



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Celebrating plants since 1880

SBCHS.ORG

APRIL 2019

Upcoming Speakers

May

- *Fire-Retardant Australian Plants*
Jo O'Connell

June

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

July

- *No Meeting -- It's our Annual Break*

Garden Tours

Sunday, April 7, 10 a.m. - noon



Elisa Reich invites us to tour her "botanic garden," which features cactus, succulents, perennials, tropicals and drought-tolerant plants. Elisa grows organically, tends four chickens, composts and has a 5,000-gallon water tank. Her address is 1241 Mission Ridge Road and there's plenty of parking. Look for the square arbor that marks the garden entrance... *see pg 3*

More News Inside

- Our 2019 Board
- Horticultural Events, Here & There
- Yellow Roses
- A Time of Renewal
- Display, Raffle, Freebies Etiquette
- Are you a website guru? Or AV savvy?

April General Meeting - April 3, 2019, 7 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

Out of Africa:

Pelargoniums for California Landscapes

Who are Gary's Nebula,
Queen of Orange and
Veronica Contreras?

They are floriferous,
California-bred pelargonium
hybrids derived from tough
South African natives that are
perfect for our climate.

At our April meeting, John Schoustra, Nurseryman and owner of Greenwood Daylily Gardens, will introduce a whole palette of pelargoniums, from ground covers to shrubs that provide year-round color and fragrance. (Catch a sneak preview of some of these beauties on page 2.)



John will describe the six main Pelargonium groups that grow well in Southern California, and he'll discuss the trade-offs between the bloom, fragrance and pest resistance that they offer. As he notes, "Mother Nature never provides a free lunch."

John will also share a few images of his 30-year nursery adventure, which began when he started Greenwood Daylily Gardens by purchasing 170,000 daylilies from a nursery in Goleta in 1989. All 170,000 plants were dug and moved to Whittier, CA. Three counties and three moves later, John and his wife Cynthia now live on their 40-acre ranch in Somis, surrounded by acres of organic avocados on the hillsides and their nursery on the more level areas.

Over the years, the nursery has evolved to include what John calls "urban warriors" -- other plants that are as resilient as daylilies, such as reblooming irises, agapanthus, low-chill lilacs and pelargoniums.

After his talk, John will sell a broad selection of plants from his nursery, with payments accepted by cash, check or credit card.

A Preview of John Schoustra's Pelargoniums



Clockwise, from top left: *Queen of Hearts*, *Pink Fizz*, *Queen of Orange* and *Lemon Fancy*. All Photos by John Schoustra.

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

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

Horticultural Events, Here and Beyond

Friday, April 5

Cacti and Succulents, Inside and Out

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society

Ernesto Sandoval

will share his understanding of the way succulents and other desert plants have adapted to surviving drought in desert and other dry environments. He'll cover Biology (how they work overall), Anatomy (how they're organized on the inside), Morphology (how they're organized on the outside) and Ecophysiology (how all the parts above work together) to make the plants adapted to their often challenging lives.

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



Saturday, April 6

Straw Bale Gardening

Mesa Harmony Garden & UCCE Master Gardeners

This event was rained out on March 2. It will run from 10 - 11:30 a.m., then be followed by the garden's spring plant sale, crop swap and potluck. Mesa Harmony Garden, 500 Dolores Drive, Santa Barbara. Free.

Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

S.E.E. Garden Tour: Succulents, Edibles and Ethical Garden Practices

APLD (Association of Professional Garden Designers) Greater Los Angeles District



This year's tour features eight gardens in West Los Angeles, Santa Monica and Brentwood that... see pg 4

Top Right: Photo by Ernesto Sandoval.

Above: Photo courtesy of APLD.

Yellow Roses

by Susan Chamberlin

“Banksian roses” were popular in Santa Barbara in 1895 according to Dr. Franceschi. But when Tina Foss tried to buy a yellow Lady Banks rose (*Rosa banksiae* ‘Lutea’) in the late 1960s because she loved the one that grew over her grandmother’s house in Charleston, South Carolina, she couldn’t find any at our local nurseries. Evergreen, thornless, disease-free, and covered with clusters of tiny, yellow blossoms, this vigorous climber is the glory of early spring gardens in American’s deep south. Foss placed an order for one at La Sumida. When it bloomed, total strangers would knock on her door to ask her what variety it was. Soon La Sumida was filling more requests.



The first of the *Rosa banksiae* species roses was introduced to the West from China. *Rosa banksiae* var. *banksiae* (also known as *R. banksiae* ‘Alba-Plena’) is the source of the common name for all the roses in the species: Banksian roses.

Imported to England in 1807 from a garden in Canton, China, it was named after Dorothea Lady Banks, the wife of the great English naturalist and explorer, Sir Joseph Banks. This variety has small, white flowers. There are other varieties, but the most widely grown is the yellow *R. b.* ‘Lutea’ (introduced from China by a member of the Horticultural Society of London in 1824). A white Lady Banks in Tombstone, Arizona is acknowledged as “The World’s Largest Rose Bush.” It was planted in 1884 and covers an area of about 8,000 square feet, attracting visitors from around the world when it begins blooming in April.



