



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

*Celebrating plants since 1880*

**SBCHS.ORG**

**DECEMBER 2018**

## Upcoming Speakers

### January

- Potluck Supper
- Bouquet of the Year Award
- *California Natives: Nuanced or Needy?*  
Ben Miller, S&S Seeds

### February

- *The Permaculture Garden at SBCC*  
Jackson Hayes

## Ernie H. Pfadenhauer, R.I.P.



Ernie passed away peacefully at his home at the age of 72 on Thursday, October 25.

Ernie was co-president of the Horticultural Society for the past four years with Debby Lipp.

He was an inveterate plant enthusiast, possessed a kind, cheerful, witty spirit and was tireless in his efforts to support the horticultural society in numerous capacities.

Says Debby Lipp, "I wish I'd had the chance to know Ernie better. He only moved back to Santa Barbara....see pg 2

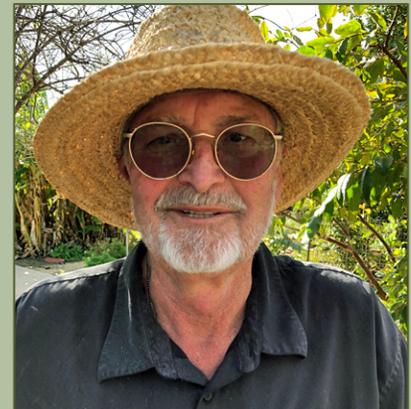
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December General Meeting - December 5, 2018, 7 p.m.  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

## Heritage Mission-Era Plants of La Huerta Gardens at the Old Mission Santa Barbara

This talk by Jerry Sortomme will cover the 1769-1834 exact History-scape Flora of Alta California Mission plants.



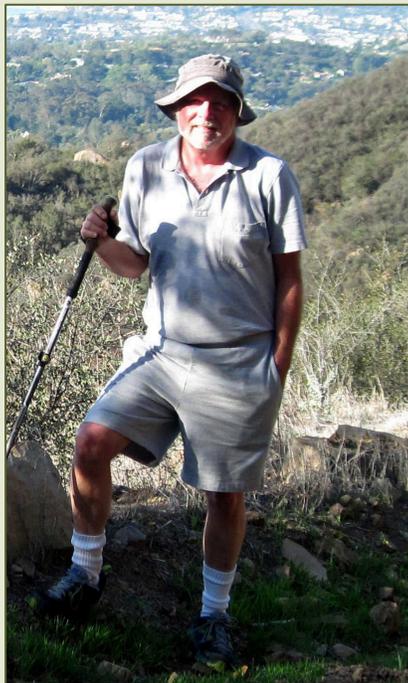
At La Huerta Gardens, Jerry defines heritage plants as singularly unique plant species or varieties or strains that are accurate for the Alta California mission era and have a distinctive storyline.

Those plants within the Old Mission's walled garden include edible trees, such as ancient Mission citrus, fig, olive, pear and pomegranate; edible shrubs and vines, such as Old Mission Santa Barbara nopal cactus, Mission grapevine and Castillo sugarcane; seasonal edibles such as Bolivian Rainbow chilis, maize/corn and Sonora winter wheat; frontier herbs, such as horehound, sweet mace and lemon verbena; and utilitarian crops, such as Pima cotton, gourds and Cochineal Mission cactus.

La Huerta Gardens features ornamental and native plants from the mission era as well. Ornamental plants include Rose of Castile, Montezuma marigold, Blood of Christ begonia and Serra autumn crocus. Indigenous flora includes Portola California sycamore, Island Torrey pine, Sea Bluff white sage and Humqaq dudleya.

After retiring from SBCC as the Program Chair and an Instructor in the Environmental Horticulture Department for 22 years, Jerry created La Huerta Gardens. He is its manager and leads volunteers on Wednesday Work Days and other days to maintain the gardens.

Jerry holds a California lifetime secondary education teaching credential and is a long-established professor, nursery professional and promoter of hands-on horticulture.



*Ernie Pfadenhauer,  
from pg 1*

a few years ago, but immediately became involved in the Hort Society.

"He was co-President, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and audio-visual wrangler, and he did them all well.

"He grew strange and wonderful plants: Puyas, Sinningias, Orchids...

Somehow, except at Board meetings, we

never sat down to chat, and I'm sorry. I'll miss him."

