



## *Mark Your Calendar! Meeting dates in 2015:*

<b>Wednesday, January 14</b>	<b>Sean Hogan</b>	<b>New Plants from Near and Far</b>
Wednesday, February 11	David Feix	Bay Area Style Gardens
Wednesday, March 11	Paul Discoe	Fences and Gates of Japanese Gardens
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.*

## *January 2015 Speaker*

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

Speaker: Sean Hogan, Co-Founder, Cistus Nursery

### **“New Plants from Near and Far”**

Join us for a talk about new finds from the wilds of the west to the far east, concentrating on beauties new to cultivation that love a summer dry climate. Sean Hogan’s talk will feature bold architectural plants that tolerate more abuse than you’d think, and highlight Cistus Nursery introductions and plants just arriving and available in the Bay Area. Cistus Nursery is a retail micro-nursery located on scenic Sauvie Island, fifteen miles northwest of Portland, Oregon. Cistus offers Mediterranean-climate, southern hemisphere, hardy tropical plants, and more.



**Cistus Design—M Financial Building** in Portland, Oregon.  
Photo: <http://www.cistus.com/design.html>.

Sean is an author, photographer, lecturer, and plant explorer. He formerly curated the South African, New Zealand, Australian, New World Desert and California Native Cultivar Gardens of the UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley. Sean started a design and consultation firm in 1995, specializing in regionally appropriate plants for the Pacific Northwest. This evolved into Cistus Nursery in Portland, Oregon. Plants are his passion and sharing treasures with fellow plant lovers is his joy. Browse plant lists and visit his nurseries’ plants and gardens online at <http://www.cistus.com>. You can follow his plant adventures on Facebook: go to <https://www.facebook.com/CistusNursery> and click on “Like.”

## *Dinner at Bella Vita with our speaker, Sean Hogan*

We’re back at Bella Vita restaurant this month! Join us at 5:30 p.m. at this lovely Italian restaurant in downtown Los Altos, close to our meeting location, to enjoy each others’ company and meet our speaker. 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.

## *Congratulations to Nancy Schramm, our 2014 Founders' Award honoree*

The Western Horticultural Society Founders' Award was established in honor of those who had the vision and dedication to create a fellowship of nurserymen, horticultural professionals and avid gardeners. The eleventh WHS Founders' Awardee, Nancy Schramm, was honored at the 2014 December Holiday dinner.

Nancy was born in San Jose and was likely born with a silver trowel in her hand rather than with a silver spoon, as her family owned and operated Ed Carmen Nursery in Los Gatos. Her father was one of WHS's founding members and past president. For many years, he headed the plant discussions, sharing his vast knowledge of new and rare plants. As a nursery child, Nancy and her two sisters earned spending money by weeding in the nursery.

She started attending WHS meetings with her parents while still in high school but recalls joining "officially" in 2004. She directed her talents to illustrating the WHS publication, *Successful Vines for the Peninsula*, writing articles on WHS from a historical perspective, and most recently conducting a series of interviews with WHS members to celebrate our organization's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. (See our website for these great interviews.) Nancy's continuing activities include sharing unusual plants in our Plant Discussions, seeking exceptional speakers as a member of the Speaker's Committee, and leading the Hot Plant Picks team to organize the exhibit at the San Francisco Garden Show.

In addition, Nancy is active in California Rare Fruit Growers, writes garden related articles for a local magazine, appears as a horticultural expert in a television appearances, and maintains her interests in Bonsai, miniature (garden) railroads, dwarf conifers and rock garden plants.

In her spare time (!) she enjoys all needle arts and books on CDs, while organizing projects in her community and keeping up her weeding skills. She dedicates special time to her friends and family (*and is this newsletter's biggest helper by contributing articles and by proofreading!* –*The Editor*). I have been a fortunate beneficiary of her delicious baking skills.

