



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

October 2016

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcounthorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

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

Los Olivos American Viticultural Area
presented by Fred Brander



The Santa Ynez Valley is a unique area- it one of the very few transverse (that is, east-west oriented) valleys in North America, framed as it is by the Santa Ynez Mountains to the south and the San Rafael Mountains to the north.

This geological quirk is important for the local wine industry, because the Santa Ynez River, which runs east-west and empties into the Pacific Ocean near Lompoc, also funnels cool fog to the interior from the Pacific each night. This fog plays a critical role in allowing the area to produce high quality wine from a wide array of grapes: the closer to the ocean a vineyard sits, the more heavily influenced it is by the marine layer, and therefore the cooler it is. This allows for cool-climate grapes such as Chardonnay and Pinot Noir to be grown to the west of the Brander Vineyard, in the Sta. Rita Hills, and for warm-climate grapes to be grown in Happy Canyon, to the east of us.

The Brander Vineyard itself is situated in a kind viticultural Goldilocks zone, with a climate that is nearly perfect for growing and producing the graceful, classically-styled, Bordeaux-influenced wines. Sauvignon Blanc and Cabernet Sauvignon, varieties for which Fred Brander served as a pioneer in planting, flourish in this area, with its remarkable similarities to Bordeaux.

The French word “terroir” loosely translates as “sense of place”, and the many factors that contribute to our specific terroir- soil types, daily temperature swings, the directional aspect of the land itself, and the amount of fog and precipitation we receive, among other components- are sufficiently unique that our application for a dedicated American Viticultural Area (AVA) designation has received approval, in recognition of the singular characteristics of this extraordinary place.

Upcoming Meetings:

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

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

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

Title: *“Exploring South Africa: From Cape Town to Richtersveld”*

Speaker: Guillermo Rivera



Guillermo will take us on a journey through the provinces of Western Cape and Northern Cape, exploring the great succulent diversity of South Africa. On this journey we will visit several National and State Parks including Namaqua and Richtersvelds. The timing of this fascinating trip matches the incredible event of mass flowering in the desert. Conophytum, Lithops, Aloes, Pachypodium, and many Mesembs are among the plants we will see on this presentation, together with some wildlife shots taken in Kruger National Park.

Guillermo Rivera is the owner of South America Nature Tours. He personally leads tours to countries including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico (including Baja), South Africa, Madagascar, and Namibia. He hopes to add Socotra to this list.

Guillermo has a PhD in Botany and his tours are focused on cactus and Agaves in the Americas, and succulents such as Aloes, Mesembs, and baobabs (South Africa, Namibia, and Madagascar). His guided tours usually last 14-16 days, and some of them include extensions of about a week (to Galapagos, to Manu National Park in Peruvian Amazon, to Antarctica may be offered if logistics allow it after a trip to Southern Chile and Argentina).

Margie Sharpe Died Peacefully on September 17, 2016



She was born Margaret Elizabeth Benbury on June 28, 1937 in Whittier, CA to Lemuel and Nellie Benbury. She shared her childhood with her younger brother

Harris. Following High School, she attended UCSB where she was a member of Delta Sigma Epsilon and where she met her first husband, Don Sharpe, who she married in 1958. Following college Don and Margie moved to Pacific Palisades, where Margie gave birth to four boys: Douglas, Steven, Michael and Peter. The family moved back to Santa Barbara in 1966, and rather than risk giving birth to a fifth boy, they adopted their daughter Cynthia at birth. For a brief time, Margie taught special needs children with the Santa Barbara School District, and also spent many years volunteering for Children's Home Society. An avid gardener, Margie was a member of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Master Gardener program as well as the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society, where she produced our newsletter for many years and served as our President for several years. Her son Douglas said our Society was a big part of her life and provided some of her happiest times. Margie is survived by all five of her children and three of their spouses, her brother and his wife Nancy, and a total of 8 grandchildren, all of whom she loved deeply. The family is grateful to the staff at Heritage House and Assisted Hospice of Santa Barbara for providing exceptional care during the final stages of her life. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden or the Santa Barbara Humane Society.

The "Cota Sycamores" Continued

by Susan Chamberlin

In our last exciting episode, I repeated the legend of the Cota Sycamores that appeared in the 1986 edition of the book, *Santa Barbara: El Pueblo Viejo*, soon to be republished in an updated version with a few contributions by me. Today one of the trees still stands tall by the Santa Barbara Mission cemetery wall and the aqueduct fragment along Los Olivos Street, and the other tree is just a stump. I also related different possible accounts on the trees' origins from Roberta Cordero, (a Chumash descendant), Kristina Foss (the Mission Museum Director), and Roy Register (a research assistant at the Gledhill Library of the Santa Barbara Historical Museum), as well as my own suspicion that the trees might have occurred naturally in this riparian (or watercourse) area near Mission Creek. In 1998 the Cota Sycamores (both still living) and the story that Father O'Keefe reportedly planted them to shade the Cota sisters as they did their laundry were included in the Historic Landmark Resolution designating "Mission Historical Park" a City of Santa Barbara landmark. This was the legend in the *EPV* book, which Roy Register effectively debunked (see the Sept. 2016 *Newsletter*.)

Recently I was contacted by the editors of the *EPV* book as it will soon go to press. A mad dash ensued to make last minute revisions. I visited the Cota Sycamores and found a plaque dedicated in 2014 by Santa Barbara Beautiful to the late television personality, Huell Howser, who once did a feature on the trees. I also notice that the stump was sprouting a sycamore shoot! Another mad dash ensued to find out how to get this sprout nurtured and protected. It turns out that the trees are on City, not Mission, property. Tim Downey, the City of SB Urban Forest Superintendent, had already noticed the sprout and will take steps to protect it.

The plaque dedicated to Howser references the single remaining Cota Sycamore. Whether that will need to be revised to a plural remains to be seen. Whether any of my research on the Cota Sycamores makes it into the new *El Pueblo Viejo* book also remains to be seen because after I submitted my revisions, the editor took off for a trip to Croatia.



A sycamore sprout emerges from the stump of one of the Historic Landmark Cota Sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*). The remaining tree is on the right, and in the background are Mission-era ruins that are also part of the "Mission Historical Park" City Landmark, as well as other sycamores. *Photo credit: S. Chamberlin*



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

Officers:

Co-Presidents and Secretary:

Debby Lipp

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Vice President: Carol Terry

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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