



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

September 2016

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

The Santa Barbara County
 Horticultural Society
 September General Meeting
 will be held on Wednesday September 7th,
 7:00pm
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre
 Road

September Plant Forum

presented by **Joe Ambriz, Randy Baldwin, and
 Bruce Reed**

Our annual September Plant Forum usually features growers and retailers giving us a look at what's out there in the commercial plant world. This year we have Joe Ambriz from 7-Day Nursery, Randy Baldwin, General Manager of San Marcos Growers, and Bruce Reed from SB Botanic Gardens. They'll talk about what's new, what's hot, maybe an old favorite that's unappreciated,

and generally what to look for when you're out in nurseries.



Joe works at 7 Day Nursery as assistant manager, specializing in plants he has grown for many years - Orchids (mainly cool growing), tillandsia and more recently caudiciforms. Randy (above left)



is a partner and General Manager of San Marcos Growers, a wholesale nursery in Santa Barbara, California known in the nursery industry for the diversity of plants that it grows and for the introduction of new plants suitable for cultivation in California. Randy has worked for San Marcos Growers for over 35 years. Bruce

(below left) is Horticulturalist and Nursery Manager at

the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and has promoted sustainability practices by encouraging the use of California native plants in garden plantings. *Photo of Bruce Reed by R. Mordini*

Upcoming Meetings:

October	Fred Brander <i>Los Olivos American Viticultural Area</i>
November	Steve Windhager: Santa Barbara Botanical Garden <i>How will our Garden grow? Plans for SBBG in the next decade</i>
December	Corey Welles
January	Bouquet of the Year / Officers Installation
February	Mauricio Gomez: South Coast Habitat Restoration
March	TBD
April	Linda Chalker-Scott: The Informed Gardener

Plant Sale:

Start looking for plants to bring to the sale that might need a little pinching, pruning, or repotting now.

Plant labels will be available at the 9-7 meeting for member donated plants. Please label your plants with common and botanical names and price them. (Ask for help with this). Use soft #4 or #5 pencil (Sharpies fade!).

Bring boxes/flats for customers' purchases and garden carts to assist customers to their cars.

Pictures of plants in bloom help sell.

Bring plants to Trinity Lutheran Church Hall early in the day Friday 9-23.

For assistance see Carol Terry at the meeting or email her at plantnuts@verizon.net .

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 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

A Special Evening Gathering Reporting Back from the 2nd Annual International Soil Not Oil Conference. Thurs, Sept 1, 7-9pm, 2016 - FREE
Location: Art from Scrap Art Center (outdoors)
302 E Cota St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets Friday, Sept. 9th at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7:30pm. **Randy Baldwin** will discuss “*A Wholesale Nursery's Response to the Growing Addiction to Succulent Plants*”

Randy's personal interest in succulents and observations of the increased demand for these plants has steered changes in the



San Marcos Growers plant palette over the thirty-seven years that they have been growing plants. When the nursery started in 1979, only four succulent plants were offered in their catalog. This represented less than 1% of the plants they grew. Over the years they have steadily increased their offerings, and they currently have over 450 succulent taxa in production. This represents nearly

27% of the plants that they now grow. Randy will discuss what he sees as trends in the use of succulent plants in gardens, and the various people, gardens and nurseries that have been responsible for the increased general interest in these plants. He will also talk about his favorite succulents that they grow, and how they propagate and market them.

San Roque Garden Exchange Still Crazy After All These Years By Rick Closson

Seven years ago after the [Jesusita Fire](#), there were more than a dozen neighborhood garden exchanges for locals to share plant materials, advice and information. Now there may be only one remaining in the original format - the San Roque Garden Exchange. It has been puttering along but the original coordinator - Susan Alexander - has returned and hopes to make the monthly exchange more active.

The exchanges are open to all comers and occur throughout the year (except December and January) on the 3rd Saturday of the month. Individual residents of the San Roque neighborhood host them, sometimes with baked goods or other edibles.

