



# SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

*Celebrating plants since 1880*

**SBCHS.ORG**

**JUNE 2019**

## Upcoming Speakers

### July

- *No Meeting -- It's Our Annual Summer Break*

### August

- *Annual New Plants Forum, featuring local wholesale and retail nurseries*

### September

- *California Plants: A Guide to Our Iconic Flora*  
Matt Ritter

## Garden Tours on Hold?

### *We Need a New Chair*

One of the best perks of belonging to the Horticultural Society is being able to tour gardens that are not ordinarily open to the public.



Over the years, fabulous gardens have included those cultivated by society members, from Jeff Chemnick's Aloes in Wonderland and Art Posch's succulent and rare aloes, to Larry Falxa's superb dahlias and Virginia Gardener's award-winning native plants, and... *see pg 3*

## More News Inside

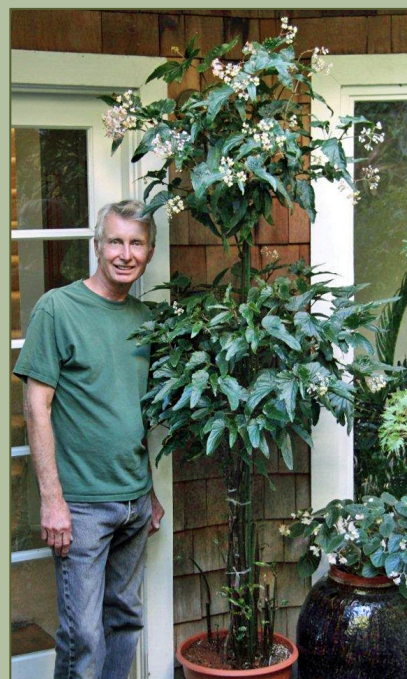
- A Leap into Social Media
- Scholarship Winners
- Horticultural Events Around Town
- TaTa Until August
- Cultivate Those Plants
- Countdown to Annual Plant Sale
- Are You AV savvy?

June General Meeting - Wednesday, June 5, 2019, 7 p.m.  
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

## *Begonias: Novel Grown and New Introductions from Australia*

Begonia expert Mike Flaherty will show novel ways of growing begonias, new Australian begonia hybrids that he has introduced to the United States, and other interesting specimens, including tuberous and upright jointed begonias.

Mike has been growing and collecting begonias since 1961, when he bought his first begonia while still in high school in Ventura. After working in Hawaii driving a backhoe and planting palm trees, it dawned on him that he wanted to be in the plant business so he returned to the mainland. He intended to open a store in Ventura. But by pure luck he found the perfect place in Montecito and opened Gazebo Plants in 1973 in the Upper Village on East Valley Road.



After selling the nursery and florist shop in 2016, Mike is now retired and travels often to see the great gardens of the world. He also has a collection of 500 begonias at his Mission Canyon home.

Mike has won numerous awards for his begonias at national begonia conventions, including Hybrid Begonia of the Year, the Scottish International Begonia trophy, two Sweepstakes awards, and Best Display at the national American Begonia Society convention four times. He is currently the President of the Rudolf Ziesenhenné branch of the American Begonia Society of Santa Barbara and the national MC for the American Begonia Society.

Mike has three begonias named after him, including the *Begonia 'O'Flaherty's Folly'* featured in the photo above, and has named begonias after his daughter, sister and friends. *See more photos on pg 3...*

## We're Taking a Leap into Social Media

*This, from our new Social Media Chair, Jill Cloutier:*  
Stay up to date with the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society on our new social media accounts.

You can find us on Facebook at:

[www.Facebook.com/SBHorticulturalSociety/](http://www.Facebook.com/SBHorticulturalSociety/)

and on Instagram at:

@sbhortociety.

Please Follow and Like our pages and accounts as we reach out to more community members online. The latest news about our upcoming meetings and sales will be listed, as well as cool plant photos and facts!