While it is the world’s largest rose bush, the Tombstone Lady... see pg 4

Top Right: Yellow Lady Banks rose (*Rosa banksiae* ‘Lutea’) blooms in spring with numerous small flowers. Photo: Kristina W. Foss.

Above: A mix of white and yellow Lady Banks roses in Mission Historical Park. Photo: S. Chamberlin.

Member News

Stay current with the society and renew your membership now.

Choose your category:

- *Active Member*, \$20*
An individual or family.
- *Associate Member*, \$15*
Currently enrolled students.
- *Honorary Member*, \$0
Designated by the Society.
- *Life Member*, \$0
No dues required if you have reached your 80th birthday.

Pay during our monthly meetings or mail a check to: Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, PO Box 31029, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1029.

**Note: Add \$10 to your membership if you wish to receive the monthly newsletter via US mail, rather than e-mail.*

Garden Tour, from page 1



Above and page 1: Photos by Helen Wong.

Display, Raffle & Freebies

Plants should be fun, unusual, in tip-top condition and bear labels.

Also, for Freebies:

- 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.

Yellow Roses, *from pg 3*

Banks is not the “World’s Favorite Rose.” That is a designation the World Federation of Roses confers on roses that have been voted on by their international membership and inducted into their “Rose Hall of Fame.” The yellow rose ‘Graham Thomas’ was voted the world’s favorite and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009. (*R. banksiae* ‘Lutea’ made its “Old Rose Hall of Fame” in 2018.) While technically ‘Graham Thomas’ is a shrub rose, it is often found as a climber here in southern California. Hybridized in 1983 by David Austin, it was named for his mentor Graham Stuart Thomas, the English author on Old Roses and so much more. Unlike Lady Banks roses, it blooms repeatedly into fall with rather large, fragrant blossoms that have an Old Rose appearance.



Rose breeder David Austin (1926-2018) began hybridizing what he would call “English Roses” to capture an Old Rose look and fragrance combined with features more typical of modern roses on his family’s farm in Albrighton, Shropshire, U.K. The first hybrid he introduced flowered in 1961 (‘Constance Spry’), and in 1969 he began his David Austin Roses nursery. Today *David Austin Roses Limited* is the most successful rose brand in the world. Like his mentor Thomas, Austin authored important books on roses and won numerous awards. He introduced more than 200 cultivars before his death in December. A selection of the most popular are sold in America as “Austin Roses.” Few perform in our climate the same way they do in England as Clair G. Martin wrote in his 1997 book, *100 English Roses for the American Garden*. Many of those 100 have been eclipsed by more recent Austin introductions, and some are no longer available on Austin’s website. Several Austin cultivars are just budding on either side of the drinking fountain at the A.C. Postel Memorial Rose Garden in Mission Historical Park. A mixture of carefree white and yellow Lady Banks roses is already blooming to the north on the edge of the lawn.

Top Right: ‘Graham Thomas’ is one of the most popular of the so-called “English Roses” bred by David Austin. It is often a climber in southern California. Photo: Joan S. Bolton.

Horticultural Events, *from pg 2*

will inspire and delight designers, plant aficionados and homeowners with on-trend gardens. The tour culminates at a large estate garden where the design team will present short, walking tours about rainwater harvesting, supporting wildlife using native plants, succulents from around the world, and irrigating a complex garden with both potable water and rainwater. Tickets: \$40-\$60. Must be purchased in advance at <https://apld-see-garden-tour.eventbrite.com>.

Friday - Sunday, April 26 - 28

Santa Barbara Earth Day Festival

Community Environmental Council

Themed "Educate. Inspire. Act." the festival features 200 eco-friendly exhibitors, live music, speakers, a Green Car show and Environmental Hero awards. Alameda Park. Free.

Sunday, April 28, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Annual Spring Plant Sale

The Huntington Gardens

Browse water-wise Southwestern, California native and Australian plants that provide abundant color and texture, along with tomatoes and other edibles. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Free with General Admission.

Are You a Website Guru?

Just like a garden, our website, sbchs.org, could use a tune-up.

Tending the site was just one of the many society tasks that Ernie Pfadenhauer, our former co-president, cared for. But with Ernie's passing, the website has begun to suffer from neglect.

If you have a few hours a month to update and manage the website, please contact Debby Lipp at debbylipp@cox.net.

We Still Need an AV Expert

Do you know a reliable high school, college student or anyone else who can set up and take down the audio-visual equipment, and help set up and take down the tables and chairs, at our monthly meetings?

This is a paid position. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. and pay is \$50/meeting. To apply, contact Gretchen Ingmanson at tikiinga@gmail.com or 805-452-0407.