



May 2015 Speaker

Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: Katie Wong, Member, California Rare Fruit Growers,
<https://scvcrfg.wordpress.com>

“Upgrade Your Garden: Download Rare Fruits”

Our own member Katie will share her experience with unusual fruits from around the world which can be grown successfully in the Bay Area, i.e. Medlar from Europe, Jaboticaba from Brazil, Mandarin berry from China, Ugni from Chile, Saskatoon from Canada, White Sapote from Mexico, and last but not least, Pawpaw from the United States – to name just a few.

She will share successes and failures, introduce you to her soldiers, and show you where the casualties are buried.



Katie Wong, May 2015 Speaker



Jaboticaba!

JABA WHAT?

It is slow-growing and unimpressive
Standing about five feet tall.
Its branches and leaves pretty, but unexpressive
It's a bush and that is all!
I searched in spring for the flowers
Without a trace
Their presence beyond my powers
This tree is a waste of space!
But WAIT- Summer's ARRIVED
And what do I now spy
Beyond the leaves--the branches alongside
But little black fruits for me to try.
Umm good! What a treat!
Such unusual good fruit to eat!
Poor little friend I misjudged thee
Now for me, I gotta have a JABOTICABA tree!
Katie Wong



Paw Paw

No dinner w/ speaker in May 2015

See you on May 13 at the WHS meeting – there is no dinner before the meeting this month.

Mark Your Calendar: WHS Picnic! Mark your calendar for the WHS Picnic on Saturday, June 6th. Sherry Austin has graciously offered her garden in Soquel for this year's picnic. Folks may remember Sherry Austin and the Henhouse Band from December's Holiday Potluck. After moving from the Peninsula, Sherry had the opportunity to create a wonderful new garden. You are in for a treat!

Picnic on June 6, 2015 at Sherry Austin's, 720 Olson Road, Soquel

Garden opens at 11am.
Potluck lunch at noon.

Please bring a potluck dish that will serve 8.
WHS will provide cups, ice and beverages.

Bring your own plates and utensils.
Don't forget to label your dish and serving utensils.

There is plenty of paved parking below the house.
For limited mobility, there's space that is level with the house for about 4 cars.

Directions from SF Peninsula Take Hwy 280 to 85 to 17, or take 101 to 17

From Hwy 17, take the Summit Rd. exit and cross back over the freeway to the right. Make a left turn onto Summit Rd.

Drive 3.8 miles to Old San Jose Rd. (aka Soquel San Jose Rd.) and turn right (1/4 mile past the Summit Store on the left).

Follow Old San Jose Rd. 4.1 miles to Olson Rd., slow down, and turn right. (Olson is at the bottom of a long downhill straight away and just before a sharp curve to the left. It is nearly a hairpin right.)

Continue down the middle of Olson Rd. It is a one-lane road and you may need to use turnouts to let oncoming traffic go by. Drive about .7 mile on Olson, and look for Sherry's mailbox marked with 720. Curve off to the right and turn into the second driveway.

***If there's bad beach traffic, Old Santa Cruz Highway is an alternate route from Black Creek (at Lexington) to Summit Rd. It would probably take just as long, and it's pretty twisty. Skyline is another work-around, or Bear Creek to Summit. Please refer to Mapquest or Google maps for directions along those routes, as I rarely take those routes (*notes Sherry*).

Directions from Santa Cruz area:

From Hwy 1, take the Porter/Bay exit (exit 437) and turn towards the mountains. Freeway to Olson Rd. is about 7 miles up Old San Jose Rd. to Olson. Turn left on Olson (you'll see 5614 and "EV" on beige cement wall). Continue down the middle of Olson Rd. It is a one-lane road and you may need to use turnouts to let oncoming traffic go by. Drive about .7 mile on Olson, and look for Sherry's mailbox marked with 720. Curve off to the right and turn into the second driveway.

The mapquest link is

<http://www.mapquest.com/directions?form=directions&2pn=BD#e619e10dbca42eb6351a82e9>

Genus *Eremophila*, Emu Bushes



Photo: Richard Tiede

Looking for some new drought tolerant plants? Have you considered the *Eremophila* genus, common name Emu Bush? Eremophilas comprise 214 species, are native to Australia and grow in every state and territory. Their size varies from low growing shrubs to small trees. Eremophilas are in general very drought tolerant and cold hardy once established. There are no special soil or fertilizer cautions unlike some other Australian plants. They are excellent candidates for containers and hot sites in fast draining soil that may also be slightly alkaline. Plant care includes pruning for shape and to maintain an open habit for good air flow through its structure. Some varieties need afternoon shade and some tolerate full day sun. Available colors range from yellow, orange, red, blue and to lavender purples. Foliage varies from frosty gray-green to shiny dark green.



