



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Celebrating plants since 1880

SBCHS.ORG

MAY 2019

Upcoming Speakers

June

- *Begonias: Novel Grown and New Introductions from Australia*
Mike Flaherty

July

- *No Meeting -- It's Our Summer Break*

August

- *Annual New Plants Forum*
With San Marcos Growers and other local nurseries

Garden Tours

Saturday, May 4, 10 -11 a.m.
SBCC's Permaculture Garden



Our February speaker, Jackson Hayes, will lead a tour of the Permaculture Garden, which is run by the SBCC Center for Sustainability and is designed to create a sustainable, food-producing alternative landscape that serves as an on-campus educational tool for SBCC and the greater community. Jackson describes permaculture as a growing form of sustainable... *see pg 3*

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- Dare to Be Wild
- Are You AV savvy?

May General Meeting - May 1, 2019, 7 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

Australian Native Plants for Fire Resistance and Garden Design

Please join us to hear Jo O'Connell, the owner of Australian Native Plants nursery, describe her experience with the devastating effects of the Thomas Fire and what she has learned first-hand about fire-resistant plants and design.



Jo lost her home and several structures at her growing grounds, which are located in Casitas Springs, as well as nursery stock and plants in the surrounding landscape, in the December 2017 wildfire.

She will share images of plant survivors, discuss the features of fire-retardant plants, and suggest maintenance and landscape design techniques to reduce the threat of wildfire.

Jo has more than 35 years experience growing Australian plants both in Australia and Southern California, and founded Australian Native Plants nursery in the early 1990s. Her background is in zoo horticulture, habitat design, re-vegetation projects and the cut flower industry. At her nursery, she specializes in plants from subtropical, arid and Mediterranean areas of Australia and South Africa.



Australian Native Plants is open by appointment only, with plants also available via mail-order.

However, as a special treat for meeting attendees, Jo will bring a broad selection of plants from her nursery to sell after her talk, with cash the preferred payment.

Our Newest Board Member

A warm welcome to our newest Board member, Jill Cloutier.

Jill has been entranced with plants for as long as she can remember. She is the PR Director for Explore Ecology and the host and producer of two podcasts about plants and nature (The Plant Report: Every Plant Has a Story and Sustainable World Radio.) She also attended Environmental Horticulture classes at SBCC and is a Permaculture Design Course grad.

Jill has graciously volunteered to apply her social media skills to the hort society by starting up an Instagram feed and Facebook page to share the society's events and our love of all things horticulture.

Our 2019 Directors & Committee Chairs

2019 Board Members

- *President:* Debby Lipp
- *Vice President:* OPEN
- *Secretary:* OPEN
- *Treasurer:* Gretchen Ingmanson
- *Director:* Carol Terry, Diane Dunhill, Carolyn Koegler, Duke McPherson, Dorothy Warnock, Bryn Crutchfield, Jill Cloutier

2019 Committee Chairs

- *Garden Tours:* Helen Wong
- *Membership:* Duke McPherson
- *Newsletter Editor:* Joan S. Bolton
- *Newsletter Distribution:* Larry Disharoon
- *Plant Sale:* Carol Terry -- But soon to be OPEN!
- *Plant Sale Assistant:* OPEN
- *Programs:* Debby Lipp
- *Programs Assistant:* Duke McPherson
- *Publicity:* Janet Hunter
- *Refreshments:* Elisa Reich
- *Scholarships:* Dorothy Warnock.

General inquiries or to reach anyone listed above:
sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

Newsletter inquiries or event listings only:
joan_hortsociety@santabarbaragardens.com

Greenwood Daylily Gardens Now Open

John Schoustra was our April speaker. His nursery, featuring pelargoniums, daylilies, iris and more, is open to the public on Saturdays from now through June at 8000 Balcom Canyon Road in Somis.

Horticultural Events Around Town

Friday, May 3

Succulent Gardens of California's Central Coast
 Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society

Brandon Nelson and Nick Wilkinson, owners of Botanica Nova, a landscape company in San Luis Obispo, are known for detailed specialty plant and rock selections that often push their gardens into the realm of living sculptures. Boulder and rock features are key elements in their



designs, as the pair strive to deliver a modern take on the California landscape.

Brandon and Nick will lead a presentation of their work, emphasize the rewards of creating a succulent-based landscape and bring a selection of plants to sell.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

Sunday, May 5

Planting a Pollinator Garden

UC Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County
 Come learn why pollinators are important and the different types in our area. Find out how to analyze your microclimate and soil to determine plant selection and how to build a habitat.

2 - 3:15 p.m., Santa Barbara Central Library. Free.

Thursday, May 9

Roses!

Santa Barbara Rose Society

Not surprisingly, Robert Martin, 2019 President of the American Rose Society, will speak about roses. 7 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

Saturday, May 11

Annual Show and Sale

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society

The day-long event features demonstrations, a silent auction, display of members' plants, and an extensive sales area with both plants and ceramic pots.

10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

Top Right: Photo courtesy of Botanica Nova.

