



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

March 2018

Website: www.sbchs.org

Contact: sbcountyhorticulturalsociety@gmail.com

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

**Inviting California to Dinner: Bringing California
 native plant foods into your life and the future of
 native plant agriculture**

Antonio Sanchez

Locally grown foods and low-water landscaping are all the rage right now, but a quick trip to farmers market or a local nursery will showcase almost no California native plants. What if, among the more than 6,000 plants native to California, hundreds were not only edible, easy



to use and delicious, but extremely low-water as well? This one of a kind presentation, led by native food enthusiast Antonio Sanchez, discusses the ancient and emerging field of California native foods and their cultivation. With an eye on the past and the many living traditions that have been passed down by local indigenous peoples, this unique lecture explores how old ways can combine with new ways to find a place in local gardens and kitchens. Among the dozens

of native food plants discussed will be: Low-water salad greens and native grains such as Saltbush (*Atriplex* spp., Chenopodiaceae) and Tepary Beans (*Phaseolus* spp., Fabaceae), local fruits like Native Goji Berries (*Lycium*

spp., Solanaceae) and Huckleberries (*Vaccinium ovatum*) and many others that can be introduced to local diets. **This workshop includes tastings** of native sage pesto made with *Salvia clevelandii* (Cleveland sage, Lamiaceae) and *Allium unifolium* (single-leaf onion, Alliaceae), Mesquite cookies made with mesquite powder (*Prosopis glandulosa*) and Agave Syrup blended with local Hummingbird Sage leaves (*Salvia spathacea*).

Antonio Sanchez has been working with California native plants and native foods for over a decade, and was one of the lead organizers for the 2015 California Native Food Symposium in Claremont. Antonio has worked at various native plant institutions across the state, including Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, The Theodore Payne Foundation for Native Plants, Cal Flora Nursery, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and was co-founder of Nopalito Native Plant Nursery in Ventura.

Photo Credit: Antonio Sanchez by Carmen Smyth, Special to the Ventura County Star.

Garden Tour March 10th.

Barry Rossington and is opening his garden on Saturday, March 10 from 10am to noon.

Barry has a cherimoya tree in the front yard that was grafted by Bruce Van Dyke. There are palms in the back that came from Randy Baldwin. There is also a tall coffee plant. The peaceful garden is shaded by a large magnolia tree on the south side of the house.

Barry's garden is at 512 Ribera. The closest cross street is La Ramada Dr. Use Patterson exit from 101.

Upcoming Meetings

April	Mike Tully
May	Joe Cahill Ventura Botanical Gardens

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

Dues for 2018 are payable now: \$20/year for a family membership can be paid at the meeting, or sent to the POB address on the back of this newsletter, for one year or multiple years.

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

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.

Santa Barbara Cactus & Succulent Society meets Friday March 2nd 7:00pm for a 7:30 start at the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Rare, New and Seldom Seen Cacti and Succulents of Mexico Speaker: Woody Minnich

One might think that Mexico, being so close to the United States, would have been totally explored and there would be nothing new to find. Nothing could be further from truth! We are now finding new species of cacti and other succulents at an astonishing rate. Woody grew up in the Mojave Desert and has had an attraction to desert plants and animals since the early 1950s. He has been involved with the cactus and succulent world as a grower, field explorer, club and organization leader, writer, photographer, lecturer and presenter.



Arroyo Hondo Docent Training 2018

7 Wednesdays, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, April 4, 11 and 18 Times: 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Spend springtime enjoying the beauty of Arroyo Hondo Preserve as you learn to become a Docent for this glorious natural paradise. Learn from local experts about the geology and the diverse flora and fauna of the rich habitats of the canyon. Learn about the history of the Gaviota Coast, including the times when Arroyo Hondo was home to the Chumash people, and later, when it was a working ranch. Come join fellow nature-lovers as you prepare to lead our popular programs for school children and for Land Trust members and the general public.

