



WHS November Speaker

Wednesday, November 10, 2010, 7:30 p.m.

C. Todd Kennedy, The Arboreum Company, San Francisco

“The Unlimited Orchard of the Finest Fruits You Can Grow.”

Peaches, plums, apples, pears, pomegranates, apricots, cherries How are you to choose what to grow in your garden? The varieties of each seem endless! Western Horticulturists have an almost optimum climate for the culture of the greatest range of the finest varieties of fruits. With so many of these varieties now available from The Arboreum Company and other sources, members may be at a loss as to what to plant. C. Todd Kennedy explains the problem of the unlimited orchard and suggests some solutions to choosing the finest fruits for our area.

C. Todd Kennedy is a former WHS member now living in San Francisco, and is one of the principals of The Arboreum Company fruit tree merchants. Todd learned how to grow fruit on family ranches in Santa Clara Valley and Southern California while he was growing up. He later went on to propagating the trees for the Filoli orchard rehabilitation and currently maintains an orchard in Morgan Hill, where he has no particular favorites among the 750 + varieties of fruits he grows. <http://www.arboreum.biz/>

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 the Parish Hall of Christ Episcopal Church, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos, 94024.

Please also join our speaker for dinner prior to the meeting at Chef Chu's at 5:30 p.m. at the corner of El Camino Real and San Antonio Avenue. This is a terrific opportunity for our members to get to know each other better, and to get to chat with our speakers. Please call Pat Knight to confirm at 650-941-6136.

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.

Next month's speaker ...

December 9 Jennifer Dungan, Earth Sciences Division, NASA, Mountain View, CA. “Can You See My Garden From Space?”

Commentary on October's Speaker

We have all been admonished in our busy lives to stop and smell the roses, but when was the last time you were asked to lay still and observe the bugs? That is precisely what our guest speaker, Richard Merrill, suggested we should do during his talk “Managing the Garden and the Landscape as an Ecosystem.”

The overall theme of Professor Merrill's presentation was “Habitat Gardening” – not, as he stressed, only about attracting hummingbirds, but rather working with (and introducing) native flora to create a healthy landscape. With information-packed handouts (*available on westernhort.org – see page 2 for details*) and slides, Merrill demonstrated the ecological succession of a traditional, highly cultivated garden to the end result of a diverse, healthy and relatively chemical-free landscape. Professor Merrill continually stressed the importance of “ecological” diversity, which mimicked models he found in nature.

What does this all mean for us, the gardeners? I see it as a starting point for many of us, particularly those saddled with some failures or the proverbial “brown thumb” (Merrill said there was no such thing – just a “green thumb” not yet developed). If we really pay attention to what happens in nature – and the interplay of soil microbes, plants, invertebrates and vertebrates – we see a perfect model of a healthy, diverse – and yes, beautiful – garden. Maybe it's time to put into practice “attracting and nurturing” as our speaker suggested, and see a whole new world develop in our own backyards.
~ Mark McCabe

Happiness held is a seed ~ Happiness shared is the flower

Western Hort News and Business

Save This Date – Annual Potluck on December 15

Our annual Potluck will be Wednesday, December 15th at Christ Church. Chairmen for this very special event are Liz Calhoun and Pat Knight.

Raffle Table

Thanks everyone for a great raffle table last month—there was a little something for everyone. The November table will be supplied by the raffle committee, but you are always welcome to bring plants, bulbs, seeds, garden tools, books...well, you get the idea! ~Nancy Schramm

Great Gift Idea for your Gardening Friends

Looking for a great gift for a family member or friend who loves to garden? A gift subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine will give them a year's worth of gardening ideas, information and inspiration whether they are an armchair gardener, an avid gardener, or just someone who enjoys learning. Why not treat them to something unique? To order, visit our website at pacifichorticulture.org to sign up. ~Leslie Dean

Come Join the Propagation Parties!