Ernie grew up in Santa Barbara and attended UCSB, where he earned a BS in chemistry and MA in physical chemistry. He spent his career as a chemist, spearheading pharmaceutical research. He worked on an incredible range of projects, including such disparate subjects as developing novel anti-vomiting and anti-nausea compounds for both the human and veterinary markets; creating drugs to combat bladder cancer; creating immunoassay technology to measure thyroxine; and creating new and improved chemical fixation techniques for tissue heart valves.

Upon retirement, Ernie returned to Santa Barbara, where he lived on the Mesa and enjoyed spending time in his greenhouse and hiking our local hills. He leaves behind his wife, Tina, who requests some quiet privacy, as many visitors and caregivers were in and out their home during Ernie's final weeks.

The family is not planning a service at this time.

## Links from our November Speaker, Thomas Cole

- Resilience Design  
<https://www.fsnnetwork.org/resilience-design-smallholder-farming-systems-approach>
- Permagardens  
<https://www.fsnnetwork.org/tops-permagarden-toolkit>
- African Women Rising  
<http://www.africanwomenrising.org>

## Horticultural Events Around Town

### Saturday, December 1

*What Bare-Root Fruit Trees, Food-Bearing Shrubs, Canes & Veggies Will You Plant This Winter?*

Mesa Harmony Garden & the Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers.

A panel discussion of the best low-chill, edible plants for the South Coast, including new cultivars, and the importance of root stocks that can take drought and limit size.

Participants are encouraged to bring fruit, refreshments and/or plants or seeds to share, along with a folding garden chair or stool, and water. 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Mesa Harmony Garden, 510 Dolores Drive, Santa Barbara. Free.

*Above Right: Mirabella Plums, contributed by Linda Buzzell*



### Friday, December 7

*Staging Your Succulents*

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society.

Local expert and collector David Tufenkian is very accomplished at this art, and will explain his approach to displaying many different types of succulents.

Doors open at 6:45 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members only, as this is also the group's Christmas dinner event.

*Above Right: Ariocarpus arrangement, by David Tufenkian*



### Thursday, December 13

*Annual Holiday Party*

Santa Barbara Rose Society.

No formal program -- just good food and good fun. 6 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

### Orchid Society of Santa Barbara

The group meets on the third Wednesday of the month, except July. Open to all orchid lovers.

7:30 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

### Santa Barbara Garden Club

(Formerly the Men's Garden Club of Santa Barbara)

Members meet on the fourth Thursday of the month, 11:30 a.m., University Club, 1332 Santa Barbara St. \$20 for lunch and the presentation; the presentation is free to members who opt to skip the lunch.



## Farewell to the Little Gardens Club

by Susan Chamberlin

*“This is it, our final meeting as the Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club”* read a line in the June 2018 club bulletin. And so, after 91 years, the Little Gardens Club held a luncheon on June 19<sup>th</sup> to say goodbye to Santa Barbara.

Despite an email plea from the Board following their March meeting, there were not enough nominees to fill the positions for officers and committee chairs that keep an organization viable. These duties had been largely carried out by the same individuals for the past 5 years, and they wanted to retire. Also, a steady decline in membership meant less income from dues to fund projects and the club’s scholarship for students in the Environmental Horticulture department at Santa Barbara City College.

The Board decided to merge their remaining scholarship funds with those of the former Men’s Garden Club of Santa Barbara, now called the Santa Barbara Garden Club and open to people of any gender. Little Garden Club members were invited to join them. In September the Santa Barbara Garden Club announced

through their *Compost* newsletter that they were transferring \$5,000 to their SBCC Scholarship Fund, which included \$1,400 from the Little Gardens Club.

Founded on September 19, 1927, the Little Gardens Club evolved from the eight-member garden group of the Westside Club and was initially called The Westside Garden Club. The first president was Mrs. William R. (Mary) Hart, a position she held for 12 years. Members met at her home on San Pascual Street. The magnolia trees on the Westside are attributed to her leadership.

Beautifying the west side of the city with a focus on the small garden homes there was the original goal of the club. In 1932 the club expanded from the Westside and began meeting at the public library as the Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club. The name and a formal constitution were adopted in 1933. The club did beautification projects throughout the area, including some landscaping at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. They also had monthly meetings with plant exchanges and speakers addressing ... *see pg 4*

*Above: An undated photo (thanks to Diane Galvan) of several members of the Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club in festive attire at a special club gathering.*

## Member News

### Please Renew Your Dues

Renew now, and your annual membership will be good through December 2019.

