



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

February 2016

Website: www.sbchs.org
Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

The Santa Barbara County
Horticultural Society
February General Meeting
will be held on February 3rd, 7:00pm
at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
on the corner of Foothill and La Cumbre Road

Do You Suffer From a Fear of Plant Commitment?

Billy Goodnick: landscape architect / writer / educator



Shopping for plants is so much fun that sometimes it's hard to know when to ease up. But if the sales guy at the nursery greets you by the last four digits of your Visa card, you might have a problem.

There's no law against having a garden filled with any plant that catches your eye, then simply arranging them where you think they'll have the best chance of success. But if you aspire to a garden that looks "put together" – displaying an intentional style, theme, or color scheme – I say it's time to commit!

Billy Goodnick has been delivering his mantra of "beautiful, useful, sustainable gardens" to homeowners, Master Gardeners, and students. He teaches audiences how to Design Like a Pro, while infusing a message of planet-friendly principles.

Author of *Yards: Turn Any Outdoor Space Into the Garden of Your Dreams*, award winning blogger at *Fine Gardening Magazine*, contributor at *805 Living Magazine* and *Sunset Magazine*, and Edhat.com. Billy will be selling and signing his book at the meeting.

Bruce Reed Awarded Bouquet of the Year



Randy Baldwin presented Bruce Reed (L) with the Bouquet of the Year, our highest honor. It is bestowed on a person or organization that has excelled in the advancement and promotion of horticulture in the Santa Barbara area.

"I'm pleased and surprised!" said Bruce, Horticulturalist at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden. "The bouquet that Carol Terry created is all California native plants and that is very touching and shows their thoughtfulness. The white sage is beautiful and going in my garden shortly. But she also included Live-forevers, slender buckwheat, Desert sunflower and many other things! Just beautiful!"

Bruce has shared his horticultural knowledge at Society meetings and is a frequent speaker at workshops and symposiums on native plants and water conservation. He writes a regular column on gardening and native plants for the *Santa Barbara News Press* and for the Botanic Garden's *Ironwood Newsletter*. Bruce gives frequent workshops at the Botanic Garden on all aspects of gardening with native plants including: garden design, water conservation and pruning.

Diane Dunhill Awarded Certificate of Recognition

Debby Lipp (R) gives thanks to Diane for her dedication in networking, planning, and coordinating while organizing the Society Garden Tours in our area for month after month!



Help! The society is looking for members interested in participating. Open positions are:

- *Programs*
- *Membership*
- *Plant Sale Coordinator*

Revised Website: Check out our updated website with a brand new look. Read about our history, view photos of some of our recent garden tours, and more. Just click here www.sbchs.org

Dues for 2016 are payable now: \$20/year for a family membership can be paid at the meeting or sent to the address on the back of this newsletter (POB 31029, Santa Barbara) for one year or multiple years.

Garden Tour: There is no garden tour scheduled in February.

Upcoming Meetings:

March	Robin Parer: <i>Endangered "Geraniums"</i>
April	Jay Ruskey: <i>Growing coffee, black truffles and other exotic crops in Santa Barbara County.</i>
May	Paul Mills: <i>Chile - North to South</i>

Other Plant Society meetings and events:

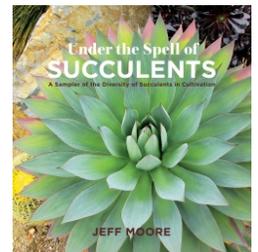
SBC Rose Society meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except July, August and December). The refreshments and rose display begin at 7:00 PM. The meeting and program begin at 7:30 PM. Meetings are held in a new location as of January 14th, 2016, at Trinity Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Our monthly meetings feature knowledgeable guest speakers on rose-related topics. The meetings are free and open to the public. Visitors are always welcome!

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.