We'll be holding Propagation Parties for the April 2011 WHS plant sale. Come rub elbows with fellow members, lend some elbow grease and share your passion for the plants of your interest. Do you like growing any of the following plants:

Begonias—Fruit Trees—Ornamental Edibles—Vines—Tropicals—Herbs—Scented Geraniums—
Succulents—Flowering Bulbs—Unusual Vegetables—Grasses—Whatever rings your bell!

Join the FUN!! Help us start some new plants for our sale. Let me know if you're interested and WHEN you can come. Time & place for the first propagation party to be announced. ~Katie Wong, Plant Sale Chair, 408-251-2742 or alivensilk@aol.com.

Your "Plant of the Month" writeup wanted!

The "Plant of the Month" is a new column! We would love short writeups from any members. You can write one yourself, or if you like, Nancy Schramm can interview you about the plant and then write it up. Contact Marianne Mueller at mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029.

News from the Website, westernhort.org

Advertise your horticultural business or service with a free listing on our Professional Page. It will soon be up and running. Also, how about a **Members' Page** with photos of unusual, beautiful, odd or quirky plants? Send me your photos so all can see them and enjoy or laugh! We are still looking for additional gardens for the **Members' Garden** section. Do you have a patio garden, a greenhouse or even a garden in pots that you can share? Take a look at "Members' Gardens" to see who we have so far. Contact Pat Knight at deerproof@yahoo.com or 650-941-6136 for any website submissions.

The **two handouts from Richard Merrill** (our October speaker) are available on his page. Go to westernhort.org, click on "Speaker" on the left hand side, and then click on the link labeled "October 13 Richard Merrill." Look for the links to the handouts on the left hand side ("Attracting Beneficial Insects" and "Ecological Pyramid") and click on the name of the handout you are interested in. You can print them out if you like. ~Pat Knight

Calendar of Horticultural Events

16th Annual Sale of San Francisco Native Plants, Thu Nov 4, 7:30 p.m., CNPS Yerba Buena Chapter, Recreation Room, County Fair Bldg., 9th Ave./Lincoln Way, San Francisco, CA 94122. Features plants propagated from San Francisco's remaining natural areas.

Edible Landscaping with Rosalind Creasy, Sat Dec 4, 10:30 a.m. – noon. \$25. Proceeds benefit Common Ground. To register, call 650-493-6072 or visit rosilandcreasyediblelandscaping.eventbrite.com. [sic – eventbrite typo!] See commongroundinpaloalto.org for more Common Ground classes and events.

Fall Maintenance in the Garden: Tips, Tools and Hands-On Demonstrations in the Palo Alto Master Gardener Demonstration Garden, Sat Nov 6, 10 a.m. – 11 a.m., 851 Center Dr., Palo Alto 94301. See mastergardeners.org/events for more master gardener classes, workshops and events.

See pacifichorticulture.org for an extensive calendar of horticultural events

Cornus, Plant of the Month ~ One of Sherry Hall's Faves!

Do you need to make a statement in your garden? (Botanically speaking, that is.) Well, here's a shrub to consider: *Cornus sericea* 'Hedgerows Gold'. This is a variegated, deciduous red-twig dogwood that has lots going for it all year long. The medium-green leaves have a bright yellow-gold edge that practically glows. The variegation stays vibrant all summer long. When the leaves drop for the winter, the red stems make a thicket of color in a season when you really appreciate it. Sherry Hall grows it in full sun in Corralitos; in hotter areas you should give it a little afternoon shade. It can also grow in about 50% shade where the leaves will get 2"-3" compared to about 1 1/2" in the sun.

