



October 2015 Speaker

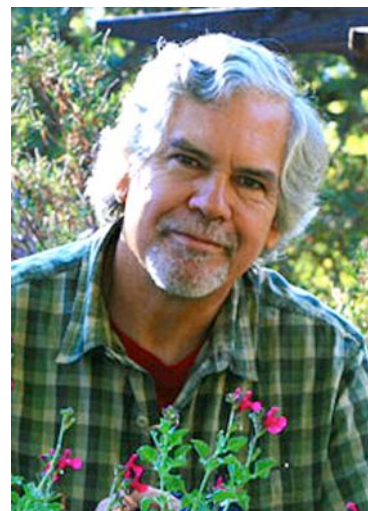
Wednesday, October 14, 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7.

Speaker: John Whittlesey, Owner, Canyon Creek Nursery and Design, Oroville, California

“Keeping Company With Flowers: Native Plants for the Garden and the Pollinators They Attract”

John is a speaker, photographer, and author. His book, “*The Plant Lover's Guide to Salvias*”, was published in 2014. He operated Canyon Creek Nursery, one of the country's leading specialty mail-order nurseries, for over 20 years, emphasizing interesting, drought tolerant and regionally adapted perennials.

John Whittlesey's goal as a designer is to use regionally adapted plants with aesthetically pleasing design to provide a sustainable, welcoming habitat for all manner of life, including pollinators, birds and people.



John Whittlesey.
Photo: westernhort.org

He is passionate about observing and photographing flower visitors, whether pollinators or the predators that hang out around flowers waiting to prey on them. As a result of this passion he co-produced a traveling exhibit on pollinators, followed by one on mushrooms and a current one on seed dispersal mechanisms. More information on these exhibits can be found through “Exhibits Envoy” (<http://bit.ly/1i2zl3o>). (Or see <http://westernhort.org> for the link to “Exhibits Envoy”).

Gardens, if the right plants are chosen, can provide habitat for a whole range of insect life; for our native bees and bumble bees, and for fascinating flies, moths and butterflies.

John will share his passion for observing flower visitors—mostly pollinators, but occasionally predators that stalk them. In this program he will discuss some of the best California native plants for attracting the insect world into gardens.

~Pat Knight, Webmaster, <http://westernhort.org>

Join us for dinner with John Whittlesey on October 14!

Contact Rosalie Shepherd to RSVP and for location (probably Chinese restaurant):
shep8283@comcast.net or **650-321-8283**.

Upcoming Speakers

November 11, 2015 Bobby Markowitz, “Strategic Planning: How to Target Net Zero Water Use for Your Garden”

December 9, 2015 ~ Annual Holiday Potluck! Jane Stocklin and Susan Woodman, “Gamble Garden: Landscape of Optimism”

January 13, 2016 Patricia St. John, “Garden Design Process.”



A red *Salvia* 'John Whittlesey' flower in the sunlight. Photo: <http://jewellgarden.com>

Plant Table We have plants, books and garden miscellany for sale at the monthly meetings. Do you have anything you would like to bring? Call Roberta Barnes, 650-949-0377, if you have any questions. ~Roberta Barnes

At our meeting on October 14, a selection of books about California flora and wildflowers will be for sale from Elizabeth Garbett's donation to WHS.

Anyone in WHS with Database Skills?

Our current database manager will be moving on in a year or so, and we are looking for someone to take over the WHS membership database. It's pretty simple: MSAccess, flat file, PC platform, about 400 records, nothing fancy. The main skills needed are data entry and mail merge experience (MSAccess/MSWord). We can train you! Busy times are August/September preparing the renewal forms and receiving renewals, and every other January (even years) when the roster gets prepared. The database guru also liaises with PacHort to cross-check their subscriber list of WHS members. Tasks include printing labels for mailing each month's Western Hort newsletter (about 30 labels), receiving new/renewing member forms/checks, and answering questions about member records. The Membership chair does all the people stuff.

The database could be migrated to a Mac platform (Filemaker Pro) so if your experience is with Apple, it's not a dealbreaker. It's the attention to detail, the entry and merge experience, and meeting deadlines that's critical.