One of Nancy's secret wishes is to be assigned to a lighthouse or a firewatch station just for the opportunity to enjoy some quiet leisure time! ~*Judy Wong*

**Do not miss Nancy's 14 articles on our website, at <http://westernhort.org/articles.html>.**



**Nancy decked out at our holiday party with her husband Bob. Photo: <http://westernhort.org>**



**Smaller than Shohin.** Photo by Kora Dalager. "Back story: the Friday morning of the [bonsai] GSBF convention in Sacramento, things were pretty quiet first thing in the vendor area. I decided I needed to entertain myself, so I wandered around and found myself buying some itty-bitty pots from Jim Barrett. Took them back and felt compelled to put something in them, and dug out some liverwort from another container. When I saw my 'creation', I put it in the palm of my hand, showed Kora, and told her "Here is a companion plant for your companion plants!" ~*Nancy Schramm, from the December 2012 Midori Bonsai Club Newsletter, <http://www.midoribonsai.org/december-2012>.*



***Dick Dunmire: Memories*** To remember Dick I only have to look my pot full of *Dendrobium kingianum* (pink rock orchid) that I grew from a cutting from Dick's plant. He brought it to the plant discussion and made the mistake of offering cuttings and offshoots. There was a feeding frenzy and I shamelessly participated. It has already given me years of pleasure. Thank you Dick! ~Pat Knight

***28 (plus a few months) Years Ago*** Lots of interesting stuff to catch up on, starting with the September 10, 1986 meeting. At that time, WHS was meeting at the Los Altos Youth Center, and had previously held the plant discussion *after* the speaker. However, it appears that darkening the room was problematic, so the order of the evening was changed "...so that it will be dark enough for slides." The speaker was Sunset Magazine's Garden Editor, Kathleen Brenzel, on the topic "Adventures in Color Gardening". Also in attendance was member Emily Brown, with copies of her new book *Landscaping with Perennials*. As an incentive towards prompt membership renewal, "In an attempt to facilitate bookkeeping and discourage forgetfulness we will put all checks received so far into a hat and draw for first choice at the raffle."

Plants discussed were especially interesting to me: Philip McMillan-Browse talked about some new mildew-resistant Lagerstroemia hybrids — 'Tuscarora', 'Muskogee', and 'Natchez' (it amazes me to realize the relativity of 'new'), and my dad, Ed Carman, brought in a *Capparis spinosa* (I guess I'm just a copy-cat). Philip also showed *Rosmarinus 'Blue Spire'* (bright blue, 6' tall) grown at Saratoga Horticultural Foundation, and Elizabeth Garbett showed off "R. 'Beneden Blue' from the site of the former Page Mill Nursery, where it has been growing for close to forty years with no summer water." Also shown: *Campanula pyramidalis* (6' tall!) and *Talinum paniculatum*. ~Nancy Schramm

***Plant Table*** With fewer plants on our potting tables, let's be creative this month! Do you have any plant or garden-related objects you would like to pass along? Pots, watering cans, and interesting accessories are welcome. Bring them to the January meeting and we'll see if anyone wants to buy them!



***Dendrobium kingianum.***  
Photo: <http://www.orchideen-wichmann.de>



***Campanula pyramidalis*** (up to 6' tall!).  
Photo: <http://www.gardening.eu>

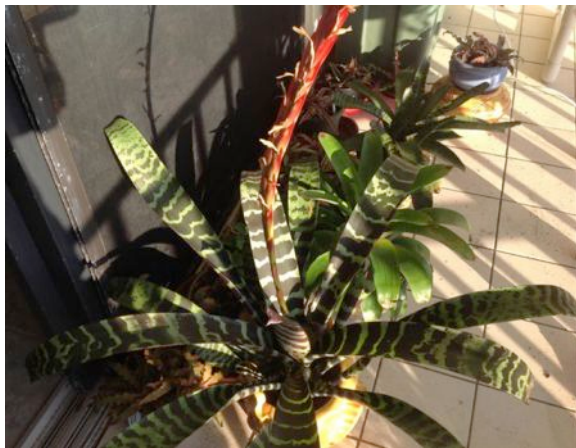
Tree bark, like French, becomes much more relevant when you have an immediate need for it. If, for example, you decide rather late in the winter that you are going to be self-sufficient in the pancake department and make your own maple syrup, you may find yourself out in the woods with a bit and brace, a bag of metal spouts, a growing realization that you aren't quite sure which trees are sugar maples. This invariably leads to an intensive study of the tree bark, because there is nothing more embarrassing than having else point out that you have tapped an elm. ~From "*Earthly Pleasures: Tales from a Biologist's Garden*" by Roger B. Swain.

