



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Celebrating plants since 1880

SBCHS.ORG

OCTOBER 2019

Upcoming Speaker

November

- *Life After Lawns*
Billy Goodnick

Plant Sale Tagged a Success

Carol Terry, our amazing, tireless Plant Sale Chair, was just one of the beaming faces to greet folks at our Annual Plant Sale on Saturday, September 21.



Buyers selected from a wide variety of plants, ranging from orchids to succulents, grasses, natives and all sorts of drought-tolerant beauties, along with several tall stacks of horticultural books generously donated by John Bleck from his personal library, as well as tools and garden doodads.

Many thanks to all of the volunteers who helped set up, worked the sale or donated plants. Look for a complete roundup in the November newsletter.

Above: Carol Terry, by Jill Cloutier.

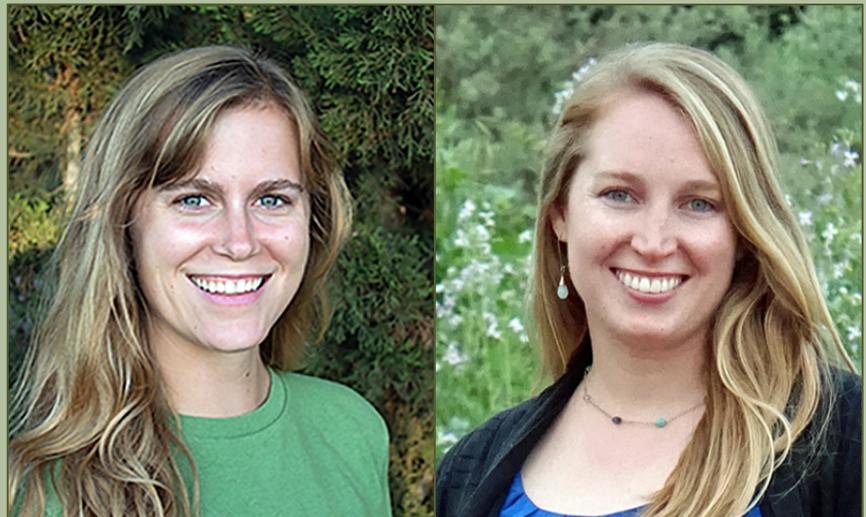
More News Inside

- A Beautiful Billbergia
- Horticultural Events Around Town
- Ed Rowe - Santa Barbara Native Plant Man and More
- Garden Tours Saga: Another Twist

October General Meeting - Wednesday, October 2, 2019, 7 p.m.
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,
corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Roads

The Edible Campus Program at UCSB

Join Katee Gustavson (*left*) and Jessie Schmitt (*right*) for a look at UCSB's innovative Edible Campus Program, a student-created and student-led effort to grow food on campus that is distributed via food pantries to UCSB students.



Volunteers tend an Urban Orchard in Storke Plaza, a Hydroponic Vertical Garden between the MAC gym and campus soccer fields, and a newly opened Student Farm at West Campus.

All the gardens offer opportunities for students to get involved in food production and address local food insecurity by repurposing underutilized spaces for sustainable food production, turning waste into food and engaging students as growers and producers.

Katee is a fourth year at UCSB with a double major in Environmental Studies and Art History. She first worked for the Associated Students Department of Public Worms as a Compost and Garden Specialist and is now Outreach Coordinator. She says gardening has always been a part of her life, so being able to do it on a large scale to grow food for students is very fulfilling. Also, she finds it important that she's able to work with an organization that diverts food from going to the landfill by turning it into compost instead, thus creating a closed loop system at UCSB.

Jessie is the Associated Students Recycling and Compost Program Coordinator. She supervises Associated Students *see pg 3...*

Billbergia pallidiflora aka *B. oaxacana*



From member Diane Dunhill...

"This semi-succulent bromeliad was kind enough to flower on the day of my plant sale (August 10).

"The second flower spike (behind and above the main spike) was also open.

Sadly the flowers only last a few days but make up for that by being sooo fabulous!!!"

Editor's note: We welcome photos of rare, interesting plants -- especially when they're as stunning and in such sharp focus.

