



## 2013 Annual Holiday Party and December Speaker

Wednesday, December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Warren Roberts, Superintendent Emeritus, UC Davis Arboretum.

### “Trees and Plants that Have Changed the Bay Area”

Exotic trees have changed our Bay Area forever. Plants from elsewhere make the region almost unrecognizable to people who would have been living here in the 1840's. Some of the many categories are: orchards; eucalypts and other trees from Down Under; exotics from California; fall color; palms, exotic grasses and many weeds; and freeway plants and street trees. What plants will be coming in next ... or disappearing from our landscapes and wildscapes? Warren will discuss plants from among this enormous group!

**Plant Table** Members brought an interesting selection of bulbs to complement Dylan Hannon's bulb presentation. In addition, Dylan donated some of his wonderful bulbs to our plant table. Along with the bulbs, we had a beautiful selection of containers to choose from as well as assorted plants. Thanks so much to everyone who made the plant table such a success in November. We won't be having a plant table until the January meeting. ~Roberta Barnes



**Mediterranean-climate plants** Warren talking to a group at the Chilean Garden at the San Francisco Botanical Garden. *Photo: westernhort.org.*

### Holiday Party—Dec 11, 6:30 p.m.

Bring a favorite main dish, salad, or dessert to serve eight, and plates and utensils for yourself. The WHS Board will provide appetizers, wine and beverages, and cups and glasses. We will collect canned and packaged food for the Second Harvest Food Bank.

**28 Years Ago** Wednesday, December 11, 1985 was the date of the very first Western Hort winter potluck, and the first time WHS met in December. The event was held at the Los Altos Youth Center on San Antonio, and was organized by Elizabeth Garbett.

The evening featured a “garden gift” exchange, but no other organized program. Other items in the newsletter included a final reminder about dues (\$15), and a request for a donation of a “large screen for viewing slides ...” (since “Right now we must borrow a screen for each meeting.” In addition, there was an announcement that the nominating committee had chosen four members to be elected to the board, including Mary Kaye who had finished her first term. Bob and Diana Plummer were retiring from the board after completing two terms. ~Nancy Schramm



**Beautiful garden art** and raised bed at San Jose Museum of Art. In April it will be sold to raise funds for Valley Verde, valleyverde.org. *Photo: sjmercurynews.com*

**Western Hort Memories** In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Western Hort, I thought it would be fun to ask a few members to share some memories, and to tell us why they joined WHS in the first place.

**Mary Kaye**, landscape designer, former board member and Founders' Award recipient joined when WHS was still meeting at the Ampex cafeteria in Redwood City. "... I am fairly certain that it was when I was still an OH student at Foothill in the 70's. My favorite memory is probably when we were writing the Perennials book. We had several meetings, of course, but I particularly remember a meeting at my house with Bart O'Brien, Betsy Clebsch, Keith Bickford, Elizabeth Garbett, and more, as we pored over each plant description that was submitted. We ordered pizza! It was such fun."

**Bob and Diana Plummer**, avid gardeners and former board members (they served together!) learned about Western Hort when they took Palo Alto Adult Education classes from Allan Reid, one of the WHS founders. They joined in 1978, and they have fond memories of the early days, when going to a meeting in Redwood City meant they were able to rub shoulders with living legends of the plant world: Gerda Isenberg, Emily Brown, Ed Carman, Albert Wilson and the Duvenecks, all eminently approachable.

**Jean Struthers**, native plant lover and manager of the CNPS nursery told me that Mary Kaye took her to her first WHS meeting at the Ampex Cafeteria. She has enjoyed many of our wonderful speakers, most recently Renee Shepherd and Kathe Navarez; she likes the more technical talks best. But Jean's favorite memories are of the bonhomie of the December potlucks.

**John Hammerschmidt**, general contractor, former board member and long-time raffle-number-announcer met Don Brandeau in the mid 1980's. "Don was like a salesman for Western Hort, he could be obsessed." John told me that his favorite memory "...was a speaker we had on David Austin roses at Loyola. I can't remember the speaker but it changed my whole view on roses. My mom had a HUGE rose garden that I would take care of growing up so it burned me out on [Hybrid teas]. That speaker got me to try roses again."