## *Bromeliads!*

Why do we love Bromeliads? Is it because they need little care, are the ideal houseplant or pot plant for your patio, or that they need very little water? Or is it that they have long lasting blooms and reproduce profusely?

Attached to driftwood or grouped in dish gardens, they can survive quite dry for weeks. I can leave them on my balcony for several weeks with the hurricane shutters closed and they will look as good as I left them when I return. Added to an indoor arrangement, to which they lend themselves most wonderfully, they can live a long time without additional moisture as long as the vase or container holds some water. They will stay fresh looking for a long time.

In nature, many Bromeliads do not have an extensive root system and most do not need soil to grow. One exception is the Cryptanthus family. They also do well when you grow them in your garden. You can mount them on a tree, driftwood or a rock, or grow them in the soil. Since they need very little water you just have to spritz them once in a while.



A very showy Bromeliad is the **Vriesea Splendens**. It has been blooming for months. And when the bloom dies it will give me several pups. *Photo: Charlotte Mueller.*



**Tillandsia** masquerading as a jelly fish, December 2014. *Photo: Charlotte Mueller.*

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**Cryptanthus Christmas Arrangement**, December 2014. *Photo: Charlotte Mueller*

You can find a number of Bromeliads at garden centers and florists. But since one plant will give you many babies, called pups, you can swap with other Bromeliad enthusiasts!

Most people are familiar with the Tillandsias, or air plants. (Tillandsias should never be grown in soil.)

If you decide to add a Bromeliad or two to your collection you will not be sorry. They are truly great plants that you will enjoy. ~Charlotte Mueller of Ormond Beach, Florida, along the Atlantic seaside—Bromeliads also put up with the salt air!

Check out **The Bromeliad Society of San Francisco**: <http://www.sfbromeliad.org>

The group invites you to their meetings! “We are dedicated to the growth and spread of horticultural and scientific knowledge of the Bromeliad Family (Bromeliaceae) and enthusiasm for the preservation of its species and habitats.”

Online, you’ll find a slideshow about “Hardy Bromeliads for the Bay Area”, and a six-page list of Bromeliads proven to do well in the Bay Area, listed by zip code.

They meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the S. F. County Fair Building, Recreation Room, 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Lincoln Way (entrance to Golden Gate Park), San Francisco.



# Horticultural Calendar

**California Rare Fruit Growers—Scion Exchange** January 10, 2015, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Prusch Park, Multicultural Center (MCC), 647 S. King Road, San Jose. Open to CRFG members at 10 a.m. Grafting demos at 11:15 a.m. and 1 p.m. A great variety of fruit tree cutting are available, and some can be planted directly when you get home, such as fig, persimmon, pomegranate and grapes. <http://scvcrfg.wordpress.com/activities>.

**Thinking with My Hands: Dry Stone Wall Building Workshop** February 7-8, 2015, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., at Lyngso Garden Materials Inc., 19 Seaport Blvd., Redwood City. \$300. <http://bit.ly/1w55WoS>. Building with dry stacked stone is becoming a lost art in North America, with the use of manufactured products, cements, and veneers, replacing most of the skill involved. Lyngso is pleased to offer a rare opportunity to learn with a true master craftsman who is preserving the tradition. Taught by John Shaw-Rimmington, a professional Waller and landscape design consultant. After learning the basics, you will have the opportunity to get more creative using the three basic principles of dry stone wall construction – batter, hearting and bonding. In this year's workshop John will lead students in the construction of an innovative original design that is both elegant and robust.

## Consider joining the ranks of WHS volunteers who keep our organization going:

**1—Spring Plant Sale, Our Annual Fundraiser** The last several years, we have had a plant sale at the Master Gardeners Spring Garden Market. We usually have made between \$600 to \$700. This year, no one has volunteered to be the coordinator. So, we are downsizing the operation. We will have a smaller booth and use the event to promote Western Horticulture Society.