Our 2019 Directors & Committee Chairs

2019 Board Members

- *President:* Debby Lipp
- *Vice President:* Duke McPherson
- *Acting Secretary:* Bryn Crutchfield
- *Treasurer:* Gretchen Ingmanson
- *Director:* Carol Terry, Diane Dunhill, Carolyn Koegler, Duke McPherson, Dorothy Warnock, 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:
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 Or: PO Box 31029, Santa Barbara, CA, 93130-1029

Newsletter inquiries or event listings only:
 joan_hortsociety@santabarbaragardens.com

Horticultural Events Around Town

Friday, October 4

Kenya, Land of Tropical Succulents

Rob Skillin

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society



Kenya offers an abundance of succulents that are common in enthusiasts' collections. The small, east African tropical nation is bisected by the equator, with temperatures uniformly warm and humid along sandy plains bordering the Indian Ocean;

cooler in higher elevation savannas; and hot on arid northern plains. Rob will feature habitat photos from a wide variety of plant families and provide insights into their successful cultivation. He will also bring plants for sale to members at the meeting. Doors open at 6:45 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.

Thursday, October 10

What's New in Roses!

Tom Carruth, Curator of Roses at the Huntington Santa Barbara Rose Society

Join this

legendary rose hybridizer ('Julia Child', 'Cinco de Mayo', 'Strike it Rich', 'Hot Cocoa', 'Marilyn Monroe', 'Scentimental' and many more) as he provides a look at the newest roses. 7 p.m., Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. Free.



Top Left: Rob Skillin with Pyrenacantha malvifolia. Above Right: Tom Carruth with new introduction 'Huntington's 100th', which honors the Huntington Garden's centennial.

Ed Rowe - Santa Barbara Native Plant Man and More

by Susan Chamberlin

I've just finished writing an article "The CCC 'Mission Garden' at La Purisima and its Forgotten Designers" for the Fall 2019 issue of *Eden: The Journal of the California Garden & Landscape*



History Society. Edwin Denys Rowe (1881-1954) is one of those designers. However, I discovered so much about him that I'm using this column and a future issue of the Lompoc Valley Historical Society newsletter, *The Legacy*, to fill out his bio.

Ed Rowe was established as a self-employed landscape architect in Santa Barbara before the Depression ended that career. He then became the "Landscape Foreman (Landscape Architect)" for Roosevelt's New Deal, Civilian Conservation Corps reconstruction of La Purisima mission in Lompoc, where he selected and propagated Spanish-era and native plants utilized by California Indians for the "Mission Garden" designed by a host of others. Using almost exclusively native plants, Rowe did design the slope behind the main reconstructed mission buildings, which backed up to the Burton Mesa. This was in the days when introducing natives not endemic to a specific region was routine. He also planted numerous species of native pines on the mesa where the CCC camp was located.

Rowe is credited with doing much "to foster an interest in a wide use of native shrubs as ornamentals" by Howard E. McMinn (Professor of Botany at Mills College) as well as James Roof (the Director of the Botanic Garden in Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley) and Maunsell Van Rensselaer (the Director of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden).

In 1903 Rowe emigrated to Michigan from England at age 22. He started working for Dr. Franceschi's Southern California Acclimatizing Association in Santa Barbara in 1904. Based on his extraordinary ability propagating plants at La Purisima, he was no doubt a valued employee. During his years with the SCAA, Rowe made dangerous crossings to the Channel Islands to collect plants according to Roof. On a trip to Santa Cruz Island with botanist Harvey Monroe Hall in 1908, Hall and Rowe collected seed of Catalina ceanothus (*Ceanothus arboreus*). Rowe continued working for the SCAA after it was taken over by Peter Riedel and so gets credit for introducing *C. arboreus* to the trade in 1911. *see pg 4...*

Above: Ed Rowe standing on Mount Tranquillon near Lompoc next to Ceanothus Roweanus, which he collected there. It was named for him by Howard E. McMinn in 1939. Photo, Katherine K. Muller. Courtesy, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

Garden Tours: A New Twist

The magic binder has been found!

Last month, in a pitch to entice members to volunteer for the Garden Tours Chair, we revealed that Diane Dunhill had compiled a binder that listed all of the tours during the seven years that she served as Chair.

Obviously that knowledge would be a huge help to anyone who takes on the position.