Photo: Richard Tiede

We bought our first plant in 2010, a magenta *Eremophila maculata* 'Valentine', an evergreen shrub, from Gold Rush Nursery in Soquel, south of Santa Cruz. It is a beautiful, low-growing shrub with magenta flowers in fall, winter, and spring. It has small green leaves that flush red in cold weather. On another occasion we were given a cutting of *E. glabra* 'Kalgoorlie', a low grower with orange-tinged yellow blossoms. Since most Eremophilas are tallish, two to four feet, they are a good background plant against a wall or fence. While in Southern California in 2011 we visited Australian Native Plant Nursery near Ojai owned by Jo O'Connell to see what varieties she carried. We picked up the *E. aurea* and *E. hygrophana* there. I did find some reports that deer are not attracted to Eremophila species.

On our trip to Australia in 2012, we visited Barossa Bushgarden near Adelaide. In this botanical garden there were 30+ species growing in a dry garden setting. There were many varieties for sale growing in their greenhouse but we could only bring home photos.

Here are some websites to explore, and you can order through your favorite nursery.

Mountain States Wholesale Nursery (Arizona), <http://www.mswnc.com>
Australian Native Plant Nursery, <http://www.australianplants.com/about.aspx>
Australian Information website, <http://anpsa.org.au/APOL22/jun01-2.html>

~Richard Tiede

Plant Table Last chance for the 2014-2015 WHS year! We will have some Hot Plant Picks for the table as well as member donations. Bring your plants that are ready for a new home. A big thanks goes to the Hot Plant Picks team headed by Nancy Schramm. We had another successful silent auction in April with truly wonderful plants. ~*Roberta Barnes*



Roberta Barnes holding down the fort at our info table at the 2015 Master Gardeners' Spring Garden Market. Leslie Dean adds, "Roberta and I had a good day and Richard stepped in here and there to help out. We handed out a few membership forms and sold one book!"

Garden Tour at Ted Kipping's on May 28

Ted Kipping has generously invited members of WHS to visit his garden on May 28. We will meet at 10:30am. The address is 257 Joost Ave., San Francisco. Please arrange carpooling on your own.

Please sign up at the upcoming meeting on May 13. Rosalie will be on vacation and not able to send out a list of people going, so to arrange possible car pools, check the sign-up list at the May 13 meeting when you sign up, or before you leave the meeting that night.

Rosalie returns on May 22 and you can reach her at 650-321-8283 for cancellations only. If you are unable to attend the May 13 meeting and wish to go to on the field trip, please email Rosalie before May 22. Note: you will need to arrange your own transportation. Rosalie's contact info: shep8283@comcast.net or 650-321-8283. ~*Rosalie Shepherd*

28 Years Ago Western Horticultural Society met on Wednesday, May 13, 1987 to hear Jack Romine talk about "Daylilies: the Cinderella Flower". At the time of the talk, Jack was current president of Cal Hort and admitted to being a colchiploidist. Daylilies were on a list of flowering plants (in the San Jose Mercury) that require less water. Four members extended open garden invitations: Barbara Worl, Allicin Rauzin (Green Sun Nursery), Frances Grate and Keith & Fran Bickford.

Two pages of plant notes—Wow. Blooming shrubs included: *Pieris forrestii*, *Philadelphus lemoinei*, *Azalea occidentalis*, *Leucospermum cordifolia*, *Iochroma cyaneum* and *Styrax japonica*. Bart O'Brien brought in *Hystrix californica* and *Isoplex canariensis*, Dick Dunmire showed *Pasithea cerulean* and *Diascia rigescens*, and Ed Carman told of many difficulties in germinating and blooming *Phyteuma comosum*. And finally, the end of the year WHS picnic was held at the Garbetts on June 14th. ~*Nancy Schramm*

April 2015 Speaker Notes Following the latest "fashion" trend in landscape design as well as our patriotic duty in water conservation, we were treated to the engaging presentation "Juicy Succulents and Plant Exploration." Our guest was author and nurseryman Greg Starr, a polished and entertaining speaker whose slides of plants in the wild made you want to catch the next plane to Mexico to see these beauties yourself. Greg grows many of these plants himself, and his comments about their characteristics and potential use in our gardens were quite informative.