Are You an Annie or a Flora?

by Susan Chamberlin

Annie, of *Annie's Annuals and Perennials* in Richmond, California, sends me lots of catalogs chock full of cottage flowers — those pretty things that make English gardens the envy of so many. Annie also carries reliable disease-resistant roses, useful shrubs, succulents, heirlooms, and rarities. She has a nice website with how-to videos, www.anniesannuals.com, and she sends me email alerts to let me know when my "wish list items" are available. Too bad I don't have room for them all.

Annie's editorial focus is always on what is good for the environment, especially pollinator plants, things that feed butterflies, caterpillars, and bees or attract hummingbirds. She is a fierce promoter of California native plants and sees them as equal members of the cottage garden along with the familiar European standards. And why not? In my experience, California poppy, ceanothus, and flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) are more common in English gardens than they are in gardens here.

Flora, of *Flora Grubb Gardens* across the Bay from Annie in San Francisco (www.floragrubb.com), sends me email newsletters.



Her focus is on emphatic, architectonic plants and succulents. Bold foliage and palms fill her nursery, but you'll also find outdoor furniture, houseplants, home decor, and even some bedding plants. She

promotes her favorite, often in-house designers. While Annie is all about flower color, Flora likes color to come from the plants' leaves — bronze, grey, and lime or from the pots that hold them.

Both Annie and Flora recognize the need for drought-tolerant gardens but use different palettes to achieve them. ... see pg 4

Top Right: Annie likes cottage flowers, and if they're native plants, such as these white California poppies (Eschscholzia californica 'Alba'), she likes them even more. Above: Flora likes bold, architectonic plants, palms, and pots. Photos: S. Chamberlin.



Propagate Those Plants

Spring is the perfect time to start propagating and planting for our Annual Plant sale, which will take place September 21.

Consider growing any plants that will look good in September and are suitable for fall planting, including flowering plants, succulents, shrubs, trees and even seasonal edibles.

Please touch base with Carol Terry or Debby Lipp with any questions at the May meeting or at sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com.

Garden Tour, from page 1



design that uses the same patterns and principles found in nature to reduce or eliminate wasted energy and resources.

Directions & Parking

From the West campus entrance, head toward the ocean. The garden is just past the roundabout next to the Garvin Theatre. All parking lots are open to the public on weekends. The closest is the staff lot just before the roundabout.

SBCC will also offer a 5-unit Permaculture Design course in the fall, from August 26 to December 14. More information can be found at sbcc.edu.

Above and page 1: Photos by Jackson Hayes.

Are You an Annie or a Flora? *from pg 3*



A visit to *Flora Grubb Gardens* is always a thrill. You can get a cup of coffee at the café to sip while you take

in the art car stuffed with plants or check out the displays for inspiration. There are frequent special events including book-signings and flower design workshops themed to various holidays.

A visit to Annie's display garden is just as inspiring if you love flowers as I do. She also hosts "Garden Parties!" with free refreshments, go-go dancers, face-painting, and prizes, as well as twice-monthly free talks by garden experts.



In terms of my garden preferences, I'm more of an Annie than a Flora.

However, I always look up whatever plant I'm thinking about on Google and at the superb, encyclopedic website maintained by Randy Baldwin at San Marcos Growers here in Santa Barbara (www.smgrowers.com) because I'm just as interested in the facts as I am in the fun of gardens. I guess that makes me more of a Randy than an Annie.

Top Right: Flora likes quirky stuff. Above: Annie likes quirky stuff, too. Photos: S. Chamberlin.

Dare to Be Wild

For anyone who likes to live vicariously through other gardeners or has a bucket list desire to visit the Royal Horticultural Society's Chelsea Flower Show, there's this from Debby Lipp --

"I want to mention the Netflix movie 'Dare to Be Wild' about a young Irish woman who wanted to build a wild garden at Chelsea. Even my non-gardening spouse enjoyed it."

Are You an AV Expert? We Need Two!

We have been seriously seeking a reliable person to wrangle the audio-visual equipment for months now. If you attended the April meeting, you might have noticed that John Schoustra's PowerPoint presentation almost didn't happen because of conflicts with the equipment. Randy Baldwin stepped in at the last minute to save the show. But had Randy not been at the meeting, we might have easily missed the heart of John's talk -- his beautiful slides.

We will happily pay anyone -- a student, retiree, member or non-member -- to set up and take down the equipment at each monthly meeting.

In addition, we're looking for a volunteer to coordinate the AV requirements with the speaker in advance, to prevent any unwelcome surprises the night of the meeting.

Please step up. Contact Debby Lipp, or Gretchen Ingmanson at tikiinga@gmail.com or 805-452-0407.

Please Renew Your Membership

We're well into 2019, but many long-time members have not yet renewed their dues.

If you're not sure whether you're current, check in with Duke McPherson, the Membership Chair, at the back table before or after the meeting.

Membership is a bargain, at only \$20 per year for individuals or families. See Duke or sbchs.org for other membership categories and dues rates.

Display Table, Raffle Table & Freebies Area

Plants for all three destinations should be fun, unusual, in tip-top condition and bear labels.

Also, for the Freebies area:

- Bring clean, viable plant material contained in bags or boxes (please, no loose dirt!).
- Gather and take home leftovers as there's no dumpster available.
- Help keep the area clean.

Please do not bring invasive plants for the Raffle Table or the Freebies Area. If they're fabulous, it's okay to bring invasives for the Display Table.