



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

November 2017

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

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

Joint Meeting with California Rare Fruit Growers
Speaker: Larry Saltzman

Best Bare Root Fruit Trees for Santa Barbara

In December and January local nurseries sell apples, pears, stone fruit, mulberries and figs while the trees are dormant. Larry Saltzman, President of the Channel Islands Chapter of California Rare Fruit Growers, will describe some of the most productive and beautiful fruit trees you can plant in our region. He will also list Central Coast Nurseries from Ventura, Santa Barbara, and



San Luis Obispo Counties where you can buy fruit trees.

Larry and his wife Linda have a garden with approximately 125

fruit trees on their 1/3 acre property where they live. Larry is also involved with the Mesa Harmony Garden orchard where fruit is grown for the Food Bank. Mesa Harmony Garden is also an educational center with workshops on how to plant and maintain fruit trees, along with Permaculture classes. Larry has a certificate in Permaculture design and has taught numerous classes on Food Forests and other topics.



The Annual Plant Sale was a success again this year!
Our Treasurer Gretchen has a preliminary number for the net amount to the Society of more than \$3,600. (Some expenses are yet to be finalized). Our Scholarship Program will be the primary beneficiary, and we will continue to be able to support horticultural efforts throughout the County.

Thanks to all the people who helped! **Carl Noss, Jr., Carol Terry, Carolyn Koegler, Debby Lipp, Debra DiPaolo, Diana Johnson, Diane Galvin, Donna Blakemore, Dorothy Warnock, Duke McPherson, Gretchen Ingmanson, Helga Schmidt, Jamie Throgmorton, Linda Tornello, Lori Meschler, Lyn McCabe, Marie Sue Parsons, Martin Dent, Mary Sadeghian, Miki Schneider, Nebhut Smith, Nollie Lei Dawson, Pam Polan, Pam and Bruce Bayer, and Sally Jones.**

Thanks to the vendors who helped with the Raffle Table. Please remember to thank them when you visit!

San Marcos Growers
Au Bon Climat
Santa Barbara Certified Farmers' Markets
The Brander Vineyard
Chaucer's Bookstore
Raoul
Casa Del Herrero
Terra Sol Garden Center
Margerum Wine Company
Grassini Vineyards
Lotusland
Jamie Sloan Wines
Island Seed & Feed
Seaside Gardens
Green Coast Garden Center

Also thanks to Dianne Dunhill, Sally Jones, and Carpinteria Landscape Nursery for plant donations.

Other Plant Society meetings and events:

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets the first Friday of the Month at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

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.

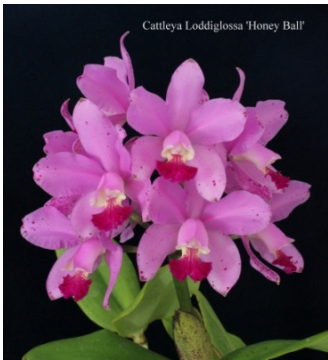
Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter of the California Rare Fruit Growers - Anyone can be added to an email list and notified of upcoming meetings by sending their email address to lindabuzzell@gmail.com

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.

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

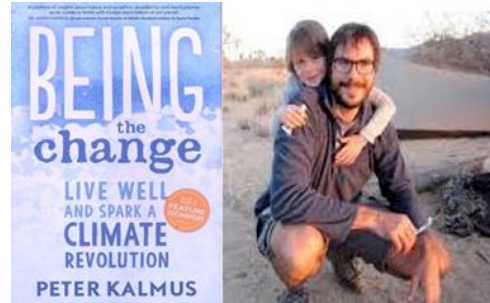
Orchid Growers Open House. 59th Annual **Santa Barbara Orchid Estate** Fall Open House *November 4th and 5th: Saturday 8 AM to 5 PM; Sunday 9 AM to 4 PM,*

1250 Orchid Drive. **Cal-Orchid** is also having its Annual Open House, celebrating 28 years of business. James and Lauris Rose welcome everyone to visit the nursery for two days of fantastic buying opportunities. *November 4th and 5th, 9am to 4pm, 1251 Orchid Drive.*



La Huerta Gardens: Winter Deciduous Pruning & Garden Clinic a *RSVP*, invitational event. A *hands-on* small group pruning clinic limited to 30 *RSVP* individuals. Bring your own clean, sturdy pruning shears & a pruning lopper. Old Mission Santa Barbara, *La Huerta* Gardens, Orchard-Garden, December 2 (the first Saturday in December) 9:45am to 1:00pm; General Public and Master Gardeners, by reservation, limited to 30 *RSVP* participants. Advanced reservation ensures participation. Contact Ken Falstrom kefsb@aol.com.

