



### October 2012 Speaker

Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m.

Jeff Chemnick, Research Associate at Lotusland, Santa Barbara

#### “Hither and Yon in Mexico: A Field Botanist’s Holiday!”

Jeff Chemnick has been exploring the natural history of Mexico for thirty years and leads botanical and ornithological excursions into the mountainous region of Southern Mexico with an emphasis on the state of Oaxaca. He will show us

spectacular areas that go from cloud forests to rain forests and reveal an array of exotic and beautiful plants.

Jeff studied botany and zoology at San Diego State University and received a B.S.



Mount Alban, Oaxaca, Mexico

degree in 1976. A former president of the Santa Barbara Horticulture Society and former chair of the Horticultural Society Annual Plant Sale, he has been involved for years within the botanical and horticultural community of Santa Barbara.

Jeff's garden and nursery (as well as his botanical travels and adventures) have been featured in many Californian publications and international botanical newsletters.

**MEETING LOCATION** Christ Episcopal Church, Parish Hall, 1040 Border Road, Los Altos. Doors open at 7 p.m. and meetings begin at 7:30.

You are invited to join our October speaker, Jeff Chemnick, for **dinner on October 10** at 5:30 p.m. at Chef Chu’s, 1067 N. San Antonio Road, Los Altos. Please contact Rosalie Shepherd to confirm: shep8283@earthlink.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.

### November 2012 Speaker



**Wednesday, November 14.** John Valenzuela, Chairman of the Golden Gate Chapter, California Rare Fruit Growers. “Fruit Stories: A Cultural History of Some Northern California Fruit Varieties, People and Places.”

Photo: John Valenzuela’s blog, [cornucopiafoodforest.wordpress.com](http://cornucopiafoodforest.wordpress.com)

**Did You Tick the Box?** To all of our members who receive their newsletters electronically, our grateful thanks. Not only do you get your newsletter delivered faster and in color, you also save your fellow (volunteer!) members the time and money it takes to send out paper copies, and reduce our carbon footprint.

If you received a paper copy in the past and have a current e-mail address but didn't tick the “PAPER COPY” box on your renewal form (any renewal form, blank or filled out), you will be getting an electronic copy of your newsletter starting with this issue.

If you absolutely, positively require a paper copy, please send a message to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net). Before you do, please consider carefully. If you like to keep back copies, why not print the electronic one on your printer? Or better yet, why not print just the page(s) that you need?

Kudos to those of you willing to make the switch. To those who can't or won't, send e-mail to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or a note to P.O. Box 620673, Woodside, CA 94062, and we'll get you back on the snail mail list.

#### **Important - Dues Renewal Reminder!**

It is that time of year again! Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. It is important to renew without delay to ensure the smooth continuation of your subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine and to keep our coffer in the black. **If you will be renewing at the WHS meeting, please bring your pre-printed form—this saves time as you won't need to fill out a form.** Please see page 3 for details on membership rates and where to send the form. If you have any questions, please contact our membership guru at [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162. **Thank you!**

## Western Hort News

### *Join the Board! Fun! Riches! Fame!*

Dear Members—We hope you have enjoyed our presentations and other activities. We need your help to keep this happening! Come join the Board team; find new speakers, members, grow plants, handle a mic, be a greeter, write Thank You notes, and just plain help keep us going. Contact Richard Tiede, or any other Board member listed in the newsletter on page 3 (our contact info is in the WHS Roster). Thank you. ~Richard Tiede, President.

*Note: The Editor inserted “Fun! Riches! Fame!”; the Board has not promised fame or fortune, but does guarantee fun.*

### *Raffle Table*

Our raffle table in October should be full of wonderful plants. September's raffle was replaced with Annie's Annuals wonderful selection of plants for sale. Now it is our membership's chance to bring in their plants that they have been wanting to put on the raffle table. Thanks to all for your support! The raffle table helps to support our wonderful program. ~Roberta Barnes for the Raffle Committee

### *WHS Plant Sale—Propagate Now for April Sale*

Propagate, propagate! Now is a great time to get seeds and cuttings going for our sale in April. Shoppers always enjoy looking for succulents, herbs, natives, and anything in bloom. Interesting foliage is also a plus. Plants in 4” containers are easy to handle and about six plants of each variety is ideal. Save the extra plants for our raffle table! Thanks for supporting our big fundraiser of the year. Questions? Contact Roberta Barnes, robertabarnes2011@yahoo.com or 650-949-0377. ~Roberta Barnes

