



January 2016 Speaker

Wednesday, January 13, 7:30pm. Doors open at 7pm.



Patricia St. John. Photo: *aplca.org*

Join us for dinner with Patricia St. John on January 13, 5:30pm! Contact Carrie Parker at cpcp39@yahoo.com or 650-450-8122 to RSVP, and for directions to the restaurant (Chef Chu's).

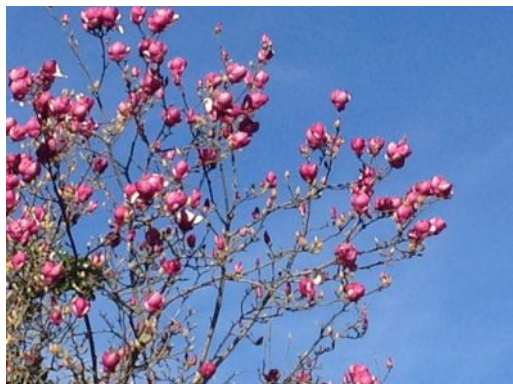
Speaker: Patricia St. John, Landscape Designer, and Instructor in the Landscape Horticulture Department, Merritt College, Oakland, California.

“Garden Design Process”

Landscape Design: What is it? How do you approach a landscape/garden design? What is the process? What are the elements and considerations? What makes for a successful design? What are the possibilities? Where does the selection of plants and ongoing maintenance fit in? How is cost managed? And what's important in this time of drought? Patricia St. John will cover these questions and more.

Patricia St. John is a certified professional landscape designer now working primarily in the East Bay and Contra Costa area. She has completed around 450 garden designs on both sides of the San Francisco Bay and has had several of her gardens featured on garden tours, including a Bay Friendly Garden Tour. She has recently been removing many front and back lawns, replacing them with low water use plants. Four of her gardens have received international design awards, her gardens have been featured in the new Sunset Backyard Garden Guide, Julie Moir Messervy's book Landscape Ideas that Work, both a German and a Chinese book on garden designs, and she was recently featured in *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. Most recently, she was featured in the San Francisco Chronicle. In 2010 Patricia served as President of the (international) Association of Professional Landscape Designers. She lives in Berkeley with Martin, her nurseryman husband. A former board member of the Western Horticultural Society, her career started at Foothill College.

Check out Patricia's website, <http://stjohnlandscapes.com>, for wonderful slideshows of her gardens, and contact info. ~Pat Knight, <http://westernhort.org> webmaster and <http://merrittlandhort.com/faculty-staff/patricia-st-john>



Magnolia in bloom in Palo Alto, February 2015. Photo: *Marianne Mueller*

Upcoming Speakers See *westernhort.org* for descriptions

February 10, 2016 Drew Harwell, “Vegetables for All Seasons.”

March 9, 2016 Wendy Proud, “Transforming the Landscape of Waterwise California.”

April 13, 2016 Ted Kipping, “Victor Reiter's Garden.”

Western Horticultural Society Founders Award Presented to Pat and Colin Knight

With our profound gratitude for your continuing contributions over the past three decades. Herewith we present to you our highest accolade in profound gratitude for your time, talents and devotion to the high standards the Western Horticultural Society wishes to offer and maintain.

December 9, 2015

The Western Horticultural Society established the Founders' Award to honor those whose vision and dedication promotes the very active, committed society that was inaugurated 50 years ago. This is the twelfth year we have honored members who have made exceptional contributions to the society as it has grown and thrived.

You have both given your time, organizational, design and technical skills and strengths on behalf of Western Horticultural Society ...all talents our organization could not do without.

Pat, we appreciate your service on the Western Horticultural Society board and as chair of the Speakers' committee. We appreciate how you have promoted and encouraged the Society's presence online by taking on our website in 2004 as well as modifying, redesigning and updating it many times since then. WHS has a Facebook page because of your efforts.

Colin, we are in your debt for the time you have spent researching our more technical purchases. We appreciate the quiet efficiency with which you set up our audio-visual equipment each month.

Therefore, members of Western Horticultural Society wish to express our profound gratitude for your continuing contributions over the past three decades. We present to you our highest accolade, the Western Horticultural Society Founders' Award for 2015 in profound gratitude for your time, talents and devotion to the high standards WHS wishes to offer and maintain.

