



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

May 2018

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

The Santa Barbara County
 Horticultural Society
 May General Meeting

will be held on May 2nd, 7:00pm
 at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
 on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Rd

**Progress on Building the Ventura Botanical
 Gardens and Recovery from the Thomas Fire**

Joe Cahill

The Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBA) is in the process
 of becoming the treasure a small group of Ventura



residents first dreamed of late in 2005. They came
 together to formulate plans for a world-class botanical
 garden showcasing and preserving native plants and
 providing educational, recreational, and cultural
 enhancement for the community. Today, the site has
 started to realize its potential with 109 acres and a
 breathtaking 360-degree view encompassing the
 coastline, mountains, and lush agricultural greenery.

Joe Cahill, Executive Director, will present an overview
 of the VBA 40 year master plan, and progress made in
 recent years on infrastructure, organization, and
 collections. Much of the site was devastated by the
 Thomas Fire, and Joe will describe the recovery efforts
 as well as offer a preview of collections that will expand

in the next few years, including South African and
 Chilean gardens, and describe recent collection
 expeditions to Chile.

Dr. Cahill is a botanist with over 20 years of
 professional experience in a combination of botanic
 gardens, conservation non-profits and NGOs,
 compliance with the Convention on Biological
 Diversity, and the horticulture industry. He has
 contributed in a leadership capacity to the Ventura
 Botanical Gardens since 2008. He holds a Ph.D. in
 Botany from the University of California Riverside and a
 J.D. from Fordham University School of Law in
 Manhattan and is an adjunct professor at local
 universities.

Upcoming Meeting Speakers:

June	The New Normal: Strategies for Successful Gardens in a State of Drought and Fire Jeff Chemnick, whose home and garden burned in the Tea Fire. Denise Knapp, Director of Conservation and Research for the SB Botanic Garden Paul Mills, Curator of Living Collections at Lotusland.
July	No Meeting
August	Billy Goodnick
September	Fall Plant Forum

Open Society Positions: We are looking for someone
 to help with Programs, and Committee Head for the
 Plant Sale.

**Be thinking about plants to donate for the Fall Plant
 Sale.** Pot, repot, prune, feed, check for bugs. It's not too
 soon!

Other Plant Society meetings and events:

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.

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 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.

Orchid Society of Santa Barbara meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7:30pm.

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society Annual Plant Show and Sale to be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018 from 10 am until 3 pm in the Fellowship Hall at the Trinity Lutheran Church. In addition to the show and sale there are silent auctions ending at 11:30 and 1:30, and a potting demonstration at 11am.



Epiphyllum Grace Ann

SBBG Spring Native Plant Sale



Ongoing Saturday, March 31, 2018
- Monday, April 30, 2018
Time: 9:00AM - 5:00PM

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets May 4th, 7:00pm for a 7:30 start at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church:

Title of talk: ***Propagating Plants and Cultivating Friendships***

Speaker: ***Joe Stead***

This presentation tells a story of how Joe acquired rare plants from friends, and then made many new friends. His emphasis will be on the techniques of pollination and propagation that he developed in order to share plants with other succulent enthusiasts. Joe Stead is a full-time staff member and part-time instructor at Orange Coast College Horticulture Department in Costa Mesa, CA. He has worked at the college since 1994. His passion and expertise is in the propagation and hybridization of many types of plants. He has co-authored articles published in the CSSA journal. His succulent garden design was featured in Sunset Magazine. He is currently working on new hybrids of *Boswellia* and *Fouquieria*. Joe and his wife, Liann, live in Tustin, CA.

Tomatomania

By Susan Chamberlin

“Tomatomania!” is the name of a book, a website, and a long-established, traveling roadshow of heirloom and hybrid tomatoes, all the brainchild of Scott Daigre. I had some tomatomania moments of my own recently when a friend served deliciously sweet, winter-harvested ‘Stupice’ tomatoes in February. Judging by her Instagram post, last spring’s planting was still going strong for her in March. Suddenly I had to grow some and was pleased to find that they were available at Terra Sol Garden Center in Goleta.



‘Stupice’ is an early season, cold-tolerant, heirloom tomato variety, which originated in Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic.) It is an indeterminate type, spreading quite far during the long growing season. At about 2 inches in diameter, the tomatoes are larger than ‘Sweet 100’ cherry tomatoes but just as sweet and red. However, during winter, my friend’s ‘Stupice’ tomatoes were diminished in size, probably due to shorter day lengths. According to www.tomatomania.com (where you will find everything you need to know about growing tomatoes) harvest for ‘Stupice’ is estimated to be in 55-60 days making it superior for coastal gardens.

These mid-March ‘Stupice’ tomatoes were picked from plants that were planted last Spring and kept producing all Winter. The Summer-harvested tomatoes were bigger. *Photo Credit: Laurie Hannah*

A few years ago, I had another tomatomania moment when I discovered something called a tree tomato. Always on the lookout for perennial edibles, I learned that *Solanum betaceum* (*Cyphomandra betacea*) is native to the Andes and subtropical

regions in Latin America but is grown throughout the world where conditions are favorable, including California. It was rebranded “tamarillo” by commercial growers in New Zealand because it isn’t actually a tomato. New Zealand had had great success rebranding the Chinese gooseberry (*Actinidia deliciosa*) “kiwifruit” and then convincing the world to eat them. Their success with tamarillo hasn’t been as great.

Tree tomato is a shrub or small tree with fragrant flowers and egg-shaped fruits ranging from yellow to red and purple. I gave up on growing one because we were (and still are) in a drought, and it needs lots of water. It also needs excellent drainage, protection from wind, and rigorous pruning according to online sources, although someone blogging from the Philippines said they just go into the jungle, where it grows wild, and pick it. YouTube has interesting videos for farmers posted from Kenya (where the beauty of the trees and their fruit are apparent) and Latin America (where pruning and an intricate staking and tying method are demonstrated).

The flavor of tree tomatoes is said to be sweet, sharp, or fantastic depending on the variety and the person describing it, however information on named varieties was skimpy. You scoop the flesh out of the skins similar to the way you might eat an avocado. I have yet to see or taste a tree tomato, but I will say that ‘Stupice’ tomatoes taste fantastic.

The YouTube links below are for growing and pruning the tree tomato. There are short ads at the start.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0KhU3_oCUr0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uuQ48rB9X34>



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

Officers:

Co-Presidents and Secretary:

Debby Lipp

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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