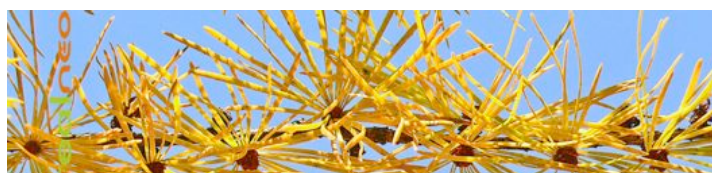
WHS would especially welcome someone who can bring new skills, better ideas, more tech expertise to the job! The database is not sacred and if there's a better way to do this, WHS would like to hear about it! ~Jessie Shilling

Contact Jessie Schilling if you are interested to help out. It would be very much appreciated by everyone — this is a critical if "invisible" volunteer task.

28 Years Ago Western Hort Society met on Wednesday, October 14th, 1987 to hear "Robert Kourik on 'The Root of the Issue'. Topics covered will be: planting bare root stock, mulching, placement of fertilizers and watering." Roots have long been a favorite topic of the author Kourik. He has recently released a new book about roots entitled *Understanding Roots* that has 80% new information from his previous book *Roots Demystified*. Two garden field trips were announced; Mr & Mrs James Coonan, and R.H. Anderson. There was also a form enclosed "for possible publication". In only a couple years this would culminate in *Successful Perennials for the Peninsula*.

Plant notes began with "The most unusual plant we have seen for some time on our plant table was the New Zealand conifer *Phyllocladus alpinus*, or mountain toatoa that Bart O'Brien recently purchased at U.C. Santa Cruz...How frost tolerant it may be remains to be seen." Bart also showed a white *Mimulus hybridus* 'Verity', and *Helianthus angustifolius*. "Bart tells us that Vita Sackville-West used to propagate hers (willow-leaved sunflower) by pegging down the five- and six-foot stalks."

Bob Young brought in *Salvia coccinea* (obtained from Betsy Clebsch), "Dave Rodal showed leaves and a fruiting stem of his *Solanum aviculare*, kangaroo apple" and Bill Kurtz showed a *Nerine filifolia* with "bright pinky red flowers and evergreen leaves". ~Nancy Schramm



September 2015 Speaker Notes: Jeffrey deJong, “Historical Influences of Gardening”

After our summer hiatus and in our seats on a very warm evening, we were brought back through time by our Louise Beck Guest Lecturer, Jeffrey deJong. “Historical Influences of Gardening” was, as presented, a brief summary of the history of landscape architecture and its impact on civilization.

Beginning with the Egyptians, deJong explained that their gardens were planned and constructed with a purpose. Using lines and angles, plants were laid out and grown for medicine, cooking, wine and juicing, among other uses. Obviously shade and water were of primary importance to a desert civilization, and Egyptians used them to their utmost potential.

Moving ahead to the Romans (who most certainly borrowed heavily from the Greeks), gardens of the early days were strictly utilitarian, with little embellishment. In the first century A.D., as the empire grew and became more powerful, columns, urns and fountains appeared. These elements were only available to the wealthy elite – pomp and circumstance ruled the day.

Mr. deJong then quickly jumped to gardens of the Baroque period, a favorite era of his, particularly in Italy, where gardens were designed to amaze, delight and inspire. Probably the zenith of the Renaissance, Italian Baroque gardens reflected the wealth and cultural rebirth of this time period.

This style of garden design was eagerly adopted by the French, who after warring with Italy, brought back their ideas, starting with Charles VII and ending with that rascal, Louis XIV, whose Palace of Versailles opened in 1682. For the French, nature was to be controlled, reflecting their penchant for unity and geometrical balance. Other royal residences soon followed suit, notably Holland, Austria, Spain and England.



Garden of the Taj Mahal incorporating water, pathways and a strong geometric design typical of a paradise garden. *Photo: Wikipedia.org*

On the other side of the world, deJong took us first to Persia, where a *Garden of Eden* or *Paradise Garden* was to come into use. Water was the most important element, as it was used to welcome the stranger as well as to sustain life. In India, the Taj Mahal, which incorporated design elements of Persia, is laid out with rows of trees and fountains. It too is a Paradise Garden that follows Islamic teachings.

Across to Asia, deJong first talked about Chinese gardens and the Chinese peoples' love of their own natural landscape. Generally not large, Chinese gardens are designed to slow people down and walk through and back again, gaining new insight along the way. Their gardens were to later influence the Japanese and the English.