After his talk Greg offered for sale to our group two books and a tableful of plants. Greg's nursery, located in the desert Southwest, specializes in cactus and succulents and especially Agaves. Greg has written two books: *Cool Plants for Hot Gardens* (2009) and *Agaves: Living Sculptures for Landscapes and Containers* (Timber Press, 2012). His first book is sold out and a second edition is on the way, but there are some copies available on his website, <http://starr-nursery.com>.

Please see page 5 for the plant list from Greg's slides. ~*Mark McCabe*

Plant List from Greg Starr's Presentation (slides) Area covered is eastern, interior Mexico; all plants presented are native to that region (with exception of the last three).

1	Ariocarpus fissuratus 'Lloydii'	Spineless cactus, growing amongst boulders
2	Echinocactus horizonthalonius	Spiny cactus with vibrant pink flowers
3	Echinocereus stramineus	Very spiny with magenta pink flowers
4	Echinocereus longisetus	
5	Agave ovatifolia	Whale's Tongue Agave
6	Echeveria simulans	Delicate pink & white flowers
7	Echinocereus pentalophus	Sprawling stems with spectacular magenta flowers
8	Hibiscus coulteri	Speaker likes to use these "leafy" plants to mix in with more succulents, to avoid a monotonous landscape
9	Hibiscus martianus	
10	Aloysia macrostachya	Small, delicate pink flowers that bloom all summer
11	Hunnemannia fumariifolia	Poppy with yellow flowers
12	Leucophyllum langmaniae	Texas Ranger. 6' tall shrub with light blue flowers that bloom all summer.
13	Thelocactus rinconensis	Small, low growing with spines on top of leaves; pink flowers
14	Anisacanthus quadrifidus	
15	Ariocarpus retusus	
16	Echinocereus enneacanthus	Spiny, with magenta flowers
17	Agave victoriae-reginae	Shown growing in limestone cracks
18	Agave albopilosa	Unusual leaves with white ends, with spines
19	Yucca linearifolia	
20	Aztekium ritteri	Shown growing on rock shelves, about 1" in diameter, with white flowers
21	Agave gentry	
22	Ariocarpus trigonus	
23	Dasyliirion miquihuanensis	Spectacular display of spiny foliage
24	Dasyliirion quadrangulatum	
25	Nolina hibernica	
26	Nolina nelsonii	Spectacular cream-colored flower cluster
27	Agave Montana	Symmetrically growing; blooms late spring
28	Ferocactus pilosus	Brilliant red spines
29	Turbinicarpus pseudopectinatus	Has "pillbug"-like leaves
30	Opuntia species	Prickly Pear
31	Thelocactus hexaedrophorus	
32	Astrophytum myriostigma	
33	Lophophora williamsii	Pink & white flowers; multiple heads. (<i>Common name: peyote, small, spineless cactus with psychoactive alkaloids, particularly mescaline. ~Editor's note</i>)
34	Pelecypora aselliformis	
35	Echinocereus cinerascens	Floriferous magenta flowers
36	Echinocereus pentalophus	
37	Lophophora diffusa	
38	Strombocactus disciformis	Shown growing in shale formations
39	Ariocarpus kotschoubeyanus	Living Rock Cactus
40	Dasyliirion longissimum	
41	Astrophytum ornatum	
42	Echeveria tolimanensis	

Annual General Meeting Report, January 14, 2015

President Richard Tiede called to order the annual Western Horticultural Society meeting at Christ Episcopal Church in Los Altos, CA at 7:30pm.

The required quorum of 25+ members was present.

Treasurer Daxin Liu gave a favorable report with the checking account currently having \$41,858.78 and two Certificates of Deposit having \$3,570.59 and \$2,984.42 at Bank of the West.

Retiring Board members Wendy Van der Linden and Abby Garner (in absentia) were thanked for their service and given gift cards as tokens of our gratitude. New Board members Carrie Parker and Patricia Larenas were nominated and approved with a unanimous voice vote.