However, at the September meeting, there was some question as to whether the binder still existed.

But then Helen Wong, the most recent Garden Tours Chair, revealed that she has the binder and will gladly pass it on to whomever steps up to coordinate the society's upcoming tours.

Above: Aloe rupestris in Jeff Chemnick's garden, featured during a 2018 garden tour. Photo, Jeff Chemnick.

Edible Campus, from pg 1

Recycling student staff and works with them to develop waste reduction initiatives; Department of Public Worms student staff who manage on-site composting programs and care for small scale agricultural programs; and the student-led Zero Waste Committee in their efforts to help UCSB reach its zero waste goals. She has worked in the waste management field since graduating from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Ed Rowe, from pg 3

The genus, *Ceanothus*, was a special interest of Rowe's. He planted 30 varieties at La Purisima and hybridized them. McMinn named *Ceanothus papillosus* var *Roweanus* after Rowe, who collected this variety of wartleaf ceanothus and a smaller, more attractive clone McMinn named *C. Roweanus* on Mount Tranquillon near Lompoc in 1935. At about the same time, Rowe helped verify the range of *Arctostaphylos rudis*.¹

Van Rensselaer consulted Rowe, Fr. Maynard of Mission Santa Barbara, and a Mr. Rogers c. January 1941 on the bridge across the Mission Dam in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. Rowe summarized the suggestions to Van Rensselaer in a letter, including the recommendation that, "the young redwood trees should certainly be moved to some other site in the gardens, they are in any event quite out of place in their present location, any plants not native to the canon were not there in 1807."²

Based on Harry M. Butterfield's letters to Van Rensselaer, Rowe was clearly a source for Butterfield's history of gardens in the Santa Barbara region, and Butterfield recognized that, "...his fine work in earlier days in Santa Barbara, both as a landscape gardener and assisting Dr. Franceschi, also working for Mrs. Theodosa [sic] B. Shepherd at Ventura must be recorded. Far too few realize how much he has planted in Santa Barbara, such as the largest *Leptospermum laevigatum*, etc. The hybrid *Raphiolepis* in the trade developed from plants grown at his old home."³

Acknowledgments: Many thanks to Carol Bornstein; Laurie Hannah, Joel Michaelsen, and Randy Wright, Information Resource Steward, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Blaksley Library. Complete references and acknowledgments for my research are in the Fall 2019 issue of *Eden*.

¹ H.E. McMinn, "Notes on the Genus *Ceanothus* in California." *Madroño* 5:1 (January 1939), 14. Van Rensselaer and McMinn, *Ceanothus*, 68, 83. *The Jepson Manual* online says, "Taxonomic recognition for this name remains unresolved." A.E. Wieslander and Beryl O. Schroiber, "Notes on the Genus *Arctostaphylos*." *Madroño* 5:1 (January 1939), 38-47.

² Undated Letter from Rowe to Van Rensselaer, SBBG Papers, Folder 114. Rowe is referring to when the dam was constructed; in those days canyon was spelled cañon. Courtesy of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

³ "Some Early Horticulturists in Santa Barbara [partial list]" by Harry M. Butterfield in a March 27, 1940 letter to Van Rensselaer, SBBG Papers, Folder 18.

More Horticultural Events, from page 2

Saturday, September 28 - Monday, November 4

Fall Native Plant Sale

Santa Barbara Botanic Garden

Offering thousands of plants from the many habitats of California, the Garden's annual plant sale dwarfs all other native plant events on the Central Coast. During the five-



week run, you can query knowledgeable staff and attend workshops about growing native plants.

1212 Mission Canyon Road. Sale: Free. Workshops: Fees (visit sbbg.org for information).

Above Right: Ceanothus 'Julia Phelps, by Joan S. Bolton.

Membership Renewals Have Started

October is an excellent time to renew your membership with the Santa Barbara County Horticultural Society.

Pay your dues anytime from now through December and your membership will be good through December 2020.

When you join or re-up, please volunteer for a committee or to help with next year's Annual Plant Sale. Remember, we run entirely on volunteers and welcome new energy and new faces. Volunteering also provides an excellent opportunity to hang out with cool, horticultural people.

Membership is a bargain, at only \$20 per year for individuals or families. See Duke or 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.