



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
 Post Office Box 31029  
 Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1029

February 2018

Website: [www.sbchs.org](http://www.sbchs.org)

Contact: [sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com)

The Santa Barbara County  
 Horticultural Society  
 February General Meeting  
 will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 7pm  
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

**Speaker: Joan Bolton:**  
***“Rain Gardens and Other Design Strategies for  
 Dealing with the Drought”***

Joan, principal designer at Santa Barbara Garden Design for more than 20 years, specializes in designing colorful gardens composed of beautiful, water-conserving native and Mediterranean plants.



She will present ideas about how to capture, spread and sink seasonal rainfall that might otherwise flow out to the street. She will also talk about layout and design choices that balance the desire

for gardens to thrive, yet use less water.

In addition to her design work, Joan is a long-time freelance garden writer. Locally, she writes for Edible Santa Barbara and Central Coast Farm & Ranch. She is looking forward to sharing what she knows about designing beautiful, low-water gardens while coping with the drought.



Landscape shot of a garden that includes a dry creek bed and other water-conserving techniques.

*Photo by Joan S. Bolton*

### Upcoming Meetings

|       |   |
|-------|---|
| March | Antonio Sanchez. <i>Inviting California to Dinner: Bringing California native plant foods into your life and the future of native plant agriculture</i> |
| April | Mike Tully  |
| May   | Joe Cahill – Ventura Botanical Gardens  |

**Help!** The society is always looking for members interested in participating. Open positions are:

- *Programs*
- *Hospitality*
- *Plant Sale – Carol Terry is in need of some assistance for this activity.*

**Dues for 2018 are payable now. Please bring a check** - \$20/year for a family membership can be paid at the meeting or sent to the address on the back of this newsletter (POB 31029, Santa Barbara) for one year or multiple years. If you receive the Newsletter by postal mail, please consider an additional donation to cover printing and mailing.

**Volunteer At Lotusland:** Volunteering at Lotusland is a wonderful and rewarding way to contribute to one of the world's best gardens. Join us for a Volunteer Orientation on Tuesday, March 6, from 9:30 - 11:00AM. For more information and to make a reservation to attend, please contact Volunteer Coordinator, Kitty Tommassin at 805-969-3767, ext.112 or [ktommssin@lotusland.org](mailto:ktommssin@lotusland.org).

Lotusland Volunteer Opportunities Include: Events and Hospitality, Garden Volunteers, Garden Docents, Library and Archival Work, Communications and Marketing, Fourth Grade Outreach Docents, and Visitor and Member Services.

*Other Plant Society Meetings and Events:*

**SBC Rose Society** meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except July, August and December) at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Refreshments and display begin at 7:00pm. The meeting and program begin at 7:30pm and are free and open to the public.

**The Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club** meets at the Community of Christ Church, 4675 Via Los Santos, Santa Barbara 93111, at 2:00pm on the third Tuesday of the month.

**Orchid Society of Santa Barbara** meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7:30pm.

**Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers** - Anyone can be added to an email list and notified of upcoming meetings by sending their email address to [lindabuzzell@gmail.com](mailto:lindabuzzell@gmail.com)

**Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society** meets the first Friday of the Month (Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>) at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Adventures to Find Dudleya in the Wild

Speaker: Stephen McCabe

*Dudleya*, also known as liveforevers, are attractive succulents native from southern Oregon nearly to Cabo



San Lucas and the Pacific Islands of California and Baja California. Getting to and identifying some of the cliff-dwelling plants on remote islands can be a challenge. The speaker has been to all of the Channel Islands and most of the Baja California

Pacific coast islands. In addition to talking about the species, Stephen McCabe will talk about conservation of the rare species and some tips about growing the plants in California gardens. For our meeting he will be bringing plants and some cards for sale.

Stephen McCabe has been studying and growing *Dudleya* for over 30 years and has been growing other succulents longer than that. He is Emeritus Director of Research for the UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, a current researcher with the Environmental Studies Department at UCSC, and a botanical consultant.

**10th Annual Santa Barbara Community Seed Swap**

*Sunday, January 28, 2018 1:30-4:30pm, Free*

*Rain or Shine!*

Trinity Gardens @ Trinity Lutheran Church, 909 North La Cumbre Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110



Join us for the **10th Annual Santa Barbara Community Seed Swap at a brand new location!** This year at the beautiful Trinity Gardens, with both

indoor and outdoor space for lots of seed sharing activities, children welcome.

Hundreds attend every year, sharing seeds and knowledge with other backyard gardeners, plant lovers, beekeepers and farmers. Come be a part of this seed saving movement, making sure that locally adapted seed & plants are passed on to future generations. Special speakers, children's activities, & live music!

Local groups will have plant and seed related exhibits, share valuable seed saving techniques that encourage local gardeners to grow out and harvest some of their best seeds for future gardens and seed swaps, making us a truly food secure community. Seed saving is a fun and easy way to connect to the circle of life.