### *From Our Website, westernhort.org—List of Annie’s Plants—Our Plant Notes Archive*

Annie’s list of plants is now on our website if you need it: [westernhort.org/speakers\\_201209.html](http://westernhort.org/speakers_201209.html). There is a 15% discount coupon if used before October 31, 2012. Also, see the monthly “Plant Notes,” which are full of interesting plants grown by our members. The online archive contains all the monthly Plant Notes going back to 2006. To find the Plant Notes online, go to [westernhort.org](http://westernhort.org) and click on “plant notes” on the left hand side, or go directly to [westernhort.org/plant\\_notes.html](http://westernhort.org/plant_notes.html). Have a busy and exciting Fall. ~Pat Knight, Webmaster, [deerproof@yahoo.com](mailto:deerproof@yahoo.com)

### *28 Years Ago—October 8, 1984*

WHS met on October 8, 1984 to hear member Herb Fong, manager of labor and grounds at Stanford University speak about “New Developments and Horticultural Practices at Stanford.” His talk focused on the Olmsted plan for the Inner Quad and the changes made to that plan. He also told about the “techniques and methods of maintaining a large campus.” He must have been doing a good job, since as recently as 2006 his WHS roster information included “Stanford University Facilities Operations.” The newsletter also thanked Elizabeth Garbett and Marylou Vivanco: “Two of our new board members are helping Emily with the plant notes and have done a super job.”

Those same plant notes for the month say that “A surprising number of plants are at their most interesting in the autumn...” With that in mind, I suggest to our WHS membership that past plant notes are an excellent resource when you are trying to find a plant that is attractive at a specific time and also grows successfully in our area. Two unusual plants were *Zingiber mioga*, a ginger native to Japan brought in by Keith Bickford. This edible ginger gives its flower bracts and young shoots to the adventurous cook, grows about 3’ high but the flower is only 3” tall—just at ground level. The other plant was *Clanthus formosus* from Australia, brought in by Ed Carman. The striking pea-shaped flower is crimson with a central black blotch. The notes say that Ed’s plant “is 10’ wide and 6” high” and I remember that when it was growing in the front yard we wondered if it would ever stop! ~Nancy Schramm

## *Horticultural Calendar, September 2012*

**Master Gardener Plant Sale at Prusch Harvest Fair**—Vegetables to plant now for fall/winter harvest. Many varieties of arugula, beets, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, chard, chervil, chicory, collards, cress, kohlrabi, fennel, frisee, escarole, kale, lettuce, mache, mustard, pak choi, radicchio and spinach. Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Prusch Farm Park, 647 S. King Road, San Jose. For info about the Harvest Fair, see [pruschfarmpark.org](http://pruschfarmpark.org).

**51<sup>st</sup> Annual Midori Bonsai Show** Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Northside Community Center, 488 6<sup>th</sup> Street at E. Empire St., Downtown San Jose. Bonsai demonstration t 1 p.m., Beginners’ Workshop 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Bonsai vendors and plant sale.

**CNPS Native Plant Sale** Saturday, October 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Hidden Villa Ranch, 26870 Moody Rd., Los Altos. For more info, see [cnps-scv.org](http://cnps-scv.org).

## September 2012 Speaker

It seems our annual summer break brings out an eagerness in our membership to get back to business—and September’s meeting proved it again to be true. Whether it was the dessert and punch, a huge plant sale, or our featured speaker, the packed house was proof that this Annual Louisa Beck Lecture was a big hit.

Speaking of annual, how about our speaker Annie Hayes, owner of Annie’s Annuals and Perennials? A show of hands indicated that just about everyone except this writer has been to Annie’s nursery—and for good reason. Smack dab in the middle of Richmond, of all places, lies a 2 ½-acre horticulturalist’s delight. Operating as a retail and mail order firm, Annie’s specializes in rare and unusual plants, including cottage garden, heirloom and California native wildflowers. By the sheer number of plants for sale, demonstration gardens, lectures, and some crazy, fun parties hosted throughout the year, Annie’s seems to have something for everyone.