Speaking of the Japanese, deJong described their gardens as green, restful, and a celebration of the seasons. Highly symbolic, characteristically simple and intrinsically connected to the dwelling of the family, Japanese garden design has only recently been understood fully by Western man. It is this understanding, as well as the appreciation (and adoption) of gardens throughout the ages that has enabled us to bring a rich history of landscape design to our own homes. ~Mark McCabe



Quilt depicting an Egyptian water garden.

Photo and caption from the website <http://annfahl.com>.

Both royal and wealthy Egyptians loved water gardens, as they were a place to sit and enjoy the lush cool water and rich plant life that were such a contrast to their surrounding desert environment. I have changed the perspective of the pond somewhat to give us a slightly different view of the scene.

Ponds were historically surrounded by date palms, daum palms, sycamore figs, kumquat trees, and pomegranate trees. The flowers here are poppies, cornflowers, lotus, papyrus, and mandrake fruit. Geese, ducks and fish are swimming in the pond. The cartouche in the upper left corner includes my initials, AHF.

These ancient images, shown in profile, have always spoken to me. I've interpreted them in hand dyed fabrics by Dagmar Plenk, and used lots of free-motion embroidery and appliqué. Sit back and enjoy the cool refreshing pond, feel the hot desert breeze, the sound of the water and the clear blue sky above.

The garden depicted in this quilt was inspired by an ancient painting in the tomb of Nebamun, an Egyptian official. It is used with permission of **The British Museum**, London. Eleven paintings are in the complete collection. *Ann Fahl is a creator and purveyor of quilts for sale.*



“Pond in a Garden”, fresco from the Tomb of Nebamun.

Photo: commons.wikimedia.org



Budge & Elizabeth Garbett. Photo: *Golden Gate Live Steamers, goldengatels.org*. (Reprinted from the May 2014 Western Hort News, when we wished Budge and Elizabeth a Happy 70th Anniversary, May 13, 2015.)

Memories of Elizabeth Garbett

Budge Garbett: Elizabeth Coffin was born in New England in 1920, growing up mostly in Newburyport, Massachusetts. Her mother came from England, where she had been trained as a cook; her father was a mechanic. While she was in high school, her father worked at the Boston airport; accompanying him on occasion, she became very interested in the airport weather office. Entering college at the University of Massachusetts, her plan was to major in meteorology, but there was no such program at UMass, so she took physics instead. She obtained her BS, a hardship because of the meagre family circumstances. On graduating she went to work at General Electric as an engineering aide in the Supercharger Department in Lynn (just north of Boston). The superchargers used the exhaust from the airplane engines to compress the air entering the engines, enabling the airplanes to fly at altitudes of 35,000 feet or more, an important feature for military planes trying to avoid anti aircraft fire in Germany and Japan and battling fighter planes.

It was on a break in the engineering office that I, Charles Garbett aka Budge, discovered Elizabeth reading Dostoevski's *War and Peace*. It wasn't long after that that we were married. (*Their daughter Rebecca Garbett remarks, when asked how this encounter led to a courtship: "Budge tells me he had dated some girls, but they were not interested in the things he liked: music, art, science, liberal politics. He was looking for someone serious and intellectual. When he saw Elizabeth reading War and Peace he knew she must fit the criteria, so he introduced himself.*

They were married after six months so I guess they clicked right away. I know Elizabeth was an unusual mix—she knew she was intelligent, and she had drive, but she also never considered herself attractive. She was not the supposedly popular body type, but rather had angular, tall, thin, sharp features, and red hair. Obviously Budge disagreed with her harsh self-appraisal and admired her qualities! She must have responded to that, and of course who wouldn't love Budge! Apparently her mother advised her to hang on to him!")

Budge: When the war ended, the need for superchargers also ended, and GE was planning to close down the Lynn plant and move development operations to Dayton, Ohio. I decided I wanted to go back to school for a graduate degree. Stanford offered me a place as a teaching assistant, and I accepted. We moved to Los Gatos, where my father lived in old house that had been broken up into several apartments.

