor at the Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market on March 31, 2012. This is our major fundraiser. We will have a propagation workshop on Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 PM at Roberta Barnes home, 155 Alvarado Ave., Los Altos. Pots and soil will be provided by Western Hort. Experienced propagators will be on hand to give tips on propagation. If you are interested in helping or coming to the workshop, please contact Roberta Barnes at 650-949-0377 or [robertabarnes2003@yahoo.com](mailto:robertabarnes2003@yahoo.com), or Chris Egan at 650 948-4614 or [chegan@pacbell.net](mailto:chegan@pacbell.net). ~*Roberta Barnes*

### ***Floriade 2012 ~ May 4—13***

Floriade World Horticultural Exposition – a once-a-decade event! – celebrates culture, horticulture and nature. Join Nan Sterman in Holland and Belgium for a special tour designed for garden lovers, garden designers, horticulturalists, florists and green industry professionals. The tour features two days at Floriade, private canal gardens in urban Amsterdam, the excitement of the Aalsmeer Flower Auction, a visit with a Dutch bulb grower, eighty bulb-filled acres of the Keukenhof botanical garden, two hundred landscape displays at the gardens of Appeltem, the Beervelde Garden Days and the beauty of Brugge, Belgium. For details, please visit [PlantSoup.com](http://PlantSoup.com) or send email to [info@plantsoup.com](mailto:info@plantsoup.com).

### ***Back Issues of Pacific Horticulture Magazine***

Would any Western Hort members be interested back issues of Pacific Horticulture magazine? Bob Young, member of Western Hort, has close to 100 copies, going back to October 1976. Contact Bob at 650-592-3673 or [bndyoung01@aol.com](mailto:bndyoung01@aol.com).

### ***Summer 2011 Picnic ~ A Hidden Gem in Portola Valley***

Be sure to read the wonderful reports of our June 12 picnic held at Weltevrede, the garden of Jeanne McFarland & Niki Muller. Rosalie Shepherd's description and photos are on our website – look under Events – and Claudia Stopp's account will appear in Pacific Horticulture magazine. Thank you Niki and Jeanne for a wonderful time and for sharing with us your gorgeous garden. Niki and Jeanne are going to relocate to Florida in the next year – we will miss them.

### ***News from the WHS website, [westernhort.org](http://westernhort.org)***

All our programs for 2011-2012, including the Holiday Party, are now on the website. All the programs are excellent and are great value. Look them over and decide which you must attend and which guests you want to bring. In addition, the website is now linked to our facebook page. Browse the site and find lots of useful links! ~*Pat Knight, [deerproof@yahoo.com](mailto:deerproof@yahoo.com)*

## ***28 Years Ago***

Even though Western Hort doesn't meet during the summer, WHS business continues. In 1983 the board met on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Mary Kaye reported on a successful field trip to Goldsmith Seeds with 13 members participating on "a very hot day." The board continued their quest for a new society logo. The new season began on September 12<sup>th</sup> with Doug Hamilton talking about "Horticulture—Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow." Hamilton was part of the UC Extension Service in Santa Clara and Alameda counties at the time. The plant discussion included (among other things) three blooming species of ginger: *Hedychium gardnerianum*, *H. coronarium*, and *H. coccineum* var. *angustifolium*. Two blooming vines on display were *Clematis ligusticifolia* (a native from Yerba Buena) and *Clerodendron thompsoniae*. ~*Nancy Schramm*

## Plant of the Month

*Myrciaria cauliflora*, somewhat better known as the Brazilian grape tree or jaboticaba, is an evergreen, fruitbearing tree native to Brazil. At home it can reach 20-30' tall, in a dense shrubby form, but you shouldn't expect it to get near that large around here. The leaves are dark green, lanceolate and leathery. The white flowers grow in clusters on the trunk, limbs and larger branches, leading to fruit that is very much like a muscadine grape. The berries are eaten fresh, made into jellies, or into wine. The tree is frost tolerant, Z10 (down to 30 degrees). It prefers growing in deep fertile soil, with plenty of iron. *Myrciaria* is related to *Eugenia*.

