



January 2013 Speaker

Wednesday, January 9, 7:30 p.m.

Kathy Echols, Instructor, Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill

“Garden Myths”

For the last 18 years, Kathy has been an instructor in the Horticulture Department at Diablo Valley College, teaching Plant Propagation, Plant Production, Greenhouse and Nursery Practices and New Plant Introductions. She is responsible for the massive amounts and unusual variety of plants that are sold at Diablo Valley College plant sales.

As an avid plant propagator, Kathy is very involved with the International Plant Propagators of which she is a past president. Always in search of a new plant for the nursery industry, Kathy has introduced many of the new favorites that are currently in vogue.

Are you doing something in your garden that really won't make a difference to your plants?

Come hear the debunking of things we have been doing for years that don't work. Interesting facts from fertilizing to training your trees.

December 2012 Speaker Notes

One of the most endearing holiday memories for most of us is the model train chugging around the Christmas tree, a time-honored tradition still practiced today. At our annual potluck holiday party, we were treated to a tour of beautiful landscapes constructed for model train layouts. Our guest speaker, Nancy Norris of Gardenlines in Pleasant Hill, welcomed us on board with her presentation “Miniature Landscapes.”

After we enjoyed a delicious and festive meal, a wonderful slide show began, introducing us to a unique and fascinating combination of two of American's most popular hobbies—gardening and model railroading. Ms. Norris might be a horticulturalist first and foremost, but her love of modeling, with the sense of authentic scale and detail, showed in her slide presentation of railroad layouts she has designed and installed throughout the country.

Nancy kept us on track with some horticultural basics such as plant hardiness and planting techniques. A detailed handout, including plant lists organized by growth habit, provided an excellent reference. Our speaker pointed out that the scale of

plants can be emphasized by introducing various other elements into the overall design. Boulders, trestles, water, and buildings all can be incorporated to add a sense of realism. For plantings, focus on creating a color theme that holds the layout together. Pruning trees to create a sense of scale is important. Dwarf Alberta spruce, Norris noted, is used in ninety percent of garden railways because of its slow growth, its shape, and low cost. For those not inclined to an elaborate garden (or its maintenance), she presented several slides of a garden with a simple desert theme that displayed equally well a sense of authenticity.

For the “railroad” part of all this, the track layout can be a simple oval to more complex switchbacks, yards and elevations, buildings, figures, switches—you name it, and it can be incorporated into the layout of your dreams. If you're not sure or don't want to tackle part of this project, Nancy can do it for you, including maintaining the garden. The main thing is to have fun—bring the family together, and perhaps, bring out a little of the child in all of us. At this time of the year, and in this particular time, with some of the troubling news we have experienced, a wonderful interactive hobby such as garden railroading might be the ticket to some happiness we could all use. ~Mark McCabe

MEETING LOCATION Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

You are invited to join our January speaker, Kathy Echols, for **dinner on January 9** at 5:30 p.m. at Chef Chu's, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: 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.



Note from the President Remember our January meeting is also our **annual business meeting** when we elect new board members, hear the Treasurer's report, and more. We are looking for four people to serve on our Board of Directors. We meet only five times a year. If you would like to nominate someone, or if you would like to be on the board, this is the time. Thank you all for your support of our wonderful organization.

Our February meeting is a **Q&A with experts Barrie Coate and Dick Dunmire**—turn in written questions at the January 9th meeting. ~Richard Tiede, President

Raffle Table January's raffle table will be brought to you by the Western Hort Board. Also, everyone is welcome to bring garden-related items or interesting plants. Maybe you have some holiday presents to re-gift? Take a look at our raffle table and see if anything interests you! Winter is a good time to plant in our Mediterranean climate! ~Roberta Barnes

28 Years Ago Western Hort met on January 14, 1985 to hear “Greek Wildflowers Among the Ruins” presented by Keith Bickford. He and Fran “...traveled to Greece in the spring of 1983, participating in a wildflower tour in which Bob Mitchell, our noted speaker of last spring, was the botanic expert.” I wonder what has changed in the past thirty years? Seven local nurseries were thanked for donating to the November raffle table. I’m glad to see that most are still in business! The plant notes indicate that there was a large selection of winter blooms from big shrubs on display, many brought in by Glenna Houle and Ruby Lomax. They included *Cestrum elegans* “pendulous, dark red, one-inch flowers on arching branches”, *Lonicera fragrantissima* “white, lemon-scented one-inch flowers held in pairs at leaf axils”, *Sarcococca saligna* “short, fluffy, greenish-yellow blooms in axillary clusters...lightly sweet...stems among the prettiest, most long-lasting ‘greens’ for bouquets” and one of my favorites, *Chimonanthus praecox* (winter sweet). The flowers are less than gorgeous “...pale, waxy, delicate yellow...The many-petaled, rather shaggy-looking, solitary flowers appear on stiff, naked stems.” But the fragrance is out of this world, and transports me instantly back to the pre-Christmas, Carman’s Nursery glasshouse. One of Dad’s many customer/friends always brought in *Chimonanthus* branches, and Dad would put them in water, on the bench, where they would scent the whole glasshouse for weeks. ~Nancy Schramm



Wall of Roses You’ll love the gallery of photos at the Heritage Rose Garden website (heritageroses.us).



AARS 506 (Striped Test Rose) by David Giroux. See his 1000+ photos of roses in the Heritage Rose Garden on [flickr.com](https://www.flickr.com/photos/girouxroses/); search for “Giroux roses”.



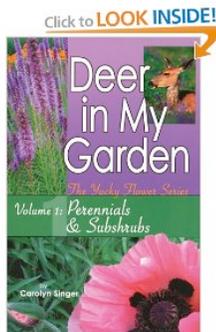
Chimonanthus praecox originates in China, grows to about 13’ and takes a few years before it is mature enough to flower. The flowers appear on bare branches. It starts flowering in November and continues into early February. Photo and caption: greenforks.com

Book Review: *Deer in My Garden*

Volume 1: Perennials & Subshrubs, The Yucky Flower Series by Carolyn Singer. Garden Wisdom Press, 5 ½ x 8 ½ inches, 210 pages including index, \$19.95

I never know who I'm going to meet when I'm a vendor at a plant or garden show, and the Heirloom Expo in Santa Rosa last September didn't disappoint me. A woman stopped to ask if I sold books at my nursery, and while I had to confess that I did not, I did, of course, ask which book she was looking for. As it turned out, Carolyn was not looking for a book, rather, she had one to sell. (And as I asked her about it, it also turned out that like so many other plant lovers I meet, she too had known my dad.)

Carolyn has written a series of books, *Deer in My Garden, Volumes 1 & 2* (and I think she said that Volume 3 is in the works) to help people who garden amidst deer to avoid plants that sit there with a big label saying "Eat me." But even if you don't have to worry about deer, these books deserve a spot on any serious gardener's bookshelf. *Deer in My Garden Vol. 1* is an alphabetical list of 53 plants. But it's far more than just a list. Each plant listing includes: botanical name, common name, description, cultural requirements, bloom, seasonal interest, companion plants and landscape use, propagation, and maintenance. There is a photograph of almost every plant and there are three very useful appendices including "Plants that are not deer-resistant, but are on "deer-resistant" plant lists." Obviously she's got a great sense of humor! I cannot speak to the accuracy of Carolyn's list, since our fence has successfully kept the deer at bay, but I can say that she speaks with the confidence that comes from experience. *Deer in My Garden* is a great reference, and it's a pleasure to read as well. ~Nancy Schramm



Visit amazon.com to "Click to look inside"—you can view some of the content.

January Horticultural Calendar

Wednesdays and Saturdays through mid-February, 9 a.m.-noon: Hands-on Rose Pruning Lessons & Pruning Practice at the Heritage Rose Garden, at Spring and Taylor Streets, San Jose. Lessons begin promptly at 9 a.m. You can brush up on rose pruning techniques and help this nationwide-celebrated garden to boot. Don't miss the garden in full bloom later this year. See heritageroses.us for more info and for directions.

Friday, January 11, 3-7 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday January 12/13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The 39th Annual Santa Cruz Fungus Fair, 301 Center St., Santa Cruz. \$5 Friday admission; \$10 Saturday or Sunday. Explore habitat displays with hundreds of mushroom species commonly found in the Santa Cruz/San Francisco/Monterey Bay area. Talk with experts on hand who can also ID mushrooms you've found, and enjoy educational talks, tastings, mushroom arts and crafts, kid's activities, and an after-hours mushroom dinner. "We Keep the Fun in Fungi!" See scfungusfair.org for information, map and directions.

January 12, 2013: Scion Exchange, Prusch Park, 647 S. King Road, San Jose. Open to the public at 11:00! Every year there are more than 300 varieties of dormant scion wood available for grafting onto your own trees. Ranging from Asian and European plums, to apples and pears, as well as peaches and apricots too numerous to list! See scvcrfg.wordpress.com for more information.

Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede

Vice President: Christine Bate

Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoun, Jon Craig, Abby Garner, Rosalie Shepherd, Steve Staiger, Judy Wong 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 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 for a membership form.

Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

Send submissions for the February 2013 newsletter by January 18 to Marianne Mueller: mrm@sonic.net, 650-326-2029, or 333 Kingsley Ave., Palo Alto 94301.

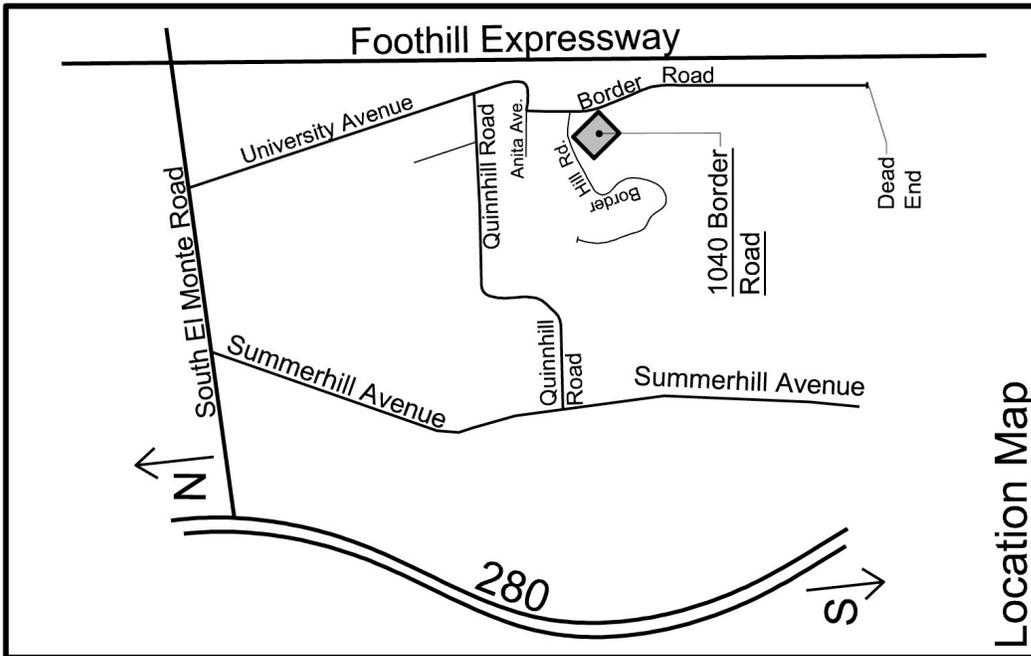
Send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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