Sincerely,
Western Horticultural Society

... and presenting the award, Nancy

Schramm: Judy Wong was responsible for most of the research for this year's Founders' Award, but since she is traveling in Antarctica, we decided to start a new tradition of last year's awardee doing the presentation.

When researching on the internet our Founders' awardee, Judy found someone with the same name as our recipient with vocations listed as "alligator wrestler, erotic romance writer and gypsy fortune teller". She was looking forward to further research into this intriguing individual!

This year's recipient earned a history degree in college, but like many plant lovers later took a landscaping class and graduated at the top of the class. Skills learned were applied to two family gardens over the years, styles including a genuine "English" garden that has evolved to a California-Mediterranean garden with extensive footpaths and trails due to the topography of the property, climate changes and drought. A dedicated kitchen garden has also been a tasty development over the years.

Our awardee joined the Western Horticultural Society in 1986 and has been an active member, serving on the WHS board, chairing the program committee and presenting an expert and well-received talk on a topic combining botany and art. Since 2004 this person has been key in the development of WHS's online presence through dedicated research, design and updating of our website, westernhort.org.

Most recently our recipient brought us into social media via Facebook.

When not gardening, this year's recipient is a distinguished expert in porcelain and pottery, active in the community with garden activities and had a successful business, Patrician Antiques. Our awardee continues this business now in an online store.

But wait, that's not all! Western Hort has also has a silver lining in this woman's spouse which prompted us to make this a dual award. Our second awardee has been a collaborator in the antique business specializing in silverware, and has an accomplished resume in electronics and developing chips that were used in spacecraft. He shared his expertise in digital media with his wife and as it was love at first sight, Judy told me he lost his first laptop to her and the business. In Colin, WHS has been gifted with expertise in the purchase and management of WHS's audio-visual equipment. Both Pat and Colin are very active in ceramic circles both in SF and the peninsula.

I am delighted to introduce our 2015 Founders awardees, Pat and Colin Knight.



Pat Knight at the recent WHS picnic at Betsy Clebsch's.



... and with Colin and other members of WHS at the recent WHS picnic at Barrie Coate's. *Photos: Leslie Dean.*

Annual Meeting Remember our Annual General Meeting is at the January meeting. This is our “state of WHS” meeting and we are electing Board officers as well. Now is your chance to step up, and/or nominate someone for the Board. ~Richard Tiede, President

CRFG Scion Exchange The California Rare Fruit Growers Scion Exchange, a wonderful and notable annual event, takes place on January 9, 2016. Location: Emma Prusch Park Multi-Cultural Center at 647 S. King Road, San Jose. This is a big event that we all look forward to. CRFG will have hundreds of different varieties of Pome (apple and pear), Stone (apricot, peach, plum, nectarine, and cherry), and persimmon fruit scions for grafting. There will also be many varieties of fig, berry, pomegranate and grape cuttings for rooting. Please bring plastic bags and labels for the wood you want to take home. There will be grafting classes as well, at 11:15 and at 1:00. This free public event is open 11:00 to 3:00. CRFG state members may enter at 10:00. Early admittance requires proof of membership. See <https://scvcrfg.wordpress.com> for more info.

Book Sale The January book sale from Elizabeth Garbett’s library will feature books on garden design and plants. ~Judy Wong

Plant Table With fewer plants on our potting tables, let's be creative this month! Do you have any plant or garden-related objects you would like to pass along? Pots, watering cans, and interesting accessories are welcome. Bring them to the January meeting and we'll see if anyone wants to buy them! ~Roberta Barnes

Missing Knife My large chef’s knife brought to the December 2015 potluck went missing – please contact me if you know its whereabouts! ~Marianne Mueller, (650) 326-2029 or mrm@sonic.net

WANTED! Volunteers for a few critical jobs

Plant Notes writer – Contact Jackie Doda, jndoda@earthlink.net or (650) 969-3983. You’ll learn a lot!

Membership List Caretaker – Please contact Jessie at grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162. Not hard!

Host-a-Speaker – Contact Nancy Schramm at 408-847-2313 or Leslie Dean at 650-966-8364. Tons of fun!



Wildflowers in the Tehachapi Desert, Central California. The Tehachapi is also home to a desert wind farm under development by Southern California Edison. It includes new and upgraded electric transmission lines and substations between eastern Kern County and San Bernardino County.

Note, This pass does not seem to be part of the area being used for the wind farm, which was scheduled to be in operation by now. Not sure that deadline was met. -Editor.