The fascinating thing about this tree is that since the fruit grows directly out of the larger woody parts, and the foliage is so dense, it's easy to overlook the fact that it is actually bearing fruit, as Katie Wong can testify. Katie told me about the jaboticaba that is growing at Prusch Park. It was planted about nine or ten years ago and was perhaps four feet tall at the time. It is seven feet tall now and bore some fruit a few years back, but this year there is a sizeable crop. Katie said the fruit is very tasty, with a tough skin and white flesh inside. She also said that it is so similar to a muscadine grape in appearance, taste and texture, that if they were sitting side by side, she couldn't tell the difference except by the seed, which is large, round and hard. In warmer climates, jaboticaba can bloom four to six times per year, with the fruit ripening about a month after flowering. ~Nancy Schramm

### JABA WHAT?

It is slow-growing and unimpressive  
Standing about 7 feet tall  
Its branches and leaves are pretty, but unexpressive  
It's a bush and that is all!  
I searched in spring for the flowers  
Without a trace  
Their presence beyond my powers  
This tree is a waste of space!  
But WAIT - Summer's ARRIVED  
And what do I now spy  
Beyond the leaves--the branches alongside  
But little black fruits for me to try  
Umm good! What a treat!  
Such unusual good fruit to eat!  
Poor little friend I misjudged thee  
Now for me, I gotta have a **JABOTICABA** tree!  
~Katie Wong



In August Katie saw this old friend, the jaboticaba tree, at Emma Prusch Park and was inspired to write a poem ... *photo by Katie Wong.*

### Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede

Vice President: Christine Bate

Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe

Acting Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Kerry Barrs, Roberta Barnes, Jon Craig, Abby Garner, Sherry Hall, Rosalie Shepherd and Katie Wong.

To contact us, please send email to [info@westernhort.org](mailto:info@westernhort.org), or contact Chris Egan at 650-948-4614, or send mail to Western Horticulture 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](http://westernhort.org) for a membership form.

### Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

Please send info for the October newsletter by September 18 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 650-326-2029.

Please send address changes to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162.



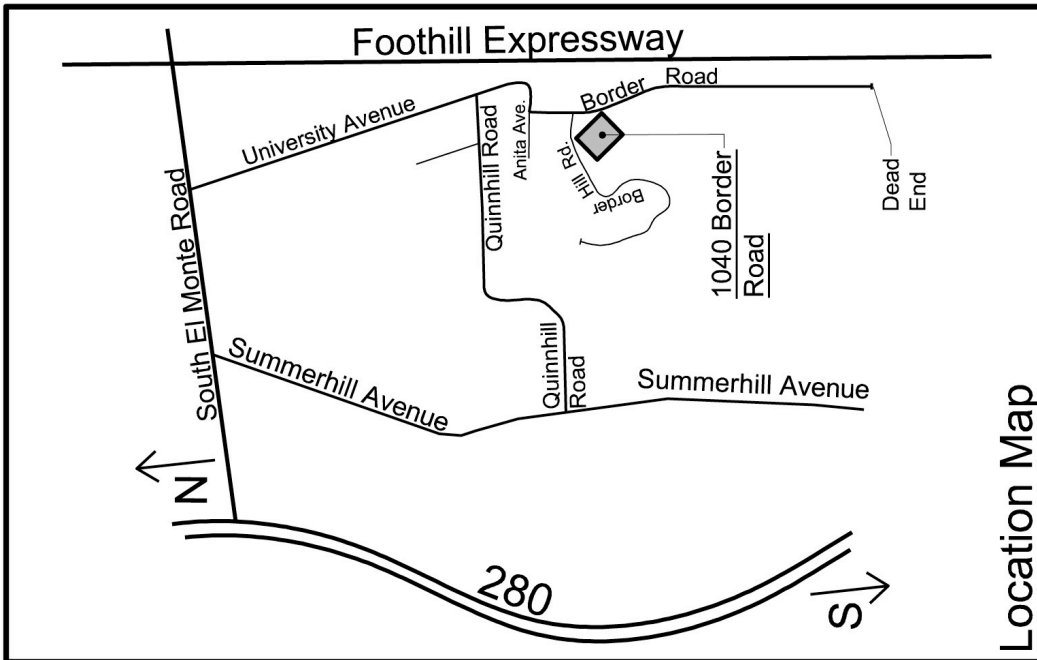
PO Box 60507  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

---

VISIT US AT WESTERNHORT.ORG

---



Western Horticultural Society  
Monthly Meetings  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos