



October 2014 Speaker

Wednesday, October 8, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Bart O'Brien, Director of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park

“Your Garden: Drought, Climate Change, and Native Plants—What’s New?”

Do you know the three critical actions to take to assure that your garden survives and thrives in these times of dramatic weather fluctuation? You may think, “Water, water, and water” but that’s just one of the fundamentals that you need to be concerned about now and into the future when thinking about your garden.

The challenges of Mediterranean-climate gardening without easy access to low-cost water can be a bit daunting, but it’s far from doom and gloom. Where should we be looking for native and native-friendly plants for our gardens? Some less familiar native plants and newer selections will also be discussed.

Bart O'Brien is a plant collector, grower, photographer, lecturer, and author. For many years prior to returning to northern California he was Director of Horticulture, then Director of Special Projects at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in southern California. See <http://www.nativeplants.org> for “What’s Blooming Now” at Tilden Park, plant sales and seeds, newsletters and more; this is the website of *Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden: Native Plants of California*, where Bart O'Brien is Director.



Humboldt lily in La Tuna Canyon, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, Claremont, California. Photo: Emily Green, <http://chanceofrain.com>

Dinner before the October meeting— You are invited to join our October speaker, Bart O'Brien, for dinner on October 8 at 5:30 p.m. at Chef Chu's, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos (corner of San Antonio and El Camino). Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283.

September 2014 Speaker Notes Our Annual Louisa Beck Guest Lecture presented a speaking duo, Bill McNamara of Quarryhill Botanical Garden, and Peter Raven of Missouri Botanical Garden. Ostensibly a talk about “Asian Flora,” as the evening wore on the talk veered instead toward the more morose subjects of plant extinction and worldwide overpopulation.

McNamara, the first speaker, has been a frequent visitor to China, collecting seeds and herbarium specimens since 1987. He mentioned that China is the ancestral home to many of the plants we cultivate today. Slides of camellias, magnolias, peonies, and roses in the wild, to name a few among others, illustrated this point. McNamara commented that China is changing very rapidly, putting a strain on the environment. The general population has an affinity for plants in the wild, putting added strains on native Chinese plant populations.

Peter Raven was up next, posing the question, “How many (plant) species will survive in the 21st century?” Armed with slides of graphs and charts, Raven broached the looming subjects of overpopulation, malnourishment, pollution, global warming, over-consumption and extinction. He framed his talk with these problems of our planet to raise our awareness of how we live, how well we live, and how well future generations will fare in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. ~Mark McCabe



Deer grass and white sage at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Photo: Emily Green, chanceofrain.com.

October Plant Table A big thanks to the members who brought plants last month—especially to the Board members who really outdid themselves. October's plant table will be brought to you by our members. Any plant-related item is considered. Native plants would be most welcome as they would compliment Bart O'Brien's presentation! Thanks in advance. ~Roberta Barnes

2015 Plant Sale For the last few years, we held a plant sale at the Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market in April. This year we need a new coordinator if the sale is going to continue. Please consider volunteering—contact any Board member (see page 3 for names). ~Roberta Barnes

Have you renewed your WHS membership? Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. Thank you to everyone who has renewed. Renewal applications with pre-addressed envelopes were mailed in August. **If you will be renewing at the October 8 meeting, please bring your pre-printed form—this saves time as you won't need to fill out a form.** See page 3 for renewal info. Thank you.

WHS Meetings in 2015 The listing of 2014-2015 meetings sent with the September 2014 newsletter accidentally showed incorrect dates for 2015. (The print version that was mailed out is correct.) Fear not, **we will continue meeting on Wednesdays.** Please refer to the website anytime for the description of the talks and dates for 2014-2015—many thanks to our web guru Pat Knight for publishing this information in such an accessible and attractive way. The PDF included with this online publication of the October 2014 newsletter lists the correct dates and says “Corrected Version” at the top. Sorry for any confusion and kudos to the sharp eyes out there!



Calylophus drummondii. Photo: Richard Tiede.

Calylophus drummondii While on a trip to SoCal, Bracey and I enjoyed a brief stay in Cambria where we discovered the wonderful *Calylophus drummondii* at Cambria Nursery. That was a year ago and it is going gangbusters in our yard with a bit of morning and late afternoon shade. According to the label on the container, Native Sons Wholesale Nursery in Arroyo Grande grew it, and it's native to Texas and northern Mexico. Ours has spread to about 2' wide and 6-8" high. The very fine dark green foliage contrasts nicely with the bright yellow flowers that are about 1-1 ½ inches across. The flower petals remind me of crinkly, delicate *Cistus* petals.

Further investigation revealed that it may be listed as *Calylophus berlandieri* or *C. drummondianus*, according to San Marcos Growers in Santa Barbara. Some common names it goes by are Shrubby Primrose and Texas Sundrop, and it is closely related to the genus *Oenothera*. A perennial sub-shrub, *c. drummondii* is hardy to 32°F/0°C and perhaps a bit lower depending on exposure. The flowers drop in a day or two as little orange crumples, but don't worry—there always seem to be more than two dozen every day. Care by simply shearing it back in late winter before buds appear. It receives moderate, regular water twice a week from our drip system. We hope you can make room for one in your garden. ~Richard Tiede

Mark Your Calendar

The Plant—Rock Connection Friday, October 3, 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm, Los Altos Library, 13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Speaker: Paul Heiple of CNPS. Have you ever gone on a field trip and wondered why a plant is found in this particular location—not a nearby location? Paul Heiple's talk addresses geology and how soils differ. More info: <http://cnps-scv.org>.