There are no membership requirements and no quid pro quo for exchanging. Visitors simply drop by and take or



leave items, understanding that the life of an “exchange” depends on deposits as well as withdrawals. Most exchangers are neighbors without much training in the plant sciences. They grow what they like and share what they can. They may

have questions like, “what is this?” or “where should I plant it?” and other exchangers contribute answers as they can. Attendance by an informed member of SBCHS could be a real benefit when those and other questions arise. SBCHS members are passionate about their plants and often willing to share their enthusiasm. Just the sort of people who might like a neighborhood garden exchange. For more information about the San Roque Garden Exchange, check out our [Facebook page](#) or to be put on the list SanRoqueGardenExchange@gmail.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY Annual Award Banquet Honoring 2016 Horticulturist of the Year **Carol Bornstein**

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden

Festivities will be held at the Peacock Cafe.

Social hour and Silent Auction begin at 6pm.

Dinner and presentations begin at 7pm.

For more information, see the flyer: [2016 HOTY flyer.pdf](#)

The "Cota Sycamores"

by Susan Chamberlin



The "Cota Sycamores" (one is a stump) and the aqueduct fragment adjacent to the Santa Barbara Mission cemetery wall. *Photo credit: S. Chamberlin*

In 2014 I was tapped to help with some of the plant entries in the forthcoming, updated *Santa Barbara: El Pueblo Viejo* book, originally published in 1986. The section devoted to Mission Santa Barbara ended with this sentence: "It is said that the two Cota Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) just outside the Mission cemetery were planted by Father O'Keefe to provide shade for the Cota sisters while they did their laundry at the nearby aqueduct."

When I checked out the sycamores, I found that one remained, and one was just a stump. Because this riparian (or watercourse) area near Mission Creek is full of sycamores, the story that they were planted was suspicious. Thus began a fascinating series of emails and conversations with Roberta Cordero, a Chumash descendant, and Kristina (Tina) Foss, the Mission Museum Director. Roberta's family oral history is that the trees were planted by her great-grandmother, Petra (1860-1932), a

noted basket maker associated with the Mission, who did her weaving there. Roberta said she loved the story, but would be content if it could not be proven.

Tina related that the Franciscans believed the Cota sisters did laundry under the trees for students in the boys' school at the Mission. She also thought it quite likely

that Chumash women hung out under the shady trees to grind acorns or to weave their baskets using water from the aqueduct to make the materials pliable.

Next I corresponded with the Gledhill Library at the Santa Barbara Historical Museum. Roy Register, a research assistant, produced the following, and gave me permission to quote him: "Let's start with a romance by Walker Tompkins. The junction of two aqueducts at the spot now occupied by the sycamores,

'...became the favorite spot for two lovely Hispanic maidens to wash their linens. They were the Cota sisters, descendants of a founding father of the pueblo. At the time Father Joseph O'Keefe was a member of the Mission community. He used to pity the Cota sisters scrubbing their laundry at the elbow bend of the aqueduct, for in the mornings, when the girls did their washing, the summer sun beat pitilessly upon them. One midsummer day in the year 1866, the gentle-hearted padre cut four sycamore branches and planted them in the moist earth at the spot, so as to provide shade for the Cota Sisters. Two of the branches took root and became tall trees during the girls' lifetime.' (Walker A. Tompkins, "Santa Barbara Yesterdays," *Santa Barbara News-Press*, 9-25-1960)"

Roy continued, "This account is easily disposed of. Father O'Keefe was not ordained until September 1868 (*Buildings and Churches of the Mission of Santa Barbara* by the Reverend J.J. O'Keefe, 1886, p 35.) More to the point is a photograph in Father Maynard Geiger's *A Pictorial History of the Physical Development of Mission Santa Barbara from Brush Hut to Institution* (1963, pp 24-25.) The photo, taken from the north side of the Mission, is dated between 1871 and 1875 by Geiger, and shows a single, small tree. Geiger says, "The small tree between the left tower and the majordomo's house along the cemetery wall--today the twin sycamores--was planted by Mr. Juan de Dios Juarez in 1871 when women folk were at work washing. Often referred to in earlier accounts as the Cota Sisters Sycamores, they were so-called from the fact that the two Cota sisters, Mariana and Maria de Jesus, did washing for the padres and the boys of the Colegio Franciscano in the seventies of the past century."

To be continued...



**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