



## March 2015 Speaker

Wednesday, March 11, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Paul Discoe, Japanese Master Builder and Zen Buddhist Teacher

### “Fences and Gates of Japanese Gardens”

Paul Discoe will talk about fences and gates of Japanese gardens as an extension of architecture. He will explain the relationship to surrounding environment, cardinal orientations, and the symbolic significance of fences and gates in Japanese architecture.

Paul is a founder and principal of *Joinery Structures* and *Paul Discoe Design*, a design-build studio and mill specializing in custom projects that integrate sustainable wood practices, innovative design, and precision craftsmanship. The company selects reclaimed timbers from the local urban forest for all of its projects, which are stored and milled at its facility in Oakland, California.

He also authored the book *Zen Architecture: The Building Process as Practice*.

Paul Discoe’s lectures on Zen design principles, Wabi Sabit and related topics can be found on YouTube. For more info: <http://www.joinerystructures.com>.



Custom home design by Joinery Structures (for a complex in Woodside, California). Photos from Joinery Structures, <http://www.joinerystructures.com>



RIKYU House from Joinery Structures. “RIKYU House blends the elegance and sensitivity of traditional Japanese design with a sincere and holistic commitment to green building. Through a patented building system enabling custom design and the use of standardized parts, RIKYU House is aesthetically beautiful, environmentally conscious, and affordable.” Photo and caption: <http://www.joinerystructures.com>.

## Dinner at Bella Vita restaurant with our speaker, Paul Discoe

Join us at 5:30 p.m. on March 11 at the lovely Italian restaurant **Bella Vita** in downtown Los Altos to enjoy each others’ company and meet our speaker Paul Discoe. Address: Bella Vita Restaurant, 376 1st Street, Los Altos. Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: [shep8283@comcast.net](mailto:shep8283@comcast.net) or 650-321-8283. Ample free parking.

## Mark Your Calendar! Meeting dates in 2015:

Wednesday, April 8	Greg Starr	Juicy Succulents and Plant Exploration
Wednesday, May 13	Katie Wong	Upgrade Your Garden—Download Rare Fruits

Please see <http://westernhort.org> for more information on speakers and talks.

**A Note from the President** We have been working for many months to get Western Hort back on the “approved non-profit” list for corporations that match employee donations to non-profits. I am happy to say we are now approved through YourCause and GuideStar for corporate matched donations (<http://yourcause.com>, <http://guidestar.com>). Western Hort members who donate to our organization may be able to have their donations matched by their employers: check with your employer. ~Richard Tiede

**Plant Table** Last month we had another successful plant table. Thanks to everyone who brought plants. The succulents certainly were popular! Donations of plants, garden books, containers and other plant related objects are always welcome. Any questions? Contact Roberta Barnes at 650 949-0377 or [robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com](mailto:robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com). ~Roberta Barnes

**28 Years Ago** In December 1986, Western Hort met for the second annual potluck. It’s not clear if there was a program or if the entire evening was spent visiting. The January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting featured David Gilpin on “Wildflower Gardening. Mr. Gilpin has his own seed company in Dublin, CA” I just visited the website of Pacific

Coast Seed and discovered that David Gilpin’s seed company is 25 years strong and has grown to a 20,000 square foot warehouse. Lucy Tolmach, Garden Superintendent at Filoli, was advertising for an Estate Gardener/Arborist. Plant notes included *Reinwardtia indica* & *Phormium* ‘Sundowner’ from Ed Carman, *Salvia gesneriifolia* & *Phlomis fruticosa* from Barbara Worl, and *Lachenalia aloides* from Bill Kurtz.



**Bergenia ‘Abendglut’** or Bergenia ‘Evening Glow’. Commonly known as elephant’s ears, because of their large, leathery, oval leaves, bergenias are low maintenance, evergreen, will grow in sun or shade, and tolerate a wide range of soils, including dry soils and clay.

‘Evening Glow’ has vivid magenta flower spikes in spring and dark-green leaves, tinged with maroon, that turn bright maroon in winter. A favorite of Edwardian garden designer Gertrude Jekyll and plantswoman Beth Chatto, this sturdy plant should be planted in groups as ground cover, for edging borders or providing a foil for delicate foliage plants. Photo and caption: <http://www.crocus.co.uk>

In February 1987, WHS listened to a talk about “Water Gardening” by David Mason, Hampshire, England. David Mason was Garden and Nursery Manager for Longstock Park, a well-known nursery and water garden. Their website mentions damage to the gardens caused by a storm in 1987. I wonder if some features shown in the slide presentation had any presentiment of disaster? A chartered bus field trip to the UC Davis Arboretum was announced for \$20 per person. Plant notes included *Salvia karwinskii* (two forms collected by Bruce Bartholemew), *Chrysanthemum ptarmiciflorum* (best cut back regularly), Bergenia ‘Evening Glow’ & ‘Sunningdale’ (two hybrids recommended by Bart O’Brien), *Brachycome diversiflora* (dry & sunny, ordinary soil), *Omphalodes cappadocica* (moist semishade) *Lewisia cotyledon* (excellent drainage a ‘must’), *Hatiora bambusoides* (related to *Rhipsalis*) and *Nepenthes*, a pitcher plant. ~Nancy Schramm

**February 2015 Speaker Notes** To be able to say you can put your personal touch on something and be recognized for it tells everyone you are a true professional. Our February speaker, David Feix, lays claim to this with the slide presentation he treated us to, "Creating Signature Gardens." David, a well-travelled and experienced landscape designer from Berkeley, described four East Bay gardens his firm has designed (and sometimes maintained) over the years.