The wind farm could provide power for upwards of 3 million homes (4,500 megawatts of electricity), and will be the largest wind transmission project in the country.

Photo: Found in many place on the internet; original photographer difficult to ascertain.

December 2015 Speaker Notes

The story of a locally well-known estate was our holiday potluck program's topic, "Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism." Garden volunteers Jane Stocklin and Susan Woodman took us on a historical tour of transition from a private home to a public garden, smack dab in the middle of Palo Alto.

It seems that the history of Palo Alto is inevitably intertwined with Stanford University, and the story of the Gambles points this out. Edwin Gamble, son of the co-founder of Procter and Gamble, enrolled his oldest son James in 1901 at this up and coming college out west. So taken by the area and its climate, he bought a parcel and built a "villa" and carriage house the following year. Moving his wife Elizabeth and their other children, George, Elizabeth and Launcelot, the Gambles settled into their three-story "revival style" house where they developed an extensive estate.



"Looking Up in Gamble Garden", a photo by Abe Kleinfeld, <http://www.abekleinfeld.com>.

Daughter Elizabeth, who never married, returned home after college with a passion for gardening. Living there her entire adult life, Elizabeth transformed the once rustic parcel into an elaborate web of formal and informal gardens, resplendent with an impressive collection of plants from around the globe. A generous philanthropist, Elizabeth willed the estate to the City of Palo Alto in 1971 with a stipulation that she could remain living there, which she did until her death at 92 in 1981.

Today Gamble Garden is a model showpiece of public space, thanks to the efforts of a fleet of a group of citizens since 1985. The home and garden serve as a center for classes, weddings, tours and special events. The gardens are open every day for anyone to stroll and relax, and groups of young people tend vegetable beds there. This vibrant piece of real estate, beginning with the vision of the prominent Gamble family, continues its mission to serve the community of Palo Alto today, truly making it a "landscape of optimism." See <http://www.gamblegarden.org/history> for an conversation with Elizabeth Gamble that ran in a Palo Alto publication in the late 1950s or early 1960s, and a short article, "Three Acts in the Life of a Three Story House". ~Mark McCabe

November 2015 Speaker Notes

It's obvious to everyone that today's cost of using water is going through the roof. Yet this month's speaker, Bobby Markowitz of Earthcraft Landscape Design, Inc. of Santa Cruz says that water should be sliding off your roof for free into your garden. "Rainwater Catchment: Achieving Net-Zero Water Use for the California Landscape" was a fascinating look at what can be achieved with a well-designed and built rainwater catchment system.

Markowitz, whose firm designs and builds rainwater harvesting systems, first became involved with this new (to the U.S.A.) practice from a client in Los Gatos. From approximately 4,000 sq. ft. of roof space, his company captured, stored, and pumped enough water to make the property self-sufficient. Markowitz cited the many benefits of rainwater harvesting, which include emergency water for fire protection, stormwater management and flood control, reduced water bills and increased property values.

The cost to install one of these systems isn't cheap – between design and installation, the cost could be between \$5,000 and \$100,000. Yet for a larger or newly-developed piece of property, it could pay off down the road – and roof – with a sustainable, self-sufficient system to address our ever-dwindling supply of publicly stored water. See <http://earthcraftdesign.com> for more information about Bobby Markowitz's projects, and contact info. ~Mark McCabe

28 Years Ago Western Hort met for the first time in 1988 on Wednesday the 13th. We were still meeting at the Los Altos Youth Center. The program was called “Garden Fantasy – Ways of Ornamenting the Garden” and the illustrious presenter was George Waters. At that time, George and his wife Olive were mainstays of *Pacific Horticulture*, serving as editor and circulation manager, respectively. The newsletter describes George as “an Englishman [who] has had great influence on the magazine. He has worked for Kodak and has vast knowledge of photography – and is known as ‘Tripod George’ on the many Pacific Hort tours.”

Elizabeth Garbett was offering for sale the ‘Peeler Logs’ that had been used in the WHS exhibit at the SF Flower & Garden Show in 1987.