## Our 2019 Directors & Committee Chairs

### 2019 Board Members

- *President:* Debby Lipp
- *Vice President:* Duke McPherson
- *Secretary:* OPEN
- *Treasurer:* Gretchen Ingmanson
- *Director:* Carol Terry, Diane Dunhill, Carolyn Koegler, Duke McPherson, Dorothy Warnock, Bryn Crutchfield, Jill Cloutier

### 2019 Committee Chairs

- *Garden Tours:* OPEN
- *Membership:* Duke McPherson
- *Newsletter Editor:* Joan S. Bolton
- *Newsletter Distribution:* Larry Disharoon
- *Plant Sale:* Carol Terry -- But soon to be OPEN!
- *Plant Sale Assistant:* OPEN
- *Programs:* Debby Lipp
- *Programs Assistant:* Duke McPherson
- *Publicity:* Janet Hunter
- *Refreshments:* Elisa Reich
- *Scholarships:* Dorothy Warnock
- *Social Media:* Jill Cloutier

To reach anyone listed above or for general inquiries:  
sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

## Meet Our Scholarship Winners

This year's scholarship winners will be announced -- and introduced -- at our June general meeting. Scholarship chair Dorothy Warnock reports, "We started this program about 10 years ago. It is funded by our annual plant sale each year, and depending on how much we take in, we offer two to three scholarships of \$500 each. This is why it is important to work hard for our annual plant sale."

## Horticultural Events Around Town

### Friday, June 7

*Seldom-Seen Succulents in Society Slideshows*  
Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society



Join cypad and succulent expert Jeff Chemnick as he shows images from around the world that don't fit into "regular" cactus and succulent programs.

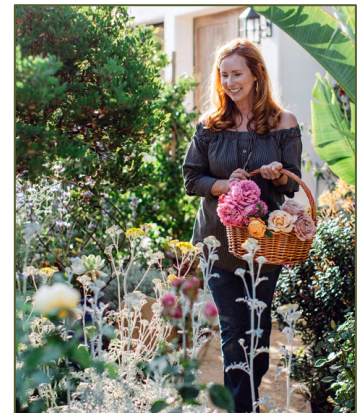
Jeff says, "We'll see images of plants you've not likely seen in the field or even in cultivation... but you'll wish they were!"

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

### Thursday, June 13

*Using Garden Roses for Weddings*  
Santa Barbara Rose Society

Margaret Joan Lloyd of Margaret Joan Florals of Montecito is a licensed Certified California florist with over 20 years of professional experience, and a member of Las Floralias floral design club, Slow Flowers, and Chapel Designers.



"Nothing makes me happier than creating beautiful floral arrangements for a gorgeous Santa Barbara wedding or intimate event," she says.

7 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

### Saturday, June 22

*Oaks of the Garden*, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden



Join this docent-led tour of California's remarkably diverse native oak trees.

4 - 5:30 p.m.,  
1212 Mission Canyon Road.  
Free + cost of

admission to the garden.

*Top Left: Cavanillesia chicamochae, endemic to Columbia. Photo: Jeff Chemnick. Above Right: Photo courtesy of Margaret Joan Lloyd. Above Left: Coast Live Oak, Quercus agrifolia, in bloom. Photo: Joan S. Bolton*



## A Preview of Mike Flaherty's Begonias



*Top Left: Mike with Begonia 'Crestabruchi'.*

*Middle Row: Begonia 'Barely There' trained as a standard tree and Begonia 'Bonfire' trained as a wreath.*

*Bottom: A glimpse of Mike's "Hidden Garden" at Gazebo Plants, which he filled with begonias, bromeliads and ferns. Overhead, maples provided a canopy to filter the sun. Remarkably, all of the plants were in pots.*



*Mike reports that well-known landscape architect Sydney Baumgartner told him it was the best small garden she had ever seen.*

*All photos courtesy of Mike Flaherty.*



## Cultivate Those Plants

Have you begun growing plants for our Annual Plant sale, which takes place September 21?

If not, get started now! Choose plants that will look good in September and are suitable for fall planting, such as flowering plants, succulents, shrubs, trees and seasonal edibles.