**2—WHS Board of Directors** Dear Members—Our first meeting of 2015, on Wednesday, January 14, is also our business meeting. Please help us keep WHS a vital organization. The Board of Directors needs more members. The Board members are elected by you, the WHS members, at our January general meeting. As a Board member you would not be asked to raise money, just set up for meetings, help with some special events like the September meeting and December Potluck, and make sure the committees are working. There are only five fun Board meetings a year (about two hours long each). Officers may organize a field trip, plant sale or special event like the Founders Award. An officer is asked to serve for a three-year term. Please join us, and volunteer or nominate someone at the January general meeting. Thank you, and Happy New Year. ~Richard Tiede, President

**3—Would you like to host the monthly dinners for our speakers?** Hello everyone—after three years of setting up the dinners before the Wednesday meetings, I plan to give up that job after the new year. If anyone is interested, please let me know: [shep8283@comcast.net](mailto:shep8283@comcast.net) or 650-321-8283. ~Rosalie Shepherd.

## Western Horticultural Society

### Officers and Board Members

President: Richard Tiede  
Vice President: Judy Wong  
Recording Secretary: Roberta Barnes  
Corresponding Secretary: Rosalie Shepherd  
Treasurer: Daxin Liu

Other Board Members: Liz Calhoon, Chris Egan, Abby Garner, Wendy van der Linden, 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 February 2015 newsletter by January 18 to Marianne Mueller, [mrm@sonic.net](mailto:mrm@sonic.net) or 333 Kingsley Avenue, Palo Alto 94301.

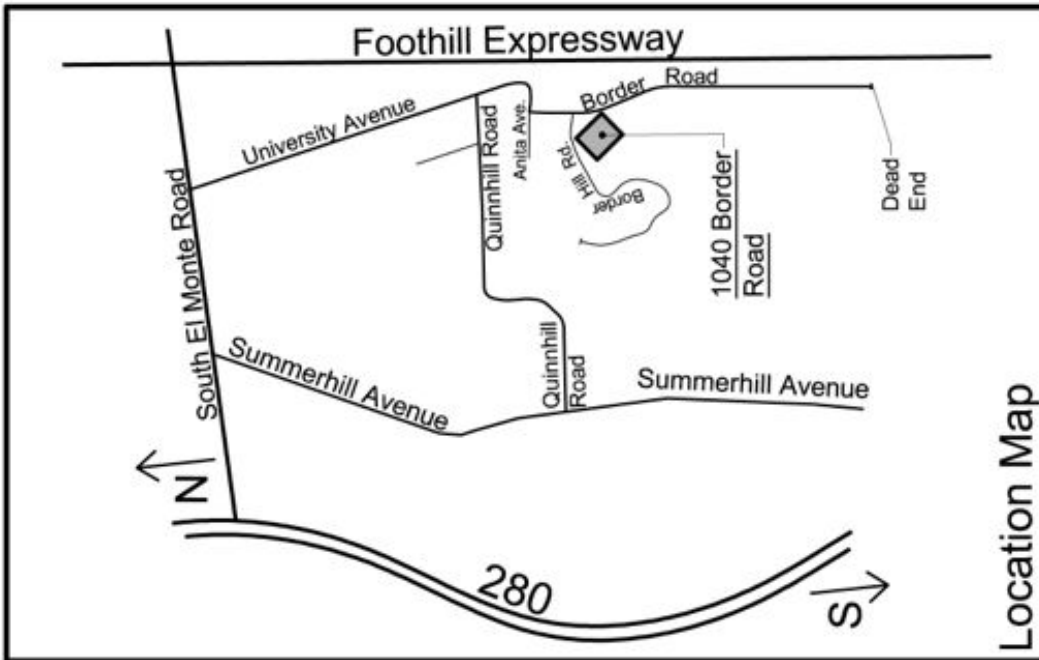
Please send address changes to [grew@pacbell.net](mailto:grew@pacbell.net) or 650-851-5162.



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.

Join us for dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at **Bella Vita, 376 1<sup>st</sup> St., Los Altos**. Meet our speaker Sean Hogan and enjoy the company of other WHS members!

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.