



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

March 2017

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

The Santa Barbara County
 Horticultural Society
 March General Meeting
 will be held on March 1st, 7:00pm
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

Speaker: Kyra L. Rude
Biological Control for the Garden

Kyra Rude manages Rincon-Vitova Insectaries, Inc.



which produces and markets
 supplies for biological pest
 control. Her discussion topic will
 be general biological control for
 the garden, with highlights on ant
 suppression, aphids,
 caterpillars/loopers, and attracting

beneficials to the garden. Her presentation about
 insect lifecycles and predator-prey relationships
 uses visual aids and live insect demonstrations
 make the principles
 of biocontrol easy to
 understand.

After earning degrees
 in Biology and
 Chemistry at Purdue
 University, Kyra



Chrysoperla carnea (adult Lacewing)

moved to Ventura to take an entomology internship
 at Rincon-Vitova Insectaries. She has been learning
 about organic methods of farming and gardening for
 10 years and enjoys spreading Rincon-Vitova's
 mission of sustainability, especially to children and
 younger generations.

Upcoming Meetings

April	Linda Chalker-Scott: Author "How Gardens Work"
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

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:

Bee-friendly garden talk by author Kate Frey

The Beekeepers Guild of Santa Barbara is co-
 hosting along with the S.B. Botanic Garden, an
 afternoon talk by Kate Frey, author of "The bee-
 friendly Garden." *Date:* March 11, 2017 *Where:*
 Unity of Santa Barbara, 227 E. Arrellaga St. *Time:*
 2:00-3:30pm www.sbchs.org/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.

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

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets Friday, March 3rd, 7:30pm at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Woody Minnich will discuss "Socotra"

Socotra is one of the three most exciting islands in world. Along with the Galapagos and Madagascar, Socotra offers some of the most unique and endemic plant and animal life to be found anywhere. This island, about an eighth the size of California, is almost directly south of Yemen and the greater Arabian



Peninsula. It is from this special relationship with the Arabian Peninsula and the northeastern coast of Africa, that Socotra gets its amazing environment.

Woody's travel will take us from Socotra's one airport near Hadibu, the capital city, up through the Diksam plateau and all around the entire island. Camping out on this island is a real treat, and hiking in the canyons and up to the mountains, is really exciting. Today, visiting Socotra is almost impossible for Americans, as Socotra is considered to be part of the country of Yemen. Woody's group were some of the last Americans to visit this region, as they just followed the bombing of the USS Cole in the port of Aden. Since then, things have only become worse, so come vicariously travel with

Woody to Socotra, a place that many of us may never be able to visit again.

Woody, as he is commonly known, has been in the cactus hobby for some 47 years and has become well known for his participation and contributions. His involvement in the cactus and succulent world is well represented by his 45 years of field work in regions including: Africa, Argentina, Australia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Madagascar, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Peru, Socotra, the United States and Yemen.

72nd Annual Santa Barbara International Orchid Show

Earl Warren Showgrounds: March 17th, 18th, 19th; 9am to 5pm. SBOrchidShow.com

Arroyo Hondo Preserve Docent Training, Spring 2017

Seven Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, April 5, and 12 Times: 1:00-4:00 p.m.



Spend springtime enjoying the beauty of Arroyo Hondo Preserve of the Land Trust for Santa Barbara County as you learn to become a

docent for this glorious natural paradise.

Learn from local experts about the diverse flora and fauna of the rich habitats of the canyon and about its fascinating geology. Learn about the history of the Gaviota Coast, including the times when Arroyo Hondo was home to the Chumash people, and later when it was a working ranch.

Come join fellow nature-lovers as you prepare to lead our popular educational children's tours, and for Land Trust members and the general public. To register or for more information please contact volunteer@sblandtrust.org

More Plants For Our New Normal By Susan Chamberlin

The ink wasn't even dry on last month's article about plants for our new normal, dry conditions when the heavens opened up and the creeks were dry no more. It is painfully obvious, however, that water for our gardens will continue to be scarce because there is an astounding number of houses and condos currently in the development pipeline, not to mention the hundreds of units built in the County in the last decade (half of which had drought conditions). This month continues with the theme of reliable, drought-tolerant plants. I have added information for all plants below, so any errors are mine.

Randy Baldwin, General Manager of San Marcos Growers, made the stunning bouquet of aloes presented to Mike Tully at the January meeting. In response to my query for three or four plant suggestions, Randy wrote that he had "way too many favorites" to limit his choices. Instead he listed some of the nursery's top sellers:

Aloe 'Rooikappie'—This small, clumping aloe is a very popular succulent groundcover. It flowers nearly year-round with orange-yellow blossoms on stalks that rise above rosettes of slightly spotted leaves. The cultivar name roughly translates as Little Red Riding Hood.

Acacia cognata 'Cousin Itt' --Described last month as one of Billy Goodnick's picks for dry, light shade.

Agave attenuata 'Nova' – Blue fox tail agave is a lovely, bluish colored cultivar of the common succulent found all over Santa Barbara. Another top selling agave is 'Blue Glow'. Short and tidy, its succulent, bluish leaves have red margins that seem to glow.

Arbutus 'Marina'—Marina strawberry tree takes its name from the Marina District in San Francisco. This pretty, evergreen tree with reddish bark and flowers year-round is believed to be a selection of a hybrid between *Arbutus unedo* and *A. andrachne*. The red fruits are edible but not especially palatable.

I was surprised that the top selling native at San Marcos Growers is *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius*. Correctly called Santa Cruz Island ironbark, if a common name can be correct, many know this large, broadleaf evergreen tree native to our Channel Islands as Catalina ironbark. And many do a double take when they see the leaves because they look like marijuana. The other top selling native is *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, one of Carol Bornstein's picks last month.

Virginia Hayes, Curator of the Living Collection at Ganna Walska Lotusland, wrote,



"A few of my favorite plants: *Strelitzia* (several species and cultivars); *Phormium* (many to choose from); Always succulents, such as *Senecio* and *Aeonium*, with many sizes and forms."

As if on cue, as I was walking up Valerio Street not long ago, I came upon a planting of green and bronze *Aeonium* with common *Agave attenuata* and *Senecio mandraliscae* (blue chalk fingers), all looking incredibly lush after a shower. But when the rain is gone, they will still look good.

A mixture of green and bronze *Aeonium* varieties with common fox tail agaves (*Agave attenuata*) and blue chalk fingers (*Senecio mandraliscae*) in an unirrigated parking strip on Valerio Street
Photo credit: S. Chamberlin

Note: Everyone interviewed for the February issue had a couple of suggestions for plants that are available from San Marcos Growers (wholesale only!) You can visit www.smgrowers.com for photos and fuller descriptions. To purchase plants, visit a retail nursery, where you will find many other choices suitable for our new normal conditions.



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

Officers:

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Garden Tours: Helen Wong
Newsletter: Ernie Pfadenhauer
Bulletin Distribution: Larry Disharoon
Plant Sale: Carol Terry
Refreshments: Elisa Reich
Scholarships: DorothyWarnock
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