Touch base with Carol Terry or Debby Lipp with any questions at the June meeting or at [sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com).

## Garden Tours, from page 1



specialty wholesalers like Sea Crest, which grows specimen palms, cycads and tropical plants.

The chair of the Garden Tours Committee is key. After serving for three years, Helen Wong is stepping down. We thank her, and are now seeking a new chair.

Duties include scouting gardens, making arrangements with the owners and shooting photos for the newsletter.

Tours typically occur on the first Saturday of the month, from Spring through Fall.

Until we find a replacement, the tours will likely be on hiatus.

Please contact Debby Lipp for more information or to volunteer for the position.

*Above: Art Posch's front yard. Page 1: Swallowtail butterfly on Verbena lilacina 'De La Mina'. Photos by Joan S. Bolton.*

## We'll See You Again in August...

The Society will be on holiday in July. This means that the big three -- the newsletter, the general meeting and the garden tour -- will all go dark. But the month away should give you plenty of time to contemplate filling one of the open positions on the Board, becoming a committee chair, or helping with the AV equipment or the Plant Sale.

We'll be back in full force in August -- hopefully with a fresh contingent of new, energized volunteers!

## Countdown to Our Annual Plant Sale

Here's the time line, thanks to Carol Terry, who has run the plant sale for years. She'd like to step down, but has everything so well organized and delegated, that it shouldn't be too tough for a newbie to step in. Please volunteer to lead or assist the effort. Or take a look at the tasks and volunteer for one or more.

### June / July

- Design flyers
- Send publicity to magazines
- Check supplies in storage locker

### Summer

- Solicit donations from nurseries (Carol Terry to contact Seaside Gardens and Lotusland)
- Solicit raffle donations (Debby Lipp)
- Santa Barbara Orchid Estate?
- Review volunteer job sign-up sheet

### August

- Circulate sign-up sheets at general meeting
- Remind vendors who have not responded
- Begin distributing flyers
- Complete on-line publicity

### September

- Circulate sign-up sheets at general meeting
- Distribute remaining flyers

### Friday, September 20

- Set up tables
- Collect plants
- Organize (clean/tag) volunteers
- Set up Raffle and Silent Auction (Debby Lipp)
- Put out signs (Neb)

### Saturday, September 21

- Put up banner
- Sale !!!

### After

- Thank-you notes (Lyn McCabe)

### October

- Book room for 2020

To express your interest, please contact Carol Terry or Debby Lipp at the June meeting or at [sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com).

## A Final Reminder

There will be no general meeting in July. We'll be back live in August, with the Annual New Plants Forum, featuring both wholesale and retail nurseries.

## Are You an AV Expert? We Need Two!

We have been seriously seeking a reliable person to wrangle the audio-visual equipment for months now. If you attended the April meeting, you might have noticed that John Schoustra's PowerPoint presentation almost didn't happen because of conflicts with the equipment. Randy Baldwin stepped in at the last minute to save the show. But had Randy not been at the meeting, we might have easily missed the heart of John's talk -- his beautiful pelargonium slides.

We will happily pay anyone -- a student, retiree, member or non-member -- to set up and take down the equipment at each monthly meeting.

In addition, we're looking for a volunteer to coordinate the AV requirements with the speaker in advance, to prevent any unwelcome surprises the night of the meeting.

Please step up. Contact Debby Lipp, or Gretchen Ingmanson at [tikiinga@gmail.com](mailto:tikiinga@gmail.com) or 805-452-0407.

## Please Renew Your Membership

We're well into 2019, but many long-time members have not yet renewed their dues.

If you're not sure whether you're current, check in with Duke McPherson, the Membership Chair, at the back table before or after the meeting.

Membership is a bargain, at only \$20 per year for individuals or families. See Duke or [sbchs.org](http://sbchs.org) for other membership categories and dues rates.

## Display Table, Raffle Table & Freebies Area

Plants for all three destinations should be fun, unusual, in tip-top condition and bear labels.

Also, for the Freebies area:

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

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