**Carol Moholt**, passionate gardener, former WHS & PH board member attended her first WHS meeting as guest of Susi Meador in 1989-90. "My favorite memory was working on the Vines book and getting to know so many superb plants people who were members of WHS. I was so happy to have something to contribute with my computing and layout skills." And Carol continues to serve—she is the current Pacific Hort Executive Director.

**Rhonda Kutche**, a mom who makes time to garden and has a garden consulting/mentoring business called Kiss in the Garden, said "I think I first heard about WHS when I was at Foothill College in the OH Dept., and Dan Svenson mentioned it and a few of us came for a visit. That was about seventeen years ago, and I was hooked! I'd have to say the raffle has been my favorite part of WHS. I've loved all of the speakers ... But I love the homey-ness of the raffle and that plants have been donated by members for other members. And that it all supports the program."

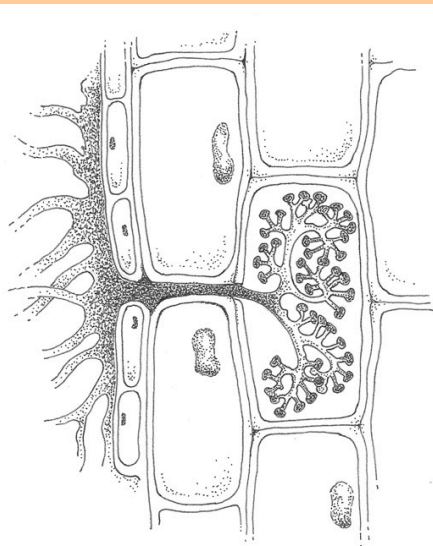
**Sherry Hall**, owner of Terra Sole Nursery, former board member and current membership committee, "First heard about WHS at the SF flower show in maybe 1994. I kept meaning to join but it took you asking me before I actually did it." And her favorite meeting? "Well, of course, the one when Ryan" (Sherry's son) "spoke about new plants and had lots of pretty visuals. Renee Shepherd was educational. The Q & A with Dick and Barrie (and would like more Q & A meetings about plants specifically)."

**Jon Craig**, owner of Alluvial Terrace Nursery and former board member first heard about WHS from Pat Knight "... as a neighbor and friend ... she found out I had a nursery and kept bugging me to join. My favorite memory ... so far, was having Betsy Clebsch and a WHS gang visit my nursery and watching the look on Betsy's face as I described *Disanthus cercidifolius* as 'a *Cercis*-like *Dianthus*.' The entire gang scurried around trying to figure out this new plant I had ... a Redbud *Dianthus*. Once Betsy figured out the mystery, she was quite easy on me ... the rookie nurseryman ... she said with her sweet southern drawl and an empathetic smile, 'Now Jon, now that's a different plant' ... we all had a great laugh!" ~*Nancy Schramm*

**Mycorrhizae** were first documented in 1885 by a German scientist, Albert Bernhard Frank, in a simple experiment comparing pines grown in sterile soil to pines grown in forest humus.

**Ectomycorrhizae** are associated with conifers and hardwoods, and grow in a web surrounding the roots of their host. The fruiting bodies are the familiar mushrooms of our woodland hikes—fungi such as Boletus, Cantharellus, and Morchella.

**Endomycorrhizae** (right) are generalists, and the same species of fungus may be found on many species of plants. The fungal hyphae of endomycorrhizae penetrate into the cell walls of the hosts.



Perennials, softwood trees, shrubs, and many vegetables have been discovered to be associated with endomycorrhizae, with the notable exception of all species of the large mustard family. Some plants may host dozens of species, and include both types of mycorrhizae.

Mycorrhizae are reputed to add from 700 to 1,000 times the effective surface area to roots.

Adding purchased mycorrhizae may be unnecessary as endomycorrhizae native to the soil should be present. In a new garden with poor soil, or added to a sterile potting mix, mycorrhizae can make a difference to success.

**Caption:** Excerpted from “Garden Allies—Soil Microbes” by Frederique Lavoipierre in your October 2013 Pacific Horticulture magazine. Online at [pacifichorticulture.org](http://pacifichorticulture.org).