**Bring seeds, plants, cuttings, and garden knowledge to swap.**

[www.sbpermaculture.org](http://www.sbpermaculture.org);

<http://www.trinitygardenssb.org/>

## Montecito Lives and Landscapes Destroyed

By Susan Chamberlin

It is still difficult to comprehend the terrible loss of lives, homes, gardens, property, businesses, wildlife, and the cultural landscape in Montecito that occurred in the early hours of January 9, 2018 as “debris flows” tore apart families and the community. Many of the trees and hedges that are a distinguishing feature of Montecito\* are now gone.

The natural landscape was ravaged, as was the cultural landscape, which originated following the Chumash. El Montecito was settled by Presidio soldiers on Mexican land grants. Most lived near Montecito Creek. Still called “Spanish Town,” the area around East Valley Road and Parra Grande Lane (named for the big grapevine that Maria Marcelina Feliz planted in the 1870s) was hit hard. The Montecito Creek watercourse overall (which combines Cold Springs and Hot Springs Creeks) was where many homes and stone bridges were destroyed and where 16 victims have so far been found. Other entire neighborhoods were decimated along Romero and San Ysidro Creeks. On the banks of San Ysidro Creek, the San Ysidro Ranch dates back to about 1825. Once famous for its oranges and later famous as a resort, it is not clear if the Stonehouse Restaurant and Plow & Angel (formerly the orange packing house) or how many of its cottages were damaged or destroyed, but the citrus grove, the chef’s garden, and other lovely gardens on the grounds are gone.+

Many Montecito gardens were created before the Depression during the Golden Age of American Gardens. Casa del Herrero, a National Historic Landmark cultural landscape, “weathered the storm” wrote Jessica Tade, its Executive Director, in an email of 1-12-18. Lotusland “is fine” with only some paths “washed out” according to a letter from CEO Gwen Stauffer. I heard through a friend that Val Verde, Lockwood de Forest’s masterpiece of landscape architecture, lost its koi pond (also known as the formal reflecting pool) below the steps to the house and most of the landscape elements, a cottage, and rare old trees on the level adjacent to Montecito Creek. The same source is certain that across the creek at El Fureidis, the pavilion at the terminus of the famous water feature was swept away along with planting. I do not know the fate of Sotto il Monte (originally called La Toscana) on Hot Springs Road or other significant gardens from the Golden Age. Casa Dorinda was one of them before it became a retirement home. Much of the property is said to be okay, although the entrance was wiped out. Ironically the 100-year-old historic, stone bridge to Casa Dorinda (designed by Carleton M. Winslow) survived the debris flows but the new bridge under construction to replace it did not.++

It will take a long time to survey damage to all the historic houses and gardens in Montecito. I hope they and their owners are safe.



This old lemon box label shows the Crocker-Sperry Company's Las Fuentes Rancho orchards and the mountains behind Montecito before the landscape was transformed into the modern landscape we knew prior to January 9, 2018. East Valley Road is marked by rows of eucalyptus trees behind the Rancho. In 1967 the Rancho became the Birnam Wood Golf Club. Early on January 9th, flash floods and mudslides called "debris flows" descended on the community from the mountain creeks and transformed the Montecito landscape in a matter of minutes. In the aftermath of the debris flows, helicopters landed on the Birnam Wood fairways to transport victims to the hospital or to shelters.

**References:** News reports from many outlets; maps posted by the *Independent* and the County; \*David Myrick, *Montecito and Santa Barbara*, volumes I and II, p. 9; +Bob Hazard, “Fire and Flood, Mud and Debris,” *Montecito Journal*, vol. 24, issue 3, page 33; ++Hazard, p. 28



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY  
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

**Officers:**

Co-Presidents and Secretary:

Debby Lipp

Ernie Pfadenhauer

Vice President: Carol Terry

(805) 684-5725

Treasurer: Gretchen Ingmanson

**Directors:**

Donna Blakemore

Diane Dunhill

Marian Kauffman

Carolyn Koegler

Dorothy Warnock

**Committee Heads:**

Garden Tours: Helen Wong

Newsletter: Ernie Pfadenhauer

Bulletin Distribution: Larry Disharoon

Plant Sale: Carol Terry

Refreshments: Elisa Reich

Scholarships: Dorothy Warnock

Membership: Duke McPherson

Programs: Open

A word on the "Freebies Area":

People who bring plant materials or pots, etc. to share please remember to:

1. Bring clean, viable plant material contained in bags or boxes (please no dirt)
2. Label plants if possible
3. Please gather and take your leftovers home after the meeting; there is no dumpster at the site.
4. Help keep the porch area clean

Botanic Name:

Common Name:

Exhibitor:

Additional Details:

THANK YOU

This sheet to be cut out or copied for Plant Display Information