It blooms in late spring to early summer: clusters of small white flowers that set white fruit, which some sources say can be quite ornamental. Sherry's shrub has grown to 5' in about five years on twice-weekly drip irrigation. It is said to tolerate a wide variety of soils, even poor drainage in the winter. It can grow to 6'-8' tall if you just let it go, but the size can be controlled by pruning. Either whack the whole thing off at 2'-3' every few years, or selectively remove a quarter to a third of the branches each year. Do this at the end of winter so you can enjoy the dark red branches as long as possible. Sherry told me that great plant combinations include festival grass, *Coleonema*, grasses for textural contrast, and anything with red foliage. *C. Hedgerows Gold* is dramatic enough for a tropical themed garden. It was included in the 2009 Great Plant Picks list.
~Nancy Schramm

28 Years Ago

WHS met on November 8, 1982 to hear a program titled "Winter in the Garden." Dick Dunmire was the moderator for a panel consisting of Dr. C. S. Koehler, Ted Kipping, and Ed Carman. The program was to include "short talks, slides, discussion, and questions from the floor." In addition, "Dick promises some fireworks in the form of recent publications which contradict some traditional garden caveats." Practical aspects of gardening were on the table since "...this is the season for laying the groundwork for next year's garden." There was also a 5-minute talk by Jon Dixon about *Gesneriaceae*, the African Violet Family. Plants on the display table included some for fall foliage color: *Acer palmatum*, *A. truncatum*, *Cornus florida*, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*; and some for fall flowers: *Anemone x hybrida*, *Montanoa grandiflora*, *Schizostylis coccinea*, *Tagetes lemmonii*; and a few for berries: *Acmena smithii* and *Lycesteria formosa*.
~Nancy Schramm

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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 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 1-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.



***Cornus sericea* 'Hedgerows Gold'**

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Newsletter Submissions & Address Changes

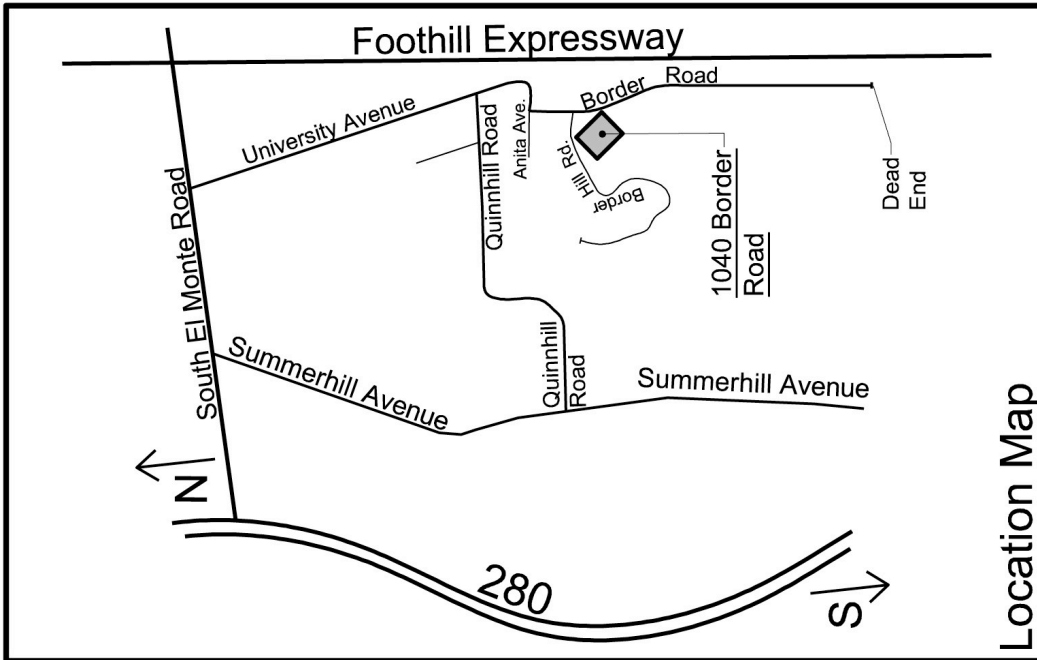
Please send submissions for the December newsletter by Nov 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 650-326-2029. Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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Western Horticultural Society
Monthly Meetings
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