



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

April 2017

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

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

The Santa Barbara County  
 Horticultural Society  
 March General Meeting  
 will be held on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church  
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

**Speaker: Linda Chalker-Scott**

*How Plants Work;*

*The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do*

Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott has a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Oregon State University and is an ISA certified arborist and an ASCA consulting arborist.



She is WSU's Extension Urban Horticulturist and an Associate Professor in the Department of Horticulture, and holds two affiliate associate professor positions at University of Washington.

She is well known for a clearly inspiring, well documented, non-academic, but not ephemeral presentations. She will talk to us about how plants work, what causes hydrangea flowers to be different colors, and what's really going on underground.

Linda is the author of four books: the award-winning, horticultural myth-busting *The Informed Gardener* (2008) and *The Informed Gardener Blooms Again* (2010) from the University of Washington Press and *Sustainable Landscapes and Gardens: Good Science – Practical Application* (2009) from GFG Publishing, Inc. Her most recent book, *How Plants Work: The Science Behind the Amazing Things Plants Do* from Timber Press

(2015), has received numerous national awards. She is currently co-authoring an update of Art Kruckeberg's *Gardening with Native Plants of the Pacific Northwest* (UW Press), slated to be published in 2017. Thanks to Ted Plute and Larry Falxa for sponsoring this visit!

**Upcoming Meetings**

May	Madeline Ward, SB City Water Conservation Supervisor, and Tyrone La Fay, SB County Water Conservation Coordinator
June	Gwen Stauffer: Plans for the Lotusland Japanese Garden
July	No Meeting
August	Frédérique Lavoipierre Director of Education Santa Barbara Botanic Garden
September	Fall Plant Forum
October	Composting ABC's

**April Garden Tour**

**Taft Gardens, Saturday, April 22 1-3pm.** Carpool from Nordhoff High School parking lot at 12:30pm. John and melody Taft planted their 265 acre garden in about 1986. The emphasis is on Australian, South African and California native plants and there is a writeup on the garden in *Pacific Horticulture* Fall 1996. Opened to the public 1994-2001, it was closed by Ventura Board of supervisors due to neighbor complaints and permit use violations but the garden can still be visited privately. You can bring a sack lunch if you want. A \$5 donation is requested. **Directions are on the following page.**

***From Santa Barbara to Nordhoff High School  
(Carpool Area) 12:30 Departure to Taft Gardens***

Head east on US-101 S

25.6 mi

Take exit 70B for CA-33 N toward Ojai

0.4 mi

Continue onto CA-33 N

13.2 mi

Turn left to stay on CA-33 N

0.6 mi

Make a U-turn

0.2 mi

Nordhoff High School

1401 Maricopa Hwy, Ojai, CA 93023

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**Interesting Article about Franceschi Park**

online at 'Noozhawk' .....

[www.noozhawk.com/article/franceschi\\_park\\_gate\\_easement\\_controversy\\_20170325](http://www.noozhawk.com/article/franceschi_park_gate_easement_controversy_20170325)

Santa Barbara International Orchid Show 2017 Best Phalaenopsis -Zuma Canyon Orchids
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**Dues for 2017 are payable:** \$20/year for a family membership can be paid at the meeting or sent to Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, P.O. Box 31029, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1029, for one year or multiple years.

*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.

**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, 7:30pm at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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

## Virginia Hayes Retires from Lotusland

By Susan Chamberlin



Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection at Ganna Walska Lotusland for the past 25 years, framed by blue bog sage (*Salvia uliginosa*) with lotus (*Nelumbo* sp.) in the Water Garden behind her. *Photo credit: Lotusland.*

When Virginia Hayes began working at Ganna Walska Lotusland as the Curator of the Living Collection in January 1992, she designed and maintained the plant record database on a computer with a big, black screen and a pointy, white cursor that she shared with her Assistant Curator. The Garden was not yet open to the public. Today Lotusland is an internationally recognized botanical garden (in part due to Virginia's efforts, according to Executive Director Gwen Stauffer), and the Assistant Curator uses a small *iPad* in the field to map plant locations with a state-of-the-art GIS program. Virginia retired from Lotusland on February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Hayes, known to her friends in local horticulture simply as Virginia, is a native Californian who grew up on a Modesto farm. Her love of plants began in the orchards of the Central Valley. She moved to Santa Barbara to attend college and holds a Master's degree in Botany from U.C.S.B. where she did her work with the lotus genus, *Nelumbo*. Virginia owned her own business, Santa Barbara Water Garden Care, and managed the Santa Barbara Water Garden Nursery before Lotusland's first Director, Dr. Steven Timbrook, hired her. She soon became an integral part of

Lotusland's administration and outreach, lecturing on lotus in China and participating in cycad conferences on several continents convened by Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

Virginia has led Lotusland's cycad propagation research and conservation program, been involved with docent training and the library, co-authored *Ganna Walska Lotusland: Collections and Horticulture*, written grants and numerous anonymous articles for the *Lotusland Newsletter*, shared the plant collections data with botanists around the world, lectured, led special garden tours, used historical records to reconstruct the history of important older specimens in the collections, overseen the renovation of the orchard, archived Walska materials, supported the Garden's sustainable horticultural philosophy, and organized more than a few special events and "Exceptional Plants" auctions & sales. She has also raised two children, been on the Board of the American Public Gardens Association, helped train and review professionals for the Plant Collections Network of the APGA, volunteered for years trying to save Franceschi Park, authored *The Gourmet Garden*, edited *Santa Barbara Seasons* and co-founded the Horticulture Consortium Santa Barbara, contributed to prestigious publications, written a garden column for the *Santa Barbara Independent*, and received Santa Barbara Beautiful's "Jacaranda Award," the City of Santa Barbara's "Spirit of Service Award," and our Society's "Bouquet of the Year."

Timbrook and the first Lotusland Board set the Garden on its path to success, but more than anyone else in the past quarter century, Virginia Hayes has preserved and enhanced the amazing collection of plants that Ralph T. Stevens and Madame Ganna Walska established and transformed Walska's dream of a botanic garden into the world-class institution Lotusland has become. While I don't usually wax poetic, I think I can safely say that Virginia has also been the heart and soul of Lotusland.

*Acknowledgements: Virginia Hayes; Paul Mills; Bob Craig; Anon. "Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection." Lotusland Newsletter 4:4 (Winter 1995): 6-7.*



**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