

Photo courtesy of speaker.



Our May meeting was an exciting visual exploration of designing with color in the waterwise garden to achieve maximum impact. Our speaker was popular garden expert and author Nan Sterman, who shared examples and tips from her new book *Hot Color, Dry Garden*. She emphasized that with prolonged periods of drought predicted in our future, we need to embrace the dry garden as the appropriate choice for our climate, but can do so without sacrificing beauty and aesthetics.

Nan's has been well known as a garden expert, designer, author, botanist, and award-winning journalist. She also hosts and co-produces the public TV show, *A Growing Passion*, which connects plants, people, and the planet. She is dedicated to transforming planted

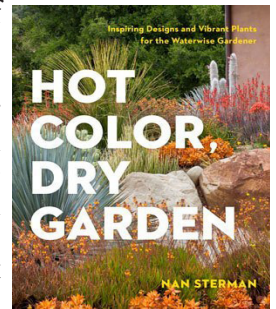
landscapes from overly thirsty and resource-intensive to climate appropriate and sustainable. In her program Nan shared ways of introducing color into dry climate gardens – from plants to architecture, and accessories to details. She talked about ways to combine colors, where to find inspiration for palettes, and uncommon combinations that work beautifully in the garden.

Her slide presentation illustrated advice on using design principles including: setting the scene with color by looking at the style and color of the house; being aware of the surroundings and knowing the client's preferences; gardening with "color schemes" by using contrasting colors, or several bold colors together; or creating a monochromatic tone-on-tone effect with different intensities of the same color; and incorporating accessories to bring in color, such as containers, furniture, painted surfaces, or garden art.

Of course, the most important elements in the garden that

determine the color scheme are the plants themselves, and Nan shared some of her drought-tolerant favorites. Among them were: *Agave 'Blue Flame'*, *Leucadendron 'Jester'*, various South African bulbs, and *Grevillea juniperina*. She showed photos from garden designers who used plants with low water needs in unexpected combinations with beautiful results. Texture, shape and size were elements that also helped bring the disparate plants together into a cohesive design.

After her presentation, Nan answered audience questions and signed copies of her book which was available to purchase. For information on Nan, and to see more garden design ideas, you can visit her website at: waterwisegardener.com.



✂ Sabine Steinmetz

SHARING SECRETS

In May we asked you:

If you had unlimited funds, what feature(s) would you include in your dream garden?



A Moroccan garden with a mosaic pool.

- Karen Fischer

Wandering pathways, a stream and a pond...

- Diane Connell

A Japanese garden designed by Hoichi Kurisu – and all the bonsai trees and staff to care for them!

- Jessica Carlson

A Jeffrey Bale pebble mosaic and anything else he felt like doing for me! Also: a glass bottle sculpture by Randy Lawrence (Randyland, Echo Park); anything I could think to commission Brent "Shrine" Spears to do for me; and a Moroccan tiled fountain by Diana Mausser (Native Tile) like the one she did for that Berkeley garden.

- Kathy Musial



Everyone has such big dreams, including our secret gardeners -

A giant squirrel- and thrips-proof barrier! It would keep out all sharpshooters and psyllids so I wouldn't have to lose my grapevines and citrus to disease.

- Anonymous

A 10' high waterfall...

- Anonymous

Oh, to have a nice garden railway, with a live steam train going around mountains (mounds) and California native plants everywhere!

- Anonymous

A simple water fountain or birdbath.

- Anonymous

I've always wanted a koi pond. And the funds to hire someone to take care of it.

- Anonymous



*Thanks for sharing!
Hope your gardening wishes
come true for you...*

SCHS "RETURN TO SOMIS" FIELD TRIP - EXTENDED DEADLINE !

We are pleased to be able to keep the registration window for this trip open a few days longer, for those members and friends who have not had a chance to register for this unique bus-trip to Somis.

New deadline: Friday, June 7 – CLICK to REGISTER HERE or see enclosed flyer.