The first garden David described, considered "high-end" and created with a hefty budget, wowed our audience with its Moroccan theme of straight lines, multi-level planters, terraces, and liberal sprinklings of palms and other tropicals to round out the picture. David explained the purposeful use of plants placed sculpturally against the white walls of the house, and the clever elevation of plants to become art: a curving staircase in an otherwise linear theme lent drama to the overall design. Finishing touches such as drainage tiles with Indonesian cobblestone, terra cotta tiles with inlaid slate squares, and painted concrete added elements of visual color differentiation.



**Dyckia x 'Morris Hobbs' at Trejo Garden,** by David Feix Landscape Design. Use of *Linaria reticulata* as temporary filler annual color until the succulents and Dyckias filled in. The *Linaria* is a classic Annies Annuals plant that can give brilliant flaming red color in spring, and complements the oranges of the *Bulbine frutescens* and *Arctotis*, as well as the orange flowers of the *Dyckia* and *Cotyledon macrantha* when they come into bloom. *Photo and caption from David Feix Landscape Design on flickr.com.*

The "Esteban Garden" was the second of David's presentations: a budget-conscious project based in Oakland. Skillful use of recycled materials was evident here, such as stained concrete freeway barriers used as benches, and pre-made bamboo rolls attached to an existing cyclone fence to screen a neighboring property. David used easy-to-grow, fast-growing plants for quick results, as well as Berkeley sedge (*Carex divulsa*) as a drought-tolerant lawn substitute.

The third garden he showed us was the "Rose Nied" garden, at a house that was to be "flipped." The owner of this house liked succulents, so succulents it was. David described the many varieties he used, most in grouping, all with spectacular results. He also point out the successes and failures with using

different succulents. Judging from a slide taken eight years after the installation, I would judge the project to be a resounding success.

The last garden presented, the "Fairchild Garden", was a former design by Roger Raiche in the Oakland Hills. The challenge of this project for David and his staff was that the homeowner was a plant collector, constantly changing the layout and moving plants. Many palms, agaves, and bold-textured plants were used, all with a tasteful flair. ~*Mark McCabe*

## Western Horticultural Society

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Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Patricia Larenas, Carrie Parker, 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 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](http://westernhort.org) for a membership form.

### Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

Please send info for the April 2015 newsletter by March 18 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

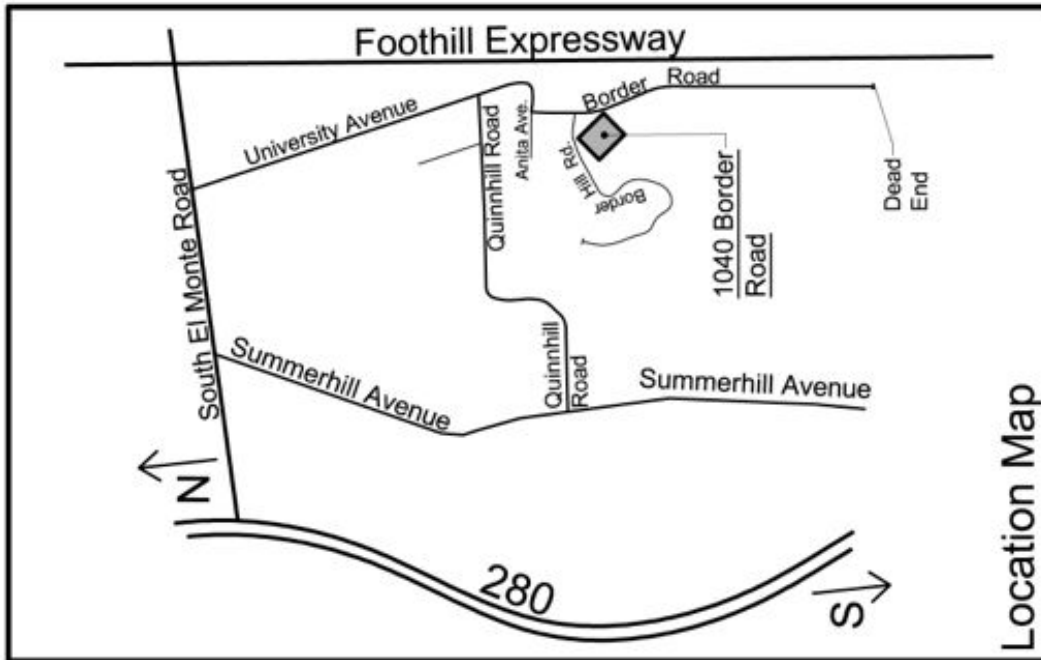
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Western Horticultural Society  
Monthly Meetings  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos

#### 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.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at **Bella Vita, 376 1<sup>st</sup> St., Los Altos.** Meet our speaker Paul Discoe and enjoy the company of other WHS members! Contact Rosalie Shepherd to RSVP: [shep8283@comcast.net](mailto: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.