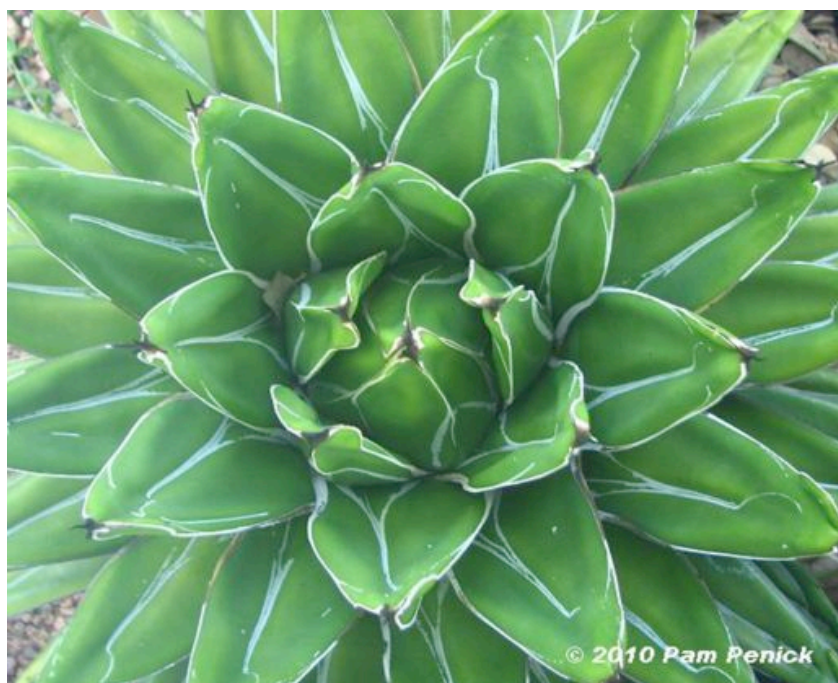
At the previous Board meeting, officers were chosen: Richard Tiede is continuing as President, Judy Wong as Vice President and Daxin Liu as Treasurer. Liz Calhoon replaced Roberta Barnes as Recording Secretary, and Rosalie Shepherd is continuing as Corresponding Secretary.

President Tiede mentioned that our by-laws would be reviewed later in the year.

We currently have 129 members, fewer than last year.

The General Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m. by President Tiede.

~Liz Calhoon, Recording Secretary



Agave victoriae-reginae, Queen Victoria's Agave. Photo: penick.net

Western Horticultural Society

Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede
Vice President: Judy Wong
Recording Secretary: Liz Calhoon
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

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, 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 for a membership form.

Newsletter Submissions and Address Changes

Please send info for the September 2015 newsletter by August 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

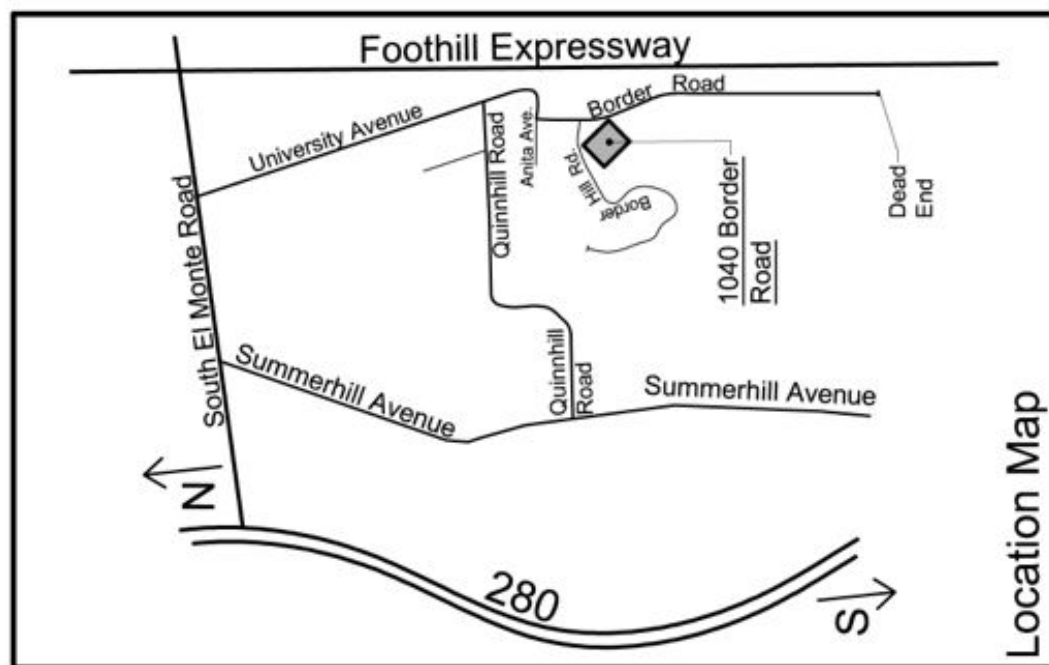
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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 pm. and meetings begin at 7:30 pm.

Please note: there is no speaker dinner before the May 13, 2015 meeting.

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.