As Annie emphasized in her presentation, there is considerable preparation for a successful garden. An advocate of fall planting, Annie stressed the importance of healthy soil. The nursery’s demonstration beds are composted three times a year, grapeseed being a favorite. Annie prefers to turn her soil over to aerate it, without the use of fertilizers or growth hormones. Her for-sale plants, the vast majority started by seed obtained world-wide, are offered for sale in fall and early winter. Why? Annie believes the combination of healthy soil, hardened-off plants, and early planting results in that fabulous spring garden everyone aspires to achieve.

With her easygoing, playful personality entertaining us, Annie guided us through an almost 60-slide presentation of some of the plants she sells. Annie may be a nursery owner, but she seems also to have a knack for design and plant combinations, as evidenced by the dazzling colors, forms, and textures to which we were treated.



### ***Carex testacea* Orange New Zealand Sedge**

My nursery sample pot of this grass is so popular, I could have sold it 1,000 times! The finely textured, glossy leaves begin life as olive green, and age to a distinct orange-red as the plant matures. The elegant, arching, mounding form, 30” tall and wide, makes it a beautiful accent. Ideal for spilling over rocks and massing in borders, and stunning in an elevated container (at least 14” diameter). *Carex testacea* prefers soil that is not too dry & well-drained soil. Best color in full sun. ~*Photo and caption from Annie’s website. anniesannuals.com*

It was a lot to take in for one evening, yet I personally feel something is still missing. I guess it’s true what they—seeing is believing—and I believe I’ve got a nursery to visit. ~*Mark McCabe*

### **Western Horticultural Society Officers and Board Members**

President: Richard Tiede

Vice President: Christine Bate

Recording Secretary: Mark McCabe

Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Roberta Barnes, Liz Calhoun, Jon Craig, Abby Garner, Clayton Neece, Rosalie Shepherd, Steve Staiger, 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 November 2012 newsletter by October 18 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 650-326-2029.

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



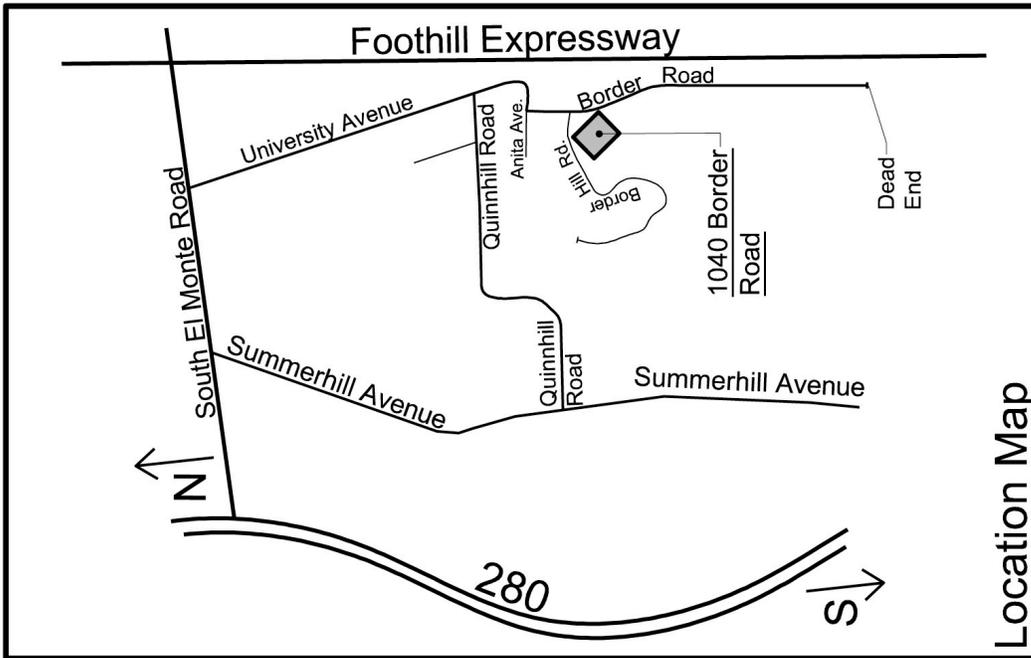
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Monthly Meetings  
Christ Episcopal Church  
Parish Hall  
1040 Border Road, Los Altos