Elizabeth had read at one time a book, "Five Acres and Independence", and was enthralled with the idea. Finding close proximity to my father in a small apartment difficult, we used most of our savings to buy three acres of bare hillside in the foothills behind Palo Alto. With the rest of the savings, we had a flat area scraped off and acquired some materials to start building our own house. In those days, construction companies only made small deliveries after the big contractors had received theirs. In one instance, the concrete for our floor slab didn't arrive until late afternoon, so we finished leveling it with the aid of our car headlights. Concrete blocks and some lumber allowed us to build an enclosure that we could move into. We had two toddlers, Michael and Rachel, no electricity, water from a garden hose (courtesy of a neighbor), no heat in December, and the toilet was a shovel in the back yard. Camping!

Finishing was slow—years. Elizabeth stacked and placed concrete blocks, set steel reinforcing bars, mixed concrete for reinforcing the walls, and I carpentered windows, doors, and roof. All the while, Elizabeth tended the toddlers, started a vegetable garden and prepared meals while I was away at Stanford. Meanwhile, money was short—a teaching assistant's pay was slim. Luckily summer's pay on a research project was a full salary. Building materials were the cheapest to be found—used stuff where appropriate ... anything to make do. (Paid for painfully in later years.)



Chardonnay vineyards. *Photo: freepik.com*

Memories of Elizabeth Garbett, continued from page 5

Budge Garbett (continued) With two more kids—Matthew and Rebecca—Elizabeth pursued her dream. Goats, rabbits, chickens, a pig—eventually a cow, a big vegetable garden, trees, flower garden ...

I finally got my engineering degree and went to work for Shell, a commute trip to Emeryville each day. Elizabeth found time for other interests. She started classes at San Jose State and took great interest in the botany courses by Dr. Carl Sharsmith, a great teacher, who also served as a naturalist-ranger in Yosemite in the summer. In the 60's Elizabeth taught first/second grade at Peninsula School and later took classes in geology at Foothill College.

I was transferred to Houston in 1972, and we were there for 8 years. Elizabeth enrolled in the Geology Department where she studied ostracods—tiny shellfish of interest to the oil drilling industry, of use as markers for stratigraphic layers from different geologic times. Her masters thesis was published in one of the geology journals. Returning to Los Altos Hills (we kept the old house), Elizabeth started a vineyard with chardonnay grape vines; she sold the grape crop to the neighboring Page Mill Winery, who made excellent wines with it. The vineyard persisted for several years but was eliminated after suffering a heavy mildew infection. She also participated in WHS activities—plant sales, writing plant notes, making many friends. She served as president for one year. We also took many trips abroad, mostly with Elderhostel.

As time passed, activities diminished. Our Los Altos Hills home has passed to our daughter, Rachel, and she and her husband, Howard, have been living with us and caring for us. Elizabeth suffered for some time from cancer, successfully keeping it at bay until this last year. She died on July 3, 2015.

Elizabeth had a combination of traits that drove and defined our family life; intelligence, curiosity, a sense of adventure, stoicism and a strong work ethic. We mourn the loss of this remarkable woman.



Iris unguicularis, a plant grown by Elizabeth and given to Judy Wong (see page 7 for Judy's memories). *Photo: plant-hunters.blogspot.com*

Memories of Elizabeth Garbett, continued from page 6

Glenda Jones: Elizabeth was a bright light in our world with her indomitable joy of life, her knowledge, generosity, wit and humor. Her knowledge and memory of plant names is legendary. Her hospitality and hostess skills were without par.

She was the force behind the annual WHS booth at the Master Gardeners' spring tomato sale in Kelley Park. She and I were on the Board of WHS together, and at Board meetings she never let up about wanting WHS to participate in this event. When it was finally approved, she and Budge leapt into action. She asked Dick and me to help them lay out the tables (planks of plywood on sawhorses) at their place, so they could calculate how everything would fit. She got her daughter, Rachel, to make the banner. She organized people to participate. Organizing meetings were held at her house. The day of the event she and Budge loaded up trucks with tables, plants, and other paraphernalia. She made it happen, and directed it through the first two years. She was in her '80s when she did this. I could go on, but I think this stands out as a legacy. How about WHS calling it the Elizabeth Garbett Booth?