Choose your category:

- *Active Member*, \$20\*  
Whether for an individual or a family.
- *Associate Member*, \$15\*  
For currently enrolled students.
- *Honorary Member*, \$0  
Designated by the Society.
- *Life Member*, \$0

No dues are required for members who have reached their 80th birthday.

Pay via check, cash or credit card during our monthly meetings (look for Duke McPherson at the back table) or mail a check, payable to the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, to:

PO Box 31029, Santa Barbara, CA 93130-1029.

*\*Note: If you wish to receive the monthly newsletter via US mail, rather than e-mail, please add \$10 to your membership to defray the cost. Each newsletter costs approximately \$2 in printing and postage. As such, 12 monthly mailings cost \$24/year, which is more than the annual dues.*

## We're Hiring!

We are seeking one or more reliable persons to set up and take down the audio-visual equipment -- and assist with setting up and taking down tables and chairs -- at our monthly meetings, on the first Wednesday of each month of the year, except July.

Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Pay is \$50/meeting.

To apply, contact Gretchen Ingmanson at [tikiinga@gmail.com](mailto:tikiinga@gmail.com) or 805-452-0407.

## *Little Gardens Club, from pg 3*



a variety of garden topics, participated in flower shows, went on "garden journeys" and held special gatherings.

An undated clipping from about 1986 by Alice Page claimed the Little Gardens Club was the oldest and largest garden club in Santa Barbara. However, the oldest honor probably belongs

to the Garden Club of Santa Barbara, founded in 1916. It is likely, though, that the Little Gardens Club was the largest in those days because there was no cap on its membership, and it was not necessary to be nominated by a member before joining—two conditions of the other club, whose members typically had large, not little, gardens.

Recently I asked my daughter (who has managed a campus edible garden and been involved with sustainable landscaping issues) why young people don't join garden clubs. Her answer was simple and to the point: "We can't afford houses; we don't have gardens."

*Above: Mrs. William R. (Mary) Hart, Santa Barbara Little Gardens Club founder and president, 1927-1939.*

*Thanks to Diane Galvan for clippings and photos from Little Gardens Club scrapbooks, which were the basis for this article. That collection is now at the Gledhill Library of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum.*

## Display and Raffle Tables & Freebie Plants

Plants for both the Display Table and Raffle Table should be fun, unusual, in tip-top condition and bear labels. (Fill out an ID form for display plants from the stack on the Display Table.)

For the Freebies Area outside the main doors:

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

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

## Join Our Board Or Volunteer to be a Committee Chair

We are actively seeking new members for the Board and to serve as Committee Chairs. Please volunteer for one (or more) of the open positions described below. It's a great way to support our society and get to know more members.

### Board Members

- *President:* Debby Lipp
- *Vice President:* OPEN  
Fill in when the president is unavailable to conduct general meetings and/or board meetings.
- *Secretary:* OPEN  
Attend board meetings; take, print and keep a record of board minutes.
- *Treasurer:* Gretchen Ingmanson
- *Director:* Diane Dunhill, Carolyn Koegler, Duke McPherson, Dorothy Warnock
- *Director:* OPEN  
We'd welcome a few more directors to attend board meetings and weigh in on the society's direction and decisions.

### Committee Chairs

- *Garden Tours:* Helen Wong
- *Membership:* Duke McPherson
- *Newsletter Editor:* Joan S. Bolton
- *Newsletter Distribution:* Larry Disharoon
- *Plant Sale:* OPEN  
Coordinate vendors and volunteers for the annual September sale; set up the venue the previous day; open and close the sale on Saturday; and delegate duties as desired.
- *Plant Sale Assistant:* OPEN
- *Programs:* Debby Lipp
- *Programs Assistant:* Duke McPherson
- *Publicity:* Alan Scholl
- *Refreshments:* Elisa Reich
- *Scholarships:* Dorothy Warnock.

General inquiries: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com  
Newsletter only: joan\_hortsociety@santabarbaragardens.com

## Garden Tours

Our garden tours are on hiatus over the winter and will resume next spring.

Tours are typically on the first Saturday of the month at 10 a.m. If you have a favorite garden that can accommodate 25 to 40 avid horticulturists, please contact Helen Wong or Debby Lipp.