Live Well & Spark A Climate Revolution Book Signing & Talk with Author & NASA Climate Scientist Peter Kalmus; Bicyclist, Backyard Gardener & Beekeeper.



Sunday, November, 12, 6:30–8:30pm; FREE Event; Bici Centro, 434 Olive St, Santa Barbara, CA
Facebook Event Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1351132924995557>

Fall Native Plant Sale- SB Botanic Garden



Date: until Sunday, November 5, 2017

Time: 9:00AM - 5:30PM

Upcoming Meetings

February	Joan Bolton
March	Antonio Sanchez California Native Food Plants

Plants and Fire

By Susan Chamberlin



Following the devastating loss of life and property from the recent wildfires in northern California’s wine country, it is time to revisit the concept of “fire-safe landscaping”. This term was popular in 1987 when I wrote an article by that title for the *Independent*, detailing the “defensible perimeter” around a structure, the recommended zones of “fire-retardant” plants, the importance of reducing “fuel loads”, and the necessity of retaining but managing certain deep-rooting native plants for slope stability in the areas now commonly called the wildland-urban interface. Included were lists of plants with “high leaf moisture content”, which is what makes them fire-retardant. The most fire-retardant plants were defined as having 90%-95% leaf moisture content, and all were succulents. Today they’re called “fire resistant”.

Also featured was the “Firescape” demonstration garden at the intersection of Mission Ridge Road and Stanwood Drive across from Fire Station 7. Thirty years later, the garden is still there and worth a visit. In my never humble opinion, it’s a nice garden with some lovely plants, but the overall aesthetic of the design is not especially compatible with the native live oaks growing there or the mountain backdrop. I was surprised to see New Zealand flax (*Phormium* sp.) featured at the entrance because it is on some lists of flammable plants. At the kiosk in the garden, you can pick up a brochure entitled, “Fire Wise & Water Wise Landscaping.”

Santa Barbara’s Firescape garden demonstrates “fire wise” principles.
Photo credit: S. Chamberlin

While I stated back in 1987, “‘Fire-safe’ simply means less inviting to a fire,” the term has rightfully been discarded in favor of “fire wise.” It’s important to note that fire wise principles can easily fail in wind-driven conflagrations. We’ve seen this in Santa Barbara, and, as Robert Baird with the U.S. Forest Service said recently in reference to the wine country disasters, “Stopping a wildfire of this ferocity and intensity is like trying to stop a tornado.”

*

But photos from Sonoma County made it graphically clear that the concepts of high leaf moisture content and low fuel load are still relevant. While the Diablo winds fanning the fires tore through native oak woodlands pushing embers that ignited structures of all kinds, many vineyards were unscathed. This is probably because their grape vines were irrigated (increasing leaf moisture content) and tightly pruned (reducing the fuel load of dead branches and leaves that accumulate and burn). It is also likely that the ground around the vines was clear of weeds and that they were trained on metal, not wooden, posts. Other photos bore stark witness to the flammability of pine trees versus some of the evergreen trees still standing in completely burned out neighborhoods. It would be interesting to know which species survived. I can guarantee that ornamental grasses--all the rage in landscape design circles--did not survive. They are known to be highly flammable.

Perhaps ironically many of the oak trees that burned in northern California will re-sprout green leaves long before the houses are rebuilt. That’s because they’re adapted to fire, which is part of the natural landscape in California where they evolved eons ago.

*St. John, Paige. “As fires started, air support had to wait for light.” *Los Angeles Times*, October 20, 2017, A1.



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

Officers:

Co-Presidents and Secretary:

Debby Lipp

Ernie Pfadenhauer

Vice President: Carol Terry

(805) 684-5725

Treasurer: Gretchen Ingmanson

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