Judy Wong: Elizabeth Garbett and I shared an interest and curiosity about plants. Her generosity with plant material has populated my garden and many others I'm sure. I am ecstatic when the *Iris unguicularis* she gave me blooms in the middle of winter to bring blue color into my garden. She and Budge came to visit my garden one day and I gave her free rein to select from my large seed collection. She was like a child opening gifts at Christmas! I was pleased to see she had propagated, planted and bloomed the seeds of *Oxypetalum caeruleum* she had admired in my garden.

Her wry and sometimes mischievous comments in the WHS plant notes over the years always brought a chuckle.

Someone mentioned to me that Elizabeth was having her daughter Rachel move in to help her and Budge. Her wry comment, "I guess I will have to be on my best behavior now."

From the January 2014 Western Hort News An excerpt of the series of "WHS Memories" that Nancy Schramm compiled by interviewing WHS members.

Nancy Schramm: Elizabeth Garbett has been a dedicated volunteer for WHS for many years. She was the first to organize our December potlucks, volunteered as a board member, wrote our plant notes for years, and was a force behind the beginnings of our annual plant sale. She is also a Founders' Award recipient.

Elizabeth writes: I think I joined WHS in 1980 when Budge retired and we moved back from eight years in Houston ... Marilou Vivanco, a longtime member of WHS, took me to my first meeting and I was blown away. That was when I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. There was so much to learn. Helping Emily Brown with the Plant Notes and doing them myself taught me a lot. Visiting gardens and nurseries was so exciting, especially nurseries like Ed Carman's that were full of plants I'd never seen before. I've always gardened but this was a whole order of magnitude beyond my experience. So you see, WHS has been a great and wonderful part of my life and it gives me much satisfaction to see it prospering and giving others the pleasure it has given me.

(See our website for the complete set of excellent, brief "WHS Memories" interviews – go to <http://www.westernhort.org/ANNIVERSARY.html>. You'll find several anecdotes about Elizabeth in other WHS members' recollections.)

Founders Award 2006

Elizabeth C. Garbett

Reprinted from our website, http://www.westernhort.org/archive_2006_EGarbett.html

Long-time member Elizabeth Garbett was presented with the third Founder's Award at our meeting on February 14, 2007, an appropriate day as Elizabeth has had a special place in our hearts for many years.

After some years of serving on the Board, Elizabeth began writing the plant notes in 1990 and she has been putting them together for us every month since then. Bill Kurtz entertained us with some of her humor and wit when he read for us some of her past plant notes published in our newsletter. Elizabeth has captured our fancy through the years with her most descriptive and enlightening comments therein. Here are some examples:



Akebia quintata

On *Persimmons*: "I'm pretty lukewarm about persimmons anyway, except for the fall color, so I'm able to be philosophical about the orgy of looting by the birds & the beasts that is going on in my tree just now."

On *Kalanchoe tubiflora*: "At the end of the leaves are borne several plantlets which become a flood and threaten to inundate the greenhouse ... Never allow it in your greenhouse! Kalanchoes are not reliably hardy here, which is how they sneaked into the greenhouse in the first place. You may detect a trace of bitterness here, I have met this plant before."

On *Akebia quintata*: This vine can be aggressively invasive if not controlled. It will climb 30 ft. into trees and swarm over and through fences and shrubs and along the ground. I am personally currently engaged in all-out warfare with my rampant vine and so far the *Akebia* is winning."

Elizabeth has always been a very active member in our society. She and her husband "Budge" helped with some of our exhibits in the San Francisco Flower and Garden Shows and she has been instrumental for several years in getting our newsletters mailed each month with a "mailing party."

Some favorite memories for a number of our members are the get-togethers and picnics Elizabeth has held at her lovely home. Her gardens are always appealing and full of unusual plants. Everyone enjoys the miniature trains built by Budge that run through a detailed miniature landscape, complete with wooded slopes, cabins, and a saw mill, which encircle the swimming pool.

Elizabeth has those attributes that every organization needs to call on to survive and flourish. We have been and continue to be honored with her involvement in the Western Horticultural Society.