Eriogonum parishii, a native buckwheat now in bloom at Tilden Park. *Photo: nativeplants.org*

FIRST FALL NATIVE PLANT SALE AT TILDEN PARK BOTANIC GARDENS!

Oct 4, 10 am-3 pm, Wildcat Canyon Road, Berkeley. While there, drop by the CNPS Native Plant Fair just two minutes away at 101 Golf Course Drive, Berkeley; plant-themed art vendors, activities for children, and live music. See nativeplants.org for info.

Midori Bonai Club—Annual Bonsai Show Saturday, October 4, 10 am – 5 pm, Northside Community Center, 488 N. Sixth St. In addition to the bonsai show, this event features a beginner workshop, vendors, plant sales and demo. More info: midoribonsai.org.

Santa Clara County Master Gardener Fall Plant Sale at the 21st Annual Prusch Harvest Fair, Saturday, October 4, 10 am - 4 pm, Prusch Farm Park, 647 S King Rd., San Jose. Vegetables, flowers, talks on cool season veggies, Hotline LIVE! & more. Plant lists: mastergardeners.org/fall-garden-market.

Gamble Garden Community Day Sunday, October 5, 10 am–5 pm, Gamble Garden, 1431 Waverley Ave, Palo Alto. Plant sale with several varieties of iris, a superb succulent selection, salvias, succulent container gardens; many childrens' activities, food trucks, and entertainment. Free. gamblegarden.org.

CNPS Fall Plant Sale (California Native Plant Society) October 18, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Road, Los Altos Hills. Scores of species of California native plants well-suited for our gardens and wildlife, native plant books, posters, and note cards. More info: cnps-scv.org

First Annual Monterey Bay Master Gardener 2014 Fall Fest! October 18, 9 am – 4 pm, UC Cooperative Extension, 1432 Freedom Blvd, Watsonville. Annual plant sale, speaker presentations, vendors and demos. Planting tricks and garden treats! For more information, contact event organizer Julie Lorenzen, 831-915-4101 or fallfest@mbmgs.org.

Recipes from the Garden, a talk by Rosalind Creasy Nov 1, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. Sponsor: Common Ground in Palo Alto. Location: Palo Alto Christian Reform Church, 687 Arasterdero Rd, Palo Alto (\$35). Register: tinyurl.com/creasy-nov1

Western Horticultural Society

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President: Richard Tiede
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
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Other Board Members: Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Wendy van der Linden, 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

Please send info for the November 2014 newsletter by October 18 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.

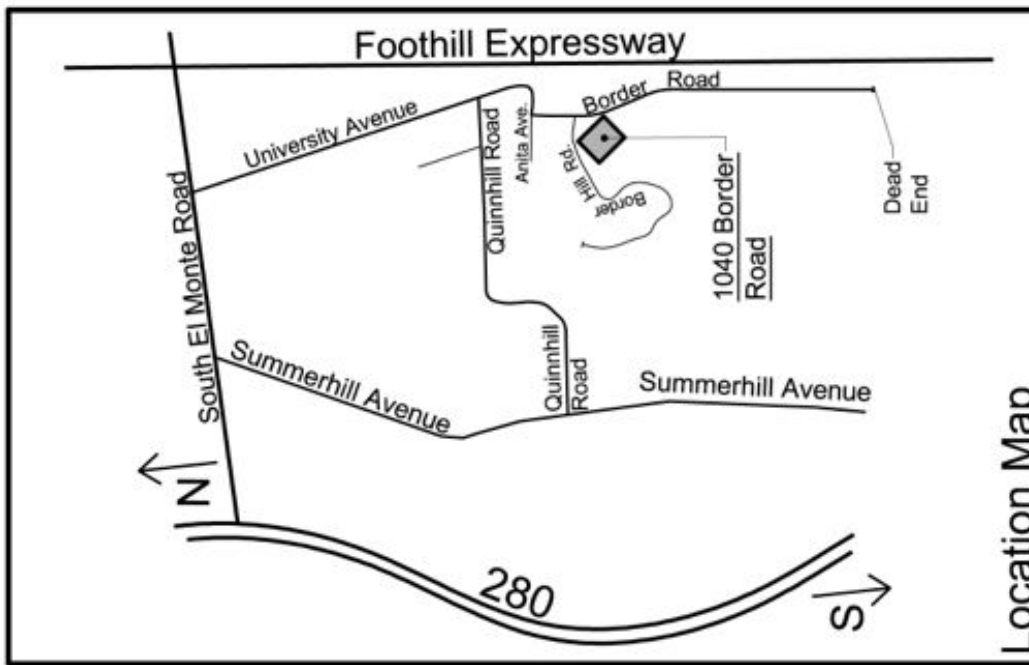


Western
Horticultural
Society

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.

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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.