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

The Channel Islands Chapter meeting of the California Native Plant Society welcomes Cathy Rose at the Botanic Garden Library. She will share her new book on the jewels of the Sierra - *The Wildflowers of Rock Creek*. General announcements at 7:00pm; lecture begins at 7:15pm. Refreshments served. For more info, contact Andrea at 886-4382

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets the first Friday of the month at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 7:30pm. **Jeff Moore** will present an introduction to the world of cultivated succulents using beautiful photographic examples taken from his new book of the same title. It is a succulent nursery owner's take on the hobby, offering insight in how we interact with these plants, from casual enthusiast to collectors, growers, landscaping, container gardening and more.



Corymbia (formerly *Eucalyptus*) *citriodora*

By Susan Chamberlin

Rain at last, and there is nothing quite like the fragrance of lemon gums perfuming the air to remind us that the rains are here. Once known as *Eucalyptus citriodora*, these stately trees were grouped with several other well-known eucs into a new genus, *Corymbia*, when genetic testing in 1995 revealed that they have more in common with the genus *Angophora* than they do with the eucalypts. Although twenty years have passed since *Corymbia* was recognized for its unique qualities, people persist in calling them *Eucalyptus*.

Unfortunately, that name seems to strike terror into the hearts of bureaucrats (who fear that all eucs are a public safety risk), and it inspires loathing in native plant purists (who hate...well, you know...)

According to the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo tree selection guide (<http://selectree.calpoly.edu/>) maintained by the Urban Forest Ecosystems Institute, *Corymbia citriodora* has "favorable" fire resistance; "medium" branch strength, and "moderate" root damage potential. In other words, not bad for a tree that can reach 160 feet. There is a link to the Official Registry of California Big Trees, with a photo of the "National Champion", which is in Goleta. Nominated by Natalie and Barry Rossington and Randy Baldwin, this lemon gum on the old Ellwood Cooper property is 142 feet high. My 1948 edition of *Trees of Santa Barbara* says it was planted by Cooper in 1887. The broken branch scar in the nomination photo matches perfectly with a photo of the same tree on page 55 of Victoria Padilla's 1961 classic, *Southern California Gardens*.



Corymbia citriodora at the Central Library rendered by the architects of the Faulkner Gallery, planted around 1930, and landmarked in 2012. Photo credit: S. Chamberlin

Another lemon gum was designated a City of Santa Barbara Landmark in 1997. The "Fernald Eucalyptus Tree" near Smart & Final in the 400 block of Santa Barbara Street was planted around 1890 in the notable garden of Judge Charles Fernald, whose Victorian house was later relocated. When the lemon-scented gums at the downtown Central Library were threatened with removal (full disclosure: I prefer the common name, lemon gums), landscape architect Bob

Cunningham gathered a

team (full disclosure: I was on it) to landmark the trees that were rendered by the architects of the Faulkner Gallery and planted around 1930. The City Council granted five trees landmark status in 2012.

Love 'em or hate 'em, *Eucalyptus* and *Corymbia* are part of our cultural landscape. People are creating the new cultural landscape all the time, and many don't want any eucalyptus species to be part of it. In September the owners of the property at the corner of State and Micheltoarena Streets requested the removal of all 20 mature lemon gums, incorrectly identified as *Eucalyptus* (and, I should add, all six coral trees). The Historic Landmarks Commission continued the case pending an arborist report.

It was pesky botanists who forced the name change to *Corymbia*, and much as we might not like it, there may be a silver lining. If people ever become aware that these trees are not *Eucalyptus*, the prejudice against them might soften.



**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

PO BOX 31029
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93130-1029

Officers:

Co-Presidents and Secretary:

Debby Lipp

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Vice President: Carol Terry

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Treasurer: Gretchen Ingmanson

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Diane Dunhill

Marian Kauffman

Carolyn Koegler

Debby Lipp

Dorothy Warnock

Committee Heads:

Garden Tours: Helen Wong

Newsletter: Ernie Pfadenhauer

Bulletin Distribution: Larry Disharoon

Plant Sale: Open

Refreshments: Elisa Reich

Scholarships: Dorothy Warnock

Membership: Open

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