Continuing Docents are welcome to attend class sessions. To register, or for more information, please contact volunteer@sblandtrust.org

Growing Orchids in Santa Barbara –Presented by **UCCE Master Gardeners of Santa Barbara County** Saturday, March 3, 2018, at the Santa Barbara Central Library 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Attendees will learn how to select and grow many of the most popular orchids easily. Speakers: Master Gardener Leonard Grabowski is an orchid enthusiast with a collection of outdoor orchids that he enjoys. Donald Brown is a retired professor from UCSB who has been managing orchids for many years as an expert grower and demonstrator.

The 73rd Santa Barbara International Orchid Show
Theme: "Orchids -- The World's Greatest Show"



Friday March 9 through Sunday March 11, 2018, 9am to 5pm Earl Warren Showgrounds An eclectic, world-class

show with many gloriously large exhibits featuring the best of West Coast growing. www.SBorchidshow.com, info@sborchidshow.com, concurrent open houses www.sborchid.com

Update on February article: “Montecito Lives and Landscapes Destroyed”

By Susan Chamberlin

The Val Verde koi pond (also known as the formal reflecting pool) below the steps to the house was not lost. However, it was damaged and filled with mud. Sotto il Monte (originally called La Toscana) was spared. It is located on Sycamore Canyon Road, not Hot Springs. The Lovelace Garden designed by Isabelle Greene is a well-loved example of California Regionalist design. While the house is fine, the iconic, naturalistic pool and its pavilion were damaged. Fortunately, the garden was thoroughly documented recently by the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS.) This document (including plant lists) can be accessed at <http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/1228021>

Signs of Spring

By Susan Chamberlin

On February 5th my daughter texted a photo of crocus in bloom in Portland, Oregon with the caption, “...that means it’s time for gardening!” I texted back a photo of oxalis and violets in bloom as signs of spring here in Santa Barbara. The violets (*Viola odorata*) started blooming at least a month before the oxalis, also known as sourgrass or Bermuda buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*.) Both are considered weeds, but oxalis is far more invasive.



Old fashioned violets (*Viola odorata*) in bloom in January.
Photo credit: S. Chamberlin

Violets are native to Europe and Asia. They spread by runners, or stolons, and volunteer from seed where there is moisture, but when established, will survive on little water. In coastal areas they can take full sun or part shade. Both the scented flowers (usually purple) and the heart-shaped leaves are edible.

Violets were observed growing at Mission Santa Barbara by George Simpson in his travels to California in the early 19th century. I wouldn’t be surprised if they have been cultivated here since at least that time. In 1895 Dr. Franceschi wrote, “The garden violet, *Viola odorata*, does wonders here, its culture being much easier than in Southern Europe.” *

There is a long tradition of garden writing dating back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. Three species of violets were recognized in Antiquity, and the Greek poet, Pindar (born c. 522 BC) described the city of Athens as “violet-crowned.” *Viola odorata* is clearly visible in some of the wall paintings depicting garden scenes in the Roman villas in Pompeii that were buried by the eruption of Vesuvius and discovered centuries later. Many other plants from those murals are also common here thanks to the Mediterranean climate type that we share, which enables us to garden year-round. It was snowing in Portland the next time my daughter texted me.

*Dr. F. Franceschi, *Santa Barbara Exotic Flora*, 1895, p. 81. Other references: Victoria Padilla, *Southern California Gardens: An Illustrated History*, 1961; Dorothy Burr Thompson & Ralph E. Griswold, *Garden Lore of Ancient Athens*, 1963; Wikipedia.org. Marina Heilmeyer, *Ancient Herbs*, 2007, is one of many books devoted to ancient Roman gardens based on important early scholarly works including: Pierre Grimal, *Les Jardins Romains*, 1969; Wilhelmina F. Jashemski, *The Gardens of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and the Villas Destroyed by Vesuvius*, vol. 1, 1979 & vol. 2, 1993.



**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

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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