**Illustration:** Craig Latker.

## **IPM Workshop for Retail Nursery and Garden**

**Center Professionals (and “lay” gardeners!)** Could you or your employees benefit from a refresher course on home and garden pests and pesticides? Consider the “IPM Workshop for Retail Nurseries and Garden Centers,” Tuesday, January 21, 2014, in Oakland; \$40. All attendees receive a set of the popular [Landscape Pest Identification cards](#), lunch, a certificate of completion, and take home materials to share with others in your store.

Topics: landscape pests and disorders, less toxic pesticides, and features of the UC IPM website that helps you solve customers' pest problems. To register: <http://ucanr.edu/sites/retail2014>. Registration is open to retail nursery and garden center professionals only until January 9. After that date, we will offer any remaining space to the general public. If you do not work at a retail store but wish to attend the workshop, add your name to our wait list, <http://tinyurl.com/ipm-jan21>, and we'll let you know after January 13 if we have space. Please contact Karey Windbiel-Rojas at [kwindbiel@ucanr.edu](mailto:kwindbiel@ucanr.edu) or 530-750-1241 if you have questions.

## **Western Horticultural Society**

### **Officers and Board Members**

President: Richard Tiede  
Vice President: Christine Bate  
Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes  
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd  
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Liz Calhoun, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Virginia Kean, Wendy van der Linden, Judy Wong, and Katie Wong.

**To contact us**, please send email to [info@westernhort.org](mailto: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](http://westernhort.org) for a membership form.

### **Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes**

Please send info for the January 2014 newsletter by December 20 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 650-326-2029.

Please send address changes to [graw@pacbell.net](mailto:graw@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162.

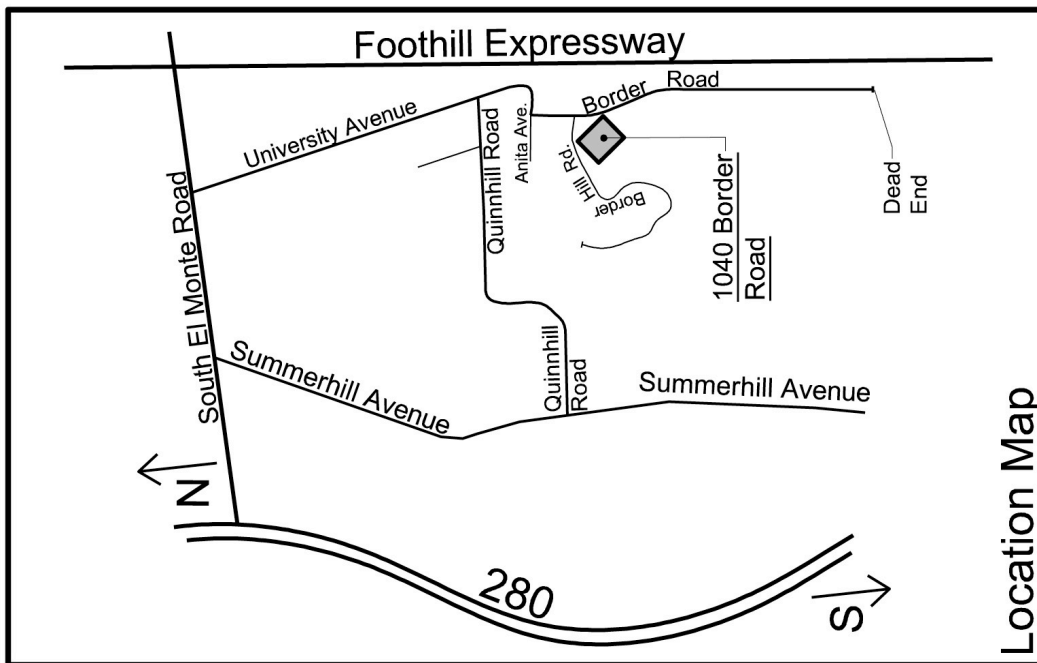


Western  
Horticultural  
Society

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 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

In December 2013, we will be celebrating our Annual Holiday Party. Plan to arrive by 6:30 p.m. See the cover for details!

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.