



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Celebrating plants since 1880

SBCHS.ORG

JANUARY 2019

Upcoming Speakers

February

- *The Permaculture Garden at SBCC*
Jackson Hayes

March

- *Heritage Mission-Era Plants of La Huerta Gardens*
Jerry Sortomme
(This is not a repeat. At the last minute, Jerry was unable to give his talk in December.)

April

- *Pelargoniums Out of Africa*
John Schoustra

May

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

E-Mail Help Needed

With the passing of our co-president, Ernie Pfadenhauer, we are continuing to learn more about the many quiet ways that Ernie contributed to the society.

One of Ernie's unsung tasks was maintaining the society's e-mail.

Please let Debby Lipp know if you are willing to monitor and maintain the society's account.

More News Inside

- Horticultural Events Around Town
- A Photo Tour of Jeff Chemnick's Aloes in Wonderland
- Renew Your Membership
- We're Hiring!
- The 2019 Annual Plant Sale -- Already in Process
- Our 2019 Slate of Officers

January General Meeting - January 2, 2019, 6 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

Come celebrate a trifecta this month:

Our Annual Potluck Supper,
the prestigious Bouquet of the Year Award,
and "California Natives: Nuanced or Needy?"

Join us the evening after New Year's Day for our annual potluck supper. Bring your favorite dish -- an appetizer, entree, salad, side dish or dessert -- to serve 6 to 8 people. Dinner starts at 6 p.m., although everyone is encouraged to arrive early, to help set up and socialize first. The society will supply plates and utensils.

Next up will be the Bouquet of the Year. The award is the highest honor that the society gives, and goes to a person or organization who has excelled in the advancement and promotion of horticulture in the Santa Barbara area. The award was bestowed during the earliest days of the society (which was founded in 1880), re-established in 1959 and has been given every year since.

Ben Miller of S & S Seeds will then speak. His talk will lay a foundation of principles of what to expect when working with California native species, including some of the peculiarities they display, along with the numerous benefits they offer.



Additionally, there will be discussion around the various roles of grasses, forbs and shrubs in an ecosystem and the transitions that can be expected when working with these plants. Lastly, Ben will describe the beneficial insects that use these plants and how the ecosystem can benefit from a mixed species approach, versus a monoculture.

S & S Seeds is a 40+ year old company that focuses on providing California native seed for restoration, revegetation and... *see pg 2*

Ben Miller of S&S Seeds, from pg 1

mitigation projects around southern California. Seed collection happens throughout the region. Production and cleaning take place in Los Alamos and distribution occurs from the company's Carpinteria warehouse and office location.

Ben is Director of Sales and Customer Outreach for S & S Seeds. Remarkably, he has no formal training in horticulture. Instead, his knowledge and experience have been gained and gathered through trial and error, listening, monitoring and a common-sense approach to planting and using these plants.

Docent Training at Arroyo Hondo Preserve

Spend winter time 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 its fascinating geology.

Also 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 programs for school children, Land Trust members and the general public.

7 Wednesdays, 1 - 4 p.m.

February 6, 13, 20 and 27, and March 6, 13 and 20.

To register or for more information:
volunteer@sblandtrust.org.

Did You Know?

The Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society was established on April 12, 1880, and is one of the oldest horticultural societies in America.

Early society members participated in fairs and exhibits throughout the country, including the New Orleans World Fair in 1886 and the St. Louis World Fair in 1904.

Horticultural Events Around Town

Friday, January 4

Botanical Travel in Madagascar

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society.

Brian Kemble, curator at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, will present a horticultural photo tour of Madagascar. The huge island nation off the southeast coast of Africa is home to animal species and botanical wonders that are found nowhere else in the world.

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

Saturday, January 5

Winter Deciduous Pruning Clinic

California Rare Fruit Growers & UC Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.

Larry Saltzman, President of the Channel Islands chapter of the CRFG, and Master Gardeners are presenting this free public workshop.

You'll learn about:

- Caring for common fruiting trees.
- Principles of how to prune for tree health and productivity.
- Winter pruning vs. summer pruning.

Registration: 9:45 a.m.

Workshop: 10 a.m. - noon

Contact: (805) 893-3485 or cesantabarbara.ucanr.edu
Mesa Harmony Garden, 500 Dolores Drive, Santa Barbara



Saturday, January 12

Many Manzanitas

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.



Take a walking tour of the Garden's manzanita collection with Bruce Reed, the Garden's Horticulturist. Which are the easiest to use in your garden? Which are found in the wild? Which have proved the longest lived?
10:30 am. - noon
Member: \$15;
Non-Member: \$25.

Above Right: Anna apple blossoms.

Above: Arctostaphylos densiflora 'Howard McMinn'.

Both photos by Joan S. Bolton.

Down the Rabbit Hole at Aloes in Wonderland

by Susan Chamberlin

Not to mix metaphors, but there were many wonders to behold when Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society members were entertained by Jeff Chemnick at his garden-nursery, Aloes in Wonderland, on Saturday, November 10th.



In addition to aloes and things with radial symmetry that catch his fancy, Jeff grows and hybridizes cycads and is a well-regarded authority on Mexican cycads. Look for his book on that subject, co-authored by Timothy Gregory, which will be published in the near future.

Jeff is memorialized by a new species of beetle, *Ceratophila chemnicki*, that was named after him by William Tang and his colleagues. The beetle is a cycad pollinator specific to the cycad *Ceratozamia euryphyllidia* found in Veracruz, Mexico. Jeff was also memorialized a few year ago as the unit of measurement Randy Baldwin devised during the hunt for Santa Barbara's biggest dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*).

Jeff founded his nursery of over 4 acres around his home... see pg 4



Top Right: Jeff Chemnick at his garden-nursery, Aloes in Wonderland.

Above Left: Yellow-flowering *Aloe elegans* backed by a grey cycad, *Encephalartos lehmannii*. The large aloe behind is *A. excelsa*, and the tall green cycad to the left is *Encephalartos transvenosus x. woodii*. The house was designed by architect Steve Hausz to replace the house destroyed in the Tea Fire.

Above Middle: *Encephalartos trispinosus x arenarius* by the front porch is one of Jeff's cycad hybrids. He affectionately calls it "Blue Meanie."

Above Right: A cycad (*Dioon califanoi*) and a bright green aloe (*A. sabaea x*) at the base of *Aloe Hercules* with Jeff's two glass houses in the rear.

All photos by Susan Chamberlin.

Member News

Please Renew Your Dues

Stay current with the society and renew now. Your 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 or
805-452-0407.

Aloes in Wonderland, from pg 3



on the Riviera in 1988. Both the house and his nursery stock burned to the ground in the Tea Fire in 2008. Some things survived, but much of what one sees today was planted after the house, designed by architect Steve Hausz, was completed in December 2010.

The nursery's story and plant IDs for many of the things we saw on the tour can be found at Jeff's website:

www.AloesinWonderland.com

*Top Left: Two cycads hybridized by Jeff. In the small, blue pot is *Encephalartos horridus natalensis*, and in the large pot behind it is *Ceratozamia robusta*..*

*Left: *Puya coerulea* backed by a dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*).*

All photos by Susan Chamberlin.



We've Set a Date

Start planning now for what you might grow for our annual plant sale. The 2019 event will be Saturday, September 21.

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.

Our 2019 Slate of Officers ... along with a few openings we'd still love to fill

We are seeking to fill a few slots on the Board. And we're inviting members to serve as Committee Chairs. Please volunteer for one (or more) of the open positions described below. There's no better 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.