The monthly plant notes celebrated “manzanitas...among the first of our native shrubs to bloom” *Arctostaphylos densiflora* ‘Sentinel’ (only erect cultivar), *A. refugioensis* (needs a little shade) and *A. x ‘Point Reyes’* (a hybrid rather than a cultivar of *A. uva-ursi*, with the other parent possibly being *A. glandulosa*.) Ed Carman showed *Daphne bholua*. (I researched this one, trying to remember if it survived the freeze of 1990. In *Horticulture* 2008, Dan Hinkley says “The first attempts at cultivating this species probably involved plants with low-elevation (less hardy) parents. Once declared not hardy, one has trouble resurrecting one’s reputation.”) Bart O’Brien showed *Darwinia oxylepis*, which needs perfect drainage. Comments on Hypericum: *H. rowallane* – best tall shrub, *H. calycinum* – a nuisance groundcover, *H. cerastoides* – charming dwarf and *H. androsaemum* – medium shrub with many good features: tolerant of severe pruning and rather shady conditions, attractive berries and persistent leaves with fall color. *Illicium anisatum* blooms prompted Elizabeth Garbett’s comment, “Again there is ‘fragrance’ but very odd: some call it a soap odor, but others say that is unfair to soap.” ~Nancy Schramm



Illicium anisatum, related to the medicinal plant *I. verum*, is highly toxic.

Wikipedia advises, “[W]ith common names **Japanese star anise**, **aniseed tree**, and **sacred anise tree**, and known in Japan as *shikimi* (柾?, シキミ), [this] is a tree closely related to the **Chinese star anise**. Since it is highly toxic, the fruit is not edible; instead, the dried and powdered leaves are burned as incense in Japan. Cases of illness, including serious neurological effects such as seizures, have been reported after using star anise tea and may be a result of using this species instead of Chinese star anise (*Illicium verum*).”

Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede
 Vice President: Judy Wong
 Recording Secretary: Liz Calhoon
 Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
 Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Patricia Larenas, Carrie Parker, 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

The newsletter publishes on the first of the month. The deadline for submissions is the 18th of the prior month; items received after the 25th may not make it into the immediately upcoming newsletter but will be published the following month. Send submissions to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

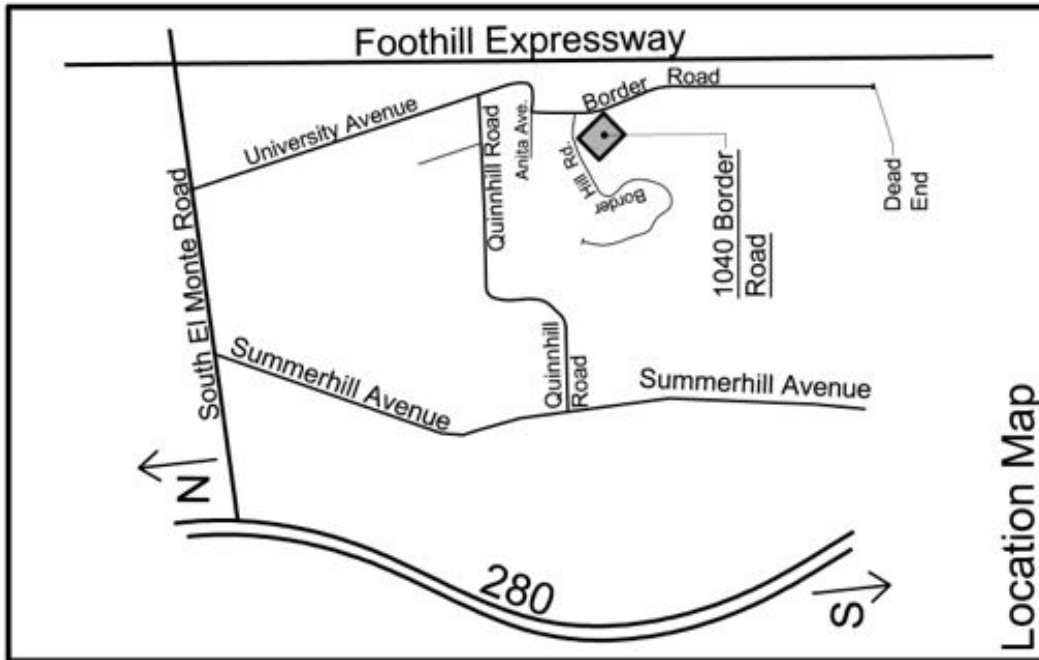
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



PO Box 60507
Palo Alto, CA 94306

First Class Mail

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 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! Please call Pat Knight at 650-941-6136.