Fuyu persimmon's fall colors
in a California garden. Photo:
Saxon Holt, photobotanic.com

Attention Tree Lovers and Huggers! Mark Your Calendar for a special talk and tree walk on October 10 – register by Oct 1

Trees of Stanford: A Walk through Time A joint Canopy and Stanford Historical Society event. Join Canopy and the Stanford Historical Society as we explore the rich mosaic of Stanford trees on a journey through the past, present, and future. WHS member Sairus Patel will be moderating a panel that includes Matt Ritter, Dave Muffy, and Herb Fong, discussing the diverse landscape, unique tree species, and rich arboreal heritage of the Stanford campus. Next, guests will head outside to explore one of four different areas on campus, embarking on tree walks led by panelists and other experts.

Details: Saturday, October 10, 9am – 12:30pm

9:00am – Refreshments and mingling

9:15am – Panel Discussion with celebrated tree experts

11:00am – Guided tree walks around the Stanford campus

Location: Stanford Campus, Jordan Hall, Room 40, 450 Serra Mall, Stanford.

Cost: The event is free, but **registration by October 1 is required**. To register, please see <http://canopy.org/trees-of-stanford> or call Canopy (650-964-6110).

Attention Tree Lovers! Keep an eye out for your October Pacific Horticulture magazine that will focus entirely on the urban canopy. WHS member Sairus Patel is guest co-editor for this issue!



Valley Oak and Blue Oak at Jasper Ridge, Stanford. Photo: <http://trees.stanford.edu>

Have you renewed your WHS membership?

Our membership year is September 1 – August 31. Renew now to ensure the smooth continuation of your subscription to Pacific Horticulture magazine.

Renewal applications with pre-addressed envelopes were mailed in August; we urge you to send in your dues now if you haven't

already. **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.** You can also print out the membership form found online at http://westernhort.org/membership_form.pdf.

See the box to the right for complete details on membership rates and where to send the form. Questions? Please contact our membership guru at grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162. **Thank you.**

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 November 2015 newsletter by October 18 to Marianne Mueller, mrm@sonic.net or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

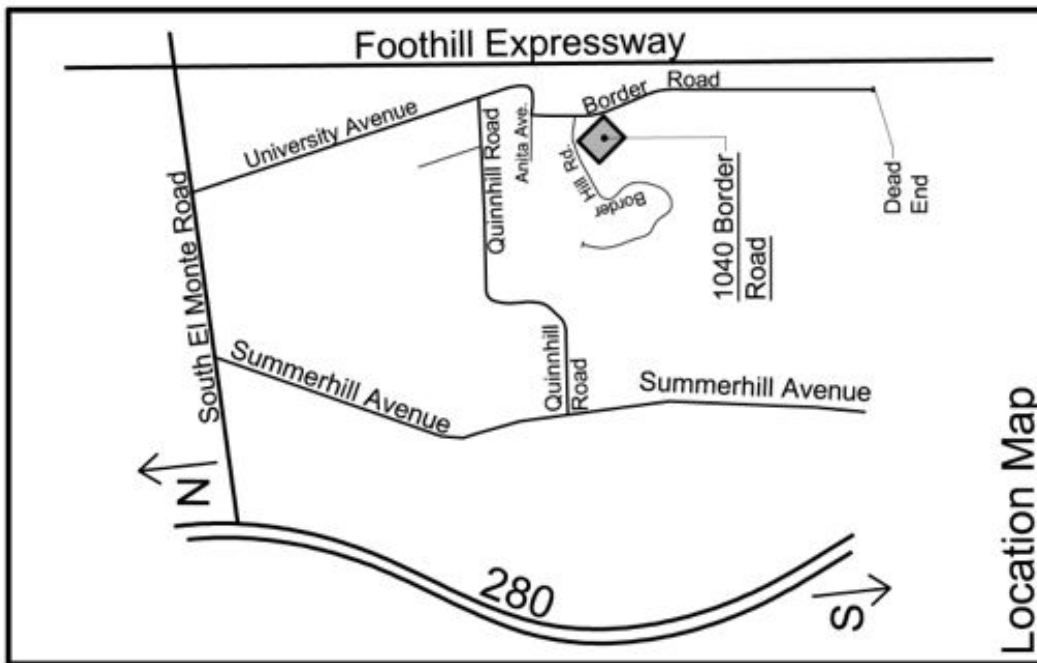
Please send address changes to grew@pacbell.net or 650-851-5162.



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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.

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.